



From the CISLA Office *by Andea Lanoux*

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE that I have been serving as CISLA's sixth faculty director for over a year and a half. Since that time, I have experienced the CISLA program from the inside out, team-teaching IS 201 with incredible colleagues, and leading IS 401 for CISLA seniors recently returned from their internships abroad. Now that I work with CISLA scholars every day, I am even more aware of the extraordinary value and transformative power of the CISLA experience for the over 700 students who have completed the CISLA certificate program since 1992. I am deeply impressed with students' ability to adapt to the world around them, and with their efforts to make a positive difference in the world.

One of our goals over the past year has been to extend CISLA's resources and decades-long experience in international education to the broader campus community, while maintaining the excellence of CISLA's signature certificate program and further innovating the curriculum. In the CISLA gateway course, we study structural inequalities throughout the globe and strengthen students' research skills for their senior integrative projects. In IS 401, we discuss the importance of cultural competence and the controversial notion of global citizenship, reflecting on the experiences, challenges, and new knowledge students have gained abroad.

***"It is a new day for
global education at
Connecticut College,
one to which CISLA is
proud to contribute."***

As you will read in the pages that follow, we hosted a slate of wonderful speakers this past year, including Professor Marc Zimmer, Mimi Bangali '13, and our visiting scholar, Bina Nepram. We are striving to create greater continuity for CISLA juniors through enhanced advising, library mentors, and the development of a one-credit course to bring students along in their research during the junior year. We continue to support CC students outside of the CISLA certificate program through the Global Scholars Fund, the Robert E. Proctor Scholarship for Summer Language Study, and a new research assistance program for faculty in languages other than English.

In all of these efforts, we benefit greatly from our collaborations with colleagues in the Office of Global Initiatives, the Global Learning Lab, the Office of Study Away, and the Center for the Critical Study of Race and Ethnicity, all of whom comprise the Walter Commons for Global Study and Engagement along with CISLA. It is a new day for global education at Connecticut College, one to which CISLA is proud to contribute.

Another goal for 2020 and beyond is to connect current CISLA scholars with CISLA alumni. Our students have much to gain from the knowledge and expertise of those who came before them in the CISLA program. If you are a CISLA alum who would welcome a call from a current CISLA scholar conducting research on a subject similar to your own CISLA topic, or doing an internship in the country where you studied or interned abroad, please let us know! We love hearing from you, and we are eager to strengthen the growing network of CISLA alumni throughout the world.

CONGRATULATIONS AND GODSPEED TO BINA NEPRAM

It is with mixed emotions that we say farewell to our first visiting scholar from the New University in Exile Consortium, Binalakshmi Nepram, an internationally renowned scholar-activist from Manipur, India. Between January 2018 and December 2019, Bina brought incredible energy, excellent student advising, and extraordinary expertise in her field of gender and race-based discrimination, global gun violence, and pro-democracy activism to the CISLA program. On September 25, 2019, Bina gave a moving lecture to CISLA seniors in IS 401 on the ongoing military occupation of Manipur. We are so grateful for all she has done to enrich CISLA, the College, and the student experience. We miss her warmth, energy and humor in the office!



BINA NEPRAM,
VISITING SCHOLAR 2018-2019

We are thrilled to congratulate Bina on her award of a Reagan Fascell Fellowship from the National Endowment for Democracy in Washington, D.C., beginning in March 2020. We share Bina's excitement about this opportunity to incubate new ideas around democracy, nonviolent resistance, and policy development.

You can follow Bina on Twitter (along with 553,000 other people): @BinaNepram.

Distinguished Alumni Award

by Mary Devins

Andrea D. Lanoux
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Darryl Phillips
John Tian
Larry Vogel
Marc Zimmer

IS 201

Teaching Team
Sunil Bhatia
Andrea Lanoux
Chris Steiner
Sufia Uddin
Marc Zimmer

THIS YEAR WE PRESENTED our fifth-annual CISLA Distinguished Alumni Award to Agnes "Mimi" Bangali '13. Mimi graduated in 2013 with a double major in biology and gender and women's studies. An international student from Sierra Leone, she studied abroad in Mali and went on to complete an internship in Dakar at the West African Women's Association. Her SIP was titled "Social, Economic, Psychological and Emotional Effects of Fistula."

