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 84 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, unique 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.
International Houses Worldwide Community

International Houses Worldwide (IHWW) is an affiliation of seventeen houses from across the continents, united by one mission:

To provide students of different nationalities and diverse cultures with the opportunity to live and learn together in a community of mutual respect, understanding and international friendship.

Representatives from IHWW met in Denver during the annual NAFSA: Association of International Educators conference. In addition, the annual meeting of all IHWW directors was held June 24–July 2, 2016 at International House Goodenough College and International Students House London. These annual gatherings provide 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. Denise M. Jorgens, AM’83, PhD’95, Director of International House Chicago was re-elected President of International Houses Worldwide.

Where We Come From

During the 2015–2016 year, I-House residents came from 39 countries and studied in 32 areas of the University including the undergraduate College.

Albania | Bahrain | Bulgaria | Brazil | Canada | China | Colombia | Cyprus | Egypt | France | Germany | Ghana | Hong Kong | Hungary | India | Iran | Ireland | Italy | Japan | Lebanon | Malaysia | Mexico | Morocco | Nepal | New Zealand | Pakistan | Peru | Poland | Romania | Saudi Arabia | Singapore | South Korea | Syria | Taiwan | United Arab Emirates | United Kingdom | United States of America | Vietnam | Zambia

Sujata Singh, AM’16 (center) used her Davis grant for her project Empowerment through Digital Literacy.

Sujata Singh, AM’16
Ralph W. Nicholas Residential Fellow, UChicago International House

Davis Projects for Peace—The high dropout rate among students from poor families in rural Nepal is trapping children in a cycle of poverty, says Sujata Singh. So she’s doing something about it. With a Davis Projects for Peace grant, Singh has equipped two schools—in Alad and Dhangadi—with full computer labs. She also provided training to all the teachers and, with their help, taught the students using innovative teaching methods to increase interest and participation. Says Singh, “It is the start of an education for a generation of students who are going to be the leaders of the society.”

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 resident members of International Houses Worldwide. Sujata’s project was among the twenty projects of resident members of International Houses Worldwide funded at $10,000 each in the summer of 2015.
International House Residential Community Programs: A Cross-Cultural Experience

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. Unique within the University’s housing system, I-House provides a home for over 400 undergraduate and graduate students, trainees and interns, visiting scholars and postdoctoral researchers. Hailing from every region of the world, many of I-House’s residents come to the United States knowing no one and find at I-House an instant circle of friends that transcends political, religious, geographic, and ethnic boundaries. And not all residents are international; students from across the United States are also drawn to I-House, and equally contribute to and benefit from its diverse and vibrant community.

2015–2016 Residence Life Highlights

Community Fellowship Program—Six 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 Graduate Project Assistants. 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, the annual Thanksgiving Homestay Program, Festival of Nations celebration, civic engagement opportunities, health and wellness activities and language and culture tables.

The year concluded with the Spring Candlelight Sunday Supper held on Sunday, June 5. 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 2015–2016 Puttkammer award was presented to Rajab Ghazzaoui, a resident from Lebanon studying in the University of Chicago’s Harris School of Public Policy Studies. This year, a second special award was presented to Daniele Macuglia, AM’10 a resident from Italy studying in the University of Chicago’s Committee on the Conceptual and Historical Studies of Science (CHSS).

2016 Diversity Leadership Staff Award presented to Denise M. Jorgens AM’83 PhD’95, Director of International House

The Diversity Leadership Awards seek to recognize University faculty and staff members who display leadership in fostering diversity both on campus and within the surrounding community and to highlight, in concert with the University of Chicago Alumni Board of Governors, the contributions of alumni who advance the cause of justice and equality in our community and society. Other award recipients included:

Diversity Leadership Faculty Award: Nancy Schwartz PhD, Dean for Postdoctoral Affairs, Biological Sciences Division and Professor of Pediatrics and Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

Diversity Leadership Alumni Award: Charles Branham PhD’80, Senior Historian at DuSable Museum of African American History.
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 2015–2016 academic year, 140 public programs involving 134 strategic community and university partnerships were held and attended by approximately 35,000 individuals.

In addition, through the Global Voices—Jeff Metcalf Internship Program, 25 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.

