



## Director's Column

by Suzuko Mousel Knott

**TODAY A STUDENT ASKED ME**, had I been following the news? Oof. That's a hard question in 2025, when every day brings a fresh onslaught of headlines that seem incredible to digest. Today, the question was in reference to escalating tensions between India and Pakistan. Yesterday, it was in reference to Ukraine's minerals deal with the U.S.; last week it was about international student safety entering the U.S. on student visas. And these are just the tip of the complex iceberg of questions our students are grappling with on a daily basis. I'd like to take the long view and argue that every generation has had its challenges; but, as I think of our CISLA seniors about to depart campus, I can't help but feel the heat of accelerant burning off the dumpster-fire news cycle and the heft of those challenges weighing so much more heavily on their resilient shoulders.

In addition to the existential crises that seem to proliferate with each new notification, threats to international education under the current administration are also very real. The potential dissolution of the International and Foreign Language Education office of the Department of Education has had wide-ranging impacts on international education here and across the globe. Cuts to Title VI funding, which includes programs like the Fulbright-Hays Fellowship and the Critical Language Scholarship Program left this year's applicants wondering if the programs they'd applied to would even continue to exist. One awardee found out too late, and with too little confidence in the stability of the program, made the heartbreaking decision to decline the Fulbright English Teaching Award. This is just one small example of the new challenges to doing international education. Changes in visa requirements, the weakening dollar, the loss of American soft power, there are so many to list... are all impacting the way we do and think about international education.

But the students are resilient. They are assessing their personal risk tolerance when deciding whether or not to pursue graduate studies in the U.S. as a foreign national. They are pivoting to new career plans as job offers dry up due to down markets and defunded organizations. They are always looking forward to their next big steps in spite of these hurdles. And as the summer begins, we in CISLA still look back to reflect on the highs of our academic year and to share with you all the wonderful events, milestones, and accomplishments of our CISLA scholars. Because each and every one of them brings joy and hope to the work they do, and they are shaping the future of our center and the future of our world.

Our newest members of CISLA, the class of 2027, began their journey with us at our annual retreat at Camp Hazen in Chester, CT. The cohort of 25 CISLA sophomores represents a broad swath of

the disciplinary and language areas at the college with research interests ranging from the representation of women in sport in Spain, to the impacts of fishing policies on indigenous peoples of Taiwan, to the extinction of French cheeses. The CISLA sophomores had an opportunity to get to know each other, the CISLA faculty and staff, and the CISLA juniors and seniors who helped with the organization and planning of the retreat. It was another resounding success and so much fun getting to know each other outside of the classroom. This helps us build capacity to later engage in dialogue across difference and is the first of many steps towards developing intercultural competency. This year, in addition to learning from guest faculty speakers from across our college, we were also very fortunate to welcome Dr. Adeeb Khalid (Carleton College) and Dr. Ervin Malakaj (University of British Columbia) to expand our sophomore students' scholarly network beyond Conn and to expose them to academic and international collaborative research projects that are happening at other institutions.

While our sophomores were learning about the possibilities of research in the future, our seniors were preparing for their presentations at the All-College Symposium in November. In the senior capstone course, IS 401, the students crafted presentations that highlighted their diverse and enriching internship experiences along with their developing research skills and Senior Integrative Project plans. As ever, I was blown away by their ability to translate their research for a broad audience and to reflect on the challenges they surmounted while abroad. It has become a wonderful tradition that the sophomores and juniors come to support the senior cohort at the All-College symposium and the buzzy afterglow from the event is one of my favorite moments. Inspired by the seniors' work, the sophomores and juniors begin to reimagine, reframe, and sometimes even completely redesign their research agendas as they come one intellectual step closer to their own capstone moments. Now more than ever, I see the CISLA scholars across all cohorts leaning on each other, supporting each other, and thriving as an intellectual community.

In last year's column, I closed with a quote from commencement speaker Laura Coates' address, in which she urged us all to be like coffee beans that energize each other. This year's commencement speaker implored the graduating class to act - to find solutions to the problems his generation created. The reality is, our students have been invigorating and stimulating each other's intellectual curiosity and propensity to problem solve since they first stepped on campus. They have been putting the liberal arts into action and are undeterred by the pessimism the news cycle wants to dish up. We revel in each other's company, we dance hand in hand at our CISLA commencement, and we are ready to stand together in the face of adversity to continue the good work of international education and to make the CISLA experience the best that it can be for students to come.