Mimi's goal after graduation was to go to graduate school, but at that time Ebola was raging in her home country, and she felt she had to return to help. She worked for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), where she was part of the Ebola response team. In 2018, she went on to complete an advanced degree in Public Health for Development at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.



MIMI BANGALI AND EDMOND NONIE AT THEIR TRADITIONAL SIERRA LEONE MENDE WEDDING



MIMI BANGALI AND EDMOND NONIE AT THEIR CHRISTIAN WEDDING IN NOVEMBER

As a feminist and activist, Mimi's professional and personal activities involve women's empowerment, adolescent health, and reproductive rights. Under the banner of the UNFPA, she contributed to the Maternal Death Surveillance and Response strategy, coordinated community wellness advocacy groups, advocated for the abolition of child marriage and the strengthening of child protection laws, and implemented sexual and reproductive health programs for adolescents. She went on to serve as acting Executive Director for STEM Women in Sierra Leone. Mimi currently coordinates UNFPA's response to female genital mutilation in eight countries in West and Central Africa. Additionally, she is the founder and Chief Executive Officer of Pose Media Ventures, one of the only female-owned media enterprises in Sierra Leone.

In 2017, Mimi was recognized as one of the 50 most influential young Sierra Leoneans by the Institute of Leadership, Entrepreneurship and Development. Besides entrepreneurship, her interests include technology, politics, and freelance photography. Mimi married Edmond Nonie on November 9, 2019 in Freetown, Sierra Leone.

In Memoriam

by Mary Devins

I am so saddened to inform the CISLA community of the passing of one of our first CISLA scholars, Kevin Dodge '92.

Kevin passed away in April after a long battle with cancer. I remember him well. Kevin was an excellent student and an intellectual. After graduating from Connecticut College, he went on to get an MBA from Harvard, after which he pursued a successful career as an investment banker.

Kevin left finance to follow his true calling, that of a minister. Kevin devoted his energies to helping others understand Christian theology and the Bible more deeply. I spoke with him briefly last year, and he told me about the challenges he was facing with his illness. He conveyed an incredible sense of hope and acceptance. I so admired his attitude and approach to life.



Parents' Perspective

by Jane Simonds & Nancy Sardeson

AS PARENTS OF a recent Conn grad - Sam Simonds '19 - we were asked a few months ago to reflect on what his CISLA experience meant to us. That would be easy. We are so proud of Sam, and we love to talk about him! Sam's film, *Smoke of the Sea*, filmed in Taiwan as part of Sam's senior honors thesis and CISLA's Senior Integrative Research Project, won the Oakes and Louise Ames Prize for the outstanding senior honors thesis last spring (see below).

The origin of the film stemmed from Sam's CISLA internship in the summer of 2018 in Taiwan. He interned with Futuru Tsai, an indigenous Amis community activist and leader, anthropology professor, and filmmaker. During his internship, Sam lived in Dulan with Futuru and his family. He was able to immerse himself in experiencing what it means to be Amis, helping to film sacred rituals and ceremonies, learning how to spearfish, reading historical sources in Mandarin, and most importantly, spending hours and hours engaging with and learning from people in the community, all in Mandarin.

While in Dulan, Sam also wrote a screenplay in Mandarin, inspired by the stories and culture of the Amis community he was coming to know. Edited for authenticity with Amis elders and the wider community, it became a story-telling collaboration. And, at the urging of the community, Sam would return to Taiwan that winter on a CISLA travel grant. Using other funds he raised, he would produce and direct the film, audition, select, and rehearse 26 Amis actors, work with the community on costumes, and hire camera professionals, sound engineers and make-up artists. In *Smoke of the Sea*, Sam used story and cinematic techniques to focus on Amis indignity – to lift up and celebrate the modern endurance of Amis culture – its healing

connection to land, community, and ancestral spirits, in contradistinction to dominant cultural ideals of individualism, efficiency and productivity.

