

crack or heroin. Megan's experience at the center was both profoundly meaningful and disturbing. She worked with abandoned young boys who had learned to survive on the street. Once the boys are admitted to Las Flores center, they are required to go to school, perform chores and participate in sports.

These children came to the center undisciplined and disrespectful towards women. Yet Megan found a way to win their trust and respect, and in return, they won her heart. "Once the high (of the glue) wore off," says Megan, "these children morphed into loving little boys." But before Megan left her summer internship, she promised them that she would someday return. It was a promise she would keep. Over her winter break, Megan returned to Las Flores and brought with her two 49 lbs duffle bags filled with things for the boys: clothes, crayons, pencils, books, pads and games. During her stay, Megan rented a bus and treated the boys to a special beach trip and picnic. The boys were accustomed to ongoing abandonment and disappointment and Megan felt that she could not let them down. She described the joy she felt as their faces broke into huge smiles when they saw her walk into the room. Megan's travel research award allowed her to renew her relationship with the boys, but also enabled her to continue her research on addiction.

Megan also observed a controversial treatment promoted by the Church of Scientology known as sauna therapy. It involves

ingesting foul tasting oil and then entering a sauna in order to sweat out the toxins. Megan remains very dubious about the efficacy of this treatment. However, witnessing the sauna therapy in action has enabled her to put her senior integrative project into a very concrete context.

Megan was also able to meet with the mayors of two major cities and the country's Archbishop, all of whom are very interested in protecting the rights of children. Megan concludes, "My trip to Honduras made my winter break unforgettable, and made the holiday season a lot brighter for 92 children and eight overtired staff members."

We are delighted to report that following the completion of her SIP, Megan was awarded the prestigious Fulbright scholarship to continue her study of child inhalant addiction. In August, she will return to Honduras to expand upon her research with Fundación Proniño. Megan hopes to develop an improved treatment plan aimed to better enable facilities with limited resources the ability provide more effective care to make a difference in the vicious cycle that afflicts so many children.

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

CC Alumnae Support Student Research

by MARY DEVINS, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

The Toor Cummings Center for International Studies and the Liberal Arts (CISLA) was thrilled this year to receive gifts from two generous donors, Barbara Snow Delaney '44 and Joyce O'Connor '68, for an endowed CISLA Travel Research Award. These gifts will be awarded annually to qualified students for one of the following purposes: to return to the site of their internship to continue research and effectively complete their senior integrative project to attend a domestic or international conference related to their research, or travel to a site where primary material related to their senior integrative project (SIP) is accessible.

Barbara Snow Delaney '44 initiated the creation of the CISLA Travel Research Award. She has been a long-time friend of the College and of CISLA. Barbara was inspired to help CISLA students and their research needs after reading an issue of the CISLA newsletter *Prism*. We are indebted to Mrs. Delaney's for her enthusiastic and generous support.

We are deeply saddened to report that Joyce O'Connor '68 passed away suddenly on May 11, 2007. In a conversation with her last year, Joyce spoke of her valuable Connecticut College education but said that the opportunities to travel at that time were minimal. During her lifetime she was an inveterate traveler, visiting 29 countries. Mrs. O'Connor said that she was dedicated to "providing similar travel opportunities to as many students as possible." We are extremely grateful to Mrs. O'Connor and moved by her generosity.

This year, CISLA gave three seniors these awards to return to the site of their internships to continue research.

Lindsay Lehr '07, an economics major, completed a thesis that explores various forms of social capital within the *cartonero* community of Buenos Aires, Argentina. The *cartoneros* are Argentines who live in dire poverty and make a living by rummaging through trash, collecting it and selling it as recyclable materials. Through her CISLA internship with Cámara de Exportadores de la República de Argentina (CERA), The Argentine Chamber of Exporters, Lindsay worked with El Ceibo, a non-governmental organization (NGO) that educates middle-class neighborhoods about recycling and also promotes the role of the *cartoneros*. Relationships are built among different social classes and the *cartoneros* are able to gain respect. During her stay in January, Lindsay interviewed the founder of El Ceibo, as well as several managers and *cartoneros*. She felt pleased and privileged to have the opportunity to go out with the *cartoneros* and gather firsthand information and observations about this disenfranchised segment of society. Furthermore, Lindsay's travel research award allowed her the opportunity to collect essential quantitative and qualitative data that gave her thesis a stronger foundation.

Lilli Millhiser '07, an art history major, wrote her SIP on graffiti and public art in Barcelona. Last summer, Lilli interned at Galería N2 in Barcelona where she worked closely with two graffiti artists. Through her travel research



Barbara Snow Delaney '44 (left to right) met with Megan McCarthy '07 and Lindsay Lehr '07 to discuss their research. Megan has been awarded the 2007 Fulbright Scholarship and will return to Honduras to continue her study of glue addiction in street children. This fall, Lindsay will return to Buenos Aires to work at LIFE Argentina, a NGO that works with children who live in poverty.

award, Lilli returned to Barcelona during her winter break to attend the artists' first opening. There she critiqued new works showcasing their progression and also observed reactions from the Barcelona art community. Lilli noted that graffiti is making its way into prestigious auction houses and into the world of fine art. The travel research award provided Lilli with an opportunity to explore the evolution of graffiti art in a unique way.

