

Project Director from Cutler Institute Studies Domestic Violence in New Zealand

All too often, battles faced by victims of domestic violence don't end with separation from the perpetrator. Many times, struggles over child custody prolong negative effects, making it necessary for judges, lawyers, and social service workers to be aware of how domestic violence and child custody are linked.

In October, Anita St. Onge, Director of Domestic Violence Initiatives at the Muskie School's Cutler Institute of Child and Family Policy, departed for New Zealand on a 6-month sabbatical to research child custody in domestic violence cases and to share information with officials on how these cases are handled in the United States.

At a national workshop this fall in Auckland, New Zealand's largest city, she presented a session on different efforts in the U.S. to bring child protective services workers, domestic violence advocates and court personnel together to better meet the victim needs. "So often victims of domestic violence are revictimized due to systemic issues," said St. Onge. "Navigating the system can be overwhelming."

St. Onge has been working in Auckland and will be traveling throughout the country talking with domestic violence advocates, criminal and civil justice personnel and child welfare workers about how they handle cases of child custody when domestic violence is present. After attending a domestic violence court, she noted that "except for the accents and the fact that the lawyers bowed when entering the bar, I could have been in Portland, Maine or Brooklyn, New York. It is amazing how much we have in common." St. Onge hopes to bring home valuable information about the strengths and challenges of the court and child welfare systems in New Zealand.

Upon her return, St. Onge plans to apply the information she gains to her current work with advocacy agencies, courts and child welfare systems in this country. She has also been recording notes about her travels on her blog at <http://spaces.msn.com/members/anitasaint>. For more information about the Institute's domestic violence projects, visit the research section of the Muskie School Web site at www.muskie.usm.maine.edu.

Casco Bay Estuary Partnership Awarded EPA Grant to Protect Maine Waterway

Last month, the Casco Bay Estuary Partnership (CBEP), which is housed at the Muskie School, received a Targeted Watershed Grant of close to \$740,000 from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to further their plans to improve the Presumpscot River. This watershed project was one of 12 selected from 74 proposals nationwide.

"This grant is a testament to the value of this incredible resource and the many organizations who are working together to bring it back," said Karen Young, CBEP Director. "These funds will significantly bolster the efforts already underway."

The Presumpscot River/Casco Bay Watershed is one of the most developed and fastest growing watersheds in Maine and drains over 200 square miles, including the greater Portland metropolitan area. In recent years, the river's water quality has improved, but pollution remains. This grant will be used to support a variety of activities, including



The Allen Avenue Extension Bridge spans the Presumpscot River in Falmouth, Maine.

re-forestation along river banks, outreach to homeowners to reduce pesticide and fertilizer use, and monitoring of water quality to assess restoration progress.

"Maine's natural environment is a shared treasure, needing care to preserve its value. The Estuary is a

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Upcoming Events

Dec 27 - Jan 12

Winter Session

Tue Jan 17

Spring 2006
Semester Begins

Fri Jan 20

Muskie Celebrates!

*A winter party for the entire
Muskie School community*

4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Special Events Room, 7th floor
USM Glickman Family Library

Tue Jan 24

Policy Soundings

"Homeland Security:
Is Maine Ready?"

7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
Marriott at Sable Oaks,
South Portland

*see reverse for details
on this event*



CBEP continued

jewel among our many riches throughout the state. CBEP is our commitment to protecting what has been entrusted to us," said Bill Foster, dean of the Muskie School. "The Estuary's health is a compelling backdrop to the region's promising business and community growth. We at Muskie are proud to serve as the home for this vital work."

CBEP, one of 28 National Estuary Programs in the country, has worked since 1990 to protect Casco Bay and the multiple sub-watersheds that drain into Casco Bay. CBEP works with groups like the Presumpscot River Watershed Coalition, which represents dozens of government and private organizations concerned with improving fisheries, to mitigate impacts from watershed development and preserving open space along the river.

