



When You Know You Made It



Lotte Goos, Heidelberg, Germany



Chen Ran, Tsingtao, China



Matthias Rüd, Winterthur, Switzerland

Everybody needs help

That's the way CCIS works: people responding to the needs of people. When you look at all of our programs you see the diverse needs: learning English, understanding the American culture, and making friends in a new and strange place. And for volunteers it's the opportunity to become a reliable friend to someone from another country, to learn first hand about another culture, and to give back to a world that has been generous to America.

As the images above suggest, for some internationals their first day at Stanford may seem like the best day of their life. Then there is the next day and the day after that and the day after that when they begin to learn that the grocery store has many varieties of flour and milk and cooking oil. Which should they buy? That Americans form lines for everything, and jumping the line can get you angry looks if not worse. That you don't eat a bagel by stabbing it with a fork to bite a piece off. No one wants to be embarrassed. They need a friend.

Ten years ago Gwyn Dukes, who at that time was on the I-Center staff, sensed a need for spouses to get together for conversation. When she asked CCIS for help, a new program was begun called the International Womens Circle. Sixty or so spouses would meet one evening in the fall at the I-Center to form conversation groups of about ten people who would then, on a rotating basis, meet once a month in each other's apartment. One rule was that the group's members had to come from different countries so that each spoke in their

new tongue, English. The second rule was that it was Mom's night out. It was Dad's chance to be a father. The IWC was a success. As other programs developed, however, the International Womens Circle just petered out. Signs of life reappeared two years ago in discussions at the Friday Morning Coffee.

This was not a difficult program to facilitate, but someone has to have the time and energy to provide the organizational skills. Staffers will tell you that CCIS volunteers are an important secret to the I-Center's success.

That is what we hope to explore with you—an opportunity to find your own passion within the programs of CCIS. We're not in the guilt trip business, however, and you need not take on a responsibility that makes you uncomfortable. Each of these programs is led by a volunteer, just like you, who would love to have you join in the fun. Experienced, they are willing and able to answer your questions. We have talked with many people: students, volunteers, and CCIS leaders. Drawing from what they have learned you can gain a good

idea about what CCIS is all about.

Some programs are as easy as donating a few household items to the Loan Closet. Some require a weekly commitment.

The opportunity is there right now. You could be meeting with someone new within a week. Last year 220 internationals were matched with EIA partners. They come in all year long, and in late July thirty were waiting for an American partner. It's up to you.

Fill out your membership form

M
TODAY

President's column

Carolyn Gannon



Summer is here and our thoughts lean toward the influx of incoming international students arriving in September. Some CCIS program chairs are gearing up for fall intensive activity—such as Community Adviser, Homestay, Hospitality, English-in-Action, Loan Closet, Spouse Education Fund, and Professional Liaison—and others, such as Friday Coffee and English Classes, continue their programs throughout the year. For all CCIS programs, summertime is when we especially want to engage our dedicated volunteers and reach out to new volunteers.

In this mailing along with the Communiqué, you are receiving your CCIS Annual Membership Renewal form and an insert highlighting the success of last year's Spouse Education Fund and an appeal for continued support for SEF grant funds. Please review the volunteer opportunities and select all of the ones you would like to participate in. The chair of each program you've chosen will then be in touch with you. Please note that we are seeking a volunteer who would like to organize Potluck Music Nights, a very popular event held once each academic term.

We have a few new requirements for CCIS volunteers: volunteers need to be CCIS members (which they are by completing the CCIS Annual Renewal form), volunteers need to agree to follow the CCIS Guiding Principles (see <http://www.ccisstanfordu.org/information/CCIS-Volunteers-Guiding-Principles-v3.pdf> on the CCIS website), and need to have personal health insurance and car insurance (if they are driving Stanford internationals in their car).

Being a CCIS volunteer has such rewards. For internationals, CCIS volunteers provide a personal connection and bond that can be life-long. For volunteers, it can be stimulating, broadening and fun!

My husband and I have a young Kenyan with us for the summer who is interested in applying to Stanford as an undergraduate. As we walk around Stanford campus with him, we share his excitement in all that Stanford offers. Being a CCIS volunteer, I appreciate how much Stanford connects with the community through volunteer opportunities like CCIS.

