



prism

CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

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

fall 2010



SUSTAINABLE HOMES AND SCHOOLS IN SAN JUAN COMALAPA, GUATEMALA, INCLUDE REPURPOSED MATERIALS SUCH AS DISCARDED TIRES AND PLASTIC BOTTLES

Pathways

We often hear from alumni that the CISLA experience was the beginning of a path that brought them where they are today. In each issue we will highlight some of these stories.

Ericka Temple '02 majored in architectural studies and minored in Hispanic studies. Her CISLA internship was as an architectural assistant at the Universidad de Barcelona. After receiving her master's in architecture from Syracuse University, Ericka called Mary Devins and asked if she knew of any organizations that were dealing with green architecture, preferably in a developing country, because she wanted to give back and be a hands-on part of something she believed in. She found her way to the organization Long Way Home (www.longwayhomeinc.org) and has been working for them since 2009 in Guatemala, where she implements the design and construction of green building projects.

A long way home

by Ericka Temple '02

AS AN AMERICAN architect living and working in rural Guatemala, one of the most frequent questions I'm asked is "How did you get there?" My answer can be long and complicated, and it can also be very simple. While I may not have realized it at the time, my CISLA experience was a strong contributing factor in my path to Guatemala.

My days working in San Juan

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director's column

AS YOU ALL KNOW,

On Jan. 12, 2010, a powerful earthquake struck Haiti 15 miles west of Port-au-Prince, its capital city. The Haitian government estimates that 230,000 people lost their lives and an additional 1 million were made homeless. Two days after the earthquake hit, as the scope and enormity of the disaster became apparent, I contacted the other academic center directors to see if we could coordinate a campus-wide response. The outcome of those conversations was an ad hoc committee, made up of faculty, staff and students, that spent the next three months planning and promoting educational and fundraising events, and trying to identify an organization on the ground that could use our help.

We realized that many people would have already made contributions to the big charitable organizations responsible for emergency disaster relief. Rather than add to that, we wanted to identify and support a grassroots organization in Haiti that dealt with the overall wellbeing of children. This was especially relevant in the context of Haiti since so many children had been orphaned by the quake. Finding an organization that would put our money to good use was no small task, however. And, eventually, we turned to a CISLA graduate for help and advice. Ben Lodmell '93 had been involved in building schools with the World Children Relief Fund in Haiti for many years, and it was Ben who put us in contact with Ghislaine Georges, the founder and executive director of the International Alliance for the Advancement of Children (IAAC).

Based in Les Cayes, Haiti, the IAAC is dedicated to providing education, health care, nutrition and vocational training to marginalized children, in the belief that these are fundamental human rights that should be available to everyone. Since the earthquake, the IAAC has taken in nine children of various ages from Port-au-Prince whose parents are presumed dead and whose relatives cannot be located or are in no position to care for them. The money that was raised last semester will help pay for the construction of living quarters for the orphaned children whom the IAAC has taken on.

What particularly impressed us about the IAAC was that 100 percent of all donations cover direct program costs. Also, local staff members who understand the needs of children in the community run all the IAAC programs. We hope that our relationship with the IAAC will strengthen over the years and that we can forge a partnership that will benefit all parties involved. In fact, this summer one of our CISLA rising seniors interned with the IAAC in Haiti, and on the basis of her experience there we are exploring ways to collaborate with them in the future.

I am extremely proud of the leading role that CISLA played in this fundraising effort. Many of our students and staff put in long hours to make this happen. I am confident that our efforts will make a huge difference in the lives of these truly disadvantaged children.

Robert Gay
*Professor of Sociology
Director of the Toor Cummings Center for International Studies and the Liberal Arts (CISLA)*



SOME OF THE CHILDREN ORPHANED BY THE JAN. 12 QUAKE WHO ARE IN THE CARE OF THE IAAC IN HAITI.

Pathways

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Comalapa for the nonprofit Long Way Home are never the same. I am constantly combining and using my architectural background, Spanish language skills and creative problem-solving abilities. While the issues and scenery were very different in Barcelona in the summer of 2000, my CISLA international internship laid the groundwork for my success in Guatemala.

