

International House magazine



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY
—
International
House

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We acknowledge the tradition of custodianship and law of the Country on which the University of Sydney campuses stand. We pay our respects to those who have cared and continue to care for Country.

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Front cover: The iconic International House ceiling in the Wool Room.

Inside cover: IH residents Jocelyn Lo, Tiffany Chan and Claire Monbeig-Andrieu at Flag Dinner, 2020.

Back cover: IH residents Stuti Kaushik and Nattamon Rawenghet at Flag Dinner, 2018.
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From the chair of council

2020 will be a year we will never forget. When I became Chair of Council in May, many of us still hoped that the COVID-19 pandemic would be short lived and by the end of the year the International House community, the University, and countries around the world would be returning to something like normal. We now know this is not the case.

Over the year, many of us have had our resilience pushed to its limits with disruption to our studies, our employment, our freedom to travel and socialise.

2020 has also been the year in which the Council decided to pause the operations of IH, in order to rebuild and reset the House for future decades. As many of you already know, we will close the House at the end of 2020 and proceed with the task of designing and constructing an International House that will serve the needs of future generations of residents.

So yes, 2020 is a year we will not forget.

While the events and decisions of the year leave us tinged with sadness and compassion for those impacted, upon reflection we should look to the future with hope and determination to keep alive the ideals that make IH special.

The mission of the House, to foster international understanding and friendship, has never been more relevant in the world. The strength of diversity and the ability of diverse communities to provide support to their members has never been so needed. As a community we should use these times of change to remind ourselves that past generations have used adversity to build a better future, and so will we.

I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the IH Council to thank the wonderful staff of IH, ably led by the IH Director Jessica Carroll, for their support over many years. Through the efforts of Jessica and her staff, IH has provided so many residents with a unique and life changing experience.

To my fellow Council members and the IH alumni, I thank them for their collective wisdom in navigating through this difficult year and request their continued support as we chart out the future of IH.

So, let us look to the future with energy, enthusiasm and hope. We will get through the pandemic, we will rebuild IH and we will continue to give hundreds of students an experience that will allow them to contribute to the world in wonderful ways.

In the meantime, I say goodbye for now, take care and I look forward to the time we can meet again.



Jackie Korhonen
Chair, International House Council

From the director

This year has been extraordinary to say the least. If someone had told me in December 2019 that we would have a pandemic on our hands, the IH resident population would be halved, lectures would be online, physical distancing restrictions in place for both semesters, no face to face events, coupled with the decision to suspend operations to permit the redevelopment of the IH building on City Road, I would have said they were crazy. Well, it happened.

As the Director of IH for the last 18 years, I have witnessed hundreds, if not thousands, of bright and eager scholars enter the front doors on City Road, although some were very shy and reserved at first. I have gained immense pleasure in watching those same scholars grow in knowledge and confidence and leave with great gusto to take on the world as global citizens. It has also been wonderful to welcome alumni back to the House, returning to reminisce in the memories they hold of this special place.

As the fourth Director of IH, it has been an honour and a privilege to serve in this role. IH is an incredible place, one that is unique and transformational in many ways. When I began in this role, I could never have envisaged the many wonderful people I would meet, the fantastic events full of diversity and laughter, and memories of the good times and the bad times. I must admit it has been the best job in the world. It has provided me with a deeper understanding and appreciation for the diversity in people and that we are all unique individuals no matter where we are from. It is without doubt the mission of IH and the strength of its community that I will cherish most.

The most magical thing about IH is how its spirit has been passed on from year to year, from resident to resident, and has had a transformational effect on everyone. I know that the IH spirit will live on and we will see it rise again when the new House opens its doors in the future. Until then, I thank each of you for your support for the House and for me personally, and encourage you to keep 'passing the light' of international understanding and friendship.



Jessica Carroll
Director, International House

In my room

In the final instalment of ‘in my room’, Noah Ashton and Jennifer Spence, both from NSW, take us on a tour of their tech-savvy apartment.

Photography by Matthew Smith



1 Study area

Jen: This area is where we spend most of the time in our room. Whilst our study area was certainly important last year, with COVID-19 this year it is where everything from tutorials to study to YouTube breaks happen. We have two separate desks where we work at and both have desktop computers which make the long hours of sitting at the desk much easier than laptops. For Noah, this set-up includes three monitors that are somehow always in use.

