

CCIS Communiqué

Winter 2016

Volume 20 Number 3



Pronunciation class is another asset to CCIS



Sally Small is yet another delightful factor in the CCIS family at Bechtel. She teaches an Accent Reduction Class in three one-hour sessions at the I-Center on Tuesday and Friday mornings from 9-12. Sally prefers to call it a Pronunciation Class; the objective being helping the students to be understood by the American listener, while not losing a part of who they are. Her students are predominately from China and Japan, but she also has some from Russia, Taiwan, Brazil, Spain, Catalonia, and Italy. She has been teaching for 30 years and began her career as a Speech Pathologist. Upon discovering that she preferred working with International students as opposed to hospital work, Sally went back to school and got an MA in General Communications, did work as an assistant professor in public speaking, but specialized more in working with International students when the school had an influx. Sally is a native of New Jersey, but moved to California several years ago to be closer to family and relocated in Mt. View. She took a class at Stanford and became friends with a classmate who, upon learning of Sally's background, suggested she meet Gwyn Dukes at Friday Morning Coffee. Gwyn was her usual kind and inviting self. Sally then attended some classes at Bechtel and sat in on Caroline Kendall's class and found Caroline to be a most dynamic teacher. She was invited to stay and come every week. Sally then learned the various methods of teaching ESI, which was new to her background. After a while, Sally was asked to take on some students who had difficulty in pronouncing words in American English. She then applied for a room at Bechtel and started to teach pronunciation. Her students referred other students and she was on her way. The rest is history as her particular class presents another unique opportunity to International students through the CCIS organization.

One of the many interesting and humorous anecdotes from the history of Sally's classes for Internationals through the years is as follows: One student from Viet Nam said that her daughter had come home from school and asked her about a word that was written on the bathroom stall. It was the F-bomb word and the student asked Sally if that was good or bad. Sally exclaimed "Oh, that's very bad!" The whole class of course then wanted to know its meaning. She told them "it was for planting seed." Then the class expressed great curiosity about dirty words. So Sally created a course on idioms, slang and wrote a book; the back section containing bad/dirty words. One day the bookstore called her and inquired about her book and for whom it was designated. She told them it was for International students and they then replied "Oh, well all of the American students are buying it!"

Sally now has a Workplace Idiom booklet publication called "Word of Mouth", originally done for Georgetown University; it contains a plethora of catchy, fun phrases and idioms. Sally expressed her happiness in being involved with CCIS and Bechtel and the enrichment it has afforded her life. She is a vivacious, witty and interesting woman; a definite asset to CCIS.

**Annual Meeting
Monday May 9th
Bechtel International Center**

Dancing with the Scholars

On Friday, October 9 from 7-9 pm, the CCIS Events Committee sponsored a dance workshop at the I-Center for CCIS members and international grad students, post-docs and visiting scholars. The free event consisted of two consecutive dance lessons followed by a practice session and "dance-off," culminating in a judging of winners, who were awarded prizes for their skill! The Bollywood session, led by a charismatic young Indian grad student from the GSB, did not require partners, but was fairly athletic. It served to break the ice and get everyone warmed up for the second session, when people partnered up for a salsa lesson conducted by a young Stanford alum/entrepreneur. The 50-person crowd even included a number of children, who danced as well! Light refreshments kept people hydrated and energetic throughout the evening! All in all, it was a very festive evening under an artistic banner hand-painted by a group of enthusiastic volunteer spouses and CCIS members.



Thanksgiving Holiday Experience

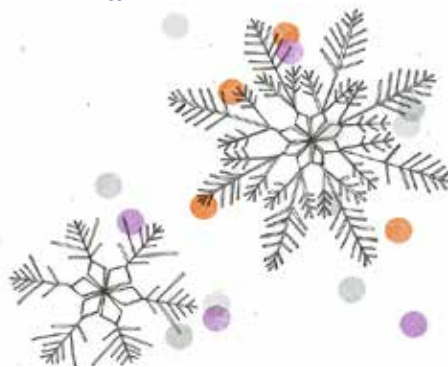
What holiday bespeaks more of traditional American culture than Thanksgiving? Thus, the chance for Internationals to share the background and celebration of this holiday is a wonderful opportunity during their time in the United States. Such an experience was enjoyed by Eisuke Hashizume, a visiting scholar from Japan, currently enrolled in the CCIS English in Action program. He and his lovely wife, Mine, were guests in the Metling home in Pacifica Ca. on Thanksgiving day last November. They were made to feel most welcome and mingled with approximately 15 friends and family of the hosts. It was Eisuke's first time dining on turkey accompanied by the traditional trimmings. He was very engaged in paying close attention to watching the proper carving of the roasted golden bird by the head of the household. All sat down at a beautifully decorated table to give thanks for blessings and the bounty of the feast. This was truly a memorable introduction to an American holiday and fulfillment of one of the many purposes and facets of CCIS for Internationals.