Thank you for your continued support for CCIS and the Bechtel International Center. Your volunteerism and financial support allow CCIS to continue offering programs that well serve Stanford's international community.

CALENDAR

The summer is a time of preparation. There will be a day-long retreat for the CCIS Board to plan the activities of 2012 – 13. Recruiting and matching for Homestay is taking place now, and Community Advisors will take place when school opens. The Membership database will be updated from the responses of CCIS members to the Annual Membership Renewal form.

August 13, Board retreat, Dave & Dee Gustavson's home, 10 – 3:00

August 20 – September 21, Homestay hosts internationals in their homes

September 5 – 21, Monday – Friday, Community Advisors, I-Center, 9:00 – 5:00

Community Committee for International Students

www.ccisStanfordU.org

Various methods have been developed to hide email addresses from spammers and web crawlers. The Communiqué likes the [at] and [dot] approach. Please substitute the proper character for each. That is, @ for [at] and . for [dot].

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Homestay, Karen McNay
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Loan Closet, Mary Pat Gaspich
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CCIS Communiqué

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Director's column

John Pearson

Here is an alternative approach to hiding addresses from spammers: Please add the staff member's prefix to the general address:

@stanford.edu.

Thus it would look like lipsum@stanford.edu.

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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@](mailto:dmurk@stanford.edu)

Programs for Spouses/Partners & Families

Send email to Susanne Maas, [smaas@](mailto:smaas@stanford.edu)

or visit the Resource Center for International Families

Dear CCIS,

Summer is an interesting time--caught between the end of one academic year and the beginning of the next. Somewhere in my memory I seem to recall that summer was a little less hectic than other times of the year. I no longer think this way. The internet has made it possible for new students to ask questions that, in years past, they would have kept until arrival. So we are in communication a lot more with incoming students, and scholars. As of today Bechtel has issued immigration documents for 989 new international graduate and undergraduate students who either began their studies this summer or will arrive in the fall. This number compares with the last few years though we expect it to increase in the next few weeks.

But we have also been busy in other areas. Bechtel assisted with the coordination of the annual meeting of the Marshall Scholars Association, held for the first time on the west coast (and at Stanford). We are also hosting a two day conference for new scholarship advisors. Then, and how could I not mention this, there is the summer renovation activities. This summer the roof is being repaired, the building being painted and some new outside lights being installed. We are assured it will all be finished by Orientation! Because of this we are, once again, having to limit our programs offered at Bechtel this summer. But with CCIS's 60th and Bechtel's 50th Anniversaries in 2013 it is good to have this work done.

For those who may be interested our Annual Report for 2010-2011 is now on the Bechtel web site and I think it shows just what a valuable service is provided by both Bechtel and CCIS.

You can view the Annual Report at http://icenter.stanford.edu/about_us/annual_report/index.html

I hope everyone is having a wonderful summer--with the Olympics still to come...what more could we ask for...perhaps decent weather in London?

Very best wishes
John

John Pearson receives Cuthbertson Award

Stanford University News

The Kenneth M. Cuthbertson Award for Exceptional Contributions to Stanford University, which was established by members of the faculty in 1981, was named after one of the early architects of Stanford's long-term financial planning and fundraising program.

John Pearson was honored "for 27 years of unparalleled work on behalf of the international community at Stanford." The award cited Pearson "for his compassionate and thoughtful support of virtually every corner of the university -- working with visiting scholars and new faculty appointees, reaching out to international students and their families, helping undergraduates and graduate students as they consider study or research abroad, and advising on issues of security and risk."

Pearson also was commended "for his careful management of the nomination process and mentoring of students through all stages of such scholarship competitions as the Rhodes, Marshall and Fulbright with extraordinary success: Stanford students have led the nation in the last few years in being selected for many of these prestigious awards."

The award also cited Pearson "for his warmth and his humor, which put people at ease and make every interaction a pleasure" and "for being 'the voice of Stanford that first welcomes students from abroad.'"

