



## Director's Column

by Andrea Lanoux

### AS I COME TO THE END OF MY FOUR YEARS IN CISLA

with the pandemic becoming endemic and a ground war raging in Ukraine, I find myself reflecting on CISLA's ongoing response to the changing global landscape. The first CISLA scholars to study away in nearly two years — Cameron Tubb '22 (Germany), Jess Rush '23 (Scotland), Isa Amaro Varas '23 (France), and Emily Hackett '23 (Ukraine) — completed their fall semesters abroad in December 2021, marking the return to international travel that is so vital for the CISLA program. When asked in passing "How was it?," Isa's casual "Oh, you know, life changing" reminded me of the power of the CISLA program when international study is part of it. As PRISM goes to print in June 2022, thirteen juniors are returning from studying away in Italy, France, Belgium, Spain, the UK, Cameroon, and South Africa. Additionally, twenty members of the CISLA senior class (for whom international travel was suspended during their time in the program) recently graduated with new perspectives and renewed energy thanks to a ten-day global engagement experience in Spain (see p. 7).

On February 18, 2022, CISLA hosted its first in-person public event since the start of COVID: a lively discussion of select passages from Professor Nathalie Etoke's 2021 book, *Shades of Black*, with readings by CISLA sophomores Yasmine Tohme, Francis Sesenaya, Samadhi Dissanayake, and Anastasia Papaxanthis, and Center for Critical Studies of Race and Ethnicity (CCSRE) scholars Jazmyne Gillespie and Lyndon Inglis. Following the readings, audience members engaged with Professor Etoke, a former member of the Connecticut College faculty from 2009 to 2018 who currently teaches Africana and Francophone studies in the graduate program at the City University of New York. While at Conn, Professor Etoke taught for years in the CISLA gateway course, in addition to serving in leadership roles in CCSRE, Africana Studies, the Dean of the College Office, the Residential Education Fellows program, the French Department, and Students Organizing Against Racism (SOAR). We were thrilled to welcome her back to campus to teach two master classes in IS 201 on the work of James Baldwin, as well as her own book. The public event in Shain was a wonderful occasion to celebrate Etoke's scholarly achievements and to honor her many contributions to CISLA and to Connecticut College.



PROFESSOR NATHALIE ETOKE

The past two years of the pandemic have brought significant changes in how we work, learn, communicate, and understand globalization. The study of globalization has been enriched by new scholarship that emphasizes the enduring legacies of colonialism that shape the modern

world. The shift underway in how we view and teach globalization (which until recently was seen as ever-increasing flows of goods, people, and ideas) has come to openly acknowledge the enormous human toll of European colonialism and the resulting structural inequalities that persist today. CISLA scholars in IS 201 have been engaging these topics, while meeting via Zoom with students on SATA South Africa led by Professor Marc Zimmer. In addition to Etoke and Zimmer, other faculty teaching in IS 201 in spring 2022 included Sunil Bhatia (Human Development), and Eric Fleury (Government), along with Bina Nepram (Harvard Kennedy Center), an indigenous scholar from Manipur, India, who served as a CISLA visiting scholar in 2018-19.

Other changes in the program have included the addition of a two-course sequence for CISLA juniors, IS 301 and 302, to guide and support the work of CISLA scholars between the CISLA gateway course and senior seminar. The new one-credit sequence will help juniors identify and secure an international internship that aligns with their research interests, and will give them the necessary tools to develop their research agenda by the senior year. Thanks to incoming Faculty Director Suzuko Knott and Associate Staff Director Cara Masullo Ekwuabu, both of whom designed the sequence, and to incoming Associate Faculty Director Laura Little, who will co-teach it with Cara this year, the course will help bridge the gap between IS 201 and IS 401 and strengthen the cohort experience throughout all five semesters of the CISLA program.

Finally, we are proud to have supported the launch of the new Bessell Fellows Program, directed by the Walter Commons, to provide international internships to more CC students. The program supports internships related to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, focusing on countries outside of the United States and Western Europe. The first cohort consisted of nineteen fellows who completed remote internships with organizations located in ten different countries. The program is just one example of the collaborative efforts between the Walter Commons and CISLA to expand global learning opportunities for all students at the College.

