

CCIS Communiqué

Community Committee for International Students

Volunteers serving
Stanford's Internationals
Volume 14 #2
Winter 2010



SEF Grants Twenty-One Scholarships

by Carolyn Gannon

Each fall the Spouse Education Fund (SEF) awards grants to spouses of Stanford international students and visiting scholars to further their academic and/or personal development.

SEF began in 1987 with the award of two grants for a total of \$542. The recipient of one of those two grants, Ferah Kutlu from Turkey, is now on the six member SEF Committee which raises the grant funds and administers the application process. Candidates must complete a written statement of purpose and be interviewed. On December 2, the process concluded with a reception for the twenty-one recipients from fourteen countries.

Each grant recipient is an accomplished person who is continuing to pursue excellence through education. In many instances, the grant recipients are also givers: as volunteers at the I-Center, at Stanford Hospital, at various health services, and at school.

There were several "firsts" in the SEF process this year. The first Gwyn Dukes' grant, funded by the SEF Committee members, was awarded,

and we had the first male SEF applicant and grant recipient. The committee conducted its first overseas interview via Skype. Most importantly, for the first time the SEF was able to provide \$9,000 in educational grants. Significant donors include the Sheila Spaeth Memorial Fund, the Stanford Federal Credit Union, and dividends from the SEF Endowment account.

As Manaswini Kolluru from India, one recipient from last year said, "apart from the academic, professional and financial benefits, I feel this grant helped boost my self-confidence, which in turn has helped me believe in my abilities. I am grateful to the Bechtel International Center and CCIS for letting me achieve my professional and personal goals."

Another recipient, Lenka Strakova from Slovakia, said, "Each of us who was lucky to be awarded a grant from the SEF was always very excited about how much it supported our efforts to make the best of our stay here. We were always happy and eager to tell about the SEF to new-coming spouses, especially when they

struggled with financing their plans. The SEF Committee's trust in our plans is that one thing that encourages us to go for it and accomplish what we want to."

The 2009-2010 SEF Grant Recipients are: **Bolivia**, Angela Macia, an archaeologist whose new methodology focuses on how people communicate through pottery. Angela will take a pottery class with her grant.

Brazil, Sheila Dos Santos, credit card and Internet bank marketing analyst who received the Stanford Federal Credit Union grant, will take several Stanford Continuing Studies courses in business, marketing and innovation with her grant.

China, four recipients! Huihui Lin, sales and marketing representative with a law degree will take Economics classes while she continues to volunteer at the I-Center. Yihong Lu, sales associate and volunteer at Stanford Hospital will take several Stanford Continuing Studies courses in business and web design. KeKe Ji, a banking representative who volunteers at the I-Center's Resource Center will use her grant for business classes at SF State University. Caifeng Zhu, a fourth-time SEF grant recipient, whose tenacity to get into the nursing program at DeAnza College has paid off. Caifeng will use her grant toward her RN degree classes.

Germany, Cathrin Mugaj, the first SEF applicant to be interviewed by Skype while in

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CCIS *Leadership*

Martha Enthoven's Letter

How Should the Communiqué Be Distributed

In the last issue of the Communiqué our editor outlined some arguments for and against email distribution of the newsletter. (You can see the Editor's Letter at www.ccisStanfordU.org.)

The issue was placed on the agenda of the January 11, Board meeting by Ramesh Sekar: to discuss whether the Communiqué should be delivered to the CCIS volunteer community in print, via emails, or some combination of the two. The combination prevailed.

1) There was clear sentiment that those volunteers who did not have email access should continue to receive print versions of the Communiqué.

2) One issue in which solicitation was made would be printed and sent to everyone.

3) Members would decide on either the print version or view their copy via email.

To that end, the Board decided that a returnable postcard be put into the Winter edition of the Communiqué in which members would indicate their personal preference.

The newsletter is CCIS biggest expense. While the writing of stories, taking of photographs, preparing for mailing is done by volunteer members, it costs approximately \$700 per issue for printing and mailing.

Our membership database also contributes to the expense for the volunteer list seems to grow never shrink. Yet we're pretty sure that some folks ask to volunteer, do the job, and then disappear.

A few years ago, the database was about 500, and now it is over 800. We guess that maybe 350 are active, viable members. We don't want to lose anyone, but realistically it doesn't make sense to keep people on the books simply because they have not told us they are no longer able to support CCIS effort.

