

# CCIS Communiqué

Fall 2012

Volume 17 Number 1



## 60/50

It happens every ten years. CCIS and the I-Center celebrate the anniversary of their most recent decade. For CCIS it commemorates the anniversary of its founding by Werner Warmbrum and a group of five women who were seeking a solution to the housing problem of international students in 1953. For the I-Center it was the relocation of the International Center to our current location at 584 Capistrano Way, Stanford, CA where the different services could be more centrally organized. This year CCIS will be 60, and the I-Center will have been in the Bechtel International Center 50 years.

The celebrations ten years ago included international music and dancing performances and guest speakers under a large tent on the lawn. Our president was Charlene Ward, and she did an outstanding job of coordinating the

festivities with John Pearson. Her longer lasting contribution was a review of CCIS' fifty years. Gathering materials from many sources including minutes of Board meetings and old issues of the Communiqué, she produced a book titled the First Fifty Years, A History of Our Organization. Much of the material for this was stored in boxes in the basement. She also found many photographs that became the inspiration for a set of six laminated posters that now hang in the Back Lounge. While not many have seen the thick history, many of us have looked at the six posters. There is one for each decade. Charlene worked with a graphic artist to produce the posters.

It is now time to continue her work by creating a new poster and updating the history. Unfortunately, a peek into the basement has not exposed the minutes, Communiqués,

and photographs of the last decade. What happened we don't know. Perhaps it is the result of the transition to computers that have replaced paper archives.

In any case, we are going to need a wider search for material. That's where you come in. Perhaps you have materials from the last ten years. Yes, even random minutes and Communiqués will help us to fill in the gaps. Pictures, of course, are requested. You need not give these up permanently. Thanks to photocopies and digital photography we can make copies for ourselves and return yours to you.

Please don't hesitate by thinking that you only have a few. Yours just might be the one that fills in a continuous record. You can contact John Pearson via email at the I-Center. Tell him what you've got. We'll get back to you.

## 550 Internationals come to Orientation

For thirteen days, from September 5 to September 21, eighteen volunteers interviewed incoming internationals to Stanford. As international grad students, visiting scholars, post docs and their families came into the Bechtel International Center they were welcomed by CCIS volunteers who are called Community Advisors, or CA for short. They need much more assistance than registering their presence at Stanford for the Department of Homeland Security. We prepared 600 folders which contained information including a checklist of what they needed to complete, the calendar of events, CCIS programs including the English Class schedule, registration procedures for English in Action and Hospitality, how to make an appointment for the Loan Closet, and a ton of other information.

They bought the 55 tickets to the CCIS Bay Area Bus tour which was led by Jan Henrotin and Fran Erickson and included a student guided walking tour of the Berkeley

campus and lunch at the International House as well as a tour of San Francisco. It became a two bridge tour when the bus crossed the Golden Gate to take in the view from the Marin side. They bought the 100 tickets to each of the Indian and the Chinese dinners at the I-Center. Internationals also bought the 25 tickets sold for the I-Center tour to Muir Woods. All of these events were early sellouts. Those fortunate to have Homestay hosts came as soon as Community Advisors opened. Some of those who couldn't get tickets for the dinners came to see if there were no-shows. There were, and everyone who took the chance to show up got a place at the table or a seat on the bus. We have wanted to increase the number of Bay Area bus tours, but are limited by the number of guides available at Berkeley. School has not yet begun there when the bus tours take place.

Students and families were surprised and impressed at American volunteerism. They

didn't anticipate the free English classes, the weekly partners in English in Action, the welcome as friends into the Hospitality program, and, of course, the Loan Closet. They didn't realize that all the folks in Community Advisors were volunteers.

*Go to Internationals Come to Stanford, p. 3*

Potluck/Music Night  
Sunday  
November 18  
6 to 9 P.M.