Noah: For me my desk also doubles as a work bench and is next to my printer and tools so I can easily push my keyboard and mouse out of the way and get to work. The computer is central to this area as I use it to study, work, watch and play.

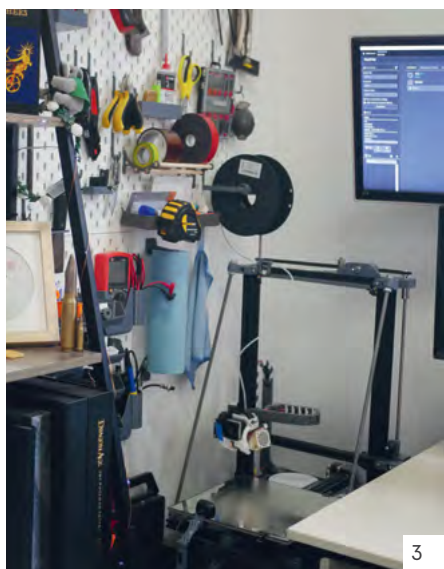
Noah Ashton
Bachelor of Engineering Honours

Jennifer Spence
Bachelor of Commerce



2 Lounge

Both: The lounge area in our apartment is one of the great parts of living here! This area, apart from just being a place to relax and watch Netflix has also been central to a lot of memories with friends. I still remember cramming everyone into my single room back on 8th floor and watching Netflix on a laptop. We definitely appreciate the extra space, which is also used as a VR space and workout area occasionally, which were a godsend during quarantine. Our friend Loklan also partly lives on the couch.



3

3 3D printer & toolset

Noah: Ever since I was a kid I always loved to take apart, repair and make things; and studying engineering has helped me embrace and grow this passion. My 3D printer is the centerpiece of my tool corner and has both been the subject of my tinkering and allows me to make almost anything I can draw up. I have collected many tools (quite a few from my dad) over time; from the basics like screwdrivers, pliers, and wrenches to more specialised tools like an oscilloscope and thermocouple. If you visit me in our room or see me in the Wool Room for I-Night you will probably see me making something!



4

4 Memory wall

Noah: I have stayed in IH since 2017 and was active around the House in 2016 because I had many friends that were residents. Being around the House gives you so many experiences, friends and memories which I try to keep pieces of here. I have tickets from three I-Nights, notes from Random Acts of Kindness, photos, and mementos from trips around Sydney with my friends just to name a few. Some of my favourites are a group photo from the archery club which has been a big part of my time at uni, a beautiful note from Francis who was one of my first friends at IH, and a couple tickets from my early dates with Jen.

5 Photo collage

Jen: The photo wall includes pictures from a lot of my favourite IH events such as ball and cruise and some pictures of family. While it's incomplete since I always forget to add to it, it's still really nice to have in the room and look back at. Looking back, it's hard to believe three years has passed since I've come to USYD and International House, and it feels so weird to be graduating at the end of this year. Despite COVID-19 this year I still have some really good memories from around the House - and hope I actually get around to adding them to the wall.



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Welcome week and semester two events

It was by no means a typical semester, but our residents managed to navigate the trials of Zoom lectures and physical distancing while continuing some IH traditions.





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1 Perlyn Cooper, Therese Lee and Serena Watson at our Paint & Sip meetup on the rooftop.

2 Hana Rossi and Natasha Suhochev warm up during the intramural sports competition.

3 Loklan Glance preparing the telescope at our annual SUIHAA Stargazing event at the IH Log Cabin.

4 Toby Wong at one of IHMA's regular 'informal dinners'.

5 Joseph Diong and Sophia Maranan aboard the annual IHMA Cruise on Sydney Harbour. Photo credit: Rickie Zhang.

6 Iris Yuan and Emily Keg in traditional dress as part of the I-Night fashion show.

7 Kevin Nanayakkara covered the Bee Gees and Electric Night Orchestra.

8 A regular on the I-Night stage, Avanish Shrestha performed songs by Tame Impala and John Mayer.

9 Astrid Liu and Timothy Beh's hip-hop inspired 'dance battle'.



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10 I-Night hosts Senal Munasinghe and Aryaman Sud warmed up the crowd before the first performance.

