



sjsu
iHOUSE *fall 2006*
a synergetic affair

Just a thought...

So this is pretty much the end of yet another semester at the iHOUSE...and what an interesting semester it was! More new faces only added to the collection of different personalities and experiences that are collected here. Although there have been many ups and downs, we still managed to pull through and move about with our own agendas. It's not often that an individual gets the opportunity to live in an atmosphere that resembles a box of crayons.

This newsletter would not have been possible if it was from the help of the other editor, Pierre "Bob" Barrier, as well as the encouragement of those members on the Fall 2006 Newsletter Committee. Just wanted to thank those members for adhering to the spirit of this quite "new" newsletter, while dealing with constant nagging and pleas to get things done. Great work you guys!

We hope the readers (alumni, current students, and perspective students) will appreciate the change in this semester's format. It's a step away from the traditional look, while still upholding the spirit of the newsletter.

And so here it goes. Cheers to an awesome first semester with faces, places, and experiences that wouldn't have happened had we not taken the initiative to step away from what we are used to, and venture off into a new environment. Nothing can take the place of what we have here.

Congratulations. We did it!

by: Theo Paat & Pierre Barrier

"Welcome, or welcome back to the iHOUSE' folks! August 2006, the beginning of the Fall semester, and everything starts all over again. The iHOUSE is still as it has always been: flags on the front, three floors and always a great place to live. Coffee nights, cross-cultural workshops, regional dinners, trips and tours, Pancake Breakfast, Student Council Meetings, these are the things that continue to go on, making the iHOUSE a great place to live and have fun! So, things go on as they usually do. Yet, somethings must have changed...right?

Do we have new carpets? Maybe more televisions? Ok, ok. let's be serious. We actually have brand new restrooms. Yeah! I'm very happy by the fact that the ladies' restrooms are huge, i.e. I believe thaty are two times bigger and the men's - sorry guys...! The new renoavation was made possible thanks to the very generous financial contribution o f Phyllis F. Simpkins and the professional services of Larry Lagier, A.I.A., Architect. I know all the residents agree with me when I say "Thank you so much"! The new restrooms are really nice!

So we've talked about changes within the building, but what about the life at the iHOUSE. Our four fantastic Resident Advisors - Adrien (France), Elke (South Africa), Theo (U.S.), and Winny (India) really make this semester and excellent one - not that the others were not! We have had a lot of activities on. "The Penny War" - a new fundraiser brought up by our beloved Theo, who likes to see us fight (just kidding) - is a killer! In teams, residents have a couple of minutes to put as many pennies as they can in their bottle and as much money as they can other than the pennies in their adversary's bottle to make them loose points.

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Some residents have even put ten-dollar bills! I sense you're laughing at this point of the article. Hey, it's really a great game and we have a lot of fun – I certainly did! In other words, this semester we do have very motivated residents very involved in our community's life. The iHOUSE is basically what the residents make of it. It is the people who live here that make every special and very exciting. New semester, new residents, and new iHOUSE.



Since its creation in 1989, Pancake Breakfast has become a real and respected institution; thus, every semester, the iHouse organizes this particular event. Basically, it's a festive brunch that takes place in the dining room, organized by the iHouse residents with the necessary and welcome help of the Alumni. We invite guests to join us and enjoy our community; they attend a nice meal with performances, but more specifically, they share impressions and words with international students from different horizons.

Okay, so now you might think that it seems boring, you know the kind of thing: "everyone is beautiful, everyone is nice". But it's not. Why? First because everyone has to dress with traditional clothes, from your country, if you haven't forgotten to bring some, or from any country you want by selecting a uniform among the selection the iHouse has in stock. Secondly, Everyone has one or more specific positions during the event, such as server, dish-washer, or host. Finally, at the end of the formal brunch, you can eat as much as you want... Of course there are some other good reasons to adopt PKB. I won't develop these here, because my "boss" only wants a 500 words article, and overall, I prefer to let you discover it, so let's maintain the mystery and the magic of Pancake Breakfast.