## President's column

*Carolyn Gannon*



There was a heightened buzz of activity around the Bechtel International Center and with CCIS volunteers during the summer and early fall. Scaffolding around the I-Center didn't slow down I-Center staff and CCIS volunteers. The building looks great. Please do check it out! Many hundreds of incoming international graduate student and scholars and their families were welcomed, oriented, and made to feel comfortable at Stanford. A big thank you to I-Center staff and CCIS volunteers, including lots of new CCIS volunteers.

How busy were CCIS volunteers? Throughout the summer CCIS English Classes and Friday Coffee Mornings continued. During the short end-of-summer break, some summer English Class students even expressed how anxious they were to start the fall classes. Friday Coffee Mornings, attended by many spouses and families, moved to the lovely Papua New Guinea Garden on campus during I-Center construction. In August and September, 49 international students were "adopted" by CCIS Homestay families and provided with initial U.S. experiences that often lead to life-long connections.

About 550 incoming international graduate students and scholars were given personal attention by CCIS Community Advisor volunteers during nearly three weeks of Orientation at the I-Center. The bus tours and two I-Center dinners—each for 100 internationals—were quickly sold out, and CCIS volunteers helped serve at the dinners.

Within a matter of weeks, about 85 internationals signed up for an English-in-Action partner (with more applications being submitted every day), and nearly 75 internationals signed up for the Hospitality program. Both of these programs provide the personal connection, as well as learning, that are invaluable to Stanford internationals—not to mention rewarding to CCIS volunteers.

CCIS programs that are busy with preparations are the Spouse Education Fund and Potluck/Music Night. The SEF is raising funds for small educational grants to Stanford international student and scholar spouses. I hope you can help out with this! Soon SEF applications will be submitted, the applicants interviewed and grants awarded. And, please mark your calendar for the first Potluck/Music Night of this academic year, November 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm at the I-Center. The music program is already lined up. The evening is a marvelous opportunity to be with your Homestay, Hospitality, English-in-Action, English Class students and other internationals and meet fellow CCIS volunteers—a great way to maintain the buzz at Bechtel.

## Editor's column

*John Heron*

You might be interested in knowing the response to the inclusion of the summer's Communiqué with the Membership Renewal Form. According to Donna Shoemaker, our new Member Services chair, in all of last year we had 218 active members and in the first two months of this year the number of responding members is already higher. 65 percent of the renewals have included a donation which exceeds the 50 percent rate of the last couple of years. Many who have mailed in renewals have commented that the summer Communiqué helped them to get a bigger picture of CCIS. That's gratifying, and suggests that most members prefer receiving a paper copy of the newsletter. It is, of course, still available online at [ccisstanfordu.org](http://ccisstanfordu.org).

## CALENDAR

Nov. 18, CCIS Potluck/Music Night - 6-9 P.M.

Nov. 19, CCIS Board Meeting, 10:00

Nov. 26 – 30, Spouse Education Fund interviews

Dec 5, CCIS Spouse Education Fund Reception & Awards

Dec 17, Holiday luncheon, Michael's at Shoreline

## Community Committee for International Students

[www.ccisStanfordU.org](http://www.ccisStanfordU.org)

Please substitute these characters for the email symbols.: @ for [at] and . for [dot].

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## CCIS Communiqué

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## Programs for Spouses/Partners & Families

Send email to Karin Baage  
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or visit the Resource Center for International Families

## Director's column

### John Pearson



Once again it is fall and once again we welcome a new group of international students and scholars. During the orientation period our records show that we welcome 920 new international graduate students from 73 countries (the top 5 being China, India, South Korea, Canada and Singapore) and 129 international frosh, from 62 countries. In addition there have been many visiting scholars and post-doctoral students arriving. So Orientation was busy and fun with earlier than usual sessions being offered to new international graduate students. CCIS was, again, front and center in welcoming these students and scholars and we know that it makes a difference to them.