In the pages that follow we detail some of the events, staffing updates, student reflections on their summer experiences, alumni news, and the impressive honors and awards of CISLA scholars who, despite the significant challenges of the past two years, continue to shine.



CISLA SCHOLARS VISITING THE UNITED NATIONS ON APRIL 27, 2022



# CISLA EVENTS *by Mary Devins*

**Andrea Lanoux**  
Faculty Director

**Suzuko Knott**  
Associate Faculty Director,  
Spring 2021  
Acting Director, Fall 2021  
Faculty Director,  
Spring 2023

**Luis Gonzalez**  
Associate Faculty Director,  
Spring 2022

**Marc Zimmer**  
Acting Director, Fall 2022

**Mary S. Devins**  
Staff Director

**Cara Masullo Ekwuabu**  
Associate Staff Director

**Anissa Cantone**  
Administrative Assistant

**Betsy Lebel**  
PRISM Designer & Editor

860-439-2440  
cisla@conncoll.edu  
cisla.conncoll.edu

**Student Advisory Board**  
Isa Amaro Varas '23  
Sam Boehm '24  
Junice Caminero '24  
Bilis Kalolella '23  
Eric Lu '24  
Annie Morgan '23  
Yeseri Rosa Vizcaino '23  
Ava Yassari '24

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Mary Devins  
Suzuko Knott  
Andrea Lanoux  
Cara Masullo Ekwuabu  
Caroleen Sayej  
Chris Steiner  
Marc Zimmer

**Selection Committee**  
Mary Devins  
Denis Ferhatovic  
Luis Gonzalez  
Suzuko Knott  
Cara Masullo Ekwuabu  
Chris Steiner  
Sufia Uddin  
Marc Zimmer

**IS 201  
Teaching Team**  
Sunil Bhatia  
Nathalie Etoke  
Eric Fleury  
Andrea Lanoux  
Bina Lakshmi Nepram  
Marc Zimmer

## All College Symposium

**THE ALL COLLEGE SYMPOSIUM** was launched in 2019 as part of the Connections curriculum to showcase undergraduate research

and the work of the students in the College's academic centers and pathways. Following the remote symposium of 2020, this year over 200 students, including 32 CISLA scholars, gathered in person on November 4, 2021, to present their research in progress and to discuss how their coursework and co-curricular experiences informed their learning.

Under the leadership of Professor Suzuko Knott, CISLA seniors carefully rehearsed their presentations in IS 401, resulting in 32 remarkably polished and professional presentations. Although students tell us year after year how anxious they are about public speaking, we continue to see high levels of satisfaction when the presentations are over, as students take pride in their work and recognize how far they have come.



JACOB NOZAKI, BELLA SORRENTI,  
IYAD AIT HOU, ERIC FREEMAN,  
EM GREENSLIT

## Events with CISLA Alumni

**AS WE BEGAN THE FALL SEMESTER** with the hope of returning to some semblance of normalcy, we felt it important to bring all CISLA students together in person. We organized an all-CISLA dinner, followed by a presentation by two CISLA alumni, Doreen Vaillancourt '99 and Hagen Maroney '98, both of whom are diplomats in the U.S. Foreign Service. Although they knew each other casually at CC, they met again in New York City after graduation (Mary was told that she was responsible for that, and perhaps even for their eventual marriage). Their careers are impressive, with tours in Botswana, the Dominican Republic, Latvia, Azerbaijan, South Africa, and Ghana. Doreen is a Management Analyst for the State Department's Bureau of Consular Affairs, and Hagen is once again a student, this time at the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island. They discussed the trajectory of their careers, the nuances of being a diplomat, their work under various presidential administrations, the joy of learning new languages and meeting people from different cultures, and the challenges of raising a family while holding international careers. We were thrilled that both of them addressed the three CISLA questions and told current scholars how they had related to their lived experiences:



ZOLENGE BORDWIN, BEN ROTHSTEIN,  
ANUHEA BREENEN, LUCI MCGLYNN, DIANA KIM,  
LONG TA, CHRISTINE VU

1. How do the multiple origins and power dynamics of contemporary society impact us today?
2. How can one's personal, national, or cultural history shape possibilities for the future?
3. How can we address the material, spiritual, and ethical challenges facing the world today?

