



prism

CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

2018 / 2019

The Toor Cummings Center for International Studies and the Liberal Arts NEWSLETTER

Associate Director's Column

by *Mary S. Devins*
Associate Director, CISLA



LAST YEAR WE DID NOT PUBLISH PRISM, but we are back. I hope you will enjoy this issue with much news of the past two years. Marc Forster stepped down from his position as CISLA director after a wonderful six years at the helm. Marc was completely engaged in the CISLA program, and his wisdom, intellect and fairness, devotion to the

students and good nature made his tenure with us an extremely happy and positive experience. We shall miss him. Andrea Lanoux, Professor of Slavic Studies, is the new director. She has stepped in with great energy and enthusiasm for the work of the Center and of the CISLA scholars. We look forward to her guidance and leadership.

I have been part of CISLA since the beginning, almost 29 years. Although some things have changed over the years, the basic structure has remained the same and has proven to be a formula for success. The IS 201 and 401 courses are always evolving to challenge students with new introductions to historical and contemporary topics with an international focus. For example, in the recent past there has been great interest in the situation and politics of refugees, climate change, sustainability, women's rights and gender issues, to name a few. Seniors are still asked to reflect upon and write about the famous CISLA questions

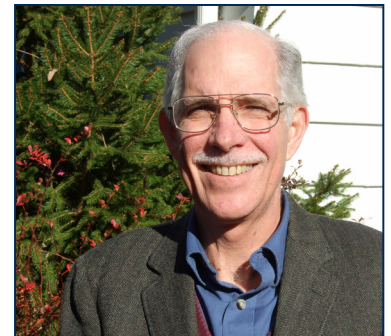
which were imbedded in the program to ensure that the principles of the liberal arts were always part of the CISLA program.

Perhaps most interesting is the diversity of the student applicants who want to be part of the program. The number of international students and underrepresented students continues to grow. When CISLA graduated its first class in 1992, there was very little diversity at the College. Connecticut College now has a strong commitment to create a diverse and inclusive student body. This diversity has added an important new dimension to CISLA. In and out of the classroom, our discussions are greatly enriched because of the different worldviews and experiences of our CISLA scholars.

This year we admitted our largest class ever, 39 students. The applicant pool was extremely strong. The new and unique projects that the applicants have proposed reflect contemporary society and the changing world order. The students in the class of 2021 will study 10 different languages, including Korean and Latin for the first time, pursue 21 different majors, and conduct research in 16 different countries. Proposed topics include the eco-Mafia in Southern Italy, biosimilars (FDA approved drugs similar to already approved biologic medicine) in Argentina, community-building through dance in West Africa, Jewish identity and gender in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and the politics of LGBTQ advocacy in France, among many other unique projects. The new cohort will begin their CISLA journey in the spring semester with IS 201 where they will study global issues through multiple disciplinary lenses. This year topics will include the history of globalization, constructions of race and ethnicity outside of the U.S., science in a global context, the performing arts abroad, international peacekeeping efforts, and communist legacies around the world.

NEW SCHOLARSHIP ESTABLISHED TO HONOR PROFESSOR ROBERT PROCTOR, CISLA FOUNDING DIRECTOR

All six past and present CISLA directors, Associate Director Mary Devins, and Dean of the Faculty Jeffrey Cole met for a celebratory dinner to honor the illustrious career of Robert E. Proctor, CISLA's founding Director. Proctor is retiring after 47 years at Connecticut College, leaving behind an extraordinary legacy that includes Professor of Italian, Dean of the Faculty and Director of CISLA. In his honor, CISLA has established the Robert E. Proctor Scholarship for Summer Language Study, bolstering support for world languages and cultural immersion, to which Proctor has devoted much of his career.





Outgoing Director's Column

by Marc R. Forster
Henry B. Plant Professor of History
and College Marshal

I ORIGINALLY WROTE THIS COLUMN

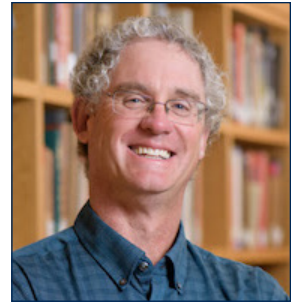
sitting in a quiet corner of rural Sweden looking out over a green and wooded countryside. Everything seemed peaceful and calm there in the summer of 2017. But, the scene was of course deceiving. Even in that relatively homogeneous socialist Scandinavian paradise, heated political debates had erupted over the number of refugees Sweden should accept, the place of immigrants in the society, the role of religion in public life, and over the nature of racism.

Of course, the last several years have been ones of violence and terrorism – shootings, bombings, and other attacks in Europe, the Middle East and the U.S. The British have voted to leave the European Union, the great post-nationalist experiment that has kept the peace among Europeans for 70 years, motivated it appears by a burst of nationalism and anti-immigrant sentiment. Donald Trump, the American President, is basing his foreign policy on the idea of “America First.” He seems to be suggesting that we should turn our back on the world, or, if we do engage it, that the U.S. as the world’s greatest military and economic power can somehow always impose our own terms on everyone else.

The world is getting smaller and more interconnected, a challenge we all have to face. For at least five centuries Europeans and Americans have benefitted from global connections, while also being able to mostly ignore them at home. The burden of colonialism and imperialism, economic exploitation, and racism has fallen on minority groups at home and “other” people in other places. Now, however, many people in the U.S. and Europe find the smaller world a scary prospect. It raises fears of violence and terrorism, loss of jobs and opportunity. And I think most of all, globalization brings a fear of immigrants and a sense of dislocation and loss of identity.

But there are many other impacts – new ideas, new perspectives, new foods, new connections, and travel around the world as well. The immigrant family in a small town in Connecticut opens a small business. The refugee family in rural Bavaria tells their new neighbors about the horror of a civil war in the Middle East. The Norwegian doctor learns about how people in Sierra Leone react to the Ebola crisis, while also helping them to fight

the disease. The Dominican baseball player tells the fans in Boston after the Marathon bombing that “This is our f...ing city.” These interactions are global and local at the same time.



These links between the global and the local inform the nature of global learning in the 21st century here at Connecticut College. Current events reinforce the sense that events in one place have both global and local origins. The two cannot be separated. It is not sufficient for Americans to point to the “evils of globalization,” or highlight “ancient religious/ethnic divisions,” or focus on “corruption” and the “non-democratic traditions” of other countries and societies. These are simple answers to complex problems; this is not how we teach our students to think at Connecticut College.

You can learn about the global when volunteering or working with a local organization in Southeastern CT, as many Conn students do. You can also learn about the local while studying elsewhere in the world as our CISLA students have always done. At CISLA we expect our students to develop the language skills needed to interact with people in other places with empathy and understanding. We want our students to experience the humility that comes with being an outsider in another society. We expect them to learn about the place where they are going, to understand their own place and privileges in the world, to approach people with respect and empathy. We are not sending our students out into the world to tell others how to do things better, nor should they just observe the world and experience personal growth – instead we expect our students to engage the world, and they do so. We also expect them to return to the College and examine and analyze what they learn in rigorous ways. They do that as well. This sort of complex, thoughtful, and engaged interaction with local communities around the world seems ever more essential in our current political climate, both domestically and globally. A more interconnected world is a challenge our education system must meet right now.

I was CISLA Director for six wonderful years. My time at CISLA has been a highlight of my career at Connecticut College, and it was a great privilege to work with the dedicated CISLA staff and, most of all, with our excellent students. As I go back to teaching my History courses, I am confident that Connecticut College and CISLA will continue to educate young people to see connections with the rest of the world, to understand the world in all its confusion and complexity. Turning away from the world is not an option.

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Incoming Director's Column

by Andrea Lanoux
Professor of Slavic Studies

I FIRST LEARNED OF CISLA when I came to Connecticut College in 1999 as a new faculty member in Slavic Studies, then the Department of Russian and East European Studies. Since that time I have come to know CISLA as an exemplary model of the liberal arts, one that integrates rigorous interdisciplinary study, excellent mentoring and advising, language study, study away, and international internships. When the Connecticut College faculty began to develop a new general education program for the College in 2012, we turned to our academic centers as the inspiration for our new Connections curriculum. The over 700 CISLA scholars who have graduated since the center's establishment in 1989 are among the college's finest and most accomplished alumni, many of whom are currently working in international careers and doing remarkable things all over the world. It is a distinct honor and true pleasure to serve as CISLA's sixth director.

During reunion weekend in June 2018, I addressed my first audience as incoming director, welcoming a room full of CC alumnae who had graduated from Connecticut College for Women in the 1950s and 60s. Only one person in the audience had studied away as a student, and she had to disenroll from the College to do so since there was no structure in place at the time to study away. While a number of attendees had studied French, Spanish, or German in college, they were astounded to learn that CISLA scholars have studied 24 different languages and completed internships in 70 countries. They were proud that their alma mater offers such extraordinary opportunities to today's students, and that CISLA has gained a national reputation as a leader in international education.

The challenge before CISLA is to further expand these remarkable opportunities, so that decades from now global learning will be an integral part of a CC education for *all* students. At present, only 5-6% of the Connecticut College student body participates in CISLA, and only 12% of CC students engage in one of the College's five academic centers. The complex, global challenges before us demand that all students develop the analytical, intercultural, communicative, and problem solving skills necessary to address them. CISLA is ideally positioned in its new home, the Otto and Fran Walter Commons for Global Study and Engagement, to extend opportunities to deepen knowledge about other parts of the world to the entire campus community.