There is more to think about. In the meantime what you need to do is to fill out the card that is included in this newsletter or email your choice to MemberSurvey@ccisStanfordU.org.

We will keep you informed as we deal with these issues.

Remembering longtime CCIS leader, Charlene Ward

by Gwyn Dukes

Former CCIS president (2002 - 2004) and active volunteer, Charlene Ward passed away peacefully at home on January 2, after courageously fighting a long illness. Charlene was an extraordinary person and a gifted leader who left a lasting legacy for the I-Center and CCIS.



Charlene Ward

Prior to becoming president, Charlene lent her creative energy, enthusiasm, "can do" attitude and hard work to the Professional Liaison Program for Spouses, which she co-chaired with

Carolyn Gannon for several years. She also served on the CCIS Board in various capacities, including as Vice President.

Assuming the presidency prior to the CCIS 50th Anniversary, Charlene orchestrated the 18 months of planning that resulted in a memorable celebration featuring all 4 directors of the I-Center, distinguished alumni and CCIS volunteers from through all the decades. In conjunction with the celebration, to provide an historical record of the organization, Charlene worked endless hours, transcribing 50 years of CCIS minutes and committee reports into a single document, and then synthesized that information with photos to create the "history posters" now displayed in the I-Center back lounge. As John Heron remembers, "She knew who to go to for technical assistance, and drew in the Board for the important decision making. And all of this she did without drawing attention to herself or her labor. She has left an enduring gift to us."

Those staff at Bechtel who had the fortune to work with Charlene found her to be a remarkable leader and volunteer, always willing to try new things and look at old issues from different

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Community Committee for International Students at Stanford

*In order to reduce spam we have separated the email addresses into two parts. Please add the officer's prefix to the general address as follows:
example@CCISstanfordU.org*

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John Pearson's Letter

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Programs for Spouses/Partners & Families

Send email to: stanfordfamilies@gmail.com
or visit the Resource Center for International
Families

Office for International Visitors

Pauline Larmaraud, Coordinator, 650/723-
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After mentioning the Large Kitchen renovation for quite some time, I am pleased to announce that construction has begun, or rather demolition has begun. We expect the renovations to be finished by early spring quarter and, soon after, we can begin offering cooking classes once again.

As you will know from the last edition of the Communique, Gwyn Dukes retired. I have been asked how we will be able to maintain a commitment to family members at Bechtel. While it is impossible to replace Gwyn's personal commitment and ability to make everyone, no matter who or where they are from, feel at home at Stanford, we are continuing to offer most of the spouse programs that have been developed through the years. Our intent is to continue to do so and to continue to look at how best we can serve family members of international students and scholars. This is not without some challenges and changes but so far programs continue to flourish.

I would also encourage all CCIS members to look at the Bechtel web site for information on our general programs that might be of interest to you. You can find the listing of upcoming programs at icenter.stanford.edu

We also have our student and scholar data for fall 2009. Stanford enrolled 3410 international students and, on November 1, 2009 Stanford was home to 1020 visiting scholars and international post-doctoral students. These numbers do not include family members. If we add family members we arrive at an approximate international population of 5,000. In the last decade we have seen an increase of 600 in our international student population.

I wanted to also say how much we will miss Charlene Ward. Charlene was an enthusiastic colleague and a good friend to the international students and scholars. Charlene was as responsible as anyone for the wonderful 50th Anniversary of CCIS in 2003. We will miss her at Bechtel.

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perspectives. As John Pearson observed, "Her sheer pleasure in organizing the 50th anniversary celebrations was contagious and made the entire event fun and memorable."

Throughout her many years in CCIS, Charlene and her husband Robert Ward welcomed new students into their home each fall for Homestay, and continued the friendship throughout their stay and beyond. For many years, she and Bob also graciously hosted groups of spouses to enjoy their Christmas decorations, sing carols and share holiday customs from around the world.

Following her years as president, Charlene continued her commitment to CCIS as co-chair of the Community Advisors with Betty Ogawa, who remembers, "she was always willing to help in any way, very efficient and positive with a smile and wonderful attitude." Charlene also lent her superb leadership to the CCIS Spouse Education Fund, creating the systems and computer formats for record-keeping that are in use today. She cared deeply about providing opportunities for spouses to advance their education, and it has been suggested that a gift to the Spouse Education Fund of the CCIS would be an appropriate way for those who knew her to

honor her memory.

