

Pathways

CISLA alumni often tell me that their careers are directly connected with the CISLA experience, most notably the international internship. We felt it would be interesting to highlight some of these individual stories in Prism. The title "Pathways" seemed appropriate...

Aaron Maines '95 was an international relations major who studied Italian. He interned in Rome and completed his senior integrative project with a comparison of penal methods in the U.S. and Italy. Aaron fell in love with Italy during his CISLA experience, and returned there after graduating. In 2000 he married Serena Tanzi-Mira in Milan, where they currently live with their son Michelangelo. Today Aaron is considered one of the foremost translators of Italian to English, having translated books by Oriana Fallaci, Umberto Eco and others. He also works as a freelance writer and journalist. — Mary Devins

Of Dreams and D-minuses

by Aaron Maines '95

IN SPRING OF 2007, I was fortunate enough to be offered a unique assignment: to translate filmmaker Federico Fellini's personal diary.

Like most people, I had no idea Fellini kept a diary. The filmmaker kept it a secret from all but his closest friends and family, and only after his

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director's column

GREETINGS everyone,

I would like to begin by thanking Professor Fred Paxton for filling in so admirably for me while I was away on sabbatical. Professor Paxton is no stranger to CISLA, as you know, and his passion and deep commitment to the program meant that my absence went pretty much unnoticed! So thank you Fred for all that you have done and all that you continue to do for us. I spent my sabbatical shuttling back and forth to Rio de Janeiro to conduct interviews for my forthcoming book on organized crime in the shantytowns, or *favelas*. And as thrilling and productive as the year was, I can honestly say that the thing I missed most was my CISLA family. I have taught at the College for 21 years, and during that time I have had the pleasure of getting to know hundreds, even thousands of students. The CISLA program offers something very different, however, in that it fosters very close faculty-student relations and provides a wonderful environment for personal and intellectual growth. This past year was no exception. We admitted a wonderfully diverse group of students in the fall, with representatives from Afghanistan, Mozambique, Paraguay, Botswana, Japan, Haiti and Peru. As you can imagine, their presence in the classroom greatly enhanced everyone's experience in IS201 and produced some very lively "global" discussions.

We also, of course, said goodbye to a wonderful cohort of seniors. And as I look behind me, while sitting at my desk, I see a shelf full of carefully researched and interesting senior integrative projects, including, *"Ethnic Identity and Intolerance: An Analysis of the Cultural Integration of Moroccan Immigrants into Spanish Society"* (Erin Holstein), *"Promoting Children's Rights Through Senegalese Music"* (Lynne Stillings), and *"The Europeanization of Chinese Businesses: The Rising Sino-European Entrepreneurial Relations"* (David Urbaneja-Furelos), to name but a few. Of course, our seniors never really leave us, they just move on to the next phase of their lives. And we are always more than delighted to see them and thrilled to hear what they've been up to.

Beyond the certificate program, which is our main mission, CISLA continues to provide invaluable support for international programming and initiatives on campus. We have single-handedly revived, for example, the "Foreign Languages Across the Curriculum" (FLAC) program that provides faculty with stipends to teach additional sections of their courses in a foreign language. In fact, in this past year alone, we have funded twelve such courses in East Asian Studies, History, Italian, Latin American Studies, Economics, Government and Sociology.

We also decided to become a major sponsor of the conference on "Undocumented Hispanic Migration," which has been put together by Professor Frank Graziano of the Hispanic Studies Department. The conference, which will be held on campus October 16-18, brings together the biggest names in the field and promises to be a spectacular event, so much so that we are looking into the possibility of sponsoring a conference each year on a topic of international interest. In fact, we are already beginning the process of planning for 2010-2011, when it is our hope to organize/sponsor a conference or event concerning the global AIDS epidemic.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the generous support of our alumni and friends. And it is testimony to the quality and the integrity of the program, I believe, that we continue to receive financial support in such difficult times. So, in conclusion, it's great to be back in the director's seat and there are a great many things to look forward to and be excited about here on planet CISLA!

Robert Gay

Professor of Sociology

*Director of the Toor Cummings Center for International
Studies and the Liberal Arts (CISLA)*

Pathways

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death was its existence made public. It turned out to be a marvelous document; a detailed, illustrated diary of his own dreams, filled with anecdotes and glimpses into Fellini's private life.

I spent most of the late spring and summer working on the diary in a small café in Cavi, a seaside town in Liguria. I worked early, coming to the café right at dawn, when its dour, shuffling and unfailingly courteous owner opened for the early morning trucking traffic that runs that stretch of the Antica Aurelia.

Aside from the truckers, who came in, told a few rough jokes or exchanged loud *buongornos* with the owner before bolting back espressos and stomping out again, my only companion during those working hours was an elegantly dressed elderly lady who appeared just after 7 every morning, arriving in a wave of flowery perfume and dragging a nervous Pomeranian behind her.

We spoke on a few occasions. One conversation — our first — struck a particular chord.

Noting the sketches, she asked me what I was doing. When I told her, she confided that she wasn't a fan of Fellini's work, that his films were "vulgar" and "base."

I'd heard that before, especially from older Italians. Several of Fellini's films, including *La Dolce Vita*, were banned from smaller cinemas when they were first released.

A few moments later she said, "Your Italian is quite good, though. And to translate his diaries, well that's something, isn't it? You studied Italian at your university, yes?"

I said that I had, for two full years.

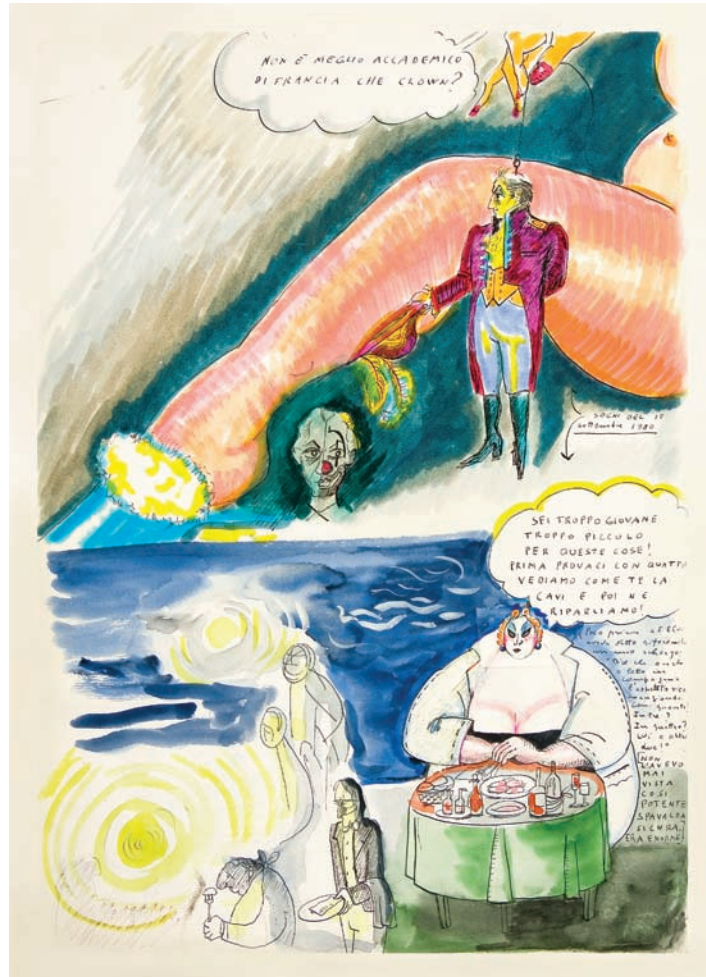
"You must have been first in your class," she concluded.

