

## Community Committee for International Students

### *International Journalist to Speak at Annual Meeting*

Beth Duff-Brown has had an extraordinary career as a journalist. Born in Portland, Oregon, she earned a bachelor's degree in philosophy and communications from Hawaii Pacific University and a master's in newspaper reporting and writing from Northwestern University. Her service as a Peace Corps



volunteer in the Democratic Republic of Congo from 1979 to 1981 left an indelible mark of concern for women and children in

the world—a concern that she would return to after twenty years in journalism.

She began her career in 1983 as a copy editor for the United Feature Syndicate. She went on to intern at The New York Times and worked at The Beijing Review, the Sarasota Herald-Tribune and Fort Lauderdale Sun Sentinel before becoming a correspondent for the Associated Press. She was nominated for a Pulitzer in Feature Writing in 1997, and in 2003, won a third place SAJA Daniel Pearl Award for Outstanding Reporting on South Asia. After joining the AP in Miami, she worked on the International Desk in New York, then went overseas as a correspondent and bureau chief in West Africa, Southeast Asia, India and other parts of South Asia, as well as Canada. She was named AP's Deputy Asia Editor in 1997.

In 1996, she returned to Kamponde, the village in the Congo where she had served as a young Peace Corps volunteer. The connection with people she knew and their struggle in daily life was a tie that brought her back for two more visits, and after some personal research on conditions in central Africa in 2010, she chose to redirect her career. As she

says, "Friends and colleagues often ask me what led me to the Knight Fellowship and why I would step away from a great job as the deputy Asia Editor for The Associated Press. It came down to one remarkable week in 2006, during my third visit back to my Peace Corps village. It was my Eureka Moment. After 20 amazing years with the news agency as a foreign correspondent, bureau chief and manager, I saw the next phase of my career: A journalist who would advocate for the empowerment of women and girls."

This is what the Knight Fellowships are all about: catching mature journalists who are asking serious questions about their profession and giving them time to ponder and rethink what is relevant in their careers. We at CCIS are extremely fortunate to hear from them.

Ms. Duff-Brown will speak on the topic, *A Woman's World: Getting media organizations to report on global issues from a woman's perspective.*

### **Meet Spouse Fund Grantees**

The Spouse Education Fund reports that funds were unusually low this year despite continued support from the Stanford Federal Credit Union and the SEF Endowment fund. To meet this shortfall the SEF committee approached the Stanford Continuing Studies program about the need for international spouses to gain professionally from their time here, and they were most kind and generous in granting eleven tuition waivers to enable SEF applicants to enroll in their classes. The SEF committee granted scholarships to all but two of the twenty-nine applicants.

For the 2010-11 year, the total value of the grants awarded by Spouse Education

Fund was \$10,600. Of this total, \$6,460 was from donations to the Spouse Fund, including grants in the names of Sheila Spaeth and Charlene Ward. The value of the tuition waivers from the Stanford Continuing Studies program was \$4,140.

These scholarships are especially important to the spouses who accompany graduate students to Stanford. While scholarships totalling no more than \$500 seem small, they can be accumulating. In four years, while waiting for her husband to complete his work on a Ph.D., Caifeng Zhu, from China,

*Go to SEF Awards, p. 3*

**CCIS**  
**ANNUAL MEETING**  
**THURSDAY, JUNE 2**  
**4:00 – 5:30**

- **Guest speaker:  
Knight Fellow,  
Beth Duff-Brown**
- **SEF Scholarship recipients**
- **Election of Officers**
- **Reception**

**Ramesh Sekar**

It is hard to believe that the school year has almost ended. It seemed just like yesterday when we were greeting new students and their spouses at the International Center through our volunteers in the Community Advisors program. As we enter the summer season (I don't know about you, but I am ready for it!), all the Board members at CCIS would like to thank each and every one of you who has volunteered time and/or money to enrich the lives of our internationals – students, visiting scholars and their spouses at Stanford.

It has been a great year for me personally to have the honor of serving as president of CCIS. I have enjoyed meeting both volunteers and internationals at various events such as potlucks, parties held at Board members' homes, and other events. While it is tempting to remain president forever (ha ha), I am delighted to step down in favor of the nominating committee's choice of Carolyn Gannon, who has been an outstanding contributor at CCIS for many, many years. My decision was dictated by the fact that I plan to travel extensively over the next year. My travel plans include Quebec in June and Berlin in September, where I hope to polish my international credentials.

