



CCIS NOTES

September/October 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?

Why do some people like sweet foods and other people like tart or sour tastes? Why do some people love to dress up in dresses or beautiful satins and colors while other people like cottons and comfortable jeans or pants? Why do some people like the mountains and others like to go to the beach?

People have diverse preferences, and while you cannot summarize any group of people into one preference only, such as "all men eat meat" or "all people from Peru prefer pineapple" or all people who are short like warm weather, there are few conclusions that we can make about our International Spouses who come to Stanford:

1- all spouses are curious. Every spouse who arrives at Stanford has a talented partner who has accepted a challenging assignment here of 1-5 years, away from their home country, knowing that their curiosity will result in a set of unique and fulfilling experiences for both of them.

2- all spouses miss "someone" back home, and they crave positive relationships because Facetime, zoom, phone calls and email simply doesn't provide sufficient human contact when they are gone for long periods of time.

3- all spouses "like" receiving free meals, or advice, or programs or information.... But they "feel better" when they can contribute, give, work or have responsibilities around a program, in a class or towards a project. Why is giving better than receiving? I am not sure, but having observed spouses at Bechtel for almost a decade, all I can tell you is..... they would rather contribute than receive. Ask a spouse if this is true!

4- finally, all spouses love our weather at Stanford. Now this doesn't mean that some don't miss the snow or rain, or warm weather, or more defined seasons... but everyone of our spouses paints a positive attitude, putting our weather aside.... to look forward to the day, with a curious view, looking to meet new and interesting people, who can offer a safe community, here away from their home country, where they can contribute.

We have much to learn from them.

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

president@ccisstanfordu.org

September Welcome Dinners



Newly arrived foreign graduate students enjoyed a buffet dinner served by CCIS volunteers. The meal set-up lines were positioned in the courtyard of the Bechtel Center. About one hundred students were served on September 10, 11 & 12.

Rice, pasta with tomato sauce, salad, chicken and a spicy meat dish were provided by a local restaurant. On the last evening students enjoyed karaoke entertainment.

INTERNATIONAL SPOUSE COFFEE

Wednesday Morning Fun

The **International Spouse Coffee** is a fun time for spouses and members of CCIS to gather together. In September and October several special theme

events added extra fun and provided knowledge about other cultures. The coffee sessions are scheduled from 10:30-12 on most Wednesday mornings.

September 24 Welcome Coffee



About 100 people participated in the first fall coffee.

Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival October 8



The group enjoyed making and eating special moon cakes. Take home goodie bags were provided by the organizers.

Diwali Festival October 22



The organizers gave an informative presentation, painted henna patterns on hands, shared Bollywood dancing and provided tasty treats for everyone to sample.

The next coffee on Wednesday November 5 will feature a Dia de Los Muertos celebration.

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.

Odds & Ends notifications

Fun time-

Wed Nov 5 @ 4 pm: Halloween Costume party

Renew Your membership-

CCIS has 160 active members who are either new or have renewed for the 2025-26 academic year. There are approximately 100 members from 2023 and 2024 who have not updated their memberships.

For more information: MembershipOutReach@CCISstanfordU.org

English In Action: Converse and Connect

About 20 people are on the waiting list for an English conversation partner. Please consider joining this program. If you are a volunteer please update your information form if you can meet with a new partner.

For more information: EIAVolunteers@CCISstanfordu.org

Save the date

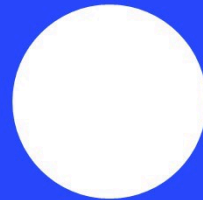
Monday December 1-

Annual CCIS volunteers holiday luncheon

Michaels at Shoreline

11:30

Cost- \$29.95 (includes lunch)



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
[The Community Committee for International Students at Stanford University](#)*

*For more information contact-
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