Megan McCarthy '07, a psychology major, wrote her senior integrative project on "The Etiology and Treatment of Glue Addiction in Street Children." For her CISLA internship, she worked with Fundación Proniño in El Progreso, Honduras, a small NGO that attempts to rehabilitate young street boys at the Las Flores treatment center who have become addicted to Resistol (shoe glue),

Welcome CISLA Class of 2009

A VERY WARM WELCOME is extended to the CISLA Class of 2009.

Our newest members are Sarah Allen, Gili Ben-Yosef, Ingrid Brudvig, Annie Burrows, Emily Carter, Jessamyn Cox, Carla Debbane, George Fernandez, Erin Holstein, Emily Lawton, Alexandra Mamo, Andras Molnar, James Noonan, Ferda Salman, Taylor Sperry, Lynne Stillings, Qiyao Sun, Jacques Swartz, Madeline Thomson, Ahmet Kaan Toprak, Caroline Trowbridge, David Urbaucaja-Furelos, Dena Weinstein, and Tianyi Xu.



The Class of 2009 stops for a picture between meetings with the US and Argentinean delegations during the annual CISLA United Nations trip.

These scholars have proposed to travel to 12 countries for their Summer 2008 CISLA internships and speak a variety of languages including French, German, Italian, Japanese, Mandarin, Russian and Spanish. Their journey began spring semester in the gateway CISLA course, Perspectives on Modern Global Society, IS 201, a special course is designed to prepare CISLA scholars for their international experiences.

Upholding Universal Ethics and Law

by GÖZDE ERDENİZ '08

On November 6, 2006 the department of Philosophy and CISLA welcomed Middle East politics and international law expert Dr. Noah Feldman to Connecticut College for a much-anticipated lecture titled, "Citizens of the World in the Era of Guantanamo: Can Law Reach Across Borders?" Feldman's address attracted more than 200 hundred members of the campus community.

Feldman became the object of widespread interest when he briefly served as senior advisor on constitutional law to the Coalition Provisional Authority in Iraq. Specializing in the prospects for democracy in the Middle East and the relation between religion, law and politics, he is the author of *What We Owe Iraq: War and the Ethics of Nation Building*, *After Jihad: America and the Struggle for Islamic Democracy* (2003) and *Divided By God: America's Church-State Problem - and What We Should Do About It* (2005). He received his A.B. summa cum laude from Harvard University. Selected as a Rhodes Scholar, he earned a doctorate in Islamic Thought from Oxford University and his J.D. from Yale Law School, after which he served as a law clerk to Justice David H. Souter of the US Supreme Court.

Feldman's lecture focused on two fundamental, ethical questions, "can there be law that is not connected to any political body?" and "can law reach across borders and cover every place on Earth?"

He focused on the ethical and legal issues surrounding the detainment camp in Guantanamo, particularly the US government's reversal of a previous 2004 Supreme Court ruling that permitted prisoners to file lawsuits under habeas corpus.

The issue was brought to the international limelight when a detainee of the camp—a Yemeni national and former driver of Osama bin Laden, Salim Ahmed Hamdan, challenged the legality of his detention and the military tribunals trying him.

Feldman upheld the philosophy of universal, natural law. He argued that natural law transcends political and geographical boundaries and should be at the disposal of anyone regardless of citizenship. Within that framework, the detainment camp at Guantanamo is troublesome from the ethical standpoint based on basic rule-of-law ideals. Feldman further asserted that the most basic, universal right that exists is the right to have "some form of government judicial review of your detention." "Without that, it's hard to say that you're living under any rule of law. If a government could take you away and never have to answer to any judicial body, then it would be very hard to say you were living under the rule of law. That's the single, most irrefutable component essential in a legal rule of order," argued Feldman.

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We welcome your comments!
Please send letters to the Editor to:

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Please include your name, class year, email
address and telephone number.

CISLA Alumni Update

(continued from page 10)

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and



Worm



educator **Paige Orr '95** and **Victims of Trafficking and** **Eradicating Slavery Campaign** until December 2006. **CISLA SIP 1,200** in **sex trade industry** in **human trafficking** in **England** on **February 3, 2007**. **Paige** **lived** **in** **London** and **recently** **begun** **a** **new** **job** **with** **Barclays** **Capital**.

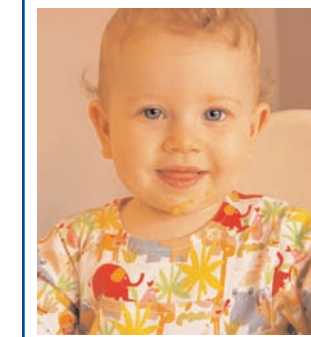
Wilbert Quintanilla '02, spent several

Kathy Avgerinos '06 has been working in

Studies.