This year we have hired a program intern to help Bechtel coordinate more programs for the international community. We hope to increase our offerings of bus trips, lunch discussions and programs aimed at assessing the experience of international students at Stanford. We have an active program committee and now that we have Ranjini Ragunath helping us plan programs we hope there will be additional offerings this year. The challenge is to find space—even in our own building! Spouse programs continue to increase as does the use of the building by international student organizations.

We also went through another summer of painting, roof repairs, and the installation of additional lighting in the patio area.

Finally, to echo the article on the the 60th Anniversary of CCIS and the 50th Anniversary of the opening of Bechtel—these are both remarkable achievements and we hope to see you at some of the activities in 2013. Further information next time. Meanwhile please look through your very own archives to see if there are photos, letters, etc., you would like to share with either CCIS or the I-Center. We would be delighted to see what memories you come up with,

Best wishes

John

## Internationals come to Stanford

*continued from page 1*

Some of them came back several times with more questions and to get a chance at the free snacks. Community Advisors provided a welcome place on campus where it was safe to ask questions without embarrassment.

The CCIS volunteers and Board members were generous with their time. On the nights of the I-Center dinners, for example, some volunteers stayed past the 5 o'clock closing time to help with the internationals that came to eat. On the days when the I-Center held the Maintaining Your Legal Status workshops, which requires attendance by every international, some volunteers came in for a couple of hours to assist with the overload at Community Advisors. Rolando Villalobos, the I-Center's Assistant Director, was here everyday to answer questions. Community Advisors Committee chairs Karen McNay and Betty Ogawa asked us to mention that Carolyn Gannon, Carol Hickenbotham, Donna Shoemaker, and Anne Whitcomb deserve gold

stars for coming often to help. As Karen says, "They were gold."

Some internationals took on the role of volunteers. Caoimhe Kenny from Ireland, who has both an Irish and an American citizenship, came in three times a week to help with spouses. Accompanying a graduate student in economics, she knows the need. A recent graduate of the University of Dublin in journalism, she has the advantage of using her skills as in intern with a magazine.

In the small world department, when Tania Sandoval, a student in Chemical Engineering, and involved in the Chilean Stanford Student Association, was assisting an incoming student, they realized they were both from the same town, Santiago. A couple of spouses from China, Zizhou (Zoe) Zhou, and Japan, Mai Katagiri, became good friends as they helped translate for spouses whose English isn't strong. Zoe and Mai came in two or three times a week.

# CCIS *Volunteer Activities*

## CCIS Member Services makes it easy

*“What inspired you to join and support CCIS?”* The typical reply to that question is, *“A friend.”*

By Donna Shoemaker

Through the sixty-year history of CCIS, our current volunteer members have been the most valuable resource for referring and encouraging new members. We are now making it easier for you, as a CCIS member, to share your enthusiasm.

As a new member himself, Billy Lee mentioned English in Action to his long-time friends, Martin Choy and Frank Kuo. “English in Action suits us retired ‘oldies’ who can only afford so much energy and time. It’s a most effective and meaningful way to build cross-cultural understanding and bonding. In just a five-week time, my EIA client and I have already developed a wonderful rapport. We are having so much fun, and learning from each other at the same time.” After hearing about Billy’s enthusiasm and energy for his CCIS experience, Frank Kuo became a new member in September and his wife, Dora, has joined as well!

CCIS English teacher, Gina Davies, has always loved to encourage international friendships. “I was only eight years old when my big brother brought his international friend home from college for Christmas vacation. It was then that I started believing that the world was a smaller place than I’d imagined. I have often spoken to a dear family friend, Bahia Muriello, about how much I enjoy my connection with CCIS. Recently the timing seemed right for her to also make a new and rewarding international connection, so I encouraged her to join. I am thrilled that the timing was right for Bahia to become part of CCIS, and now we have even more stories and fun to share during our times together.”

