

---

## **Upstate Institute Summer Field School 2009**

---

The Upstate Institute Field School matched 21 students to regional not-for-profit organizations this summer, giving each the opportunity to learn about the not-for-profit sector while helping the organizations to build capacity for future work. The students worked full time with their partner organization to conduct research—often a program, a report, an assessment, or a product—that built upon their skills and gave them an opportunity to engage in public work and dialogue on a variety of topics.

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

Dante Armideo, '10, worked with the Legal Aid Society of Mid-New York, Inc. Under the supervision of a Legal Aid lawyer, he learned how to represent adult clients in Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) cases. This representation included assembling relevant medical information about a client's disability from current and past medical providers, and preparing a brief to be submitted to an administrative law judge in a case for benefits with the Social Security Administration. The experience taught Dante how to perform intake interviews and ask questions, document a client's disability, and summarize the extent of these disabilities through the creation of a timeline summary of a client's medical treatment. He had the opportunity to write briefs and request a decision by a senior attorney in lieu of a full hearing by an administrative law judge.

### **Young Scholars Liberty Partnership Program at Utica College**

Teesa Bahana, '11, updated a database of alumni of the Young Scholars Liberty Partnership Program, a program at Utica College that maximizes the educational potential of Utica City School District students who have not traditionally graduated and gone to college or joined the local work force. The program is developing an alumni network in order to allow alumni to continue their participation in the program as mentors. The program recognizes that, while many of the graduates may not be able to contribute financially to the YSLLP, they may welcome the opportunity to give back to the program and serve as an invaluable resource for current students. Teesa created and distributed a survey to the alumni and develop a sustainable platform for future communication between the program and their alumni.

### **For the Good, Inc.**

Kelly Boyle, '10, worked with For the Good, an organization in Utica that runs the Urban Garden Initiative, a community driven project that provides inner city residents with fresh fruits and vegetables in exchange for work done in the gardens. The city of Utica has supported the initiative by providing two additional sites for the Initiative, which will allow for the creation of over 100 additional raised beds. Kelly worked with the organization on a variety of projects that will fund the expansion of the garden and the creation of programs directed at developing children's gardening abilities, such as a 4-H Junior Master Gardeners program and a Garden Mosaic Program, which was developed by Cornell University and serves as an educational tool that includes all cultures and generations.

### **Chenango United Way**

Allison Bush, '09, worked with Chenango United Way to update the organization's Community Needs Assessment, a document that was first developed in 2005 by Field School Fellow Kevin McAvey. This assessment looks at the specific needs of the county based on their social, economic and geographic demographics and is used as a tool to focus the United Way's funding. She also conducted mid-year site visits with each of the organization's funded programs in order to determine their progress and ensure success by year's end. These visits provide an outlet for funded programs and the Chenango United Way to ask questions and make suggestions in order to improve their program outcomes for the organization, and allow the United Way to maintain accountability to their donors.

### **Cazenovia Community Preschool**

Paige Cross, '11, conducted a survey-based study to examine the prevalence of and attitudes towards inclusion in services for preschoolers with special needs in Chenango, Cortland, Madison, Oneida, and Onondaga counties. She examined the factors that influence the implementation of inclusion. She surveyed and interviewed parents of Cazenovia Community Preschool, as well as officials from the five counties and more than fifty chairpersons of the Committees on Preschool Special Education. She then used statistical analysis software (SPSS) on the collected data, which will allow for an in-depth investigation into the preschool special education system and, in particular, the barriers that exist and the factors that account for the current provision of services.

### **Madison County Historian**

Ananya Das, '12, completed a documentary film this summer on the 170th Anniversary of the Madison County Fair with the Madison County Historian Mary Messere. The documentary covered both the history and the recent steps taken to expand the fair. To create the documentary, Avi conducted extensive research on the history of the county and the fair from newspaper archives located at the historian's office and at Case Library at Colgate University. He also created short trailers that can be used as embedded videos on websites that promote the fair, and materials that would allow the fair to reach their intended audience through traditional marketing and social network sites.

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

Moana Fogg, '10, worked with NAHOF to plan for the 2009 Induction Ceremony, in which Theodore Dwight Weld and Lewis Tappan were inducted. To prepare for the ceremony, she developed partnerships and conducted research on the two inductees. She began a docent manual for NAHOF hosts and the Smithfield Mercantile, a community heritage shop. She was also involved with the Liberty Capital Campaign project, which seeks to secure capital fund philanthropic investments for several heritage sites in Peterboro, NY. During the ceremony itself, Moana provided introductions to several speakers and provided vocal accompaniment to the dramatic presentation.

