



A new school year, a new logo. Wow!



Take a look at the logo in the top right hand corner. Notice the globe, notice the string of people who have joined together circling the globe. They represent the diversity of the world and the people we serve. They come in different colors—primary colors because Ruth Kedar believes that it is in the acceptance of diversity that our world is enriched and life is exciting. The logo is her gift to CCIS.

Who is Ruth Kedar? Well, as graphic artists have long known if you are successful, people will remember your work but not your name. Ruth, who is very modest, has no reason to be. In 1999, while teaching design at Stanford she began working with two young guys working on the Ph.D. in computer science: Larry Page and Sergei Brin. They were looking for someone with clear eyes and clean design to help them create a visual identity that would correspond with their model for a new internet search engine. The result was Google, and

Ruth Kedar did the logo design. So, you now know the extraordinary work that a graphics designer can do even if you don't remember her name.

Who is Ruth Kedar, and how did she get here? Her grandparents, who were Ashkenazi Jews living in Russia and Poland, independently sensed bad times ahead, and in the late 1920s decided to leave Europe for South America where they met. Their children, Ruth's father and mother, met in Brazil where they were raised. Ruth's father, a recognized eminent dentist, was invited to teach at Tel Aviv University, and the Brazilian political atmosphere in the early 70s was such that her parents thought it was a good time to leave.

The boat trip took three weeks to get to Italy where they waited for another ship to take them across the Mediterranean. She had a chance to add Spanish to her quiver of languages from the Argentinian teenagers who were on the boat making a pilgrimage to see the Pope. She began learning Italian from the Italian crew. She says that it is necessary for Portuguese speakers to be multi-lingual because they know that few others in the world speak their language, and if they want to communicate—and Brazilians do—they have to learn other languages.

Communicating in Israel was tough at first. She entered high school without a word of Hebrew, but she was good in math. Where the numbers looked the same she began to learn Hebrew. She learned French and English through novels because the Hebrew characters took so long to read, let alone understand what she was reading. Today she is fluent in five languages and speaks English without a trace of accent.

After high school, she went on to Technion the Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa where she graduated with a degree in Architecture and Town Planning in 1979. For a career she wanted to bridge architecture and

graphics, but architectural firms were uninterested and the graphic firms said that she was overqualified. So Ruth established a design firm working primarily with Israel's largest real estate developer on a number of projects.

In 1985, by now married and having two children, she and her husband decided to move to the United States. Choosing between Massachusetts and California, Ruth was impressed when she learned that the students at Escondido Elementary spoke forty languages. Besides, there was the Palo Alto weather.

She has become an American citizen who speaks five languages fluently—and that doesn't even include the language of graphics.

With this diverse background I asked Ruth what there was in Brazil's culture that influences her today. "I love the warm people, the food, the music, and the multi-cultural mix of its people." Most people don't know that the largest population of Japanese outside of Japan live in Brazil. "I was exposed to all sides of humanity in all its glory and its misery but it never mattered to me what the make up of the crowd was. I always felt comfortable relating to all people, and I felt at home.

Go to Ruth Kedar, p. 2

Special Appeal for Homestay

In the fall, American families host an international student or two in their home for a few days (up to five) while the new student waits for Stanford's housing to open for the new quarter.

This year there are already 58 applications and only 21 families have signed up so far.

Please contact Karen McNay for more information. You can call Karen at 650/327-7041 or use her email address: kmcnay[at]apr[dot]com.

President's column

Carolyn Gannon

New Kid – Old Kid

Welcome to the beginning of the academic year 2011 – 2012 and the 58th year of CCIS. I am Carolyn Gannon, the new president of CCIS. In this role, I'm the "new kid" joining with honor the long line of presidents of this organization that is truly "Connecting Stanford Internationals with the Community," the CCIS motto. I'm also an "old kid" as a CCIS member whose first volunteer opportunity came as a Hospitality program host in 1985. My husband and I greatly enjoyed that experience and became Homestay hosts, EIA partners, Professional Liaison contacts. I joined the CCIS board in 1999, as treasurer and chaired several programs between then and now. I love what CCIS provides to the Stanford international community and what we all do together as volunteers.

