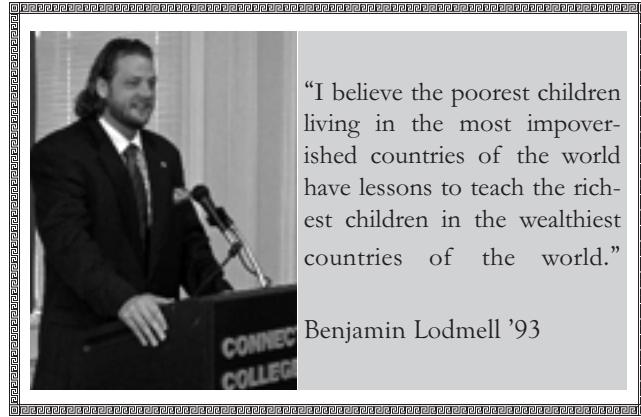


the difficulty of empowering people, he acknowledged his small part in a greater work that is slowly being accomplished on a broader level. He closed by challenging the audience to “cultivate a richness inside,” encouraging them to take their own steps toward assisting those in poverty.

After the lecture, Lodmell remained to address audience questions, many of which dealt with WCR’s involvement with governments in the countries where schools had been established. Lodmell asserted that WCR is apolitical, but always strives to maintain positive relations with local governments. He responded to later questions that WCR attempts to employ teachers from within the community where the school is located and that it is almost completely funded by the law firm Lodmell & Lodmell, P.C.

In an increasingly global society, it is imperative to give a voice to those living in poverty. Lodmell’s lecture provided both a bold challenge and deep inspiration. As Lodmell said early on in his presentation, “we are all so connected.”

Since his lecture, CISLA and the Center of Career Enhancing Life Skills (CELS) are collaborating on a variety of future humanitarian projects with the WCR. CISLA and CELS look forward to expand both domestic and international internship and travel opportunities for students interested in learning more about WCR and the people whose lives have been touched as a result of Lodmell’s vision.



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The Toor Cummings Center for International Studies and the Liberal Arts

CISLA Alumnus Delivers a Powerful Message of Hope

by STEPHANIE ANN TATRO '05

As CISLA students explore the world, partaking in myriad cultural practices and embracing unique social realities, they must also confront the immense inequality prevalent in the international community. On Saturday, October 9, 2004, alumnus and Fall Weekend keynote speaker, Benjamin Lodmell '93, delivered a simple, yet inspiring message to the campus. In his lecture titled, “*Hope is Real: The Challenges and Responsibilities of Global Poverty*,” Lodmell highlighted the importance of education in influencing and effecting positive changes in oneself and the world.

A former CISLA scholar and member of the undergraduate class of 1993, Lodmell majored in economics and conducted his CISLA internship at El Instituto de Libertad y Democracia, a Democratic think tank in Peru. Today, he and his brother, Douglas, are co-founders of World Children’s Relief & Volunteer Organization (WCR), a non-profit that seeks to provide hope to impoverished children through education. With a team of dedicated individuals, including Sarah Rotman, newly named Executive Director and former member of the Peace Corps, WCR works to better equip existing primary schools in Third World nations with more resources and, in some cases, with programs that distribute healthy meals. Since its inception in 2002, WCR has assisted schools in Ghana, Sierra Leone, and Haiti. Preceding his lecture, Lodmell was given the Student Government Association Exemplar Award, a plaque presented by Pete Lelek, President of the Class of 2005. This plaque is the Student Government Association’s highest award of recognition.



Benjamin Lodmell '93, co-founder of the World Children’s Relief & Volunteer Organization (WCR), holds a child during his visit to the war-torn village of Makari in Sierra Leone.

After graduation, Lodmell entered a career in international private banking at Merrill Lynch. On a business trip to Rio de Janeiro, looking out the window of his armored car at children living in extreme poverty, he received the inspiration to start WCR.

“The symbolism of education is hope,” he said during his lecture, emphasizing how his time at Connecticut College provided him the tools to succeed. Lodmell sees the United States and its citizens as having the potential to play a pivotal role in granting impoverished children the power to change their lives through education.

Similarly, Lodmell emphasized the necessity for people in developed nations to study global poverty. “I believe the poorest children living in the most impoverished countries of the world have lessons to teach the richest children in the wealthiest countries of the world,” he said. He

stressed that learning about poverty allows people to be more aware of their own privilege and more grateful for the skills they possess as a result of education. He hopes that once individuals are educated about poverty, they can cultivate a nonjudgmental worldview, better preparing them to understand the lives of those living in poverty.

“When people put aside their differences and help a third party,” Lodmell said, “it creates equality.”

Having grown up a witness to racial conflict in Alabama, Lodmell envisions assisting Africa as the key to helping Americans heal the “curse of slavery.” Through continued advocacy, patience, and open-mindedness, Lodmell seeks to break that curse and build the “army of people” who are already working for the cause.

Relating one of the most rewarding experiences with his work for WCR, Lodmell told of an affluent businessman who, very reluctantly, visited Haiti for four days. Upon returning to the United States, the man was “transformed,” and began using his power and influence to help provide food to Haitian children. “Sometimes the information is so overwhelming that it takes the reality out of suffering,” Lodmell said. He affirmed that helping children has added a profound sense of fulfillment and happiness to his life. Reflecting briefly on

Continued on page 12 ...

