



SJSU INTERNATIONAL HOUSE ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 1, WINTER 2012



Photo by Paul Tumason

Fall 2008 and Spring 2009 I-Housers reunite at the Spring 2012 Formal Dinner: Sarah Kyo, Nnamdi Nwaigwe, Arash Motamedi, Simone Jeger, Leann Cherkasky Makhni, Cecil Robert, Kristen Pendleton, James Herrin, and Amanda Chiang.

A TRANSFORMATIONAL MOMENT IN OUR LIVES

BY ARASH MOTAMEDI

There are only a few transformational moments in each person's life. You know, like when you finish college, get your first job, fall in love, buy a house, and have children. These are moments that make you grow into a new and more mature, a better and wiser person.

For us, lucky I-House alumni, there is one more truly unique and profoundly transformational moment, which is when we walked in to that beautiful, old, charming building at 360 South 11th St.

Decorated with the proud flags of our countries, and welcoming to all our languages and cultures, this wonderful International House took us in, gave us wings, and helped us fly all over the world with a sense of familiarity and connection with people in all corners of this vast, beautiful earth.

We loved living with amazing people. Felt like they were our brothers and sisters, they were our closest and best friends. We enjoyed their foods and learned a word or two from their languages. We traveled with them to near and far destinations. We had a crush on them, loved them, married them. We grew and transformed with them.

To a House that has given us so much, we owe all what we can afford. This House has to stay as lovely and lively as it has been for us, so that our children can someday walk through its doors and brag to its future residents "my parents lived here, and now I'm going to live here."

It is only through our commitment, and donations and contributions that we can ensure this place will touch more people's lives the way it touched ours. 

Arash Motamedi (Iran, '08-'10) recently donated very generously to the I-House Scholarship Fund.

I-HOUSE REUNION BALI, INDONESIA JULY 17-24, 2013

CELEBRATE OUR 35TH ANNIVERSARY!
MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW
FOR AIRLINES AND HOTEL!
REUNION DETAILS: WWW.SJSU.EDU/IHOUSE

ALSO, MARK YOUR CALENDAR:
BALTIC SEA CRUISE TO ST. PETERSBURG, RUSSIA
JUNE 2015 LED BY PAUL BELASKY '85.

Photo by Kenny Teo (zoompict), Flickr

IN MEMORY OF PHYLLIS SIMPKINS, 1925-2012



Can you imagine touching as many lives as Phyllis Simpkins did over the course of her lifetime? Thousands and thousands of us at International House benefited from Phyllis' generosity and personal involvement. Alan and Phyllis left a tremendous legacy. They were role models for all of us and touched so many lives deeply, positively, and with lasting impact.

Wouldn't you like to be remembered, as Phyllis is, for your can-do attitude, ability to overcome obstacles, your active participation, long-term commitment, thoughtfulness, and modesty?



Phyllis' last words to her family are very powerful: "Tell everyone I love them. See you all soon. Go Spartans!" What a vibrant, giving, caring, energetic individual she was and how fortunate we were to have her in our lives.

Phyllis was very excited for our upcoming 35th anniversary alumni reunion in Bali, Indonesia July 17-24, 2013. We hope you will join us! See the I-House website for details: www.sjsu.edu/ihouse. 

— Leann Cherkasky Makhni, Director of SJSU International House

ENDOWMENT



The I-House endowment was set up by Phyllis in the hopes that alumni and friends of the International House will continue to contribute financially. In the U.S., a self-support non-profit organization like I-House counts on alumni and friends like you to offer the best possible experience to our current residents through scholarships and facility maintenance. In Phyllis' memory and to honor her legacy, any contributions you make to the Endowment or Scholarship Funds will be appreciated.

To donate online, please go to the following web page:
<http://www.sjsu.edu/giving/ihouse>.

You can also mail a check payable to SJSU Tower Foundation. The Endowment is a 501(c)3 fund making donations tax deductible. Explore whether your company offers matching grants.