In addition to learning about Barcelona's urban renewal schemes and the wonders of Spanish food, my internship taught me how to work and think more independently. Working one-on-one with a Spanish architect and artist meant that much of my internship had to be guided by my own initiative. Without coworkers and an office, it was up to me to create the structure to my days, set deadlines and make sure I met them. At first I was a little lost without the familiar framework and community of college that I had always relied upon, but gradually I adapted to drawing, writing and researching on my own.

Because of the challenges I faced, I learned valuable lessons about how I think, design and create most effectively. That experience gave me the confidence and drive to work as an architectural designer within a multidisciplinary team. Now, instead of working among other designers and architects in a firm, I'm building a school with development



ARCHITECT ERICA TEMPLE '02 WORKS ON A DESIGN FOR A SCHOOL IN GUATEMALA.



GUATEMALAN CHILDREN DREAM ABOUT THEIR NEW SCHOOL.

workers, builders, teachers and farmers. While collaboration is key to the project's success, being able to independently generate solutions has been crucial.

Also vital to my current project is communicating in Spanish. Since my Spanish had been dormant for many years, I was a little nervous as I relocated to the highlands of Guatemala. But I was also enthusiastic about the challenge because I felt that I had strayed from the CISLA-inspired path of working in a foreign language. So almost 10 years after I was in Spain as a college student I found myself learning new construction vocabulary (*azadón, pulgada, trasladar*) as I got a school project off the ground in Guatemala. It was a rocky start, but now I'm comfortable asking students for input on the school's design, explaining the alternative construction methods we use and setting up municipal electricity in my second language. I'm able to stay humble, humorous and determined in my quest to proficiently work in Spanish because of my CISLA language background.

Reconnecting with Spanish could have happened in many ways. The fact that I chose to do it in a way that improves the lives of a community in need is also strongly connected to CISLA. Guatemala is the third poorest country in the Western hemisphere; 65 percent of Comalapa's residents survive on less than \$2/day. The World Bank estimates that

those in poverty will be the first harmed by the destructive results of climate change. To address this issue, the school I am designing and building with Long Way Home uses repurposed materials and will provide an environmental curriculum to those who need it most. I have expanded my knowledge of sustainable design to include rammed-earth and materials generally thought of as trash, like discarded tires and plastic bottles.

Architects should be on the frontline of combating climate change as well as alleviating poverty around the world. My interest in other cultures has allowed me to look toward alternative methods of building and energy production. This notion of the interconnected global citizen was planted by CISLA before my architectural education was complete, but continues to strongly influence me.

On the construction site with community members, building crew and volunteers I am a world away from cosmopolitan Barcelona, but the lessons and insights I found there were instrumental in my journey. Just like any job, there are great days and there are tough days. For now I'm grateful to have both while working toward positive change in Guatemala.

For more information on Long Way Home, go to www.longwayhomeinc.org. For information about the school project go to <http://catorcekt.wordpress.com>.

notes from the field

WE ASK STUDENTS to submit interim internship reports for a variety of reasons: to see how they are functioning during the internship; to observe the changes that occur in the course of the internship; to give us better ideas of how to improve these experiences; and to keep us connected to our students. There were consistent themes that emerged as the 31 interns reported from 18 different countries around the world. It is precisely the challenges and difficulties that make the internship a life-changing experience as our CISLA scholars learn and accept the mysteries and nuances of life as a foreigner working in a foreign land. — *Mary Devins*

Jacob Garber: The Association of Rural Development of Yilong County, China

The director of the organization is an overbearing woman with an aggressive working style. I now understand her character and know not to take it personally. She is a wealth of information and it is great to get her talking on an interesting topic. Overcoming the language barrier to interact with workers in an attempt to learn an already difficult industry has been the most challenging.

Hannah Shambroom: Galerie Arte, Senegal

Living in Africa has been the biggest cultural shock I have ever experienced. Every single thing was a challenge. I felt alone, but I had no independence. I had never been a minority before. I had never experienced poverty like this before.

The main thing I have learned is to just deal with things. The negative or challenging aspects of culture cannot be changed, so just embrace these foreign experiences. I am actually really happy here and learning to adjust to this completely different way of life.

