A Historic Victory: Obama Win Generates More Buzz on Campus

Excerpted from the University of Chicago Chronicle, November 10, 2008
Full text of article located at http://chronicle.uchicago.edu/081110/obama.shtml

The playful cheers of “Obama!” and music pumping across the quads have since faded, but the University and Hyde Park communities remain abuzz about Tuesday’s [November 4th] historic election of Barack Obama as president.

Ties run deep to the former Senior Lecturer in the Law School and his family, who live in the Kenwood neighborhood. Michelle Obama, a vice president of the Medical Center, is the former head of the University Community Service Center, while Obama’s daughters are Lab School students.

“We are proud that a family with close ties to the University will occupy the White House,” said President Zimmer. “The Obamas have made lasting contributions to the University and to Chicago’s South Side, and we are eager to offer our assistance as the President-elect begins to craft his policy agenda.”

The prospect of a fast-moving transition from election to administration has many thinking about new links that might be forged between the University and the President-elect.

“It’s very exciting to have somebody from the University of Chicago, from the University of Chicago Law School, become president of the United States,” said Dennis J. Hutchinson, Senior Lecturer in Law and the William Rainey Harper Professor in the College. “We talk so much about public policy issues, about how law can affect real people and real life. And to have someone who has been here for years, arguing with us, teaching with us, now having the responsibility to make something happen—it’s quite remarkable.”

On Tuesday night, hundreds of people filled Hutchinson Commons to watch Obama speak his first words as President-elect. Holding onto one another—wrapping their arms around a moment that belonged to America, Chicago, and the University—students (including many I-House residents), faculty and staff, some with faces glistening with emotion, pressed forward.

On a giant screen, they saw the flag-waving crowds that surrounded the Obamas in Grant Park, several miles to the north—a throng liberally salted with members of the University of Chicago community who had managed to secure tickets, some through long service to the Obama campaign.

Gil Jordan of the Reynolds Club staff said, “I have never seen such enthusiasm and energy on campus in the 20 years I’ve worked here.”

The mood carried to the Regenstein Library, where John Mark Hansen, Dean of the Social Sciences and Charles L. Hutchinson Distinguished Service Professor in Political Science, led students in a discussion of the election results; to a party of avid watchers at the Law School; and to countless dorm rooms and student lounges around campus.

The University community and alumni are encouraged to contribute their reflections and election photos and read election-related news at http://www.uchicago.edu/features/20081105_election.shtml.

For election night coverage including video interviews with International House residents go to http://www.uchicago.edu/features/20081105_election.shtml.

Understanding Presidential Politics—Chicago-style

The presidential election of November 2008 shaped the conversations of residents throughout fall quarter. International House hosted a variety of discussions and lectures focusing on the political process and the challenges facing a new administration. Programs included Race, Gender & the 2008 Presidential Election, Professor Juan Cole who spoke on Iraq & Afghanistan; a panel discussion entitled Race in America: A Discussion with No Walls, and Tariq Ali who discussed Pakistan, the Obama Administration and the Future of US Involvement in the Region.
Message from the Director—

What a wonderful and interesting fall it has been in Hyde Park and at the University of Chicago for those of us fortunate enough to be associated with International House. The start of any academic year brings new hope and the promise of bright young minds coming to campus full of energy and idealism. However, when coupled with a presidential election year, everyone seems so much more excited about the possibilities for the future. This is especially true when we were fortunate to have one of our own members of the academic community elected to the highest office in the land.

Politics was not the only activity at International House this fall. We provided a wide range of performing arts programs and lectures for the University community and beyond. The highlight of this fall’s performing art series was our participation in the Hyde Park Jazz Festival which brought 15,000 people to Hyde Park to enjoy a day of free concerts at a variety of sites around the area, including over 1,800 people who enjoyed the concerts staged at I-House. These events add greatly to our ability to serve not only our residents but our Southside Chicago neighbors as well. Our lecture series continue to draw national and internationally acclaimed speakers to the House and attendance at these events has been exceptional.

As we begin a new year, all of us at International House wish the best for you and your family. May we all experience peace and a renewed sense of hope for the future.

William L. McCartney, Director

I-House Residents present Davis Peace Projects

International House residents and guests gathered in the Main Lounge on Sunday, November 9 to hear presentations by three residents who are recipients of grants from the Davis Projects for Peace, made possible by Kathryn Wasserman Davis, an accomplished internationalist and philanthropist.

