

Broome  
Chenango  
Fulton  
Herkimer  
Madison  
Montgomery  
Oneida  
Otsego  
Schoharie

# Upstate Institute at Colgate University

Fall 2006 Newsletter

## Upstate Institute Field School Summer Projects

This summer, 18 Colgate students participated in the Upstate Institute Field School. Each student worked approximately 35 hours per week for a regional community organization on a variety of research-based tasks. In addition to their field experience, the students met each Friday afternoon to talk about their projects and to participate in an eight-week Field School curriculum. This summer's curriculum included panel discussions with local government officials, journalists and business owners, a tour of four area farms and sessions on grant writing and strategic planning. Detailed project summaries from each of the Field School students' experiences are available on the Upstate Institute website at <http://upstate.colgate.edu>

### **Opportunities for Chenango, Inc.**

Elizabeth Turner, '08, interned at Opportunities for Chenango, Inc., an organization that offers programs for residents of Chenango County in hopes of stimulating and revitalizing the regional economy. Elizabeth worked under the supervision of Nancy Morey, the economic development chairperson at OFC. She researched the status of the regional



economy with regard to the local food and manufacturing industry. Through her data-gathering experience, she learned that the area's economy does provide great opportunity, but must overcome barriers such as distance between cities, lack of broadband access, obstacles to financing new businesses, and competition with nationally established chain stores.

### **Chenango United Way**

Julia Heymans, '08, documented the Chenango United Way's shift to a community impact model of operation, which is giving the organization a new focus on tracking and measuring the outcomes of United Way-funded programs. Her document will be used both for keeping Chenango United Way's records and history, and as a guideline for other small United Way organizations to use while making their own Community Impact transition. The Community Impact model of operation is now a central component of the United Way system, and will continue to develop and strengthen in upcoming years. The Chenango United Way will release an annual Community Impact Report similar to the one Julia created to keep donors and community members aware of how their United Way dollars are translating into change.

## Mission Statement

The mission of the Upstate Institute is to create linkages between Colgate University and the regional community to engage students, faculty, staff and residents in research and a reciprocal transfer of knowledge that will enhance the economic, social and cultural capacity of the area and sustain the environment. These projects provide a model of community collaboration and civic engagement for our students and within higher education. The Institute values scholarly collaboration as a way to support the region.

**Community Action Partnership and Madison County Department of Social Services**

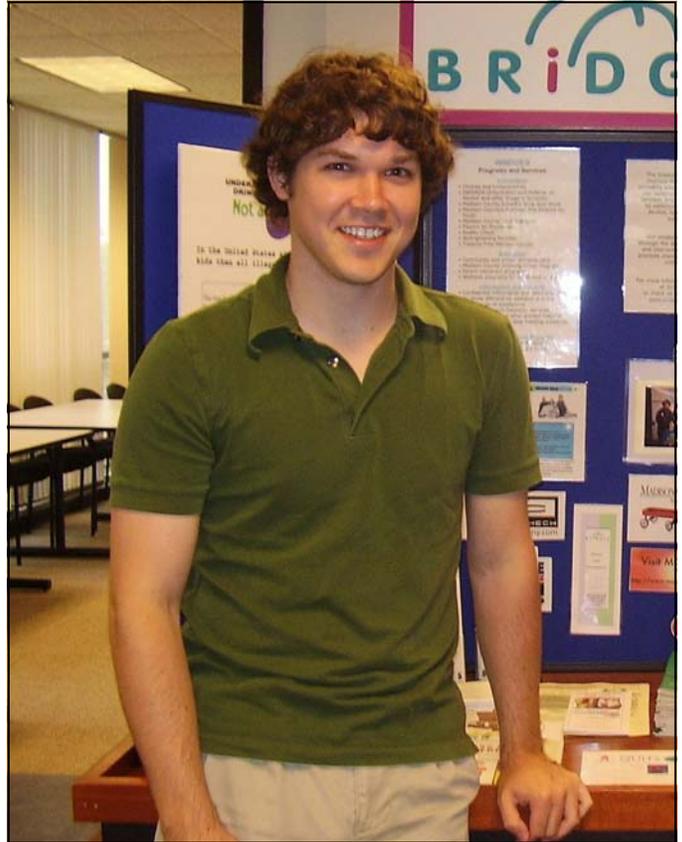
Jane Sheehan, '08, completed a rental study of Madison County under the direction of Community Action Partnership and the Department of Social Services, both located in Madison County. Her study included a rental stock database which provides the address, landlord, number of units and bedrooms, and the vacancy rate for almost every rental property in the county. Using this information, she created documents that describe the availability and affordability of properties within each township, as well as for the entire county.

