



January 2022

# Happy New Year from SUIHAA!

## A message from the new SUIHAA Executive team

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*The University  
plans to redevelop  
IH on the current  
site*

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The last year has been “quite a ride” as we work through the Greek alphabet of COVID variants and end the first full year with International House closed for redevelopment. The good news, as you will read later in this message, is that the University of Sydney is committed to redeveloping IH on the current site. The success to date was having an active IH Council to “make the case” with University leadership. Equally important, if not more important, was the extensive advocacy by IH alumni through many emails directed to the Vice-Chancellor.

We will need to be vigilant as the University progresses through its planning to ensure it keeps the needs of a vibrant IH a high priority. This will require maintaining an active alumni group, whose voice can be heard when needed. With this in mind, the current members of the SUIHAA Committee (see list later in this message) are committed to maintaining active communication with alumni and providing a number of virtual ways to engage. See more later in this message about the options. Please express your opinion of what will keep you engaged during the years until IH opens again – and beyond.

We would also love to hear from you regarding your latest activities to put in future messages – see recent correspondence with Fani Nicolandis at the end of this message.

We look forward to providing regular communications during the coming year.

All the best for a COVID-free 2022,

Dennis Schatz, *SUIHAA President*  
James Kane, *SUIHAA Secretary*  
Brittany Ridley, *SUIHAA Treasurer*

## 2021 SUIHAA AGM

SUIHAA held its most recent AGM on 21 November 2021. Due to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions in Sydney, the meeting took place via Zoom, as in 2020. Though the closure of IH and the challenges of the pandemic have made in-person SUIHAA meetings much more difficult, one advantage of SUIHAA's adoption of videoconferencing technology is that it provides a straightforward means for alumni from all around the world to participate in events like the AGM. Many alumni embraced this opportunity enthusiastically in the case of the de Graaff-Elms Biennial Roundtable in August 2021, which was also held via Zoom.

The following is a summary of key points from the AGM:

- Brittany Ridley (SUIHAA Treasurer) reported that, although SUIHAA's finances are in a relatively healthy position, SUIHAA no longer receives membership fees from residents due to the closure of IH in 2020. This means that SUIHAA does not have a main source of revenue anymore. SUIHAA's existing funds should nevertheless be sufficient to cover anticipated expenses until the reopening of IH.
- Gwen Ng spoke in memory of the late and greatly missed Dr Nuli Lemoh, Founder of the Bo Children's Hospital in Sierra Leone. Gwen also provided alumni present at the meeting with a welcome update on the Hospital, which will celebrate its tenth anniversary in April 2022. The SUIHAA Committee is very grateful to Gwen for her thoughtful and thorough update, particularly given that SUIHAA does not currently have a Bo Convenor.
- Greg Houseman (Deputy Chair, IH Council) kindly provided an update on discussions regarding the future of IH. Prior to the closure of the House in late 2020, the University of Sydney established a Project Control Group to oversee the early stages of the proposed redevelopment of IH. It has been recommended that a high-level business case be prepared for (i) a 500-bed standalone facility on the current site and (ii) a 500–600-bed facility integrated within a mixed-use development on the site. The University has not yet formally decided on which option to pursue, but the intention to redevelop and reopen IH is genuine. Greg emphasised that IH alumni have a crucial role to play in advocating for the future IH and articulating its importance to the University.
- The future of the Walter Westman Lecture and the IH Log Cabin in NSW's Belanglo State Forest was also discussed, though much remains uncertain in both cases. The SUIHAA Committee will investigate these issues further in 2022.

With Greg Houseman acting as Returning Officer at the AGM, the following alumni were elected to the SUIHAA Committee for 2021–2022:

**President:** Dennis Schatz  
**Treasurer:** Brittany Ridley  
**Secretary:** James Kane

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*Key points from  
the SUIHAA  
AGM on 21  
November 2021*

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**General Committee Members:** Brian Farmer, Moe Hassan, Ros Madden, Paul Reisner, Louise Trott

In accordance with the SUIHAA Constitution (Section 5b), up to **five** additional alumni may join the SUIHAA Committee as General Committee Members. Please contact the Secretary, James Kane, at [iamkane2@gmail.com](mailto:iamkane2@gmail.com) if you are interested in joining the Committee. Your involvement would be most welcome!

The new SUIHAA Committee wishes to thank members of the previous Committee for all their efforts during one of the most tumultuous times in SUIHAA's history.

## IH's newest Fellow

At the 2021 SUIHAA AGM, Greg Houseman announced that IH Council has decided to elect Jessica Carroll as a Fellow of International House in recognition of her significant contributions to IH during her tenure as Director between 2002 and 2020.

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*Jessica Carroll*  
*elected as IH*  
*Fellow*

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A Fellows' Lunch will be held in Sydney on 20 February 2022 to celebrate Jessica's award. Please contact Greg at [greg.houseman@gmail.com](mailto:greg.houseman@gmail.com) with any enquiries (bearing in mind that the current COVID-19 outbreak in NSW may disrupt plans). Further details available here:

<https://www.thewomenscollege.com.au/event-detail/international-house-fellows-lunch/> **RSVP by 31 January 2022.**

## Seeking your input

Now we need your input! With the house closed for redevelopment and COVID likely to be around for the coming year, the SUIHAA Committee will meet in early February to decide on activities for 2022 and ongoing communication until the building reopens. Any programming will primarily be done virtually, so alumni from around the globe will be able to participate, even if not always at a convenient time. If possible, we will record events for later viewing.

**Please respond by Friday, January 21, to the email with this message** to tell us the top three things you would like the committee to do:

1. Provide regular communication of SUIHAA programs, progress on IH redevelopment and alumni news (not necessarily a newsletter).
2. Post regularly on the SUIHAA Facebook page
3. Continue the de Graaff-Elms Biennial Roundtable (in 2023 and beyond)
4. Offer at least one other virtual program relevant to international relations
5. Continue the Rosemary Berrick photography contest with photos featured in the regular communication and/or on SUIHAA Facebook page
6. Other (please specify)

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*What would you*  
*like to see from*  
*SUIHAA?*

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## Message from IH alum

Fani Nicolandis writes from what is usually their summer home in a small village on Kasos Island, Greece. It is a house without heating and bathroom outside – perfect for the summer. But she longed for the fresh sea air, fresh fish, being outdoors to look at the horizon and the simplicity of village life. It is beautiful to see the night sky without lights. So, they decided to come in winter, which offered a winter-only delight - many children coming to sing Christmas carols all day long and groups of young boys and girls playing music in the evening.




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*Fani Nicolandis on  
Kasos, Greece*

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She says she regularly receives news from her IH roommate, Marianne Ziekenheiner, who lives in Holland and recently became a grandmother. Her other roommate, Stevie Davenport, sends news from Tasmania. She also had news from Kay Patterson who is enjoying time with her family in the Snowy Mountains.