My thanks to the whole CCIS community for your enthusiasm and support!

Ramesh

## Changes for the CCIS Reception Desk

For many years CCIS has provided daily reception service from 9:00 to 1:00 in the lobby of the Bechtel International Center. The volunteer staff did many jobs, the most important of which was to interview graduate students and their spouses for English in Action. At one time in fact, they actually did the matching of volunteers and internationals. Needs have changed. Now internationals register online and are interviewed by the English in Action committee.

Consequently, the work of the Desk people has dwindled to almost nothing. A year ago the Board reduced the assignment by one hour a day and then this fall the days were reduced to Monday – Wednesday – Friday. Finally, this April the Desk was closed—two months before it was scheduled to close.

Yet, the presence of CCIS Desk volunteers in the I-Center has been missed. The CCIS volunteer is often the only person in the lobby, someone who can greet people and offer assistance to those who come into the building for the first time. They also are there to explain CCIS, its many programs, and help internationals become connected with EIA, Hospitality, the English Classes, the Loan Closet, Professional Liaison, and so on.

Technology, as we often realize, has taken the human element out of our contacts. The CCIS telephone now refers incoming calls directly to the program chair. We have replaced the human voice with a mechanical convenience. It can be more efficient, but it

is less personable. The same can be said for registering for EIA. Another example, without someone to greet them people who bring in items for the Loan Closet often don't know what to do. Do they just drop them in the hallway outside of the CCIS office?

Well, the loss is noticed. So, if we can get the volunteers, we want to try something different. Dick Hanavan, the chair of the CCIS Desk, has written that you consider the following: As many CCIS members know, the English in Action enrollment desk has changed its method of operation. After much thought and discussion it was decided to try to keep the desk open with expanded duties. It would provide the service of keeping our students informed about the English classes, the Loan Closet, Professional Liaison, the Resource Center, Home Stay, Spouse Education Fund and handle other problems or questions that may arise.

We are looking for twenty volunteers to fill in the two-hour slots on the monthly schedule. This service would close in the summer. If you are interested please call 650/498-5252. We want to talk with you.

## E-mail or Snail mail?

We have struggled for two years to answer the question as to whether we should shift The Communiqué from a printed and USPS mailed version to an electronic edition. We are pushed by the need to reduce cost and

the desire of many people to see the pictures in color and to be able to print their own copies which they can share with friends—maybe even entice new volunteers. At the same time, even in 2011, not everyone has a computer. Unwilling to cut some folks off, we have produced two editions.

Here's the deal for 2011 – 2012. If you want a printed version next year you must return the Membership form that you will receive this summer. Indicate on the form that you want The Communiqué by mail. If you don't return the form we will e-mail you when the electronic versions are available. You can then download them from a computer in the library or at a friend's house.

We have avoided taking such a strong position, but truth to be told, our database lists over 700 people. That includes people who maybe had an EIA partner ten years ago. Since then they may have moved further away or may have gone on to some other volunteer work. That's understandable. Lives change. You can help us by telling us your choice. Thank you.

### ccis Communiqué

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### **John Pearson**

As we find ourselves in sight of another graduation weekend, I'd like to provide some information on the programming we have been working on during the past year. One of our goals this year was to try to promote more intentional program through Bechtel, similar in a way to what is offered by CCIS. In other words, programs that are not just social but help to foster communication across cultures. Bechtel still supports dozens of social and cultural programs each year through the wonderful Billie Achilles Fund, and these are organized by international student organizations as well as by Bechtel.

But we also want to work on programs that are perhaps more structured. During the past year we have offered a number of such programs. In the Fall we offered lunches for international graduate students who would meet with a faculty member to discuss how Stanford is impacting their life choices. We have offered this lunch series for a few years with generous support from the Vice Provost for Graduate Education. The feedback has been very positive from both the students and the faculty. During the current spring quarter we have offered 4 dinners to bring together recent international alums with current students, again to focus on how Stanford impacts their career and life choices. This program, funded through a grant by the Stanford Associates, has been a stellar success and it is program that we will continue to offer. It has even been spotted on Twitter!! Finally, the Riddle Family Fund allows us to offer programs that bring U.S. and international students together. We offer bus trips, dinners, ceramic making classes, and these programs have encouraged us to do more outreach to U.S. students.

