



SEF grants 34 awards



2011-12 Spouse Education Fund Grant Recipients and Committee

The Spouse Education Fund awards scholarships each year to the spouses of Stanford's international graduate students, post docs, and scholars. The grants are set up at a maximum of \$500 to pay tuition, books, and supplies at community colleges, Stanford's Continuing Studies program, and other places of higher education. The grants have assisted in obtaining nursing degrees at DeAnza College, graduation from San Francisco's Culinary Academy, and has facilitated the exploration of new career paths for spouses who perhaps are looking for a change in their career.

Funding of these scholarships has come primarily from contributions of CCIS members and from the Stanford Credit Union. Last year the Continuing Studies program waived their fees for eleven spouses, and this year they raised that number to fifteen individuals.

Several scholarships are named in honor of CCIS members.

The Marianne Dieckmann Award

Sunmi Seol from South Korea received this

Award to support her studies in Instructional Technology at San Francisco State University. She will be taking a class in Design and Management of Training Projects. Sunmi's university education in Korea prepared her to be a software engineer at Samsung Electronics where she worked for five years before accompanying her husband and children to Stanford.

Despite having studied English beginning in middle school she found conversational English difficult. She went to the Friday Morning Coffee and that led to the CCIS English classes, and eventually she was matched with an EIA partner. Since free time is short for spouses with children, her partner would come to her house to help Sunmi with her writing. When her children entered school, she had the time to go to the Stanford Library four or five hours a day.

Although her university major and professional career had been in engineering, Sunmi wanted to pursue a degree in education. This fall she began studying at San Francisco State for a degree in education.

In another CCIS English class she met the spouse of Stanford Education professor Paul Kim and through him joined the POMI (Programmable Open Mobile Internet) project and is working with Dr. Kim to assist education in the U.S., India, Malaysia, and Argentina. One of her mobile applications was developed to teach people with HIV/AIDS in Rwanda.

Sunmi is concerned about other spouses at Stanford who need encouragement to take a chance on something new. She has organized a small group of women with children who meet once a week. The conversation is in English, and in the pressure free environment of a spouse class, it works well.

Sunmi herself heard about the SEF grant through a friend and she says that she, "...is happy that her effort to increase her skills has been recognized."

The Charlene Ward Grant

Annette Potvin is a field biologist from Alberta, Canada. Her family name is French and her great, great grandfather was among the first explorers in Quebec. On the Scottish side of the family was an early explorer in British Columbia. Many of the men, as was

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Volunteers
Needed
For

- English in Action
- CCIS Reception Desk

President's column

Carolyn Gannon



The fall term was a bustling one for international students and CCIS volunteers alike. Numbers don't tell the whole story, but they should be shared, as they were very impressive:

- Over 550 incoming international students and scholars received orientation by Community Advisor volunteers over an intensive two-week period—a period that will be lengthened next year.
- Over 100 students borrowed goods from the Loan Closet. One happily remarked, “This is just like Christmas!”
- Over 60 internationals enjoyed American home life for three to five days as part of the Homestay program.
- Nearly 70 internationals were paired with American families for the Hospitality program
- 65-120 international adults and children enjoyed the weekly Friday Coffee program even during the summer months.
- The 11 weekly English Classes were filled to overflowing such that the large Assembly Room was needed for some classes
- Over 150 internationals had English-in-Action partners by calendar year end—all new partnerships in the Fall term
- The Professional Liaison Program provided several “Career Round Table” discussion sessions, in addition to its regular task of pairing internationals with a professional in their field for a one-time meeting
- 34 international spouses were awarded small grants from the Spouse Education Fund—a record this year.
- The Fall Term Potluck Music Night was a huge success. The next one is at 6 o'clock on Sunday, February 12th.
- Over 600 internationals stopped by the CCIS Reception Desk during the two busiest weeks in the fall. Reception Desk volunteers continue to provide a friendly face and helpful information every weekday afternoon, and Friday mornings
- The CCIS website continues to get about 500 hits a month split between new visitors and returning visitors. It's the “go-to place” for information about CCIS: www.ccisstanfordu.org

All of you who are CCIS members and volunteers make this happen. Please invite your friends to learn more about CCIS and become part of the “bustle.”

