



## Director's Column

by Suzuko Mousel Knott

**AS THE SUMMER BEGINS, WE IN CISLA** look back to reflect on the academic year and to share with you all the wonderful events, milestones, and accomplishments of our CISLA scholars. It is one of the many joyful moments for me in my role as the faculty director to take a moment to savor the highlights of the year.

In the fall, we welcomed the outstanding incoming class of 2026 CISLA scholars. The cohort of 28 CISLA sophomores represents a broad swath of the disciplinary and language areas at the college with research interests ranging from intergenerational trauma to urban planning to LGBTQ+ rights and more. Together, we went to Camp Hazen YMCA in Chester, CT for a day-long retreat. The CISLA sophomores had an opportunity to get to know each other, the CISLA faculty and staff, and the CISLA student leaders who helped with the organization and planning of the retreat. It was a resounding success and something we will continue to do for each incoming class. The sophomores also took an updated version of IS 201 (the introductory course for the center) in the spring of this year. In addition to learning from guest faculty speakers from across the college, the class engaged in a six-week long curriculum designed to build the capacity for dialogue across differences and also engaged in country-specific learning projects that allowed them to get to know more about their countries and cultures of interest in the framework of a global studies approach.



CISLA CLASS OF 2026 SCHOLARS AT CAMP HAZEN YMCA IN CHESTER, CT

In November, our CISLA seniors showcased the robust and varied research and internship experiences they pursued during the junior year along with their emerging Senior Integrative Project plans at the All College Symposium. In the fall, I teach IS 401, the senior seminar for the center. Much of our time is devoted to unpacking the junior year experiences, reflecting on the learning done while off-campus,



PROFESSOR KNOTT SPEAKING AT THE 2023 ALL COLLEGE SYMPOSIUM

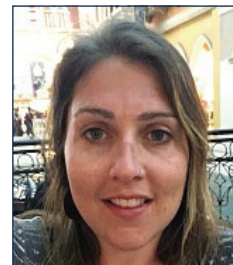
and preparing for the All College Symposium. Within the context of the course, I get a preview of what will be presented at the symposium; however, nothing ever prepares me for the astonishing professional and polished outcomes our CISLA seniors deliver. Each and every presentation was truly outstanding, and we learned so much from their work. Our CISLA juniors and newly admitted sophomore class came to support the seniors and were able to take away meaningful inspiration from these capstone talks at the symposium.

At this year's 106th commencement ceremony, speaker Laura Coates urged the graduating class to be like coffee beans - not like eggs that harden on the inside in boiling waters - but rather like the roasted bean that energizes and transforms the water around it. It was an apt description of the ways in which the class of 2024 has the potential to make substantive change in whichever environment they step into next. Our CISLA class of 2024 is small but mighty. Their resiliency and dedication to the center and to their work is remarkable. They entered Connecticut College during the pandemic, began their studies here with bi-weekly Covid testing and masking in the classroom, and yet still imagined that they could study away and complete an international internship to support their burgeoning research ideas. The energy and optimism that percolates among them as a cohort flows down into the classes of 2025 and 2026, and they have left us all full of vibrant enthusiasm for the future.



CISLA CLASS OF 2024 GRADUATES OUTSIDE HARKNESS CHAPEL

# A Note from CISLA's New Associate Faculty Director: Emily Kuder



**Suzuko Mousel Knott**  
Faculty Director

**Emily Kuder**  
Associate Faculty Director,  
Spring 2024

**Laura Little**  
Associate Faculty Director,  
Fall 2023

**Cara Masullo Ekwuabu**  
Director of CISLA Operations

**Jordan Rottger**  
International Programs  
Coordinator

**Jane Kolar**  
Administrative Assistant

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**Mary Devins**  
CISLA Staff Director Emeritus

**CISLA Fellows**  
Stella Koenig '25  
Ichiro Kubozono '24  
Eric Meicheng Lu '24  
Izzy Sala '24  
Jazmin Villalba Gimenez '25