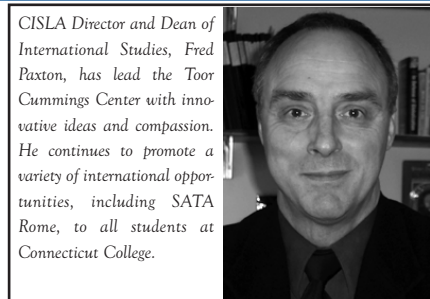
From the Director

After six years as the faculty director of Toor Cummings CISLA, it is time to say goodbye. It has been an exhilarating experience, and I am proud to say that I will be leaving the Center stronger than I found it. I am also happy that its direction is being passed on to Professor Robert Gay, who will be familiar to many CISLA scholars from the Center's formative years in the early 1990s, and who has continued to be involved in its work since then, regularly serving on the Faculty Advisory Committee and overseeing senior integrative projects in sociology and Latin American studies. Robert is not only a trusted friend and colleague, but also a scholar of international stature, whose research and writing on contemporary Brazil is more directly connected to the dynamics of modern global society than my medieval interests, however globalized the 13th century may have been! I welcome him enthusiastically.

The Center has matured during my time here. Earlier peregrinations seem to have ended with its installation in the office suite in Fanning 111 in 1999. More importantly, after some touch-and-go years while the College restructured its finances, its future is now assured. The first of the College's interdisciplinary centers to be fully endowed, CISLA can depend on permanent gifts made in its name to generate enough yearly income to support all budgetary needs well into the future. This is an

achievement that speaks not just to the generosity of the Center's many supporters, especially Joanne Toor Cummings '50 and Margaret Abell Powell '35, but also to the initial vision of former president Claire L. Gaudiani '66 and founding director Robert E. Proctor, and all the faculty, parents, and friends who have advised, directed, and sometimes cajoled those who have committed themselves to CISLA's rigorous expectations, a group that now numbers almost 400.

Over the course of my tenure as director, we have given increasing responsibility to CISLA scholars - to advise sophomore applicants, for example, and to organize campus-wide discussions of international events, especially in the wake of 9/11 and the global "war on terror," and most recently, to run pre-departure workshops for all students going abroad. IS 401, renamed "New Perspectives on Modern Global Society," and reoriented to focus on processing internship experiences, revisiting the CISLA questions, and sharing international expertise with one another, is now essentially run by the students themselves. We have also begun to set aside funds to support seniors who want to travel to conferences, for example, and to promote the Center on campus and among our alumni, through products like the CISLA International Cookbook, and the new T-shirt, that are on sale now.



CISLA Director and Dean of International Studies, Fred Paxton, has led the Toor Cummings Center with innovative ideas and compassion. He continues to promote a variety of international opportunities, including SATA Rome, to all students at Connecticut College.

Toor Cummings CISLA has also taken a leading role in coordinating our certificate program with the goals of the office of Career Enhancing Life Skills, which runs the College's CONNections internships and e-portfolio project, and working with the other centers on campus to promote the kind of interdisciplinary and integrative education that is our hallmark. Some of the "educational pathways" that are at the heart of the College's new strategic plan - CC 2011: Launching the Second Century - were first forged by the faculty and students in this Center. I am grateful for having had the opportunity to do my part in keeping CISLA solvent and strong and wish everyone who follows after me the very best.

Frederick S. Paxton
Brigida Pacchiani Ardenghi Professor of History
Dean of International Studies

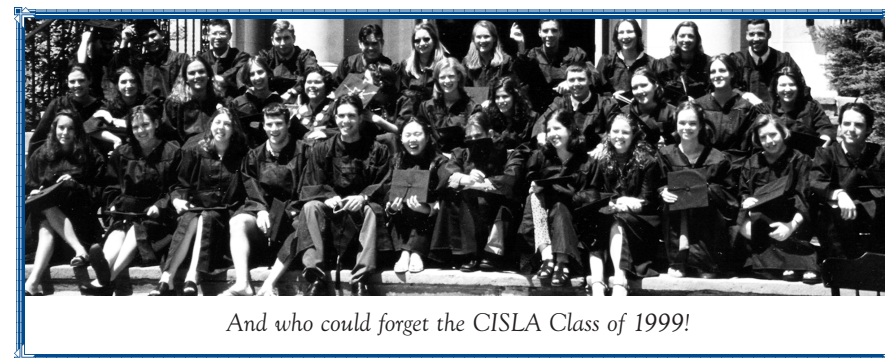
Welcome CISLA Class of 2007

A very warm welcome is extended to the CISLA Class of 2007. Our newest members are Emily Barry, Christopher Bothur, Suki Boynton, Lily Bower, Elizabeth Bradley, Derek Chang, Tesandra Cohen, Caley Corsello, Sarah Felch, Soren Gabrielsen, Fanny Gao, Eva Glaser, Jessie Gonthier, Elizabeth Greenman, Trent Hardman, Joanna Hitchner, M. Grant Hogan, Emily Honstein, Ross Jordan, Joseph Larkin, Lindsay Lehr, Libby Levine, Emily Mahoney, Megan McCarthy, Andrew McCullough, Lilli Millhiser, Andrea Packard, Elizabeth Pearson, Justin Preston, Sara Skinner, Jessica Soffer, Linh Dam Vu, Elaine Weisman, Stefanie Weiss, Marissa Yarbrow and Jordan Yearsley.

The newly accepted class began their CISLA journey this semester by taking the gateway CISLA course, Perspectives on Modern Global Society, IS 201. The course aims to prepare CISLA scholars for their international experiences and is team-taught by the following professors: Fred Paxton, Brigida Pacchiani Ardenghi Professor of History; Robert Gay, Professor of Sociology; John Tian, Assistant Professor of Government; Tristan Borer, Associate Professor of Government; and Gene Gallagher, Rosemary Park Professor of Religious Studies.

