

School a Key Partner in New National Child Welfare Workforce Institute

The Muskie School and eight other organizations across the U.S. were awarded a five-year grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to establish the National Child Welfare Workforce Institute.

"This is a great opportunity to partner with other experts across the country and make a positive impact on the well-being of children," said Sue Ebersten, an associate director at the Muskie School who will lead the School's part in the Institute. "There's a serious need nationally to provide training to the people who deal on a day-to-day basis with children who need extra support. This program will do it effectively and efficiently."

The purpose of the Institute is to build the capacity of the nation's child welfare workforce through the development of skilled child welfare leaders in public, private and tribal child welfare systems. For its part, the Muskie School will direct the creation of national training programs, delivered online, for child welfare supervisors. This project complements the activities of the National Child Welfare Resource Center for Organizational Improvement housed at the Muskie School.



Sue Ebersten, left
Freda Bernotavicz,
right

According to Freda Bernotavicz, principal investigator of the Muskie School's component, this funding provides an opportunity to continue a national network and build on the expertise in workforce development developed through prior funding from the Children's Bureau.

In addition to the Muskie School, partners in administering this 5-year, \$16.5 million collaborative venture with the DHHS Children's Bureau include the National Indian Child Welfare Association and the Universities of North Carolina, Denver, Michigan, Iowa, Michigan State and Fordham. The University at Albany in New York is the hub for the Institute and its partners.

Research Presented to Maine Legislators at Policy Forum on Health Care

Muskie faculty and research staff prepared policy briefs and moderated sessions for the Maine Legislative Policy Forum on Health Care held on January 30 in Augusta. Part of the Policy Leaders Academy, this forum is co-hosted by the Maine Development Foundation, the Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center and the Muskie School, and sponsored by the Maine Health Access Foundation.

Several Muskie faculty and staff wrote and distributed the following policy briefs to legislators:

- *How Health Insurance Works in Maine* by Gino Nalli
- *Innovations in State Health Reform* by Beth Kilbreth
- *Long Term Care Policy* by Phyllis Bailey, Elise Boldo, Laura Lowenthal Bly and Louise Olsen
- *National and State Medicaid Issues in 2009* by Kimberly Fox, Katie Rosingana and Paul Saucier
- *Policy Issues Affecting Maine's Hospitals* by John Gale and Jennifer Lenardson



Muskie Professor Gino Nalli speaks to legislators as part of a panel on health insurance at the Maine Legislative Policy Forum.

- *Mental Health and Substance Abuse in Maine: Building a Community-Based System* by John Gale and David Lambert

These briefs are available via the Muskie School Web site at www.muskie.usm.maine.edu under "New Publications." Other briefs and presentations from the Forum are available at www.mdf.org.

Upcoming Events

Fri Mar 27

Greater Portland Council of Governments Forum

Toward a Sustainable Regional Economy

Michael Shuman, author of "The Small-Mart Revolution"

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Hannaford Hall
USM Portland campus

Free. Please register at gpcog.com.

Wed Apr 1

Speed Networking

for Muskie School students & alumni

6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Wishcamper Center,
USM Portland campus

FMI or to register:
Tedda Yeo, 780-4563 or
tyeo@usm.maine.edu.

Thu Apr 9

Muskie Forum

New Orleans: Rebuilding an American City

Kristina Ford, visiting professor, USM Muskie School

7:00 p.m.
Wishcamper Center
USM Portland campus

FMI:
muskie.usm.maine.edu



Colgan Presents Maine's 2009 Economic Forecast



In January, Professor Charlie Colgan of the Muskie School delivered his annual economic forecast for Maine before USM Corporate Partners in Hannaford Hall on the Portland campus. Colgan provided data on anticipated Maine employment levels through 2010 and projections for key economic sectors.

“Maine, like the nation, is now facing a recession of some depth and length,” said Colgan. “In terms of unemployment, this will be worse than the 2001 downturn, but well short of the diastrous 1990-91 recession.” Other key points of Colgan’s forecast included:

- The state stands to lose over 17,000 jobs (2.9%) between the end of 2007 and the third quarter of 2010.
- The sectors most likely hit will be construction, retail and government.
- Maine could escape the worst of the national recession, but “moderated pessimism” is advised.

In response to a question about possible bright spots on the horizon, Colgan said: “There aren’t many, but the prospect for a number of large energy projects like the wind farm in Northern Maine could add several thousand jobs to Maine’s economy, aiding the recovery.”

Professor Colgan’s slides and an audio recording are available for download from the Muskie School Web site at www.muskie.usm.maine.edu.

Please give to the Muskie School Annual Fund!

