

## **Upstate Institute at Colgate University**

### **Summer Field School 2005**

#### **Fellow Projects**

In the summer of 2005, 15 Colgate students worked for community, not-for-profit and government organizations as part of the Upstate Institute Field School. The Field School matches students with non-profit organizations and government agencies in the upstate region to develop and implement projects that bolster organizational capacity. Both student fellowships and community projects are awarded competitively. Students are compensated by the Upstate Institute for full-time work for up to ten weeks working with the community organization. Generally, the organizations are located in Madison, Chenango and Oneida Counties.

Field School fellows work with a community partner to create and complete projects that will have a positive social, economic, cultural or environmental impact on the Upstate region. As fellows of the Upstate Institute, students are responsible for building relationships in the local and regional community. Through this experience, students will complete independent work on innovative projects that provide a community benefit and in so doing develop a deeper understanding of the issues facing the Upstate region and a strong appreciation for what the region has to offer.

#### **Hamilton Central School**

Becky Armstrong worked with principal Steve Winschel at Hamilton Central School to bring definition and organization to an after-school foreign language program for k-2 students. The project offered exposure to French or Spanish, with the goal of it becoming a permanent part of the in-school curriculum. Becky obtained funding for the program, as well as redesigned the language lessons and created pronunciation guides. She also worked with Colgate professors to create a service learning opportunity for their students within the program.

#### **Chenango Nursery School**

Kristen Birchard worked with staff and board of Chenango Nursery School to develop new programs and enhanced curriculums. The main goal includes establishing new music and arts programs, organizing cultural activities, and strengthening the learning that occurs within the classroom. Kristen researched grants and wrote proposals that will make these programs possible.

#### **Opportunities for Chenango**

Emily Crantz worked with Bullthistle Rage Enterprise. The project helps current or potential micro entrepreneurs in Chenango County who have difficulty accessing traditional services due to financial restraints. Services provided to micro entrepreneurs include training classes and individual support to develop a solid business plan, technical assistance through local experts, workshops on a variety of business, agriculture and arts/crafts topics, low-interest loans to provide start-up or expansion capital, and a textile

and fiber arts incubator in which craftspeople can access looms, sewing machines and raw materials. Emily researched funding sources and wrote grants to get funding for the project. She also helped market the program via press releases, publications and newsletters.

### **Partnership for Community Development**

Alden Ellis conducted preliminary research this summer for a team of outside consultants hired by the PCD to create a long-range economic development plan for the area. In his research, he created a business study that tracks gross sales numbers from 24 area businesses in order to gain a better understanding of the impact that local events have on local sales. He also developed a “Trailing Partner” survey which was distributed to the over 200 Colgate faculty members and Hamilton medical care providers that will provide insight on how Colgate and Community Memorial Hospital affect the labor market in the region. Ellis analyzed this data through the fall semester as an independent study.

### **Southern Madison Heritage Trust**

Katie Flood worked with Southern Madison Heritage Trust to create natural resource databases. The SMHT is interested in having on hand a list of lands which area already under some sort of legal protection, as well as a list of lands which would be most valuable for future conservation efforts. Katie used GIS software to perform computer analysis on the data, as well as produce maps displaying different aspects of the data. She created GIS layer files for all of the different attributes, so that with the click of a mouse desired characteristics can be displayed on a computer screen and subsequently used to produce visual maps. Katie’s finished product will create reference files to aid future conservation efforts by the SMHT.

### **Earlville Opera House**

Alicia Gleason worked on several different projects to promote volunteerism and cultivate an regional interest in the arts. During her time at the EOH, Alicia thought about the way in which cultural education factors into, or even changes, rural citizens’ quality of life and to brainstorm some solutions and ideas for bringing arts and culture to Upstate New York. Alicia also redesigned the EOH website to increase accessibility.

### **The Exhibition Alliance**

Tim Hogarth worked to produce an education DVD about fine art storage. The production of the DVD was in response to the results of a survey conducted in partnership between the Upstate Institute and The Exhibition Alliance. The survey was sent to a large number of organizations, museums, and galleries in New York State to inquire about their existing art storage facilities as well as their current needs. The results showed that among other things, there was a large need for information regarding proper art storage. Tim traveled throughout the state in order to do on-location filming, and the DVD includes footage of 10 registrars, conservators, and collections managers from various museums and organizations including The MoMA, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, and The Corning Museum of Glass. The DVD will be marketed to museums, galleries, cultural organizations, and other places that may have art storage concerns. The information contained can be utilized by small or large institutions, and demonstrates

many different storage solutions for various types of budgets, including ideal storage conditions as well as best-practice under limited resources.

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

Lauren Johnston worked with the National Abolition Hall of Fame to help launch the inaugural induction ceremony. Lauren promoted and organized the Hall of Fame by developing promotional materials and press packages. She gave presentations to several local groups and wrote press releases to publicize the inauguration and work of the NAHOF. She was integral in organizing the first induction ceremony that honored several abolitionists from the nineteenth century.

