



Master's Speech, Opening Dinner 2004

5th March 2004, International House UNSW

It is with pleasure that I welcome all of you to International House and to the Opening Dinner 2004.

Those of you who attended the Open House events held in our apartment this past week will recall that Susan, Tom, Adrian and others encouraged all of you to get involved in House activities and to use this opportunity to move outside your "comfort zone" and get to know people from different ethnic and culture backgrounds.

All of you are bright students and I am sure you will graduate and receive your degrees. But there is a potential problem I want to alert you too. Because you obtained a degree does not mean you received an education. Academic achievement is fine and essential but it is not the total sum of an education. Education involves development of the total person including people skills such as effective communication, leadership, negotiation & decision making, team-building and group effectiveness and I must add most importantly cross – cultural understanding.

At International House you have a very unique opportunity to get involved with others in various activities, to challenge your thinking and broaden your understanding of the world in which you live. You have the opportunity to receive an education worthy of the time and effort you will spend at this University.

If obtaining an education rather than just a degree is not enough of a reason for you to get involved with your fellow residents let me then leave you with one additional thought.

Many studies have show that while a university degree can open doors, particularly for that first important job, it will not hold the door open for you. To advance in your career and sometimes to just keep your job, often depends on your interpersonal and communication skills. While you might get the job because you are smart and have a degree you will only keep the job and advance in your career because of your personality.

At International House you have a great opportunity to practice and develop your interpersonal skills. It is often the little things such as a pleasant smile that can make a big difference. So when you go out and interview for your next job you will have more experiences to talk about and be ahead of the competition because you got involved and did something while living at International House.

I encourage you to take advantage of this unique opportunity and get involved and as Susan said during the Open House events, get to know one new person each week.

Develop your personality! Get an education not just a degree!

Thank you very much and I wish you the very best for the coming year.

Each year at this time it is customary that we stand and give a toast to "International Understanding". So I would appreciate it if everyone would please rise and join me in a TOAST to:

"International Understanding!"

Dr. Robert Lundy
Master, CEO, International House UNSW