An enormous project for sure, but Sam persisted. All along the way, CISLA and Conn supported him, giving him space to pursue a big idea and a very ambitious project. And that would have been what we would have written this article about had we not visited Taiwan with Sam in November.

The whole idea of our trip began when Sam's film was selected to be shown at the Amis Music Festival in Dulan. We, too, stayed with Futuru and his family during the Festival, and were able to witness first-hand the transformation that starts with listening deeply and with an openness to learning and practicing new ways of being in the world, as well as experience the depth, breadth, and easy reciprocity of his friendships with his Amis peers where he is now considered a "brother." And so it was with friends he had made in Taipei and Taitung and with the tea shop owners in every city he had stayed in in Taiwan. Indeed, after a morning of tea in Sam's favorite shop in Taitung, the owner took us up to their tea farm in the mountains of Luye where we also learned the fine art of tea-making. Sam spoke with random strangers on the train or the keepers of a local temple, with ease, and they reciprocated with

stories or information that we would not have had access to had Sam not been able to speak Mandarin with them.

It was then that we realized the real gift CISLA left Sam with was to challenge him to learn a language proficiently enough to enable immersion in what it means to be in another culture. The language component is what sets CISLA apart from other study abroad programs. By becoming proficient in Mandarin, Sam was able to develop real friendships with many of the people he met in Taiwan, particularly in the Amis community of Dulan. Where all of this takes Sam, we do not know. But with his CISLA experience in Taiwan and *Smoke of the Sea* under his belt, we have no worries.

SAM SIMONDS '19

was a film studies and East Asian studies double major. He studied abroad in Taiwan. Sam won the prestigious Oakes and Louise Ames Prize, which is announced and presented at graduation to a senior selected as having completed the year's most outstanding honors study. Sam's project was innovative and creative: he completed an unbelievably beautiful film called *Smoke of the Sea* on the effects of colonialization on indigenous communities in Taiwan. The film was shot on location in Dulan, featuring local actors and three languages: Mandarin, Taiwanese, and Amis. It was selected to be shown at the Amis Music Festival at Dulan Point to an audience of 10,000. You can see the film at filmfreeway.com/SmokeoftheSea

Previously, Sam was awarded a \$5,000 grant through the College's Social Innovation Program, that identifies promising first-year students and offers funding to support special projects. With these funds, Sam made the documentary film, *From a Valley in Talol*. He had traveled to Haiti to shoot the film about the untold stories of former "restavecks," modern-day child slaves. The film premiered at the Trinidad and Tobago Film Festival. The trailer can be found at filmfreeway.com/SeedsofTalol



SAM SIMONDS '19 DIRECTING HIS FILM IN DULAN, TAIWAN.

Awards

by Mary Devins

IN 2019 CONNECTICUT COLLEGE RECEIVED SIX FULBRIGHT AWARDS, five went to CC seniors and one to a recent alumnus. CISLA is proud to say that three Fulbright Awards went to CISLA scholars.

GISELLE OLAGUEZ '19



Giselle was a gender, sexuality and intersectionality studies major. She is spending her Fulbright year teaching English in

Madrid, Spain. In the summer of 2018, Giselle completed an internship with Casa Gaviota in Mexico City, aiding families who have experienced domestic violence.

At Conn, Olaguez served as a senior admission fellow, a Spanish tutor, and an advancement services assistant. She was an active member of the women's rugby club and Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán (M. E. Ch. A), a student organization founded on the principles of self-determination for the liberation of Chicano/a people that promotes higher education, culture and history. She also worked as an assistant and translator at New London's Immigration Advocacy and Support Center, and as an extended learning teaching assistant at New London's Jennings Middle School.

