



prism

CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

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

fall 2011

Pathways

There is no doubt that experiential education in real-life situations in a foreign culture and language is intensely powerful and inspiring. Our young CISLA interns have this unique opportunity during the summer before their senior year. CISLA alumni often tell us that, though they may not have realized it at the time, their CISLA experience was a defining factor in the career paths they chose and the people they became. We highlight one of these stories in each issue. Holly Dranginis '06 majored in history and international relations and completed her CISLA internship at the National

Committee for Human Rights in Lima, Peru. She has worked in the field of victim advocacy and transitional justice ever since. Now a law student at UC-Berkeley, she is focusing on human rights and international criminal law.

Listening on the ground

by Holly Dranginis '06

A DIN OF CHATTER swept through the muted legal offices in The Hague

when headlines first flashed on old desktop computer screens: Ratko Mladic had been arrested. The alleged war criminal and former Bosnian Serb military commander was one of the world's most wanted. In hiding for more than 15 years, he became a bona-fide celebrity in the world of international criminal law that I have called home for the past eight years. Weathered and wide-eyed with a messenger cap perched on his head, his arrival in a sterile courtroom set off waves of relief in a region thousands of miles away. The moment of his arrest illustrates my attraction to this field — both for the progress it marks as well as its truly global nature. From my desk at a court in The Hague, the Dutch city of peace, I watched victims in the Balkans celebrate as the world brought their captor into custody.

Now held in the high-security prison in The Hague, Mladic joins his West African counterpart Charles Taylor. During my first summer as a law student at Berkeley, I am interning on the prosecution team for Taylor's case at the Special Court for Sierra Leone. The trial is being held here for security reasons — Taylor's vast network of supporters still maintains a foreboding stronghold over potential dissenters in Sierra Leone and the wider region remains volatile at best in the aftermath of war. Taylor is charged with a range of crimes, from orchestrating mass murders to conscripting child soldiers and extorting the "blood



HOLLY INTERVIEWS INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT (ICC) ADVOCATES IN LIRA, UGANDA, FOR A FILM ABOUT ICC OUTREACH. PHOTO: MIRIAM WERTLIEB

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PRISM is published by the Toor Cummings Center for International Studies and the Liberal Arts (CISLA)

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directors' column

IT IS A GREAT HONOR to be chosen director of CISLA and to follow in the footsteps of Robert Gay and all the previous directors. CISLA is an established and successful program at Connecticut College and my first job will be to continue that successful tradition. The center has wonderful students and a dedicated staff, and has always been well supported by the Connecticut College faculty.

I teach history, with a specialization in German history in the early modern period (1500-1800), and have spent my adult life engaged with Germany, its language and its culture. As a child I spent a lot of time in France — my father was a professor of French history and my mother a professional translator. These experiences, and the great pleasure I found in learning and using both French and German, mean that I am deeply committed to the central role of foreign language study in the CISLA program. Our students must continue to develop proficiency in a foreign language and use that language actively in their internships and in their research projects. A lifetime engagement with a foreign language and the insights it gives to another culture are what make our students true global citizens.

CISLA is a high-profile program at Connecticut College and the center can and should take leadership in enhancing international education at the College. The CISLA model of integrating language study with other disciplines is being applied more and more across the curriculum, and I will support those initiatives. CISLA may well provide a place where faculty and students can explore new kinds of interdisciplinary and international curricular initiatives, complementing initiatives led by the International Commons project.

While it is true that CISLA can only directly reach those students in the certificate program, it provides a model of international education to the whole student body. CISLA itself certainly faces some challenges, for example in how to maintain its liberal arts focus in an era when “practical education” is all the rage. I am also committed to this aspect of CISLA; the center must remain open and welcoming to students from all disciplines and intellectual perspectives. A deep humanistic engagement with people from around the world, an engagement rooted in the tradition of the liberal arts, is not in any way impractical; it is essential for creating true global citizens.

I have been asked on a number of occasions why I would want to be director of CISLA. Of course it is a new challenge and I have ideas about policies and programs, but most of all I love the idea of working with our excellent students, young people who are committed to developing a deep understanding of our increasingly interconnected world.

Marc R. Forster
*Director of CISLA
Professor of History*

DEAR FRIENDS:

I'm sad to write this column because it's my last as director of CISLA, but I'm extremely grateful and fortunate to have had the privilege for the last six years.