Muskie School Welcomes Health Policy Professors

The Muskie School is pleased to welcome a new member to its faculty. Dr. Brenda M. Joly joins the School as Assistant Research Professor of Health Policy and Management and will be aiding in the development of the new Certificate in Public Health as well as collaborating with Maine's Department of Health and Human Services in evaluating emergency preparedness programs. Dr. Joly previously served as a research associate/evaluation consultant at the Maine Center for Public Health and the James and Jennifer Harrell Center for the Study of Domestic Violence at the University of South Florida. A Maine native, Dr. Joly has a 1995 B.S. in Health Management & Policy from the University of New Hampshire, a 1997 M.P.H. in Health Education, and a 2001 Ph.D. in Public Health from the University of South Florida.

The School's graduate program in Health Policy and Management (HPM) also welcomes Dr. Stephen F. Loeb as Visiting Research Professor for the 2005-2006 academic year. Dr. Loeb recently retired as Professor Emeritus at Ohio State University. "As former chair of one of the nation's oldest and largest health policy and management programs, Dr. Loeb brings a wealth of knowledge and academic administration experience that will contribute significantly to the continued growth of our HPM program," notes Andy Coburn, Associate Dean of the Muskie School.

Portland Regional Chamber and Muskie School Host Policy Soundings

Each year, the Muskie School works in partnership with the Portland Regional Chamber to host a series of policy forums, "Policy Soundings," designed to give the public a chance to explore critical issues and meet with experts in the field.

This fall the forum, "Maine's Military Future: What's next for Brunswick," focused on the federal Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission and how their decision will impact the economy and Maine's future. Presenters included Muskie professor Charles Colgan, former President and CEO of Loring Development Brian Hamel and Patricia Harrington, assistant town manager in Brunswick.

The next forum - "Homeland Security: Is Maine Ready?" - will focus on both the risks the state faces as well as the business

opportunities available due to the increasing focus on security at the local, state, and national levels. Major General John Libby, the Adjutant General of Maine National Guard will be a guest speaker along with other experts in the field, who are yet to be confirmed. The breakfast forum will be held on January 24 from 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. at the Marriott at Sable Oaks in South Portland. A limited number of seats for students currently enrolled in Muskie School classes are available by contacting Jennifer Hutchins at jhutchin@usm.maine.edu or (207) 780-4150. Others can register by visiting the "Events" section at www.portlandregion.com.

Officials Complete 2005 Municipal Leadership Program

Twenty municipal officials were awarded Certificates of Municipal Leadership by the Muskie School and the Maine Municipal Association (MMA), having successfully completed the 2005 Municipal Leadership Program. Recipients represented towns and cities across Maine - from York to Presque Isle - and included one from Massachusetts.



The Municipal Leadership Program's 2005 class in the council chambers at Auburn City Hall.

The Municipal Leadership Program, a partnership between the Muskie School and MMA since 2000, provides in-depth leadership training to the state's elected and appointed local government officials. Over the course of four two-day sessions held throughout the year at various locations in Maine, participants gain leadership skills and knowledge about critical policy issues from leadership trainers, practitioners, and faculty from the Muskie School and other parts of the University of Maine system.

Staff News

Kay Dutram, Public Health Manager, Institute for Public Sector Innovation, has been selected to review manuscripts for a healthy aging issue of the *Journal of Nutrition Education and Behavior*, the publication of the Society for Nutrition Education.

This fall, **Professor Michel Lahti** attended the Canadian/American Evaluation Association Conference in Toronto where he presented research on a study from the Child Care Research Partnership with Maine's Department of Health and Human Services.

Leslie Rozeff, co-director of the Child Welfare Training Institute, Institute for Public Sector Innovation, was recently appointed by First Lady Karen Baldacci to represent the Muskie School on the Maine Children's Cabinet, which creates and promotes coordinated statewide policies and service delivery systems that support children, families and communities.

Ph.D. student **Nona Tsotseria** has published a book chapter on child labor in the former Soviet republic of Georgia in *Child Labor: A Global View*, which is the latest edition in a series from Greenwood Press entitled *A World View of Social Issues*.