Do you have a friend, co-worker, or neighbor who might like to make a CCIS connection or to help with one of our Anniversary events? If so, your timing is perfect! CCIS has added a new Board position, *Member Services*,



Gina Davies and Bahia Muriello

to communicate directly with volunteers, making it easier for you to ask questions and give us your valuable feedback, and to encourage your new member referrals.

Contact Donna Shoemaker at: [memberservices@CCISStanfordU.org](mailto:memberservices@CCISStanfordU.org). You will receive a prompt reply and sincere appreciation for your volunteer time and participation, your new member referral, and your continuing support of CCIS. 650/498-5252.

## International Additions to CCIS Board

By Carolyn Gannon

As you all may know, the CCIS Board of Directors is a working board. In addition to being a CCIS volunteer, each CCIS board member chairs/co-chairs a program or service devoted to supporting Stanford international graduate students, scholars, and their families.

This fall, CCIS is happy to welcome two new CCIS board members, Andrea Steinert and Ragna Kaehler, who are themselves Stanford international spouses. Andrea and Ragna are co-chairs of CCIS Events, with their main focus on the Potluck/Music Night held each academic term.

Both Ragna and Andrea are German and came to Stanford as “trailing spouses,” leaving their professional careers behind for the time being. Ragna is a pediatrician by profession and mother of a two year old daughter. Andrea’s career has been in Switzerland in executive positions in fields of Swiss Tourism, nonprofit management, marketing, and

program development. She, too, has a young daughter Lucia, almost 2 years old.

In addition to getting used to being at Stanford where their husbands are on staff/faculty, both Andrea and Ragna, have been active volunteers at the Bechtel International Center. Their experience and perspectives—both as Stanford internationals and as volunteers—bring the unique element of being in both worlds to the CCIS board.

Because of their volunteer involvement with the CCIS/I-Center Friday Coffee program, Ragna and Andrea are well acquainted with needs of Stanford international families. They plan and coordinate additional, special programs and events like the “Autumn Swap” held in October. At the Swap, international spouses bring a family-oriented items they no longer need, in exchange for choosing other objects they do need. As part of the Autumn Swap, Andrea has coordinated with Mary Ann

Gaspich, the CCIS Loan Closet chair, to include family-oriented items.

Ragna and Andrea are a high-energy duo. When they were recruited for the CCIS Events co-chair positions, they both gave the offer serious thought and accepted. Here is what they said,

*Andrea: Potluck/Music Night is an event I would like to have as “my new baby.” I need to have this impression to be able to be passionate about a new job and to get high quality results.*

*Ragna: I am thrilled to work as Event co-chair, along with Andrea! This is such a wonderful opportunity to share my experiences as an international spouse at Stanford.*

The next CCIS Potluck/Music Night is November 18th starting at 6:00pm. We hope you can attend to thank Dee for the great job she has been doing for years.

## Spouse Education Fund interviews

If you have been thinking of donating to the Spouse Education Fund this is a good time to do it. The SEF Committee which conducts their interviews in the fall needs to know how much money is available to award this year, and the money that comes in later in the year is valuable but contributes to the fund for the following year.

As we have reported in the past, these funds make a big difference for spouses who would like to continue their own education or explore other opportunities. Coming to Stanford with their spouse creates a big break in their lives.

We are hoping that the trend of declining contributions in recent years will be arrested in 2012.

The Spouse Fund has been fortunate to have contributions from the Stanford Credit Union and in the last two years by tuition waivers from Stanford's Continuing Education program. That has made it possible to award as many as thirty scholarships. We are awaiting a response from Continuing Studies for this year's request.

Donations to the SEF can also honor a specific person or program, such as in a recent case.

This was affirmed recently by a substantial donation to the SEF that was recently made by a Thai couple who were at Stanford forty or fifty years ago when the husband was a grad student here. The donation was to express special appreciation of the spouse for the kindness and friendship of CCIS member Dorothy Grothe Bromberg, and for all the CCIS programs for spouses. The Thai family and Bromberg's family have stayed in touch throughout the intervening years, with visits back and forth from the various generations. The gift was made during a visit here this summer. Carol Stevens, the Bromberg's daughter and a CCIS member, who is still in touch with the couple was able to facilitate the gift.

