Since his lecture, CISLA and the Center of Career Enhancing Life Skills (CELS) are collaborating on a variety of future humanitarian projects with the WCR. CISLA and CELS look forward to expand both domestic and international internship and travel opportunities for students interested in learning more about WCR and the people whose lives have been touched as a result of Lodmell’s vision.

A CISLA student explores the world, partaking in myriad cultural practices and embracing unique social realities, they must also confront the immense inequality prevalent in the international community. On Saturday, October 9, 2004, alumnus and Fall Weekend keynote speaker, Benjamin Lodmell ’93, delivered a simple, yet inspiring message to the campus. In his lecture titled, “Hope is Real: The Challenges and Responsibilities of Global Poverty,” Lodmell highlighted the importance of education in influencing and effecting positive changes in oneself and the world.

A former CISLA scholar and member of the undergraduate class of 1993, Lodmell majored in economics and conducted his CISLA internship at El Instituto de Libertad y Democracia, a Democratic think tank in Peru. Today, he and his brother, Douglas, are co-founders of World Children’s Relief & Volunteer Organization (WCR), a non-profit that seeks to provide hope to impoverished children through education. With a team of dedicated individuals, including Sarah Romain, newly named Executive Director and former member of the Peace Corps, WCR works to better equip existing primary schools in Third World nations with more resources and, in some cases, with programs that distribute healthy meals. Since its inception in 2002, WCR has assisted schools in Ghana, Sierra Leone, and Haiti. Preceding his lecture, Lodmell was given the Student Government Association Exemplar Award, a plaque presented by Pete Lelek, President of the Class of 2003. This plaque is the Student Government Association’s highest award of recognition.

After graduation, Lodmell entered a career in international private banking at Merrill Lynch. On a business trip to Rio de Janeiro, looking out the window of his armored car at children living in extreme poverty, he received the inspiration to start WCR.

“The symbolism of education is hope,” he said during his lecture, emphasizing how his time at Connecticut College provided him the tools to succeed. Lodmell sees the United States and its citizens as having the potential to play a pivotal role in granting impoverished children the power to change their lives through education.

Similarly, Lodmell emphasized the necessity for people in developed nations to study global poverty: “I believe the poorest children living in the most impoverished countries of the world have lessons to teach the richest children in the wealthiest countries of the world.”

Benjamin Lodmell ’93, co-founder of the World Children’s Relief & Volunteer Organization (WCR), holds a child during his visit to the war-torn village of Makabola, Sierra Leone.

“When people put aside their differences and help a third party,” Lodmell said, “it creates equality.”

Having grown up a witness to racial conflict in Alabama, Lodmell envisions assisting Africa as the key to helping Americans heal the “curse of slavery.” Through continued advocacy, patience, and open-mindedness, Lodmell seeks to break that curse and build the “army of people” who are already working for the cause.

Relating one of the most rewarding experiences with his work for WCR, Lodmell told of an affluent businessman who, very reluctantly, visited Haiti for four days. Upon returning to the United States, the man was “transformed,” and began using his power and influence to help provide food to Haitian children. “Sometimes the information is so overwhelming that it takes the reality out of suffering,” Lodmell said. He affirmed that helping children has added a profound sense of fulfillment and happiness to his life. Reflecting briefly on his time at Connecticut College, he said, “it creates equality.”

“I believe the poorest children living in the most impoverished countries of the world have lessons to teach the richest children in the wealthiest countries of the world.”

Benjamin Lodmell ’93

CISLA Alumnus Delivers a Powerful Message of Hope

(continued from page 1)
Welcome CISLA Class of 2007

The newly accepted class began their CISLA journey this semester by taking the gateway CISLA course, Perspectives on Modern Global Society, IS 201. The course aims to prepare CISLA scholars for all students going abroad. IS 401, renamed “New Perspectives on Modern International Cookbook,” and the new T-shirt, that are on sale now.

From the Director

A
fter six years as the faculty director of Toor Cummings CISLA, it is time to say goodbye. It has been an exhilarating experience, and I am proud to say that I will be leaving the Center stronger than I found it. I am also happy that its direction is being passed on to Professor Robert Gay, who will be familiar to many CISLA scholars from the Center’s formative years in the early 1990s, and who has continued to be involved in its work since then, regularly serving on the Faculty Advisory Committee and overseeing senior integrative projects in sociology and Latin American studies. Robert is not only a trusted friend and colleague, but also a scholar of international stature, whose research and writing on contemporary Brazil is more directly connected to the dynamics of modern global society than my medieval interests, however globalizationed the 13th century may have been! I welcome Robert.