OLIVIA DOMOWITZ '19

Olivia was an international relations and French double major. She is currently serving in Côte d'Ivoire as an English Teaching Assistant.

Olivia studied abroad in Morocco, then completed an internship with the Fondation Orient-Occident in Rabat. "While I was in Morocco, I learned about the large West African community living there. I had so many positive experiences with men, women and families from Côte d'Ivoire, so I'm looking forward to getting to know the country firsthand."



At Conn, Domowitz was a member of the Student Refugee Alliance, Eclipse, and the Womxn's Empowerment

Initiative. She also served as a senior admission fellow and worked at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy's Child Development Center. Additionally, she competed on the women's track and field team for three years.

SAMANTHA FELDMAN '19



Sami was a German studies and international relations double major. She is spending her Fulbright year in Germany teaching English and serving as a cultural ambassador. Sami hopes to teach students about art and current affairs. "I want to create a powerful experience through which students can combine their artistic and academic abilities to connect with their peers, their communities, and the outside world."

At Conn, Feldman served as a language fellow and Housefellow in the international language residence hall. She also served on the CISLA Student Advisory Board and the German Studies Student Advisory Board, and taught English language learners at the New London Adult Education Center. Additionally, she designed an art awareness afterschool program for New London middle school students. Following her Fulbright fellowship, Feldman hopes to pursue a career as an art educator.

BRANDY DARLING '19



Aspiring diplomat Brandy Darling '19 was selected as a 2019 Thomas R. Pickering Graduate Foreign Affairs Fellow. One of the U.S. Department of State's most competitive and prestigious programs, the Pickering Fellowship provides two years of financial support for graduate study as well as professional development and mentoring to prepare fellows for a career in the U.S. Foreign Service.

Brandy was an economics and East Asian studies double major and Posse scholar from Chicago, Illinois. Last year she received the State Department Critical Language Fellowship to study in China. Brandy was accepted to all nine of the graduate schools to which she applied. Today, she is at The Johns Hopkins University. "I've wanted to be a diplomat for so long, and this fellowship is the biggest step toward that goal," she said.

Darling says her ultimate goal is to be the U.S. Ambassador to China. "No one who looks like me has ever been the U.S. Ambassador to China. I could be the first African American and woman to hold that position, and my success could open doors for others who look like me."

EGE SAKIRT '19

Ege was accepted into the Peace Corps in Kosovo. He is trilingual in Turkish, English and Italian, and he majored in art history and philosophy at Conn. Ege completed an internship in Perugia, Italy. His SIP was titled, "Different Approaches to Art Conservation in Italy."



Alumni Updates

by Mary Devins

ALUMNI PANEL ON CAMPUS

Last April, we held an extraordinary CISLA alumni panel featuring four talented and accomplished alumni. Among the speakers was Elizabeth Bradley '07, an international business development consultant and entrepreneur at Blackburn Frontiers. Over the past ten years, Elizabeth has cultivated expertise in strategic planning, business development, and investment advising, with a specialization in emerging markets. She received her MBA from Duke University's Fuqua School of Business.

Kathy Avgerinos DoCampo '06 came to campus on her way back to Switzerland from a conference in Boston. Kathy received her MA from Syracuse University in international and public relations. She is currently employed at the World Economic Forum in Geneva as Partner Development and Operations Lead for Europe and North America. Sophie DeLevie-Orey '15 returned to campus from Yale University, where she is a candidate for an MSN and midwifery certification. Our fourth speaker was Aaron Maines '95, a translator and free-lance journalist, who presented via webconference from Milan.



AARON MAINES '95

All four speakers told the audience that the pathways to their present-day careers started with CISLA. To say their narratives were riveting is an understatement. The students in attendance, mostly CISLA undergraduates, were completely enthralled and impressed to hear their individual stories. Their advice was clear and consistent: take risks, go for everything, do not be discouraged, believe in yourself, and learn a language. Seniors who are about to graduate are uncertain about their futures and the next chapters that await them; to hear stories from accomplished CISLA alumni helped them envision themselves in fascinating careers. Many business cards were exchanged, as were offers to help in any way. It was an extremely positive and encouraging experience, one that we hope to repeat each year.