Actually, no. I was last.

A little over a decade earlier, after a

year in Professor Proctor's introductory Italian course, I'd received a D-minus for my final grade. A D-minus! I didn't even know the grade existed. Out of the eighty-odd students who took the course, I came in dead last.

The D-minus was undeserved. I should have failed. Professor Proctor, glimpsing some infinitesimally small glimmer of promise in my Italian, decided to give me credit. But he was wholeheartedly critical of how I'd frittered away the year (I had), and wasn't



going to make life easy for me (it didn't).

Proctor knew what he was doing. At the time, he was not only my Italian professor, he was also the director of CISLA. His D-minus tore a gaping hole in my plans to participate in the program. I pleaded with him to change the grade. He said it was impossible. After all, I'd flat out failed the final. I offered to do extra credit, a special assignment, clean toilets ... anything! He was inflexible. Summer had arrived.

I was going to have to live with the consequences of what I hadn't done.

I remember I was shell-shocked. I don't think I cried there in front of Proctor, but I know I did back in Mary Devins' office. CISLA was all-important to me: a dream. I was enough of a fool that I had to lose it before I figured out just how much it meant.

In talking to me, however, Proctor left one tiny window open. He reviewed my grades, pointing out that if I did ridiculously well over the following two semesters, I'd be able to bring my GPA up just high enough to qualify. I don't remember what I had to maintain — a 3.8 or a 3.9 — but for me it was high enough to rank up with similarly unthinkable feats like winning eight gold medals at a single Olympic Games or electing a black man president.

I returned from summer vacation determined to try. I stopped partying so much and started studying. I began to get up early in the morning — often before dawn — to work and reread my lessons.

I made it. Just barely. I like to think that's how Proctor intended it.

The CISLA internship introduced me to a country I had never even considered visiting, and forced me to get serious about learning a language I had never considered studying. Today I live in that country and work, at least part of every day, in that language. I have a wonderful Italian

wife and a nonchalantly bilingual son. Would those things have happened without CISLA? Would I have found my way to Italy nonetheless? I suppose it's possible, but I doubt it.

Either way, it's easy to gauge the value of that D-minus: it's the most important grade I ever got. *A new book on Federico Fellini's work, written by Tullio Kezich and translated by Aaron Maines, will be published in late 2009.*

notes from the field



MICHAEL GARDNER '09 (FAR LEFT) IN SPAIN.

WE ANXIOUSLY AWAIT the interim internship reports from the field to get a sense of how our students are managing professionally, socially and personally. The variety of experiences, reactions and lessons learned are profound, funny at times and fascinating. Here are a few excerpts from these reports by topic.

Loneliness

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“I think it is extremely exciting to live and work alone in a new place. I have had a lot of time to reflect on myself, my life and the things around me.”

“My most challenging aspect was being alone, but it rekindled a piece of me and I now have the ability to reflect on things, I read more, listen to news more and just relax.”

“The most challenging aspect has been living alone, but I have learned to enjoy alone time, cook (a little) and be relatively independent.”

“I have learned to be happy alone.”

“I have learned to cope with living on my own, but I really dislike living alone.”

Life skills

“I was living on my own, cleaning on my own, cooking on my own and most of all paying my own bills ... it is annoying and awful.”

“Living off my CISLA stipend without the help of my parents was very rewarding.”

“The most challenging, though it seems mundane and trivial, is the 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. schedule. You forget how flexible a school schedule is.”

“I have learned the importance of

being flexible and adaptable especially moving in with room-mates you do not know very well.”

“I have acquired the ability to adjust and to be happy in a short time.”

“Ndnk, ndank — little by little in Wolof - Senegalese time requires patience and politeness that I simply did not have when I first arrived.”

“Budgeting and managing my money — I have never been in a situation before where housing and food were things I had complete control over and responsibility for.”

“I have learned not to take things so seriously. I enjoy being abroad more and it makes for more interesting experiences.”

“I am not stuck in my American mind.”

“I love being able to completely control my own life.”

“I’ve learned how to push people into subway cars and cross the street with large groups of women and children.”

“I have learned tolerance and patience.”

Language

“I used to hate answering the phone in German. It is impossible to understand names, the question and the person they wanted was never there. Now it is not a problem. I have greatly improved my German.”

“I have been traveling on my own for work, spending about 11 days in each place. I actually enjoy being unfamiliar with my surroundings and being forced to use my Spanish and be resourceful to find my way around.”

“My Japanese has skyrocketed.”

“I must speak entirely in German and I can say 100 percent that I accomplished this. I have learned a sense of communication.”

Work

“When working with superiors who are difficult or very picky, I have learned it best to just do what they demand no matter my opinion on the topic.”

“Once I realized I was responsible for finding my own work to do, things got a lot easier.”



JOHANNA GREGORY '09 IN GERMANY.

“I have learned an enormous amount about doing business in China and about the economic system — so different from that in the U.S.”

Challenges

“The hardest part is the physical conditions: the heat, the dust, the cockroaches, the bedbugs and the mice. The family is lovely however, and it is incredibly rewarding for me to realize that I can function in situations that might be less than ideal.”

“The most challenging aspect that still remains is living and working as women in an Arab society. I now know I can survive independently and be completely responsible for myself. I am now very proud of my cooking skills.”

Praise and awe

“Having this opportunity is priceless. I never realized how fantastic and cool it really is. It gets students out into the world and is one of the best choices I have made.”

“I LOVE my internship and living in Japan. I’ve learned so much since I’ve been here; I am just worried about reverse culture shock.”



NYE SLEEPER '09 IN JAPAN.

CISLA Alumni Advisory Board News

Lee Davis '88 approached Mary Devins with the idea to create a CISLA Alumni Advisory Board. Lee is an active engaged alumnus who is the co-founder and CEO of NESST International, a philanthropic venture fund supporting social enterprises addressing critical social problems in Central & Eastern Europe and Latin America. Lee graduated before CISLA existed, but strongly believes in the intent, vision and mission of the center. He has assembled an impressive board of Connecticut College alumni with strong international professional backgrounds and alliances.

