



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
INTERNATIONAL HOUSE

2023-2024 ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

Welcoming the world. Championing diversity.



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

I am pleased to share the International House of Chicago 2023-2024 Annual Report of Activities, which outlines achievements, milestones, and progress made in selected areas over the past year, as well as the support from our worldwide community making such achievements possible.

Following our successful 90th Anniversary Celebration held in 2022-2023, International House recommitted to its work of creating a more open and promising world for all. Through our Global Voices Performing Arts and Lecture Series public programming and our support of the graduate student community through our Graduate Commons Program, we seek to heighten understanding about global challenges, raise awareness of critical issues, and illuminate our world and how we are all connected. There is a long list of transnational issues from climate change to terrorism to global pandemics, as well as an array of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, which raise other issues. In many countries around the world, the situation is no less complex than at home, with a polarization of politics and a decline of trust in institutions of government and society. In this context, I am proud of the diverse set of thinkers and practitioners we brought together this year to discuss and debate the issues of the day. Topics of our lecture series included free speech in a time of war, press freedom, human rights, climate change and COP28, global health, COVID-19 and China, the global migration and refugee crisis, political opposition in Russia and the war in Ukraine, the U.S. election and political conventions, U.S.-Asia relations, artificial intelligence, the Doomsday Clock, and the war in Gaza and its impact on college campuses worldwide. International House, together with our sister houses around the world, continues to play an important role as a convenor, a source of analysis of current events, an educator, and an institution committed to furthering understanding across the broad set of communities that we serve both on the UChicago campus and around the world.

As we look ahead to the fall, International House will welcome a new class of students and scholars to our community. This new class will embark on its University of Chicago—and International House—journey. Students will experience a wide range of globally focused programs and activities throughout the 2024-2025 academic year as we continue *Welcoming the world. Championing diversity.*

I would like to thank all members of the International Houses worldwide community for their ongoing commitment and dedication to our mission.

With tremendous appreciation,
Denise M. Jorgens, AM'83, PhD'95
 Director, International House
 The University of Chicago



The carving in the tympanum over the Dorchester Avenue entrance represents a globe, and the steamship on the ocean typifies people passing from one part of the earth to another. The figures in the frieze below represent different types and races residing in different parts of the world. They carry the lamp of learning, lighting each other's way. ■ The two corbels at the termination of the label mould of the arch represent primitive man on one side, and modern man on the other, and the bosses in the arch are a study of man's progress. Beginning at the lower left hand adjacent to the corbel representing the primitive man, the bosses are as follows: Fire, Use of Tools, Writing, Primitive Religion, Beginning of Agriculture, Invention and Printing, and Modern Inventions.

INTERNATIONAL HOUSES WORLDWIDE COMMUNITY



International Houses Worldwide (IHW) is a consortium of 16 International Houses that are separate, independent, nonprofit institutions which span four continents and are 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.**

The annual conference of IHW directors was held from June 3-5, 2024, and was hosted by the International House at Northern Arizona University. These gatherings provide IHW directors and other staff representatives with an opportunity to discuss issues related to the future of IHW as well as to share best practices related to international residential and program centers and the field of international higher education. This year, International Houses Worldwide welcomed a new member: UNSW, Sydney, Australia.

Congratulations to two directors who retired this year. They include Carla Tromans from

International House Brisbane and Philip Mosely of International House Darwin. We thank them for their service to IHW. Learn more about IHW at houseworldwide.org.

Next year will be one of anniversary milestones for the IHW community. Beginning September 14-15, 2024, **International House New York will celebrate its centennial** with a weekend-long program of performances, special guest speakers, and a centennial Sunday Supper. The centennial weekend will provide an opportunity for current resident members and alumni and friends to connect and celebrate the history of the first International House and to envision the next 100 years together.



ABOVE: International House of Japan

Next year also marks the **70th anniversary of the International House of Japan building**, which opened on June 11, 1955. It is the only piece of architecture jointly designed by the three giants of Japanese modernism: Kunio Maekawa, Junzo Sakakura, and Junzo Yoshimura.

There is a work of calligraphy hanging at the entrance of the International House of Japan tea lounge “The Garden.” This was created by former Prime Minister Shigeru Yoshida, who offered it as a gift when the building opened. It

features a phrase from the Analects of Confucius that reads: “Is it not delightful to have friends come from distant quarters?” (See photo above.)

The text is symbolic of the role International House has played in promoting people-to-people exchange and providing a venue for intellectual dialogue among leading figures from many different fields and countries.

Prime Minister Yoshida attended the International House of Japan opening ceremony in 1955, and [a historic video](#) of that ceremony can be viewed online.



THE DAVIS PROJECTS FOR PEACE

International House of Chicago Graduate Fellows **Lina Gonzalez; Pedro Huet, MPP'24; Jane Kim, MPP'24; and Burak Tan**, were awarded **Davis Projects for Peace Grants for the summer of 2024**.

Davis Projects for Peace is the vision of International House New York alumna Kathryn Wasserman Davis who, on her 100th birthday in 2007, launched this program at over 90 college campuses in the United States to inspire young people to create initiatives which would bring new energy and ideas to the prospects for peace in the world. In 2008, Mrs. Davis extended the funding of this program to the group of **International Houses Worldwide** in addition to the schools associated with the Davis United World College (UWC) Scholars Program. [Learn more about Kathryn Davis and the Davis Projects for Peace grant program.](#)

Lina Gonzalez studies at the Harris School of Public Policy. She used her grant for the project *Breaking Violent Areas with EmpowerEd Students* to help prevent underprivileged high school students from becoming involved in violence and instead nurturing a bilingual youth workforce. This project was completed in Cali, Colombia, where Lina was raised and attended college. Lina also received generous support from the Pearson Institute for the Study and Resolution of Global Conflicts at the University of Chicago to sponsor an intern from UChicago to assist with the project.

Fellows **Pedro Huet** and **Jane Kim**, along with **Joseph Olalusi, MPP'24**, also studied at the Harris School of Public Policy. They used their grant for the project *59th Street Garden: A Community Approach for Solving Neighborhood Crime* to establish a community garden in the Englewood neighborhood, a southside Chicago community that has been burdened by violence and a lack of public and private investment for decades. The project also received additional funding from the Chicago Community Trust to support the project and from the Mansueto Institute for Urban Innovation at the University of Chicago, which supported a Neighborhood Innovation Summit attended by project youth leaders in July 2024.

