

# *November / December 2003* **Communiqué**



Community Committee for International Students at Stanford University

## CCIS Programs

Associates + Cooking + Community Advisors + English Classes + English-in-Action + Homestay + Hospitality  
+ International Women's Circle + Loan Closet + Professional Liaison + Spouse Fund



Come, invite your homestay,  
hospitality, and  
English-in-action partners  
to  
**family Potluck**  
&  
**Music night**  
saturday, Nov. 15  
6:00 PM

Please remember to bring  
food to share: a main dish  
or a salad or a dessert  
at least enough for  
6 or more servings  
—  
drinks, plates, napkins, and uten-  
sils will be furnished  
—

Music program at 7:30 PM  
in the Assembly Room  
*a guitarist from India  
and others*



*A Note from I-Center Director,  
John Pearson*

Stanford has just welcomed almost 900 new international students to campus. During the summer the I-Center worked with Stanford departments and with individual students to solve some of the problems international students face in obtaining visas to come and study at Stanford. In August it became a State Dept. policy that all visa applications, anywhere in the world, must be accompanied by an interview. In some countries that has always been the policy but it is new for countries in Western Europe. In addition to this new requirement many new students (as well as some students returning to Stanford) had to undergo extensive background checks by the Dept. of State. Background checks can be based on either country of origin or proposed subject of research. These checks are expected to take approximately 30 days but in some cases are taking months. As you can imagine, these delays caused considerable anguish for the students involved. *It is a delicate issue of the need to balance interests of national security with the hopes and dreams of individuals.* And it is this changing atmosphere that makes the *welcome provided to new students by CCIS members* all the more important. Students continue to appreciate it and, in a world that seems more uncertain than ever, this one-on-one friendship is of paramount importance. Many, many thanks for all that you do on behalf of the international students and scholars.

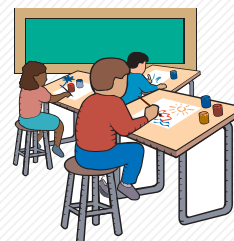
With very best wishes  
John

email: [pearsonj@stanford.edu](mailto:pearsonj@stanford.edu)  
<http://icenter.stanford.edu>



Come, invite your homestay,  
hospitality, and  
English-in-action partners  
to  
the CCIS  
**Holiday**  
**Open House**  
Saturday, Dec. 6  
3:00-5:00 PM  
at the I-Center

for  
International families,  
students, and ccis families  
Please remember to bring  
a holiday dessert  
to share  
**Activities for Children**



## A Note from your President . . .

We did it! Through a lot of hard work by many, many volunteers we had another very successful Orientation of new international students at the I-Center.

Homestay began in August with 58 international students applying and homes were found for all. Thirty-two host families participated including six new families. Homestay Chair, Usha Sekar, and her husband, Ramesh, put on a lively reception for students and host families at the I-Center. Students and host families spoke about what Homestay means to them. It was a delightful evening.

The Community Advisors, headed by Betty Ogawa and Bernie Greenberg, were busy from September 8 through September 23 working in 4 hour shifts (9-1:00 or 1-5:00) greeting the new international students, post-docs, and families. There were 29 (including 5 new volunteers) Community Advisors who helped 427 students and 35 post-docs. Snacks and punch were served to the appreciation of all. Being an Advisor is always very rewarding and fun.

The Academic Luncheon was held on September 18. CCIS volunteers, headed by Juthica Stangl with assistance from Vivian Blomenkamp, prepared lunch for new international students. During lunch new students sit together with a student representative from their school. A great way for new students in a department to get acquainted. Preparing the food and drinks for these newcomers is hectic but a lot of fun and very enjoyable.

The Bay Area Bus Tour (September 20) was sold out again. We filled a 55-passenger bus but still ended up with about 30 names on the wait list! This tour of the Berkeley Campus (plus lunch at their I-House), various sights of San Francisco, and a drive over the Golden Gate Bridge is always a very popular, sold-out event. This year's Tour Directors, Jan Henrotin and Betty Britton, also had a good time talking about our history and culture.

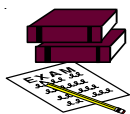
The Loan Closet, under the guidance of co-chairs Mid Schubert and Chula Morel-Seytoux, helped 105 students and families choose small household items for use while at Stanford. Donations were great this past year, although right now they need mattress pads. The Loan Closet is a vital resource for new international students and families.

