



What is your name? Where are you from?
Edit RÁCZ from Hungary.

July 2013

When were you at Stanford? For how long?

I am one of those lucky ones who have had the chance to spend two academic years at Stanford, one in 1998/99 and the other seven years later in 2005/2006.

Were you a student or a spouse at Stanford? What were you/your spouse studying?

I was a spouse. My husband was a visiting scholar with a Fulbright research grant.

Where do you live now and what are you doing?

I live in Debrecen, Hungary, and I teach at the University of Debrecen.

When you were at Stanford, how did you hear about the CCIS?

From a guidebook to Stanford given to visiting scholars.

Which CCIS programs did you participate in and in what capacity?

Well, it's quite difficult to recall every event as our first visit to Stanford was fifteen years ago. But it's certain that I tried not to miss the Friday Morning Coffees, which were a great opportunity to meet spouses from various cultures and talk to them in a very friendly, informal environment. Gwyn Dukes was a wonderful host. Without her, it wouldn't have been such a popular program.

I benefited a lot from another program called the Professional Liaison Program for spouses, which provided me with the opportunity to meet a wonderful person, Carolyn Gannon, with whom I made friends. And we have been in touch ever since. Thanks Bechtel International Center and CCIS.

Besides the above, I participated in a number of Bechtel International Center programs as well—I attended a Spanish language class for beginners in 2005, and joined most of the wonderful tours on the peninsula. I also contributed to the variety of I-Center events. In 1998/99 I gave a talk on Hungary. I was surprised at the large number of people in the audience. In 2005/06 I organized a Hungarian cooking course of four or five sessions.

When and how did you decide to participate in these CCIS programs?

I would usually find out about different programs during the Friday Morning Coffees, and I also regularly checked the bulletin board for programs.

How was your experience taking part in CCIS's programs?

For a spouse without much social contact, the CCIS and the Bechtel International Center were just invaluable in providing a welcoming community where one could always feel at home. I admired the openness of the center, and the way it could exploit the cultural diversity present on campus.

What message would you like to give to the CCIS?

Dear CCIS,

Though times are changing and technology is advancing quickly, one thing remains the same; the human need for meeting people, getting to know various cultures and exchanging ideas in a friendly environment remains constant. The CCIS and the Bechtel International Center provide Stanford visitors with this opportunity. Well done, and keep going.

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