**Student Advisory Board**  
Samuel Boehm '25  
Catie Clarke '26  
Eli Craddock '26  
Abdullah Khan '25 (co-chair)  
Ilan Listgarten '25  
Eric Meicheng Lu '24  
Anna Olivia Nielsen '26  
Alejandra Romero Sanchez '25  
Ava Yassari '24 (co-chair)

**Selection Committee**  
Sana Abdi  
Joe Alchermes  
Mays Imad  
Suzuko Mousel Knott  
Emily Kuder  
Andrew Levin  
Laura Little  
Cara Masullo Ekwuabu  
Sadia Priyanka

**IS 201 Teaching Team**  
Joyce Bennett  
Eric Fleury  
Suzuko Mousel Knott  
Ariella Rotramel  
Sufia Uddin

## IN TERMS OF CISLA TENURE, I'M A NEWLY HATCHED ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, BUT

I'm no spring chicken. Since joining Connecticut College in 2017, I have worked alongside CISLA students in creating research projects and developing linguistic and cultural competence. But in a broader sense, I've been deeply engaged in the CISLA mission for most of my life as a person that has dedicated my livelihood to learning and teaching about the languages and cultures of the Hispanic world.

The thing that entrances me most about languages is their mysterious variability and changeability. Words are invented in an instant by anyone anywhere, and, after this moment, the novel words evolve and take on different shapes depending on where they go and who and what they encounter. Castilian Spanish crossed the Atlantic Ocean with colonizers in the 15th century and saw ugly things, but it also encountered new people, landscapes, lifestyles, and languages that gave birth to new terms and new sounds. In Mexico you might hear “¿Qué onda, güey?” while the same sentiment in Colombia might sound like “¿Qué hubo, hermano?” and in Argentina you are more likely to hear “¿Cómo andás, che?” Language is always keeping us on our toes, and just because you know how to say “what’s up” in one setting doesn’t mean it will be the same somewhere else, and what we know now might become different later as it evolves. So when we encounter new people and places, our worlds expand and we begin to see how much we don’t know.

I didn’t feel like a spring chicken when I accepted the role with CISLA, but just like most new experiences in life, I couldn’t have imagined what I would find: an engaged community of thinkers seeking global connection and a profound understanding and acceptance of difference. CISLA is not a thing - it is a living and breathing organism run by a network of humans: CISLA student fellows like Eric Meicheng Lu, Izzy Sala, Ichiro Kubozono, Jazmin Villalba Gimenez, and Stella Koenig taking on responsibilities and guiding the next cohorts, Jane Kolar keeping everyone organized, Jordan Rottger advising students with internship placements, Professor Suzuko Mousel Knott centering our work according to the mission of CISLA, and Cara Masullo Ekwuabu keeping the blood pumping at the heart of the program.

## Staffing Updates in CISLA

by Cara Masullo Ekwuabu

**WITH THE RETIREMENT OF OUR DEAR MARY DEVINS** in July 2023, Cara Masullo Ekwuabu stepped into the role of director of CISLA operations. Suzuko Mousel Knott, associate professor of German, has been doing a tremendous job as CISLA’s seventh faculty director. Jordan Rottger was promoted to international programs coordinator, continuing to support both CISLA and the Walter Commons for Global Study and Engagement to bring global learning opportunities to more students across the college. We welcomed a wonderful new CISLA administrative assistant in November 2023, Jane Kolar. Laura Little, senior lecturer of Slavic studies, faculty director of the Global Learning Lab, and CISLA’s associate faculty director, cycled off of her term in CISLA at the end of the fall semester. We are grateful for Laura’s extensive contributions to the CISLA program. We were thrilled to welcome Emily Kuder, assistant professor of Hispanic studies, as CISLA’s associate faculty director for the spring 2024 semester.

## CISLA Baby Alert!



**ON FEBRUARY 21, 2024**, Director of CISLA Operations Cara Masullo Ekwuabu and family welcomed baby **Amari Okechuku Ekwuabu**. Hello, little one!



