



Spring 2008

Communiqué

<http://www.ccisStanfordU.org>



Community Committee for International Students at Stanford University

A transition

CCIS looks to fresh leadership

Following a precedent set by the last five presidents, Betty Ogawa will close her second term as president in July. It has been a productive two years with many changes in the I-Center and among the leadership. Betty will continue with her position on the Board as chair of Community Advisors. She appointed Mary Lyn Mosley, Marianne Dieckman, and Chula Morel-Seytoux to serve as the nominations committee.

Elections will be held at the annual meeting on May 20.

A working Board, most members are responsible for one of programs our service programs like English in Action, the English Classes, or the Loan Closet. Other Board members facilitate overall CCIS activities such as the CCIS reception Desk, Membership and Publicity.

Mary Lyn Mosley writes:

It's nearing the time of year when we elect our CCIS Officers, the CCIS Board is appointed and committees are staffed.

We welcome CCIS members to volunteer for a committee (listed on page two) that is of interest.

The following describes some of the committees.

CCIS Desk: Staffs the

desk in the lobby of the I Center to greet Internationals, provide information and register EIA applicants. Monday-Friday 10 A.M. to 1 P.M. Schedules are flexible.

Community Advisors: In September welcome new International students at the I Center and hand out information packets.

Communiqué: Edits and produces the CCIS newsletter.

EIA Co-Chairs: Matches International students, scholars or their spouse with an English in Action volunteer for casual conversation. Need computer and email skills.

Friday Morning Coffee: Assists in organizing the I-Center sponsored Coffee and activities for International spouses and their children every Friday from 10 – 12.

➔Leadership for 2008-09:
page 2

ANNUAL MEETING

BECHTEL INTERNATIONAL CENTER
TUESDAY, MAY 20
4:00 P.M.

“THE MEDIA IN AFRICA, BRAZIL AND CHINA”

PANEL PRESENTATION BY DISTINGUISHED KNIGHT FELLOW JOURNALISTS

VIOLET GONDA, PRODUCER AND PRESENTER, SW RADIO AFRICA [LONDON] ZIMBABWE

DENIS BURGIERMAN, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, SUPERTERESSANTE MAGAZINE. SAO PAULO, BRAZIL

WANG WEI, PRODUCER AND ANCHOR, SHANGHAI MEDIA GROUP, SHANGHAI, CHINA

President's Column

Spring is here and the flowers are in bloom, people are sneezing, and the birds are fluttering. The cherry trees have been blooming and my thoughts keep straying from the obligations at hand to how beautiful their blossoms have been this year. From my many years of living in Japan I have come to associate spring with "ohanami," cherry blossom viewing.

"Ohanami" is one of the most popular spring activities in Japan. During April the whole country is preoccupied with celebrating the cherry blossoms. The weather bureau makes forecasts as to when and where the first blossoms will appear and then gives daily updates as to the peek flowering in each region of the country. Pink plastic cherry blossoms decorate the shopping streets and food shops advertise various cherry specialties. "Sakura" cherry blossom dance recitals and tea ceremonies are held.

The most popular way to enjoy the cherry blossoms is to have a picnic sitting under the fully bloomed trees. Large crowds of people enjoy eating, drinking, singing and dancing for hours celebrating the blooms. Families, organizations, and companies have their own parties in the parks and gardens beneath the flowering trees. In order to get a good spot someone is appointed to go early in the morning to stake out and guard a location until the others gather for the picnic. The partying often goes on late into the night as all enjoy the festivities.

Cherry trees bloom for only a short period of time and the blossoms are quickly gone. Fortunately there are many different species and they bloom one after another, starting with the Yoshino, resembling pink clouds and ending with the double cherry with

pink pompoms flowers.

This year I was in Japan when the cherry blossoms were in full bloom and I enjoyed "ohanami" with my family and friends. It is a wonderful way to celebrate spring and I recommend it highly.

Spring also brings the CCIS Annual Meeting and Volunteer Appreciation Reception. The meeting and reception will be on Tuesday, May 20th from 4:00 P.M. at the Bechtel International Center in the Assembly Room. Our program will feature a panel of three distinguished Knight Fellow journalists from Africa, Brazil, China.

