



CCIS NOTES

May/June 2025

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

Thank You!

To our members,

In our all-volunteer member driven CCIS organization I repeatedly hear two things. I hear the words...**THANK YOU** and I hear the words..... **I NEVER KNEW**.....

We say **THANK YOU** a lot because our members work tirelessly for the families of our international student population. We say **THANK YOU** a lot because without the members financial donations we couldn't support the 11 programs that we deliver. We say **THANK YOU** a lot because the efforts of our members and creative inputs make our programs much better, continually enhancing the programs that touch so many student families.

So whether you work in the Loan Closet or Community Advisors or Homestay (these three programs still need more volunteers in August and September) or whether you are a community member supporting English in Action, or one of our English classes, or working at a Wednesday morning coffee or cooking at a Global Chefs dinner, or supporting the Professional Liaison or Career Development program, or giving financially to support the Spouse Education Grants program, or supporting a spouse via the Hospitality program, all we can say to you is **THANK YOU!**

And I also hear.... **"I NEVER KNEW that CCIS"**..... provided this program or that program.....how cool is that!

So we need to improve the promotion of our programs.....letting students and their spouses know about the scope of the programs that we offer.....This summer we are doing three things to get the word out.

(1) We are publishing a brochure that describes the CCIS programs more fully.

(2) We are also partnering with a postdoc organization on campus to bring them into our programs so that these researchers and post graduate families know more about CCIS.

(3) And we are also improving our website that will help spouses learn about our programs, register to participate and the schedules for the many offerings.

Hopefully we will hear more THANK YOUs,and less I NEVER KNEWs .
Have a great summer.

Jeff Greenwald
President, CCIS
650-888-9162

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

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Welcome to new board members



The CCIS Board Nominating Committee (**Reg Ford, Dolly Verplank, Gwyn Dukes** and **Melanie Grondel**) along with CCIS President **Jeff Greenwald** recently hosted the incoming (2025-2026) new CCIS Board members for lunch.

The new members this year are **Kumud Jain** (International Spouse Coffee chair), **Gayathri Somsundaram** (Global Chefs chair), **Ann Dawson** (Homestay chair), **Nur Taz-Rahman** (Board member at-large, not pictured) and **Gwyn Dukes** (returning Board member as Board Secretary). We discussed plans for the year ahead. The board reflected about how lucky we are to serve an organization with over 200 volunteers that assists the International student community along with their spouses and families.

INTERNATIONAL SPOUSE COFFEE

Wednesday Morning Fun

The International Spouse Coffee is a fun time for spouses and members of CCIS to gather together, especially when a special theme is featured.

On June 4 three French spouses (all medical doctors) displayed French foods that they prepared for the “Coffee meets Culture” event. On June 25 an ice cream social was a hit. A “crazy fruits and veggies day” will be featured on July 23, in which those attending will learn about interesting ways that tropical fruits and vegetables like jicama are spiced up in various countries.

Coffee meets Culture



This program is an ideal opportunity for internationals and local residents to meet each other and learn about programs, events and helpful resources in the Bay area. This weekly event is co-sponsored by CCIS and the Bechtel International Center. The program will continue through the summer.

Plan to renew your support for CCIS

Watch for the CCIS membership renewal letter which will be sent in late July. Included will be the **SPOUSE EDUCATION FUND (SEF)** annual appeal. This important program provides grants for the spouses/partners of international post docs, students and scholars.

The grants give recipients an opportunity to further their personal, educational or professional goals while at Stanford. Shown below are some of the 2024 recipients.



Commencement Memories and more-



Greg & Pamela with Nauman 2025

Homestay Program

My husband, Greg, and I have participated in the **Homestay** program for about twenty years. We have hosted students from **Mexico, Lebanon, India, Iran, China, Switzerland, South Korea, Pakistan and Thailand**. Some of the students have invited us to attend their commencement ceremonies, which has been a true honor for us.

We attended the recent June 15 event, which was much more lively than the 2021 event which was quite limited due to COVID restrictions. It's great to see happy students and proud families and supporters. We have enjoyed seeing our homestay students adapt to a new environment, become confident in their knowledge and grow in their professions.

The opportunity to host a student has provided us the ability to connect with students from around the world. We have learned so much from them and feel that we have provided support that many students need and appreciate.

The Homestay program is seeking more volunteers. International students will arrive in late August or early September. The Homestay program affords international graduate students the opportunity to develop informal friendships with local families. Students stay 2-4 nights . If you are interested in learning more please contact - **Ann Dawson at amdeda3@yahoo.com or 650-269-1647.**



Greg & Pamela with Maryam and Muhammad-2021

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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