# CISLA EVENTS

## Fellows Initiatives *by Stella Koenig, Ichiro Kubozono, Eric Meicheng Lu, Izzy Sala, and Jazmin Villalba Gimenez*

**THIS YEAR AS CISLA FELLOWS** has been immensely rewarding and exciting. Building on the work of the previous fellows, we focused on inter-cohort programming, facilitating connections between students, faculty, and staff, and on developing initiatives to contribute to the future of CISLA. Alongside the CISLA SAB, our focus on inter-cohort bonding led to many lively events that brought students from all class years together, such as the Karaoke and Pizza Night, spring Green Thumb Gathering, the CISLA Open House during finals week, and games during all-CISLA events. We focused also on initiatives that benefited our scholars' career and research goals, such as the LinkedIn Headshot event and senior spotlight reels highlighting the incredible work of our graduating students. It has been amazing to watch our community come together at these events and benefit from an environment where we uplift and inspire one another by networking, exchanging diverse perspectives, and expanding our CISLA connections. We are so proud to have been able to contribute to the work and mission of the center and are excited to see how future generations of global scholars continue to transform the CISLA program.

## Student Advisory Board *by Jordan Rottger*

**THE STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD (SAB)** is comprised of sophomores, juniors, and seniors and serves as a connection point between the CISLA staff and faculty and the student body for curricular feedback and program improvement, and to plan social events for the CISLA cohorts. This year the SAB welcomed three new members from the class of 2026 and built upon the work and recommendations of last year's SAB. Under the leadership of co-chairs Abdullah Khan and Ava Yassari, the SAB helped to develop the idea for the inaugural CISLA retreat and to execute more cross-cohort social events. In conjunction with the CISLA fellows, the SAB planned a successful Karaoke and Pizza Social, the spring Green Thumb Gathering, and an informal, yet spirited dinner to celebrate the class of 2024.

## All College Symposium *by Emily Kuder*

**ON NOVEMBER 2, 2023**, 15 CISLA seniors presented alongside hundreds of their peers in the fifth-annual All College Symposium. The talks incited scholarly conversations around healthcare and medicinal herbs, trauma and mental health disorders, migration and immigration policies, identity, education, faith, language, business, and economics. The CISLA scholars described fruitful connections between their novel research pursuits and their interdisciplinary coursework, study away experiences, and international internships.

*FROM LEFT: CISLA SENIORS BENJAMIN ROTHSTEIN, YASMINE TOHME, EVAN STROUSE, AND ARRAYÁN VANEGAS-FARRARA AT THE ALL COLLEGE SYMPOSIUM*



## Distinguished Alumni Award and All-CISLA Dinner *by Cara Masullo Ekwuabu*

### WE ARE CONTINUALLY IMPRESSED

with the career trajectories of the nearly 900 alumni that have graduated from the CISLA program. Each year, we honor one of these extraordinary alumni with the CISLA Distinguished Alumni Award. This year's recipient was Sarah Schoellkopf, class of 1997.



*CISLA STAFF DIRECTOR EMERITUS MARY DEVINS PRESENTING THE DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD*

Sarah Schoellkopf was selected for the inspiring work she has done as a devoted educator, researcher, and most recently, producer. Sarah spent her career actively dedicated to global human rights, beginning with her time here in CISLA working with the Madres de la Plaza de Mayo for her CISLA internship in Argentina. Sarah graduated from Connecticut College with a BA in Hispanic studies. She returned to Argentina on a Fulbright scholarship after graduation and continued her work with the Madres. Sarah received her MA and PhD in Spanish and Portuguese, educating students for several years and publishing research on gender, human rights, and memory in Argentina.



*DISTINGUISHED ALUMNA SARAH SCHOELLKOPF '97 SPEAKING VIA ZOOM*

In her current role as a documentary film producer, Sarah educates and inspires new and wider audiences, illustrating the importance of activism and social justice through critically important nonfiction features. Sarah co-produced an award-winning documentary, *Ferguson Rises*, about the 2014 killing of an unarmed Black teenager by a white police officer. The film dives into the aftermath, exploring the roots of the Black Lives Matter movement, highlighting the varied perspectives of community members, and chronicling a Black father's grief. Sarah's most recent film, *Norita*, follows Nora Contiñas, one of the founding members of Argentina's Madres de la Plaza de Mayo, from 1977 to present in her fight for women's reproductive rights.

