



CCIS NOTES

November/December 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"

Jeff Greenwald - President of CCIS

Are you a match?.....

Not only am I the President of **CCIS**, but I am also a **CCIS English-in-Action Partner** (a community volunteer). I have had partners in previous years that have included a Korean postdoc, a Japanese spouse, and this year, it is my pleasure to have been matched with a Chinese spouse, a woman named Natalie. Her husband, Wen He, is studying Radiology in the Stanford Medicine department.

When I was matched with Natalie, I did not know that she was several months pregnant with their first child. We met several times and our friendship blossomed as we had much in common. My fourth grandson Gordon was born this past July at Stanford Hospital, and Natalie was intending to deliver at Stanford Hospital. We discussed obstetrics, babies, lifecycles of children and of aging parents, and we also discussed Stanford.

I shared a pack-and play basinet, and a child swing with Natalie and her husband Wen. Finally, after a day of long labor, Natalie and Wen welcomed their daughter Alexis on October 21, 2024.

There are many reasons to become an English-in-Action volunteer. Making friends, building community, talking deeply about things that matter to you, understanding other cultures, maybe even speaking a foreign language, all these are benefits of becoming an EIA partner.

From the discussions that I have had with Liz and Vivian (who run the EIA program), most partners who participate in EIA return for subsequent years of being matched because of the relationships that enrich each of the participants. Plus, many partners remark that they become part of another person's "extended family", whether they return to their birth countries, or decide to stay in the USA.

If you might be interested in the EIA program, please reach out to
eia@ccisstanfordu.org

or
Eiavolunteers@ccisstanfordu.org

Jeff Greenwald, President

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

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Baby Alexis

Happy Holidays!

Holiday Luncheon- a great start to the season

The annual Holiday Luncheon was held December 2 at Michael's restaurant at Shoreline Park in Mountain View. After time for socializing and the enjoyment of a served lunch, president of the board Jeff Greenwald welcomed the volunteers.

A new award was announced- "**Volunteer of the Year**". The recipient, **Paul Heft**, serves on the board as the Database/IT chair. He maintains the information contained in the membership listings and helps with the "behind the scenes" of the newsletter, tech concerns and website.



Seyma Parlaton, Louise Damian & Esperanza Garcia Fernandez

Shalani Dev Bhutani, Executive Director of the Bechtel Center, gave a brief update of the purpose of the Bechtel Center and the challenges that international students may face in the future.

The audience enjoyed hearing three women speak about their experiences as a spouse at Stanford. They each expressed their sincere gratitude to donors of the Spouse Education Fund for supporting the opportunity for further studies.

Seyma Parlaton, a physicist from Turkeyie, described her incredible journey of navigating her new life. Through a Spouse Education Fund (SEF) grant she took a class in computer science through the Continuing Studies program. Attendance at the Wednesday Morning Coffee helped her improve the ability to speak English.

Esperanza Garcia Fernandez is from Spain. She was worried about how she would be able to make a new life at Stanford. Participating in the Wednesday Morning Coffee was a big help for her and made her feel welcome at Stanford. She also was able to take a Continuing Studies class in art history through the Spouse Education Fund.

French citizen and physician **Louise Damian** has become quite busy in her new life. Like the other two stated, the Wednesday morning Coffee was a great way to meet other spouses. In addition to taking yoga, she

also teaches French and cooking classes for other spouses. Through the SEF program she felt supported emotionally and intellectually.

Spouse Education Fund

On December 5 the committee members of the **Spouse Education Fund** celebrated the grant recipients for 2024. The Spouse Education Fund program awards grants toward supporting one course to enrich the experience of the spouse professionally or personally while they are at Stanford.

The program has provided nearly \$225,000 in educational grants to over 600 international spouses over its 40 years of existence. The Spouse Education Fund is the only CCIS program that invites specific funding from the community. Each summer the SEF program solicits donations from CCIS members and the community.



Interviews were conducted in November with the grants announced later in the month. For this year's program 50 grants (34 women & 16 men) were awarded to spouses from 21 countries. Most will use their grant to take classes through the Continuing Studies program.

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 Notes is published by
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For more information contact-
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