CISLA IS ONE of the best-kept secrets in higher education today. I never would have imagined when I graduated and left New London on my Watson Fellowship that some 20 years later I'd return to find such an international gem on campus. I'm impressed – by the overall CISLA concept, by the rigor of the program, by the quality of our students, and by the impressive results the Center's team and graduates have accomplished. I'm only sorry it didn't exist when I was a student at Connecticut College.

There's much to be proud of at CISLA and even more potential to be realized. Under President Higdon's leadership, internationalization is one of the four priority areas identified in the Campaign for Connecticut College. CISLA plays a central role in working toward the vision for this "international commons." We as alumni have a lot to offer to promote and strengthen CISLA toward this end. The women and men you see featured here are a diverse group of Camels who have gone on to accomplish impressive things on the world stage. Among them are leaders in foreign policy, international development, journalism, business, environment, health, human rights, volunteerism and philanthropy with expertise in nearly every region of the world. Some are 'products' of CISLA and others not. All are alumni of the College who have developed international, senior-level professional experience and expertise.

We've established the CISLA Alumni Advisory Board (AAB) to help further

the overall goals of CISLA; to provide advice and assistance to the CISLA staff, faculty, students and Student Advisory Board in order to enhance and improve the CISLA program; to increase internship and professional opportunities for CISLA students (while at CISLA as well as after graduation); and to increase the prominence and standing of CISLA on and off campus.

Please join me in welcoming the inaugural CISLA Alumni Advisory Board. I hope we, as a group, are able to do our small part in helping Connecticut College to achieve its mission of educating students "to put the liberal arts into action as citizens in a global society."

Lee Davis '88, *Chairman, CISLA Alumni Advisory Board*

CISLA Alumni Advisory Board



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Advisory Board Chair
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Mailman School of Public
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New York, New York



**LASHAWN
JEFFERSON '88**
Consultant, Women's
International, Human Rights



THE CISLA CLASS OF 2011 IN FRONT OF THE UNITED NATIONS DURING OUR ANNUAL VISIT. THIS YEAR WE MET WITH DELEGATES FROM THE PERMANENT MISSIONS OF ISRAEL, THE UNITED STATES, CHINA AND EGYPT. IN PHOTO FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: JIM MACDONALD, SANDRA WOODS, KARLEE KEYSER, OSCAR GUERRA, MATIULLAH (YAMA) NOORI, TARA CURRY, CELIA WHITEHEAD, MARCO LOPES, TESSA ENGEL, ERIN LUCE, JENNIFER WANG, XIOMARA ALMANZAR, ANNE DENTON, CINTHIA ISLA MARIN, JANINE GONZALEZ, LINDA CAMELIO, PENNEY JADE BEAUBRUN, RIE TAI, THATO KEINEETSE, ALYSSA GRABFIELD, ANNIE MOTCH, BLAY BRADLEY, DANA SILVERBERG, ABIGAIL DERICK, EMILY CULVER, RACHAEL HURWITZ, HANNAH SHAMBROOM, JACOB GARBER, JANE THOMPSON, JAZMIN ACUNA CANTERO, MARIELA MOREL, HOLLY ATKINS, EMILY ROWLAND-KAIN, ROBERT GAY, DAN SWEZEY, HECTOR RAMOS SAMANEZ AND DOROTHY WANG. NOT SHOWN: CANDICE DUNCAN.

Welcome CISLA Class of 2011

A VERY WARM WELCOME is extended to our newest CISLA class, made up of eight men and 25 women, who have proposed to travel to 20 different countries for their summer 2011 CISLA internships. These students will use a variety of languages during their internships, including Creole, English, Mandarin, French, Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Russian, Portuguese, Spanish and Turkish. Their journey began spring semester in the gateway CISLA course, *IS 201 - Perspectives on Modern Global Society*, a special course designed to prepare CISLA scholars for their international experiences. The course was organized and taught by CISLA's Director, Robert Gay. He enlisted the participation of five faculty members from different departments on the

following topics: Robert Proctor from the department of Italian, the origins of the liberal arts; Frederick Paxton, from the department of history, "Big History: from the Big Bang to the present"; Maria Cruz-Saco, from the department of economics, topics in Latin American economics; Tristan Borer, from the department of government, introducing

the debate over universalism versus cultural relativity; and Gene Gallagher, from the department of religious studies, Islamic fundamentalism as a reaction to globalization. We wish each of the students from the CISLA Class of 2011 the best of luck in their studies abroad and in pursuing and completing their internships in the exciting year to come!

funding news

CISLA CONTINUES to be in a strong financial position with an endowment that enables us to fully fund the program and internship expenses, offer generous support for a variety of faculty and student initiatives, as well as continue to fund faculty and student travel grants.

alumni recognition

Jessamyn Cox '09 was one of three Connecticut College students to receive the prestigious Fulbright Scholarship. Jessamyn was a double major in German studies and art history. She will teach English and start an after-school program that focuses on American art. She says, "I will pick a different artist to talk about each week, discuss the life and development of the artist and guide the students in an art project to recreate the works of the artist." She also hopes to be involved with a youth running or track and field program in Germany. For her CISLA internship Jessamyn worked at the Städtisches Kunstmuseum Spenndhaus Reutlingen in Reutlingen, Germany. She completed her senior integrative project on Gender Roles in German Expressionist Art.

Zachary Olsen '08 was a finalist for a Fulbright Scholarship. Zach's proposal was to return to Brazil and continue the work he began as a CISLA scholar where he examined the successes and possibilities of various social programs.

Connecticut College was one of five institutions awarded the prestigious Paul Simon Award for Campus Internationalization. Colleges and universities are given the opportunity to self-nominate as part of a competitive process. Aside from the strength of the CISLA program, the College highlighted its strengths in foreign language proficiency, the existence of Knowlton Language House, the presence of international students who encourage multicultural awareness, an international faculty, strong study abroad numbers, SATA and TRIPs, the CELS funded internship program with increased international internships, curricular innovations as well as the important initiatives of the International Commons. Mary Devins accepted the award for the College at a luncheon held to honor the recipients during the NAFSA conference held in Los Angeles at the end of May.

Fernando Espuelas '88 keynote speaker at Fall Weekend

CISLA TRADITIONALLY INVITES a keynote speaker for Fall Weekend. On October 24, 2009, at 3 p.m. Fernando Espuelas '88 will give a talk titled, "Revolution in the Internet Era." Espuelas is an entrepreneur, author and technological trailblazer, named a "Leader for the New Millennium" by *Time Magazine*. He is the founder of VOY, a digital medial company building connections between Latinos/Latinas through the Internet, television, radio and publishing. Espuelas is considered one of the pioneers of the consumer Internet. He is the recipient of numerous distinguished awards. Espuelas appears frequently as a commentator on television and in print.