The I-Center will be having International Week May 3 – 11 with many activities and events that you won't want to miss. CCIS will be holding its very popular Potluck/Music Night on Sunday, May 4th from 6:00 P.M. at the I-Center Dining Room.

I look forward to seeing you at these events. Meanwhile enjoy spring and take the time to do a bit of "flower viewing."

Betty Ogawa



→continued from Leadership for 2008-09

Homestay: Arranges short term (3 to 5 days) housing, with volunteer families, for an International student that arrives at Stanford before student housing is available. Greatest demand is in September.

Hospitality: Matches the hosts with an International student or family for Holiday or special occasion meal or an informal gathering usually a few times a year.

Community Committee for International Students

P.O. Box 20227, Stanford, CA 94309
Office phone.....650/498-5252
Websitewww.ccisStanfordU.org

CCIS Officers

President..... Betty Ogawa
650/321-3718 president@ccisStanfordU.org
Vice President Dave Gustavson
650/961-0305 vicepres@ccisStanfordU.org
SecretaryMartha Enthoven
650/561-9064 secretary@ccisStanfordU.org
Treasurer.....Carolyn Gannon,
650/851-5528 treasurer@ccisStanfordU.org

CCIS Board

Associates.....Carolyn Gannon
650/851-5528 associates@ccisStanfordU.org
Academic Luncheon ...Vivian Blomenkamp
650/322-7782 ala@ccisStanfordU.org
CCIS Desk Dick Hanavan
650/948-7312 ccisdesk@ccisStanfordU.org
Community Advisors Betty Ogawa
650/321-3718 ca@ccisStanfordU.org
CommuniquéJohn Heron
408/836-8424 communique@ccisStanfordU.org
Cooking Class.....Dolly Sacks
650/948-0941 cooking@ccisStanfordU.org
English Classes Mary Ann Saunders
650/854-2840 englishclasses@ccisStanfordU.org
..... Karen Sortino
650/324-1466 englishclasses@ccisStanfordU.org
English in Action Marianne Dieckmann
650/857-0793 eia@ccisStanfordU.org
..... Mary Lyn Moseley
650/949-0711 eia@ccisStanfordU.org
Friday Morning Coffee....Chula Morel-Seytoux
650/366-1407 coffee@ccisStanfordU.org
Historian Mary Pat Gaspich
650/823-3443 historian@ccisStanfordU.org
Homestay.....Karen McNay
650//327-7041 homestay@ccisStanfordU.org
Hospitality.....Joyce Garbutt
650/367-6214 hospitality@ccisStanfordU.org
Loan ClosetIngrid Shen
650/323-7258 loancloset@ccisStanfordU.org
..... Marsha Alper
650/327-7412 loancloset@ccisStanfordU.org
Potluck Music Night Dee Gustavson
650/961-3539 potluckmusic@ccisStanfordU.org
..... Joy Rewick
650/254-0110 potluckmusic@ccisStanfordU.org
Publicity Mary Pat Gaspich
650/823-3443 publicity@ccisStanfordU.org
Spouse FundCarolyn Gannon
650/851-0319 spousefund@ccisStanfordU.org

Spouse Education Fund Awards \$93,592 in 21 Years

That's 282 grants to the spouses of Stanford's international grad students, post docs, and scholars. As you will read in the following stories, this support has made a large difference in their lives. We will begin with a note from one of the new members of the SEF Committee that raises the money and makes these awards.

When approached to consider being on the Board of the Spouse Education Fund I agreed. Although I was uncertain what I would contribute to a committee I knew very little about, I hesitantly went to the first meeting. I was pleasantly surprised to find five very nice, bright and interesting ladies from different CCIS venues on the selection committee. As the scope of the job was outlined, I joined in and found out what an outstanding group of spouses we were going to interview.

When the time came for the actual half-hour interview with each candidate, I became a true believer in the SEF. It is dramatic and really fun to meet with these young ladies. Though men are eligible, we get primarily female applicants, mostly because there are very few male spouses. The young women come to Stanford as a sort of appendage to their husband's career, and many frankly admit to feeling "less than" and somewhat unimportant. Most of them have had careers and professions in their home countries. The monetary award of \$500.00 maximum, is often not as important as the recognition it gives them as worthy individuals in their own right. During the interview and in their letters sent after accomplishing the goal for which the grant was made, it is easy to see how important the award is to them.

