

pathways

Shared perspective, experience and passion for this CISLA couple

By Collin Keeney '98 and Yoko Shimada '99

NOBODY could appreciate the current scene more than Mary Devins. After some subtle matchmaking by Mary in 1998, we got married in 2003 and just celebrated our 10th wedding anniversary in Oman. We then flew to Italy and are now sitting by the pool at our friends' Umbrian villa, staring up at a hillside dotted with miniature medieval villages and pointy Italian fir trees, and watching the spectacular sunset winding down over Perugia. We are happy simply to be sitting outside with some local wine — and even shivering a bit, since at our current home, Dubai, UAE, it's still about 110 degrees, despite being nearly midnight.

We live in Dubai because Collin is a director in forensics at Deloitte, covering the Middle East. He investigates allegations of corporate corruption and bribery, as well as the occasional fraud.

Needless to say, he is very busy. Yoko is a health specialist at the World Bank. She helps African governments strengthen their health systems through innovative partnerships and financing. She is busier yet than Collin, though she indulges his whims about being busy and important.

We are a CISLA couple — probably a fairly rare commodity. We were in different years at Conn, and didn't really know each other terribly well. Whether or not Mary intended this outcome is open for debate, since Yoko was one of CISLA's finest students and Collin probably en-

joyed himself a little more than he should have in the process. Fast forward 15 years and here we are in Italy — toting two CISLA offspring: 2½-year-old Hugo, who traveled to seven countries before his first birthday, and 2-month-old Emmeline, who has been to three countries so far.



YOKO, COLLIN AND HUGO IN JAPAN

So, how did we get here?

Yoko's story

I am originally from Osaka, Japan, and moved to the United States alone at age 16 to pursue an international education. Having grown up in an internationally oriented family — my grandfather and father ran an international trade business manufacturing and selling batteries around the world, particularly in developing countries (Iraq and Rwanda, among other popular tourist destinations) — I was fortunate to travel from an early age

and be exposed to different cultures. I learned early on that being able to speak a foreign language opens doors to the world beyond your own, but language is just a tool to do something more.

It was only fitting that I chose Conn because of CISLA, given my background.

My language was German. (I studied it in high school because the Spanish class was already full and my boyfriend at the time happened to be German. I wish I had a better story, but it is true.) At Conn, I double majored in German and psychology.

It has been 14 years since I graduated from Conn, but what I learned through CISLA has been an important foundation in my life. One month after graduation, I lost my father, who fought a long battle against hepatitis C, which he contracted through a blood transfusion. Losing him when I was looking forward to sharing my excitement at entering the professional world was devastating, and I felt I lost my way. After my CISLA experience, I knew I wanted to have an international career with which I could make a difference in people's lives, but I did not quite know what to focus on. But my experience losing him to a preventable infectious disease opened my eyes to the importance of a functioning public health system. I was working in a New York City law firm, hoping to go to law school and become a human rights lawyer, but I changed course and obtained a master's degree

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director's column

I HAVE NOW BEEN the director of CISLA for two years, giving me some perspective on our program. I am headed off for a year-long sabbatical and, like our students, I will spend some of it abroad, doing research in German archives, and some of it in my office researching and writing. Much of the time I will be engaged with another culture and with the past, which is in itself a cultural journey. CISLA will be in the capable hands of the CISLA staff and the interim director, Professor Marc Zimmer.



MARC FORSTER, CISLA DIRECTOR

As a professor, I tend to think of CISLA first and foremost as an academic program. The courses our students take, the development of language proficiency and their international internship all lead up to their Senior Integrative Project. This major piece of scholarly work brings together the various parts of their CISLA experience and is at the heart of the program.

As I watch our students complete their SIPs, pass their language exams, and graduate from CISLA and the College, I also see and hear their anxiety about their future, their job prospects and making their way in a difficult economic climate. As the father of college-age daughters, I know the concerns of parents who understandably want to see their daughters and sons find jobs, places in graduate school, and happy and productive futures.

There is no doubt that the CISLA experience will help our graduates achieve success in the future. Students don't always realize that their SIP is itself a credential, an indication of their ability to work in a sustained and focused way on a large project. It is not only a scholarly project, but also an effort to gain deep knowledge about other people and places, a level of understanding that is needed in our globalized world. Language proficiency is an obvious skill, but for CISLA students it is more than that, for it comes with deep cultural knowledge, acquired studying and working in a foreign country. CISLA's paid international internship gives our students real experience working abroad — experience that gives our graduates a leg up when searching for a job, and can lead directly to employment after graduation.

We tell students that CISLA is an academic program and not a branch of CELS, the career services office at the College. Yes, we provide an internship, just as CELS does, and we expect students to use CELS workshops to develop the professional communication skills they will need to find their international internships. But perhaps saying that CISLA is an academic program is not really the right way to explain what happens here. Like all liberal arts college graduates, CISLA students gain many competitive advantages that will help them in the job market and their future careers. But CISLA goes further than that, for it helps students develop another layer of talents, abilities and skills that will put them in a special place above the mass of college graduates. The experiences of our graduates have shown this to be true.