Wilbert Quintanilla '02, and a **months** **living** **in** **Niamey**, **Niger** **and** **decorating** **Easter** **eggs** **(Salvadoran** **and** **Texas** **style)**. **The** **fun** **began** **when** **the** **children** **started** **dyeing** **their** **eggs** **and** **Mo** **and** **children's** **eggs**. **Carter** **Center** **Technical** **Advisor** **in** **Togo** **on** **the** **Guinea** **side** **as** **a** **translator** **and** **editor** **for** **a** **Russian-**



Alex Barrett '92 and his wife **Lindsay** welcomed **Sadie**, born on **January 11, 2006**



Kate (Greco) Fritz '94 and her husband **Jason** welcomed **John**, born on **July 30, 2006**.



Rebecca (Rosen) Shapiro '95 and her husband **Peter** welcomed **Roxanne Georgette 'Roxy'**, born on **April 24, 2006**.



Heidi Szycher Grasbon '95 gardening with her children **Janina**, **Amelie** and **Dominic**.

As an effort to create better networking opportunities for CISLA Alumni, we ask that you please complete the *CISLA alumni survey monkey* which has been sent via e-mail. Also, be sure to visit the new CC Alumni Online Community <http://www.conncoll.edu/alumni/>. If you have trouble logging on, contact alumni.relations@conncoll.edu.

Elisa Roller '93 lives in Brussels, Belgium and works for the European Commission in the Directorate-General for Regional Policy. Her first child, Francesco, was born on July 21, 2006.

Keri Sarajian '96 and her husband **Rick Stratton '96** live in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Keri is a brand manager of Oust Air Sanitizer at S.C. Johnson & Son and works with a global team on new product innovation. Rick and Keri welcomed their first child, Beckett Asador Stratton, on February 8, 2007. They can't wait for him to get a little older so they can take him on his first international trip – back to Paris, where Keri spent her CISLA summer.



Heidi Szycher Grasbon '95, her husband Flex and their children Janina Leila (six), Amelie Maret (four), and Dominic Mohr (three) have moved back to the U.S. after 10 years of living in Germany, and now live in Madison, New Jersey. In April 2006, Heidi ran the 30th Paris Marathon with her brother, followed shortly by a triathlon in Herzogenaurach, Germany.

Lauren (Half) Warren '96 received her Ph.D in clinical psychology at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill in May. She lives there with her husband, Josh, and their two-year-old son, Nathan.

Laure (Carpentier) Cousineau '97 is a global marketing manager at the international law firm Baker & McKenzie in Washington D.C. and works with lawyers in over 50 countries. She received her MS in marketing from Johns Hopkins and now lives in Silver Spring, Maryland with her husband Matthew and four-month-old daughter, Charlotte.

Dana Luedke Jacob '97 and her husband, Kurt Jacob still live in Seattle, Washington. In September 2005 they had their first child, Aubrey Susanna Jacob, born three weeks before her third year of law school. Dana finished law school last June, graduating in the top ten percent of her class, and passed the Washington State



bar on her first try. She is now clerking for a judge on the Washington State Court of Appeals and loves it. Her life is an eclectic combination of researching and writing judicial opinions and chasing a very active 16-month-old child around.

Catie Ryan '99 was a Peace Corps volunteer in Thailand from 2003-2005. After serving, she traveled to Cambodia, Myanmar and Europe before returning home. She is now attending graduate school at Brandeis University where she is pursuing an MA in Sustainable International Development.

Irina A. Telyukova '99, who interned at Deutsche Bundesbank (German Central Bank) in Frankfurt, Germany for her CISLA internship, graduated with a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Pennsylvania in the summer of 2006. Irina is now an assistant professor of Economics, at the University of California, San Diego.

Kristin Mueller '00 completed her MA in International Affairs and China Studies at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies in May 2003. She works at a consulting firm in Washington, DC doing financial analysis for white-collar litigation. She has been traveling a lot and will take her first trip to Africa this summer.

Laurel Dudley '02 moved to Hawaii in August 2006 to participate in the Asia Pacific Leadership Program, a graduate fellowship program at the East West Center. She is finishing up the program, and just returned from a month excursion to Vietnam. Laurel also works as a guide for an outdoor adventure tourism agency, which allows her plenty of time to go hiking and biking in the lovely Hawaii rainforests.

Michelle Miller '02 who interned at the International Labor Organization in Geneva, Switzerland, joined the Peace Corps and is serving as a community and organizational development volunteer in Moldova. This summer, she will be in charge of a young women's camp for ages 17-21, empowering and educating the most vulnerable victims of human trafficking.

Wilbert Quintanilla '02, spent several months living in Niamey, Niger in 2007. After graduating, Wilbert joined the Peace Corps where he served for almost three years. Following the Peace Corps, he worked as the Carter Center Resident Technical Advisor in Togo on the Guinea Worm Eradication Campaign until December 2006.