And finally, the Welcome Friday AM Coffee (10-noon) was held on September 26 for all new students, especially spouses and children. There was a large, lively group with children of all ages and backgrounds playing together and trying their hand at painting. What a sight! This program continues through the year and is organized by the spouses. If you'd like to sign up to be CCIS' representative one Friday a month, please let me know.

Now we gear up for our ongoing programs: Hospitality, English-in-Action, English Classes, Cooking Classes, Potluck Music Nights, Spouse Education Fund, and Professional Liaison. You can read more about our programs in this newsletter. Thank you all for your volunteer efforts during Orientation and, in advance, for the rest of this year. It's you, our volunteers while reaching out to international students, who help make our world a better place.



650-326-5252



**Charlene Ward, President**

[wardathome@aol.com](mailto:wardathome@aol.com)

## **CCIS Board**

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## **Program Chairs**

**Activities Director** ..... Dee Gustavson

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**Community Advisors** ..... Betty Ogawa

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**Friday Morning Coffee** ..... \*\*\*

**Historian** ..... Mary Pat Gaspich

..... [mgaspsich@yahoo.com](mailto:mgaspsich@yahoo.com)

**Homestay** ..... Usha Sekar

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**Hospitality** ..... Hubert Morel-Seytoux

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**Loan Closet** ..... Mid Schubert

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**NAFSA Liaison** ..... Charlene Ward

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**Professional Liaison** .... Carolyn Gannon

..... [cgannon@earthlink.net](mailto:cgannon@earthlink.net)

**Publicity** ..... Karen McNay

..... [kmcnay@apr.com](mailto:kmcnay@apr.com)

**Spouse Fund** ..... Jack Rutherfordale

..... [anneladera@earthlink.net](mailto:anneladera@earthlink.net)

\*\*\* position open

## **I-Center Staff**

**John Pearson**, Director, Rm.215 .....

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**Marga Castaldini**, Rm. Res, 8 AM-Noon

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### **INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ADVISORS**

Students with questions regarding their visa status, employment, etc.

**Rolando Villalobos** .....

[visa@stanford.edu](mailto:visa@stanford.edu)

F-1 visa holders (I-20); J-1 visa holders (IAP-66)

**Lynn Kroner** .....

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F-1 visa holders (I-20)

**Brian Groves** .....

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**Carol Ishihara** .....

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### **INTERNATIONAL SCHOLAR ADVISORS**

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**Lee Madden** .....

[lee.madden@stanford.edu](mailto:lee.madden@stanford.edu)

H-1 visas

**Shannon Johnston** .....

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**Kayleen Joyce McDonald** .....

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### **ADVISOR TO INTERNATIONAL FAMILIES**

Programs offered by I-Center and other University offices; adjusting to life in the US

**Gwyn Dukes** .....

[gdukes@stanford.edu](mailto:gdukes@stanford.edu)

### **OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL VISITORS**

Dinner/Discussion series and other programs for professional and academic international visitors

**Marilyn Herand** .....

[mherand@stanford.edu](mailto:mherand@stanford.edu)

### **I-CENTER COMPUTER SERVICES**

Website setup and maintenance, etc.

**Shirley Harris** .....

[shirley.harris@stanford.edu](mailto:shirley.harris@stanford.edu)

### **OVERSEAS RESOURCE CENTER**

Information about scholarships such as Fulbright, Rhodes, Marshall, Churchill, NSEP and/or non-Stanford study-abroad programs. Passport photos.

**Thouraya Raiss** .....

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### **I-CENTER HOSTS**

**Buki & Julien Papillon**

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[i-center-social@lists.stanford.edu](mailto:i-center-social@lists.stanford.edu)

Bechtel International Center's next **Dinner-Discussion** during this Fall Quarter will be on a topic of international interest. The Speaker will be from the Stanford Community. Please join us for a casual dinner and conversation at 6:00 PM in the Assembly Room, followed by the speaker and discussion at 7:00 PM. The date is:

**Thursday, November 6**

The cost will be \$5.00 per person.