The Center has matured during my time here. Earlier perceptions seem to have ended with its installation in the office suite in Fanning 111 in 1999. More importantly, after some touch-and-go years while the College restructured its finances, its future 2011: Launching the Second Century — is now assured. The first of the College’s interdisciplinary centers to be fully endowed, CISLA can depend on permanent gifts made in its name to generate enough yearly income to support all budgetary needs well into the future. This is an achievement that speaks not just to the generosity of the Center’s many supporters, especially Joanne Toor Cummings ’50 and Margaret Abell Powell ’35, but also to the initial vision of former presidents L. Gaudiani ’56 and founding director Robert E. Proctor, and all the faculty, parents, and friends who have advised, directed, and sometimes cajoled those who have committed themselves to CISLA’s rigorous expectations, a group that now numbers almost 400.

Over the course of my tenure as director, we have given increasing responsibility to CISLA scholars - to advise sophomores, for example, and to organize campus-wide discussions of international events, especially in the wake of 9/11 and the global “war on terror,” and most recently, to run pre-departure workshops for all students going abroad. IS 401, renamed “New Perspectives on Modern Global Society,” and recentered to focus on processing internship experiences, revisiting the CISLA receptions, and sharing international expertise with one another, is now essentially run by the students themselves. We have also begun to set aside funds to support seniors who want to travel to conferences, for example, and to promote the Center on campus and among our alumni, through products like the CISLA International Cookbook, and the new T-shirt, that are on sale now.

CISLA Alumni: Fond Memories and Words of Wisdom

Welcome CISLA Class of 2007

A very warm welcome is extended to the CISLA Class of 2007. Our newest members are: Emily Barry, Christopher Bohrer, Suki Boynton, Lila Bower, Elizabeth Bradley, Derek Chang, Tesandra Global Society, IS 201. The course aims to prepare CISLA scholars for their international experiences and is team-taught by the following professors: Fred Paxton, Bridiga Pacchiani Andelgh Professor of History, Dean of International Studies.

Frederick S. Paxton
Bridiga Pacchiani Andelgh Professor of History
Dean of International Studies.

Toor Cummings CISLA has also taken a leading role in coordinating our certification program with the goal of the office of Career Enhancing Life Skills, which runs the College’s CONNections internships and e-portfolio project, and working with the other centers on campus to promote the kind of interdisciplinary and integrative education that is our hallmark. Some of the educational pathways that are at the heart of the College’s new strategic plan - CC 2011: Launching the Second Century — were first forged by the faculty and students in this Center. I am grateful for having had the opportunity to do my part in keeping CISLA solvent and strong and with everyone who follows after me the very best.

Daniel Kline ’99 enjoys his job with the Corporate Executive Board and now lives in London with his wife Jennie Driimmer. Daniel writes, “Follow what you want and what you believe in and you will get there … if you are looking for a very cool and progressive global company check us out and send me your CV!”

Doreen (Vaillancourt) Maroney ’99 has moved to Botswana with her husband Hagen Maroney ’98 who works for the U.S. Foreign Service as an Economics Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Gaborone. Doreen writes, “Keep a very open mind: what you study in college does not have to dictate your career path. How can anyone know how he or she wants to spend their lives when they are only 22 years old? The idea is to create the broadest knowledge base possible so that you can go in any direction whenever you desire, and do it with the tools to be successful. Question everything!”

Brent Never ’99 is a Ph.D. candidate at the Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs. Brent continues to focus on return to Benin, where he conducted his CISLA internship. In 2003, Brent received a Fulbright award to further his research in Benin, and as part of his degree, he is again back in Benin. “I can’t imagine what I’d be doing without CISLA but I know that I wouldn’t be living here in Africa.”

Timothy Reuter ’99 is working for USAID and is currently on assignment in Bangladesh. According to Tim, he credits his experience with the Johns Hopkins School for Advanced International Studies last May, “CISLA is what got me involved in the Middle East in the first place. I wouldn’t be doing Middle

Anthony Fratta ’01, who is completing his master’s degree in International Relations (Strategic Studies) and International Economics at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, writes, “CISLA is what got me going in this direction, and I am forever thankful. It was one of the best things I have ever done … I am now attending a graduate school with 40% international students and that definitely brings me back to the CISLA days of cultural exchange and raging debates.”