When I said it was an institution, I didn't choose my word randomly. Indeed, the PKB – the way the residents name this event, don't try to understand why PKB and not PCB, there is apparently no reason, except maybe the anxiety provoked by its organization. Somehow, the stress generated by the requirements of its success might have affected the residents' nerves... – hum, where was I? Oh yes, excuse me, I was saying institution. Pancake Breakfast is a well-defined ceremony, with its specific and strict rules. There is a "precise" schedule, with

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several positions as I mentioned, with a particular way to perform them.

So, what about the "side-effects" of Pancake Breakfast? Well, first you probably won't be able to eat or even see pancakes anymore. But as I said, PKB is an institution – yes I know I'm becoming boring with my idea. consequently, you start to forget your selfish identity to create another one; teamwork. Indeed, the most important thing is definitely that residents learn how to work together, to build something that is bigger than each person individually. This is the magic of social organization. When you participate in something which succeeds to entertain more than 200 people, you really feel proud of yourselves. Moreover, you become closer to your house-mates, and learn to know and appreciate the residents. This is a very good opportunity to strengthen or simply create ties with people you hardly knew before.



We did it! Yes we did it, Sara, Elke, Rosemary, Dino, Remi, Adrien, Omar la Gamba, and I ran the 26.2 mile (42 km) of the Metro Silicon Valley San Jose's Marathon on Sunday, October 29th.

Thanks to Adrien, our team received a sponsorship from Jamba Juice and Touchstone climbing. We only paid \$20 dollars of the \$75 for the registration fee, and got nice flashy orange personalized t-shirts. He also coached us, and woke us up at 3AM to eat pasta: a storage required for



the physical effort that was coming...

7AM, the start shot blows, thousands of people rush under the departure arch, but with only 849 - 270 women and 579 men - for the whole marathon. I say "see you in four hours" to Adrien, meaning that we will stop running only in four hours. Omar, Adrien, Remi, and I ran ahead at a good pace, well in sync to the 3.40. We kept that pace until half of the race. Then after a few miles, Remi continued forward at a faster rhythm than us three. Indeed our bodies started to grow tired. Even if it had not been easy so far, it was like we had to pass a threshold of pain to get used to it and feel good again. But this did not work anymore after 20 miles. We took few seconds of rest at each supply spot to stretch our aching muscles. Adrien seemed to be suffering from his ankles,

Omar also was in pain I guess, because I was suffering like hell too, but

I tried to hide it, in order for us to keep going forward. This is where one realizes how important it is to run together: you can rely on and help each other. I know if I had ran on my own, I would not have ran as much, giving up, and walking much sooner.

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An unexpected surprise occurred when we saw loads of people were cheering all along the 26.2 mile course cheering for the participants. I could not imagine that people would have gotten up so early on a Sunday morning to see people "running". But now I understand that it is not all about running, it is a real challenge and these people helped us through their encouraging yells of "Good Job! Go Orange Team"! Just like the energy bars that fueled our muscles, the positive encouragements fueled our minds.

It is interesting to see who took the challenge, and what motivated these runners. All kinds of people were on the road: one had a picture of a young boy attached to his back and was running in memory of his son. Others were real professionals with belts full of little water bottles. We even saw a guy after four miles, running bare foot! We also helped a man who was pushed to the ground struck by sudden cramps at both legs, and even a woman who collapsed. This is what such a challenge is about, pushing your limits.

A lot of people did not want to participate because they thought they would not have been able to finish it. But these are mental barriers, you don't know until you try. Our goal was to finish it, which we achieved in 4 hours and 20 minutes, which was not a bad time seeing how the average was 4 hours 34 minutes. Even Sara, the last of our team did it, and close to 5 hours which was her target performance, impressive. The thing to notice here is that we're like every student, we do not have special skills or training for this, so we did what we did because it was necessary. The last miles are the hardest, but positive thinking is what kept us going. Dino thought about his dearest friends, and despite the pain in his knees, he kept on going...

