By September 30, 1931, the construction of International House was nearing completion. The coming year would see the interior of the House finished in preparation for the opening of the House to the world on October 5, 1932. Two years later, Bruce Dickson, the first Director of International House posed the question “has the House really accomplished its purpose?” He went on to state that “We realize that the accomplishment of any goal is relative and cannot be measured by immediate results … the final answer can be given only in after years.” Beginning October 5, 2007 we plan to answer Dickson’s question with a resounding “Yes!” with a year-long celebration of the 75 “after years” since the House first opened. We invite you to share in this celebration—by attending events or sending us stories and photos of how International House influenced your life. To learn how you can become involved in Celebrating 75 years of serving the world, go to our Web site at http://ihouse.uchicago.edu.

Alumni Profile
Alex Dehgan: Promoting Security Through Conservation

A war zone seems an unlikely place to find a conservation biologist. But for former I-House resident Alex Dehgan, PhD ’03, conservation is the most effective strategy in promoting recovery and stability in a region where the majority of people depend on natural resources for survival. “I think this is the path to security. The path to security in Afghanistan and Iraq is not going to be achieved through guns. They depend on natural resources and identify with wildlife. It’s an element of who they are.” In 2005, Dr. Dehgan received the U.S. State Department’s Superior Honor Award for his efforts to rehabilitate the once-vital science and engineering culture of Iraq, despite the constant threats to his life. Now in Afghanistan, he is working to protect the country’s wildlife. Read the March 6, 2007 New York Times interview with Alex Dehgan on our Web site.
From the Desk of the Director—

Spring 2007

Spring is a time of renewal here in Chicago. It is also the time of year that all of us at International House start the process of planning for the next academic year. Evidence of this is all around us as we are preparing new application and recruitment materials for residents; developing new marketing materials to recruit Residential and Collegiate Fellows and continue the planning on the last phase of the restoration of I-House which will make the building completely accessible for persons with disabilities.

These efforts take on a renewed sense of purpose as we look to our 75th anniversary year which begins in the fall. This will be a year when we revel in our past as we will feature many special events, speakers and other activities honoring our storied history. While we spend time acknowledging our past, please know that it is our future that is always at the forefront of our thoughts and actions. International House has been experiencing a renaissance in the past few years as the University has renewed its commitment to the important role that we play in the very fabric of the institution. Additionally, our alums and friends have begun to renew their support for us and for this we are eternally grateful—without your support it would impossible to meet the challenges of providing today’s students with this life changing experience.

All of us at International House hope that you will find time to visit us next year during our 75th anniversary. You are part of the living history that is the wonderful family of International House.

William L. McCartney, Director

Partners in the Arts
Silk Road Chicago

International House, the Division of the Humanities, and the Center for East Asian Studies at the University of Chicago were pleased to partner with Silk Road Chicago in a unique collaborative effort. In November, Azerbaijani vocalist Alim Qasimov and other Azeri instrumentalists joined with the University of Chicago Middle East Music Ensemble, conducted by Issa Boulos, for a concert, student workshops and a composer’s forum. In February, the Silk Road Ensemble conducted a musical workshop and then paired with the Beijing quartet China Magpie, to perform a repertoire including traditional and contemporary music of China. Through June 2007, Chicago is being transformed through performances, exhibitions, demonstrations and events that explore cross-cultural discovery and celebrate the artistic legacy of the Silk Road. With this initiative, Chicago has become the first city in the world to collaborate in a yearlong partnership with Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road Project.

Serving Our Community

Promoting Citizenship
McCormick Tribune Foundation Grant

International House is pleased to announce receipt of a $20,000 grant from the McCormick Tribune Foundation for our World Beyond the Headlines Lecture Series, a component of our Global Voices Program. Funds will be used for an expanded series of programs on the topic of developing an active, knowledgeable, and engaged citizenry. These new initiatives will engage young people and the civic community in two key areas: first, expanding our series on major issues facing the country with a particular focus on citizenship and extending our audience by reaching out to nearby Southside communities; and second, engaging students from Chicago high schools along with area college and university students in programs that address the meaning and obligations of citizenship in the context of national and international affairs. The World Beyond the Headlines Series is a collaborative project with the University of Chicago Center for International Studies, the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, and the Seminary Coop Bookstores. The program brings scholars and journalists together to consider major international news stories and how these stories are covered. The Spring Quarter 2007 schedule appears in the Arts & Ideas section of this newsletter.

