International House of Chicago was founded in 1932 through a gift from John D. Rockefeller, Jr. as a coeducational residential and program center for students and scholars from around the world. For over 83 years, International House has enabled individuals from across the globe to live and learn together in a diverse residential community that builds lifelong qualities of leadership, respect, and friendship. This mission is achieved by daily interaction among its residents through internationally-focused programs, facilities, and residential life designed to foster diversity of thought and experience. In addition, International House supports the greater Chicago community as a cultural and intellectual center for a wide array of public programs.
Representatives from International Houses Worldwide (IHWW), an organization of seventeen international houses on four continents, met in Boston during the annual NAFSA: Association of International Educators conference. In addition, the annual meeting of all IHWW directors was held June 28–July 3, 2015 at International House Berkeley and San Diego. These meetings provided IHWW directors and other staff representatives with an opportunity to discuss issues and concerns related to the future of IHWW and to share experiences and challenges related to international residential and program centers. This year, IHWW welcomed a new member house in Bucharest, Romania. Denise M. Jorgens, AM’83, PhD’95, Director of International House Chicago was named President of International Houses Worldwide.

Davis Projects for Peace—For the eighth year in a row, International House of Chicago residents were awarded Davis Projects for Peace grants. The Davis Projects for Peace are funded by the late Kathryn Wasserman Davis, a former resident of International House New York, who committed $1 million to allow students to design and implement their own grassroots projects anywhere in the world with the goal of promoting world peace. The Davis Projects for Peace initiative is open to all residents of International Houses Worldwide.

The 2014 award recipients from International House of Chicago were Kelli Bosak, AM’15, who created an intergenerational storytelling project on Chicago’s South Side; Hasta Colman, AM’15 who helped youth in Bhutan build sheep-enclosures in a Participatory Action Research project, while Shauna Taylor, AM’15 developed a race relations intervention and awareness education program at a Russian youth camp. These programs were among the twenty projects of resident members of International Houses Worldwide funded at $10,000 each.

Where We Come From

During the 2014–2015 year, I-House residents came from 45 countries and studied in 32 areas of the University including the undergraduate College.

Albania | Australia | Austria | Belgium | Brazil | Canada | China | Cyprus | Czech Republic | Ecuador | Egypt | France | Germany | Greece | Hong Kong | Hungary | India | Iran | Ireland | Italy | Japan | Kenya | Latvia | Macedonia | Mexico | Moldova | Morocco | Nepal | Netherlands | Nigeria | Pakistan | Peru | Poland | Romania | Russia | Singapore | South Korea | Spain | Sweden | Switzerland | Syria | Taiwan | Turkey | United Kingdom | Vietnam

INTERNATIONAL HOUSE

2014–2015 Residence Life Highlights

Community Fellowship Program—Eight outstanding residents were selected to serve as Community Fellows. In reflecting the diversity of International House, Community Fellows came from the United States and a variety of other countries and represented various graduate divisions and professional schools at the University of Chicago. Community Fellows collaborated with other student program assistants including Global Voices Metcalf Interns, Residential Fellows, and members of the International House Residents’ Council. Community Fellows also worked closely with the College Housing staff to create a cohesive, interconnected residential community among graduate and undergraduate residents.

Traditional and individual residential community activities coordinated this year by the Community Fellows included: weekly resident Social Hours, annual Thanksgiving Homestay Program, Festival of Nations, civic engagement opportunities, and health and wellness activities.

In addition to our ongoing programming, a comprehensive quarter-long review of all residential programs and services related to the Community Fellows Program was completed. The staff worked with the campusCATALYST group to develop measurements that assess the impact of cross-cultural learning and residence life programs. This report will assist in strengthening our overall residence life programming.

The year concluded with the Spring Candlelight Sunday Supper held on Sunday, May 31. Sunday Supper is one of the oldest traditions at International House, dating back to the very early 20th century. The idea of Sunday Supper began with Harry Edmonds, a YMCA official in New York and founder of the International House idea, who often invited international students to his house for supper. A Candle Lighting Ceremony is held in conjunction with Sunday Supper to bring to a close a period of living together and sharing experiences and knowledge with friends from many parts of the world.

The Puttkammer Resident of the Year Award is presented annually at the traditional Candlelight Supper. This award honors a resident or group of residents who have been outstanding leaders and have made a significant contribution to the life of International House. The award is presented by Lorna P. Straus, PhD’62, Mrs. Ernst W. Puttkammer’s daughter, Professor Emeritus at the University and former member of our Board of Governors. Mrs. Ernst W. Puttkammer, also a former member of the International House Board of Governors, established the Resident of the Year Award in 1991. The 2014–2015 Puttkammer award was presented to Courtney Gazerro.

