



P R I S M

The Toor Cummings Center for International Studies and the Liberal Arts

Benjamin Barber Defines New Realities Facing America

By SUJATA TULADHAR '05

Perhaps no one incident in U.S. history has created a wider political discourse than the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. Since then, Connecticut College has consciously worked towards providing a platform for political discussion in its liberal arts environment. CISLA also embraces this need by creating an intellectual environment for renowned speakers to deliver their ideas to the campus community. During Fall Weekend 2003, CISLA invited noted political scientist and author Benjamin Barber to present his ideas on the issue of globalization and terrorism.

The Connecticut College Board of Trustees also presented Barber with an honorary doctorate of humane letters, for his dedication in the field of political science and his commitment to democracy.

Dr. Benjamin R. Barber is the Gershon and Carol Kekst Professor of Civil Society at the University of Maryland and a principal of the Democracy Collaborative. Barber's 17 books include the classic *Strong Democracy* (1984), the novel *Marriage Voices* (1981) and the international best seller *Jihad vs. McWorld* (1995 with a post 9/11 edition, 2001.) For years, CISLA has used *Jihad vs. McWorld* for its class, *Perspective on Modern Global Society*.

In an inspiring and motivational speech, Barber stressed the need for the U.S. to acknowledge the "new reality of interdependence in the world." The United States has long been a nation where an independent sovereign government has controlled its own destiny. But with September 11th, Barber said, "America learned its first lesson on interdependence." In the new system of interdependence, the international economy works outside of the compass and purview of sovereignty.



After his speech on Oct. 18, 2003, Benjamin Barber, second from the right, was awarded an honorary degree in humane letters during Fall Weekend. Beside Barber, from left to right are; Fran Hoffmann, Dean of the Faculty; Barbara Shattuck Kohn '72, chair of the Board of Trustees, and President Norman Fainstein

Speaking to an audience of parents, students and alumni in Evans Hall, Barber stressed the role education can play to combat terrorism. He stated that "America's liberal arts education system has made a distinctive contribution to higher education all around the globe" and has, thus, put the country ahead of its global counterparts. It is, however, "a fool's dream" noted Barber, "to think that the young can be educated for America only." He stressed the need for the U.S. to acknowledge interdependence as the norm of today's world.

In response to a question regarding the war on terrorism, Barber commented, "If you want to make America totally safe, then you have to create a police surveillance state, but is that the price we want to pay? Surrender of our civil liberties?"

Barber then posed a question to the audience regarding how the United States can achieve national security in an era of interdependence when the traditional measures of security are no longer working. "No matter how well we do here, our children

won't sleep safely unless children in Damascus, Bombay and Karachi sleep safely as well," Barber said. The boundary between national and international has all but vanished. Thus, Barber stated, "the present day need is not for America to demand the world to join in the war against terrorism but for America to join the world." The cost of not doing so would be to lose control of its own destiny because the country's destiny is now in the hands of people elsewhere in the world.

Barber asserted that education is the first front in the war on terrorism. Furthermore, he suggested that books, access to the Internet and good judgment in the constructive use of these resources are the wisest tools that parents can provide their children.

Regarding the war on Iraq, Barber stressed that, "The key focus of military action is what you do with the victory and not whether or not you secure the victory."

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

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The CISLA Experience Through the Lenses of the Class of 2004



From the Director

The College's first two strategic plans in the 1990s made internationalization a strategic priority. That meant hiring faculty with international training and interests in nearly every department of the College and supporting foreign language learning. And it meant creating CISLA as an intellectual home for students to internationalize their Connecticut College education in a unique and comprehensive manner.

Not long after I became the Dean of International Studies, in the fall of 2001, I received a survey from the American Council on Education (ACE) on the state of internationalization at C.C. Little did I know that my answers would reveal that Connecticut College has not only succeeded in reaching the goals we had set for ourselves, but surpassed them. When compared to the other 236 liberal arts colleges that participated (among a total of 1,027 institutions of higher education), we emerged as one of the most internationalized colleges in the country. The results of that study are now available in *Mapping Internationalization on U.S. Campuses*, by Laura Siaya and Fred M. Hayward (ACE: Washington D.C., 2003). They show that, by every measure - institutional support; academic requirements, offerings, and programs; and international opportunities on campus - liberal arts colleges do a better job than community colleges and universities, and, among them, CC does a better job than just about anyone else.



CISLA Director and Dean of International Studies, Fred Paxton, continues his work promoting a variety of international opportunities to all students at Connecticut College.