Kathy Avgerinos '06 has been working in Moscow at an American law firm that specializes in immigration and arbitration law. She works directly with the firm's top attorney and often represents clients at the American Embassy. She also works on the side as a translator and editor for a Russian-American Business Consortium. Her CISLA SIP on the sex trade industry in Russia was also recently published in *Vestnik: The Journal of Russian and Asian Studies*.

From the Director

DEAR CISLA STUDENTS, ALUMNI AND FRIENDS,

It is hard to believe that we have come to the end of another academic year. It seems like only yesterday that we were welcoming back the Class of 2007 from abroad and listening – enthralled – to their accounts of all the wonderful things they experienced during their CISLA internships.

This year has witnessed many changes. We have continued to develop the program in order to challenge our students and enhance their experience within the program. In Fall 2006, the Class of 2007 completed the final CISLA course, IS401: New Perspectives on Modern Global Society. This year we arranged a series of faculty discussions and presentations to expose students to a variety of issues and perspectives on contemporary society. My personal favorite was a modern dance workshop led by Professor David Dorfman that had the class on our feet and moving around the floor (We have video.) We also enjoyed engaging and excellent presentations by Professor Alex Hybel of the government department, who spoke about the present conflict in Iraq; Assistant Professor Simon Hay of the English department, who discussed postcolonial theory, and Professor Alexis Dudden of the history department who spoke about the standoff with North Korea. This was a successful course, which integrated international studies and the liberal arts and I believe the students truly appreciated it.

In other news, we are saying goodbye to Katie McCormack who will be heading to the School for International Education in Brattleboro, Vermont, to pursue a master's degree in International Education in the fall. Katie has been the internship and publications coordinator for CISLA for nearly five years and has worked tirelessly

with our students to track down and secure internships in a wide variety of institutions and organizations around the world. We owe Katie an enormous debt for all the work she has done for CISLA and for all of the advice, counseling, and friendship she has offered our students. We are very sad to see her go but, at the same time, we are delighted that she is embarking on her journey.

Finally, looking to the future, we are exploring ways of funding a CISLA Travel, Research and Immersion Program (TRIP) for the incoming sophomore class each spring. TRIP programs enable faculty to take students to sites they have been studying during the course of the semester and in doing so, bring to life what they can otherwise only read about in books.

Last March during spring break, I had the rare pleasure of taking seven students who were enrolled in my senior seminar on Brazil to the cities of Recife, Belém and Rio de Janeiro in Brazil. The trip was an immense success and brought to life what students could otherwise only read about in books. The highlights were a visit to a nongovernmental organization (NGO) in Recife that championed human rights for women living in poverty, a guided tour of an area of rain forest just south of Belém, and my personal favorite, participation in a Pentecostal church service in a shantytown in Rio de Janeiro that involved faith healing and speaking in tongues.

It is interesting to note that five of the



During spring break 2007, Professor Gay led an eager group of students, who were predominantly CISLA students, on a TRIP to Brazil. Pictured here are, 1st row; Amanda (last name withheld), Megan McCarthy, Elaine Weisman, Marissa Yarbrow, and Rachael Gallitto. Back row; Zachary Olson, Lucia (last name withheld), Paul McGeough, Robert Gay and Lily Bower.

seven students who traveled with me to Brazil were CISLA students. Why? Maybe it's because CISLA students enjoy the challenges of new international experiences. Or maybe it's because CISLA students are best prepared to take advantage of international opportunities and learn from such unique experiences. Based upon my experience, I feel that international opportunities that supplement traditional classroom learning should also be made available to all CISLA students. The educational and cultural impact that a TRIP could offer our students would truly enhance our program.

Robert Gay
Professor of Sociology

When my daughter Tes began researching colleges during her junior year of high school, she was impressed with so many of the of the prestigious New England liberal arts colleges. However it was CISLA that made Connecticut College stand out and influenced her choice to apply Early Decision. The preparatory classes as well as the opportunity to work abroad held strong interest for her, and when she was accepted, it was a dream come true. Tes developed a senior integrative project (SIP) through the Psychology Department to compare the portrayal of sexuality in adolescent magazines of Spain and the U.S. She took classes in various departments to supplement her Psychology courses, in addition to IS201: Perspectives on Modern Global Society with her entire CISLA class.

Throughout her junior year at CC, Tes, with support and guidance from Katie McCormack, searched for an internship in Spain. When she told me that her CISLA internship was going to be in Pamplona, I had visions of her watching (and hopefully not running in!) the running of the bulls. Pamplona is famous for "San Fermín," a week-long festival of bull runs and bull fights. I was also excited that she would have the opportunity to live in Spain, as I had 30 years earlier. My wish was that this experience would be as life changing for her as it had been for me. And it was.

Although Tes had studied Spanish since 6th grade, she wanted to improve her fluency before beginning her internship. To do so, she registered for an intensive Spanish language program in Madrid and left for Spain three weeks before her internship was to begin. The three weeks in Madrid, on her own studying and touring, were eye-opening and just the first of many new experiences.

