

Cross-Cultural Weddings

Sara Bakhtary & Giovanni Gonzalez Dubois



Giovanni is from Guatemala and Sara is of Iranian background. Their two cultures were reflected on their wedding day through the mix of Latino and Persian music on the dance floor, the kabob served for dinner, and the international guests present speaking Spanish, Farsi, and English.

Sylvia Saltzstein & Cliff Ho



Cliff and Sylvia met in the I-House Café, hit it off immediately, and fell in love. I-House brought so much joy to their lives that when they decided to get married, Joe Lurie was their first choice to officiate the marriage! As an official "Deputy Marriage Commissioner for a Day," Joe made the ceremony wonderfully special.

Juliet Estrella & Mark Spencer



Juliet and Mark met during their first week at I-House, in August 1988. Their wedding ceremony blended together Filipino, Catholic and Jewish traditions, which they continue to this day. They happily count themselves among the many cross-cultural couples, and enjoy visits back to I-House.

Love is in the air at I-House!

On Valentine's Day 2013, I-House launched a new webpage that features stories of couples and friends who met at I-House. The effort inspired more alumni to share their stories, so we kept the love alive by adding to the page and by featuring couples and friendships on our Facebook page! Here are just a few of these remarkable stories of cross-cultural love and friendship. See more at ihouse.berkeley.edu/love. Contribute your story via email to ihalumni@berkeley.edu. Share the love! ♥

I-House Alumni Couple of the Year 2013

Ambassador Ken Taylor & Dr. Patricia Taylor



"It was about 7 am and we were the only two residents in the dining hall for breakfast..." began Ken Taylor, when reminiscing about meeting his wife of 55 years, Pat, at I-House in October 1958. Ken and Pat were interviewed in April, 2013 as part of I-House's 25th Celebration and Awards Gala at which they were recognized as *I-House Alumni Couple of the Year*. "She was getting a PhD in bacteriology plus was a violinist and ballet dancer...I thought there must be three or four of her to be doing so

many things," continued Ken, who at Cal earned his degree in Business at Haas. The couple then embarked on many overseas assignments linked to Ken's service in Canada's diplomatic corps, while Pat continued her scientific research. The recent Oscar-winning film *Argo* is a fictionalized account of their real-life heroism in Iran during the 1979 hostage crisis—while Ken was Canadian Ambassador to Iran—harboring American would-be hostages to safety in a Canadian-led rescue.

"The lessons of I-House have been such an important part of our lives since—and of course we wouldn't have each other if it weren't for I-House," says Pat. Their inscribed brick on the I-House Café patio (pictured at right) says it all.



Nicola Szibbo & Troy Reinhalter

Nicola, a Canadian, and Troy, an American, met in 2008. They loved hanging out at I-House and attending holiday meals in the Dining Hall, Coffee Hour, formal dances, hiking and attending Cal games with other international students. In August 2012, Nicola and Troy married in San Francisco, where both their families from Vancouver, BC and from Washington, DC traveled for the big event. They attended the April 18th Gala and were excited that Ambassador Ken Taylor and Dr. Pat Taylor are "couple of the year," given the release of the movie *Argo* and the US-Canadian cooperation that led to the successful "Canadian Caper" in Iran.



Momo Zheng & Raj Shekhar Singh

Raj writes, "I wanted to inform you about my love story too. I met my wife Momo Zheng at I-House in the summer of 2008. We immediately fell in love and got married as soon as I came to UC Berkeley again for my PhD study." Momo and Raj had a Chinese wedding in Momo's hometown in China at the beginning of the year, and will have an Indian wedding, hosted by Raj's parents, at the end of 2013.



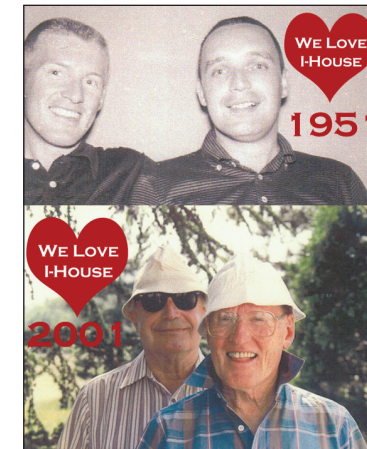
Love, International Style

Vern Haddick & Paul Herman - 50 Years of Partnership

Vern Haddick and Paul Herman met as residents at International House and formed a lasting partnership that endured more than fifty years. Paul passed away last fall and Vern has inscribed a brick on the I-House patio in memory of their enduring union that I-House made possible.