Abigail Derick: Technologies of Optimum Personalities Development (TORO), Ukraine

One of the most challenging aspects has been that Ukraine is a bilingual country and people speak both Russian and Ukrainian. Most of the signs, newspapers and some TV channels are in Ukrainian, so that has been difficult. The most rewarding thing has been all the new relationships that I have made. I am living with a host family and they are amazing people. I have also become friends with some English teachers around my age and they show me exactly what it is like to live in Ukraine. The funny thing is that, in general, it is not that different from the U.S.

Loneliness

“I have never been alone in my life. I have now learned to give empty days a purpose.”

“Living alone sometimes means being alone, and as hard as this can be it is a rewarding experience. People often say that traveling is not about discovering the new place you visit, but letting the place discover you.”

Life Skills/Living

“I have learned to be a self-starter, the rooster of the Argentine World Cup team, and how to say nasty things to men who don't leave me alone.”

“I have learned how to cook.”

“I have learned to be comfortable with the uncomfortable. ... It has greatly improved my self-confidence and independence.”

“I have learned to deal with issues by being direct, polite and cool headed. I have learned to have a sense of camaraderie and respect among those I share the apartment with. (Useful when I live in River Ridge next year.)”

“I have learned to be independent and self-efficient without a mother or cafeteria to feed me. I have learned to move about carefully, preventing things from happening and planning things ahead of time.”

“Learning to be responsible is only possible when big responsibilities are handed to us, and this internship and living abroad have done it for me.”

“I have learned how to entertain myself, give my days purpose and most importantly I have learned how to cook.”

“Everything is an adventure: I can cook, feel comfortable being alone, create new projects, work around bureaucracy, sweet talk nurses into giving me my allergy shots illegally, and relax my type-A personality and live on Latino time.”

“Spending time in a dangerous foreign country puts common sense and life skills to a test on a daily basis. Flexibility has been the life skill that I have used the most.”

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ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF GOVERNMENT JOHN TIAN, RIGHT, VISITS JACOB GARBER '11 IN SICHUAN PROVINCE, CHINA..



HANNAH SHAMBROOM '11 AT A CAMEL RACING COMPETITION IN THE LOMPOUL DESERT IN SENEGAL.

Language

“Humor is the most difficult aspect of mastering the language. Their jokes go right over my head, but it is pushing me to dig deeper in the language.”

“I really, really love using Spanish and living outside of the U.S.”

“The language is hard for me. Everyone said it would click, and I keep waiting for the click. I have improved, but I wish I were better.”

“One of the difficulties I am facing is the language barrier. I feel powerless and incapable at times. The feeling of failure and rejection is quite hard to bear, but I feel these experiences are essential for my maturity.”

“It is exhausting to speak in a foreign language all day, but certain moments make it worthwhile, like when someone tells you they thought you were French because you barely have an accent.”

“If I can accomplish tasks in a foreign language, I am not afraid to do anything in America.”

“The thrill of being understood in a foreign language, whether it is by a cashier or a new acquaintance in a bar, will never get old for me.”

Work/workplace

“The chance of seeing first hand everything I have studied for the past two years is very rewarding. Also, I have been able to make very good friends from different ages and backgrounds.”

“Patience: It doesn’t take much time to realize the island lifestyle is not one that moves quickly or efficiently. It can be quite refreshing, a no-stress attitude that is impossible in the States.”

“I had to be patient and understand the clients’ different cultural practices.”

“Miscommunication between my boss and me resulted in me feeling unwelcome in the office. Forcing myself to talk to my boss about the above issue helped me to learn to be more assertive.”

“The most rewarding thing has definitely been building a friendship with my coworker Bertrand. We have long conversations about the difference between European and American mentalities and systems. I hadn’t yet made a real French friend, even being here all semester for study abroad.”

“8:30 — Kiss everyone who comes



ABBY DERICK '11 IN A FIELD OF SUNFLOWERS IN KIROVOHRAD, UKRAINE, WHERE SHE WAS RESEARCHING POST-SOVIET YOUTH CULTURE AND IDENTITY.

into the office. A lot of passion when anybody arrives. People I don’t know kiss me like they have known me forever.”

Challenges

“The biggest challenge was the general insecurity I feel living in the city as a young foreign female. The *machismo* culture is quite strong. The most rewarding is that I have carved out a space for myself. I am loving the independence I have exerted: an independence that is impossible to achieve within the protected confines of the dining hall and dormitories of Connecticut College.”