SJSU PHYLLIS FORWARD SIMPKINS INTERNATIONAL HOUSE

ADDRESS:
360 South 11th Street
San Jose, CA 95112

PHONE:
408-924-6570

FAX:
408-924-6573

E-MAIL:
ihouse@sjsu.edu

WEBSITE:
www.sjsu.edu/ihouse



FACEBOOK
GROUP:
I-HOUSE @ San Jose CA



LINKEDIN
GROUP:
SJSU International
House



THANK YOU TO ENDOWMENT CONTRIBUTORS

360 SJSU INTERNATIONAL HOUSE ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Volume 3, Issue 1,
Winter 2012

DIRECTOR:
Leann Cherkasky Makhni

COMMUNITY
OPERATIONS MANAGER
Kristen Pendleton

ALUMNI REPRESENTATIVE:
Bob Aron

ALUMNI REPRESENTATIVE:
Drew Weeks

ENDOWMENT DEVELOPER
Ben Reichmuth

GRAPHIC DESIGNER:
Sarah Kyo

Reach us at
ihouse@sjsu.edu

Why 360?
*It's the I-House's address.
*It's the number of degrees of a circle.
*There's an expression, "come full circle," meaning to return to a starting point. We hope this newsletter helps you come full circle with 360 South 11th Street in San Jose, California!

DONORS WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE ENDOWMENT AND SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS. YEARS LIVED AT I-HOUSE ARE MARKED NEXT TO NAMES OF ALUMNI

AMBASSADOR
PHYLLIS F. SIMPKINS

HONORARY CONSULAR OFFICERS (\$10,000 AND UP)
CHUCK DAVIDSON
HENRY DOWN
STELLA B. GROSS
ARASH MOTAMEDI, '08-'10
TERRY ROSE
BARRY SWENSON
DIANE TROMBETTA

CONSUL GENERAL (\$5,000-\$9,999)

VICE-CONSUL (\$1,000-4,999)
CLIFF VAN AMEN, '92-'93
BOB ARON & YVETTE YOUNG, '81-'85
MICHAEL BORDONI
LEE BRANDENBURG
CYRILLE MORELLE, '96-'97 & MAGGIE LEE, '94-'97
ANDY & VERONICA LENZ, '93-'98
JAN OELJESCHLAGER, '98-'00
DREW WEEKS, '91-'93
PARENTS OF DREW & DEREK WEEKS

FOREIGN MINISTER (\$500-749)
DIANE & JIM BORDONI
JAMES HSIEH, FALL '82
CARMEN SIGLER

DIPLOMAT (\$250-499)
ANONYMOUS ALUMNI DONOR, '10-'12
SYED '91 & REBECCA ALSAGOFF, '92
PAUL BELASKY, SPRING '84-'87
SEVERINE DEVAL, '91-'92
CONNIE GERLACH
DONNA & CRAIG LEIDERSDORF
A.G. LENZ
MAC MAKHNI & LEANN CHERKASKY MAKHNI

DIPLOMAT (\$250-499) CONTINUED
HUY NGUYEN, FALL '98-SPRING '04
JUAN '92 & MONIQUE PORRAS, '91-'93
EDUARDO SEGURA, '06-'08
SCOTT WEMYSS, '94

CULTURAL ATTACHE (\$1-249)
ANONYMOUS
GEORGE ARTHUR
MEHRDAD BANIHESHEMI, '89 - '95
BIBIANA BARRIOCANAL, SPRING '90
CHIARA BOSSI, FALL '09 - SPRING '10
STEPHEN BRANZ
GLORIA CHEN, '85-'87
FREDA CRUM
SUE CRUST, DIRECTOR '78-'85
CARLA ESTELL, '96-'99
ERIKA FAUST, FALL '90-'95
CAROLINE FEE
ROBERT FISHER
MARYANN FOX
GARY FOX
MICHELLE GRIGG, '07-'08
CHRISTINE GUNNARSSON, FALL '82 - SPRING '86
DAVID HEAGERTY
REBECKA HEINMERT, SPRING '99 - FALL '99
KEVIN HOWARD, '81-'85
ADITYA (EDDIE) INAMDAR, '90-'91

FARID ISMAYILZADA, '05
MARILYN JONES
FINN JENSSEN
ERIK & JUDY JOHNSON
AH YOUNG "ERIN" KIM, SPRING & FALL '07
GAYLE KLUDT
TOMASZ KOLODZIEJAK
BARBARA KUANG, '85-'86
JUAN LEANDRO DEL VIEJO DOMINGUEZ, '07-'08
DAWN MCCORMICK
DORIS MENENDEZ
TOM METZ, '98