Mellon Post Doctoral Fellowship

THE TOOR CUMMINGS CENTER for International Studies and the Liberal Arts announced the appointment of Syed Nauman Naqvi as our Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow for the academic years 2009-2011. He received his Ph.D. in 2008 from Columbia University in the Department of Anthropology. His dissertation was titled *Mourning Indo-Muslim Modernity: Moments in Postcolonial Urdu Literary Culture*. Naqvi recently finished a Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in Muslim Literary Cultures in the Department of Comparative Literature at Brown University. At Connecticut College, he will participate in the CISLA senior seminar and the sophomore gateway course "Perspectives on Modern Global Society." He will also teach a course in the spring of 2010. In his second year he will also offer a course each semester in his fields of specialization.

For more information, please visit our Web site:
<http://www.conncoll.edu/centers/cisla/6626.htm>

upcoming

IN THE FALL of 2008, Professor Frank Graziano of the Hispanic Studies department approached CISLA for funding support for a conference on undocumented Hispanic migration. In October, "On the Margins of a Dream," will be held on the Connecticut College campus. Professor Graziano has put together an expansive and impressive group of more than 100 scholars, health and social-service providers, attorneys, activists, educators, immigrants and government personnel. In the future, CISLA will work with our faculty to sponsor an annual conference on an important international topic.

IN THE SPRING of 2010, CISLA will sponsor a Middle East Film Festival that will be organized and facilitated by our Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, Nauman Naqvi.

A Summer Between Two Worlds

by Erin Holstein '09

IT ALL STARTED AT the Philadelphia International Airport on May 27, 2008. As I approached the gate for my Iberia flight to Madrid, I was instantly overwhelmed by a swarm of beautifully tanned people spewing out the fastest Castilian Spanish I had ever heard. In a second I was transported from the U.S. to Spain. The people at the gate were not only Spanish, but the waiting area itself epitomized the social connections and cultural intricacies that so fascinate me when in Spain.

This was my second trip to the Madrid airport in five months, and I knew that this time would be vastly different from the last. First, no longer was I an American college student experiencing a fluffy, package-deal semester abroad (in Sevilla); this time I was a CISLA scholar moving alone to Spain to fend for myself while working for a the NGO Asociación Juventud Inmigrante (Association for Immigrant Youth) for the summer. I was back in Spain, and I was jumping right in with both feet. I had the phone number of my landlord's son, the name of a supervisor at an immigration organization, and a very handy electronic Spanish-English dictionary. I was on my own and had no clue what to expect.

CISLA was the reason I considered Connecticut College in the first place. Growing up in a family where mutual respect for those from different walks of life is the golden rule, I have always been introduced to other cultures with an open mind and a desire to understand and embrace diversity. At Connecticut College, the Toor Cummings Center for International Studies and the Liberal Arts acted as an extension of my own family that would continue to push me to look around our world, learn about different ethnic groups, religions, belief systems, and social structures, all the while being aware that no culture is inherently "better" or "worse" than another. CISLA taught me to go beyond my comfort zone.



ERIN HOLSTEIN VISITING THE HOME OF HER MOROCCAN COLLEAGUE.

My CISLA Senior Integrative Project focused on the discrimination of immigrants in Spain, and my research paper was titled "Ethnic Identity and Intolerance: An Analysis of the Cultural Integration of Moroccan Immigrants into Spanish Society."

Landing in Madrid at 6:00 a.m. on that exciting morning in late May, I made it to my first apartment in an area called Arguelles. And then I experienced the profound realization that what I had been planning for two years was happening – it was surreal.

My experiences at work made me feel troubled by the discrimination faced by many of Spain's immigrants. As an intern at the Association for Moroccan Immigrants and Workers in Spain and its daughter organization, the AJI, every day I worked with people from a vast array of countries who were coming to Madrid from a variety of social, political, economic, and environmental situations that forced them to migrate.

Every day was a wonderful learning experience, whether I was trying to get homeless immigrants into emergency

shelters, aiding them in the apartment and job search process, creating resource guides for immigrant social services in Madrid, teaching a young child about being accepting of immigrants from other countries, or simply sharing a smile with an immigrant who was struggling to get settled in this new country.

I was angry about the unjust treatment they were receiving in Spain. The immigrants left all that was familiar behind in order to search for a better life in Spain, and in turn many were treated as unwanted criminals. Sadly, when arriving in Madrid, these immigrants weren't welcomed, as they had hoped, and their problems weren't instantly resolved, as they had dreamed. Instead they were faced with racism, xenophobia, intolerance, and difficulty acculturating to this new society.

Whether chastised and shamed for wearing a headscarf, marginalized and deemed terrorists, or simply loathed for taking all of the jobs, immigrants in Spain had a lot of weight on their shoulders even just upon their arrival. They felt detached and consequently a barrier was set up

that almost fully separated the immigrant population from the native Spaniards.

I formed a wonderful friendship with a colleague at my organization who herself had emigrated from Morocco twelve years earlier. On our long metro rides to the Lavapiés after-school program, she would tell me about the sacrifices she had made so that her husband could come to Spain and pursue his academic goals. Even though she missed her family and culture dearly, she understood that her husband's studies were the key to their economic success and a better life. This woman also shared with me her stories of hardship and regrets about leaving Morocco and raising a son in Spain. She truly was a very caring colleague who watched out for me, and even invited me to spend almost an entire day dining on delicious Spanish and Moroccan cuisine at her home with her husband and son. It was a treat to work with her, as I was able to see what life as a Moroccan immigrant to Spain is like after being in the country for over a decade. I experienced a different side of the immigration world that I was not seeing through my daily interaction with the immigrants at the organization. To visit my colleague's home gave me an ever-greater look into the personal lives of Moroccans in Spain, and I learned from this woman that after being away from one's homeland for so long and acculturating to a Spanish lifestyle, it was still possible to maintain the aspects of Moroccan culture that mattered most to her.

Whether I was hearing about Moroccan culture from the eager-to-learn students in the Spanish classes, helping an immigrant work on his first resume, listening to the stories of struggle and hardship from a young mother, or just figuring out how to find my way in Madrid, my CISLA summer 2008 internship experience not only taught me to embrace difference, but to respect, teach, and share difference. From the typical Spanish cafés con leche to the decadent almond-filled Moroccan pastries, I myself was living in between two very different worlds. And without having lived that intermediary experience, I certainly would be missing out on getting to know and form peaceful and respectful relations with two wonderful groups of people in our society.

A Summer Between Two Worlds Through the eyes of a CISLA parent

OUR DAUGHTER Erin has always had a love for international travel, so it was no surprise when she informed us in her sophomore year at Connecticut College that she was interested in a program called CISLA. It was a surprise, however, to learn that CISLA is no study abroad program, but a total immersion into the culture and language of another country while at the same time turning a standard college degree into one that has been "internationalized." Now that's learning!

Our introduction to CISLA really began when we attended the spring banquet in Erin's sophomore year and witnessed the students' presentations. Stimulating talks of their prospective internships abroad were followed by light and lively skits performed by those who were just beginning their CISLA program. From then on, we were hooked too, and until the awarding of certificates on graduation weekend, we enjoyed listening to Erin's stories about her and her colleagues' fascinating adventures.

