Highlight on Global Voices Author Night Series

One popular series of International House’s Global Voices Program is the Author Night Series, which was host to three especially noteworthy authors during the Autumn Quarter. Presidential candidate Ralph Nader, best-selling Nickel and Dimed author Barbara Ehrenreich, and Obama campaign manager David Plouffe all made appearances at International House to discuss their new books.

The Author Night Series is unique because not only does it feature best-selling authors such as Ehrenreich, who spoke on her book Bright-Sided: How the Relentless Promotion of Positive Thinking has Undermined America on October 20, it also features a diverse array of prominent figures from other arenas who have delved into the publishing world. Some of them, such as Plouffe, presenting on his presidential campaign memoir The Audacity to Win on November 13, are completely new to the book-writing process. “I have developed a great respect for the way authors work,” says Plouffe of his first-time experience, noting that his previous writing activities were primarily compositions of the brief campaign emails that most Obama supporters can probably remember seeing in their inbox daily during the campaign.

The question and answer session is quite a lively part of the presentation, when the floor is opened to all International House residents, students, and community members who attend. When Ralph Nader spoke on his latest book Only the Super-Rich Can Save Us! on September 28, he received a wide range of questions regarding the writing process, the content of his book, his political views, and his future aspirations.

Author Night attendees have the opportunity to participate in question-and-answer sessions with the authors, purchase books at the event from the co-sponsoring Seminary Co-op Bookstores, and meet the authors while receiving a personalized autograph during book signings. “This is a great program,” commented Plouffe, “and I feel honored to be welcomed here among the other authors who have been part of it.”

Panel of Diplomats Revisits 1989 Revolutions

Consuls General from Germany, Poland, Hungary, Czech Republic, and Austria met at International House on November 4, 2009 to discuss their experiences of the end of Communist rule in the Soviet Bloc. The event, With Immediate Effect: the Events of 1989 Revisited, was co-sponsored with the Center for International Studies as part of a special series on the revolutions of 1989.

“Twenty-five years ago, few would imagine that we would be here in Chicago with representatives from Germany, Hungary, Austria, Czechoslovakia, and Poland speaking freely about uniting Europe,” Hungary’s Istvan Mezei said.

The panel’s moderator, sociology professor Andreas Glaeser, said that while it is evident today that socialism did not work in Europe, for citizens of the Soviet Bloc, socialism “was forever until it was no more.”

The panelists agreed that, at the time, it seemed like the Soviet Union would never collapse and that the 1989 Velvet Revolution in Czechoslovakia was a miracle. “The greatest lesson [from the revolution] was the disqualification of Communism as an acceptable form of society,” Marek Skolil of the Czech Republic said. “We are all better off. That’s why these events are needed to be discussed today.”

The Velvet Revolution, which took place in the Winter of 1989, was the third largely bloodless revolution in the Soviet Bloc, following the election of the Solidarity Party in Poland and the reinvention of Hungary’s Communist Party. The Soviet Union fell two years later, in 1991.

However, Robert Zischg of Austria said there is still inequality between the previously communist countries and Western Europe. “The walls in the mind of the people have not come down yet. The acceptance of former Communist countries is not as high as it should be,” he said. “For many people of Poland, Czech Republic, Hungary...who grew up with the challenge, it is in our minds, the division. This is what Communism has done to Europe.”

“The idea that socialism was the only way to run a nation made Central and Eastern Europeans feel that Soviet rule would never end; that socialist ideology made a smooth return to capitalism impossible,” Zischg said.

Content courtesy of The Chicago Maroon, November 6, 2009
**Message from the Director—**

The holidays are a special time for us at International House. Everyone looks forward to time away from class work and a chance to reconnect with friends and family.

This feeling of homecoming was accentuated for me this past December as I visited with I-House alums in the Washington, DC area. While visiting, I had the chance to meet with a dozen people who lived in I-House between the 1940’s and 1980’s and listen to their stories and experiences. Several themes struck me as being consistent with what I hear from residents today. Alums felt strongly that living in I-House shaped their entire out-of-class experience at the U of C. The friendships, world perspectives and caring community that they experienced while living in International House helped them truly enjoy their personal life while they challenged themselves in research and the classroom. They were grateful for the respite and feelings of belonging that existed in the House then—as it does today.