CCIS is an amazingly successful non-profit organization and accomplishes great service on a very small budget. This is possible because of active and dedicated volunteer members. A huge thank you to all of you.

We begin the new academic year with a great deal of excitement. Of the over 800 new international graduate students expected, there were many more requests for Homestay than we could provide hosts for. The CCIS program chairs are gearing up for another year of fulfilling activities, and we encourage everyone interested in joining in the program activities as a volunteer and/or financial supporter to renew their CCIS membership. Please enlist your friends.

In addition to welcoming all of the incoming international students, CCIS is pleased to launch a new website on Labor Day and new logo. See the feature article about the logo on page 1. We want the new website to be the place to go to learn about CCIS programs from both the volunteers and internationals viewpoints. We want the new website to be the place to go to find out about upcoming events on the homepage and to see pictures and testimonial feedback on CCIS programs. Check out the CCIS and I-Center calendars, read the current and past issues of the Communiqué, and much more. Please bookmark the website: www.ccisStanfordU.org. A big thank you goes to Donna Shoemaker, CCIS vice-president, for her input, content, and review of the many website iterations as the site was being developed. And many thanks to each CCIS program chair and the photographers for their program content and images. I hope you enjoy the new website, and, of course, tell your friends.

Thank you all for your help with CCIS. To help celebrate the beginning of a new academic year, please come to the September 24th Chamber Music Concert in the I-Center Living Room starting at 4:30 P.M. Bring your Homestay students, your EIA partners, your Hospitality students, and your friends to hear the amazing, professional trio of Anna-Maria Broedel, violin; Johannes Broedel, violoncello; and Bora Lee, piano, performing a program of Ravel, Martinu, and Mendelssohn.

Continued from Ruth Kedar, p. 1

And even though we—as in the country as a whole—were not surrounded by economic abundance. We were creative and learned to make do with what we had, and in general the society knew how to have great fun. My parents taught me to think out of the box, and they made me realize that all things and matters are inter-connected and cannot be put neatly in a drawer. I think that is the seed for my always looking for an interdisciplinary approach to problem solving and why the joint program at Stanford was so appealing.”

What about Israel? “I was 15 years old when

we moved to Israel. Everything I knew about life was irrelevant.” She discovered that where Brazilians focus on fun, Israelis are direct, they love argument, and they don't get mad at you if you disagree. “It was only in high school that kids assumed you were ignorant or dumb if you didn't speak the language, but it stuck with me that language is a powerful tool not only for conversation and communication but as a means to belong to the community.”

“I became more independent primarily because my parents were dealing with their own immigrant status hardships and did not

Go to Ruth Kedar, p. 3



Community Committee for International Students

Executive Board

President, Carolyn Gannon
[president \[at\] ccisStanfordU \[dot\] org](mailto:president@ccisStanfordU.org)
Vice President, Donna Shoemaker
[vicepresident \[at\] ccisStanfordU \[dot\] org](mailto:vicepresident@ccisStanfordU.org)
Secretary, Karen Imatani
[secretary \[at\] ccisStanfordU \[dot\] org](mailto:secretary@ccisStanfordU.org)
Treasurer, Henry Lum
[treasurer \[at\] ccisStanfordU \[dot\] org](mailto:treasurer@ccisStanfordU.org)