Sarah joined the CISLA scholars over Zoom to share remarks on how her CISLA journey shaped her career path, and inspired students with many pearls of wisdom gleaned through her years as an educator, researcher, and producer. Afterwards, CISLA scholars shared a meal and enjoyed an evening of conversation and camaraderie at the All-CISLA dinner.



*FROM LEFT: CISLA SCHOLARS GRAY RUFFER '26, SABRINA MALEC '26, ELIARIS BRITO CASTILLO '25, STELLA KOENIG '25, AND WONKYUNG LEE '25 AT THE ALL-CISLA DINNER.*

# CISLA EVENTS

## Dinner and Discussion with CISLA Alumni

by Cara Masullo Ekwuabu

WE HAD THE PLEASURE OF WELCOMING three alumni to campus to talk with our CISLA scholars about their journeys beyond graduation and how their CISLA experiences have influenced their lives and careers. Danielle Khan '15, director of executive education operations at Johns Hopkins SAIS; Ege Sakirt '19, trek leader at the education nonprofit BuildOn; and Eilis Reardon '22, senior research specialist at the Framingham Heart Study Brain Aging Program, shared many pearls of wisdom from their diverse academic and professional backgrounds. They helped to ease the anxieties of our soon-to-graduate seniors and encouraged the members of the junior and sophomore class to seize the opportunities they are given as CISLA scholars at Connecticut College.



DANIELLE KHAN '15 (VIA ZOOM), EGE SAKIRT '19, AND EILIS REARDON '22

## The CISLA Sophomore Retreat

by Cara Masullo Ekwuabu

THIS YEAR, WE LAUNCHED A NEW PROGRAM for our incoming CISLA sophomores: a day-long retreat off campus at Camp Hazen YMCA in Chester, CT. The goals of the retreat were to foster community building among the cohort and CISLA faculty and staff, engage in discussions around intercultural competence and productive dialogue, and to provide a solid foundation for the students' three-year learning experience in CISLA. The retreat was a great success, and we look forward to continuing this tradition for years to come.



PHOTO (TOP): CLASS OF 2026 CISLA SCHOLARS PARTICIPATING IN THE RETREAT

PHOTO (BOTTOM): CISLA FACULTY, STAFF, AND STUDENTS AT CAMP HAZEN YMCA

## The United Nations Trip

by Jane Kolar

CISLA'S TRADITIONAL TRIP TO THE UNITED NATIONS took place on April 2, 2024 with members of the class of 2026. The day began with a discussion on immigration with Diplomatic Advisor Daniel Galicia at the Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations. The group then enjoyed a flavorful lunch at Sachi Asian Bistro, followed by an engaging and informative tour of the United Nations.



CISLA FACULTY AND STUDENTS IN ONE OF THE ASSEMBLY ROOMS AT THE UNITED NATIONS

The class of 2026 scholars next sat down for a captivating Q&A with representatives Nicole Walden and Parker Williams at the International Rescue Committee (IRC), a global humanitarian aid NGO. The day ended with a delicious family-style dinner at Omar's Mediterranean Cuisine.



CISLA CLASS OF 2026 STUDENTS DINING AT OMAR'S MEDITERRANEAN

## Annual CISLA Reunion Luncheon

by Cara Masullo Ekwuabu

ON JUNE 1, 2024, we hosted our annual CISLA reunion luncheon. It was a lovely, intimate gathering with alumni of various class years, ranging from '94 through '19. It was wonderful having CISLA Staff Director Emeritus Mary Devins back with us as we shared a nice meal, camaraderie, and happy stories. A lot of our past students reflected on how powerful CISLA was in shaping their future careers.