Those of us who work at International House are responsible for being the caretakers of campus treasure, and not just the physical structure. We are responsible for continuing to provide life altering experiences and a community that reveals its cultural and intellectual inquiry. As friends of the House, you play an important role in this as well. Your continued financial and other support is crucial to the work that we do daily in serving our resident population. Your gifts help to fund resident fellowships and to support programmatic endeavors that help bind the community together as a family. For this, we are deeply grateful and hope that as we enter a new year your support will continue.

*William L. McCartney, Director*

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**2009–2010 Residential Fellowships Awarded**

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 2009–2010 academic year, the Residential Fellowship Program will provide support to 55 students from all areas of the University including the undergraduate College. Fellows come from 19 countries and were selected based on academic merit, leadership abilities, community activities, and their ability to contribute to the diversity in the House. This year, the House expanded support to advanced undergraduate students. Graduate and Collegiate Fellows live in the House and are expected to participate in a wide-array of programs and activities. Residential Fellows are awarded $1,000 to $3,000 to offset the expenses of living at International House. One of this year’s Collegiate Fellows, María Ekpo, a second-year undergraduate whose family is from Nigeria, says of her experience at I-House, “I have met so many remarkable students from different academic fields at I-House. Whether it’s in the resident kitchen or dining hall, I’ve had the chance to participate in many stimulating discussions about current events and gain invaluable insight about career opportunities.” The Residential Fellowship Program provides crucial funding for students, assisting them in meeting the expenses of living at International House.

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**Welcome Back!**

If you are receiving this newsletter for the first time, it is a result of the completion of the Archives Project. The *I-House Life* Newsletter is a quarterly publication that provides the International House worldwide community with updates on current events at the House, as well as news about alumni. All alumni and friends are invited back to International House either for Alumni Weekend or anytime during the year. We hope you enjoy reconnecting with International House and rediscovering old friends and former residents.

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**Coulter Couple from Spain Reunites with Thanksgiving Homestay Family**

After 25 years, former residents and *Coulter Couple* Fernando Jesus Antonanzas and Carmen Torres still have a strong bond with the International House community. The two first met at I-House as residents from 1983 to 1985 and are now married with three children. They are one of over 700 I-House *Coulter Couples* (named for Thomas and Mary Alice [Leach] Coulter, both residents in the early 1930’s who met at I-House and were among the first to marry). *Coulter Couples*, such as Carmen and Fernando, form a very special group within the International House alumni community.

Fernando, an economics professor, and Carmen, a biologist, currently live in Spain. While visiting the United States to send a son off to college, they visited International House. As a resident, Fernando participated in the International Thanksgiving Homestay Program which was founded in 1956. Through this program, which continues today, American families invite international students from throughout Chicago to their homes to celebrate Thanksgiving weekend. Fernando and Carmen had the opportunity to reunite with his host family with whom he stayed over 25 years ago. Many former I-House residents who have participated in this program have developed life-long friendships with their host families.

We invite all Coulter Couples and alumni families to plan a special homecoming to International House!
Former Resident and World Bank Chief Economist Discusses Global Economy

Justin Yifu Lin, who lived at International House from 1982–85 while working on his economics Ph.D. from the University, has devoted his life’s work to better understanding the world’s impoverished areas.

Now the chief economist and senior vice president of the World Bank, Lin has spent much of his career studying China’s economic growth as an example for other developing nations. He is the author of 18 books, including The China Miracle: Development Strategy and Economic Reform. Before joining the World Bank, he served as Professor and Founding Director of the China Centre for Economic Research (CCER) at Peking University.

In a recent University of Chicago Magazine article, he outlined his ideas regarding how developing countries should deal with the global economic crisis. He states the need for a stimulus package that involves investments in infrastructure and protection for workers such as unemployment benefits and training opportunities. His goal is to work “to turn this crisis into an occasion to promote necessary reform to lay the foundation for sustainable growth for the future.”

Lin has received many awards for his work, such as the 1993 and 2001 Sun Yefang Prize, which is the highest honor for economists in China. He has served on several national and international committees, leading groups, and councils on development policy, technology, and the environment including the United Nations Millennium Task Force on Hunger, the Eminent Persons Group of the Asian Development Bank, the National Committee on United States-China Relations, the Hong Kong-U.S. Business Council, the Working Group on the future of the OECD, and the Reinventing Bretton Woods Committee.

Lin’s dedication to ending world poverty and promoting international cooperation efforts are examples of what International House strives to foster through its mission.

Save the Date!