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In my case, I was looking forward to crossing the finish line holding the hand of my running mates. I did that, and to me, that was the best souvenir I got from this race.

We were so glad to see everyone finish, especially since we had the iHOUSE fan club who were there to support us along the entirety of this race. Yes, of course you walk like a robot for the nextb following days, and for sure, your joints and muscles know that you gave it your all, but it was definitely worth it. Next time, take the challenge.



The iHOUSE Team 2006

Living at the iHOUSE, you get to become more familiar with different types of terminology. These are most of the terms that are commonly used on a daily basis. We have these just to "re"familiarize use with some...

bricks - the row of three brick buildings that serve as "on-campus housing" for students particularly

Campus Village - the new residents halls that reside along 10th St that provide apartment or suite style options

Campus Village Market - (Place) this is a market that is open till 1 am, it hosts Starbucks, Subway and a variety of other food products for students on the go. It is located on the ground floor of the Campus Village Housing Area.

coffee night - (Event) groups of residents and community neighbors get together to have coffee and cake on Tuesday nights. A group of residents usually oversee the proceedings and create a theme for the night.

committees - (Activity) residents can sign up to be included in different groups that take care of certain aspects of the i-House. Frequently these aspects are: parties, road trips, events etc. These different groups are committees, and they report to the Student Council for funding and updates of their plans and ideas.

cross-cultural workshops - there is a guest speaker that comes to the iHOUSE who presents a topic to the residents, normally about intercultural issues. These event occur three times per semester, and these are great ways to get to know the residents.

D.C. - this stand for "Dining Commons". The schools cafeteria is located on campus about a block from the iHOUSE.

Grant-in-Aid - positions of work that are available at the iHOUSE. The compensations for these jobs are deducted from your room and board fees. Such positions include: receptionist, bathroom aides, computer aides, student kitchen aides, groundskeeper, and office assistants.

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Head R.A. - this person helps the other R.A.'s in times of need. Next to the Director, the Head R.A. has the final say in the going on at the iHouse.

iHOUSE - this is short for the International House.

Joe West - another option for student "on-campus housing"

Newsletter - goes out once a semester under the direction of an R.A.

Pancake Breakfast - This event takes place every semester and is a tradition at the iHOUSE. Last fall semester over 200 people from the community came and ate. We set-up, clean-up, cook, serve, and provide cultural performances. Everyone is encouraged to dress up in traditional clothing.

Regional Dinner - a resident or a group of residents host a dinner specific to a certain region of the world. These residents put together traditional food in addition to providing entertainment from that culture.

Resident Advisor - position held by a resident who happens to be an SJSU student. They act as an advisor, role model, and peer mentor for the other residents. R.A's, in turn, receive free room and board for that semester.

Spartan Shops - campus shops available to students which include the Print shop, the Bookstore, & DC catering etc.

Student Council - students elected by the iHOUSE to help provide activities for the residents of the house. Positions include that of: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Spokesperson.

Tower Card - your student I.D. card as well as your ticket to getting food on campus through your meal plan

VTA - name of the public transportation service of San Jose. As part of your student fees, you will receive a sticker that is to be placed on your Tower Card, which allows you to use public transportation for free!

Hum, pretty tough question at first sight, I thought to myself. So I had a wander 'round the house and collected some ideas from the iHouse residents. Some might be more others less advisable, but judge for yourself.

The first thing you might be afraid when coming to a new environment where you don't know anyone is that you might get lonely. But don't worry, there is no time to get lonely in the iHouse. There is always someone to talk to. Don't be sad to leave your family behind, you will get a new one here. It's probably even the biggest you ever had. Or do you have 69 brothers and sisters? even if you need a babysitter, the RA's are always there to pamper you.

