



Honoring Ours



Sheila Spaeth, 3rd from left. Ginny Spears, 8th from left, back row.

On the side of the maintenance trucks here at Stanford are printed the words “Caretakers of a Legacy.” What inspiration led someone to think of those words! They evoke the past and suggest a sense of responsibility to the future. It is not the trucks, of course, but the people inside those trucks who keep the facilities up to date and who see that the landscaping is beautiful. Maintenance workers, as members of a community, are working together to provide a productive place. In order to see we need the lights on, and our lives are enhanced when we can sit on a bench enjoying the plants and flowers and being glad we are here.

The founders of CCIS set up an organization to improve a communal environment. We can do no less than to honor them. The picture at the top of this column shows some of those who were among that first group of volunteers. When they started they were primarily concerned with finding housing for incoming graduate students. As always, how-

ever, they paid attention to providing help with language and customs and fitting in with the Bay Area community. We wonder if they were able to imagine the thousands of students and families scattered all around the world whose memories of Stanford would include the time they spent with their American friends—the fun, the learning, and the sharing. As we take part in this enterprise, we become Caretakers of a Legacy.

We needed to acknowledge the passing of Virginia (Ginny) Spears-Berger in January. Her death prompted several long time CCIS members to recall another founder, Sheila Spaeth, who passed away in 2007.

Sheila Spaeth

Sheila Spaeth was a founding member of CCIS. She convinced people in the community to house students, organized fund-raising events.

Dorothy Sheila Grant was born in England in 1906. As a young woman, she modeled for a London department store before moving into theater performance. In 1931, she married Carl B. Spaeth, a Rhodes Scholar in Oxford. Only one year later, the young couple moved to the United States. After appointments at Northwestern and Yale and two years in Uruguay during World War II, the Spaeth family came to Stanford in 1946. At this time, Carl Spaeth began his career as Dean of the Stanford Law School. Sheila was active in university activities and politics. Family photos show her with Eleanor Roosevelt, Adlai Stevenson, Jimmy Carter, Sandra Day O’Conner, Tom Campbell, Byron Sher and others.

Besides celebrities, Sheila knew many active people in the local community. Thus, when Werner Warmbrunn had the idea to accommodate international students in civic homes, she was the perfect person to turn to for establishing contacts. She convinced people in the community to house students, organized fund-raising events, initiated the American barbecue in her garden and became the second President of CCIS from 1956 to 1957. Dr. Jyoti Prasad Bhattacharjee was one of Sheila’s two Homestay international students. He married Gandhi’s granddaughter and the couple lived in Calcutta, India. To honor Sheila’s memory, donations were made for CCIS Spouse Education Fund (SEF) awards in Sheila’s name. These awards were presented by her children, Laurie and Grant Spaeth, for several years.

Virginia (Ginny) Spears-Berger

The effect of meeting and supporting internationals has influence on the members of a volunteer’s family. As Virginia (Ginny) Spears brought people from other countries into their home their seven year-old son be-

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President's column Carolyn Gannon



I'm happy to announce the fruition of the CCIS History Timeline project, created and produced by researcher and content gleaner Saskia Jogler and timeline developer Silvia Koch, using the tiki-toki.com product. Saskia and Silvia were Stanford international spouses from Germany and Austria, respectively, and volunteered their talents and time for the Timeline project.

You can access the *CCIS Timeline – the First 60 Years* via the orange link-box on the CCIS homepage: www.ccisstanfordu.org. The Timeline is a set of ninety-six stories that include many images and a number of videos and links to additional information, all overlaid on a pictorial image background, a CCIS 20th anniversary photo, along scrollable dates.

Saskia pulled together source material from Charlene Ward's book, *CCIS—The First Fifty Years*, all available issues of the Communiqué, CCIS board meeting minutes, the CCIS website, assorted photos and videos, and Silvia did the graphical design and implementation. It was a herculean effort that CCIS volunteers and Stanford international spouses Silvia and Saskia undertook, starting in May 2013. Stephanie Angle, also a CCIS volunteer, recruited Silvia and Saskia for the task. Donna Shoemaker edited all of the 96 stories and Dee Gustavson reviewed some of the stories for historical content.