When students apply to CISLA as sophomores they seem to grasp the idea that it will give them many benefits — an academic challenge, a new set of opportunities, an interesting community of fellow students and skills that will benefit them in the future. The CISLA experience is broad, integrated and multifaceted. It gives our students the best of a liberal arts education by preparing them for their futures through a strong and rigorous academic program.

Marc R. Forster
*Henry B. Plant Professor of History
Director of Toor Cummings Center for International Studies and the Liberal Arts*

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from the Bloomberg School of Public Health at The Johns Hopkins University.

Since starting my public health career at the Global HIV/AIDS Program at the World Bank, I have worked with the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief to develop an electronic medical record system for remote clinics in Africa. Subsequently, as the deputy director of diagnostic services at the Clinton Foundation, I designed innovative public-private partnerships to improve the supply and quality of medical diagnostics in the developing world. I am now a health specialist in Africa for the World Bank, covering Lesotho and Swaziland, and focusing on developing innovative health financing schemes to improve health care delivery and quality in these tiny, remote countries.

Collin's story

I also came from an internationally minded family. My mother studied anthropology and my father, though he ultimately settled for a real-world job, studied Afro-syncretic religions of the New World (such as Candomblé and Vodou). They both traveled extensively and had wild stories about harrowing experiences in far-flung places. From childhood, I was drawn to international academic interests.

I came to Conn because of the international programs. I was a Lawrence Scholar, and even though I already had the paid internship available to me, I was attracted to CISLA because of the integrative liberal arts approach. I have fond memories of lectures with Professor Morton and others, and loved being involved in something that really defined the Conn experience. I was already an international relations major, but I found the CISLA experience to be much more enriching, with the focus on cultivating well-rounded citizens of the world. In my career since Conn, the breadth of my learning and experience has come to be one of my defining characteristics.

I did my internship in Cochabamba, Bolivia, my SIP focusing on an experiment in privatization that the Bolivians called "capitalization," in which state-owned enterprises were sold but the pro-

ceeds were reinvested into the companies themselves. Unfortunately, in Bolivia governments change as frequently as the weather, and reversal of much of the program was inevitable. But my experience set me teetering down the path of international economic development.

After Conn, I did not know how to enter that field. With Mary's help, I found work in a small consulting firm working in international investor relations and crisis communications. One year later she asked me to arrange an interview for a soon-to-be CISLA graduate from Osaka, Japan. And that is a much longer story.



EMMELINE, THE NEWEST ADDITION TO YOKO'S AND COLLIN'S FAMILY.

Shortly thereafter, I jumped at an opportunity to enter the field of international development with Deloitte. My interviewer later commented that they normally only interviewed people with master's degrees, but my knowledge of international development and international political economy set me apart — a coup for which I had only CISLA to thank. I joined the Emerging Markets unit, and subsequently worked on financial sector development in places from Armenia to Zanzibar.

Recognizing a need for graduate-level education, I tagged along with Yoko when she applied for her master's program at Johns Hopkins, where I enrolled in the School of Advanced International Studies. SAIS was, for me, a natural extension of CISLA.

I returned to Deloitte after SAIS — and 13 years later, I am still there. While I no longer practice international development, my work in forensics addresses what I believe is the fundamental

impediment to economic development: corruption. I principally deal with allegations of international companies bribing foreign officials for contracts or other benefits, or when local business partners behave in a way that puts them at risk. I have worked on a number of high-profile corruption investigations, including the Siemens AG matter where I worked in Munich, Penang and Shanghai. I am also working on the largest fraud case in the history of the Middle East, involving an alleged \$9.2 billion insider theft against one of Saudi Arabia's most prominent commercial families.

CISLA for life

Some CISLA scholars' academic interests and internships lead them directly to their present careers. Though that is not necessarily the case for us, the CISLA principles of being culturally sensitive and politically, socially and intellectually motivated and engaged have informed and still influence the decisions that we make professionally and personally. During CISLA, Yoko thought the Germans faced particular challenges with multiculturalism and globalization due to their unique history. But now she realizes that every country and society faces its own spiritual, ethical and material challenges in this increasingly globalized world. Collin comes face to face with the seedier side of globalization on a daily basis, and appreciates how difficult it is for companies to uphold principles and ethics when their drive to grow the bottom line pushes them into environments for which they are unprepared.

The value of international education like CISLA's is immeasurable beyond one's career. We are thankful to CISLA (and particularly to Mary Devins!) that we each not only gained a solid foundation for an international career and a global perspective, but also a life partner who shares similar perspective, experience and passion. Almost 15 years after CISLA, we have worked on nearly every continent (except for Australia and Antarctica) and between us we speak six languages. As we work, live and travel around the world, we continue to pursue CISLA challenges as professionals and individuals, as a couple and now as a family.

notes from the field

WITH 33 CISLA SCHOLARS

conducting overseas internships in 18 countries, we have received a vast array of insightful Interim Internship Reports from the Class of 2014. This summer, our students are working in a number of fields across the globe, from a think tank in Jerusalem to Longchamp in Paris. The overseas internship, conducted during the summer after junior year, is essential not only to the students' research, but also to their cross-cultural learning and global education. Each student has his or her own, unique journey, but many experience a similar range of challenges and accomplishments: adapting to cultural nuances, overcoming language barriers, living independently, working in a professional setting and, ultimately, developing the sense of pride that comes from successfully navigating the complexities of living and working in a foreign country. The students will return in the fall with improved language skills, the ability to be self-sufficient, and experiences that will help prepare them for life after graduation. — *Danielle Brandts, Internship and Publications Coordinator*



NORAH HANNEL '14 WITH EFFIE KATSANTONIS '03. EFFIE WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN GETTING NORAH THE INTERNSHIP AT LONGCHAMP PARIS.