Burak Tan is studying in the Department of Political Science in the Social Sciences Division. He used his grant for the project *Community Networks Against Gender Discrimination in Southeast Turkey* to address the situation of the LGBTQ+ community in southeastern Turkey which has been impacted by the Kurdish ethnic conflict. This project was completed in Diyarbakir, Turkey.

These projects are among the twenty projects from members of the International Houses Worldwide community funded at \$10,000 each for implementation during the summer of 2024. [Follow the progress of these projects through online blogs.](#)

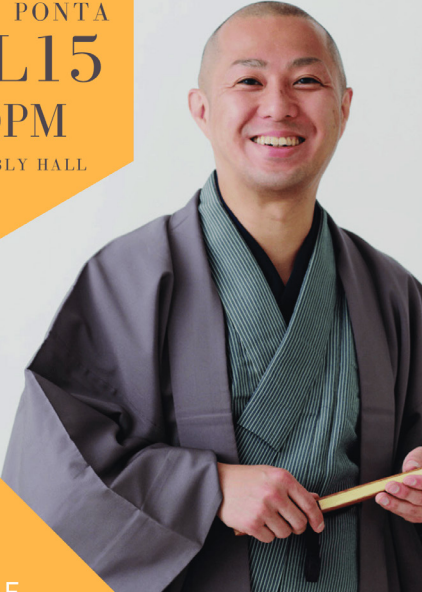


L to R: Jane Kim, Lina Gonzalez, Burak Tan, Pedro Huet, and Joseph Olalusi

INTERNATIONAL HOUSE GLOBAL VOICES PROGRAM

EVENTS, COLLABORATIONS, AND INTERNSHIPS

SAN'YUTEI PONTA
APRIL 15
5-6:30PM
I-HOUSE ASSEMBLY HALL




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A NIGHT OF
**JAPANESE
STORYTELLING**

IN JAPANESE WITH
ENGLISH SUBTITLES

CO-SPONSORED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO'S CENTER FOR EAST ASIAN STUDIES WITH SUPPORT FROM A TITLE VI NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER GRANT FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, THE INTERNATIONAL HOUSE'S GLOBAL VOICES PROGRAM, AND THE JAPAN BUSINESS SOCIETY OF DETROIT.



**MICHIGAN GOVERNOR
GRETCHEN WHITMER**

Politics, Policy
and Pragmatism




Featuring Democratic Governor of Michigan **Gretchen Whitmer** and former Democratic Governor and Fall 2023 Pritzker Fellow **Kate Brown**.

Register at bit.ly/iopWhitmer

Mon | Oct 16 | 4:30 p.m.
International House

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
INSTITUTE OF POLITICS

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
INTERNATIONAL HOUSE

**RESILIENCE AND
RECONSTRUCTION:
A CONVERSATION WITH
PRIME MINISTER OF UKRAINE
DENYS SHMYHAL**

Moderated by Institute of Politics Director Heidi Heitkamp



Tues | April 16 | 3:00 p.m.
International House

Register at bit.ly/3vzFcbq

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
INSTITUTE OF POLITICS

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
INTERNATIONAL HOUSE

POLSKY Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation
THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

UChicago Global

Through the Global Voices Performing Arts and Lecture Series, International House presents programs that advance cross-cultural understanding and public discourse on community, national, and world affairs. During the 2023-2024 academic year, 70 public programs were held—in-person and virtually—involving 65+ community and University partners.

Additionally, through the Global Voices Metcalf Internship Program, students from the College were provided professional training in public programming, marketing, and public relations. Founded in 1977 to honor Harold “Jeff” Metcalf, AM’53, former member of the I-House board of

governors, the Metcalf Internship Program makes it possible for undergraduate students to receive the highly competitive and prestigious enrichment opportunities that they need as a stepping-stone to future employment. International House has participated in the Metcalf program for 27 years.

2023-2024 GLOBAL VOICES PERFORMING ARTS AND LECTURE SERIES

PERFORMING ARTS

Kicking off the academic year, the Global Voices Performing Arts Series was proud to support the 17th Annual Hyde Park Jazz Festival with performances by Brown Savage World Music and Instigation Orchestra with Aurora Nealand. We celebrated our Founder's Day with a performance by two-time Grammy winner, Blues Hall of Famer, and sixteen-time Blues Music Awards winner Bobby Rush. The performance was preceded by a conversation with Michael Dietler, Professor of Anthropology and Sociology at UChicago. In partnership with WHPK 88.5FM, we hosted an evening of jazz featuring the Noteworthy Jazz Ensemble, a unique group comprised of Chicago Public School music teachers. Together with the Department of Music and UChicago Arts, we hosted a discussion and performance of Sean Shepherd's String Quartet No. 3, featuring the Pacifica Quartet, known for its virtuosity

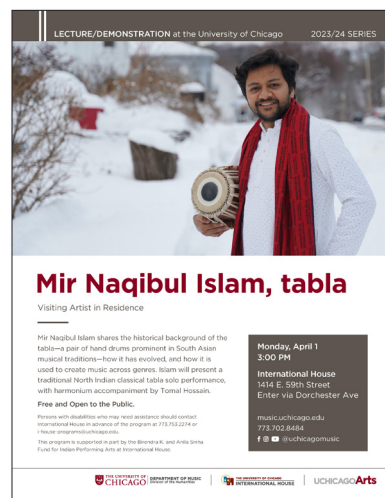


and exuberant performance style. This program was supported in part by the Weil-Parker Fund for Performing Arts at International House. The 2023 International Korean Traditional Performing Arts Competition showcased art troupes and organizations from across the Midwest, featuring a variety of performances—from traditional dance, to vocal and instrumental—illustrating the artists' talent and passion for Korean arts. On Giving Tuesday, we hosted an Asian Night Market—a night of food and drinks under the stars to celebrate and support the work of International House. I-House and UChicago Presents welcomed Bantu Continua Uhuru Consciousness along with Jessica Baker and Mollie Stone for a lunch discussion about art, music, culture, and activism.

In Winter Quarter, International House, the University of Chicago Center in Delhi, and the Indo-American Friendship Association, New Delhi, hosted "A Festival of Kathak Dance for India-U.S. Friendship," featuring dance performances by disciples of Gurus Shovana Narayan, Saswati Sen, and Aditi Mangaldas. The program was supported in part by the Birendra K. and Anila Sinha Fund for Indian

Performing Arts at International House. We supported the UChicago Folklore Society for the 64th Annual UChicago Folk Festival—a two-day celebration of traditional and folk music from around the world.

