Center links College and County

In an exciting new initiative linking Oneida County and Hamilton College, upper level students will be given the opportunity to work on applied research projects that benefit social service agencies in our area. The new Oneida County Human Services Resource Center will be located in the Arthur Levitt Public Affairs Center at the College. Kimberly Torres '97 has been hired as the Research Coordinator to get this program started. (See story on page five.) She has been working with Preston (Chip) Bassett, Associate Planner for Herkimer-Oneida Counties Comprehensive Planning Program, and Jan Squadrito, Director of Agency and Community Services for the United Way of Greater Utica, who spend one

Continued on page two
Levitt Center Mission

The mission of the Arthur Levitt Public Affairs Center is to provide the resources necessary for liberal arts students to connect with the outside world in studying public affairs. All students are welcome to use the Center. Students majoring in the social sciences, particularly anthropology, economics, history, government, philosophy and sociology, will find our resources helpful.

The Center offers a doorway to the outside world that helps students understand the timeliness, the passion, and the breadth of public affairs issues.

Cover photo: Kimberly Torres, Research Coordinator for the Oneida County Human Services Resource Center meets with Jan Squadrato, Director of Agency and Community Services for the United Way of Greater Utica and Preston (Chip) Bassett, Associate Planner for Herkimer-Oneida Counties Comprehensive Planning Program in the Levitt Center.

Center links College and County

(continued from page one)

or two afternoons a week at the Levitt Center. Kim also spends one day a week in her office in the Oneida County Office Building in downtown Utica, meeting with local officials.

County Executive, Ralph Eannace, and Hamilton College President, Eugene Tobin, have both been solidly behind the formation of the new Center. President Tobin sent a letter to all college presidents in the neighboring area requesting their participation. The Oneida County Funder’s Council, a consortium of the principle funders of County social service agencies, has also pledged support.

In an intensive effort to get things underway, Kim, Chip and Jan have been meeting with Beth Totten, United Way of Rome and Western Oneida County, Professor Paul Gary Wyckoff, Director of the Levitt Center, and Sally Carman, Staff Assistant for the Levitt Center. Together they have devised a mission, objectives and action plans for the Resource Center. (See page three.)

Though less than a year old, the Center has already been involved in some exciting activities. During the spring semester, Scott Reynolds ’97 and Pat Ryan ’97 completed a research project in which they examined major changes in the federal welfare system. They compared local statistical data with state and national statistics. They also met with human services providers and funders. Using a computerized presentation, they gave their findings and predictions to the Welfare Reform Forum held in May. More than 100 local community leaders, local government officials, and private and public social service agency representatives took part. A task force has been formed to implement some of their proposals.

This fall, Professor Frank Anechiarico’s class, Government 338, will work with the Resource Center to investigate foster care in Oneida County. Even though state and federal guidelines are designed to limit the time children spend in foster care, the reality is that a great many children are in limbo for five, ten or even 15 years, moving from home to home, neither freed for adoption nor returned to their birth or custodial parents. This system is not only enormously costly, it is also generally agreed to have a negative effect on children who remain in it very long.

Students in Government 338 will form fieldwork teams in order to study the operation and consequences of planning to provide permanent homes for foster care children in Oneida County. The goal will be a report distributed to local agencies and made available to the media and state and national policy makers.

The Resource Center has potential benefits for all involved. Through their research, students will learn about community problems first-hand, and they will have the opportunity to apply their academic expertise to real-life situations. County agencies will benefit from the research conducted by students and faculty members.

If you have any questions regarding the Resource Center, please contact Kim Torres in the Levitt Center, Kirner Johnson 139, 315-859-4486 or by e-mail to ktorres@hamilton.edu; or Professor Paul Gary Wyckoff, Associate Professor of Government and Director, The Arthur Levitt Public Affairs Center, 315-859-4198 or pwyckoff@hamilton.edu.

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Leaders meet at Economic Summit

Despite its somewhat remote position atop College Hill, Hamilton College is still very much a part of the local community and a significant contributor to the local economy. Fostering more community involvement has been one of the goals of the College, and thus, when President Tobin was approached about hosting an unprecedented meeting of the community to discuss ways to improve the local economy, he readily agreed.