Being director of CISLA has given me the opportunity to work closely with groups of extraordinary students, faculty and staff. In many ways, CISLA students remind me of myself. When I was a boy, my family relocated to Brazil for my father's work. I quickly found, even as a young lad, that to learn Portuguese was to better understand the culture, make lots of friends and genuinely have more fun. It was perhaps this early exposure to the joys of connecting with new cultures that



FORMER CISLA DIRECTOR ROBERT GAY EXCHANGES A FEW WORDS WITH NEW DIRECTOR, MARC FORSTER

led me to leave my home in the U.K. in pursuit of a life in the United States, where I now teach sociology with a particular focus on Brazil. I have often reflected that my personal journey resembles that of a CISLA student: travel to a foreign land, language acquisition, and an interest in a new culture that becomes a passion and a career path.

Over the years, the demographics of the program have changed significantly, and this shift has been fascinating to watch. The Class of 2007 had no international students, whereas the newly admitted Class of 2013 contains seven international students and four dual citizens. The very makeup of the CISLA class is becoming more globalized, and there is no denying that the international students bring new and varied perspectives to the CISLA classroom. For many of our American students, exposure to such perspectives, and the opportunity to meet people with backgrounds very different from their own with whom to discuss important world issues, are important precursors to their experiences abroad.

Another trend is more male applicants. Traditionally, female applicants have far outnumbered the males in part due to more women studying foreign languages. But, where the CISLA Class of 2007 had seven men in its graduating class of 34, the CISLA Class of 2013 has 11 out of 33. We hope this trend continues as well because global awareness and foreign-language proficiency benefit students not only from an academic perspective, but also in terms of their competitiveness in today's internationalized job market.

While the demographics of the program may have changed, what hasn't changed is CISLA's commitment to fostering an international dialogue among some of the highest-caliber students at Connecticut College, exposing students to new perspectives, and creating global-minded citizens through a fully funded internship abroad, foreign language proficiency and a senior integrative project connecting it all. It has been my distinct pleasure to oversee this fine program over the past six years.

Robert Gay
Professor of Sociology

Pathways

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diamonds" that have captured popular conscience. As Liberia's president from 1997 to 2003, Taylor is the first ex-head-of-state to be tried for war crimes, making this trial a particularly important and controversial one. For me, this summer marks a step from grassroots victim advocacy in the global south to litigation at the world's sentinel of accountability in Northern Europe. Together, the two sound a timely warning to world leaders that atrocities against innocent civilians will not be tolerated.

My work in transitional justice has taken me to more than a dozen countries since graduating from Connecticut College, the majority of which have painful histories of violence and lush, bio-diverse landscapes. I have shoveled mud alongside forensic anthropologists ex-

humming mass graves, conducted hundreds of interviews with widows, fighters and children, and filed legal briefs in my second language, Spanish. My work abroad has taught, inspired and challenged me endlessly, and it all began in one far less exotic place: New London, Conn.

As a freshman at Connecticut College, I took "Introduction to International Politics" with Tristan Borer in Spring 2003, when the U.S. invaded Iraq. Professor Borer always stressed theory's real-world application and the human elements of high-level global affairs. When I approached her with my curiosity about post-war truth-telling and justice, she told me: "If you're interested, go. Go to the sites where these things took place." Her words have become mantra, and indeed going is what both locked me into a sense of respon-

sibility and changed my small, square view of the world. Those words are what will make me, someday, a good advocate. Years before I knew I wanted to be a lawyer, CISLA showed me that to be an effective counsel, you must sit with the client, whether she is a corporate CEO or a child of war. That is how you learn the story, the craft, the language and emotional approach to any work involving persuasion and progress.

One afternoon last year, I was out in the arid grasslands of northern Uganda, interviewing survivors of the civil war. Acan Grace, one of 30 girls abducted from her boarding school by rebel commanders and kept as sex slaves, sat on a

plastic chair facing me, eyes trained on the ground. "I think if you spoke to everyone who underwent this suffering," she explained in the muggy heat at the site of her abduction, "they would definitely tell you that what they want is for these people to

be handed over to the court and tried. I can never be happy — until something is done to those who did that to me."

There are solutions to mass violence. Stories on the nightly news should not be cast off as Third World problems or the growing pains of new democracy. Listening to victims has lent more pragmatism and drive to my professional life than any training or rote evaluation. We have the international legal institutions to answer Grace's call. It's a plea that echoes the world over, currently shaking the dry turf of North Africa, snaring international attention and prompting illegal state backlash. In the end, a concerted effort toward truth and justice will help not only war-torn communities, but everyone. I'm grateful for the push CISLA gave me to join it.



