A Great Time To Be Dean

Leading Strategically
Q & A with Natasha Pernicka, MPA ’08

Where Are the Women?
A Profile of Aneela Salman, Doctoral Candidate

Rockefeller Welcomes New Faculty

The Politics of Border Control
A Commentary by Rey Koslowski, PhD
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Soup to nuts” — that’s how David Rousseau characterizes his activities as dean of Rockefeller College of Public Affairs & Policy. And he likes it that way.

Permanently appointed dean by University at Albany President Robert J. Jones in February 2013 after serving 18 months as the interim, Rousseau had the benefit of extensive on-the-job training for the College’s top leadership role. With 700 undergraduate majors, 200 master’s students, and 120 doctoral students — some at Rockefeller for a traditional liberal arts education and others pursuing a more applied, professional degree in public policy or public administration — Rockefeller College is clearly a complex institution to manage. As Dean Rousseau explains, “The job has so many different facets — from curriculum to alumni relations to development to communications to career advancement to online and service learning and capstone courses. It’s an incredibly wide array of activities that I oversee. I love that we come up with ideas, put them on paper, get acceptance, find funding for them, and then do them. I like to see how things are implemented and I like to see how they’re institutionalized. I enjoy the soup to nuts involved in achieving successes for the College.”

While he’d describe himself as a political scientist by trade, Rousseau feels his background is broad and well-suited to the College’s tradition of integrating public policy, public management
and political science. “I was an economics major at Berkeley, then went to Harvard and got my Master’s in Public Policy from the Kennedy School of Government. I became involved in projects that required a degree beyond a master’s, so I went to the University of Michigan to get my PhD in Political Science. I think I can see through the lenses of both public administration and political science,” says the dean. “The key for the College is the intersection of those disciplines. Breaking down barriers, thinking about public affairs more broadly, thinking about how politics and policy relate — this is where I’d like to go.”

As a result of his interim experience, Rockefeller’s ‘new’ dean stepped into his position with a well-developed vision for the College’s future that stresses innovation in curriculum and research, community engagement, expansion of international connections, and delivery of the finest career preparation for a student body that, as Dean Rousseau proudly notes, “wants to change the world.”

Committed to serving students and community
Dean Rousseau views Rockefeller College as uniquely positioned to meet the needs of students, as well as the needs of the local, state and global communities, emphasizing that, “Rockefeller sits in the state capital of one of the most complex and important states in the country — a state that is home to one of the most global cities in the world. That proximity means our students are doing internships in a dynamic environment, they’re using case studies from the state, and they understand the State of New York, which is vital. Rockefeller is a great partner to New York State.” The dean also cites the College’s responsiveness to social, economic and political change when he describes Rockefeller’s ability to serve students and society. “The College has evolved in order to provide students with the best set of skills for confronting issues in an extremely complex world. For instance, because nonprofits have assumed a more important role alongside government in responding to society’s needs, we’ve expanded our nonprofit faculty and the number of nonprofit courses offered, and we’re working with nonprofits to increase their involvement with our faculty and students. Twenty years ago we didn’t have a big nonprofit curriculum, but now that’s a cornerstone for the College. Our public finance classes are among the best in the country. The homeland security concentration is an exceptional program, and growing. The College has long been a leader in research on public administration, policy and politics; this is going to become even more important going forward in terms of securing external funding for grants and getting our faculty published and visible.”

One of the great strengths of the College is its relationship with several highly respected research centers and partners (some of which are part of Rockefeller College) including the Center for International Development, the Rockefeller Institute of Government, the Center for Technology in Government, the Professional Development Program, the Center for Women in Government & Civil Society, the National Center for Security & Preparedness, the Institute for Financial Market Regulation, and the Center for Policy Research. The dean points out, “The centers can be hiring our students, working with our faculty, addressing many applied policy questions, and conducting training, thereby having an important impact on the community. With over $56 million invested in cutting-edge research and training annually, Rockefeller College is one of the University’s major research and training engines and we want to build on that great tradition in terms of creating opportunities for students and faculty.”