“The challenge so far has been the cold. Inside the house is freezing, the shower leaves heat to be desired, and the office is like a refrigerator.”

“I have to be aware that I am a *gringa* living in a city known for professional thieves (laptop already stolen). I have to be aware of my surroundings at all times and aware of the image I am presenting.”

“*Machismo* is alive here. Every time I walk outside I am hissed at, kissed at, called names and honked out. I have learned to dress down, cover my hair with a hat and eyes with sunglasses to detract any attention.”

“Perhaps the most difficult adjustment of all has been trying to

manage my free time outside of the office without the support and structure of a study-abroad program.”

“It has been a difficult personal struggle for me to hear the stories and to actually know the children who are exposed to violence, disease, abuse, the drug trade, and lack of access to water and electricity.”

“Going out to explore the city has required a great deal of determination, courage and self-confidence without the urging of family, exuberance of friends or comforting notion of self-belonging.”

Praise and awe

“I could not be more grateful for the opportunity that CISLA is providing me. Not many people my age can say that they have worked abroad. It is a totally gratifying experience and one that has taught me so much about myself and what I can accomplish.”

On occasion students are asked to write articles or reports for their organizations. Two of our seniors had articles published in highly respected newspapers in their respective countries.

Jazmin Acuna Cantero '11 interned for the Centre for the Study of Violence and
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Back in Africa

by Frannie Noble '08

IMMEDIATELY after graduation, I rode my bike across the country with Bike&Build, and I knew only vaguely what I wanted to do next.

I studied abroad in Bamako, Mali, and for my CISLA internship, during the summer of 2007, I worked in Bamako for la Coalition des ONGs Africaines en Faveur des Enfants (the Coalition of African NGOs for Children's Rights, or CONAFE). I also volunteered for the Pouponnerie, a home for orphaned and abandoned children. When I left Mali I knew I wanted to return and continue work with children's rights and specifically abandoned and orphaned children.

So, in 2009, I went back to Africa: Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and South Africa. With a close friend, I looked at innovative orphan care by living and working at different orphanages. The trip was entirely self designed and self funded, and by the end I had a full reminder that my passion lay in international child advocacy. The issue, then, was finding a way to make a career of it.

With luck, I met staff from Flying Kites Global at a job fair, and was immediately impressed with their vision, energy and drive. Flying Kites operates a children's home and school in Njabini, Kenya. My own travel initiative helped me land a job as the new Flying Kites Oasis program manager. I network with orphanages in Nairobi to strengthen their ability to fundraise, gain access to resources, and ultimately improve the quality of life they offer to children in their care.

My schedule varies. On a recent weekday in Nairobi I spent the afternoon in the pediatric AIDS clinic at Coptic Hospital to better

understand treatment programs available to HIV-positive children. I am planning a conference for the Oasis Program that will bring together our member orphanages to discuss issues of financial transparency and networking. Soon I will visit two orphanages with medical

clinics to assess how future medical volunteers might be utilized.

In my interview at Flying Kites, the directors asked me to describe challenges I faced as a traveler and as "the other" in a foreign land. Immediately, visions from my CISLA internship came to mind:

I told them of the excruciating heat followed by torrential rains; begging children; sewage in the streets. At work, lackadaisical work schedules, power outages, never-ending meetings, and general confusion about the culture and how things are done in a country that was not my own. "You're tired," I recalled, "out of water, your mini bus isn't in the right place, your new language skills are failing you. No! You can't buy that guy next to you a visa to the U.S., and although it's getting dark fast, it's still at least 100 degrees. You wonder what's happening at the orphanage you just left."

It was exhausting, I explained, but slowly I learned to enjoy my time and not simply count the days until I left. I had to accept the challenges of everyday life and also take care of myself. It was emotionally draining, I added, but I realized that I liked that challenge. I loved interacting with people in a way that is impossible in the rush of life in the U.S. I began to explain my professional work experience: "I worked for the admission office, completed a senior integrative project ..." They stopped me. "No, no," they smiled, "that's fine. You got the job. Can you leave for Kenya in a few weeks?" My answer was, of course, yes.

My CISLA project was the first step to working with children in developing countries, and now that experience is my life. I am back in Africa.