During Spring Quarter, we celebrated Giving Day by hosting our signature Festival of Nations, a traditional "international day" event during which our Graduate Fellows set up tables to talk about their countries and serve traditional food, all while enjoying cultural performances. In partnership with the UChicago Department of Music and UChicago Arts, we welcomed Mir Naqibul Islam for a special lecture-demonstration that taught us the historical background of the tabla instrument, its history and evolution, and how it is used to create music across genres. Together with the Center for East Asian Studies (CEAS) and UChicago Presents, we welcomed Wu Fei, genre-bending composer, guzheng virtuoso and vocalist from China for a lunchtime conversation and performance. Also with CEAS, the Japan Business Society of Detroit, and with support from a Title VI National Resource Center Grant from the U.S. Department of Education, we hosted an



Meiji Art and Visual Culture
A SYMPOSIUM IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE EXHIBITION
Meiji Modern
FIFTY YEARS OF NEW JAPAN

FRIDAY, MAY 3
3:00 - 6:00 PM
International House Assembly Hall
• Introduction & Overview, Chelsea Foxwell (University of Chicago)
• Keynote Lecture, Satō Dōshin (Tokyo University of the Arts)

SATURDAY, MAY 4
9:00 - 6:00 PM
International House Assembly Hall
• Public Symposium
• Free & Open to Public
• Registration Required

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Smart Museum of Art
Exhibition Hours:
TUE - SUN
10:00 - 4:30 PM

Image credit: Hashiguchi Goyō, This Beauty (Kono bijin), Poster for Mitsubishi Department Store, 1911, private collection

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
CENTER FOR EAST ASIAN STUDIES
with support from a Title VI National Resource Center Grant from the U.S. Department of Education

CENTER FOR THE ART OF EAST ASIA
THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

INTERNATIONAL HOUSE

evening of Japanese storytelling (rakugo) by rakugo-ka San'yūtei Ponta II. This event was held in conjunction with the groundbreaking exhibition *Meiji Modern: Fifty Years of New Japan* at the University of Chicago's Smart Museum of Art. During Alumni Weekend, we held the annual Candle Lighting Ceremony—one of the oldest traditions at International House which, together with the reciting of the I-House pledge, celebrates a period of sharing experiences and knowledge with friends from around the world. During this weekend, we also held our Around the World Wine Tasting and a champagne brunch and performance by the University's South Asian Music Ensemble.

Throughout the year, we also collaborated with various departments and student organizations to host cultural celebrations. These included Día de Muertos (Day of the Dead), where students honored their deceased loved ones with colorful altars adorned with marigolds, candles, photos, and their favorite foods. We also celebrated Lunar New Year, marking the Year of the Dragon with food, music, performances, and more. Nowruz welcomed the Persian New Year with a joyous celebration of spring's arrival. Together with

the Spiritual Life office, we celebrated the holy month of Ramadan with an iftar dinner. Southeast Asia Night featured cultural performances and culinary delights, celebrating the rich tapestry of Southeast Asian cultures.

LECTURES

Early in the Autumn Quarter, we worked together with CEAS to host a screening of the documentary film *Chosen* (2022), following five Korean Americans of diverse backgrounds with competing political views as they ran for U.S. Congress. We partnered with the Center for International Social Science Research (CISSR); the Committee on Environment, Geography, and Urbanization (CEGU); and the Center for Latin American Studies (CLAS) for a round-table discussion with Sarah Newman, on her new book, *Unmaking Waste: New Histories of Old Things*. In partnership with the Association of Latinx Students for Social Justice (ALAS), MECHA de UChicago, and Student Support Services (SSS), we held an in-depth discussion about the persistent and rising challenges facing Chicago's immigrant community. We worked with OneShared.World to present a conversation with

UChicago Professors Zhiguo He, Chang-Tai Hsieh, and Kenneth Pomeranz, as they explored the state of U.S.-China relations. International House and The Pozen Family Center for Human Rights (the Pozen Center) partnered with The Pearson Institute for the Study and Resolution of Global Conflicts (the Pearson Institute) and The Chicago Council on Global Affairs to present a conversation on human rights and the future of Afghanistan with Nader Nadery, Former Human Rights Commissioner, Afghanistan; Peace Negotiator; and Senior Fellow at the Wilson Center; and UChicago Professor Gil Stein. We supported CEGU for a presentation of a conversation with Megan Black and Elizabeth Chatterjee on how Friends of the Earth helped transform the small Colorado town of Crested Butte into a household name.

Throughout the year, we partnered with the Seminary Co-op Bookstores for a series of Author Nights, featuring Dipesh Chakrabarty's *One Planet, Many*

In partnership with the Institute of Politics' (IOP) Speaker Series, we hosted several high-profile events, providing students and the general public direct contact with elected officials, activists, authors, journalists, and other key practitioners in politics and public service. Notable speakers included Illinois Governor JB Pritzker; Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer; former Governor of New Jersey, Chris Christie; and Ukrainian Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal.

GOVERNOR JB PRITZKER Progressive Governorship

Featuring Illinois Gov JB Pritzker and Wall Street Journal White House reporter Sabrina Siddiqui.

Register at bit.ly/iopJBPRitzker

Tue | Oct 10 | 5:30 p.m.
International House

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INSTITUTE OF POLITICS

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INTERNATIONAL HOUSE

Worlds; Megan Buskey's *Ukraine Is Not Dead Yet: A Family Story of Exile and Return*; Joseph O. Jewell's *White Man's Work: Race and Middle-Class Mobility Into the Progressive Era*; Stephan Palmié's *Thinking with Ngangas*; Alexander Chula's *Goodbye, Dr Banda*; and Kevin Kwan's *Lies and Weddings*.

Together with the Energy and Climate Club and the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago (EPIC), we hosted several important conversations on climate change and sustainability. First, we held a screening and discussion of Emma Davie's "The Oil Machine," a documentary that looks at how the drama of global climate action is playing out in the fight over North Sea oil. Later, we were joined by UChicago Career Advancement for an in-depth conversation about COP28, the issues, and the experiences of student delegates from the College, Booth, Harris, and Law School that attended the COP28 international climate change conference in Dubai.