Photo Courtesy of Stanford News Service



Volunteer stories

by John Heron

The volunteers of CCIS are a diverse group. What unites them is the desire to get to know people from around the world. There is something very special about the graduate students and spouses we meet: they are excited to be spending time in America where they, or their spouse, are pursuing more education or training that will help them in their professional lives. In preparing this story four CCIS volunteers were interviewed. They provided stories, pictures, and advice. Frequently we report stories about extraordinary volunteers. For these stories, however, we will focus more closely on the background of the internationals and of the activities engaged in by the partners.

Kaye and Bob Paugh have been with CCIS for five years. Bob was encouraged by an older sister, Gwen Weisner, one of CCIS's early activists.

Bob and Kaye met when they were undergraduates at Stanford. They have four adult children. Bob is a physicist who worked for high tech companies in the Bay Area. Kaye was a high school English teacher and an academic counselor. Both are happily retired now.

Since Bob likes to cook, the Paughs often have their partners come to dinner. Following Bob's instructions, eight to ten people choose to join him in the kitchen to prepare the meal, and that can lead to some interesting moments in EIA. On one occasion one of the students was sent to the store to get some flour. Fine, except when the student got to the flour section she was faced with a multitude of choices: white flour, brown flour, bread flour, cake flour, even Bisquick! She had never seen that before in Korea. As a resourceful Stanford student, she took a photo with her cell phone, sent the photo to Bob to ask which was needed.

Bob's first partner was Chen Chen Wang. Although the length of their partnership defies the rule that EIA should last one year, the Paughs have compensated for violating the rule by taking additional partners every year from Japan, Korea, Taiwan, and China. As Chen Chen approaches the final year in her Ph.D. studies, the partnership is entering its fifth year.

When Chen Chen decided to get a car it was her boyfriend who taught her to drive with Bob carefully monitoring her progress as she drove to his home for EIA sessions and cautiously parked the car in front of his house. As Kaye says, one pleasure of the friendship is the innocence that they find in these internationals. They are unpolished in some ways, but eager to do well and to learn everything, and are not inhibited in any way about accepting offers of help. They want to know everything about Americans—the food, hobbies, parks!

For the Paughs the benefits are reciprocal. As Kaye says, "It's always a learning experience. We had partners from China and Taiwan whom we wanted to invite for dinner. Would

they come knowing that the other guest would be from the other country with potentially strongly different political views?" Well, of course, they would, but the politics were put aside and they had a great evening. There seems to be no limit to what you can share—even divergent points of view.

The Paugh's advice? Don't fear. It's easy. Everyone is accommodating. At the beginning, Bob at the suggestion of Kaye, a lifetime classroom teacher, did a lot of planning for each meeting. He eventually learned that it was unnecessary. Conversation is topical. You can look at and explain decorations for holidays and be a tourist guide when your partner is going to explore California or the Southwest. You can also be the audience when they must make a presentation in class. It doesn't hurt to be responsive and resourceful.

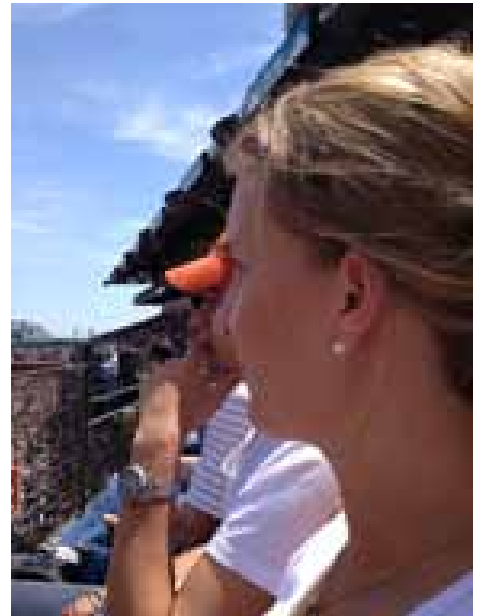
Susan and Bob Finocchio are first year CCIS volunteers. As Hospitality hosts they were matched for five months with Ben Yao from Taiwan. Ben, 42, had lived in California before as a student and now came as a short term visiting scholar to the Hoover Institution. Ben's wife and their two children were here for the Chinese New Year's holiday. The Finocchio's invited them for a barbeque, and she and Susan enjoyed exchanging stories about education in Taiwan and California.

