



Director's Column *by Andea Lanoux*

THE EXTRAORDINARY YEAR OF 2020

transformed higher education, including the CISLA program, in previously unimagined ways. In March, when Connecticut College shifted to remote instruction, 36 members of the CISLA sophomore class found themselves completing the second half of the CISLA gateway course from home. Meanwhile, 14 CISLA juniors were sent home from their respective study away countries, some just weeks after having arrived; and 26 CISLA seniors were preparing to launch their independent lives at a time of frightening uncertainty.

The challenge of delivering a premier global education without international travel has required all of us in CISLA — staff and students alike — to be creative, responsive, and flexible. Thankfully, these are qualities for which CISLA scholars are well known. Not surprisingly, our current students and recent alumni from the class of 2020 have shown remarkable resilience in the face of the pandemic. In the pages that follow, we highlight our response to the COVID-19 crisis in the spheres of curriculum, internships, events, and new programming. What is less easy to capture is how the pandemic has changed our everyday lives: with the



MANY OF THE STUDENTS OF THE CISLA CLASS OF 2022 AT THE SOPHOMORE BANQUET ON FEBRUARY 16, 2020.

CISLA team working from home for close to a year now, our previously bustling office with students stopping by for candy, or flopping on the couch to talk to Mary, is eerily quiet. This photograph of the last sophomore banquet on February 16, 2020, with students crowded together and smiling after their (excellent!) presentations, looks like an artifact from another era 2020 BC, before COVID-19.

That said, the most important parts of CISLA have remained unchanged: the cohort experience; the call to research; the creation of new knowledge; and the urgency of a better understanding of the complex forces changing the world. If anything, the challenges of COVID-19 have drawn CISLA scholars closer together, even as they remain apart. The difficulties of delivering CISLA's unique, and in many cases, life-changing program in the current environment are massive, and I do not mean to minimize them. But the

past year has shown us what is essential to global learning: the curious inquiry into others' experiences; the commitment to connecting with communities around the globe despite the obstacles; and the fortitude to face global challenges head on, including those exacerbated by the pandemic. We are still here, educating the leaders who will pose solutions to these challenges, and we are eager to tell you below what they are up to.

Global Education in the Age of COVID-19 *by Andrea Lanoux*

WHEN THE COVID-19 CRISIS PROMPTED

Connecticut College and thousands of other colleges and universities to pivot to remote instruction in March 2020, CISLA sophomores had just finished the first half of "IS 201: Perspectives on Modern Global Society." Marc Zimmer, the first professor slated to teach after spring break, didn't miss a beat: he threw out his planned lessons and taught the global response to COVID-19 instead. CISLA scholars were among the first students to learn how the virus travels, mutates, and exacerbates structural inequalities — all of which we have seen play out in subsequent months.

IS 201 remains a cornerstone of the CISLA curriculum and the first common intellectual experience scholars have in the program. This year's IS 201 teaching team — Sunil Bhatia, Chris Steiner, Suzuko Knott, Ariella Rotramel, Bina-Lakshmi Nepram, and Andea Lanoux — are foregrounding concepts central to the field of global studies: positionality, internationalism, globalization, colonialism, social difference, cultural appropriation, global citizenship, and intercultural

competence, among others. We are inviting members of the class of 2023 to explore these issues in the context of their CISLA country, while at the same time further developing their research question, skills, and methods.

In fall 2020, IS 401 (the CISLA senior seminar) was delivered in hybrid format, with some classes occurring over Zoom and others being taught in person. Although many faculty wax nostalgic for the days when we would sit around a seminar table discussing ideas, the shift to remote learning has also brought new pedagogical discoveries. In November 2020, Cara Masullo Ekwuabu, CISLA's International Education Specialist and Internship Coordinator, conducted a class in IS 401 utilizing Zoom breakout rooms to facilitate Story Circles, an intercultural methodology where students shared experiences from their time abroad and remote internships to highlight what they learned about cultural differences while practicing deep listening and empathy. We are interested in exploring additional ways scholars can learn from each others' experiences in the senior year.