This project came about at my encouragement to capture some of the stories of CCIS in a graphical and dynamic way. I am more than pleased with the outcome and thank Saskia, Silvia, Stephanie, Donna and Dee, and all those who provided the original content for making the CCIS Timeline a reality at the close of its 60th calendar year.

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came friends with people he would otherwise never have known. The long-time support for CCIS provided by Ginny Spears is perhaps best told by her son, Bob Spears, who is a second-generation CCIS Board member and chairperson of the Loan Closet. Let him tell what it is like to grow up in such a family.

The story of Mom's initial involvement with CCIS started in September 1953, the year in which CCIS was established. My father, Andrew Spears, attended The Rotary Club in Palo Alto in Ricky's Rose Room, where it met for at least three decades. He began a conversation with the young man seated next to him, Viktor Straberger, a Rotary Fellow from Wels, Austria, who was to start class at the Stanford Law School the following week. My father asked Viktor where he was staying. Viktor said, "I don't know." He had just arrived from the airport by bus. His bags were set neatly against the wall. My father excused himself and called my mother (yes, she trained him well) to consult before inviting Viktor to stay with us until his Stanford housing at Crothers Hall opened. This was how we got our first Homestay student. This was how we became acquainted with the I-Center and CCIS. We have

had Homestay students almost every year since then. She has been Board chair, a volunteer with English in Action and innumerable number of activities with CCIS that I don't know about.

In later years we had a young man who had lived with Gandhi, the first students to come from China in the late 70's, students that later became diplomats, scientists, those who would become heavily involved in the politics of emerging nations, and social and religious leaders. Viktor and my parents opened a new door to a world of richness and variety beyond my own that continues to amaze me.

The Spouse Education Fund Committee is creating an award to honor Ginny Spears, who played an important role as the first chair of the SEF, in addition to serving as CCIS president during two different decades.

Editor's note: There is a good article about Bob's involvement with internationals in the Spring 2013 issue of the Communiqué, p. 4-5.

Some of the material in this story comes from our new Timeline at www.ccisstanfordu.org.

Community Committee for International Students www.ccisStanfordU.org

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I-CENTER Staff

Director's column John Pearson



Each year we provide to CCIS and the Communique some information on international student enrollment at Stanford. I thought you might be interested in a broader look at data for the U.S. While Stanford does enroll more international students each year we are no longer in the top 25 schools. For example while Stanford has around 4500 international students (including those on post graduation work permits), USC has over 10,500 and Purdue, Illinois, NYU and Columbia all have over 9,000. After the events of September 11, 2001 there was some concern that international students would no longer be interested in studying in the US. However total international student numbers have gone from around 600,000 in 2004/05 to 820,000 in 2012/2013, with more undergraduates than graduates.

Stanford is no different in seeing a continued rise in students from China, totaling 934 in fall of 2013. But it is the scale of this increase, nationally, that is noteworthy. In 1997, China accounted for just 4% of student visa recipients; now almost 30% of all international students in the US are from China. The top five countries in 2012-2013 were China, India, South Korea, Saudi Arabia and Canada, representing 58% of all international students in the U.S. At Stanford students from China and India account for 35% of all enrolled international students while international students as a whole are 23% of all enrolled students.

If we look at countries where the growth is most noticeable then the five countries showing the largest percentage growth (and these statistics all come from the Institute of International Education) are, in order, China, Saudi Arabia, Brazil, Iran and Kuwait.

Where do these students study. Here again the data is fascinating: California, Texas and New York hosted 32% of all international students and 5% of U.S. institutions hosted almost 70% of all international students.

Fields of study should cause no real surprise: 42% in STEM fields and 22% in Business and Management. Interestingly the top choice of students from China in 2012-2013 was Business.

Finally in 2012/2013 women comprised 44% of all international students in the U.S. At Stanford the number in the fall of 2013 was 32%.

All these data points suggest that while the total international student population, both in the U.S. and at Stanford, continues to increase, the places or origin and the subjects of study, continue to change, offering challenges and opportunities in our association with these students and their family members.

CALENDAR

Friday nights, 5 – 8:30 P.M., Windows on the World, movie and dinner

Feb. 21, Friday Morning Coffee Winter Swap, 10:00 A.M.

Sunday, Feb. 23, Potluck/Music Night, 6:00 P.M.

Monday, March 10, Board Meeting, 10:00 A.M.

Friday, March 14, Reception for EIA partners, 4 – 6:30 P.M.