In October another matching brought newlyweds Monica and Andres Gavito from Mexico City. Although only 26 years old, they are well traveled in Europe. Monica, who is fluent in English, is finishing her degree in Hospitality Management. Andres is earning an MBA. Both are fluent in English.

Susan says that it has been a wonderful experience—that the Gavitos are warm and gracious. They are close in age to the Finocchio's sons. After their first dinner at the Finocchio's home a thoughtful gift appeared in their mailbox: the book, *Start Up Nation*. Bob and Andres had talked about entrepreneurs and economies. Susan says, "We feel privileged. We learn about Mexico, and we are able to provide a window into what our life is like here."

Susan and Bob who are lifetime Giants fans invited the Gavitos for the day at the ballpark.

Susan's advice to new volunteers: Share your activities and interests. "We feel very fortunate to have the opportunity to welcome these international students to the U.S.!"



Andres & Monica Gavitos at the Giants.

Susan Wang, another first year volunteer, who was born in China, raised in Hong Kong, and educated at the University of Texas. Her husband, Steven Wade, teaches economics at Santa Clara. Not all CCIS volunteers are native Americans. Susan was once an international graduate student whose first language was not English. She understands the challenge faced by the students from other countries who study in America.

Conversation with John Shoemaker, with whom Susan serves on a corporate board, introduced her to CCIS. His enthusiasm prompted her to consider becoming a CCIS partner. A very busy person, at first she was concerned with the time commitment required for weekly EIA meetings, but the Hospitality program offered the flexibility she needed.

Her first Hospitality partner, Chun Jun Liu, was a visiting scholar from Beijing who as a plastic surgeon was comparing medical practices in China and America. He and his wife, an ophthalmologist, enjoyed dinners at Susan and Steven's home. They had much to

share in the seven months before he returned to China. They are in touch online and look forward to being together again.

Having had such a great partnership Susan decided to try the EIA program. Her second partner, a spouse from Korea, who was so shy when she first came to Stanford that for two years she was too timid to seek an EIA partner. Susan understood the nervousness. Face-to-face conversation can seem threatening. So, Susan and Angie do more than sit in a coffee shop practicing English. They have explored museums, antique shops, and grocery stores. They like to walk through Foothill Park. A



Eunyong (Angie) Ji at Foothill Park

recent highlight was hiking at Skyline Ridge which was breathtakingly beautiful this spring.

Having faced down her shyness, Angie is now taking classes at San Francisco State despite the fact that she must take Caltrain and then transfer via BART and buses to get to

her classes. It is a two hour trip surrounded by English speaking strangers.

Susan and her husband have entertained Angie, actually Eunyong Ji, and her husband for dinner in their home.

Susan says, "I tend to slow down and use simple words but in fact, I believe I should speak normally and throw in slang so that I have an opportunity to explain the usage of slangs that are used so commonly but can befuddle foreigners. She likes being engaged with young people, and, referring to the hikes, says, "It gets me out."

Kristina Stevens, the youngest of the volunteers we interviewed, is a local girl born in the Stanford Hospital. She grew up in Los Altos, and yet she has spent extensive time as a student in Spain and Mexico. She was a Peace Corp volunteer in Honduras before returning to Stanford to work at designing and maintaining the website for the Center for Latin American Studies.

Recalling her host mother in Spain and in Mexico Kristina is grateful for the help she received. Wanting to reconnect with people from other countries, Kristina realized that it was time to give back. A referral by the Alumni Association led her to Hospitality and the Friday Morning Coffee.

Her partner is Indie Choudhury whose father was the speech writer for the president of Bangladesh. In a coup d' état before she was born the president and his entire fam-

ily were assassinated. Her parents escaped to London. Indie grew up to be a curator at the Tate Museum. She came to Stanford to earn a Ph.D. in art history.