11 Alyssa Chia performed a stunning 'speed tap' routine.

12 Sophia Maranan performing a 'Sixteen Shots' dance routine.

13 Framed photos of IH as part of the 'memoryscape' set.

14 Chancellor Belinda Hutchinson AM speaks at the Candlelight and Closure Ceremony.

15 Toby Wong (Hong Kong), Anita Mak (China) and Adrian Wong (Hong Kong).

16 Lindsay Rui, Astrid Liu and Rickie Zhang represented China at the Candlelight and Closure Ceremony.

17 IHMA Chairperson Judd Zhan and Yujin Son.

Passing the light

Despite a challenging year, the importance of continuing the mission of International House has not been lost on the last group of residents to live in the current building.



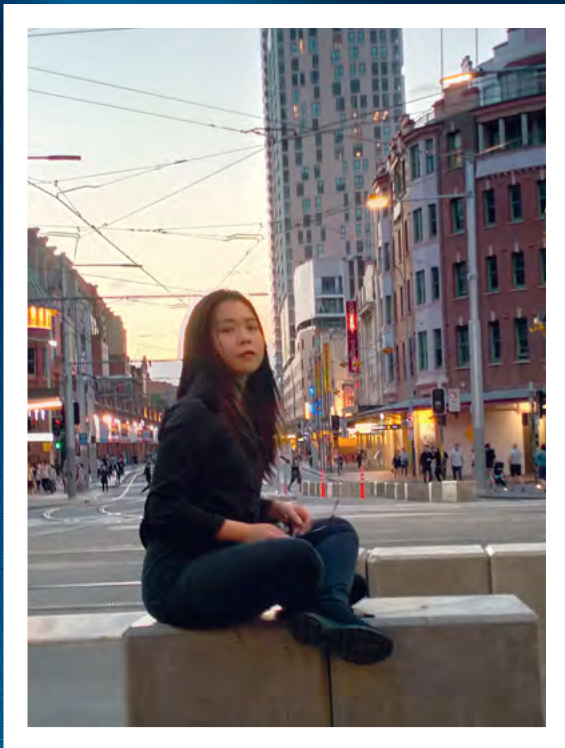
Timothy Beh (Malaysia)

What have you learnt from living in IH?

Wow, how do I even start? It's been an amazing experience, and I'm so glad to have went through this in my first year. I've learned how to connect with people whose cultures are different to mine, and still been able to form awesome friendships! I've come to see how important it is to have these bonds, as well as being welcoming and inclusive of those who would otherwise be left out.

How will you pass the light?

I will reach out to the people who come my way in the future and try to get to know them personally, as I did at IH. I hope to be able to go to another student accommodation, where my friends and I will be able to continue the spirit of IH, where we cherish our friendships and forge new ones.



Lindsay Rui (China)

What have you learnt from living at IH?

Stay open and start a conversation. IH hosts people from all around the globe, which provided me the opportunity to know people, to know cultures, and to make friends.

Intercultural competency sounds like such a big and complex phrase, but after a while, I came to realise that the starting point is as simple as asking "how are you?" in the dining hall. 2020 is the last year of the current IH building, and also the last year of my bachelor's degree. I will miss this place – the building, the vibe and all the lovely people I have met here.

How will you pass the light?

Things I have learnt from IH – kindness, understanding and cultural awareness, have become an essential part of me. I will bring them with me in the future no matter where I go and who I meet. I suppose this is my way of passing the light. Also, of course, keeping in touch with friends that I have met in the house even if we will end up staying in different parts of the world. Sometimes a call or a Zoom can be good enough.



Geraldine Chung (New Zealand)

What have you learnt from living at IH?

From my experience, I have learnt that being surrounded by a diverse range of residents can make it feel like a home away from home. The cultural diversity has enabled me to meet residents from all walks of life whilst sharing our stories and supporting each other. Through this experience, friendships have been forged and memories created that will be cherished for a lifetime.

How will you pass the light?