CISLA Alumni: Fond Memories and Words of Wisdom

(continued from page 10)



And who could forget the CISLA Class of 1999!

Daniel Kline '99 enjoys his job with the Corporate Executive Board and now lives in London with his wife Jennie Drimmer. Daniel writes, "Follow what you want and what you believe in and you will get there ... if you are looking for a very cool and progressive global company check us out and send me your CV!"

Doreen (Vaillancourt) Maroney '99 has moved to Botswana with her husband **Hagen Maroney '98** who works for the U.S. Foreign Service as an Economics Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Gaborone. Doreen writes, "Keep a very open mind: what you study in college does not have to dictate your career path. How can anyone know how he or she wants to spend their lives when they are only 22 years old? The idea is to create the broadest knowledge base possible so that you can go in any direction whenever you desire, and do it with the tools to be successful. Question everything!"

Brent Never '99 is a Ph.D. candidate at the Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs. Brent continues to return to Benin, where he conducted his CISLA internship. In 2003, Brent received a Fulbright award to further his research in Benin, and as part of his degree, he is again back in Benin. "I can't imagine what I'd be doing without CISLA but I know that I wouldn't be living here in Africa."

Timothy Reuter '99 is working for USAID and is currently on assignment in Baghdad. According to Tim, who graduated from the Johns Hopkins School for Advanced International Studies last May, "CISLA is what got me involved in the Middle East in the first place. I wouldn't be doing Middle

East related things if I hadn't had that chance to go into the field and see the area for myself ... the past three years of my life focusing on the Middle East have been one long CISLA flashback."

Kim Bender '00, who is attending Law School at Tulane University in Louisiana, writes, "My CISLA internship made me realize I could handle anything. I believe it's the reason why I got my last job running the office of a State Representative and a big part of how I got into law school ... Everyone who interviews me asks me about it."

Rebecca Anthopolos '01 writes, "Follow your instincts. You know what is best for you and you should not let yourself feel held back by external, usually unnecessary, pressures and constraints ... my CISLA experience is where I first learned about microfinance and has been a driving force behind many of my career and academic decisions."

Anthony Fratta '01, who is completing his master's degree in International Relations (Strategic Studies) and International Economics at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, writes, "CISLA is what got me going in this direction, and I am forever thankful. It was one of the best things I have ever done ... I am now attending a graduate school with 40% international students and that definitely brings me back to the CISLA days of cultural exchange and raging debates."

Amanda Mochan '01 writes, "CISLA was my introduction to working abroad and inspired my two-year stint in South Korea, a wonderful experience that opened my eyes

to another region of the world."

Lauren Shadford '01 is working for Sotheby's in the Museum Services and Corporate Collections Departments in New York City. She writes, "I'm sure that I got my job because of my international experience. My current bosses love that I'd lived abroad both during and after college. There's a certain level of independence that comes with those experiences, and that's the type of employee they wanted."

Kate Babkirk '02 is living in San Francisco working as an account executive with Donordigital, an online marketing, fundraising, and advocacy company. She enjoys her work consulting non-profit organizations, "Network, network, network! Talk with as many people as you can, especially alumni. Trust yourself to make it. Ask for help ... I have pictures of my internship in Puerto Escondido hanging by my computer at work. I still hunger for the intense dialogue that CISLA provoked among its students."

Brian Hutchinson '03, who is living in Washington D.C. working for Conservation International as a program office the Marine Turtle Specialist Group, offers simple yet powerful words of wisdom, "Just pick what you want to do and do it. It's that simple."

TRYING TO FIND YOUR OLD
CLASSMATE?
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ON LINE

To find out about the latest alumni events, reunions, access the Connecticut College On Line Community and more, please visit the Alumni Relations Homepage <http://www.conncoll.edu/alumni/>

Last April, CISLA alumni were asked via e-mail to go the CISLA website to fill out our alumni questionnaire. We were very pleased to hear from so many of our alums. It was particularly rewarding to read about some of the life lessons you have learned through the CISLA program and words of wisdom you shared. Over 150 CISLA alums filled out the questionnaire from all across the globe. Here is a small sampling from those submissions. We hope you enjoy the following memories and wise words of wisdom as much as we do.

more serious note, he also wrote, "CISLA helped introduce me to Italy, where I found my wife, life and career. I'd say it was a fundamental first step."

Darcy Nothnagle '95, moved to England with her husband last summer. Darcy, who is completing her Master's Degree in European Studies at the University of Bath, wrote, "CISLA broadened my horizons and gave me a new lens through which to look at the world. I've been enjoying the view ever since!"

Elisa Roller '93, who is working at the European Commission as a policy analyst, writes, "My CISLA experience was the most practical-oriented part of my undergraduate degree and has served me the most in the real world."

Chelsea BaileyShea '96, who has been accepted into an Education Ph.D. program at the University of Rochester and now plans to pursue a career in higher education administration, writes, "CISLA was the best thing I did at Conn. I can't imagine my college experience without it ... IS201 was one of the most difficult classes, especially since Professors Gay and Proctor refused to take part in "grade inflation."

Rebecca Vilkomerson '93, who is the project director of The California Partnership, a coalition of over 70 low income community organizations in California that fight poverty, with an emphasis on welfare, healthcare, childcare, and immigrant programs, writes, "I definitely feel that CISLA's academic rigor and internship opportunities pushed me in the direction that brought me where I am today."

Sara Schaefer Munoz '96, who is working as a news assistant at *The Wall Street Journal* in New York, writes, "Always be willing to do your share of grunt work to achieve your goals ... IS201 laid the groundwork for understanding global economics and politics that I come across in my reporting."