Connecticut College stood out so clearly, in fact, that ACE invited us to participate in the next phase of their research. Having identified several "highly internationalized" schools in each category, the authors of the study decided to get a better sense of what we do and how we do it. This November, Laura Siaya and a colleague visited campus to see for themselves what was going on. They met with Mary Devins and me at CISLA, as well as with Shirley Parson, the Associate Director of the Office of National and International Programs, and the Dean of International Students, Beverly Kowal. After our meeting, they interviewed a representative group of a dozen domestic students. Their objective was to determine how aware students are of internationalization at the College and to measure the degree to which student perception is in line with the quality and depth of our efforts to internationalize the campus. They will follow up with an on-line survey to the whole of the domestic student population next spring. The results

will appear during the fall of 2004 in a report with an entire chapter devoted to internationalization at Connecticut College. I am confident that it will show, once again, that the College, with CISLA as its flagship program, has met and exceeded the strategic goals first articulated fifteen years ago.

Having achieved so much, it will not be surprising if the new strategic plan, just now being formulated, recognizes the importance of internationalization as a goal. We truly have arrived. The challenge now is to maintain the leadership position we have reached by continuing to support the faculty and students who see internationalization as an essential component of a liberal arts education in the 21st century. I have every confidence that we can do that, especially as long as CISLA continues to thrive.

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

Congratulations to CISLA Class of 2006

A very warm welcome is extended to the **CISLA Class of 2006**. Our newest members are Nicole Adams, Katherine Avgerinos, Allyson Borgelt, Lauren Burke, Sylvia Chen, Yaseen Choudhury, Elizabeth Colburn, Katharine Davidson, Ralph DeLouis, Holly Dranginis, Patty Eames, Alex Gere, Kristin Griffin, Priyanka Gupta, Merritt Haswell, Jess Howton, Liz Hubley, Andrew Imbrie, James Klaunder, Andrew Maki, Oytun Pakcan, Eliza Parad, Julie Redwine, Robinson Rojas, Sarah Schmid, Fahad Shams, Michael Shreve, Jason Siebenthall, Kim Stellavato, Sarah Tillotson, and Katie Wyl.

There will be a special ceremonial banquet and panel discussion held in their honor on Saturday, February 21, 2004.



During I.S.201: Perspectives on Modern Global Society, the CISLA Class of 2006 will examine issues of globalization and modernity.

For us, the best part of sending our daughter, Sarah, on her CISLA internship in Costa Rica was the chance to see her flourishing in a completely alien environment, harnessing tools we never knew she had to meet challenges she had never faced. This is a young woman who grew up on the south side of Chicago and mastered the essential skills for modern, urban American life - public transportation, parallel parking, ethnic fast-food cuisine. We had no clue how different the lifestyle would be in Costa Rica; more importantly, we did not suspect Sarah’s capacity to adapt and prosper in this totally foreign world.

When Sarah met us at the airport in San Jose, the first thing we noticed was her mastery of Spanish. Through an intensive summer program, and after several months living with her host family, she had transformed her choppy high-school Spanish into an impressive fluency. She conversed like a Costa Rican native with the incredibly friendly people at the car rental agency and the restaurant we stopped at along the way.

Dodging ubiquitous potholes on the drive up the unpaved road to Monteverde, it took us two hours to go 20 kilometers, preparing us for the rustic world we would encounter at the top. Nothing could have truly prepared us for the captivating view of Monteverde's cloud forest.

Just as breathtaking, to us was the fundamental competence we observed in our transformed city girl. Walking miles up and down hills along mud roads, Sarah seemed to know everyone in this small town. She introduced us to many of her new friends, explaining their backgrounds to us in English while simultaneously asking the always friendly people about their families, jobs, and activities. By the time we reached the house into which Sarah had recently moved to be closer to the school where she was teaching, it was completely dark outside, an enveloping blackness we never see in Chicago. Yet here was our Sarah, completely comfortable and self-sufficient, living in what seemed like the middle of nowhere.



As an intern at the Centro de Educación Creativa, a bilingual, elementary school in Monteverde, Costa Rica, Sarah Schlessinger worked alongside teachers, administrators and young students to study how environmental policies effect local education for her senior integrative project.

The next day we met the family that Sarah had lived with during her first months on the mountain. It was clear to us immediately that these were Sarah’s parents and siblings nearly as much as we and her sisters were. The love and kindness showered on her were as evident as the farming skills she had developed helping them with the daily chores and with planting and harvesting their abundant fruits and vegetables.

While in Costa Rica, Sarah developed in ways that she never could have in the United States. She absorbed another culture, mastered a foreign language and adopted the ability to thrive in a rural setting. She studied a completely different approach to teaching children, accepted and returned the love of a foster family and matured into an independent, far-sighted woman with experiences to match her commitment to serving humanity. We could not be more pleased with her experience or the worlds it has opened up for her.

Paving The Way For Life Overseas

BY MATTHEW SMITH '93

Through my participation with the CISLA program, I was lucky enough to spend the summer of 1992 in Paris, France as an intern in the Centre Georges Pompidou. In addition to perfecting my French and gaining valuable work knowledge, the experience was very rewarding on a personal level. More than anything else, though, the internship convinced me that, after Connecticut College, I wanted to do something that might one day give me the opportunity to live and work abroad. This desire to be in an international environment led me to EF Education.