Paul Edward Herman
"gladly did he learn
and gladly teach"

Cement your bond with a bench dedication or brick inscribed in the I-House Café patio. Gifts support The Fund for I-House which provides critical support for resident scholarships and all that I-House does. See ihouse.berkeley.edu/naming.



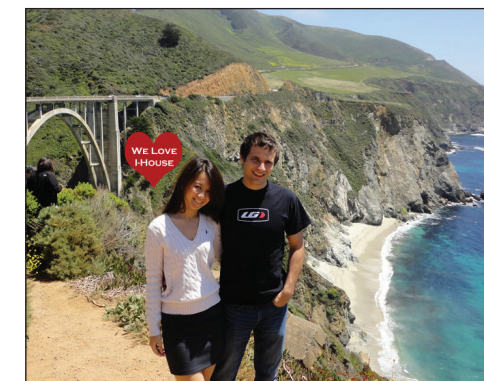
Alicia De Bruyn & I-House Friends

Alicia writes: "I lived in I-House for only one semester, in Fall 2011, but it was the best semester of my life. I met some of my best friends there, including my roommate, Laura Hertz. This is a picture of all of us on a trip to Lake Tahoe, in a weekend of September 2011. That's the weekend where we all really got to know each other. Thank you for the amazing times, and my friends across the world!"



From left: Alicia De Bruyn (Belgium), Maria Sundqvist (Sweden), Arienne Malekmadani (USA), Lisa Barry (England), Laura Hertz (USA), Milda Jasaite (Lithuania)

Yevgeniy Grechka & Justine Lan



Nonetheless, we're pulling through, and we owe it all to I-House!"

Yevgeniy writes, "It all started in fall 2011. I spotted a beautiful girl dancing in the middle of the room...as fate would have it, the next semester she moved into to I-House... Now, Justine studies in Germany for her master's degree, and although we are half the world away we try to be together as often as possible. International bureaucracy doesn't make things easy, with me being Russian and her being Indonesian. We have very few countries we can go to where we don't need visas.

I-House Friendships

Asalle Tanha & Ingeborg Øverhaug



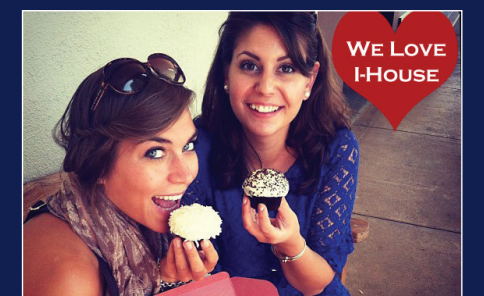
Ingeborg writes from Hamar, Norway: "Upon arriving at I-House in fall 2008, I met my new roommate, Asalle Tanha from Sonoma, California! I had never before, nor have I after shared a bedroom with anyone, but I am glad I got to live with her for a whole year!"

Colorful Friendships Forming Everyday!



From left: Richard Kotite, Amy Gonzalez, Khriha Shah, Kenneth Kristiansen & Jacey Sang Eon Lee IH Resident Assistants and friends Kristen Kerler and Yoline Banerjee organized IH participation in a campus celebration of the Holi Festival of Colors this April. Kristen reports "It was honestly an amazing and memorable experience that included nearly 100 residents!" The Holi festival is a Hindu tradition in India, Nepal and Pakistan, among other countries, where friends celebrate the arrival of spring together in a riot of color.

Larissa Moessmer & Jennifer Thomas



Larissa writes from Munich, Germany: "I've read all the cute stories of couples and friends who met at I-House—such a wonderful idea! I lived at I-House in summer 2012 when I met Jennifer, the best roommate I could hope for! My time in Berkeley would not have been the same without her."