ALUMNI PANEL DISCUSSION: MARY DEVINS, SOPHIE DELEVIE-OREY '15, KATHY AVGERINOS DOCAMPO '06, ELIZABETH BRADLEY '07

OTHER REUNIONS?

Whenever I meet up with and talk with CISLA alumni, they love the idea of a CISLA reunion. Shall we do one soon in New York City or Boston?

If you are interested, please get in touch with Mary to help plan it: msdev@conncoll.edu

Reunion During Reunion

by Mary Devins

NEARLY TWO DOZEN CISLA scholars came to campus for Reunion weekend in June 2019. Some popped in to say hello before going on to other events, and we had a fun luncheon with 11 of them. It was wonderful to catch up and hear about the impressive careers they have, and listen to them regale us with their memories of their time in CISLA.

From left to right first row: Erin Holstein, Rachel Dalton, Mariko Wilcox, Aaron Kleinman; second row: Monica Rohrbach, Claire Wellbeloved Stone, Mayra Valle; third row: Chris May, Nick Luce, Katie Pearson, Mary Devins, Professor Marc Forster, Irina Telukova, Megan Tepper-Rasmussen, Shari Darman, Elizabeth Wohl (not CISLA) and Professor Don Peppard.



MERRY BYRNE '13 was invited to stop by campus enroute to Amman, Jordan, from a conference in Boston. Current students came to an informal lunch and conversation where Merry talked about her experiences at Connecticut College and how they influenced her career path today as a Junior Technical Advisor at the International Labor Organization in Amman. Merry earned a MPhil in international development from Oxford.

Students were eager to hear Merry's advice on what they need to do next to reach their own goals. Her message was simple and clear: work hard, take chances, plan your moves, be lucky, and be prepared for detours. The students in attendance were extremely impressed to see how poised and professional Merry was just six years out of college. This kind of example is always inspirational for undergraduates.



MERRY BYRNE '13 AND
ELIZABETH HENSLEY '20

SMALL WORLD

Kelly Spy Frumer '20 and Alex McDevitt '17 never met at CC, but they literally bumped into each other in Beijing at a dialogue on Russia, China, and America at the Carnegie-Tsinghua Center.

Kelly was studying abroad in Beijing, while Alex was working as Development Manager at the Carnegie-Tsinghua Center for Global Policy at Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington, D.C.



KELLY SPY FRUMER '20 AND
ALEX McDEVITT '17

Advancing Global Education in the Walter Commons

by Andrea Lanoux

TWO YEARS AGO, CISLA moved to the newly renovated space in Blaustein known as the Walter Commons for Global Study and Engagement. The purpose was to bring together various offices on campus that advance international education, including the Office of Global Initiatives, Study Away, the Global Learning Lab, the Center for the Critical Study of Race and Ethnicity, and CISLA. Co-located on the first floor of Blaustein, these entities work together to offer programming, funding, language tutoring, international internship opportunities, fellowship support, and global-local advising for all Connecticut College students to make global learning a central part of their college education.

Among these many opportunities is the **Global Scholars Fund**, established by CISLA in 2018 and administered by the Walter Commons to provide small grants to dozens of CC students annually to support study away, international internships, and other experiential learning opportunities abroad. Students can apply to offset costs for airfare, housing, lost income during study away, or other costs related to off-campus study. In 2018/19, the fund offered financial assistance to 42 students.

In December 2018, CISLA was pleased to honor the retirement of its founding director, Professor Robert Proctor, after 47 years of exemplary service to the College. In spring 2019, we established the **Robert E. Proctor Scholarship for Summer Language Study**, in cooperation with Laura Little, faculty director of the **Global Learning Lab**. In its first year, the fund supported ten students with awards of \$500 to \$1000 each to study German, Tamil, Hindi, Korean, Russian, Arabic, Spanish, and American Sign Language in seven different countries.