Tes took a bus from Madrid to Pamplona and was met by one of her new *compañeras de piso*, Maria Grazia, at the bus station. From the start, Maria Grazia and her other apartment-mate, Teresa, as well as their many friends, embraced Tes. No one spoke English and the inability to understand every conversation was challenging at first. But by the time she left, Tes understood and spoke easily with everyone. Her friends took her to the beach, clubs, dinners

and parties. They talked constantly and developed close friendships. Tes's internship was at the Department of Preventative Medicine and Public Health at the University of Navarra. Soon after she arrived, she learned that the University was started by the founder of Opus Dei, the strictest prelature of the Catholic Church. Tes had never been exposed to devoutly religious people before; perhaps more startling for her was that she was the first Jewish person that most of her friends and colleagues had ever met. This proved to be an opportunity for them to learn about her culture as she learned about theirs.



Tesandra Cohen '07 is a psychology major and has completed her CISLA SIP with Professor Jennifer Rose on the cross-cultural analysis of the portrayal of sexuality in teen media of Spain and the US.

As part of Tes's internship, she was asked to read a book by her supervisor titled *Understanding Homosexuality*. As she began reading, she soon realized that he believed that homosexuality was not an acceptable lifestyle. This was contrary to what she had believed her entire life. After she finished the book, she spoke honestly to her supervisor about her reaction, and they had an open dialogue. Throughout the summer, controversial issues, including homosexuality and abortion, were discussed at work and with her friends. She was able to uphold her beliefs while respecting the beliefs of others, which is a life-long skill that she will carry in her future personal relationships and professional endeavors.

Tes has continued her connection with her friends in Spain and is, quite happily, returning in September for Teresa's wedding. She will already be in Spain, working as a Resident Advisor for a study abroad program in Barcelona, a city she became enchanted with when we visited last summer. Her CISLA internship experience changed her life and also strengthened her desire to apply as a volunteer in the Peace Corps in the fall. From her classes at CC to her experience in Pamplona, the CISLA experience will continue to have a positive impact in the years to come.

a coke, and chocolate pastry). After successfully completing this task, Nicolas slowly set me out on larger ones: photocopying and distributing posters for promotional events, delivering magazines to FNAC (the largest chain of bookstores in Paris), and assisting staff at Cassandre/Horschamp meetings. In addition, I helped create a mural out of x-rays along the wall of a nearby cathedral and also worked at the Salon du Théâtre at St-Sulpice, a huge theater festival that brought together all the major theaters and theater reviews to discuss the current state of the arts in France. One day, one of the women told me that she had my biggest mission yet. I would need to go to every kiosk in Paris that sold the magazine, and to not only buy a copy, but chat with the kiosk owner about the magazine, so that he or she would remember the interest in the magazine when, the following week, we went to sell them the new issue. I was very nervous about this, afraid of not being a convincing enough "mystery buyer," and fearful that my level of French would give me away. I went from one kiosk to the next, gaining more and more confidence as I went, and when I returned back to the office very successfully, I was christened with a new name by my co-workers: *Elisabeth 007* (in French, that rhymes).

Throughout all these missions, I learned that the arts in France are not at all like they are in the United States. In France, the Ministry of Culture is a government bureau that promotes and provides substantial funding for the arts. Through their support, artists are bestowed a sense of value that is not as prevalent in the US.

The driving force for Nicolas was to show a world of art that does not exist solely to entertain the masses. Through art, he aims to inform, to teach, and to initiate change in order to create a better society. The group of people I was working with had dedicated their lives to promoting this notion, and I felt privileged to have been invited into this mission. The passion that drove my co-workers, and all that they have taught me about this greater purpose of art, has greatly shaped my own perspective on

the arts and how I plan to continue my studies of theater in the future. I now recognize the great power the arts hold over communicating information to society, in ways very different from a newspaper or even the scientific community.

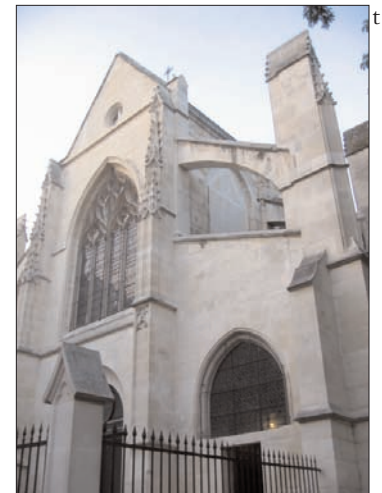
When I hear r



Beth with her co-workers, Zachary and Kate, at her first Cassandre/Horschamp publication event.



Cassandre is a cultural review that explores the impact of the arts on contemporary French society. The articles examine social and political messages found in a variety of artistic mediums in terms of artistic expression and social context.



Cassandre/Horschamp finds its home at the Cité européenne des Récollets, a former convent in the 10th arrondissement of Paris, between the Gare de l'Est, Gare du Nord, and Canal St-Martin. The Chappelle des Récollets is used for theater and dance performances.

Elisabeth now, I don't feel that sense of disconnect that I used to. Now, Elisabeth is not strange and foreign, but a real part of me; a part of me that communicated in a language that was not my native

My name changed when I arrived in France.

