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Upstate Institute at Colgate University

Winter 2006 Newsletter

Upstate Law Project

The *Upstate Law Project: Social Security Benefits for Disabled Children* was a new course offered at Colgate this fall through the Upstate Institute. The course familiarized students with the Social Security system, the barriers that low-income and disabled families face in accessing social services, the



Susan M. Conn works at the Legal Aid Society of Mid-New York with Colgate students Erin Hanna, '06, and Elly Arnoff, '06.

complexities in proving a child's Supplemental Security Income case, and more than a few law-related topics, including legal analysis, Social Security disability law, and legal writing. It required them to participate in a practicum experience and to write a policy paper and a legal brief for a client, which may be submitted to an administrative judge with the permission of the child's parent or guardian.

The idea for the class came from Susan M. Conn '79, a *pro bono* attorney at the Legal Aid Society of Mid-New York. Conn had heard of the work that students were doing in the community through Upstate Institute-sponsored programs and thought that a legal course with a service-learning component would benefit aspiring lawyers. She also knew that the nonprofit Legal Aid Society, which has endured numerous funding cuts over the years, would welcome the extra help.

Conn and Upstate Institute Director and Professor of Economics Jill Tiefenthaler co-teach the

independent study class, now called the Upstate Law Project. Fifteen undergraduates vied for the five available spots in the course, which began in September. The five students spent Monday or Thursday afternoons at Legal Aid's offices in Utica, where they learned the ins and outs of a law organization and observed Conn at work. They also met regularly on campus to refine briefs and policy papers and make presentations.

The course gives the students an opportunity to investigate a legal career and to consider various opportunities in the field of law. It also gives them the opportunity to develop valuable writing skills that are critical to success in law school, public policy work and beyond.

"To see them in action, it's sometimes easy to forget that they're just undergraduates," said Conn. "They have such energy, passion, and already a pretty good grasp of the concepts."

Music and Teaching: Colgate/Hamilton Program

Professor Laura Klugherz, a fellow of the Upstate Institute, has been working with several Colgate students to provide music education to local elementary and middle school students through the *Music and Teaching: Colgate/Hamilton* (MATCH)

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.

From the Director

The Upstate Institute Field School began last summer with a group of 14 students working with community organizations to develop and implement projects that have a positive social, economic, cultural or environmental impact on upstate New York. In addition to this on-site work, the students came together once a week to attend a seminar on the Upstate region. This model for the Upstate Field School proved successful. The students developed important skills and gained a deeper understanding of the issues facing the region and a stronger appreciation for what the region has to offer.

This January, the Field School took a slightly different shape. Four Colgate students spent two weeks during the winter break working with local organizations on specific, short-term projects. Ayanna Williams worked with board members of the National Abolition Hall of Fame to create a formal process for inductions into the Hall. Desiree Abeleda worked for The Exhibition Alliance to create a sitemap for their website. Dan Welch and Jill Ferris spent the two weeks editing historical photos and text for a panel display for the upcoming Bicentennial Celebration for Madison County. Though these students spent a short amount of time with their organizations, their experiences were intense, and they came away with new knowledge and skills as well as an appreciation for their community.

This spring, students are working under the Field School in yet another way. Several groups of students are engaged in research for community organizations through both internships and independent study credit. One small group is developing a Junior Volunteer program for Community Memorial Hospital. Another group is considering how to extend the educational and cultural benefits provided by Colgate to senior citizens who live in our community. Another student is working under her faculty mentor to improve the curriculum of a local nursery school. By expanding the Field School to encompass these diverse opportunities, the Upstate Institute is able to both engage many more Colgate students and make an even bigger impact on our community!