International House, The Immigration Workshop, and UChicago Global welcomed Dr. Alejandra Díaz de León from the College of Mexico as

she discussed her new book, *Walking Together: Central Americans and Transit Migration Through Mexico*. The Pearson Institute and International House welcomed Amal Hamada, Assistant Professor at Cairo University, Egypt, for a conversation on "The Role of the Mother in Counterterrorism." Together with the Office for Military-Affiliated Communities (OMAC), we held our annual Veterans Day Recognition event, featuring remarks by military-affiliated persons from across the academic and professional units. In honor of NAFSA's 75th Anniversary, we hosted a watch party of a panel focusing on "The Future of International Education."

As we moved to the winter months in Chicago, we continued to host important conversations on issues of the day. We were pleased to partner with the Organization of Black Students (OBS) to welcome former NFL linebacker, Spencer Paysinger for the George E. Kent Lecture. Together with the Consulate General of Ireland in Chicago, we hosted an evening of conversation, music, poetry, and refreshments to celebrate St. Brigid's Day. Just two weeks after the 2024 time on the Doomsday Clock was set, we held a

conversation on the existential crises facing our planet with Rachel Bronson, the President and CEO of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, and Daniel Holz, UChicago Professor and Chair of Science and Security Board, Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, as moderated by Neil Steinberg, Columnist at the Chicago Sun-Times. International House, CEAS, the Committee on Southern Asian Studies (COSAS), and the Divinity School came together to host Dr. Lobsang Sangay, former Sikyong (President) of the Central Tibetan Administration in India, for a conversation with UChicago Professor Tom Ginsburg on the succession to the 14th Dalai Lama. In partnership with CEAS, we welcomed former U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Korea, Mark Lippert to discuss U.S.-Japan-South Korea relations. Together with the Forum for Free Inquiry and Expression, we held "Free Speech in a Time of War," a discussion on the current speech climate at UChicago and the overlaps with the wider world. International House celebrated International Women's Day by supporting the International Women's



Associates' event "Women's Journey Towards Economic Equality." As part of our International Houses Worldwide (IHW) programming, our sister house, International House Berkeley, hosted a special edition of The Lodestar Executive Director's Speaker Series with I-House Alumnus Eric Schmidt, former CEO & Chairman of Google, and Executive Director and CEO Shaun Carver, featuring the promises and perils of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the context of the I-House mission.

We kicked off the Spring Quarter together with CEAS for an author night featuring UChicago Professor Dali L. Yang, and his book *Wuhan: How the COVID-19 Outbreak in China Spiraled Out of Control*. Together with the Nuclear Energy Information Service (NEIS) and the Samuel Lawrence Foundation, we hosted the International Uranium Film Festival, which featured cutting edge films on nuclear issues around the world. We were proud to host CEAS' 17th Annual Tetsuo Najita Distinguished Lecture, "Being Dead Otherwise," featuring Anne Allison, Professor of Cultural Anthropology at Duke University. We partnered with the Center for East European and Russian/Eurasian Studies (CEERES) and the Pozen Center to welcome Oleksandra Matviichuk, 2022 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, for a conversation with UChicago Professor Robert Pape entitled

"Ukraine: The Search for Justice." This was followed soon after by a program featuring Lyubov Sobol, a leading anti-war activist in Russia, for a conversation on how we can influence the future of Russia. We hosted a special viewing of a CHINA Town Hall live webcast featuring U.S. Deputy Secretary of State, Kurt Campbell, followed by a discussion with UChicago faculty Michael Millis and Ken Pomeranz. Ambassador Julie Turner visited I-House for a conversation with Karl Friedhoff on "U.S. Commitment to Human Rights and Democracy in East Asia" for an event presented by International House, CEAS, the Pozen Center, and APF. We were proud to host the Center for the Study of Race, Politics, and Culture (CSRPC) for its signature Annual Public Lecture featuring scholar-activist, feminist, and writer, Professor Gina Dent, on the topic of "Visualizing Abolition: How to Imagine a World Without Prisons." We partnered with our sister houses in New York and Berkeley as well as OneShared. World to present a virtual conversation with U.S. Agency for Global Media CEO Amanda Bennett as she discussed how to navigate the new and emerging threats to press freedom. Together with COSAS, we hosted the Vivekananda Lecture by Professor Francesca Orsini, which explored literary history from a multilingual perspective.

CONFERENCES/SYMPOSIUMS

In the early fall, we partnered with the Susan and Richard Kiphart Center for Global Health and Social Development and the Center for Global Health at UChicago to host the 2023 University of Chicago Global Health Symposium and Poster Session. The evening featured



student presentations on the latest in global health research and other experiential learning opportunities, including reflections on a young leaders' conference in global humanitarian affairs.

In the spring, we came together with CEAS to host "100 Years of China's All-Female Yue Opera," featuring panel presentations, roundtable discussions, and a special performance lecture by Plum-Blossom Award Winner Jun'an Wang. We later partnered with them to host the Meiji Art and Visual Culture Symposium in partnership with the Smart Museum of Art, and the Center for the Art of East Asia. The two-day symposium brought together leading scholars of Meiji art and culture from the United States, Great Britain, and Japan, with a focus on the major exhibition on Meiji art then taking place at the Smart Museum. Finally, we welcomed CEGU, for their second annual conference: "Past and Future Commons." The two-day conference explored the twin emergencies of climate change and biodiversity loss which have led to a revived interest in the past and future of "the commons"—land that exists prior to or beyond private property.

DIPLOMATIC ENCOUNTERS SERIES

The Diplomatic Encounters Series connects the UChicago community with representatives of diplomatic missions in 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 was pleased to host the following programs:

- Together with the Consulate General of Ireland in Chicago, we hosted **“The Art of the Possible: The Role of the Arts in Policy Making”** — an evening of conversation, music, poetry, and refreshments to celebrate **St. Brigid’s Day**.
- In partnership with the Center for East Asian Studies, we held a discussion with Ambassador Mark Lippert on the intricacies of **U.S.-Japan-Korea Relations**.
- Together with the Center for East Asian Studies, the Pozen Family Center for Human Rights, and the Asian Policy Forum, we welcomed Ambassador Julie Turner, Special Envoy on North Korean Human Rights Issues at the U.S. Department of State speaking on the **“U.S. Commitment to Human Rights and Democracy in East Asia/DPRK.”**
- International House and the Center for East Asian Studies hosted a special viewing of a **CHINA Town Hall** live webcast featuring U.S. Deputy Secretary of State, Kurt Campbell.
- **Resilience and Reconstruction: A Conversation with Prime Minister of Ukraine Denys Shmyhal**
In a conversation moderated by Institute of Politics Director Heidi Heitkamp, Ukrainian Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal discussed the impact of war on Ukraine’s economy, what post-war reconstruction might look like, and explored innovations and recovery efforts.
- The Consul General of India in Chicago, Mr. Somnath Ghosh, participated in the annual **Vivekananda Lecture: “Thinking Through Space: A Multilingual Approach to Literary History”** by Francesca Orsini, Professor Emerita SOAS & Vivekananda Visiting Professor, Department of South Asian Languages and Civilizations, University of Chicago. The Vivekananda Visiting Professorship was established to commemorate the legacy of the Hindu spiritual leader Swami Vivekananda and to enrich the University’s renowned program for the study of the Indian subcontinent.
- International House and the Royal Thai Consulate-General, Chicago presented a cultural celebration — **Thailand in Motion: A Journey to Thai Performing Arts**.