Andrea D. Lanoux
Director

Suzuko Knott
Associate Faculty Director

Mary S. Devins
Associate Director

Cara Masullo Ekwuabu
International Education
Specialist and
Internship Coordinator

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William Tarimo
Marc Zimmer

IS 201

Teaching Team

Sunil Bhatia
Suzuko Knott
Andrea Lanoux
Bina-Lakshmi Nepram
Ariella Rotramel
Chris Steiner



CAST MEMBERS IN THE FILM, "SONORA."

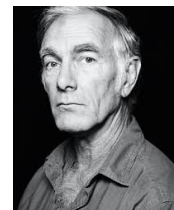
SONORA FILM SCREENING

CISLA was proud to screen the film, *Sonora*, and to have writer, John Sayles, and producer/director, Alejandro Springall, join us for a Q&A afterward. Set during the Great Depression, the story follows a mixed group of people who must cross the harsh Sonora desert together as they encounter the realities of racism and unrelenting dangers of the desert. Several faculty members required the students to watch the film and be prepared to ask informed questions, which they did. The event was a great success.

Just two days before the screening at Connecticut College, Alejandro received word that *Sonora* had received 10 nominations for the Ariel Awards (the

Mexican equivalent of the Academy Awards) and won two impressive awards at the ceremony. John won the Ariel for Best Screenplay, and *Sonora* won for Best Original Music.

John Sayles is an independent film director, screenwriter, actor, and editor. He is considered one of the preeminent independent film makers in the United States. To date, he has directed 18 films and written 7 novels and numerous screenplays. John has been nominated twice for an academy award for Best Original Screenplay, for *Passion Fish* and *Lonestar*. His film, *Men With Guns*, was nominated for Best Foreign Language Film. John was the recipient of the prestigious MacArthur Fellowship award, also known as the MacArthur Genius Award.



JOHN SAYLES

Alejandro Springall is a director and producer from Mexico. He studied filmmaking at the London Film School and returned to Mexico where he founded his production company, Springall Productions. Alejandro has received numerous awards, including the Latin American Cinema Award at the Sundance International Film Festival.



ALEJANDRO SPRINGALL

JENNIFER DE LEON '01, AUTHOR OF *DON'T ASK ME WHERE I'M FROM* — A BOOK DISCUSSION

We were delighted to welcome Jenn back to campus. She had recently finished her book, *Don't Ask Me Where I'm From*, a young adult novel that tells the story of first-generation, American Latinx, Liliana Cruz, who does what it takes to fit in at her new school. But when family secrets spill out and racism at a predominantly white institution explodes, she must decide what she believes in and take a stand.

A recent review from Common Sense Media states, "Author Jennifer De Leon's debut novel is an engaging and thought-provoking story that will get readers thinking about lots of important personal, political, and cultural issues... *Don't Ask Me Where I'm From* inspires empathy and encourages getting to know people as individuals instead of types or skin colors by emphasizing that no single group's experience or background is the same for everyone in that group."

The book's topic is timely given the important conversations in our country and on campus around issues of racism, diversity and inclusion. Jenn, a first-

generation college student, was born to Guatemalan parents. She was open and candid when talking with students about her own challenges of being Latina at Conn in the late 1990's and early 2000's. Her insights were profound.

Jenn is Assistant Professor of Creative Writing at Framingham State University and a GrubStreet instructor and board member. She has published prose in over a dozen literary journals, including *Ploughshares*, *Iowa Review*, and *Michigan Quarterly Review*. Her essay collection, *White Space: Essays on Culture, Race, & Writing*, has just recently been published. Jenn previously came to campus for a discussion of her book, *Wise Latinas*. She lives outside of Boston with her husband and two sons. Jenn is a devoted and proud alumna and generously gives her time and energy to Connecticut College.



JENNIFER DE LEON

Shyanne T. Temple '20 YOUNG ALUMNI TRUSTEE



SHYANNE'S COURSEWORK AT CONN, along with her 2019 summer internship as a research assistant at the University of Chile in Santiago, Chile led to her CISLA senior

integrative project, "The Effects of PM 2.5 on Infants Born Small for Gestational Age."

