

# CCIS Communiqué

Spring 2013

Volume 17 Number 3



## CCIS and Bechtel celebrate anniversaries

By Carolyn Gannon

CCIS and the Bechtel International Center are teaming up at the 60<sup>th</sup> CCIS Annual Meeting on May 20<sup>th</sup> to celebrate both anniversaries: 60 years of CCIS volunteer service to Stanford internationals and 50 years of operation at the Bechtel I-Center. Thanks to dedicated CCIS volunteers and Bechtel staff, every year thousands of Stanford international students, scholars and families make the transition from their home countries to life at Stanford in a comfortable and productive way.

The wonderful partnership between CCIS and Bechtel offers CCIS volunteers many opportunities to develop life-long friendships with Stanford internationals. Stanford University and the Bechtel International Center are the beneficial force that brings us together to engage with students and scholars.

As CCIS volunteers, we know that Stanford internationals are really exceptional and will undoubtedly have a positive impact on the world. The program for the CCIS Annual Meeting and “50/60 Celebration” will feature speakers who have benefitted by their time at Stanford and are making their mark. The speakers will include Ferah Kutlu, CCIS volunteer and former board member who herself was an international spouse and Okke Schrijvers, a Dutch Ph.D. candidate in Computer Science with varied interests in competitive debating and President of the

“Dutch@Stanford” student association.

The keynote speaker is Stanford MBA ’04 alumni Fred Swaniker, Ghanaian Co-Founder and CEO of the amazing and highly impactful pan-African academy, the African Leadership Academy.

Fred is a Ghanaian-born serial entrepreneur, business consultant and Mckinsey alumnus. ALA is a world-class coeducational, residential secondary boarding school, which recruits outstanding students from across Africa and prepares them for a future of leadership. A compelling speaker about the potential and future of Africa, Fred was named a Young Global Leader for 2012 by the World Economic Forum, a TED and Echoing Green Fellow and one of Forbes 10 Youngest Power Men in Africa, moderator of the 2011 SIEPR (Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research) Africa Conference. ALA was awarded the inaugural Siebel Scholars Impact award in 2012 (\$250,000 award) to further its mission to foster peace and prosperity in Africa by developing and connecting its future leaders.

*“The vision that we have for this school is that it will impact Africa in the way that Stanford has impacted the world,” says co-founder and CEO Fred Swaniker, MBA ’04. – Stanford Magazine, November 16, 2009.*



Fred Swaniker

want to miss hearing why and how Fred and his colleagues established ALA and the impact it is already having on the continent. To invoke the spirit of Africa, Stanford’s Kuumba African Drum and Dance Ensemble (a student group) will perform at the CCIS Annual Meeting - 50/60 Celebration. Prepare to be

[Go to 60/50 Anniversary, p. 3](#)



You won’t

*Annual*

**Monday, May 20, 2013**  
**4 P.M.**  
**FACULTY CLUB, STANFORD**

**GUEST SPEAKER**  
**FRED SWANIKER,**  
**GHANIAN FOUNDER**  
**AFRICAN LEADERSHIP ACADEMY**

*Meeting*

## President's column

Carolyn Gannon



The Bechtel International Center has been a hub of CCIS activity since you received the winter issue of the *Communiqué*. CCIS English Classes had over 180 students from 27 different countries attending one or more of the 12 classes offered every week. Additional English support was provided by the English-in-Action program, currently serving 139 internationals from at least 10 countries. A big thank you to all of the CCIS volunteers who are English Class teachers and EIA partners and tutors!

CCIS had lots of social activity going on, as well, for CCIS volunteers and Stanford internationals. In February, a Valentine-themed Potluck/Music Night brought together a large crowd who enjoyed Stanford's lively "Fleetstreet A Cappella" singers, a concert pianist, and a beautiful Indian dancer along with multi-national cuisine. Please mark your calendars for the next CCIS Potluck/Music Night on May 5<sup>th</sup>, starting 6:00 P.M. at the I-Center. Bring your favorite main or side dish and enjoy the evening.

English-in-Action co-chairs, Marsha Alper and Carole Hessler, hosted the third annual EIA Volunteer Appreciation reception in early March. A large number of EIA volunteers attended and enjoyed meeting one another and sharing their EIA experiences.