2015–2016 Global Voices Performing Arts and Lecture Series Highlights

Global Voices Lecture Series—
House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi reflected on her path to becoming the first female Speaker of the House and spoke about her political philosophies. Chess Grandmaster Garry Kasparov discussed what America and its allies must do economically and diplomatically to stop Putin. State Representative Marcus Evans spoke on cancer advocacy and ways to be active on the political side of the cancer fight. Former Congressman Bob Inglis held a Q&A session following the screening of the film Merchants of Doubt. Michael Vickers, former U.S. Undersecretary of Defense for Intelligence spoke about the challenges facing the modern Middle East, including global jihad, sectarian conflict, and state collapse. Frank Bruni of the New York Times discussed the political rise of Donald Trump. Professor Wendy Freedman, astronomer, former Director of Carnegie Observatories, and TED speaker addressed the observational side of cosmology, focusing on dark energy, dark matter, and the expansion of the universe. The Institute of Politics (IOP) Director David Axelrod and a panel of experts examined the state of the 2016 presidential race. UChicago veterans and community members gathered on Veteran’s Day to observe the posting of the Colors and hear from Provost Eric Issacs, Professor John Cacioppo, Director of the Center for Cognitive and Social Neuroscience, and a student representative of the Veterans Outreach Committee. Professor David Shulman delivered the third annual Vivekananda Lecture, The Subtle Surfaces of Wickedness: From Nigamasarma to the Occupation of Palestine. Photographer Wil Sands talked about his photo exhibit Waiting for Mother Russia—In Two Acts. Global Voices Program attendees learned about Korean culture and modern history through a panel discussion and screening of the film Ode to My Father. MIT Professor Stefan Helmreich discussed the history and changing future of water and wavescapes. A screening of the film No Más Bebés, and discussion with producer Virginia Espino and featured plaintiff Consuelo Hermosillo was co-hosted with M.E.Ch.A. de UChicago. Professor Kathleen Cleaver, former Communications Secretary of the Black Panther’s Party spoke about the role of women in the Black Liberation Movement during the Center for the Study of Race, Politics, and Culture’s Annual Public Lecture. K. Sujata, President of Chicago Foundation for Women, gave this year’s SSA Social Justice Address, Gender Bias: Can We End It? Jorge Ramos, journalist and anchor for Univision and Fusion TV assessed the 2016 presidential election and the state of Latino voters in America. Omar Barghouti, Co-Founder of Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) of Israel, discussed the intellectual, legal, and moral reasons for supporting the boycott as a means of non-violent resistance. Panelists Zerlina Maxwell, Jamilah Lemieux, and Dr. Dawne Collier addressed the issues surrounding black women as they relate to the #BlackLivesMatter movement. Professor Federiga Bindi discussed women’s achievements in foreign policy and analyzed continued obstacles to women’s leadership in international relations. Former Ambassador to China and current Chairman of the Atlantic Council John Huntsman provided his insights and analysis on the U.S.-China relationship. A panel of IOP affiliates discussed the battle over free speech on college campuses. Don Belt, Professor of Journalism at the University of Richmond and former Senior Editor at National Geographic promoted K-12 cultural literacy initiatives. Swedish author and Cato Senior Fellow John Norberg screened his film The Real Adam Smith which explores the life and ideas of Smith. Dr. Seth Darling, Argonne National Laboratory scientist and University of Chicago Institute for Molecular Engineering Fellow, discussed the future and accessibility of clean water. America’s leading political strategists, former Chief Data Scientist for the Romney Campaign, Alex Lundry and veteran Democratic Strategist, Tom Bonier discussed how campaigns use data to target voters.
Global Voices Author Nights— Senator Claire McCaskill discussed the setbacks and sexism she faced becoming the first female senator in Missouri, as she read from her book Plenty Ladylike. Chicagoan and WBEZ reporter Natalie Moore summarized her book The South Side: A Portrait of Chicago and American Segregation. Former Director of International House Professor Ralph W. Nicholas discussed his book Thirteen Festivals: A Ritual Year in Bengal. Carol J. Geoghegan, and Jitu Brown formed the panel for Their City and Ours: A Baffler Forum on Developmental Disorder. The Global Voices Program the Center for Global Health featured keynote speaker William J. Martin II, MD as part of Global Health Week. The Inter-Generational Model United Nations conference provided participants an opportunity to better understand the role of UN ambassadors and debate a range of issues on the UN agenda. International House residents participated in a dialogue on the current struggle for equality in reference to some of Dr. King’s works, as part of the University’s MLK commemoration week. During the Portuguese Language Connection Conference students from UChicago, Northwestern University, and the University of Illinois engaged in initiatives and projects related to Brazil. The symposium entitled, 2016 Presidential Election: The Effects of Political Rhetoric on Minority Communities was moderated by UChicago Professor Michael Dawson and featured speaker Rev. Dirk Fica, Director of the Interreligious Initiative for Middle East Peace.

Global Voices Performing Arts Series—International House welcomed Russ Johnson’s Headland and the Eric Schneider & Jeremy Kahn Quartet as part of the highly acclaimed Hyde Park Jazz Festival. Yoko Noge and the Jazz Me Blues Band performed as part of the 20th anniversary of the Chicago Asian American Jazz Festival. Chicago Blues legend, Eddy Clearwater performed live in concert during the International House Founder’s Day Celebration. Nahuel Pennisi, Argentinian guitarist and vocalist, performed his first concert in North America featuring original hits from his debut album. Residents, alumni, and members of the community gathered together for the traditional International House celebration of music, dance, exhibits and cuisine during the annual Festival of Nations. Soul Poetry Cafe and the Global Voices Program presented Roots and Rhymes: A Black Culture Showcase in collaboration with local Chicago artists.
In autumn 2015, International House, the Institute of Politics and the Center for Middle Eastern Studies joined forces with the Chicago Consular Corps to expand the Diplomatic Encounters Series to better connect the UChicago community with representatives of diplomatic missions from around Chicago and across the nation. The series aims to provide a venue to hear from leading diplomats, engage them in open dialogue, and come to a better understanding of the issues, challenges, and opportunities facing countries around the world.

