

Community Committee for International Students

## The Overseas Resource Center assists students

Fifty nine Stanford students received international scholarships to work overseas this year. Most were graduate students. The Fulbright Scholarships with thirty Stanford winners was the largest program, but other students found eleven different and interesting scholarships. Searching for the right scholarship is a big task because you need to match your academic specialty with the right university, the right discipline, the right language, and then find a scholarship which matches those qualities.

The Overseas Resource Center, managed by Diane Murk, is an unobtrusive service provided by the Bechtel International Center to provide assistance to hundreds of Stanford students who are seeking scholarships and enrollment in a university overseas.

It begins with an online interest form, and then there is an advising session to explore the right match: majors, personal interests and career interests. The ORC has developed a chart that breaks all this down into the available scholarships. Finding the right match can be a challenge for there are hundreds of available scholarships. On their website the ORC lists nine for undergraduates, twenty five for graduates, and thirty one for post docs, and this number is continuously growing. Some are very narrow and some, like the Fulbright, are extensive; it places stu-



The ORC Library



Andrew Whitmore, who will be in Berlin this spring

dents in all fields in over 140 countries.

The ORC conducts information sessions, application workshops, provides tips on essays, and offers feedback.

In order to get a better understanding of the format and style, students come to the ORC Library which holds copies of hundreds of successful applications from prior years. Students can review these on site, but no photocopies are allowed. The writing must be the students.

Toward the end of the process, if an interview will be required, the staff will review interviewing skills and even stage a rehearsal.

Another major responsibility of the ORC is

to facilitate the interviews for several scholarships that are screened first at the local campus level. This includes the Fulbright, Rhodes, Marshall, Mitchell, and Luce scholarships.

Finally, the ORC is the only place on campus where you can get a passport photo. It also sells the International student ID cards which makes it popular with many on campus.

The hours for passport photos are Monday through Friday from 1 – 5. The Library is open M – F from 10 – 5.

*Editor's comment regarding this article: compared with some other buildings on campus the I-Center may not seem very large, but upstairs are many offices serving our partners and friends. My goal is to give you the background story—what they do up there. The information may also give you a better understanding of what your membership in CCIS means, for you are invited to the activities at the I-Center. JH*

MARCH

International Women's  
Day  
100 Years!

Two events will take place at the I-Center to celebrate the 100th anniversary, but neither will be on March 8, the day traditionally recognized.

On Wednesday, March 9, a forum in the Assembly Room is cosponsored by the Women's Community Center, Achilles Fund, the Riddle Family Foundation, and the I-Center.

On Friday, March 11, the Friday Morning Coffee crowd holds their potluck luncheon, also in the Assembly, at noon.

See p. 3 for details on both of these events

# CCIS **Leadership**

## President's column,

**Ramesh Sekar**

Dear fellow CCIS volunteers and international students, spouses and visiting scholars,

How quickly time flies. It almost seems like yesterday that the school year began. Our Community Advisors did a great job of welcoming incoming internationals. One of our major goals of CCIS is to help internationals feel at home (or as close to it as possible) by showing them a friendly face or two upon arrival, and answering their nuts and bolts questions.

After the internationals settle in, we have introduced several of them to English In Action (EIA) partners – thanks to all of you who give the internationals the gift of your time. As our EIA volunteers well know, we use English conversation as somewhat of an excuse. We use this opportunity to get to know our partners in depth in a stress free, friendly atmosphere and enrich our own lives in the process. In fact, if we called this the Friendship In Action program, our EIA partners would be in agreement. We are always looking for EIA volunteers to connect to internationals, so if you know of any good people who are looking to help, please refer them to our team at [eia@ccisStanfordU.org](mailto:eia@ccisStanfordU.org).

I was SO pleased with the turnout at our last potluck! We had over 100 people show up. I am not sure if our audience came to enjoy the food, music or company, but it was a fantastic success. Look for our next event on March 6. It is bound to be another “can't miss” event.

I only mention a few of our many programs that add tremendous value to our internationals' stay at Stanford. As I said at the beginning of this letter, time flies when you are having fun (and moves slowly when one has nothing to do!). The more programs we participate in, the more fun we have. Thank you all for your participation – YOU make CCIS a great success!

## The Los Altos Town Crier's Man of The Year

When one of your own is named Man of the Year by the newspaper in your local community—well, it makes you kind of proud. Don McDonald has been a CCIS volunteer since he retired from the National Security Agency over thirty years ago. That career promoted his interest in international affairs and placed him for a number of years in Australia and Japan as well as in Washington D.C. It was natural, then, when a friend told him about CCIS, he would become a volunteer.

