

Notable alumni

International House

The University of Sydney 2017/18

Dr Greg Anderson (1986) - Anglican Bishop of the Northern Territory

Anderson completed a double honours Arts degree in Psychology and Music at the University of Sydney. He became interested in Aboriginal music, completing a PhD after fieldwork in a remote outstation in the Northern Territory. After studying theology he became involved in Aboriginal church leader development in the NT, and later taught at Moore Theological College. He was elected Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of the NT in 2014.

"My first contact with IH was coming as a visitor to lead a weekly Bible study group in 1985. Our group was beautifully mixed, with students from Singapore, the Pacific, India, Indonesia and elsewhere as well as Australia. Sharing together gave each of us strength and encouragement, as well as enlarging our vision of the world. I moved into IH the following year. The Bible study group continued to meet, and I was able to have much deeper contact with its members, and was also able to revel in the linguistic and cultural diversity of the IH community."

Richard Andrews (1984-1986) - Australian Ambassador to Ireland

Prior to his appointment as Australia's Ambassador to Ireland, Andrews was a senior career officer in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and has previously served overseas as Minister (Political), Australian Embassy, Tokyo and as Counsellor, Australian High Commission, London. He holds a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) from the University of Sydney and a Graduate Certificate of Public Sector Management from Griffith University.

Dr Harald Bergsteiner (1967-1970) - Co-founder of the Institute for Sustainable Leadership Bergsteiner completed a PhD in management at Macquarie University, and specialises in sustainable leadership and accountability. He is an honorary professor at the Australian Catholic University, author, and advisor to government and the private sector. In 2017, he was engaged to design and conduct a training program for senior representatives of 17 G77 countries on Thailand's Sufficiency Economy Philosophy and ISL's Sustainable Leadership Practices.

"I consider myself extraordinarily lucky to have had the opportunity to make lasting friendships with a most wonderful and diverse group of people from all corners of the world. A huge vote of thanks to all those who made this possible."

Geoffrey Burchfield (1973-1975) - Science educator and broadcaster

Burchfield is Program Developer for the National Youth Science Forum, a prestigious Australian program dedicated to exposing high school students interested in pursuing careers in science-related disciplines to prominent scientific institutions and researchers, to help them make informed decisions about their future endeavours. He has been educating the Australian public about science since the 1980s in his capacity as the first dedicated science reporter on nightly news (1985), and as a presenter, writer and producer of stories and documentaries for the national broadcaster's original weekly flagship television science program, "Quantum" (1986-2001).



Dr Adrian Buzo (1969-1971; 1977) - Lecturer in Korean Studies at Macquarie University, former diplomat

Dr Adrian Buzo is a former diplomat to both Koreas who has also served on a number of Australian government bodies, including the Australia Korea Foundation (1990-2000), and has published widely in the field of Korean language and studies. He has been a writer, commentator and consultant on North Korean affairs for over 20 years and currently teaches Translation and Interpreting Studies at Macquarie University. The third edition of his The Making of Modern Korea was published by Routledge in 2016, who also published the second edition of his Politics and Leadership in North Korea: The Guerilla Dynasty in 2017.

"The friendships Erica (IH 1974-76) and I made have well and truly lasted the distance, and the House gave me a social life across an incredible spectrum of disciplines, age groups and cultural backgrounds. Just a fantastic experience."

Craig Collie (1968) - Author; former TV producer/director

Collie is an acclaimed author of four books, three focussing on World War 2 starting with: The Path of Infinite Sorrow: The Japanese on the Kokoda Track. He was formerly series producer of A Big Country and Quantum, Production Executive at the Australian Film TV & Radio School; and head of TV Production at SBS.

"If you come from the dominant cultural group, but work in an area where an understanding of multiculturalism is crucial, you need some means of bridging the cultural gap. For me, moving from ABC to SBS, the experience of living at International House gave me the sort of insights necessary to bridge that gap. I was able to help shape and readily understand the relevance of SBS programs like Pizza and Going Home - SBS was then focussing on the second migrant generation - and write books set in Japan and China (The Path of Infinite Sorrow, Nagasaki and The Reporter and the Warlords)."

Agnès Fiamma Papone (2000-2001) - Public health activist and epidemiologist; organic farmer

Fiamma has worked within the Reproductive Health and HIV Institute of the College of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa. The Institute was established in 1994 to support the new South African government formulate and implement national policies around sexual and reproductive health. She currently operates an organic farm in the Southern French Alps.