Creating a culture that welcomes new ideas
Preparing today’s students to be tomorrow’s leaders requires that the school maintain the excellence for which it’s long been known. Dean Rousseau has plenty of plans on that score and is creating an environment where new ideas are embraced. “There’s a lot of discussion about innovative companies in the private sector,” he observes. “I think innovative organizations within higher education are important as well. We want to try things. We don’t want to punish people for taking chances. I’d love us to continue to work at transforming undergraduate education, to provide more experiential learning opportunities for students, and at the graduate level I’d love us to become very nimble and even more responsive to the needs of our students.”
and our community so that we can change the curriculum, add and drop programs in order to meet those needs, and not wait years to roll out a new program.”

Dean Rousseau’s desire to innovate has been supported by University leadership. He credits President Jones and Provost Susan Phillips with fostering an atmosphere that encourages creative approaches to teaching and learning. “I’m very excited about President Jones joining the University at this time. His interests overlap nicely with those of Rockefeller College. One of his key interests is community engagement, and that’s also one of ours. Another is the international arena. He’s excited about our new Master of International Affairs (MIA) program and our Center for International Development, and is encouraging us to expand these activities and think creatively. Provost Phillips is a real proponent of improving undergraduate education and has been helping us seed innovative ideas and move forward. For example, within the College several faculty members have been using team-based learning. It’s very effective for getting students to prepare, pushing passive learning outside of class and using active learning exercises inside the class. Going forward, we want to do more service-learning courses and community-based research. Service learning takes students outside the classroom and enables them to work with community partners. Students get a more expansive view, see the practical barriers to improving lives of citizens, and bring this knowledge back to the classroom, enriching the academic experience of reading and course discussions. We’re also working to expand capstone courses for graduates and undergraduates in order to provide students with an opportunity to apply the skills and knowledge acquired throughout their academic careers to help solve a real-world problem.”

**Positioning Rockefeller for growth**

David Rousseau is unabashedly enthusiastic when he speaks of undertaking new initiatives at the College and making existing programs stronger and more accessible. “One of the key things I want to do programmatically is build our alumni relations efforts,” he says. “Alumni are essential mentors and role models for our students. The support they provide to the College through donation of their time and resources is also essential. Our Alumni in the Classroom program is a very exciting initiative that’s proving to be a hit with students and alums. Besides enhancing the classroom experience, it also gets students thinking about the workplace in practical terms and learning about skills needed to succeed in a very competitive workforce. We’re also working on professional development programs that will enable students to interview well and to have resumes ready to go.”

The dean is interested in exploring online teaching and learning in order to expand course accessibility. The Homeland Security Certificate program is a case in point, as Dean Rousseau explains, “Homeland Security was added to the MPA program a number of years ago. It has fast become one of the most popular areas of study. In an attempt to recruit veterans into our programs, we quickly learned that they are very interested in online offerings. We decided to make homeland security one of the first programs we’ll try to offer entirely online. Over time we want to identify key concentration areas where there is demand for online courses and programs that provide access while maintaining outstanding quality. For example, we want to roll out our new MIA as an entirely synchronous online program.”
The Master of International Affairs is a very exciting development for the dean and the College. It is the result of a proposal the College submitted in response to Governor Andrew Cuomo and State University of New York Chancellor Nancy Zimpher’s NYSUNY2020 Challenge Grant Initiative. NYSUNY2020 is designed to position the university centers, as well as the entire SUNY system, for future growth by providing funding for innovative academic programs and capital projects that encourage regional economic development. It allows UAlbany to increase enrollment and implement modest increases to tuition across five years. The net result is a significant influx of new money to the campus that will enable the University to hire 187 new faculty members. In addition, UAlbany will receive $35 million in capital funding to build a state-of-the-art R&D complex for emerging technologies and entrepreneurial leadership. Provost Susan Phillips asked the various schools and departments to submit proposals for funding consideration under NYSUNY2020. Rockefeller’s MIA program was among those selected. The MIA draws on the knowledge and expertise of both the Department of Public Administration (management and economics) and the Department of Political Science (global governance and global security). “The MIA will bring students into Rockefeller classrooms in both New York City and Albany. It will definitely raise the visibility of the College, and I believe it will make our MPA and political science degrees even more attractive as we’ll be able to offer a wider selection of courses that might be of interest to students pursuing degrees in those areas,” says the dean. The College has also been successful in securing funding for two additional programs through NYSUNY2020 in the areas of government information strategy management and homeland security, cybersecurity, and risk management. “It’s an exciting environment. Our faculty has done a great job putting together winning proposals to do truly innovative work,” adds Rousseau. “It’s a great time to be the dean.”