SPENCER FRANCUS

Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs
Jerusalem, Israel

“There are many fascinating things about Israeli culture, such as their everyday bluntness; how nobody says please, thank you or excuse me; or the culture of pickled foods. But the most interesting cultural phenomenon for me is how the Israel-Palestine conflict seeps into everyday life, for everyone. The conflict is always present, but always subdued. People here (Jews, Palestinians, Arabs, etc.) are all very aware of the conflict and its implications, yet at the same time they all simply want to live their lives peacefully without being threatened or harmed. In the States, it's easy to make value judgments about Israelis or Palestinians based on what academics say. Physically being here, however, teaches me so much more about the day-to-day struggles and triumphs of the people entrenched in the conflict zones.”

NORAH HANNEL

Longchamp Paris

Paris, France

“Whenever a French person asks me for directions or returns a gasp of disbelief when I tell her I'm American, I glow with pride. It has been rewarding just getting to know this beautiful city and its inhabitants, culture and history: recognizing pop cultural references; putting together the geographical puzzle of different *quartiers*; no longer having to rehearse what I am about to say to order at a café; taking the time to look at awe-inspiring apartment courtyards or to read in a park and leave behind the stress and hurry that often accompany tourism. As for the challenges: cross-cultural miscommunications; struggling to find my way around totally unfamiliar corners of Paris under time pressure; figuring out the balance of living with a host family so as not to impose upon them, but also not isolate myself from them; coming to terms with

the fact that I just won't be able to do everything (and, therefore, have to move back to Paris at some point in my life); not always being able to express how I feel or sympathize verbally with others because of a lack of French fluency. ... There are always bound to be ups and downs, regardless of one's whereabouts, but these past few months have been enthralling and have ultimately convinced me that I want to move back to a European city in the very near future.”

Life at work

“I have formed a great working relationship with my bosses, Soledad and Ramira, who have gone above and beyond to give me an in-depth view of how the city of Buenos Aires addresses violence against women.”

“I get along very well with my colleagues and enjoy having lunch with two fellow interns every day. My supervisor is great. She has spunk and compassion, laughs and shares stories with me, and gives me good guidelines with which to carry out my tasks.”

“At my internship, I am so busy with all the projects going on — and I love it! I am really grateful for such kind, helpful and patient co-workers. They're awesome. They trust me with big responsibilities and give me lots of independence, which allows me to take each project further because I am able to incorporate a lot of personal flair. Every day I learn something new, and it's incredibly rewarding being able to experience the professional world in a different country.”

“My relationships with everyone in the office are very positive. One of the scholars in residence, for whom I've done research, regularly invites me to his home for Shabbat dinner, and my official supervisor and I schmooze about all different things for a few minutes before starting the workday. The interns work in close proximity and we all get along. We even spend time together hanging out outside the office. I see myself as an asset to the think tank in regard to its goals to publicize its written materials, videos and other information, as well as



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: JACQUELINE FULGHAM '14 WITH STUDENTS FROM HOPES FOR WOMEN IN JORDAN; CLAIRE WELLBELOVED-STONE '14 IN THE GALAPAGOS WHERE SHE IS INTERNING AT THE WORLD WILDLIFE FUND; CHRIS MAY '14 GIVING AN ULTRASOUND TO A PREGNANT WOMAN AT A HEALTH CARE CLINIC IN NICARAGUA

contributing to their body of research.”

“Simply having an experience in a real architecture firm has been a great help to me.”

“What I love about the office culture here is that everyone understands the importance of social cohesion for professional success. Co-workers regularly socialize about non-office-related matters, spend time together outside of work, and every Friday the whole staff comes together for couscous. It makes for a very fulfilling internship, because when people are happy, they also are productive!”

Adjustments/Challenges

“The vast variety [of tasks], as well as a more relaxed work atmosphere, initially proved to be a challenge. ... Fortunately, my bosses’ eagerness to introduce me to various community members, as well as their willingness to listen to my ideas, has led to two challenging and engaging work projects.”

“The hardest part of this experience has been time, both in excess and lack thereof. Given my varied work schedule, sometimes I work 10-hour days and am exhausted, and other days I only work three hours and am bored and at home by 4 p.m.”

“The main problems I’ve faced have to do with my own insecurities about being productive and helpful. Most of the interns at the think tank come from Ivy League schools, and I was unsure that my liberal arts background would stand up against theirs. But after completing my first independent assignment, and subsequently receiving a ‘job well done,’ my confidence rose and I’ve been feel-

ing productive and useful ever since.”

“I will probably never get used to two-plus-hour lunch breaks.”

