

Manjula's Incredible Story

Stanford has a history of welcoming and encouraging pioneers. Manjula Waldron was the guest speaker at the annual meeting in May and is a testimonial to this in the moving talk she gave.

She was born in India prior to Independence. At four years of age she witnessed her family enduring the trials and tribulations that were a part of the Gandhi followers gaining their own rule from the British. Her grandfather's prison quest in 1921 supported her coming to Stanford in 1966 to study Electrical Engineering. She hence has the distinction of being the first Indian woman to obtain a Ph.D. in that field at Stanford.

Manjula challenged the barrier of girls being educated in science in her country. She earned a B.S. in Physics and a B.E. in Electrical Communications in India and then completed a masters degree in Electrical Engineering at Stanford in 1968. Accomplishing all of this was a challenging transition from Indian tradition which did not even allow women to travel to foreign countries to live alone.

Facing many obstacles at this time, such as finding housing and work to meet costs, Manjula turned to CCIS for help. CCIS was very instrumental in assisting her with her needs as she engaged in Stanford's graduate school. The Spears family, for one, took a personal interest in her and have remained her steadfast friends. As a result of contending with difficult circumstances for survival, Manjula acquired a deep empathy for others who were newcomers to a strange land. While earning her masters degree, Manjula challenged further cultural conventions by marrying a fellow Australian student. Indian women were not supposed to marry non-Indian males. Her curiosity in neural computation led her to explore human learning, thinking and aging as part of her Ph.D in Electrical Engineering. She went on to enjoy a long academic career in bioengineering, engineering design, deaf education, brain cognition, and holistic health. Having a child born deaf, she ventured into more human centered research for deafness and engineering design. Her intense involvement in understanding the world and environment of the deaf provided the foundation for her social design projects in education, health and wellness. Manjula spent 23 years at Ohio State as a professor of Bioengineering. She currently resides in Palo Alto with her husband. She has three adult children and three grandchildren. She is involved as a consulting professor at Stanford in social and wellness engineering projects. When asked what she saw as a key to a successful life, Manjula's answer came with a smile, "Curiosity and oomph." Manjula's complete speech can be found here. <http://www.ccisstanfordu.org/information/2015-keynote-ManjulaWaldron.pdf>

Holiday Luncheon
Tuesday 15 December

11:30-1:30pm
Michael's at Shoreline



Afternoon Delight

An old-fashioned Ice Cream Social on the 6th of August afforded a delightful afternoon on the patio of Bechtel International Center. The Events Committee staged the Social. It was well attended by 75-100 people. The weather was a clement 75 degrees and seven great flavors of ice cream were featured. It was reported that Cookies & Cream and Mint Chocolate Chip were the two top ranking favorites. Everyone brought their own cookies to create an ice cream sandwich in a contest for the best looking and best tasting ice cream sandwich. Sprinkles and innovative decorations were allowed. As everyone was enjoying tasting the yummy variety of flavors, 15 participants were designing their ice cream sandwich creations for the contest. Olga, Gwyn, Shalini and Ragna were

Lee Zeigler: on Cuba

Lee Zeigler, former Director of Bechtel from 1971-1987 gave a Talk on Cuba at the home of Karen Sortino in Menlo Park on Sept. 5th. It was a well attended Associates Event and took place in Karen's lovely backyard. Refreshments were served as everyone sat under a Magnolia tree enjoying the company of numerous hummingbirds buzzing about. Lee gave a very informative talk about his experiences and findings over his 7 trips to Cuba in the past several decades. He addressed how things are evolving and the changes that are currently taking place. Some people are now able to own cars and homes. Art is a common form of expression in lieu of speaking out too much. Lee applauded the educational and medical system in Cuba.



Free education is available at very good schools for many internationals. Cuba has the most doctors per capita in the world. Lee related that he was always treated well there, but travel in a group is still advisable. Maps, reading materials and books were available for the attendees to peruse. There was a question and answer session at the end, engaged in by a number of people; some who had also traveled to Cuba. In conclusion, when asked if he would like to go back again, Lee replied "Yes, I'd go tomorrow!"