CISLA was the academic and experiential highlight of Erin's Connecticut College years, at least as we viewed it. She expanded her mind, challenged herself, and was dedicated to trying to understand how immigrants' dreams and hopes are tested when living in a new land. The independence we saw in Erin when she would call from Madrid, where she interned, was both gratifying and bittersweet; our daughter was growing up.

Early on in her academic studies and extracurricular activities, Erin committed herself to important issues regarding immigrants and refugees around the globe. It was natural for her to want to go to Spain, which for millennia has been the destination for people emigrating from Northern Africa and the Middle East. Erin's concern about the discrimination that people face when they relocate to a new area of the world

led her to want to learn more about the experience of Moroccan immigrants in Spain and the discrimination they face.

The best part for us as parents of a CISLA scholar was listening to the stories. Erin would call or send an e-mail, and there was always so much excitement in her voice about her daily activities. First, there were the pre- and post-internship events at Conn. It seemed as if she was always preparing for something, yet she never described it as work. Erin was getting ready for a presentation, picking out what to wear for a reception, or helping a fellow scholar rehearse a speech. The wonderful staff

of CISLA keeps the students active and challenged. In all respects they make the program the wonderful experience that it is.

Erin's excitement peaked when she was working in Spain. Every day she would have something to tell us about a Moroccan immigrant child she had spent time with, a family that she helped get settled, or a colleague who would share his or her own story of immigration and acculturation. Erin was very fortunate to have roommates from around the world. She found her apartment on her own and it was fortuitous that the other young women living there had similar aspirations to live and work in Spain. Whether it was sharing meals from around the world, or spending a night socializing in nightclubs, it was obvious that Erin was having a good time at both work and play.

We believe that CISLA was the pinnacle of Erin's college experience. The creativity it brought to her fields of study, the relationships she forged, and the happiness Erin displayed were all that parents could hope for. We know that Erin was fortunate to have been a CISLA scholar and are happy knowing that the program delivered everything and more that it promised. — *Alyse and Phil Holstein, CISLA Parents, Erin Holstein '09*



New Perspectives

The returning CISLA seniors take a seminar called “New Perspectives on Modern Global Society.” As part of this they must complete a reflective internship report that discusses not merely what they did during the internship, but what they learned and how the experience impacted them personally. We have chosen excerpts from three different reports to showcase in Prism.



ALEXANDRA MAMO '09 was an East Asian Studies major. She conducted her internship at the Kyoto International Manga Museum in Japan. Her Senior Integrative Project (SIP) was titled, “Manga as a Story-telling Method.”

“When I received a phone call in December to set up an interview for my internship at the museum, I was extremely scared and excited. When I met with Mr. Yoshimura and Mr. Ueno, the research and museum directors, they told me that I was the perfect person to come to the museum because they were striving for even more “international” elements for the Kyoto International Manga Museum. And with that my internship was born.

After moving out of my host family’s house I took the train over to Yamashina. I was welcomed to a 10-mat apartment of tatami (180 square feet). I was a bit nervous moving in because I had never lived on tatami before. I just knew it was flooring that consisted of woven mats that are expensive, require care and things one doesn’t usually put furniture on. My kitchen was comprised of a sink, fridge, and a plug-in gas range. This was all in a space of about 5.5 square feet. When your bed, the place you eat, the place you work, are all on the floor, and you begin to see the world differently.

I entered the museum and was introduced to the entire office and research staff, a group of about 20 people. I was to work in the research room with the researchers. My tasks at first were translating anything from the fire alarm announcement to exhibit explanations to the entire museum website. Ms. Nakamura then wanted me to write an English version of the museum tour and to memorize it. The most exciting and enjoyable part of my internship was the manga drawing workshops.

This past summer the Ambassador program made trips to Japan to teach children about different parts of Japanese culture and history. This meant that continual waves of American high schoolers were coming into the museum throughout the summer. Mr. Ogawa, who runs workshops, asked me to help out by interpreting for the students. This was my first time interpreting so I was nervous. Mr. Ogawa spoke slowly and simply for me so I could interpret with ease. I found out that I actually like interpreting. It was probably the rush of power I felt by being the only one in the room who knew everything that was said. Doing the workshop was one of my most memorable experiences at the museum because by the end of the summer Mr. Ogawa entrusted me to do it by myself.

On the last day of my internship I received flowers from the staff and Ms.

Nakamura wept. The researcher next to me, Mr. Ito, gave me an encyclopedia of manga. I think this is the best gift I have ever received. When I was writing my proposal in the U.S. I sometimes would think, “Am I kidding myself? Manga are just comics. There are so many CISLA projects people have done about things that matter more.” But after going to the museum and seeing people who dedicate their lives to something that has been deemed by the government “an important national property” my view has changed. I hope I can create an awesome project that I can send back to the museum that will make them proud.”



LYNNE STILLINGS '09 was a Music major. She conducted her internship at Accent Multiples in Dakar, Senegal. Her SIP was titled, “Promoting Children’s Rights Through Senegalese Music.”

“I worked for a small non-governmental organization, Accents Multiples, which promotes children’s rights through music. Their two current projects are called *AURA* (United Artists for African Rap) and *Tundu Joor*. *AURA* promotes children’s rights through a hip-hop musical, in which sixteen artists from

ten West African countries each represent a different exploited or mistreated child. *Tundu Joor* is a project that allows Senegalese children to participate in music, increasing their awareness of their own rights.

I was available for contributing to their new Anglophone communications and translating between French and English. However, my responsibilities mostly involved assisting in organizing public relations records, logging travel expenses and putting together portfolios for meetings. I also performed secretarial duties on many occasions when the secretary was ill or was not in the office, which happened almost weekly.

What was most culturally shocking was that the government cut the city's electricity nearly everyday, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. when business hours are around 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. It was incredibly frustrating to work with an organization that was trying to promote children's rights through the finance and founding ideals of a western organization, but in a developing society that provided insufficient resources.

The topic of culture shock is a difficult one to discuss in terms of my own experiences. It is hard to pinpoint the moments when I am uncomfortable having returned to my own culture, or feel disdain towards aspects of American culture. I am currently struggling with maintaining the perspective I gained while working abroad. Living with a Senegalese family in Dakar taught me how important family relations are to their culture, that they depend on each other for daily support and completing daily chores. My time spent in the office was a glimpse into working life in a developing society, even an organization that was supported by a western organization; their limited resources made daily assignments difficult to accomplish. Walking down the street I would pass heartbreaking numbers of children beggars and homeless mothers. Now that I have returned it is hard to maintain my appreciation for what a precious and uncommon lifestyle I lead. The obstacles I encounter back at school are miniscule compared to the emotional difficulties I went through in Dakar and Madagascar, let alone those that millions face on a daily basis living

in poverty. I hope to uphold the point of view I had in Africa while living at home in the US.

