



CCIS NOTES

May/June 2024

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

Reflections and Gratitude: My Final President's Message

This message is being written on the train, on my way back home from Stanford's 133rd Annual Commencement Ceremony. I have been pondering what to say in my final message as president of the CCIS board. I was procrastinating until the last moment, seeking inspiration. It was the graduation speech delivered by Melinda French Gates that provided the clarity I needed.

Melinda is a highly accomplished and globally recognized figure in philanthropy, actively supporting numerous causes and inspiring others to give generously. Her speech deeply resonated with me, especially the part about embracing uncertainty and navigating transformations, and I felt compelled to share some thoughts.

Melinda shared a story about waves, highlighting the importance of small waves which show bigger waves a broader perspective about themselves. You can watch her speech on YouTube to catch the full presentation.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wvyqs-gLlaw>

If we interpret this story in the context of CCIS, our community is like a small wave, helping the bigger waves - our students and their families - navigate this new chapter at Stanford during times of significant life transformations and uncertainty without losing their identity. We help them envision their future and become the people they aspire to be. We are weaving a seamless web of deserved trust. We are a community of people internationals can rely on, and I am proud of the positive impact we continue to make not only within our community but also beyond Stanford.

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone for being part of this incredible community and for your generosity. Your commitment and kindness make all the difference.

As I conclude my term as President, I encourage you all to continue supporting

and uplifting one another. Let's keep making waves and creating positive change together.

with heartfelt thanks-
Kate Khatseyeva,
President of CCIS at Stanford

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

president@ccisstanfordu.org

International Spouse Coffee ☕ **continues over the summer**

Join a fun group of people on Wednesday mornings
10:30-12:00
Bechtel Center



Celebrating a fun festival

CCIS board president, Kate Katseyeva and visiting Fulbright scholar Maryna Antaniuk-Proteau organized a fun morning on May 22. The two wanted to share the traditions of Kupala, a Belarusian festival that celebrates the summer solstice.

A number of activities and rituals are associated with Kupala Night, such as gathering herbs and flowers to decorate people, animals, and houses as well as making and wearing wreaths on the head. It's a time when young women

float wreathes on lakes and streams with the hope that a fine young man will catch their wreath.

Kate and Maryna provided wreathes for the participants to wear. The Belarusian community created a memorable feast and presentation, including singing songs related to the festival. Thanks to Kate and Maryna for sharing a wonderful part of their culture.

Informative annual meeting May 13th features program participants



The annual general meeting of CCIS began with welcoming remarks made by Kate Khatseyeva, the outgoing board president. Shalini Dev Bhutani and Elsa Gontrum provided updates on the many Bechtel programs. Vivian Euzent spoke about the successful pairings of participants in the English in Action program.

In the next segment of the meeting a panel of speakers discussed their experiences with some of the programs offered by CCIS. A cross section of countries were represented by the following people-

Fatmanur Caygin Aydin	Turkey	(SEF awardee)
Jihye Lee	South Korea	(English In Action)
Bidemi Muknudeen	Nigeria	(Hospitality)
Matias Bugnar	Argentina	(English classes)
Apoorva Singh	India	(International Spouse Coffee)

Lastly, a great offering of snacks provided those attending a chance to mingle and share their experiences.

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

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