Believing in the Future
After School Matters

International House with support from the University of Chicago Office of Community and Government Affairs, is pleased to host a six-week summer dance program of African and West Indian Folk Dance for high school students as part of the city-wide After School Matters program. After School Matters (ASM) is a non-profit organization that partners with the City of Chicago, the Chicago Public Schools, the Chicago Park District, the Chicago Public Library, the Chicago Department of Children and Youth Services and community-based organizations to expand out-of-school opportunities for Chicago teens. International House is one of four sites on the Southside of Chicago for the summer 2007 Program. The program will be held from July 2–August 11. Classes are held for held 4½ hours each day — Monday through Friday. Classes are free to students and up to 50 local students will be invited to join this program.
Travel in Time: From the I-House Archives

In May 1943, International House became home to the Army Air Corps for the Meteorology Class 43-5. Bunk beds were added to the single rooms with 3 or 4 cadets per room. Cadets spent months of intense and rigorous study in one of the most difficult training programs in the army—the University of Chicago’s Department of Meteorology under the supervision of the world-renowned Dr. Carl-Gustaf Rossby. During the war, the department trained over 1,700 air corps weather officers. The lives of many men depended on the cadets’ training and judgment. Providing a little levity and companionship during the long hard months of study and training, was a little dog, whose hind leg was amputated due to a car accident. Named “Isobar” by the cadets who smuggled him into the House, he became the unofficial mascot of Class 43-5. Fiercely loyal to the cadet corps who befriended him, Isobar was eventually promoted to the rank of Staff Sergeant, serial number ASN 0003/4 (because he only had three quarters) and shipped out with his unit when they graduated. To read the full story of Isobar and the Meteorology Cadets at International House go to our Web site at http://ihouse.uchicago.edu/.

From the Coulter File: Elke & David Msika-Segers

Residents who meet at International House and marry are called Coulter Couples—named after Thomas and Mary Alice Coulter, who lived in the House in the early 1930s and were one of the first couples in the history of the House to marry. Elke and David Msika-Segers recently wrote to say that they met at I-House in 2001 and continued their romance back in Europe with weekend trips between Brussels and Paris to see each other. They were married in June and are now living in Brussels. Congratulations to the newest Coulter Couple!

Alumni in the News:
Ambassador Zalmay M. Khalilzad, The President’s Choice

Zalmay Khalilzad, PhD ’79, arrived at International House from the American University of Beirut in 1974 to study Political Science at the University of Chicago. Zal, as he was known to his friends in the House, was a resident floor advisor on the 9th floor and an active member of the Residents’ Council, the Speech Committee and the Social Activities Committee.

Ambassador Khalilzad is currently the U.S. Ambassador to Iraq. On February 12, 2007, the White House submitted Khalilzad’s nomination to the Senate to become U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations. Once confirmed to this position Zalmay Khalilzad will become the first Muslim member of the United States Cabinet.

Alumni Award

The University of Chicago has awarded the 2007 Norman Maclean Faculty Award to Ralph Nicholas, AM’58, PhD’71, for his outstanding contributions to teaching and student life. A teacher and mentor to hundreds of anthropology students, Dr. Nicholas also served for ten years as Dean of the College and as President of International House.

In Memoriam

Bernard D. Meltzer

Bernard D. Meltzer, AB’35, JD ’37, arrived at International House from Philadelphia in 1934, a move he described as “an exhilarating and transforming experience.” He died Thursday, January 4th at his home in Chicago at the age of 92. “Professor Meltzer was a giant of legal education and of the bar.” His students, “present-day leaders, judges and lawyers recall his sharp wit and directness with awe,” said Saul Levmore, Dean of the Law School. To read more about the life of Bernard Meltzer, go to http://ihouse.uchicago.edu/.
Country Fellowships: China
The Gioh Fang and T.S. Ma Endowed Fellowships

Fang Ma and Dr. T.S. Ma received their doctoral degrees from the University of Chicago in social service administration and chemistry respectively. The Mas’ story began in Shanghai when Gioh Fang Dju, a newly-admitted graduate student at the University of Chicago was waiting for her ship to America. A young man overheard that her destination was Chicago and he asked if she could deliver a note to T.S. Ma at International House. This chance exchange led to friendship, romance and a marriage of over 60 years. By endowing these fellowships, the Mas hope to provide future students from China with the opportunities to have the same life-altering experiences at International House that they had as students here. The Gioh Fang and T.S. Ma Endowed Fellowships will be a permanent reminder of what International House has meant to them.