Jill Tiefenthaler
Director, Upstate Institute
Professor of Economics



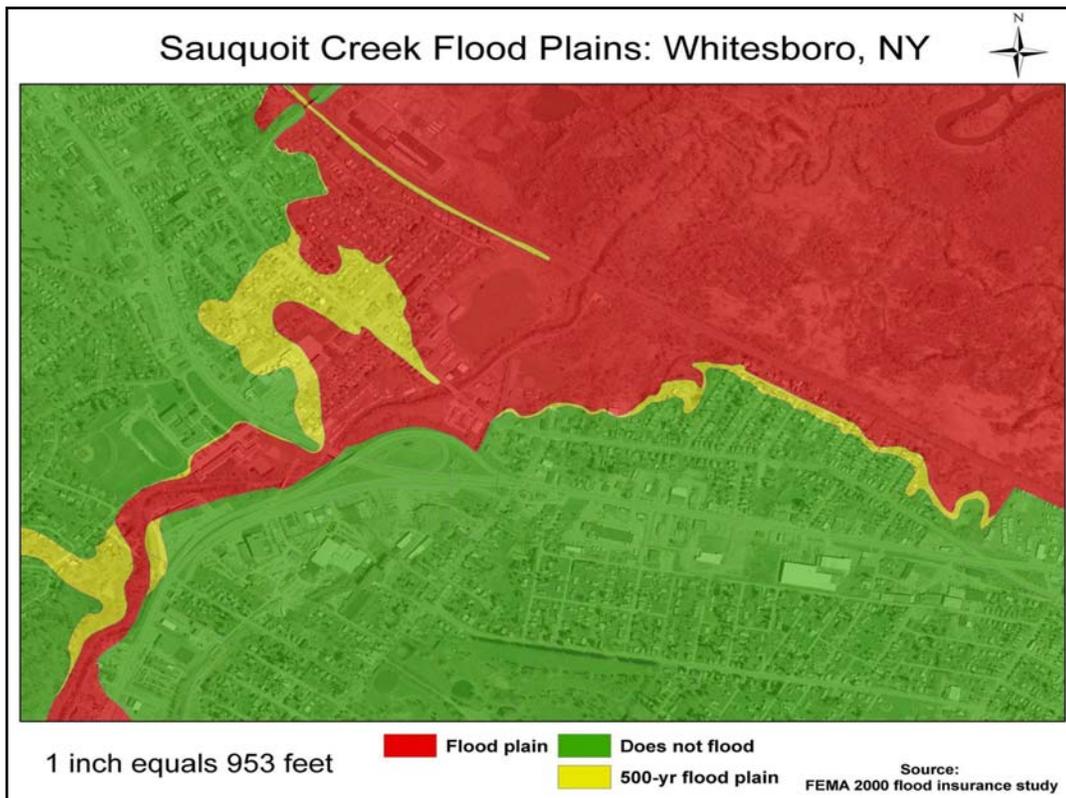
Upstate Institute Fellow Laura Klugherz teaches pedagogical skills to her students that provide music instruction as part of the MATCH program.

program. The program began informally seven years ago when several of Klugherz's violin students began working with a group of six and seven year olds in the village. That group of children is now in middle school, and many of them are part of the Bullthistle Players, an ensemble that often plays at art show openings at the Barge Canal in Hamilton. Several of Klugherz's current students also work with a group of younger children who participate in the Thistle Seeds, an ensemble of younger players that performs at the Chenango Summer MusicFest each year. In addition to providing private instruction to local children, Klugherz's students reinforce their pedagogical skills through Colgate's *Music 217: Private Instruction* and *Music 236: Chamber Music* courses.

Junior Jeff Davenport has taught piano to two local students through the MATCH program. "As a pianist at Colgate who takes lessons and participates in the Colgate Chamber players, I have taught piano to a couple of interested students with whom the Music Department matched me. Even as early as freshman year, I taught a young boy whose parents are both professors on campus, and another young girl who is not involved with Colgate in any way—she lives about thirty minutes outside of Hamilton," he said. "This variety of perspectives has added to my increasingly versatile musical background, and the experience has been deeply enjoyable."