In the United States, whenever I introduce myself, I call myself Beth. However, in French, the “th” sound does not exist, so when people attempted to say my name, it came out sounding like “Bête,” the French word for ‘stupid.’ I knew there was no other choice than to adopt “Elisabeth.” At first, I felt like I was hiding my real identity. However, over time, I realized that I wasn’t actually disguising my true self; instead, I discovered a new aspect of myself, the “Elisabeth” in me, which I had never found in the United States.

Nicolas Roméas welcomed me into Cassandre/Horschamp, a French non-profit organization, for the months of May, June, and July. He was the leader of the small group in charge of Cassandre, one of the most influential arts reviews in France. Our office was in a small former convent in the northern part of the city. Outside the gates of the convent, there was the constant bustle of travelers coming in and out of the Gare de l’Est, but within the walls, there was the quiet determination to bring back the arts to a place of importance within society.

I began my internship just as the latest issue of the Cassandre was being prepared to be sent to the publisher. This edition of Cassandre focused on Parisian suburban reactionary art, particularly in areas most affected by the rioting and protests that took place in 2005. As the American intern, it was my job to translate the articles from French to English. More important, I was asked to accurately translate the meaning of French expressions and culturally relevant

values, many which were nearly untranslatable. Through my position, I became the English-speaking ambassador for the magazine. My goal was clear: to get American universities to subscribe.



Beth Pearson '07 posed in front of the Eiffel Tower on sunny summer day in Paris. She has completed her CISLA SIP titled, "Reinvention of the Classics: The Evolution of Tragedy in French Theater and Society" in the French department with Professor Catherine Spencer.

I felt severely under-qualified for this role, as both the newcomer and the innocent American who suddenly represented the whole of the United States to these eight people. Not only that, but when Nicolas first asked me where I was from, and I told him “north of Boston,” I suddenly represented all of American history. Nicolas would introduce me to anyone who came into the office as, “Elisabeth, notre petite américaine qui connaît les sorcières du Salem et le fête du thé du Boston.” (“Elisabeth, our little

American who knows the Salem witches and the Boston Tea Party.”)

Initially, I sat at my computer at my makeshift desk, trying to work at lightning speed in an effort to appear busy, so that they wouldn’t ask me to do something that I couldn’t understand. But after three hours of sitting tensely at my computer the first day, I knew this wouldn’t do. It was up to me to assert myself in order to get more out of this experience. The second day, I met with Nicolas about the progress of my project, and told him that I was pleased with my assignment, but that I wanted a more active role. He looked at me, smiled, and said, “Ok... Could you buy me a sandwich?” This, of course, was not what I had in mind, but I was going to take what I could get. My first mission was to buy *un sandwich thon, un coca, and un pain au chocolat* (a tuna sandwich, a coke, and chocolate pastry). After successfully completing this task, Nicolas slowly set me out on larger ones: photocopying and distributing posters for promotional events, delivering magazines to FNAC (the largest chain of bookstores in Paris), and assisting staff at Cassandre/Horschamp meetings. In addition, I helped create a mural out of x-rays along the wall of a nearby cathedral and also worked at the Salon

du Théâtre at St-Sulpice, a huge theater festival that brought together all the major theaters and theater reviews to discuss the current state of the arts in France. One day, one of the women told me that she had my biggest mission yet. I would need to go to every kiosk in Paris that sold the magazine, and to not only buy a copy, but chat with the kiosk owner about the magazine, so that he or she would remember the interest in the magazine when, the following week, we went to sell them the new issue. I was very

It took my husband and I 27 hours to arrive at an abandoned airstrip in a jungle in the middle of a remote island very few had even heard of. It also took my husband and I 10 years of planning and 10,000 miles of trekking using all sorts of transportation to arrive at our destination. It was a place I had dreamed of traveling to for years. Its name is Runway Able.



Sukey (Richmond) Simmons '95

Runway Able is located on the remote island of Tinian in the Central Northern Mariana Islands nestled between the Pacific Ocean and Philippine Sea. Slightly south of Saipan, it was once considered the most strategic aviation post during World War II. Without knowledge of their cargo, seamen of the USS Indianapolis left the port of San Francisco and carried two atomic weapons to Tinian. In the early morning of August 6, 1945, the first of these bombs, called Little Boy, was loaded onto an airplane called the Enola Gay. At approximately 3:18 a.m., the Enola Gay left for Hiroshima to forever change history. It departed from Runway Able.

While at Connecticut College, I majored in Asian studies and history. As a CISLA scholar, I interned with AT&T in Beijing, China. I received six job offers by the end of my fall semester senior year, all related to my fluency in Chinese. I accepted a position within the Chinese Business Unit of Deloitte & Touche in Manhattan. Having a limited knowledge of business, the firm offered me a signing bonus of an M.B.A. degree at the prestigious Stern School of Business at New York University. After spending slightly over two years with Deloitte, I accepted another offer with the pharmaceutical giant Bristol-Myers Squibb where I specialized in operational auditing and industrial engineering. My five great years at Bristol-Myers Squibb took me to over 25 countries with quite a few trips back to

familiar China, as well as to many other countries in Asia. One of my favorite travel stories and memories from that time was randomly running into Martin Lopez '97, also a CISLA scholar, in the lobby of the Shangri-La Hotel while in Manila!