Those who knew and worked with Charlene have been impressed by her boundless energy, exuberance, and zest for life, and have admired her clear headedness, her focus on what was important, and willingness to work on projects because they needed to be done. They have enjoyed her spirit of fun and laughter, the twinkle in her eye, and her kindness, compassion and generosity of spirit. She will remain an inspiration to all those whose life she touched.

The CCIS Spouse Education Fund is soliciting contributions for a special scholarship fund in memory of Charlene Ward. Contributions can be made to the "CCIS Spouse Education Fund" care of Carolyn Gannon, CCIS Treasurer, 3530 Partition Road, Woodside, CA 94062-4239

CCIS *Volunteer Activities*

English Classes

Monday through Friday every week of the quarter, a CCIS volunteer teaches in the English classroom at the I-Center. This quarter there are eleven classes covering language skills like conversation, American humor, idiom, writing, vocabulary development, accent reduction, and even one on the media. You could pay a lot for the attention you get in small classes among friendly people, but it's free.



We recently sat in on Mary Ann Saunders' class called American Idioms and Issues. Although it was a very rainy Tuesday and Stanford lost electricity at 5:00 in the morning, by 10:00 power was back and eight of the normally twenty-four students made it to the 10:30 class. What to do? Go ahead with the regular lesson leaving behind those who were absent? Well, Mary Ann is an experienced and resourceful teacher. After passing around a Time magazine, she asked the class to pick three articles that could serve as the basis for discussion. Some photocopies put everyone on the same level, and they began a long discussion on mortgages and banking. Sound dull? It wasn't, but as Mary Ann pointed out to me they didn't get much beyond the first long paragraph. Lots of words to learn like amateur and professional, entrepreneur, venture capitalist, title insurance, down payments, and *zany!* (You had to be there.)

What made the lesson fun was that Mary Ann turned the lesson back to the students, asking them how people in their country purchase homes. It isn't the same, and in some countries ordinary people don't even buy homes. Visiting American homes is a special treat for internationals. One Japanese student mentioned that she had been in a professor's home during the holiday break and got a chance to see how

Americans live. Mary Ann asked her to imagine in her mind the differences between this home and a typical one in Japan and then to describe the comparison to the class.

After class Mary Ann and I talked about teaching at the I-Center. She has been doing this since 1995. She has taught English, ESL and Special Education at Menlo-Atherton High School, Sacred Heart High, Mission College and business English at Cisco and at AMD.

She learned about the I-Center through a neighbor who was involved in CCIS.

Mary Ann believes that what is important is that the class is not a formula. You can't come in expecting it to work the way you imagine. Instead you need to pay attention to the needs of the students. They need a venue, a place where it is safe to talk, to try their luck with English.

Mary Ann is co-chair with Karen Sortino of the program. How do they find teachers who are flexible enough to change their plan on a rainy day and get students to talk without fear? First they interview applicants. Then there is an apprenticeship where new teachers serve as substitute teachers before getting their own class. Finally, the program has workshops each year on different issues such as translation skills to help new folks and sharpen everyone's skills.

Homestay and Hospitality

By Karen McNay

Some 50 years ago my mother, Kay Goff (Stanford '38) joined with a special group of people to form the Community Committee for International Students (CCIS) and to procure the Bechtel International Center for foreign graduate students. From that day forward our family has remained active in the Homestay and Hospitality programs. We have enjoyed some 50 groups in the ensuing years. The benefits for all are rewarding beyond imagination.

So, what are the Homestay and Hospitality programs? The Homestay program matches an arriving graduate student with a local host family (or individual) in mid-September. Typically the student will stay in the home of the host for 2-5 days as they get acquainted with the area. Then, when campus housing opens they move to university housing. They are anxious for lo-

cal information on American customs, the Bay area, banking, and other practical problems, and they love to share the customs and information of their homeland so many thousands of miles away.

Bechtel Center has myriad programs for the students. Once the initial arrival is complete, and they have begun their studies, I typically then keep them as a part of our family throughout their stay here, inviting them to family outings and holidays and giving them a place to feel comfortable.

Hospitality is just that! It doesn't require their staying in your home, but like Homestay it involves their participation in your family activities. You can include them, as often as you like for a home cooked meal or picnic, a holiday or sporting event that you both enjoy. You can become good friends, and you will look forward to these meetings.