At the top of David Rousseau’s hefty to-do list is providing Rockefeller students with the finest education and most meaningful practical experience for meeting the challenges of an increasingly complex world. In the dean’s view, “A public affairs education is all about people who want to serve the community and change the world. They’re inspired and they want to see where they can have the most impact for their communities. And that’s what makes this a great place to work.”

Dean Rousseau joins a group of Rockefeller students and alumni on a tour of Albany’s Sheridan Hollow neighborhood. The area is the site of a new redevelopment project involving Habitat for Humanity and a number of public and private partners. The tour was led by Habitat for Humanity Capital District Development Director Christine Hmiel, MA ’08 and Development Associate Sara Rising, MPA ’12.

Dean David L. Rousseau

Education
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, MI
PhD, Political Science (1996)
Dissertation: Domestic Political Institutions and the Evolution of International Conflict

John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University
Cambridge, MA
MPP [1987]
Thesis: The Integration of Light Infantry Divisions into the U.S. Army Force Structure

University of California at Berkeley
Berkeley, CA
BA, Economics (1985), magna cum laude
Junior Year at London School of Economics and Political Science (1983)

Professional Experience
Rockefeller College of Public Affairs & Policy,
University at Albany, State University of New York
Dean, 2013–present
Interim Dean, 2011–2013
Chair, Department of Political Science, 2008–2011
Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Political Science, 2006–2008
Associate Professor, 2006–present
Assistant Professor, 2005–2006

Korea University
Seoul, South Korea
Adjunct Professor, 2005, 2010

University of Pennsylvania
Assistant Professor, 1998–2005

University at Buffalo, State University of New York
Assistant Professor, 1996–1998

The Analytic Sciences Corporation (TASC), Arlington, VA
Analyst, 1987–1990

Books

Leading Strategically

Q&A with

Natasha Pernicka, MPA ’08

Executive Director, Food Pantries for the Capital District, Inc.

Q: What are your responsibilities as executive director?

A: I am responsible for the development, execution and management of the policies, programs and initiatives of the Food Pantries as directed by our board of directors. I assume management responsibility for all services and activities, develop and monitor the budget and finances, prepare grants, and provide technical assistance to member pantries in fund development. Since joining the organization in November 2011, I’ve developed new tools to strengthen the sense of community and communication within the 53 local food pantry coalition members, have increased funding for food by over 20%, and am leading strategic planning and action efforts to increase fundraising and enhance and develop programs and partnerships.
Q: Why did you decide to enter the nonprofit field?
A: After teaching English in Japan for a year, I genuinely wanted to help people when I returned to the States, but I just wasn’t exactly sure how to do it. A friend of mine knew of a program coordinator job opening in a small suicide prevention organization and it was a perfect match. I was able to learn all about nonprofit management, from working with the board of directors and doing public speaking to developing programs and raising money. I loved being able to use my skills and creativity to touch people’s lives in a positive way. The executive director — my boss — was a true mentor to me and inspired me to become an executive director myself.

Q: What’s been the greatest challenge for your organization?
A: The U.S. Department of Agriculture reports that more than 13.3% of the New York State population does not always have enough money to meet their basic nutritional needs. Since the economic downturn, we have seen an increase in the number of people seeking assistance through our local food pantries; service levels have increased by 52.5%. In 2008, there were 158,676 visits to food pantries. In 2012, that number was 242,035. There are single mothers working on their college degrees in hopes of being able to provide for their children one day, senior citizens who have to choose between filling their medical prescriptions or buying groceries, and adults sacrificing their work performance by skipping meals during the workday just to make it through each week. These are the people our food pantries help. We continue to reach out for support to the community for donations and food drives to keep up with the increased needs.

Q: What’s next on your agenda?
A: I am working on strategically growing the Food Pantries for the Capital District to increase fundraising revenues, enhance our services and improve public understanding of the work we do. I’m working hard to engage more community members and professional groups in our mission to feed the hungry. We have collaborative projects being developed to bring more fresh produce into communities without access to nutritious food and to teach community members how to cook healthy on an extremely tight budget. SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), formerly known as food stamps, provides on average $4.50 a day for groceries. When SNAP benefits were cut the first week of November, I took the “Food Stamp Challenge” to see how difficult it would be to eat a balanced diet on so little. It was an eye-opening experience. I invite you to read more about my experience on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/thefoodpantries. I want to share what it was like with as many people as possible and show how vital our food pantries are in helping to fill the gap in resources.