Sauquoit Creek Basin Intermunicipal Commission

Colgate Professors Randy Fuller and Peter Klepeis continue to work with the Sauquoit Creek Intermunicipal Commission (SCIS) to examine environmental issues surrounding the Sauquoit Creek



affect the water quality of the creek. Another team looked at the history of flooding along the creek and created a brochure that provides engineering, land use and homeowner solutions that could ameliorate future flooding. Other teams created brochures that discuss the water quality of the creek, examine land use around the creek, and list recreational opportunities along the creek. This fall, the class continued to work with the SCIS on educational outreach issues. Three teams of students worked on interpreting aerial photos of the basin and mapping existing trails along the creek for recreational purposes. They also surveyed residents who live in the watershed to gauge their perceptions of

Aerial photos such as this appear in the brochures created for the Sauquoit Creek Intermunicipal Commission by the ENST 480 students.

basin. As part of their *Interdisciplinary Investigation in the Environment* course, several Colgate students spent the past several months studying the creek for the Utica-based SCIC, made up of local village and town officials.

The class was separated into five teams, and each team focused on one issue within the watershed for the SCIS. One team produced educational materials on the environmental history of the creek, especially as it relates to industrial and agricultural changes that took place in the area. They produced a brochure that considers how urban expansion will

the health of the creek.

“In many ways, the class was about service learning as much as about engaging in research,” said Klepeis. “Because of this component, students gained a greater appreciation for the communities along the Sauquoit Creek, the range of social and environmental issues affecting them, and the degree to which they should try to participate in problem-solving within their own communities after they graduate from Colgate.”

The SCIC is working with local municipalities to create new recreational opportunities along the creek, and is especially interested in educational outreach. The brochures created by the environmental studies students will be used as part of a proposal to develop fitness and nature walk trails in Pietryka Park in New York Mills.

National Abolition Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

The National Abolition Hall of Fame held their inaugural induction ceremony on October 22, 2005 at the Palace Theater in Hamilton, exactly 170 years after the first meeting of the New York State Anti-Slavery Society. In addition to central New York native Gerrit Smith, William Lloyd Garrison, Frederick Douglass, Lucretia Mott and Harriet Tubman were inducted into the Hall of Fame at the ceremony. The



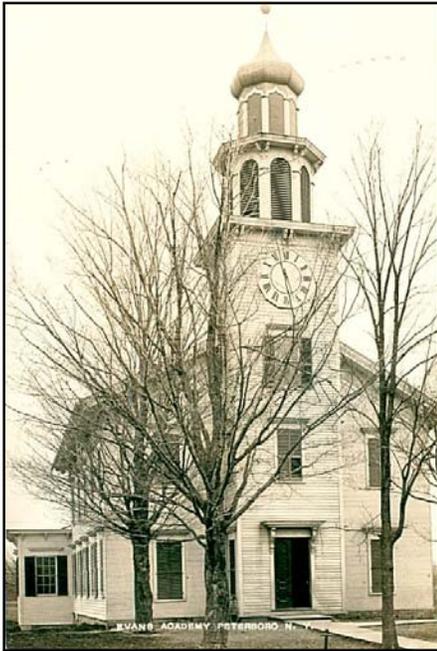
Historical photos such as this shot of Chadwicks during the 1922 flood were collected by the students and used in the brochures.

Hall of Fame's board of advisers, dubbed the Cabinet of Freedom, polled leading scholars on abolition and chose the inductees from their recommendations.

The National Abolition Hall of Fame is located at the Smithfield Community Center in Peterboro. Peterboro was a main artery for the Underground Railroad, and became a model of integration a century before other places made an effort to end racial segregation. The first meeting of the New York State Anti-Slavery Society took place in Peterboro on October 22, 1835. Peterboro was also the site of the birth of the Liberty Party—the only party devoted to the abolition of slavery. Abolitionist Gerrit Smith's estate was located in Peterboro, and he housed many famous abolitionists there in the 1800s.

The Hall of Fame serves as a place to honor the historical figures responsible for eradicating slavery in the United States in the 1800s. It will also bring attention to modern battles against injustice around the world and to educate the public about human rights issues. The Hall of Fame is intended to serve as a reminder that there is still unfinished work to be done to end discrimination.