EF Education began in 1965 as a small Swedish company. In the last 38 years, EF Education has evolved into a multinational group with over 2,000 full-time staff and 15,000 part-time teachers and volunteers working in offices and schools around the world. The organization is vast, but the mission remains simple: To make it

possible for people around the world to communicate with one another across borders, breaking down barriers of language, culture and geography.

In 1996, I began working at EF in the High School Year Abroad division. Our academic program facilitates the placement of over 3000 high school students from all over the world in the United States. After six years in Boston, however, I longed for an opportunity to expand my horizons abroad. When a position opened up at EF’s European headquarters, in Lucerne, Switzerland, which required a person knowledgeable about French culture and fluent in French, I inquired about it. My experience with CISLA made me an excellent candidate for the vacancy and, ultimately, I was given the job.

Continued on page 5

Last year, two prestigious Fulbright Scholarships were awarded to Connecticut College students, both CISLA scholars. Both students' Fulbright proposals were continuations of projects they undertook during their CISLA summer internships.

Alexandra (Alex) Fiorillo '03 was a double major in International Relations and Latin American Studies and minored in Gender and Women's Studies. During her CISLA internship, Alex worked for Banco Solidario in Quito, Ecuador while she also gathered research for her honors thesis titled *Microlending for Macro Results: A Case Study of Microfinance in Ecuador*. Alex returned to Ecuador last September where she is now examining the impact of microfinance services and programs on the development of Ecuadorian indigenous groups, specifically the Kichwa and Shuar. During the initial stages of her Fulbright research, Alex has worked with PRODEPINE, a World Bank program that organizes indigenous women in "cajas solidarias", or communal banks. She has spent much time in the jungle and Northern Ecuador working with six of these *cajas*. During her next venture, she will work with the USAID/Development Alternatives International project to determine the demand and supply of microfinance services in the country. She intends to run focus groups of micro-entrepreneurs and to complete a nationwide survey of over 10,000 residents to determine the market of microfinance.

Gregory (Greg) Smith '03, double majored in German and Economics. During the summer of 2002, he lived in Frankfurt, Germany during his CISLA internship at Deutsche Bank. Upon returning to the college his senior year, Greg completed an honors thesis titled *A Critique on the Theory of Optimum Currency Areas: Germany and European Monetary Union*. Greg has now returned to Germany to develop a method of evaluation to measure the effect of cross border labor mobility on western German labor markets.



Recent graduates and CISLA alumni, Alex Fiorillo '03 and Greg Smith '03, are conducting their field research outside the U.S. as Fulbright Scholarship recipients.

The advent of the Euro has brought numerous changes in the relationships between European Union member states. Part of the reasoning behind the European Monetary Union is that there should be an increase in labor mobility furthering economic and social integration. Greg intends to test and critique the theory of Nobel Prize winner Robert Mundell who theorized that countries in a currency union must either have a harmonized fiscal policy, which does not exist in the EU today, or perfect labor mobility to make the common currency stable and viable. Greg will make his own predictions about the feasibility of the Euro based on the information gathered.

Paving The Way For Life Overseas

(continued from page 4)



Matthew Smith posing before the Class of 1993 International Studies Certificate Ceremony held in Harkness Chapel.

I am now based in Lucerne and I oversee the EF High School exchange program throughout Europe. In my current role as Vice President of European Operations, I spend a lot of time traveling and meeting with EF staff throughout Europe. As the program in France is one of our largest, I also frequently visit our office in Paris and I speak French on a regular basis.

Reflecting on it now, I realize that where I am today was very much influenced by the CISLA internship I had many years ago. For one, I would not have my current job if I did not speak French. In addition, though, I also appreciate that the

internship was about much more than just language. I can still vividly recall how difficult it was to secure my CISLA internship in the first place (I never could have done it without lots of help and support from CISLA staff and CC alums). The interview process was, at times, both intimidating and humbling. Pounding the Parisian pavement in search of employment forced me out of my "comfort zone" and truly helped me become a more independent and self-confident person.

If I can ever be of assistance to CISLA students or alums, please don't hesitate to contact me at matt.smith@ef.com.

I still remember my first impressions of Urusa, having traveled there by train from Kyoto during winter break. Sitting in coach, listening to the clackity-clack of the wheels and the loud bellows of the horn, I stared outside my window into a huge desert of snow. The moon was out and it looked as if the landscape had been paved with silver. So mesmerized was I by the sheer quantities of snow, that not even the loud hijinx of the high-schoolers who shared the car could distract me. In a Japanese literature class, we had read a Nobel Prize-winning novel called “Snow Country.” It was a beautiful story of love and suffering that takes place in a setting remarkably similar to the one I was seeing then. Ever since reading that novel, I had wished to go see that place of snow, temples, hot springs and illicit romance. As it turned out, it was here, Urusa, where that famous story took place. I would later come to visit those Buddhist temples, half buried in snow, and sample those hot springs in the midst of winter. Enjoying those hot springs, my supervisor and I talked about Japan’s reaction to the Allied occupation, while staring up at the stars as steam and snowflakes mingled around us. It was the magic of such an experience that brought me back to Urusa for my internship in the summer of 2003. Here was a place that modernization had left alone to some extent. This area had always been the most isolated region within the main island of Honshu, and so I guess that it should be no surprise that the notion of Japan of the past still survives.