The Muskie School Annual Fund provides scholarships that are crucial to maintaining strong graduate programs and assisting our students’ ability to study and learn here at Muskie. Please consider supporting this worthwhile purpose.

Instructions on how to make a gift are available at www.usm.maine.edu/giving. Be sure to indicate that your donation is for the “USM Muskie School.” If you recently received our annual fund letter, you can also send a check using the return envelope.



Please direct questions to:
Sondra Bogdonoff
(207) 780-4932
bogdonof@usm.maine.edu

Muskie BOV Chair Delivers Imperative for Higher Ed

Eliot Cutler, international lawyer and chair of the Muskie School’s Board of Visitors, was the featured speaker at Policy Soundings in January. He spoke about the urgent need for a comprehensive state-wide higher ed strategy that includes the University of Maine System, the community colleges and K-12 education. He also called for reexamination of the current campus organization and commitment to a 10-year investment plan.

A Maine native, Cutler came from his office in Beijing, China to share his perspective on Maine’s position in the global economy. He sounded the alarm on the state’s rapidly slipping position in the knowledge economy as high school graduates increasingly leave Maine for colleges and universities elsewhere.



Widely respected for his strategic acumen, Cutler has helped corporate and government clients grapple with complicated legal and public policy problems for 40 years. He was associate director of the White House Office of Management and Budget under President Carter and a member of Senator Edmund Muskie’s staff. He is a resident of Cape Elizabeth.

In its 10th year, Policy Soundings is co-hosted by the Muskie School and Portland Regional Chamber and sponsored by Pierce Atwood, Citizens Bank, Collaborative Consulting, Oxford Networks and the Forecaster.

In February, Cutler’s talk aired on Maine Public Radio’s “Speaking in Maine” program and his recommendations were published in the *Maine Sunday Telegram’s* Insight section. His complete remarks and presentation are available at www.muskie.usm.maine.edu.

Muskie Associate Awarded Prestigious Fellowship to Study Children’s Service Systems

Susan Maciolek, an associate at the USM Muskie School, has been awarded a two-year fellowship from the William T. Grant Foundation to look at strategies for implementing effective systems that serve children. She is one of five recipients of this prestigious national award in 2008.

Maciolek will work closely with Dr. John Weisz, director of the MacArthur Foundation’s Research Network on Youth Mental Health and CEO of the Judge Baker Children’s Center at Harvard University. She will participate in the Research Network’s implementation and evaluation of their evidence-based Child STEP’s model in three outpatient clinics, located in Maine, with a special focus on the child welfare population.

Maciolek is a co-principal investigator of the Muskie School’s Child Welfare Implementation Center, funded by the Children’s Bureau of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Prior to this role, she was a senior manager in the child welfare agency of Massachusetts for 12 years, most recently responsible for managing the reform of the agency’s service delivery system.

Hartley Appointed to National Advisory Committee; Rural Health Center Awarded Grant Extension



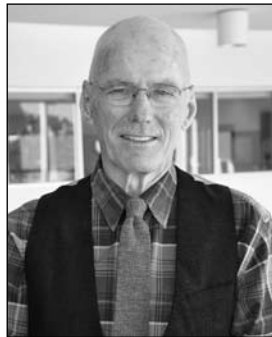
Dr. David Hartley, a professor in the Muskie School's Health Policy and Management program, was appointed by Secretary Mike Leavitt of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to the National Advisory Committee on Rural Health and Human Services. This 21-member panel of nationally recognized experts provides recommendations on rural health and human services issues to the secretary.

"Dr. Hartley's inclusion in this distinguished group represents our growing expertise in this critical policy area," said Bill Foster, dean of the Muskie School. "The research he is directing is making significant contributions to our understanding of how best to address the health needs of rural Americans."

Dr. Hartley is the director of the Maine Rural Health Research Center, which received four years of additional funding last fall, extending its designation as one of six national centers funded by DHHS. In that time, much of the Center's research will focus on mental health and substance abuse issues. More information is available on the Center's Web site at muskie.usm.maine.edu/ihp/ruralhealth/.

Professor Richard Barringer Selected as Chair of New England Commission on Land Conservation

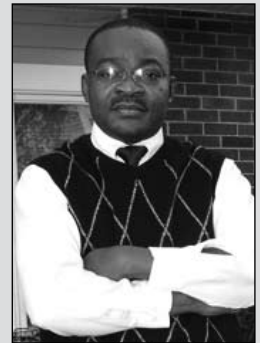
A Blue Ribbon Commission on Land Conservation appointed by the New England Governors' Conference will be chaired by Professor Richard Barringer, chair of the Muskie School's public policy and management program. The purpose of the Commission is to develop recommendations on protecting and enhancing New England's natural heritage and landscape.