**Contact: Marilyn Herand at the I-Center**  
[mherand@stanford.edu](mailto:mherand@stanford.edu)

## **RESOURCE CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL FAMILIES**

We urge you to encourage your international friends, English-in-Action partners, Homestay or Hospitality guests, or English Class participants - to visit the Resource Center for International Families. Located adjacent to the CCIS office at the I-Center, it contains a wealth of information that is focused primarily on the interests of spouses, partners, and kids. Your international friends will find information on Stanford, the I-Center, Spouse Programs, transportation, home and family, parenting, activities for kids, childcare, K-12 schools, career development, adult schools, colleges and universities, community programs, volunteer opportunities, and recreation and travel. Also included are books on life in the U.S. as well as a lending library with books - many in Japanese - that can be checked out. A computer for accessing additional information on the Internet. The Resource Center is staffed by international spouses who are adept at helping their international counterparts. We currently have advisors who, in addition to English, speak Chinese, Dutch, French, Hebrew, Russian, Spanish, and Taiwanese.

The Resource Center is currently open from 10-12 on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, and from 2-4 on Monday and 1:30-3:30 on Wednesday. Please do give our web address to your friends:

**[http://www.stanford.edu/dept/families/resource\\_folder](http://www.stanford.edu/dept/families/resource_folder)**

Our website includes our current advisors and hours. In fact, you may want to check it out yourself!

### **Special Events at the I-Center**

**Thursday November 27 from 7:00 pm: Thanksgiving Pie and Cider Night.**

All are invited to this traditional style Thanksgiving Night at which we will serve a variety of pies and ice cream and cider . . . with games, music and much more . . . Tickets to be obtained in advance. Venue: Assembly Room

Contact: [bukipapillon@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:bukipapillon@yahoo.co.uk)

**Monday December 15 from 7:00 pm-9:00 pm: Bechtel Candlelight Seasonal Music Carol Singing Night**

With performances in different languages by the Bechtel international Chorus, and lots of audience participation, it promises to be a joyous beginning to the holiday season. All are welcome!

## Homestay 2003 —by Usha Sekar, Chair

The warm day turned into a balmy late summer evening under the oaks at the Bechtel International Center, and the air was filled with laughter, guitar strumming, folk songs and numbers being called in various languages. It was the evening of the reception for the CCIS Homestay families and their international student guests, and there couldn't have been a better way for the students to start their life at Stanford.

*"I didn't feel homesick at all though this is the first time I've been so far from home. I felt very much at home with my hosts" – a graduate student in Electrical Engineering from India.*

The CCIS Stanford International Graduate Students Homestay program just concluded for Fall 2003. Homestay is very popular and is one of CCIS' oldest programs, dating back to the beginning of CCIS in 1953. As part of the program, local Homestay families welcome an international student(s), scholar, and possibly their families, into their home for a 3-5 day visit.

The program was energized by the participation of many new families, and 100% of all the students who applied for Homestay were able to stay with a host family. Many friendships were born, and the families enjoyed connecting with young students from different cultures and showing them a little bit of life in America. This note from a graduate student in Civil Engineering from China reminds us all why CCIS continues this program year after year *"... the Homestay proves to be very enjoyable for me and the family. American people are really very nice and hospitable. I really enjoy all the things they share with me. I know this great chance to share one's culture with each other will not be made possible without the great support from you and the CCIS community. Once again, thanks!"*



A lively crowd of international students responds to the lively banter of Emcee Ramesh Sekar (above) and then enjoyed many new but tasty foods (below)



Homestay Hosts tell the crowd about the joys of hosting international students/scholars and, in turn, students talk about some of the cultural differences and comforting experiences with their homestay families.



We could learn a lot from crayons:  
some are sharp, some are pretty,  
some are dull, some have weird  
names, and all are different  
colors....but  
they all exist very nicely in the same  
box.



This fall, from Sept. 8 through 23, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday through Friday, twenty-nine Community Advisors were on duty to help with orientation of new international graduate students and scholars. Preparation for the orientation process began in July for community advisors with inclusion in I-Center Staff Planning Sessions with Director John Pearson, International Student Advisor Rollando Villalobos, International Scholar Advisor Lee Madden and International Family Advisor Gwyn Dukes. During August the orientation packets for each graduate student and each scholar were prepared and Driver Handbooks were ordered from the Department of Motor Vehicles. Packets included a four-page schedule of events and information for the period from student arrival to September 26 (classes began Sept. 24), an orientation handbook prepared by the University, and campus maps as well as other information about maintaining legal status while in the US.