Katherine (Greco) Fritz '94, an attorney living in Boulder, Colorado, writes, "CISLA isn't only about having an international job after college; it is about learning how to think about the world. The program is fundamental for understanding how we arrived where we are and how to get where we want to go ... I can't seem to hear the word 'tradition' without reflexively saying the 'modernity' and I smile to myself every time I hear the term civil society."

Sarah Schoellkopf '97, who completed her CISLA internship in Buenos Aires with Las Madres De La Plaza de Mayo Línea Fundadora, writes, "Live, learn, and love ... life is very fragile, as I learned with Las Madres, and every day is an opportunity to explore, live passionately, and understand ... I know that because



The CISLA class of 1995. Hard to believe that 10 years have already passed by!

of CISLA and Connecticut College I was able to receive the grants that I did and am now completing my Ph.D. at the University of California, Berkeley."

Nathaniel Heller '98 spent two years after graduation in the Peace Corps in Africa and is now completing a master's degree in the Social Change and Development program at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies. He writes, "CISLA made it easier to adjust to life while in the Peace Corps ... I still feel like I draw upon much that I learned in the CISLA class, which was probably the best class I had at Conn."

Anna Stancioff '98, who enjoys her public relations position at Weber Shandwick Worldwide in New York City, a job that has also allowed her to keep traveling, writes, "I'm extremely grateful to have had the opportunity to work in another country. Aside from the language it taught me a lot about work environments and working with different cultures."

Mimi Crume de Carbonnel '99, who married Antoine de Carbonnel on April 22, 2004, writes, "CISLA made me a citizen of the world. Take advantage of the traveling young. For the rest of your life you can explore the world with ease!"

Megan (Tucker) Hauer '99, who is working on her Master's degree in Library Science at Queens College in New York, writes, "Living and working abroad should

CISLA PREPARES FOR A NEW CENTER DIRECTOR

by MARY S. DEVINS

At the end of the Spring 2005 semester, Brigida Pacchiani Ardenghi professor of history Fred Paxton will step down as the director of the Toor Cummings Center for International Studies and the Liberal Arts (CISLA) as well as from his position as the Dean of International Studies. Professor of Sociology, Robert Gay, has been selected to be the Center's new director.



Professor Robert Gay is also a participating instructor in this semester's Perspectives on Modern Global Society IS 201. He and Professor Paxton will examine arguments for and against globalization.

Professor Gay previously served as interim director of CISLA and is very knowledgeable about the mission and workings of the program. Robert brings a rich international background with him. He was born and raised in Great Britain where he completed an undergraduate degree in geography at London University and then completed a master's in Geography at Syracuse University. He received his Ph.D. in Sociology from Brown University. Professor Gay joined the faculty of Connecticut College in 1988. He has held numerous administrative positions including Dean of the College and Associate Dean of the College and has served as the Chair of the Priorities, Planning and Budget Committee (PBBC), Chair of the Multicultural and Diversity Committee, Educational Planning Committee and Strategic Planning Committee.

The focus of Professor Gay's research and scholarly work has been democracy, clientelism and civil society in Brazil and, more recently, drugs, corruption and violent crime in Rio de Janeiro's shantytowns, or *favelas*. Robert has published extensively in his field and has presented at numerous conferences and universities both nationally and abroad.

Professor Gay will be the fourth director of the Toor Cummings CISLA program. Professor Robert Proctor was the Center's founding director who served from 1989 to 1995 followed by Professor Julia Kushigian from 1995 to 1999 and then Professor Fred Paxton from 1999 to the present.

The students and staff of CISLA are thrilled that Professor Gay has accepted the position and are looking forward to new challenges and visions when he formally takes over in September 2005.

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CISLA Blue Long-sleeved T-shirts - Only \$10 - Excellent Quality! Available in sizes medium and large. To place your order, e-mail the CISLA Student Advisory Board at cisla.advisory@conncoll.edu. Be sure to include your mailing address and to specify shirt size.

Deadline to order: March 31, 2005

The back of the t-shirt reads →

CISLA IS ...

- ★ Jihad V. Mcworld, Enough Said
- ★ Waiting An Hour For The Bus That Never Comes To Take You To Your Internship
- ★ Wine, Wine, Wine
- ★ Having To Choose Between Living Large In South America Or Starving In Europe
- ★ Modernity, Modernity, Modernity
- ★ Tradition, Tradition, Tradition
- ★ Learning The Language They Don't Teach In School
- ★ More Wine
- ★ Playing Stump The Diplomat
- ★ Café Jules, Enough Said

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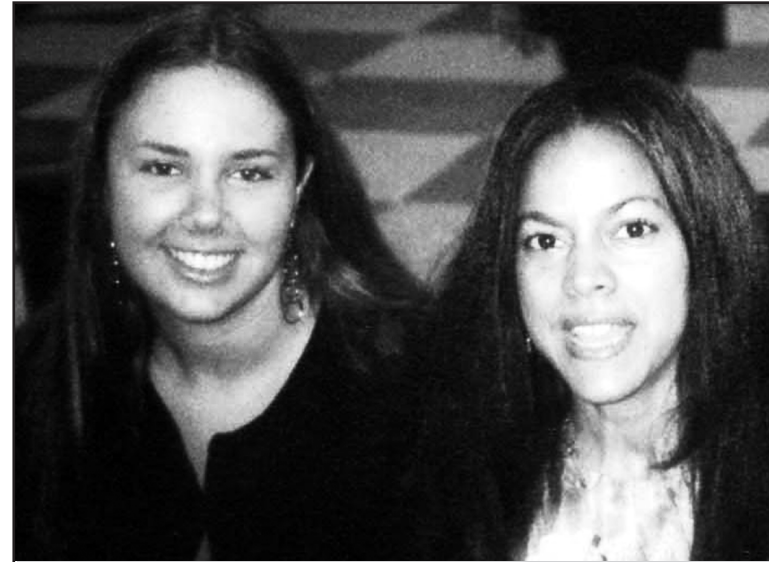
Please include your name and phone number.