TOP ROW (FROM LEFT): OLIVIA DOMOWITZ '19, MORGAN FOWLE '19, RACHEL DALTON '94, TARA DUFFY '94, AND DIRECTOR OF CISLA OPERATIONS CARA MASULLO EKWUABU

BOTTOM ROW (FROM LEFT): CISLA FACULTY DIRECTOR SUZUKO MOUSEL KNOTT, MARY KATE FOX '19, SYBIL BULLOCK '14, CISLA STAFF DIRECTOR EMERITUS MARY DEVINS, AMY SZEGDA '99, AND SUMMER WROBEL '19



# Alumni Updates

WE PERIODICALLY SEND OUT A SURVEY to gather information for the alumni section of Prism. It is our hope to keep updated with the lives and careers of our many alums. The people listed in this section are those that responded to the survey.

We will send out another survey in the future, so please consider sending us your news. On occasion, we can use the information to ask for help with an internship, or to pair up a current student on study away or on an internship with an alum in another country. It is terrific to have news of our alumni!

## AMANI ZAVERI '12

got married in Oman in 2023 and has two businesses. She has a luxury travel agency where she helps high-net-worth individuals plan trips all over the globe, and a coaching practice where she helps women in corporate that are burned out to build their businesses in a way that will prevent them from getting burned out again. She works with clients 1:1 and also offers corporate workshops and masterclasses.



PHOTO: AMANI IN CENTRAL PARK, NEW YORK

## LAURA MANZANO '93

is celebrating five years of her hotel consultancy business, Manzano Hospitality!

## EMILY SANDALL '21

finished their MA in linguistics at Boston University, and is living and working in Boston while preparing for their next steps.



## MICHAEL WIPPER '17

began a position at the U.S. Department of State as a program manager in the Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation, focusing on the East Asia Pacific Region.

PHOTO: MIKE VISITING A MARKET IN DUSHANBE, TAJIKISTAN

## LAUREL WOLF '14

got married in 2022. She met her husband while studying abroad in Jordan back in 2012! Laurel was in the Peace Corps in Senegal from 2016-2018. She is now based in Washington, D.C. and just completed her fourth year working for a USAID contractor on climate issues in Latin America and the Caribbean.

## BRANDON CLARKE '95

and husband moved to London in 2021. Brandon will begin an MA in medical anthropology and mental health at SOAS University of London next autumn. After a pause of almost 30 years, Brandon is excited to return to questions he originally began exploring in CISLA during the summer of 1994!



## KATE WOODSOME '02

is a Pulitzer-winning journalist and filmmaker weaving the ties between mental health and democracy. In newsrooms for the past 20 years, she has witnessed both the decline of the journalism industry and the rise of trauma and moral injury for journalists in the trenches.

Kate recently decided to leave The Washington Post to explore the ties between the health of our minds and body politic in a way that nourishes individual and collective wellbeing. She is pursuing this mission through writing, film, and public education. To follow her work examining why democracy and mental health are both in crisis, sign up for her Invisible Threads newsletter: <https://katewoodsome.substack.com>. This deepens the work Kate has done for two decades - from reporting on an authoritarian regime in post-genocide Cambodia, to the decline of democracy in Hong Kong, and the 2021 insurrection.

While at The Washington Post, Kate won the Pulitzer Prize for Public Service with colleagues covering the January 6th attack on the U.S. Capitol, pioneered a mental health column, and managed a short documentary unit. Woodsome has been honored with the Ben Bradlee Award for Courage in Journalism, an Edward R. Murrow Award for the film *Please Rise*, and honors from the White House News Photographers Association and the National Association of Black Journalists.

Her film *Bring Them Home* helped change U.S. policy and public opinion around state hostage-taking and screened at the Big Sky Documentary Film Festival, the Sarasota Film Festival, DC/DOX, and beyond, while the DOC NYC premiere and long festival run of her film *Fight or Flight* has invited audiences to reframe their understanding of trauma and recovery.

PHOTO: HEADSHOT OF KATE WOODSOME BY MARVIN JOSEPH

## LAUREN BURKE '06

was recently appointed as entrepreneur in residence at Smith College in Northampton, MA, where she will be designing programming, guest lecturing, and supporting students with socially innovative ideas. She recently moved back to the area where she grew up with her partner and two children, and continues to run The Possible LAB and Notehouse. Lauren's oldest child is learning Chinese and hopes to study abroad one day like mom.