Professor Marc Forster, CISLA's director from 2012 to 2018, expanded access to international education by establishing a new Global Scholars Fund, which distributes \$25,000 annually to make study away accessible to more students. Additionally, new institutional partnerships developed through our Office of Global Initiatives connect Connecticut College to universities in Ghana, India, Mexico, Spain, Poland, Bulgaria, Russia, Germany, South Korea, and Hong Kong, providing opportunities for CC students to engage with peers and faculty abroad through networked courses, TRIP courses, and student exchange programs. The new Structured Independent Language Study (SILS) program coordinated by Laura Little, director of the Global Learning Lab, allows CC students to study such languages as Vietnamese, Hindi, Korean, American Sign Language, Portuguese, Korean, Polish and Bulgarian, with the support of native speakers and instructional technologies. These are just some of the initiatives of the new Walter Commons for Global Study and Engagement that will expand and deepen global learning for CC students for years to come.



We were proud to welcome CISLA's newest cohort of 39 scholars, the largest class in the center's history, this fall. One of our priorities this year is to connect current CISLA scholars with CISLA alumni, and eventually expand this network to other CC students planning to study away and seek international internships. CISLA graduates possess an enormous wealth of knowledge about many cultures and countries around the globe. We hope that CISLA alumni will leverage their collective experience and knowledge to help current CC students transition to international internships and get the most out of study away. If you are a CISLA graduate, please take our alumni survey (see p. 19) and

let us know whether you would be willing to mentor a current CC student, participate in an on-campus symposium on a global issue, or attend a CISLA alumni event in your city. We are eager to know about your experiences in CISLA so that we can continue to improve all that we do.

Finally, whether you are the parent of a CISLA scholar, a CISLA graduate, or a CC current student, we hope you will visit us at our new home in 108 Blaustein, or reach out to

any one of us by phone, e-mail, or Skype: Betsy Lebel, Administrative Assistant; Cara Masullo, Internship Coordinator; Mary Devins, Associate Director; and Andrea Lanoux, Director. We look forward to hearing from you!

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The over 700 CISLA scholars who have graduated since the center's establishment in 1989 are among the college's finest and most accomplished alumni... It is a distinct honor and true pleasure to serve as CISLA's sixth director.”
”

Passages / Distinguished Alumni

by Mary Devins

IN PAST ISSUES we have featured a section called “Pathways” in which we showcased a CISLA alumnus with an impressive career that started with the CISLA experience. There are over 700 CISLA alumni around the world doing interesting and meaningful work in their lives and careers. A few years ago, we decided that it would be an annual tradition to honor one of these alumni with the CISLA Distinguished Alumni Award. In this edition and future editions, the Pathways article will be called Passages and will be about the CISLA alumnus chosen to receive this award. The first award went to **Holly Dranginis '06** who was featured in the 2016 issue of PRISM.

The award citation reads, “The Toor Cummings Center for International Studies and the Liberal Arts Alumni Award honors a Connecticut College graduate from the CISLA program for distinguished achievements in his/her professional field and in the wider world.” The person who receives the award is invited to the sophomore banquet, is presented with the award, and gives a talk about their personal journey.

Our most recent award recipient, Laura Heaton, spoke to the new CISLA class during their sophomore banquet in February of 2018.

Laura graduated from CC in 2005 and majored in International Relations. She completed her CISLA internship in Madagascar at “Enfants du Monde – Droits de l’Homme.” Her senior integrative project was on “Protecting Children’s Rights: Discrepancies between Theory and Practice.” We like to think that this experience sent her on the path to where she is today.

Laura Heaton is a writer and journalist based in Nairobi, Kenya, and London, U.K. Her writing in East Africa over the past decade has focused primarily on conflict, human rights, and women’s experiences in war. Most recently, her feature story for *Foreign Policy Magazine*, “The Watson Files,” tells the story of retracing the steps of a British scientist in Somalia in the 1980s to see how the environment has changed after a quarter century of war and climate change -- a project she is now developing into a book. Last year she also finished a book on the role of women’s leadership in the rebuilding of post-genocide Rwanda, working with U.S. Ambassador Swanee Hunt. Laura’s reporting has appeared in a variety of U.S. and international outlets, including *The New York Times*, *National Public Radio*, *Newsweek*, *National Geographic*, and the *International Review of the Red Cross*.

by Laura Heaton '05

IN HER REMARKS to the incoming CISLA class of 2020, Laura said: “Time and again over that summer I found my assumptions challenged. And isn’t that why we travel? Why we visit places where we at first feel out of place and even lost? Because as we find our way, we grow and learn.

But there was something about the work that didn’t exactly click for me, at least as I thought about the path of my future career. It was fulfilling to take part in that hands-on work that summer, but I also found myself being drawn to understanding and communicating to others the bigger picture. It wasn’t until I was back on campus a few months later that I started to piece it together. It’s a really distinct memory actually...

I was eating breakfast at Harris and reading a front-page story in *The New York Times* about guinea worm in West Africa. It’s a horrible infection that spreads through water -- and when a person is afflicted they develop a blister that encases the worm that eventually has to come out... and it’s super contagious.

And I thought -- this is what I want to do, to write about these kinds of stories -- to find ways to break through and reach someone who just picks up the paper planning to read about, say, the economy, and ends up learning about the female majority in Rwanda’s parliament, or South Sudan’s independence, or how Somalia is on the frontline in dealing with climate change.

So I’ll just close with probably my most tried-and-true lesson, as you set off on this CISLA journey: Soak up the experience. Soak it up. Even -- perhaps especially -- the hardest moments. Because in hindsight, you will almost always gain an insight after you’ve felt most pushed to your limits, or you’ll see a shift in your preconceived notions. And each experience has the potential to build a connection that you might not have ever fathomed, that will influence your future. You -- we -- are all very fortunate to have this opportunity through CISLA.”

See pages 5 and 6 for additional award recipient writings.



LAURA HEATON

Distinguished Alumni

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In 2017 Alexandra Fiorillo was given this award. Alex graduated from Connecticut College in 2003 with a double major in economics and Latin American studies. For her CISLA internship she went to Ecuador and worked for Banco Solidario and completed her Senior Integrative Project (SIP) on the Transformation of the Microfinance Industry. After graduation she received a Fulbright Scholarship to return to Ecuador where she researched and evaluated microfinance and social enterprise projects among indigenous communities. Alex holds a graduate degree in development economics from Columbia University. She teaches courses on social impact design and financial inclusion at the Copenhagen Institute for Interaction Design (CIID) and Columbia University.

Today Alex is the Founder and Principal of GRID Impact, a global research, innovation and design firm. It specializes in human-centered approaches to complex social and economic challenges by observing actual human behavior as a basis to implement creative design solutions, programs and products. The primary focus of GRID Impact is financial inclusion, agriculture, water and sanitation, education and alternative energy in the developing world.

by Alex Fiorillo '03

I LANDED IN ECUADOR on June 1, 2002, speaking mediocre Spanish, not knowing a single person in the country, and never having worked in a bank. I could not have felt less prepared for my CISLA internship. I was nervous and timid at first. And the next thing I knew, I was leading an investigation into why the bank (a large, commercial bank) was experiencing high defaults in their loan portfolio. I had only taken five college-level economics courses and a couple of Spanish classes after studying abroad in Chile. But I was inquisitive and curious and diligent. And I was looking at the bank's operations with a fresh set of eyes. I found things and I helped course-correct. And I was 20. It was exhilarating and a huge confidence boost. CISLA scholars show up, they plug in, they ask questions, they observe, they learn, they display empathy. They surprise themselves. And then they succeed.

Conn and CISLA opened me up to new experiences and new possibilities. I developed a passion for international development, social impact, adventure and travel. I moved back to Ecuador after Conn to do a Fulbright. I researched indigenous populations and their possible link to microfinance services. I got to spend time with the Shuar, an indigenous population in the Amazon known for their head-shrinking traditions. They wanted to access microfinance services and I was helping them to explore and design the kinds of programs their community wanted. Early on in my career, I desired to support vulnerable communities in accessing the best services, products, programs and experiences possible. Being poor did not have to mean receiving mediocre care or poorly designed products.

Since my time in Ecuador, I've lived in Washington, D.C. and Uganda, worked in countries like Jordan, Niger, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Mozambique and Pakistan. I've traveled to over

70 countries and worked in over 50. I've been asked to leave a country because my research uncovered government corruption; I've written legislation for the Zambian government and advised U.S. Senators on economic development programs. I've worked with Nobel Prize winners and even advised a Princess. Each time, I felt wholly unprepared for the task in front of me and each time I leaned in, asked questions, observed, flexed my empathy muscles and managed to come out on the other side a bit wiser, a bit more humble, and a bit more eager for the next challenge. CISLA's academic and international internship programming helped prepare me for uncertainty and made me more resilient.



MARC FORSTER PRESENTS ALEX FIORILLO WITH HER DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Nearly four years ago, I took my biggest leap of faith yet and founded GRID Impact. We design products and services with and for people living in vulnerable communities, both here in the U.S. and all over the world. We use behavioral science and human-centered design to support communities and local organizations design solutions for themselves. It's the combination of science and art, of data and intuition that allows us to develop sustainable, desirable products and services for vulnerable populations. And we are able to create space for marginalized populations to voice their desires, needs, and aspirations.

The world is really uncertain right now. Things are changing quickly. People are scared and angry. There seems to be a tendency for people to go into silos, surround themselves with people who share their beliefs and values and ideals, to highlight how people are different rather than similar. But I think this is exactly the time we need to challenge our assumptions, listen to "the other," have deep empathy for people we disagree with, question our own experiences and privilege, and listen.