The Loan Closet Surpasses Past Performance

On September 1st it was a welcome challenge to find space for all of the items returned from graduating students and donated from the community coming into the Loan Closet. We were packed to the gills. After 11 days of international student orientation the shelves were bare. The Loan Closet is presently closed until November 1st as we currently have so little to give to students. We happily served 125 students this year, 105 single and 20 couples. What a wonderful feeling to know that so many new students have been able to take advantage of this opportunity to set up their living quarters with necessities.

In analyzing our performance this year, the committee has made a decision to implement a few changes. As the Loan Closet fees have not changed in 50 years, it is necessary to increase them to \$20 for a single student and \$40 for couples and families. To ensure that we have items that aren't often donated, we will be purchasing dish drainers, waste baskets, and laundry baskets, which all students want. We are also purchasing flatware, plates and bowls, but only when necessary. We would much rather have these items donated! Other items we carry have been mostly filled by donations from the thoughtful and generous members of the community: i.e. pots and pans, glasses, mugs, sheets, blankets and towels. The students are extremely appreciative and we hear many comments expressing their gratitude. Member donations are such an essential part of the success of the Loan Closet. A warm thank you to each and every one of you. We encourage you to invite your friends and neighbors to donate as well. Donations of items (and even cash for purchasing selected items) are accepted year round. We are looking into purchasing extra-long twin sheet sets (Stanford housing has extra long twin beds and queens).

The Loan Closet is open to Stanford international graduate students, visiting scholars, and post-docs. We are eager to replenish our shelves with your help and generosity. Please call Bob Spears (650) 493-5898 for a pick-up of your donated items.

Afternoon Delight, Continued from p. 1

the judges. After much deliberation over the impressive entries, Angie Lee was declared the winner for the best looking ice cream sandwich and Juscele Duraes for the best tasting. They were awarded \$10 gift certificates to Cream in Palo Alto! Judi Chun of the Events Committee extends her thanks to the number of volunteers who were such a big help with this event. A photo album is posted on the CCIS website portraying all of the fun.

CCIS History & Fun Facts

How and when did English-in-Action get started?

An informal English-in-Action program began in 1955 by longtime volunteer, Sheila Spaeth. The official EIA program began in 1964, two years after Gertrude Williams (Assistant Foreign Student Advisor & CCIS Volunteer) had read a report on a program of informal talks with foreign students on a person to person basis. CCIS began to seek volunteers to meet weekly for one-hour conversations with an international student, visiting scholar or a spouse. The purpose was to improve conversational English in a non-academic social setting.



(EIA Chairs Carole & Marsha with Katie from Deborahs Palm at the Welcome Friday Morning Coffee)

The EIA program continues today and it the largest volunteer activity program of CCIS. Meetings take place in coffee shops and in parks. Partners not only meet for casual conversation but for cultural exchange as well. In recent years there are regularly over 200 EIA matches made annually. Many EIA partners maintain friendships even after the client leaves Stanford and returns to his or her home country.

To learn more about CCIS history, visit cisstanfordu.org, and click on the link for the CCIS Timeline - the first 60 years.

CCIS Spouse Fund Enhances Experiences of Grantees

By Gwyn Dukes, Dolly Verplank and Judi Chun.

In November, the Spouse Education Fund (SEF) committee will be receiving applications and interviewing grant applicants. Recipients are often surprised to learn of the generosity of those in the community who donate to enhance the lives of spouses who are unknown to them. Each award is so appreciated as a support to the grantees' personal and professional goals. If you have not yet had a chance to contribute to the SEF fund this year, and would like to do so, checks can be sent to CCIS by November 18, with a designation in the memo to SEF.

Due to the generosity of donors to the 2014 CCIS Spouse Education Fund, 50 spouses of international students, post-docs and visiting scholars received grants to advance their professional or personal interests while accompanying their partner to Stanford. The grants were awarded at a reception last December, and most of the grantees used their awards this past Winter Quarter. The SEF Committee has received many notes from grantees testifying to the difference the scholarship has made in their lives. We wish that CCIS members could meet all of the grantees in person, and hear their stories, to provide a sense of the people who the grants are supporting. Below we offer profiles of 3 grantees from 2014 to provide a flavor of the program and the grantees it assists.