Another initiative (described in detail on page 7) is the new **Pre-departure Program** for all CC students planning to study away. In March and November 2019, we organized two half-day retreats that reached 96 students. We look forward to working with colleagues and students from across campus to offer more such programs in future years.

Our newest initiative, **Research Assistance in Languages other than English**, was launched in fall 2019 to pair faculty conducting research in world languages with international students fluent in those languages. To date, we have student-faculty pairs working in Spanish, French, and Russian, and we hope to have new pairs working in Mandarin and Urdu by the end of spring 2020. This initiative is just one of our efforts to support **international students**, of whom there are record numbers on campus this year. CISLA has sponsored new student positions in the Hale Center for Career Development to help identify employment opportunities abroad, as well as fellowships and work opportunities for international students. We are currently working with Dean Carmela Patton and colleagues in Career to create additional employment opportunities for international students in summer 2020.

The Walter Commons hosts a number of **Global Focus sessions** each semester to give students structured opportunities to share their experiences abroad. Examples include reflection sessions on SATAs and TRIPs, as well as the new Tiny Tales sessions for students to share stories about their experiences on study away.

One of the most popular new initiatives in the Commons this year is **International News Hour**, in which international students lead discussions on current events in their home country and other regions of the world. To date, this student-led discussion forum has focused on Lebanon, China, and Taiwan, with targeted conversations on the Coronavirus, ocean policies, and elections. Additional sessions are being planned for March and April 2020 on India, Pakistan, Ghana, and the Philippines. International News Hour is organized by the **Walter Commons Fellows**, who are current international and domestic students with a demonstrated commitment to language learning and cross-cultural understanding. Other projects coordinated by the Fellows include the **global story of Connecticut College archive project**, **international karaoke night**, and **study away advising**, among many others.

The Commons is a hub of **student advising** of all kinds, including advising on fellowships, international opportunities, and funding. Melissa Ryan, Associate Director of the Walter Commons, works closely with Connecticut College students applying for **grants and fellowships**. Thanks to her efforts, more CC students are receiving prestigious fellowships, such as Fulbright Awards, Gilman Scholarships, Critical Language Scholarships and Peace Corps awards worldwide.

Congratulations to Amy Dooling, Associate Dean for Global Initiatives and Director of the Walter Commons, and Lauren O'Leary, Coordinator of the Walter Commons, on their receipt of the second annual New York Times inEducation Award for Innovation in Education Abroad. O'Leary and Dooling received the award for their #CamelsAbroad initiative, which encourages students who are preparing to study away to follow and share news stories via Instagram about their host countries. This is just one instance of how the Walter Commons for Global Study and Engagement is garnering national attention for Connecticut College's excellence and innovation in international and global education.



LAUREN O'LEARY AND AMY DOOLING OF THE WALTER COMMONS

CISLA Supporters

by Mary Devins

MANY CISLA INTERNSHIPS are financed through endowed funds that were generously given by a particular donor. Students who receive these endowed internships are asked to write a thank you note that includes information about who they are, their major, study abroad experience, internship, and senior integrative project. Many years ago, CISLA was the recipient of the annual gift from the class of 1944. Robert Celado and Julie Blazer wrote to then class President, Ellie Josephson, and received a wonderful response letter. Keep in mind that Ellie is 96 years old. She says, "Many thanks for the beautiful messages of gratitude you have sent me on behalf of the class of 1944. I send you the best wishes of all of us. We are proud to be able to help you advance in your chosen fields. Connecticut College is the most important and long-lasting experience in my ninety-six years. It is a joy to know that young people today have the educational advantages the college has always offered. Keep going. Sincerely, Ellie Abrahams Josephson '44."