Friday Coffee continues to be a wonderful source of connection between CCIS volunteers and internationals, especially international spouses and their children. Friday Coffee has also been the genesis of a new program: CCIS International Swaps. The first Swap in the fall was a really successful "pilot" event and the second Swap occurred at the end of March. Swaps are held once per academic term during the normal Friday Coffee time (10:00 A.M. – noon) and are a fun and efficient way for internationals to trade an item they no longer need for one that they do need.

All current CCIS members are cordially invited to attend the celebratory CCIS 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting on May 20<sup>th</sup> starting at 4:00 P.M. at the Stanford Faculty Club. By now, you should have received an electronic invitation (or a mailed invitation if CCIS does not have your email address) for this festive event. If you haven't emailed or called in your RSVP, or missed your invitation, please contact CCIS Events co-chair (and Event chair for the 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting) Tina Patel at [ccisevents@gmail.org](mailto:ccisevents@gmail.org). Please attend if you can!

## Editor's column

John Heron

It's kind of amazing what wonderful surprises can come your way. You may have noticed that the archived issues of the *Communiqué* on our website stop with the Fall 2003. We would love to find more of our early history, but several boxes of CCIS archives have disappeared from the basement.

Then a woman who works at the Stanford Archives, Miriam Palm, writes to Carolyn Gannon to ask if we have any copies of Spring 1963 and Winter 1966, which she wants to fill in the University's collection. Well, no, we don't. In fact, we had no idea that Stanford had these in an archive. But, Miriam tells us that she has copies from Autumn 1963 to 1967, when the collection ends. We'll be collaborating, and will keep you informed of our progress.

## CALENDAR

May 5, CCIS Potluck/Music Night - 6-9 P.M., at The Bechtel International Center

May 20, CCIS Annual Meeting & 60th Anniversary, 4:00 – 6:30 P.M., at the Faculty Club across from the I-Center

June 7, 10:00 – 12:00, International Summer Swap at Friday Morning Coffee

June 17, 10:00, CCIS Board Meeting

## Community Committee for International Students

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

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## CCIS *Communiqué*

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Thus it would look like [lipsum@stanford.edu](mailto:lipsum@stanford.edu).

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## Programs for Spouses/Partners & Families

Send email to Karin Baage  
[kbaage@stanford.edu](mailto:kbaage@stanford.edu)

or visit the Resource Center for International Families

# I-CENTER Staff

*In the absence of John Pearson's column, we will report on how one of this fall's recipients of a Spouse Education Fund Scholarship benefitted from the grant. John's column will return in our next issue.*

Ranjini Raghunath came to Stanford after finishing her bachelor's in biotechnology and master's in environmental engineering in July 2011. Her husband, Sridharan Devarjan, had been in the School of Medicine since 2004. He is now a post doc studying brains. "Mostly chickens," says Ranjini with a smile. They are from Chennai which is the capital of Tamil Nadu, India. Ranjini's brother is finishing law school and has applied for a job in the Supreme Court. Her father works in a bank and teaches math at a school for underprivileged children. Her mother teaches French and German. "We all learn English," she says, "but speak Tamil at home."

Sridharan introduced her to the I-Center. She quickly made friends by joining a Friday Morning Coffee hiking group. "You're glad to find out that you're not the only one trying to figure out what to do with your time." When her husband became a research scholar their visas changed from F1 to J1, which meant she could then get a job. Ranjini was hired part time by the I-Center where she coordinates the programs by working with other I-Center staffers and volunteers on projects such as Spring Fest and the Movie series. She helps coordinate and publicize student group events such as Fire on Fire and the Colombian cooking held at Bechtel. She also writes the weekly social newsletter for the Bechtel mailing list.

The problem for spouses is what to do with their time here. It was answered by Ranjini by asking herself three questions. Do I want to teach children at the East Palo Alto Tennis and Tutoring? Do I go for a Ph.D. in biotechnology? Do I want to write? She said "yes" to tutoring, "not yet" to the Ph.D., and "yes" to writing. Always liking to write—she was writing short stories as a child—she volunteered at the Palo Alto Weekly for a twelve week internship. Involved with CCIS she also took on an EIA partner from Taiwan. This fall she applied for a Spouse Education Fund scholarship to take a math class, The Math Behind Technology Innovation, because she wanted to do something that was different and yet was related to her prior studies. She had studied climate change and agricultural adaptation and energy usage. What was the math behind the research that influenced these changes?

