

The Carsey Forum

Issue #2, August 2005

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Announcing Carsey's Big Move:

The Carsey Institute has left its digs in Hewitt Hall for a new home in Huddleston Hall, on Main Street in downtown Durham. The new, much larger, space in Huddleston can accommodate the growing needs of the Institute, including the addition of new Carsey staff, student work stations, and at some future point, a more appropriate home for the UNH Survey Center and its cramped group of interviewers. Look for us on Huddleston's ground floor.

Spotlight On

The Northern New England Indicators Web Site

The Carsey Institute announces the release of a new public web site offering at-your-fingertips access to social indicators data and maps. Visit <http://nneindicators.unh.edu> to download the most recent data on population, income and poverty, employment, families and children, housing, education, health, and crime and safety by state and county level for New Hampshire, Vermont, and Maine. The site also features quick highlights and charts, state and county rankings, and make your own maps.

The Carsey Institute seeks to hire a talented graduate student to manage this web site, please inquire about this position at amy.seif@unh.edu.

Other News

Research Development Working Group Offers Workshops and More

The Carsey Institute reminds faculty that it has recruited four UNH statisticians and methodologists in the social sciences and health fields to be available on a part-time basis to advise faculty on developing research proposals in the social sciences and health fields. To make an appointment to meet with a member of the Carsey Research Development Working Group – Suzanne Graham (Education), Lawrence Hamilton (Sociology), Rebecca Warner (Psychology), Robert Woodward (Health, Management and Policy and Economics), or David Pillemer (Psychology) – contact the Carsey Institute at 862-2821.

Look for upcoming announcements from the working group about research design workshops for early career faculty at noontime on September 28, October 19, and November 16, 2005 at <http://www.carseyinstitute.unh.edu/researchdev.html>.

Meet the 2005-06 Civic Journalism Fellow

This fall will mark the second year of a new fellowship program for outstanding juniors and seniors interested in journalism and community affairs. Meghann McCluskey'06, who is majoring in English/journalism, received this year's Civic Journalism Fellowship. Meghann has three year's experience volunteering with NARAL Pro-Choice New Hampshire and has reported on a variety of social issues from refugees in the Congo to children coping with cancer. She will be writing newspaper columns on family and community issues in the Seacoast throughout the academic year, as required by the fellowship.

Applications for the fellowship are announced in spring semester at <http://www.carseyinstitute.unh.edu/journalism.html>.

Meet the 2005 Winant Fellows

Mary Kathleen ("Katie") Whittemore'05, Angela Borges'05, and Mary Goldthwaite'05 are this year's recipients of the Winant fellowships, awards made in memory of the late New Hampshire Governor John G. Winant that support public service internships in New Hampshire. This summer, Angela, who graduated with a major in psychology and women's studies, is interning with A Safe Place to prevent violence against women. Mary, who graduated from women's studies and studio arts, is bringing together her two interests at the Artists in Residence Program, helping teenage girls learn healthy body image. Katie will pursue her Winant-funded internship in the fall with the NH Health Minority Coalition when she returns from her summer at the Ecuadorian Diabetes Foundation in Quito, Ecuador.

Applications for next year's fellowships will be announced early in spring semester at <http://www.carseyinstitute.unh.edu/fellowships.html>. Applicants must be residents of New Hampshire.

Carsey Releases its Strategic Plan and Annual Report

The Carsey Institute is looking ahead to its next five years in the Carsey Strategic Plan and looks back on the accomplishments of its first year in the Annual Report FY05. Visit <http://www.carseyinstitute.unh.edu/about.html> to download these new documents.

New Projects

Investing in Rural Families and Communities

With new awards from the Annie E. Casey Foundation and the Kellogg Foundation, the Carsey Institute is launching a three-year project to build awareness and understanding of rural families and communities and contribute to fresh thinking about effective and realistic rural policy and programs. Carsey research on the core policy issues in rural America will reach policy makers, community development practitioners, researchers, and the general public through a dynamic series of reports on topical rural issues, focused policy briefs and fact sheets, and a well-developed communications strategy.

“The Casey grant is a wonderful launch for us,” says Mil Duncan, founding director of the Carsey Institute. “With this generous grant, we can provide good empirical analysis on the demographic and economic changes sweeping over rural communities and the challenges they present for children, youth and families. The Kellogg award deepens this work and gives us the opportunity to undertake in depth research on changes in rural regions of America and assess the implications for future rural development as the Farm Bill and other policies important to rural communities are being debated.”

Policy Leadership for a Changing Region

The next three years at the Institute will also be defined by a new initiative to strengthen, deepen and connect the leadership of northern New England’s nonprofits so they can better serve vulnerable families and disadvantaged communities and address root causes of poverty. With a new award from Jane’s Trust, this initiative will build the policy savvy and analytical capacity of nonprofit leaders, inspire and teach them to be more strategic and collaborative, link them to one another and to regional and national leaders in their field, help them develop “next generation” leadership, and provide ongoing policy and evaluation resources.

“It seems that the solutions to many of the issues we are all grappling with across the Northern Forest region may lie in a collective approach and a sharing of resources and information, but we are in a cycle where we have neither the time nor the money to make this happen, says Cathy McDowell, Executive Director of the Family Resource Center in Gorham. “The Carsey Institute plan to bring New England leaders together and give us the opportunity to meet, exchange ideas, problem solve and connect with experts on a regional basis will really make a difference in the future of the communities we serve and the future of the region as a whole.”

Evaluation Projects

With leadership from Professor Sally Ward in Sociology, the Carsey Institute is engaged in several projects to evaluate the work of New Hampshire nonprofits. Ward and co-investigators Professor Kelly Giraud and Extension Faculty Charlie French in Resource Economics are working with the New Hampshire Community Loan Fund to evaluate the Fund’s program to help residents of mobile home parks develop cooperatives to own their own land and bring greater stability to residents. The Androscoggin Valley Employment Partnership has also sought out evaluation assistance from the Carsey

Institute. With funding from Jane's Trust, Ward and Professor Wendy Walsh in Sociology are collaborating to conduct evaluation research on this new partnership providing job training to the underemployed and unemployed in the Berlin/Gorham area. These evaluation projects, involving graduate student research, are part of the Carsey Institute's work to provide practical research tools to non profits in northern New England.

"These projects are great examples of the practical application of what has been an important conceptual development in the field of stratification, which is advancing social mobility by helping people to build their assets," says Professor Ward. "We are asking: what is it about human capital that allows people to be upwardly mobile? These evaluation projects are a great opportunity for both faculty and students to have their feet in the two realms of scholarship and practice."

Spotlight on Carsey Center

The Center on Adolescence

The mission of the Center on Adolescence is to foster alliances that benefit youth and to provide research capacity, education, and state-of-the-art information that support the health and well-being of all adolescents in New Hampshire. An important achievement of the last year at the Center has been the release of a strategic plan for adolescent health entitled, *Supporting New Hampshire Youth, Moving Toward a Healthier Future*, which was the result of a multiyear collaboration with the NH Bureau of Maternal and Child Health. New Hampshire has the distinction of being only the sixth state in the nation to have such a plan. Find out more at <http://www.adolescence.unh.edu/>.

Coming Soon!

In the next issue of *The Carsey Forum*, read about our fall brown bag series. The series kicks off on Wednesday, September 21 at noon in MUB 330 with Ned Helms and John Seavey talking about Changes in Health Policy. The series is free and open to all.

The Carsey Forum is published by The Carsey Institute at the University of New Hampshire. Inquires should be addressed to Amy Seif, Forum editor, at amy.seif@unh.edu. Also contact Amy to unsubscribe.