## Food Truck

**CISLA IS PROUD TO PROVIDE** enriching programming for our scholars and the wider campus

community, in addition to recognizing the importance of cohort-building activities, casual conversation and friendship among CISLA scholars. In 2020 and 2021, the welcome flow of students in and out of the CISLA office was curtailed, making it difficult to get to know our students in person. Toward the end of the academic year 2021, however, we were able to gather outside, socially distanced and masked. The College increasingly began to use food trucks for many events, and the fare has been varied and delicious. CISLA hosted an end-of-the-year gathering for all CISLA scholars behind Blaustein with the popular food truck, Munchies. Not surprisingly, the event received rave reviews, as it gave scholars a chance to get to know each other across classes.



NORAH DEMING, JACOB NOZAKI,  
SAMIRAH JAIGIRDAR, OLHA VASYLIV



HAGEN MARONEY AND  
SOHAN MEWADA

**KATHERINE DOCAMPO '06 AND SAM VANDERLIP '98** met via Zoom with Slavic Studies students and CISLA scholars taking Russian on February 23, 2022, to discuss their paths from studying Russian at CC to impressive international careers. This meeting occurred on the eve of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, highlighting the continued importance of Russian area studies in the current context.

Katherine is the Head of Impact Communications at the World Economic Forum in Geneva, Switzerland. Sam lives and works in the UK where he is Director of EM Advisors, the leading financial and corporate communication agency focusing on Russia.



# CISLA EVENTS, cont'd

## #NoToWar in Ukraine *by Andrea Lanoux*

ON FEBRUARY 25, 2022, a day after Putin's invasion of Ukraine, faculty in Slavic Studies, History, and Government (Petko Ivanov, Laura Little, Andrea Lanoux, Eileen Kane, Eric Fleury, and David Patton) and CISLA scholar Olha Vasyliv '23 addressed a packed audience in Ernst and dozens of attendees online during a teach-in on the unfolding war and humanitarian crisis in Ukraine. The Department of Slavic Studies quickly responded to the crisis, educating students about the historical context for Putin's war, events leading up to the invasion, and the international response.



After the teach-in, students met in the Global Learning Lab to speak with Olha Vasyliv, a citizen of Ukraine who was studying in Paris at the time, and CISLA scholar Emily Hackett '23, who had studied abroad in Kyiv in fall 2021, to hear their perspectives on the evolving crisis. Several dozen attendees made protest posters at the event to show their support and solidarity for the people of Ukraine.



## Staffing Updates in CISLA *by Andrea Lanoux*

THE PAST YEAR brought a number of structural changes to CISLA staffing, prompted by the need for flexibility due to international travel restrictions beginning in March 2020. Thanks to the incredibly hard work, creativity, and ingenuity of Mary Devins and Cara Masullo Ekwuabu, CISLA was able to convert most international internships to remote experiences in summer 2020 and 2021. It is no overstatement to say that Cara and Mary held the program together during the pandemic, while also strengthening connections with CISLA alumni and working more closely with colleagues in the Walter Commons and the Hale Career Center to enhance global learning for greater numbers of students at the college. These achievements were recognized in the promotion of **Mary Devins** to **Staff Director of CISLA** and of **Cara Masullo Ekwuabu** to **Associate Staff Director** in December 2021.

These positions are mirrored on the faculty side by the **Faculty Director** role (held by **Andrea Lanoux** from 2018 to 2022), plus a new **Associate Faculty Director position**, piloted in spring 2021 by **Suzuko Knott** and held by **Luis Gonzalez** in spring 2022. Together, these positions provide increased stability and advising capacity to ensure the excellence of the CISLA certificate program into the future, while at the same time advancing international and global education for all students at the college. We are pleased to announce the appointment of **Marc Zimmer** as **Acting Faculty Director** of CISLA in fall 2022, to be followed by **Suzuko Knott** in the role of **CISLA's seventh Faculty Director** beginning in January 2023. Additionally, **Laura Little** will be joining CISLA in AY 2022/23 as the Center's third **Associate Faculty Director**. Congratulations to all on these well deserved promotions and appointments!