## Programs for spouses and partners

Rather than skipping over the Staff list on page 3 of the *Communiqué*, it might help you to understand what the Bechtel International Center does by taking a moment to browse through the list. Most of the work

fulfills administrative needs for Stanford and the federal government. Before your eyes blur over, however, it is comforting to know that as a CCIS volunteer you are not required to define terms like "J-Pass Assistant" or "Sevis Coordinator."

In the early days the I-Center was a drop-in place to meet friends, read a newspaper, and maybe even have a cup of coffee. But in 1953, the Foreign Student Advisor at Stanford, Werner Warmbrunn, knew that more was needed. That is the reason why CCIS was created, and as needs changed so did CCIS.

In addition a staff person was assigned to facilitate programs to help with the social needs of incoming international students and their families. For many, many years that person was Gwyn Dukes. She retired two years ago.

Gwyn, who seemed to create a program every time an international brought a concern to her, did so many things that no one wanted to write a job description. It was hard to find a replacement. Fortunately, for two years Susanne Maas, a spouse from Germany, was able to do part of the work on a twenty hour per week assignment. CCIS and the spouses took up some of the slack, and Gwyn herself didn't go away. Like the proverbial busman's holiday, Gwyn is now on the CCIS Board as chair of the Friday Morning Coffee and the Spouse Education Fund.

Well, spouses leave too, and Susanne returned home in August. In her place we have Karin Baage from Sweden.

She was born near Stockholm into a family where her father and mother were diplomats. She has a younger brother, but her international life began as a ten year old girl when her family moved to Zimbabwe, which was a brand new country. At that point Mr. Mugabe was popular with the community of nations and was supported by Sweden who had hopes that Zimbabwe could develop as a peaceful, democratic nation.

Karin attended the Harare International School during the three years she lived in Zimbabwe. She began learning English, and today you may not detect an accent in her speech. Then it was back to Sweden for a few more years where she finished her pre-collegiate education. She has traveled extensively in Europe and North America with her husband, an Italian who got his masters and Ph.D. in Sweden.

She was hired part time by I-Center to coordinate a number of spouse programs including

the spouse led classes, the I-Center's newsletter, the Friday Morning Coffee, and anything else she can dream up. Karin said, "I really like working here. I feel like I'm at home again in an international setting."

One final comment as a reminder that when we talk with internationals who are so fluent we are not always aware of the slang that peppers our language. When we reviewed this story with Karin, it helped to explain a "busman's holiday." We need to check "peppers."

We have told many stories about the Friday Coffee, so let's focus a bit on the classes led by the spouses. They began over twenty years ago as foreign language, cooking and handcraft instruction. A spouse from Italy or China, for example, would offer to teach a weekly class in their native language. In twenty years these classes have expanded to a large variety of subjects depending on the talents and interests of the spouses. Note that the term *spouse* includes both women and men, and there are partners who are not married.

The fall's classes include:

Cooking Classes

- American Comfort food
  - Italy in 7 Entrees
  - Bavarian & Italian
  - English Discussion for Moms & Babies
- Languages Classes
- German Conversation
  - Basic German I
  - Basic Chinese and Dialogue

Art and Craft

- Knitting for Beginners
- Knitting Workshop
- Vocal Training

Campus Tours

- Cantor Arts Center 1
- Career Development Center
- Green Library and Hoover Tower

Miscellaneous

- Movie: Women in a New Land
- Lecture: Life Changes and Transitions in a Cultural Diversity
- Book Club
- Men's Night Out
- Women's Night Out
- Yoga for Calming Your Mind
- Yoga for All
- Bollywood Workout Class
- Dance Exercise Class

What a tempting list. No wonder that the international spouses find so many things to do here that Stanford seems like a vacation.

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