Amanda Mochan ’01 writes, “CISLA was my introduction to working abroad and inspired my two-year stint in South Korea, a wonderful experience that opened my eyes to another region of the world.”

Lauren Shadford ’01 is working for Sotheby’s in the Museum Services and Corporate Collections Departments in New York City. She writes, “I’m sure that I got my job because of my international experience. My current bosses love that I’ve lived abroad both during and after college. There’s a certain level of independence that comes with those experiences, and that’s the type of employee they wanted.”

Kate Babikirk ’02 is living in San Francisco working as an account executive with DonorDigital, an online marketing, fundraising, and advocacy company. She enjoys her work consulting non-profit organizations, “Network, network, network! Talk with many people as you can, especially alumni. Trust yourself to make it. Ask for help … I have pictures of my internship in Puerto Escondido hanging by my computer at work. I still hunger for the intense dialogue that CISLA provoked among its students.”

Brian Hutchinson ’03, who is living in Washington D.C. working for Conservation International as a program officer the Marine Turtle Specialist Group, offers simple yet powerful words of wisdom, “Just pick what you want to do and do it. It’s that simple.”

To find out about the latest alumni events, reunions, access the Connect College On Line Community and more, please visit the Alumni Relations Homepage http://www.ciscoled.com/alumni/

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CISLA Alumni: Fond Memories and Words of Wisdom

by Katie McCormack

In an e-mail to the CISLA website, we were pleased to hear from so many of our alumni. It was particularly rewarding to read about some of the life lessons you have learned through the CISLA program and the wise words of wisdom you shared. Over 150 CISLA alumni filled out the questionnaire across from all across the globe. Here is a small sampling of those submissions. We hope you enjoy the following memories and wise words of wisdom as much as we do.

Elisa Roller ’93, who is working at the European Commission as a policy analyst, writes, “My CISLA experience was the most practical-oriented part of my undergraduate degree and has served me the most in the real world.”

Rebecca Villkornerson ’93, who is the project director of The California Partnership, a coalition of over 70 low income community organizations in California that fight poverty, with an emphasis on welfare, healthcare, childcare, and immigrant programs, writes, “I definitely feel that CISLA’s academic rigor and internship opportunities pushed me in the direction that brought me where I am today.”

Katherine (Greco) Feitz ’94, an attorney living in Boulder, Colorado, writes, “CISLA isn’t only about having an international job after college; it is about learning how to think about the world. The program is fundamental for understanding how we arrived where we are and how to get where we want to go. I can’t see myself being in the world ‘traditionally’ without reflective writing and ‘modernity’ and I smile to myself every time I hear the term civil society.”

Aaron Maines ’95 conducted his CISLA internship during the summer of 1994 in Rome at the Fondazione per La Pace e La Cooperazione Internazionale. He now lives in Milan with his wife Serena Tanzi-Mira. Aaron writes, “Skip class as much as possible without destroying your GPA.” On a more serious note, he also wrote, “CISLA helped introduce me to Italy, where I found my wife, life and career. I’d say it was a fundamental first step.”

Darcy Nothnagle ’95, moved to England with her husband last summer. Darcy, who is completing her Master’s Degree in European Studies at the University of Bath, wrote, “CISLA broadened my horizons and gave me a new lens through which to look at the world. I’ve been enjoying the view ever since!”

Anita Stanisic ’98, who enjoys her public relations position at Weber Shandwick Worldwide in New York City, a job that has also allowed her to keep traveling, writes, “I’m extremely grateful to have had the opportunity to work in another country. Aside from the language it taught me a lot about work environments and working with different cultures.”

Sarah Schoebel ’97, who completed her CISLA internship in Buenos Aires with Las Madres De La Plaza de Mayo Linea Fundadora, writes, “Live, learn, and love — life is very fragile, as I learned with Las Madres, and every day is an opportunity to explore, live passionately, and understand … I know that because of CISLA and Connecticut College I was able to receive the grants that I did and am now completing my Ph.D. at the University of California, Berkeley.”