In December 2021, **Betsy Lebel** retired from CISLA after five years of exemplary service to Connecticut College. Fortunately, Betsy has graciously agreed to continue producing *PRISM* (the newsletter you are holding in your hands or reading online) to help facilitate communication between the Center, CISLA alumni, and the wider community. We are pleased to report that **Anissa Cantone** returned to CISLA for the spring semester after Betsy's departure, continuing in the role of administrative assistant and expanding the position to support the work of the Walter Commons for Global Study and Engagement.



CISLA added two new **student fellows** in fall 2021 to enhance the Center's social media presence, support CISLA staff and students in obtaining internships, collaborate with the Walter Commons, and expand CISLA programming. CISLA's first student fellows, **Luci McGlynn** and **Jordan Westlake**, both members of the CISLA graduating class of 2022, did an incredible job as the Center's first fellows, bringing new energy and fresh perspectives to the office.

Finally, we look forward to adding a **new faculty fellows program** in fall 2022 to showcase international research at the college and to foster stronger connections between faculty and student scholarship in the Center and beyond.

# CISLA Seniors Reflecting on Summer 2021

**NORAH DEMING** Last summer I interned for Soul Food Paris, an organization that introduces migrant and refugee youth in Paris to cultural events and artistic environments with the goal of providing intellectual and cultural stimulation, facilitating positive integration experiences, and encouraging novel levels of autonomy in their new home country. I had experience working on the Adobe Suite platform, and it quickly became apparent that I could put these skills to use. Graphic design became a large chunk of my responsibility and has been a highlight. I continue to work on digital projects for Soul Food today.

This experience cemented my interest in migration studies, with a particular focus on the experience of unaccompanied minors. Thanks to my work with Soul Food, the support from my advisor Ramla Bedoui, and the CISLA staff's encouragement, I was able to complete my SIP in French, honing in on this academic interest.

**SAMIRAH JAIGIRDAR** When I was accepted to CISLA, I never thought I'd be forced to search for my international internship during a global pandemic. I also did not think I would be doing a remote internship. But, in the summer of 2021, I was a remote research intern for the High Atlas Foundation (HAF), a development NGO based in Marrakesh, Morocco. As a research intern, one of my main contributions was co-authoring a manual of methodologies to preserve the cultural memory of Jewish Moroccans as part of a U.S. AID-funded project that HAF had started. One of the most exciting things was collaborating on an Arabic translation for one of my research blogs, which was published by a Moroccan news website. My internship experience enabled me to look critically at theoretical frameworks and question how they are applied to real-world settings.

**IYAD AIT HOU** I worked for Brainlyne, a social learning platform that leverages technology to expand access to educational opportunities. Group classes are tailored to students' needs and facilitated through social feed, texting, online classes and student-tutor matching. The target audience is international high school students interested in studying abroad, and the company is working to prepare students to access local universities as well! The Moroccan Digital Development Agency supports Brainlyne by categorizing it as a company of innovation, allowing it to bypass certain regulations and further pursue the project.

**JACOB NOZAKI** For my summer internship, I worked remotely at SAP SE on the security research team in Karlsruhe, Germany. My project was the first step into a new area that SAP is pursuing known as human factor security. This topic is a crossover between computer science and psychology because it investigates issues relating to how human behavior plays a role in many security failures and how, if we can identify and understand the causes of undesirable user behavior, we can change the systems and tools to improve security. This internship was hugely formative for me in many ways. I came in with skills from computer science, psychology, and leadership, but those were tested at many points. Additionally, I became a better communicator, problem solver, researcher, team member, and leader. These are all skills that I will use as I close out my time at Connecticut College, and throughout my career and life.

**EILIS REARDON** This past summer I worked remotely as an intern at Universidad Diego Portales in the Centro de Estudios en Neurociencia Humana y Neuropsicología in Santiago, Chile. My supervisor, Francisco, and I worked together to come up with an idea for a paper that we wanted to write, and are now in the process of publishing. We studied medical education and patient care from the lens of the 4E approach to cognition. A lot of my internship was asynchronous and this proved to be more of a challenge than I expected. This allowed me to acquire a lot of great skills, however, like learning how to manage my time better and to communicate more effectively with my supervisor. The experience enhanced my overall academic path because I was able to do focused research, which is something I will likely be doing in the future.