Language/Culture

“I have had ample opportunities to observe the cultural nuances. ... For example, the way they eat cherries here looks different; the way they drink their coffee, too. The hour of dinner; choice of how to spend money; filler words; ways of greeting and parting; lack of travel mugs and Nalgens and the word ‘awkward’; yet presence of cigarettes and indigo fashion and the words ‘n’importe quoi’; alcohol consumption; education system; immigration; politics; romance ...”

“This internship shows me that I am able to not only communicate in Spanish in social settings, but also in professional settings. I have been reading reports in Spanish and interacting with co-workers daily. One of the major improvements is my ability to understand different accents and adapt to different dialects/regional speaking styles.”

“A challenge has been translating for English-speaking clients at a fast pace. If we have a conference or presentation, it has been my job to occasionally aid non-Italians with understanding the conversation. It is definitely a difficult task, but one that I enjoy, as it is helpful with my own language skills.”

“My language has improved considerably. ... I’ll go hours and hours without speaking a word of English, and I’ve found that sometimes I’ll even think to myself in Hebrew.”

“I’ve practiced Castellano everywhere, from speaking it with others to using

it on Facebook. I’ve even developed a decent understanding of the slang.”

Praise and awe

“The most rewarding has been learning about the politics and culture of Nicaragua and having informed conversations with different types of people.”

“In terms of developing a higher cultural understanding, I think the most important thing for people to remember is that a city or country may not live up to any of your expectations, for good or for bad, but if you give a city time and really embrace it for what it is, instead of what you wanted it to be, you will develop a much deeper appreciation for your time in that foreign environment.”

“Iceland is such a beautiful country; everywhere you go, you can have a spectacular view. I simply fell in love with the whole country and the people here.”

“It’s been hard to live in such a different place; Dakar is nothing like I have ever experienced before. The chaotic pace of the city, the unique rhythm, the sharp contrasts, the food ... It has been a very enriching experience.”

Living/Life skills

“I am learning how to cook for the first time, which is really helping me become more independent.”

“I have been using my life philosophy that smiling and approaching people with kindness is the most fertile form of communication; relying on my sense of self-sufficiency whenever I am not given explicit directions; employing my curiosity to take full advantage of being

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notes from the field

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in this high-end fashion enterprise.”

“My hostess has been very lovely, and the two of us generally talk for an hour or two over dinner in Japanese about anything and everything.”

“I have always loved cooking, but I’ve never had to regularly cook for myself. ... Living on an island and cooking for myself with limited resources is forcing me to be creative. I don’t have tools to measure or Internet access in my apartment, so I have to trust my instincts instead of relying on instructions.”

“I’m learning how to fundamentally take care of myself. I’ve realized that household essentials like toilet paper do not magically appear in the cupboard, but that they need to be bought. Besides keeping an apartment stocked with necessary toiletries and other items, I’m learning how to budget money for the week, how to cook, and how to live and behave in a residential, family-oriented neighborhood.”

“I feel that this experience has given me a sense of confidence — it’s comforting to know that I can happily live and work on my own.”

“The Turkish toilet was something I had to learn to get used to, but that took just two, three days. It’s amazing how fast you can get used to something.”

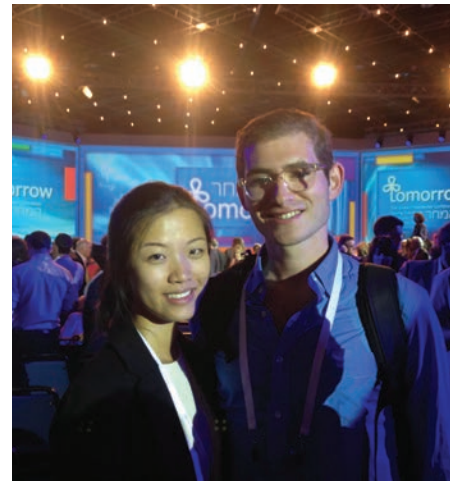
Personal growth

“I have learned to better trust my gut instinct as to what the right answer to my questions might be.”

“I have had to become adaptable to new situations. Everything from food to limited tools in the apartment to communicating across language barriers has required adaptation and creative problem solving.”

“One skill that I have acquired here is working as part of a team. All my work at school is very independent, and I typically have a few people read over my work and give me criticism; at work I’m constantly collaborating with other interns and learning how to best work in groups and with others.”

“I’m learning how to be more social and outspoken when I need to be, how to be in charge of myself for an extended period of time, how to find my own resources, etc.”



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: EILEEN STALL '14 MIMICKING THE FAMOUS GLICO MAN SIGN IN OSAKA, JAPAN; JYOTI ARVEY '14 VISITING NORAH HANNEL '14 IN PARIS. JYOTI THEN RETURNED TO RUSSIA FOR HER INTERNSHIP; EPPIE LAU '14 AND SPENCER FRANCUS '14 AT THE ISRAELI PRESIDENTIAL CONFERENCE; PRINCE ILBOUDO '14 WITH THE PRESIDENT OF CHILE; GRAHAM NELSON '14 AT OLYMPIAPARK AND BMW WORLD IN MUNICH, GERMANY