Being part of the last cohort of residents to be living in the IH building, I believe it is important that I pass the light of the house on to others to keep it alive. I will do so by sharing the memories and experiences that I have had with those I meet, to ensure that these memories and experiences continue to live on into the future.

100,000 grains of sand

Following in the footsteps of her great grandfather, Alice Lewthwaite reflects on her global pilgrimage across 18 countries to connect with the people and places central to the story of International House.



54 years ago, in 1966, aged 83, my great grandfather, Harry Edmonds, set off quietly from International House New York. He was probably wearing his black trilby hat and his old raincoat and was carrying a leather suitcase. He was off on his final world tour. In the next 104 days, travelling alone, he would visit 18 countries and meet over 1,000 alumni from the International Houses. Not bad for an era with no social media.



1 My great grandfather, Harry Edmonds.
2 Myself at International House of Japan.

3 My great grandfather, Harry Edmonds, at I-House Taipei, 1966.
4 Boxer Rebellion Indemnity Scholarship recipients, 1909.



It is this world tour that I re-created from January to March 2019, following Harry's itinerary as far as possible, I visited 18 countries and did 25 stops, meeting over 400 alumni from International Houses.

Harry was American, however I am British. This is because Harry's daughter, my grandmother, married an Englishman. I sadly never met Harry but doing the trip and meeting the alumni I did, I learnt that he was a very engaging and wonderful man and I particularly admire that he was a man of action.

In 1909, Harry was working in New York for the YMCA and one autumn morning he went up the steps of Low Memorial Library at Columbia University and he said good morning to a Chinese student. The Chinese student thanked Harry and explained to him that no one had spoken to him for three weeks since he arrived in the US.

The above picture probably includes the Chinese student Harry met – he was one of only 47 who came to the US in 1909 as part of the Boxer Indemnity Scholarship programme. This chance encounter saddened Harry and led to him and my great grandmother, Florence, inviting international students to their apartment for simple Sunday suppers and eventually with the support of the Rockefeller and Dodge families to the founding of the International House in New York in 1924, the first of the International Houses.



I visited the steps at Low Memorial Library on my trip where Harry met the lonely Chinese student and I reflected on how the meeting did not get lost as one of those things that happened in your day but galvanised him and his wife Florence into action.

Harry ran the New York House for 10 years during which time he helped Mr. Rockefeller with the founding of the Berkeley House and Chicago House.

My great grandfather then devoted the whole of his very long life to the idea behind the three original Rockefeller Houses, encouraging tolerance, understanding and international friendship. He was on hand to support the opening or planning of other Houses around the world, some of which were realised like Maison International in Paris, International Student House (ISH) London which was founded by Mary Trevellian in the 1960s. I believe Graeme de Graaff visited some of the Houses as I-House Sydney was in the planning and Harry and Graeme certainly met in 1977 when Graeme travelled to NYC to the 50th anniversary of I-House New York.

On his trip Harry set out a challenge to those he met which sums up what I have also hoped in some small way to do - "I think the human race today is facing the fateful moment in history and that any group that has lived in the International House, whether in New York or in any other place should fully realize this"... "Many of them have influence - are in positions to exercise their influence for world peace. I am trying to awaken in them to work with the spirit with which they had lived while staying at the International Houses - to continue their affiliation with the idea of International House."