**SOHAN MEWADA** I used this past summer to effectively grow my intellectual curiosity by researching and collaborating with experts from countries such as Brazil and Italy to better understand the questions that interest me the most. In a time that presented every opportunity to be inundated by feelings of uncertainty, self-pity, and an overbearing sense of missed experience, I found myself with unencumbered time to delve into what I see as some of the most crucial problems to our common culture. Although not a traditional CISLA experience, being grounded and unconstrained allowed me to leverage situational disadvantages into what was a more global form of collaboration and exploration. I was able to branch out from a traditional one country perspective in pursuit of a continued evolution of a global consciousness. Ultimately, my time exploring this past summer is what allowed me to travel to Italy this winter break to conduct archival research at Fondazione Gramsci Emilia-Romagna in Bologna.

## A Junior Reflecting on Study Away

**JESS RUSH** As an artist, I seek movement, wider spaces to think and be lost in. At a time when isolation has engendered stagnancy and lent fear and animosity to relationships of every sort, it is a tremendous gift to study abroad for fifteen months and internationalize all of my disciplines. Of course, there have been obstacles: some stressful (acquiring a French Visa from Scotland), some comical (sleeping in the Galway bus station after being scammed by a Dublin youth hostel). But I wake every day and am immersed in language and art far beyond French and my own mediums. For years my bedtime story was taking stock of the day's to-do list, building tomorrow's. Some version of regret. Now, I wake holding the seeds of my dreams, the trowel I've welded in the heat of my vastly expanding world, and I watch them flower before my eyes.

# Alumni Updates

**WE WELCOME AND ENCOURAGE** our alumni to send us their updates. This year in particular we have been able to rely on quite a few alumni to help us in the internship search. This kind of networking has been enormously appreciated and valuable. The years of COVID and now the situation in Ukraine have made it more challenging to find good internships.

Reunion is upon us for the classes ending in 2s and 7s. As always, we are organizing our annual CISLA reunion luncheon, which we guarantee will be wonderful.

## **ALI PLUCINSKI '20**

completed her master's degree at the Elliott School of International Studies in Washington, D.C. this year. She has recently accepted a position as Global Intelligence Analyst at the World Bank.

## **BRANDY DARLING '19**

completed a Master of Arts in International Relations from the School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) at Johns Hopkins University with double concentrations in international economics and international political economy. She also received a Certificate in Chinese and American Studies after a year at the Hopkins-Nanjing Center in China. Brandy is an Associate at The Asia Group in DC, where she supports clients across a broad range of industries in China, with a focus on China's political and regulatory environment.

## **MARGIE GIACALONE '19**

Margie lived in Bolivia teaching English as a second language, and now is a second-year Ph.D. student in Sociocultural and Linguistic Anthropology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

## **EGE SAKIRT '19**

served in Kosovo as a Peace Corps volunteer and has recently accepted a position as Program Coordinator at The Social Innovation Forum in Boston. He says, "I am looking forward ...to assisting non-profits in Greater Boston to promote community development and capacity building!" Ege is recently engaged to Hannah Ballantine.

## **DOMINIQUE D'ONOFRIO '18**

is in Suceava, Romania working as a Fulbright ETA at the Universitate Ștefan cel Mare and studying the archaeological looting of Romanian and Dacian artifacts. *Dominique enjoying her time in Romania as a Fulbright scholar.*



## **ASA WATERWORTH '18**

completed her M.A. in International Education Management from the Middlebury Institute of International Studies in Monterey, CA and is the new University Relations Associate in International Programs & Off-Campus Study at Middlebury, recruiting at colleges and universities across the country to recruit for Schools Abroad.

## **JUSTIN WINOKUR '18**

is a Ph.D. student in 20th-Century International History, University of Virginia and Associate, Applied History Project at Harvard's Belfer Center.

## **BEN BALLARD '16**

completed work as a fellow at the Citizen Lab at the University of Toronto researching how digital systems impact human rights around the world. Ben is now a cybersecurity engineer at the MITRE Corporation. "I'm still leveraging what I learned as a CISLA scholar, working with international partners to build their cyber capacity."