Excited to be matched with someone close in age and interested in art, Indie wanted to know where all the hot spots were to study—cafes where you could set up a laptop, places that she could get to via the Marguerite. Local and cultural advice is sought by EIA partners. Kristina and Indie would go shopping for clothes. Although an experienced graduate student, Indie was caught by surprise at the workload at Stanford. She felt overwhelmed. Having grown up in America, Kristina had acquired the requisite study skills. She said to Indie, "You can't read everything. So you have to figure out what is important within a reading assignment." Thus Indie acquired the study skills that are the survival skills of Stanford students. Since Indie's program requires one of several foreign languages, she decided to enter a summer immersion program in Spanish held in Oakland. In packing for the summer move Indie needed boxes, but stores now recycle the ones they have. Where do you get boxes and how do you get them to a student apartment? In Kristina's car, of course. Staples isn't that far away.

Kristina's advice to new volunteers: Don't come in with your own agenda. Work with what they bring in. It is good if there is an age similarity between partners.

Perhaps this description of volunteer experiences may enhance your vision of CCIS. On the next page you will find a brief description of our volunteer programs. We close with photos of family fun by two of our program chairs. More photos are online at ccisStanfordU.org.



Buying the first bike can be a challenge. Our student from China was enthusiastic about selecting his bike, helmet, lock and even a bright reflective vest. But he had never ridden a bike. Fortunately with the help of his Hospitality partner it took only about 6 hours to learn. Thanks to Donna Shoemaker for this and the next photo.



Lotte Goos, from Germany, wanted to spend a traditional Halloween with us, greeting Trick 'O Treaters at the door. She was stunned and delighted at how many charming children came. She went back to campus exhausted, with the leftover M&Ms, and thanked us for a wonderful experience.



Holidays and birthdays. These are the times when even a short time spend with a Stanford international means so much. The times when they miss family, and we have the chance to share a bit of American tradition. Thanks to Karen McNay for this photo and the turkey.

CCIS Programs

Select among these programs for the ones that interest you. Then check them on your Membership Form. Programs marked with an **X** need many volunteers. Those marked with a **♥** need early sign-ups. Look to page 2 for contact information.

The Communiqué

Many people make contributions to the newsletter by sharing letters, clippings, and pictures. They are the source of good stories.

Next year we will have vacancies for a writer and a photographer.

Community Advisors **X ♥**

This three week program introduces incoming internationals to the university, the I-Center, and CCIS. CCIS volunteers meet with students for ten to fifteen minutes to help them register and provide an orientation.

Volunteer time is four hours: in the morning it lasts from 9 - 1 and in the afternoon it's from 1 - 5. There is a training session and experienced volunteers are present as resources.

Of the 800 international graduate students who come to Stanford in the fall, some arrive early for the Law School and Business school. Over 550 others are advised by our program.

CCIS Reception Desk

When you enter the I-Center in the afternoon, a CCIS receptionist is there to describe English in Action, Friday Morning Coffee, Professional Liaison and our other programs. They give campus directions, and welcome people new to Stanford.

Plans change this year. The Desk will definitely be open on Friday mornings at the same time as the Friday Morning Coffee. Current Desk volunteers are encouraged to serve in the afternoon. New volunteers are welcome as well. Serving at the Desk is a good way to learn about the I-Center and CCIS. There will, unfortunately, be no substitutes, and so the days when people are absent the Desk will be closed.

English Classes

Inside the I-Center there is a classroom which accommodates twenty-four students. Four days a week internationals come in to learn about American Life and Humor, American Idioms and Issues, Writing Clear English, California Travel, and other subjects—even the Media and the U.S. Culture.

Experience working cooperatively with people is the essential ingredient to becoming a teacher in this program.

English-In-Action **X X**

Our biggest program. Close to 220 partners were matched last year. In EIA a volunteer will meet for an hour weekly with an international for conversation and cultural exchange. There is no fixed agenda for these meetings.

They take place in coffee shops, in parks, and in people's homes. The international must have intermediate speaking skills. They want help with conversation and slang. A volunteer orientation is required.

Events (Potluck/Music Night) **X**

After many years the chair of the Potluck/Music Night retired. We need a new chair. These events take place three times a year. At six o'clock people gather, the potluck dinner is served at 6:30, and at 7:30 music is performed by internationals and Americans. A cadre of volunteers assists the chair.

Friday Coffee

This is a good place for spouses to make friends and become acquainted with Stanford and the Bay Area. Held once a week, spouses can bring their children and enjoy a cup of coffee or tea in a relaxed atmosphere.