If you haven't decided yet what to put in your suitcase then listen to some advice of the iHouse residents. Bring your flip-flops, thongs or whatever you call them in your country. It's California, people don't wear anything else. Also, bring your slippers, because you will feel at home. Back more shorts and bikinis, since it's hotter here than you might think.

Some advantages of living in the iHouse are; only here can you learn the really interesting words and phrases you always wanted to know in nearly any languages you can think of. It's true that you come to the US to learn English, but you come to the iHouse to learn 20 other languages. Be prepared to taste some food you have never tasted before, and you have probably never heard of it either. Get ready to get dressed in stupid outfits and look stupid from time to time. You will love it.

There are always good vibrations in the house. Get ready for some sweet lovin'. Some people even think that love is the name, sex is the game. Once you moved in the iHOUSE, forget the name and play the game. ;-) But don't take this too seriously. You will meet a lot of outgoing people. iHOUSE people are not afraid of anything, not even the most embarrassing singing and dancing performances. And you surely will be a part one or the other.

And here are some tips for people who should think twice about coming to the iHOUSE. Don't come to the iHOUSE if you are selfish, narrow-minded, loner. Leave cultural stereotypes and at home. Maybe one last piece of advice, don't believe the website. It is much better here than it looks on the pictures. The Couches in the living room are even so comfy, that some residents exchange them for their beds from time to tome. Anyway if you don't have any expectations, you're gonna have the time of your life.



The iHOUSE will be in any way the experience of your life and the greatest way to meet people from all over the world. That also means that you can actually save a lot of money by coming to the iHOUSE. You will never have to pay for a hotel room anymore anywhere in the world after being a resident in this house. It is your passport to the world.

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The iHOUSE...What does it mean to outsiders?

by Pierre Barrier & Kaori Nakasa

As residents, we surely know about the iHOUSE, but what about the people outside? Do they know about it? What are their assumptions about it? To have our questions answered, we asked a few people on campus.

Surprisingly enough, most of the students who we have asked did not know of the existence of the iHOUSE. When we asked them what they could imagine if they hear the name International House, the first thing that most students told me was that the residents are all foreign exchange students. So when I told them there are Americans, who were in fact the largest group of the iHOUSE, they were definitely surprised. Amongst the common answers that were given, the iHOUSE was a diverse and multi-cultural atmosphere where foreign students could easily adapt to the American life.

For the people who actually had visited the iHOUSE, they told us their unique perceptions. A man, who is the staff of the university, said that it sounded cool to listen to all different kinds of accents in English, not the foreign languages themselves. Some say that they think the iHOUSE has provided a place where foreign students can have a comfortable, and a less stressful atmosphere. These are the nice comments from the interviewees, but there was a shocking comment also. One woman described the iHOUSE as "invisible". She mentions how not that many people know about it, and she would have never found out about the iHOUSE if it weren't for her co-worker.



To us, the iHOUSE is the center of social life, and because of its close proximity to campus, we thought everyone would know about us. Maybe Pancake Breakfast and Coffee Night isn't enough. We have to think of something to promote such a fabulous place to learn about other cultures and encourage rare experiences.

First of all, I have to say that this article is written under the perspective of a Spaniard.

I have asked some of my mates in the iHOUSE to increase the variety of views and this was trying to be less subjective.

People in California are really helpful and nice, so whenever you need to ask something don't hesitate to, just ask.

One of the first thing you should know is that, in American, you can pay almost everything with your credi/debit card, so that you don't need to bring much cash with you. Sometimes, I have found some problems paying on line with my Spanish card, so the best option should be getting one here when you arrive. It is very easy and as a student you are not charged any fees.

The weather is very mild, it doesn't change a lot, at least by now, I arrived in August and in November you can, surprisingly enough, wear shorts and a t-shirt, although maybe in the morning and at night you may need a jumper, but you will not need it for the rest of the day

Gernally, peolpe here wear casual clothes, although they do not care about what the rest of the people wear, sometimes they don't even care about what they wear.