International Houses Worldwide will celebrate its 100th Anniversary in Philadelphia on June 20–25, 2010. In addition to the festivities and events taking place during the week, there will be a reunion event for alumni of all International Houses Worldwide on June 26, 2010. Join us for this special event celebrating a century of promoting cross-cultural understanding, friendship, and community among students and scholars from around the world.

I N M E M O R I A M

David Saxe, AB’36
A research and development administrator, David held senior management positions with the Atomic Energy Commission at Argonne, Atomic International in Los Angeles, and the Electric Power Research Institute in Palo Alto, CA. He won honors for his work at the Atomic Energy Commission and was a board member of several charitable and civic organizations. He lived at International House in 1935. Survivors include three children, his sister, and four grandchildren. He was 93.

Phyllis Zoe Silvertrust Sandock, AB’39
Sandock was a painter who created works in oil, watercolor, and other media. She lived at International House from 1937 to 1939. Her survivors include a daughter, a son, two grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. She was 90.

Thomas W. Stern, AA’43, SB’47
A geologist, he spent 41 years at the U.S. Geological Survey investigating Colorado Plateau uranium deposits and retired as chief of isotope geology in 1989. He received the Department of Interior’s Meritorious Service Award and was a fellow of the Geological Society of America and the Mineralogical Society of America. He lived at International House from 1938 to 1940. He is survived by a brother, John A. Stern, who is also a former International House resident (1937-1939); a sister; a granddaughter; and a great-granddaughter. He was 86.

Jack C. Ellis, AM’48
A professor at Northwestern University, he launched the school’s film program and served for five years as the department’s chair. He was a founding member of the Society for Cinema Studies (now Society for Cinema and Media Studies) and the group’s president from 1970 to 1972. Ellis was the author of six books on film history and pedagogy. He lived at International House from 1945 to 1947. He is survived by his wife, two sons, a sister, and six grandchildren. He was 87.

Louis Crompton, AM’51, PhD’54
Crompton worked at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln from 1955 until his retirement in 1989. A Bernard Shaw expert, he wrote Shaw the Dramatist, which won the national Phi Beta Kappa Christian Gauss Award for literary criticism. He helped launch the Gay and Lesbian Caucus of the Modern Language Association and his book Homosexuality and Civilization won the Bonnie Zimmerman and Vern L. Bullough Prize of the Foundation for the Scientific Study of Sexuality. He lived at International House in 1949. He is survived by his partner and a brother. He was 84.

Regina Titunik, AM’83, PhD’91
She researched the role of women in war, teaching at the University of Zambia; the University of Michigan-Dearborn; and most recently the University of Hawaii at Hilo. She received several teaching honors, including the 2006 University of Hawaii at Hilo Student Association Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching. She lived at International House from 1980 to 1982 and in 1985. She is survived by her husband, Naoto Yoshikawa, another former International House resident. The two met while living at I-House, making them an International House Coulter Couple. She is also survived by her son and two sisters. She was 52.
Making Life Count
Ralph and Marta Nicholas, A Lifelong Bond with the University of Chicago

Ralph (AM’58, PhD’62) and Marta Weinstock Nicholas (X’60) have strong bonds with the University of Chicago and International House. The couple both attended the University; it was here where they first met. Ralph, the William Rainey Harper Professor Emeritus of Anthropology and Social Sciences in the College, held a number of administrative positions in the University including Director of the Center for International Studies (1984–1995), Deputy Provost (1982–1987), Dean of the College (1986–1991), and Executive Director of International House (1993–2000). However, the couple’s involvement and devotion to the University reaches far beyond academia.

During Ralph’s service as Director of International House, the couple lived in an apartment that is now the National Room and Midway Room and Terrace guest suites. Amidst all the fond memories of their time at I-House, both Ralph and Marta say being able to interact with the residents was one of the most rewarding aspects of staying at I-House—especially sharing casual conversations and Marta’s homemade meals. Marta said she felt that “living at I-House was like getting to know distant cousins whom we just had not met before.”

The couple went out of their way to make I-House a welcome and friendly environment for both international and American students and also entertained residents at their farm and lake house in Indiana. They still keep contact with many of the past residents and continue to contribute regularly to the University and its international community.