Program Chairs

Associates, Martha Enthoven
[associates \[at\] ccisStanfordU \[dot\] org](mailto:associates@ccisStanfordU.org)
Communiqué, John Heron
[communiqué \[at\] ccisStanfordU \[dot\] org](mailto:communiqué@ccisStanfordU.org)
Community Advisors, Karen McNay & Betty Ogawa (email goes to both)
[ca \[at\] ccisStanfordU \[dot\] org](mailto:ca@ccisStanfordU.org)
Cooking Classes, Dolly Sacks
[cooking \[at\] ccisStanfordU \[dot\] org](mailto:cooking@ccisStanfordU.org)
CCIS Reception, Dick Hanavan & Sande Stuart
[ccisdesk \[at\] ccisStanfordU \[dot\] org](mailto:ccisdesk@ccisStanfordU.org)
English Classes, Mary Ann Saunders & Karen Sortino (email goes to both)
[englishclasses \[at\] ccisStanfordU \[dot\] org](mailto:englishclasses@ccisStanfordU.org)
English-In-Action, Marsha Alper & Carole Hessler (email goes to both)
[eia \[at\] ccisStanfordU \[dot\] org](mailto:eia@ccisStanfordU.org)
Events (Potluck Music), Dee Gustavson
[events \[at\] ccisStanfordU \[dot\] org](mailto:events@ccisStanfordU.org)
Friday Coffee, Gwyn Dukes
[coffee \[at\] ccisStanfordU \[dot\] org](mailto:coffee@ccisStanfordU.org)
Homestay, Karen McNay
[homestay \[at\] ccisStanfordU \[dot\] org](mailto:homestay@ccisStanfordU.org)
Hospitality, Donna Shoemaker
[hospitality \[at\] ccisStanfordU \[dot\] org](mailto:hospitality@ccisStanfordU.org)
Loan Closet, Chula Morel-Seytoux
[loancloset \[at\] ccisStanfordU \[dot\] org](mailto:loancloset@ccisStanfordU.org)
Membership & Webmaster, Dave Gustavson
[membership \[at\] ccisStanfordU \[dot\] org](mailto:membership@ccisStanfordU.org)
[webmaster \[at\] ccisStanfordU \[dot\] org](mailto:webmaster@ccisStanfordU.org)
Past Past President, Ramesh Sekar
[MemberAtLarge \[at\] ccisStanfordU \[dot\] org](mailto:MemberAtLarge@ccisStanfordU.org)
Public Relations, Martha Enthoven
[publicity \[at\] ccisStanfordU \[dot\] org](mailto:publicity@ccisStanfordU.org)
Professional Liaison, Joanne Wilkes
[plp \[at\] ccisStanfordU \[dot\] org](mailto:plp@ccisStanfordU.org)
Spouse Education Fund, Gwyn Dukes
[spousefund \[at\] ccisStanfordU \[dot\] org](mailto:spousefund@ccisStanfordU.org)

CCIS Communiqué

Volume 16, Number 1
Fall 2011

Published by the CCIS
584 Capistrano Way, Stanford, CA 94305
650/498-5252
www.ccisStanfordU.org

Carolyn Gannon, President
John Heron, Editor
Hyeyon Moon, Photo Editor

Bechtel International Center
584 Capistrano Way, Stanford, CA 94305
Phone: 650/723-1831 Fax: 650/725-0886

<http://icenter.stanford.edu>

Please add the staff member's prefix to the general address: @stanford.edu

Administration

John Pearson, Director, 650/725-0889, pearsonj@
Shalini Bhutani, Associate Director, 650/736-9511, sbhutani@
Wendy Cardamone, Office and Building Manager, 650/725-0887, wendyc@
Shirley G. Harris, Computer Resources, Web Manager, 650/723-0377, sharris@

International Student and Scholar Services

Lee Madden, Assistant Director, Foreign Scholar Services, 650/725-7400; 650/725-0888, internationalscholars@
Lynn Kroner, Scholar Advisor, 650/725-7400; 725-0890, internationalscholars@
Brian Groves, Scholar Advisor, 650/725-5053, internationalscholars@
Nancy Khurshid, J-PASS Assistant, 650/721-1750, nancykl@
Rolando Villalobos, Assistant Director, Student Services, 650/723-1832, internationalstudents@
Laleh Rongere, Student Advisor, 650/723-1833, internationalstudents@
Junko Pierry, Student Advisor, 650/725-9553, internationalstudents@
Vicky Billimoria, SEVIS Coordinator, 650/725-0885, vickyb@
Sean Stafford, Advising Associate & Room Reservations, 650/723-1271, seans2@

Overseas Resource Center

Scholarships for study and research Abroad

ISIC cards and passport photos

Information Phone: 650/725-0881
Diane Murk, Manager, 650/723-0856, dmurk@

Office for International Visitors

Pauline Larmaraud, Coordinator, 650/723-1984, plarm@

Programs for Spouses/Partners & Families

Send email to Susanne Maas, smaas@
or visit the Resource Center for International Families

Director's column

John Pearson

It seems that fall comes around quicker than ever! Bechtel and CCIS are now getting ready to welcome almost 1,000 international graduate and undergraduate international students to campus in the next few weeks. In addition the numbers of new post-docs and visiting scholars shows no sign of decreasing. Through the summer, we have been answering many, many emails from incoming students about settling in, visas, social security numbers, taxes and a variety of other topics. We have also been sending out regular email updates to new international students and have updated the information on our web page that is focused on orientation.