Temple majored in biochemistry, cellular and molecular biology, graduating with a B.A. in May 2020. A natural leader, Temple is former director of the CC Gospel Choir and the founder of Womxn of Color Collective (WOCC), a Conn club that builds community with women of color through meetings and events with students, staff and faculty. Shyanne was the 2020 recipient of the Community Builder Award.

She joined the Connecticut College Board of Trustees as a Young Alumni Trustee in 2020, and last September, Shyanne began working as a research associate at Sanofi in Cambridge, MA. *(Revised and reprinted with permission from Bonnie Wells.)*



SUZUKO KNOTT AND CISLA STUDENTS GATHER IN THE WALTER COMMONS ON CONN COMMUNITY DAY IN MARCH 2021

Suzuko Knott Joins CISLA

WE ARE THRILLED TO ANNOUNCE

that Suzuko Knott, Associate Professor of German Studies, has joined CISLA as Associate Faculty Director for the spring 2021 semester. Professor Knott is currently teaching in the CISLA gateway course (IS 201), supporting the ongoing development of the CISLA curriculum, advising CISLA scholars, and working with the CISLA team to develop co-

curricular programming. Professor Knott brings extensive experience in global education, study away advising, and faculty leadership, and we are honored to welcome her to the CISLA team!

In fall 2021, Professor Knott will be serving as interim Faculty Director of CISLA during Andrea Lanoux's sabbatical leave. We are grateful for all that Professor Knott has brought to CISLA to date, and for the leadership and creative vision that she will bring to the center this fall.

Parents' Perspective

by Karen and Jim Armata

THE FORMATIVE JOURNEY for our daughter, Amy Armata '20, began with the decision to join the Camels of Connecticut College, and she arrived on campus hitting the ground running both literally and figuratively. Amy learned through the application process that CISLA represented an opportunity for students to make a difference in the global world and shape possibilities for the future.

The introduction ceremony into CISLA proved to be beyond our expectations. The articulation of alumni members on their journeys, faculty, and of course our newest inductees, illustrated a wealth of anecdotal records with a common theme of cultural sensitivity and long-reaching branches of possibilities and potential. We now better understand why Amy was anxious about her presentation. Thankfully, Mary Devins, Ali Plucinski, and Cara Masullo Ekwuabu instilled confidence and guidance, leaving no doubt she would persevere!



The introductions, foundational work, and early preparation were completed, and it was now time to begin phase two of the journey. Amy had taken a course with Professor Borer entitled,

"Politics and Refugees," which ignited in her a new love and passion. She was scheduled to be studying in an immersion program abroad in France to prepare for her internship in Dakar but wondered whether CISLA would be open to a change in topic and an internship in Senegal addressing this new area of interest.

Amy started investigating her options, but then COVID-19 took Europe by storm! IES Abroad swiftly and safely secured another residence for her. However, shortly thereafter, she was sent back to the States. Study abroad would be moved to online, and with the pandemic growing we were relieved to have her safely returned home. Her abroad summer internship started to feel a bit out of reach.

Amy persevered, discovering the non-profit agency, Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services (IRIS) based in New Haven, CT. She interviewed and was approved for the internship. Amy also pursued and was accepted for an additional remote internship with an organization in Senegal called Plateforme des Femmes pour la Paix en Casamance (PFPC). The support of Mary, Cara, and CISLA alumna, Mimi Bangali Nonie '13, established a foundational position that provided an incredible vehicle for success. Amy was now doing two internships, continuing with online coursework, and enjoying a remarkable experience in these unconventional times.

Amy is currently still working with the IRIS program in New Haven; she works and tutors children, helping them to become acclimated to life in the United States. In a letter sent by one of her students, Asiah says it best in his remarks: "(Amy was) a teacher who not just saw our today but managed to make us see our tomorrow as well."