FRANNIE NOBLE '08 FOUND HER PASSION FOR INTERNATIONAL CHILD ADVOCACY WHILE ON HER CISLA INTERNSHIP IN MALI.

“You’re tired, out of water, your mini bus isn’t in the right place, your new language skills are failing you. No! You can’t buy that guy next to you a visa to the U.S., and although it’s getting dark fast, it’s still at least 100 degrees. You wonder what’s happening at the orphanage you just left.”



THE CISLA CLASS OF 2012 IN FRONT OF THE UNITED NATIONS DURING THE CENTER'S ANNUAL VISIT.

Trip to U.N. marks CISLA Class of 2012's acceptance to program

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by Sarah Seigle '12

AT 6 A.M. ON APRIL 7, a group of yawning, bleary-eyed students piled onto a coach bus bound for New York City. They selected their seats with the confident nonchalance that is characteristic of college students and promptly made themselves comfortable, popping in their iPod headphones or talking softly to their seatmates. As the bus began to roll, the students were already happily munching on Dunkin' Donuts bagels, making fast work of the three or four bags provided for them. As they rode, the chatter increased; the students' excitement about the day to come seemed to build in tandem with the hum of the wheels on the pavement.

For anyone who has ever had the pleasure of going on a field trip with college students, this scene is not very difficult to picture. These particular students, however, had the distinction of

being the members of the newly admitted CISLA Class of 2012 on their way to tour the United Nations and speak with representatives from various members of Permanent Missions of the U.N.

The day proved to be every bit as exciting as it sounds: The students made the rounds with delegates from the United States, Iran, Mexico and Algeria and engaged in question-and-answer sessions about contemporary issues in the delegates' respective countries. The trip was not only informative but had the added benefit of being excellent class bonding time, not to mention an opportunity to eat some pretty incredible food in the Delegates' Dining Room and at Bistro Jules on the Lower East Side.

Using this trip and the sophomore seminar in which they were enrolled as a starting point, the students of the Class of 2012 look forward to continuing to grow

and make progress on their projects in the next two years.

Note: The Class of 2012 has 34 students who will go to 21 countries.

Face to face with Ahmadinejad

CISLA received an invitation to bring a group of students to meet with Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, when he comes to New York for the U.N. General Assembly meeting Sept. 21. This invitation stems from a briefing that the CISLA Class of 2012 received at the Iranian mission during the annual U.N. trip referenced in the preceding article.

Parents face the CISLA challenge, too

EACH YEAR the responsibility of sending 30-35 students around the world brings with it a high level of anxiety as we worry about the safety of our young interns. We give them pre-departure orientations and instruct them in risk management, but once they are gone, we must hope that all goes well.

Fortunately, we have not had any serious problems in our 20 years of summer internships. Young folks for the most part are resilient, creative and always ready to shoulder on despite the occasional health setback or purse snatching. Katie Conway '08 contracted dengue fever in Guatemala and drove three hours in the back of a pickup to a very rural and rudimentary clinic. She would not hear of coming home. This year Hannah Shambroom '11 spent some time in a clinic in Senegal with food poisoning. Katie Sugg '10 was in Honduras last summer during a coup. We consulted with her and her parents and she convinced us all that she should stay and be a witness to history.

Many of our students are already savvy travelers and can handle the new environments and unforeseen circumstances. But not everyone has had these experiences. One young student sheepishly told me, "I am embarrassed to admit that I have never traveled. Is CISLA for me?" Needless to say, the answer was, "Of course." I believe that all students should be plucked from their comfort zones to see the world, challenge their world vision, see how others live and come back with their previous convictions turned upside down.

Some parents agree; others do not. Read on for a piece by Caryn Markin and another by her son Emmet. The end of the story is simply that Emmet made not one but two roundtrips to China. He had an incredible adventure, learned to speak beautiful Chinese, and returned not only safely, but overwhelmingly the wiser for his experience. Since Emmet's journeys, I have spoken often to Mr.

and Mrs. Markin and I know they are extremely proud of him and all that he accomplished. And I know that Emmet

was grateful that we in CISLA could help reassure his mother throughout the various stages of his journey. — *Mary Devins*

'You don't know my mother'

by Caryn Markin
Mother of Emmet Markin '10

EMMET: "MY MOTHER WILL NEVER LET ME GO TO CHINA!"