CALENDAR

**Potluck Music Night Sunday,
Feb. 12, 6 – 8:30**

**CCIS Board meeting and
Brunch with I-Center Staff
Monday, Feb. 13, 9 – 10:30**

**EIA Volunteer Reception
Friday, March 9, 4 – 7:00**

**CCIS Board meeting Monday,
March 19 10:00 AM – 11:30**

**Communiqué Mailing Party
Thursday, April 12 9:00 –
11:00**

**CCIS Board meeting Monday,
April 16 10:00 AM – 11:30**

**Potluck/Music Night on Sun-
day, May 6, 6 – 8:30**

**CCIS Annual meeting Mon-
day, May 21 4 – 6:00 P.M.**

Community Committee for International Students

www.ccisStanfordU.org

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Abroad

ISIC cards and passport photos

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Diane Murk, Manager, 650/723-0856, dmurk@

Programs for Spouses/Partners & Families

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

Director's column

John Pearson

In Fall Quarter I gave a talk to the Stanford Historical Society on The History of International Students at Stanford. I understand I am to repeat it at this year's CCIS Annual Meeting. It was fun to prepare the talk and I hope to make some changes before May. What made it fun was going through boxes of old historical documents and files at Bechtel. These include old reports, photos, memos, press cuttings and more statistics that anyone should ever need. One day we will turn all this material into a permanent exhibit. It was interesting to see how the international student population has changed through the years. We know that the numbers of international students has grown considerably but it is the changes within this population that is worth noting. All those years from the late 1940s to the late 1970s when there were no mainland Chinese students, the time in the late 1960s and early 1970s when the Third World Union questioned the role of Bechtel and indeed of CCIS, the decline of OPEC students and especially from Iran after 1979, the growth of international student organizations, now numbering well over 40, and the changing involvement of Bechtel with international students. There is also a wealth of information on CCIS. However, we know there is more historical material out there. We are searching out basement files for what we know are boxes of pictures. We cannot find, for example, the montage we made many years ago of the last orientation bike auction. I know it is somewhere! Our hope is to develop an entertaining and informative exhibit over the next year and if you have any items that we could copy, old photos, articles etc, we would be delighted to have them.

With very best wishes for 2012.

Members enjoy holiday party

Eighty members and guests attended the CCIS sit-down luncheon on Monday, December 5, at Michael's Shoreline in Mountain View. People were pleased with the food, the environment next to the lake, the easy parking, and especially the chance to renew friendships with other volunteers.

Dee Gustavson, Events chair, and Karen McNay, who co-chairs Community Advisors and chairs Homestay, organized the event.

Carolyn Gannon introduced the four speakers who were Stanford internationals. Kathryn Takabvirwa is working on a Ph.D. in anthropology. She is from Zimbabwe and is involved in the Hospitality program as is Julia Tornandt, a spouse from Germany. Cristian Varisco, from Italy, is studying for a Ph.D. in French-Italian Renaissance Literature. When Cristian came to Stanford she was connected to a CCIS family through the Homestay program. The final speaker was Lait Chobadi, a spouse from Israel who was also greeted by Homestay hosts. Each of the speakers expressed to the members their gratefulness for the friendships made through CCIS's programs.



Profiles: Marianne Dieckmann



We regret to report that Marianne Dieckmann passed away at her home on Monday, January 23, after a long bout with cancer. Her niece and nephew came from Europe to be with her in her last days. A memorial service will be held in mid February. Please check with the website where details will be posted when plans are finalized. www.ccisstanfordu.org

A few weeks ago we spoke with Marianne in whose name a scholarship award was established this year by the Spouse Education Fund committee. Marianne has been a stalwart volunteer and leader since her retirement from Stanford. She matched EIA partners longer than any other person in recent memory—serving as EIA co-chair from 2005 to 2010.

Marianne was raised in Berlin, Germany. Fascinated with life science she studied biology at Humboldt University, one of Germany's premier educational institutions. Established in 1805, despite the high caliber of its graduates and the number of awards its professors have received, the 20th Century was not kind to the university. In the 1930s, about 30 percent of its faculty was fired or chose to leave because

of Nazi anti-semitism. Book burning took place in the libraries. Towards the end of the war, allied bombing destroyed many classrooms and laboratories. You can still see evidence of bullets that broke the smooth surface of marble columns. Then, in 1945, Berlin was divided into four sectors and Humboldt found itself on the east side of the Brandenburg Gate. The Soviets ruled, imposing a different set of authoritarian policies.

As a medical researcher in Berlin Marianne was caught up in this. She remembers life after World War II when everyone was hungry and the only men in Berlin were Russian soldiers. Marianne didn't like Berlin at that point. She found it too confining. In 1957, she was kicked out because she refused to write a paper favorable to Communism. Fortunately, this was before East Berlin was closed off by the Wall, and she was able to follow a physician friend's advice to come to the United States.

Marianne becomes a German speaking immigrant to the U.S.

She got a job at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. It was a routine, low-level job serving patients—not the research job she was prepared for. She also studied English, and at the end of a year had to find another sponsor.

St. Louis was the next stop. She was recruited by Paul Berg at Washington University. Marianne said that they were marvelous there. Expecting to be met at the airport by Dr. Berg, she saw, instead, a young man. "Good grief," Marianne thought, "they've sent a graduate student to pick me up." The young man turned out to be Paul Berg himself.