The Friday Coffee sponsors a luncheon for International Women's Day in March. The conversational tables, a program similar to the International Women's Circle referred to on page 1, was created by this group.

Homestay **X ♥**

About fifty internationals will arrive at Stanford before the University has housing available. They respond to an invitation in their welcome packet to stay with an American family. When they contact CCIS, we make the match for a three to five day stay.

The American hosts often greet them at the airport. After some rest from the flight, the hosts can escort them to the I-Center to Community Advisors where they finish the registration now required by Homeland Security, and are introduced to the CCIS programs. Usually at the end of Homestay a big barbecue is held so that those involved can meet each other.

Quite often Homestay hosts and guests discover that they want to continue seeing each other, and they remain partners as though they were in Hospitality.

Early sign-ups are needed in this program.

Hospitality **X**

Like English in Action this program matches internationals with volunteers. Unlike EIA it is not designed to improve anyone's English. Thus the internationals that are served are fairly fluent. In fact they may be English speakers from Canada or Australia. Hospitality also provides flexibility for volunteers who find it difficult to meet on a weekly basis.

Traditionally Hospitality hosts invited

their partners into their home for dinners, celebrations, and holidays, but last year some new volunteers were matched who were not able to do in-home hosting, such as recent Stanford grads and other volunteers who live alone. Another change was to discontinue matching internationals who are here with small children, as there are many other CCIS and I-Center programs serving this group. Of course we still welcome volunteers who have children of all ages. A special Hospitality application is online at our website, and you should also mark Hospitality on your Membership Renewal Form.

Loan Closet

Coming to Stanford with bulging luggage means that many household items have been left at home—especially the electrical appliances that operate on 220 volts. That's why we have a Loan Closet where students and families can borrow what they need for the small fee of \$10 for an individual and \$20 for a couple.

CCIS needs two things: donations of useable household items such as pots, pans, linen, silverware, and toasters. Secondly, we need hosts at the Loan Closet who can be scheduled for a few hours when students arrive in the fall.

Professional Liaison

Spouses who are professionals in their own country are matched with American professionals in their field for a day of shadowing.

Spouse Education Fund

The SEF provides an opportunity for the local community to enhance the lives of spouses of international students and scholars. All contributions go towards scholarships of \$100 to \$500 which enable spouses to pursue professional or personal interests while here in the Bay Area. Every donation makes a difference.

The SEF Committee is concerned about our ability to raise funds commensurate with the need. Last year the total sum requested by the applicants was nearly \$16,000, but the amount raised by CCIS was \$6,859. Also at this time the investment return on the Endowment fund is low. As a result, most grants were for less than the amount requested. Fortunately we received 15 tuition waivers from Stanford Continuing Studies, which enabled us to provide grants for all 34 applicants.

Webmaster

We need to acquaint an IT person with our data base and website. It works well, but we could use back-up personnel.

A page for our electronic friends

The content for this issue was simply too much. The spill over of images and text we really liked but couldn't fit in go here. As for layout organization, the metaphor would be your grandmother's attic.



In fall, 2010 we received a Homestay request from Moscow. Ksenia Dmitrieva was not eligible for Stanford campus housing since she was coming with her cat, Barhan, a retired show cat. We've had requests to help with bike and iPhones, but we had never bought cat litter, a water dish, and cat food! Ksenia and her cat arrived at SFO late at night—tired from the long flight, but both Ksenia and Barhan are now part of our extended CCIS Stanford family.
Photo: Donna Shoemaker



Yizhou Xiao from China and John Shoemaker. Holidays and birthdays—these are the times that even a short time spent with a Stanford International means so much. The times when they miss family, and we have the chance to share a bit of American tradition.
Photo: Donna Shoemaker



“Just get the flour?” Hummm, it's good to be explicit when you send an international on an errand to the store.
Photo: Bob Paugh



Seran Kook, from Seoul, South Korea. There are so many local places to visit with internationals when you are involved with the Hospitality Program. Filoli Gardens, the Computer History Museum, and warm cup at Tea Time in Palo Alto, are just a few. You can do the same with EIA.
Photo: Donna Shoemaker

A well stocked Loan Closet awaits incoming internationals.