Nathaniel Helfer ’98 spent two years after graduation in the Peace Corps in Africa and is now completing a master’s degree in the Social Change and Development program at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies. He writes, “CISLA made it easier to adjust to life while in the Peace Corps … I still feel I draw upon that I learned in the CISLA class, which was probably the best class I had at Conn.”

Amanda BaileyShea ’96, who has been accepted into an Education Ph.D. program at the University of Rochester and now plans to pursue a career in higher education administration, writes, “CISLA was the best thing I did at Conn. I can’t imagine my college experience without it.” ES201 was one of the most difficult classes, especially since Professors Gay and Proctor refused to take part in “grade inflation.”

Sara Schaefer Munoz ’96, who is working as a news assistant at The Wall Street Journal in New York, writes, “Always be willing to do your share of grunt work to achieve your goals.” ES201 laid the groundwork for understanding global economics and politics that I came across in my reporting.”

Megan (Tucker) Hauser ’99, who is working on her Master’s degree in Library Science at Queens College in New York, writes, “Living and working abroad should be your Master’s degree in Library Science at Queens College in New York, writes, “Living and working abroad should

The CISLA class of 1995. Hard to believe that 10 years have already passed by!

CISLA Preparations for a New Center Director

by Mary S. Devins

At the end of the Spring 2005 semester, Brígida Pacchiarini Arlenghi, professor of history Fred Paxton will step down as the director of the Toor Cummings Center for International Studies and the Liberal Arts (CISLA) as well as from his position as the Dean of International Studies. Professor of Sociology, Robert Gay, has been selected to be the Center’s new director.

Professor Gay previously served as interim director of CISLA and is very knowledgeable about the mission and workings of the program. Robert brings a rich international background with him. He was born and raised in Great Britain where he completed an undergraduate degree in geography at London University and then completed a master’s in Geography at Syracuse University. He received his Ph.D. in Sociology from Brown University. Professor Gay joined the faculty at Connecticut College in 1988. He has held numerous administrative positions including Dean of the College and Associate Dean of the College and has served as the Chair of the Priorities, Planning and Budget Committee (PPBC), Chair of the Multicultural and Diversity Committee, Educational Planning Committee and Strategic Planning Committee.

The focus of Professor Gay’s research and scholarly work has been democracy, dictators and civil society in Brazil and, more recently, droits, corruption, and violent crime in Rio de Janeiro’s shantytowns, or favelas. Robert has published extensively in his field and has presented at numerous conferences and universities both nationally and abroad.

Professor Gay will be the fourth director of the Toor Cummings CISLA program. Professor Robert Proctor was the Center’s founding director who served from 1989 to 1995 followed by Professor Julia Kushigian from 1995 to 1999 and then Professor Fred Paxton from 1999 to the present.

The students and staff of CISLA are thrilled that Professor Gay has accepted the position and are looking forward to new challenges and visions when he formally takes over in September 2005.

CISLA T-Shirts on Sale Now!

CISLA Blue Longsleeved T-shirts: Only $10 - Excellent Quality! Available in sizes medium and large.

CISLA Student Advisor Visit 3:00-4:00 in the Student Center

President Professor Gay is also a part-time instructor in the semester’s Perspectives on Modern Global Society IS 201. Ph.D. and Professor Paxton will sacrifice argument for and against globalization.

CISLA IS...
A Parent’s Perspective

The CISLA Experience

Spain for a semester. However, Santo Domingo was not were just a few months prior when Laila left to study in Seville. Surrounded by difficult circumstances and a lessKennedy Airport were as heartfelt and tears as sincere as they CISLA provided Laila the opportunity to conduct research in medieval streets, found food and friends, studied and worked using her new language, Spanish. Her inner horizon widened with the actual horizons she traversed and she could barely manage to leave.

CISLA

Laila, our daughter, fluttered off to orange-festooned Seville in Spain, on the wings of study abroad. We received photos of her new habitat and news of adventures, but few misad

As a mother, I was astounded by Laila’s resiliency, her independence, and her competence. After a week with no electricity, I would have been on the first plane home. I was fascinated by her insights into this culture. Things she studied at school, she now lived, understood and managed. I was impressed by her research, her ability to enter an unknown situation and conduct psychological research in a foreign (to us) language. She conducted therapy groups with teenagers in Spanish. How did she know how to do this? Her insights into the role of women opened up a whole new understanding of and empathy with Dominican women, in particular single, working women. And then she went traveling, all by herself. To bat caves, no less!