Dolly Verplank of the SEF Committee has provided this profile of Fatiha Ritle of France:

Fatiha left her native France to join her husband in Palo Alto at Stanford in November, 2014. She left behind her job as a marketing manager with a stimulating start up which enables people to order groceries online and later pick up the exact order from the store. It was this experience that led her to apply for an SEF grant for a Stanford Continuing Studies course called 'Marketing Without Money' hoping to expand her work experience, particularly in digital marketing. With this class, she will be able to help companies and start-ups to create an online buzz by building an Internet marketing plan without any budget by focusing on social media marketing.

After her arrival, Fatiha was waiting several



Fatiha



Mami, third from right



Amy

months for her work permit. However, she made good use of her time volunteering and improving her English. The uniqueness of international life on campus was both stimulating and fun. There were some real advantages, she found, to not starting to work right away. She jumped right in helping with the spouse program at Bechtel, was able to attend lectures about political, work and social issues, and even learned Bollywood Dance. "Knowing people from all over the world is really enriching and has changed my ideas. I really think differently now. I will be returning to France with a more open mind."

Fatiha's optimism, enthusiasm and positive spirit ensure that all her experiences from, volunteering to teaching French in an elementary school to meeting people at Bechtel to the class she took with her SEF grant, are a kind of networking that will not only add to her employability, but most importantly, contribute to her growth and depth as a human being. We are happy to report that Fatiha is now working full time and making good use of what she learned through her SEF grant!

Mami Nojiri is clearly one of the standouts in the Bechtel Spouse Program as well as the CCIS Spouse Education Fund. A former math and science teacher from Japan, Mami came here a year ago when her husband was offered a position as a Visiting Scholar at Stanford. Although it meant putting her career on hiatus, she welcomed the opportunity to try new things, improve her English, and make new friends. She immediately became involved in the Friday Morning Coffees, and organized other spouses to practice their English together while they socialized. She not only took advantage of resources at Bechtel, she also took writing classes at her own expense through Continuing Studies. She encouraged and inspired many other spouses to get involved at Bechtel and on campus. Although she had to wait to be assigned an English in Action partner, she

was relentless about finding other ways to practice her English to better herself both personally and professionally until she had reached a level where she felt she was able to follow science classes in English. At this point, she applied for and received an SEF grant to take a science class (BIO 84, "Your Genes and Your Health") to allow her more career flexibility upon her return to Japan. In fact, when Mami returned to Japan this summer, she was able to find a job that makes use of her newly gained knowledge from her classes in Continuing Studies. We all enjoyed seeing her during her return visit in September to maintain her Stanford connection!"

A third SEF grantee is Kyungmin "Amy" Lee, a gifted soprano who sings both Western opera and a variety of traditional songs from her native South Korea. Before joining her husband at Stanford, Amy earned both BS and MA degrees from Seoul National University, and was in the process of pursuing her PhD in voice at the Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati. If you attended the CCIS Pot Luck Music Night in February, you were fortunate to hear Amy's extraordinary voice as she performed both Western arias and beautiful Korean songs. The SEF grant helped Amy to complete her PhD degree, which involved offering a lecture/concert on May 8, in which she introduced the background of Korean Art Songs of the 1920's to the 1940's, followed by a performance of songs by the most notable composers of that period. In addition, she offered a Master Class, in which she coached Stanford music students in singing Korean Art Songs of a later period, up until the present. Both programs were free and open to the public. The CCIS Spouse Education Fund was glad to play a role in making them possible.

Your generosity has made a significant difference in their lives.

