



## September/October 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

#### I am still inspired

The editor of CCIS Notes asked me to write something inspiring for my column. I've been wracking my brain trying to think of something inspiring, but I just keep thinking of uncertainty and loss. We don't know how long the pandemic will last or if the skies will be full of smoke again. I think of all those who have been hurt by COVID-19 and the terrible wildfires. I think of not being able to have **Homestay** or **Hospitality** or **Community Advisors** or **WOW** or the **Loan Closet**. I'm missing all of this as well as being able to get together with my friends and family. It's so easy to dwell on the loss.

On the other hand, I am so impressed with our CCIS Community. We had a successful online membership renewal. Thirty members are ready for new EIA partners, even if it means meeting over Zoom or Skype. Our wonderful English teachers have created great online classes for Stanford's Internationals, and Friday Morning Coffee is thriving on Zoom. I'm impressed with the commitment and flexibility we exhibit.

Since a digital connection is so important nowadays, we've been improving our social media presence this year. If you are on **Facebook**, check out our new postings, courtesy of CCIS member, Lydia Moret. If you'd like to continue to see CCIS posts each week on Facebook, just click the little, blue, thumbs up "like" button at the bottom of the post. There is also a CCIS page for **LinkedIn**. I also recommend that you take a look at our **website** and have fun browsing upcoming events as well as the "About" button. You'll find lots of fun information on our timeline under History and some interesting videos about how CCIS has impacted Internationals at Stanford. Just looking at the website is inspiring! I feel better already.

Fondly,

Annette Isaacson  
CCIS President  
[president@ccisstanfordu.org](mailto:president@ccisstanfordu.org)

#### Thank you, Gwyn Dukes!



One of the things that the CCIS organization is blessed to have is volunteers with a "long" heritage. One such member is **Gwyn Dukes**, who is celebrating 45 years of affiliation with CCIS.

Gwyn began her connection while working on the staff of the Bechtel International Center. She planned programs for international and American students and their spouses. "I was impressed to discover this organization of volunteers who dedicated themselves to enhancing the lives of international students."

The early focus of CCIS was to help students find housing and transportation. Gwyn sat in on board meetings so that she could better understand how the two organizations could work together.

She created two programs that CCIS sponsored: "International Women's Circles," a program that enabled international spouses to share their culture in each others' homes, and "Mornings Around Town," in which CCIS volunteers drove participants to visit local sights, hike local trails and visit museums, to familiarize them with their new community. Gwyn aided in the formation of the **Spouse Education Fund** (SEF). She helped with raising funds, paperwork and notifying the grantees.

"Through my years on the Bechtel staff my life was greatly enriched by my interactions with CCIS volunteers, and when I retired, I was glad to continue my involvement with the CCIS. I was invited to join the Board as the representative for the Friday Morning Coffee, and later joined the SEF committee, and served as its chair for several years. I continue to be inspired by the dedication and warm hearted spirit of CCIS volunteers involved in every one of the CCIS' many valuable programs."

**CCIS is thankful to Gwyn for her years of service and looks forward to her continued participation.**

**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](mailto:k.khatseyeva@gmail.com).**

#### Meet the new CCIS Board members

The Board is pleased to announce five new members. One existing member has changed positions. Over the next few newsletters the new members will be introduced. We are so thankful for having wonderful new members and look forward to having their input and suggestions.

#### English In Action Volunteer Recruitment Co-Chairs

##### Elizabeth Ambuhl

As a teaching professional Elizabeth has taught everyone from two year olds to corporate IT teams. She lives in Menlo Park. Elizabeth is a passionate owner of two Golden Retriever dogs. Recently retired, this dedicated teacher has been an active EIA partner for about eight years. She has enjoyed the many wonderful experiences that interaction with others in the program has provided. Elizabeth notes that EIA "has enriched my life immeasurably and given me hope in difficult times."



##### Vivian Euzant

As a student abroad in Madrid during her junior year of college, Vivian realized how important it is to have a local resident volunteer to answer questions and provide insight about the culture. Vivian states, "I found the EIA program allows me to do this for others." She has enjoyed meeting her partners and learning about their culture and lives. Vivian has acted as a partner for eleven years and keeps in touch with most of her previous partners. She lives in Sunnyvale in a house purchased in 1976.

#### 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](mailto:notes@ccisstanfordu.org).

Pamela Baird