Q: How did Rockefeller prepare you to take on the challenges of your current position?
A: I was able to fast-track my experience by taking a range of classes that complemented my day-to-day experience at work. I worked full-time as an assistant executive director during grad school and I was able to use my class projects to improve my management of human resources and fund development. From financial management to social network analysis, I developed a greater understanding in areas that help me do my job today. Having a framework for looking at organizations and understanding that there is not just one way to do things is important. I think out of the box and use varying leadership skills that were introduced to me at Rockefeller to address challenges and strive for success in a strategic way.

Q: What advice would you offer students pursuing a career in nonprofit management?
A: It can be hard to step right into a management position. Volunteering for nonprofits in leadership roles can help students build their experience. Chairing a committee can give a student experience managing projects and volunteer staff. Serving on a board can teach students about leadership, politics, decision making, and the governance role a board plays. By volunteering, students learn about the different types of nonprofits. Organizational culture, sources of funding and mission vary greatly in the nonprofit sector. If you find an organization that you feel is a good fit, see if there are any volunteer or internship positions available. Ask for an informational interview. Even if they don’t have an internship posted, they might create one for you if you have skills and time available to help them meet their goals.
STUDENT STORY

Aneela Salman
Doctoral Candidate
Public Administration & Policy
Home: Lahore, Pakistan
Rockefeller College doctoral candidate Aneela Salman says if she could offer one piece of advice to incoming grad students it would be, “Talk with faculty about your interests. They’re so willing to help you find out what you really want to do.” Taking the time to “figure it out” has made Aneela’s journey at Rockefeller “incredibly exciting” and led her in directions she never imagined.

Shortly after completing her Master’s in Social Policy and Planning at the London School of Economics and Political Science, Aneela came to Rockefeller as a Fulbright Scholar, with the intention of focusing on policy issues related to women. Before that, she worked for ten years in her home country of Pakistan’s distinguished Administrative Service. “It’s a male-dominated environment that is very competitive, rigorous and demanding,” says Aneela. “My interest in gender-related issues was triggered by my experiences working there. I wanted to look at why there were so few women and examine the barriers that hindered their progress.”

Her curiosity about the limited role of women in the workplace prompted Aneela to get in touch with Rockefeller gender-equality scholar Judith Saidel. “The program at Rockefeller fascinated me. Judith encouraged me and thought it would be a good fit. I was excited to apply here, but I had no idea that by coming to Rockefeller a whole new world would open for me.”

It was Professor Victor Asal, Aneela’s advisor and chair of her doctoral committee at Rockefeller, who introduced her to that new world by recommending she take a course on political violence and terrorism taught by Professor Bryan Early. “It was a fascinating experience and the turning point in my research career,” remembers Aneela. “The sheer absence of women in this important discourse struck me. Terrorism research is so much from a male perspective and is dominated by masculine narratives. It generally assumes a gender-neutral world. I couldn’t hear women’s voices and I couldn’t even see how it was affecting them. That pushed me to ask the question ‘Where are the women?’ Most of the feminist research done in this area is qualitative in nature, focused on country-specific case studies. What was missing was a quantitative, cross-national, time-series study. I felt that feminists were not being able to make their voices heard in the mainstream discourse due to this methodology gap. I’m trying to bridge that gap. I’m trying to say something in numbers using statistical analysis based on cross-national, time-series data that they’ve been saying in case studies and qualitative research. My study provides strong evidence that gender equality, specifically women in parliament, has a negative relationship with the level of terrorism a country experiences. An increase in women’s rights and empowerment helps to curb the conditions that foster terrorism. As women get political voices and political power, and they’re participating in decision making about war and public policy, sustainable peace is possible. When a country suffers violence — civil war, conflict or terrorism — it’s women who are disproportionately affected in very harmful ways. Women are not inherently more peaceful than men but women survivors bear relatively higher burdens and costs of armed conflict and the post-conflict period. They are the survivors who are the primary caretakers for the injured, sick, abused, orphaned, and dying, and they play multiple roles as caregivers, survivors, providers, recoverers, and peace-builders during conflict and post-conflict situations. Even though in most cases they are not making the decision to go to war, they are the ones who are suffering more. That is why we need to pay attention to the impact of gender equality on how countries experience conflict and terrorism. And my research helps us understand some of those connections.”