It is a privilege to meet them and award a small sum to help them start on new goals, or increase their knowledge in their chosen field of expertise. If you would like a new look at our world, I highly recommend your interest in the SEF as a potential committee member or give a donation to help these truly outstanding young women.

-Dick Hanavan

Another member of the SEF committee, Connie Barthold, talks about the qualities of these spouses.

Paula Yukari Tanaka Camara is one of the outstanding Spouse Fund recipients of 2007.

Brazilian Paula Camara and her husband Felipe, who is studying law arrived in July. Paula is also continuing her education in the "APM" Advanced Management course at Stanford.

Before coming to Stanford, Paula worked as a Project manager in designing air and ground distribution for projects such as vaccines, pet foods, and pace makers.

Multi-talented she has won awards in piano competition, the mathematics Olympics, and was the first girl scout to achieve the top rank in her province. She speaks Portuguese, English, basic Japanese and conversational Spanish and Italian.

As a spouse at Stanford she is a volunteer as a Portuguese teacher at the I-Center and volunteers at the U.N. Gift Shop in Palo Alto.

Paula and Felipe enjoy living here at Stanford with opportunities to enjoy rock climbing, yoga, horseback riding, and travel.

Paula said something to me in her interview which I thought provoking. "If you give your kids a toy, they will

enjoy it for some period, but if you give them travel, those memories will be with them all their lives as they meet new people, cities, and cultures."

~Connie Barthold

Paula Yukari writes about her experience.

"Honey, I'm applying to study in the United States."

I was finishing my Food Engineering degree and looking for a job at the same time, when I heard this phrase from my boyfriend. I still remember



Paula Yukari

the day he called me saying, "They've accepted me," when I was driving from my new work to the university.

It was not only a big change deciding to live abroad, but we also decided

to get married. After five years together, instead of just moving in, we would also celebrate our love and have a nice Farewell party with those who we would miss the most.

Before arriving at Stanford, I started looking for some courses I could take while here. When I arrived I applied for a Project Management course at the Professional Development Center and started my studies late August 2007. This course is really convenient as I took the majority of the classes online. The downside of it is that I wasn't considered a formal student, as it is a Professional course, but that didn't bother me.

This course was for good, but not enough. I always had in my mind that this was my opportunity to study and enrich my life. Given a chance not to work for at least one year, and I really had to take advantage of it.

I studied some language courses, as Conversation Italian, Spanish and basic Japanese, which later were helpful on to a trip to Japan.

I also worked as a volunteer at the United Nations Gift Shop in Palo Alto, which gave me the chance to get into the American culture and also meet such interesting and friendly people. Working as a volunteer gave me a good feeling.

Some things that were not so easy. I joined a course as an auditor, but not being a student or even worse, "just being a spouse," was not good enough for them to accept me. There is a lot of prejudice against spouses and how to deal with that and not being ashamed or underestimating myself was crucial. I kept trying new experiences.

I joined some yoga and sports classes, as this was a way to interact with other students and also keep a busy schedule. I've taken Rock Climb-

ing classes with my husband and we enjoyed it so much, as that was our activity together that didn't involve studying, doing the laundry or cooking.

The nicest sport experience I had was Horseback Riding classes. It is hard to get a spot in class, as students have priority to spouses, but I tried hard for two quarters and was able to learn and face a new challenge, as I had been afraid of horses since childhood. People would probably guess that I was always into sports. That is not true, but this was a really good chance to keep my energy and a good mood everyday.

I joined the events at my building, even when my husband could not come and I knew I would be the only "single married" in the group. We had a book club, dinners out, breakfast and I met really nice people, mostly out of my daily routine, as they were not in my classes' or class-colleagues of my husband.

I was also part of the Career development Group and that was a really nice meeting. I realized that I was not the only one that had a nice career in my own country and had left things in a stand-by position. We shared our experience from each different country. I learned about finding a job and working in the United States.

My advice to someone new to Stanford is to discover that there are always too many things to do and you will never be able to do everything you want. It's just a matter of looking for what fits you best.

Shweta Vyas is from India. She hoped to continue her post graduate work in California.