As a parent, I suppose it was educational, although difficult to accept. Is machismo so endemic here that we really believe that only adversity makes you stronger? I believe the answer lies somewhere in the balance between the positives and negatives.

As a mother, I was astounded by Laila’s resiliency, her independence, and her competence. After a week with no electricity, I would have been on the first plane home. I was fascinated by her insights into this culture. Things she studied at school, she now lived, understood and managed. I was impressed by her research, her ability to enter an unknown situation and conduct psychological research in a foreign (to us) language. She conducted therapy groups with teenagers in Spanish. How did she know how to do this? Her insights into the role of women opened up a whole new understanding of and empathy with Dominican women, in particular single, working women. And then she went traveling, all by herself. To bat caves, no less!

Watching the birds at the feeder now, when Laila is safe at work in her dorm room, it all seems so far away.

Laila telephoned us from campus with her final plans for Spring Break: she and her friends are flying to Santo Domingo. Clearly we think of her experience one way, while she thinks of it another. Go figure!”

- Bill Hochhausen and Anne Boersma

Everyday Lessons - My Life in Naples

ed with questions, forced to eat and drink more, and even if I’m not speaking, it seems someone is telling a story about something I did or said previously. Selfish as it may be, I envisioned my internship experience to be more of a one-way street than it turned out to be. I would contribute. I would learn Italian. I would be immersed in Italian culture. It never occurred to me that others would want to learn as much from me as I would from them.

This phenomenon manifested itself in multiple ways, and conse- quently made me appreciate some simple thing I had always taken for granted: my native tongue. Always having been a lover of foreign languages, I never truly appreciated all the privilege that was associated with my own. One week, Christina suggested I help her teach English class. The students, all at least 10 years older than me, were learning English in order to increase the number of job opportuni- ties available to them. In the conversational portion of the class, students asked questions, and I would answer. The cynical man in the back, struggling to even put his question into words, could not fathom why I would want to learn Italian. What purpose could it serve? I managed, with Christina’s help, to explain that I thought learning another language was an important thing to do as an American. Secretly I wondered if he was right. Maybe it would have been more practical to spend four years and $160,000 in some other way.

In addition to teaching English, I translated, from Italian to English, several proposals for European Union grants and partnerships. Occasionally, Cristina would practice speaking in English with me, while the others would ask how to say various phrases. Initially, I was disappointed that English was not even an issue. I realized quickly how absurdly selfish and unrealis- tic this was. Most of the Neopolitans I met would probably never make it to the United States, let alone England. The least I could do is return for their hospi- tality and kindness was to graciously accept their requests to help them with their English. Besides, I learned more Italian in those two months than the combined experience of my semester spent in Florence, and two and half years of study at Connecticut College.

After coffee and cornetti, I walk back down the hall, sit down at my desk, begin the day’s research. My current project is to find information on various trade shows in Europe, the U.S., and even China. ISVE, in a partnership with several other organizations, has received a grant for the pur- pose of training small business owners in the Compagna region, and eventually sending them to these trade shows. Other projects included preparing a report contrasting the differences between the United States and Italy concerning training and education in the tex- tile sector, as well as writing a proposal of my own for a European Union funded partnership with European, Canadian and American universities in order to foster international educational consortiums.

Before I know it, it’s time to eat. We enjoy a leisurely lunch togeth- er in the conference room. They tease me about my panino, how it’s always the same. After we’ve all finished, one by one we move to the leather couches, where we continue to tell stories and ask questions. There’s something to be said about taking time out of your day to remember you are only human, and so is everyone who surrounds you. After lunch, the afternoon seems to disappear in a haze of coffee breaks and periods of work. Before I know it, it’s time to go.

I never imagined it would be so difficult to leave Naples, nor that it would feel as if I were leaving a piece of the puzzle behind. If it is really true that the people in our lives, and our relationships with them, construct and nurture our identity, it seems appropriate that I left behind part of my new identity. However, there is a great source of comfort in the knowledge that I, Andrea Reynolds, can survive, and even thrive on my own.

Laila just telephoned us from campus with her final plans for Spring Break: she and her friends are flying to Santo Domingo. Clearly we think of her experience one way, while she thinks of it another. Go figure!”