The creation of the National Abolition Hall of Fame was a joint project between the Upstate Institute, the Smithfield Community Association and Morrisville State College's Johnson Institute.



The National Hall of Fame is housed in the Smithfield Community Center in Peterboro.

Hamilton Central School Elementary Foreign Language Program

The foreign language program taught by Colgate volunteers at Hamilton Central School has proved beneficial for students of all types. Sixty undergraduates studying French and Spanish spent six weeks last semester teaching roughly the same number of pupils in kindergarten through third grade.

The program began with the efforts of parents



Colgate students teach French to elementary students as part of the Hamilton Central School Elementary Foreign Language Program. Photo courtesy of Claire Menard.

and Colgate faculty members including Georgia Frank, Kira Stevens, Anne Pitcher, and Marnie Terhune. In 2004, the program was made available to all interested children in grades K-3 at the school. In the summer of 2005, Colgate senior Becky Armstrong studied the newly-implemented program as part of the Upstate Institute Field School in an effort to provide more of a long-term structure to the program.

Colgate's Center for Outreach, Volunteerism, and Education (COVE) is now involved, adding a service learning component to the program. John Gallucci, associate professor of Romance Languages and Literatures, and Pilar Mejia-Barrera, a Spanish lecturer, brought students from their classes into the program.

Several French Club members who taught in the program last semester also took part in a pilot course, coordinated by Georgia Frank, called *Foreign Languages across the Curriculum*. The course involved workshops co-sponsored by the Upstate Institute, Hamilton teachers, and Colgate professors. The workshops included discussions with Yukari Hirata, assistant professor of Japanese, who talked about the linguistics of second-language acquisition; Spencer Kelly, assistant professor of psychology, who focused on early childhood psychology; and Monika Burczyk, lecturer in university studies, and Leigh Cuttino '06, who talked about educational psychology and new pedagogies.

First-year student Jaleith Gary taught in the Spanish class at Hamilton Central, and learned a few new words as well in the process. "In Spanish 202 I don't come across words like rectangle, rainbow, and butterfly very often, if at all, but those are the kinds of words that young children want to learn," said Gary. "As teachers, it's safe to say we all began to speak more fluently because we had to speak to each

other in Spanish to set an example for our students.”

Upstate Institute Fellow John A. Gallucci’s *French 361* students also participated in the program last semester. Gallucci said, “The students had a very positive experience and are continuing on their own to build on last semester’s experience. This is a remarkable opportunity that allows Colgate’s academic resources to be used to benefit the local community.”

The program has received positive feedback from parents of the Hamilton students and continues at the school this spring.

January Field School Updates

National Abolition Hall of Fame

Ayanna Williams, ’08, worked with two board members of the National Abolition Hall of Fame for two weeks during January to compile a nomination and selection process for future inductees to the Hall of Fame. She researched the nomination and



Ayanna Williams and Dot Willsey, a member of the National Hall of Fame board of advisors, work on selection criteria for future inductees.

selection processes from other halls of fame from around the country and created several drafts for a form that the NAHOF may use. She also created an extensive list of organizations to which nomination forms and press releases can be sent, and compiled spreadsheets that the current and future Nomination/Selection Committees can use to re-evaluate and

From the COVE Director

In early February, the COVE and the Upstate Institute hosted what we hope will be an annual event: a Community Partners Luncheon. More than 50 agencies, schools and not-for-profit organizations were invited to gather on Colgate’s campus to learn about ways to partner with the college, either by building on existing relationships or creating new collaborations. The meeting began with a brief history of the Center for Outreach, Volunteerism and Education and an illustration of how our program goes far beyond “volunteerism” as commonly construed. I talked about the Center using a skills-based approach to civic work, with stress placed on teaching students about effective collaborative models, strength based asset mapping, strategic planning, grant writing, and public presenting as critical to creating long-term social change in our communities. Focusing on these transferable skills ensures that Colgate graduates will be community builders and civic contributors where ever they ended up after leaving college.

