

### National Child Welfare Resource Center Expands

In October, the National Child Welfare Resource Center for Organizational Improvement was awarded over \$8 million - its largest grant ever - from the Children's Bureau at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to continue current activities and expand its national role by becoming the coordinator for all seven federally funded national resource centers. The Center, housed at the Muskie School's Institute for Child and Family Policy since 1985, will now serve as the central point-of-entry for all services offered to state and tribal child welfare agencies by the national resource centers.

"This is a strong endorsement from the federal government of the School's national expertise in the area of child and family policy," said Karl Braithwaite, dean of the School. "Maine can be proud that it houses a leading national institution that is improving the lives of children and families throughout the nation."

In addition to its new responsibilities, the Center will continue to build the organizational capacity of child

welfare agencies to assure the safety, permanency and well-being of children and families. The Center helps agencies establish goals, objectives and outcomes, develop strategic plans, improve human resources management, develop methods for measuring outcomes and improving services, and create better collaborative relationships with other organizations.

"We are honored to receive the grant again," said Center Director Peter Watson. "The additional resources will help us deliver more technical assistance to states and tribes and coordinate all the Resource Centers as we work together to expand agency capacity and improve outcomes for children and families across the country."

This year's grant includes up to \$1.4 million for the first year and \$1.75 million for each of the following four years. For more information about the National Resource Center, visit [www.muskie.usm.maine.edu/helpkids](http://www.muskie.usm.maine.edu/helpkids), or call Peter Watson at (207) 228-8330.

### Lee Auto Malls Gift Strengthens Muskie School Outreach

The Lee Auto Malls, a family of auto dealerships throughout Maine, have made a \$250,000 gift in honor of community and business leader Shep Lee to fund The Shepard Lee Community Hall in the future home of the Muskie School. The Hall will support the School's educational outreach services by providing meeting space that can be used for classes as well as a site for workshops, forums, and other meetings on a range of public policy issues.

"With this generous gift, our new home will have an additional venue that allows us to inform and engage the public more effectively on issues of the day," said Dean Karl Braithwaite. "Civic engagement is an important part of the School's mission." The building campaign for the School's first permanent home on USM's Portland campus will be completed by December 31st. Construction planning will begin in 2005.

"I'm proud and humbled to have our name linked with a school that has done so much, and now has the potential to do so much more, furthering Ed

Muskie's legacy of enriching civic life," said Lee. "It's also gratifying to be part of a facility designed to help educate our future leaders, and provide a space for the free and open exchange of ideas."

Lee, chairman of the board of The Lee Auto Malls, has been involved in his family's auto business since graduating from Bowdoin in 1947. Long recognized as a leader in the industry, President Carter appointed him to take a lead role in organizing the White House Conference on Small Business. He has received numerous honors for his community service, including the Humanitarian of the Year Award by The Spurwink School and The Spurwink Institute, and the Roger Baldwin Award for exceptional service to the American Civil Liberties Union.

Lee has served on the School's Board of Visitors, the USM School of Business Advisory Council, the USM Institute for Family-Owned Business Advisory Board, and the University of Maine School of Law's Board of Visitors.

The USM Muskie School of Public Service educates leaders, informs public policy and broadens civic participation. The School links scholarship with practice to improve the lives of people of all ages, in every county in Maine, and every state in the nation.

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## Upcoming Events

Wed Nov 17

### Career Seminar

*A Panel Discussion*

presented by  
the Muskie School  
Alumni Association

Room 506, Law Building  
USM Portland Campus  
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

*Refreshments will be served  
following the event.*

Mon Nov 29

### Muskie Brown Bag Lunch

*Academic Publication  
Workshop*

Room 522A, Law Building  
USM Portland Campus  
12:00 - 1:30 p.m.

*Please bring your lunch.*

Wed Dec 8

### Maine Neighborhoods Conference

*Building Strong Communities*

presented by the  
Greater Portland  
Neighborhoods Coalition

Holiday Inn By the Bay  
Portland

7:45 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Block party: 5:00 - 7:30 p.m.

To register for this event, visit  
[www.livinginportland.org](http://www.livinginportland.org).



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## Juvenile Recidivism Report Released

The Maine Criminal Justice Statistical Analysis Center (SAC), a collaboration between the Muskie School and the Maine Department of Corrections, Division of Juvenile Services, released the 1998-2001 Juvenile Recidivism Report, the fourth in an ongoing series. Despite declining juvenile arrest rates over the past 5 years, the study found that adjudications involving juveniles rose 43% due to increases in misdemeanor offenses. The majority of cases involved property offenses, but drug and alcohol offenses saw the biggest increase at 216% across four years. The report also notes that the number of female offenders increased 81% since 1998, yet the rate at which girls repeat offenses is lower than for boys. The report concludes with areas for future research and ways to expand the data in order to support future studies. The report is available in PDF format on the Maine SAC Web site at <http://muskie.usm.maine.edu/justiceresearch>.