New Initiatives by Andrea Lanoux

JUST BECAUSE STUDENTS CANNOT TRAVEL

does not mean the CISLA mission stops. If anything, our aim to educate students to become culturally sensitive, socially engaged, and politically informed leaders feels more urgent than ever before. To continue to advance students' language skills and global engagement in the absence of international travel, we launched two new initiatives this year with colleagues in the Walter Commons for Global Study and Engagement: the Global COVID Project and the Summer Language Challenge (July 6 - August 16, 2020), followed by the Winter Language Challenge (December 30, 2020 - February 1, 2021).

After IS 201 ended in May, six CISLA scholars continued to meet over the summer to design a long-term, group research project to better understand COVID-19 from a transnational perspective, and specifically to chart how the pandemic is impacting communities throughout the globe. From these initial conversations, the Global COVID Project was born, initially as a first-year seminar with 18 students in fall 2020, then later as an international, collaborative initiative involving 46 students from Connecticut College and four partner institutions: Ashesi University in Ghana; Ashoka University in India; the Higher School of Economics in Russia; and the University of China/Morningside College in Hong Kong. Beginning on January 26 and running through April 2021, eight international teams of student researchers are building upon the work of the fall to expand the Global COVID website, <http://globalcovid19.digital.conncoll.edu/>. Whereas most sites devoted to the pandemic report on objective measures, such as transmission rates, numbers of COVID-19-related deaths, and vaccine development, our project aims to understand how the pandemic is changing our world, following in our mission of advancing the liberal arts to better understand complex global phenomena.

The Summer Language Challenge launched on July 6, 2020, in response to the pandemic to help students advance their language skills and strengthen connections between members of the Connecticut College community in the absence of in-person language programs and summer travel. Organized by three student interns, CISLA scholars Jordon Groff '22, Anzhela Mirzoeva '23, and Mingyur Paldon '23, the Summer Language Challenge provided structured opportunities for participants to set personal goals, share resources, engage in learner-driven activities, meet for conversation practice, and earn fabulous prizes!

This "gamification" of language learning produced remarkable results: together, 175 registered participants logged 188,334 minutes (the equivalent of 3,138 hours, 130 days, or 4.2 months) studying 22 different languages: American Sign Language, Arabic, Bengali, Bulgarian, Chinese, Dutch, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Norwegian, Persian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Urdu, and Vietnamese. Not surprisingly, 6 of the top 10 scorers in the Summer Language Challenge were CISLA scholars: Samirah Jaigirdar '22; Emily Cowan '21; Jacob Nozaki '22; Hillary Tun '21; Jack Rider-McGovern '21; and Arrayán Vanegas-Farrara '23.

Thanks to the incredible success of this initiative, a Winter Language Challenge was launched in January 2021, led by CISLA scholars Jack Rider-McGovern '21, Ketsi Tsolo '22, Anzhela Mirzoeva '23, and Mingyur Paldon '23, under the direction of Laura Little, director of the Global Learning Lab. Over 158 members of the Conn College community completed the Challenge in 18 different languages, logging over 1,545 hours of language practice over the course of four weeks. You can read more about the language challenges and other initiatives at the Walter Commons website, waltercommons.digital.conncoll.edu.

Internships During the Pandemic

by Cara Masullo Ekwuabu

SPRING SEMESTER in the CISLA office is typically a time of bustling activity as the juniors prepare to launch their transformative CISLA international internship. March of 2020 certainly held a burst of activity, but instead of continued forward momentum towards the coveted CISLA international experience, it was a grand pivot to remote engagement. Within two short months, CISLA staff and students were tasked with re-envisioning international education in the face of a global pandemic and suspended travel. With a remarkable team effort on the part of CISLA staff, students,

and several invaluable CISLA alumni, the majority of the junior class was able to secure remote internships for the summer of 2020. While grieving the loss of what most alumni reflect back on as the high point of their CISLA career--the international internship--we were surprised and delighted at the many positive outcomes of these remote experiences. Students reported making meaningful contributions to their organizations, having learned how to work on remote teams, developing stronger communication and writing skills, and honing their digital literacy skills. There is always a silver lining to be found, and while remote engagement will never fully replace in-person experiences, it can open up doors to robust learning opportunities, access to more students, and increased flexibility. The summer of 2021 will likely proceed with more remote internships, and we are eager to apply lessons learned from 2020 to future experiences.