How has she benefited from her SEF scholarship? "I learned something that I had not learned before and faced something I had been scared of. It was nice to learn how all these ideas originated."

Her advice: talk to as many people as possible. "It was reassuring to learn that I was not the only one who is confused."

### 60/50 Anniversary, from page 1

energized!

All current CCIS members were sent either an electronic or mailed invitation to the 60th CCIS Annual Meeting, and many CCIS members have already responded to event chair, Tina Patel. If you can attend the event and haven't yet responded, please email Tina ([ccisevents@gmail.com](mailto:ccisevents@gmail.com)) or leave a message on the CCIS phone: 650/498-5252.

I hope you can attend and celebrate together with other CCIS members, I-Center staff, event speakers and selected student group leaders. ~Carolyn

## Event Details

What: CCIS 60th Annual Meeting and 50/60 Anniversary Celebration

When: May 20th, 4:00 P.M. – 6:30 P.M.

Where: Stanford Faculty Club, 439 Lagunita Drive, Stanford—  
near the Bechtel International Center

**RSVP requested by May 15th**

Reply to [ccisevents@gmail.com](mailto:ccisevents@gmail.com)

# CCIS *Volunteer Activities*

## Nominations of officers for 2013 – 2014

The CCIS Nominations Committee has selected Carolyn Gannon as candidate for president, Karen McNay for vice president, Shelagh Auld for Secretary, and Raj Khanna for Treasurer. These names were put before the Board on April 15, and will be voted on by the membership at the Annual Meeting on May 20. Because the members of CCIS hold the final authority in CCIS, a provision in the Constitution allows nominations to be made from the floor.

So who are these candidates? Carolyn Gannon has been with CCIS for many years. In addition to helping many EIA, Hospitality, and Homestay partners she has held the chairs of the Professional Liaison Program, the Associates, and the Spouse Education Fund and was Treasurer for many years. The last four years she served as vice president and then president. A couple of years ago she recreated our informative website which is colorful with pictures and descriptions of the people in all our programs. That makes her webmaster as well. Carolyn is willing to serve one more year as president in order to coordinate the activities she began with the 60/50 Anniversaries and to train our upcoming vice president who assumed that position in January.

Vice President Karen McNay is what we consider a legacy. She grew up in a home in Palo Alto where her mother was an early volunteer in CCIS. Karen has served as Publicity Chair, but her real love came in the Fall of 2006 when she became Homestay chair.

Working with people is where the fun is, and so in recent years she has also been co-chair of Community Advisors. Karen's career has been in real estate. She works for Alain Pinel Realtors in Palo Alto. When the position of vice president became vacant mid-year, she stepped forward to take the position...as long as she didn't have to become president. Modest, she is reluctant to take on more than she is prepared for, but so many people encouraged her to run that she reconsidered her decision.

Shelagh Auld has been a member of CCIS for four years. This nomination has special meaning for her as she recalls her parents, who were Stanford graduates brought her to Bechtel when she was a little girl. Here is a bit that she wrote for us, "I grew up in SF Bay Area, the daughter of a Stanford Professor. I studied Speech Pathology at San Jose State. I have worked as a receptionist. I do not need to work now so I have lots of time and flexibility. Other points of interest about me are living in France, travel, food writing. I have empathy for internationals as I have also lived abroad. I have enjoyed volunteering at the polls during elections, Hidden Villa, Acterra and a non-profit restaurant. I love languages as well as helping others. I enjoy doing things around CCIS and Bechtel. I have an EIA Partner, am going to teach cooking classes and do Fri AM coffee. I would love to serve CCIS as being Secretary for your Board."

Raj Khanna, our nominee for Treasurer, has an extraordinary professional background

with thirty plus years of financial, internal audit and business management experience with major high tech corporations. Positions held include: Vice President Internal Audit, Controller, Finance Director, International Sales Operation, System Software Business, Financial Managerial Positions, Financial Pricing Positions, and Vice President of Corporate Audit. His education includes an MBA at the University of Rochester and B. Tech (Hons.) at the Indian Institute of Technology in Kharagpur, India.