More than 400 presidents, CEOs, government officials and others from the Mohawk Valley came together to hear a report which had been commissioned by Oneida County. The principal presenters representing the New York City-based consulting firms, Deloitte and Touche Funtus Consulting and Hamilton Rabinovitz and Alschuler, Inc., Bruce Levine ‘77 and Ellen Baer ‘75, assessed the problems and highlighted the positive aspects of the area. Then participants broke into discussion groups and reported back to the entire assembly in the afternoon. Perhaps the most significant work was accomplished over a gourmet lunch in McEwen dining hall, or in the hall during coffee breaks, as people had an opportunity to talk informally about concerns.

This event was indirectly the result of the Alumni Fellows Program. Scott Reynolds ‘97, Alumni Liaison, contacted Bruce Levine regarding this program. Mr. Levine mentioned his work with Oneida County and the rest, as they say, is history.

The staffs of Auxiliary and Contract Services and the Levitt Center helped with planning, arrangements and registration. The day was stimulating and informative, and those who took part were appreciative of the pleasant atmosphere provided by the College.

Oneida County Human Services Resource Center Mission

The Oneida County Human Services Resource Center is a partnership between the Oneida County Human Services Funders’ Council and Hamilton College. Our purpose is to:

- provide the Oneida County Funders' Council with timely, high quality research on public issues.
- provide an opportunity for students and faculty to extend academic learning through applied research.

The Resource Center achieves its objectives by arranging cooperative research projects on public issues, involving members of the Oneida County community, faculty and students at local postsecondary institutions.

One of the Resource Center's highest priorities is to identify universal community needs both county and region-wide.

The Center is also committed to the examination of existing resources and those funders and providers allocating those resources. Sharing this information with human service funders will help funders and providers have a more proactive role in dealing with community issues and provide a more comprehensive understanding of needs in Oneida County. Such understanding can lead to better allocation of resources so that human service problems can be better addressed.
Alumni Fellows Program brings prominent alumni to campus

In mid-April, students from Prof. Mark O’Gorman’s AIDS and Health Policy class spoke with a well-known AIDS researcher at Massachusetts General Hospital. This was not an ordinary conversation, however. The “visitor,” Dr. Martin S. Hirsch ’60 was 250 miles away in Boston. The students were discussing, through use of Hamilton’s new videoconferencing facility, Dr. Hirsch’s work on AIDS. The discussion, which lasted for over an hour, was the first of its kind at Hamilton.

The videoconference was brought about through use of the new Alumni Fellows Program which enables students and faculty to draw upon the knowledge and experience of alumni prominent in their fields. Conducted by the Arthur Levitt Public Affairs Center, the program also serves to introduce students to an important kind of research not typically carried out on college campuses: that of gathering information by means of direct consultation with experts.

Through the program, alumni are not only personally brought to campus, but they are also reached by phone or videoconference to discuss matters of specific interest. For instance, in pursuing his study of the Superfund environmental cleanup act, Andrew Donehower ’97 spoke with George D. Baker, Jr. ’74. A partner in the law firm of Williams and Jensen in Washington, DC, he deals specifically with Superfund issues.

Among alumni the Fellows Program brought to campus was Russel A. Bantham, Jr. ’63. He visited the AIDS and Health Policy class to discuss his experience in the pharmaceutical industry as senior vice president and general counsel of Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA). Students found Mr. Bantham so interesting that their lively discussion spilled over the class’s three hour time limit.

Michael J. Quinn ’80 also took part in the program as a visitor. A Partner in the law firm of Berry & Leftwich in Washington, D.C., Mr. Quinn traveled to College Hill to speak to a class on Science and Technology Policy. His background in intellectual property law fit nicely into the class’s study of the Internet and its impact on the ownership of ideas.

