

# February / March 2005 Communiqué

<http://www.CCISstanford.org>



Community Committee for International Students at Stanford University

## CCIS Programs

Associates + Cooking + Community Advisors + English Classes + English-in-Action + Homestay + Hospitality  
+ International Women's Circle + Loan Closet + Professional Liaison + Spouse Fund

## CCIS Spouse Fund makes 30 grants to international spouses in 2004

The CCIS Spouse Education Fund made a record number of grants in 2004, continuing its program of providing encouragement to spouses and partners of international students and scholars to enroll in educational activities while here at Stanford.

The Spouse Education Fund was established in 1984 in recognition of the fact that spouses have typically interrupted their education or career in order to accompany their partners while studying at Stanford. The fund makes small grants (\$500 maximum) to encourage these spouses to further their education or training by enrolling in a local college or institution while they live here. Although the individual grants usually fund only a small portion of their expenses, they do provide encouragement to get started.

In October 2004, the Spouse Fund Committee received 35 applications for grants from international spouses representing 21 different countries. Each applicant was required to give his or her educational and employment background, state the purpose of the grant and the amount requested. After reviewing the applications the committee, with Gwyn Dukes in an advisory capacity, conducted interviews in early November and 30 grants were made. The amount of each grant is based both on need and merit. Merits of applicants were excellent, which made awarding of individual grants difficult since we had only about \$8000 to spend.

Each grantee reports to Gwyn Dukes on individual progress and any changes in circumstances that may have taken place. We know how much these grants are appreciated from the letters and comments of appreciation.

*Money for grants comes from donations from CCIS members. We also received a \$500 donation from the Stanford Credit Union. Money is available both from donations for current grants, and also from income from the endowment Fund. CCIS members who donate to the Spouse Fund may specify the endowment or current giving. The fund's annual appeal for donations will be sent in April.*

Following are the 2004 grantees:

**Maria Gabriela Castro** (Chile) to begin work toward a Certificate in Project Management at U.C. Berkeley.

**Yuri Chang** (Korea) to study art in Continuing Studies at Stanford.

**Adeline S. Chin** (Canada) will attend an American Water Works Association seminar.

**Soon Ja Hong** (Korea) to support special studies in music.

**Ying-Wen Huang** (Taiwan) for fall 2005. Biological Science at Stanford.

**Min J. Jeong** (Korea) to fulfill prerequisites for studies of treatments for special disabilities.

**Kyoung Suk Jo** (Korea) to fulfill prerequisites for graduate study in economics.

**Suw-Youn Jun** (Korea) for Palo Alto Adult School courses in art and English.

**Gabriela Klerian** (Mexico) will attend Stanford Continuing Studies to work toward a certificate in design.

**Fei Lei** (China) will study Accountancy at San Jose State

**Jie Li** (China) will study Computer Engineering at San Jose State in autumn of 2005.

**Yonit Lustig** plans to attend Santa Clara University for Computer Engineering.

**Maria Celine Pang** (Philippines) will complete a certificate in teaching English as a Second Language at U.C. Berkeley Extension.

**Feng Qui** (China) will work towards and Associate degree in Nursing at de Anza.

**Nafiseh Rahimzadeh** (Iran) to prepare for exams for interning as practicing pharmacist.

**Hiroko Strulovici** (Japan) to study French at San Jose State.

**Christian Bloch Thomsen** (Denmark) to work on certification for a version of Lotus Notes software.

**Monica Torreiro-Casal** (Spain) to continue Masters studies in Counseling Psychology at Santa Clara University.

**Marina van Doornik** (Lithuania) to take a course on controlling business risks at Stanford Continuing Studies.

**Monica Vidalon** (Peru) to continue studies for a BA in Business Marketing at University of San Francisco.

**Hana Vlhova-Worner** (Czech Rep.) will attend International Congress for Medieval Studies at Western Michigan.

—more recipients on page 3

## The President's Column . . .



Sitting in the living room of the I-Center during the music portion of the CCIS Potluck/Music Night we are listening to a young Korean woman pleasantly play the piano as though she is among family. There will be three pianists — all Asians (*photos below*). For some reason Asians have taken up Western music often studying piano or violin.