My story is one about making unconventional decisions. Taking unexpected trips. Showing up in places unsure of what the experience would offer and being open to giving and receiving. Listening to my intuition and trying to quiet the sometimes very loud conventional opinion. And about being open to all of the diverse experiences and what they might teach me. About discovering that I don't have to be like anyone else. Remaining open and collaborative despite many people currently focusing on what sets us apart from one another.

I'm so grateful to CISLA and especially to Mary Devins and Fred Paxton and the entire CISLA faculty and staff.

Distinguished Alumni

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Nathaniel Heller '98 was given this award in 2016. Nate graduated from Connecticut College in 1998, and immediately joined the Peace Corps in Senegal, where he had previously done his CISLA internship. Nate has a Master of Arts in International Affairs and Economics degree from Johns Hopkins SAIS, and an MBA from Yale. He speaks French and Senegalese Wolof fluently and can get by in Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese.

Nate has a proven record of professional and personal dedication to international social enterprise and development. Through his recent innovative work at Persistent Energy Ghana (PEG) he has contributed to bettering the lives of tens of thousands by bringing sustainable and affordable solar energy to rural communities in developing countries. He is a model leader in the field of international development.

by Nate Heller '98

I LIVE IN ABIDJAN, COTE D'IVOIRE, and run a

company, PEGAfrica, that sells solar home lighting systems on credit to off-grid households in Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana. These systems help our customers replace dim, smoky kerosene lamps with bright, clean solar systems that save them money. We are also bringing them towards financial inclusion by using their purchase to build a credit rating they can use to buy other things they need. And we are a for-profit social enterprise, which to me means that if we succeed, we can prove that this solution doesn't need charity to scale. Building this company has been my passion for the past 6 years, and the culmination of interests that started 20 years ago, during my CISLA summer.

Neither Africa nor social enterprise were anywhere in my mind when I arrived at Conn way back in 1994. I had a firm but vague plan to do the Peace Corps somewhere when I graduated, but I really didn't know what I wanted to do with my life. I applied to CISLA because I wanted to go to Africa, and because a bunch of my friends were applying, but I had no idea where it would lead me. I can still remember the first day of my summer in Dakar, wandering around by myself, the brightness and the heat and the trash, and feeling like a ghost, experiencing for the first time what it was like to be the only one who looked like me. It also felt like a big step in trying to understand the world better.

When I graduated from Conn, speaking French and having experience in Africa made me well-qualified for the Peace Corps. As luck would have it, they sent me back to Senegal, where I spent 2 years living in a tiny village trying to convince farmers to plant trees in their fields. This was an amazing experience. I learned a ton, but my major takeaways were how similar people are every-

where, and how unfair it is that I had such different opportunities than they did. I knew then that this was what I wanted my life to be about, and that what I wanted most was to somehow be useful.

In order to be certain that I liked development work, and not just the Peace Corps, I stayed in Senegal after I finished my service and worked for an international NGO. The large ones all seemed to require a master's degree, but I found a small organization called the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy that needed someone to be based in West Africa. I spent the next two years based in Dakar and then Accra, Ghana, riding around on a bicycle and promoting sustainable transportation solutions like bike lanes and improved public transport. Finally, after four years in West Africa, I returned to the U.S. to study international relations and economics at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) in Washington, D.C. Fellow CISLA grad Collin Keeney '98 was one year ahead of me.

Coming out of SAIS, I wanted to know what it was like to work for a large development agency, so I found a fellowship with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, and spent

two years between Rome and Ghana focused on internet and mobile phone innovations to support farmers and agricultural researchers. During those years I learned two major things: one was that I found large development agencies a little less exciting than I had hoped; the other was how inspired I was by several people I met in Ghana who were running for-profit social businesses. I liked how they treated the people they were trying to help as customers, rather than as charity cases, how dynamic their work seemed to be, and how if they weren't providing something their customers wanted, they would go out of business. I decided that this was what I wanted to do, and applied to the MBA program at

the Yale School of Management. After graduating, I worked for a couple of different social enterprises in India, Brazil and San Francisco, but what I really wanted was to start my own.

In late 2011, I met my current business partner, who was starting a for-profit social enterprise in Ghana selling solar lights through microfinance banks, and needed someone to run things on the ground. When I moved to Ghana the company consisted of myself, my business partner (based in New York), and one local staff member. Over the past 6 years, we have been through numerous crises, completely changed our business model (we still sell solar on credit, but now do it ourselves using mobile phone-based "Pay As You Go" technology), grown to over 400 employees and sales reps, and reached over 30,000 households across two countries. It is my dream job and I am grateful every day for the experiences and fortune that have brought me here.

And it all started with CISLA.



NATE HELLER WITH HIS DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Parent's Perspective

by Scott & Carol Wipper, CC '85, P '16

SENDING A CHILD OFF TO COLLEGE is filled with excitement and apprehension; excitement for the new chapter in their life and apprehension about the unknown challenges that lie ahead. Even though Carol and I both graduated from Connecticut College ('85), we knew Michael would be experiencing a new campus and a new college. Michael was not certain that he wanted to attend the same college his parents went to, but during the campus tour, he gained a lot of information about CISLA and became intrigued with what the program offered to students.

When we moved Michael into Conn in the fall of 2013, I asked him to promise me that he would take advantage of everything the College had to offer. I was more interested in him making the most of the unique community at Conn than solely focusing on his major. He immersed himself in his freshman seminar "Castro, Che Guevara, and the Cuban Revolution," and was recommended to take an advanced history class on post WWII Japan that traveled to Okinawa with his class during spring break. After a phenomenal trip to Japan, it was clear that Michael had a keen interest in becoming an even more active member of the global community than he already was. Prior to college, Michael had traveled to England, Scandinavia, Bermuda, Ecuador, The Gálapagos Islands, and Puerto Rico. His language studies began in middle school with French, without a spark, then changed to Latin during his freshman year in high school – again without a true connection. Spanish, however, excited and interested him and became an inspiration. It clicked, and he was on his mission to fluency in a second language. The CISLA program offered a unique opportunity for Michael to integrate his interest in history, culture, anthropology, travel, and his love of the Spanish language. With great enthusiasm, Michael applied for and was accepted into the CISLA family and embarked on his collegiate international journey.

During the second semester of his junior year, Michael ventured to Mérida, Mexico, to live with a wonderful family and



MIKE WIPPER IN THE BODEGASA ART GALLERY

experience the rich history of the Yucatán peninsula. The experience gave Michael the tools to make it on his own, believe in himself, meet new people, master a new language, manage difficulties, live in a different culture, rely on himself, see a journey through and have a good time.



MIKE WIPPER WITH MANUEL MARIN IN THE WINERY

Finding the internship that he envisioned in Mexico was becoming a challenge and so with guidance from

home and from the CISLA office he was off to Spain. He found an internship in Jerez at Bodegas Tio Pepe where upon arrival they gave him an apron and expected him to be the wine server. This is not what he wanted. With great initiative he took himself down the road to Bodegas Tradición where he landed what turned out to be the perfect internship. The winery specialized in high quality sherry. The bodega contained a trove of documents that provided valuable insight into his senior project, titled "Tradition and Authenticity within Enotourism." An added delight was the owner's private art collection containing pieces from El Greco, Goya, and Velazquez among other Spanish masters. After the need to switch projects and internship sites twice, the experience at Bodegas Tradición proved to be the perfect pinnacle of hard work and determination. He was able to witness and understand the links between cultural heritage, globalization and industrialization.

While the vast majority of Michael's experiences abroad were extremely positive, he also successfully navigated several challenges that have helped define who he is today. Whether it was a medical issue in Mexico or a pivot on his internship in Spain, he was able to persevere and build a real world experience that will serve him well for the rest of his life. We cannot thank the faculty and staff of CISLA enough for their support and encouragement as Michael successfully completed the program. We truly believe that CISLA, and its international focus, provided Michael with one of his finest experiences at Connecticut College.

CISLA had a big impact on Michael's success at Conn and his preparation for his place in the global community.

As of 11/2018:

Michael is currently working in D.C. at Booze Allen Hamilton with their Aerospace account. His work supports the Secretary of the Air Force Office of International Affairs. Mike writes, "It's a nice mix of policy, strategic planning, process improvement, research. Basically all realms of consulting, but oriented towards international affairs, policy, and security cooperation. Really exciting stuff."

Parent's Perspective

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by Jill Cowie Haskell, P '16

WHEN MARY ASKED ME to write about CISLA from a parent's perspective, I eagerly said yes. Over three years my daughter Morgan grew in so many ways. First, she honed the scope of her CISLA/Study Abroad project to match the complexities and challenges of studying historical memory and education in the aftermath of genocide in Chile, Argentina and Guatemala. Then, as a North American, she discovered her voice of dissent and her sense of solidarity with indigenous people impacted by a long history of U.S. initiated violence and exploitation. And she grew into a confident and effective public speaker. I wanted to get her perspective on her changes so I asked her these few questions.

First I asked, "How did CISLA transform your life?" And when she paused, I added, more grandly, "When did you know you had changed forever, that your heart was altered; or that you had discovered a deeper resilience because you stood in solidarity for something?"

Morgan replied, "I wouldn't say it was one or two big moments; it was more a matter of constantly being different and living in the minority which gave me perspective on my position as a U.S. citizen in countries where the government I represented had for years supported violence." She went on to say, "This constant awareness of what I represented, and also of being very alone in the process of figuring it out, helped me decide how I wanted to act on that history and change how people saw me. I got involved in a student protest in Chile and one in Panajachel, Guatemala. In my independent study abroad project, I pushed myself to speak in Spanish where at first felt I had no right to speak."