“Both Mr. Bantham and Dr. Hirsch gave us a perspective we wouldn’t have gotten otherwise. They helped to round out the picture we had gotten primarily through books and articles by bringing the ‘real world’ of research into our classroom.”
- Kelley Benander ’97

“Mike was great. He opened the door to the outside world and showed us how this truly complex issue works on a day-to-day basis.”
- Andrew Edelson ’97

“George overnight mailed me more information than I knew existed.”
- Andrew Donehower ’97

Dr. Martin Hirsch ’60 responds to students’ questions in the new videoconference facility.
Coxswain on the Hamilton Crew. Through his interest in music he has sung with the Hamiltones, the co-ed a cappella singing group, as well as the Choir and the barbershop quartet.

Hailing from Ridgewood, New Jersey, Kirk spent the summer as a Registered Representative for Royal Alliance Associates, Inc., a SunAmerica Company, in New York City, having completed the Series-7 requirement for a brokerage license.

Kirk links with alums

Kirk L. Tashjian '99 is the new Alumni Liaison for the Arthur Levitt Public Affairs Center, continuing the work begun by Scott Reynolds '97. Kirk worked with Scott throughout the last year, developing the database of alumni(æ) who are willing to share their expertise with students and faculty. These volunteer alums responded to a questionnaire sent out in the fall, and expressed an interest in helping in various ways — coming to campus to speak, videoconferencing with classes, or consulting with students directly by phone. (See story on page four.)

Kirk will also be contacting faculty concerning their interests and determining ways in which alumni might be helpful. At the same time, he will consult with faculty regarding various ways to work with the new Oneida County Human Services Resource Center. This Center (see story on page one) will link students with public service agencies in the county in order to conduct applied research projects.

Majoring in Economics and minorng in Government, Kirk has been active on campus. He served as an Orientation Leader prior to the Fall 1997 semester and was Levitt Annual Report - 1996-97

Volunteer alumni are on-line

Information about the Alumni Fellows Program is available on Hamilton’s web pages, following the links through academic programs and the Levitt Center. Students, faculty and staff members will be able to search on “business” “position” or “area of expertise” to find alumni who are willing to help students with research (not to be confused with help in finding a job). This information will be available from any computer on-campus, but will be limited to on-campus searches only. This information is secured in order to protect alumni from outside groups.

Names of alumni will not be available through this search. Thus, once an area of interest has been found, the next step is to contact Kirk Tashjian, Alumni Liaison, at 859-4061 or 859-1730 and he will get in touch with the appropriate alumnus or alumna.

Kim Torres is first Research Coordinator

Kimberly Torres '97 was selected as the first Research Coordinator for the Oneida County Human Resources Center, a program linking Hamilton College with social service agencies in Oneida County. Kim has a record to be proud of at the College; she graduated Summa Cum Laude and is a member of Phi Beta Kappa.

Serving as Resident Advisor at the Rogers Estate this last year, she had the opportunity to meet speakers in the Great Names lecture series, including James Carville, Mary Matalin and Elie Wiesel. She also was a guest on Mary Matalin’s radio interview show which was broadcast nationally.

Kim maintained a hectic schedule, completing dual majors in Government and Sociology, both of which required in-depth research papers. A native of Wellesley, Massachusetts, Kim plans to attend graduate school following her year-long term of nurturing the embryonic Resource Center.
Scholar program expands

The ever expanding Levitt Scholars Program continues to provide a link between college and high school students within a two hour radius of Hamilton. Scholars are recommended by their advisors based on their scholarship and communication skills. The program is open to all disciplines. Students who are selected have an opportunity to hone their skills in public speaking through a required Rhetoric and Communication mini-course taught by Prof. Susan Mason. Then they are chosen by high school teachers on the basis of their topics. They give presentations to high school classes within driving distance of the College, thus giving high schoolers a glimpse of academic life at college.

