

Communiqué

Fall 2006

<http://www.CCISstanfordU.org>

Community Committee for International Students at Stanford University



Look at what's new in the neighborhood

If you haven't been to the I-Center lately, you may be surprised at the view from the front porch. Where once it seemed to be an endless parking lot, there are now three large houses. It takes a bit of visual adjustment, but soon there will be a pleasant walkway filled with the flowers and landscaping that makes Stanford a beautiful place to be. When the construction began last spring, the university announced that rather than destroy some lovely old homelike buildings they would be moved to a new area to create more office space and create a minimalist like area. Come, judge for yourself.



Community Advisors

CCIS members introduce over 500 incoming graduate students and their families to Stanford and the Bay Area. This year all internationals must register at the I-Center which means that even more people than usual will take advantage of the free maps, advice on shopping and getting set up in a new home. Betty Ogawa and Charlene Ward organize and train the fifteen volunteers who answer students' and spouses' questions about getting a telephone, opening a bank account, getting a California driver's license, and how they can

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New Volunteer Reception CCIS

CCIS members assist Stanford's international graduate students and their families make the transition to the university and to American life.

Some meet weekly for conversation, some invite internationals into their homes three or more times a year, some teach classes, some donate household goods that are loaned to students who would otherwise have to buy toasters, vacuums, and dishware.

Come, meet with people who live in your community who enrich their lives through personal interaction with future leaders of the world.

The Community Committee for International Students

Sunday, October 8, 2006

2:30 – 4:00 P.M.

Short Program @ 3:00

Bechtel International Center
Stanford University

- English in Action
- Hospitality
- Professional Liaison
- English Classes
- Cooking Classes
- Spouse Fund
- Loan Closet

Stanford
Campus

Bechtel
International

★ Parking lot
Mayfield Av-

Junipero Serra Boulevard

Campus Drive East

280 to Page Mill Road
From Page Mill left on J. Serra

The President's Column

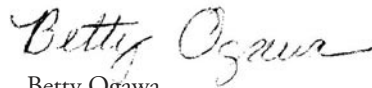
New Kid on the Block

I would like to start my first column as President by thanking CCIS members and friends for all of your kindness, generosity, and devotion to the international students and scholars at Stanford. Due to your support, The I-Center and CCIS programs are among the best in U.S. universities and colleges. Our international students and scholars are truly fortunate to have homestays, orientations, English Classes, EIA partners, Hospitality, the Resource Room, and numerous activities for Families and Spouses during their stay in our community. Many of these programs are designed to help the international students and their families make a smooth transition to living in the US, others provide opportunities for friendship and cultural exchange. All are invaluable in helping to making the students' experience in the US positive and rewarding.

CCIS members are also equally rewarded. We are privileged to meet the finest young people from all over the world, welcome them into our homes and hearts and learn from them. They become like "members of our family" and we in turn, become a part of theirs. Our lives are greatly enriched by our experiences with the international community at Stanford and our horizons forever broadened.

Programs that help internationals adjust to other countries are dear to my heart as I am married to a former international graduate student. My husband, Hiro, is a Japanese national from Kyoto. We met at the University of Washington in Seattle while we were students through a program similar to CCIS called FIUTS (Foundation for International Understanding through Students.) We married and lived in Tokyo for over twenty years before moving to the Bay Area fifteen years ago. We have two sons and welcomed a Japanese bride into the family last year. I will be forever grateful to those who helped my husband adjust to life in the US and to those who helped me during my early years in Japan.

Thank you again for all you help with CCIS. You are greatly appreciated! Please come to our Reception on October 8th, learn more about our programs and meet each other. You are all exceptional people.


Betty Ogawa

About This Issue

In the Fall issue of the Communiqué we present an introduction to CCIS programs and people. Our aim in this review is to provide the information that will be helpful to our members in talking with their friends. Yes, CCIS is constantly in need of new volunteers. As a member of CCIS you are a part of Stanford University's effort to bridge the gap that politics and ideology can place between people of different cultures. Those of us who become friends with internationals know that in many important parts of life, such as family concerns and relationships, we have much in common. Please give this issue away.

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Go to this web address:

<https://mailman.stanford.edu/mailman/subscribe/icenter-social>

International Center Director's Report

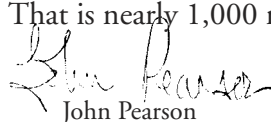
Working on a Building

There's an old bluegrass/gospel/camp fire song with this title. Perhaps we should change it to "Stanford's working on a lot of buildings." All over campus there are buildings going up and across from Bechtel three buildings are now finding a new home. They were moved in March from the area of the law school and, once completed, will form a landscaped walkway with Bechtel. Sometime in the fall all the construction should be finished and we can begin to get used to our new environment. From the plans we have seen it should look very nice.

Along with renovations to these buildings we are also continuing renovations at Bechtel. During the next few months we will renovate the women's bathroom, add overhead projection units to the English room and the conference room on the second floor, install a large video screen in the lobby to display daily events and plan a renovation of the large kitchen. We hope that all these improvements will enhance the programmatic side of our work.