The Legacy of a Bequest
Vera Oravec Laska: WWII Resistance fighter

Vera (Oravec) Laska, 82, died December 11, 2005 leaving a bequest of $50,000 for the benefit of International House, the place she called “truly my home” in coming to America. At 15 Vera joined the Czechoslovakian underground and helped hundreds of political refugees and Jews flee Nazi persecution. She was imprisoned in three labor camps, including Auschwitz. Vera arrived at International House in 1947 to study history at the University of Chicago. She met her future husband Andrew Laska at I-House, and in 1949 they were married in the Home Room. Vera retired as Professor of History at Regis College in Weston, Massachusetts in 1988. For more about Vera’s life, go to http://ihouse.uchicago.edu.

Remembering Someone Special
The Tribute Fund

Another way to commemorate special people or events in your life is through the Tribute Fund—a special part of our Annual Fund. Donations to the Tribute Fund in any amount can mark milestones, such as birthdays, weddings, anniversaries or graduations, or honor the memory of dear friends and loved ones. When you make a Tribute gift, an attractive personalized card is sent in your name to the honoree or family, apprising them of your tribute. A letter will also be sent to you as a record of your tax-deductible gift.

Recently, we received a donation to the Tribute Fund from former resident Bernard Hollander, who lived in the House in 1937–1938. His donation was in memory of Helen Taubenblatt who was the Director of Admissions at International House from 1936–1961. For more information on making a gift to the Tribute Fund contact Alumni Relations at International House.

Country Fellowships: India
Support an Indian Student

Initial funds have been given towards establishing a fellowship in honor of Surendra Kumar, former Consul General at the Indian Consulate in Chicago. Once established, this fellowship will help to support an Indian resident at International House. To contribute to this fund or to support another country-specific fellowship contact Alumni Relations at International House.

Sharing Knowledge
On the Shelf

One way to celebrate the House’s 75th year is to highlight the accomplishments of its residents. We are creating a section of the I-House library for books written by I-House alumni. Send us a signed and dated copy of your book which will then be fitted with a bookplate, indicating your name and the year you lived at the House. For more information on contributing to the library email i-house-alumni@listhost.uchicago.edu.

Calling All Alumni: The Telefund is Coming!

Beginning April 16, 2007 University of Chicago students will be telephoning alumni of International House to discuss ways in which you can support its on-going mission for future students. Tell us about your memories of the House and give us your ideas on how we can help you continue to participate in this unique and vibrant community!

Putting Us on the Map

International House would like to thank Ronald J. Schiller, Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations at the University of Chicago, for his generous gift in purchasing the world map for the Main Hallway. For more ways to Make a World of Difference go to http://ihouse.uchicago.edu.
The International House Global Voices Program has established a vibrant exchange with a wide range of Chicago-area academic and cultural institutions, arts organizations, dance companies, ethnic and folk arts groups, and music and theater groups. The Global Voices Performing Arts Series provides a showcase for all performing arts programs. The Global Voices Lecture Series presents prominent speakers and organizes round-table discussion groups and special interest conferences and seminars. For further information on programs or to subscribe to our e-bulletin, go to our web site at http://ihouse.uchicago.edu. Programs are supported in part by grants from the Illinois Arts Council, the National Endowment for the Arts and the McCormick Tribune Foundation.

### Global Voices Lecture Series

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Speaker/Event Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>March 1, 2007</td>
<td><strong>On Being Native In the 21st Century: New Meanings, New Data</strong></td>
<td>With C. Matthew Snipp, Professor of Sociology, Stanford University</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 13-14, 2007</td>
<td><strong>Center for Latin American Studies Conference</strong></td>
<td>Iberian Imperialism and Language Evolution in Latin America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 14, 2007</td>
<td><strong>Wine Tasting Series</strong></td>
<td>Featuring wine from Austria and Central Europe Co-sponsored with the Austrian Consulate of Chicago</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 17, 2007</td>
<td><strong>Latin American Briefing Series—Panel Session</strong></td>
<td>Militarization of United States Policy Towards Latin America</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 27–29, 2007</td>
<td><strong>Tattoo—Nature’s Elements</strong></td>
<td>A cross-cultural dance festival. Co-sponsored with the Kalapriya Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 16, 2007</td>
<td><strong>Spring Quarter Candlelight Supper</strong></td>
<td>Officially closes a year of living and learning together and honors all graduating residents. The Helen Puttkammer Resident of the Year Award is presented at this time.</td>
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### Global Voices Performing Arts Series