Historically, Stanford has aggressively sought the finest faculty. In the late 1950's the university was interested in moving their medical facility from San Francisco to the Stan-

ford campus and enlarging the medical school. When Paul Berg was recruited by Stanford, he said he would go only if he could take his whole team. Thus began Marianne's long and productive career at Stanford University. The research that they had collaborated on was very early work in the bio industry. They did it as scientists interested in new solutions to human problems rather than as entrepreneurs. Marianne said that Dr. Berg was opposed to patents in science. She and Paul Berg wrote many research papers together, and when Dr. Berg was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1980, Marianne accompanied him and his family to Stockholm for the award ceremony. The trip was a highlight of Marianne's career.

Beyond being a Research Associate Marianne said that she would be the one to take care of the bright and enthusiastic graduate students and post-docs who were eager to win Nobel Prizes in their first year. With a subtle smile she implied that she became the elder scholar who urged patience.

Both Marianne and Dr. Berg retired in 1998.

Marianne's family still lives in Europe. Her brother has four children with whom Marianne was close. One is a pediatrician in France.

Volunteer work in EIA

In the spring of 2005, two people independent of each other responded to an announcement in the *Communiqué* volunteering to take on the formidable task of EIA chair: Marianne Dieckmann and Mary Lyn Mosely. EIA is the most demanding of all of the positions on the Board. Anywhere from 150 to 250 requests are made each year by students and spouses asking for conversation partners. The requests come in all year long. To make the match the chairs must interview volunteers and the internationals, then find the right match, conduct training of volunteers, and finally follow up to make sure that the match is working. Recruiting new volunteers becomes the order of the day. Marianne was EIA co-chair for five years. During her tenure, CCIS received resolutions from both the state Assembly and Senate honoring the work of EIA.

Marianne said, "Life is too easy in California. You can go hiking and all that stuff. Take a sleeping bag, go into the woods. You don't need a tent."

Spouse Fund Awards

Continued from Spouse Fund, p. 1

the French experience in America, married Cree and Iroquois women. So it's fitting that Annette would be adventuresome and love the outdoors.

She recalls as a young girl that it was her mother who was passionate about birds—eagerly waiting the arrival of the season's first robins. Annette was not interested. With her father she would watch birds on TV. Then she took a college class, or the class took her, for she discovered that now she was that person—the one nuts about birds.

Her first job was in forestry. She tracked birds and found their nests. She caught them, banded them, and took samples of their blood. She checked the water quality of their environment, the impact of human population growth on birds in both urban and rural environments. Having studied birds she can provide data to developers, loggers, and cities. Yes, there is a better time to release water from reservoirs than when birds are nesting or flying through.

Field biology can be tough and risky with “encounters with dangerous animals, falling trees, and hiking in treacherous terrain in unpredictable weather.” You can be in the wilderness for two months, hundreds of miles from help. Annette has a first aid certificate, and will enhance her skills with this Award through a Wilderness First Responder course offered by Sierra Rescue.

NOTE: due to the limitations of space we are unable to include the interviews of two other recipients who graciously told us their stories. We hope to include them in the spring issue of the *Communiqué*.

Sheila Spaeth Award

Melissa Hohmann from Chile received the award towards training to assist women in childbirth, so she can educate women in Chile on the variety of options available to them.

Stanford Federal Credit Union Award

Amina Stetsenko from Almaty, Kazakhstan for materials to study to become a Certified Public Accountant.

Stanford Continuing Studies Awards (tuition waivers)

Akiko Ode, Japan, in business: Marketing for the Non-marketing Professional

Bai-lei Xiong, China, in business: Building Your Own Online Community

Djordja Padejejski, Serbia, for a writing class

Giulia Vescovi, Italy, in business: Building Your Own Online Community

Hiroko Yamada, Japan, in Treating Behavior Disorders in Children

Hiromi Imai, Japan, in business: Building Your Own Online Community

HyunAh Seo, South Korea, in presenting in English

Iuliia Gurova, Russia, in business: Building Your Own Online Community

Kathleen Wielemans, Belgium, in anthropology: Writing Systems of the World

Linda von Neree, Germany, in science: Your Genes and Your Health

Luiza de Oliveira Naslausky, Brazil, in business: Marketing for Non-Marketing Professionals

Maria Jose Vargas Perez, Chile, in business: Managing Innovation

MiAe Kang, South Korea, in communications: Public Speaking

Nina Pogorelova, Russia, in business: Getting from an Early Idea to a Real Business

Yookyung Lee, South Korea, in psychology: The Science of Willpower

Other recipients:

Can Chen, China: towards a certificate in basic and advanced life support

Heejeong Kim, South Korea, towards a program in early child development

Huiyan (Debbie) Ng, Singapore, towards the prerequisites for a degree in nursing

Maryam Eslamichalandar, Iran, toward participation in a symposium on intelligent web services and social computing, or towards attending a computer science symposium

Orakarn “Cat” Jewratanawong, Thailand, towards her MBA at the University of Santa Clara

Qian Liu, China, towards classes in studio art

Saskia Jogler, Germany, towards attendance at a conference of the College Art Association

Alexandra Scheel, Germany, for online

courses in California Real Estate

Bei (Beth) Fan, China, towards certification as a Microsoft IT Professional Database Administrator

Britta Jansson, Germany, towards a class in museum studies at San Francisco State's Open University

Chigme Koening, Switzerland, towards a certificate in core strengths coaching at SF State Extended Learning Center

Katarina Srnecova, Czech Republic, towards instruction in driving, California style

Lu Li, China, towards a Master's degree in statistics at Cal State East Bay

Sainan Liu, China, towards a class in engineering in Stanford's Summer Program.

Mika Valta, Finland, in language: French II

Stanford's international spouses are extraordinary women. Their experience in trying to find a place for themselves when first at Stanford is difficult. They find themselves isolated and estranged. Many of them will tell you that they lose their sense of self worth. These are people who have been successful and now to their surprise find their confidence gone. Then someone tells them about CCIS, and their Stanford time unfolds into a rich cornucopia. That's what CCIS and your volunteer efforts are all about.

EIA Corner

The English in Action Committee invites all EIA Volunteers and the CCIS Board of Directors to an EIA Volunteer Appreciation Reception. It will be held at the Bechtel International Center on Friday, March 9, from 4:00 to 7:00 P.M.

In the electronic version of the *Communiqué* is a list of superstitious rituals that are observed in the United States such as various ways to make a wish come true like crossing fingers and blowing out the candles on a birthday cake. You may find it intriguing to discuss and compare our magic with those of the country of your EIA partner.

If you don't have access to the web come by the I-Center between 2:00 and 4:30 for a copy. Otherwise, try this link:

<http://www.ccisstanfordu.org>

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***The Potluck/Music Night
of November 13, 2011***

The next one will be on Sunday,
February 12, from 6 - 8:30 P.M.
Bring a salad, entree, or des-
sert, and your EIA or Hospitality
partner.



A page for our electronic friends

EIA Corner

Things you might consider for a conversation with your partner

When a man carries his bride over the threshold he may be more concerned with not banging his wife against the door jam than in thinking about why he was doing such a silly thing. Later it may occur to him that perhaps he had been replicating an ancient test that measured his agility. Even later he might wonder if it came from some barbaric tradition in cave-people-days where the male would grab an attractive female by the hair to drag her off to his well-prepared cave. Neither of those reasons apply. Apparently, ancient folks believed that if the newly adorned bride stumbled or fell when entering the new home it would mean bad luck. Thus the husband should carry her over the threshold to reduce the risk.

Here at CCIS we aren't concerned with how well you deal with superstitious rituals, but acknowledging that they exist in such a sophisticated society isn't all that bad. It can also be great fun to compare our rituals, the things that we sometimes do without thinking, with those of other countries. What better opportunity is there than at a meeting between EIA partners? Here's a list that almost any fluent

American will recognize. Google "American superstitions" for more information about these and other practices.

Superstitious rituals practiced in America

- Crossing fingers for good luck
- Throwing salt over your left shoulder
- Opening an umbrella in a house
- Carrying a rabbit's foot for good luck
- Blowing out all the candles of your birthday cake on the first try in order to get your wish
- Not walking under ladders
- Plucking the petals off of a flower while saying, "She loves me. "She loves me not."
- Ground Hog Day. What does it mean if he sees his shadow?
- Hanging a horseshoe with the opening at the top to catch good luck
- Breaking a mirror
- Standing under mistletoe allows others to kiss you
- Wishing on a star. (Star light, star bright, first star I see tonight...)
- Throwing a coin in a fountain
- Chanting, "Rain, rain, go away. Come again another day."
- Finding a four leaf clover
- Spitting on a new baseball bat before using it
- Never beginning a voyage on a Friday
- Knocking on wood
- Pulling a chicken or turkey wishbone apart. The person who gets the biggest piece gets their wish.
- A bride having "Something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue"
- Seeing a rainbow is good luck

And the all time winner...Number 13. Hospitals and hotels have no room number 13. 80 percent of high-rises lack a 13th floor. Many airports skip the 13th gate. Many cities do not have a 13th Street or 13th Avenue. Many of those who fear the unlucky number, known as triskaidekaphobes from the number 13 in Greek, point to the ill-fated mission to the moon, Apollo 13.