Levitt Scholars pose with their advisors (from left to right): Associate Dean of Students, James Bradfield; (above him) Paul Gary Wyckoff, Levitt Center Director; Sally Carman, Levitt Center Staff Assistant, Prof. Sue Ann Miller, Biology; Jodi Pink; Scott Reynolds; Joshua Stahl; Prof. Dennis Gilbert, Sociology; Sara Shapiro; James Goldstein; Prof. Susan Mason, Rhetoric and Communication; Lloyd Dahmen; Rebecca Pierce; Prof. Steve Orois, Government; Keith Wandke; Monica Redstone; Bill Gabrielli; Dan Roberts; Jeremy Swan; and Prof. Mitchell Stevens, Sociology. Absent from photo: Nancy Botta, Heather Forte, Christine Gammill, Eli Koppel, Kevin Henry, Joseph November, and Kim Torres.

Levitt Scholar Topics 1997

- What are the dynamics of communication in political campaigns? Nancy Botta
- What can be done to deal with massive economic crisis in the developing world? Lloyd Dahmen
- How do care givers help the homeless? Heather Forte
- What are the consequences of insider trading on stock markets? Bill Gabrielli
- What is the importance of teaching ethics, morals and values in elementary school? Christine Gammill
- What are the best savings and investment choices for young adults? James Goldstein

Schools Served in 1997

Aquinas (Rochester)
Baldwinsville
Ballston Spa
Bethlehem
Bishop Kearney
(Rochester)
Brooks School
(Massachusetts)
Camden
Canastota
Chenango Forks
Colonie
Cooperstown
Dolgeville
East Syracuse - Minoa
Fayetteville - Manlius
Frankfort Schuyler
Gloversville
Greene
Maine Endwell
Manlius Pebble Hill
Marcellus
New Hartford
New York Mills
Nottingham
Poland
Rome Free Academy
Rome Catholic
Stockbridge Valley
Webster (Rochester)
Westmoreland
Whitesboro
GRAND TOTAL

93 classes
- Why do political incumbents have the advantage? Eli Koppel
- Why do we form groups and what are the roles of the members? Kevin Henry
- Ritual Solidarity in Groups: College Fraternity Pledging. Desiree Lovell
- The trial of Klaus Barbie: a collision of history and memory. Joseph November
- What is it like to live in a barrio in Bogota, Colombia? Rebecca Pierce
- How does the service industry serve customer’s needs while meeting the conflicting demands of operating efficiently and economically? Jodi Pink
- Can simple changes in welfare policy break the cycle of dependency on government aid? Monica Redstone
- Is community service essential to individual and corporate success? Scott Reynolds
- Genetic engineering - can we control cancer, AIDS and birth defects by controlling the natural death of cells? Dan Roberts
- The TV talk show phenomenon - can we believe what they say? Sara Shapiro
- Can Northern Ireland ever live in peace? Joshua Stahl
- Never take anything for granted and don’t be afraid to question established theories - a motivational approach. Jeremy Swan
- In what ways are people defined and restricted by their ethnic and racial groups? Kimberly Torres
- What is the citizen’s role in environmental policy? David Townsend
- Should federal tax money be provided to organizations that lobby or advocate controversial ideas? Keith Wandtke

"What a valuable asset for our area!"
-George W. Whitton
New Hartford
High School

"The students were captivated [and are] still talking about it! [She has a] commanding presence in front of the class [and] should consider teaching as a profession."
-Lynn Widrick
Whitesboro High School

"The training sessions were exactly what I needed to be prepared."
-Desiree Lovell ’97

Prof. Steve Orvis, James Goldstein, Josh Stahl and Lloyd Dahmen share a light moment during the Celebratory Lunch for the Levitt Scholars.

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Students tackle research

Using Teleconferencing for Court Appearances
Andrew Donehower and Andrew Edelson

The New York State Division for Youth is responsible for housing and educating hundreds of troubled youth in New York State. On average, each youth is required to appear in Family Court twice a year. When travel and security costs are combined, this amounts to a very significant expense for the Division. Andrew and Andrew analyzed the feasibility of using videoconferencing instead of “live” court appearances for youth in the Division’s care.

Andrew and Andrew did a thorough cost-benefit analysis of the issue, examining and quantifying:
- the costs of installing videoconferencing equipment in the Division’s facilities and in Family Courts.
- the likelihood of acceptance by judges and lawyers.
- the size of expected savings on transportation and security costs.