My husband and I came to USA in September 2007 with a dream to chart a great career for both of us. My husband was already admitted to Stanford University, and I planned to apply to different business schools for an MBA after reaching the USA. I was all charged up with enthusiasm and excitement to see a new country, be at new place and pursue my dream—an MBA from a reputable school in the USA



Shweta Vyas

I had left a lucrative job in India, with the hope that I could pursue higher studies in USA and take my career forward. Little did I know that at time of the many obstacles in front of me.

The stipend that my husband received was just sufficient to run the house. Because I was on a dependent visa I wasn't able to work. For my future studies I had planned to take an educational loan, but considering the high application fees of different business schools I thought I would not be able to even apply. I wanted to apply to around four schools, and with fees of about \$150 each it wasn't possible for me to apply to all of them.

I took up small jobs like baby sitting. But these jobs took up a lot of time.

When I was supposed to complete my applications to business schools, I was searching for small work, for which I could be paid.

As a regular visitor at the I–Center I came to know about the grants given by the Spouse Education Fund. I very hopefully applied for the scholarship. The day I got a call from their representative informing me that I had received a scholarship was one of the happiest days of my stay in USA. I saw myself moving towards my goal.

I was very happy. I realized that I could apply to different schools of my choice now.... I realized I didn't need to worry about working... I realized that I could now concentrate on completing my application.

I have applied to four schools and have already been accepted by one of them. I am waiting to hear from other schools before making my choice.

The scholarship that I got from Spouse Education Fund not only made my life easy but also boosted my confidence. This scholarship made me feel that I there is some one who believes and supports my dream.

After Paula Yukari and Shweta Vyas have told us about the hope that the SEF gives to these spouses, let's look at the expressions of appreciation from some other recipients.

Lenka Strakova is from Slovakia.

I am writing this letter to express my utmost gratitude for your selecting me to receive the special \$500 award from the Stanford Federal Credit Union.

(Ed: SFCU is a major contributor to the SEF scholarships.)

I should have written this letter much, much earlier. Please be assured that only my eagerness to use this quarter as sufficiently as possible kept me from doing that—I simply put too many classes in my schedule. However, now that the Stanford Continuing Studies course I signed up for is almost finished, I can be more specific about how it has been helping me improve my knowledge. I enrolled in a philosophy course (Nietzsche, Kierkegaard, and Dostoyevsky: The Crisis in Meaning). It deals with the legacy of the Enlightenment and examines the crisis in meaning based on the works of these three authors. Close attention has been paid to how they understood the human good and life that has meaning and purpose. This is very tightly connected to history of thinking, which I dealt with in topics I have been previously focusing on. In addition to improving my knowledge in philosophy, the classes have been helpful to me in terms of my language skills and critical reading improvement, which will provide an even more solid base for my future studies. With the rest of the grant, I bought several great books on Women Studies which will be my main focus again next quarter.

This all wouldn't be possible without your help and encouragement. Thank you once again for your generosity and your faith in me in terms of using the money from the Fund in a meaningful way. The fact that you enable Stanford spouses to fulfill our personal scholar goals is wonderful, and I am grateful not only for myself but for everybody who has ever received and will in the future receive this opportunity.

Yours sincerely,

Lenka Strakova

Caifeng Zhu is from China

I really appreciate your help with my education. I want to let you know how I used my grant.

Half of the grant was used to buy the textbooks for General Chemistry and Calculus at Foothill College. Both are fundamental courses for being a nurse. I expect that I will get A+'s in both Calculus and Chemistry. The rest of the grant was used to pay the tuition for two one-unit courses called "Pass the Torch Team Leader Training." These two classes taught me how to be a good and successful tutor. And, I learned to be patient and helpful as a leader, which is pretty much like being a nurse. Next quarter, I will be hired as a Math tutor for the Adaptive Learning Division at Foothill College. The students whom I will help next quarter have some difficulties in learning and studying, and I would love to work with them.

This month, I applied for a nursing program in Chicago. If I am admitted, I will absolutely let you know. Meanwhile, I am working on applying for several other nursing programs, considering the competitiveness of the nursing programs everywhere.

If someone new at Stanford asked me for advice I can only say that there are always too many things to do and you will never be able to do everything you want to. It's just a matter of looking for what fits you better.