**Suzuko Mousel Knott**  
Faculty Director

**Emily Kuder**  
Associate Faculty Director

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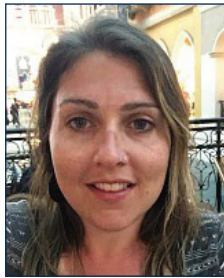
**CISLA Fellows**  
Jenifer N. Alvarado  
Rivadeneira '26  
Hope Kisakye '26  
Stella König '25  
Jazmin Villalba Gimenez '25

**Student Advisory Board**  
Samuel Bailey '27  
Sylvia Brofka-Berends '27  
Catie Clarke '26  
Katherine Connor '27  
Eli Craddock '26  
Abdullah Khan '25 (co-chair)  
Ilan Listgarten '25  
Anna Olivia Nielsen '26  
(co-chair)  
Alejandra Romero Sanchez '25  
Brennan Thomson '27

**Selection Committee**  
Sana Abdi  
Joseph Alchermes  
Joana Avritzer  
Marc Forster  
Ruth Grahn  
Suzuko Mousel Knott  
Emily Kuder  
Katherine Kwong

**IS 201**  
**Guest Lecturers**  
Denis Ferhatovic  
Eric Fleury  
Adeeb Khalid  
Katherine Kwong  
Ervin Malakaj

**IS 302**  
**Guest Lecturers**  
Joana Avritzer  
MaryAnne Borrelli  
Audrey Zakriski



## A Note from the Associate Faculty Director

by Emily Kuder

IT SEEMS THAT THE ONE THING WE CAN COUNT ON these days is change, for better or for worse. Within our curious, open-minded community at Connecticut College, change abounds in hopeful and reliable ways. Under the new leadership of President Chapdelaine, we see ways forward for our college, ways that promise sustainability, longevity, and flourishing. Faculty and staff are using intellect and innovation to reimagine what we do in order to adjust to changed realities with the goal of better supporting our students. Students are showing perseverance, moving forward in the face of hardship, and discovering new ways of learning and growing in changed times. And when we look out of the windows of Blaustein Humanities Center, we can once again be sure to spot the early colors of spring tulips and admire the familiar aroma of the cherry blossoms.

In the CISLA office, we are navigating the evolving state of research and the fluctuating availability of opportunities for international internships in the face of the destabilization of our national government and rupturing of political allies. Mass uncertainty has led to budget cuts and work stoppage, a landscape that is inhospitable for mentorship, advancement, and philanthropy. But despite these challenges, we rely on our collective power to resist, adapt, organize, and grow as the blooms of the magnolias in the harsh spring winds.

This year, as Associate Faculty Director of CISLA, I guided the cohort of brave CISLA juniors as they paved the, at times uncertain, path towards an international internship and grappled with how to execute research projects in and across their respective disciplines. The road was not linear and the end of the path is still unrealized, but the saying "the adventure is in the journey" has never been more true for some of our scholars who have overcome rejection to land coveted positions and unlock once-in-a-lifetime access to people and places. CISLA pushes students to imagine bigger and dive deeper, and I think that courage is fed by the community that we have built over decades, a community in which we can always count on a high five, a friend's smile, and a tasty treat from the snack box in the CISLA office!

## Staffing Update in CISLA

**AFTER A HIGHLY REWARDING EIGHT-YEAR CAREER** with our center, Director of CISLA Operations Cara Masullo Ekwuabu has decided to step away to focus on her family and new professional opportunities. Cara is grateful to have worked with so many inspiring students and alumni and will miss working for such a special program.

## Fellows Initiatives by Jenifer N. Alvarado Rivadeneira '26, Hope Kisakye '26, Stella König '25, and Jazmin Villalba Gimenez '25

**AS USUAL, THE SPRING SEMESTER** kicked off in full swing, with sophomores officially beginning their CISLA journey, juniors securing internships, and seniors pulling together their experiences and research for their final SIP. As fellows, we had the pleasure of working on programming that provides the opportunity to come together, de-stress, and support each other. From coffee and sweet treats at open tab events, meeting with scholars to help them stay on track, to bonding with the new cohort during the annual sophomore retreat, the year has been filled with moments of connection and support.