Knowing Morgan's home stay was with a family in an affluent suburb of Santiago, I asked if it was hard to live with a family that was privileged at a time she was grappling with priv-



MORGAN AND HER CO-WORKERS AT MAYAN FAMILIES IN SOJOLÁ, GUATEMALA

ilege herself? "My home stay experience helped me realize that history is more nuanced, and my Chilean family helped balance the leftist leaning of the study abroad curriculum." Also, "My time with them was hard in part because I couldn't relate to them, but mostly because I was self-critical about my Spanish. I felt like I was thrown into the deep end, and I didn't want to be there."

Thanks to Skype, Morgan and I talked often, and I had a front row view to her struggle. It was hard, and she almost came home. But she persevered and stayed. I asked, "What helped you learn to swim?" After some thought she said, "I don't know, the passion for what I was learning, and finding little rituals like walking to the train station that made the place seem like home. Mostly I found little ways to feel less like an outsider by not saying no to anything." Lastly I asked her, "How would you be different today if you were to go to another country? She said, "No matter what, I am going to be very aware of my position, but I will handle that right away by learning the culture I am situated in and respecting it."

After watching her find her way and looking back on it now, I think Morgan learned to differentiate between the power of her personhood and the limitations of her role, and that differentiation today gives her a lightness of being and a "can do" attitude that helps her in any situation hold both the truth of history and the possibility of a different future. Thank you CISLA.

As of November 2018:

Morgan currently works at the YWCA Boston as a Program Team Assistant supporting six programs that educate and empower people towards racial and gender equity in the city. Morgan says, "I love focusing on local issues and in my first year I have learned so much about internal nonprofit management. On a personal and professional level, I have also grown in understanding how to engage in anti-racist work as a white person in order to challenge systemic racism and white supremacy."



CHILDREN GATHER AT THE CENTER

Reflections

Mary Devins spoke with **Aaron Davis** on the phone last year and his words summed up the true essence of the CISLA mission and vision. Aaron is a perfect example of a student who exemplifies the Connecticut College mission statement: to educate students “to put the liberal arts into action as citizens in a global society.” We asked Aaron to write down some of his thoughts for inclusion in PRISM. The reflection below was written in 2017 while Aaron was doing a post-doc in Germany. He has since earned a Master of Arts in Dance and Teaching Dance from NYU Tish School of the Arts.

by Aaron Davis '14

270 MOHEGAN AVENUE, New London, CT was my home for 4 years. A significant part of my college experience was the CISLA certificate program. When I look back on the program, I realize that until I joined CISLA, I had never left the country, had never been on a plane, and had not dreamed of living outside of the United States.

As I write this reflection from my tiny apartment in Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany, I marvel at how grateful I am for the foundation and awareness I cultivated while in CISLA. I studied abroad in Peru, returned there for an internship with the Afro-Peruvian museum in El Carmen, Chincha, and conducted yearlong research about Afro-Peruvian dance in the context of government funds and the international tourist business. In hindsight it is easy to connect these dots to my path after graduation.

After all that work in Spanish I moved to Essen, Germany where I attended the Folkwang University of the Arts and continued my training in dance. I was fortunate to work closely with brilliant professors of dance, embracing the mission statement of the school “to train humans who dance.” I studied and collaborated with dancers from Syria, Italy, Turkey, Germany, Spain, South Korea, Japan, Taiwan, China, Brazil, Copenhagen, France, Amsterdam, Argentina, Poland, and Indonesia. With so many different humans speaking different languages, we eventually created our own unique bond. I helped create a space for refugees from Syria and other countries by conducting creative workshops in



AARON COMES BACK TO REVISIT CISLA AND DANTE



AARON DAVIS

PHOTO BY MICAELA ALANIZ

dance, music, and theater. These workshops all led to a cumulative performance with professionals and non-professionals living in refugee camps.

Even though I did not speak the language, I somehow felt prepared to learn a completely different language and had the courage and curiosity to dare to be involved with the community in Essen. I realize that it was the resources and skills that I acquired from my study abroad experience with the SIT Peru program in Indigenous People and Globalization, and from a liberal arts education, that helped me fruitfully learn a new language and live in another country for the past few years.

My goal within the CISLA program was to internationalize my classics and dance double major in a way that would weave me in motion around the world. Dance is a social art form that brings many people together for celebration. Dance as an art form is a movement-based language that many cultures use to express traditions, values, and thoughts. Movement is seen in everything we do; how much you move or travel is up to you.

Through my CISLA experience, I learned how to remain curious and open to new possibilities, often by eliminating fear and embracing the unknown. I also learned how to look at dance as a researcher, acquiring and sharing knowledge, and actively participating in each community in order to find out what moves cultures and social groups.

I am thankful for the opportunities I have been afforded since my first time on a plane as a CISLA scholar. CISLA was truly the beginning; I have traveled to many countries as a performer, teacher, and researcher in dance. I am always in motion.

As of December 2018:

In August, Aaron finished a creative residency at tanzhaus nrw, in Dusseldorf, Germany, and then traveled to Namibia for a dance, music, and theater exchange program called Framework. He is currently working as a performer with Ben J. Riepe Kompanie in Dusseldorf, Germany, as an international freelance choreographer, and as an arts administrative associate for Lotus Arts Management.

Reflections

continued from page 9

Vladimir Chlouba '16 wrote these observations when he was under consideration to be the senior speaker at graduation.

By Vladimir Chlouba

LIKE TREES PLANTED BY RIVERS of water, we arrived on this hill four years ago. A few weeks into our first semester, a professor in one of my courses remarked that if all that he and his colleagues could achieve was to confuse us and send us into the world, his task would be successfully fulfilled.



VLADIMIR AND HIS 2016 CLASSMATES AT THE CISLA GRADUATION

Denmark, the United States, Germany, and Namibia. In fact, the many flags at graduation suggest that I may not be the only one who has, at least for a few years, found a real home in New London. A home defined not by where we came from but by what we have learned here together.

We depart with a liberal arts education. We have realized that the liberal arts approach is the most precious gift because it offers something utterly different from the world's ideologies and faiths. Rather than a specific set of ideas, a set-in-stone body of knowledge, the liberal arts are an approach, a method, not an end result. Instead of choosing predetermined truths and seeking to justify them with seemingly impenetrable arguments, the liberal arts combine the most natural sense of humbleness, curiosity, and intellectual responsibility that make them unprecedentedly adaptable. The ability to realize the conditionality of knowledge, I dare to suggest, is the first step on the long path towards wisdom.

As we separate today to embark on our individual journeys, we will be asked to face the various forms of inequity that still burgeon in far too many parts of the world, including our own. We must not evade that responsibility and we must proceed with vigor. As we do so however, we must not forget that the ability to critically examine our own convictions is just as indispensable. Let us be self-aware and humble.

The journey ahead will not be free of obstacles. The one thing I can promise is that it will be uniquely ours. Like a tree planted by rivers of water that brings forth its fruit in its season, we are ready to make our life what we deem it. And our season, my fellow classmates, our season is now beginning.

Make no mistake, I have no doubt that we are leaving our alma mater exceptionally well equipped. We have seen the world, we have learned its languages and we understand that the prosperity of few cannot be redeemed by the misery of many.

I was born in the Czech Republic but subsequently spent many months and years in countries such as

Danielle Cyr-Sürman Khan '15 wrote an article for a blog called "Café Dissensus Everyday" titled, "A Pakistani driver, Indian co-rider and a Kashmiri's American fiancé share an Uber in DC."

Danielle interned at KADAV, Women's Solidarity Foundation in Istanbul, Turkey. Her SIP is titled "Historical, Political and Cultural Influences on Women's Rights in Turkey." Danielle received a M.Sc in Human Rights and International Politics at the University of Glasgow. She currently is Program Associate, Gender Equality Initiative & Institute for African Studies, Elliott School of International Affairs, The George Washington University.

By Danielle Cyr-Sürman Khan

EXCERPT FROM ARTICLE: "Today, I was faced with a new challenge when I found myself sharing an UberPool with a Pakistani driver and an Indian co-rider. To many, this would be politically viewed as a lethal combination. I feared the worse, that the strained politics among the countries would create a hostile atmosphere in the car, but instead the conversation flowed with civility and we shared talk about child-care, the liberalization of the Indian economy, and of course curry. I told them I was learning Urdu. Politics and religion aside, we are all humans with similar values, respect for love and kindness, and admiration for good curry. We cannot judge one another based on our ethnic backgrounds, political or religious differences, nor should we hold hatred in our hearts for people or places that are unknown to us or shrouded in conflict. Fear of the unknown that transcends into hate is the greatest act of ignorance that belittles one's sense of humanity. During this UberPool, my own preconceived notions of others were proven wrong, and I was given the opportunity to see the beauty of humanity at its finest. I urge you to remember this during your interactions with others. Stop letting borders and politics cloud your judgment and respect for your global brothers and sisters. Start embracing one another and, who knows, you might just end up with your best UberPool ride yet!"



DANIELLE KHAN MARRIED SHAHRUKH KHAN (FROM KASHMIR) ON NEW YEAR'S EVE AFTER WAITING A LONG TIME FOR HIM TO RECEIVE HIS VISA

Reflections

continued from page 10

Brandy Darling '19 is an economics and East Asian studies major. She spent her summer in Shanghai, China, working for the African Chamber of Commerce. She will complete her SIP, titled "African Scholars in China's Higher Education," in May 2019. While the students are doing their internships, they are asked to write an interim report to update us about all aspects of their work and work environment as well as general impressions about their time in a different culture. Brandy chose to write a beautiful poem to tell us her story.