He has focused his effort directly on students and spouses. First with EIA partners. He has had more than fifty. And, second, as a teacher in the English classes where he taught idiomatic English. Don made the class fun by bringing in photocopies of comic strips which used idioms. Or, he would bring the in the San Francisco Chronicle so that his class could decipher the headlines. The classes enjoyed American tongue-twisters and were encouraged to share some from their own language. That must have been pretty cacophonous with Chinese, Japanese, and maybe French going off one after the other. To finish the day there might be a multiple choice test, made by Don, on American usage.

Don seeks out people. He enjoyed working at the CCIS Desk in the lobby at the I-Center and loved extending his tours of other countries by meeting with former EIA partners. He vividly remembers a dinner in a partner's old apartment in Beijing in 1983.

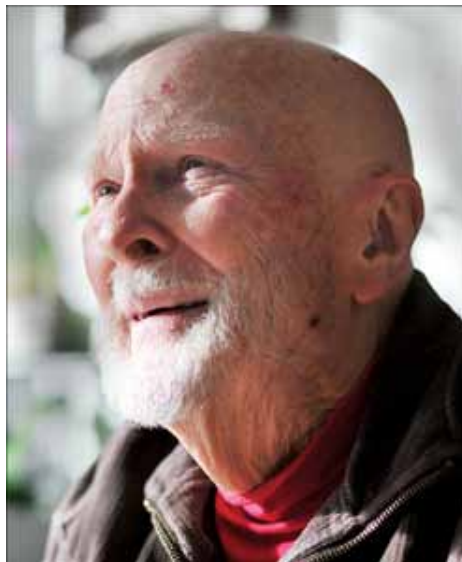


Photo courtesy of the Los Altos Town Crier

That was before the development of the new China.

When asked what was the most memorable question he had been asked by a student or partner he laughed before answering with, “What are you doing tomorrow?” More thoughtfully Don said that he liked the personal questions that you don't get from Americans. Perhaps that's because of the difference in age—Don is now 92. EIA partners are willing to ask simple questions which might seem naive—questions that they would avoid asking their friends.

Well, wouldn't we all like a partner we could trust to answer our questions without making fun of us? That's what EIA can be. As Don says, “It's the best program around.”

## The EIA committee to host reception for volunteers

If you are an EIA volunteer you received an email invitation to a drop-in reception at the I-Center from 5:30 – 7:00, Sunday, February 13.

This is being written so closely to the time of the function that we fear you may not get this note in time. We do hope, however, that you will be able to come to meet others who are EIA volunteers and to exchange ideas. This is time to thank all those who give so much time and energy to their partners.

It is to be held at the I-Center. The hosts are Marsha Alper, Carole Hessler, and Sim Moo, who chair EIA.

The function is to be social without a formal program.

### **ccis** *Communiqué*

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**Director's column,****John Pearson**

Dear CCIS Members,

It seems that each year at this time I write with news of pending construction at Bechtel. This year is no different. We have just heard that the university is going to replace much of our patio tiles in order to solve the long term problem of drainage into the basement area. Also we will be having new lights installed outside. This work will take place in the period after graduation so, once again, we will be postponing a number of regular programs during summer. It promises to be noisy and dusty!

Until then, however, we have a number of new programs. Over the past year we have begun to offer bus trips to local areas, and these have been very well received by international students, family members and US students. Even though we have to charge a reasonable amount for tickets there is strong interest. If any CCIS member is interested in participating in these tours please let me know.

We have some interesting plans for International Women's Day, and we are involved in Stanford's program to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the Peace Corps. We are encouraging our international student organizations to join with Bechtel for programs during spring quarter. In mid-February Bechtel will be hosting the Cricket World Cup. It is being hosted by India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh so, with the time difference, Bechtel will open all night for to show the games. If you like cricket please stop by, If you have no idea what the game is all about, someone will explain it! George Bernard Shaw is reputed to have said, "The English, not being a spiritual people, invented cricket to give them some idea of eternity."

Finally, an update on international student numbers. This past fall Stanford enrolled 3601 international students: 2830 graduate students, 493 undergraduates and 278 as non-matriculated. 1646 students were enrolled in doctoral programs and 1184 in masters programs. 1173 were female students. In addition there were 1012 international post-docs registered in fall—over 50% of all post-docs at Stanford. So now you know why you are busier than ever with your programs!

**Calendar**

EIA volunteer reception,  
Sunday, Feb. 13, 5:30 –  
7:00 P.M.

CCIS Board meeting, Mon-  
day, Feb. 14, 10:00 A.M.

View World Cup Cricket @  
Bechtel, Feb. 19 – April 2

Potluck Music Night, Sunday,  
March 6, 6 P.M.

International Women's Day  
Program, Wednesday,  
March 9, 2:15 – 5:15 P.M.

International Women's Day  
Potluck, Friday, March 11.

CCIS Board meeting, Mon-  
day, March 21, 10:00 A.M.