Mary: "Let me talk to her. We will work it out."

Emmet: "You don't know my mother."

My son was correct. Mary Devins did not know how opposed I was to sending my son across the globe. During our conversation I was waiting to ask, "How many parental signatures does he have to get in order to go?"

He only needed one, and it was supplied by his father.

Now, looking back on the past four years, traveling to China was one of the best experiences of Emmet's college career. He went not once, but twice: once to study the language and another for an internship. Each time allowed him to grow, experience the culture and learn the language in ways not possible in New London, Conn. The entire CISLA office was there for the students and families.

I'm very proud of my son. I have come to realize that, as much as I didn't want him to go, he wanted to go even more. He studied hard, traveled and saw sights I can only appreciate through his eyes. What a wonderful opportunity for a college student!

Thank you, Mary, Dot and Linda, for all your support and hard work. My son is proof of your success.

A bird flies from the nest

by Emmet Markin '10

CISLA PROVIDED ME with the challenge and opportunity of living in a foreign culture on the other side of the world. I had never been abroad. In fact, I had only been on a plane twice in my life. My mother did not want me flying and certainly did not want me traveling to the other side of the globe. CISLA allowed me to function independently and make meaningful contributions in a field of my choice, in a very foreign language and culture. In China, I saw incredible sights like the Summer Palace, ate new foods such as dragon fruit, and battled Chinese cockroaches. CISLA, most importantly, allowed me to grow.

The obstacle of finding an internship was over. But the obstacle of convincing my reluctant mother to allow me to go to China was ongoing. My mother was very concerned for my wellbeing abroad since she could not be there. She was also anxious about my nearly 18-hour flight because *she* has a phobia of flying. After much persuasion and the assistance of Mary, Dot and Linda in the CISLA office, my mother



EMMET MARKIN '10 WITH BEI YU, A SHANGHAISE MAN WHOSE FAMILY LEASED ROOMS TO JEWISH REFUGEES.

finally gave in and was OK with me going to Shanghai.

Once I arrived, I learned that the Shanghai Jewish Refugees Museum, where I interned, was actually owned and operated by a local district in Shanghai, the Hongkou District. I worked closely with the Hongkou District Foreign Affairs Office to develop the business of the museum and improve public relations, lectured on customer service, and re-strategized the museum's marketing. The museum's attendance rate increased 30 percent. I had a great sense of accomplishment and I am eager to find the same sense of fulfillment after college.

While in Shanghai, I learned to become more independent. I learned how to prepare my own meals and to live on my own. I also learned how to rid my apartment of cockroaches. Cockroaches in China can fly and are a bit bigger than New York City cockroaches. I used traps and pepper kernels to ward off these ferocious invaders. Fortunately, I won the war.

From my experiences in Shanghai, I now feel prepared to live in the real world, hold a job, live on my own, take initiatives, tackle everyday problems and battle cockroaches. Thank you, CISLA, for providing me with these vital tools.

notes from the field

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Reconciliation (CSVR) in Johannesburg, South Africa. She writes, "A big part of my fun in South Africa has to do with the work I'm doing at the research institute I'm working for because I get to do what I like the most, like writing for instance. I wanted to share with you an op-ed piece that I wrote for one of the best newspapers here. The op-ed is part of a larger campaign from CSVR to deter the threat of new xenophobic attacks in Johannesburg. I was assigned the task of writing my opinion on the issue and try to publish it in the media. Two days ago the newspaper accepted the column and it's now posted online. Check it out on www.thoughtleader.co.za/readerblog/2010/07/22/xenophobia-yet-another-threat-to-the-power-of-myths. Everyone at CSVR is very glad about this article and its content. I'm personally very happy with the outcome."

Yama Noori '11 worked for the USAK International Strategic Research Organization in Ankara, Turkey. It is a Turkish think tank that focuses on issues of security and cooperation. It is dedicated to innovative research and analysis that promotes international security, prosperity, justice and freedom. Yama had a few articles published in two English-language Turkish newspapers: www.hurriyetdailynews.com/n.php?n=creating-a-multiple-front-war-zone-in-afghanistan-2010-07-12 www.turkishweekly.net/news/102898/-opinion-will-such-process-of-integration-work-in-afghanistan-.html www.turkishweekly.net/op-ed/2718/petraeus-unleashes-the-airstrike-halt.html

Funding news

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

CISLA

alumni updates

Andrea Fisher Erda '92 is busy raising her three small children in Richmond, Va., but still manages to spend time fundraising for international causes. Currently she is working for the International Hospital for Children and she loves it!