CULTURAL ATTACHE (\$1-249) CONTINUED
SOULEYMANE ONGOIBA, '02
KRISTEN PENDLETON & VINCE MURPHY
SOUBHASH POUDYAL, '02
PETER & RITA PRINDLE
LANA RAIMBAULT, SPRING '92
BRIAN '85-'87 & STACY RAWSON, '86-'88
MARIE P. RAWSON
KATHY & MATT READY
GUIDO RIETDYK, '85
JOHN RITCHEY III
CHRISTOPHER ROCHE, '88-'89
MIKE ROSENZWEIG, FALL '93- FALL '96
THORSTEN SANDHAUS, '98 - '99
NIZAR SAQQAR, '10 -'12
NINA SCHJELDERUP, '85-'88
CHARLOTTE SELOVER
CHRISTINE SENOVILLE, '93-'94
SWAR SHAH, '05-'06
MARGE SUNG, '95-'97
TO KALON CLUB
EDWARD URIBE, '90-'92
DEREK WEEKS, '91
JASON & CLARISA YEO, '88-'91



Q&A

Alumni return to I-House, living under one roof again

BY SARAH KYO

I-House was fortunate to have many alumni visit during the Spring 2012 semester. Here are excerpts from interviews with some former residents who visited in late February/early March.

HELDER DIAS, BRAZIL, FALL '10 - SPRING '11

Why did you visit I-House again?

I was going to travel around the West Coast with a Brazilian friend of mine (who was currently living at I-House at the time), and I thought it would be a great idea to stop by the Bay Area and spend some time reconnecting with old friends.

What was exciting about coming back here? How was it different than when you were a resident?

My visit was totally different than when I used to be an I-House resident. I spent some nights in the guest room and I felt really uncomfortable walking alone in the House since I knew just a few of the residents. But, overall I had a great stay in the I-House and I was really excited because I was able to spend some time with old friends.

MARC GAGNON, CANADA, SPRING '11

Which dates did you visit I-House during the Spring 2012 semester?

It was in March. I was in the Bay Area for four days for an interview at Tesla Motors in Fremont.

(SJSU recently interviewed Marc for a video about his new job with Tesla Motors. Visit the news website SJSU Today to learn more: <http://bit.ly/sjsu-tesla-post>).

Why did you visit I-House again? What was exciting about coming back here?

Paul and Helder were visiting at the same time, so it was natural to meet at the I-House. We went to eat at the DC and we went out at the Loft! It was pretty

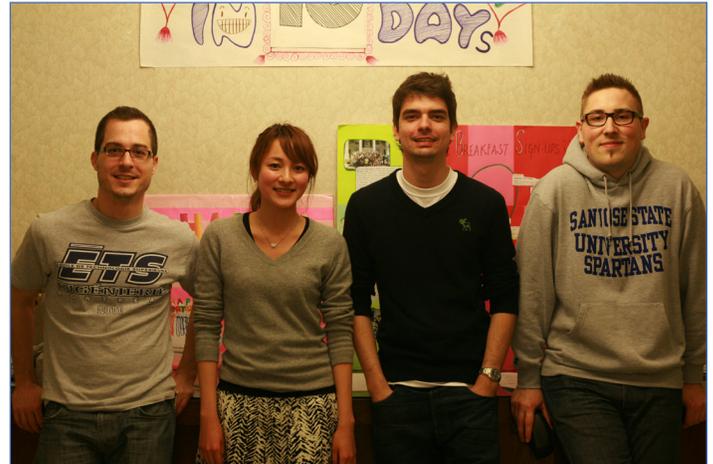


Photo by Nizar Saqqar

From left to right: Marc Gagnon, Hitomi Fujimoto, Helder Dias and Paul Huekel.

fun! We had a blast!

PAUL HUEKEL, GERMANY, FALL '10 - SPRING '11

What was exciting about coming back here? How was it different than when you were a resident?

The most exciting part definitely was to get to see the people that still live in the I-House and San Jose. Furthermore, it was interesting to meet some of the new residents and to chat with them about their I-House experiences. Interestingly enough, most of their thoughts were similar to those that I had when living in the I-House. Now as an alumni, it was kind of funny to see that most things are still the same as they were.

Anything else you'd like to add regarding I-House?

In retrospect, the year I spent in I-House was definitely one of the best experiences I have ever had since I got to meet a lot of great people from all over the world. With some of them I became really good friends. I-House is an exceptional opportunity to broaden one's horizon! 🌍