Our winter view frames the bird feeder. Sparrows, finches, chickadees dive and flutter for the seeds. Placid mourning doves feed below while brilliant cardinals and blue jays vie for position and brighten the somber, dormant landscape. Metaphors of parents with offspring leaving the nest crowd the mind.

Laila, our daughter, fluttered off to orange-festooned Seville in Spain, on the wings of study abroad. We received photos of her new habitat and news of adventures, but few misadventures. Somewhere out there she maneuvered winding medieval streets, found food and friends, studied and worked using her new language, Spanish. Her inner horizon widened with the actual horizons she traversed and she could barely manage to leave.

CISLA provided Laila the opportunity to conduct research in the Dominican Republic last summer. Our farewells at Kennedy Airport were as heartfelt and tears as sincere as they were just a few months prior when Laila left to study in Spain for a semester. However, Santo Domingo was not Seville. Surrounded by difficult circumstances and a less sophisticated environment, Laila's environment took time getting used to. The electricity was off again and the air was stifling, she said, "The lights don't work and I can't read or work at night. I can't wash my hair or wash my clothes. I haven't made any friends yet and the headaches continue." How do you respond? Your heart breaks a little; you look at each other, and wait for the next phone call. Yes, the electricity was off again, but work went well this week, an invitation to dinner with a coworker's family seems to have broken the ice. Our own circumstances didn't allow for a trip there, so we offered our distant, feeble support as well as we could. Laila was on her own.

Yet, after several long summer weeks, Laila learned to adapt and appreciate her surroundings. Her research was going well and she managed to deal with the hardships. She soon found she enjoyed the local people very much and even found a boyfriend. Dealing with a boyfriend brought her face to face with machismo. Did she really need his permission before she could get her hair cut? The well-studied concept of a patriarchal culture was a fact of existence in the Dominican Republic. Machismo is lived, rather than read about; it becomes a gauntlet that forces a calculation about when to shop, do laundry and the street corner to be avoided. Clothes, demeanor, and companions were, in that context, considered again and again before leaving the home. Was this a positive aspect of her experience? Was it educational? As her father, I suppose it was



Laila Hochhausen '05 poses with her internship supervisor Mildred Nolasco, a psychologist at La Asociación Dominicana Pro-Bienestar de la Familia (PROFAMILIA) in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. Laila is a psychology major who is writing her honor's thesis on adolescent sexual behavior and attitudes.

educational, although difficult to accept. Is machismo so endemic here that we really believe that only adversity makes you stronger? I believe the answer lies somewhere in the balance between the positives and negatives.

As a mother, I was astounded by Laila's resiliency, her independence, and her competence. After a week with no electricity, I would have been on the first plane home. I was fascinated by her insights into this culture. Things she studied at school, she now lived, understood and managed. I was impressed by her research, her ability to enter an unknown situation and conduct psychological research in a foreign (to us) language. She conducted therapy groups with teenagers in Spanish. How did she know how to do this? Her insights into the role of women opened up a whole new understanding of and empathy with Dominican women, in particular single, working women. And then she went traveling, all by herself. To bat caves, no less!

Watching the birds at the feeder now, when Laila is safe at work in her dorm room, it all seems so far away.

"Laila just telephoned us from campus with her final plans for Spring Break: she and her friends are flying to Santo Domingo. Clearly we think of her experience one way, while she thinks of it another. Go figure!"

- Bill Hochhausen and Anne Boersma

ed with questions, forced to eat and drink more, and even if I'm not speaking, it seems someone is telling a story about something I did or said previously. Selfish as it may be, I envisioned my internship experience to be more of a one-way street than it turned out to be. I would contribute. I would learn Italian. I would be immersed in Italian culture. It never occurred to me that others would want to learn as much from me as I would from them.

This phenomenon manifested itself in multiple ways, and consequently made me appreciate one simple thing I had always taken for granted: my native tongue. Always having been a lover of foreign languages, I never truly appreciated all the privilege that was associated with my own. One week, Christina suggested I help her teach English class. The students, all at least 10 years older than me, were learning English in order to increase the number of job opportunities available to them. In the conversational portion of the class, students asked questions, and I would answer. The cynical man in the back, struggling to even put his question into words, could not fathom why I would want to learn Italian. What purpose could it serve? I managed, with Christina's help, to explain that I thought learning another language was an important thing to do as an American. Secretly I wondered if he was right. Maybe it would have been more practical to spend four years and \$160,000 in some other way.

In addition to teaching English, I translated, from Italian to English, several proposals for European Union grants and partnerships. Occasionally, Cristina would practice speaking in English with me, while the others would ask how to say various phrases. Initially, I was disappointed that English was even an issue. I realized quickly how absurdly selfish and unrealistic this was. Most of the Neapolitans I met would probably never make it to the United States, let alone England. The least I could do in return for their hospitality and kindness was to graciously accept their requests to help them with their English. Besides, I learned more Italian in those two months than the combined experience of my semester spent in Florence, and two and half years of study at Connecticut College.