My life and career were somewhat put on hold in 2002, when I was diagnosed with a rare autoimmune disease called Lupus. Unable to maintain a rigorous travel schedule, I sadly left the company. Between 2002 and 2005, I worked for several other companies on a short-term basis, still specializing in financial operations in Asia. I was part of the team that traveled to India for Standard & Poors, where I assisted in the company’s first merger and acquisition in that country. In addition, I traveled back to China where I evaluated the business operations for the Conair Corporation.

My husband, Wesley Simmons '95, who I met my first day at Connecticut College, is a non-commissioned officer in the Army specializing in Military Intelligence. His job required us to move to the Washington DC area where we live today. Still missing the pharmaceutical industry and maintaining a strong interest in healthcare, our move to Washington DC provided me with the opportunity to return to graduate school. I was accepted to the University of Pennsylvania where I’m pursuing a master’s degree in Bioethics and will (hopefully) go on to receive my doctorate in the History of Science or a similar field.

Where has my CISLA experience led me in life? Well, it brought me quite a few job offers. CISLA has led me to the far reaches of the earth. It has provided me with perhaps a lifetime of interesting anecdotes on places I’ve gone and people I’ve met. But above all,



Sukey Simmons '95 and her husband Wesley Simmons '95 chose to take the road less traveled when they vacationed on the island Tinian. Sukey and Wesley were married this year on January 20, 2007. Congratulations!

CISLA has placed in me a sense of adventure: to go places others would normally just read about and the desire to live out my dreams.

Yet after 10 years of dreaming and 10,000 miles of trekking, I returned to Asia yet again and stood on the abandoned airstrip on Tinian Island. For a brief moment, I felt as if I were able to touch history and dreamed as if I, too, would one day make history. Odd as it may sound, my CISLA experience led me to Runway Able.

“WHERE HAS MY CISLA EXPERIENCE LED ME IN LIFE? ... CISLA HAS LED ME TO THE FAR REACHES OF THE EARTH.”

SUKEY SIMMONS '95

It took getting used to waking up every morning in July to grey skies and a heavy, misty humidity.

It took getting used to ordering chicken soup and finding a chicken's foot, talons included, protruding from the oily broth. It took getting used to meandering bus rides that on a given day would get me to work in 25 minutes, 50 minutes the next.

It took getting used to walking by begging *campesina* women and unkempt children shoving bags of mints towards my body, asking for "Un Sol, Señorita?" and feeling the insignificance of that one-third of a US dollar that I placed in their hands.

Daily life in Lima, Peru definitely took getting used to, but the experience of establishing a daily routine was one of the most valuable lessons of my summer. I got to know the doormen of my building, the artisans of the Sunday craft fair that I went to every week and the waiter at my favorite café who knew exactly how I liked my coffee, among others. My life there felt real, and in the words of a favorite travel-show host, that I was "always a traveler, never a tourist." Still, arriving in Lima in June after having spent four months studying in the Andean city of Cuzco during the previous fall, I expected to know the ropes. My first Lima lesson: The rural countryside astride the grandiose Andes of Cuzco is a lot more than just a 20-hour bus ride from the crowds and metropolitan chaos of the coastal capital.

Last summer, I interned with Red Nacional de Educación, Salud Sexual y Desarrollo de Jóvenes (REDESS Jóvenes), The National Network of Education, Sexual Health and Development for Youth, a small NGO made up of professionals from different fields who create programs and strategies regarding youth education and promote a safe environment for exercising educational, reproductive and human rights.

My first experience with the "Peruvian schedule" was my first day of work, when my boss offered to pick me up at my apartment at 9 a.m. to take me to the office in



Elaine Weisman '09 (center) stands with her Peruvian colleagues, including her internship supervisor and president of REDESS Jóvenes, Martha Tijero, (third from the left). Elaine, a sociology major, has completed her CISLA SIP titled, "Youth Sexual Education: Rights and Responsibilities," with Professor Robert Gay.

another part of the city. Nervously waiting on the corner going over in my head some of the questions she might ask me and how I would answer in Spanish, I wasn't greeted until 9:30 a.m. Despite the late arrival, my boss jumped right to business. I had anticipated simple questions of "how do you like Peru?" However, instead I was immediately grilled on my academic background and current interests with the organization. After I explained my sociology major and fall-semester research of urban-rural inequalities in the Peruvian education system, she gave me my first assignment and meeting date—all before getting out of the car.