Formation of the commission coincides with the 100th anniversary of the New England governors' first collaborative effort in November 1908 that was instrumental in creating the Green and White Mountain National Forests and Acadia National Park.

Professor Barringer has served in the administrations of three Maine governors, as commissioner of conservation and director of state planning; and is the author of numerous books, reports, and landmark Maine laws in the areas of land use, education, the environment, energy, economic development, and tax policy. Among his recent publications are the edited "Toward a Sustainable Maine: The Politics, Economics and Ethics of Sustainability" and "Changing Maine, 1960-2010" based on the Maine Public Radio lecture series of the same title. He is principal investigator for the U.S. EPA's New England Environmental Finance Center housed at the Muskie School.

Student Profile: Crispin Bolese



In 2001, Crispin Bolese and his family emigrated to the United States from the Democratic Republic of Congo to start a new life. Bolese had been a lecturer in political science at the University of Kisangani in Congo and Independent University of Kigali in Rwanda.

After facing the challenges of a refugee in Atlanta, Bolese "began to be more proactive. [This] attitude...increased my self-esteem, and that enhanced my ability to pursue my goals; all because I started making positive choices." In 2004, this change brought Bolese to Maine and the Muskie School.

"After careful research on many states in New England, I chose Maine," he said. "After taking more ESL classes [and] undergraduate courses, I was finally able to put together a solid plan for graduate school." Bolese is currently enrolled in the School's master's program in public policy and management. "When I'm in school, I have peace of mind, which is very important to me."

For his course in organizational dynamics with Professor Bruce Clary, Bolese evaluated the People's Regional Opportunity Program (PROP), an organization that was very helpful to him and his family upon their arrival to Maine. In January, as a result of the work he did, PROP elected him to their board of trustees.

Bolese is currently working as a direct support specialist at Goodwill Industries and lives with his wife and four children in Portland. Following his degree, he hopes to continue research and consulting in the public policy field.

The photograph of Bolese as well as excerpts of this profile are reprinted with permission from the People's Regional Opportunity Program. More information about PROP is available at www.wherepeoplecomefirst.org.

Alumni News

Kenneth Fredette, PPM '89, was named by Governor John Baldacci to the Maine Human Rights Commission where he is one of five members who will investigate complaints of unlawful discrimination in employment, housing, education, and other areas.

Katherine Freund, PPM '92, recently received a 2009 Inspire Award from the AARP for her work with ITN*America*®, a nonprofit transportation service for seniors of which Freund is the founder and President. The 2009 Inspire Award honorees are featured in the January issue of AARP—The Magazine.

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SOUTHERN MAINE

The Muskie School of Public Service at the University of Southern Maine offers master's degree programs in community planning and development, health policy and management, and public policy and management, as well as a doctoral degree in public policy. Home to several national research centers, the School conducts projects on a broad range of policy issues that impact people every county in Maine and every state in the nation.

Update is a news publication of the USM Muskie School. Please direct correspondence and address corrections to:

Jennifer Hutchins
Director of Communications &
External Affairs
USM Muskie School
P.O. Box 9300
Portland, ME 04104-9300

207-780-4150
jhutchin@usm.maine.edu

Muskie School of Public Service
University of Southern Maine
PO Box 9300
Portland, ME 04104-9300

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Muskie Planning Forum Features Student Research

Students in the Muskie School's Community Planning and Development (CPD) program presented their final capstone projects to over 40 practitioners from across Maine during the inaugural Muskie Planning Forum held January 16.

Brett Richardson outlined best practices for preserving Maine's highly valued landscape, Chris Maclinchy focused on implementation of the comprehensive plan for Old Orchard Beach, and Ryan Neale presented an analysis and case study of land trusts in Maine.

The forum also featured an expert panel on innovative practices in the field moderated by Kristina Ford, a distinguished visiting professor at the Muskie School and former director of planning for the City of New Orleans. Panelists included Steve Burns, the community planning director for York, Esther Lacognata, a planner for Maine Farmland Trust, and Peter Morelli, the director of development for Saco.

Professor Ford organized the forum to bring recent work by Muskie graduate students directly to Maine planners. The second forum will be held May 15.

Currently teaching courses on New Orleans and land use planning at the Muskie School, Ford has published extensively on urban affairs. She has written about New Orleans for *The New York Times* and appeared on the NPR program Fresh Air. She is a recipient of the American Planning Association's Award for Distinguished Leadership. Later this year, Yale University Press will publish her new book, *The Trouble with City Planning*.



CPD student Brett Richardson

www.muskie.usm.maine.edu

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