HOLLY WITH EX-CHILD COMBATANTS IN GULU, UGANDA. PHOTO: MIRIAM WERTLIEB

notes from the field

THIS SUMMER, 28 CISLA students scattered everywhere from Panama to New Caledonia, completing internships in 18 different countries. For most, this was their first experience working and living on their own in the “real world”, and as if that weren’t daunting enough in itself, they were doing it all in a foreign language and culture.

Over the course of the summer, we stay connected to students through their blogs, emails and internship reports. Ranging from the poignant to the hilarious, these provide us an unfiltered glimpse into their thoughts on the experience as they are living it. Though they are in vastly different countries and working in extremely diverse fields, we inevitably notice a pattern of recurring themes: struggles with the language barrier, trying to find their “niche” at work, learning to be alone and take care of themselves ... but ultimately, discovering a powerful new sense of independence, confidence and self-awareness. These challenges, and their triumph over them, are the definition of the CISLA internship experience. Here, we share some notes on the journey from members of the Class of 2012.

***For a full list of the internships and research projects being conducted by the Class of 2012, visit www.conncoll.edu/centers/cisla/5781.htm*

“Working and living in a foreign country cannot be explained simply. It is fun, scary, lonely, exciting, academically stimulating and a million other things. It has been really fun to meet new people, practice Spanish and explore new places. But is also hard not to have friends or family in the same country. ... That being said, learning to be alone and living in an awesome city like Bogotá is an amazing experience. It has made me realize that graduating college might not be so scary. I am working and living abroad, which is something most people don’t do during college. It has given me the confidence that I am able to handle big challenges and changes in my life. ... The experience, like most experiences in life, has its ups and downs. But I have learned that the downs are just as valuable, if maybe not as fun, as the ups.” — Carrie Rubury, Ahmsa International, Bogotá, Colombia

“This entire internship has been a challenge! Conducting anything, particularly on a professional scale, in a foreign language is daunting. I have made my fair share of mistakes, but along the way I’ve overcome my fear of asking questions when I don’t understand, giving my point of view even when I don’t have all the words, and putting myself out there. Being told to go to this conference or to meet a coworker at this locale, not know-

ing what to expect, who to find, or how to communicate who I am and what I’m doing without looking like a fool, and trusting that everything will be all right (It has been, thus far!), are the kinds of situations that have been the greatest challenges.” — Meghan Ball, the Simone de Beauvoir Women’s Rights Association, Nantes, France

“It’s now my last week at my internship in Japan, and I definitely don’t want to leave. ... Everyone at my internship and the people within the extended Ainu community whom I’ve been fortunate enough to meet have been incredibly welcoming, accepting, helpful and excited to have me here. It’s been truly fantastic working with these people. Last night my coworkers held a goodbye party for me and it honestly felt like I was with family. I suppose that’s a downside of studying abroad — you eventually have to say goodbye.” — Becca Cheney, Ainu Association of Hokkaido, Sapporo, Japan

Anticipation

“This is way, way scarier than study abroad. I often picture myself showing up in Paris, this little insignificant person in this vast expanse of space, stepping out of CDG airport and thinking to myself, ‘OK, now what?’ Which is

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REBECCA CHENEY '12 ON A RAFTING TRIP WITH CO-WORKERS IN SAPPORO, JAPAN.



ALEX OWEN '12 AT AN EVENT SPONSORED BY HIS INTERNSHIP ORGANIZATION IN MANAGUA, NICARAGUA.



KATIE MULLALEY '12 PARTICIPATES IN THE EXHUMATION OF THE MASS GRAVES OF FRANCO'S VICTIMS IN LEON, SPAIN.



MANUEL JIMENEZ '12 STANDS IN FRONT OF HIS INTERNSHIP ORGANIZATION, THE UNITED NATIONS, IN GENEVA, SWITZERLAND.

probably going to be super close to the actuality of how it will happen: These two months in Paris will be me figuring things out on my own, step by step, situation by situation. There will be no welcome guides waiting for me at the airport this time; no neat little information sheets telling me exactly what to do to get myself oriented and how to do it. Just me, my common sense and my French speaking skills.”

Language Barrier

“It was frustrating at first not to be able to do everything quickly and well because of the language barrier. I am not used to feeling incompetent, so it was disappointing to have my boss ask, ‘Did you finish that yet?’ and I would have to say, ‘No, it is taking longer than expected.’ But as my German improves, the work I have to do gets easier and easier.”

“The hardest challenge I have met in the office is communicating my ideas and research in French on very complicated topics such as assisted medical procreation. In English, such topics would already be hard to discuss, but in my second language it is a lot harder.”