Orientation for approximately 150 new international undergraduates begins on September 17th. Orientation for new graduate international students is progressive as some academic programs begin in late August. However our "official" orientation week begins September 19th.

All CCIS members are welcome to attend events offered to the new students. The orientation schedule can be found at:

<http://icenter.stanford.edu/students/new/orientation.html>

While on our web site you can also join the I-Center's Facebook Page. However, you will be pleased to know we have not yet begun to twitter!

Our orientation, and indeed our programs throughout the year, are successful and well received thanks to the work of CCIS. We look forward to seeing you during the next few weeks as we welcome our new international students.

With best wishes, John

Continued from Ruth Kedar, p. 2

pay too much attention to mine. It was quite traumatic to be uprooted from your home country as a teenager and that is one of the reasons why it was so important to me to come to the U.S. while my children were young. I thought it would be easier on them."

Referring to Israel she says that she loved the place, but that as a parent herself in the 1980s, which was the time of the Lebanon War, she began to ask questions. She and her husband knew that in a few years their son and daughter would be called to the military. Like all parents they worried about their children's safety, but they also asked themselves what their children might be called upon to do in the heat of a battle and how that might affect them. "At around that time both my husband and I were already contemplating graduate school, and since the kids were young enough we decided it was a good time to make a move. We were not planning on immigrating at that time; we just needed time off to think, evaluate and broaden our options. Our original plan was to stay in the U.S. for five years and see how things developed both here and at home in Israel."

Perhaps as an English in Action partner you have sat in on a defense for a masters or

a Ph.D., but the graphic arts ones have got to be the most interesting. Ruth's thesis topic: to design a deck of playing cards. What attracted her was that cards "...had existed for thousands of years and are used in an infinite number of games. You can use it to play solitaire, kids have their own games, and in the casino you play poker." Her deck of cards is available online at her website: www.kedar-designs.com.

And how has America influenced her view of the world? If initiative, innovation, and common sense are American, then Ruth Kedar fits in very well. English is one of her five languages, she holds a United States citizenship, taught at Stanford, worked for Silicon Valley startups, for Adobe, the major computer graphics firm in the United States, and now runs her own firm. She began studying Aikido in 1992, was promoted to the rank of sandan, the third degree black belt in 2008, and since then has been teaching Aikido at Aikido West in Redwood City.

Her gift of the CCIS logo is amazingly generous. You should check out Kedar Designs which specializes in branding, web application and user experience design.

-John Heron

CCIS **Volunteer Activities**

Volunteer Programs in 2011 – 2012

In each fall issue of the Communiqué we include a description of the programs for which you can volunteer. Some program titles have been changed. Cooking is now American Cooking, the CCIS Desk is now CCIS Reception, and Potluck/Music night still holds a potluck and has music, but it is called Events. The email addresses of the chairpersons of each program are listed on the Leadership list on page 2. You can also call the office to leave a message at 650/498-5252.

American Cooking

CCIS Cooking classes have gone on for 48 years. Dolly Sacks, who chairs this program, begins by asking a simple question: what is American cooking? Six to nine international spouses get to find out. There is a series of four classes in the I-Center's kitchen—a series in fall and another in the spring. Dolly, by the way, loves the new I-Center kitchen.

English Classes

Internationals who want to improve their English language skills, learn about American culture, and converse with their peers can attend the English classes taught by CCIS volunteers in the I-Center. Last year about 330 participated. There were 21 teachers and nine substitutes. Substituting is a good way to gain the experience to become a teacher. Class schedules are online and in the lobby.