Thank you very much!

Caifeng Zhu

All of this year's award winners are listed on the next page. It is an amazing group of people.

Spouse Education Fund grant recipients for the 2007–2008 academic year

Twenty-one years ago, the Spouse Education Fund awarded its first grants to two spouses who had interrupted their education or career development to accompany international students and scholars to Stanford. In late November 2007 the Spouse Education Fund Committee made grants to the following 17 exceptional recipients for the 2007–2008 academic year.

Julie Budas (Scotland) – a primary school educator awarded a grant for an art class offered through Stanford Continuing Studies to help her become an art specialist working with children.

Paula Yukari Tanaka Camara (Brazil) – a project manager and food engineer (and award-winning pianist and volunteer at the United Nations Gift Shop in Palo Alto) awarded a grant to continue courses in the Stanford Advanced Project Management Course's certificated program.

Huawei Chen (China) – a graduate in Materials Science and Engineering from China and a volunteer for the I-Center's Resource Center and CCIS Potlucks awarded a grant to apply for the Management Science and Engineering Department Master's program and pursue studies in that program.

Yanhua Cheng (China) – a graduate of Jiangnan University and grateful participant of CCIS English classes and American cooking classes and of the I-Center's dance classes and drawing classes—all of which helped her transcend her loneliness and apply to graduate school—awarded a grant to continue her Master's program in Statistics at California State University East Bay (Hayward campus).

XiaQing He (China) – a graduate of Computer Science (BS) and Management Science and Engineering (MS) who appreciates all the support from

the I-Center and CCIS's English classes, Wednesday tours, and her English in Action partner awarded a grant to apply to Stanford's Computer Science graduate program in the field of Search Engines (Google—here she comes).

Hyunkyung “Kim” Kim (South Korea) – a dentist and PhD student in Dentistry who volunteers dental services at UCSF awarded a grant to take Spanish classes at Foothill College because many of the patients in her volunteer activity speak Spanish.

Ekaterina Kolozhvari (Russia) – a 2nd year PhD student at a technical university in Moscow awarded a grant for travel expenses to an international conference on Mechanics and Composite Materials to be held in Latvia in May 2008 to present her paper, which will be published in the *Journal of Mechanics of Composite Materials*. Ekaterina has benefited by CCIS English classes and the Friday Coffees.

Lin Liao (China) – a marketing person in China who has benefited by CCIS English classes and an English in Action partner awarded a grant to apply to the Stanford Management Science and Engineering Master's program.

Sara Matsumura (Japan) – a marketing person who has volunteered for the I-Center's Literature class and enjoys Friday Coffees awarded a grant to take design classes which will add needed skills for her marketing position in Japan.

Nadine Zulzke de Miranda (Brazil) – a food engineer in the R&D area who has benefited by CCIS English classes and I-Center drawing classes awarded a grant to take a Rapid Prototyping and a public speaking class through Stanford Continuing Studies.

Monica Vidalon Sotomayor (Peru) – a business professional who volunteers at a University of San Francisco ministry for impoverished children and for a foundation in Peru that does

similar work awarded a grant to take a Social Psychology class at Foothill College.

Lenka Strakova (Slovakia) – an historian focused on Women's Studies of the late 18th Century who is a leader in the I-Center's Discussion Group and benefits from CCIS English classes awarded a grant to purchase books in her field that are not easily available in Slovakia.

Anna Tomkiewicz (Poland) – a master's graduate in English Literature who has volunteered at the UN Store in Palo Alto and benefited from CCIS English classes awarded a grant to take driving lessons. She has completed the lessons, returned to Poland, wrote appreciatively of the kindness of this award, and intends to help other students in Poland pass their driving tests.

Shweta Vyas (India) – an electronics and telecommunications engineering sales person awarded a grant to begin MBA studies which help her understand business development and sales strategies. She would like to help with the SEF fund raising activity.

Caifeng Zhu (China) – an English Literature graduate who volunteers at the Stanford Hospital “Partners in Caring” program awarded a grant to help her buy books and supplies for courses at Foothill College in Music and Japanese, after which she would like to pursue a Bachelor's degree in Nursing in the UC system.