“I am working at overcoming the language barrier every day, and with each cup of coffee I order, I feel myself getting closer and closer to that day when I will be able to banter with the best of the banterers. I suspect this moment is still several hundred milligrams of caffeine away, so I will continue to gulp down espresso

and attempt to construct clever sentences in my head until it arrives.”

Life at Work

“Week 1: Orientation, or dis-orientation more like it. It was an intense week of workshops on the organization, corporate governance, safety issues for NGOs like this one, labor unions, corporate investigative research and a lot more. My brain was fried after every day, and going out to lunch every day was even worse, because I thought it would be a break, but everyone just spoke in informal/faster Spanish.”

“By witnessing the tours given to the German school children and hearing some of the questions they ask about Islam, I have gained a better understanding of the perceptions of the Muslim community in Germany and I understand why the tension exists.”

“I am just so happy that my coworkers trust me enough after three weeks to start giving me some more responsibilities. Today, I really felt like ‘part of the team,’ and that feeling of belonging was AMAZING.”

“Through this internship I have learned so much about my thesis topic that I would never have learned had I remained in the U.S. and researched my topic there. ... I’ve been able to see firsthand some Spaniards’ resistance to uncover the human rights violations during Franco’s rule and the difficulties facing associa-

tions, like ARMH, who are trying to expose the truth.”

“Even though I’m on this exotic tropical island, *I* am the exotic one to them, and most people seem very proud that their project is of interest to a U.S. college student.”

“The coffee break is an important daily ritual, and I really appreciate everyone’s efforts to make sure that I don’t feel lonely by offering me copious amounts of caffeinated beverages.”

“I’ve never had an office job before, let alone one in a foreign language, so I was terrified for the first two weeks that I would mess up horribly and people would get mad at me. Once I realized that wasn’t going to happen, I started enjoying work and solving puzzles when they came along. ... Knowing that I can in fact function in an Italian office is extremely exciting.”

Life Outside Work

“I joined the tango club at Hokkaido University simply by starting up a conversation with some street performers. Sometimes I just want to stay home, rest, and get my head on straight, but I find that when I push myself out the door, I always have an amazing experience.”

“Living in an apartment with six other girls from around the world ... I am getting a cultural experience both at the workplace and at home. To be able

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notes from the field

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to create relationships with people who are from a different culture and have a friendship that is founded on a second language is very rewarding.”

“I find it very rewarding that I am actually working and living my life in China. It’s hard to explain, but it’s a much different experience than studying abroad. ... The independence really is a great thing.”

“The Croatian people are quite open and are likely to strike up conversations with anyone within a five-meter radius. ... If you don’t know the names of the grandchildren of the man you stood in line with for 10 minutes at the grocery store, you must have been wearing earplugs.”

“I have been fortunate to live with an Argentinean friend and her family. ... Integrating into this family has been one of the most rewarding parts of my experience as I have learned about another side of Argentina, namely the harsh reality of the middle class, which I did not see while living in one of the most prestigious upper-class Argentinean barrios during study abroad.”

Being Alone

“I am used to always having people surrounding me and having friends/family

at arm’s reach. Now, I am pretty much alone and have learned to deal with it. I have learned a lot about myself and that I do not need people all the time in order to be happy.”

“I think the hardest thing for me here is the loneliness. I know we were all warned and prepared for it ... but it is a struggle to be traveling and seeing all these marvelous things and not having anyone to share in the excitement.”

“In leaving my American friends, study abroad program and host family, I have entered ‘the real France.’ ... While I am trying to make conversations and form connections with people here, I have also adapted to this isolation. It’s been a struggle, but I’ve become more comfortable with myself and my thoughts. ... I am sure this self-awareness will serve me for the rest of my life.”

Life Skills and Lessons

“I have thus far conquered the ever-extinguishing water heater and that most terrifying of all European terrors, the washing machine. I sincerely hope that my introductory course on home improvement will stop here, but I cannot be sure of having such luck.”

“I have acquired one skill in particular that I have never been particularly good at: patience.”

“I am learning to live on my own – to cook, buy groceries, clean, take care of myself, and manage money.”

“I am learning how to not rely on others to make plans, but if I want to do something, to go out and do it myself. I’m also getting really good at reading maps and learning how to use public transportation.”

“I have also learned the importance of networking. ... I was so desperate to make friends, I would always say yes to everyone and always make an effort. ... I have realized that making connections is key to personal and professional lives.”

