



What is your name? Where are you from?

July 2013

Ferah Kutlu from Istanbul, Turkey.

When were you at Stanford? For how long?

September 1987 – August 1992.

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

I was a spouse at Stanford and my husband was in the Aeronautics and Astronautics Dept. I worked for the Stanford Credit Union for a couple of years.

Where do you live now and what are you doing?

Menlo Park, CA. I am a local now. I have my own travel agency, Selin Travel.

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

The week I arrived at Stanford, my husband brought me to Bechtel Int'l Center. I met Gwyn Dukes who helped me so much and directed me to the right resources.

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

I participated in various CCIS activities while I was a spouse at Stanford. I had an English-in-Action partner, my friend, who later became my neighbor until she passed away. I also applied for and received a Spouse Education Fund grant (I was among the first recipients of the fund, in 1987).

In addition, I participated in several Bechtel International Center activities, including the Women's Circle (we used to get together once a month in one of the spouse's homes), the International Speaker's Bureau (I spoke at different organizations about my country) and cooking classes.

After my participation in CCIS as a spouse, I really wanted to give back. So I have continued to be associated with CCIS as a local volunteer. I have chaired the Hospitality program and the Professional Liaison Program, and been a Member of the CCIS Board. I have also served 3 years on the Spouse Education Fund Committee.

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

The first day I came to Bechtel International Center, I saw all the programs offered and decided to make the best of my time on campus.

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

From day one, I knew I was so lucky to walk in that door, into the Bechtel International Center. I learned so much from each and every one I met there, very special people. The Bechtel International Center and CCIS programs introduced me to new ideas, showed me how to look at things from different perspectives.

What message would you like to give to the CCIS?

When I came to the US, volunteering was a new concept for me. I truly appreciated all the efforts of the amazing people whom I met through CCIS. They always made me feel at home. They became my friends, mentors. Thank you to all from the bottom of my heart!

Ferah