This year, we also worked to strengthen our social media presence, launching CISLA's Mini Mic Moments, a short-form video series on Instagram aimed at creating engaging content that boosts awareness of CISLA and highlights our vibrant community. We had a lot of fun coming up with ideas, filming, and editing, and hope that this format will continue. Additionally, we enjoyed organizing Instagram story takeovers with juniors abroad in Spain, Poland, Mexico, Germany, and France.

We are also starting to explore ways to connect with other centers on campus through sharing resources and opportunities, as well as getting to know each other. We are grateful for the collaboration between CISLA and the GNCE, CCSRE, PICA, Ammerman, and Museum Studies certificate programs.

Another project we worked on is the preparation of country guides as a resource for CISLA scholars preparing to intern abroad. They offer help navigating daily life logistics, health and safety tips, and insight into regional customs, among other important information to reduce uncertainty and make students feel more prepared for a meaningful, immersive experience.

Whether we were helping students with internships, editing cover letters and resumes, or preparing for cultural adaptation, we were here to make the CISLA journey feel easier, grounded, and inspiring. Overall, it has been a pleasure working with everyone in the CISLA office and we couldn't be prouder to be a part of this community.



CISLA FELLOWS (FROM LEFT) JAZMIN VILLALBA GIMENEZ '26, JENIFER N. ALVARADO RIVADENEIRA '26, HOPE KISAKYE '26, AND STELLA KÖNIG '25



## Student Advisory Board Updates

**OUR STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD (SAB)** is comprised of CISLA scholars from all three class years and serves as a liaison between the student body and CISLA faculty and staff. The SAB helps to promote the goals and mission of CISLA while advocating for student needs and building the cross-cohort community. This year, the SAB welcomed four new members from the class of 2027. Under the leadership of co-chairs Abdullah Khan and Anna Olivia Nielsen, the SAB maintained regular meetings with CISLA staff, where they served as a sounding board for CISLA courses IS 201, IS 301 and 302, and IS 401, and helped to plan many of the year's successful programs. One such program was the sophomore welcome event, where our newest scholars wrote letters to their future selves, made CISLA bucket lists, and got to know their junior and senior peers through a game of CISLA Bingo. Rejuvenating, stress-free events such as Paint & Plant on Tempel Green, Coffee Chats for interested first-year applicants, and various open tabs at the campus coffee shops were simple, satisfying, and much needed this year. Assisting with the design of an updated version of the CISLA certificate and planning an end of the year senior dinner with food from a local favorite restaurant helped the class of 2025 commemorate their time in the center. Lastly, the addition of a CISLA office whiteboard for scholars to share their news and activities on proved very useful for inter-cohort bonding.



OUR NEWEST SAB MEMBERS FROM THE CLASS OF 2027 (FROM LEFT): KATHERINE CONNOR, SYLVIA BROFKA-BERENDS, SAMUEL BAILEY, AND BRENNAN THOMSON

## CISLA EVENTS

### All-College Symposium



**ON NOVEMBER 7, 2024**, all 22 students from the graduating class of 2025 presented their research and reflected on their CISLA journeys during this year's All-College Symposium. We were delighted to have faculty from across the college serve as moderators for our panels and to see so many of our other CISLA students from across the sophomore and junior cohorts in the audience. The outstanding quality of the presentations was matched by the audience's thought-provoking questions and a robust Q&A followed each set of presentations.



PHOTO (TOP): ILAN LISTGARTEN '25 PRESENTING AT THE ALL-COLLEGE SYMPOSIUM

PHOTO (BOTTOM): CISLA SENIORS (FROM LEFT) AIDEN SHIELL, KAYLA MATEO, STELLA KÖNIG, BLAKE ROGERS, AND WONKYUNG LEE DURING THEIR LABOR, MARKETS, AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP PANEL

## Distinguished Alumni Award and All-CISLA Dinner

**EACH YEAR, WE SOLICIT NOMINATIONS** from our pool of 30+ years' worth of CISLA alumni and work with the CISLA Alumni Advisory Board to select a recipient for our Distinguished Alumni Award. The Distinguished Alumni Award is given as a means to honor an extraordinary alum who has made significant achievements in their professional field and in the wider world. This year's award recipient was Maria Coppola, class of 1996.