That Monday morning overwhelmed me, though I was flattered by their confidence. I began researching how to implement some of the REDESS Jóvenes programs, specifically sexual health related ones, into more rural communities. After presenting my findings to three of the professionals in the organization I was put to work on various other research projects, including creating my own initiative—a volunteer program for youth in the community in which volunteers between 15 and 18-years-old learn about sexual health and reproductive issues. These teenage volunteers would then go to neighboring communities to offer other

teens educational workshops that incorporated games, as well as peer tutoring sessions. The program was based on the concept that in a conservative society, neither schools nor family speak openly about sexuality, and therefore teens are not receiving the information necessary to make healthy decisions. Meanwhile, studies have shown that teens in many parts of Peru become sexually active as early as 13-years-old, and over 100,000 adolescents become pregnant every year, almost half of whom are uneducated. Additionally, of the estimated 70-100 million people living with HIV/AIDS in Peru, about 70% of new cases are in adolescents and teens. Amidst all these facts and figures, I was brought face to face with some of the realities when I visited "La Casa de Madres Adolescentes," a center for teenage mothers and pregnant girls ranging from 12 to 18-years-old, most of whom had been raped and abused by a boyfriend or family member, all of whom only had an elementary level of education. Working at the center, I came to understand the importance of the programs laid out by REDESS Jóvenes in their pro-active educational efforts.

The volunteer program I coordinated reflected the organization's commitment to a clear social problem among teens in Peru

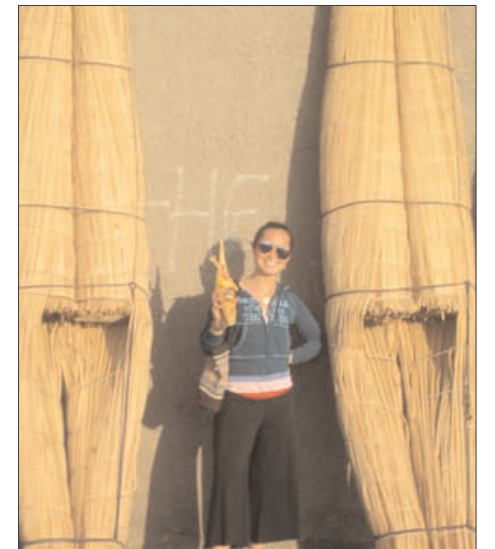
and helped solidify my SIP topic. In fact, my internship showed me that youth are an important and powerful instrument for the future of democratic participation and engaged citizenship. In my SIP, I address how sexual and reproductive education enables teens to gain a more meaningful understanding of their democratic rights. My research also examines the influence that governments and NGOs have on fostering healthy sexual attitudes and behaviors in teens living in urban and rural areas.

Introduced by my boss as the American intern who is "here to learn from us and let us learn from her," I often found myself as the voice of the United States. As a small NGO, REDESS Jóvenes had received most of its funding through US foundations and assistance; however, the current administration has cut off all international aid to organizations dealing with reproductive rights, cutting off important resources needed to realize these educational programs in the region. Our lunch breaks would be conversations ranging from US versus Peruvian poverty to eating habits in

the US to the best way to prepare "ceviche," the national dish of Peru ... and they never got sick of making fun of my lack of culinary skills; in fact, co-workers gave me several recipes and cooking tips to use when I returned home.

It was hard at times to feel responsible for representing the US and explaining aspects of my culture, politics and lifestyle that I don't fully understand or agree with. Yet, those conversations brought me closer to my co-workers and definitely made me more self-aware.

To set aside the comforts of my American lifestyle, my native language, and the constant availability of friends and family to take a backseat during my internship summer definitely took getting used to. Still, my apartment address at 120 Independencia was a constant reminder of the personal rewards of stepping outside my comfort zone. Taking that step away from security has taught me how to comfortably navigate through new situations with open eyes and an open mind.



Elaine Weisman '07 stands next to traditional Peruvian reed boats while visiting the small fishing village of Huanchacocha.

The Library Mentor Program

by AMY A. HANNUM, WEB CONTENT SPECIALIST

The Library Mentor Program was developed in 1990 as a way to help the CISLA scholars with their SIP. As sophomores, CISLA scholars enroll in IS 201, Perspectives on Modern Global Society, where they are assigned a library mentor who will teach them the best research practices and techniques. Jim MacDonald is the coordinator for the program that serves roughly 30 students per graduating class.

CISLA scholars develop a research topic for their SIP and the mentors guide them on how to build an annotated bibliography that will be instrumental in the success of their projects. "The Library Mentor program keeps students on track with their research and ignites them to think about their SIP. It teaches them critical analysis," says Katie McCormack, the CISLA Internship Coordinator.

As part of the CISLA program, scholars are required to complete an overseas internship in the summer between their junior and senior year. Most CISLA scholars also study abroad for one or two semesters, usually during their junior year. Because the mentor program begins in their sophomore year, the students start their internships and study abroad sessions after they have already begun their research and their annotated bibliographies. Many hone their top-

ics after time abroad and are able to articulate well constructed ideas in their SIPs because of the mentor program. The program has been a huge success. Mary Devins, Associate Director of CISLA, commends the library mentors by saying, "We are very appreciative, and I think that our library mentors are under-



praised Jim MacDonald, who was voted staff member of the month by the student government association (SGA) in April, helps Elizabeth Greenman '07 with her research for her SIP.