BRANDY IN FRONT OF A TEMPLE IN JINHUA, CHINA

I took this pic alone
On a hot summer day in Jinhua.
No friends, no help, no time
To stop a Chinese person for once.

I didn't expect the pic to be
so well-lit and beautiful,
but all I could focus on
was that small amount of blur.
All I could wrap my mind around
is that no one was there to help,
how I was forced to turn on the timer
when someone could have taken it
themselves.

Loneliness can creep on you
quicker than you believe,
but one thing you have to remember
is that one day it will leave.
It might take some time,
some conversations and a few dates
but once you get to know people
loneliness will walk away.
It will hop on a motorcycle
and drive away as fast as it can,
because it knows that you
have finally found a friend.

But is this really loneliness,
or just a moment in time
that I can rely on people I haven't
met to make me smile wide.

To use this time well
to get to know myself better.
This might even be the best time
in this hot hot Shanghai weather.

What I see is not loneliness
just a time of self-discovery,
just a time of recovery,
just a time to be loving.
Not only loving to myself,
but to people I don't know
because in a year's time,
I'll be right back at the beginning of
this poem.

Loneliness, just an imaginary concept,
Ode to self, and love to others.
So when I graduate in 2019
and start a new life, I won't be bothered.

Brand Darling: Pickering Fellow

Aspiring diplomat Brandy Darling '19 has been selected as a 2019 Thomas R. Pickering Graduate Foreign Affairs Fellow. One of the U.S. Department of State's most competitive and prestigious programs, the Pickering Fellowship provides two years of financial support for graduate study as well as professional development and mentoring to prepare fellows for a career in the U.S. Foreign Service. Fellows also complete an internship at the State Department in Washington, D.C., and an internship at a U.S. embassy abroad.

In Memoriam

The Connecticut College Community mourned the loss of **Anique Ashraf**, a member of the **Class of 2017**. Anique was from Lahore, Pakistan. He died on December 18, 2015, after being struck by a vehicle on Mohegan Avenue in New London.

Anique was double majoring in art and history, and minoring in film studies. He was a leader in the LGBTQ community on campus, a member of the N20 improv comedy group, and a gifted writer with a compelling voice who captured many colorful aspects of life at Connecticut College for the blog "The Experience." Anique was a person with deeply held convictions who lived life to the fullest. He was beloved by the campus community and especially by his CISLA classmates, who enjoyed his thoughtful and insightful comments, irreverent humor and vision.



ANIQUE ASHRAF

CISLA arranged for a pink magnolia tree (his favorite color) to be planted near Cummings in his honor. CISLA also contributed \$2,000 to an endowed fund through the art department to offer an annual gift in his name.

Alumni Updates

by Mary Devins

I MUST ADMIT *that there is not a scientific formula for the Alumni Updates section of PRISM. There are over 700 CISLA alumni scattered around the country and the world. I have highlighted just a few to give you a taste of the impressive path some of our graduates have taken. I know that there are many more of you out there doing important and impressive work.*

Maeve Hickey '17 interned in a rural clinic in Cuenca, Ecuador and did her CISLA SIP on “Access to Healthcare in Rural Ecuador.” In the fall of 2018 she attended the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine for the Doctor of Osteopathic program which focuses on primary care training and rural medicine.

Laura Bentley '17 interned in Barcelona, Spain, at The Association of Organizations of Mediterranean Business Women. She wrote her SIP on “The Emergence of Women Entrepreneurs as a Response to the Economic Crisis.” She is currently working at PriceWaterhouseCoopers in Rosario, Santa Fe, Argentina, as an Associate Global Tax Consultant.

Nabeeh Asim '17 interned in Barcelona, Spain at the Center for Immigration and Ethnic Studies at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. He wrote his SIP on “Labor Rights of the Undocumented: A Comparison of Spain and the U.S.” After graduation, Nabeeh returned to the Maldives where he has been working with the United Nations Development Programme in their governance unit doing work with youth and women with a focus on civic participation.



NABEEH AT HOME IN THE MALDIVES WITH HIS MOTHER

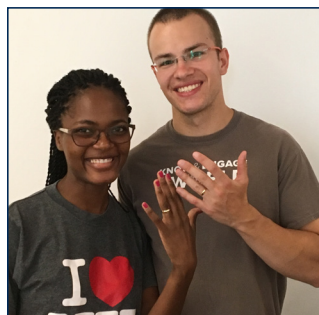
Vanessa Corriera '16 interned at Save the Children in Amman, Jordan, and did her SIP on “Health and Nutrition of Syrian Refugees in Jordan.” She is currently at Yale School of Nursing studying to be a pediatric nurse practitioner certified in plant-based nutrition and lactation counseling.

Mia Haas-Goldberg '16 interned in Aix-en-Provence, France, at the Centre de Documentation Historique sur l'Algérie. Her SIP was titled, “French Media Portrayal of the Algerian War and Immigrant Rights in France.” In the summer of 2018 she interned at the International Organization for Migration in Geneva. In the fall of 2018 she began a Master of Science in Migration Studies program in Oxford, England. Mia writes, “I really believe that CISLA, the honors



MIA IN SWITZERLAND

thesis process, and your continued support were significant components leading to an acceptance.”



VLADIMAR AND DOROTHY SHOWING OFF THEIR NEW WEDDING RINGS

Vladimir Chloubka '16 is a PhD student in political science at Ohio State University. Vlad did his CISLA internship in 2015 in Namibia. There he met Dorothy Mwila, who is Namibian, and the two married in 2018. They stopped by the CISLA office recently on their way to Maine for their honeymoon. Sometimes an internship is more than an internship. Collateral benefits.

Alexis Cheney '16 studied abroad and interned in Paris. She adored Paris. Her SIP was titled, “Legal and Political Portrayal of Prostitutes in 19th Century French and American Literature.” Alex wrote recently, “I am reaching out with an exciting update: I received an offer for a Project Manager position at a marketing firm, ChoYou in Paris! The firm assists technology companies in the U.S. and Europe.” During a recent trip to Paris she ended up having lunch with a Conn alum who put her in touch with the CEO of the marketing firm. Camel networking at its best.

Mo Smolskis '15. As an undergraduate, Mo was determined to attend the Coast Guard Academy. She was accepted to the intensive Officer Candidate Training program after graduation and today she is an Ensign stationed in Alaska. In 2014 she was one of four women nationally to receive the prestigious Women in Defense HORIZONS Scholarship. “My official rank is Ensign (ENS) and I am a Deck Watch Officer (DWO) aboard the CGC Sycamore based out of Cordova, AK. While we are underway I am qualified to drive the cutter. It took me about eight months to complete the requirements for my DWO letter. The cutter is a 225 ft buoy tender and our main mission is maintaining Aids to Navigation (ATON) in Prince William Sound and the Gulf of Alaska.”



MO SMOLSKI IN HER COAST GUARD UNIFORM

Rachel Newman '15 interned at the Museum of Pre-Columbian and Indigenous Art in Montevideo, Uruguay. Her SIP was titled, “Indigenism, Primitivism and Hybridism in South American Art.” She went to the University of Texas at Austin for her Master of Arts in Art History degree. “My research from Uruguay came up a surprising amount throughout grad school – my peers and professors thought it was amazing to have had an opportunity like that. It remains as one of the biggest and most important experiences of my academic career!” She currently works in development at the Texas Cultural Trust. P.S. Rachael will soon marry Jon Stark, her CISLA beau from sophomore year.

Sophia Delevie-Orey '15 did her internship in Santiago, Chile, at the Ministry of Education and Sexual Education Programs. She wrote her SIP on “The History of Sex Education in Chile.” She is currently in the nurse-midwifery program at the Yale School of Nursing where she will complete a three-year program and graduate with a Master of Science in Nursing.



ASHLING SHOWING OFF IN RWANDA

Ashling O'Donnell '15, who interned at High Atlas Foundation in Marrakesh, Morocco and completed an SIP titled, “Deconstructing Corporal Piety: Pregnancy and Ramadan,” is finishing up her contract with the Peace Corps. She has been stationed in Rwanda.

Eavey Newton '15, who interned in Berlin at Public Art Lab and completed an SIP titled, “Urban Media Culture in Public Art,” was

accepted at the University of Miami, her top choice, where she will pursue a Ph.D. in Physical Therapy, her dream. “I wanted to thank you again for giving me the opportunity to go to Berlin for an internship. Again, that was a major talking point in the interview for my current job (they accepted me in 6 days!!). The woman I interviewed with spoke German, and thought I would do well in Miami since I made it in Berlin. I wouldn't have been able to do it without your support at Conn and beyond!”



EAVEY COMES BACK TO VISIT CISLA AND MARY

Claire Wellbeloved-Stone '14 interned in the Galapagos Islands in Ecuador at the World Wildlife Fund and completed her SIP on “The Effect of Tourism on Development and Society.” She also completed a Master of Public Health degree at the Geisel School of Medicine, Dartmouth. Claire is now working for Blue Trunk Foundation which provides resources for people to travel regardless of age, disability or health. “For graduate school we've had a couple of presentations. Many students were uncomfortable with these events, it made me realize how much CISLA prepared me for graduate school (and the life beyond).”