Maria's career path shows a dedication to international and interdisciplinary work that is grounded in her CISLA experience. She has distinguished herself in the fields of research, education, and public service. As director of the US Federal Trade Commission's (FTC) Office of International Affairs, Maria currently oversees the agency's competition, consumer protection, and privacy work. She has nearly two decades of experience with the FTC, primarily in international antitrust. Until recently, Maria was an adjunct professor at George Mason University Law School teaching European competition law. She has worked at the UK Competition and Markets Authority, the UK's Office of Fair Trading, and the Mexican competition agency. Maria was also the Victor Kramer Fellow at Harvard Law School in 2010-2011 working on transgovernmental networks.

During her time at Connecticut College, Maria majored in International Relations, with a CISLA language of French and Cameroon as her country of interest. She interned at the Cameroon Tribune, and completed an SIP titled "Democracy in Cameroon: A Study of the Democratization Process in Plural Society." Additionally, Maria was bestowed with an Inter-collegiate Sailing Association (ICSA) 1996 First Team All-American in sailing.



DISTINGUISHED ALUMNA MARIA COPPOLA '96 WITH CISLA FACULTY DIRECTOR SUZUKO MOUSEL KNOTT



On December 6, Maria joined us in person for our annual All-CISLA Dinner and the presentation of the 2024 Distinguished Alumni Award. Current CISLA scholars excitedly engaged with Maria after she shared remarks on her CISLA journey, the importance of maintaining and utilizing your connections, and showcased the ways in which even domestic careers can provide international opportunities. It was a captivating evening with stimulating conversation that left everyone feeling inspired!

FROM LEFT: CISLA SCHOLARS AFAF ALBUR '27, KRISTEN FARHAT '27, JENIFER N. ALVARADO RIVADENEIRA '26, CAELAN STEWART '26, AUSTIN CHENG '25, NOA SCHMID '25, AND SEAN MELVIN '27 AT THE ALL-CISLA DINNER

# CISLA EVENTS

## The Sophomore Retreat

**OUR SECOND ANNUAL SOPHOMORE RETREAT** took place on January 26, 2025 at Camp Hazen YMCA in Chester, CT. The first part of this day-long retreat involved spirited outdoor team-building activities led by Camp Hazen staff. After heading indoors to warm up over lunch, the students participated in several group dialogues to establish CISLA community norms and develop intercultural competencies around communicating across difference. The goals of this retreat are to provide an open and encouraging space for the new sophomore cohort to get to know their peers, to become acquainted with CISLA faculty and staff, and to provide a solid foundation for the students' two and a half years' learning experience in the program. We are already beginning to plan next year's retreat, and have been enjoying witnessing this event evolve and take shape.



THE DAY WRAPPED UP WITH AN IMPROMPTU FROLIC ON CAMP HAZEN'S FROZEN LAKE!

## Annual CISLA Reunion Luncheon

**ON MAY 31, 2025**, CISLA took part in the College's Reunion Weekend for class years ending in zero and five by hosting an alumni luncheon. Faculty Director Suzuko Mousel Knott welcomed CISLA alumni from class years spanning the time period of 1995 through 2020, plus some of their partners! It was lovely to have the opportunity to reunite and share memories and laughter over Mediterranean food. It is always wonderful to learn of our fantastic scholars' impressive achievements, and many spoke of their pride in having been CISLA students and said that their experiences in the program helped inform their professional career paths.



A CISLA SELFIE!

## The United Nations Trip

**CISLA FACULTY AND STAFF TRAVELED TO NEW YORK CITY** with the newest cohort of scholars for our annual United Nations trip on April 1, 2025. The following excerpt is from an article one of our sophomore scholars, Evie Lockwood Mullaney, wrote about the trip for *The College Voice*, Connecticut College's student newspaper.