Monday, April 14, Board Meeting, 10:00 A.M.

Sunday, May 4, Potluck/Music Night, 6:00 P.M.

Monday, May 12, CCIS Annual Meeting, 4:00 P.M.

CCIS **Volunteer Activities**

Internationals describe their experience with CCIS volunteers

The Holiday Luncheon was held on December 3, at Michael's at Shoreline. There were five speakers.

Philippe Leroy, Bruxelles, Belgium, a Homestay student, was introduced by Carolyn Gannon.

I want to say two things: first, to share a few words about my passion and 2nd, I'll tell you at the end. I was born and raised in Belgium. My parents were very open minded people. When at the age of sixteen I asked them to go on holidays to Burkina Faso in West Africa. They just say, "Yes." Kind of crazy. This has been the most memorable experience of my life. We were together with a bunch of young peasant people, African people. It was very rough in blazing sun, but it was probably the best way to get to know the country and to learn something about life.

So with a passion born in Africa, I decided to come back to Belgium, working with my friends. Then as a result of my study choice, I studied medicine because I wanted to have an impact on health care in Africa. As a medical doctor I had the opportunity to come back to Africa for a six-month medical internship in the Cameroon. Then I went back to Belgium—also worked in a couple of hospitals in Belgium. At some point I became very upset with the issues I witnessed in Africa and Belgium as well. And so I decided to learn management skills. I wanted to maybe one day be able to manage a hospital myself. And that is why I came here to Stanford to get my MBA.

I have to say that my arrival at Stanford was another amazing experience, and that is the second thing that I wanted to say. I want to say thank you to all of you. Thank you to the Bechtel I-Center community and the CCIS community. An especially, and very warm, thank you to Karen and, of course, to Carolyn and Terry. I am a bit emotional because it has been a wonderful experience to be with them. In life you are held by your family and your friends, but sometimes you just have no friends or no family around. It is actually amazing to see how you can be welcomed and held by people who are complete strangers... at least for the first hour, and then we get to know each other very, very quickly and we

have very tight links. I will never forget that. You are a role model for me. I thank you very, very much, the two of you for what you are doing with CCIS.

Ranjini Raghunah, India, was introduced by Gwyn Dukes. Ranjini had just finished her masters in math when she came to Stanford as a spouse. She volunteered at an elementary school in Mountain View, received a Spouse Education Fund (SEF) grant, was an ELA volunteer for someone from Thailand, and worked part time for the I-Center.

In 2007 I came with my husband, who was a Visiting Scholar. Since we knew we would be here a short time, I set my career at home aside. I didn't know what I would do here. Perhaps volunteer. I also wanted to keep up with my studies so I applied for a Spouse Education Fund grant. I learned a lot. It was not just the experience of attending a class or putting something on your resume, but the exposure with education here at Stanford was a really big thing for me. I was really grateful that I was able to get into the SEF.

Being a spouse and a dependent in a new country is kind of challenging. You often have to take a big step, both personally and professionally because you always need to remember that you are a dependent here; you think twice before doing anything new. That's why I'm really grateful that it's not just the SEF but all the support and the programs and opportunities that I could participate in here. The people at CCIS and the Bechtel International Center gave me that nudge to open up to new experiences. And not just me. It's all the friendship that is offered by the I-Center and CCIS. I'm grateful for that and thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Tesh Shrestha, Nepal, Mechanical engineering.

I really appreciate all the things that CCIS and the Bechtel Center do. They helped me a lot. All the activities really helped me and acclimated me to this environment. It was really difficult here for a while. In Nepal we have a lot of great resources with hydro, but not great uses of them. I'm really looking forward to working with a hydro plant. One of

the reasons I came to Stanford is because of the courses here and the Lab. The professors have been really amazing in the technologies particularly in regard to sustainable energies.

I particularly want to mention the Potluck dinners and with all the volunteers who made me feel really welcome here. Also, all the other students from other countries who share experiences and come together particularly for students who don't have families here. Being a part of CCIS and the international community can be really supportive. Celebrating Christmas in the home environment with Terry and Carolyn really helped me. All the other programs like the Loan Closet. There is no way that words can express my appreciation. I'm really glad to be here.

Donna Shoemaker introduced Gustavo Schwenker, from Germany, for the first time an alumnus who got his Ph.D. last year in finance and mathematics, and is now visiting for a few days.