"My study certainly sheds light on the ills of the rental situation in the county. Community Action Partnership and the Department of Social Services plan to use this study for a grant for more affordable housing and also a grant for a shelter for teenagers in Madison County. My study may also be used to supplement the Needs Assessment for the county, allowing Madison County to receive both federal and state subsidy and aid for a number of other projects," Jane said.



**BRiDGES: Madison County Council on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse, Inc.**

Steve Hayden, '08, worked with BRiDGES: Madison County Council on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse, Inc. to create a video about the use of alcohol advertising and its impact on youth. The video will be used for presentations around the county and will be made available to other organizations. He also assisted with research on the impact of alcohol advertising on youth, which will accompany the finished video.



**The Exhibition Alliance**

In the summer of 2005, Tim Hogarth, '06, worked with The Exhibition Alliance (TEA) to produce an educational DVD about proper fine art storage. The DVD was marketed to museums, galleries, cultural organizations and other institutions that have art storage concerns, in the hopes that it will provide information necessary for the conservation of their collections.

This summer, Tim continued his work at TEA by creating a comprehensive training guide in DVD format for preparators— those responsible for physically handling works of art in any way for a museum, from packing art for shipment to hanging shows. To produce the second training DVD, Tim traveled around the Upstate region to film a variety of museum professionals demonstrating and speaking about



different skills that are important for preparators.

"The finished product is a 6 hour, 4 disc DVD set that I can proudly say I produced, edited, and directed. There is nothing else like it available to the museum field, and the hope is that these DVDs will help institutions to better train their preparators while also enhancing the knowledge of existing staff. The Exhibition Alliance received orders for the DVDs before they were even finished and they will soon be distributed on a national level through the American Association of Museums," Tim said.

### Earlville Opera House

Sarah Miller, '07, gained valuable experience in arts management this summer at the Earlville Opera House. She learned how a not-for-profit organization supports, educates, and enhances a local arts community in Central New York. Under the direction of EOH Executive Director Patti Lockwood-Blais, Sarah worked on the summer performance series of music and theater, the EOH Circus Camp, Shakespeare's



Clowns workshops, choral camps, and community gallery exhibits. She also worked with Lockwood-Blais on the Opera House's committee structure and budget, and participated in brainstorming sessions focused on developing new audiences. At the end of her internship, Sarah created a presentation on the organization's mission for the EOH board of directors.

### Cornell Cooperative Extension of Madison County

Chris Vincent, '08, worked with the Cornell Cooperative Extension office in Madison County to produce a video designed to help local farmers professionalize their displays and customer service skills at farmers' markets across the state. He helped to organize a statewide potato variety taste test at 50 farmers' markets across the state and develop a new farmers' market in the Arbor Hill neighborhood in Albany.



### Colgate University

Sam Levy, '08, completed an evaluation of the potential benefits that a second ice rink may bring to the University and the surrounding community for his fellowship with the Upstate Institute this summer. Working with Professor of Economics Jill Tiefenthaler, Sam reviewed academic literature on the effects of a new sports stadium and franchise on city development, manuals on how to operate a hockey rinks, and websites for many of the rinks in Upstate New York, and interviewed hockey coaches, facility supervisors, and managers of local rinks. He then estimated revenues from the use of the facility, ticket sales, advertising, pro shop sales and concession sales based on

consumer demand and spending habits and calculated indirect job creation using a multiplier specific to this region in order to examine how the second rink may become a catalyst for economic development in Hamilton.

### **New York State Department of Environmental Conservation**

John Demler, '08, worked with Greg Owens at the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. He created an inventory and evaluation of cultural resources at the Muller Hill State Forest, which comprises over 5400 acres of land near Georgetown, New York. This inventory will be used in a unit management plan, which will outline long-term procedures for ensuring biodiversity, sustainable timber production, watershed protection, opportunities for public recreation, and cultural resource preservation.