Aneela has returned to Pakistan where she has recently joined the Punjab Education Foundation (PEF) as managing director. There she works to promote low-cost quality education for poor populations through public-private partnerships. PEF is providing education programs for 1.3 million students through a network of 3,400 schools, with special focus on female students. “I know I have a lot to contribute and I know the skills and knowledge I’ve gained at Rockefeller have pushed me to think more critically about important issues,” says Aneela. “I feel as if I’m breaking new ground and I’m excited about that.”
Exploring the Connections Between Hate Crime and Terrorism

Rockefeller College Professors Kathleen Deloughery and Victor Asal, along with UAlbany colleague Ryan King, have received a $40,000 extension on their grant “Hot Spots of Hate and Violence: Analysis of Factors Related to Hate Crimes and Terrorism” from the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START), a U.S. Department of Homeland Security Center of Excellence based at the University of Maryland.

What is the association between hate crimes and terrorism in the United States? Do these two types of behaviors have common determinants? To date, the research has shown that hate crimes are more likely to follow from a terrorist attack than to lead up to one. This is true for terrorist attacks on symbols of core American values as well as those performed by groups with a religious motivation. These types of attacks were followed by an increase in the number of hate crimes against minorities. Interestingly, the professors’ research revealed that while hate crimes tend to follow from these types of attacks, they only do so for a short period following the attack.

The research being performed by the team is particularly relevant today given recent high profile instances of terrorist plots, such as the Boston Marathon bombing earlier this year and the Times Square bomb plot in 2010. The team’s findings could have a direct impact on policymaking.

With the extension of their current grant, the researchers will continue to look more specifically at information on attacks within countries. They will also look more closely at the different types of terrorism that occur — the most notable being lone-wolf scenarios, those that are perpetrated not by a group or institution, but by a single individual acting independently of any affiliation. Deloughery points out that lone wolves are more common in the United States than in other countries. Because of this, the team is exploring whether lone-wolf actors in the U.S. behave more like terrorist groups or individuals who commit hate crimes. This research could have significant implications for policymakers and researchers of terrorism and hate crimes alike.

Rockefeller Welcomes New Faculty

Rockefeller College is pleased to announce the appointment of five new faculty members. Joining the Department of Public Administration and Policy as assistant professors are public finance experts Gang Chen, PhD and David Matkin, PhD. Dr. Chen received his doctorate in Public Administration from the University of Nebraska at Omaha in 2013. His research interests include state and local public finance and budgeting, public sector pension management and financial management in natural disasters. Dr. David Matkin comes to Rockefeller from Florida State University. He earned his PhD in Public Administration from the University of Kansas in 2007. Dr. Matkin’s research examines multiple areas of public financial management, including internal control and accountability, debt financing, budget reform, interlocal cooperation, and economic development through state tax credits.

Three of the five new faculty members are political scientists. Assistant Professor Zsófia Barta specializes in comparative politics, political economy and public policy research. In 2011, she received her PhD in European Political Economy from the European University Institute, where she also was awarded the Max Weber Postdoctoral Fellowship. Dr. Mark Baskin, formerly a research professor and senior associate in the Center for International Development, has accepted a one-year teaching position in the political science department. Dr. Baskin’s doctoral studies were completed at the University of Michigan in 1986. His research is in the area of constituency development funds and his teaching interests include democratization and post-conflict reconstruction. Visiting Professor Tao Dumas comes to the department from Louisiana State University, where she received her PhD in Political Science in 2011. Her research interests include trial court decision making, litigation outcomes, and political, social and economic influences on legal decision making.
The Politics of Border Control

by Rey Koslowski, PhD

Comprehensive immigration reform provides a chance for Congress to make U.S. border control policy more effective in reducing illegal immigration by allocating more resources to worksite inspections that enforce employer sanctions against hiring unauthorized migrant workers. Unfortunately, Congress is, once again, missing this opportunity.

