



CCIS NOTES

July/August 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

I wonder why?

I have always wondered why so many Board members and CCIS community members (we are now nearly 225 people strong!) volunteer many long hours for CCIS and for the 11 International programs that we provide. Is it because people have an innate desire to help others?

Or maybe it is for their own personal growth and development. Or maybe they do it just for the social connections that volunteering provides. Do they do it to advance their own careers, or perhaps its selfish fulfillment for their own happiness? Or maybe they feel it is a civic duty after they have retired. Or perhaps their own culture or religion tells them to give back to the community at some point in their life. Or maybe a combination of some or all of the above.

A few of our Board members and members have volunteered for nearly 30+ years at CCIS. And while we try to say 'thank you' to them in so many ways and many times, I don't think they are looking for a thank you or for a gold watch or a plaque for their service.

I think the very act of being a volunteer is pleasing, rewarding and cathartic. And when you make a few friends along the journey, and perhaps enjoy the very activity in which one is volunteering, then the effort of volunteering is in and of itself, the reward that volunteers seek..

But I personally still feel the need to say "thank you", over and over. Because that makes me feel good. So if it is not too repetitive or too overstated, "Thank you" volunteers. We appreciate you.

PS- this September, we will begin the 2025-2026 school year, and the 72nd year that CCIS will be on campus, welcoming the International students at Stanford University. And while budgets are tight, and the University is going through some difficult times, CCIS will still be offering our 11 programs: **English classes**, **English in Action** program, **the Loan Closet**, **Hospitality program** and **Homestay**, **Spouse coffees** on Wednesdays, **Global**

Chefs cooking classes, **Spouse Education Funding**, **Community Advisors** from **Sept 4-19**, **Career Development workshops**, and the **Professional Liaison Program**.

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

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Annual Board Retreat



The **CCIS Board** held its annual retreat on August 18 at the Bechtel Center. Although the board meets monthly, the annual retreat gives the group an opportunity to more carefully review the budget and learn more about the eleven programs that CCIS provides.

The day long event also give board members the chance to brainstorm about how programs can be enhanced or improved. During a lunch break (with a great meal) members had the time to talk with each other and learn more about their reasons for involvement with CCIS.

INTERNATIONAL SPOUSE COFFEE

Wednesday Morning Fun

The **International Spouse Coffee** is a fun time for spouses and members of CCIS to gather together.

A new coordinator, **Kumud Jain** (shown in the center of the photo), will be organizing the Coffees. **Gwyn Dukes**, after many years of coordinating the events, has accepted the position of secretary of the CCIS board.

A special **Welcome Coffee** will start the fall gatherings on **September 24**. Events with special themes will start shortly after that. **Diwali** will be celebrated on **October 22**.



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

Professional Liaison Program

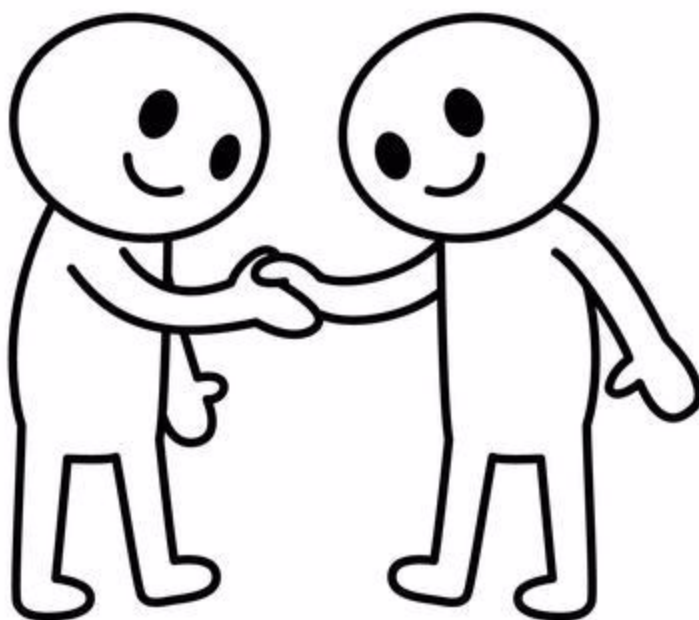
CCIS supports eleven programs for graduate students, visiting scholars, postdocs and their spouses and families. One of the programs that is not as well-known as some others is the **Professional Liaison Program (PLP)**.

The purpose of the CCIS **Professional Liaison Program (PLP)** is to allow spouses of internationals to address questions about their career during one-on-one conversations with other professionals in their field. Prior to arriving at Stanford, many spouses had

professional careers. Some have graduate degrees in science, engineering, medicine, business, and/or education.

The program was created to help spouses learn about their profession as it is practiced in the U.S. and to connect to someone locally in their field. Applicants must be proficient in English, be unable to work in the U.S. due to visa status and have no existing local contacts in his/her professional field.

Board member Lisa Vestal is the coordinator on this important program. She recently connected with **Kieu Van Vu** who participated in the program. Kieu stated **"I truly appreciate the opportunity to be part of such an incredible PLP program. Thank you, CCIS, for making this possible! A special thank you to Lisa for her unwavering support, from my application process all the way to coordinating the expert meetings that included an influential figure in the Food Innovation field and a second connection who also provided valuable career advice and guidance. I am grateful for the connections and insights gained through the program."**



To learn more about the **PLP** program, visit: <https://ccisstanfordu.org/spouse/liaison.html> or contact Lisa Vestal at pl@ccisstanfordu.org.

Ready to aid new international students-

Members of the board will be aiding new international students in several programs during September. The major effort will be that of acting as **"Community**

Advisors". After students attend a mandatory briefing at Bechtel about visa status CCIS members will be available to advise students about getting started at Stanford. Information about the Marguerite free shuttle system, locations around campus, shopping options and other important information will be given to interested students.

Group dinners are planned for September 10,11 and 12. These will be attended by various board members. **Day long trips to Berkeley and Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park** are scheduled later in September. Board members will travel with the students as they learn about Cal or visit a spectacular feature of northern California- the majestic redwoods.



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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