- Bill Hochhausen and Anne Boersma
known my name, my favorite sandwich, and various other facts I've told him because he asked. It seems to be an unspoken agreement that he makes me my sandwich each day, as long as I answer his daily question. Monday through Friday, we work together to fit the pieces of my jigsaw puzzle identity together. There's a certain sense of freedom that comes with being a stranger in a foreign land; it doesn't matter if the pieces fit together perfectly, and maybe some are even missing. One morning he startles me, "Do you have the eyes of your mother, or your father?" I'm not sure of the answer, and it is unclear to me why he would care. He tells me he's only curious. The older woman at the register tells me how beautiful I am for the second time in a week, and yells back to Giuseppe; making sure he agrees. I leave the store, swarmed with a swirling storm cloud of thoughts, trying to decide if I'm flattened, flustered, annoyed, and where my eyes really do come from. It's not even half-past nine.

In my daily, five-minute walk to the Istituto di Studi per lo Sviluppo Economico (ISVE), the Institute for Economic Development Studies in English, I try to process a small piece of what will be a two-month experience. I was terrified to come to Naples, terrified of feeling lonely. As much as there is freedom to create your identity alone in a new place, there is also a certain comfort in being an ever-changing personal identity? Would it meet her then growing cynicism. CISLA worked to infuse her academic experience with a sense of relevance and offered her the opportunity to actually spread her wings in the real world.

Exposed as she was to the problems and challenges of people in other parts of the world, her motivations changed. Most importantly she gained a sense of purpose for her life. Being was not futility but there was now, for her, enormous meaning in serving others and happiness would derive from that. The introductory course of the program offered philosophical readings and material values that were to inspire all the rest of her work at Connecticut College. She could relate to these. As she got deeper into the program her thirst for learning grew. She did her curiosity about the realms of international law and politics. She dared to be different and to follow the path of her own inclinations. She spent her junior year at the London School of Economics and excelled in many of her courses, in particular international law. Her CISLA internship was spent working for the South Center, a voice of the developing countries at the seat of the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland. Her focus was social justice in globalization, specifically how India could gain a fairer position in the global market and be allowed to develop in ways that most favored its societal ethos and inclinations. She was intensely wrapped up in writing this thesis and maintained close relations with the officials of this organization. She also gained personal contacts in the International Trade Organization.

It was determined by the time of her graduation that she would make her profession in the fields of international law and of development. She continues to work toward this goal. Soon she will complete her Master's degree at the Graduate Institute for International Studies in Geneva, Switzerland. She is working part-time for a non governmental organization promoting democracy around the world. Her Master's thesis is focused on the history of moral values in politics. For next year she has applied to law school and the simultaneous pursuit of a Ph.D in a program that prepares her for development studies and work in public international law. Needless to say we are deeply indebted to the CISLA program and its ideals for the direction and inspiration it has given our daughter.

La vita va vissuta lontano dal paese…quando si torna…si trova tutto nuovo.- Cesare Pavese

Ciao, come stai

Andrea, an Italian studies major, is working with Professor Robert Proctor on completing her senior integrative project titled, "Connections & Contradictions: Classical Antiquity and Western Modernity in Italy"

A letter from the mother of a CISLA alumna

by Barbara Baudoit 'P '02

On October 27, 2004 CISLA students organized a discussion of “International Perspectives on the Upcoming U.S. Presidential Election.” The panel brought CC professors together to explore the international implications of the 2004 presidential election with the campus community. Panelists examined how a presidential victory by incumbent President George W. Bush or democratic candidate John F. Kerry would affect diplomatic relations around the world. Liana Guzman, Elizabeth Marolda and Ellen Richards, members of the class of 2005 CISLA student advisory board, coordinated the event. “We realized that the upcoming election is not just about the United States, but about every nation with which we have relations,” said Ellen Richardson ’05