Ralph, currently the President of the American Institute of Indian Studies which is based in Chicago and Delhi, is working on a book The Night of the Gods which is the third in a series about Bengali Hindu rituals, subject of field-work the couple did together in India. Marta still maintains an integral connection with I-House—among other activities, organizing cultural, educational, and social get-togethers for the International Spouse/Partners Program to help those individuals and their families have an enjoyable time in Chicago. “In planning events, I try to think about what would make me comfortable in their cultures.” Additionally, Marta shares her interests in other cultures through her radio program “Music Around the World” on the University of Chicago radio station WHPK (88.5FM). The couple regularly visits India and enjoys traveling to other countries.

The Nicholases maintain a lifelong commitment to the traditions of the University of Chicago and International House. To advance their passion for reaching out to students and scholars from other nations and their dedication to international understanding, they have generously bequeathed funds to International House. They hope their bequest will continue to support and enrich the global community of International House and the University in the future.

Attention Alumni Authors!

Have you written or contributed to a book? Send us a signed copy for the collection of International House Alumni Books. Your book will be displayed in the resident 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 or call (773) 753-2274.

Create a Lasting Legacy of Your Own

International House at the University of Chicago is especially grateful for the bequests it receives from alumni and other friends.

When you include a provision in your will or trust for the benefit of International House, you provide essential resources that will shape the future of International House and ensure its excellence for generations to come.

The Benefits of a Bequest

A bequest is simple to arrange, reduces your taxable estate, and allows you to retain your assets throughout your lifetime. The flexibility of a bequest permits you to designate a specific dollar amount, a percentage of your estate or a piece of property. Furthermore, your bequest can benefit a program that holds a special significance to you, endow a fellowship, or leave an unrestricted gift to International House.

Communicate Your Wishes

If you would like to include a bequest in your will or your living trust, you will need to incorporate specific language to describe your gift and its intended use by International House. To ensure an accurate understanding, we welcome the opportunity to work with you and your advisers to appropriately develop and tailor this language.

Share Your Plans

If you have already taken steps to include International House in your estate plan, we encourage you to let us know of your intentions so that we can express our gratitude to you during your lifetime. Sharing your plans with us ensures that your wishes will be met and also assists International House’s long-term planning efforts.

The Phoenix Society—Our Gratitude

Donors who support International House through an estate commitment or life-income arrangement are invited to become members of the University of Chicago’s Phoenix Society. Members receive a welcome package, invitations to special University events, and recognition in an honor roll of contributors (unless anonymity is requested.)

Defining your legacy is one of the most important decisions you will make in your lifetime. When you create or revise your estate plan, we hope you will include the International House among your beneficiaries.

For more information on bequests and other planned gifts, please contact the Office of Programs and External Relations at (773) 753-2261 or i-house-programs@uchicago.edu or visit http://giftplanning.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 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.

**GLOBAL VOICES EVENTS 2009–2010**

**February 10**
Celebration of Black History Month Organization of Black American Culture Writers Workshop

**February 11**
International Education Conference Making Your School More International

**February 19–20**
Annual Law School Musical

**March 12**
Author Night with Chang-Rae Lee

**March 19–21**
Spring Festival Series 45th Annual Eastern European Folk Festival of Music and Dance

**April 20**
Global Voices Performing Arts Series Zolotoj Plyos—A Concert of Russian Folk Music

**May 1**
Global Voices Performing Arts Series Concert Third Coast Percussion

**May 6**
A Father’s Role from Pregnancy to Adulthood A Conference Honoring Reproductive Health and Freedom

**May 10**
Kestenbaum Family Cultural Activities Fund Lecture with Jhumpa Lahiri Pulitzer Prize-winning Author of Interpreter of Maladies and The Namesake

**May 14**
Middle East History and Theory Conference An Evening of Theatre and Music

**May 23**
Spring Festival Series Annual Festival of Nations Food, films, music, and dance from around the world; hosted by International House residents

**June 3–6**
University of Chicago Alumni Weekend On June 5, join alumni and friends for an international brunch, wine-tasting reception, and jazz concert as part of this festive weekend.

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, 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.
Alumni Weekend
June 3–6, 2010 | alumniweekend.uchicago.edu

Plan now for your spring return

Check Out the Highlights
» Reunion celebrations and tours
» Faculty-led classes
» International Alumni Brunch
» International Wine Tasting Event and 59th Street Jazz Concert and more

Get Started
» Make your room reservation—lodging at International House is limited
» Call your friends and former residents
» Visit alumniweekend.uchicago.edu for all the details
» Questions? Call (773) 753-2274

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Visit alumniandfriends.uchicago.edu for more information.