But first we must focus on orientation. This fall Stanford will welcome approximately 850 new international graduate students and 110 international undergraduate students. That is nearly 1,000 new international students.

With best wishes,



John Pearson

Community Advisors

From page 1

participate in the activities of the I-Center and CCIS: English and Cooking Classes, EIA, Hospitality and the Potluck Music Nights. Each individual or family takes with them a folder filled with information about Stanford and the community.

As part of Community Advisors CCIS members will prepare and serve the Academic Luncheon on Wednesday, September 20. Vivian Blomenkamp advises the luncheon converting this huge task into a fun morning that volunteers enjoy with the laughter and companionship that comes with rolling lunch meat and cheese, cleaning and cutting lettuce for huge salad bowls, setting out bread, chips, cookies, and cold drinks. The dozen CCIS volunteers watch it all quickly disappear as ravenous graduate students fill their plates from tables in the patio which are laden with food. Then at picnic tables under the trees, incoming internationals get an opportunity to

meet with senior grad students in their own department where they begin to discover that hidden underneath the organizational charts distributed at department meetings there is another level of personalities and relationships.

The CCIS Bay Area full day bus tour on Saturday, September 23. is another Community Advisors' activity. CCIS members Fran Ericson and Jan Henriotin are the tour guides who escort 53 internationals across the bridges to see Berkeley, San Francisco, Marin, and the Peninsula. Lunch is held at the International House in Berkeley.

Finally, although the CCIS Desk staff is not formally a part of Community Advisors, on Monday and Tuesday, September 25 and 26, the EIA chairs, Marianne Dieckmann and Mary Lyn Moseley, and a few other experienced CCIS members will interview and register the first batch of internationals applying for an English in Action partner. Last year, nearly 75 people requested partners on the first day. September is a very busy month.

EIA

English in Action is where most volunteers get to know international graduate students, visiting scholars, or members of their families. Acquaintances, meeting every week for an hour, can become lasting friends.

Experienced EIA volunteer partners know families all around the world, and it's not surprising to talk with another CCIS member who just returned from a wedding in Mexico or is planning to have dinner with a friend when they visit Beijing. EIA partners mean a great deal to each other.

I want to take back to my country the willingness of Americans to volunteer.

Naoka Tsuchiya, Japan

That's because frequent conversations with someone who is highly motivated to become fluent in English and has a multitude of questions about American culture will open up subjects that many Americans like to talk about—subjects that are rarely discussed with friends or relatives. And, of course, you offer suggestions about American English, vocabulary, and slang. You, who learned your language from your parents and refined it with your friends in high school, are the expert.

Most internationals register for EIA in September. That's when the matching load is heaviest for Marianne Dieckmann and Mary Lyn Moseley, who co-chair EIA, and students come in throughout the year as they hear about EIA from a friend or a university professor.

Here's how it works. The international comes into the I-Center for an interview with a CCIS Desk staffer from 9-1 Monday through Friday. While assessing fluency (those who aren't considered intermediate level speakers are referred to adult school which

has skilled teachers who can help beginners), relevant data such as age, gender, professional and recreational interests, family status is gathered to assist the EIA chairs in matching with a CCIS member.

English Classes

The twelve or so teachers prepare a weekly lesson on a range of subjects:

- Practical English for Daily Living
- Controversial Issues
- Introduction to the American Short Story
- American Idioms and Issues
- American Customs and Institutions
- Writing Clear English
- Vocabulary Development and Accent Reduction
- Media and U.S. Culture
- American Life and Humor
- Communicating Across Cultures

Classes are held in a classroom reserved in the I-Center for the ten to fifteen spouses who want to learn and practice speaking in English. The teaching strategy encourages interaction with an emphasis on fun in a place where it is OK to make a mistake.

This is a popular program for volunteers, and many teachers have been on the staff for years. There is always a need for substitutes which is a good way to see if this is a fit for you.

Mary Ann Saunders and Karen Sor­tino chair the English Class program.

Cooking Class

In all of the CCIS programs there is an effort to demonstrate the human

What we cook can't be found in a cookbook. It's simple, home cooking.

Dolly Sacks

experiences we share. Cooking and eating are certainly among those. Like most CCIS activities, Dolly Sacks, who chairs this program, begins with a standard question: what is American

cooking? There's got to be more than the ubiquitous McDonald's.

The job for Dolly is to demonstrate that our food, like our people, come from everywhere: Italy, Mexico, France! And the seasoning comes from Asia and Africa.

Dolly likes to teach American family favorites such as the Crummy Chicken that she learned to love growing up. After several years of teaching, Crummy Chicken finds itself on dinner plates in Europe, Latin America and Asia.

Loan Closet

OK, you've landed in a furnished apartment on or nearby campus. You

CCIS: the between

look in the cupboard and see that it's bare. No glasses, plates, pots and pans, silverware, napkins. What about a toaster, or an iron or even an ironing board? A vacuum cleaner? Linen? None in sight.