We have hosted single and married students, both male and female. In almost all cases the friendships endure over the years. In traveling around the world I have met the students and their ever grateful families often staying in their homes and being passed on to relatives and friends in other areas. In Belgium I recently attended the 70th birthday of one of our first couples. I also attended the weddings of their two daughters and we have exchanged visits over the years. In the mid-1990's I hosted two guys from New Zealand, and they became a part of our family—one has returned to NZ and one married and lives here. In 2000 I traveled to NZ for four weeks and spent only three nights in hotels. Again, I was passed from family to family to friend. Another is a wonderful young lady from China my parents hosted in the early 1980's. She became a member of our family, and we have visited her as she travels the world.

This program is a win-win for everyone. The arriving graduate students are generally young, far from home and appreciate any support and friendship sent their way. They also offer it in return when you are far from home and looking for a friend. A friend from China, who taught in Singapore, has moved to Australia where she met and became friends with another Homestay friend of mine from Sydney. I'm looking forward to visiting them both in the near future! So, the net stretches and stretches.

Please consider volunteering in Homestay this summer. We look forward to having you join our community.

The Spouse-Taught Classes

In the last few years there has been an explosion of classes taught by spouses of international graduate students and visiting scholars. It started



Looking for a class

as a way to find something useful for these talented people who because their husband or wife was accepted to study at the university have lost their daily ties to the people in their profession as well as their connection to their family and friends. Add to that the difficulties in slipping quietly into American life.

The bulletin board in the I-Center lists the twenty two classes for the Winter quarter. Ten in different languages, three especially for children, eight workshops and groups (dance, yoga, male spouses get together, and women's night out), and an arts and crafts group called the Sewing Machine Lending Program.

Angela Carpentieri who taught Italian in Germany says that she teaches exactly as she did there. Germans who travel to Italy, often owning vacation homes there, want to be fluent. "You must prepare your lesson well, and follow a line to achieve results. What is different here is the diversity of nationalities. You can't

compare Italian to a single language when you have Asians, Europeans, and Americans in your class." The lack of cognates, the similar words in two languages, between Romance and Asian languages makes learning vocabulary more of a challenge, and the grammar is different.

Mamiko Yamashita's Japanese class was made up primarily of Asians who are acquainted with the various character systems of China, Korea, and Japan. In Japan she worked as an accountant before she began training incoming business people. Mamiko's advice to a new teacher is to buy a text and follow it. Her students get help from all the Japanese internet sites they Google.

Guillermina Gomez studied biology in Mexico City. Her husband, also a biologist, has been a professor at Stanford for five years. They often work together, but for her own pleasure she teaches Spanish conversation in the Post Room at the I-Center. That small and intimate room is just right for her advanced speakers.

Guillermina met Gwyn Dukes who built the spouse-taught classes in a very clever way by encouraging women, or mostly women, to teach a class even if they had not been professional teachers. Gwyn, as can you, takes classes.

Cathrin Mujag discovered the I-Center through the internet when she needed help with Social Security and her California Drivers License. A mother of a two-year old, she was aware of the need for children's programs to assist weary mothers. For ten years Cathrin has been a paralegal in Germany. She started coming to the Friday Morning Coffee where she met and exchanged email addresses with many other mothers, and that led her to organize Blanket Babies, Fun for Kids, and Women's Night Out.

The day before we talked she had organized

a trip to San Francisco to visit the Aquarium at Pier 39. "There are so many things to see and do in the Bay Area!" she exclaims. In contrast, one woman spent six months just visiting the playground with her kids until she learned about the I-Center.

When asked what were the primary needs of spouses at Stanford, Cathrin replied, as an American might, "Day care, baby sitting." They also need information about practical day-to-day things like banking and credit cards. An international cannot open a bank account or get a credit card without an American financial history. Someone needs to tell them that they're welcome at the Stanford Credit Union. Cathrin told of an instance where a landlord complained about a late rent check. The international was taken by surprise because in her country, the bank forwards the monthly rent. That unpleasant surprise was solved even though the woman did not have a checkbook.

The mastery of the language you study can be elusive. In Mexico you do not "turn on" the light. You ask someone to "put on" the light: *ponga la luz*. It takes a native speaker to help.