It's a real pleasure to be here today because I didn't expect to be here. I came to this luncheon two or three years ago, so I've been around the CCIS family for a long time. For me it has been a life changing experience. As Donna said, when I first got here I never really wanted to be in the US. I wanted to go back to Germany. Actually through being with Donna and John and all their family and Karen and all the host kids that I've met through the years it has been such an embracing experience that I've actually learned to appreciate the United States in a very different way than most of the people I know have been able to do. It's actually that bad that when I go to Germany people tell me that I've become very American. (Laughter) You guys do a great job. I graduated this year with my Ph.D. and now at Boston University. I teach there in the finance department. Ever since I've been here I've been talking to people there to get something like this started. I know how hard it is to get people to do things like this. So thank you all for taking the time to get something like this started and keeping it going. I know how much work it is, and it is definitely appreciated.

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39 Spouses Receive SEF Grants from CCIS



Those who come to Stanford to accompany their husband or wife have often made a hard decision that involved putting their course of studies or career on hold so that the couple could be together. The CCIS Spouse Education Fund (SEF) provides an incentive and a way for these spouses to gain new skills and knowledge by taking a class while here in the Stanford area. Applicants submit proposals specifying the class or program they hope to take, and grants from \$100 to \$500 are awarded in December, to be used within the next calendar year. The grants are made possible by the generosity of donors to the Spouse Education Fund, now in its 26th year.

This year the SEF committee received 40 applications from spouses representing 21 countries. Each of the applicants shared their background and interests in interviews with the SEF committee, explaining how their proposed class would advance their goals. The

SEF Committee was impressed at the past accomplishments of this widely diverse group. Some hold Ph.D.s in bioscience, engineering, philosophy or classics, and others earned Master's degrees in physics, engineering, law, psychology, education, cell biology, CPA, Dutch literature and hospitality management.

Prior to coming to Stanford many were working as teachers, career counselors, engineers, art historians, musicians and in several areas of business (marketing, management, HR, finance). Others worked in the fields of journalism, interpreting, law and medicine.

Thanks to the generous donations from CCIS members (\$8393), supplemented by an annual \$500 award from the Stanford Federal Credit Union and 14 tuition waivers granted by the Stanford Continuing Studies Program, this year 39 spouses are able to take classes or pursue professional or personal development

with SEF grants.

Twenty-four grantees will take classes in Stanford's Continuing Studies Program, focusing on web design, business and marketing, psychology, writing, French and Spanish. Two others are in Master's programs at San Francisco State (psychology) and Golden Gate University (accounting). Five will take classes at Foothill College (accounting, child development, nutrition) and one at the Palo Alto Adult School. Other awards went towards books for online classes, docent training expenses, a workshop at the Edible Schoolyard Academy and a cardiology conference. In every case, the grant will enable a spouse to pursue a cherished goal, and make his/her time here worthwhile.

The 2013 recipients are from 21 countries, including China (9), Korea and Japan (4 each), Germany (3), France (2), Taiwan (2), Bangladesh, Belarus, Italy, Israel, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Russia, Sweden, Switzerland, Uruguay, and Viet Nam.

The 2013 grants were presented at a reception at the I-Center on December 6. Four grants were given in the name of Josh Alper, and presented by Marsha Alper and Carole Hessler. Two grants honoring Marianne Dieckmann were presented. Ferah Kutlu, who received a grant in the first year of the SEF shared her appreciation of CCIS programs. The SEF Committee members who presented the awards are Dolly Verplank, Sande Stuart, JoAnne Wilkes, Judi Chun, Awatif Belymam and *Gwyn Dukes (chair)*.

from Internationals Describe..., p. 4

I'm just very, very grateful for having had this experience. Donna and John are my American parents and Karen is my American aunt. I'm really happy to have a family here. This is great. Thank you so much.

Karen Sortino introduced Marcelo Doaio, a spouse who is in her English Class.

My name is Marcelo from Brazil, Rio de Janeiro. I'm here...my wife came here to do her masters in Education, and I came with my two boys, six and eight year's old. It's been a

wonderful experience because I'm a Monk fan of America. [A reference to the obsessive character in the Monk TV show.] I've been here many times as a tourist, and this time is for a long time. I'm an entrepreneur in Brazil. To be here is so culturally rich for our family. So I should thank you very much for a wonderful job. I want to especially thank Karen Sortino.