The Senate’s comprehensive immigration reform legislation is stalled in the House despite unprecedented levels of border security funding. Over 90 percent of the $49.3 billion of funding in the bill is dedicated to border security, primarily for more border patrol agents and border fencing. The original package of reform legislation shepherded through the Senate Judiciary Committee by the “Gang of Eight” included over $8 billion of border security funding. After the bill’s supporters could not convince enough of their Republican colleagues to vote for the bill without enhancing border security measures, bill sponsors became willing to increase the border security budget to whatever it would take to get a sufficient number of Republican votes to surpass the 60-vote threshold to end debate and give the bill the necessary momentum in the House. Senators who initially voiced opposition to the bill as it was introduced, but indicated that they might be persuaded, held out for a massive increase in funding to hire 19,400 additional border patrol agents — doubling the number of agents — and to build, repair and maintain border fencing. It worked and the bill passed with 68 votes.

While the American way of border control focuses on the thin line of the border itself, border control and immigration law enforcement activities in most European countries typically occur not only in the border regions but also throughout the country. For example, interior and labor ministry officials frequently audit employers and conduct worksite inspections, often supported by teams of national, regional and local law enforcement officers. It is much more difficult for unauthorized migrants to work in the EU than in the U.S. The EU has a population of 500 million and an estimated 1.9 to 3.8 million unauthorized migrants. The U.S. has a population of 300 million and an estimated 11 million unauthorized migrants. Of these 11 million, an estimated 8 million are employed. There are six million U.S. employers — that is a ratio of about 1.3 unauthorized migrant workers to each employer in the U.S.

Both the Democratic and Republican Party leadership have acknowledged employer demand to be a major, if not the foremost, driver of illegal migration. Nevertheless, Congress and successive administrations have chosen not to increase budgetary resources devoted to worksite enforcement at anywhere near the rate of increase in funding for border security. Building fences and increasing the number of law enforcement jobs in border states are simply much more politically popular than hiring more officers to arrest U.S. employers who themselves may be voting constituents.

The Obama administration has stepped up enforcement of sanctions against employers who knowingly hire unauthorized migrants. For example, the 495 fines levied against employers in 2012 numbered more than all the fines issued in the eight years of George W. Bush’s presidency. However, even if the number of fines were to be doubled or tripled, the odds of employers getting caught employing unauthorized immigrants are very low. Given that employing less expensive unauthorized migrant workers can increase annual profits considerably, even if employers do get caught, the risk of incurring fines of several thousand dollars can be considered a cost of doing business.

Increasing investments in worksite enforcement, prosecuting law-breaking employers and reducing the demand for unauthorized migrant workers should reduce illegal migration much more than increasing the already high spending on border patrol staffing and border fences. Too many members of Congress are not really serious about reducing illegal immigration. They are more concerned about the symbolic politics of fence building.

Rey Koslowski is an associate professor in the Department of Political Science at Rockefeller College. Dr. Koslowski’s primary teaching and research interests are in the area of international relations dealing with international organization, European integration, international migration, information technology, and homeland security. He is the author of Migrants and Citizens: Demographic Change in the European State System, editor of International Migration and the Globalization of Domestic Politics and co-editor (with David Kyle) of Global Human Smuggling: Comparative Perspectives. He has held fellowships at the Transatlantic Academy at the German Marshall Fund, the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, the Center of International Studies at Princeton University, and the Center for German and European Studies at Georgetown University.
Getting Results

85%
Rockefeller students who have paid internships

97%
Graduates employed or pursuing further study one year after graduation

$52,413
Average salary for the Class of 2012

65%
Overall salary increase experienced by Rockefeller MPAs who graduated in the Classes of 2010–2012

Sample Internship Employers
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Attorney’s Office
U.S. Department of Treasury
American Red Cross
KPMG
Make-A-Wish
City of Philadelphia
White House Office of Domestic Policy
Public Financial Management
United Nations
Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
Metropolitan Transit Authority

Employment by Sector
Classes of 2010–2012

Overall salary increase experienced by Rockefeller MPAs who graduated in the Classes of 2010–2012
Ten Rockefeller College students and alumni have been selected to the inaugural class of New York State’s Excelsior Service Fellowship Program. The program attracts talented graduates from colleges, universities and professional schools across the state who are called to a career in public service. As fellows, they’ll play a policy-influencing role in New York State government with the opportunity to work on the most pressing issues of our time.

“Rockefeller prepared me for the fellowship through the service-learning component of the Master of Public Administration program. This important component of my study gave me hands-on professional experience. As an intern with United University Professions, I learned about the public advocacy process. Also, as a fellow on Women and Public Policy I was placed with the New York State Department of Labor where I gained valuable professional experience and a passion for helping the people of New York State,” said Symone Wango.