Each student/scholar was greeted in the I-Center lobby and then spent the next half hour or longer with a Community Advisor who went over each item in the packet, answered multitudes of questions, and helped in many ways to aid each newcomer. This year's internationals came from Canada, Egypt, France, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia Iran, Israel, Japan, Korea, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peoples Republic of China, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Taiwan, Turkey, and the United Kingdom. For many, this was the first trip, the first introduction to the US. Also, many were ravenous and eagerly devoured the cookies and drank the juices provided by the CCIS!

Surprise registered in their faces when they learned they were speaking with volunteers since volunteerism is rare in other countries. Another surprise was the availability of the Loan Closet where any international student/scholar may put down a \$10 deposit and then "borrow" as many items as needed to set up housekeeping (and as often as needed) during their stay on campus. They return any still useable items when they leave. The full-day Bay Area bus tour was very popular with these new arrivals — 55, plus a long waiting list, signed up for the trip which included a tour of USC Berkeley and lunch at Berkeley's International House. Accompanied by two CCIS volunteers with microphones, the bus then took them on a well-planned (and sometimes hilarious) narrated sightseeing tour of San Francisco.

**Many thanks to all volunteer Community Advisors. This project was worthwhile, exhilarating, and uplifting.**

We are sad to hear that Ruby Krebs passed away a month or more ago. For over a decade Ruby headed the CCI S Transportation Committee, which arranged for volunteers to meet newly arrived international students at the airport. Ruby herself made countless trips (day and night!), bringing carloads of students and their luggage to the campus. In that era housing was in short supply, and the CCI S staffed a "housing office" to assist students in finding apartments or rooms to rent during orientation week. Ruby and her transportation committee played a key role in driving students around town so they could look at the available housing alternatives, and find a place to live. Many a student enjoyed Ruby's lively conversation and felt indebted to her for enabling them to locate housing!

Condolences may be sent to Ruby's daughter, Carolyn Carson, c/o 720 Northampton Dr., Palo Alto, CA 94303.

**Great nations  
write their  
autobiographies in three  
manuscripts—  
the book of  
their deeds,  
the book of  
their words  
and the book  
of their art.**

—John Ruskin

### Volunteer Corner

Fifty years ago, in 1953, Lorraine Barry was asked by her church to investigate a function organized by Stanford Mothers' Club, AAUW, and others offering temporary housing and acclimation to incoming international students. That's how she came to represent Church Women United in what would become the Community Committee for International Students (CCIS) at Stanford. Werner Warmbrunn arranged for the group's first meeting in a room in the inner quad. One of their first fundraiser meetings was in Bowman Alumni House and was entitled "An Evening in India." It was a big hit partly because Lorraine got the church women to bring lots and lots of cookies to go along with the punch, coffee, and tea they served to their sizable audience. Many hospitality meetings with students were held in homes near the campus; one of the first was the 1953 Christmas party in the Spaeth home on campus.

Even though the Barry family moved to Pennsylvania for 10 years (1955-1965), since their return to Palo Alto Lorraine and her husband have entertained many homestay students and offered hospitality to many others over the past 50 years. They are still in touch with three families from those early years including Drs. Yukio and Michico Hiramatsu. This couple, originally from Japan, have remained in this area. Mrs. Hiramatsu taught Japanese at Stanford and Foothill College. The other two families are from India and remain close friends: Drs. Jagdish Rustagi and Garang Yodh.

Lorraine's son recently said "I am so grateful that my mother brought the world into our home." Lorraine was honored to be a hostess at the 50th Anniversary celebration and enjoyed seeing everyone.

Community Committee for  
International Students  
Bechtel International Center  
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Stanford, CA 94309-0120

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2003

## CALENDAR

- Nov. 6 Dinner/Discussion (See page 3, \$5.00)
- Nov. 13 CCIS Board Meeting, I-Center, 9:30 AM
- Nov. 15 Potluck/Music Night, Saturday, 6PM, I-Center
- Nov. 27 Thanksgiving Pie & Cider Night (see p. 3)
  
- Dec. 6 CCIS Holiday Open House, 3-5 PM, I-Center
- Dec. 15 Carol Singing Night (See page 3)

2004

- Jan. 8 CCIS Board Meeting, I-Center, 9:00 AM
- Jan. 22 Volunteer Orientation



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*Visit the websites  
for more information*

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