Laura Rosario Manzano '93 is vice president of sales for Auberge Resorts and manages national sales efforts of the NYC and Los Angeles offices in leisure and group segments. Recent travel has taken her to Turkey, Croatia, Thailand, Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia.

Amy O'Neill Houck '94 lives in the fishing village of Cordova, AK, with her two children and husband, who is stationed there with the Coast Guard. She is a knit and crochet designer and her most recent book of patterns was released in March. She just began an MFA in creative writing at the U. of Alaska, Anchorage.

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Philae Knight '94 left the contemporary art auction world for an exciting online venture, www.20x2000.com, where she is the director of artist and institutional development. She wants everyone to know that 20x200 offers a curated selection of limited-edition prints and photographs at ridiculously affordable prices!

Jennifer Hollis '95 published a book in April, "Music at the End of Life: Easing the Pain and Preparing the Passage" (Praeger Publishers, 2010). She is an assistant director of admissions at Harvard Divinity School.

Maria Coppola '96 and *Sara Schaefer Munoz '96* were roommates at Connecticut College and fellow CISLAians who found themselves working down the street from each other in London last year. Sara relocated to London in '08 and is a reporter for the Wall Street Journal covering the banking industry. Maria was working with the UK office of Fair Trading on matters relating to an international network of competition agencies. In the 2010-2011 academic year, Maria



SARA SCHAEFER MUNOZ '96 WITH HER DAUGHTER SOFIA AND MARIA COPPOLA '96'S SON OLIVER.

will continue work on international networks through a research fellowship at Harvard. Maria's son returned home speaking "American," but Sara's daughter has quite the British accent!



KERI SARAJIAN '96 WITH HER DAUGHTER JOCELYN.

Keri Sarajian '96, her husband, Rick Stratton '96, and their two children live in Milwaukee. Keri has been at S.C. Johnson & Son for six years and is senior brand manager for Glade. She loves following trends, digesting consumer

insights, creating win/win strategies and, of course, developing new products that delight their users.

Zandy Mangold '96 recently photographed 250-km ultramarathons in the Gobi Desert in China, the Atacama Desert in Chile and the Sahara Desert in Egypt. Go to www.zandymangoldnyc.com to view these and other travel photos.

Greg Levin '00 lives in NYC and has put his China studies major to good use. He lived in Nanjing and Shanghai for several years and came back to the US to finish his master's at Johns Hopkins-SAIS. He works on China and other finance-related issues in foreign exchange at the Federal Reserve Bank of NY.

Jordana Gustafson '01 recently moved from San Francisco to Washington, DC, to take a job as a correspondent for the international political affairs program America Abroad, which airs on NPR stations across the US.

Laurel Dudley '02 studied and worked at the East West Center in Honolulu and then joined the Blue Planet Run team on a relay run around the world to raise awareness of the global water crisis. Back in Oahu now, she welcomes any CISLA visitors!

Juliet Guzzetta '02 is in Turin, Italy, finishing up her Fulbright for graduate research on a contemporary theater movement. Thanks to the U. of Michigan she can extend her stay for another year to continue her graduate work. Her fiancé accepted a teaching job at the U. of St. Andrews in Scotland.



ZANDY MANGOLD '96 CAPTURED THIS PHOTO OF ULTRAMARATHONERS EMBARKING ON THE THIRD STAGE OF A 250K RACE IN THE SAHARA

Effie Katsantonis '03 has been living in Paris for three years and recently finished an MBA program in luxury brand management at ESSEC U. She is working on the brand Cartier as a project consultant. In the photo she is visiting one of the last diamond cutters left in Paris!



EFFIE KATSANTONIS '03



LINDSEY MEYER '03 GETS COZY WITH SOME BEEHIVES IN THE ARDECHE REGION OF FRANCE.