After coffee and cornetti, I walk back down the hall, sit down at my desk, begin the day's research. My current project is to find information on various trade

shows in Europe, the U.S., and even China. ISVE, in a partnership with several other organizations, has received a grant for the purpose of training small business owners in the Compagna region, and eventually sending them to these trade shows. Other projects included preparing a report contrasting the differences between the United States and Italy concerning training and education in the textile sector, as well as writing a proposal of my own for a European Union funded partnership with European, Canadian and American universities in order to foster international educational consortiums.

Before I know it, it's time to eat. We enjoy a leisurely lunch together in the conference room. They tease me about my panino, how it's always the same. After we've all finished, one by one we move to the leather couches, where we continue to tell stories and ask questions. There's something to be said about taking time out of your day to remember you are only human, and so is everyone who surrounds you. After lunch, the afternoon seems to disappear in a haze of coffee breaks and periods of work. Before I know it, it's time to go.

I never imagined it would be so difficult to leave Naples, nor that it would feel as if I were leaving a piece of the puzzle behind. If it really is true that the people in our lives, and our relationships with them, construct and nurture our identity, it seems appropriate that I left behind part of my new identity. However, there is a great source of comfort in the knowledge that I, Andrea Reynolds, can survive, and even thrive on my own.



Andrea with co-workers (fourth person from the left). They played a crucial role in her personal and cultural development during her internship. In an email Andrea wrote "I arrived in Naples and have started working at ISVE. I don't think my first few days could have gone any better, everyone and everything has been absolutely wonderful. It seems silly, looking back, when I think about how worried and nervous I was."

La vita va vissuta lontano dal paese...quando si torna...si trova tutto nuovo. - Cesare Pavese

Translation: Life should be lived far from home, when one returns, one finds everything new.

Entering the Salumeria, beads of sweat dripping off my face and down my back, I pause to collect myself. It's not even half-past nine. Three steps later, with only a glass case of meats and cheeses between us, Giuseppe and his eyes are waiting. It's not even half-past nine, and I'm a mess.

"Ciao, Andrea. Un panino con prosciutto cotto e formaggio dolce, come sempre?"

He knows my name, my favorite sandwich, and various other facts I've told him because he's asked. It seems to be an unspoken agreement that he makes me my *panino* each day, as long as I answer his daily question. Monday through Friday, we work together to fit the pieces of my jigsaw puzzle identity together. There's a certain sense of freedom that comes with being a stranger in a foreign land; it doesn't matter if the pieces fit together perfectly, and maybe some are even missing. One morning he startles me, "Do you have the eyes of your mother, or your father?" I'm not sure of the answer, and it is unclear to me why he would care. He tells me he's only curious. The older woman at the register tells me how beautiful I am for the second time in a week, and yells back to Giuseppe, making sure he agrees. I leave the store, swamped with a swirling storm cloud of thoughts, trying to decide if I'm flattered, flustered, annoyed, and where my eyes really do come from. It's not even half-past nine.

In my daily, five-minute walk to the Istituto di Studi per lo Sviluppo Economico (ISVE), the Institute for Economic Development Studies in English, I try to process a small piece of what will be a two-month experience. I was terrified to come to Naples, terrified of feeling lonely. As much as there is freedom to create your identity alone in a new place, there is also a certain comfort in being an old friend, daughter, sister, or student. Identity isn't solely dependent upon an individual; it is also heavily influenced by one's relationships with others. It's easy to take this for granted until those pieces are taken away, and you're forced to find replacements. Wandering across the busy intersection, lost in a deep sea of introspection, I wonder why the Neapolitani seem to be so caring? Do they know how much they are contributing to my well being, as well as my ever-changing personal identity?

It's finally 9:30, and I greet Noè, whose purpose isn't quite clear to me, although it seems to fall somewhere between administration and security. I secretly hope he won't insist once again on spending thirty minutes showing me pictures from his night at the hottest clubs in Naples, or giving me another lesson on techno music. Quickly, I check to see if he's wearing his purple Jesus Christ Superstar-esque shirt, complete with a plunging v-neck and sequins. Relieved, yet, slightly disappointed that he isn't, I make my way



Dr. Cristina Scognamiglio, left, Andrea's internship supervisor, stands with Andrea, right, outside of the offices of the Istituto di Studi per lo Sviluppo Economico (ISVE). Andrea, an Italian studies major, is working with Professor Robert Proctor on completing her senior integrative project titled, "Connections & Contradictions: Classical Antiquity and Western Modernity in Italy"

upstairs after we exchange our daily "Ciao, come stai?"

Marina, Christina, Alessandra, Marco, Sergio and the others are already arguing about whose turn it is to make the coffee. They all greet me with warm smiles, and ask how I'm doing. Their kindness is almost unsettling when compared to the work environment of my previous summer internship at CNN's Washington Bureau. The morning begins not with blank stares or superficial nods of acknowledgement, but sincere inquiries concerning my emotional and physical well-being. I wonder whether the contrast is a matter of inherent cultural differences, or if I've simply been blessed with a compassionate, caring group of people to work with. I decide it is a probably a bit of both.

Just as I reach my desk, I'm whisked away. The coffee is ready. It's Marina's birthday and she's brought cornetti, a typical Neapolitan pastry. Everyone gathers around, drinking, eating and socializing. As usual, for at least 10 minutes I'm the focus of conversation. What did I eat for dinner last night? How do you say this word in English? Do you do this the same way in America? I'm bombard-

Amélie Baudot graduated in the spring of 2002. As a freshman in college she was somewhat down on her academic experience. At times, Amélie felt uninspired and even bored. Not that the subjects were uninteresting or that her professors were not stimulating, but she just did not know what she wanted to do nor the purpose of the whole experience of college. To some extent she sublimated her frustrations in sports and socializing. Then came the opportunity in her sophomore year to become part of the CISLA program. CISLA not only encouraged her to study abroad, but introduced her to an academic horizon that she could identify with, and as it turned out, to help find meaning in her life experience. It should be noted that our daughter has dual nationalities and had spent a significant period of her life growing up in Europe.

