

A US\$ 10 MILLION GRANT FROM MRS KATHRYN DAVIS



Mrs Kathryn Davis.

Mrs Kathryn Davis has just celebrated her 102nd birthday. Our former student – she obtained her Ph.D. from the Institute in 1934, in the same year as her late husband, Shelby Cullom Davis, former United States Ambassador to Switzerland from 1969 to 1975 – displays impressive vitality and vivaciousness. Overflowing with energy, an independent spirit, with a mischievous glint in her eye and the very embodiment of kindness, Mrs Davis is always true to form and makes an impression on all those who meet her.

Imbued with a curiosity about what is going on in the world, she loves to travel and form her own opinions. Eighteen months ago she went to China and spent several weeks travelling around the country. Mindful of the evolution of public affairs in the United States, she is deeply concerned by the current crisis, which is reminiscent of another crisis which she lived through in the 1930s. It is fair to say that the quest for peace has always been her primary concern and a major inspiration for her philanthropic activities. Ever the internationalist, Mrs Davis lends her support to many efforts which promote greater knowledge and understanding among peoples and cultures. She has passed on this

vision to her children, Diana and Shelby, both of whom are also active philanthropists – Shelby founded the “Davis United World College Scholars Programme” which, this year, will fund more than 400 grants to assist foreign students attending North American universities.

Mrs Davis has maintained an attachment to the Institute which she has expressed in different ways over the last few years. Each year since 2007 she has financed four new doctoral scholarships, each for a duration of four years. In accordance with her wishes, two of these scholarships are given to a male and a female student from an American university, and the remaining two are given to a male and a female student from a Muslim country. Since 2007, the year of her one hundredth birthday, she has donated one million dollars to support the “100 Projects for Peace” programme which she founded and to which she wished to associate the Institute.

She takes an active interest in developments within the Institute, especially its campus development project, which she chose to support last year through a matching grant of US\$ 10 million. Her gesture impressed the other patrons we approached and provided positive encouragement. We are now reaping the fruits of this and plan to express our gratitude by naming the library of the Maison de la paix after her and her late husband. Mrs Davis’ planned visit to Geneva later this year will provide us with an opportunity to celebrate her in a fitting and much-deserved manner.

Philippe Burrin

Translation by Katharine Mann

.....

Kathryn Wasserman Davis' Biography

Kathryn Wasserman Davis is Chairman and Trustee of The Shelby Cullom Davis Foundation and Partner of Shelby Cullom Davis & Company. A lifelong internationalist, she is a noted philanthropist and supporter of the arts, education, conservation, global peace initiatives and representative government.

Educated at Miss Madeira's School, Washington DC, she received her BA from Wellesley College (cum laude) in 1928 and an MA in International Relations from Columbia University in 1931. She received a Ph.D. from the University of Geneva (HEI) in 1934 and holds Honorary Doctorates from Columbia University and Middlebury College.

Kathryn Davis is the author of *The Soviets at Geneva* and a regular contributor to several journals, including *The United States in World Affairs*, published annually by The Council on Foreign Relations. Very widely travelled, she has lectured to civic groups on India, Russia, China and Switzerland.

The many awards she has received, include the Harry Edmonds Award from International House of Columbia University; the Women's National Republican Club for Life Achievement; The Gold Medal from the National Institute of Social Sciences, and the Woodrow Wilson Award for Public Service.

.....

.....

Projects for Peace

On the eve of her 100th birthday, Kathryn Wasserman Davis reflected on the century that had passed. She was saddened that neither her generation, nor those that followed, had succeeded in achieving world peace. She concluded that perhaps the answer lay with the younger generation and determined to tap into youth to advance the cause for peace.

Inspired by the philanthropic activities of her own son who had set up the Davis United World College Scholars Programme, she decided that participating American colleges and universities offered an ideal platform to test her ideas for attaining world peace through youth engagement. In 2007 she put up US\$1 million and issued her challenge to all students of the 91 participating campuses to unleash their creativity and design their own grassroots projects for peace. Winners would receive US\$10,000 to implement their projects in the summer of 2008. Not content to restrict her challenge to US campuses, she issued her call through International Houses and the Graduate Institute in Geneva. Her initiative captured the imagination of many campus heads who began to promote and provide matching funding for projects. So successful was her appeal that in 2008 she put up another US\$1 million.

The "Projects for Peace" programme was born.

Graduate Institute student Ms Elena Gadjanova was awarded a Davis Prize in 2008 for her project, "Bridges for Peace: A Student Mentoring Project in Mitrovica and Prishtina, Kosovo" which aimed to reconcile Serbs and Albanians in the territory.

.....