Lindsey Meyer '03 has been interning as an architect in Seattle for two years. She recently returned from France where she worked for three months on small farms through World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms. In the fall, she will leave for Morocco to begin a Fulbright scholarship about the artisans and architecture in Fez.

Josh Peck '03 was recently in the Amazon of Peru working on a documentary about the healing and transformative



JOSH PECK '03 TAKES A BREAK FROM FILMMAKING IN PERU.



SOREN GABRIELSEN '07 AND HIS EIGHTH-GRADE CLASS IN MAINZ, GERMANY.

properties behind the shamanic medicine Ayahuasca. Right now, he is busy scoring and writing music for an independent film called "The Girl is in Trouble" (executive producer, Spike Lee; director, Julius Onah).

Danielle Miley '04 is a grad student at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies working toward a master's of environmental management. This summer, she is interning with UN Development Programme's Energy and Environment unit in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Laila Hochhausen '05 completed a PhD in clinical psychology at George Washington U. and will be working in a health center in Baltimore providing psychotherapy to patients of diverse ethnic backgrounds. She owes her Spanish language abilities in therapy to her CISLA experience in the Dominican Republic.

Tess Cohen '07 came home in May after working for two years in Costa Rica as a rural community developer with the Peace Corps. She is looking for a job in NYC that will utilize the many skills she learned while on her CISLA internship and in the Peace Corps.

M. Grant Hogan '07 is a full-time grad student at George Washington U's Elliott School of International Affairs. He will graduate in May 2011 with a master's in international

affairs with a focus in technology policy and China. He had a summer internship at the Albright Stonebridge Group as a China specialist.

Emily Honstein '07 is also at GWU's Elliott School of International Affairs, pursuing a master's in global communications.

Elizabeth Greenman '07 is a second-grade teacher in HI. She continues to travel, most recently to Thailand and Peru, and meets up with friends and colleagues on the island from Teach for America.

Soren Gabrielsen '07 recently returned to the Boston area, after teaching English in German high schools for two years on Fulbright and PAD fellowships, and started a new job working with contracts on the legal team of Pegasystems, a fast-growing, global software company based in Cambridge.

Lynne Stillings '09 received the Fulbright-mtvU Award in May and will be going to Indonesia for 13 months to research children's music and to teach Javanese middle-school students how to write and compose music to empower themselves. She wants everyone to know that this is clearly an extension of her CISLA project where she researched children's rights and music in Senegal and fully believes that the CISLA experience helped her get the Fulbright.

'Staying connected' — boon or bane?

by Mary Devins

EACH YEAR, THE THEME for Fall Weekend relates to what is happening at the College. Last year's theme, "Staying Connected," emphasized the ways technology is changing how we live and communicate. CISLA traditionally invites the keynote speaker. We invited Fernando Espuelas '88, who spoke on "Revolution in the Internet Era." He described the rapid change brought about by the Internet and the role it can play in mobilizing the public — for better or worse.

Espuelas, a native of Uruguay, holds a B.A. in history with distinction from Connecticut College. He is focused on empowering people through media, technology and information. One of the Internet's pioneers, as recognized by the New York Times, Harvard University and worldwide media, Espuelas has been at the forefront of social networks since 1995. He is CEO of Voxgente, a



BOB MACDONNELL

FERNANDO ESPELUS '88 SPEAKS ON "REVOLUTION IN THE INTERNET ERA" AT FALL WEEKEND 2009.

multiplatform media company. He is host and managing editor of Café Espuelas, a radio talk show broadcast in Spanish from Los Angeles. Time magazine honored him as one of the "Leaders of the Millennium."

A follower of John Stuart Mill, Espuelas opened his talk with reference to Mill's essay "On Liberty." Espuelas alluded to revolutions in the past but more so to those in recent history where he personally witnessed the Internet's role in bringing about unprecedented, rapid change — specifically the economic collapse in Buenos Aires and in the Latino grassroots revolution against the entrenched educational system in Los Angeles, parentrevolution.org. He asked the audience to imagine, if Hitler had had access to the Internet, how much more he could have mobilized the masses to his ideology.

Espuelas pointed out that when he was a student at Connecticut College, tuition was only \$10,000, but that his mother only earned \$7,000 a year. Access to education for all is clearly of paramount importance for Espuelas. And staying connected through various media is too.

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