The CISLA program inspired an idealism that would meet her then growing cynicism. CISLA worked to infuse her academic experience with a sense of relevance and offered her the opportunity to actually spread her wings in the real world.

Exposed as she was to the problems and challenges of people in other parts of the world, her motivations changed. Most importantly she gained a sense of purpose for her life. Being was not futility but there was now, for her, enormous meaning in serving others and happiness would derive from that.

The introductory course of the program offered philosophical readings and non material values that were to inspire all the rest of her work at Connecticut College. She could relate to these. As she got deeper into the program her thirst for learning grew as did her curiosity about the realm of international law and politics. She dared to be different and to follow the path of her own inclinations. She spent her junior year at the London School of Economics and excelled in many of her courses, in particular international law. Her CISLA internship was spent working for the South Center, a voice of the developing countries at the seat of the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland. Her focus was social justice in globalization, specifically how India could gain a fairer position in the global market

and be allowed to develop in ways that most favored its societal ethos and inclinations. She was intensely wrapped up in writing this thesis and maintained close relations with the officials of this organization. She also gained personal contacts in the International Trade Organization.

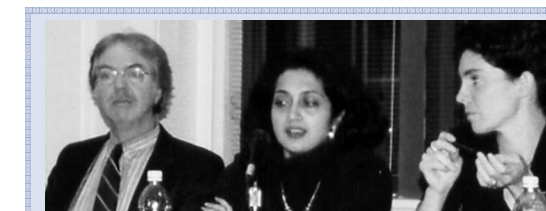
It was determined by the time of her graduation that she would make her profession in the fields of international law and of development. She continues to work toward this goal. Soon she will complete her Master's degree at the Graduate Institute for International Studies in Geneva, Switzerland. She is working part time for a non governmental organization promoting democracy around the world. Her Master's thesis is focused on the history of moral values in politics. For next year she has applied to law school and the simultaneous pursuit of a Ph.D in a program that prepares her for developmental studies and work in public international law. Needless to say we are deeply indebted to the CISLA program and its ideals for the direction and inspiration it has given our daughter.

CC Professors Examine International Perspectives

by KATIE MCCORMACK

On October 27, 2004 CISLA students organized a discussion of "International Perspectives on the Upcoming U.S. Presidential Election." The panel brought CC professors together to explore the international implications of the 2004 presidential election with the campus community. Panelists examined how a presidential victory by incumbent President George W. Bush or democratic candidate John F. Kerry would affect diplomatic relations around the world. Liana Guzman, Elizabeth Marolda and Ellen Richardson, members of the class of 2005 and leaders of the CISLA student advisory board, coordinated the event. "We realized that the upcoming election is not just about the United States, but about every nation with which we have relations," said Ellen Richardson '05, an organizer. Alexis Dudden, Sue & Eugene Mercy Jr. associate professor of history, focused her discussion on U.S. relations with Japan and Korea. Tejaswini Ganti, Assistant professor of anthropology, spoke on media coverage and its influence on popular culture and voters. Leo Garofalo, assistant professor of history, offered insight into U.S.-Latin American relations. Luis M. Gonzalez, assistant professor of Hispanic studies, in a presentation titled, "Should We Vote, Too?" provided perspectives on how non-

U.S. citizen's viewed the election. Philip Kozel, a visiting assistant professor of economics, offered insight into the implications on world economies of a victory by either candidate. David Patton, associate professor of government, spoke on the election's possible effects on U.S.- European relations. William Rose, professor of government and department chair, presented the domestic implications of the election, including the future of U.S. involvement in Iraq.



From left to right: William Rose, Tejaswini Ganti, Alexis Dudden presented their positions and then answered questions posed by members of the audience.

When I arrived in Madrid on May 23rd, 2004, all I could think as water dripped down my face was "I thought it didn't rain in Spain during the summer." It was nearing nightfall, and my landlord hadn't shown up to let me into my residence and give me my keys. I sank down onto the front step of 10 Calle Campomanes, and I realized how utterly alone I was. There was no support group of American students, and no tour guide to greet me. In less than twenty-four hours I would have to start working with two choruses, and I felt as if I could not squeak out a word of Spanish in between my sobs. I wanted a friend to help me, and at age twenty-one, I wanted my Mommy.

I realized after a few very long, rain-soaked minutes that I was going to have to grow up quickly. I dug into my bag, found my landlord's business card, and called his emergency cell phone. In five minutes I got over my fear of both phones and speaking to strangers in Spanish. I was on my way.

My experience living in Madrid and interning with the Coral Polifónica de Alcorcón and the Coro de Camera de Villaviciosa de Odon changed me profoundly, both personally and professionally. Once I got over my initial fears and self-doubt, I found myself truly being welcomed in Spain as a professional and a friend. I do not wish to say that I assimilated into Spanish culture, because I will always be an *extranjera*, an outsider. However, I believe that this summer I began to achieve what is one of my main goals in life: to break down cultural boundaries and stereotypes with the sharing of the universal language of music. Once a mutual professional respect for each other's music was established between me and the Spaniards I interacted with, I was given help in reaching my own learning objectives, and the people I met began to see Americans in a different light. In this reflection paper I will begin to try to describe how the past summer changed my life, and perhaps the lives of those I interacted with, but no five page paper can do justice to the impact of



Christine Duncan spent last summer singing across Spain with the Coral Polifónica de Alcorcón and the Coro de Camera de Villaviciosa de Odon, both based in Madrid. Christine is a music major with a concentration in vocal performance. She is working with Professor Althouse on completing her senior integrative project titled, "How Renaissance Villancico Foreshadowed Modern Spanish Society."

my experience.