Our goal, in the future, is to develop more of these programs that can help assess the experience of international students and scholars at Stanford. We also hope that CCIS members can become involved.

Finally, thank you for all you have done during the past academic year. We know how much the students, scholars and family members value and appreciate all you do. The Annual Report for 2009-2010 is now on our web site at [http://icenter.stanford.edu/about\\_us/annual\\_report/index.html](http://icenter.stanford.edu/about_us/annual_report/index.html). With best wishes, John

### **Continued from SEF Awards, p. 1**

has received four SEF scholarships to work on a nursing degree at DeAnza College. This April she completed her studies.

Spouse Education Fund scholarship can also expand on skills developed in their own country. Born and educated in Hamburg, Germany, Anna-Franziska Sinner, who received her university degree in energy engineering, had worked for six years in Denmark consulting on climate change policy for a company, but on arriving in the U.S. was surprised to find that despite the cutting-edge field she was in she was unable to get a job right away. She first had to get the work permit. The frustration was more difficult because she knew no one here with whom to network. Eventually she was hired in San Francisco for a non-profit working in the same field as she had in Denmark.

Anne-Franziska received an SEF grant to take a Continuing Studies class, Tools for Strategic Management. She had never seen a course in Strategic Management and felt that she did not have the background required by her new job. The Continuing Studies course was exactly what she needed.

She reports that, "Without the grant, I would not have been able to afford that

course which I gained so much, not only from a professional career point of view but also in terms of personal strategic decision making, cooperation group management and social networking, I feel much more 'at home' now on the Stanford campus."

Masako Ichihara from Japan wrote to Gwyn Dukes, "I could experience wonderful learning thanks to CCIS and all donors. I would like to directly thank you and donors very much, to share my experience with them so that you, CCIS donors, would see how your help has been big for us spouses. I am really delighted and appreciate you for thinking of giving me this chance."

Anna-Franziska and Masaka Ichihara will speak at the Annual meeting about their experiences here and how the Spouse Education Fund scholarship helped in their adjustment to life in America.

Carolyn Gannon, chair of the SEF, comments, "We hope every donor to the Spouse Education Fund (SEF) program will attend the CCIS Annual Meeting to meet the grateful SEF grant recipients from this current academic year. As Qiwen (Nicole) Zhao,

grant recipient from China, says: "Dear Donors: thank you very much from the bottom of my heart! What you have contributed is not only money, but also an encouragement, a hope, and a choice of life!"

Since all of the recipients have been invited to the Annual Meeting, it will be an opportunity for donors to meet the spouses they are assisting.

This year's recipients include: Alina Malinska, Ukraine; Anne-Franziska Sinner, Germany; Bo Ra Lee, South Korea; Caifeng Zhu, China; Cathrin Mugaj, Germany; Diana Zaydullina, Russia; Hoorah Abdehkakha, Iran; Hyerin Won, South Korea; Hyeeseong Kang, South Korea; Jakyung Yoon, South Korea; Janice Cormier, Canada; Jessica Alva, Mexico; (Julia) Yuen Chui Yui, Hong Kong; Ka Yan Poon (Michelle), Hong Kong; Mamiko Yamashita, Japan; Litharenia Polychonopoulou, Greece; Maria-Luisa Valenzuela, Chile; Marileia Dionisio, Brazil; Marjan Mohammadgiah, Iran; Masako Ichihara, Japan; Na-yeon Cho, South Korea; Nicolyn Liebenberg, South Africa; Olga Arakelova, Russia; Orakarn (Cat) Jewratanawong, Thailand; Qian Chen, China; Qiwen Zhao, China; Shanshan Duan, China.

# Stanford University

## Bechtel International Center

### ccisCommuniqué

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A Garden Party was held on May 1, by Donna Shoemaker and Karen McNay to thank the volunteers in the Homestay and Hospitality programs. You may recall that Homestay provides temporary housing for internationals who arrive at Stanford before university housing is available. Homestay hosts treat their guests like visiting friends. Matching for Hospitality gives internationals a friend in the community who remembers birthdays and holidays and welcomes the international like a member of the family. In both programs the social connection often lasts as long as the international individual or family is in the Bay Area or even longer.