## **MORGAN COWIE-HASKELL '16**

is Director of Operations at United for a Fair Economy in Boston, which challenges the concentration of wealth and power that corrupts democracy, deepens the racial divide and tears communities apart. Morgan just passed an HR certificate exam with the Society for Human Resource Management.



## **HELEN ROLFE HOPE '16**

is based in Jersey City, NJ, freelancing as a writer and editor for clients in dance and fashion. She also teaches dance for The School at Mark Morris Dance Group. "Lately, I've enjoyed brushing up on those CISLA-era language skills by babysitting for a Japanese-speaking family." *With CISLA alum Alexis Cheney, 16.*

## **ABBY FAGAN '16**

started a two-year MBA program at Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University this past fall (graduating in June 2023).

## **JOANNA MARKS '16**

is a registered nurse at Main Line Health in Philadelphia.

## **MIKE PICARD '15**

is a graduate research fellow at Johns Hopkins SAIS, researching U.S. arms exports regime, defense service exports. He writes, "... thank you for your support and ... the opportunities through CISLA that allowed me to grow, develop, and find myself in such a position."

## **CANNEA FERGUSON '14**

is an Operations Specialist/Testing Coordinator at Stride Inc. in Virginia, whose mission is to help learners of all ages reach their full potential through inspired teaching and personalized learning powered by technology.

## **SPENCER FRANCUS '14**

is Vice President of Cybersecurity and Technology Controls at JPMorgan Chase & Co, NYC.

## **CHRIS MAY '14**

completed an M.S. in Biomedical Science and is an osteopathic medical student at Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine. He writes, "Not gonna lie, CISLA certainly did help."

## **MAYRA VALLE '14**

earned a master's degree at Texas A&M and is Director of Learning and Design at EMERGE in Houston, Texas, whose mission is to develop high-achieving students from underserved communities and to provide substantial financial aid for first-generation students from these communities.

### PARINDA DARDEN '13

is Co-Founder and CTO of Wildgrid, an NYC-based start-up that believes every person on the planet deserves affordable access to renewable energy. Wildgrid is a solar marketplace, connecting renters and homeowners to rooftop and community solar options. Wildgrid is proud to be a minority, female, and queer-owned company.

### CLAIRE WELLBELOVED-STONE '13

is the Co-Founder, Vice President, & Executive Director of Blue Trunk Foundation, a startup non-profit focused on accessible and inclusive travel. She received an M.P.H. at The Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy and Clinical Practice in June 2015.

### ANAKENA PADDON '12

recently relocated to the U.S. where she works for Soho House and Co. as Art Collection Coordinator, after five years managing Kevin Francis Gray Studio in London and Tuscany. She says, "The huge perk ... is the chance to ... experience a new place through the eyes of its artists. I just opened the Nashville art collection and am looking forward to 2022's next projects."

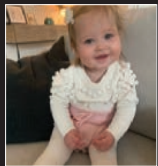
### AMANI ZAVERI '12

has started her own travel company, Global Soul Travel, which helps individuals and companies plan trips to all destinations around the globe.



Photo is Amani in Santa Fe, MN.

## Babies



### ANNIE MOTCH ROSOL '11

and her husband Zach welcomed a sweet girl, Charlotte (Charlie) last May.



### RACHEL HURWITZ '11

and her husband Will Goldstein are thrilled to have baby Henry, born in December, to be a smiling and happy part of their lives.

### TIYANI XU '09

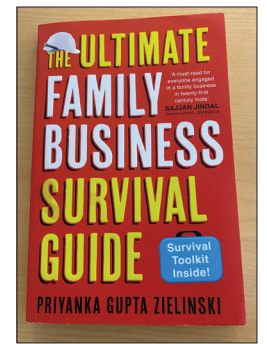
received an M.A. from Università Bocconi in Italy in International Management. Today she is Head of China Desk Corporate and Institutional Banking at HSBC in Dusseldorf, Germany.

### FRANNIE NOBLE '08

completed her M.A. in Peace, Conflict and Development at the University of Bradford in the U.K. "In September I took a new role with Virginia Commonwealth University as Assistant Director for Corporate and Foundation Relations. My experience with international donors helped me secure the role! I'm also vice president of the board of directors for Friends of Kenya Rising, a U.S.-based non-profit that supports the work of United Kenya Rising in Kakamega, Kenya to build the resistance of Kenyan students and their families as they rise out of poverty."