The work that Accents Multiples does in the name of children's rights is precisely what I hope to do as a career in the future. Promoting children's rights through music is a way I can work towards something I care about and manifest it through something I am passionate about."



TAYLOR SPERRY '09 was an English major. She conducted her internship at the Latin American Federation of Families of the Disappeared (FEDEFAM), in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Her SIP was titled, "*Justicia por Memoria: Los Desaparecidos en Argentina.*"

"Reflecting on my time in Argentina, it doesn't really seem like me who did all of these crazy things—living in a huge foreign city, speaking another language every day, hanging out with very prominent figures in the international human rights community as a "job," taking care of myself so far away from home. I have found it a strangely difficult task to tie my experiences together in any coherent way. I think this is largely because I am a different person now than I was when I left in February.

Before beginning the internship, I had no idea what a problem forced disappearances continue to be throughout Latin America. I had thought I would spend the vast majority of my time learning and raising awareness about the 30,000 disappearances in Argentina under the military dictatorship; I thought of the problem in terms of something that had "started and ended." I couldn't have been more wrong. To my surprise, the issue of forced disappearances is still very much alive in current Argentine politics, as well as in other countries of the region still plagued by the problem.

One of the greatest advantages of working with FEDEFAM was my exposure to these issues on both a micro and macro level. On the one hand, the members of the group were constantly debating the evolving policies of the United Nations, the progress of disappearance trials in other Latin American countries, and human rights abuses around the world (Abu Ghraib and Guantánamo Bay being among the most popular topics of discussion). On the other end of the spectrum, I also had the privilege of hearing firsthand accounts of individual experiences, the most powerful of which came from my own supervisor, Patricio, who was himself a *desaparecido* under the military regime.

My only regret is that I wish I could have brought more to the table, other than a different perspective, a willingness to do grunt work and an open mind. I know that I gained so much more from this experience than I could ever hope to give back.

As cliché as it is, my development of a greater sense of self-confidence was one of the most personally rewarding aspects of my time in Argentina. As a generally shy person, I became much better about introducing myself to people and maintaining conversations with strangers in Spanish because we were often in big groups and the members of FEDEFAM didn't feel like they needed to babysit me—which was great. I left Buenos Aires with a better sense of my own capabilities and a deeper understanding of what it means to take responsibility for my own goals. After participating in CISLA, I now realize what an important difference there is between preparing or waiting for an opportunity and taking the initiative to create one."

CISLA Student Travel Grants

by Mary Devins



FROM LEFT: ANNIE BURROWS, DAVID URBANEJA-FURELOS, BARBARA SHAW DELANEY '44, ALEXANDRA MAMO AND EMILY LAWTON.

12

WE WERE ABLE TO GIVE four seniors travel grants this year to return to the sites of their internships or other locations to continue research on the senior integrative project. These gifts are awarded annually to qualified students for one of the following purposes: to return to the site of their internship to continue research and effectively complete their senior research project; to attend a domestic or international conference related to their research; or travel to a site where they can access primary material related to their senior research project.

We are fortunate that one of our donors for this initiative, Mrs. Barbara Delaney, lives locally. In the photo Mrs. Delaney is enjoying lunch with the students who were the recipients of the travel grants. She is always thrilled to meet these young interesting students and plies them with thoughtful questions about their journeys and projects.

ANNIE BURROWS completed a senior integrative project titled “The Globalization of Dance.” Her summer internship was at the Museo de Baile Flamenco in Seville, Spain, where she explored how culture, language, stories and lives are shared through dance. Her study in Spain was with Flamenco, but she wanted to round out her research with

Salsa and was able to set up a relationship with a dance studio in Puerto Rico where she spent two weeks during her spring break. She conducted interviews and had the opportunity to dance.

DAVID URBANEJA-FURELOS majored in International Relations and East Asian Studies, his CISLA internship was at the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, Investment and Technology Promotion Office in Beijing and Taiyuan. His senior project was titled “The Europeanization of Chinese Businesses: The Rising Sino-European Entrepreneurial Relations.” David felt that by doing his research in China he was only seeing part of the picture. With his grant funds he traveled to Europe where he scheduled meetings in Spain with the ADEuropa Foundation and in Belgium where he met with the Belgium-Chinese Economic and Commercial Council. He said that this opportunity significantly enabled him to complete a comprehensive exhaustive analysis of his topic.

ALEX MAMO majored in East Asian Studies with Japanese as her language. Her Senior Integrative Project was “Manga as a Story-Telling Method.” She interned at the Kyoto International Manga Museum. To better complete

her project, Alex proposed to attend the 75th Biannual Comic Market known as Comiket in Tokyo. Many of the new and old Mangas have not been published in America and this trip would give her a broad exposure to the primary materials she needed to enhance her project. Alex was thrilled to report that she found an enormous amount of material that does not exist in the U.S.

EMILY LAWTON double majored in Psychology and Math. She wrote her Senior Integrative Project on “The Psychological Repercussions of Terrorism.” She interned in Madrid at La Asociación 11M Afectados del Terrorismo. Emily stated that her internship had surpassed her best dreams, but felt her project would be much improved with additional research, in particular, more personal interviews. She spoke directly with family members of victims and translated at an international press conference with members of her association who had lost loved ones. She also met with a medical forensic expert and a psychologist who had evaluated the condition of the survivors. Emily felt her return trip was invaluable, adding to the breadth and depth of her research.

CISLA alumni news

Thank you for all the updates. It is always exciting and inspiring to hear where our CISLA alumni are scattered around the globe and what they are doing. As you read these updates, you cannot help but note that many CISLA alums are in careers that got started during the CISLA experience. The CISLA alumni continue to be the living examples of the ongoing success of CISLA. To submit alumni updates please send your news and pictures to me at dwang1@conncoll.edu and I will share your updates in our next Prism. — *Dot Wang*

1993

Elisa Roller still lives in Brussels, where she has been since early 2003. She gave up her academic career to take up a civil servant post in the European Commission. She finds it an exciting place, much like Washington, D.C. She has moved up the ranks, now serving as the Deputy Head of Unit for Information, Communication and Relations with Third Countries, and reports it is “lots of work but good fun.” She and her husband, Benito, have been married now for nearly 7 years and have 2 beautiful kids (Francesco who is 3 and Elisa, but they call her Bibi, who is 18 months).

1994

Kate (Greco) and Jason **Fritz** sent news from Denver of the arrival of Emmett Alexander Fritz, on February 5, 2009. Emmett joins his 3-year-old brother John.



Alex Thompson and Jennifer Lange CC '94 have lived in Columbus, Ohio, since '01. Alex is a professor of political science at Ohio State University and Jen is a curator of media arts at the Wexner Center for the Arts. They have two girls, Stella, 4 and Lucy, 2.