MIMI TEACHING A CLASS AS PART OF HER UNFPA WORK WITH ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH

Mimi Bangali '13 majored in gender and women's studies and biology. Her internship was in Dakar, Senegal at the West African Women's Association. Her SIP was titled, “Social, Economic, Psychological and Emotional Effects of Fistula.” Mimi is from Sierra Leone where at

the time of graduation there was great anxiety in her country due to the Ebola crises. She returned home and worked at the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), where she contributed to national Ebola response efforts. Her dream of pursuing an advanced degree at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) has come true. Mimi received a Master of Science in Public Health for Development degree in September, after which she returned home to continue working to improve the health of women in Africa. Mimi is currently in Sierra Leone at the UNFPA working in the department of Adolescents and Youth.

Manuel Jimenez '12 interned in Geneva at the Exchange and Cooperation Center for Latin America. His SIP was titled, “International Institutions and the Economic Development of Latin America.” He completed a Master of Arts in International Economics and Finance and Latin American Studies at The School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins. Manuel is currently a Financial Institutions Investment Associate at Inter-American Development Bank Invest in Washington, D.C.

David Urbaneja Furelos '09 interned in Beijing at the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, Investment and Technology Promotion Office, and wrote his SIP on “The Europeanization of Chinese Business.” He completed a MSc in Modern Chinese Studies at Oxford and is currently an investment specialist at the Asian Development Bank in Manila. “Marcela and I are doing very well. We have been living in the Philippines since 2013 and I am really enjoying my job at the Asian Development Bank. It has been an amazing experience, not only working with China, but also expanding to other parts of Asia such as India, Sri Lanka and Pakistan.”

Liana M. Douillet Guzman '05 is the Senior VP for Marketing and Growth at Blockchain, a leading software platform for digital assets. The blog “women2.0” has high praise for Liana, stating that she is “The Woman Who Is Leading the Fintech Revolution with Blockchain.” Liana also co-founded The Pink Agenda and was able to raise millions of dollars for breast cancer research and awareness. P.S. Liana recently gave birth to her second child, a little girl named Luca.



LIANA VISITS CISLA AND DANTE

Amélie Baudot '02, has a Master in International Relations degree, Graduate Institute of International Studies, Geneva, and a Juris Doctor degree from the NYU School of Law. “My career took a very CISLA-esque turn last year into international development. I'm currently working as the Associate General Counsel for a social impact investor, called AgDevCo, based in London. AgDevCo uses grant funding to invest in small and medium size agribusiness in various sub-Saharan African countries with the aim of improving livelihoods. It's very close to my CISLA project! It even surprises me as I spent the time in between (since 2008) as a restructuring/finance lawyer for a law firm in New York and London.”

Noteworthy

IN THIS SECTION we highlight some of the extraordinary experiences, awards and accomplishments of our CISLA students. More and more of our students are receiving impressive awards and being asked to present at conferences — as undergraduates.

Esteban Melendez '20 was awarded the Myers Grant to continue his study of mushrooms and their applications as a source for food, medicine and ecological benefit.

Zelal Kilic '20 was awarded a ConnSharp to work with Professor Zakriski and Professor Armev from Brown University. She worked at a lab in Providence and did research on ecological momentary assessment to eventually evaluate how social media use affects feelings of depression and subjective well-being. This will also be the topic of her SIP.

Meher Khan '19 received a competitive Diversity Scholarship to attend the Seville Spanish Studies Fall Program.

Margie Giacalone '19 was asked to present at the Latin American and Caribbean Area Studies Fourth Biennial Undergraduate Conference. She presented her research, which eventually will become part of her CISLA SIP, "The Migration of Bolivian Women from the House to the Work Force."

Yves Pierre and Sam Simonds '19, Shineika Fareus (New London High School Senior) and **Connor Gowland CC '17**

traveled to Port-au-Prince, Haiti, during Spring break of 2017 to produce a documentary film on Haitian *Resteveks*. The word 'restevèk' in Haitian Creole translates to 'stay with,' and it is a societal system in which parents, who are either deceased or are too impoverished to take appropriate care of their children, send them to relatives or caregivers who promise to give them an education. Unfortunately, these children often live under conditions alike to indentured servitude and slavery. They are often abused and dehumanized. Yves says, "There are many parallels between *resteveks* in Haiti and the foster care system in the United States. In Haiti, we spent our time getting to know and interviewing pastors, academics, and *restevèk* children." They diligently raised funds from different sources for this project. The film premiered at the Trinidad and Tobago Film Festival in September.



YVES PIERRE AND SAM IN HAITI

Shaniqua Shaw and Lizzie Lewis '18 volunteered tirelessly as translators for Attorney Mike Doyle at the Immigration Advocacy and Support Center in New London (IASC). IASC was created to provide low-cost, high-quality immigration related legal services and to educate communities in Eastern CT on immigration law and policy. IASC assists immigrants of all nations,

with an emphasis on unaccompanied children, refugees seeking asylum, and survivors of domestic violence, sex trafficking, and other crimes. Because of their fluency in Spanish, Shaniqua and Lizzie were able to be of great service to Mike and his clients. Lizzie is currently a Litigation Legal Assistant at Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP in New York. Her future plans include going to law school. Shaniqua is working as an outreach paralegal in New Orleans for Southern Poverty Law Center.

Gabrielle Schlein '18 received the Lee Strasberg Award of tuition for one year to attend the Lee Strasberg Theater and Film Institute in NYC. She majored in theater and her CISLA internship was at Kaddu Yaraax Théâtre Forum in Dakar, Senegal. Gabrielle's SIP was titled, "The Politics Behind Senegalese Street Theater."

Jiho Park '18 studied abroad in Amman Jordan for a year. He was asked by the executive board of the Middle East Studies Student Association to present his research at their conference at Georgetown University in Doha, Qatar. His topic was on "The Narratives of Public Textbooks in Egypt."

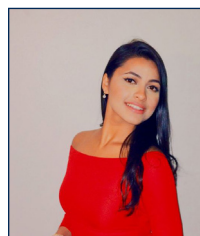
The Davis Projects for Peace awards are the vision of philanthropist Kathryn W. Davis. Projects for Peace challenges college students to create and test their own ideas for spreading peace across the world. Two CISLA students received this prestigious award, **Emma Race '18** and **Amiansu Khanal '20**.

Emma Race '18, a CISLA scholar, and **Annette Davis '18**, a Holleran Center Scholar, were awarded \$10,000 through the Projects for Peace initiative. Their project, "Caring for the Future: Helping Families Help Themselves," was one of 120 projects funded. Annette had spent a gap year in Ecuador and saw the need for child care for working families.



ANNETTE DAVIS AND EMMA RACE

The students partnered with Burbujitas de Luz, a preschool in Quito, Ecuador, to launch an evening care program that served children ages 3-5 from 4-8 p.m. daily. They offered enrichment activities, outside playtime and a light and healthy dinner. They also conducted research on food inequality and linguistic inequality. When Emma and Annette returned they started a program in the New London community called Voices Without Borders, which consisted of workshops, mostly in Spanish, with the local immigrant population to help them articulate their own stories about immigration. They raised funds for this project and eventually published the small book, *Voices Without Borders*. Emma is currently a Public Ally at the New Mexico Immigrant Law Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico.



AMI KHANAL

Amiansu Khanal's '20 country of origin is Nepal. With the funds from her Projects for Peace award, Ami spent June and July (2018) traveling to villages in Western Nepal to combat a common practice known as *chhaupadi*. Women and girls are exiled from their homes every month during their

menstrual cycle, often to huts and cattle sheds for 3-5 days because of the belief that they carry evil powers and bad luck during their periods. Upon her return to Nepal, Ami started the ShEmpowered program that created



IMAGE OF A TYPICAL HUT WHERE GIRLS ARE SENT

a curriculum which introduced women and girls to menstrual hygiene and provided them with a “get-started kit.” Initially Ami wanted to work with the parents and the elders of the community to reject chhaupadi but within a few weeks, she realized that the elders were not willing to co-operate. Thereafter, Ami took a different path and worked to make the local police officers a catalyst for change. Chhaupadi is no longer legal, but the young women often do not know their rights to self-advocate. She then focused her efforts on increasing legal awareness among school girls. She decoded what the constitution has to say regarding forced chhaupadi, and taught girls that they could file a lawsuit against their parents for forcing them to practice chhaupadi. She then introduced affected girls to heads of local law enforcement, who pledged to support them in their self-advocacy. Soon the girls started telling their parents, “If you force me to sleep in huts from now on, I will call the police, whom I know personally.” Many parents, thereafter, started to let their daughters sleep in their own rooms. Her goal was to train law enforcement and the affected girls to continue her work when she left. Ami also hopes to submit this self-advocacy model as a chhaupadi policy proposal to the Nepali government.

Nam Hoang ’17 was awarded a Critical Languages Scholarship (CLS) to spend the summer studying Chinese in Taiwan. CLS is a U.S. government effort to expand the number of Americans studying and mastering critical languages.



ALEX McDEVITT AND RAMZI KAISS IN COLUMBIA

Alexandra McDevitt ’17 was chosen to go to Bogotá, Colombia for the 16th World Summit for Nobel Peace Laureates. She attended with fellow senior Ramzi Kaiss. Because earlier in the year they had participated in the Oxford Consortium for Human Rights, they were offered a spot in the Youth Delegation at this prestigious conference. Alex says, “In addition to hearing

from President Santos and other members of his cabinet, we met Nobel Peace Laureates from all over the world.” Alex is currently a Program Assistant at Reproductive Health Supply Coalition in Washington, D.C.