I also talked about the various ways in which students could work with community agencies, ranging from quick assistance with special events to writing grants, developing programs and serving as long-term interns. I explained that the COVE and Upstate Institute programs were cooperative and that the boundaries between them were somewhat fluid,

but that the main division was that UI projects tend to have faculty involvement and a curricular, academic focus, while the COVE projects are largely driven by student interest and energy.

Jill Tiefenthaler talked about several of the projects undertaken by the Upstate Field School fellows last summer and handed out applications for this summer’s session. As you can imagine, our guests were thrilled to learn that they might be selected as host sites for the well-disciplined, talented students selected as Upstate Field School fellows.

Finally, we asked the community partners to characterize their relationships with our students and comment on their experiences in partnering with Colgate. All said that they were amazed at what the students could accomplish, appreciated their dedication and skills, and thought that the COVE and Upstate Institute’s focus on skill-based civic engagement was an important force in community development. We responded by thanking the partners for *their* investment of time and energy in giving our students real world experiences that aren’t available in the classroom. Together, our efforts to foster in students a conviction that community engagement is a responsibility for all seems to be paying off.

Marnie Terhune
*Director, Center for Outreach,
Volunteerism & Education*

improve the nomination and selection processes throughout the history of the NAHOF.

“Working with the National Abolition Hall of Fame (NAHOF) was an amazing experience. I never would have thought that I could have gotten so much experience and insight from two weeks of work,” said Williams. “Because of the impact that I knew my work would have, I was very invested in it and am happy to continue working with the NAHOF outside of my internship to help with the selections process and in general meetings. It is really nice to know that I won’t be spending two weeks working diligently on something and then never returning to see how it was used. I now can continue to help with the development of NAHOF and that is a very rewarding feeling.”

The Exhibition Alliance

Desiree Abeleda, '06, worked on The Exhibition Alliance (TEA) website during the January Field School. She helped write content about TEA’s history and mission, drafted a publications order form, and



Senior Desiree Abeleda worked on a website for The Exhibition Alliance during the Field School.

created a new site map that would make the website more intuitive and user-friendly. In order to correctly portray the organization on the website, she familiarized herself with the organization and the museum exhibition industry through brochures, project summaries, and informal conversations with the staff.

“I will be returning to them shortly when the new website goes “live” to help my work and planning reach fruition. Even though I was there

for only two weeks, the experience I gained will be helpful in my future pursuits in public relations and I am so happy to have worked with such a great group of people,” said Abeleda.

The Exhibition Alliance

Dan Welch, '06, and Jill Ferris, '06, spent the two weeks of the January Field School working on a panel display project for the Madison County Historical Society through The Exhibition Alliance (TEA). Welch edited historical photos that will be used on the panels, which will be displayed during Madison County’s Bicentennial Celebration this year.

“I actually went into this internship with quite a



Senior Dan Welch edited historical photos for The Exhibition Alliance during the January Field School.

bit of experience with photo editing, but after the two weeks, I felt I learned so much more,” said Welch. “I’m already practicing the skills I learned in my own digital artwork. It was incredible to see ‘behind the scenes’ of various projects in the design phase, especially when working with people who are passionate about their work.”

Upstate Institute’s Website Launched

For more information on the Upstate Institute’s many projects, visit the website at <http://upstate.colgate.edu>.



Upstate Fellow Profile

Beth Parks is Associate Professor of Physics and Astronomy at Colgate University, and a Faculty Fellow of the Upstate Institute. This fall, as part of Colgate's Energy and Sustainability course, she and several of her students conducted energy audits for local homeowners. The students worked with a local contractor at several homes in Stockbridge and Morrisville to measure the homes and check the windows, heating systems and appliances. They determined the thermal conductivity of the windows to see how much heat was being lost through them and to calculate the potential savings and the cost of replacing them with more energy efficient models. Once the data was gathered, the students provided the homeowners with an easy-to-read breakdown of the improvements' cost and the subsequent total savings, which ranged from \$600 to \$1,000 per year, as well as with information about state programs that help pay for such home improvements and provide low-interest loans. The energy audits allow the students to take what they study in the classroom and apply it in the field, and to provide them with a reference point for classroom discussions on the bigger picture of U.S. energy use. Because the students met the homeowners while conducting the audits, they also learned a valuable lesson in home economics—paying bills and covering home costs.