### PRIYANKA GUPTA ZIELINSKI '06

is the executive director of MPIL Steel Structures Ltd., South Asia and the Middle East, which has led her family business to exponential growth and diversification. Through her writings, she addresses the biggest pressure points facing the next generation in India: career, love and marriage. By exploring the role of Indian traditions and repositioning them with a modern twist, Priyanka seeks to empower India's next generation in their pursuit of new opportunities and fulfillment in their lives and careers. She is the author of the bestselling book, *The Ultimate Family Business Survival Guide*.



### JENNIFER WARREN '04

is Executive Director of @LadiesWhoLaunch, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that elevates and empowers women and non-binary entrepreneurs to scale the businesses of their dreams. Prior to that, she was Managing Director of Harvest; she worked with organizations advancing educational equity and social and criminal justice reform, including The Legal Aid Society, Breakthrough Silicon Valley, and Equitable Facilities Fund. Jennifer lives in Brooklyn, New York, with her husband.



### KATE WOODSOME '02

is a senior editor at *The Washington Post*, in the Opinions section. "Bring Them Home," premiered at the Big Sky Documentary Film Festival in Montana in late February. An American family tries to free Emad Shargi from prison in Tehran. It is a window into the growing problem of state-hostage-taking, a diplomatic "tool" using innocent citizens as geopolitical bargaining chips. Kate showcased her film at Connecticut College in late March. At times, Kate is in front of the camera, a role that took her to the U.S. Capitol to cover the pro-Trump insurrection on Jan. 6, 2021.



### MEGHAN CHANGELO SIKET '98

earned her law degree at Columbia University in NY. She is currently working in the Office of the General Counsel at University of Vermont. "Helping a public university navigate an ever-changing pandemic has been a challenge. Hiking and skiing are great pandemic activities!" Pictured here at the top of Smuggler's Notch.



### SAM VANDERLIP '98

lives and works in the U.K. and Russia as Director at EM Advisors, an independent financial and corporate communications agency focusing on Russia and the CIS, with financial, PR, investor relations, IPO and M&A transaction support, crisis communications, reputation management and strategic advisory services. Sam connected with students via Zoom in February to speak about international careers for students proficient in Russian.

# Honors & Awards

**CISLA SCHOLARS** tend to do very well in competing for the College's most prestigious fellowships and awards, and the past two years have been no exception. Four of the College's Fulbright Fellowships for 2021 and 2022 went to CISLA scholars Dominique D'Onofrio '18 (Romania), Abigail Schmitt '21 (Spain), Jacob Nozaki '22 (Germany), and Cameron Tubb '22 (Germany). Emily Hackett '23 won a highly competitive Beinecke Scholarship for graduate study, Ann Monk '21 received the College's first Marshall Scholarship, and Jack Rider McGovern '21 received a coveted Watson Fellowship (see right). Additionally, Fiona Hull '21 and Bella Sorrenti '22 were awarded Gilman Scholarships.

This year one of the College's most competitive prizes, the Anna Lord Strauss Medal for outstanding public service, went to Jacob Nozaki '22 in recognition of his extraordinary contributions to shared governance. Other members of this year's graduating CISLA class likewise earned impressive accolades: six were elected to Phi Beta Kappa (Tihut Getabicha, Em Greenslit, Jordan Groff, Jacob Nozaki, Isabela Sorrenti, and Jordan Westlake), one was a Winthrop scholar (Leslie Ruddy), and a full 68% of the class received Latin honors (9 Cum Laude, 6 Magna Cum Laude, and 7 Summa Cum Laude). Two-thirds of the CISLA class of 2022 received awards at Honors and Awards night, with Tihut Getabicha, Samirah Jaigirdar, Luci McGlynn, and Daniel Varela earning multiple awards each. Congratulations to all on a job superbly done!



## The Watson Fellowship

**JACK RIDER-MCGOVERN '21** received a Watson Fellowship and will embark on a year of travel. He joins 40 students from 22 states and eight countries who make up the 53rd class of Watson Fellows.