CCIS Board meeting, Mon-  
day, April 18, 10:00 A.M.

Homestay & Hospitality  
reception, Sunday, May 1,  
3:30 – 6:00 P.M.

Potluck Music Night, Sunday,  
May 8, 6 P.M.

CCIS Board meeting, Mon-  
day, May 16, 10:00 A.M.

**Celebrations for the 100th Anniversary of International Women's Day**

March 9 Forum

2:15 – 3:00

Panel: Women Around the World – Myths and Stereotypes

3:00 – 3:45

TED Talks video lecture: Women as Global Leaders

3:45 – 4:30

Poetry Recitation:/Spoken Word from memory

4:30 – 5:15

Dance from around the world, Demonstration and Par-  
ticipation**Assembly Room at the I-Center**

March 11 Potluck

Last year, following the Friday Morning Coffee, a potluck was held in the Assembly Room. It was well attended. Although details of this year's event are pending, Suzanne Maas is the coordinator and can be reached at [smaas@stanford.edu](mailto:smaas@stanford.edu). All are welcome including children. You simply bring a potluck dish to share. The 100th Anniversary, is a fine opportunity to gather with an international group of women and men to celebrate the many contributions of women to their communities at all levels.

**Letter from Fran Rounds**

Dear Marianne Dieckmann,

In 2007/2008, while my husband and I enjoyed a sabbatical year at Stanford, I participated in the English in Action program and was paired with a young woman from Japan whose husband was a scholar in the Business School. We had a lovely year of meeting together. We ascended Hoover Tower, walked around Lake Lag, shopped at Crate & Barrel, and made Christmas cookies, as well as sitting at the Old Union and talking on many afternoons. I enjoyed her friendship. We now live in San Francisco, and yesterday, during their brief vacation visit to the Bay Area, we hosted my conversation partner and her husband for an afternoon of sightseeing and

catching up. It was a joy for my husband and me, and I think for them as well.

This is such an important program. Trailing spouses are so very lonely, and when lack of language prevents them from simply dropping into the cultural and academic life around them, they are lonelier still. I know. I've been a trailing spouse. Thank you for what you do and what you enable volunteers to do so that a Stanford year can be happy and fulfilling for these lonely young women and for the volunteers who become their friends. I know my Stanford year was happier because of my friendship with Miho.

Yours truly,  
Fran Rounds

## A comment from the editor,

In the print edition the space above the photo collage on this page is used for the address mailer, but in the web edition we can use it for something else. I tend to think of it as free space.

So in the Spring 2010 electronic edition I included a chart on the structure of American government. A bit didactic, but as a retired high school government teacher I can forgive myself. It was, after all, timely for the primary and general elections. So what can be done with the Winter 2011 edition? Well, words are wonderful—their derivation, multiple uses, and the metaphors that we create when we need words in the place of pictures. A picture is worth a thousand words? Well, try a metaphor.

I'm finding, perhaps like you, that my EIA partners are becoming more fluent. Their questions regarding standard English are more sophisticated as they pick up slang and idiom in overheard conversation. That is great and fine (really!), but I like to take them back to basics.

Remember your foreign language study? One of the major tasks: acquire a vocabulary. We get a list of vocabulary words that we memorize. If we want to work hard we may make flashcards. *Fish* is on one side and *pescado*, or the equivalent in the language we are studying, is on the other. We get it: fish=*pescado*. Rarely, however, do we actually look in a dictionary to see how our vocabulary can be expanded by just this one word through its multiple uses. Let me give you an example of *fish* from the American Heritage Dictionary (the big one):

**Informal:** a person deficient in something: *a poor fish*.

**v. intr.** 1. To catch or try to catch. 2. To look for something by feeling one's way: *fished in both pockets for a coin*. 3. To seek something in a sly way: *fish for compliments*.

**v. tr.** 1. To catch or try to catch: *fish mountain streams*. 2. To catch or pull as if fishing: *deftly fishes the corn out of the boiling water*.

**Phrasal verb.** *Fish out:* to deplete a lake or stream.

**Idioms** *Fish in troubled waters:* to try to take advantage of a confused situation. *Fish or cut bait:* to proceed with an activity or abandon it altogether. *Like a fish out of water:* completely unfamiliar with one's surroundings or activity. *Neither fish nor fowl:* having no specific characteristics, indefinite. *Other fish to fry:* other matters to attend to

And that's only some of the informal uses. And because you are fluent, you know them. What to me was surprising was that my EIA partners not only knew these uses in their own language but could give me through translation other examples. We are, after all, back to metaphors and the universality of human experience. Is the term *sunflower* used internationally? I don't know. I'll have to ask my EIA partner the next time we meet.

## These photos didn't make it into earlier editions. Can you guess the CCIS activity where they were taken?