5 NYC alumnus and Jyoti Sachavirawong (IH 1997-98).

6 Larry Kwok (IH 1979-80) with NYC alumni.

7 Harry and Florence Edmonds looking out of the windows of IH New York in 1924.

8 Virginia Teodosio (IH 1983-4), me, and other alumni.

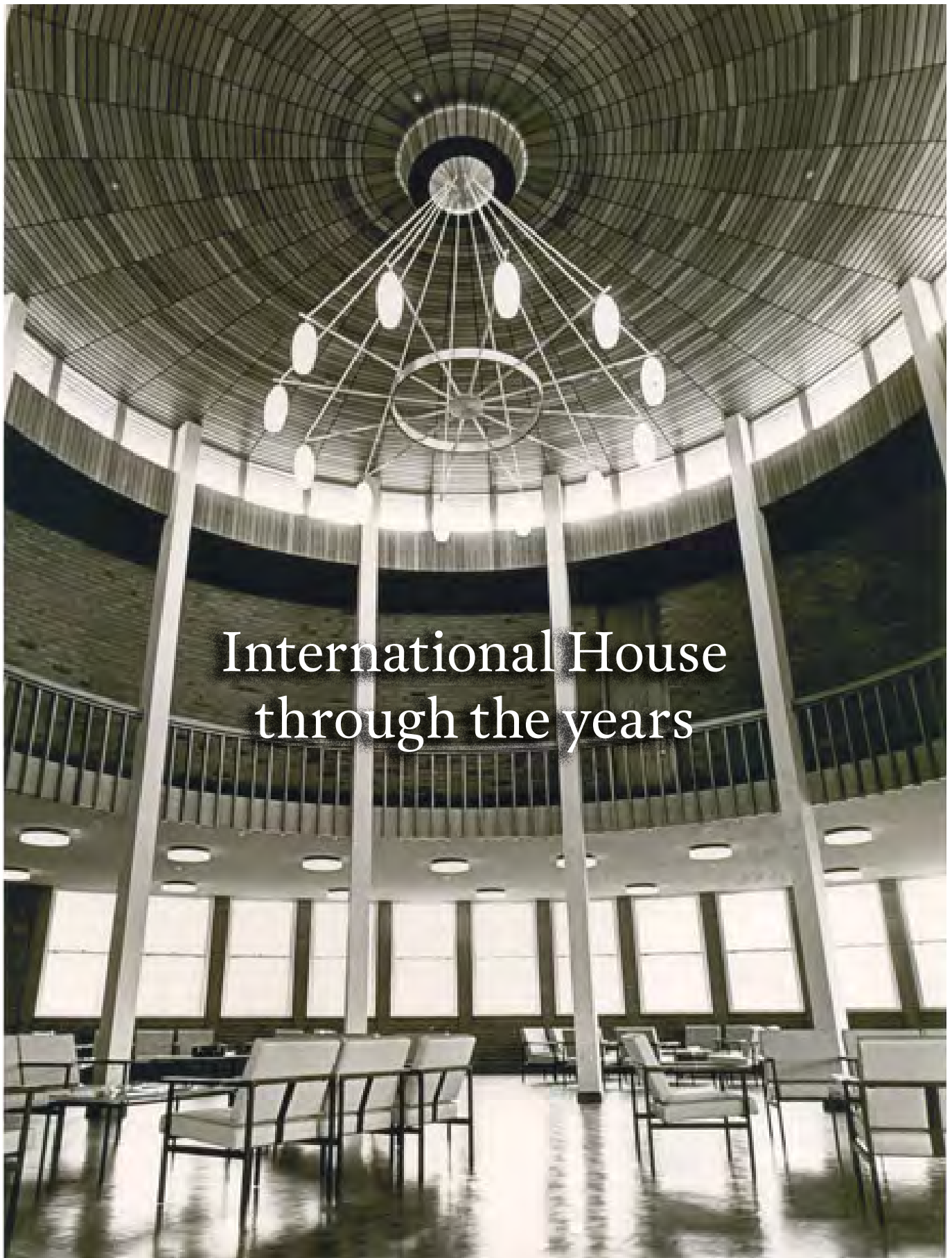
9 Linda Jonsson (IH 1998) and me.

10 Early sketch of International House New York.



This certainly was the case for the I-House Sydney alums I met on the trip, who held their time at the House so dearly that they willingly met with a total stranger to share their memories and how it had shaped their future lives. Over some truly delicious Chinese food with impressive views of Hong Kong harbor, Larry Kwok and I exchanged thoughts about how today the I-House concept is as relevant as ever. In Bangkok, Jyoti Sachavirawong shared her experiences at Sydney with alums from New York and ISH London. In Manila, Dr. Virginia Teodosio took on the traffic to join me and reminisced about the nationalities in her year group, the music and the dancing. Finally, in Malmo in Sweden I spent an evening with Linda Jonsson whose career in education at international schools was shaped by her time at the House.