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 7, 2007</td>
<td><strong>AIDS Foundation of Chicago Conference</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>March 16–18, 2007</td>
<td><strong>Spring Festival Series</strong></td>
<td>The 42nd Anniversary Eastern European Festival of Folk Music and Dance</td>
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<td>March 30, 2007</td>
<td><strong>César A. Chávez Commemoration</strong></td>
<td>Keynote speaker: José Angel Gutiérrez Co-sponsored by El Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 4, 2007</td>
<td><strong>Center for Latin American Studies Conference</strong></td>
<td>Rising Challenges of the Left in Latin America with Cuahhtémoc Cárdenas</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 7, 2007</td>
<td><strong>Chicago International Documentary Film Festival</strong></td>
<td>Closing Reception For complete Festival information go to <a href="http://chicagodocfestival.org/">http://chicagodocfestival.org/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 11, 2007</td>
<td><strong>Author Night with Atul Gawande</strong></td>
<td>Features unusual combinations of works by well-known master composers and lesser known contemporary composers, performed by the area’s finest musicians. For program and ticket information, go to <a href="http://www.thechicagoensemble.org">www.thechicagoensemble.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>April 22, 2007</td>
<td><strong>Russian Poetry</strong></td>
<td>Reading and reception with Yevgeny Vevtushenko Co-sponsored with the Department of History</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 28, 2007</td>
<td><strong>Conference—Does Hip Hop Hate Women?</strong></td>
<td>Co-sponsored by the Center for the Study of Race, Politics and Culture with Al Franken. Co-sponsored with the University of Chicago Center for the Study of Race, Politics and Culture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 11, 2007</td>
<td><strong>Middle East Music Ensemble Spring Concert</strong></td>
<td>Conductor Issa Boulas Co-sponsored with the Department of Music</td>
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### Global Voices Arts & Ideas

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- **April 13–14, 2007**: Center for Latin American Studies Conference. Iberian Imperialism and Language Evolution in Latin America.
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Save the Date for Alumni Weekend!

On Alumni Weekend the campus comes alive as thousands of alumni, friends, and families from around the world return to celebrate all things Chicago. Alumni Weekend 2007 will take place May 31–June 3. Plan your return to campus for four days of events including lectures, tours, parties, exhibitions, and performances—many of them free.

Looking for a place to stay during Alumni Weekend? International House now offers hotel-style accommodations for short-term guests for the very reasonable rate of $62 for a single or $67 for a double with discounted weekly rates also available. Dorm rooms are also available for $52 per night. Book your reservations online at http://ihouse.uchicago.edu/residency/residency_short.shtml or by calling (773)753-2270.

Staying in touch has never been easier!
International House has launched a new look to its Web site. Visit the site to find out about upcoming programs and events for alumni and friends, information on planning your visit to Chicago, and all the latest I-House news. Go to http://ihouse.uchicago.edu/

Sign up for our electronic news bulletins and watch for I-House events in the University of Chicago Alumni emails! We look forward to hearing from you!

Alumni Relations can be reached by
Telephone: (773) 753-2273
FAX: (773) 753-1227
Email: i-house-alumni@listhost.uchicago.edu

Hear What’s Being Said at I-House

Can’t make it to an event? Streaming and downloadable audio and video are now available for many events, including our popular World Beyond the Headlines Series, from CHIASMOS, the University of Chicago’s International and Area Studies Multimedia and Outreach Source at http://chiasmos.uchicago.edu/.

Join over 1600 subscribers to hear the latest discussions on world affairs.

You’re Invited!

International House alumni are invited to join residents for the annual Candlelight Supper on Wednesday, May 16, 2007. This event marks the closing of a year of living and learning together and honors all graduating residents. Reservations required. Contact Alumni Relations at International House.

International House
at the University of Chicago
1414 East 59th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60637