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## Environmental Planning Course to be Telecast to Augusta

This spring semester the Muskie School's Community Planning and Development master's program will be extending the course on local environmental planning to the School's Water Street classroom in Augusta via the School's new video conferencing system. This course, CPD 668, provides an in-depth introduction to the science and practical planning issues involved in protecting biodiversity, water quality and character in the community landscape. It is taught by Dr. Sam Merrill, a conservation scientist, experienced state government biologist, and former Maine land trust director. The course will meet at 2:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. on Mondays. For information, call Carlene Goldman at (207) 780-4864.

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## Muskie School Makes International Connections

In October, the School hosted two guests from abroad to develop School relationships with academic and research institutions in other countries. Dr. David Godden, Director of the Centre for Rural Health Research and Policy, which is affiliated with the University of Aberdeen in Scotland, visited researchers at the Institute for Health Policy and discussed policy differences between the U.S. and United Kingdom around rural health. Muskie faculty and staff also met with Ron Bloom, the president of the American University of Bulgaria, to investigate a possible relationship between the University and the School. Faculty and staff will continue to explore opportunities for collaboration such as faculty and student exchanges and joint research projects.

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## Faculty, Students Support Neighborhoods Conference

On December 8, the Greater Portland Neighborhoods Coalition will present the second annual statewide conference, "Maine Neighborhoods: Building Strong Communities," at the Holiday Inn By the Bay in Portland. Muskie faculty, including professors Dick Barringer, Jack Kartez, Mark Lapping, Sam Merrill and Evan Richert, will be giving presentations and facilitating workshops at the day-long event, which concludes with a neighborhood block party. Students from the Community Planning and Development program will be recording workshops that focus on how to organize, engage and sustain citizen participation in the development of Maine's towns and cities. Registration information is available on the Coalition's Web site at [www.livinginportland.org](http://www.livinginportland.org).

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## Staff News

Professor **Elise Bolda**, National Program Director, Community Partnership for Older Adults, participated on a panel at the 56th Annual Conference of Southwest Foundations in Nevada to discuss ways that local foundations can contribute to long term care and systems improvements to meet needs of older adults.

**Amy Detgen**, evaluation coordinator at the Institute for Public Sector Innovation (IPSI), took part in a Maine Association of Nonprofits' panel presentation held this fall at the University of Maine at Augusta entitled "Meeting Community Needs Through Strategic Assessment."

Professors **Jack Kartez** and **Sam Merrill**, as well as Ph.D. student **Sylvia Most** have authored an article in the current issue of *Maine Policy Review* entitled "Smart growth, state policy and public process in Maine: The Dunstan Crossing experience." It is available online at [www.umaine.edu/mcsc/mpr](http://www.umaine.edu/mcsc/mpr).

**John Gale**, research associate at the Institute for Health Policy, has been elected to the Board of the New England Rural Health Roundtable. He was also asked to serve on a national advisory committee for rural health clinics through the National Association of Rural Health Clinics.

This fall, Professor **David Lambert** gave a talk on improving access to mental health services in rural areas at the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Training Institute for State Mental Health Olmstead Coordinators in Washington, D.C. He also co-presented a teleconference on combating stigma of mental health in rural areas and wrote a column for the National ADS (Address Discrimination and Stigma) Center. Both can be found at [www.adscenter.org](http://www.adscenter.org).

In October, Professor **Mark Lapping** gave a presentation before the Maine Local Foods Task Force, chaired by Karen Baldacci. He also gave the keynote on "The Tax Cap Proposal & Maine's Business Climate" before the Southern Maine Economic Development District in Saco.

In September, **Donna Lerman**, Director of Health Services Training and Organizational Development at IPSI, facilitated a roundtable session about civic engagement at the National League of Cities' 12th Annual Leadership Summit in Charleston, South Carolina. Prior to the conference, Lerman published an article in the National League of Cities Weekly about the role of civic engagement in the social construction of democracy.

In October, Professor **Evan Richert** co-facilitated the Ocean Observation Scientists Meeting at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Massachusetts and gave a presentation at The Gulf of Maine Summit in St. Andrews, New Brunswick.

**George Shaler**, Evaluation Coordinator of the Maine Statistical Analysis Center (SAC), gave a presentation at the annual Justice Research Statistics Association conference. **Carmen Dorsey**, Maine SAC Director, also moderated a panel entitled "Civil Versus Criminal Justice." Shaler and Dorsey co-facilitated a session entitled "Lincoln County Weed & Seed: An Implementation Evaluation of a Rural Crime Prevention Project."