



CCIS NOTES

July/August 2023

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 - President of CCIS

Embracing New Adventures

Dear CCIS Community,

For incoming foreign students and their families, embarking on new adventure of studying at Stanford can be both scary and exciting. As someone who has experienced this life-changing journey firsthand, I can empathize with the mix of emotions they must be feeling. Leaving home to study in a new country is undoubtedly nerve-wracking.

Rest assured, CCIS is here to support and welcome them with open arms. Homesickness and feeling a bit flustered are natural reactions to such significant life changes, but we are confident that they will soon be embraced by our warm and welcoming community. We eagerly look forward to helping our incoming students and their families transition smoothly into their new lives. We are excited to meet new people from diverse backgrounds and welcome them to our many programs and initiatives.

As an organization, we aim to form significant relationships with our students and their families and be a source of assistance throughout their journey. Joining our programs such as Community Advisors, Homestay, Hospitality, and EIA provides an excellent opportunity to contribute and be part of this welcoming community. As volunteers, you will have the chance to show kindness and appreciation, and make a positive impact on the lives of others.

I am incredibly proud of the work we have done as an organization and the positive impact we have made in the lives of our members. Together, we have built a supportive community that fosters growth, learning, and friendship. Let us continue to welcome our incoming students and their families with excitement and strive to create a vibrant and inclusive community.

Thank you for being a part of CCIS. I look forward to our continued journey together.

With warmest regards,

Kate Khatseyeva

President of CCIS at Stanford

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

president@ccisstanfordu.org

**Make a special
contribution to the
Spouse Education
Fund-**

**Make a special impact
in someone's life**



Founded in 1985, the **Spouse Education Fund (SEF)** awards grants of \$100 to \$500 to enable international spouses or partners with financial need to take advantage of local academic and professional-development opportunities.

This program is not supported by Stanford University, but is dependent on donations. The grants are intended to provide spouses with encouragement and financial support to take a class or to pursue a personal or professional interest.

Last year 37 grants were given to spouses from 19 different countries. Both application submission and interviews will be conducted in November. The grants will be announced in December and will be used in 2024. Most of the grant money is used to take classes offered through the Stanford Continuing Studies program.

The impact of the program is expressed by statements from participating spouses. Aoiffe from Ireland writes- "*Thank you to the SEF Donors for making my spring quarter here a positive and fulfilling one, the class gave me the purpose that my life was lacking and has given me the confidence to pursue other professional interests in the remainder of my time at Stanford. I am so grateful for the experience that I gained through the program and the friendships and network that I have built from taking my public speaking class.*"

Another recipient, Bokyung from South Korea, expresses her appreciation in the following way- "*I really appreciate your donation to the SEF program. SEF gave me a sense of belonging here and encouragement, which means a lot to me. Before meeting SEF, I did not feel very much of a sense of belonging here as a spouse, but, through meeting them and receiving their support and help, I felt grateful that there are people who are supportive and willing to help me with my development. Experiencing the SEF program was awesome for me. Thanks a lot.*"

Recently membership renewal letters were sent which included the opportunity to donate to SEF. Members can still donate even if they have already returned their

membership information.

Mail your check to:

**CCIS c/o Bechtel International Center
Stanford University
584 Capistrano Way
Palo Alto, CA 94305**

English in Action



A fun afternoon of picking cherries. Program co-chair Vivian is shown on the left

Expanded program reaches more participants

The purpose of **English in Action** is to enable 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.

The co-chairs are Vivian Euzent and Liz Ambuhl. When they accepted the position on the board several years ago their goal was to reach out to more people in the community. Vivian stated "It was apparent that potential volunteer women were working full time and could not participate during the day. This meant our volunteer

pool would be primarily retired people. So, in order to increase the range of options, we decided to allow evening and weekend meetings, too. This turned out to be great and most likely contributed to the increased number of matches."

Foreign participants value the time spent with their partners. One grateful international wrote *"I learned so many things about an American life from you. Thank you for your devotion and dedication to foreigners like us. I am so grateful for your devotion, valuable information, and kind welcome. We were lucky to meet you and learn how to understand the real American life. I wish you all the best."*

This past academic year 102 matches were made. More English speaking volunteers are needed.

Interested in joining EIA?

Computers are not all that smart, including our database. To add your name simply login to your membership account

<http://ccisstanfordu.org/data/MembershipApplication.php>. After checking the EIA box, enter your preferences for-

- Ready for a new partner?
- Gender and age preference of your international partner
- How you can meet - in person, remote, or both
- Which days of the week you are available for meetings

This information makes it easy for the database to match you with one of our great international guests.

Questions can be directed to Liz at
eiavolunteerrecruitment@ccisstanfordu.org

The next issue of CCIS Notes will introduce the new board members.

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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*For more information contact-
info@ccisstanfordu.org*