### **Hamilton Central School**

Graduate student Shamina Chasteen worked with Hamilton Central School and Colgate's Picker Art Gallery this summer. For the school, she researched programs meant to help students who are at risk of academic failure. She identified a program that could be implemented at the school and wrote a grant that the school may submit to secure funding for the program. At the gallery, she worked with elementary aged children on various projects,



from tours of the gallery to art projects offered during Hamilton's Farmers' Market. She also gathered images for a visual learning experience for the fifth grade teachers at Hamilton Central School.

### **Legal Aid Society of Mid-New York, Inc.**

Carolyn Theis, '08, interned at the Legal Aid Society of Mid-New York, Inc. in Syracuse, a nonprofit agency established to provide equal access to justice by providing legal representation to those who could not otherwise afford it. She assisted an attorney who develops Supplemental Security Income cases for disabled adults by organizing legal files, drafting medical request letters, scheduling client appointments, meeting with clients, observing hearing preparations, and attending several hearings.

### **Mohawk Valley Resource Center for Refugees**

In her second summer as a student fellow for the Upstate Institute, Alicia Gleason, '08, worked with the Mohawk Valley Resource Center for Refugees, an organization that assists and settles refugees from over 30 countries in the Utica area. Alicia researched refugee access to health care, which is often adversely affected by the language barrier between refugees and health care providers. With MVRRCR Executive Director Peter Vogelaar, she conducted a literature review, developed a long term



research plan, designed image based surveys that could be used with refugees unable to read, researched grants, began grant writing for further funding and held individual pilot interviews with refugees and physicians.

"The MVRCR's goal is to research those cultural differences and develop a cultural training for both refugees and health care providers to target, discuss and reconcile the issues. The research has both state and national implications for doctors and refugees alike and is projected to continue for the next five years. I plan to return to the MVRCR during the spring semester to continue working on the project," said Alicia.

### **Village of Canastota and Village of Chittenango**

Matt Mills, '07, digitally mapped the sanitary sewer systems of the villages of Canastota and Chittenango. In order to create maps of the two systems, he physically located each sanitary sewer manhole, examined its condition, then recorded its location with a handheld GPS unit.

He then entered the latitude/longitude coordinates into ArcMap GIS software, which plotted each location. The locations were merged onto satellite imagery of each village to create a map with referenced manhole locations. The maps can now be used in conjunction with handheld GPS units to quickly identify the location of any manhole in the municipality, which will facilitate the



maintenance of the entire system.

### **Lorenzo State Historic Site**

Sarah Woodworth, '07, worked for the Lorenzo State Historic Site in Cazenovia this summer. She helped to oversee groups of local children participating in week-long day camps at the site that offered an immersion experience in turn-of-the-century life. She also assisted in updating Lorenzo's House Book, an interpretive guide used to familiarize staff and docents with the cultural landscape and collections available at Lorenzo.

While at Lorenzo, she learned the value of educating the public about local cultural resources. "In order to increase the esteem in which residents and visitors to the region regard Upstate New York, they must learn what we



have to offer. Therefore, my project is an ongoing pursuit to provide an access to this education," Sarah said.

### **Madison County Department of Health**

Emily Wolford, '08, worked under the direction of Eric Faisst, Public Health Director for the Madison County Department of Health. The department has joined an 8-county collaborative effort by community leaders and health service providers to improve the health of residents of Central New York. Emily worked with Faisst on the FitCNY subcommittee of The Commission for a Healthy CNY to conduct statistical research and a literature review of the impact of obesity on residents of the region, and to develop a resource guide that identifies all nutrition and physical activity resources in the region.

### **Madison County Historian**

Graduate student Joseph Evans worked with Madison County Historian Sarah Davies to prepare an exhibit for the county's bicentennial celebration. The exhibit features noted cultures, personalities, industries, movements, and other historical events of Madison County represented

in thirteen panels of photographs. Joe assembled the photographs from various county collections, including those from the Madison County Historical Society, Canastota's Canal Town Museum, Earlville's Quincy Square Museum, and Munnsville's Fryer Memorial Museum. He also helped to begin the process of organizing the historian's archives.

"Although this project will take several months to complete, I learned what the duties of a county historian are and what records the county historian is required to keep. This internship taught me the many ways in which to gather local information and what organizations I should contact in order to gain access to primary source materials when doing research,"



Joe said.

