



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” Annette Isaacson President

Welcome to the new school year!

Fall is my favorite season. I guess because I was a teacher, I always associate it with new beginnings and with hope.

The staff at Bechtel Center has informed us that Stanford is expecting 1500-1600 new Internationals on campus this fall...a bumper crop! I'm sure these individuals are filled with hope, too, as they begin their lives at Stanford. CCIS will be ready to offer them support through the Virtual Welcome Partners Program, Friday Morning Coffee, English in Action, Hospitality, English Classes, and the Spouse Education Fund Program.

Many of these programs will continue on Zoom, but some will be a hybrid of Zoom and in-person meetings depending upon the volunteer's and the international's preferences.

We still haven't received permission to open the Loan Closet, but we haven't yet given up hope. Windows on the West is still on hiatus due to safety protocols.

If you have already renewed your membership...thank you. If you haven't renewed yet, please let us know if you have any questions or need any help. [Juliet Johnson](#), our membership chair, will be glad to help you. Her cell number is 650-291-8008.

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

Fondly,

Annette Isaacson
CCIS President

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SEF Recipients express appreciation

The **Spouse Education Fund** was established thirty five years ago to support educational opportunities for the spouses of international graduate students. Many Stanford international spouses put their careers on hold while their spouse pursues academic studies at Stanford. The Spouse Education Fund program offers a grant (usually sufficient to take one course) so that the spouse can partake in academic enrichment.

The program has provided nearly \$200,000 in educational grants to close to 600 international spouses. In the 2019-2020 academic year, 44 spouses from 23 countries received grants.

The SEF is the only CCIS program that invites specific funding from the community. Each summer the SEF program solicits donations from CCIS members and the community. These funds (except those earmarked for the SEF Endowment) are distributed as grants late in the Fall Term to international spouses. Applicants are interviewed by the Spouse Education Fund Committee.

Recent applicants have provided feedback about the program. **Miran Cho** from South Korea writes, "This scholarship helped me a lot, both financially and emotionally. This support gives a lot of courage and motivation to spouses who have left their hometown behind. Thank you."

A citizen of Brazil, **Dalila Maria Arajo** states, "The grants can facilitate women to get into new activities or jobs. The most valuable support is tips shared, attention to questions we have and the encounters with volunteers and others."

Another recipient, **Haruka Miyauchi** of Japan writes, "Your donation enabled me to hone my business skills and develop my career. This learning experience made me part of the entire Stanford community. Your kindness definitely motivates us to continue to learn and develop."

It is a privilege to know these accomplished and interesting spouses and to learn about and support their interests and goals. The impact of SEF grants on the lives of the recipients goes far beyond the monetary value of the award.

The latest appeal for SEF was sent at the end of July. The Application process for 2021 grants will begin in October. Visit <https://ccisstanfordu.org/spouse/education.html> if you would like to make a contribution.

A Graduation ceremony like no other



The Graduation ceremony held June 12 for those receiving advanced degrees was unlike that of any other. Even a few months prior to the ceremony it was unknown if it could be conducted because of COVID concerns.

My husband and I had hoped to attend the ceremony to celebrate with our former homestay student Mohammad Hossein Shafinia and his wife Maryam Akbarpour. But only two tickets were given to each student. Nonetheless, he was able to secure two additional tickets for us. We were honored to attend the ceremony, as so many families and friends were not able to participate.

Masks were required to enter and sit in the stadium. Observers in the stadium seats were widely distanced from each other, as were the graduating students sitting on the stadium field. It was odd to look on the field and see it covered with sitting students so widely spaced.

The keynote speaker, **Atul Gawande**, Stanford Class of 1987 graduate and writer, surgeon and public health expert advised the newly credentialed graduates to "say yes to everything." In one of the best graduation speeches I've heard he stated, "All of us are seeking our way to express our worth. And everyone does have worth, equally, with everyone else as a human being. We do just by being here in the world. To discover how to express that worth, all you have to do is keep saying yes until you've found it. And if you do, you will."

This year 2,171 master degrees and 1,103 doctoral degrees were conferred.

The entire ceremony can be seen on the Stanford Youtube channel
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wdpE83bFLUo>

Submitted by Pamela Baird



Looking to volunteer?

English in Action (EIA) is a unique program that pairs international graduate students, scholars, post-doctoral researchers and their spouses with community volunteers for weekly meetings to engage in English conversation and become familiar with American culture.

Weekly meetings of one hour or more can be in person (for fully vaccinated people); however, video conferencing is also an option if you're not vaccinated or if you cannot meet in person. Partners who share similar interests, occupations, educations, and gender are matched.

EIA partners often become lifelong friends.

Stanford expects a very large number of Internationals for the 2021-22 academic year. EIA is actively recruiting volunteers. Please consider this exciting opportunity to broaden your perspective and to make new friends. For more information see: <https://ccisstanfordu.org/english/englaaction.html>

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

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