Talking about classes at university, something that shocked me a lot was that you are allowed to stand up, come out, go to the bathroom or wherever and come in again and it doesn't matter if you walk in front of the professor while he is talking.

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You can even eat and drink in class! This is something that is absolutely forbidden in Spain, so I seized the opportunity of having a complete Burger King meal with seven other classmates during a class. I couldn't believe it!

Sports are very different than the ones which are popular in Europe. When people go to a match, they only eat and drink, no matter which sport they attend to.

Another shocking thing, at least for me, is that Americans will never break the law, they will not cross the street if the traffic light is red. They will always stop at a stop sign, while in Spain, if you need to cross the street and the light is red, you just have to look both ways, and if there is no car coming, you cross.

Here, going out at night is not like in Europe, everything closes at 2a.m, and if you want to continue partying, you have to go to somebody else's place.

Now, let's talk about transportation. Here every single city is very spread out and for somebody used to driving everywhere in a much smaller and more compact city, it is very hard to have to wait for the light rail or bus just to get to the mall. Here the cities are designed for drivers not pedestrians, but don't worry walking is a very good exercise.

Talking about schedules. Here people eat when they are hungry, no matter the time of the day it is. In Spain, everybody has lunch between 2 o'clock and 3:30PM, while dinner is between 8:30 and 10:30PM.

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The alcohol policy is very strict. If you are under 21 and in desperate need of an alcoholic beverage, I suggest not to do it. Well, that's if you want to get into a very unpleasant and quite expensive predicament.

If you are planning to buy a computer, laptop, or some kind of electronic device I think they are generally a lot cheaper here than in Europe. You need to take into account that many features like your keyboard, will not be the same as you are used to.

The beaches around here are good, but the water is very cold. Don't believe that being a lifeguard may be that easy.



Imagine you are in a quiet beach and somebody phones you. "Where are you?" I'm with my Hungarian friend at the beach. At the beach... no, not with a bi... no, hum, I'm in Santa Cruz, you know, sand, waves... yes the beach. No, my friend is not hungry. No he's not angry either. He's from Hungary.

Imagine you are talking on your cell phone, suddenly you run out of signal. PLEASE remember to say something like "I can't hear you", or even "I'm losing you", but don't say "I miss you". this can be a fatal error. "Hi this is Joe. It's just to say that your boyfriend has twisted his ankle at the beach. No, not with a bi... at the beach... Yes... Sorry? I miss you." Your friend probably will break his ankle... kicking your face.

But anyway, suppose your friend's girlfriend is gonna make a party because his girlfriend is out and she is wild. Are you excited? Well, it depends. If you're Spanish and somebody asks you that, you'll probably look at him with a weird face. Because there, excited means horny.

Meanwhile you knock on the door. Ok that's the 2nd floor, first apartment. When the door opens you shout as loud as you can "paaartyyyy!!!" But you just realize, quite sadly, that in the US they call 2nd floor what in other parts of the world we call 1st floor and in this apartment lives a couple of old people who is even more surprised than you. A few minute later you get to the party. You're sitting with the girl you like. Then, somebody asks you: "hey guys, do you wanna a beer?... guys? So, she's not a girl?! Well, maybe, but remember that they say guys even if there's a girl with boys. A few hour later, you're coming back home with a friend and he says "take care". Ok see you tomorrow. And suddenly a bus runs over you. I told you take care. What?! You should have said "watch out"!!!

After such a hard day, you just want to take a warm bath. You tell to your roommate "I'm gonna take a bath". What? Are you gonna take the bus?

Often times we contribute to stereotypes because of what we do not know. See what random students, both American and International, had to say when these countries were mentioned.

