



Welcome to CCIS monthly newsletter!
 Our goal is to provide news, program updates, and stories about life in the U.S. to international graduate students, post docs, visiting scholars, and their families at Stanford.
 Please let us know if you would like to write an article for a future newsletter.



Let us read together! – The Book Club

By Soo Yeon Kim

Reading a book might sound boring, or some silent, indoor thing that you would least like to do in warm and sunny California. Joining a book club, however, can be very dynamic and exciting, as your life at Stanford should be. I joined the book club in late 2021, and ever since I joined, I have never missed a book. I would like to share the reasons why I am so in love with this book club.

First and foremost, it makes me read, in English. To those who fear reading in English, DON'T WORRY. WE DON'T READ THAT MUCH. We usually read 200 pages every two weeks. It is a manageable amount, I usually put it back until the last minute and cram it on the last few days, but since the book club meeting sets me a short-term goal, it motivates me to keep reading. Some of the book club members had never read a book in English before, and they loved that the book club helped them to read. Though we read separately, it feels like teamwork.

Secondly, the book club meeting itself is so fun and exciting. I think the Bechtel book club is possibly the most diverse; people from different countries, backgrounds, and experiences share their thoughts. I always learn other points of view or insights from every meeting. Since we read the same book and prepare what to discuss before the meeting (I send out questions a day before), we are ready to talk and listen to each other.

Lastly, combining all the above, I enjoy the book more than when I read by myself. I have a terrible memory, I forget movies and books very quickly, but those books I read in the book club remain vivid. Planned reading and sharing ideas makes me think more about the book than I would if I was reading alone. The whole process becomes an experience and remains with me for longer.

We will read our new book in mid-May. If you are curious, why don't you try it out? We welcome you with warm hearts!

About the Book Club:

Current reading: **Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow** by Gabrielle Zevin.

We meet on Monday (every other week), 11 a.m. -12 p.m.

Email Soo if you are interested in joining or have questions: sooyeon114@gmail.com



A short but enjoyable time in California

By Christoph Doerfler

Christoph is from Germany. He is a professional in the Supply Chain Department of the car manufacturers Audi and Volkswagen.

I first came to California last September because my wife Rebekka accepted an offer from Stanford University. I felt very excited for her when she received the positive answer more than a year ago. Although we both knew that it would be a hard decision for us to leave our families and friends behind, we both decided to take the chance to come to California. So I decided to give up my job in my home country temporarily to follow my wife in pursuit of her dream, which is studying medieval German literature. I know it sounds very strange to move from Germany to California to study German literature but Stanford University is very good and they offer a lot of opportunities to international students.

During my stay I had a lot of time to meet people from all around the world, which I really enjoyed. For me, the stay in Stanford is and will always be a unique period in my life: the wonderful events at the Bechtel International Center, the kind people that I met there and the many new things I discovered. But I am also looking forward to finally go home in less than two months, to see my parents, my pet and also my friends and to eat some traditional German food (which I really missed in California). But nevertheless, if I could go back in time one year, I think I would make the same decision to come to California. It is an adventure that very few people will have in their lives and I am glad to be one of those people.



Event invitation: English in Action – Spring Fling

EIA volunteers and students:

A special event for community volunteers and their international partners will be held on **Friday, May 05, from 5:00 – 6:30 PM**. Please come and enjoy appetizers and beverages. Our theme, Cinco de Mayo, originates from May 05, 1862 when the Mexican army fought the French army and won. It is celebrated in the United States to commemorate Mexican culture and heritage (it is not a big festival in Mexico). Traditional Mexican snacks and beverages will be served.

While spouses or partners are invited, it would be a boring event for young children. Alcohol will be served, and there are two activities that will be fun for grownups but not interesting to children. In a perfect world your children would go to a friend's house and play while you and your partner enjoy the event.

Please join us at the **Bechtel International Center, 584 Capistrano Way, Stanford**. There is free parking in the Tressider Parking lot.

Please reach out to Vivian (veuzent@comcast.net) if you are attending. We want to be sure there is plenty of food and are also making custom name tags and want to be sure there is one waiting for you if you are coming.

Please note - this event is exclusively for international guests (students, spouses/partners, etc.) who have been matched with a partner in the English in Action Program.

We look forward to seeing you there.

If you enjoyed this newsletter, please feel free to share this link with your international friends at Stanford so they can receive it too.



CCIS this month is edited by Kirsty Lienard, Jessie Zhou and Kate Khatseyeva

CCIS supports international graduate students, visiting scholars, post docs, and their families at Stanford University by offering gracious and helpful connections between Stanford Internationals and the community.
 CCIS is a 501(C)3 non-profit organization.
 CCIS This Month is published by
 The Community Committee for International Students at Stanford University.