I set out with clear learning objectives, which were more than met during the course of my internship, thanks to the generosity of Gregorio Muñoz de la Calle, the choral director and professor of music that I worked under. One day, Gregorio picked me up at my front door and drove me to all the libraries in Madrid with music resources. He not only helped me gain special viewing rights in the National Library in order to conduct my research on Renaissance Villancicos, but he changed the repertory that his choirs were performing in order to give me the experience of performing the pieces I was analyzing.

In addition to my historical and musical research goals, I wanted to observe how modern Spanish culture reflected the patterns (specifically the prevalence of the ten-

sion between sacred and secular) foreshadowed in the music I was studying. I knew that connecting my historical analysis to modern society was essential to my project. At first I was afraid that I would not be able to make any solid connections-how could social issues presented five hundred years ago in folk songs possibly still exist today? Fortunately, my fears were expelled when I got to observe the interactions and daily life of both my Spanish friends and the members of the choruses I worked with. By becoming an accepted member of their social circles, I was allowed to get a real glimpse of Spanish life as an insider. I danced in underground bars and clubs with friends my age, went to backyard Paella barbecues with the chorus of Villaviciosa de Odon, and sang Flamenco in a bus winding its way through the mountains with the Coral Polifónica de Alcorcón. This wide range of experiences, combined on a daily

basis with my research, made the connections I was looking for develop on their own. I was amazed at what I found, and I finally truly believed in the relevance of my project.

My third learning objective was exploring the possibility of working as both a musician and director of a chorus. I have always dreamed of working and moving in the global classical music world, but never had the opportunity to try until this summer. Before my internship I always performed or entered singing competitions designed for students. However, in Madrid I was thrown without hesitation or help into the professional music world. Although I made it clear to Gregorio Muñoz that I was an undergraduate student, he had enough faith in me to put me in a leadership position within his choruses on the first day of rehearsal. After

"Once I got over my initial fears and self-doubt, I found myself truly being welcomed in Spain as a professional and a friend. I do not wish to say that I assimilated into Spanish culture, because I will always be an 'extranjera,' an outsider ..."

dream in which I was about to be terribly embarrassed. However, I took a deep breath and began my work. By the end of the rehearsal session, not only did I surprise myself but the soprano section as well. I had accomplished all the rehearsal goals that Gregorio had set out before me. By the end of the month I was teaching sectional rehearsals and giving vocal coaching. It took all my former musical training and courage, but I also discovered that I really enjoyed and was actually good at directing choruses. Undoubtedly my internship advanced my musical and leadership skills, and provided me with the knowledge of a profession that I could see myself entering.

All the success I have mentioned does not mean that my summer was free of difficulty, both professional and personal. At first, communication was difficult for me, both in terms of language comprehension and cultural differences. Most of the people I interacted with, both my age and older, had never worked closely with someone who was not a native speaker. They had all seen plenty of tourists whom they had either helped or made fun of, but almost no one had tried to build a relationship with an outsider. I felt as if I should be flattered that I was treated as an equal when my friends and members of the chorus spoke to me about their lives in detail, but nevertheless I had the embarrassing task of asking them to repeat themselves and speak more slowly. I also made a few grave fashion and dating mistakes which drew criticism. Luckily, the



The Coro de Camera de Villaviciosa de Odon take a moment from their summer tour to pose for the camera.

Spaniards I interacted with were very forgiving as long as I really listened to them and tried to learn from my mistakes. As time passed, I was able to understand and communicate more clearly, but the experience was humbling. I found the only way to solve my problems was to swallow my pride and put myself out in the open for criticism and correction.

Although I am proud of my personal growth, the research I conducted and the way I was able to contribute to the growth and excellence of the choruses I worked with, the most rewarding part of my internship experience was forming true friendships with my Spanish friends, old and young. Not only did I learn from them, but they have told me that I opened their minds as well; I showed them that not all Americans are the same "loud, ignorant tourists." My friend and suitemate Marcos wrote me a long letter at the end of summer telling me how much he would miss me as one of his true friends whom he could confide in. Establishing a true relationship with someone from another culture made any hardships that I experienced worth every embarrassing moment.

I also enjoyed informing the members of the choruses all about my life back in the US and my views on the world. They were sur-

prised to discover that I was indeed knowledgeable about many global issues, and that I did not agree with President Bush's policy regarding the war in Iraq. I was even interviewed by some of the local media in Madrid about my internship with the Coral Polifónica de Alcorcón, my academics, and my views on the world as a young American. I was surprised to read about myself in several local newspapers and magazines.

From my experience, I feel that I was able to make a difference in the lives of many people in Madrid, and also feel that I will always have a home to go back to. In fact, I have been seriously considering returning to Madrid to work after I finish my music studies in the U.S. The Spanish culture has gotten under my skin, becoming a part of me, and I have established professional and personal relationships there that I value highly. I know I can count on a meal with any member of the two choruses I sang with, and I am remaining in contact with Gregorio Muñoz, who has offered to work with me again. He also intends to visit the U.S. as a visiting conductor with the summer music camp that I work with. My journey as a world citizen has begun, and I feel like I have the tools to leave college and survive anywhere I aspire to go.