Associate Director Shalini Bhutani spoke on behalf of John Pearson who was unfortunately away for the day.

Shalini reported that the staff is grateful to CCIS. "So many other universities would give a right arm to have a program like this."

The program concluded with a performance by Hani Doh, a Korean who plays a komungo. It is a five-foot long instrument with six strings—a zither played with a stick. It has a history of a thousand years. In the 7th century it was played in court ensembles. Today, it is widely used as a solo instrument and to accompany songs in other music.

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*Holiday Luncheon at Michael's Shoreline
December 3, 2013*



Philippe Leroy



Ranjini Raghunath



Hani Doh



Gustavo Schwenker



Marcelo Doaio

A page *for our electronic friends*

Those who have been reading the Communiqué online know that we occasionally use page 7 as a special area to help CCIS members who are working personally, one-on-one as they say, with internationals. In order to allow for longer stories we began putting some of them in the Electronic Communiqué in 2007. You can find these stories by selecting the dated issue on the website's Communiqué page. Here's a handy index of some of the stories.

1. Using common words like fish, hand, or plant to expand word usage. For example, the definition of fish is learned early in language acquisition, but when do we learn uses such as, "fishing for a compliment," or "fishing in your pocket for a coin." Communiqué, Winter 2011, p. 4.
2. Having fun with language by reviewing Country and Western Lyrics such as "He's a heart-ache looking for a place to happen." Communiqué, Fall 2009, p. 4.
3. Sources of books helpful to English learners. Dictionaries and more. Communiqué, Winter 2007, p. 4.
4. A chart to help explain the structure of American government. Electronic Communiqué, Spring 2010, pp. 7 – 8
5. The California Voters handbook deserves special attention. Your partner may be surprised how hard we try to make it easier for new citizens who first language is not English to understand the candidates and issues. Communiqué, Spring 2010, p. 3.
6. Decoding American pronunciation, an article with a list of words that a Canadian pronunciation coach uses to teach actors how to pronounce words in American style for drama and TV. Electronic Communiqué, Spring 2012, p. 7.
7. American Holidays, a list of national, state, and just plain fun holidays. Communiqué, Winter 2013, p. 7.
8. Shopping in the Stanford Area is a handout with a map which lists a variety of ethnic and general grocery stores, electronic, pharmacies, etc. We distributed this at Community Advisors in the fall to incoming students, but not everyone has seen it. Electronic Communiqué, Summer 2013, p. 7.

Here's something new that we're working on. There will be more in a future edition.

American Geography

Like other nations, Americans learn their basic place name geography in school. Unless we take a road trip or are from that region, however, we may not recall which is New Hampshire or Vermont. No doubt we have forgotten the convenient memory tricks called mnemonics that our teacher taught us. Like the letters M I M A L. for the vertical line of states from Minnesota to Louisiana. Other tricks are visual: Vermont is sort of shaped like a V and Louisiana like a backwards L. Now your international partners probably don't want to memorize the fifty states, but it doesn't hurt when listening to the news to have some idea where a state is located.

But it's not that hard. North Dakota is north of South Dakota. Right? Everybody knows where Florida, Texas, Maine (maybe), Alaska, and Hawaii are. Here's another mnemonic: M A G S for Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina. And if you know where South Carolina is, North Carolina can't be that far away. West Virginia is west of Virginia. Where's Virginia? Californians know their neighbors, and probably your international partner does to. But find out. And don't forget Mexico.

Then there's the rivers. Everybody knows that the Mississippi runs through the center of the country—well, sort of, but along what states does it border? How many important rivers start in Colorado and where do they end up? Well, they include the Rio Grande to the Gulf of Mexico, the Arkansas to the Mississippi River, the Platte to the Missouri River, and the Colorado to the Gulf of California. Colorado's rivers run in many directions.

And you can have fun with puzzles. All rivers run north to south, from top to bottom. Right? Well, which rivers in California run south to north? Consider the San Joaquin, Salinas, Trinity, Eel, and New (from Mexico to the Salton Sea).

Next time we'll introduce some anomalies. Like, which is further west Reno or Los Angeles? In the meantime, on the next page is a convenient map for you and your partner to look over.



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