The goal of my internship in Urusa would be to collect and organize research of pertinence to my supervisor, Professor John Welfield, director of the International Relations School at the International University of Japan. Our mutual goal was to learn more about what direction Japan’s foreign policy was taking. The man did not type, did not use e-mail, and he kept his phone unhooked most of the day. He insisted that exercise and a cup of tea were essential for one’s well-being, and while his attitudes took some getting used to, I would later come to appreciate his view on life. It is ironic that one of the greatest cultural differences that I had to adjust to was that



Irene Song and Benjamin Knight, students of the Associated Kyoto Program, wearing traditional, Japanese court attire at the Genji Museum in Kyoto, Japan.

between myself, an American research assistant, and my Australian supervisor. I spent a considerable amount of time going through old newspapers. While going through years of hard copies may no longer be the most time efficient way of getting research accomplished, this was the way he had always done it in the past, and this was the way it would be done now. There were no deadlines, no set hours. Time simply wasn’t an issue. Newspapers, the occasional bit of translation work, more newspapers, a few magazine articles; going through a couple years worth of all these things during the space of two months gave me a perspective of Japanese society that is unattainable any other way. A politician’s liver transplant is groundbreaking news because in a Buddhist society, such things were traditionally considered unclean. A seal, having taken up residence in the Tama river near Tokyo, is given honorary citizenship, only to elicit protests by foreign spouses denouncing their lack of status in the eyes of the state. Thousands of cross-sections of Japanese society came into view at once, revealing the nation to me in a

way that would have been impossible otherwise.

While the work was certainly educational, the most valuable part of my internship experience was getting to know the environment and people there. The International University of Japan was truly an international environment with people from Romania to Indonesia, from France to Chile. Just talking to these people was a rewarding experience. For example, one day in a class I was allowed to audit, we discussed the role of Chandras Bose in Japan’s WWII plans for invading India. Later that very day, I had a conversation with a man from Bangladesh who had learned about him during his primary school days. Within the same dorm I could access any number of perspectives: discussing Singapore’s record on human rights one night, and then discussing Turkey’s future within the European Union the next. The university had such a diverse student body that within the space of a month we had celebrated Muslim Night, Japan Night, and ASEAN Night, the later of which was attended by the ambassadors from Thailand and Indonesia.

My new friends and I made weekend trips to Tokyo, visited temples and hot springs, traveled to neighboring towns and enjoyed everything the culture had to offer. I enjoyed practicing my Japanese in a casual setting and getting to know Japanese as friends.

Throughout all of these activities, my internship supervisor was always there to help me take full advantage of all the cultural and social opportunities that the campus and Yamato City had to offer.

Professor Welfield frequently invited me to accompany him on bicycle rides, during which he would explain to me the origin and significance of various local customs. Once after riding through a field of rice paddies, we visited a temple roofed with blue ceramic tiles, evidence of Indian influence. Inside this temple was a plethora of Buddhist statues of various styles, from Chinese and Japanese, to Indian and Burmese.

Professor Welfield once told me a story about a man named Yakuza. Yakuza was a feared and reknowned Japanese mobster who moved from Tokyo to Urasa to pursue a new career as an artist. When local teenagers found out about this mobster’s change of occupation, they publicly taunted him. In response to this, several of Yakuza’s associates from Tokyo arrived to “discuss” matters. Urasa police interviened and mediated the ensuing discussion. Yet, the police offered little protection to the local teens. Organized crime is feared by officials and citizens alike and the police have little power to do anything about it.

Aside from possibly being listed under the “special thanks” section of Professor Welfield’s next book, I was also able to conduct research pertinent to my senior integrative project. In truth, Japan is becoming more nationalistic, and the government is slowly liberalizing the usage of the Self-Defense Force. But Japan has no immediate plans to end its military alliance with the U.S. and no stated intent of acquiring a nuclear deterrent.

I gained a better understanding of how Japan’s political system operates, as well as the sentiments of the Japanese people. In actuality, Japan is not a democracy. The Liberal Democratic Party has held a monopoly on political power for decades, while political cliques, vote buying, and bribery further undermine Japan’s American imported democratic ideals. At the same time, aside from the rampant corruption, few Japanese are terribly concerned with the idea of an undemocratic Japan. Democracy inherently involves conflicts of interest, with



Benjamin Knight poses with friends after the Osaraikai dance presentation.


a clear winner and loser as dictated by the majority. Rather than tolerating such an unstable and unsettling system of governance, the Japanese find it far more palatable to allow the country to be governed by an informal political consensus, as undemocratic as it may be.