**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 2015–2016 academic year, the Residential Fellowship Program provided support to 36 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.

**Min-Sun and Anita B. Chen Residential Fellowship**—Provides a residential fellowship for a doctoral candidate in history or sociology. The 2015–2016 Min-Sun and Anita B. Chen Fellowship was awarded to Yanjie Niu, a PhD student in history.

**Gioh Fang and T.S. Ma Fellowship**—Provides a residential fellowship at International House for academically-qualified graduate students at the University of Chicago. Special consideration is given to students from China. The 2015–2016 Gioh Fang and T.S. Ma Fellowships was awarded to Yudong Zhang studying at the School of Social Service Administration.

**Ralph W. Nicholas Fellowship**—This year, International House announced the establishment of the Ralph W. Nicholas Fellowship Fund. This new 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 fund honors Ralph W. Nicholas, PhD’62, professor, and will be used to provide support 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 Pillai, a PhD student in the department of history.

**George H. Watkins Residential Fellowship**—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 2015–2016 academic year, Watkins Residential Fellowships were awarded to Manuel Antonio Cabal Lopez, a PhD student in political science, and to Diego Suarez Rojas, a PhD student in the Divinity School.
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 continued to expand engagement with alumni and friends.

Enhancing Tradition—Engaging Our Worldwide Community

Book Launch—Thirteen Festivals: A Ritual Year in Bengal—Ralph W. Nicholas, William Rainey Harper Professor Emeritus, at the University of Chicago and former director of International House discussed the religious performances and rituals of people in a village in West Bengal.

The Weil-Parker Fund—supported Access Contemporary Music’s Global Connections May 6 concert by Irish composers presented in association with the Contemporary Music Centre in Dublin. This fund was established by International House alumni Claude Weil and Irma Parker. The fund provides support for performing arts programs at International House, with a special emphasis on classical music programs.

Volunteer Caucus 2016—Former residents and friends of International House attended this year’s University of Chicago Regional Volunteer Caucus held on campus on February 21. The Regional Volunteer Caucus gave new and seasoned alumni volunteers the opportunity to brainstorm and strengthen their connection to the University.

2016 Alumni Weekend June 2–5—This year’s Alumni Weekend theme, Artscape, invited alumni and friends to experience the power of the arts on campus through immersive events, performances, exhibitions, and family programming all weekend long. International House hosted an Around the World Wine Tasting featuring a world music concert by the Copacabana Trio.

Leaders in Philanthropy—A Celebration of Leaders in Philanthropy held June 2 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.

You Made an Impact!

On February 24 and 25, International House participated in the second 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 raised over $13,000.
The University of Chicago Campaign: Inquiry & Impact

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 our unique facilities that create lifelong memories for our residents and hosts noteworthy public programming that creates an intellectual destination for the city at large; support for residence life; Collegiate and Graduate Fellowships; and our Global Voices public programming which bolsters International House’s role as a locus for multicultural engagement and exchange.

I-House partners with UChicago GRAD

In the 2016–2017 academic year, International House will partner with UChicago GRAD to launch a new series of programs that will help us find creative ways to reach out, on an ongoing basis, to the broader University graduate and professional student community. These UChicago GRAD programs will be organized around internationally-focused public programs through the Global Voices Performing Arts and Lecture Series, weekly language and culture tables and related dining activities, professional development, health and wellness, and social activities. International House will also grant 25 non-resident Graduate Fellowships. In addition, International House will award up to 10 Global Impact Internships to graduate students. UChicagoGRAD’s Graduate Global Impact Internship Program is tailored to the varied life cycles of UChicago graduate students. These internships complement academic training while providing students with professional experience in diverse sectors to give them an edge on the job market. These positions offer funding to offset living costs throughout the duration of the internship.

These programs were announced following The University of Chicago’s decision to make International House an undergraduate-only housing option. This will continue until the next major residence hall construction now in active planning and which the University hopes to complete within a few years. This change does not alter I-House’s mission or the impact of the support of our alumni and friends worldwide on our wide array of internationally focused programs. Programs like these—that embrace diversity, inclusiveness, and open-minded engagement in our personal and professional lives, promoting a more culturally sensitive and peaceful world—remain at the heart of I-House’s mission.

Stay Engaged!

Engagement of alumni and friends with International House helps build a powerful network that fosters personal and professional success for our worldwide community. How you can stay engaged:

**Online**
Weekly e-bulletins —
Sign up at ihouse.uchicago.edu

International House
UChicago

International House at the
University of Chicago

IHouse_Chicago

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And more...
Stay engaged with International House campaign priorities at campaign.uchicago.edu/priorities/ihouse/