## JULIE BLAZAR '20

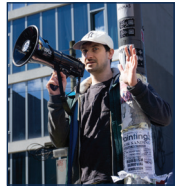
is a second-year law student at Villanova Law School, and is currently working on asylum cases in the immigration clinic, under the supervision of an attorney. Julie got engaged to her long-term boyfriend over winter break and hopes to get married after law school. They got engaged in Toledo, Spain, which is where Julie studied abroad and did her CISLA internship.



PHOTO: A VERY SPECIAL TOLEDO SURPRISE!

### CLAIRE VON LOESECKE '15

will receive her MBA from the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth in June 2024. After graduating, she will join Oliver Wyman's private capital practice in Boston.



### HARRIS KRIZMANICH '17

started graduate school in the fall at Hunter College, and is pursuing a master's degree in the urban planning program.

*PHOTO: SPEAKING TO A CROWD ABOUT STREET SAFETY AT TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES' BEDFORD AVENUE WALK & TALK*

### ABIGAIL SCHMITT '21

completed a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Award in Lanzarote, Spain, teaching English to children aged 4-12 and conducting a side project with the Red Cross working in a local homeless rehabilitation shelter. Abigail then began her master's degree in public administration at Cornell University's Jeb E. Brooks School of Public Policy, where she is concentrating in international development with a focus on food security and humanitarian assistance.



During her time at Cornell, Abigail interned with both the United States Agency for International Development in the Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance, and the United Nations' World Food Programme - Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean in the Gender Programming Division. She was also selected to participate in Cornell's Student Multidisciplinary Applied Research Teams program, which is a unique service-learning program that brings together multidisciplinary teams of graduate and undergraduate students, faculty, and staff from across the university to address real-life challenges



identified by small businesses, NGOs, community groups, and public institutions working within emerging markets. Over the course of a year, Abigail worked with The CARL Group, a small - medium enterprise in Rwanda focused on

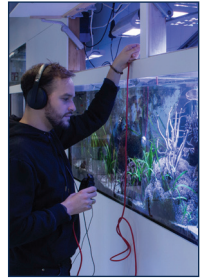
addressing vitamin A deficiency through biofortified, orange-fleshed sweet potatoes, and was fortunate to spend two weeks conducting fieldwork all across Rwanda.

Abigail was recently inducted into Pi Alpha Alpha, the Global Honors Society for Public Administration, Public Policy, and Public Affairs. Furthermore, and most notably, she just received the Presidential Management Fellowship with the United States Government, which is the Federal Government's premier leadership development program for advanced degree holders. Abigail is one of the 825 finalists (one of three from Cornell University) from a pool of more than 7,000 applicants selected for the two-year Fellowship (<https://www.pmf.gov/>), and is in the process of securing an appointment at a federal agency. She is set to graduate in May 2024, and cannot thank CISLA enough for preparing her to excel during her Fulbright, master's program, and now future career in public service!

*PHOTOS: ABIGAIL AT CORNELL UNIVERSITY'S BROOKS SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY, CONDUCTING FIELDWORK IN KIGALI, RWANDA FOR A YEAR-LONG PROJECT WORKING WITH THE CARL GROUP*

### JUAN PABLO PACHECO BEJARANO '14

recently finished an eleven-month artistic residency at the Jan van Eyck Academie in Maastricht, Netherlands while working on a film, *Atlantis*, about the history and mythology behind the first submarine internet cable laid between Europe and South America. Juan Pablo then completed a three-month fellowship at the Panel on Planetary Thinking in Giessen, Germany, and began new research on corals, bioacoustics, and marine regeneration. Juan Pablo is now living in Madrid, Spain.



*PHOTO: USING A HYDROPHONE TO RECORD THE SOUND OF CORALS AT THE OCEAN2100 AQUARIUM OF THE JUSTUS LIEBIG UNIVERSITY IN GIESSEN, GERMANY*

### JORDAN WESTLAKE '22

will be starting graduate school this fall at the University of Chicago's MA program in Middle Eastern studies.

### ABBY FAGAN '16

graduated from the Kellogg School of Management with an MBA in June 2023.