“I have had to be really proactive about getting what I want. ... I have had to say something when I need more work or more structure. While this has been a very challenging part of my internship, it has also taught me about taking initiative.”

“With work, house chores and the study for my SIP, I have become very self-disciplined in order to complete everything I need to do.”

“For the first time in my life, I was in charge of finding where to live and what to eat and that obviously translated into learning to manage a budget.”

“This is sort of the first real-life experience that I’ve had, and it gives me a lot of self-confidence to think that if I can do this, I can do anything.”

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SUSANNA SPRAGUE '12 WITH HER CO-WORKERS AT THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE ITALIAN PRESS.



ELISE DUNN '12 AT A CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN MEXICO CITY.

Tsunami and earthquakes

by John Andras Molnar '09

AFTER A LONG DAY of carrying buckets of water to flush toilets and distributing food and other supplies, I collapsed on the floor of the faculty room and took off my coat to use as a blanket. Prime floor space in the corner had already been snagged by a science teacher, Iwasa Sensei, so I searched for a spot that could fit my body, ending up between the gym and math teachers' feet. Blankets and food were in scarce supply the first few days after the tsunami that ravaged northern Japan on March 11. In Yamamoto Town in southern Miyagi Prefecture, where I have spent the past two years teaching English, the situation was no different.

Drawing on a strength that I discovered during my CISLA internship three years earlier, I made it through a week of mounting difficulties in

Yamamoto. Though the situations were totally different, of course, watching fellow faculty and volunteers giving their all inspired me to contribute what I could. After a few days the Japanese Self-Defense Force arrived with food and other supplies, easing the hardships somewhat. But I truly wonder if, without my internship experience, I could have persevered.

Now, several months after the disaster, school has started again, people have moved out of tents and schools and into temporary housing, and life seems to be regaining some sense of normalcy. Many of my perspectives have changed because of this experience, but I am always left in awe as to how Japan continues to mold me, even when I think it can't anymore. I have learned so much here — as a student, as a CISLA

intern and now as a teacher — and I am forever grateful that I was willing to take that leap of faith and go abroad.





8

From theory to practice: *How CISLA fosters a more complete college experience*

by Gail and Edward Denton P'11, Venetia, Pa.

AFTER A SEMESTER OF STUDY

in Brazil during her junior year, our daughter Annie stayed on for her CISLA internship at IPREDE, a nonprofit organization that works with families to alleviate malnutrition in Brazil. IPREDE, an NGO that works in tandem with existing government programs, supplements income to at-risk families.

CISLA has proved to be the ultimate way to pull together all the fruits of a liberal arts education by allowing for a practical application to many hours of theory in the classroom. Being in Fortaleza, a very poor and somewhat dangerous city of 4 million, demanded its own set of skills. The experience fostered independence, vigilance and plain street smarts beyond the normal college experience. Annie learned to repel would-be muggers, negotiate with street vendors, and ride the ups and downs of a

World Cup favorite with its ardent fans.

Having lived near São Paulo for four years in the 1990s, our family was proudly fluent in Portuguese. However, when we ventured to Brazil at the end of Annie's CISLA internship last summer, we were in for quite a surprise. Annie stepped in with a fluency that was most impressive. She helped us navigate the ins and outs of a frenetic city, and even led us to the return of a lost credit card, unused.

Prior to her departure, we felt normal anxiety about Annie's security during the internship. All fears abated when we spoke with her homestay family via Skype. We realized that there were many resources available in a large or small emergency to ensure Annie's safety. In short, CISLA provided an experience that was rich in every respect and has brought our daughter to a new threshold where she is ready to take on the planet.

Global citizens meet global organization

by Aditya Harnal '13

IF PART of the CISLA mission is to foster the development of global citizens, then the annual sophomore visit to the United Nations headquarters in New York City is akin to a global initiation. At the crack of dawn on April 13, 2011, armed with their cameras, appetites and a series of unforgivingly pointed questions, the CISLA Class of 2013 embarked upon this initiation.

From touring the General Assembly Hall and Security Council Chamber to dining in the Delegates' Dining Room, the experience left students inspired and eager to meet with representatives from various missions to the U.N. The opportunity presented itself as the class engaged in separate dialogues with delegates from the United States, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Israel. Equipped with a litany of informed questions, several students directed the discourse toward relevant, pertinent issues such as gender inequality, settlement building and foreign policy. The wide variety of academic disciplines represented by the CISLA students allowed for these discussions to assume a diversity of angles, which impressed and oftentimes stumped the delegates.