1995

CISLA Networking at its best: **Benjamin Lodmell** called Mary to offer help with internships in Argentina. Ben is currently living in Buenos Aires, where his company, CR Capital Advisors, offers independent investment services. When he heard that two CISLA scholars, Rebecca Lukowski '10 and Christine Lenihan '10, were doing their internships in Argentina, he invited them to visit his offices and took them out for lunch.



Two and a half years ago, **Heidi (Szycher) Grasbon** and her family moved from Erlangen, Germany, to Madison, New Jersey. They decided it was time to give their children a little U.S. experience. “Felix worked in New York City, and I enjoyed the suburbs with our four children, Janina, Amelie, Dominic, and Lilian. We had a great time and took full advantage of all that New York has to offer, but recently decided that our hearts were still in Germany.” They have moved back to Munich, Germany.

Over the last few years **Thomas Jacobsen** has completed his goal of living and working on every continent. He is currently working in the renewable energy sector in Houston, Texas, keeping track of European carbon cap and trade system and pending U.S. legislation while managing environmental commodities across the U.S. He and his wife had a baby girl in early June, who joins her two-year-old brother in deciding if Green Eggs and Ham are actually good.

Ellen Martin has been living in New York since graduation and is currently producing the animated series *The Backyardigans* and *Bubble Guppies* for Nickelodeon. She has a daughter, Brodie (nearly 2), with her husband Erik Nadoban. A native Yugoslav, Erik provides constant Balkan entertainment lest Ellen forget life abroad.

Sukey (Richmond) and Gabriel **Simmons** CC'95, are happy and blessed to announce the birth of their son, Wesley Gabriel Simmons, on May 22, 2009.



Rebecca Rosen Shapiro lives in Manhattan and just celebrated a decade at Shore Fire Media, a music public relations firm in Brooklyn, New York. She's a director of publicity for clients ranging from Elvis Costello and Maxwell to Brian Setzer, Hennessy Artistry Series, the Zac Brown Band and many, many others. She has a three-year-old daughter Roxy with her husband, Peter Shapiro, owner of Brooklyn Bowl, a bowling alley, rock venue and restaurant in Williamsburg, Brooklyn.

Martha Sloboda sends her update from York, Pennsylvania, still recalling her CISLA internship with Grey-Daiko in Tokyo, Japan. She continues as the global business manager for ARx LLC, a small company focused on innovative drug delivery technology. Her travels take her to wherever there are clients with exciting ideas - whether in Nebraska or Israel. Last winter the company was in the midst of closing their first major Japanese account, which has allowed Martha to revisit her language skills and, of course, realize how easy it is to lose them.

1996

Michael Roemer (a.k.a. “Tex”) is pleased to report that he completed a Ph.D. in Sociology of Religion from The University of Texas at Austin last May and started a tenure-track Assistant Professor position at Ball State University in Indiana. His winter of 13-degree weather outside was tough for him as a native Texan! He continues to study and teach about religious rituals of Japan, something he began with his CISLA project.

1997

Martin Lopez has stayed in touch regularly with Mary Devins. This time the CISLA network was of great help to friends of Mary's, independent filmmaker John Sayles and his wife/producer Maggie Renzi. When they told Mary they were shooting a film in the Philippines, Mary suggested they contact Martin who has many contacts in the arts world. As it turns out, Martin will help them cast the Chinese and Spanish actors for the film, *Baryo*, to be shot next January.

1998

Erin Donaghy continues teaching at a Montessori school in Tucson, Arizona, living with her husband and two girls aged 2 and 4. Last year she took a group of students to the United Nations as part of the Montessori

Model UN conference in March.

Jill Fisher is currently living in Nashville, Tennessee. She is working as an assistant professor in the Center for Biomedical Ethics and Society at Vanderbilt University. Her first book — *Medical Research for Hire: The Political Economy of Pharmaceutical Clinical Trials* — was published in 2009 by Rutgers University Press.

After 10 years in New York City, **Molly Carrott Taylor** has moved to Savannah, Georgia, with husband Geoffrey Taylor and 17-month-old Finlay. While in NYC, Molly pursued a career in visual arts/nonprofit management and spent three exciting years working on cultural redevelopment of Lower Manhattan and the World Trade Center site. Graduating in 2005, Molly received her master's in Arts Administration from Columbia University. She is looking forward to finding a new adventure this fall when Finn goes to preschool!

1999

Brent Never reports things are “very busy here, I got married in November to my wonderful wife, Erica. We are currently packing up for Kansas City where I will be a professor of nonprofit leadership at the University of Missouri, Kansas City. Trips back to Northern Ireland are on the horizon.”

The last we heard from **Ericka Temple**, she was getting ready to go work on a new project in Guatemala, helping the NGO, Long Way Home (LWH), design and construct a school in a rural village. She was very excited and grateful for this opportunity to work with LWH and combine her passions for architecture, international development and social justice. She is hopeful that the school will have a positive impact on the village of Comalapa and this work will be both exciting and challenging in many ways. You can follow the progress of the project on her blog, <http://catorcekt.blogspot.com>, and find out more about Long Way Home at: www.longwayhomeinc.org.

2000

Leslie Carr moved from New York to San Francisco three years ago for graduate school in psychology and has started a one-year, pre-doc internship with Kaiser, her last requirement before graduation! As for other CISLA alums, she sees Sara Tyler and Sierra Callahan with regularity and reports that they are both doing marvelously.

Since her summer CISLA internship in southern Madagascar where she worked with village figureheads to construct and test a salt-water solar distiller built from local materials, **Sarah Cooper** has continued to travel, study and work around the world. After graduation, she moved to San Francisco for the year as part of AmeriCorps VISTA. Following that she joined the Peace Corps in Morocco as an environmental volunteer and then went to graduate school at New School University in New York City where she majored in management and urban policy before heading back to Senegal, Africa, to take part in a post-grad research project and work for a nonprofit focused on sustainable development. She is currently working at a private firm managing USAID funded development projects in Washington, D.C.

2001

After 8 years of working at ABC - DISNEY as a photographer on projects like the Oscars, *High School Musical 2*, “Dancing With the Stars” and “The Superstars” (roughing it in the Bahamas for 3 weeks), **Adam Larkey** joined the International Cinematographer's Guild - Local 600 - and started his journey into the freelance world. He will continue focusing on TV / movie production stills but has started to foray into food, fine art and hospitality photography as well. Check out some of his work at: www.larkeyphotography.com.

Amanda Mochan is currently employed as Director of Marketing at Fireworks Sports Marketing, an agency specializing in figure skating, which she says “is perfect for her!” She has made a fun recent trip to South Korea for the Grand Prix Final in December.

Aylin Talgar Pietz is a senior project manager for InterMedia, a leader in international research and consulting in Washington, D.C. Aylin has been managing research projects globally for InterMedia since 2004 and has worked throughout Africa, Asia and the Middle East on a range of program areas, including conflict resolution, international education, development communications, media, community outreach and youth-focused initiatives.