Your Nominations Committee members were Donna Shoemaker, Gwyn Dukes, and John Heron. It was an extensive search with many back and forths with the candidates who weighed their options. Consideration was given to their experience, skills, and interests. In a few instances some declined but often the committee had to consider between several interested candidates. The committee interviewed everyone who had checked on the Membership form in the summer of 2012, an interest in being on the Board, all current Board members, and many names that were suggested by members and Board members. Some chose to serve on committees and are potential candidates for next year. The Committee is especially pleased with the interest that members expressed. More than one said that they wished they had the time because the job sounded really rewarding.

## Bob Spears, a CCIS legacy and now Loan Closet Chair

In 1953, when Bob was eight years old, his dad and mom introduced into their Palo Alto home an Austrian grad student as part of the Homestay Program. Given the age difference Bob's parents had not brought someone with whom he could play, but even at his young age Bob was intrigued by Victor Strawberger, a 27 year-old who spoke English with a curious accent and came from the other side of the world.

Homestay in those days lasted a little longer than now, and like today the friendship often continued on for a long time. In the following year there began a series of Homestay students from India. Bob's parents continued with the program and for his parents and later Bob himself as an adult, in sixty years the number

grew to over 100. He almost cannot imagine fall without a Homestay guest.

With all that experience with students from Asia, Europe, and Latin America, Bob offers four pieces of advice in his letter to incoming students:

1. Don't bring textbooks. The language is different, and they won't be read.
2. Don't buy clothes before you come. You'll want the styles that are current here, and clothes are cheaper in the U.S.
3. Don't bring towels and sheets. They're big and heavy, and there's the Loan Closet.
4. Bring photos and personal items.

The advice is often ignored. According to Bob, students bring texts that they have valued, and mothers find ways to stuff luggage with

everything they think their children will need.

In the early years Indian grad students often married just before they came here. You might think that the parents didn't want their sons to get away. For Bob and his parents it meant invitations to the new home of his guests where the wife would cook an Indian meal. He says that it made him more adventurous.

In the early years before international TV, the internet, Skype, and cheaper air travel students were disconnected from their family. Often they came with limited funds. They were confused, naive, and with limited English were not unlike many immigrants who came through Ellis or Angel Island. Today they come with a definite view of America

*Go to Bob Spears, p. 5*

## International Women's Day at Friday Morning Coffee

Sally Fox is an attorney, an advocate for women, and a resident of Perth, Australia. She was invited by the Friday Morning Coffee to be the speaker at their International Women's Day Brunch on March 8. She grew up in a small, rural town where she loved sports. She played basketball and net ball which is a game played in the Commonwealth that was the British precursor to basketball.

Sally came to Stanford in June 2012 as a spouse of a scholar working on a post doc in engineering. Unable to work herself, she began to study California law in order to pass our Bar exam. She



had a couple of volunteer jobs in San Francisco, and in October was awarded a Spouse Education Scholarship to be used toward a Bar exam preparation class. At the luncheon Sally began with these comments, "I'm a feminist, lawyer, women's rights advocate and, obviously, a woman. I also volunteer at an organization that provides legal assistance to low income earners in the areas of family law and domestic law. I was asked to talk about why we celebrate International Women's Day, and I did a bit of research on its history, and found that in 1909, women's oppression and inequality was spurring women to become more vocal and active in campaigning for change. It was then that the Socialist Party of America declared 28 February to be National Women's Day. Honored at first in the U.S. and western Europe, by 1913 it was transferred to 8 March and has remained a global date ever since.

"The official theme for this year, 'A promise is a promise: Time for action to end violence against women.'

returning he asked Bob to assist him in setting up an education program there, a Leadership School. Bob says, "We travel through Georgia giving workshops. We want to expose as many young adults as possible to the complexity of the world outside the Caucasus." The school eagerly looks for talent regardless of their social

*From Bob Spears, p. 4*

which they check out and are less likely to need surrogate parents.