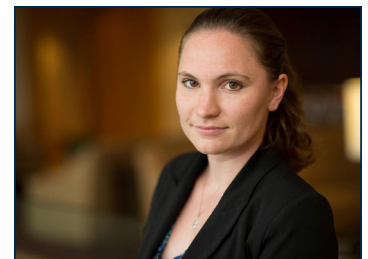
Ben Ballard ’16 presented at the Midwestern Political Science Association conference in Chicago. He presented the research that he was doing with Professor Daniela Melo on the topic of his CISLA Senior Integrative Project, “The Effects of Feminist

Social Movements on the Political Climate of Morocco.” Ben is in his first year of a master’s program in development economics at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy in Boston, MA.

Mia Haas-Goldberg ’16 and Dominic Lentini ’18 were chosen by the government department to attend an Iran Simulation conference hosted by Colorado College and the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs. It was part of a three-year project to bridge the gap between civilian and military students. The conference consisted of 34 students and six professors. Together they represented the U.S. Air Force Academy, U.S. Army War College, the Navy, U.S. Coast Guard, Virginia Military Academy, West Point, Connecticut College, Dickinson, Bard, Vassar, Brown, and Washington and Lee. They debated possible policy recommendations surrounding potential Iranian noncompliance to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. Mia’s role was Assistant to the President of Public Affairs in the Executive Office of the President. “We debated policy recommendations for the ‘President’ and received crisis updates every few hours which served to challenge our decision.” Mia was also chosen through a competitive process to be the senior speaker at the College graduation.

Leela Riesz ’16, was selected as the recipient of the first Claire Gaudiani ’66 Award for Excellence in the Senior Integrative Project. Her thesis was titled, “Eating Halal in Spain: Muslim Immigrant Identity and the Restaurant Space.” We were thrilled that this first award was given to a CISLA scholar, as President Claire Gaudiani was responsible for having created the CISLA program in 1989. Leela completed 2 years as a Fulbright Teaching Assistant in Madrid, and is currently a Program Coordinator at Race Relations Madrid.

Lauren Burke ’06, a Forbes 30 Under 30 lawyer, went on the road in a van for a six-month trip across the country to provide legal on-demand services to immigrants. Lauren received her Juris Doctor degree at NYU and started practicing immigration law. In 2011, she met Martina Carrillo and founded Atlas: DIY, a non-profit to empower immigrant youth. Burke grew Atlas over the next five years, raising more than two million dollars and serving hundreds of youth a month. Carrillo, a former undocumented student, and Lauren knew they could not turn away from helping immigrants. They began a Kickstarter campaign to finance the trip they had envisioned to help immigrant youth across the country. On the road for six months and 17,000 miles, they reached 1500 individuals, gave legal consultations and appeared in court. Lauren is currently the CEO and co-founder of Notehouse, software for everyone who takes notes on humans.



LAUREN BURKE

Together with the Alumni office, CISLA organized a panel on “Global CONNections: Growing your Network and Expanding your Horizons” featuring **Sarah Schoellkopf ’97, Johann Gregory ’10, Meghan Ball ’12 and Kathy Avgerinos Docampo ’06.**

Fulbrights

Aidan Gorrell '18 received the Fulbright Scholarship for the English Teaching Assistant Award.

He returned to Germany in the fall of 2018.



Two CISLA students from the **Class of 2016** were awarded Fulbright Scholarships for the English Teaching Assistant Award. After graduation, **Leela Riesz (l)** returned to Spain and **Stephanie Reeves (r)** returned to Russia.



Reunions

WE HAD SEVERAL reunions in the past two years. We decided to host a luncheon during CC Reunion weekend. These have been a great success, with partners, babies and great conversation. CISLA alumni loved being together, reminiscing, and sharing their career paths. The first reunion on campus was in 2017, and we repeated it in 2018 with the same enthusiastic response.

ON CAMPUS IN JUNE 2018

We did host our reunion in June of 2018, but unfortunately we forgot to take a picture.

ON CAMPUS IN JUNE 2017

Seventeen alumni joined us in June 2017. **Lena Borst class of '97** was the oldest alumna, and **Liz Greeman** came the farthest, from Hawaii. There were babies as well. **Ted Fischer '12, Alex Owen '12, Joe Larkin '07, Andrea Amulic '12, Sarah Felch Ettinger '07, Stephanie Weiss '07, Emily Honstein '07, Liz Greeman Rietz '07, Grant Hogan '07, Chris Bother '07, Liz Bradley '07, Carrie Wousnousky '12, Susanna Sprague '12, Megan McCarthy '07, Elaine Weisman '07, Mary Devins, Sarah Schoelkopf '97 and Lena Borst '97. Claudia Krugovoy** is from the first graduating class of 1992.



D.C. IN JANUARY 2017

At the strident urging and organizing of **Grant Hogan '07**, a D.C. reunion was organized. In January 2017, Marc Forster and Mary Devins went to D.C. and met with a terrific crowd of CISLA alumni. They met at a local restaurant where over 20 alumni showed up for a wonderful evening of conversation and memories of the undergraduate years and the CISLA journey. As is typical with a D.C. crowd, they are all involved in very interesting careers in the fields of education, policy, the environment, and social justice. All present expressed a desire to help CISLA in any way, but especially with job networking.



ATTENDEES: ALEXIS CHENEY '16, AMELIA CARVALHO '99, DANIELLE CYR '15, ELAINE WEISMAN '07, LIZ BRADLEY '07, GABE COHEN '01, HARRIS KRIZMANICH '17, IKRAM LAKHDHAR '13, JACQUELINE FULGHAM '14, NYE SLEEPER '10, KIM BENDER '00, SAM LINDO '08, MANUEL JIMENEZ '12, SOPHIA DELEVIE OREY '15, SYBIL BULLOCK '14, STEFANIE WEISS, '07, MEGAN MCCARTHY '07, MEREDITH BOYLE '13, GRANT HOGAN '07, CAITLIN LE BLANC '08 AND MACKENZIE LILLY '13.

NAFSA CONFERENCE IN 2016

Mary attended the NAFSA conference in Denver the summer of 2016 and was able to pull together a diverse group of CISLA alumni for a fun evening of reminiscing.



SARAH SEIGLE '12, KATE GRECO '94, MARICO WILCOX '99, MARY, TAYLOR MCCURDY Z, HANDE DENIZ BALTACI '04 AND CALEY CORSELLO '07

CISLA Internships

Supervisor Comments

IN THE MIDWAY MARK *of an internship, we write to the supervisors to check in and be sure everything is going well. It is always heartening to read the wonderful comments about our CISLA students.*

Jon Stark / J-PARC SR Group in Tokai, Japan

“We hope Jonathon enjoyed his stay with us... It was like a fresh air blowing in from the east coast.”

Carolyn Cross / Fundación Emplea in Santiago, Chile

“It has been a pleasure having Carolyn at Fundación Emplea, she is a prepared and proactive contributor of the team with an incredibly positive attitude.”

Julia Reilly / Association des bibliothèques scolaires et des ressources d'apprentissage in Tunis, Tunisia

“Julia integrates quickly, she has great listening skills. She is curious to learn and she is also discreet and this is a very rare quality that I appreciate a lot as well as my colleagues.”

Morgan Fowle / University Castilla-la Mancha in Toledo, Spain

“She is doing a great job researching and looking up data for her project. She works very hard and her Spanish level is improving every day.”

Cheikh Gaye / United Nations Relief and Works Agency in Beirut, Lebanon

“We are so lucky having Cheikh with us specifically during this critical timing for the Agency. Cheikh has been providing a full assistance for the emergency preparedness plan simulation exercise which is scheduled to take place tomorrow. I am sure with such dedicated persons, our simulation exercise is going to be a success. Looking forward to send my updates tomorrow, thanking you and wishing to receive internship applications from students like Cheikh.”

Mary Kate Fox / Fondation des États-Unis in Paris, France

“We are absolutely delighted to have her as an intern. Initially I was a little concerned about taking on a young intern with little work experience, although her motivation was clear from the moment she contacted us. Mary Kate learns very fast and is a pleasure to have at the office.”

Meher Khan / Office of the Ombudsman in Madrid, Spain

“Meher is a willing, responsible, and capable person with an excellent academic background. She is executing all the tasks with punctuality and efficiently. Her internship is being a very interesting experience for us.”

Sercan Durmus / Stallfohr lab at the Hans Knoell Institute in Jena, Germany

“Everything is going very well and Sercan is doing exceptionally well in our lab!”

Sami Feldman / Prachtwerk in Berlin, Germany

“Sami has been a delight. She has fit into our team very well so far, and it’s hard to believe that her time is halfway through already! She has been working with me for the past five weeks at the Fondation, and she has been very helpful. I appreciate her being pro-active as well as the confident and constructive working attitude. Whenever we evaluate an event she speaks her mind and raises constructive questions. It’s very helpful to have someone with fresh eyes on this.”

Serenity Chen / Tsingying Film in Beijing, China

“Yes, it’s a wonderful month since Serenity joined us at the beginning of this June. She is very helpful in our team. Even on the second day she arrived, she began to travel with our field shooting team to Sichuan Province. And I really believe that she could learn a lot about how to make a documentary film as well as contemporary China where she lives her life now!”

Olivia Domowitz / Fondation Orient-Occident in Rabat, Morocco

“She has been working with me for the past five weeks at the Fondation, and she has been very helpful. Usually Olivia helps me with intake processing for migrants in our programs, and also attends off-site events. Olivia is doing good work here at Fondation Orient Occident, and we are happy to have her help.”