International House Residents’ Council—The International House Residents’ Council provides an important advisory link between residents and the International House administrative staff.

2015 Class Gift Fund Program—The Residents’ Council led the 2015 Class Gift Fund Program. This new initiative gave students the opportunity to support residence life. Over 100 resident members came together to acknowledge the many opportunities they had at International House.

You Made an Impact!

On April 22–23, International House participated in the first annual UChicago Giving Day. During a 24 hour period, alumni and friends around the world supported students and UChicago’s greatest priorities. At International House, we received over 100 gifts and raised over $6000.
International House Global Voices Program—Outreach, Collaborations and Internships

International House also serves the University and the Chicago-area community as a cultural center. Through the Global Voices Performing Arts & Lecture Series, International House presents programs that advance cross-cultural understanding and public discourse on community, national, and world affairs. During the 2014-2015 academic year, 145 public programs involving 132 strategic community and university partnerships were held and attended by approximately 35,000 individuals.

In addition, through the Global Voices—Jeff Metcalf Internship Program, eleven students from the College were provided professional training in Global Voices public programming, event management, marketing, and public relations. Founded in 1997 to honor Harold “Jeff” Metcalf, AM’53, and former member of the I-House Board of Governors, the Metcalf Internship Program makes it possible for undergraduates to receive the highly competitive and prestigious enrichment opportunities that they must have as a stepping stone to future employment.

2014-2015 Global Voices Performing Arts and Lecture Series Highlights

Global Voices Author Nights—
David Axelrod, Founder and Director of the Institute of Politics at the University of Chicago, reflected on his twenty year friendship with Barack Obama while reading from his memoir Believer: My Forty Years in Politics; and Michael Morell, former Acting & Deputy Director of the CIA, spoke about his book The Great War of Our Time: The CIA’s Fight Against Terrorism. Emily Parker, former staff member in the State Department under Secretary Clinton and op-ed editor at The New York Times and The Wall Street Journal discussed the lives of dissidents in China, Cuba, and Russia in Now I Know Who My Comrades Are: Voices From the Internet Underground; and award-winning investigative journalist Chris Woods explored the history of the United States’ use of drones in warfare in Sudden Justice: America’s Secret Drone Wars. Pulitzer Prize winner Clarence Page showcased Culture Worrier: Selected Columns 1984-2014: Reflections on Race, Politics and Social Change, published to coincide with the 30th anniversary of his first Chicago Tribune column. Eric A. Posner, Kirkland and Ellis Distinguished Service Professor of Law at the University of Chicago, and Geoffrey Stone, Edward H. Levi Distinguished Service Professor at the University of Chicago and editor of the Inalienable Rights series, discussed Posner’s analysis of the failure of global human rights policy in The Twilight of Human Rights Law. Robert Howse, Lloyd C. Nelson Professor of International Law at New York University Law School, analyzed and offered new perspectives of Leo Strauss’s writings on political violence in Leo Strauss: Man of Peace; while Chad Broughton, Senior Lecturer at the University of Chicago, followed the social side of the displacement of a Maytag refrigerator plant from Galesburg, Illinois to Reynosa, Mexico in Boom, Bust, Exodus, putting a human face on globalization. In Where is Turkey Headed? Culture Battles in Turkey, Rainer Hermann, former Middle East correspondent for Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, considered Turkey as both a pivotal country in linking the West with the Middle East, as well as a country in crisis. Robert Kagan, Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution, spoke about the state of American foreign policy and national security in his recent book Is The United States Indispensable? Chigozie Obioma discussed his first novel, The Fisherman— a story about childhood in 1990s Nigeria— and the state of modern African literature; and Australian author Richard Flanagan, winner of the 2014 Man Booker Prize, discussed his novel The Narrow Road to the Deep North.

