



CCIS NOTES

November/December 2023

CCIS volunteers continue to serve international graduate students, visiting scholars and their families at Stanford University. Read about some of our programs and events!



"Notes at the Top"

Kate Khatseyeva - President of CCIS

Holiday Wishes

Dear CCIS Community,

As we approach the upcoming holiday season, it is essential to recognize that many international students and their families will be celebrating far from home, separated from their families and friends. This can be a challenging time for them, especially for those who are celebrating away from home for the first time.

I vividly remember my first holidays abroad. It was a mix of feelings - excitement from being in a new place, the absence of snow, the warmth, and the bright colors, but also sorrow because I could not share those moments with my loved ones and enjoy traditional meals with them. I hope this is my last winter celebrating far away, and we can reunite next year.

Here at CCIS, we strive to create a supportive and inclusive environment that serves as a home away from home for all our internationals. It is during these times that we can truly embody the spirit of togetherness and support for one another.

Let's come together as a community to share the joy and happiness of the holidays and provide the much-needed support for those who may be feeling the distance from their loved ones.

Wishing you all a warm and joyous holiday season!

Kate Khatseyeva

President of CCIS at Stanford

Thanks for being a part of CCIS and supporting our International Community at Stanford.

president@ccisstanfordu.org



**New Board members
are excited to join us!**

**Meet the new board
contributors**

**Simon Buret De
Longagne-
Webmaster**



Simon Buret De Longagne
Webmaster
webmaster@

Simon is a music enthusiast turned tech explorer. Originally from Belgium, he followed his passion for music, studying in Belarus, and later settled in the Bay Area with his wife, Hanna.

For more than a decade Simon has shared his love for music as a music director and piano teacher. Later, driven by curiosity, he switched gears and studied software engineering.

Simon is using his coding experience to work on the CCIS website. Look for coming upgrades and improvements to the platform. It will be easier to navigate with better images and information.

Outside of work, Simon enjoys

**Lisa Vestal-Professional
Liasion chair**



Lisa Vestal
Professional Liasion Chair
pl@

Lisa Vestel has been a CCIS volunteer for over ten years. She has supported the English in Action, Hospitality and Community Advisors programs.

Lisa grew up in the Bay Area and attended Santa Clara University graduating with a B.A in Communications. She later obtained a M.A. in Art History from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

For over 30 years she has worked in communications in the science, engineering, technology, and fine arts sectors; much of that at Stanford.

Her love of travel, languages, and history led her to study and live abroad in Italy, Spain and England.

cooking, eating, and spending quality time with friends and family.

Other interests include martial arts, hiking, singing, animals and cooking.



Holiday Luncheon celebrates 70 years

The 70th anniversary of CCIS was celebrated at the December 4 holiday luncheon held at Michael's restaurant in Mountain View. Kate Khatseyeva, president of the CCIS board, welcomed those attending and introduced the speakers. Elsa Gontrum, Associate Director of the Bechtel International Center, told listeners that communication is vital to students and that CCIS is an important partner with the Bechtel Center.

Bob Spears, whose mother Ginny was one of the early organizers and supporters of CCIS, gave a fun recollection of his parent's first "homestay" student. He detailed the many activities that he and his family supported.

Aidana Salimgereyeva from Kazakhstan, spoke about the assistance that she has received through CCIS programs that support spouses. She expressed her appreciation for the personal growth and sense of belonging and worth she experienced because of her engagement with CCIS.



Spouse Education Fund issues grants



A well attended SEF grant recognition celebration was held December 7. The organizers were pleased to welcome the families and friends of recipients with probably about 70 people there to offer support.

Participants receiving the grants will take courses in the the following- three will take a Stanford Continuing Education course in Understanding Alzheimer's Disease, two a course in Python, and others will take courses in Feminism, Leadership, special training for Architects, Medical Statistics, Public Speaking, Art and Music, Emotional Intelligence, and other areas as well. All will take their class during 2024. They will write grant reports when the courses are completed.

The SEF awarded 40 grants at the celebration which was followed by a reception. Six grantees were men with the remaining 34 women. The grant award recipients represent 17 countries.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

A word from the editor

As the newsletter editor, I hope you will enjoy learning more about what's happening at CCIS. Your feedback is welcome--send an email to notes@ccisstanfordu.org.

Pamela Baird

CCIS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

*CCIS Notes is published by
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*For more information contact-
info@ccisstanfordu.org*