HUNGARY



- + Ferenc Puskas (the most famous & talented Hungarian football player)
- + some place in Europe
- + Budapest, Eastern European, Cheap
- + "puszta" (agricultural fields in the Plains where guys with handlebar moustaches, who wear traditional garments and keep herds of cattle)
- + "gulyas" (pork stew with gravy)

JAPAN



- + seafood and sushi
- + samurai culture, martial arts
- + they don't get a long with Koreans
- + the westernization of Japan
- + quite modern and contemporary
- + hard-working, friendly, and polite

SPAIN



- + Basque culture and bullfighting
- + parties in Ibiza
- + tapas, siestas, fiestas, and always staying up late
- + Franco, Civil War, Barcelona, soccer, food, and Sevilla
- + sangrilla



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Although some of these responses maybe too stereotypical and off the wall, they are true because of a lack of experience with those who reign from these countries. Just imagine how much we can learn from one another by living in the iHOUSE.

FRANCE



- + wine, the Eiffel Tower, Arc de Triumph, and the Louvre
- + always partying, drinking coffee, baguettes and gourmet cheese
- + very expensive
- + loads of smoking and a low birth rate
- + gave inspiration for Hemingway's "A Sun Also Rises" (in Paris)

TAIWAN



- + Buddah
- + very clean
- + they don't like to be referred to as Chinese
- + known for their electronics
- + a production of cheap clothing
- + hard-working, friendly, and polite

UNITED STATES



- + obesity
- + large portions of food
- + artificially everything is bigger and better here
- + diverse
- + superficial and only interested in themselves

Living in the United States makes you aware of the change in your life. Leaving your home country, speaking a different language from native tongues, eating different foods from your cultures, watching American TV programmes. There are a lot of things you experience in your life, and most of them are those you probably never experience before you come to the U.S. At first, almost everything is pretty new or even strange to you. But once you start living in the place and get acquainted with the new environment for a while, you'll become comfortable with the place you stay and feel like you're going native in this country. You spend four years at least, when you come to the U.S. as a first-year undergraduate student. Your stay will be longer if you have a high commitment in pursuing a master's degree after finishing your B.A. Your higher commitment to education as well as the way how you spend your life outside the class, is probably the indicative factor notifying how much you'll need to be familiar with U.S. culture, while you are unconsciously changing yourself by leaving your home country for awhile.

This is my fourth semester at the iHOUSE, and I am regarded as one of the old residents. I've been living in the Bay Area for almost 20 months. When I came to the iHOUSE in January 2005, I was welcomed as a new international student from Japan. Yet, I did not regard myself new to this country, because I was living in the Mid-West for two years. After getting a BA at a school in Illinois, I took one semester off spending time with my American host family in a small town. I was aware of change within myself when I made a choice to stay in the middle of nowhere rather than going back to my hometown—Tokyo. Change does not occur so sudden. At first, you'll hardly be aware of it. But once you become familiar with new culture and lifestyles, it won't be long to know the telltale of that sign and recognize yourself turning into a new person





"...an amazing experience since there are so many different people from other cultures".



"...positively surprised at the advantages of living in a community like this".



"...wow, what an incredible opportunity!"



"..whether or not they had bathtubs, or many hangers in the closet".



"...a warm and friendly atmosphere where we take care of each other".



"...a home away from home".



"...a place to enjoy many great experiences".



"...didn't expect the community to be so close".

We all want to be somebody when we get older. So let's see what these individuals had to say about their future plans. Now let's put a face to what had to be said...



"...want to live in New York or the U.K. studying fashion design". - ISSA

"...living in Moscow, Russia attending the National University to teach Linguistics". - IVANNA

"...traveling as a missionary specialising in post production work". - PEARLY

"...working in Spain, as my own boss for my own company". - JOHANNES

"...living in California working for the consulate general of South Africa". - KERI

"...other than 29 years old...finishing up a Masters and being a newscaster". - THEO

"...educating students about art in a foreign country while making beautiful art". - JULIA

Once upon a time there were a group of International Students who arrived at the iHOUSE in San Jose, California and here's what they had to say when they knew they were here...