Parks also works during the summer with 24 area high school girls in a science outreach program called *Discovery under the Hood*, which provides teenage girls hands-on experience with cars as a gateway to the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math. The program, a collaborative effort with Morrisville State College, is funded through a National Science Foundation grant. The girls—ages 14 to 17—spent a week living on the Colgate campus. They use the facilities at the Automotive Technology Building on the Morrisville campus each morning, where they get up close and personal with a car engine, using strobe lights and stethoscopes to monitor it as it runs. They examine a car's brakes, pads and all, and learn about fuels and what makes the car run. In the afternoons, the girls venture into the Colgate laboratories for a series of experiments on topics such as how a gas expands as it gets hotter, a critical component of an internal combustion engine. They also worked with a State Police trooper in measuring a car's skid marks to determine the vehicle's speed at the time the driver hit the brakes.



Upstate Institute Fellows

David Baird, *Director, Innovative Technology Solutions for Learning*
Josh Baker, *Co-Director of Outdoor Education*
Molly Baker, *Co-Director of Outdoor Education*
Pete Banner-Haley, *Associate Professor of History*
Raj Bellani, *Dean of the Sophomore Year Experience*
Adam Burnett, *Associate Professor of Geography*
Mary Ann Calo, *Professor of Art and Art History*
Sheila Clonan, *Assistant Professor of Educational Studies*
Susan Conn, *Class of '79, Attorney*
Don Duggan-Haas, *Assistant Professor of Educational Studies*
Rob Figueroa, *Assistant Professor of University Studies*
Randy Fuller, *Professor of Biology*
John A. Gallucci, *Associate Professor of Romance Languages and Literatures*
Karen Harpp, *Associate Professor of Geology*
Dierk Hoffman, *Professor of German*
Caroline Jenkins, *Associate Director of Media Relations*
Doug Johnson, *Associate Professor of Psychology*
Kay Johnston, *Professor of Educational Studies & Women's Studies*
Takao Kato, *Professor of Economics and Presidential Scholar*
Jordy Kerber, *Associate Professor of Anthropology and Native American Studies*
Peter Klepeis, *Assistant Professor of Geography*
Laura Klugherz, *Professor of Music*
Ellen Kraly, *Professor of Geography*
Meika Loe, *Assistant Professor of Sociology & Anthropology and Women's Studies*
Carol Ann Lorenz, *Senior Curator of Longyear Museum of Anthropology*
RuthAnn Loveless, *Associate Vice President for Alumni Affairs*
Bill Meyer, A. Lindsay O'Connor *Associate Professor of Geography*
Christine Miller Kelly, *Actress*
Sasha Nakhimovsky, *Associate Professor of Computer Science*
Jaime Nolan, *Director of the Office of Undergraduate Studies*
Jo Anne Pagano, *Professor of Educational Studies*
John D. Palmer, *Assistant Professor of Educational Studies*
Beth Parks, *Associate Professor of Physics and Astronomy*
Jane Pinchin, *Bartlett Chair and Professor of English*
Bruce Selleck, *Harold Orville Whitnall Professor of Geology*
Peter Scull, *Assistant Professor of Geography*
Nicole Simpson, *Assistant Professor of Economics*
Marnie Terhune, *Director, Center for Outreach, Volunteerism and Education*
Fred Thibodeau, *Pastor, Park United Methodist Church*
Jill Tiefenthaler, *Professor of Economics*
Don Waldman, *Richard M. Kessler Professor of Economic Studies*

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Laura Klugherz, Professor of Music

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Eve Ann Shwartz, Partnership for Community Development

Peter Vogelaar, Executive Director of Mohawk Valley Resource Center for Refugees

Steve Winschel, Elementary Principal, Hamilton Central School

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