During the eight months that I had previously spent in Japan, I had discarded many of my old beliefs and gained a deeper understand of Japanese culture. Yet thanks to my friends in Urasa, my understanding of Japan continued to deepen based upon real experiences rather than my pre-conceived notions. At one time, I possessed a variety of misguided and erroneous views. To my understanding, the Japanese viewed individualism as being a polite term for selfishness; the translation of “to be wrong” and “to be different” are the same in Japanese. Before I lived in Japan, I interpreted this as evidence

of a conformist and xenophobia society. However, during my internship these views gradually changed. I came to understand the importance that the Japanese place on sincerity and their remarkable capacity for forgiveness.

Before I came to Urasa, I believed that the best aspects of Japanese life remained within its past, before the appearance of such social ills as karaoke bars. However, through my experience at the International University of Japan, I rediscovered that what defines a nation are the individuals living in them today. Upon making the effort to meet a variety of people, one will find individuals who defy self-created, biased stereotypes. In the words of Dave Barry, “... people are people, and people, wherever you go, are crazy.” Certainly, that has been the experience of this American.

“As a side note, my internship taught me how ‘real’ research is conducted and has led me to the conclusion that it is far better to be the person who hires the research assistant than to be the research assistant yourself.”




*Benjamin S. Knight
CISLA Class of 2004*

AN EXCERPT FROM BENJAMIN KNIGHT’S INTERNSHIP EVALUATION

Benjamin was extremely conscientious and worked long hours, willingly and enthusiastically... He mixed well with other students and staff, creating an altogether favourable impression ... If Benjamin is typical of the kind of young person you send out on an internship, there seems to be very little that needs improving in your program.

*Professor John Welfield, Director of the International Relations School
International University of Japan*



“Blindness is a strange, insidious thing. The more we watch for it, the more it creeps in, until it seems that blindness also happens alongside seeing – that is, it happens while we are seeing ... There are things we don't see because we don't know their names, things we overlook every day of our lives and will continue to miss as long as we live, things that try to catch our attention and fail, and things that hide, camouflaged and secretive things, little things hidden and forgotten among other things.”

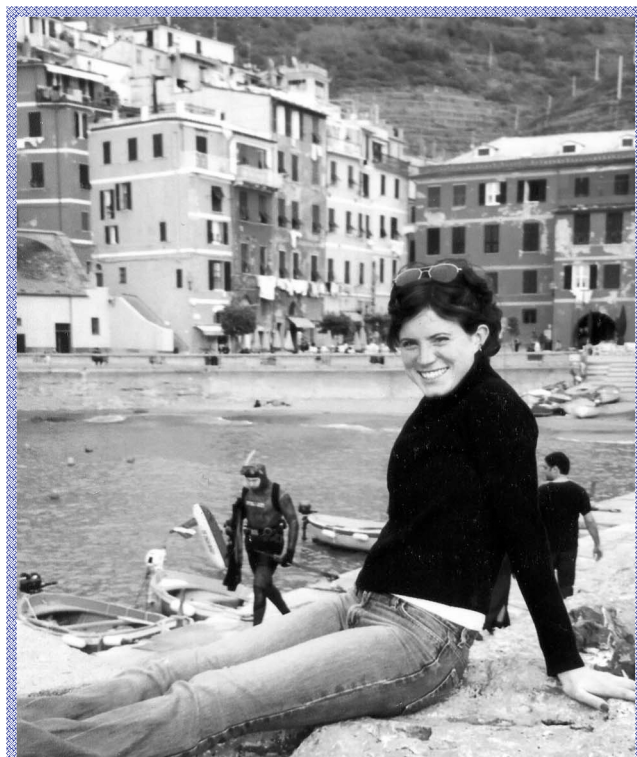
James Elkins, *The Object Stares Back*.

I've always heard that your life will flash before you in short, singular moments just before a life-or-death accident. Yet somehow, my own life came before me in a much different setting. I was on my way home to the U.S. – spending a few nights in Milan, after seven months abroad, spent mostly in Perugia, Italy. After hauling nearly everything I owned or had acquired in that time from my apartment to the train station, to the train, to the Hotel Bernina in the August heat – I was completely exhausted. I found myself there, in the hotel lobby – alone and ready to get a good night's sleep. Upon seeing the rather large roll of canvas I was bringing home, a fellow American traveler asked me a question that I cannot forget. “Are you a painter?” I've been asked if I'm an “artist” for years. But it never felt appropriate or entirely true to reply “yes”. I've always felt more like a student than an artist – pursuing art classes alongside other subjects. And even if I was an “artist,” I didn't feel that I had enough experience or work to show for it. I was afraid I would be lying or appear arrogant.



Art is not limited to canvas, especially not in Italy. Katherine photographed this image of Jesus created with colored-sand while discovering Perugia.