While I was travelling, I-House Sydney's future was uncertain, fortunately the passion of the alumni, residents and Council members echoed back sufficiently to the University to help secure the decision to re-build on the existing site. As the current House closes its doors I would ask you all to take a moment to step back from your work or study and reflect on how best to honor the idea, take what you have learnt and like Harry not just talk about it but do something to ensure that in another 100 years it is still rippling. I would also ask you to pass the light on of tolerance, understanding and international friendship.





Breaking new ground: 1965

After 15 years of fundraising, it's official: International House – the brainchild of Harry Edmonds' endeavors to bridge the divide between international and domestic students in New York – will be built at the University of Sydney. Along with his wife, Lauris Elms, Graeme de Graaff moves from Melbourne to take up the role as the House's inaugural Director, a role he will hold until 1987.

Image above (left to right): Sir Charles McDonald (Chancellor, The University of Sydney), Mr W Edmonds Manson (Hong Kong Trade Commissioner), Mr Bernard Freeman (Rotary Club of Sydney), The Hon Mr Justice Clancy (Chancellor, The University of NSW), 1965.

The light burns bright: 1967

The House, designed by renowned architect Walter Bunning, officially opens to 120 male and female residents in 1967. The centerpiece is the stunning Rotunda Common Room (Wool Room) adorned with a chandelier that would later become emblematic of the House through Trevor Allen's logo.

Image opposite: The Wool Room finished and polished, 1967.



Distinctly international, uniquely Sydney: 1973

Carving out a unique identity among its church-affiliated peers, the House pays homage to its roots with an annual Candlelight Ceremony borrowed from similar houses in the US, yet establishes a unique custom in the form of International Night, which began as a parade of national costumes in 1968.

Image above: Fani Manikakis (IH, 1969-73), centre front, and 'Greek dancers' – International Night.



Expanding horizons: 1985

The House grows from its original 120-resident capacity to over 200 with the development of the East Wing in 1972, Elkin Wing in 1979, and Maze Building in 1985. Adding a unique thread to the already colorful tapestry of the House, 'the Maze' grants families and children access to on-campus accommodation at the University for the first time.

Image above: Children of IH celebrating a first birthday, 1988.



Legacy residents emerge: 1990

A welcome side-effect of the almost unprecedented model of a non-denominational, international college in 1960s, the House welcomes children of parents who met while in residence. The rooftop becomes a favorite haunt of residents who haul their chairs up the stairs and enjoy some spectacular views of a budding Sydney skyline.

Image left: View from the rooftop of IH, Easter Sunday, 1990.

Shifting demographics and demand: 2004

The rise of international students studying in Australia shores up the House's finances but leads to fresh demands of personal telephones and air conditioning. The number of undergraduate students at the House increases as overseas students undertake single-semester exchange programs at the University. The demographic shift is tempered by the steady hand of long-term staff including Director, Jessica Carroll; housekeepers, Kaye Lynch, Ana Cumming, Sasha Chen; and kitchen hand, Lionel Ingram.

Image right (left to right): House directors: Jessica Carroll, Graeme de Graaff, Geoffrey Andrews, Ruth Shatford.



Golden jubilee celebrations: 2017

Welcoming back some of our 'pioneer residents' from Australia and abroad, the House celebrates 50 years of international understanding and friendship with a year-long celebration including a Gala Luncheon, Roundtable, Celebration Concert, BBQ Reunion and Art Exhibition. The House commissions a painting by Dr Bronwyn Bancroft to mark the occasion. The artwork, titled 'Home' focuses on themes of family, friendship and cross-cultural learning and takes pride of place in the main staircase of the House.

Image above (left to right): Stephen Graves (IH, 1967), Bronwen Bryant (IH, 1967-69), Richard Ng (IH, 1967-69).



The end of an era: 2020

The official suspension of House operations pending redevelopment on the current site was announced. As social distancing restrictions and border closures come into effect due to COVID-19, the House witnesses more than half of its residents depart, and unlike the crowded dining room tables of yesteryear, no more than two residents per table are allowed to sit together.

Image above: IH residents Abhay Agrawal and Kaito Nakamichi enjoy a socially-distanced lunch.

Alumni profile: Moe Hassan (IH 2014-2019)



What drew you to International House?