### ROY WALTON '21

is living in New York and attending graduate school at SUNY Binghamton. He is in the Master of Arts in Anthropology: Public Archaeology program, which is two years long and prepares students for a career in applied archaeology, primarily in cultural resource management. The program focuses on compliance archaeology and the intersection between archaeology and the many organizations that have a stake in the management, protection, study, and conservation of the archaeological record. Roy's thesis will involve interning with the



New Jersey State Museum this summer and will examine class in the archaeological record from a colonial era town in New Jersey known as Raritan Landing. Roy is also learning how to conduct remote sensing using drones as a noninvasive method of archaeological inquiry.

*PHOTO: ROY AND SAM MARSH '21 TAKING A SELFIE WITH A DRONE DURING A TEST FLIGHT IN FEBRUARY!*

### LINDSEY (MEYER) WERKHOVEN '03

gave birth to a baby boy in 2021 as a surrogate for a French couple (as surrogacy is not yet legal in France), and is currently due with their second baby - a girl - in June!

### DOMINIQUE BURROWS '20

was promoted to product manager of Market & Competitive Intelligence at FactSet Research Systems.

### FIONA HULL '21

was accepted into NYU's Graduate School of Arts & Sciences and will be pursuing a master's degree in history beginning this September. Fiona will remain working full time on the Protection Team with Scholars at Risk while in the program.



## SCOTT BRAUER '20

is wrapping up the third year of his PhD in the Applied Developmental Psychology program at NYU. This past year, Scott served as the program's student representative to the faculty, worked as a teacher's assistant for an undergraduate research methods course, and co-organized a student-focused conference centered around cross-university connections and mentorship.



In October, Scott presented his CISLA SIP research at the Society for the Study of Human Development (SSHD) biennial conference in Philadelphia. He also submitted two papers for peer review in academic journals, the first being an annual review of identity development research (specifically focusing on the contexts where identity is studied, and elevating research from the majority world), and the second as a theoretical article identifying the reasons why civic engagement does not always have positive benefits for those who participate and those who experience their impacts.

This summer, Scott will be traveling to Portugal to present research from an ongoing collaboration with a Greek researcher, which focuses on latent profiles of acculturation among immigrant-origin youth living in Greece and their longitudinal relations to school adjustment (academic achievement, school engagement, conduct, and absences). Currently, Scott is completing his comprehensive exams to receive departmental candidacy and is developing his dissertation research topic, which he will defend sometime in the spring or summer of 2025.

**PHOTO:** SCOTT PRESENTING A POSTER, "UNDERSTANDING THE DYNAMIC ACCULTURATION PROCESS IN CONTEXT: ROLE OF THE CONTEXT OF RECEPTION, FAMILY ENVIRONMENTS, AND EDUCATIONAL SETTINGS," BASED ON HIS CISLA SIP RESEARCH (TWICE AWARD-WINNING HONORS THESIS CONDUCTED IN THE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT)

## Travel Research Grants

by Suzuko Mousel Knott

**EACH YEAR, STUDENTS APPLY FOR AND RECEIVE TRAVEL** research grants to return to the site of their international internship in order to complete additional research in support of their senior integrative project. For most students, the travel takes place during the winter break. This year, we awarded travel grants to three students: Eric Meicheng Lu, Samadhi Dissanayake, and Samuel Boehm.

This winter, Eric Meicheng Lu, a quantitative economics and econometrics major and finance and Latin American and Latino studies minor, returned to Peru in order to visit mining sites in Junin, Ica, and Arequipa in support of his SIP work titled *The Hidden Environmental and Social Costs of Chinese FDI in the Peruvian Mining Industry*. The travel grant allowed him to visit mining sites vital to his research under the direction of Professor Maria Cruz-Saco.



ERIC MEICHENG LU '24



## EMILIA CLEMENTI '18

completed a month-long rotation in Oaxaca, Mexico through Child Family Health International as a fourth-year medical student. She was incredibly fortunate to have received the Susan Hersey Memorial Scholarship to cover her expenses for this experience, without which she would never have been able to go. Emilia was motivated to complete this rotation in order to enhance her Spanish language and cultural competency and better serve her patient population at home. This experience exposed Emilia to the ways that medicine is practiced in Mexico with a focus on healthcare disparities. She was able to shadow physicians in many specialties in government-run clinics and had the unique opportunity to participate in after-school childcare at Casa Emilie, where she practiced her Spanish language with the kids while they painted, played with Legos, and worked on homework.