spotlight on Jess Soffer '07

By Linda Camelio



JESS SOFFER '07 IN NEW YORK CITY WITH HER RECENTLY PUBLISHED BOOK IN THE BACKGROUND

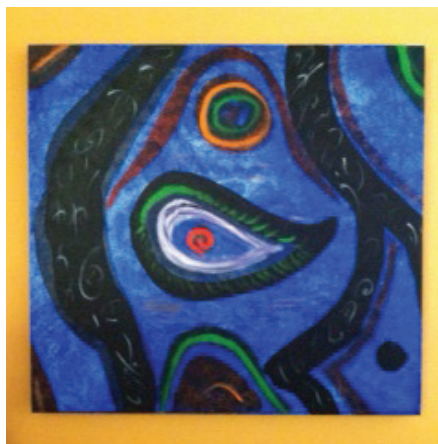
JESSICA SOFFER '07 recently published her first novel, *Tomorrow There Will Be Apricots* — “a novel about an elderly Iraqi Jewish immigrant and a 14-year-old pain addict, a novel of redemption and joy, a novel of history and belonging, beautifully written and sharply felt. It is a love song to both American and Iraqi culture, a sly political allegory and a homage to loneliness,” says National Book Award for Fiction winner Colum McCann.

Jess, like her characters, forges bonds with people wherever she goes. Warm, friendly, quietly sophisticated and supremely talented, Jess not only does not criticize her mother in a recent *New York Times* piece, “Real Moms Don’t Cook,” she admires and celebrates her mother’s outlook on life and relishes the times they have together. That, to me, epitomizes who Jessica Soffer is — the kind of person who sees all the good in a person or situation and takes it from there.

Jess was an English and Latin American studies major and, after getting her MFA in creative writing from Hunter College, came back to Connecticut College to teach a creative writing course. Her CISLA SIP was “Stories from Costa Rica’s Red Zone” and she completed her internship at Fundación Rahab in San José, Costa Rica. She was

a welcome regular in the CISLA office who often took the lead on the Student Advisory Board and other projects.

Jess is the first to admit that she gets her creative inspiration from her parents. Her mom is an author and a playwright; her dad was a painter and sculptor. Jess has donated one of his sculptures to the College, and one of his paintings hangs in the CISLA office. Jess shares her time between New York City and Amagansett, N.Y., a beach community on eastern Long Island. She’s busy writing and interviewing as her career gets off to a whirlwind beginning. Jess recently became engaged to Alex Forden '06.



JESSICA SOFFER'S PAINTING HANGING IN THE CISLA OFFICE



JIM MACDONALD WITH MUNIB KHAN '13 AT THE CISLA CERTIFICATE CEREMONY

Farewell to Jim MacDonald

By Mary Devins

THE LIBRARY MENTOR PROGRAM

has been an integral part of CISLA since its inception in 1990. Jim MacDonald has always been the CISLA point person in the library. Now he is retiring as reference librarian after 39 years at the College. I know I speak for all past directors of CISLA and for years of CISLA students when I bid a fond farewell to Jim.

Each new class of CISLA scholars is paired with a librarian as soon as they are admitted, and that librarian is a wonderful resource for the students as they complete an annotated bibliography, learn to do in-depth research and even learn how to navigate libraries overseas. Jim was devoted to the CISLA program and its students, and never missed an event. CISLA students could always count on a warm personal greeting when they went to the library, and, as Jim always said, “CISLA kids are always in the library.” Jim was also the unofficial CISLA photographer as he faithfully recorded banquets, UN trips, Floralia happenings, graduation, presentations, etc., etc.

We shall miss Jim enormously and thank him profusely for so many years of devoted service.

The changing demographic of a timeless CISLA

By Mary Devins

MANY YEARS AGO we at CISLA were asked what we were doing to remain visible and competitive. I remember answering that we really did not need to change anything, as the original structure that was brilliantly crafted by a dedicated faculty committee many years ago still worked perfectly. Of course, there have been many changes and improvements made along the way, but the basic structure remains. We continue to feel strongly that we want to maintain the essence of the liberal arts in our program, and thus continue to embed the three CISLA questions in the work of the center:

1. What are the origins and dynamics of contemporary society?
2. What is the relevance of the past in understanding the present and the possibilities for the future?
3. What are the spiritual, material and ethical challenges of modernity?

Each new generation of CISLA scholars challenges the necessity of the three questions, but we argue that they are the underpinnings of the program itself, as they ask students to do deep, broad thinking across disciplines and put their own coursework, internship and research into a new and integrated context.

International students enrich the program

When CISLA graduated its first class of 13 in 1992, there were no international students in the program, due doubtlessly to the fact that there were very few on campus in general. That has changed. The College has purposefully endeavored to diversify and address issues of multiculturalism, and now about 5 percent of each new CC class consists of international students. We are thrilled to have international students in the CISLA program. The conversations in



MARY IN THE MARKETPLACE IN TIZNIT, MOROCCO

IS 201 and IS 401 are greatly changed and enhanced as we discuss important global issues such as poverty, colonialism, privilege, democracy and human rights with students from Sierra Leone, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Malaysia, Colombia and Latvia, to name a few. Our American students hear very different opinions and worldviews, and there are often lively and even heated debates.