International House was uniquely presented as a shared space of ideas, cultures and friendship with a dedicated program and resources to support its residents to thrive in a carefully established community. A critical failure of most modern residential colleges is their adoption of an inexplicable mindset where students are expected to live out their degrees at the facility on their own without support or even a nudge in the right direction. It really was a straightforward decision for me to choose to live at International House - its program-based structure and residential style just felt so carefully constructed that I really believed my time in Sydney would be in the right hands. It's always daunting to embark on a new chapter in life so knowing that International House was ready to keep me busy, social and safe made this choice so easy.

What was the most difficult thing about leaving IH?

February of 2014 is when I arrived at IH. It feels like a lifetime ago that I checked into IH as a worried high school graduate, eager – though shy – to embark on my next adventure. Having lived at IH all the way until early 2019, I did realise that I barely had any genuine worries in life because of how well I was taken care of there. I didn't have to cook, didn't have to worry about electricity or water bills, or cleaning my room, or even worry about a social life. And honestly, adulting – while liberating and a joy in its own right – has been exhausting!

I consider myself very fortunate and privileged to have been a part of a community that has welcomed me with open arms, nurtured me and enabled me to realise my potential. I am also incredibly grateful that we had the kindest individuals managing the House who strived to ensure that all our worries were taken care of so we could focus on our academics. To put it simply, the hardest thing about leaving IH was knowing it was the end of a chapter in life that was full of so much joy, friendship and self-discovery. Leaving IH was an inevitability but it was never any easier to leave.

Tell us about your current role at Online Marketing Gurus. Do you have any tips for current residents looking to get into a similar field?

Online Marketing Gurus is a multi-national digital advertising agency based in Sydney that is also the fastest growing company in its industry in Australia. I work as an accountant overseeing the revenue and income aspects of the company – my role is largely of an analytic and data-driven nature. It took a while to find a role that I was both professionally well-suited to and that was also compatible with my personality. I was never interested in working at an accounting

firm or a bank – I could always have gone back home to either Hong Kong or the US if I really wanted to go down that path in life. I did know though that I wanted to work somewhere in the media and entertainment industry and working for a vibrant, young and growing advertising agency felt like a good first step. Finding your first role after graduating is challenging, and with the advent of COVID it may even be stressful. Personally, culture-fit was incredibly important when I was looking for roles. Finding a job is tough, but staying and enjoying it doesn't need to be.



1 Moe Hassan.

2 International House Food Fair, 2019.

3 Christmas in July, 2018.

Is there a particular moment or memory that stands out about your time at IH?

The world in which we live in today has changed. When International House was first constructed back in the 60s, its core narrative was to foster the exchange of knowledge, culture, experience, and language. It was a hub of cultural activity in an Australia that was very different to what it is today.

Now, we live in a world of incredibly heightened cross-cultural awareness. Even though we are still battling it out to have a more perfect union, the human race is in a better place than where it was even a decade ago. The wheels of 'progress' are eternally in motion, after all. We live in communities comprised of multiple ethnicities and backgrounds and often spend our time relishing the cuisines of cultures that are not our own. Globalisation has swept across the world like a tidal wave, making it so much easier to experience other cultures and people from different backgrounds.

When I look back on the day I heaved up those IH foyer stairs with a suitcase full of clothes, hopes, and dreams, I remember just wanting to find a friend like me. Someone who liked the same things I did, ate the same food I did – basically another me. Little did I know that a year later one of my closest friends would end up being someone who not only did not like anything I liked but hated everything I liked passionately.

I've made incredibly close friends who I would never have met had I not come to IH. The world may be wide, expansive, and accessible these days but you often need a guiding hand to help you find those special people



in your life that you cherish forever. IH was that guiding hand through its programs and structure. When I talk to anyone else from my generation of residents, they tell me how shocked they are to this day that their closest friend is someone who they could never have imagined meeting had IH not put them together.

It's a systemic thing you know? The environment may be there, there's always going to be a thousand Thai restaurants in Newtown or 10,000 bubble tea stalls around Sydney but how do you truly connect two people with very different backgrounds and have there be a meaningful connection? That's a difficult geopolitical question posed to governments and countries today who struggle to find a nuanced answer. International House however, has

been answering that question every single day for the past 50 years. The world has never needed a place like IH more now.