### **The Kelberman Center**

Jen Frenett, '10 analyzed data on social skill development for campers who have participated in the Awesome Summer Days Camp, run by the Kelberman Center for

Autism Services. This skill-based summer program for children with autism spectrum disorder and related learning challenges works to target deficits in social understanding and increase social awareness, attentiveness to peers, and general adaptability. The data will be used for continued research on effective programming. Jen also interviewed parents of campers and analyzed data on social skill development in campers who participated in the program last year, and worked as a counselor for the camp.

### **BRiDGES (Madison County Council on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse, Inc.)**

Molly Gamble, '09, worked with BRiDGES on the Madison County Alcohol Environment Project. This project involved research on the alcohol environment and alcohol-related public safety issues in Madison County, which Molly used to begin a report that will be used on the BRiDGES website. She also worked with the organization's prevention program to analyze results from schools in Madison County who participated in the American Drug and Alcohol Survey. These results were used to create informational sheets that inform students, teachers and parents about current trends in alcohol use among teens in Madison County. Finally, she worked on the organization's Tobacco Free Madison County initiative to promote their smoke-free apartment program among landlords.

### **Madison County Stop DWI**

Molly also worked with Madison County STOP DWI to establish a Community Collaborative Program with stakeholders in Morrisville and Hamilton. Molly assessed interest in a town-wide dialogue on alcohol use in each communities. She contacted local representative from each town in order to arrange preliminary meetings, then provided a comprehensive written record of interest in the project.

### **Hope House**

Chris Glendening, '09, constructed a Power Point presentation on Hope House, which focused on both the organization and its services. He worked with the organization, which provides daytime shelter and meals for homeless or needy individuals in Utica, to purchase a projector, and trained their staff members on how to present the work being done by the organization to members of the public. He also created a short promotional video that can be used for fundraising purposes.

### **Oneida Community Mansion House**

Chris also produced an introductory video about the Oneida Community Mansion House in Sherrill. The video is meant to inspire people to visit the Mansion House, and is now featured on the organization's website. Chris took several hours of footage of the grounds and conducted interviews with staff and board members, then worked with historic photographs and documents.

### **Bassett Healthcare Research Institute**

Casey Gorman, '11, and Michael Komosinski, '11, worked on the Upstate Health and Wellness Study under the direction of the Bassett Healthcare Research Institute. The study comprises five separate surveys, distributed to 55,000 permanent residents of seven

upstate counties: Chenango, Delaware, Herkimer, Madison, Montgomery, Otsego, and Schoharie. The surveys cover a multitude of health issues, from obesity to health care accessibility. The results of this study, which should be available in Spring 2010, will provide much-needed information about the state of healthcare in the Upstate area, as well as what health issues are most prominent here. The results will be compared to similar studies being conducted in an urban area (Syracuse) and Sweden to identify important differences in health and healthcare between rural and urban populations as well as between the US and other countries.

Casey conducted research for website content, edited the survey instruments, and translated surveys from English to Spanish, while Michael helped to design the basic website for the survey and worked extensively in testing the data entry components of the website.

### **Cazenovia Public Library**

Raul Guerra, '09, worked with the Cazenovia Public Library to develop a website and program for preserving and sharing the library's collection of old and new photographs of Cazenovia. He began by creating a database that held the photos and information about the buildings in the photograph. He then created a building-structure inventory to make the website useful for researchers, architects, and preservation planners. Finally, he created a virtual tour of Cazenovia, which is a clickable map linked to photos and information from the database. In order to make the virtual map practical for different organizations in Cazenovia, he allowed for the user to create, delete and modify various virtual tours.

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

Sarah Hesler, '09, worked on Madison County's Community Health Assessment, a document that the department completes each four years. This year, the document was completed using the MAPP (Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships) process, a community driven strategic planning tool for improving community health. Sarah completed research on environmental health issues and developed a report for the county, then compiled charts for environmental and other health data for a county data book. She surveyed clinic providers regarding access to care for the assessment, and completed a literature review. Finally, she attended and assisted as a recorder at the Health Department Health Summit where community leaders determined health priority issues to address in the next four years.