Because at its inception CISLA was designed to teach American students another language and complete an international internship, we have had to re-examine how to handle our international students for whom English is in fact a second language. We have had to be flexible and examine different models while still being loyal to the intent of our mission. We do not want internships in the U.S., so we choose international students for their ability to speak languages other than English. This enables us to

place them in different countries. This summer Juan Pablo Pacheco '14 from Colombia has an internship in Senegal where he speaks French, and last summer Edis Kekic '13 from Bosnia worked at an architecture firm in Germany. Occasionally, we let a student use English as his or her second language, and, in most cases, we insist that they leave the United States and go to another English-speaking country. For example, last summer Munib Khan '13 from Pakistan interned in London at a publishing house that worked with immigrant literature.

More countries visited than ever before

At CISLA's onset, many were leery that it would be a Eurocentric program for government or international relations majors. That has not been the case. As the world changes, we see more and more students going to Asia, Latin America and, most recently, the Middle East. There is no doubt that the changing geopolitical landscape plays a role in these choices. Students literally want to go where the action is. Connecticut College recently added Arabic to its curriculum. This was a long time coming and now it is drawing great attention. Three of this year's seniors were ACTFL certified in Arabic. To give you an idea of the breadth of this year's journeys, students completed internships in 19 countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Botswana, Cameroon, Chile, China, Ecuador, France, Germany, Japan, Jordan, Morocco, Panama, Peru, Senegal, South Africa, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States. So, no, we are not Eurocentric.

While international internships are offered by CELS and some of the other certificate centers, CISLA continues to attract a large pool of applicants every fall. We like to think that it is because of the original, brilliantly crafted framework of CISLA.

CISLA

alumni updates

1992

Shelley Pannill Stein, her husband, Matt, and daughter, Jasmin, 6, have lived in Houston since 2007. She teaches French and he works in finance.

1993

Laura Manzano married Michael Leibert '92 at Glenmere Mansion in Chester, NY. Laura works in the luxury hospitality industry for Auberge Resorts.

1996

Peter Drum is married, has 5-year-old twins, runs his own law practice and has spirited political discussions with anyone who will engage. He channeled his political energy by serving as a county chair for Angus King for Senate.

Chelsea Bailey Shea and Matt Bailey Shea work at the University of Rochester; Matt is a professor of music theory and Chelsea does research and program evaluation in education. They live in upstate New York with their son, 8, and daughter, 6.

Andrea Fisher Erda, along with her husband and children, moved into her family home — an old Southern plantation built circa 1730. She says it's a truly magical place, but took some getting used to. However, now she is focusing on their home business that involves property management, special events, movies, photo shoots, farming and hunting use, among other things. They are enjoying living off the land, and at present are busy pickling!

1997

Sarah A. Schoellkopf completed her Ph.D. at U.C. Berkeley in 2008 in Spanish and Portuguese and lives in San Francisco. She works as a Spanish teacher and foreign language chair at St. Matthew's Episcopal Day School in San Mateo, CA. She just returned from two weeks in Argentina with 18 seventh- and eighth-grade students, whom she introduced to that amazing country. The students spent time in and around Buenos Aires, Iguazú



SARAH SCHOELLKOPF '97 ON A TRIP TO ARGENTINA WITH HER STUDENTS

Falls (both the Brazilian and Argentine sides), and Colonia, Uruguay. They also met and visited the offices of the Madres de la Plaza de Mayo, Línea Fundadora, where Sarah did her CISLA internship. Sarah said it was an amazing full-circle moment to take students to her beloved Buenos Aires 18 years after she first lived there as a junior at Connecticut College!

2000

Larysa Gumowskyj Rosemann lives in Arlington, VA, with her two adorable dachshunds, Gretchen and Zirka. She left her job as a tax counsel with Bingham McCutchen LLP to become a partner at Schaner & Lubitz PLLC in Bethesda, MD. Schaner & Lubitz is a small law firm that represents nonprofit foundations and charities, and they do a lot of work with venture philanthropy. She finds the work very rewarding.

2001

An essay by *Jennifer de Leon*, "Mapping Yolanda," was published in the fall 2012 issue of the literary journal *Ploughshares*. De Leon, winner of the 2013 Miriam Levine Student Literacy Award, also has had her work appear in *Ms.*, *Briar Cliff Review* and *Poets & Writers*, among other publications. De Leon is the editor of the upcoming anthology *Wise Latina: Writers on Higher Education* (University of Nebraska Press, 2013). She is working on a novel.

Jordana Gustafson left Washington, DC, and NPR in 2012 for a bike trip through Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Italy, France and Spain. Upon her return, in January 2013, she landed in Portland, OR, where she's working on an immigration reporting fellowship from the Institute for Justice and Journalism and reporting for Oregon Public Broadcast-

ing with a focus on immigration.

Maria Engel and Barry Klatzkin were married in 2010. They live in Israel, where Maria teaches at the American International School. One of our CISLA scholars currently in Israel, *Spencer Francus '14*, recently had dinner with Maria and Barry.

2003

Elli Nagai-Rothe is the managing director of Split This Rock, an arts nonprofit that brings social justice poetry into public life and into movements for social change. Additionally, she's an evaluation consultant with Search for Common Ground through their Congressional Conversation on Race project, and she facilitates inter-group dialogues on race in the DC area. She was married last year in a four-day, community-oriented celebration at an adventure camp in Virginia.