Genevieve Cour opened micro-banks in two small Andean villages of Peru providing year-long loans to 15 people to buy things such as looms, fertilizer, tools, and livestock. The borrowers have said that the banks have dramatically improved their quality of life. Yael Vidan produced two multi-cultural concerts in Haifa and Jaffa, Israel bringing Arab and Jewish musicians together to practice and perform concerts highlighting Jewish and Arab composers and with vocals in both Arabic and Hebrew. Zaid Al-Farisi built a park in Kabul, Afghanistan, providing hundreds of children with a safe play area and standing as a symbol of transformation and hope for the future of Afghanistan. Watch the International House Web site for the Davis Peace Project applications for 2009.

I-House to be ADA Compliant

The last phase of renovations began in November to make International House completely accessible for students, guests and community members. This work will encompass several independent projects that in total will allow people with physical disabilities to move freely about the House.

Changes include: construction of a ramp at the front entrance to the building; relocation of the front desk, mail room and residential service area to the Map Room; an interior ramp in the Main Lounge with chair lifts in the Dining Hall and Assembly Hall stage areas; elevator service to the Home Room and National Room from the first floor; alteration of door frames to allow wheelchair access; creation of an accessible restroom on the first floor. In addition, administrative offices for the International House staff will be expanded and renovated to allow us to maintain a professional office environment for the various levels of House staff.

Work will proceed until late February on this project. At that time, all ADA improvements will be completed and the House will become a home that is not only accepting of all races and nationalities...but a home to all people.

International Houses Worldwide: Australia

Directors from sixteen international houses on four continents will gather at the International Houses Worldwide (IHW) conference on January 11–17, 2009 in Sydney and Wollongong Australia. Featuring discussions about the future of international education and the development of a stronger worldwide association of International Houses, the meeting will provide the directors with an opportunity to share the experiences and challenges of international residential and program centers.

Collaborations with the Hyde Park Cultural Alliance

International House is collaborating with the Hyde Park Cultural Alliance (HPCA), whose goal is to promote the greater Hyde Park community of Chicago as a vibrant and attractive cultural destination. This will be done by enhancing the cultural opportunities in the Hyde Park area, showcasing local cultural institutions and artists through community events, and participating in the larger Chicago cultural community. One recent, large-scale collaboration was the highly successful Jazz Fest which brought thousands of people to the Hyde Park area and showcased International House as one of the performance venues.
Two generations of Coulter Couples: Mary Jane & Benjamin Barnard and Nancy & Jeffrey Ramsey

Sitting at the piano in the Main Lounge one day in the late 1950s, sisters Mary Jane and Nancy Klatt were performing an impromptu concert for friends. A young man tapped Mary Jane on the shoulder and smiling asked: “Do you take requests? I enjoy Chopin.” Thus began the budding romance between Mary Jane and Ben Barnard. While Nancy would spend the following years traveling to over 100 countries, Mary Jane and Bill married and settled into family life. When their daughter, Nancy Barnard AM’85, came to the University of Chicago to study in the Social Sciences Division, she followed in her parents footsteps and lived at I-House. Like her parents before her, she met and married a fellow resident, Jeffrey Ramsey, SM’86, PhD’90, making the I-House connection a two-generation family affair.

Did you meet your future spouse while you were both residents at International House? If so, you are one of a growing number of Coulter Couples, named after Thomas and Mary Alice (Leach) Coulter, residents in the House in the early 1930s and one of the first couples to meet at the House and later marry. Write to us and tell us your story!

SAVE THE DATE!
The University of Chicago
International Forum, Hong Kong, 17–19 April 2009

Join University of Chicago President Robert J. Zimmer, deans, faculty and Asian leaders for a thought provoking weekend of inquiry and conversation. Examine critical economic, social and scientific issues in an international context, learn how Chicago faculty, alumni and students’ rigorous research and inquisitive minds address the world’s biggest challenges, network with fellow alumni from around the world and enjoy enticing Hong Kong. Highlights will include a conversation with University of Chicago President Robert J. Zimmer and panels comprised of Chicago faculty, alumni and experts from around the world. For more information visit: http://internationalforum.uchicago.edu
Email: internationalforum@uchicago.edu or call the Alumni Association at +1-773-702-2150

Alumni Author: Eleanor Guilford

Eleanor Guilford, AM’48 recently sent a copy of her book to the International House Library. One Hundred Mile Summers: Hiking the Pacific Crest Trail from Mexico to Canada describes her solo effort to hike the entire 2,638-mile Pacific Crest Trail over twenty summers in a 25-year span. Eleanor lived at International House while working on her master’s degree in Social Service Administration. In recent years she served in Romania, working with the Department of Child Protection and Adoption in Bucharest, under the auspices of Project Concern, an agency sponsored by the U.S. International Development Agency.

Attention Alumni Authors!

