

Upstate Institute at Colgate University

Summer Field School 2006

Community partners from throughout the central upstate New York region participated in the Summer 2006 Field School. Seventeen Colgate students worked as Fellows at site locations including Utica, Syracuse, the Villages of Canastota, Chittenango, Cazenovia, Earlville, and Hamilton, and throughout Chenango County and Madison County. Organizations included arts and cultural institutions, human and social services, environmental agencies, rural development organizations, municipalities, and legal services.

Projects were equally diverse and resulted in concrete and high quality enhancements to the work of each community partner. These included arts and cultural management, exhibition preparation, production of educational videos, GIS/GPS mapping, database development, and legal services. Additionally, students conducted targeted research resulting in important reports for community partners on such topics as health care barriers for refugees in Utica, rental housing trends, regional economic development evaluations, and social service delivery enhancement models. Fellows also completed grant applications and cultural and natural resource inventories.

Students worked approximately 35 hours per week with their community partner. Students also met each Friday afternoon to talk about their projects and to participate in an eight-week Field School curriculum. The 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.

Hamilton Central School: Shamina Chasteen, '06

With Hamilton Central School I researched programs meant to help students who are at risk of academic failure. After finding a program that could be carried out at the school, I wrote a grant that the principal, Dana Chapman, may use later in the semester. While working with a director from the Picker Art Gallery, Melissa Davies, I shared the responsibilities of several projects. These projects included giving tours to elementary aged children, providing those children with learning opportunities, art projects on the Village Green, art projects at the Hamilton Recreation Center, and gathering images for a visual learning experience for the fifth grade teachers at Hamilton Central School.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation: John Demler, '08

John Demler, '08, worked with Greg Owens at the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation in the summer of 2006. 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. The project focused on documentation and evaluation of 19th and 20th century home, farm and mill site located on 7,000 acres of state land. This inventory will be used in a unit management plan, which outlines long-term procedures for ensuring biodiversity, sustainable timber production, watershed protection, opportunities for public recreation, and cultural resource preservation.

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Madison County Historian: Joe Evans, '06

Joseph Evans, '06, worked with Madison County Historian Sarah Davies in the summer of 2006 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.

Mohawk Valley Resource Center for Refugees: Alicia Gleason, '08

In her second summer as a student fellow for the Upstate Institute, Alicia Gleason, '08, worked with the Mohawk Valley Resource Center for Refugees in 2006. Alicia researched refugee access to health care, which is often adversely affected by the language barrier between refugees and health care providers. With MVRCCR 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.

National Abolition Hall of Fame: Lydia Gottesfeld, '08

In the summer of 2006, Lydia Gottesfeld, '08, developed and disseminated NAHOF public relations material. Part of her publicity efforts included website development for the NAHOF. She also research inductee plaque, panel materials and costs, and participated in coordination of induction and commemoration of future inductees.

BRiDGES: Steve Hayden, '08

In the summer of 2006, Steve Hayden '08 worked with BRiDGES 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 assisted with research on the impact of alcohol advertising on youth, which will accompany the finished video.

Chenango United Way: Julia Heymans, '08

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.

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The Exhibition Alliance: Tim Hogarth, '06

Tim Hogarth again worked with The Exhibition Alliance to create 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.

Colgate University Athletics: Sam Levy, '08

Sam Levy, '08, worked with Professor of Economics Jill Tiefenthaler during the summer of 2006 to assess the economic impact of the creation of a second sheet of ice for the Colgate Athletics program on the local community.

Earlville Opera House: Sarah Miller, '07

Sarah Miller, '07, 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, she created a presentation on the organization's mission for the EOH board of directors.

Villages of Canastota and Chittenango: Matt Mills, '07

Matt Mills worked with the villages of Canastota and Chittenango to upgrade their wastewater treatment plants so that they can address issues raised by the EPA Clean Water Act and NYS Environmental Law requirements. Mills physically located sanitary and storm drains, laterals, manholes, and catch basins, identified their condition and scanned any existing plans or drawings into viewable graphic images to geo-referencing this data into a suitable GIS database information system.

Madison County Department of Social Services: Jane Sheehan, '08

In the summer of 2006, Jane Sheehan, '08, completed a rental study of Madison County under the direction of Community Action Partnership and the Department of Social Services, both 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

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that describe the availability and affordability of properties within each township, as well as for the entire county.

Legal Aid Society of Mid-New York, Inc.: Carolyn Theis, '08

In the summer of 2006, Carolyn Theis, '08, worked with the Syracuse office of LASMNY. She assisted an attorney who develops Social Security Income cases for disabled adults by organizing legal files, drafting medical request letters, scheduling client appointments, meetings with clients, observing hearing preparations, and attending several hearings.

Opportunities for Chenango: Elizabeth Turner, '08

Elizabeth Turner, '08, 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.

Cornell Cooperative Extension: Chris Vincent, '08

Chris Vincent, '08, worked for Cornell Cooperative Extension of Madison County in the summer of 2006. He helped to produce an 10 – 15 minute video to enable farmers to professionalize their displays and customer service skills at Farmers' Markets across the state. He organized and implemented a statewide potato variety taste test at 50 farmers' markets across the state with the support of Cooperative Extension staff statewide. Finally, he was involved in the creation of a new farmers' market in the low-income Arbor Hill neighborhood of Albany.

Lorenzo State Historic Site: Sarah Woodworth, '07

In the summer of 2006, Sarah Woodworth, '07, 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.