Holiday Luncheon 2015



Photo credit: Lisa Rupp via Visual Hunt / CC BY-NC



Loan Closet

The "CCIS Loan Closet" provides household items for Stanford graduate international students, post-docs & visiting scholars. Such items for the kitchen are dishes, pots & pans, flatware; for the bedroom: sheets, blankets, towels & pillows. If you or any of your friends are doing spring cleaning, we are in most dire need of: plates, bowls, glasses, flatware, pots and pans, kitchen utensils, rice cookers, irons, small appliances and XL twin and queen size sheets and blankets. Donors can bring them to the CCIS office at Bechtel or a pick-up can be arranged. Please contact Bob Spears at 650/493-5898.



CCIS Volunteer Holiday Luncheon Shines

The 2015 Holiday Luncheon for CCIS Volunteers took place on December 15th at Michaels at Shoreline once again. However, this year we were blessed with sunny blue skies, and no inclement weather to endure. It was well attended by 80 guests; a delightful event, with a festive air of good cheer. After guests enjoyed mingling and socializing, CCIS president, Karen McNay, gave a warm and engaging welcoming address. This was followed by several wonderful operatic renditions by Vocal Soloist, “Amy” Kyungmin Lee; the melodious tones of her beautiful voice resonating throughout the room. Luncheon was then enjoyed by all. The program then followed with an address by the Program Emcee and CCIS Vice-President, Carole Hessler, Shalini Bhutani, Homestay Chair, and Ilane Maximo, Spouse Education Fund grantee from Brazil. In the midst of this panel was Aine Tyrrell from Ireland and Italy, speaking for Donna Shoemaker, CCIS Member Services & Homestay Chair. Aine represented Donna extremely well. However, given that, the *Communiqué* would like to share the powerful and endearing speech Donna Shoemaker was scheduled to deliver.



“Before I joined CCIS I had done other volunteer activities, as I’m sure is the case with some of you as well. I was a Candy Stripe volunteer at Peninsula Hospital as a teen. I walked dogs at Pets in Need. I was an English tutor to international students at Foothill College. I served food in a soup kitchen. I conducted oral histories at the Los Altos History Museum, and the ultimate fun

job...I was a seat warmer at seven Academy Award ceremonies. But one of my favorite experiences was as an auxiliary volunteer in the El Camino Hospital Emergency Room. When I’ve told people I did that, they sometimes ask, “Why would anyone in their right mind want to volunteer around sick people? But I loved it. I felt like an appreciated part of the team. I recall one day, I was in the ER waiting room assisting incoming arrivals when a woman brought a man in who was tightly holding his wrist. His right index finger was severed, and the woman had the tip in a tissue. She sat him down in a waiting room chair while she walked to the triage desk. He seemed very calm. Obviously, he was in a bit of shock. He looked at me for a second and asked. “I need to go to the bathroom. Do you think it would be ok to let go of my wrist?” This was one of those moments when letting go was not a good idea, but he did. I will never forget what went through my mind at that moment. The heart is a powerful muscle. Help came quickly, but my main concern was that the atmosphere in the waiting room, filled with already anxious people, stay calm and positive. I needed to do my job, despite the situation.

Why am I telling you this story?

For one thing, it is because statistics show that we, as Americans, volunteer now significantly less than our parents did, and the rate is declining. Two worker families, certainly contribute to that. This

decline has been correlated to many socio-economic factors, but nevertheless, volunteering is experiencing a decline. People see less of a benefit in helping others.

The irony is that as the volunteers of CCIS well know, caring and helping others brings such joy that it can even feel selfish. We say to ourselves, “I am supposed to be helping someone else learn though sharing, uniting, teaching and welcoming, but I am learning more from the CCIS experience than I ever expected.” What a great deal!

As membership chair, I hear from many of you and time after time you tell me the charming and heartwarming stories of how much you get from your CCIS experiences; how enriching and rewarding it has been to work with Internationals in the Stanford Community. One of the appealing elements of CCIS volunteering is that most of the programs are very unstructured. This is not by chance. This is because CCIS trusts your instincts to do well, to stay calm and to thrive. But we, as an organization, still need to hold on to our wrist. Now more than ever, we are challenged to keep the spirit of international sharing alive. You are Stanford and America’s ambassadors to the world. You are a holiday gift that is opened by one international student at a time. You make a difference, not just here at Stanford, but with the positive experiences you create spread through every corner of the world.