CISLA Class of 2023

OUR NEWEST CLASS OF 35 CISLA SCHOLARS

is a remarkable group with an incredibly broad range of interests. Collectively they represent 31 different majors, and they plan to conduct research in 27 countries and in 14 different languages, including the indigenous languages Kichwa and Kaqchikel. Their research interests include the impact of natural disasters in Japan; resilient microeconomies in favela communities in Brazil; educational exchanges between Soviet Russia, the Czech Republic, and East Germany; drug development against infectious diseases in South Africa; using dance to teach natural languages in cross-cultural contexts; drug-trafficking on the Tajik-Afghan border; the role of art and cultural exchange in Russo-Japanese relations; expressions of Afro-Columbian identity in music and dance; historical interactions between Kaqchikel populations and Spanish colonists in Guatemala; the minorization of Berbers in Morocco and of Moroccans in France; and the comparison of Tibetan and Somalia refugee populations in Minnesota.

Alumni Updates

MARI GIAIMO '19

is working at EF Go Ahead Tours and says that selling travel during a pandemic has been difficult, but that it has been nice to cultivate optimism for the future. Mari is also applying to law schools for 2022 admission.

JUSTIN WINOKUR '18

Recently, Justin completed a two-year position as a research assistant to Graham Allison at Harvard Kennedy School's Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, where he studied U.S. foreign policy and helped run Harvard's Applied History Project. He is now a PhD student in 20th-century international history at the University of Virginia and an Associate of the Applied History Project.

BEN BALLARD '16

is currently a Research Fellow at the Citizen Lab, University of Toronto, where he is researching global cyber governance and technology policy. Ben will soon be working at MITRE Corp as a cybersecurity engineer doing work related to foreign policy such as advising foreign partners on things like planning a "smart" city and protecting elections from hackers.

ALEXIS CHENEY '16

has begun a dual Master's degree in international affairs between Sciences Po in Paris and Columbia in NYC. She thanks Mary Devins, who edited her application. Alexis will begin an internship at the OECD in Paris in January 2021; she is enjoying studying in Paris again after her exchange there in college.



ALEXIS (FAR LEFT) WITH GRADUATE SCHOOL FRIENDS AT THE CHATEAU DE FONTAINEBLEAU

STEPHANIE REEVES '16

moved to California this year and started a PhD program in vision science at University of California Berkeley.



TAYLOR SIVORI '16

graduated from Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, PA in May of 2020 with a Doctorate in occupational therapy.

KATE TAYLOR GILLETTE SULLIVAN '16

begun her first semester at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service. She continues to work part time for a business immigration law firm in Washington, DC.

JACOB SUMMERS '16

started a new job as a Hamilton Educational Fellow with Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens. While there, he obtained his Tree Risk Assessment Qualification with the International Society of Arboriculture.

MICHAEL JOYCE '15

received a MS in aerospace engineering, Class of 2021, at the Ohio State University.

DANIELLE PALMIERI '15

is a second-year student at UConn School of Law, after teaching high school English for four years in New Haven. Law school has been a continuation of a love of learning and her passion for justice. Danielle was a Literature in English major at Conn and has used those skills in writing for law school and in reading for pleasure.

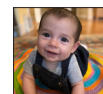
ANNIE LOVEL DENTON '11

was married on March 7, 2020 to Jack Lovel in Melbourne, Australia. With many of their friends and family traveling down under from the U.S. and other locations abroad, the healthy and happy celebration happened just in the nick of time.



SANNIE WOODS HODGETTS '11

and her husband, Noah, were thrilled to welcome their first child, Evie, in June of 2020!



ANNIE MOTCH ROSOL '11

moved to Dallas in August of 2020 and has a baby girl on the way -- due May 2021!

JOHANNA GREGORY '10

lives in Berlin with her husband, Murat Civan, and their new baby, Elias. She works at the American Chamber of Commerce in Berlin as a Manager of Special Events and Conferences.