ABOVE International House was pleased to participate in the **2024 University of Chicago and Chicago Consular Corps Reception: “Conversations with Academic Experts in International Relations”** held on Thursday, February 15th at the University of Chicago Gleacher Center, with 50+ attendees and more than 35 countries represented. The reception was hosted by President Paul Alivisatos and Executive Vice President Juan de Pablo.

INTERNATIONAL HOUSE GRADUATE COMMONS PROGRAM

A CROSS-CULTURAL EXPERIENCE



The International House Graduate Commons Program offers over 150 programs annually to enhance the community life of UChicago graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. In partnership with a range of UChicago departments and student organizations, the Graduate Commons Program furthers I-House's mission and allows graduate students to engage with ideas from around the world. Programs are developed and implemented in collaboration with our Graduate Fellows and Global Program Fellows Interns. Programming occurs in five key areas: internationally focused public programs through the **Global Voices Performing Arts and Lecture Series, Language and Culture Tables, Professional Development, Health and Wellness, and Social Activities.**

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

We began the academic year with our annual **Welcome Dinner and Candle Lighting Ceremony**. The Candle Lighting Ceremony is one of the oldest traditions at International House, and together with the reciting of the I-House pledge, celebrates a period of sharing experiences and knowledge with friends from around the world.

In early November, we celebrated **Diwali** with delicious food, music, henna, and diya (oil lamp) painting, embracing the rich traditions of the Hindu festival of lights. Later that month, our student community gathered for **LAMsgiving**, blending Latin American and U.S. cuisines while reflecting on shared gratitude. In February, Chicago's winter warmed up with Valentine's Day festivities followed by **Carnaval**, a lively Latin celebration of food, dance, and music. Annual cultural celebrations are integral to life at I-House and allow us to promote cross-cultural understanding.

Our recurring programs and series are crucial to fostering community and intellectual growth among UChicago students. **Language and Culture Tables** provided



regular sessions for language practice and cultural exchange, nurturing meaningful connections with peers from diverse backgrounds. **Rainbow Passport** continued to offer a supportive space for LGBTQ+ international students to build community and explore cultural intersections with queerness. **Book Club** engaged members with stimulating reads like *The Forty Rules of Love*, *The Time Traveler's Wife*, *Divergent*, and *Hello Beautiful*, sparking intellectual discussions and literary appreciation.

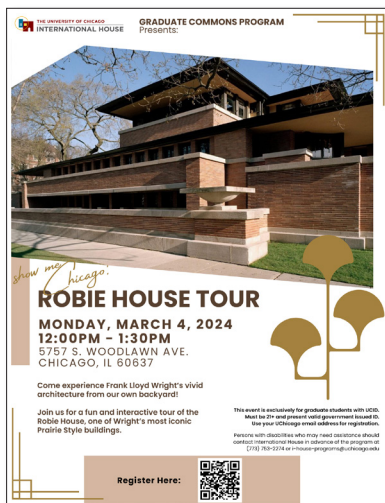
With the present-day demands and pressures of graduate student life, other program series addressed the need to focus on health and wellness. International House took that need seriously, featuring over fifty Health and Wellness programs. That focus began with our **International Cooking Club** programs during the summer, featuring in-person, hands-on opportunities for students to learn the finer arts of cooking dishes from around the world. Our **Run 'N' Brunch** series remained a favorite, combining fitness and socializing, with some of its participants even joining the 2023 Chicago Marathon. Ice skating on the Midway, kayaking on the Chicago River, disc golf in Jackson Park, bouldering

outings, salsa dance classes, and intramural broomball, soccer, and volleyball teams provided additional opportunities to get hearts pumping and build I-House team spirit. **Crafternoon** sessions brought students together for a bit of mental relaxation, while learning a variety of crafts.

Our Global Program Fellows Interns learn valuable job skills organizing programs that enhance the I-House mission, collaborating closely with UChicago and external partners. Notably, they showcased their skills at the **South Side Science Festival** where they engaged with hundreds of local community members to share their science stories and inspire the next generation of scientists. In December, we jointly hosted a career development program on management consulting, featuring peers who recently went through the recruiting cycle and successfully secured offers.

Social activities enriched our community, from our **GRAD Summer Mixers**—an idyllic respite featuring dinner, games, and lighthearted conversations with both new and old friends—to events like





the Back-to-School Carnival, Bowling Night at Seven Ten Social, and our Winter Grad and Fortune Telling mixers.

Our **Show Me Chicago** Series featured over 40 outings, allowing students to explore the city's cultural and recreational offerings. These excursions ranged from attending a Nutcracker ballet performance at the Lyric Opera to exploring the vibrant Pilsen neighborhood on Cinco de Mayo. Other notable trips included a visit to the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Christmas Lights at Lincoln Park Zoo, the Winter Flower Show at the Garfield Park Conservatory, a Robie House tour, and a visit to the DuSable Museum of African American History on Juneteenth.

Through the **Graduate Commons Program**, International House provides graduate students and scholars from across the UChicago campus with opportunities to engage with ideas and perspectives from around the world while building community, forging lasting connections with their peers, and fostering an environment of intellectual growth and global citizenship.

GLOBAL MENTORSHIP NETWORK

The Global Mentorship Network is a collaboration between International House and the **Office of International Affairs (OIA)** that aims to develop and facilitate a network of support for international graduate students at the University of Chicago through regular meet-ups and social events. The program connects second year and

above mentors with a cohort of new international graduate students based on their preferences and compatibility. With support from I-House and OIA, mentors then foster a sense of community, meet with their mentees, and provide resources for their cohorts. This year's program facilitated 8 cohorts with 15 mentors and 30 mentees.