Megan Gummer / China Development Institute in Shenzhen, China

“Megan is adapting to the work environment here quickly. Megan is a good team worker, who provides many supports to us. We hope the internship will bring some enlightenment to her academic progress and career planning.”

Summer Wrobel / American Center of Oriental Research in Amman, Jordan

“Summer has been a fantastic intern and has helped on so many fronts as well, particularly for our 50th anniversary gala. For that she did extensive research on projects and follow up... We will have many positive things to say about Summer when we need to fill out the form. We feel very lucky that it worked out for her to be part of ACOR during this period. She and I worked closely together on a very intense project and I was very impressed and appreciative.”

Ege Sakirt / Galleria Nazionale dell'Umbria in Perugia, Italy

“Ege’s internship is going really good, he’s very helpful to me and he’s able to carry out many different tasks. He also has good relationships with the other members of the staff. He’s taking part to the events of the National Gallery even outside normal working hours. I hope Ege’s feedback is positive too!”

Mari Giaimo / Sabino Arana Fundazioa in Bilbao, Spain

“I dare say that Mari is very happy to stay in Bilbao with us. She is a very hardworking girl, willing to learn ... For the time being perfectly performing the tasks I assign... If we add the warm, friendly cheerful and polite character, the combination cannot be more positive.”

What's New?

THE BIG MOVE. After almost 28 years as residents of Fanning, CISLA now has a new home in the Walter Commons, located on the first floor in Blaustein Humanities Center. Otto and Fran Walter gave the naming gift to create a space on campus for global study and engagement.



CISLA HAS TWO NEW STAFF members who are both a perfect match for their positions. Cara Masullo joined the team in the fall of 2016 as Internship Coordinator and Publications Specialist. A speaker of Italian who is currently pursuing a Master's in International Education, Cara has worked and traveled extensively with student groups abroad. In addition to helping students find internships, Cara works closely with the Office of Global Initiatives to design comprehensive pre-departure and re-entry workshops. In the future we hope to institutionalize required pre-departure and re-entry mini-courses for all students. Betsy Lebel joined us in September 2017 as the Administrative

Assistant. She is a talented designer and an excellent editor, not to mention a superb colleague. We are fortunate to have these two join our team.

WE TRIED A FEW NEW WORKSHOPS these past years that were both fun and interesting. Students complained that they did not know how to cook and asked if they could have cooking lessons. During the internship students must cook for themselves in order to live within a budget, and many have no idea how to cook anything. Anne Haviland from Annie's Kitchen came to campus for an evening of learning to cook in Unity House, and, of course, enjoying the fruits of their labor.

JESSICA SOFFER '07 taught several classes on travel writing. Author of the bestselling novel, *Tomorrow There Will Be Apricots*, Jess hosts writing retreats across the country. She has been teaching creative writing at the College for several years. In class, she guided CISLA students on voice, content, details, narrative arc, and how best to put their observations and emotions into words.

IT IS NOW AN ANNUAL TRADITION that Noel Garrett, Dean of Academic Support and Director of the Academic Resource Center, teaches a workshop called Financial Literacy for graduating seniors. Noel asked students to make a list of things they would have to pay for once they left the college nest: housing, food, loans, phone, internet, clothing, medication, entertainment, transportation, gifts, and more. He then showed them a typical pay stub and explained one-by-one all the normal deductions: federal withholding tax, social security tax, Medicare and state taxes. He discussed credit cards and illustrated the pitfalls of paying only the minimum. He stressed the importance of creating a budget and living by it. Students were very grateful, albeit a bit alarmed about the "real world."

THE WALTER COMMONS FOR GLOBAL STUDY AND ENGAGEMENT

The Otto and Fran Walter Commons for Global Study and Engagement officially opened its doors in January 2018. Encompassing much of the ground floor of Blaustein Humanities Center, the Walter Commons has transformed formerly underutilized space into a dynamic hub of critical dialogues, language study, cross-departmental collaborations, experiential learning, networked courses with international partners, and myriad events on themes of global significance. Multidisciplinary and collaborative by design, the Walter Commons integrates technology-enhanced learning and interdisciplinary scholarship to advance intercultural communication, reciprocal institutional partnerships, and infuse our campus and off-campus programs with diverse world perspectives on critical issues of our times.

The Walter Commons is home to the Global Learning Lab, the Office of Study Away, the Center for the Critical Study of Race and Ethnicity, the Center for International Studies and

the Liberal Arts, and the Office of Global Initiatives. Together, these groups work to promote the critical study of social difference, both domestically and abroad, and to deepen knowledge of cultures and communities within and beyond the United States. Collaborations between CISLA and the Office of Global Initiatives include:

- the development of Study Away pre-departure and re-entry programming for all Connecticut College students
- the creation of a Global Scholars Fund that distributes \$25,000 annually to support students studying away and completing international internships
- participation in a cross-departmental Global-Local Engagement Council
- the implementation of a new Department of Education grant to integrate foreign language internships into students' academic programs.

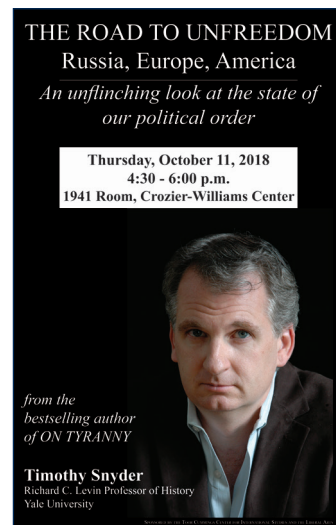
CISLA

Distinguished Lecturer

TIMOTHY SNYDER, a leading American historian and public intellectual, gave a lecture on October 11, 2018, in which he discussed his new book, *The Road to Unfreedom* (2018). CISLA sponsored the event, which was followed by a lively question and answer period. The event was well attended, free, and open to the public.

After the talk, CISLA scholars and other CC students spoke with Snyder over dinner. Responding to questions about the international order, the rise of authoritarian nationalism, and the role of social media in the 2016 U.S. presidential elections, Snyder engaged students on topics of contemporary relevance and urgency. As a scholar fluent in five languages who reads five more, he encouraged students to study languages to more deeply understand the world, learn from others in different cultures, and gain valuable perspectives on our own culture.

Snyder is Richard C. Levin Professor of History at Yale University and a permanent fellow at the Institute for Human Sciences in Vienna. He is the author of *On Tyranny*, *Black Earth*, *Bloodlands*, and other acclaimed scholarly books. His work has received the literature award of the American Academy of Arts and Letters and the Hannah Arendt Prize, among many others.



Reunion in Greece

What do you think about a CISLA summer reunion in Greece in 2020 to be organized by **Symeon Tsalicoglou '94** and Mary Devins? Symeon lives and works in Athens.

If you are interested, contact Symeon at stsalicoglou@gmail.com or Mary at msdev@conncoll.edu and we will put together a list of interested participants and begin to think about dates and logistics.

This could be fun.

CISLA Alumni Questionnaire

From Mary:

I can proudly say that I attended the CISLA graduation for every CISLA class, starting with the first class of 1992. There are over 700 CISLA alumni, many of whom I still stay in touch with for professional and personal reasons.

We want to reach out to every CISLA alum through a survey with multiple aims: to see where you are in life's journey; to assess the impact of the program on your career paths; to see if you have any suggestions to incorporate into the program; and to ask whether you wish to be involved with current students in CISLA.

All questions in this survey are optional, and you are welcome to skip any you do not wish to answer. It takes approximately 10 minutes to complete the survey.

The URL is <https://tinyurl.com/ybr8ryvo>

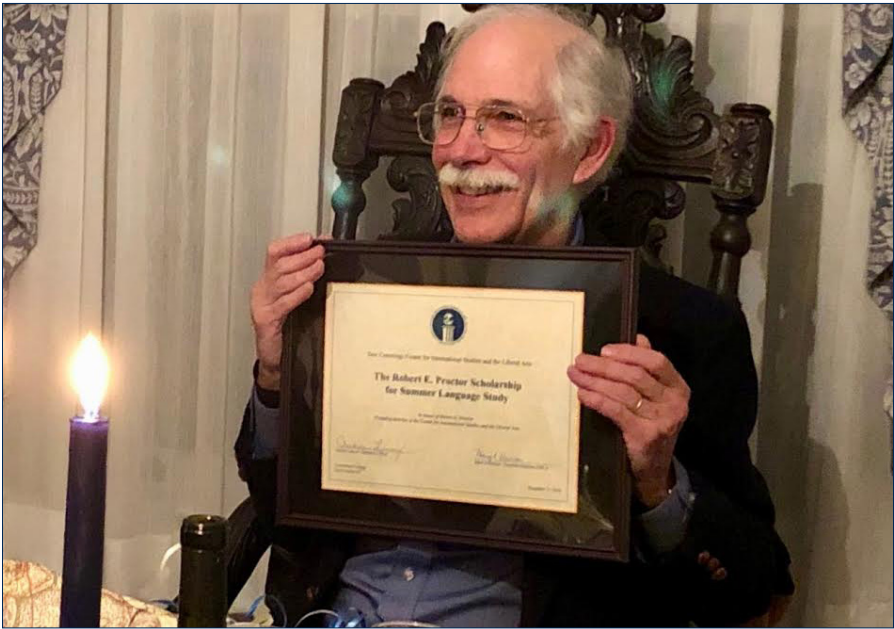
The above link will also be emailed to you if we have your current email address on file.

Or, you may use your smart phone camera to scan this QR code for easy survey access.

We look forward to hearing from you!



Photograph from CISLA founder Bob Proctor's retirement gathering (see article, page 1)



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