Global Voices Conferences & Symposia—International House hosted the panel Ukraine in Flames: A Roundtable on Recent Events in the Former Soviet Union; along with the day-long conference Iranian and Other Middle Eastern Immigrants: Their Contributions to American Society. Panelists reflected on the relationship between the Mexican economy and poverty during the forum The Challenge to Inequality in Mexico; while the symposium Urban Subcultures, Pop Music, and Youth Movements in Latin America explored the intersections of countercultural movements and punk, pop, and hip hop music. The symposium Typhoon Haiyan, One Year Later: Remembrance and Reconstruction offered a tribute to the resilience of the Filipino people through visual arts, music, dance, and a panel on reconstruction efforts. The 7th Annual Chicago International Education Conference linked global issues and problem-solving strategies applicable to everyday student life; while the Chicago Public Schools State Seal of Biliteracy Kick-Off showcased resources for multilingualism and intercultural exchange in Chicago. Moving Dialogs, Global Exchange: Asia’s Influence explored Asian culture through the lens of Asian dance. The International Conference Commemorating the Centennial of the 1915
Canakkale/Gallipoli Campaign emphasized the resultant friendship formed between Turkey, Australia, and New Zealand; while the symposium The Family in the Changing Economy considered Catholic social teaching and contemporary economics. Orlando Patterson, Professor at Harvard University, presented the Society for Social Research Spring Institute keynote address; while scholars and government officials from across Latin American addressed challenges for development during the 3rd Annual Latin American Policy Forum. Finally, International House held Technology and Society, a daylong conference with Chicago Society, which explored the social outcomes of expanding technology use and the ethical use of data.

Global Voices Lecture Series—The Honorable Mitt Romney reflected on his career as a business executive and presidential nominee and shared insight on how best to forge America’s future; while representatives from Buzzfeed, Gawker, and VICE discussed the nature of modern journalism, their roles in media, and the future of journalism. Dr. Deborah Prothrow-Stith, MD, delivered the SSA Social Justice Lecture Preventing Youth Violence: A Public Health Mandate—redefining youth violence as a public health crisis rather than a criminal justice issue; while Ta-Nehisi Coates spoke about The Case For Reparations, arguing that decades of racist policies and deliberate injustices systematically wronged generations of African Americans. Our Diplomatic Encounters series provided access to the world of diplomacy with His Excellency Abdulla Bin Mohamed Al-Khalifa, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the United States; Tricia Marwick, Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament, during her lecture Scotland’s Journey To and Beyond the Referendum on Independence; and through discussions with Roey Gilad, Consulate General of Israel to the Midwest. David Satter, senior fellow at the Hudson Institute and former Moscow correspondent, discussed Russia’s Real Stake in Ukraine; and Graham Fuller presented the talk ISIS and the Challenge to Leadership in the Middle East. Jeffrey Winters, Northwestern University professor, lectured on Oligarchy, Democracy, and Law in Singapore: The Politics of Wealth Power and Wealth Defense. During the 2015 Talat and Isabelle Oehman Lecture, Ali Banuazizi, Boston College professor, discussed the Islamic Revolution; while Professor Ryuichi Narita of Japan Women’s University delivered the 2015 Tetuo Najita Distinguished Lecture in Japanese Studies. Bill St. John, Chicago Tribune wine critic, and economist Ira Goldberg presented The Economics of Wine; and Marcus Rediker spoke after the screening of Ghosts of Amistad, a documentary based on his book The Amistad Rebellion: An Atlantic Odyssey of Slavery and Freedom. Roy Germano, filmmaker and University of Chicago alumnus, examined Mexican immigration to the U.S. and its effect on the families and communities left behind following the screening of The Other Side of Immigration. French documentary-maker Marie-Monique Robin presented a screening of her film Sacred Growth: Economics and the Environment—an examination of environmental policy in the European Union and U.S. Christian Parenti described how climate wars have shaped and been shaped by global projections of American force in Empire of Chaos: Climate Change and the Political Ecology of American Power. Susan Meiselas, human rights photographer and President of the Magnum Foundation, discussed her decades of documentary experience for the Robert H. Kirschner, MD, Human Rights Memorial Lecture. As part of the Argonne OutLoud series, Dr. Marius Stan, Senior Computational Energy Scientist at Argonne National Laboratory and actor on the TV series Breaking Bad, discussed the parallels between the scientific process and the filming process in Science and Cinema. Later, Doug Sisterson, Research Meteorologist at Argonne National Laboratory, presented the lecture Climate Change: Fact, Fiction, and What You Can Do. Finally, Dr. Jack Gilbert, Environmental Microbiologist, discussed the influence of the microbial world on our health in Bacteria and You: A Love Story.
Global Voices Performing Arts Series—International House presented performances by Nicole Mitchell’s Ice Crystals and the Ernest Dawkins Quartet during the Hyde Park Jazz Festival; whereas, some of the world’s most innovative experimental sound artists performed against a backdrop of videos at the Global Voices/WHPK Pictures & Sounds Concert. The Chicago Ensemble performed five concerts with repertoire ranging from Telemann to Shostakovich and highlighted new work from the Discover America competition; while the Voices in Your Head a cappella ensemble performed a mixture of covers and original work. Later, the Chicago South Asian A Cappella Showcase brought together student groups from across Chicagoland that blend Western and South Asian songs; while the music of Aakash Ensemble fused Tuva throat singing and instruments with western musical elements. During Black History Month, the Ari Brown Quintet rang in the 5th Annual Celebration of Jazz, while the Japanese drumming ensemble Tsukasa Taiko performed in celebration of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. As part of the program Urban Subcultures, Pop Music, and Youth Movements in Latin America, scholars explored the intersections of countercultural movements and punk, pop, and hip hop music, as well as Victor Gaviria’s 1990 docudrama Rodrigo D No Futuro. Additionally, Ani Cordero and her band presented Recordar—Latin American Songs of Love and Protest, songs by folk heroes who used music to inspire social change. The African & Caribbean Students Association celebrated their 10th year with DIASPORA, a cultural show with guest host and world-renowned comedian Aphrican Ape; and The Adegoke Steve Colson Quintet celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians during the concert 40 Years in the Moment. As the finale to the 2014-2015 Global Voices Program season, International House hosted Make Music Chicago, a day-long music festival taking place simultaneously in over 500 cities around the world.