### **National Abolition Hall of Fame**

Lydia Gottesfeld, '08, spent ten weeks this summer working with the National Abolition Hall of Fame. NAHOF honors exemplary people from three centuries that have dedicated their lives, efforts and personal wealth to gain equal rights for all. Lydia worked with founding board member Dot Willsey to develop and disseminate NAHOF public relations material, including an invitation and program for the upcoming Inductee Commemoration in October. She also developed a database for the organization and prepared a grant application to help with the cost of banner panels that will be presented at the commemoration.

"The most amazing thing I took away from this experience was the knowledge that a small,

dedicated group of people who are passionate about something can really accomplish a lot. These people are working to turn Peterboro into a Historic District and tourist destination. Dot has showed me that if you know the right people and you are dedicated enough to something, you really can do anything you want



to," Lydia said.

### Upstate Institute Special Projects

As the Special Projects student fellow, Darcy Richardson, '06, spent the summer working with a variety of different organizations. She was involved with strategic planning at the Chenango Canal Association and the Madison County Department of Health. Her primary focus was on projects for the Hamilton Business Alliance and the Madison County Industrial Development Agency. She worked with the IDA to write "good news stories" about successful manufacturing businesses in Madison County. The goal of the project is for the stories to receive statewide and national coverage in order to encourage business growth in the region. The text of one of these articles aimed at Colgate alumni is



## Upstate Institute Fellows

**David Baird**, *Director, Academic Technologies*

**Pete Banner-Haley**, *Associate Professor of History and Africana & Latin American Studies*

**Raj Bellani**, *Acting Director of ALANA Cultural Center*

**Adam Burnett**, *Associate Dean of the Faculty and Professor of Geography*

**Sheila Clonan**, *Assistant Professor of Educational Studies*

**Susan Conn**, *Attorney and Lecturer*

**Rob Figueroa**, *Assistant Professor of University Studies and Programming Coordinator for Environmental Studies*

**Karen Harpp**, *Associate Professor of Geology*

**Dierk Hoffman**, *Professor of German*

**Doug Johnson**, *University Associate Professor of the Scientific Perspectives Program and Associate Professor of Psychology*

**Kay Johnston**, *Professor of Educational Studies & Women's Studies*

**Takao Kato**, *W. S. Schupf Professor in Far Eastern Studies in the Department of Economics*

**Jordan Kerber**, *Associate Professor of Anthropology and Native American Studies*

**Meika Loe**, *Assistant Professor of Sociology & Anthropology and Women's Studies*

**Carol Ann Lorenz**, *Senior Curator of Longyear Museum of Anthropology; Lecturer in Art & Art History, Native American Studies, Africana & Latin American Studies and Sociology & Anthropology*

**Bill Meyer**, *A. Lindsay O'Connor Associate Professor of Geography*

**Sasha Nakhimovsky**, *Associate Professor of Computer Science*

**Jaime Nolan**, *Director of the Office of Undergraduate Studies*

**Jo Anne Pagano**, *Department Chair and Professor of Educational Studies*

**John D. Palmer**, *Assistant Professor of Educational Studies*

**Beth Parks**, *Associate Professor of Physics and Astronomy*

**Jane Pinchin**, *Thomas A. Bartlett Chair and Professor of English and Chair of Department of English*

**Peter Scull**, *Assistant Professor of Geography*

**Nicole Simpson**, *Assistant Professor of Economics*

**Jill Tiefenthaler**, *Professor of Economics*

**Don Waldman**, *Richard M. Kessler Professor of Economic Studies*

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**Craig Cashman**, *Opportunities for Chenango*

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**Carolyn Gherardi**, *Parkside Deli*

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**Sue McVaugh**, *Mayor, Village of Hamilton*

**Elizabeth Monaco**, *Chenango United Way*

**Greg Owens**, *Southern Madison Heritage Trust*

**Fred Thibodeau**, *Park United Methodist Church*

**Peter Vogelaar**, *Mohawk Valley Resource Center for Refugees*

**Steve Winschel**, *Elementary Principal, Hamilton Central School*

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**Angela Kowalski**, *Administrative Assistant*

**Julie Dudrick**, *Project Consultant*

**Kate Lucey**, *Project Consultant*

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