English in Action

Last year 278 matches were made. Volunteers and internationals meet once a week for an hour of conversation and cultural exchange. Sometimes volunteers have more than one partner and enjoy learning about more than one other culture. The bulk of the matches take place in the fall quarter. In February a Volunteer Appreciation Reception is held.

CCIS Reception

Since most of the I-Center staff works upstairs, there is often no one in the lobby when you enter the building. In the afternoon, however, a CCIS receptionist sits there to describe English in Action, Friday Morning Coffee, Professional Liaison and our other programs. They give I-Center and campus directions, and welcome people especially those who come in for the first time. It is now open weekdays from 2:00 to 4:30 P.M.

Community Advisors

If you are reading this in September, please be aware that right now CCIS volunteers are at the I-Center answering questions from incoming international students and scholars. It is fun, and really valuable for the 550 internationals who come by to pick up a welcome packet and register for the year. It takes place from September 12 to 23, from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. You can help.

Events

You meet people from all over the world when you come to what used to be called the Potluck/Music Night. Everyone brings a dish to eat such as a salad, entree, or dessert and stays to hear the music performance. It is open to all Stanford internationals and their families and CCIS volunteers. Great conversation, good mixing. Bring your Hospitality or EIA partner, or just come yourself to meet someone new. Children are welcome. November 13, February 12, and May 6. The evening begins at 6 P.M.

Friday Coffee

Provides a drop-in activity for about sixty spouses of international students and their children. It is held every Friday from 10:00 A.M. until noon when Stanford is in session. CCIS provides support in serving and entertaining the children. Chula Morel-Seytoux is well known for offering singing and story time for parents and preschoolers. Setting up conversation groups, providing information about Professional Liaison and the Spouse Education Scholarships, and organizing walks and hikes gives spouses a network of resources. Normally, it is held in the I-Center's Assembly Room and patio, but this summer was a bit of a challenge when the group had to move to the New Guinea Garden. See the pictures on page 6.

Homestay

What happens when internationals come to Stanford before the University has housing available? About fifty of them will respond to an invitation in their welcome packet to stay with an American family. They contact CCIS, we make the match for a three to five day stay. Homestay is often a basis for lifelong friendship between the international and host. This was the first CCIS program created, and because of the intimacy of the home, we are careful with the matches we make. Karen McNay, chair of Homestay, wants to hear from you even in September.

Hospitality

Volunteers welcome internationals to experience an American lifestyle through day or evening events such as dinners, holidays cel-

ebrations, sightseeing, outdoor events, theater. For the international who is working hard at Stanford, it can be an opportunity to get a break from the university environment. Not like the Homestay program, no overnights in volunteer homes are involved in Hospitality. This program extends through the academic year and often through an international's entire time at Stanford. Volunteers may be families, couples or individuals and may meet with internationals either in their home or at a mutual meeting place

Professional Liaison

It can be disorienting to be a professional architect, nurse, teacher, pharmacist living at Stanford while your spouse is engaged in study and research. 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. Professional Liaison is an opportunity to learn about America where you meet with a professional colleague. You share ideas and trends. We need volunteers willing to meet with an international. While some spouses seek information about a career change, this is not a job seeking program. You will not see graduate students who are finishing their work at Stanford.

Loan Closet

Another way to make a difference for an incoming international. Instead of throwing away usable linens, silverware, dishes, pots and pans give them to the Loan Closet. Electrical appliances are particularly valued because we run on 120 current while the rest of the world has 220. No international is going to pack up a 120 watt toaster to take home.

Spouse Education Fund

With the economy the way it is, the Spouse Education Fund has been short of contributions. These small scholarships of up to \$500 make it possible for about thirty spouses to take classes in Continuing Studies and community colleges. For the few who received a scholarship last year, it made a big difference. You can donate with a check or online at the CCIS website.

Visiting Friends

Betty and Pat Farrell had a “thrill of a lifetime” last April when they traveled to Paris and stayed for a week in the official residence of friends who were once English in Action partners. Kyung-Wook Hur, as the Ambassador of Korea to the OECD in Paris, would get up in the morning and eat breakfast before saying, “Have a good day,” to the Farrells and leaving for his office at 9:00. About ten o’clock a staff car would come by to pick up Betty and Pat to go out to Versailles, Giverny, or some other destination that the Farrells and Hur had planned the night before. In the evening everyone would return home for dinner.