They also explored other possible uses of the proposed videoconferencing network for the Division for Youth, including medical care, education, and administrative meetings.

Evaluation of New York’s Early Intervention Program
Adam Hodges, Jonathan Lent and David Sylofski

The goal of this Senior Project was to determine what inefficiencies in New York State’s early intervention program might be contributing to the high program cost, and to recommend improvements to the existing program. Adam, Jonathan and David focused on administrative, design and funding issues.

New York State expenditures for early intervention programs for infants and toddlers average twice as much per child as compared to other states. Those qualifying for early intervention are young children with developmental delays (as measured by the appropriate diagnostic instruments) in one or more of the following areas: cognitive, physical, language and speech, or psychosocial development, or those having been diagnosed with a condition that has a high probability of resulting in a delay in development.

The students concluded that education, particularly of parents, is a major concern; and recommended more training regarding basic health and child rearing. For example, educating pregnant women about the impact of substance abuse on the future health of the child, and also including fathers in parental education programs were improvements suggested.

They also recommended looking at models of programs followed in other states, i.e. Washington State and Wisconsin. In the first case, state money is alloted to counties which demonstrate the greatest need and most cost-effective methods. In the case of Wisconsin, funds are directed to areas of greatest need.

Analysis of federal mass transit benefits
Matthew Engel

This research project for the New York State Department of Transportation included a study of the allocation of federal funds to states for transportation and the environmental impact of various funding decisions. Matthew specifically looked at the possible link of various transportation modes with carbon monoxide levels.

Though the effect of federal funding for mass transit on carbon monoxide emissions was inconclusive in this study, Matthew cited other studies that demonstrate the dangers of the current high level of vehicle usage and thus the need for alternate solutions. Also, economic problems are created by road congestion during peak traffic hours. Thus mass transit has the potential of reducing problems of pollution, ozone depletion and traffic snarls.
Scott Reynolds '97, Alumni Liaison for the Levitt Center, meets with Prof. Alan Cafry, Professor of Government and member of the Levitt Advisory Council, and Emmy McCord '97, editor of the Government Department newsletter, Red Tape.

"It is exciting to play a part in the effort to bring together the disparate worlds of academia and government in the interest of sound social policy."

- Robert Wild '98
Research Assistant

Levitt Scholar, Rebecca Pierce '97, describes her experiences in Bogota, Colombia.

Kim Torres'97, Research Coordinator and Levitt Scholar, shows Prof. Mitchell Stevens some sites on the Internet.

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Meet us in cyberspace

The Levitt Center strives to keep on the forefront of technology, a daunting task in the world of computers where last year is ancient history. The student assistants work to keep the Center current. They aid “customers,” those who take advantage of the computer lab to access databases and the Internet in order to conduct research for papers. Also these talented and technically savvy student workers develop “web pages” which describe programs, and topic pages which provide links to web sites that are sources of information for the social sciences.

The Center now has its own web server using WebStar software, and averages 24,000 “hits” a month. (The most popular page is philosophy.) A new feature, part of the Alumni Fellows Program, is an electronic “form” in which alumni(ae), those who would be willing to help students, enter information about their areas of expertise, and this is automatically added to the database. Students will be able to search on specific areas to find those areas that may be helpful to their work.

Alumni will not be directly contacted by students, and thus need not be concerned about answering questions during a busy day. The Alumni Liaison, Kirk Tashjian ’99, will be the “go between,” linking alumni, faculty and students. (See "Volunteer Alumni" on page five.)

Check out the Levitt Center web pages -- set a bookmark for http://public-affairs.levitt.hamilton.edu. Send your comments via e-mail to pwyckoff@hamilton.edu or scarman@hamilton.edu. We hope to meet you in cyberspace!