*While the rest of campus was still peacefully dozing through the start of April Fool's Day, the class of 2027 Center for International Studies and the Liberal Arts (CISLA) cohort was setting out before dawn to make it to the United Nations Headquarters in New York City by mid-morning. After a sleepy several hours on the bus, the group arrived at their first stop of the day: the Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations. There, they met with policy advisor Mr. Daniel Galicia, who specializes in migration studies. From there, they enjoyed a sunny walk through Manhattan and a filling lunch of Pad Thai, fried rice, and dumplings. The afternoon started off with a visit to the Permanent Mission of Senegal to the United Nations. There, their interns graciously passed out waters and gave a presentation on Senegalese culture and political structure before a Q&A with what felt like the entire staff of the mission, including Ambassador and Permanent Representative Gorgui, and many counselors and policy specialists.*

*The day capped off with a guided tour of UN headquarters, which for many was what made the 5 A.M. wake-up worth it. After securing visitor's passes, a virtual souvenir for the day, the group split in two for a walkthrough of the UN's main chambers, administrative spaces, and history. The scholars ended the day by browsing through country flags and postcards in the gift shop before enjoying a delicious Mediterranean family-style dinner, complete with plates of hummus and French fries. A beautiful New York City sunset lit up the street as the class of 2027 boarded the bus back to New London. Returning to campus a little before 10:30 P.M., it was an incredible day trip and learning opportunity for these aspiring diplomats.*



PHOTO (TOP): CISLA WITH MR. DANIEL GALICIA (RIGHT)



PHOTO (BOTTOM): CISLA WITH THE STAFF OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF SENEGAL

To read the full article, please view the "Annual CISLA United Nations Trip Recap" by Evie Lockwood Mullaney, News Editor, in the April 9, 2025 issue of *The College Voice*: <https://thecollegevoice.org/2025/04/09/annual-cisla-united-nations-trip-recap/>



## Alumni Updates

**WE PERIODICALLY SEND OUT A SURVEY** to gather information for the alumni section of Prism. It is our hope to keep updated with the lives and careers of our many alums. The people listed in this section are those that responded to the survey.

We will send out another survey in the future, so please consider sending us your news. On occasion, we can use the information to ask for help with an internship, or to pair up a current student on study away or on an internship with an alum in another country. It is terrific to have news of our alumni!

### ALEXIS AUDETTE '93

has a business called Mazy Path that will be five years old this September! Launching a line of textiles, wallpapers, and fine art in the middle of the pandemic was a little scary for her, but it has also been an amazing journey. The line has been well-received, Alexis loves what she does, and it's never dull. While her manufacturing is all in the U.S., her textile designs are printed on Belgian linen, so she is now paying a steep tariff to import Belgian goods. Linen is one of the most sustainable fabrics available, and it's not made in the U.S., so Alexis will be sticking with it. However, needless to say, it's not an easy time for small businesses whose supply chains have even a single international link. In CISLA, Alexis learned about how interconnected the world is. Now, whether some of her compatriots would like to think so or not, she says we are learning that lesson as a country.

### KATE (BABKIRK) BRANDEIS '02

is loving Maine life with her family and working at the intersection of cause and commerce with Simple Generosity, helping big brands create local charitable impact alongside nonprofits that align with their ethos, customers, employees, and communities they serve. Kate is still using her Spanish as a volunteer mentor for families newly arrived from Central America.



*PHOTO: FAMILY PIC :)*

### KATHARINE (COFFIN) SPARKS '04

is living and "pre-tired" for now in the San Francisco Bay Area of California with two young children and a tech founder husband (computer science entrepreneurship). Their dog keeps them grounded. Katharine enjoys barre, travel, swim, and golf, but says skiing is still the best! She is looking forward to international travel now that her kids have passports!



*PHOTO: KATHARINE WITH HER FAMILY*

### LIZ COLBURN '06

gave birth to her first child, Daniel "Danny" Richard Ruggiero, in July. Though he was due in October, Daniel decided he preferred a summer birthday. Liz is proud to announce that Daniel will be attending a Spanish immersion daycare starting in June!



*PHOTOS: (LEFT) DANNY AND MOM, 24 HOURS AFTER BIRTH ; (RIGHT) DANNY AND BIG SISTER LENA*

### JUAN PABLO PACHECO BEJARANO '14

moved to Madrid at the beginning of 2024 and has since been engaged in cultural and artistic projects with the Reina Sofía Museum, Hablarenarte, Todo por la Praxis, Paisanaje, and the Institute for Postnatural Studies. He began teaching a sound class for the Beyond Branding master's program at Elisava University, and will also be teaching a course on food, culture, and agroecology at the CIEE study abroad program in Madrid. This summer, Juan Pablo will be in an artistic residency at the Schöppingen Kunstlerdorf in Germany, and has been invited as an artist to the Momentum 13 Biennial in Norway.