"At International House I found a haven of peace from which to continue my studies. Discovering and delving into the world of public health was a bit like falling in love, finding the warmth and friendships I made at International House were like the cherries on the cake. Dancing on stage at the talent night with the brilliant women I befriended will always remain a fondest memory, I wouldn't have dreamt one could have such fun and learn so much from the academic side to the wonderful, enriching human experience."

Prof John Gascoigne (1970-1972)

Gascoigne is a widely published and recognised historian and fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities. He has studied and taught in Sydney, Cambridge, Princeton and PNG and, since 1980, at UNSW.

"While still an undergraduate I was stimulated to take a global perspective which has since shaped much of what I have written."



Paul Gottlieb AM (1967-1969) - Scientist and Engineer Gottlieb is Business Development Manager at TESCAN ORSAY and Director at CBB Consulting. He developed Automated Mineralogy technology which is now used worldwide in the mining and energy sectors. Along the way, he received the CSIRO Medal, the Sir Ian McLennan Award, the Clunies Ross Award, and became a Member of the Order of Australia.

"IH is where I learned about Australia and the world."

Prof Sidney Gray (1969-1971) - Professor of International Business and Associate Dean International, The University of Sydney

Gray is Professor of International Business and Co-Director of the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Research Group at the University of Sydney. He was formerly Head of the School of Business. Sid is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia and a Fellow of the Academy of International Business. In 2012, he was conferred with the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws by Kwansei Gakuin University in Japan for his contributions to the advancement of culture. In 2015, he was an Australian Research Council appointed member of the Economics and Commerce Research Evaluation Committee for the 'Excellence in Research for Australia' (ERA) assessment of Australian Universities. Prior to joining Sydney University, he was a Professor at the University of New South Wales, University of Warwick (Warwick Business School) and the University of Glasgow. Sid has served as a member of Council and Deputy Chair of International House and was elected as a Fellow in 2010 for outstanding service to the House.

"International House gave me a wonderful opportunity to interact and engage with students from many countries, to learn about their cultures and to develop life-long friendships."

Prof Greg Houseman (1975-1977) - Professor of Geophysics, School of Earth and Environment, University of Leeds

Houseman is Professor of Geophysics at the University of Leeds. Since graduating from the University of Sydney, Greg has gone on to complete a PhD at Cambridge, as well as hold positions at Harvard, ANU and Monash University. His research interests centre on the structure of the lithosphere and the causes of earthquakes in tectonically active regions. From 2017 Greg will hold fractional appointments at both University of Sydney and University of Leeds as Professor of Geophysics.

"As an undergraduate, International House gave me a window on a wider world and an appreciation that people from diverse cultures are all part of the same big family. The world's cultures are an incredible resource, along with the natural resources that we need to share. Economic development that reduces inequality, fosters peace, and preserves the natural environment should be the key priorities for the future, and International House promotes those values in the next generation of leaders. IH has also played a key role for my family: my wife Hannah and I met at IH, and 30 years later my son Alex lived there while studying at Sydney U".

Dr Michael Hwang SC (1967) - Barrister and international arbitrator

Hwang is a fixed term Judge of the High Court of Singapore; President of the Law Society of Singapore; and Chief Justice of the Dubai International Financial Centre Courts. He was Awarded the Pierre de Coubertin Medal by the International Olympic Committee and is Singapore's Non-Resident Ambassador to Switzerland and Argentina.

"My year in IH was the first time I had felt a member of a fully integrated community, if not a family, then certainly a village, and that village spirit is what IH should preserve for all time."

Larry Kwok (1979-1980) - Corporate lawyer, Founding partner of Kwok Yih & Chan Larry Kwok is a global expert in business, corporate and regulatory matters including insider dealings, accounting irregularities and market misconduct. He has served on Government boards and committees and consults numerous US, European and Hong Kong corporations. He has been acknowledged as a leading corporate lawyer in Hong Kong and as one of the 100 most influential lawyers in China.

Dr Nuli Lemoh (1968) - Paediatrician and international health advocate

Lemoh graduated in Australia, married fellow IH resident Margaret Bromley, studied paediatrics in London and gained membership of the Royal College of Physicians. He practised in Australia and in Sierra Leone where he became Chief Paediatrician for the whole country. Lemoh inspired SUIHAA and Rotarians in Australia, the UK and Sierra Leone to raise funds to found and operate the Bo Children's Hospital which has treated 20,000 children in Sierra Leone since opening in 2012.