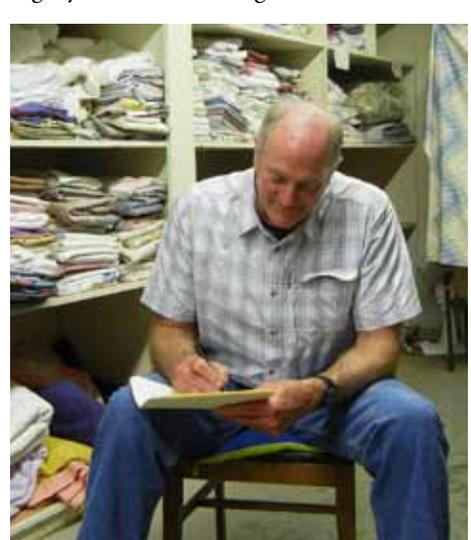
His interest in Latin America was spurred by a Chilean foreign exchange student who lived with his family for a year. At the age of twenty-two Bob traveled by himself on a two year trip through Latin America.

He still marvels at his parents' acceptance of such an adventure. While he wrote to them a letter a week, which he numbered because the mail often got mixed up, his parents had no way to contact him. Kiddled about traveling through Latin America like Che Quevara, Bob says that instead of riding a motorcycle, he rode in jitneys.

Bob is a marketing consultant and now teaches comparative culture in Tbilisi, Georgia. He met and became friends with Gia Maisashvili, who as a student was active in protests against the Soviets in the 1980s. Seeking asylum in the United States in 1992, Maisashvili got a masters degree in public policy at the Kennedy School at Harvard, and that is where he learned the difficulty of being a foreigner in another land. In 2003, with the change in government in Georgia he was able to return and work to improve his country.

Bob says that he has known Gia for ten years, and in 2003, as Gia was thinking of

status. Gia wants the most capable.



For a few weeks each year Bob travels to Tbilisi to teach—a country where the primary language is Georgian. According to Bob in

"Why do we celebrate IWD? We celebrate to recognize the achievements of all those amazing women who have come before us and made our dreams much more achievable. It's a time to recognize the gains made in the western world, but as an international day we need to recognize that a lot still needs to be done to achieve gender equality and women's advancement around the world—to demand action on issues such as domestic violence, gender pay gap, the lack of women in high levels of government to name a few.

"Worldwide today up to 50 percent of sexual assaults are committed against girls under the age of 16. Globally, 603 million women live in countries where domestic violence is not yet considered a crime. Up to 70 percent of women in the world report having experienced physical and/or sexual violence in their lifetime.

"So, IWD is a time to celebrate, but, more importantly, for me at least, it is a time to demand action from our governments."

Tbilisi the second language of every educated person over 45 is Russian. And for everyone under 35 it's English. The style of teaching in the Leadership School is not lecture and memorization. Instead the emphasis is on discussion and role playing. Bob uses film to teach how Americas develop relationships which can be very different in other cultures. Movies such as *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner* to deal with race, *The River Runs Through It* to look at relationships between father and son, and *When Harry Met Sally* to talk about the relationship between men and women. "They can be friends here, but not in Georgia." Georgian women are limited to their husband, their father, and their brother. These three films are only a few of the forty that Bob has selected.

This summer Bob will be working with six or seven internationals here at Stanford to explore new areas of comparative culture to incorporate ideas for use in his class in Georgia.

In the meantime, Bob is now chair of the Loan Closet. He has a committee of five: Hyun An (Shine) Seo, Juanita Manzano, Karen McNay, Katie Henderson, and Mary Pat Gaspich. This fall the Closet should be off and running. After finding an elusive key to the Loan Closet Bob has already looked into the Abrams celler to see what is needed to be ready for fall.



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## Address Service Requested



The International Women's Day found many internationals and Americans in the Assembly Room at the I-Center for a great potluck and to hear a speech by Sally Fox, a spouse and an attorney from Australia. (See her story on p. 5.) She was joined by Meggy Lipsky, a singer from Israel, and Sayali Goswami, who taught the class in Bollywood dance. Elizabeth Winters took the pictures. (See more on our website: [ccisstanfordu.org](http://ccisstanfordu.org).)



Elizabeth Winters & Meggy Lipsky



Sally Fox



The I-Center's Bollywood dancers trained by Sayali Goswami

# A page for our electronic friends



More of Elizabeth Winter's photos from the International Women's Day Brunch, at the I-Center, March 8, 2013  
Available soon at... [www.ccisstanfordu.org](http://www.ccisstanfordu.org)