I get a strange sense that there has been some kind of time warp and that we've been transported back to another age before electricity — a time when people filled their evenings by entertaining each other. The room contributes to the atmosphere with its beamed ceiling and large fireplace. The end of the room, behind the piano, consists of six very tall, glass-paneled doors that form a bay window opening onto a garden like something from of a 19th century evening out of a Jane Austen or Wilkie Collins novel.

A Japanese music graduate from Osako closes the evening. She begins with a lightning-fast Chopin. Triplets scampered down the keyboard while the rhythm stretched from fast to slow to fast again. It was like the music was printed on an elastic sheet which the player stretched and released allowing the notes to move further apart and then closer once more.

There may be fifty or sixty of us here listening to the music. I suspect that many of us, if we give it thought, miss this style of life that we have lost to professional entertainers who come into our homes via TV, radio, and recordings. Live music touches us much more deeply because in being here we experience rather than have the sounds pass over us passively, and we are less distractable.

It feels good to be a part of these evenings in which we can participate in a lifestyle that our ancestors enjoyed. We thank Youn-mi Park, Noriko Oba, Alison Wu for sharing their talent and the pleasure they derive from their instrument with us.



*John Heron*

*from left to right,*

Noriko Oba - Osaka, Japan

Youn-mi Park - Andong, Korea

Alison Wu - Shanghai, China

How sweet the music sleeps upon this bank! Here will we sit,  
and let the sounds of music Creep in our ears; soft stillness  
and the night Become the touches of sweet harmony.

*The Merchant of Venice (1596-8) act 5, sc.1, l. 54*

## CCIS Board

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\*\*\* position open



It's been about two months since I came to Stanford as a spouse of an international student. To me, it feels more than two months since I left my country.

(1) *Let's face it*, two months can be either a short period of time and/or a long period of time. I think I feel that way because I came to Stanford just half a month after I got married. I went through so many changes in a very short span of time.

(2) *As a matter of fact*, I feel like I have become a different person altogether from what I had been in Korea, my home country. I feel that I became more mature and unselfish.

When I came to Stanford with my husband two months ago, I did not expect that I would (3) *have the time of my life* here. I knew that living in a foreign country, especially as a wife of a student, would be hard. Even before my marriage and coming to the U.S., I fully understood that my husband could not (4) *spend much time* with me having fun because he would have to catch up on his studies. I also understood that I would have to (5) *start from scratch* to get adjusted to my new surroundings, and I would not be able to talk to my family and friends in Korea as I used to. However, I (6) *had my heart set on* marrying my husband and coming to the U.S. because I knew that I could not be truly happy without him.

Still, it (7) *took a while* to adapt to my new circumstances. In the U.S., I was neither a foreign policy researcher who has an MA, nor a princess-like daughter who does not do any

household tasks. I was a housewife, and I had to cook, wash the dishes, do the laundry, and clean the house. I was unsatisfied with my life in Stanford because I felt like I did not (8) *have a lot going for myself* here. My discontent about my helplessness directed to my husband, and I often argued with him. I felt that my husband, the reason I am in the U.S., did not understand and support me emotionally as I expected him to do for a newly wed bride. I felt lonely and would cry and miss my family in Korea.

However, I got to know that I was not the only one who felt this way. I began to interact with other spouses at the I-Center and a local Korean church, and the young newly married women have had the same difficulties as I've had. After sharing my experiences as a spouse of an international student, I (9) *changed my mind* and didn't blame my husband for my feeling lonely and blue being in the U.S. I now understand that he is doing his best for our future and he tries to spend as much time as he can with me. Whenever I miss my family, or anything that is back in Korea, I (10) *keep in mind* that it was my choice to be in the U.S. with my husband and we have to (11) *stick together* and support each other as a couple to live happily ever after. <>

**Note:** Kunyoung Park is a student in the English Classes provided, without cost, at the I-Center. In this lesson, students were asked to use the phrases shown in italics creatively in their writing assignment. MaryAnn Saunders, her teacher, commented: "This is a wonderful paper, well thought out and beautifully expressed. You have grown a lot from your life in Korea and done a great job of it too!"