Dr Ros Madden (Wood) AM (1968-1970) - Statistician and social researcher

Madden (IH 1968-69) is recognised for her work nationally, internationally and with World Health Organization committees and NGOs, to improve information, policy and services for people with disability. Ros was a member of the Editorial Committee for the World Report on Disability (2007-2011) and an invited speaker at its launch at the UN in New York, 2011. She was President of SUIHAA 2016-19.

"Day-to-day life in International House motivated me to become practical in my idealism about cultural understanding – a valuable lesson for working internationally."

Dr Jatinder Mann (2005-2007)

Mann is the author/editor of two books, and numerous articles and scholarly book chapters. He was previously a prestigious Banting Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Alberta in Canada. Mann was also awarded an Endeavour International Postgraduate Research Scholarship for his doctoral research.

"International House, University of Sydney was always an extremely supportive home for me whilst I was doing my Ph.D., and I am so grateful for the lifelong friendships that I made there."



Allan Moss AO (1970-1972) - Board Member, Reserve Bank of Australia; Former Managing Director and CEO of Macquarie Group

Moss spent 15 years as head of Macquarie Group - a global investment banking and diversified financial services group - transforming it into one of Australia's most successful companies. In December 2015, he was appointed to the nine-member board of the Reserve Bank of Australia.

"I was fortunate to forge some strong friendships at IH, a number of which have continued to remain very strong over nearly half a century."

Dr Dominick Ng (2007-2010)

Ng is a Senior Software Engineer at Google in Sydney where he works on Chrome, Google's web browser. He completed a Bachelor of Information Technology earning the University Medal (2010) and a PhD in computational linguistics (2015) at the University of Sydney. In 2012, he was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship, and spent a year at UC Berkeley in the United States.

"International House was my first home away from home. Living and learning alongside such a diverse group of like-minded individuals was a formative experience that has shaped my career -particularly my interest in using technology to break down barriers between people and information."

Li-Chi Pan (2010-2014) - Art Director, social media influencer

Pan is a South Africa-born, Sydney-based digital art director who has worked with a range of iconic brands. With over 500,000 Instagram followers, the Master of Architecture graduate showcases her photography and styling prowess to a wide audience. She was recently named ELLE South Africa's "Insta-crush".

"My time spent at International House was a special one filled with so many incredible people, memories and self growth. It was a sacred place for me, my home away from home and the place which helped me to learn that being away from South Africa would be okay."



Prof Vaughan Pratt (1968-1969) - Computer theorist; cofounder, Sun Microsystems

Pratt has made pioneering contributions to foundational areas of computer science, such as search algorithms, sorting algorithms, and primality testing. He has spent the majority of his career at Stanford University where he initiated several 'cottage industries' including Sun Microsystems which he helped found and contributed to its early operations. He has been Emeritus Professor at Stanford since 2000.

"To live in IH is to acquire an understanding of the rest of the world through effortless daily exposure to your equals, whatever their origin. Fifty years later you've hardly noticed the changes until you start to wonder: how could so many people today be so intolerant of other cultures? Was I like that before IH?"



Ruchir Punjabi (2005-2007) - Founder and Chairperson of Langoor

Punjabi founded Langoor, a digital agency of creative technologists with offices around the world. He was the Founding Chairperson of the Australia India Youth Dialogue; and Founder of the Australia India Business Council of Young Professionals; Non-Executive Director of the Foundation for Young Australians and a member of IH's Council. He served as President of the University of Sydney Student Union, and in 2012 won the Young Alumni Achievement award.

"There are few things in life more enriching than sitting around the International House dining table full of people from different countries discussing their cultures, background and world events. It made me a global citizen in a way nothing else could have."



Dennis Schatz (1969-1970) - Science educator and children's book author

Schatz worked as research solar astronomer at CSIRO in Sydney and at UC Berkeley before pursuing his career in science education, which started at the Lawrence Hall of Science at UC Berkeley. He played a leadership role for programs at the Pacific Science Centre in Seattle, United States, for 40 years. He is the author of 25 science books for children that have sold over two million copies worldwide, and is also the co-author/editor of curriculum resources for teachers.

"Before my stay at IH, I lived most of my life in an internationally isolated part of the United States. My time at IH open my eyes, my mind and my heart to other cultures' traditions, lifestyles and living conditions. This enlightened understanding of the world has influenced my morale compass and intellectual endeavors ever since."



