



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
CCIS President

A Season of new opportunities

I hope this message finds you well and filled with the joy that the coming of spring brings.

As I walk through my neighborhood, I can't help but be filled with awe at the sight of the magnolia trees in bloom. It's amazing how nature works its magic, and the change of seasons never gets old.

For those of us who grew up in colder countries or climates, the sight of blooming trees and the warmth of the sun feels like a miracle. As we welcome this new season, I am reminded of the countless opportunities it presents us.

One of these opportunities is to join the Board of Directors of our nonprofit organization. As we continue to make a positive impact in the community, we are in search of individuals who are passionate and committed to our cause.

This is a great opportunity to get involved and make a difference. You will have the chance to work alongside other dedicated members, and together, we will take the organization to new heights.

If you are interested in applying for a position on the Board of Directors, please let me know and I'll send you more information about open positions. We welcome all members to apply and we look forward to working with you.

Thank you for your continued support and I hope you all have a wonderful spring season.

Sincerely,
Kate Khatseyeva
President of CCIS at Stanford

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

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English In Action Seeks More Volunteers with a Heartfelt Testimony



English in Action, the CCIS program, is looking for more volunteers. EIA, as it is called, enables Stanford's international graduate students, visiting scholars, post doctorates, and spouses to practice casual English conversation, learn about American culture, and develop friendships with English-speaking community volunteers. Partners usually meet weekly for one or more years.

Recently the volunteer organizers of the program held a recruiting event at the Moldaw Residences in Palo Alto. One of the EIA participants, Tomoko, spoke about her experiences with the program and the attention that she receives from her EIA partner Marilyn. Tomoko, with her enhanced English proficiency, delivered the following statement.

Marilyn and I meet every Wednesday using Facetime for about one hour. She always asks me if I have any questions. And she teaches me a lot about local things, events, and American cultures.

At first, I'm not good at speaking English, and I wanted to know how to say "hello" and how to reply, "how are you?" So, we practiced with role-playing. Marilyn became my daughter's friend's mother, my husband's colleague, and boss. That was fun.

Marilyn goes to farmers market every week, and when I asked her where to buy fresh vegetables, she guided me to the farmers market.

We talked about how to celebrate the American holidays, like Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year, and Valentines. And she also taught me which places to visit in the U.S. and which season is the best.

I've experienced many cultural differences, and here I have no relatives and no close local people. So, not only practicing speaking English, Marilyn is the one I can ask anything, even the smallest thing. It's really helpful for me.

Tomoko lives off campus with her husband, who is a post-doc, and their four year old daughter. She is taking ESL classes at Palo Alto High School. Tomoko enjoys cooking and trying new local restaurants.

To learn more about volunteer activities contact
eiavolunteerrecruitment@ccisstanfordu.org

International Spouse Coffee Celebrates



Held every Wednesday morning at the Bechtel International Center, the **International Spouse Coffee** events are a fun way for internationals to meet others and local volunteers. Special programs feature celebrations or themes where participants can learn about other countries and cultures.

A recent gathering celebrated the Lunar New Year. People from Kazakhstan, Korea, Brazil, Chile, France and Norway attended. Fanfan Dong was held a dumpling making class. Two types of dumplings were made in large quantities (shown above are the happy cooks) which were offered at the Coffee.

Emily Ban of Korea taught a class on making the special soup that Koreans eat on New Year's Day. Those attending also learned to write their name in Korean on a special bookmark, which they took home.

Future special events will celebrate the International Women's Day on March 8 and the Nowruz (New Year) as it is celebrated in Kazakhstan on March 22.



Earthquake relief

The Stanford Daily reports that the Stanford Turkish Student Association (TSA) is calling for support for the affected communities following the 7.8-magnitude earthquake that struck south-central Turkey near the Syrian border.

Information about how to help is included in the following link:
<https://stanforddaily.com/2023/02/07/turkish-syrian-students-call-on-stanford-community-for-support-in-wake-of-recent-earthquake/>

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 me at: notes@ccisstanfordu.org.

Pamela Baird

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For more information contact: info@ccisstanfordu.org