FRANNIE NOBLE '08

is still working for Save the Children but with far less travel in 2020. She made it to Tanzania for a two-week vacation last January, prior to the lockdown. Happily living in Richmond, Virginia, just a few hours from DC, she's in close touch with Sam Lindo. Frannie was able to catch up with Caitlin LeBlanc earlier in 2020, in the Boston area.

M. GRANT HOGAN '07

moved a year ago to the Cincinnati area, bought a house, got a dog, and recently started a new job in cybersecurity.

LAUREN BURKE '06

was an immigration attorney in New York and then started her own NGO, Atlas, to help empower immigrant youth. In the wake of the George Floyd murder, and inspired by parents on how to discuss this topic with their children, she created Camp Equity (camequity.com). The virtual camp educates youth on social justice movements by connecting them with grassroots leaders from across the United States. The programs enable youth to meet an array of peers and explore topics in breakout cabins; inspiring growth, building community, and encouraging them to become changemakers in pursuit of a more equitable world. Weekly programs combine talks from organizational founders and Q & A. Affinity groups, current event debriefs, and movie nights deepen connections.

Resources are distributed to the BIPOC-led organizations and lived-experience leaders. Because Camp is offered on a sliding scale, everyone can attend regardless of their income level. The tuition is used to pay honorariums for the leaders' time.

ELLEN FRENTZEN RICHARDSON '05

welcomed their second daughter, Madeline in December 2019. Ellen took a new position as Assistant Dean for Administration at Boston University School of Law in August.

EFFIE KATSANTONIS '03

is Head of Training and Client Experience at Hèrmes Bijouterie in Paris. In October, Effie gave birth to a healthy baby girl, Penelope Rose.



LEILA LAKHSASSI '03

lives in Montreal and is working as an Associate Director at iV Medical Education, which focuses on creating continuing medical education programs for the healthcare community. She feels great to be doing something (however small) to help healthcare professionals.



WITH NO TRAVEL OPTIONS THIS YEAR, SHE DISCOVERED HER OWN BACKYARD... THE CANADIAN ROCKIES :)

MARISSA LITWIN ZALK '03

manages the Master of Laws (LL.M.) program at Columbia Law School. She works with 300 international lawyers from over 50 countries helping students pursue a one-year masters degree. Her husband, Cody, (fellow '03 CISLA alum) works for Howard Hughes Corporation, managing the design and construction of Pier 17, in the South Street Seaport.



MARISSA AND CODY, THEIR DAUGHTER LUCIA (5) AND SON JULIAN (3)

SARAH PENNDORF ZISA '03

is leaving sustainability consulting after almost 10 years to join Google's energy team, working toward their 2030 goal to be powered exclusively by carbon-free energy 24x7. Sarah, her husband, and their son, welcomed daughter and sister Terra Marin Penndorf, in June. Terra is a smiley addition to their family.

BILL MARSHALL '02

moved to Dallas in August of 2020, and started work at Performance Food Group, assuming the role of Vice President, Investor Relations.

REBECCA RUAN '02

recently took a job as the Vice Chancellor of Educational Services and Support at the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, supporting 2.1M students in 115 colleges statewide annually in their lifelong learning journeys to advance economic mobility.

SARAH COOPER '00

and her family are embarking on their fourth and final year in Accra, Ghana, where Sarah serves as a Foreign Service Officer at the US Agency for International Development (USAID) West Africa Regional Mission. Next year, Sarah, her husband Brett, and their son, Miles, will relocate to their next overseas post (TBD), but until then, they look forward to exploring Ghana and the environs.



SARAH, BRETT, AND MILES, CELEBRATING MILES' 3RD BIRTHDAY

IRINA TELYUKOVA '99

started out her year memorably when she returned to Conn in February 2020 for the 25th Anniversary celebration of the ConnArtists, the a capella group that she helped found. After that, she returned home to Cardiff, California to a lockdown order. Since then, she has been working mostly from home and sheltering in place with her husband, stepson and dog, and teaching yoga and meditation on Zoom. Irina launched her yoga, meditation and reiki practice under the name Hidden Discipline (hiddendiscipline.org).