Dr Peter Shaver (1967-1968) - Astrophysicist, Senior Scientist at the European Southern Observatory

Dr Shaver's research contributions ranged from our galaxy to distant quasars and the reionization of the universe. His books include "Cosmic Heritage: Evolution from the Big Bang to Conscious Life", he has also been involved in international organizations and projects, in particular the Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array (ALMA).

"I met my wife Jenefer at IH (need I say more?). We had international lives, living in seven countries; I worked in an inter-governmental organization, and our children were educated in an international school. We all strongly believe in the global community."

Nicholas Stuart (1981-1982) - Journalist and author

Stuart is a journalist with Fairfax Media and author of "Kevin Rudd - an unauthorized political biography"; "What Goes Up - behind the 2007 election"; and "Rudd's Way, 2007-2011". He worked as a foreign correspondent with the ABC until he was critically injured in a car crash in Bangkok. After a long period in hospital, he resumed working as a columnist. He has published three books on Australian politics, and is working on another about the changing nature of journalism.

"I love the wonderfully egalitarian nature of IH. The roundtables, where you'd find yourself discussing physics one moment and philosophy the next, everything from African society to Asian politics. An opportunity to learn much more than was simply offered in the University's courses."

Prof John Webb OAM (1967) - Scientist, international scholar and diplomat

Webb (IH 1967), a distinguished educator, scientist, international scholar and diplomat, established collaborative regional research networks in Asia. He held the senior diplomatic post in New Delhi responsible for education and science matters between Australia and South Asia. On his return to Australia, Webb established the Australia India Institute, of which he was Deputy Director. Now at Swinburne University, Webb advises on India and innovation projects, as well as ethical issues relating to disarmament of chemical weapons.

Dr Walter Westman (1967) - Former lecturer at UCLA and LGBT rights activist

The annual Walter Westman Lecture in Science, Humanity and the Environment is held annually by IH in Westman's honour. Walter's story is told by his brother Robert in the IH magazine of December 2019. Walter is best known for 'his international reputation in plant ecology and his founding of an organization in 1980 to recognize and support gay and lesbian scientists in the fight against homophobia.' Robert writes movingly of the importance to Walter of his time in Australia and living at IH.

Martin Williams (1969) - Film producer

Williams was an Australian film and documentary maker, whose notable works included *Singles, Relative Merits*, and the documentary *So Close to Home*. Prior to his work in film, Martin worked at the ABC where he helped to establish 2JJ, a precursor to radio station Triple J.



Lyn Woodger Grant (1971-1972) - Visual artist

Woodger Grant has had a long-standing passion for anthropology, ecology and painting. She is a qualified art historian with a major in anthropology from the University of Sydney. The Royal Geographical Society elected Woodger Grant as a Fellow for her artistic contribution towards environmental awareness.

"I experienced the best aspects of humanity while at International House. If peace, respect and harmony could prevail in the microcosm of International House, why not in the macrocosm of planet Earth?"

Shivam Chanana (2010) - Head of Online at India's largest music and movies production company, T-series

Guillaume Chartres (1999-2001) - Former Project and Operations Manager at the United Nations

Alfa Chasanah (1988-2001) - English Lecturer at Bogor Agricultural University

Prof Andres Gomez da Silva - Professor of Computer Science at Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México

Dr Margo Honeyman - Former Senior Scientist in Immunology at Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research

Alex Houseman - Founder and Managing Director of dairy-free ice-cream company, Over The Moo

Max Kaye - self-described Politician, Developer, Philosopher

Robert Mirafuente - Architect and President of Frima Global Home Corporation

Bernard Narokobi (IH: 1967) - Former politician and PNG High Commissioner to NZ

Prof Denise Osborn - Professor Emeritus of Econometrics at University of Manchester; first female Secretary-General of the Royal Economic Society

Peter Pun - Former Director of Planning in Hong Kong

Dr Joan Rowlands AM - Medical practitioner and author

Sarinthorn (Jyoti) Sachavirawong - Deputy Director of the British Chamber of Commerce, Thailand

Danny Sriskandarajah - Social and political commentator; Secretary General of Civicus

David Shannon - Former barrister: Chairman of Lizard Island Reef Research Foundation

Rosanne Taylor - Dean, Faculty of Veterinary Science at the University of Sydney

Prof Virginia Teodosio - Professor of Industrial Relations at University of the Philippines

Helen Townsend (McIntyre) - Author and freelance writer

Mealy Truong - Former Senior Adviser at The National Assembly of The Kingdom of Cambodia; and Cambodian Ambassador to Japan

Contact

Sydney University International House Alumni Association

suihaa@sydney.edu.au