GLOBAL PROGRAM FELLOWS INTERNSHIP PROGRAM



Beginning in the 2023-2024 academic year, the GRAD Global Impact Internship Program was renamed the International House Global Program Fellows Internship Program. Global Program Fellows Interns at International House serve as ambassadors and advocates for I-House and its mission within the UChicago graduate community and beyond. They conceive, plan, and implement activities for graduate and professional students that enhance the mission of International House and contribute to the students' positive campus experience. These programs also promote interpersonal and intercultural understanding and friendship among all UChicago students, fellows, and community members. Internships allow prospective employers to interact with graduate students and fellows, translating knowledge and skills from the academy to the marketplace. In 2023-2024, International House awarded internships to 15 outstanding students who developed exciting new program initiatives and worked collaboratively with other University departments, alumni, and organizations throughout the City of Chicago.

GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Graduate Fellowships are awarded to help ensure the exceptional diversity of the graduate community connected to International House. Fellowships can be designated for students from a single department or any area of study across the University. Fellowship recipients have the unique opportunity to play a leadership role within the community and to exemplify the International House mission. Fellows are also given opportunities to engage with alumni and friends, helping them build a powerful network that fosters personal and professional success for our worldwide community—including the network of International Houses Worldwide.



ABOVE International House Graduate Fellows join with interns and alumni for the Candle Lighting Ceremony held during Alumni Weekend.

In 2023-2024, International House awarded 90 graduate fellowships to students from 36 countries. Included in this program are 14 endowed and special awards.

Min-Sun and Anita B. Chen Fellowship—Provides a fellowship at International House for academically qualified doctoral candidates in history and sociology. The 2023-2024 Min-Sun and Anita B. Chen Fellowship was awarded to **Xia Zheng, PhD'24**, an international student from China studying sociology.

Kamyar Jabbari Fellowship—Provides fellowships at International House for academically-qualified graduate students studying at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business. The fellowship award honors former resident of International House and former member of the International House board

of governors, Kamyar Jabbari, MBA'79. This fellowship has been made possible by the generous support of a group of fellow International House and UChicago alumni including William Bartholomay, MBA'79; Mazin Safar, MBA'77; Stephan Schoess, MBA'78, PhD'82; and Theo Vermaelen, MBA'76, PhD'80. The 2023-2024 Kamyar Jabbari Fellowship was awarded to **Gulin Tuzcuoglu, PhD'24**, from Turkey.

Gioh Fang and T.S. Ma Fellowship—Provides a fellowship at International House for academically-qualified graduate students at the University of Chicago. The 2023-2024 Gioh Fang and T.S. Ma Fellowship was awarded to **Xiaofeng Dong, PhD'24**, an international student from China studying physics.

Ralph W. Nicholas Fellowship—This 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, former chairman of the I-House board of governors. This fund honors Ralph W. Nicholas, PhD'62, professor, and provides support for academically-qualified graduate students. The Ralph W. Nicholas Fellowships were awarded to **Samyojeeta Acharya, AM'24**, from Nepal, studying political science in the Social Sciences Division; **Ram Itani, PhD'24**, from Nepal, studying chemistry in the Physical Sciences Division; **Nikita Mehta, PhD'24**, from Singapore, studying neurobiology in the Biological Sciences Division; **Amruta Nayak**, from India, studying molecular genetics and cell biology in the Biological Sciences Division; and **Pramantha Mohon Tagore**, from India, studying music in the Humanities Division.

Kaimay Yuen Terry

Fellowship—Provides fellowships at International House for academically-qualified graduate students at the University of Chicago. During the 2023-2024 academic year, the Kaimay Yuen Terry Fellowship was awarded to **Kirsten Emilie Ginzky, PhD'24**, a graduate student from the United States, studying at the Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy, and Practice.

George and Catherine

Watkins Fellowship—Provides fellowships at International House for academically-qualified graduate students. During the 2023-2024 academic year, the Watkins Fellowship was awarded to **Haydee Marino, MBA'24**, from Mexico, studying at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business.

International House also partnered with the **UChicago Office for Military-Affiliated Communities** in awarding fellowships to **Connor Thomas Christensen, MPP'24**, Harris School of Public Policy, and **Malorie Kay Lewis, AM'24**, Middle Eastern Studies. In addition, Graduate Fellowships were awarded to the following **Obama Scholars at UChicago**: **Muaz Chaudhry, MPP'24**, from Pakistan; **Mateo Cruz, MPP'24**, from Colombia; and **Jane Kim, MPP'24**, from the United States, all studying at the Harris School of Public Policy, as well as **Avinash Kumar, MSW'24**, from India, studying at the Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy, and Practice.

JOHN E. BISHOP AND ELIZABETH W. BISHOP FUND SUPPORTS NEW GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS



The John E. Bishop Fund was established in 2018 for the purpose of “supporting the mission of International House, to promote cross cultural understanding and the exchange of ideas among students and scholars of all nations and backgrounds.” The endowment was established by International House alumnus **John E. Bishop, SM'49, PhD'59**, who met and married **Elizabeth Weimer Bishop** while they were both residents. The endowment was renamed the John E. Bishop and Elizabeth W. Bishop Fund in recognition of a new gift from Elizabeth Bishop. International House is grateful for the support we receive from our worldwide community and for their ongoing commitment and dedication to our mission. In recognition of this generous new gift, International House named two of our Graduate Fellowships the John E. and Elizabeth W. Bishop Fellowships. The first fellowships were awarded in the 2023-2024 academic year to **Mahdi Assari** from Iran, studying chemistry in the Physical Sciences Division, and **Annika Sharma** from India, studying neurobiology in the Biological Sciences Division.

WHERE WE COME FROM

During the 2023-2024 year, International House fellows and interns came from 36 countries and territories and studied in all areas of the University including the undergraduate College.

Argentina
Bangladesh
Brazil
Burundi
Cameroon
Canada
Chile
China
Colombia
Croatia
Egypt
Greece

Hungary
India
Iran
Ireland
Japan
Malaysia
Mauritius
Mexico
Morocco
Nepal
Nigeria
Pakistan

Poland
Singapore
South Africa
South Korea
Sweden
Switzerland
Syria
Taiwan
Turkey
Ukraine
United Kingdom
United States

I-HOUSE AT A GLANCE 2023-2024

IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

The mission of International House is achieved through globally focused programs on campus and around the world, community outreach and engagement activities designed to foster diversity of thought and experience, and as active members of the International Houses Worldwide (IHW) organization. The success of these programs can be seen in the numbers.