Dear Robert Celado and Julie Blazer,
many thanks for ~~gave~~ the
beautiful messages of
gratitude you have sent me
on behalf of the class of 1944,
tell us the best wishes you
have for us. We are proud
to be able to help you
advance in your chosen
fields.
Connecticut College is
the most important and
long-lasting experience
in my ninety-six years.
It is a joy to know
that young people today
have the educational
advantages the college
has always offered. Keep
going. Sincerely,
Ellie Abrahams Josephson '44



ASA WATERWORTH '18 AND JOAN ROBERTSON '38

JOAN ROBERTSON '38 has been a generous donor to the CISLA program and has always been very involved with CISLA students. Our students are conscientious about writing their donors and often strike up lasting friendships. Asa Waterworth '18 recently sent me this:

"Look who I finally got to meet today - Joan, class of 1938, at her home in Milwaukee, Wisconsin (We graduated exactly 80 years apart!). It was an afternoon I'll never ever forget, she is incredible and kind and I'll be forever thankful that you put us in touch almost 3 years ago." As a philanthropist through the Annette J. Roberts and Joan R. Robertson Fund for World Peace, World Law and Peace Education, Joan continues to be involved in pursuing social peace and justice. Joan is a strong advocate of the work of the United Nations and is delighted that each year we bring the new CISLA class to the United Nations. In a recent handwritten letter, Joan pointed out that she is 103.6.

This kind of connection and continued enthusiasm with alumni is a joy to experience. We remind our students regularly that it is because of the generosity of donors that we are able to fund internships as well as develop exciting and innovative initiatives.

Pre-departure Program

by Cara Masullo Ekwuabu

THE WALTER COMMONS HAS TAKEN THE LEAD in the creation and implementation of comprehensive pre-departure programming to better prepare students for their education abroad experiences. While study away students have historically been given logistical pre-departure preparations, including information on travel documents, health, safety, and other practical information, there was a need for more robust and integrative preparations. To improve the quality and impact of study away, some goals of the new pre-departure programming are: 1) to challenge students to think critically about study away; 2) to approach the experience with intentionality and clearly articulated goals; 3) to develop effective tools for cross-cultural communication; and 4) to deepen students' intercultural competence. In addition to these foundational skills and aptitudes, the aim is to have students understand Connecticut College's academic learning goals more broadly, and to give them an intellectual framework to explore issues around intersectionality, positionality, and structural inequality in a global context before leaving campus.

The development of this pre-departure program required collaboration among the offices within the Walter Commons, including CISLA, Study Away, and the Office of Global Initiatives, as well as with colleagues from the Hale Center for Career Development, Multicultural Counseling Services, Race and Ethnicity Programs, and Gender and Sexuality Programs. The content was developed beginning in summer 2018, and culminated in a pilot study away retreat in March 2019. In November 2019, we held our second extended pre-departure workshop. The Walter Commons will continue to refine and run the workshop each semester to prepare students to engage deeply with the study away experience, think critically, and act with openness and empathy throughout and beyond their time abroad.



From Mary S. Devins

A QUICK NOTE and some simple thoughts.

Yes, I am still here. I frequently must respond to the question, "When are you going to retire?" My thirty-year personal journey through CISLA has been by all accounts wonderful. I stay because I love the CISLA program and knowing how our work with students through the CISLA seminars, the internship experience, and the Senior Integrative Project actually does change their lives and their world visions. I stay, too, because I must learn and change with every new class. Change is a challenge for all of us, no matter where we are in our life's journey. It forces one to reflect, recalibrate, understand others and examine one's own values. The world our students live in today is difficult and challenging in different ways than it was 30 years ago. Sadly, modern society brings with it great anxiety and many fears. Don't fear the unknown – keep traveling, it expands one's horizons and provides fresh ways to view the world. It refreshes the soul.



MARY S. DEVINS

"Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness, and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts. Broad, wholesome, charitable views of men and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one little corner of the earth all one's lifetime."

— Mark Twain, *The Innocents Abroad / Roughing It*

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