



November/December 2020

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

Happy Hol - Delays!

My friend, Ginger, has come up with a new name for the time between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day: the Hol - Delays. Because of the pandemic, many of us are having to delay our holiday celebrations. It's sad for us, but as my friend says, "Military families often have to delay their holidays. When everyone can finally get together, they are just that much more joyous." She helped put things into perspective for me. We'll be able to celebrate in person again, and until then, we can Zoom.

Even though we can't meet in person, CCIS has been busy during the last few months: **Carole Hessler**, chair of **English in Action**, has been able to match every international who asked for a partner...YEAH! We are hoping that the eight CCIS members who didn't get a partner will be able to be matched in the new year.

Gwyn Dukes, **Dolly Verplank** and **Sande Stuart** interviewed all of the applicants to the **Spouse Education Fund** and were able to award eleven grants. What a wonderful way to support internationals who had to leave their careers to follow their spouse or partner to Stanford!

Lydia Moret has written a weekly Facebook post. If you're on Facebook, be sure to "like" our page <https://www.facebook.com/ccisatstanford>.

Friday Morning Coffee on Zoom celebrated Halloween, Japanese Culture Day, and Thanksgiving while helping internationals to connect with each other and with CCIS members.

As we say goodbye to 2020, I hope you are safe and warm and ready to meet the new year with hope and goodwill for all.

Fondly,

Annette Isaacson
CCIS President
president@ccisstanfordu.org

Spouse Education Fund grant recipients announced

Founded in 1985, the **Spouse Education Fund** (SEF) awards grants of \$100 to \$500 to enable international spouses or partners to take advantage of local academic and professional development opportunities. The grants are intended to provide spouses with encouragement and financial support to take a class or to pursue a personal or professional interest.

Congratulations to those listed below- good luck and good learning!

Japan

- Chiharu Narazaki** - Business English (Mary Schuelke Memorial Fund Grant)
- Utako Karigane** - Medical Statistics (Marianne Dieckman Memorial Fund Grant)
- Sonoko Muira** - Painting Courses (Josh Alper Memorial Fund Grant)
- Haruka Miyauchi** - LEAD Business Program
- Marina Ohashi** - Business Persuasion (Jane Reber Memorial Fund Grant)

China

- Lin Chen** - Professional Photography (Jane Reber Memorial Fund Grant)

South Korea

- Miran Cho** - TESOL Training

Iran

- Maryam Akbarpour** - Python Skills

Netherlands

- Nahima Dchiri** -Freelancer Bootcamp (Connie Barthold Memorial Fund Grant)

Brazil

- Dallia Araujo** - Business Negotiation Strategies (Mary Schuelke Memorial Fund Grant)
- Talita Camelo**- TOEFL Preparation

Because of the restrictions of COVID-19 not as many foreign students are on campus this fall. As a result, the number of spouses is reduced. In 2019 over 40 individuals received grants.



An Update with Maria Vaccaro- filmmaker of Women in a New Land

Maria Vaccaro, who followed her husband to Stanford in 2005, experienced the loneliness and disruption many spouses feel. Prior to moving to California she worked as an artist and video editor for the National TV in Belgium. After the initial flush of excitement of living in a new place she found herself isolated and missing her job, family and friends from Europe. Maria became involved with the Bechtel International Center of Stanford and the programs offered by CCIS.

Using her expertise and experiences, she was inspired to make a documentary profiling the stories of four women who she met at the I-Center. Gwyn Dukes, who worked as an advisor at the I-Center (and is a current CCIS Board member) explains in the film the challenges that spouses face when giving up careers and lifestyles to follow their spouses.

The 46 minute film, which was produced in 2008, is entitled **Women in a New Land**. The experiences of four women, Claire from France, Michelle of South Africa, Svetlana from Russia and Keiko of Japan, are detailed. The film was shown several times at the I-Center and numerous other universities. Maria and her film were also profiled in local newspapers.

Because it was decided to add a link to her film on the CCIS website, an update of Maria seemed like a good idea. Board member Kate Khatseyeva conducted an interview with Maria to learn about her life after making the film and leaving Stanford. Since 2012 she and her husband have lived in Philadelphia. The couple has two daughters. Maria still works on videos and photography projects, most recently taking photos during the November election events.

When asked about what she would do differently if she made the film again, she said that she would profile a woman who was not able to make the transition to life at Stanford and returned home. She might also include a male spouse, as their experiences are different than that of most of the women. Men accompanying their wives may feel more isolated because of the lack of male social groups.

As for her time at Stanford, she feels lucky that there is such a robust program to aid foreign students and their spouses and that she was able to participate. She was proud to be recognized for her talents as a filmmaker. Maria feels empathy for the extra challenges of spouses now trying to make connections during a pandemic.

The film is available for viewing on the CCIS YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOB3LDYV5b4d5ve-2Jz7gXw/featured>.

Happy Holidays!

Meet the new CCIS Board members

The Board is pleased to announce five new members. One existing member has changed positions. In this issue we feature the last of the new members. We are so thankful for having wonderful new Board members and look forward to having their input and suggestions.

Juliet Johnson

Juliet Johnson has been active in the **English in Action** program since 2005. During this time she calculates that she has interacted with over one hundred international scholars and students! Juliet was born and raised in Taiwan. She moved to the USA in 1969. Her first job in Taiwan was working for the US Embassy. Her work experience and interests are wide and varied- international relations, teaching, languages and oil painting. Juliet states that CCIS has enriched her life (and that of her husband) through the interactions the program has provided. She nows serves as one of the two Membership Chairs, with a focus on member records, including donations.



Do you have photos to share for the CCIS website, newsletter, or social media? You can help us out by uploading the photos to our

[Google account](#).

For the instructions, please send an email to Kate Khatseyeva at

k.khatseyeva@gmail.com.

A word from the editor

As the Stanford 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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