Emilia's program was specifically tailored to intensive Spanish language immersion; after completing an entrance exam that assigned her to a teacher based on fluency, she attended three hours of class each day at the Becari Language School. The language teachers were wonderful and explained cultural and grammatical concepts in a truly approachable way. Furthermore, Emilia was fully immersed in the Spanish language by living with a host family that only spoke Spanish. The host mother was kind, thoughtful, and an amazing cook, and Emilia felt truly cared for and looked after. She learned more Spanish in this month-long rotation than she had in an entire year of traditional classes in the United States. Through this opportunity, Emilia gained valuable insights for her future in emergency medicine, both on a global and local scale, within a captivating, historically rich city that offers a plethora of experiences and opportunities.

**PHOTO:** WALKING THROUGH OAXACA, YOU ARE MET WITH A RICH PALLET OF COLORS



SAMADHI DISSANAYAKE '24

Samadhi Dissanayake, a biochemistry and botany major, also returned to Peru during the winter break in order to continue her research in the Amazon in support of her SIP work titled *Deforestation's Effect on Medicinal Plants in the Madre de Dios Region of the Amazon* under the direction of Professor Emily Kuder.

Samuel Boehm, a double major in Hispanic studies and neuroscience, will be traveling this summer to Santiago and Temuco, Chile in order to conduct interviews with people of Mapuche ancestry on the roles of indigenous language (Mapudungun), indigenous medicine, and biomedicine in their lived experiences and in support of his SIP / Honors Thesis work titled *Catalyzing Healthcare with Intercultural Competence: The Intersection of Indigenous Medicine, Western Medicine, and Language* under the direction of Professor Julia Kushigian.



SAMUEL BOEHM '25

# CISLA Honors and Awards

by Suzuko Mousel Knott

Attending the annual Honors and Awards Ceremony is an absolute highlight of the year. Each year, our CISLA scholars from across all three cohorts receive recognition for their wonderful engagement and outstanding scholarship here at the college. Of particular note, the CISLA Award for Distinction in the Program was awarded to CISLA seniors Benjamin Rothstein, Izzy Sala, and Meghan Webb. This year, the following CISLA scholars were honored by their respective departments at the ceremony.

**Caleb Butler '26** Theater Department Donna Holman Award

**Samantha Lamontagne '25** Psychology Department Ann Sloan Devlin Award for Excellence in Research Methods

**Wonkyung Lee '25** Government and International Relations Department Prize

**Eric Meicheng Lu '24** Hispanic Studies Book Prize

**Eliza McCooles '26** East Asian Languages and Cultures Sulin Ma Prize

**Sophie Poissant '26** Global Islamic Studies Prize

**Benjamin Rothstein '24** East Asian Languages and Cultures Prize;

East Asian Languages and Cultures Christine W. Matteson '69 Prize; CISLA Award for Distinction in the Program

**Gray Ruffer '26** Slavic Studies Ronald and Sara Radlinski Award for Community Service

**Izzy Sala '24** Dance Department Award in Honor of Jean-Leon Destine; French and Francophone Department French Book Prize; CISLA Award for Distinction in the Program

**Evan Strouse '24** Music Department Connor Donahue '07 Memorial Award

**Lorena Tenorio '24** Hispanic Studies Book Prize

**Yasmine Tohme '24** Film Studies Creative Production Prize; Italian Department Prize

**Arrayán Vanegas-Farrara '24** French and Francophone Department Francophone Prize

**Chloe Walsh '24** French and Francophone Department Esther C. Cary Prize

**Meghan Webb '24** Hispanic Studies Antonio Rebolledo Memorial Prize; CISLA Award for Distinction in the Program

**Gicel Zuniga '24** Hispanic Studies Doris Meyer Scholarship and Service Award

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