*PHOTO: JUAN PABLO ON A SOUNDWALK AT THE ORIGIN OF THE MANZANARES RIVER IN MADRID, WITH HABLARENARTE, FUNDACIÓN CARASSO, AND THE REINA SOFÍA MUSEUM*



### EMMA RACE '18

is now living in Boston and serving remotely as the director of Program Quality Assurance, Learning, and Performance at the New Mexico Immigrant Law Center.

### JULIE BLAZAR '20

graduated from Villanova Law School in May 2025! She will be moving to Northeast Ohio to live with her fiancé, their cat, and their two bunnies.

### JONATHAN GOMEZ-PEREIRA '20

ran for elected office in 2023 and won his race. He is currently serving as the District 3 School Committee Member. It's a humble honor for him to work alongside his fellow committee members, making the best use of their financial resources to ensure that their students in Chelsea are receiving the highest quality education possible and are prepared for life after high school.

This fall, Jonathan will begin pursuing a master's degree at Tufts University in the department of urban and environmental policy and planning. He was selected to be a Racial Equity in Planning and Policy (REPP) fellow. Fellows are individuals who have already demonstrated a commitment to and have experience in advancing racial justice, and who exhibit potential to be racial justice change agents in the policy and planning fields. REPP fellows receive stipends, generous tuition scholarships, support in securing paid internships, and programming to build leadership skills, develop networks, and provide socio-emotional support. REPP offers workshops and creates learning communities for all who want to pursue anti-racist practices, policies, and outcomes in policy and planning.

Jonathan is currently a program manager at WalkMassachusetts, a statewide pedestrian advocacy organization in Massachusetts, where he is applying his learnings from his time community organizing to work towards transportation justice.

### SAMUEL MARSH '21

started graduate school for a master's degree in public policy at Northeastern University.

### ANN MONK '21

completed her second master's degree last year through the Marshall Scholarship, obtaining a degree in education and international development in conflict, emergencies, and peace. She now works for the International Rescue Committee as an education caseworker for refugee youth, and is currently posted in Texas. Ann also recently got engaged to her boyfriend of three years, Khalifa Rouf.

**PHOTOS:** (LEFT) ANN WITH HER FIANCÉ, KHALIFA ; (RIGHT) ANN'S MASTER'S DEGREE GRADUATION CEREMONY



### EMILY SANDALL '21

has been working as an instructor of linguistics at the Community College of Vermont since graduating from Boston University with an MA in linguistics. This fall, they will be starting their PhD in linguistics at Georgetown University with a focus on language and gender.

### ROY WALTON '21

graduated from SUNY Binghamton this spring with an MA in anthropology from the public archaeology program, which prepares students for a career in archaeological survey, preservation, and heritage work. He completed his thesis on a historic settlement in New Jersey and plans to get a job in archaeological heritage resource management this summer. Roy would also like to make a professional website and teach himself new skills that will be useful to his career.

**PHOTO:** ROY IN HIS ELEMENT!



### OLIVIA MADURO '22

is currently pursuing a master's degree in urban and regional planning with a track in spatial sustainability studies at the University of Amsterdam in the Netherlands!

**PHOTO:** LIFE IN THE NETHERLANDS!

### GICEL ZUNIGA '24

worked in a preschool classroom for a few months this year to gain more experience in early childhood education. She applied to graduate school with the intent to study education and human development, and will be pursuing her master's degree through Harvard Graduate School of Education this fall. Prior to continuing her academic journey, Gicel will be working at The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp, a summer camp dedicated to providing a fun-filled camp experience to children with serious illnesses, for a second summer.

## Student Research Travel Grants

**EACH YEAR, STUDENTS APPLY FOR** student research travel grants to return to the site of their international internship in order to complete additional research in support of their senior integrative project. For most students, the travel takes place during the winter break. This year, we awarded a travel grant to one graduating senior: Abdullah Khan.