In those ten seconds it took me to reply, my life suddenly made sense. It is not that I was truly unsure of myself before this time away. But rather, I had found where I wanted to go with the rest of my time in college and the future, without ever knowing I was searching for that direction. All of a sudden, my confusions with myself were answered. “Yes,” I replied. While I didn't actually produce all that much work to speak of in those seven months, my emotional gain was more significant. I



Last summer, Katherine noted in an e-mail to CISLA, “My Italian is getting better... Just being in an Italian environment all day helps tremendously, and I find myself thinking in Italian more and more ...”

found the confidence I didn't know I was lacking. I learned to take care of myself in a foreign language I did not truly master until I was in the midst of this new culture. I became an expert traveler and took trips alone with complete trust in my navigating skills. I found a new love for food and a passion for red wine. But more importantly, I realized what opportunities I have made for myself in the past three, very challenging, years at college. And finally, I acknowledged that I love to paint.

I have made two of my best decisions over the past four years. First came my choice to attend Connecticut College. After growing up in land-locked, yet beautiful Louisville, KY, I was attracted to Conn's campus more than any other school. For me, being able to see the ocean was shocking and incredible. I could feel the boundless opportunities before me. I loved being near the water – a sure sign I would make many more journeys. Freshman year, I quickly settled in, enthralled with my classes and teachers. The Cummings Arts Center became home, and before long I knew I had to be an art major. When I returned this August, I was able to see the amazing support system I had created effortlessly through engaging myself in classes, conversations with professors, and putting all I had into my work.

The second great decision was to apply for CISLA. The program

was attractive, but definitely not the easiest match for my studies. However, I was determined to find a way to stay abroad longer in a work setting that would hopefully lead me in new directions. There was a time when I doubted myself. I wondered if it really was the right program for me (surrounded by economics and international relations majors), while managing an extra class every semester in order to fulfill all of the requirements. I wondered if I had gotten myself in over my head. I didn't know how I would ever find an internship, much less a place to live for those last three months abroad. But last April I finally found my internship, went into my first real interview, and conversed completely in Italian. It came together like magic. Instantly I was thrilled with what CISLA provided me.

From June until August, I worked at the advertising firm, BCPT Associati in Perugia, Italy. My proposed project was to study the differences in Italian and American graphic design – and to explore the presence of international design principles. On the first day of work, my boss asked me to help create a new ad campaign for their client, Lungarotti wine company. Words do not begin to describe how completely overwhelmed and unqualified I felt. Again, I asked myself what I had gotten into, why I was still in Italy when my friends from the semester were long gone. How would I be able to return to work each day?

I emailed friends, called home, tried to explain my experiences - still in shock that I was not yet fired. But after that first long week I felt more comfortable. I began talking to the people working around, and joining in their meetings. Before long, I had figured out the computer design programs. It was strange how foreign the same programs I had mastered at school were, when I couldn't understand them in Italian. I quickly realized how fortunate I was to have such a challenge and opportunity. My *capo* (boss) was a great teacher and took the time to teach me about advertising through graphic design. I learned a new way of thinking – an art-based yet consumer-oriented approach to design. It was fascinating to see how the ad industry functions.

I began by researching Montefalco, Umbria - the site of Lungarotti's new cantina (wine cellar). I was looking for a spark unique to the town, something that set it apart from other places in the region. I researched its history, culture and art. I came across the artist, Benozzo Gozzoli (1420 - 1457), who spent a portion of his life in Montefalco. He influenced many Renaissance artists with his new style and techniques. Through a series of frescoes that illustrate the life of Saint Francis of Assisi, Gozzoli's work remains in the *chiesa* (church) of Montefalco.

My next job was to find an appropriate translation of Gozzoli's frescoes and apply the work into a new wine label. I was sent to the *enoteca* (wine shop) to study the design of wine bottles. I discovered a new appreciation for the beautiful bottles and dignified labels wanting to pop from the shelves. It was all so intriguing, so Italian. For the month, I worked on a series of new wine labels, speaking fre-

quently with my boss to create an appropriate, effective design. Once completed, I moved onto the next task of designing an *annuncio pubblicitario* (public announcement) for a magazine ad. I found this process more engaging, as I researched alcohol ad design. I read about the politics of advertising and searched for a successful voice for this wine advertisement.

I later completed the ad and an information pamphlet on the *cantina*. I was pleased with both the quantity and quality of the work I did over one summer. In looking back on my first week there, I am still amazed at how far I came. I now fully believe in myself, and the thought of a job interview in English seems so simple and easy. However, I didn't entirely realize how much the experience changed my life until I returned to Connecticut College.

Connecticut College and, more specifically, CISLA have created new paths. After this summer, I realized that I was only interested in graphic design for the job opportunities it would provide. I have figured out enough about the medium to know graphic design is not for me. Before my internship, I neglected to follow my true passion for painting. I now know that it is okay to follow my heart, regardless of where it may lead me. In my last year here, I want to study painting and my attraction to color. My memories of life and the past year are translated most vividly in color. When remembering an event or person, I remember the color of the day or the light in a room before I can recall what exactly happened or the person involved. My senior project will be more personal than originally planned. I will be working through paint, not graphic design, studying the colors I found in Italy, and my experiences there. For once I am not overwhelmed by looking for the end result. Instead, I am excited to immerse myself in this new-found excitement for art.