I will always hold my IH memories close to my heart – my fondest memory of my time there may not be a particular moment but a collective unit of experiences and emotions throughout the five years. The true charm of IH though was that you needn't have lived there for five, one, or three years. Some have left International House after a year or even a semester but they would have the fondest memories of the place.

I am reminded of a poignant line from Raiders of the Lost Ark that perfectly encapsulates the International House experience: It's not the years, it's the mileage.

Professor Sid Gray awarded Emeritus status by the University of Sydney

The International House community congratulates Professor Sidney Gray, who was recently awarded Emeritus Professor status by the University of Sydney. The title of Emeritus Professor is bestowed upon retired professors who have made outstanding contributions to their universities and garnered substantial international recognition within their field of study.

Sid is widely recognised as a leading scholar in international accounting. The Academy of International Business awarded him a Fellowship in 2009, and the Academy of International Business acknowledged his substantive body of work in the journal with a Silver Medal for Scholarship. Sid obtained his PhD at Lancaster University, and was later Professor of Accounting and Finance at the University of Glasgow, where he served as Head of Department as well as becoming Director of the Glasgow Business School and Director of the



Centre for International Finance and Accounting. In 2003 he joined the University of Sydney as Head of Faculty of Business, and from 2006–2008 he was Associate Dean (International) and Professor of International Business, Faculty of Economics and Business. He was instrumental in enhancing the Business school's

international reputation, notably through his work in forming key strategic alliances and garnering CEMS accreditation, a membership awarded to 33 business schools around the world, and only one university per country.

Sid was a resident of International House from 1969 to 1971, a member of IH Council from 2000 to 2008, Chair of the Finance Committee of Council from 2004 to 2008 and Deputy Chair of Council from 2007 to 2008. In 2010, he was elected a Fellow of International House in recognition of his dedicated service to the governance of the House. As many alumni will know, Sid is a well-known and widely respected

member of the International House community. He has mentored numerous residents and willingly volunteered his time to promote the ideals of the House.

Congratulations, Sid!

Vale

Dr Joan Elizabeth Rowlands MB ChB, FRANZCO, D.O., DPH, AM (IH 1970) 1921–2020

Assistant Director 1979–80; Fellow 1991; SUIHAA President 2000–2003

Joan had a far-reaching influence on the lives of residents at International House, first as a resident herself in 1970, later as Assistant Director (1979–80) and subsequently as President of SUIHAA (2000–2003).

Joan brought an extraordinary wealth of intellect, life experience and good humour to the International House community. She was an inspiring role model and mentor to all those fortunate enough to know her.

Joan's legacy will continue at International House through the eponymous Cormack-Rowlands Award, which offers funds for residents to undertake a program to overcome disadvantage.



Dr Joan Elizabeth Rowlands (top) and Dr Hannah Wing-Han Yiu (bottom).

Dr Hannah Wing-Han Yiu (IH 1975, 1977) 1951–2020

Hannah was born in Hong Kong and came to Australia in 1971. She graduated in 1978 with Honours in Chinese and Japanese literature from Sydney University. She studied in Beijing before undertaking her PhD at London University (SOAS) on the Chinese essayist Lin Yutang.

Hannah played a pivotal role in the establishment of the multinational grocery business Oriental Merchant. As Marketing Manager based in Melbourne during the 1990s and later as a senior executive of Oriental Merchant Europe, her initiatives helped to popularise Asian-style cooking methods and ingredients in the wider community. Hannah had an international perspective developed at International House, but she was always proud of her own cultural heritage as well as her adopted home. She will be remembered for her generous nature, lively personality, radiant smile, her dedication to her family, and loyalty to her friends.

She is survived by her husband Greg (IH 1975–77) and sons David, and Alexander (IH 2007).

Written by Greg Houseman

For more information

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Our community

International House brings together Australian and international students from all over the world. Our diverse and close-knit community has been home to over 6000 students and scholars since we opened our doors in 1967.



Thank you for your support

International House has brought together over 6000 Australian and international students from all over the world since 1967. We thank the many residents, alumni, staff and volunteers who have championed our message of international understanding and friendship.



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