DOUG AND IRINA IN YOSEMITE BEFORE THEY GOT CHASED OUT BY SMOKE FROM NEARBY FIRES. LOCAL RESIDENT PHOTOBOMBING.

The Toor Cummings Center for International Studies and the Liberal Arts & The Department of Government and International Relations present

★

U.S. Election 2020: INTERNATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

Presenters:
 Maria Cruz-Saco, Professor of Economics
 Eric Fleury, Assistant Professor of Government
 William Frasure, Professor of Government
 David Patton, Professor of Government

★

Tuesday, October 27, 2020
 4:00 pm
[Zoom link:](https://conncoll-edu.zoom.us/j/9768811502)
<https://conncoll-edu.zoom.us/j/9768811502>

U.S. Election 2020: International Considerations

CISLA AND THE DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS co-sponsored a panel discussion titled, *U.S. Election 2020: International Considerations* on October 27, 2020.

Presenter Maria Cruz-Saco, Professor of Economics, spoke about the impact of the elections on Latin America; Eric Fleury, Assistant Professor of Government, discussed how foreign policy influences elections; William Frasure, Professor of Government, discussed the place of international issues and foreign policy in past-presidential elections beginning in 1940; and David Patton, Professor of Government, addressed the impact of the elections on U.S.-European relations.

Awards *by Mary Devins*

MARSHALL SCHOLARSHIP

Connecticut College has received its first Marshall Scholarship, and we are proud to say it was awarded to one of our CISLA scholars, **Ann Monk, class of 2021**.



The Marshall, along with the Rhodes Scholarship, is the most competitive fellowship that a graduating senior can receive. The winners are considered to be among the best and brightest university students and recent graduates in the United States. The award finances graduate studies at a U.K. institution in any field of study for up to three years. Ann will be pursuing research in diaspora studies and international development at SOAS University of London and University College London.

Ann is an extremely accomplished CISLA scholar. She spent a gap year in India, Guatemala and Costa Rica tutoring in elementary schools in under-served areas, focusing on women's empowerment, initiating community development projects, and improving environmental sustainability. She is a double major in global Islamic studies and international relations. Ann studied abroad in Amman, Jordan, and completed her SIP titled, "Education Policy and Opportunities for Resettled Refugees."

She is the founder and president of Conn's Student Refugee Alliance, as well as the recipient of a Newman Civic Fellowship and a Critical Language Scholarship to study Arabic.

FULBRIGHT AWARDS

Three out of the four Fulbright fellowships for 2020-2021 were awarded to the following CISLA scholars.

Sophia Angele-Kuehn '20

received the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education Science and Research Teaching Assistantship to teach in Tirol, Austria. Sophia was an English major and a German studies minor. She interned in Berlin, Germany at Literaturhaus where she completed research, spoke with international authors, and helped brainstorm a writing project collaboration between the Literaturhaus and local secondary schools. The experience deepened her understanding of migrant literature and informed her English honors thesis, "Mutterseelenallein: A Memoir of a Mother Tongue." Sophia chose Austria because she stated that she "wished to further explore the Italy/Austria/Switzerland dialogue, which is a dynamic example of linguistic and cultural fusion."

Grace Berman '18

was awarded an ETA, and she is currently teaching in a school in Madrid, Spain. Grace was an environmental studies and anthropology major. She says, "Because Madrid has one of the most ambitious plans to reduce carbon emissions of any European city, and is taking visible steps to combat climate change, it is an especially fitting setting for discussions of sustainability and climate change topics. This will allow me to blend my passion for environmental sustainability into relevant lessons and activities."

Scott Brauer '20

was awarded an English Teaching Assistantship (ETA) to go to Germany last fall, but the Fulbright Commission postponed travel due to COVID-19, and all awards were deferred until 2021-2022. Scott was a human development and German studies double major. He interned in Lübeck, Germany and worked at a local school program for newly arrived immigrants. His senior integrative project was titled, "When I Came to Germany, Everything Changed: Adolescent Migrant Narratives on Shifting Identities, Societal Integration, Language Learning, and Citizenship Pathways." For this work Scott was awarded the prestigious **Gaudiani** prize at graduation.