My CISLA experience led me to find my place in both my studies and life. I am thrilled to have such direction and flexibility to work with this year. I appreciate the people around me more than ever, and finally, I feel as though I can see where I am headed without having to look back.



Above: Portone Rosso di Montefalco label designed by Katherine A. Bilby

On October 14, 2003, the CISLA Student Advisory Council did an extraordinary job of bringing the campus community and the public together to address the issue of the pre-emptive use of force. Close to 100 students, faculty and community members attended "The People Speak," debate in the 1941 room in the Crozier-Williams building. The United Nations Foundation, the Open Society Institute and the Rockefeller Brothers Fund sponsored the debate. Their goal was to sponsor 1,000 similar debates around the country.



Above, from left to right: Debaters Robert Darst, Noah Silverman, William Rose, Patrick Romero and Nils Wessell "agree to disagree" during The People Speak.



From left to right: Ryan Howler '05 voices his concerns; the audience members listen as Daniel Melzer '06 questioned debaters on a related issue regarding the administration's stance regarding the conflict between India and Pakistan; Professor Stuart Vyse states his opposition to the pre-emptive use of force.

William Rose, Professor of Government, moderated the debate, composed of two student/faculty teams positioned against one another. Nils Wessell, Professor of Government at the United States Coast Guard Academy, and Patrick Romero '04, a CISLA senior majoring in International Studies, together supported the position of pre-emptive use of force. Robert Darst, Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth, and Noah Silverman '04, a CISLA senior majoring in International Relations and Religious Studies, debated against their position.

The debate, focused on the pre-emptive use of military force, proceeded as one would expect. Both teams offered well-crafted, well-researched arguments that examined the legality of pre-emptive strikes, pre-emptive vs. preventive strikes, the impact of September 11th, President Bush's resolution on pre-emptive use of force and risk assessment.

Wessell explained that even though the United States does not know if there may be another terrorist attack in six months or five years, it would be best for the U. S. to be able to exercise pre-emptive force should the government deem it necessary to protect the country's national security. "The U.S. should reserve the right, even if it doesn't exercise

to assume the worst."

Darst's argument focused on the fact that the current administration's policy of pre-emptive use of force, as well as the war against Iraq, was based on the concept of preventive initiatives rather than pre-emptive. A pre-emptive war can be considered self-defense, while a preventive war is designed to quash a potential risk. "Preventive war is like killing your neighbor because he owns a gun," he said. Silverman, who spent the summer of 2003 as an intern at The Interfaith Encounter Association in Israel and Palestine, as well as a semester studying Arabic in Morocco, countered that the U.S. needs to be careful about examining the motivations behind its own actions and how the rest of the world, especially our allies, will perceive those actions.

"We can't get caught up in our own righteousness, just like the terrorists did," said Silverman, who also attended the Goldin Institute for International Partnership and Peace Conference in Spain last October.

Romero, the minority outreach director of the Connecticut Union of Young Republicans and a U.S. Army Reservist, strongly contended that despite the preponderance of negative media reports regarding the war, that Iraqis were arguably better off, specifically in the realms of health, education and economics. Romero also added that Iraq

was now well on the path to democracy and that Americans were entitled to "defend our way of life."

Before the teams made their closing statements, the audience was given the opportunity to question the debaters and to make their own observations about the issues at hand.

The discussion ranged over a variety of topics such as the roots of terrorism, U.S. nuclear weapons programs, imperialism, world leaders' ideologies, intelligence reports and public opinion. Professor Rose then asked audience members to fill out a ballot stating their position on pre-emptive use of force.

In the end, the majority of the audience voted against the use of pre-emptive force. However, it was abundantly clear that there was no right or wrong answer, nor a simple solution, as to how the U. S. should deal with real or perceived threats from hostile groups or nations.

CISLA extends a special 'thank you' to guest writer, Ben Johnson '04, and to Professor Rose and the CISLA student advisory council for their tremendous efforts in organizing this event.

Katie McCormack contributed to this article.

it," Wessell said, later adding, "It's prudent

I'm lounging in my tacky woven hammock, strung from the teak staircase to a cement beam in the center of my living room. Music blaring and computer in lap, I type.

The Peace Corps is not what I expected. I was prepared for the cultural differences, perhaps even more so than I had imagined. Having lived in China twice before, I had a good idea of the difficulties lay ahead. Sketchy electrical wiring and faulty plumbing, along with an excess of bugs, animals and filth, have made this adventure more... colorful.. With rhinoceros beetles grappling my cell phone, potty-trained geckos lining my staircase and a creepy spider webs canvassing my every doorway, it's no wonder this dysfunctional, Dr. Seuss merry-go-round of a house is believed by locals to be haunted.