Have you written or contributed to a book? Send us a copy for the collection of International House Alumni Books for the Library at International House. Your book will be displayed in the library with a bookplate highlighting your name, degree and year(s) you lived in the House. For information on sending your book email i-house-programs@uchicago.edu
Spotlight on Endowed Fellowship Recipients

The 2008–2009 Anita Chen Endowed Fellowship was awarded to Jean Yen-chun Lin, a PhD student in Sociology at the University of Chicago. Raised in both the U.S. and Taiwan, Jean fluently speaks four languages—English, Mandarin Chinese, Taiwanese Hokien, and French, and during her time at International House she has picked up conversational Greek and German as well. Her interests in sociology include research into civil societies and non-governmental organizations in developing countries, particularly under authoritarian regimes, the media influence on social movements in Asia, and the internationalization of international norms (i.e., environmental, human rights) and its relation to democratization (specifically China).

The 2008–2009 Watkins Endowed Fellowship was awarded to Paola Castaño Rodriguez, a PhD student in Sociology at the University of Chicago. A native of Colombia, Paola considers her extension of her global interests, since she believes in building friendships and understanding with people of different cultural and professional backgrounds not only in the classroom, but through different activities such as cooking, dancing and socializing.

Gift Annuities: Why They’re Still an Opportunity

As we hold our breath and wait for the economy to take a turn for the better, you may have growing concerns about the future of your retirement. With the average retirement period lengthening, it can become increasingly difficult to find reliable ways to secure a conservative yet competitive method to accumulate resources for future needs.

Even with the recent slight dip in gift annuity rates (effective July 1, 2008), a charitable gift annuity still remains an attractive option that allows you to lock in a guaranteed source of future income and concurrently make a thoughtful gift to the University. You can use cash or appreciated securities to fund your gift annuity, and in return the University will provide you with a fixed annual payment for life. You will be entitled to a charitable deduction and a portion of the income you receive will be tax-free.

If retirement is not in your immediate future, you can choose to defer your gift annuity payments. Deferring gift annuity payments has the added benefit of protecting your capital while ensuring higher payments down the road, when they may be most important to you.

To learn more about gift annuities or the gift annuity rate that applies to you, please contact the Office of Gift Planning toll-free at (866) 241-9802 or giftplan@uchicago.edu.

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* American Council on Gift Annuities, Effective 7/1/2008
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 Lecture Series presents prominent speakers and organizes round-table discussion groups and special interest conferences and seminars. The Global Voices Performing Arts Series provides a showcase for all performing arts programs. 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 and the McCormick Foundation.

- **December 2**
  - Timeline Theater Company presents *Race in America: A Discussion with No Walls*

- **December 4**
  - Film Screening: *Afghan Chronicles*
    - Co-sponsored with the Canadian Consulate and the McCormick Freedom Museum

- **January 15–22**
  - Weeklong Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration
    - Commemoration service at Rockefeller Chapel on January 15

- **February 20–21**
  - Annual Law School Musical Performance

- **March 20–22**
  - 44th Annual Eastern European Folk Festival of Music and Dance

- **April 10–11**
  - UC Folk Arts Community Dance Weekend

- **April 17–19**
  - The University of Chicago International Forum—Hong Kong
    - Special I-House alumni reception to be held on Saturday, April 18

- **April 23–25**
  - Kalapriya Dance Company
    - Performance of north Indian classical dance & music

- **May 1–2**
  - Hyde Park Chamber of Commerce Business Expo

- **May 12**
  - University of Chicago Women’s Athletic Association Awards Banquet

- **May 15–16**
  - Middle East History and Theory Conference

- **May 17**
  - Annual International House Festival of Nations Celebration—Food, Films, Music and Dance from around the world hosted by International House residents

- **May 19**
  - University of Chicago Men’s Athletic Association Awards Banquet

- **May 24–25**
  - Kalapriya Dance Company Performance of north Indian classical dance & music

This popular public lecture series held throughout the academic year is a collaborative project with the University of Chicago Center for International Studies, the Seminary Co-op Bookstores, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, and the International House Global Voices Program. The program brings scholars and journalists together to consider major international news stories and how these stories are covered. Can’t make it to a program? Streaming and downloadable audio and video are now available from CHIASMOS, the University of Chicago’s International and Area Studies Multimedia and Outreach Source at http://chiasmos.uchicago.edu. This program is supported in part by the McCormick Foundation.
Time Capsule

As we conclude our 75th anniversary and complete the renovations, a time capsule is being created. Send us your memories—photos, letters, etc.—no later than January 15, 2009. The time capsule will be opened on the occasion of our 100th Anniversary.

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