

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT HOUSE

Washington, DC

www.ishdc.org

alumni



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ISH-DC Alumni Newsletter | Volume 1

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Greetings ISH-DC Alumni:

In 1994, a brave group of students ventured outside of the city to find the above tree, photos courteous of an alumnus who helped get that infamous evergreen all the way to the Great Hall. While we no longer go to such extravagant lengths, the House at 1825 R Street NW continues to be beautifully decorated every season and students enjoy the festivities just as much today as they did those 25 (or 30, 45, 80) years ago.

As we near the end of the year, we have the opportunity to reflect on the incredible semester we have had with our current community of resident scholars who come from almost 40 countries including Australia, Colombia, Egypt, Finland, Germany, Russia, Rwanda, Thailand, the United Kingdom, the United States, and many more. With residents studying law, medicine, economics, international relations, and a dozen or so other disciplines, the insightful conversations over meals and late night study sessions are as robust and inspiring as ever.

While studies always come first, we continue to enjoy substantive and festive activities that you can read more about in this newsletter below. You can also learn about what some of your fellow alumni have been up to since they moved on from their time at ISH.

International Student House continues to be a community of incredible students, visiting scholars, and young professionals who call ISH home while in Washington, as well as alumni from multiple generations around the world. We are grateful for your continued participation in our community and we send our very best wishes to you in the New Year!

Sincerely,
International Student House

**Our Instagram (@ISHDC1825) is also a great source for updates on the House with fun highlights as we share about events and follow our residents around ISH and Washington! Link in the image below.*



ETHAN NGO AND ISABELLA GALEANO, 2009

2019 has been quite a year for ISH alumni Ethan Ngo and Isabella Galeano. Back in May, Ethan shocked Isabella with a surprise marriage proposal that he had been planning for weeks with ISH staff members! What better place to get down on one knee than at the house where they first met one fateful Sunday dinner in August 2009 and became immediate friends. While they stayed in touch through the years, to hear Isabella tell it, things changed one day, three years ago when she went through some old house photos and found herself looking differently at a familiar face. “I made a call,” she says. “I answered,” Ethan followed.

Besides getting engaged this year, Isabella came back to D.C. in 2017-2018 where she studied at Georgetown University Law and earned an L.L.M. degree. She passed the New York Bar exam last year and today, Isabella is the Senior Legal Counsel for Abertis Mobility Services, an international leader of innovative tolling and infrastructure in countries including Spain, France and the U.S. Driven to be a leader in legal innovation, Isabella founded, “The Technolawgist,” a website that has become a resource for lawyers seeking the latest news and tips in the field of legal technology.

“It’s been fun watching her shine,” exclaims Ethan. “Plus, I was so proud watching her speak onstage at a conference in London.” No slouch himself, Ethan obtained his master’s degree in real estate at Johns Hopkins University in 2011 and parlayed that into a career in the U.S. federal government. With prior stops at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Office of Personnel Management, he now manages a national real estate portfolio for the Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency.

“As it’s been for many others, our time at ISH has been life-changing,” declared Ethan, “We are so thankful for the friends we made and for the memories we’ve shared.” Ethan and Isabella want to wish the ISH family across the world a joyous holiday season and a year full of excitement in 2020!



HIEU DUONG, 2013-2014



I came to Washington DC the Spring of 2013 till summer 2014 to attend Georgetown University. It was during this time that I resided at ISH-DC. My time in Washington DC in general, and at the ISH-DC in specific, is without a doubt one of the most powerful and impactful moments of my life. It was at ISH-DC where I celebrated and embraced diversity to the fullest, both intellectually and culturally. After obtaining my Master degree, I relocated to Colorado and started my medical journey at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. Here I worked closely with community members and other healthcare professionals to battle healthcare racism. I also co-founded a research project partnering UC Denver and University of Medicine and Pharmacy in Ho Chi Minh city to evaluate provider perspective in providing contraception education to patients.

2019 marked a new chapter of my story as I got married and relocated to Olympia, Washington to start my training as a family medicine physician. In the age of digital medicine, I am excited to be in closer proximity to the 2nd largest tech industry in the U.S., Seattle. I am very much looking forward to utilizing my knowledge of software engineering and as a physician to further advance technological adoption in health care.

Ambassador of Portugal Hosts ISH



His Excellency Domingos Fezas Vital welcomed ISH resident scholars, alumni, and Board members to his residence for coffee and conversation on Portugal and his work in Foreign Service. It was a wonderful morning of incredible hospitality that you can read more about through the link in the photo.

ISH Hike and Cookout



A big group of ISH alumni and residents hiked from the Smithsonian Zoo through Rock Creek Park to the home of Board member Michele Bond who hosted us for a brilliant cookout. You can enjoy more photos of the afternoon on our Instagram (@ISHDC1825).

Pool Party at the Home of Board Member



Residents spent a long afternoon for lunch and a pool party at the home of Board member Annette Aburdene, who also happens to be an alumna (and her husband an alumnus).

Persuasive Communication Skills



Andy Gilman, CEO of CommCore Consulting Group, presented a program on Persuasive Communication to residents and alumni on October 29.

Unfortunately we have no photos from the annual Halloween Party, the Diwali celebration, annual(ish) Pub Quiz, game night, etc... too much fun was being had to remember to take a photo! We promise to try better next year.

Thank You To Our Alumni Who Joined Us For Our Annual HOLIDAY RECEPTION!

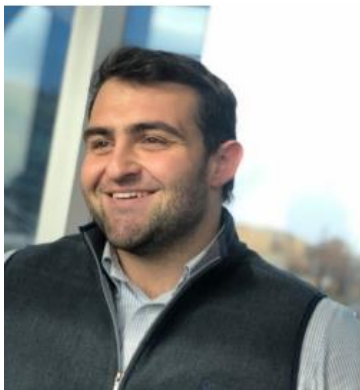
A number of alumni local to the DC area joined members of the Board of Directors, resident scholars, and staff for an informal evening as we celebrated the season and the mission of ISH. We LOVE having you back at the House with us!



RESIDENT BLOG

Yet another way to follow what is going on at ISH is following along with our resident bloggers. Every semester three or four residents share about their time here with us on a monthly basis. You can find their update on our website linked in the image below, or we always share their work via our social media platforms, Instagram and Facebook, as well.

Fall 2019



Stephen Frederico

United States

Johns Hopkins University

Jasmine Zamprogno

Australia

Georgetown Law

Rayza Oblitas

Peru

Johns Hopkins University, SAIS

Yuan-Bing Mock

Singapore

The World Bank

Happy holidays and we look forward to staying connected in the New Year!