This friendship has continued for twenty-five years. It also involved being close to Stanford which their two daughters, Aram and Beauram, were attending as students. Both daughters are now Stanford graduates and reside in the United States. This makes them a truly Stanford Alumni family. Visiting Korea became very special for the Farrells who were escorted by their Korean families.

Betty, a career kindergarten teacher in Portola Valley, has been an EIA partner to a dozen internationals from Korea, Japan, Peru, and Colombia. Her partners always brought their children to the house, and Betty learned that the concerns of internationals are simi-



Left to right is Ambassador Wook Hur, Kae Hur, Betty Farrell, Pat Farrell, daughters Aram and Beauram dining at Chef Chu's.

lar regardless of nationality, “we all want the same for our children.”

The Farrells have lived in the same house in Los Altos for forty-seven years. If you need another way to think about that, consider that they paid \$31,000 for it.

Betty and Pat are both from the Central Valley—Manteca and a tiny town called Hickman. Pat is a commercial and housing development building contractor.

Recently, Kyung-Wook and Kae stayed with the Farrells while here to attend their daughter’s graduation from Stanford. There was no staff car to take them to their favorite Bay Area spots, but they did manage to get to Chef Chu’s for dinner and the picture.

What advice does this long-time EIA partner have for new volunteers? “Take partners with children,” says Betty.

Homestay Hosting

Karen McNay, who chairs Homestay is worried. As of August 23, she has 58 students requesting that a Homestay family host them for a few days, but right now 21 Americans have volunteered.

In order to tell you more about hosting we called up one of our Homestay volunteers to find out what’s involved.

Sanjay Saigal, who graduated from Rice, came to the U.S. twenty-seven years ago. He knows what it is like to be a stranger in a new land. No one met him at the airport. He had to call around to find a place to stay. Sanjay and his wife Julie Richards, who works at Vaden Health Center, have hosted for two years.

The surprise was his advice. Many people may think that their job as a host is to provide a bed, meals, transportation, and then to introduce them to the Bay Area as you would with any guest to your home. Actually, at this point tourist sites aren’t as important. Internationals need to learn survival skills. A grocery store, as an example, displays four grades of milk: whole milk, 2 percent, 1 percent, and no fat. “Non fat! What’s that? At home we have milk.” The clothes are different here too. There is nothing wrong with that, but if you don’t want to stick out you want to learn American styles. Even if you have watched American TV and movies, can you trust what you have seen?

An American host might be shy about talking about personal issues. Yet, what is considered a sensitive subject varies from country to country, and unlike American kids internationals may look to their parents for clues as to how to behave as adults. So, Sanjay is open. He says, “fairly prescriptive.” He will discuss topics like perfume and deodorant that are not used in the same way here. He didn’t mention it, but I suspect that the lessons our fathers taught us about how a man shakes a hand to show that he is not a cold fish, aren’t taught the same way in other nations.

If you are nervous about crossing boundaries, you can say as you should always say in EIA, “If a topic comes up that makes either of us uncomfortable, one of us will say so, and we’ll move on to something else.” I bet you will never hear that. They want to know.

So, if you would like to be helpful to an intelligent young person who will value what you say, give Karen McNay a call at 650/327-7041 or email at kmcnay@apr.com.

CALENDAR

Tuesday, 9/6, Community Advisor folder stuffing, 10 A.M., I-Center

Thursday, 9/8, Community Advisors Orientation, 10 A.M., I-Center

Monday, 9/12, Community Advisors shifts begin

Saturday, 9/24, CCIS Bay Area Bus Tour, 9 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

Saturday, 9/24, CCIS Classical Music Concert, 4:30, I-Center

Monday, 9/26 Stanford Classes begin

Monday, 9/26, CCIS Reception opens, 2:00 – 4:30

Friday, 9/30 Friday Coffee, 10 A.M. – noon, Welcome Reception for International Spouses

Monday, 10/17, CCIS Board Meeting, I-Center, 10 A.M.

Sunday, 11/20, Potluck & Music Night, I-Center, 6 P.M.