This winter, senior Abdullah Khan traveled to Italy in order to complete site-specific research for his SIP on restoration techniques in Italian and Pakistani architecture in the face of climate change. The travel grant allowed Abdullah to reconnect with Gaël de Guichen, Special Advisor to the Director-General of ICCROM, whom he had previously met during his ACI trip to Belmonte in Sabina in 2023. While in Italy, Abdullah was able to access archival catalogues and gain insights into the challenges faced by international restoration teams, from the differences in terminology and methodologies to broader issues of training, organization, and resource allocation. Abdullah was also able to explore Rome's heritage sites, studying their conservation



ABDULLAH KHAN '25 AT THE TREVI FOUNTAIN  
IN ROME, ITALY

approaches and the role historical monuments play in the city's social fabric. Engaging with archaeologists at sites like the Pantheon deepened his understanding of how restoration efforts balance historical preservation with questions of contemporary relevance and also enabled Abdullah to deepen his understanding of the complexities of global heritage preservation and to engage in a comparative study of Rome's public conservation framework with Pakistan's more privatized restoration landscape.

## CISLA Honors and Awards

**ATTENDING THE ANNUAL** Honors and Awards ceremony is an absolute highlight of the year. Each year our CISLA scholars from across all three cohorts receive recognition for their wonderful engagement and outstanding scholarship here at the college. Of particular note, the CISLA Award for Distinction in the Program was awarded to CISLA seniors Abdullah Khan, Wonkyung Lee, Ilan Listgarten, and Corinne Robbins. This year, the following CISLA scholars were honored by their respective departments at the ceremony.

**Jenifer N. Alvarado Rivadeneira '26** Tobley Evans Award for an Outstanding Junior English Major

**Samuel Boehm '25** Phi Beta Kappa; Hispanic Studies Doris Meyer Scholarship & Service Award

**Eliarís Brito Castillo '25** Division of Equity and Inclusion Janet Foster '80 Senior Award

**Sylvia Brofka-Berends '27** French and Francophone Department Professor Nelly K. Murstein Award

**Austin Cheng '25** Philosophy Robert W. Jordan Prize

**Dulguun Damdinbayar '27** Dean of the College Connecticut College Bookshop Prize

**Emma Dinkelspiel '25** Dean of the College Vera Snow Graduate Fellowship; Outstanding Major in German Studies, Jewish Studies Student Excellence Award, Slavic Studies Award

**Molly Donovan '27** Psychology John R. Mackinnon Prize

**Kristen Farhat '27** Economics Microeconomics Prize

**Leila Hernández-Webster '25** Environmental Studies Barbara Shattuck Kohn '72 Award; Film Studies Creative Production Prize

**Abdullah Khan '25** Architectural Studies Award; CISLA Award for Distinction in the Program

**Stella König '25** Phi Beta Kappa; Government & International Relations Department Prize; Walter Commons Distinguished Fellow Award

**Samantha Lamontagne '25** French and Francophone Esther C. Cary Prize

**Wonkyung Lee '25** Phi Beta Kappa; CISLA Award for Distinction in the Program; Walter Commons Distinguished Fellow Award

**Ilan Listgarten '25** CISLA Award for Distinction in the Program; Division of Equity and Inclusion Vanguard Award; French and Francophone Esther C. Cary Prize

**Anna Olivia Nielsen '26** Government & International Relations Department Prize

**Corinne Robbins '25** CISLA Award for Distinction in the Program; Hispanic Studies Book Prize

**Blake Rogers '25** Hispanic Studies Book Prize

**Alejandra Romero Sanchez '25** Dean of the College Theresa Perri Ammirati Award; Hispanic Studies Book Prize; Human Development Michelle Dunlap Prize

**Noa Schmid '25** Government & International Relations Department Prize

**Aiden Shiell '25** Walter Commons Distinguished Fellow Award

**Torrance Wagner '25** Botanical Society of America Young Botanist Award; Hispanic Studies Sarah Schoellkopf '97 Award for Research and Social Activism



**Congratulations, CISLA Class of 2025!**



*FACULTY DIRECTOR SUZUKO MOUSEL KNOTT AND ASSOCIATE FACULTY DIRECTOR EMILY KUDER WITH THE CISLA CLASS OF 2025 GRADUATES ON THE STEPS OF HARKNESS CHAPEL AFTER THE CERTIFICATE CEREMONY ON MAY 17, 2025*

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