The discussions and excitement continued at the dinner tables in Jules Bistrot in Manhattan, where students and faculty members shared their experiences over a warm and hearty meal — the perfect end to a truly unforgettable day.

**Save the date for
the CISLA 20-year
reunion!**

**Reunion weekend
June 1-3, 2012
More details forthcoming.**

The power of language

by Mary Devins

A RECENT BOOK published by the Harvard Business School Press, “Rethinking the MBA: Business Education at a Crossroads,” notes, among other things, “MBA programs aren’t giving students the heightened cultural awareness and global perspectives they need.” The article was a perfect testament to what we are already doing in CISLA, plus we demand the foreign language component.

When CISLA was first envisioned in 1989, the intent was to address the need for international education at the undergraduate level. Foreign-language proficiency was determined to be an essential skill to prepare graduates to enter the interconnected, modern-day world. Since its inception, CISLA scholars have been certified by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages at predetermined levels that vary by language.

Americans, unfortunately, are notorious for not only NOT learning foreign languages, but not learning them well. Anyone who speaks a foreign language can tell you the joy that comes with speaking with others in their own language, be it in the academic, business or tourist world. In former days, foreign language study was considered a leisurely pursuit, mostly for women. Today it has become an important skill set on any serious resume. Many of our CISLA graduates go on to careers where they use foreign language on a daily basis.

The Office of Alumni Relations put together an interesting panel last



FROM L TO R: FORMER CISLA DIRECTOR PROFESSOR JULIA KUSHIGIAN, CARL PRATHER '04, AND CISLA ALUMS KATHERINE AVGERINOS '05 AND LAUREN BURKE '06.

April titled “The Power of Language: Careers for the Multilingual.” Two CISLA students, Lauren Burke '06 and Katherine Avgerinos '05, plus another student, Carl Prather '04, participated. Lauren was a Chinese language and literature major. Her senior integrative project was “Bilingual and Bicultural Education: How Language Effects Minority Children’s Sense of Self.” Lauren, who is fluent in Mandarin, is an immigration attorney with a focus on victims of human trafficking from China. She is also the founder of Atlas, a cooperative empowerment center for immigrant youth and their allies. Lauren says, “Learning to work in another language is not only the practical route to take in our ever globalized world, it’s the responsible one as well. The day has

passed that those interested in changing our world can speak of social justice in the English language only.”

Kathy was a Slavic studies and history double major. Her senior integrative project was “The Natasha Trade: How Russia and the West are Addressing the Problem.” She received a dual degree from Syracuse University in international relations and public relations. Today Kathy works for a public relations firm where her main clients are the Russian government and Gazprom, a Russian gas company. Her mastery of the Russian language has allowed her to build an exciting international career in communications. Kathy says, “My decision to study Russian at Conn so significantly affected the course of my academic, professional and personal life that I have basically developed a second identity — my Russian alter ego, so to say. As a result, I have gained a wealth of new experiences, made Russia-related friends around the world, and last but not least, have excelled at my current job doing communications work for the Russian government.”

Maybe MBA programs aren’t giving students what they need to succeed, but CISLA is!

Funding news

CISLA’S ENDOWMENT enables us to fully fund program and internship expenses, offer generous support for a variety of faculty and student initiatives, and continue to fund faculty and student travel grants. As the stock market goes, so goes our endowment. We continue to look for ways to creatively fund and support CISLA-based initiatives.

CISLA alumni updates

1995

Nicole Podell Yamada lives in Tokyo with her husband and 8-month-old son Kai Alex. She and her husband are the master franchisees for Gymboree Play & Music in Japan and operate two centers in Tokyo. The March earthquake, tsunami and following nuclear crisis affected their business greatly, but they hope things will return to normal soon.



NICOLE PODELL YAMADA '95 WITH HER HUSBAND, SHINJI, AND SON, KAI ALEX.

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1996

Gayle Baker Cramer and her family moved back from Tel Aviv last summer, where her husband was posted with the Commercial Foreign Service. They are back in D.C. now and love raising their two little girls, Shelby (8 months) and Baker (3 years). Gayle plans to return to nursing school next year and would love to combine her clinical and research experience in the international arena.

Andrea Fisher Erda and her family are living in Richmond, Va., with their 5-year-old son and 3-year-old twins (a boy and girl). Last year she stopped her part-time job as a grant writer for international humanitarian aid agencies and is now try to juggle work on various nonprofit boards with the task of raising a small family. Life is good, but busy, and keeping up with friends is hard. She does connect from time to time, however, with her old roommate and CISLA classmate, Keri Sarajian Stratton.