Life continues to be exciting (and a bit tiring!) for *Alex Fiorillo*. She's in her second year as vice president at ideas42, a behavioral economics innovation and design lab. She leads behavior change and economic development projects using behavioral economics and human-centered design approaches. She manages international business development strategy and champions the integration of design thinking principles in ideas42's projects. Alex is managing a microfinance behavior change project in the Philippines, a financial inclusion project for the Central Bank in Malaysia, a global financial education innovation project for microenterprises, and a family planning and reproductive rights program in Sub-Saharan Africa. It builds explicitly off of the work she did in CISLA 10 years ago! She still lives in Brooklyn and enjoys down time between

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ELLI NAGAI-ROTHE '03 AND HER HUSBAND AT THEIR COMMUNITY-ORIENTED WEDDING CEREMONY LAST SEPTEMBER

alumni updates

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work trips — filled with bicycles, volleyball, design thinking workshops, yoga and friends. Alex attended her 10-year reunion in June and had a fantastic time; it was great to catch up with other CISLA friends and see Conn's gorgeous campus.

2006

Lauren Burke was appointed adjunct clinical professor of law at Brooklyn Law School. Lauren is a cofounder and executive director of Atlas: DIY, a nonprofit cooperative center in New York City offering legal, mental health, career, educational and life skills services that empower immigrant youth and their allies. Lauren came to campus last spring to talk with students about careers in global justice.

2008

Sam Lindo graduated from Tufts Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy in May 2012 and has been working for Accenture Management and Consulting, based in the DC office. He loves living in and exploring DC with his girlfriend, Liz, and their dog, Nala, and frequently travels to Boston for work.

After returning home from Kenya last year, *Frannie Noble* has been working for the New England Center for Homeless Veterans doing grant writing and development. She enjoys working with the staff and the veterans and also loves that she's gained more experience with nonprofits. Last fall, Frannie was named a Rotary International Peace Fellow and will travel to Bradford, England, in September to begin studies in peace, conflict and development at the



MADDIE THOMSON '09 AT GRUPO COMPARTAMOS IN MEXICO CITY WHERE SHE IS INTERNING

University of Bradford, where she will concentrate on how children and families are cared for during and after conflict.

2009

Maddie Thomson is midway into completing a two-year master of international business degree at Tufts Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, where she is focusing on international banking and finance and development economics. Her passion for financial inclusion led her to Mexico City this summer, where she is interning with Grupo Compartamos and working on strategic planning for their new foundation. She is thrilled to be back in Mexico City (where she did her CISLA internship) to experience microfinance firsthand with one of the largest and most successful microfinance institutions in the world.

Jessamyn Cox is an assistant director of admission at Connecticut College. She works with prospective students, their families and college/guidance counselors at all stages of the college search and application process, and she leads the student tour guide program and serves as the athletic liaison. Soon she will also be overseeing admission fellows, or senior interviewers. She hopes to get back to Europe someday soon.

Erin Holstein graduated from the London School of Economics and Political Science in December 2013 with a master's in human rights. She returned to New York City and is working as the special events and projects coordinator at Ubuntu Education Fund, a nonprofit dedicated



LIZZIE BAILY '10 AND BRIDESMAID TESS COHEN '07

to supporting vulnerable and orphaned children in Port Elizabeth, South Africa.

2010

Lizzie Baily married Matthias Wolf last summer at the Hartwood Club in Forestburgh, NY. Lizzie met Matthias during her CISLA internship in Madrid, Spain, in 2009. They live in Boston with their dog, Butters, while Lizzie pursues her Ph.D. in organizational behavior at Harvard University. *Tes Cohen '07, Alexandra Felfle* and *Kevin Bergin* were guests at their wedding.

Johanna Gregory is still with the American Council on Germany as a program assistant. She runs about five major conferences each year and manages most of the grant work (they just got a €200,000 extension on their largest grant for biannual programs in Berlin). She also manages and supports 19 national volunteer lead chapters across the country. Johanna has almost completed a certificate program at NYU's School of Continuing and Professional Services for Nonprofit Fundraising and Development. The school offers many non-credit courses and certificate programs, as well as a master's. She would recommend it to any CISLA students interested in developing or working for nonprofits. Johanna is interested in meeting up with other CISLA alums in the NYC area.

2011

Candice Duncan is a digital strategist for the consulting firm Jefferson Waterman International in Washington, DC. She designs and executes digital advocacy

campaigns for foreign governments, political movements and corporations on specific foreign policy issues. In her free time, she enjoys tennis, cycling, reading and eating. She hopes to soon acquire a white or cream-colored Vespa and a black or brown Labrador retriever.

Penney Jade Beaubrun recently received her master's in education in community engagement (with a concentration in nonprofit organizations) from Merrimack College, where she was a graduate fellow. She is in the job market and hopes to get a position at Connecticut College.

Jazmin Acuna Cantero will begin her master's of public policy at Oxford University at the Blavatnik School of Government in September.