CCIS **Leadership**

President's column

Karen McNay

Wow...what an amazing start to the 2015-2016 school year! Our terrific Community Advisor volunteers welcomed over 500 incoming international graduates and scholars during the first 2½ weeks of September...cheerfully giving information and guidance, selling tickets to Muir Woods and UC Berkeley/SF bus trips, in addition to 4 dinners, serving over 110 students at each dinner. In support of the Bechtel staff Community Advisor volunteers assisted in serving over 600 students at the Welcome Reception. A big thank you to all of you for your dedication and support. See you next September!

Donna Shoemaker has done a tremendous job reviving our Homestay program this year... matching 51 students with both new and returning host families. Please contact Donna if you would like to host a student next year.

To date, Carol Hickingbotham, Chair of the Hospitality program, has welcomed and matched 50 students with host families. When possible students always enjoy being included in your Thanksgiving and holiday celebrations.

The Loan Closet was a huge success! Please see the accompanying article on it and know that we always welcome your new or gently used kitchen and household items. We are most grateful for any and all donations. The closet is visited throughout the year by the students and visiting scholars, many of who are here short term.

Carole Hessler and Marsha Alper continue to actively match EIA students with partners. The English classes, Friday Morning Coffee and Professional Liaison programs are in full swing and heavily attended. Applications are being accepted for the Spouse Education grants.

We have had a tremendous response to our Membership Renewal including 46 new members to date. A friendly reminder to those of you who have yet to return your forms. Please do so and be sure to update the programs that interest you. All of our programs welcome new volunteers. It is thanks to all of you that CCIS is such a tremendous success. Be sure to save the date for our Annual Holiday Luncheon on December 15th from 11:30 – 1:30 at Michael's at Shoreline. More information will follow.

Editor's column

Karin Meiswinkel & Michelle Laker

We are lucky to be a part of the CCIS community; carrying on the tradition of serving international students, scholars and families for the past 63 years. The fall is particularly special for both students/scholars and volunteers. It's often those initial meetings in programs such as Homestay, The Loan Closet and Community Advisors that have such an impact on new internationals experience at Stanford and indeed the United States. Other programs such as English-in-Action, Hospitality, and Events further enrich their lives throughout their stay. Through any single students time at Stanford, hundreds of volunteer hours go into programs that provide support, but we think any volunteer would admit that what we do is not completely altruistic. Speak to any longtime volunteer (and believe us, CCIS has plenty) and they will tell you how the internationals have also enriched their lives. CCIS creates lifelong friendships which bridge cultures and continents. CCIS promotes understanding, respect, and encourages travel and exploration. CCIS makes the world a friendlier place for everyone involved. How has being a CCIS volunteer changed your life? We would love to hear from you. Please email us at communiqué@ccisstanfordu.org, to share your story.



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www.ccisStanfordU.org

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ccis Communiqué

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As we begin a new academic year and complete another orientation program it strikes me just how welcoming CCIS is to new international students and scholars. Our number of newly arriving students and scholars remains high and in fact we have seen quite an increase in international frosh this fall. I am reminded each time orientation comes around that this is a hectic time for students, arriving at a new campus, meeting new friends and anticipating classes. Stanford offers new students a wealth of programs but the chance to take time to meet and talk with a member of CCIS must give the students a sense of calmness amidst the storm. I think this quality, as much as the many programs offered by CCIS to new students and scholars, is worth remembering. Although I find it hard to accept I have been at Bechtel, and Stanford, 30 years and the speed of communication, the expectation of responses and variety of ways and means we contact each other, make for a world that seems to have lost the value of taking your time. Perhaps that is what we need to focus on at orientation in the future—to allow this time for connections, a value that CCIS brings to its many offerings.

We are all looking forward to another exciting year. Bechtel will be increasing its programs that offer opportunities for discussion and reflection and we welcome CCIS participation. With many thanks to all of you from the international community.
John

2015/16 CALENDAR

Nov. 1 - Loan Closet re-opens

Nov. 9 - Board meeting, Bechtel International Center

Dec. 15, 11:30 - Holiday Luncheon, Michael's at Shoreline

Jan. 11 - Board meeting, Bechtel International Center

More details coming soon...

March - Potluck Pie π Night

May - Picnic on the Oval



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ccis **Communiqué**



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