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## **Bechtel International Center \* Stanford University**

### **A dating service**

Some folks are beginning to wonder what CCIS is. Is it simply a matching service or is it a membership organization? Since most of what we do involves linking volunteers and Stanford's internationals, it is only natural for people to call up to ask if we have any one from a particular country that they could meet for English in Action or Hospitality.

Not much wrong with that, although most volunteer organizations have a procedure that involves filling out membership forms and being interviewed. CCIS tradition has been more laid back than that. We don't even require dues, but we do ask for contributions that when accumulated pay the bills of a \$6000 budget. We offer training, like the one on March 1, that a handful attend. The Annual meeting in April will draw maybe thirty-five people. OK, so more people prefer to talk with their partner than go to a meeting. Not a big surprise there either.

Our comfortable looseness does generate a few problems. We think that the 700 people listed in our database have a desire to remain connected to CCIS. We send out the Communiqué and get maybe forty back. The four hundred emails sent to announce a Potluck/Music Night generate eighty or so bounces. Year after year the Membership Form mailed with a return envelope in July returns about 180 responses. In order to make it more noticeable we changed the form to yellow this year. While it looks nice, that didn't make much difference. So when asked how many people are members of CCIS, we honestly can't say. We will, however, be sending out another letter in a few weeks to those people we haven't heard from in a while. If you get one, please fill it out. We'd love to hear from you.

*The Life of Prominent Women* - Reading Group

Join Mariella and Marina as they read and discuss the life journey of a few famous women who have helped shape history and influence our lives.

Bring a brown bag lunch, tea and coffee will be available. In February, we will concentrate on *Madeleine Albright*. During the month of March we will study the life and work of Margareth Thatcher. For further information about these events and more detail about the reading list, please contact Mariella Pellegrino (mp10004@cam.ac.uk)

or Marina Bourgain (Marina.Bourgain@IUE.it).

**Thu., Feb 3, 10, 17, Mar 3, 10, & 17, from 12:00 - 1:30p.m.**

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Joy Li, piano teacher, and her pupil Shiori Takahashi of Japan (above) perform a duet for a rapt audience following a potluck supper (right) at Bechtel International Center on Feb.6.

After the concert, which also included wonderful music by Ron George (singer and guitarist from India), Hubert Ho (pianist from China), and Philipp Blume (singer from Germany), everyone was privileged to enjoy more dessert!



Mr. & Mrs. Takahasi, proud parents of young pianist Shiori, provided a huge cake (see below) to commemorate the evening's festivities.

*(Back row: Tomomi Takahasi and a family friend. Front row: two friends and Shiori.)*

**Volunteers!**

*Would you like to become more involved in CCIS (Community Committee for International Students), a prestigious group of volunteers who like to meet and greet new foreign students and their spouses?*

The position of Chair for the English-in-Action (EIA) program will be available as of May 31, 2005. For more information, please call John Heron (CCIS President) or Joyce Garbutt (current EIA Chair). Phone numbers and email addresses are listed on page 2 of this publication.



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2005.....

CALENDAR



- March 1, Tues.** Volunteer Training, 7:00 PM
- March 9, Thurs.** CCIS Associates Meeting, 11:00 AM
- March 10, Thurs.** CCIS Board Meeting, 9:30 AM
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- April 14** CCIS Annual Meeting, **Thursday 4:00 PM**
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- May 7** International Festival, **Saturday, all day**
- May 8** CCIS Potluck Music Night, **Sunday, 6:00 PM**
- May 12** CCIS Board Meeting, **Thursday 9:30 AM**
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- June 9** CCIS Board Meeting, **Thursday, 9:30 AM**



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*Visit the website  
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