CISLA undoubtedly prepared me for life in Thailand. While others foreigners around me struggle with language and culture, I have adapted to this lifestyle with ease. As a result of my time in China, being stared at by Thai locals shouting "*farang, farang,*" Thai for "whitey," is not so emotionally trying this time around.

Before I graduated from Connecticut College, I intended to return to China where I had studied abroad and spent my CISLA internship at a graphic design firm. I



Daily life for CISLA Alumna Catie Ryan is anything but mundane in Thailand.

felt that the Peace Corps was my best post-graduate option to return to China. However, my return to China would have been for all the wrong reasons. Now that I've lived in Thailand for over a year, I realize my placement here has been for all the right reasons. I'm doing things I never expected. For example, I was asked by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to present a 15-page research paper at the annual *Forum on Education Reform* in Bangkok.

Living abroad, I look on America with a more objective point of view. Last month, I met an inquisitive eight year old whose first question to me (in Thai) was if I liked Prime Minister Thaksin. "Sure, I guess so." I said.

"And the King of Thailand?" she asked. "Of course, everybody loves the King," I responded. "And what about President Bush, Osama and Saddam..." I was more impressed than surprised.

At CC, CISLA's flexibility allowed me to pursue exactly what I wanted at that time. Now, finally piecing together what I'd like to do with my future, I look forward to graduate school. Five years of trial and error - through volunteering, design, advertising, non-profits and the infamous dot.com boom and bust - have helped me discover my true passions. Now CISLA has resurfaced as a model to which I compare prospective graduate programs.

If I've succumbed to any mantra since moving to this fantastically Buddhist nation, it's to have "no expectations." You are responsible for your own happiness, make of time what you will. Opening yourself to the world around you can be challenging yet rewarding, as it has led me down some unexpected paths, many of which I may have never discovered had I tried to balance and control my environment as we typically do in the West. Look back at each experience for what it was rather than what you wanted it to be. Life is what you make of what's put before you... and if you don't believe that, you may be setting yourself up for disappointment.

Barber Defines New Realities Facing America

(Continued from page 1)

Giving the example of World War II, he said, "The way you measure a war is by the peace it builds."

Together with greater American cooperation in the world and stronger educational roots, Barber envisioned an "open, transparent and truly multicultural society" as the best defense against terrorism. Barber gave the example of Europe, which "for the past 60 years has managed to be without war,"

because unlike the U.S., Europe has embraced the new system of interdependence

Barber also spoke briefly to CISLA students at the Toor Cummings Center's Fall Banquet. After congratulating CISLA seniors on presentations of their internships, Barber commended CISLA for contributing so effectively to the present need for "global education."

"Bipolarity is over, multipolarity is a joke and unipolarity with America at the top is the present day reality, and yet we have never been more vulnerable and more dependent on a world no longer willing to be pushed around by the U.S., even for our highest values: democracy, social justice and freedom."

Dr. Benjamin Barber

... Something About Mary (Devins that is!)

Mary Devins, in her twelfth year as the Associate Director of the CISLA program, has the proud distinction of working with every CISLA class. Mary has maintained close friendships with many of our alumni and is always excited to hear news of marriages, new jobs and babies. And in true CISLA fashion, Mary travels internationally as much as possible: “no vicarious living through students”! During the past two years, she stayed in a classic villa in the midst of an olive grove in Umbria, Italy, attended a conference in Rio de Janeiro sponsored by the Association of International Education Administrators and went to a 50th birthday party in Mexico City. Mary and her three sisters have organized an annual “sisters trip.” Their first trip was a scenic tour through France. Her latest “sister’s trip” was to Costa Rica and included an afternoon of Canopying. Mary flew through treetops in the rainforest of Monteverde while hanging from a harness tied to ropes about 130 feet from the ground. Nonetheless, Mary, time and time again, proudly proclaims to have “the best job in the world.”

We want to hear from YOU!

Please send alumni updates, along with your current contact information to Mary Devins at cisla@conncoll.edu, or to the Toor Cummings Center at Connecticut College, 270 Mohegan Avenue, New London, CT 06320



Mary Devins (far right) along with Martha Merrill '84, Amrita Gupta '06, Paula Ladd, Priyanka Gupta '06, Candance Howes, Hisae Kobayashi proudly wore their saris and during a wonderful evening of food and dance. Last October 25th, Diwali celebration .



CISLA Alumni Collin Keeney '98 and Yoko Shimada '99 were married last summer in Connecticut. It is the first “all CISLA” bride and groom. It proved to be a definite CISLA reunion. 1st row: Yoko Shimada '99, Julie Rogers '99, Gayle Baker '96, Mary Devins, Doreen Vaillancourt '99 and Professor Jeff Singer. Back row: Collin Keeney '98, Matt Griffin '98, Tim Reuter '99 and Hagan Maroney '98. Immediately after the Keeney/Shimada wedding the second “all CISLA” couple announced their wedding. Doreen Vaillancourt and Hagan Maroney were married in August 2003.

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