CC Professors Examine International Perspectives

by Katrina McCormack

O n October 27, 2004 CISLA students organized a discussion of “International Perspectives on the Upcoming U.S. Presidential Election.” The panel brought CC professors together to explore the international implications of the 2004 presidential election with the campus community. Panelists examined how a presidential victory by incumbent President George W. Bush or democratic candidate John F. Kerry would affect diplomatic relations around the world. Liana Guzman, Elizabeth Marolda and Ellen Richards, members of the class of 2005 CISLA student advisory board, coordinated the event. “We realized that the upcoming election is not just about the United States, but about every nation with which we have relations,” said Ellen Richardson ’05, an organizer. Alexi Dudden, Sue & Eugene Mergy Jr. associate professor of history, focused her discussion on U.S. relations with Japan and Korea. Tetsujin Gant, Assistant professor of anthropology, spoke on media coverage and its influence on popular cultural values. Leo Gostafsky, assistant professor of history, offered insight into U.S.-Latin American relations. Luis M. Gonzalez, assistant professor of Hispanic studies, in a presentation titled, “Should We Vote, Too?” provided perspectives on how non-U.S. citizen’s viewed the election. Philip Kozel, a visiting assistant professor of economics, offered insight into the implications of world economies of a victory by either candidate. David Patton, associate professor of government, spoke on the election’s possible effects on U.S.-European relations. William Rose, professor of government and department chair, presented the domestic implications of the election, including the future of U.S. involvement in Iraq.

From left to right: William Rose, Tetsujin Gant, Alexi Dudden presented the positions and then answered questions posed by members of the audience.

by Andrea Reynolds ’05

Everyday Lessons - My Life in Naples

La vita va vissuta lontano dal paese…quando si torna…si trova tutto nuovo. - Cesare Pavese

Translation: Life should be lived far from home, when you return, you find everything new.
An American in Spain: My Internship Report

by CHRISTINE DUNCAN '05

W

hen I arrived in Madrid on May
23rd, 2004, all I could think as
water dripped down my face was
“I thought it didn’t rain in Spain during the
summer.” It was nearing nightfall, and my
landlord hadn’t shown up to let me into my
residence and give me my keys. I sank
down onto the front step of 10 Calle
Campomanes, and I realized how utterly
alone I was. There was no support group
of American students, and no tour guide
to greet me. In less than twenty-four hours
I would have to start working with two cho-
rases, and I felt as if I could not squeak out
a word of Spanish in between my sobs. I
wanted a friend to help me, and at age
twenty-one, I wanted my Mommy.

I realized after a very long, rain-soaked
minutes that I was going to have to grow
up quickly. I dug into my bag, found my
landlord’s business card, and called his
emergency cell phone. In five minutes I got
over my fear of both phones and speaking
to strangers in Spanish. I was on my way.

My experience living in Madrid and inter-
ning with the Coral Polifónica de Alocén
and the Coro de Camera de Villavicencio de
Odon changed me profoundly, both per-
sonally and professionally. Once I got over
my initial fears and self-doubt, I found
myself truly being welcomed in Spain as
a professional and a friend. I do not wish to
say that I assimilated

experience, I felt as if I should be flattered that I
helped or made fun of, but almost no one
plenty of tourists whom they had either
met or seen, and to the most rewarding part of my intern-
ship experience was forming true friend-
ships with my Spanish friends, old and
young. Not only did I learn from them, but
they have told me that I opened their minds
as well. I showed them that not all
Americans are the same “loud, ignorant
tourists.” My friend and sarténista Marco
wrote me a long letter at the end of summer
telling me how much he would miss me as
one of his true friends whom he could con-
clude his time with us. Without hesitation or help into the profes-
sional music world. Although I have always
dreamed of working and moving in the
global classical music world, but never had
the opportunity to try until this summer.
Before my first rehearsal with him, I entered
singing competitions designed for students.
However, in Madrid I was thrown
in a leadership position within his
choir. I was surprised to read about myself in sev-
deral local newspapers and magazines.

From my experience, I feel that I was able to
make a difference in the lives of many people
in Madrid, and also feel that I will always
have a home to go back to. In fact, I have
been seriously considering returning to
Madrid to work after I finish my music stud-
ies in the U.S. The Spanish culture has got-
ten under my skin, becoming a par

t of me, and I have established professional and per-
sonal relationships there that I value highly.
I know I can count on a meal with any
member of the two choruses I sang with,
and I am remaining in contact with
Gregorio Muñoz, who has offered to work
with me again. He also intends to visit the
U.S. as a visiting conductor with the summer
music camp that I work with.

My journey as

a visiting conductor with the summer
music camp that I

American in Spain: My Internship Report

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An American in Spain: My Internship Report

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