Michael Roemer (Tex) recently left his position as assistant professor of religious studies at Ball State University to take on a new challenge: He will become the

director of global initiatives at Trinity Valley School in his home state of Texas, a position that is directly aligned with the goals of CISLA.

1998 & 1999

Doreen Vaillancourt Maroney '99 and *Hagen D. Maroney '98* are members of the U.S. Foreign Service. Doreen is in training at the National Foreign Affairs Training Center in Washington, D.C., while Hagen wraps up his third tour in Riga, Latvia. They hope to remain in Washington for one year followed by a tour in Eastern Europe or Russia. Tagging along are their two little boys, Sidney (4½ years) and Samuel (16 months). Recently, they've had the pleasure of catching up with CISLA alumni *Yoko Shimada '99* and *Collin Keeney '98* and their newest addition to the family, baby boy Hugo.

Catie Ryan '99 has been working for three years in NYC at a think tank for urban environmental sustainability. She recently returned from Malaysia where she is on the design team for a 100-story tower that is striving to set a sustainability precedent for urban superstructures.

2001

Jordana Gustafson lives in Washington, D.C., and works for America Abroad, a documentary radio program focused on international political affairs and U.S. foreign policy. It airs on more than 200 NPR stations. She regularly travels abroad for her job. If any undergrads (or grads!) are interested in an internship, email her at jordana@americaabroadmedia.org.

Aylin Talgar Pietz lives in Pristina, Kosovo, working part time doing research and evaluation for international development organizations mainly in the fields of education, media and health. She works full time as a mother of two. Kamelya is 2½ and her brother, Kaan, was born April 3.

Maria Engel lives in Alexandria, Va., with her husband, *Barry Klatzkin '01*. She teaches first grade at the Flint Hill School and has an exciting summer planned. She is going to Italy to attend the Reggio Emilia Children's Institute for a weeklong course on child development, then to Guatemala with the Highland Support Project, in which four teachers will take 8-10 high schoolers to do a service project in a Mayan community. This summer also

includes a family trip to Ireland, and a trip to Spain where Maria will visit her host mother from the high school visit when she fell in love with the country.

Amanda Mochan works as an adjudications manager (fancy way to say "judge") at Guinness World Records. She travels throughout the U.S. and the world to judge various record attempts. Some of her favorites were the largest macaroni and cheese in New Orleans, the longest singing marathon by a group in India, and the largest gathering of people dressed as leprechauns in Burbank, Calif. (on "The Tonight Show" with Jay Leno!).



AMANDA MOCHAN '01 WITH THE LARGEST GATHERING OF PEOPLE DRESSED AS LEPRECHAUNS. PHOTO: NBC UNIVERSAL

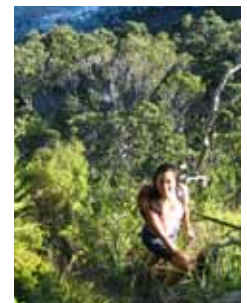
A post-doctoral associate at Duke University, *Varun Swamy* plans to expand his study of plant-animal interactions in the Peruvian Amazon with the ultimate goal of helping to protect the rainforest. He was an environmental studies major at CC who began his field research in the tidal marshes of Stonington, Conn.

2002

Eunice Kua is still working in a literacy program with Darfur refugees in eastern Chad. She just completed two years and will be going for another stint after some time at home in Malaysia. For more on Eunice, see a recent feature about Ames Prize winners in the Spring 2011 issue of CC: Magazine!

2003

In 2010, *Elli Nagai-Rothe* completed an M.A. in International



ELLI NAGAI-ROTHE '03 ON THE EAST COAST OF NEW ZEALAND.

Peace and Conflict Resolution at American University in Washington, D.C. She's now living in Auckland, New Zealand, for the year as a Fulbright Fellow and has a research affiliation with the New Zealand Human Rights Commission and the University of Auckland. Her Fulbright research looks at policies and initiatives that have been effective in addressing racial inequities for New Zealand's communities of color.

2005

For the past two years *Laura Heaton* has been the lead writer/editor of the blog *Enough Said*, published by the Enough Project at the Center for American Progress. She worked in the D.C. office until last August when she moved to Nairobi, Kenya. From her home base in Kenya, Laura travels frequently throughout East Africa, covering conflict in eastern Congo, the independence of South Sudan and the challenges it poses, and the impact of the Lord's Resistance Army throughout the Great Lakes region.