### **Youth Philanthropy Council**

Emily Katz, '09, completed an assessment of the Youth Philanthropy Council, a project at Norwich High School in which high school juniors and seniors learn about the importance and impact of philanthropy in society and how philanthropists find and fund worthy causes. The program began in the fall of 2008 with 16 high school students and six Colgate student mentors. Emily created an assessment of the program by using the online survey tools at surveymonkey.com and by interviewing the mentors and staff that facilitated the program. She analyzed the collected data and created a report that included suggested revisions for next year's program. She also assisted in the planning of a

conference on philanthropy that was held at Colgate in July. The discussions that took place as part of the conference are available on the Upstate Institute website.

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

Leighann Kimber, '10, worked at the Legal Aid Society of Mid-New York in collaboration with Susan Conn, a volunteer attorney who started the Consumer Bankruptcy Project. This project allows Colgate students to complete the legal documents involved in filing for bankruptcy on behalf of the clients at Legal Aid. These clients are then referred to a pro-bono attorney, who will be more likely to take on the case once the necessary documents have already been completed. By completing this legal documentation, Leighann helped to increase Legal Aid's capacity to take on more cases for those who would otherwise be unable to file for bankruptcy and be relieved of their debilitating debt. In addition, Leighann screened and prepared several cases to be completed during the fall semester by students involved in the Bankruptcy Project. She also helped to organize the Continuing Legal Education Conference held in October 2009 to inform attorneys about the project and encourage them to take on several bankruptcy cases for Legal Aid.

### **Agricultural Economic Development Program for Madison County**

Michael Palmer, '10, completed rapid market assessments of the four farmers' markets of Madison County: Lenox, Cazenovia, Hamilton, and Oneida under the direction of Becca Jablonski, the Agricultural Economic Development Specialist for Madison County. He collected economic data from customers at the markets and asked them how much they usually spent at the farmers' markets and how often they visited the markets. This data was combined with customer counts and analyzed to demonstrate the importance of farmers' markets to the local economy. Michael's preliminary estimates of market sales indicate that the Hamilton market sees over \$20,000 of sales per day. A county-wide estimate for the entire season is near one million dollars.

### **Iroquois Indian Museum**

Claudia Piacente, '09, worked on a variety of projects with the Iroquois Indian Museum in Howes Cave, NY, which strives to display history and art of the Iroquois people while educating the public. The museum is planning to create an exhibit in January 2010 that will focus on Native Americans on stage and screen. For the exhibit, Claudia researched thirty Native American artists, composing a paragraph for each to be displayed next to their picture and/or objects. She also worked to locate various objects associated with these actors so that arrangements could be made for these objects to be loaned to us for the exhibit. She also took part in a dig through the archaeology department at the museum and learned how to use various tools and identify and measure objects in an archaeological dig.

### **Oneida Public Library**

Rachel Solomon, '09, worked on with the Madison County Reads Ahead program, a literacy project in Madison County that is housed at the Oneida Public Library. The program was in need of a system for tracking students and assessment, to be in compliance with the federal National Reporting System (NRA) and the implementation

of the Adult Student Information System and Technical Support (ASISTS) database required by New York's education department. Rachel researched these standards in adult literacy and the ASISTS software, then created a user-friendly tutor reporting system for the program.

### **MadART, Inc.**

Rachel also worked with MADArt Inc., a community arts organization in Hamilton that advocates for local creative arts exhibition, education and appreciation. Rachel helped to expand the visibility of the program through publicity and created an online survey on their current programming. She developed organizational tools and forms to improve their office practices, and updated a contact database. She also assisted in their gallery committee and with staffing, and worked on several grant implementation programs.

### **Ho Tung Visualization Lab**

Through funding from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Kayla Sutherland, '11, worked with Claudia Johnson, a science teacher from Cazenovia High School, to create a film about the history of the environmental movement that could be shown on at the Visualization Lab, a 55-seat theater at Colgate equipped with a digital project that allows for the projection of 3D animation on an immersive dome environment. Kayla and Claudia wrote the script for the 25 minute film, then used historic and contemporary images in Adobe AfterEffects to create the narrated film.

### **Cazenovia Area Community Development Agency**

Kevin Williams, '10, built an inventory of commercial spaces in the Village of Cazenovia for Cazenovia Area Community Development Agency, a nonprofit that seeks to preserve the rural historic character of the region through education and partnerships. This inventory included information for each property such as address, utility cost, tax information, square footage, building attributes, and historic condition. He used Google Maps API to create a dynamic map of the properties in the village, which will be housed on the CACDA website, and which can give prospective business owners a tool for evaluating commercial space.