Associate Professor Ariella Rotramel Named Walter Commons Faculty Fellow

by Cara Masullo Ekwuabu

THIS PAST YEAR HAS BEEN A HISTORIC ONE for our country, as we have faced not only a global pandemic, but also a national reckoning on the deep-rooted and insidious tragedy of institutional and systemic racism. The global struggle against racism is a call to action that we *must* respond to. As international educators, we understand the importance of developing cultural humility: the ability to engage effectively and appropriately across differences; to listen for understanding; to approach others with empathy, curiosity, and openness; and to reflect on our own values and actions. The focal point must now be in applying this set of values, skills, and knowledge to our own cultural context, on our own campus, and within the CISLA program.

Beginning in summer 2020, we in CISLA, along with colleagues in the Walter Commons (including the Offices of Global Initiatives, Study Away, and the Global Learning Lab), embarked on an extended process of self-reflection and examination of our programming, policies, and practices to aspire towards greater equity and inclusion. Ariella Rotramel, Vandana Shiva Associate Professor of Gender, Sexuality and Intersectionality Studies, has been appointed Walter Commons Faculty Fellow to help lead this work. Our work has included reading and discussing antiracist texts; drafting new policies around responding to bias and microaggressions; revising the CISLA application and selection process; amending the curriculum to strive towards greater accessibility and equity with a focus on positionality, social difference, and power; and developing best practices across the Walter Commons. We are humbly aware that our work on this front is just beginning, and that we may falter along the way. We are so grateful to Professor Rotramel for their wisdom and guidance as we continue to make equity and inclusion a priority in our programs, policies, and practices.



Alumni Advisory Board

CISLA HAS CLOSE TO 800 ALUMNI AROUND THE WORLD.

It has been our goal to work more closely with our alumni for a variety of reasons, including: serving as mentors, helping with internships, networking for career opportunities and collaborating with Connecticut College's Hale Center for Career Development to host workshops and panel discussions related to specific career avenues. In the summer of 2020 we established the CISLA Alumni Advisory Board. Current members represent different class years, countries and experiences:

Christian Carr-Locke '20—A Business Representative at Map My Customers in New York, New York.

Yoldas Yildiz '18—Completed a MSc in developmental & reproductive biology from Imperial College London. He is now working as a Scientist in the BioProduction group of Horizon Discovery, a gene editing cell engineering biotech company based in Cambridge, UK, and waiting to hear about a PhD program.

Marta Martínez-Fernández '18— Former Young Alumni Director currently living and working in Spain and waiting to hear about acceptance to a PhD program in political science. Marta has had multiple interesting international work experiences.

Mimi Bangali Nonie '13 lives in Dakar, Senegal and works for the United Nations Population Fund, dealing with women's health and rights.

Chris Bother '07—Residing in Montreal, Chris has a new start-up in the e-sports sector after many years in finance.

Lauren Burke '06—Former immigration attorney and creative social entrepreneur, currently she is the co-founder and chief operations officer for Camp Equity (see article on pg. 6).

Katherine Docampo '06 is currently living in Geneva where she works for the World Economic Forum as the Partnership Development Lead for Financial Services.

Liana Guzmán '05 from Hartford, CT is the Chief Marketing Officer at Skillshare, an online learning community for creatives.

Alex Fiorillo '03—Founder and CEO of GRID Impact, a social enterprise research & design firm based in Denver, Colorado. Alex is also Strategic Facilitator for the Financial Services for the Poor Team at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Dr. Sarah A. Schoellkopf '97—Teaches Spanish language and literature at St. Veronica's Catholic School in Virginia. Originally from the Los Angeles area, Sarah has lived all over the world. Her academic research focuses on gender, human rights, and memory in Argentina. She has presented globally on her work on Las Madres and human rights issues in Latin America.



MARY S. DEVINS

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