Well, of course, you can buy this stuff even though much will not be taken home. That's especially true of the electrical appliances which run on America's favorite voltage, 120.

Marsha Alper and Ingrid Shen manage the CCIS Loan Closet in the basement of the Abrams Building in Escondido Village. For \$10 a year for an individual, or \$20 for a couple, you can check out what you need for the duration of your stay at Stanford. Where does the money go? Oh, it buys more toasters which is the one item that people tend to use up before buying a new one.

Marsha and Ingrid not only keep a store neat and tidy, with other volunteers, they also assess incoming donations and buy the items that run short.

If you are down-sizing your home, they would love to talk with you.

Hospitality

Like English in Action this is a matching between people. It started out as a program where you threw another plate on the table and invited an international to the Thanksgiving dinner. Hospitality has grown since that simple beginning.

Today people get together several or more times a year to celebrate birth-



days and other holidays. Like EIA you will answer cultural questions about America and can build lifetime friendships.

This is the one program that does not focus on learning English. Thus, you may have an opportunity to meet people from other English speaking countries.

If you want to get to know an international and don't have the time to commit yourself to a once-a-week meeting in EIA give Joyce Garbutt a call. She has extensive experience in matching both EIA and now Hospitality. You will be happy you did.

Homestay

What happens when internationals come to Stanford before the university has housing available? If you have followed the information sent by the I-Center to each incoming graduate

student or visiting scholar and registered with CCIS you will be housed with an American family for a period of up to one week.

Your American hosts may escort you to campus to finish the registration now required by Homeland Security

My Homestay hosts gave me my American name.

Yué "Melody" Yin

(Now an Education professor at the University of Hawaii)

and to introduce you to CCIS and to learn about all of the I-Center and CCIS programs. If they can, they might even meet you at the airport. Usually at the end of Homestay a big barbecue is held so that all the Homestay people can meet each other.

Quite often Homestay hosts and guests discover that they want to continue seeing each other, and they continue as though they were Hospitality partners.

Karen McNay is the chair of Homestay.

Professional Liaison

To be a professional architect, nurse, teacher, pharmacist living at Stanford while your spouse is engaged in study and research can be disorientating. In your home country among colleagues and friends you are respected for the skills that you have acquired. Then you come to America where your visa won't allow you to work, and you seem to lose status if not self respect.

PLP makes a match with an American in the same profession. You compare techniques and responsibilities. In some countries an architect not only designs the structure of a building, but in residential work they also do interior design and the landscaping—jobs that in America are frequently sub-divided into separate professions.

Europeans, particularly German

teachers, are amazed at the extra curricular activities of an American high school. They are shocked to find biology teachers also coaching soccer or advising the Mock Trial Team.

The international spouses who learn about the Professional Liaison Program become excited. They don't expect that they would ever have a chance to meet someone of their own occupation. They assume that Americans are too busy and not interested.

Roberta Schwartz, who is new to the Board this year, chairs PLP.

Spouse Fund

Each fall around thirty international spouses apply for scholarships ranging up to \$500. Again, American generosity comes as an unexpected gift that helps spouses pursue an interest that leads either to career enhancement or continuing education.

The CCIS Spouse Fund solicits in a separate mailing around \$7000 to

They really didn't expect that they could meet with people of their profession.

Charlene Ward

fund this activity. You can contribute to either the annual fund or to the trust fund, a fund that has been growing over the years. Charlene Ward chairs the Spouse Fund Committee.

Potluck Music Night

Everyone is welcomed by Dee Gustavson and Joy Rewick, who co-chair this program, to bring a salad, entree, or dessert to the quarterly program. It's an opportunity to meet with other volunteers and internationals over food and entertainment. Dee and Joy are always on the lookout for American and international musicians, dancers, and singers. It's great fun.

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Fall Calendar

CCIS Activities

Community Advisors	Sept. 6 – 22, 10 A.M. – 5 P.M.
Homestay Potluck/Barbecue	Sept. 17, 6 – 8 P.M.
Academic Luncheon	Sept. 20, noon
Bay Area bus trip	Sept. 23, 9 A.M. – 5 P.M.
Registration for EIA	begins September 25
New Volunteer Reception	October 8, 2:30 – 4 P.M.
CCIS Board meeting	October 12, 9:30 A.M.
Volunteer Training	October 19, 4:00 P.M.
CCIS Board meeting	November 9, 9:30 A.M.
Potluck Music Night	November 19, 6:00 P.M.
Holiday Open House	TBA

Campus Activities (you are welcome)

Aurora Forum: 7:30 - 9:00 P.M. (come early), Kresge Auditorium. Free.

Tuesday, Oct. 3. Making Connections: Photographic Storytellers from Around the World with the National Geographic.

Tuesday, Oct. 26. The Truth of War with Chris Hedges, Anthony Swofford, and David Spiegel

For more information go to: <http://auroraforum.org/>



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