Monday, 11/21, CCIS Board Meeting, 10 A.M.

Tuesday – Friday, 11/22 – 11/25, Thanksgiving Break

Monday, 12/5, CCIS Holiday Luncheon, Michael’s Shoreline, 11:30 A.M.



Community Committee for International Students
584 Capistrano Way
Stanford, California 94305

Address Service Requested



S
T
A
R
T

*Friday Morning Coffee in the New Guinea Sculpture Garden.
With construction taking place at the I-Center this summer, the FMC crew
had to move from the Assembly Room and patio.*



E
N
D



A page for our electronic friends

This page is going to be a little crazy. We work so hard to make the Communiqué informative, easy to read, and, according to the editor if no one else, a little elegant that we need someplace to kick the furniture around. Furniture in newsletter speak includes those standard items like nameplates, logos, mastheads, borders and white space, and page numbers that define and confine. If after a long spell of the cleanness of Google you hanker for some chaos, you might try what is considered by sophisticated website designers to be the worst site on the whole net. Sophisticated designers, of course, are those who agree with me.

<http://world.ty.com>

But I should warn you to turn the sound down first.

We get that way sometimes. Oh, for some clutter.

Where the main pages of the Communiqué focuses on news and events, the primary focus here will be to offer ideas and challenges to ELA partners who are looking for topics and activities for their meetings with internationals. We've been doing that for a while now. You can look for the back issues at...

https://ccisstanfordu.org/communiqué_arc.shtml

Here's what we've done so far...

1. In the winter issue of 2011, page 4, we wrote of how you could use ordinary words like “fish,” “hand,” and “plant” to expand vocabulary beyond the simple understanding of the word. Yes, we learn in first year English that a fish is an aquatic animal, but what happens when the word is used as in “fishing for a compliment,” or “a fish out of water, or “other fish to fry.”
2. In the spring issue of 2010, page 7 – 8 electronic, we ran a chart of the American system of government as a guide to understanding the structure of American government—the three branches, federalism, and all that and how the local postal worker is related to a Supreme Court justice. Nobody said a word about it. Still great for the job.
3. Also in the spring issue of 2010, page 3, in order to help with the Primary election, we talked about the Voters Handbook. Boring book, but wins the award for the best resource that is mostly ignored. There is an immense amount of information in the Voters Handbook that is often overlooked. Stuff like a description of political parties and what the various office holders, like the Controller do, and it comes in different languages so that when you are not as fluent as you would like to be you can still exercise your hard earned citizenship in an intelligent manner. How many democracies work as hard as California to help the voter make a thoughtful decision?
4. In the fall issue of 2009, page 4, we listed some Country and Western lyrics such as “He’s a heart ache looking for a place to happen,” and “I’m biting my nails and thinking of you.” There are better ones than that.
5. In the winter issue of 2007, page 5, we reported on some slang that an EIA partner, Sheng Chen, had heard on campus. Stuff like, “sticking his neck out,” “ground breaking,” “put it on my tab,” and “anything goes, but he’ll take it personal.” Good slang to try for translations into other languages. The metaphors will be related but not often identical.
6. Also in the winter issue of 2007, page 4, Meg Morris introduced a bookstore and a list of books helpful to English learners. Unfortunately, the brick and mortar store in Burlingame has closed, but they have a website:

www.altaesl.com

and you always have Amazon.

7. In the spring issue of 2007, page 5, we continued with more of Shang’s slang. “A tad on the big side,” “It takes an ape to ape,” and “I was struck by...”

There’s nothing really crazy about all that. You may find these sources helpful. In the next issue we intend to venture further. If in the end you think that we’ve gotten a little preachy or annoying, please let us know. We don’t want to bore. I’d like to hear from you. My name is John.

communiqué@ccisStanfordU.org

A last minute entry on another topic...

Karen McNay received a note from a former Homestay student that contained a Youtube link about the relationship between international students and their host families. The inspiring talk which takes about a minute and a half was made by Sect. of State Hilliary Clinton. The story is familiar to CCIS volunteers. You don’t need to subscribe to anything to watch a Youtube video. It’s like turning on TV. You can check it out at...

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=YRP3PbaE-cA