The ten individuals from Rockefeller College who have been selected for the Excelsior Service Fellowship Program are:

- Andrew Abramowitz, BA ’13
  Appointment: Homes and Community Renewal, Albany, NY
- Lauren Bailey, BA ’13
  Appointment: Office for People with Developmental Disabilities, Albany, NY
- Emily Blakeslee, BA ’11, MPA ’12
  Appointment: Office for People with Developmental Disabilities, Albany, NY
- Rachel Jones, MPA ’13
  Appointment: Department of Civil Service, Albany, NY
- Magdalena Kura, BS ’10, MPA ’12
  Appointment: Department of State, New York, NY
- Joseph Micancin, BA ’09, MPA ’11
  Appointment: Empire State Development, New York, NY
- Joseph Popcun, MPA Class of 2014
  Appointment: Executive Chamber, Albany, NY
- Anna Sapak, MPA ’13
  Appointment: Department of Civil Service, Albany, NY
- Symone Wango, BA ’11, MPA ’13
  Appointment: Department of Labor, Albany, NY
- Chantelle Wilkinson, BA ’13
  Appointment: Department of Civil Service, Albany, NY

KPMG Solidifies Position as a Top Recruiter at Rockefeller

Since December 2011, U.S. audit, tax and advisory services giant KPMG LLP has recruited 10 Rockefeller graduates to work in one of its three practices: Albany, New York City and Sacramento, CA. KPMG helps public sector clients identify and manage risks inherent in business processes and technology systems that support business objectives, and provides them with the information they need to meet their strategic and financial goals. The recent Rockefeller graduates are working with state and local governments to manage projects, the vast majority of which are related to the implementation of the Affordable Care Act.

“My education at Rockefeller was a fantastic foundation for my current work with KPMG. Through coursework and networking with Rockefeller faculty, I was able to develop my skills in professional communication, technical and financial analysis, and project management,” said Mike Sapak, MPA ’12. “Rockefeller gave me experience seeking creative solutions to both strategic and tactical problems. These experiences, combined with Rockefeller’s in-depth understanding of public sector issues and the public sector value proposition, have been a huge advantage when working with the state and local government clients that I serve.”

KPMG’s Albany practice has hired: Zamira Akchurina, MPA ’10; Ryan Ashe, BA ’07, MPA ’11; Thomas Briggs, BA ’08, MPA ’13; Deirdre Brodie, MPA ’12; Amanda Ghezzi, MPA ’13; Sarah Horan, MPA ’12; and John Paul Scullin, MPA ’13. Michael Sapak, MPA ’12 accepted a position with KPMG in Sacramento. Denis Serdiouk, BA ’09, MPA ’11 and Erica Taylor, BA ’11, MPA ’13 are working for KPMG’s practice in New York City.

In addition, KPMG has created a pipeline for future employees through their summer and academic year internship program. Two current Rockefeller students from the MPA Class of 2014, Justin Smith and Laura Salkowe, BA ’12, interned at KPMG this summer.
Center for International Development (SUNY/CID)  www.cid.suny.edu

The SUNY/CID Kenya Parliamentary Strengthening Program hosted a delegation of senior officials from the government of Kenya to assist them in implementing a new devolved form of government, which includes 47 new county governments. This visit allowed the key players in the devolution process the opportunity to plan for intergovernmental coordination through e-government, build county-level economic development strategies, and apply innovative training methods to build human resource capacity. To leverage the University at Albany’s breadth of resources for the visit, SUNY/CID partnered with the Center for Technology in Government (CTG) and the Professional Development Program (PDP) to deliver cutting-edge expertise in e-government implementation and innovative curriculum design and training techniques. CTG shared its vast expertise and facilitated discussions with the delegation on tools related to IT governance such as Smart IT and Public Value. The visit also involved meetings with New York State officials to provide the delegation with an understanding of how NYS information policy and systems are used by the state to relate to both the federal government and local governments, as well as for executive and legislative information exchanges.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) awarded SUNY/CID a 44-month, $5.5 million cooperative agreement to implement Strengthening Governmental Institutions, Systems and Processes (SGISP) in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) April 30, 2013–January 14, 2017. It will support BiH government efforts to strengthen its governing institutions to adopt, implement and account for more effective policies, laws and budgets that advance BiH’s accession to the European Union.