So this is what I ask of you, in this holiday season. Give a gift and hold on.

Set a goal for each day or once a week, your goal being to tell another person, especially a young person, how much it means to be a CCIS volunteer. Tell them how good and invigorated it makes you feel, and how much more fun and enriching life can be.

Yes, you will have people say to you, “Why would you do that? Why would you help people who are taking jobs away from us? Why would you have someone from another country, a perfect stranger, to Thanksgiving dinner? But you know why it matters. You know.

Give a gift. You, our volunteers, who we appreciate so much, will be the ones who lead and enable CCIS to carry on.

So, as we end this lovely day, I wish you a wonderful holiday season and a very happy 2016.

And remember, don’t let go.

Happy Holidays, and thank you.”



Barbara, Amy (singer), Ilane (speaker), and Dolly

CCIS *Leadership* President's column

Karen McNay

The close of 2015 and the dawn of 2016 is a very busy and exciting time for all of us at CCIS and Bechtel. We ended 2015 with a lively and festive Holiday Luncheon at Michaels at Shoreline on December 15th. Our multitude of guests enjoyed an opportunity to mix and mingle with each other followed by an amazing vocal performance by Amy Kyungmin Lee from Korea, continuing on with a lovely lunch and a late visit from Santa himself.

The Loan Closet experienced an extremely busy orientation period in September that continues throughout the year with visiting scholars and post docs. For this reason the shelves are currently quite empty. Bob Spears and his committee welcome any clean and gently used items. Please refer to the Loan Closet section in this publication for information about the most needed items and contact/pickup information.

The Spouse Education Fund awarded 28 grants, including 12 named grants, in a wide variety of fields to the very deserving and appreciative spouses.

A couple of dates to look forward to: March 11th the Events committee will be holding a potluck Pi/Pie Night from 6:00pm – 8:00pm and June 1st a Picnic on the Oval from 5:00pm - 7:00pm. More information on both events will follow. Our Annual Meeting will be at Bechtel on May 9th from 4:00 to 6:00.

As we move on to 2016 I want to personally welcome our new members and thank each and every one of you for your continued support of CCIS and our myriad of programs! CCIS couldn't enjoy the success it does without you and we, along with the students, are most grateful.



Editor's column

Karin Meiswinkel & Michelle Laker

As a new year for CCIS is at hand and we transition into 2016, the world is experiencing change and a great deal of global tension is present. There could not be a better time for the plethora of programs, services, and benefits that CCIS affords the Internationals at Stanford in our community. These have been applauded and recognized many times and in many ways throughout the history of CCIS. However, in today's world, perhaps more than ever, the commitment of CCIS lends an invaluable contribution to international relations as we welcome and assist those from a large number of different countries. Everyone in the CCIS family and community can certainly be proud of their role in this organization. We feel we can attest to this for all of you as each and every one of you is an integral part of it. Thank you and keep up the good work!



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International Students**
www.ccisStanfordU.org

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Usually my winter article summarizes our annual count of international students at Stanford. This count is taken each year during October. In fall 2015 we finally passed the 4,000 number of international students enrolled in degree or non-degree programs at Stanford. Of this number 3667 were in degree programs. This is an increase of 600 students in the past decade. Our number one country remains China which has over 1,000 students now at Stanford.

Just looking at graduate international students the top sending countries remain familiar: China, India, Canada, Republic of Korea, France, Taiwan, Brazil, Singapore, Germany and Mexico.

There are 612 international undergraduates, 1266 masters international students and 1789 doctoral international students. Women international students are 34.4% of the total international student population.

Looking at the scholar population the report shows that there are 1293 international postdoctoral students comprising 57% of the total postdoctoral population at Stanford. As numbers change it impacts our services. This year we are undergoing an in-depth review with CCIS, of international graduate student orientation; to make it more relevant to the needs of new international students, both before they arrive and upon arrival. We are also about to launch our new web site which we anticipate will provide a better visual balance between programs and immigration related services. Our focus on smaller intentional programs continues, with an increase in faculty lunches and the alumni mentoring program. On a more social side we are offering more bus trips, often, but not always, to the Wine Country. These trips are very popular suggesting that there is a real demand from international students to see life outside the campus.

Finally we are also beginning to engage with broader university discussions which reflect challenges and issues in broader society. Often these discussions do not involve international students and we are slowly trying to bring our students into the discussions that impact life in the U.S. We will keep you posted.

Very best wishes for 2016,
John

2015/16 CALENDAR

March 11th - Potluck Pie π Night, 6-8pm, Assembly Room

May 9th - Annual Meeting, 10am, Assembly Room

June 1st - Picnic on the Oval, 5-7pm, The Oval



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