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

Tara LaLonde digitally archived aerial photos of southern Madison County in order to examine reforestation. She worked with Greg Owens from the DEC and Professor Peter Scull. This project investigated whether soil quality could play a role in a farmer's decision to cultivate or re-vegetate the land. In order to examine reforestation, historic black and white aerial photos from the NYS DEC were scanned in Colgate University's Printer Services and georeferenced by using ArcGIS (9.0) in Colgate's Geography Computer Lab. CDs were created of the 1936~1937 aerial coverage of DeRuyter, Georgetown, Lebanon, Hamilton, Brookfield, and Eaton, NY. Each CD contained the town's geo-referenced aerial photos, an excel file of the RMS error, a plot of the town, an index file, and a read-me text file. An understanding of the timing and extent of reforestation in Eaton, NY aids in forest management policies..

### **The Exhibition Alliance**

Anne Newton worked with The Exhibition Alliance to create exhibitions for clients of the organization. She worked on a project for the Enchanted Forest Water Safari to design panels which celebrate the history and foundations of the park. Additionally, she worked on a traveling art exhibition for the Madison County Historical Society in commemoration of the Madison County Bicentennial celebration. The exhibition is comprised of 17 banners; one banner devoted to each of the 16 towns/cities in Madison County, as well as one title banner. The design of a banner was chosen to allow for ease in setup as the exhibition will travel around each of the 16 towns/cities and will be displayed in various venues

### **Chenango Summer MusicFest**

Dan Prial worked with MusicFest Director Laura Klugherz to augment traditional festival activities with events and exhibits on alternative and complementary health techniques. In its ninth season this summer, the Chenango Summer MusicFest presents chamber music concerts for strings, winds and piano by internationally acclaimed classic and popular musicians in the village of Hamilton. The festival includes the ever-popular Village Day that showcases Hamilton with music, food and events for all ages.

### **Madison County Department of Social Services**

Darcy Richardson completed two projects for the Madison County Department of Social Services. First, she researched the probable impact of new child care regulations in New

York State. New child care regulations could have an impact the guidelines informal child care providers may have to face in order to receive government funding through subsidies. Darcy explored whether the regulations will improve the quality of informal care or whether they will negatively impact elements of the child care market including costs, availability, and parental use of child care. Darcy also analyzed child-only welfare recipients in Madison County. The project is to follow-up a study done by Cornell students that attempted to profile a sampling of these cases across New York State. They tried to understand the backgrounds, needs, services used, and potential of these TANF recipients. Darcy's research focused on the approximately seventy-five cases of this type in Madison County, with the goal being to assess how the Department of Social Services can better assist these youth.

### **Lorenzo House**

John Steigerwald was based out of the Lorenzo House, a state historic site in Cazenovia. He put together a guide to the estate's art collection, to be used as a reference for docents. The guide is not meant to be a comprehensive reference to the entire collection. Because of the volume of paintings at the estate, he limited his focus to noteworthy paintings that would be of interest to visitors, primarily 19<sup>th</sup> century American art . John wrote the entries to the paintings so that docents without a background in art history can convey to visitors the significant aspects of each individual work. Included in the entries is information regarding where the piece fits into a general timeline of art history, what distinguishes the painting, and how the piece is related to the history of the house and its occupants.

### **Bright Beginnings/Hamilton Obstetrics and Gynecology**

Susan Taffee took her experience as a birth doula and developed Bright Beginnings in conjunction with Hamilton Obstetrics and Gynecology. Bright Beginnings provided free doula services to patients of Hamilton Ob/Gyn during the summer of 2005. She conducted initial consultations with Hamilton Obstetrics and Gynecology. She made several prenatal home visits to get to know the mother and her family better, to help them create a birth plan, and to provide them with any needed information or answer questions they may have. Susan was present at the births to provide support to the patient. She also did a post-partum visit.

### **BRiDGES**

Tori Thiesen worked with BRiDGES on four different programs. In the Summer Youth Employment she created and co-created presentations and power points for the youth employed at Camp Lookout. For five weeks, she educated the youth on topics like Leadership, Conflict Resolution, Goal Setting, and Personal Choices: alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs. She also worked with the Altered Books program. This program collected discarded library books and turned them into a craft based learning experience. Participating children decorated the pages with magazine cut-outs, stickers and writing that reinforced health themes based on the Madison County's Promise. Tori's third project was the Strengthening Families. For six weeks, she worked with the nine families on a range of activities to bring them together in a relaxed atmosphere. Finally, the Hot Summer Learning youth training day offered 20 nominated youth the opportunity to learn

about topics including tobacco media campaign, bullying, health lifestyles and basic substance abuse facts.