Guillermina Gomez' Class

Problems that only annoy Americans are frustrating for internationals. Asking for technical help on the telephone, for example, and speaking in their second language, they find it hard to understand someone answering the phone who speaks English with an unusual accent.

Adjusting to a different society is made easier by a supporting volunteer from CCIS in an English class, as a partner in EIA or in Hospitality. Fortunately, many of us have found the reward and excitement of meeting internationals. Talk with your neighbor about how they too can become a friend to someone from another country.

CCIS & I-Center Calendar

All activities are at the I-Center unless marked otherwise.

February 8, 10 A.M. Board meeting

March 15, 10 A.M. Board meeting: nominations of officers for 2010-11 announced

April 19, 10 A.M. Board meeting

April 19, 4 P.M., tentative. Annual meeting of CCIS: election of officers and reception.

You are also welcome at the I-Center events. Check the calendar at <http://www.stanford.edu/dept/icenter/events/>



SEF Grants continued from p. 1

Germany taking her final exams in business law. Cathrin was a patent and trademark paralegal in Germany and will use her grant to take a course in conflict management from UC Berkeley Extension.

India, Ketaki Kekatpure, with two Master's degrees in Economics and Business Administration, is teaching math as a volunteer at Sunnyvale Middle School and was awarded the Gwyn Dukes' grant. Ketaki will take an online class from UC Berkeley Extension on Web Design.

Iran, four grant recipients! Parisa Assar, an electricity market analyst and electrical engineer, will use her grant for a Stanford Continuing Studies course on innovation and growth. Shirin Esfahani, a law graduate interested in intellectual property law, will use her grant toward an accelerated Master of Law program at Boalt Law School at Berkeley. Hooraa Abdehkakha, an Aerospace Engineering graduate will take a website design class through Stanford Continuing Studies. Tahereh Marvdashti, an electrical engineering graduate will use her grant to complete her Master's Project course at San Jose State University in electrical engineering.

Korea, two grant recipients! Suhwa Lee, a web designer and instructional developer will use

her award to attend the American Educational Research Association Conference in Denver in the spring. Jeong Young Kim, a 2nd-time SEF grant recipient has taught floral design as a volunteer at the I-Center and will use her grant for a marketing class at UC Berkeley Extension following the birth of her baby in January 2010.

Lithuania, Lilia Jureviciene, recipient of the Sheila Spaeth grant, is a high school psychology counselor and will use her grant to take a psychology class at Foothill College. Lilia teaches Russian as a volunteer at the I-Center, helps with Friday Coffee, and volunteers at Stanford Hospital.

Malaysia, Hii Toh Ming, SEF's first male grant recipient, is a process engineer in semiconductor manufacturing and will use his grant to take the Stanford Continuing Studies course "Coping with Climate Change: Life After Copenhagen."

Mexico, Jessica Guevara, a strategy and change consultant who misses her job with IBM in Mexico City, will use her grant to take the "Branding Yourself Strategically" course through Stanford Continuing Studies.

Poland, Yanna Fedorowicz, a marketing and branding manager who will use her grant toward additional courses in an MBA program at

San Francisco State University.

Slovakia, Lenka Strakova, a 3rd-time grant recipient, is a part-time program assistant at Stanford at the Center for Russian, East European & Eurasian Studies. She has volunteered at the I-Center to lead discussion groups on history and women studies. Lenka will use her grant to take a history and geography course from Stanford Continuing Studies.

Sweden, Anna Evander, interviewed by the SEF Committee on the due date of her first baby (and fortunately safely delivered her baby a week later), was an energy adviser on green energy use and will use her grant to participate in an environmental leadership program in Palo Alto called "Be the Change."

Thailand, Orakarn Jewratanawong, a 2nd-time grant recipient, is a pharmacist interested in becoming a Thai herbal cosmetic entrepreneur, and will use her grant to take classes toward her MBA at Santa Clara University.

The SEF Committee thanks all who provide funding for the Spouse Education grants! Please consider continuing your support.

The SEF Committee: Carolyn Gannon, Karen Fry, Dick Hanavan, Ferah Kutlu, Dolly Sacks, and the late Charlene Ward.

Tear along the dotted line.



Community Committee for International Students

Communiqué Delivery Option

You can reply to this option either by completing the post card and mailing it in, or you can email CCIS at: MemberSurvey@ccisStanfordU.org. There is no space between Member and Survey.

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