The English Language Institute

The English Language Institute (ELI) offers University students, international and domestic students, and their family members, as well as persons from the wider community the opportunity to build English language skills and to increase understanding and enjoyment of life in the United States. During the 2014–2015 academic year, 19 courses and workshops were offered including pronunciation/ accent reduction, presentation skills, effective listening and study skills, academic and professional writing for ESL students and the American classroom, and communication strategies. Specialized workshops and courses were held in conjunction with the Graham School of Continuing Liberal and Professional Studies. In addition to the academic-year programs, the English Language Institute sponsored five separate Pre-Matriculation English as a Second Language Programs for incoming international graduate students and coordinated over 500 hours of one-on-one and small group tutoring. Finally, International House launched the university-wide Language and Culture Tables program with support from a Graduate Innovation Grant.

Throughout the 2014–2015 year, planning was also done to prepare for the transition of the ELI program to the Chicago Language Center.

International House Residential Fellowship Program

The Residential Fellowship Program helps ensure the exceptional geographic, cultural, and economic diversity that is central to the mission of International House and the University of Chicago. During the 2014–2015 academic year, the Residential Fellowship Program provided support to 33 students from all areas of the University including the undergraduate College. Fellows came from 18 countries and were selected based on academic merit, leadership abilities, community activities, and their ability to contribute to the diversity in the House. Graduate and Collegiate Fellows lived in the House and participated in a wide-array of programs and activities. Residential Fellows were awarded $1,000 to $3,000 to offset the expenses of living at International House. Included in this program were several endowed awards.

Gioh Fang and T.S. Ma Fellowship—This fund provides residential fellowships at International House for academically-qualified students at the University of Chicago. Special consideration is given to students from China. The 2014–2015 Gioh Fang and T.S. Ma Fellowships were awarded to Ji Gao, PhD student in Romance Languages and Literatures, and to Yudong Zhang studying at the School of Social Service Administration.

George H. Watkins Residential Fellowship—This fund provides residential fellowships at International House for academically-qualified Mexican graduate students or students from Spanish-speaking countries attending the University of Chicago. During the 2014–2015 academic year, Watkins Residential Fellowships were awarded to Manuel Antonio Cabal Lopez, a PhD student in political science, and to Miguel Angel Garcia Paz from Chicago Harris.

Min-Sun and Anita B. Chen Residential Fellowship—This fund is used to provide a residential fellowship for a doctoral candidate in history or sociology. The 2014–2015 Min-Sun and Anita B. Chen Fellowship was awarded to Thomas James Snyder, a PhD student in history.
Enhancing Tradition—Engaging Our Worldwide Community

2015 Alumni Weekend programs provided meaningful opportunities for current residents to interact with alumni. Programs included:


• Argonne OutLoud at UChicago—Bacteria and You: A Love Story with Dr. Jack Gilbert, Argonne National Laboratory.

• International Wine Tasting—cohosted with the UChicago Alumni Club of Chicago, International Alumni Relations and the College Class of 1980.

• UChicaGO Jazz—led by Jeff Lindberg, The Chicago Jazz Orchestra presented A Tribute to Ray Charles.