SINCE 1932

90+

YEARS OF
*WELCOMING THE WORLD.
CHAMPIONING DIVERSITY.*

1932 The year International House of Chicago opened its doors on October 5.

GRADUATE COMMONS PROGRAM / GRADUATE STUDENT LIFE

150+ In-person and virtual programs for UChicago graduate students across **5** areas of focus:

Global Voices Performing Arts and Lecture Series

Language & Culture Tables

Professional Development

Health & Wellness

Social Activities

45 Mentors and mentees in the Global Mentorship Network

12 Cultural Celebrations

46 Show Me Chicago trips

16 Book Clubs

57 Health & Wellness programs

1,600+ miles ran by our Run 'N' Brunch Club

11 Rainbow Passport discussion groups



OUR WORLDWIDE COMMUNITY

1

GLOBAL COMMUNITY
that has promoted international understanding and cultural exchange at the University of Chicago for over 90 years.

100

International House New York, the 1st International House, opened its doors in September 1924 and will celebrate its **100th Anniversary** in September 2024.

16

**INTERNATIONAL HOUSES
WORLDWIDE (IHW)**

1 new IHW member (University New South Wales-Sydney), bringing the total to 16 International Houses Worldwide providing accommodations to some **9,500** students and scholars annually from more than **125** countries.

Support from alumni and friends worldwide allows IHW to award more than **800** scholarships annually which serve to promote the academic, economic, and geographic diversity of our member houses.

350,000+

STUDENTS AND SCHOLARS
who have alumni status at one or more of the IHW organizational members.

42,000+

International House of Chicago alumni worldwide.



20

DAVIS PROJECTS FOR PEACE

\$10,000 grants awarded to resident members of International Houses Worldwide to design their own grassroots projects during the summer of 2024—anywhere in the world—which promote peace and address causes of conflict. International House of Chicago received **3** of the awards for projects in Chicago, Colombia, and Turkey.



FELLOWSHIPS & INTERNSHIPS

90

Fellowships and **25** internships awarded providing significant financial resources to both undergraduate and graduate students.

36

Countries represented by **Graduate Fellows** and **Global Program Fellows Interns** and **Global Voices Metcalf Interns**.

14

Endowed fellowships and special awards granted to graduate students from across the divisions and professional schools.

INTERNATIONAL HOUSE ALUMNI & FRIENDS

A CULTURE OF ENGAGEMENT

Since we opened our doors in 1932, alumni and friends of International House have provided an important link between the institution and the world. They return to visit and share their career perspectives with current students. They give time to the House and have spearheaded many projects over the years that benefit our community. Alumni also provide essential financial support to International House. Gifts from alumni and friends fortify programs of central importance to International House's fundamental mission of welcoming people from around the world and contributing to a supportive, stimulating community at the University of Chicago. We are grateful for the support we receive from alumni and friends worldwide, which allows International House to offer unique globally focused programs, fellowships and internships for both graduate and undergraduate students, as well as community leadership opportunities that are essential to the International House experience.

GIVING DAY 2024

Giving Day brings visibility to the diversity of people, ideas, and initiatives at the University of Chicago—including International House and the impact it has on the many communities we serve.

During the ninth annual Giving Day—March 26–27, 2024—students, faculty, and staff on campus united with the global network of UChicago alumni and friends in a powerful display of community.

Support during Giving Day provided essential resources for three initiatives at International House, including the Global Voices Program Fund, the Graduate Student Life Fund, and the Fellowships and Internships Fund. In addition, we successfully met our two challenges, providing additional support for our Fellowship and Internship Program and for our Global Voices Performing Arts and Lecture Series. International House also received an extra \$1,000 for the All in the Family Challenge (awarded when three or more members of the same family made a gift). International House hosted the annual Festival of Nations



celebration in conjunction with Giving Day, allowing the broader community to join in. We are grateful for the generosity of all our supporters.

Philanthropic support from Giving Day will substantially advance programs across the University—including at International House! The number of donors and gifts was one of the highest in UChicago's Giving Day history, with 5,698 donors combining to make 6,935 gifts. Gifts came from all 50 states, 37 countries, and 7 continents.

Thank you for all you did to support this exciting, meaningful, and fun initiative that brings together UChicagoans everywhere.



A FESTIVAL OF KATHAK DANCE FOR INDIA-U.S. FRIENDSHIP HELD IN NEW DELHI, INDIA

International House and the Indo-American Friendship Association, New Delhi, presented **A Festival of Kathak Dance** on Monday, January 8, 2024. The evening was enjoyed by alumni and friends and was filled with dance performances by disciples of Gurus Shovana Narayan, Saswati Sen, and Aditi Mangaldas. This program was supported in part by the Birendra K. and Anila Sinha Fund for Indian Performing Arts at International House.

MILESTONES



The Chicago Ensemble concludes 45 years of outstanding music

For 45 years, The Chicago Ensemble brought a fascinating array of chamber works to Chicago audiences through an annual series of concerts at International House and the Fourth Presbyterian Church. Offering an innovative mix of familiar masterworks and lesser-known repertoire performed in varied combinations of instruments and voice, The Chicago Ensemble occupied a unique place in International House's cultural

life. Outstanding musicians from the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Lyric Opera Orchestra, Chicago Sinfonietta, and other distinguished area organizations came together in The Chicago Ensemble under the leadership of **Gerald Rizzer, AB'62**, artistic director and pianist. International House congratulates Gerry Rizzer and The Chicago Ensemble on a remarkable career and 45 seasons of wonderful music.

IN MEMORIAM

The Rev. **Bernard "Bernie" O. Brown, AM'65, PhD'73**, retired dean of Rockefeller Memorial Chapel and associate professor in the Divinity School and the College, died on October 7, 2023. He was 93. An active member of the University and Hyde Park community for over 60 years, Brown served as Associate Director of International House and Associate Adviser to Foreign Students.



Mary Beth DeStefano, retired Associate Director of Programs and External Relations at International House, died on December 20, 2023. She was 68. Over her long tenure, Mary Beth made tremendous contributions to the mission of International House, to Campus and Student Life, and the University community.