2002

Eunice Kua is currently in Chad working in a mother tongue literacy project. She has been there since February and loves it. She taught a computer course in her “imperfect

French” and can now get around in Chadian Arabic. Next up, she will move to Adre, a small town on the Chad-Sudan border.

2004

Katie Coffin is working hard, playing hard and staying globally minded! She is going on five years at EF Education, in Boston, Mass., where she is Director of Admissions, sending teens abroad to learn a language by living it. She skis a ton, plays in the Boston Women's Lacrosse League, and volunteers with The Charles River Conservancy. She recently returned from an epic vacation in Paris and Sevilla and is still dreaming about the food and wine she had there. She also wants to know if anyone is up for a ski trip to Switzerland next year?

Tugba Gurcanlar is working at the World Bank, Africa Private and Financial Sector Development Unit, as a Private Sector Development Specialist. She has been at the World Bank for about two and a half years now, joining shortly after graduating from Duke University's MPP program. Tugba is based in Washington, but currently traveling in Gambia and Zambia, Africa.

2006

Lauren Burke has just completed her final year of law school at NYU. She spent her summer researching access to treatment for children living with HIV/AIDS in China through a new NGO, Asia Catalyst, that partners with a small Chinese NGO in Beijing. She reports how it was amazing to see how a Chinese NGO works, while spending much of the summer meeting with organizations such as Save The Children, UNICEF, and UNAIDS and getting to travel around doing field research with kids, parents and doctors. It was her first time back to China since her CISLA internship and, of course, she had to stop by Namu, one of the villages where she did fieldwork for her CISLA SIP. She says it was incredible to go back, to see what had and had not changed. The best part of all was that she finally was able to bring them the money she had raised from selling calendars of pictures she took there way back in the day. In her latest update she sent news that the report she co-authored, “I Will Fight to My Last Breath: Barriers to AIDS Treatment for Children in China,” has been released. She has also written a blog post about one boy who really touched her during her time in

China. Information and links to everything can be found at: http://www.asiacatalyst.org/pediatric_AIDS_report/. Lauren welcomes CISLA graduate **Erin Holstein '09** to NYC, excited to have a fellow CC and CISLA grad as a colleague working in the field. Lauren is currently working with unaccompanied immigrant kids (mainly Chinese) at a youth rights organization in the city called The Door. Erin is doing similar work at Catholic Charities where she is Project Coordinator for the Unaccompanied Minors Program in their Department of Immigration Services. **Katharine Davidson** has been completing the Master's program at Simmons College in Boston to obtain her Nurse Practitioner's degree. She is employed at Children's Hospital and is grateful for her CISLA experience where she became fluent in Spanish. She finds that working in a city hospital with a large Spanish-speaking population, her language skills are a fantastic asset.

Eliza Parad is back in Santiago, Chile, where she completed her CISLA internship, this time volunteering as the Knowledge Management intern at NESST. NESST, co-founded by a CC graduate and current CISLA Alumni Advisory Board Chair Lee Davis, works in emerging market countries to develop and support social enterprises that strengthen nonprofit organizations' financial stability and maximize their social impact.

2007

Ross S. Jordan is currently creating art and looking for art administration employment in New York. This past summer he traveled with his brother, Windsor, to Southern France to visit Victoria Mann, CC '08, and then to London to visit his fellow CISLA classmate, **Trent Hardman**. He has contracted a CISLA travel bug and now finds he has to leave the country every so often.

Lindsay Lehr completed her CISLA internship in Buenos Aires with the nonprofit LIFE Argentina. After graduation she returned to Argentina where she founded



Lindsay Lehr Tutoring, a small business for the instruction of English and Spanish languages. She enjoys teaching and finds it exhilarating and gratifying to watch her students learn and improve. Please see her blog www.linsaylehrtutoring.blogspot.com for more information. Lindsay met for dinner this summer with current CISLA interns, Christine Lenihan '10 and Rebecca Lukowski '10.

Emily Mahoney is living in Sheffield, UK, and working at an agency that helps asylum seekers. Currently she is looking at schools in International Relations, though still considering law school, unable to let it go! She may still end up in Cambodia or return to Vietnam, though she really feels a need to get back to school, preferably one that is exactly like CISLA. This past year she sent news that the foundation her family runs, Kempe Foundation for the Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse and Neglect, was a finalist in Twitter's "Twitta Cause" program. **Justin Preston** reports he is working in New York City as a research assistant to the Survey Unit at MDRC, which is a nonprofit, non-partisan education and social policy research organization dedicated to learning what works to improve programs and policies that affect the poor. He is happy to now be fully employed with an organization that he can really feel good about working for.

2008

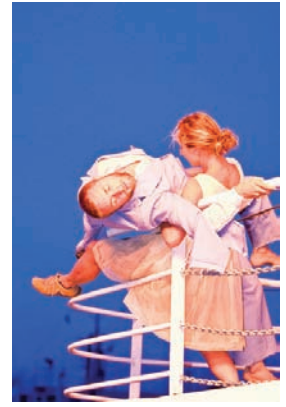
Susannah Branch spent the last year as an English Teaching Assistant in Torrelavega, Spain, and will be returning for the '09-'10 academic year. She writes, "I guess once with the travel bug, always with the travel bug ... and CISLA had a big part in that." She will look into going to graduate school to study bilingual education when she comes back from Spain next year.

Gözde Erdeniz has just begun the political science Ph.D. program at Northwestern University. She expects to be quite busy for the next five years and is very excited.

Dasha Lavrennikov headed right back to Europe after graduation and spent a year in Nice, pursuing her master's in French (although her CISLA language was Spanish!). She spent last summer vacationing in Spain and at dance festivals in Berlin, Vienna and Copenhagen, where she did a two-week dance project, her first real work called the *Submarine Ballet*, an interdisciplinary performance. The project involved

performing on planks floating in the sea, through the Copenhagen harbor. To see more, you can check out Dasha's Facebook page. This year she will complete her studies in Copenhagen and will receive a master's diploma in spectacle vivant, the living arts or performing arts, with a focus in dance, but mixed in with theater, music, etc. She will create her own piece of choreography which she has already begun collaborating with actors, some musicians, a video artist, and whomever else comes along.

Frannie Noble sent her update from Arusha, Tanzania, where she was in transit, on her way to South Africa. She and her friend, Kassia Binkowski, were just finishing a three-month independent research project called The Foundling Project (www.thefoundlingproject.org). They are living and working at innovative children's homes in Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and South Africa, with the goal of learning about the individuals who start the homes and the creative ways in which they are operated. They hope to publish a book in early 2010 to share their experiences and the amazing stories of the caregivers and children. They are also establishing a forum for children's homes so that they can connect and learn from one another all over the world. In the next two years Frannie and Kassia hope to do more "Foundling" trips to South America and Southeast Asia.



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