• Chamber music concert featuring The Chicago Ensemble—led by virtuoso pianist Gerald Rizzer, AB’62. This program was supported in part by the Weil-Parker Fund.

Volunteer Caucus 2015—Former residents and friends of International House attended this year’s University of Chicago Regional Volunteer Caucus held in New York on February 21. The Regional Volunteer Caucus gave new and seasoned alumni volunteers the opportunity to brainstorm and strengthen their connection to the University.

Leaders in Philanthropy—A Celebration of Leaders in Philanthropy is an annual event that showcases the impact of philanthropy across the University through exhibits featuring students, faculty, and, in some cases, live experiments. More than 100 members of the Harper, Chicago, Phoenix, and Maroon Loyalty Societies gathered together for the annual Celebration of Leaders in Philanthropy: A Knowledge Fair. The event showcased how much these donors’ philanthropy furthers the mission of the University. For International House, it was an opportunity to share and showcase our amazing activities. The exhibit, International House for a Better World, was enjoyed by supporters of I-House and the University.

Ralph W. Nicholas Residential Fellowship Fund established—International House is pleased to announce the establishment of the Ralph W. Nicholas Fund. The Ralph W. Nicholas Fellowship Fund has been made possible by the generous support of Lorna Puttkammer Straus, LAB’49, SM’60, PhD’62, professor and former I-House board member and Stanley D. Christianson, MBA’60 and former chairman of the I-House board of governors. This new fund honors Ralph W. Nicholas, PhD’62, professor, and will be used to provide support for residential fellowships at International House for academically-qualified graduate students from South Asia or in South Asian Studies. The first Ralph W. Nicholas Residential Fellowships were awarded to Sujata Singh, MPP’16 and Sarath Sasidharan Pillai, a PhD student in the department of history.

Alumni & Friends—A Culture of Engagement

Since 1932, International House has transformed the lives of more than 42,000 residents representing all areas of the world. As they shape our world, International House alumni share pride in an extraordinary tradition of community, excellence, and global leadership. Over the last year, International House has made an effort to expand engagement with alumni and friends.
The University of Chicago Campaign: Inquiry & Impact

International House Campaign Priorities

The University of Chicago Campaign: Inquiry and Impact, the most ambitious and comprehensive campaign in the University's history, will raise $4.5 billion and engage 125,000 alumni to support faculty and researchers, practitioners and patients, and students and programs across the University. Campaign priorities for International House include:

Preserving International House—Designed by the legendary Chicago architectural firm Holabird and Root, International House is a nine-story gothic building that centers around a fountain courtyard and soars above the Midway Plaisance. The distinctive structure helps create lifelong memories for our I-House residents and hosts noteworthy public programming that creates an intellectual destination for the city at large. These classic spaces provide multiple opportunities for support from alumni, parents, and friends.

Support for residence life—At International House a truly global community can live and learn together in a setting that instills leadership, respect, and friendship among students and scholars. With support from alumni and friends, our internationally-focused residence life programs will continue to flourish while the residential facilities, from the bedrooms to the wireless networks to the shared community spaces, will continue to be maintained so that generations to come can be welcomed to this life-changing community.

Collegiate and graduate residential fellowships—Each year, International House offers some 30 fellowships to students from around the world. These opportunities, which cover a portion of the living expenses at International House, help ease the financial burden for those who are selected on the basis of academic merit, leadership skills, and their abilities to contribute to the social and scholarly life of I-House. Currently, fellowships support fewer than 10 percent of our residents. Our campaign goal is to significantly increase this number to help ensure the exceptional geographic, cultural, and economic diversity that is central to the mission of I-House.

Global Voices Public Programming—International House serves the University and the Chicago-area community as a cultural center through an array of public programs. Each year, I-House offers more than 100 events through the Global Voices Performing Arts and Lecture Series, marketed throughout the city. These include musical and other performances, outreach programs with international organizations, collaborations with foreign consulates, language exchanges, and forums led by distinguished guest speakers. These programs provide Chicago’s citizens, universities, cultural institutions, community groups, and our residents with opportunities for meaningful engagement with artists, scholars, and other leaders from the world stage. Campaign support for Global Voices public programming will bolster International House’s role as a locus for multicultural engagement and exchange.

International Houses Worldwide and Campaign Events

The International Houses Worldwide Organization is a global community which hosted many exciting events around the world. In 2014–2015 opportunities for alumni and friends to connect were held in Minneapolis, New Delhi, London, New York, Boston and San Francisco.