"...when I went to a Walmart!" - **Hiro, Japan**

"...when I saw the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco". - **Omar, Spain**

"...when I saw two huge flags in front of the airport: a U.S. flag and a California flag!" - **Janina, Germany**

"...when the Mexican neighbor was tuning his car and was listening to Mexican music". - **Remi, France**

"...I realized I was in American in the porty of entry - the immigration officers were very strict". - **Keri, South Africa**

"...when I was in Las Vegas. It was a combination of the limousines and the general attitude of people".

- **Anastasia, U.K.**

As I walk through campus on a Wednesday afternoon with the sun beaming down on me and the palm trees radiating in the splendor of the perfect blue sky above them, it's not hard to decipher why I'm still here in San Jose. I shouldn't be, I should be beneath the overcast clouds of South West London right now, beginning my final year at Roehampton University.

I fell in love with this place and its people last year on my year long exchange. It makes such a difference to wake up every morning to glorious sunshine without a cloud in the sky and to meet warm, friendly, approachable people at every turn. But it is not to say that Britain dreary place with equally dour people, there are a lot of great things about living there, but here people will say "Hello" and just spontaneously start a conversation, something that just fills me with warmth.

In retrospect if I was set on returning home, then coming back to San Jose in the summer to visit my girlfriend, Annie, was a big mistake. I realized why I loved being here last year and from the day I returned, I knew how hard it would be to say goodbye.

As I said I fell in love with the people here, but also I fell in love with one person in particular, who is certainly part of the reason I am still here today. She is an amazing girl and leaving her would have been one of the hardest things I have ever done. And also I have to admit it but California girls have something about them, especially the accent. It certainly beats any accent found on a British girl, in my opinion.

I ♥ SJ

camera
shy

We are very fortunate to live in a house with 70 people from about 20 different countries. With so much variety comes an array of talents what we can bring to the table. Singing dancing, athletic talent, the iHouse is home to many who can boast these of themselves and their international friends. living in a place like this is great when we have all that, but even better when we can share these talents with one another. Here I would like to share a piece of my talent for baking with you, something I can bring to the table that is actually edible.

Loaded with chocolate chips cookies; the oven must be preheated to 375 degrees F, or 190 C

Ingredients: (converted to UK metric)

1 1/4 cup (1 cup) all-purpose flour

1 teaspoon (5 ml) salt

1 teaspoon (5 ml) baking powder

2 teaspoons (10 ml) vanilla extract

1 egg

8 tablespoon unsalted butter (usually one bar)

1/4 cup (2 tablespoons) white sugar

1/2 cup (1/3 cup or 120 ml) brown sugar

2 cups (1 1/2 cups) chocolate chips

Divina's super secret ingredient! 1 tablespoon cocoa powder



Directions: In small bowl combine flour, salt and baking powder. In separate larger bowl beat egg with vanilla, add sugar and mix well, then butter (softened) until smooth. Gradually add flour/salt/baking powder mixture. Add Divina's super secret ingredient. Add chocolate chips. Drop small handfuls onto cookie sheet and bake for 15 minutes.

The UPs

- + \$350,000 restroom renovation complete and beautiful Thanks to Phyllis Simpkins and Larry Lagier
- + Focus on iHOUSE in local and national news media. High visibility of our iHOUSE website on Google.
- + Alumni outreach with over 375 iHOUSE alumna now connected on LinkedIn. *Update your profile now on the iHOUSE website.* (ihouse@sjsu.edu)
- + Rotating art exhibits begun in the iHOUSE lobby. *Let us know if you'd like to display your art.*
- + Residents are particularly friendly, open, energetic, and active this semester.
- + New iHOUSE couples begin intercultural relationships. iHOUSE alumni come together around the world (*e-mail us your photos!*)
- + Pancake Breakfast tradition continues to bring alumni, and friends to the iHOUSE

The DOWNS

- + Attack of the bedbugs!
- + Taunting followed by violence occurs.
- _+ Mid-morning weekday break-in results in two laptops being stolen.