Alyssa Grabfield is working in health and benefits consulting at Mercer in NYC. She works mainly with larger clients in the financial services and health care industries. Health care reform is making her job very interesting. Alyssa presented her research on AIDS insurance coverage at the International AIDS Conference in Washington, DC, in 2012. She's still living with **Jane Thompson** on the Upper East Side.

Rachael Hurwitz lives in New York City and has been writing and performing songs for the last few months. Her sister is a stand-up comedian and they recently began collaborating on comedic music videos. During the day, she gives piano lessons. To watch their most recent video, go to www.youtube.com/watch?v=32LCwZFoKio.

2012

Alvaro Beltran works for College Visions, a nonprofit in Providence, RI, which helps under-resourced high school seniors apply to college.

Cristobal Perez is at home in Ecuador, where he started a new job at a bank. He recently returned to campus for Commencement weekend, and saw **Sarah Flecke '13** and other CISLA graduates and friends.

Savitri Arvey recently completed nine months in Mexico City at National Pedagogical University as part of a Fulbright. She is currently looking for nonprofits in Mexico at which to put her considerable skills to use.



TESSA ENGEL '11 LIVES IN GUATEMALA CITY, GUATEMALA, AND WORKS AT A NONPROFIT THAT FOCUSES ON SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH FOR ADOLESCENTS

Elise Dunn has been working at a policy think tank on Latin America in Washington, DC.

Jessica Yi works as a lab tech at Brigham and Women's Hospital/Partners HealthCare in Cambridge, MA, where she has been since graduation. She is applying to dental schools.

Anakena Paddon moved to London last fall to pursue a master's degree in modern and contemporary art at Christie's Education. Through the program, she has traveled to Venice and Berlin. This summer, she is working for Christie's Auction House and working on her graduate thesis. She will be on campus for Fall Weekend and the Board of Trustees meeting, and we hope to see her at the CISLA banquet.

Amani Zaveri works for Quintessentially Travel, a leading lifestyle management travel company, where she mainly does high-end leisure travel such as yacht charters, honeymoons and some event planning. She loves her job because she travels quite extensively to "test" various venues. She lives on the Upper West Side of New York, works in Chelsea, and sees many CISLA alumni both at home and in her travels.

Sarah Seigle has just completed her first year of graduate school at the Josef



CANDICE DUNCAN '11 AT THE UNITED NATIONS FOUNDATION DINNER

Korbel School of International Studies at the University of Denver, where she is pursuing an M.A. in international human rights. She is excited to put her CISLA wisdom into practice this November when she travels to South Africa for a month-long service-learning trip focusing on social justice.

Catherine Lawton was recently accepted into the biostatistics graduate program at Boston University. She is currently working as an analytic associate for Truven Health Analytics, a health care consulting company in Cambridge, MA.

For 10 months, **Meghan Ball** lived in Valence, France, where she taught English at two public elementary schools. With no previous classroom experience, this job was initially challenging; for instance, Meghan once had a class of 25 10-year-olds who spent the hour throwing pens at each other and mocking her American accent. Ultimately, it was a rewarding experience, not only for the handwritten notes of "I love you, Mégane," but also for her understanding of French language and culture that continues to grow since her CISLA internship in Nantes, France, in 2011. Meghan saw this past year as a lesson in flexibility, humility and independence. Meghan is now applying to jobs in the United States and abroad.

Funding news

CISLA functions thanks to the generous gifts of many donors who have endowed various parts of the program, including internships and programming. This year we had to carefully monitor our budget by reducing the number of admitted students and limiting our programming initiatives. The cost of internships is rising steadily and more students want to be part of the center. This year we were fortunate to receive several gifts, including one anonymous gift from the family of a former CISLA student and another from **Matt Tanner '94**, who has endowed an internship. Our graduates often note that their career paths started with the CISLA journey, and we are grateful that our donors think of CISLA for their philanthropic giving.

Parent perspective – angst turned into pride

By Jake and Michele Lindsay

IT WAS DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE

our daughter, Hillary Lindsay '13 — only in her sophomore year when we were first introduced to the CISLA program — would be working and living on her own in a foreign country for 12 weeks. But given Hillary's excitement, and the creativity and global importance of each student's project and the students' many languages and countries, we came away from our first CISLA banquet happy to entrust our daughter to the center.

Hillary studied away in Italy, yet did her internship in Buenos Aires because her SIP focused on how Italians and Argentines view Italian culture in Argentina. Within a month of returning from Italy, she was off to Argentina to intern at the Italian consulate.

It was May, and the many weeks until August when we would see her

seemed too long. Fortunately, cell phones and Skype kept us in touch. We were able to help her through some rough times: her proficiency in Italian didn't really help her in a Spanish-speaking country, so she hired a Spanish tutor; she had a limited social life outside of work, so she was put in touch with Michael Gardner '10, who was living and working in Buenos Aires; and her living arrangement wasn't working out, so she moved into an apartment by herself. We quickly realized that our daughter was a problem solver, and that a CISLA internship builds character. We were nervous; Hillary was resourceful and careful. We learned to relax.

Through the CISLA experience, Hillary found and developed her passion, and her goals are based on her CISLA achievements. I'm positive



HILLARY LINDSAY '13 IN ARGENTINA

that she and her CISLA friends will make contributions in their chosen fields of which we can be proud.

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