Lana Gruen (Germany) – a principal cellist in the Berlin Symphony Orchestra who has performed at CCIS Potluck–Music Night awarded a grant to pay for recording studio fees that will enable her to produce a recording CD needed for orchestral auditions in the Bay area.

Xiaoman Ma (China) – a graduate student at Stanford in Japanese Language and Literature awarded a grant to buy Japanese reference materials.

Spouse Education Fund Appeal

How can an international spouse, who has put her or his career on hold, feel useful and productive while her or his spouse is pursuing studies at Stanford? There are many ways, but one of the most rewarding has been supported by the community at large through their interest and donations to the Spouse Education Fund. Education grants – up to \$500 per grant – are awarded annually to international spouses who have participated in a rigorous application–review–interview process conducted by CCIS.

This academic year, the community at large generously raised funds to allow 17 grants (for a total of nearly \$8,000) to be awarded to spouses who are using their grants for academic pursuits of their own in fields ranging from project management, to art for children, to presenting a technical paper in Latvia, to nursing, to driver’s training, to paying for audition recording for furthering a musical career, as well as for other varied fields of study and personal development.

How did such an educational fund for Stanford international spouses get started? It began in 1985 with contributions and the sale of note cards by Helen Gibson, followed by an endowment gift of \$1,500 in honor of past Bechtel International Center Director, Lee Zeigler. The first two SEF grants were made twenty–one years ago in 1987, from a total of five applicants. Since then 282 grants have been made from 347 applicants for a total of \$93,592.

In nearly every case, SEF grant recipients are already engaged in volunteering in the community around Stanford or on campus and participating in I–Center activities. The grant recipients are talented individuals in their own right, but by being at Stanford “as a spouse” it’s easy to feel like a dependent. The impact simply of being recognized and awarded their own education grant goes far beyond the monetary value of their SEF grant. The awardees are often effusive about how significant this recognition is in their own lives and for their families.

This Spring our goal is to raise \$10,000 for educational grants to international spouses for the 2008–2009 academic year. Please consider making a tax–deductible donation to either the SEF Annual Giving Fund the funds of which go directly to grants during the academic year or to the SEF Endowment Fund which currently provides about \$2,500 in grant money annually, while preserving the principal.

As Anna from Poland said, after receiving her grant this year: *“I can’t express how grateful I am for your help. Thank you. I hope you meet only kind people on your way, just like my husband and I did during our stay at Stanford.”*

Please make your **check** payable to **CCIS** with a memo to SEF. Return this form and your check to CCIS SEF, P.O. Box 20227, Stanford, CA 94309. Kindly indicate your preference for your gift.

Annual Giving Endowment Half to Annual Giving/Half to Endowment

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Your charitable donation is tax deductible, as no goods or services have been received by the donor. The CCIS Spouse Education Fund recipients are most grateful for your generous gift.

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS
BECHTEL INTERNATIONAL CENTER · STANFORD UNIVERSITY
P.O. Box 20227
STANFORD, CALIFORNIA 94309-0120

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Fall/Winter Calendar

CCIS Activities

Potluck–Music Night, Sunday, May 4, 6 – 8:30 P.M.

CCIS Board Meeting, May 8

Annual Meeting, May 20, 4 P.M.

I-Center Activities

International Week, May 3–11. Included this year...

- Sat., May 3, 7:30–midnight, Cuban Style Salsa; lesson & dance.
- Sun., May 4, 12 P.M. to 4, Japan Day; Tea ceremony, Ikebana, Origami, Calligraphy, and making sushi.
- Wed., May 7, 1 – 2 P.M., Oralia Cabrera, an archaeologist from Teotihuacan, Mexico will speak about the archaeology and murals of the ancient Aztec capital.
- Wed., May 7, 7:30, a discussion and documentary about the landmines scattered across the land from past wars.
- Thurs., May 8, 7:30, A Night of Canadian Cinema: film and discussion.
- Fri., May 9, 6:00 – 10:00 P.M., Philippine Culture & Music
- Sun., May 11, 5 P.M., Final BBQ. Persian culture and food.

For details go to

<http://www.stanford.edu/dept/icenter/iweek/index.html>



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P.O. Box 20227
Stanford, CA 94309–0120
650/498-5252

<http://www.ccisStanfordU.org>

Betty Ogawa, President
John Heron, Editor