The highly competitive Watson Fellowship is a one-year, \$36,000 grant for purposeful, independent exploration outside the United States, awarded to graduating seniors nominated by 41 participating institutions. Jack plans to travel to Peru, Bolivia, Morocco, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Russia, India and Japan for his project, "Marginalized Languages: Preserving the World's Linguistic Diversity." "It's estimated that 90 percent of the world's currently spoken languages will be dead in only 30 years," said Rider-McGovern. "Using languages I know and learning new ones, I will investigate strategies that different societies implement to ensure marginalized languages' continued survival." Jack hopes to start the Watson this summer.

**EMILY HACKETT '23** received a \$34,000 Beinecke Scholarship to help fund her graduate studies. Established in 1971, The Program provides scholarships for the graduate education of students of exceptional promise. The program seeks to encourage and enable highly motivated students to pursue opportunities available to them and to be courageous in the selection of a graduate course of study in the arts, humanities and social sciences.



## CISLA Goes to Spain *by Andrea Lanoux*

After two years of international travel restrictions, twenty CISLA scholars from the class of 2022 and three CISLA staff boarded a plane to Madrid on March 11 to see a bit of the world before graduation. The now legendary CISLA senior trip to Spain was a successful experiment in global learning, combining short-term travel, engaged learning with peers abroad, language learning, and academic lectures by fourteen university professors in Spain on students' research topics. A month before the trip, CISLA seniors began meeting weekly with twelve students from Universidad de Castilla-La Mancha to discuss academic subjects of mutual interest, such as global migration and sustainable development. Thanks to these structured conversations, a cross-cultural dialogue was well underway before we arrived in Spain.

The thematic lectures centered on transnational issues of global significance, such as the use of bio-fuels in the transportation industry, the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the use of medieval symbols in right-wing media campaigns, demographic challenges in Europe, the underrepresentation of women in science, asylum seekers in Europe

and the Americas, the exacerbation of global inequality, and human rights violations by multinational corporations. The academic program was rigorous, relevant to student interests, and cutting edge. We are forever grateful to Gloria Jordán and Emilie Villet for their creative vision and for the enormous amount of work they put into designing and delivering this extraordinary, CISLA-centered curriculum.



## Staff Baby (now a Toddler!)

**LINNEA GRACE EKWUABU**, daughter of CISLA Associate Staff Director Cara Masullo Ekwuabu & Okey Ekwuabu, was born on March 27, 2021.





MARY S. DEVINS

## Alumni Networking

Connecting CISLA scholars with alumni is extremely rewarding and something that our undergraduate students and recent graduates continue to ask for. Over the past two years, Andrea Lanoux has been inviting CISLA alumni to connect with CISLA sophomores in IS 201 to share their experiences in CISLA and beyond.

In 2021, **Isis Torres Nuñez '20**, spoke about her CISLA experiences conducting scientific research in a lab in Barcelona. She is currently working on the COVID-19 Diagnostic Testing Team at the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, with a goal of becoming a physician.

**Maryum Qasim '21** talked with sophomores about her work in Geneva at the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research and her SIP on the topic of "The Effects of Drone Strikes on the Civilian Population." Maryum is now a business development representative at Nayya, a personal benefits consulting firm.

This year **Aaron Maines '95**, **Kate Woodsome '02**, and **Linh Vu '07** talked with current scholars about their professional lives as journalists, filmmakers, and faculty members. Students love hearing about life after Conn.

In the summer of 2020 we were able to connect CISLA junior, **Emir Küllük '21** with CISLA alumnus, **Chris Bother '07**. Chris is the founder and CEO of Team Basilisk, an innovative Esports start-up. He told us he needed an intern, and Emir was a perfect match. Emir willingly worked untold hours and earned high praise from Chris. After graduation Chris hired him full time and reports that he is an extraordinary member of his team.

In the past we have had very successful in-person alumni panels. Students tell us that they want to hear from recent grads, those five to ten years out, as well as seasoned professionals. Alumni give important advice about career paths, job searches, disappointments, starting over, believing in yourself, patience, etc. Undergraduates are heartened when they can actually see themselves as a person with a rewarding career. We will be organizing more of these panels this year. Many alumni contact us with available positions or internship opportunities at their workplace.

We welcome and encourage these communications!



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