2006

Andrew Maki just finished his second year at Washington College of Law. He's concentrating his studies on human rights and rule of law development, mostly in the post-conflict context with a focus on Africa. This summer, he's in Lagos, Nigeria, assisting in domestic advocacy around social and economic rights and remotely working for Juan Mendez, the U.N. Special Rapporteur on Torture.

Kristin Griffin just finished her M.F.A. in fiction at Purdue. Her novel is in its third draft and research for it took her biking and camping solo through Ireland, where she continued to never stop dreaming.

Holly Dranginis is pursuing a J.D. at the University of California Berkeley School of Law. She spent 2010 in northern Uganda directing a peace-building education program and assisting International Criminal Court outreach efforts in the region. This summer, Holly is working on the prosecution team for the Charles Taylor trial in The Hague.

2007

Lindsay Lehr, originally from Maine, has been living in Buenos Aires, Argentina, since graduation, where she set up her own English school and translation agency

(www.lenglish.com.ar). She's also been working on a master's in development policy and management and hopes to graduate this year. She plans to return to the U.S. in 2012 and look for work in her field.

Emily Honstein just graduated from George Washington University's Elliott School of International Affairs with a master's degree in global communications. She's now wrapping up a survey of international public and state media for Pew Research Center's Project for Excellence in Journalism. She plans to stay in D.C. for the summer to look for a full-time job either there or in New York, work on some research projects focusing on the use of social media in political revolution, do a lot of yoga, and grill.



EMILY HONSTEIN, GRANT HOGAN, MEGAN MCCARTHY AND LIZ GREENMAN AT A MINI CLASS OF 2007 REUNION IN A WASHINGTON, D.C., RESTAURANT

Ross Jordan is still studying the same topic as his CISLA project, only now it's while getting a dual master of arts degree in arts administration/policy and art history at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC). Before entering SAIC last fall he did a year-long internship at MOMA. He was hoping to see fellow CISLA classmate Trent Hardman in Paris this summer!

2009

Erin Holstein lived in New York City after graduation and thoroughly enjoyed working with detained, unaccompanied immigrant children at Catholic Charities. She then relocated to Sevilla, Spain, where she is researching the integration of Moroccan immigrant women. This fall she will begin her M.Sc. in human rights at the London School of Economics. Erin attributes her passion for the Spanish language, traveling and helping others to CISLA.

Annie Burrows is interning at ACCION International, an organization that works with microfinance institutions in Latin America, Africa and Asia. She is in training, and when that ends, she'll

hit the ground running in Spanish.

On March 11, 2011, *John Andras Molnar* was teaching English in Yamamoto Town when the earthquake and tsunami struck. He has since been helping to rebuild, though not from the town itself. He enlisted the help of some current CC students and some CISLA alums to help raise money for his town and school. The nuclear meltdown forced him to temporarily move to Miyagi Prefecture where he devoted his time and efforts to raising money. He intends to go back when the school reopens and continue working for the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme. Please visit his blog at <http://yamamoto-fund.blogspot.com>.

David Urbaneja graduated from Oxford and his fiancée, Marcela Palau, always an honorary CISLA student, graduated from the London School of Economics, both with master's degrees. They are currently working in Spain as they plan for an October wedding in Seville. After the wedding, they will honeymoon in Kenya and then move to Hong Kong where David will continue working for BBVA. Congratulations, David and Marcela!



DAVID URBANEJA '09 WITH HIS FIANCÉE, MARCELA PALAU, AT HIS GRADUATION FROM OXFORD UNIVERSITY.

2010

Michael Gardner is living and working in Buenos Aires for Deloitte in the Transfer Pricing Department, analyzing the profits of multinational corporations across borders for tax purposes. He plans to be there for at least a few years, getting a great jump on his career.



IN 2010, MANGOLD CHASED RUNNERS TO THE END OF THE WORLD, BRAVING ANTARCTICA'S APOCALYPTIC CLIMATE AND TERRAIN TO DOCUMENT A 250-KM ULTRAMARATHON.

ZANDY MANGOLD '96 is a photographer based in New York City. Raised in New Hampshire, he has also lived in Santiago, Chile; Washington, D.C.; Atlanta; and Eleuthera, Bahamas. His photographs

have appeared in Time and the New York Post among many other publications. One of Zandy's passions is participating in and photographing ultramarathons.

When in CISLA, he did his internship

at La Viña Santa Carolina in Santiago, where he assisted with advertising and sales campaigns for the vineyard. His honors thesis was "The Free Market and Democratization in Chile."

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

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