THANK YOU FOR JOINING US FOR ALUMNI WEEKEND 2024, MAY 16-19! SAVE THE DATE FOR ALUMNI WEEKEND 2025, MAY 1-4.

A campus-wide celebration, Alumni Weekend delights and informs Maroons of all ages with festivities, tours, lectures, and more. Each spring, thousands of alumni, families, and friends come back to the quads to get nostalgic, discover something new, and celebrate what connects them all: UChicago.

This year, International House presented the following programs:

Dinner Reception and Annual Candle Lighting Ceremony

International House alumni, staff, interns, and current Graduate Fellows were invited to close the 2023-2024 academic year with a special dinner reception and our Annual Candle Lighting Ceremony. The Candle Lighting Ceremony is held in conjunction with 'Sunday Supper' to bring together our community and symbolizes sharing experiences and knowledge with friends from many parts of the world.

Keynote Conversation with Martha C. Nussbaum

The Ernst Freund Distinguished Service Professor of Law and Ethics, appointed in the Law School and the Philosophy Department, spoke on her most recent book *Justice for Animals: Our Collective Responsibility*. Professor Nussbaum is one of two University of Chicago

scholars named a recipient of this year's Norman Maclean Faculty Award. The awards, established in 1997 and presented by the Alumni Association and Alumni Board, are named in honor of Professor Norman Maclean, PhD'40. Professor Nussbaum was in conversation with Claudia Hogg-Blake, Teaching Fellow in the Humanities Division.



A Toast to International House—Around the World Wine Tasting

The International House community and the Alumni Club of Chicago hosted this year's Around the World Wine Tasting. This time-honored



reception taught all about wines from select regions across the globe while enjoying foods and music.

Champagne Brunch and Performance by the South Asian Music Ensemble

Alumni and friends enjoyed a performance by the South Asian Music Ensemble, a special repertory ensemble that explores a wide range of music with roots in South Asia (specifically Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and their diasporas), be they classical, popular, regional/local/vernacular, folk, primarily diasporic, or not so easily classifiable.

HOW YOU CAN STAY ENGAGED:

AROUND THE WORLD

■ Alumni Clubs and Affinity Groups—A Global Community

Your fellow alumni can be found in cities and towns across the United States and in every corner of the globe. No matter where you go, from Albany to Italy to Zimbabwe, you can always find someone who speaks your language: UChicago. To find alumni club and affinity group contacts or to update your contact information email alumni@uchicago.edu or call 800.955.0065.

■ International Houses Worldwide ihouseworldwide.org

ON CAMPUS

■ Global Voices Performing Arts and Lecture Series

Attend our internationally-focused public programs.

■ Alumni Weekend

Save the date! May 1-4, 2025
alumniweekend.uchicago.edu



ONLINE

- Visit our website and sign up for our weekly e-bulletins at ihouse.uchicago.edu or call 773.753.2274

 facebook.com/international.house.chicago

 instagram.com/ihouse_chicago/

 flickr.com/photos/ihouse_chicago/albums

 x.com/ihouse_chicago

 youtube.com/user/IHouseUChicago

HOME AWAY FROM HOME: THANKSGIVING HOMESTAY PROGRAM RETURNS

By Nicole Watkins and Emma Rund

Excerpt from UChicago News, November 17, 2023

Thanksgiving is an American holiday where many U.S. students return home to their families for annual traditions of turkey, mashed potatoes, football, and parades.

But how does the holiday break differ for international students? For more than 60 years, the International House of Chicago's [Thanksgiving Homestay Program](#) has worked to bridge that gap by giving thousands of international students the chance to experience the holiday with host families of rural communities in southern and western Illinois.

[Trudy] Trogdon, of Paris, Illinois—a small community of less than 10,000 located 165 miles south of Chicago near the Indiana state line—conceived the idea in the mid-1950s with a purpose of giving international students a chance to observe and take part in the daily life of an average American family, and to give American hosts a chance to understand the ideas and perspectives of their international guests. Despite some initial resistance and challenges, Trogdon's enthusiasm and persistence made her dream a reality in 1956, as she organized her local community leaders and then connected them to international student affairs directors at universities in the Chicago area.

The first year saw 142 students—some with their spouses and children—visit 100 Paris homes. Trogdon later recruited state and community coordinators, and the program grew to other communities, such as those involved today: Geneseo, Morrison, Paris, Prophetstown, and Rock River Valley.

After a three-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, 35 host families welcome[d] students from Mexico, Spain, India, Taiwan, China, Singapore, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Nigeria, Japan, and Vietnam this Thanksgiving for a unique four-day experience. Host communities and families fund transportation for students, as well as meals and activities held throughout the weekend, by organizing bake sales, luncheons, and other fundraisers throughout the year.

"It's become such a tradition in these communities that when we talk to the families, they can't imagine it being Thanksgiving without international students at their table," said Denise



ABOVE A group of international students pose outside of International House prior to embarking on their trips to various rural communities in Illinois for the Thanksgiving Homestay Program.

Jorgens, AM'83, PhD'95, director of International House. "And for the students, it's a really unique experience—to not just go to dinner, but to spend four days—you really do have to become part of the family to do that."

The small rural towns also offer a change of pace from the big cities that most students are used to, as well as a glimpse into small-town America life that they might not get elsewhere. Oftentimes, the host families and students stay connected, and will attend weddings, graduations, and other celebrations later in life. Some families are even second, or third generation hosts.

Steve Caudillo, a current state coordinator of the program, helps match students with families based on their applications and needs. Caudillo started hosting students back in 1997.

Past student participants of the program have described the impact of spending four days with their hosts families through hundreds of letters, photographs, news clippings, and other materials that Trogdon, who passed away in 2005, donated to UChicago's Hanna Holborn Gray Special Collections Research Center. "The most important thing was that nobody wanted anything from each other, other than true and lasting friendship," wrote student Indra Patel in 1987.



ON THE COVER

FROM TOP LEFT TO RIGHT:

Ukrainian Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal. / 2022 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Oleksandra Matviichuk (left) and Professor Robert Pape (right). / Pacifica String Quartet. Photo by Lisa-Marie Mazzucco. / International House. / Illinois Governor JB Pritzker. / Viktoriia Shcherba, I-House Graduate Intern and Fellow. / International Korean Traditional Performing Arts performers. / Kathak Dance Performance. / Former Governor of New Jersey, Chris Christie with students. / Wu Fei, master of the guzheng. Photo by Shervin Lainez.