Related Programs

Semester in DC Program

Students in the Government Department’s "Semester in Washington Program" have the opportunity to spend the fall semester in Washington, DC, working in a governmental or agency office of their choosing. (See a list of the 1996 students and the places they worked on page 11.) They write a research paper related to their work; and some of these form the basis for Levitt Scholar presentations. Professor Frank Anechiarico conducted this government seminar in Fall 1996.

Participating in the Semester in Washington Program gives Andrew Camacho ’97 the opportunity to meet Vernon Jordan, civil rights leader, following President William Jefferson Clinton’s victory speech in November.
Urquhart shares UN experiences

A fortunate few students enrolled in Government 319, the "World Community: Fact or Fiction?" were able to enjoy the dry wit, charming British accent and fascinating tales of Sir Brian Urquhart, who served as Linowitz professor in the fall. He taught a course in the Government Department and used office space in the Levitt Center.

Mr. Urquhart was Under Secretary General for Special Political Affairs at the United Nations from 1974 until his retirement in 1986, and was one of the principal political advisers of the Secretary-General.

His association with the UN goes back to its origination. Following service in the British Army throughout World War II, he served as Personal Assistant to Gladwyn Jebb, Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission of the UN in London. He then became the Personal Assistant to Trygve Lie, the first Secretary-General of the UN.

During his years at the UN he served in various capacities including work with peace-keeping operations in Cyprus and the Middle East. He also served on the Preparatory Commission of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Memoirs of his experiences throughout an eventful career are found in his book A Life in Peace and War (1987), one of seven books he has written. Other books chronicled the lives of Hammarskjold and Ralph Bunche.

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Hamilton Students work in DC

H. William Adams ............ Senator John Kerry
Stacy Andris .................. Republican Policy Committee/Heritage Foundation
Sabra Barnett ................. Representative Barney Frank
Sarah Bokland ................. Representative Louise Slaughter/Alliance for Justice
Niisha Butler ................. Representative Jose Serrano/Department of State, Bureau of African Affairs
Andrew Camacho ............... Presidential Messages
Matthew George ................ Representative Sherwood Boehlert/Internal Revenue Service - Analysis and Studies
........................................ Division
James Halter ................. Representative Chris Smith/U.S. Attorney, DC Misdemeanor Trials
H. Ali Hilaly ................. Senator Hank Brown
Eli Koppel ...................... Senator Daniel K. Akaka
Clare Lubiner ................. Office of Administration/Correspondence - The White House
Ryan McNeal .................... Representative William J. Martini
Jason Osborn ................. Senator Jesse Helms
Mary Parzych .................. Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan/U.S. Department of Justice - Violence Against
........................................ Women Office
Nurit Pegrish ................. Representative Charles Schumer
Michael Reilly ................. House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure/Subcommittee on Water
........................................ Resources - Department of the Interior
Jason Santarcangelo .......... Representative Michael McNulty/National Security Council - Strategic Planning
........................................ Office
Matthew Sircely .............. Representative Elizabeth Furse
Caitlin Wade .................... Representative Amo Houghton/Department of the Interior
Keith Wandtke .................. Representative Bill Paxon/Heritage Foundation
Speakers come to the Hill

The following speakers were sponsored jointly or in full by the Levitt Center:


**Russel Banthan ‘63**, General Counsel and Senior Vice President of Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, and former Hamilton College Trustee, spoke on health policy.

**Michael Quinn ‘80**, Partner at Berry and Leftwich, spoke on science and technology.

**Dr. Martin Hirsch**, Professor of Medicine and Director of Clinical AIDS Research at Massachusetts General Hospital, discussed AIDS research with students via videoconference. (David Ho, Time’s Man of the Year was his protegé.)

**Dan Becker ‘77**, Director of Global Warming and Energy Program, Sierra Club Legislative Headquarters, discussed environmental politics.

**Peter Balakian**, Professor of English at Colgate University, read and answered questions about his poetry, including Dyer’s Thistle and Black Dog of Fate.

**Leila Talani**, Researcher at the European University Institute, spoke on the “European Monetary Union: Crisis and Opportunity.”

**Marjolein Hennis**, Researcher at the European University Institute, spoke on “Globalization and the Transformation of European Farming.”