Center for Policy Research (CPR)  www.albany.edu/cpr

As a principal investigator and the director of the Project on International Security, Commerce, and Economic Statecraft (PISCES) at Rockefeller College, Assistant Professor Bryan Early has been awarded $2.4 million in grant funding. Since it was established in 2012, Early’s PISCES team has received grant awards to work on nonproliferation-related projects with countries in South America, Africa, Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and Asia. This past June, the U.S. State Department sponsored a highly successful, two-day roundtable organized by PISCES at the Bureau of Foreign Trade in Taipei, Taiwan. The roundtable offered government and industry strategic trade control experts from Europe, Malaysia, South Korea, Japan, Taiwan, and the U.S. an opportunity to discuss licensing decision-making processes, risk assessment in strategic trade licensing, licensing technology transfers, and the role of enforcement agencies in strategic trade licensing. In early 2014, PISCES will present a multi-day seminar in Montenegro on arms brokering and trade controls for government licensing officials and industry experts. Recently, the PISCES team was awarded additional funding from the U.S. State Department to engage in future outreach projects in the area of strategic trade controls with the governments of Kazakhstan, Iraq, and Lebanon, and to put on a regional workshop in the Western Balkans.

Center for Technology in Government (CTG)  www.ctg.albany.edu

Following an international search that attracted top candidates in the field of digital government research and practice, CTG has named J. Ramon Gil-Garcia, PhD ’05 as its research director. He has served as associate professor for the department of public administration and the director of the Data Center for Applied Research in Social Sciences at Centro de Investigación y Docencia (CIDE) in Mexico City since 2007 and is a very productive scholar who authored the 2012 book Enacting Electronic Government Success: An Integrative Study of Government-wide Websites, Organizational Capabilities and Institutions. Dr. Gil-Garcia is a member of the National System of Researchers in Mexico and the Mexican National Academy of Sciences. He is a former Fulbright Scholar and Digital Government Fellow with the Harvard Kennedy School of Government and is currently a faculty affiliate at the National Center for Digital Government, UMASS Amherst.

In July 2013, CTG led program and communication staff from the New York State Office of the State Comptroller (OSC) through the preliminary stages of developing an agency-wide open data portfolio. The portfolio development workshops used CTG’s Open Government Portfolio Public Value Assessment Tool (PVAT), which provides a structure for describing and assessing proposed open data efforts and for comparing relative value across efforts to ensure a balanced and robust open data portfolio. Rockefeller Research Associate Professor and CTG Director Theresa Pardo, BA ’82, MS ’90, PhD ’98 and Program Manager Meghan Cook, MPA ’96, MS ’02 led the group through discussions about the underlying public value framework followed by hands-on exercises using the Open Government PVAT.
NEWS FROM THE RESEARCH CENTERS, INSTITUTES, AND PARTNERS OF ROCKEFELLER COLLEGE

Professional Development Program (PDP)  
www.pdp.albany.edu

On April 29, PDP received a United States Distance Learning Association Gold Award in the Best Practice in Distance Learning Programming category for Passport to Partner Services, an e-learning course consisting of 15 modules. The course provides public health workers with the knowledge and skills needed to interview and counsel individuals with sexually transmitted diseases in order to identify and inform their social contacts of their risk of infection. The course was developed under a contract with the New York State STD Prevention Training Center, which is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

In June, PDP hosted an overnight college tour at UAlbany as part of its At-risk Youth College Access Challenge Grant Program for the New York State Office of Children and Family Services and the Higher Education Services Corporation. The program equips youth in foster care with skills and knowledge to pursue a post-secondary education. PDP staff worked with several youth ambassadors now at UAlbany and formerly in foster care to plan the program for youth and caseworkers from across New York State.

On July 5, Commissioner Kristin M. Proud, BS ’90 of the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance awarded PDP Senior Programmer/Analyst Jason Morris a certificate of recognition for his efforts in posting immediate web updates during and following Superstorm Sandy. In a letter accompanying the certificate, Commissioner Proud praised Jason for taking on additional duties during the storm and thanked him for the significant contributions he made to New York’s response and recovery efforts.

SUNY/CID Supports Public Hearing on Bangladesh Garment Industry Problems

In the wake of the tragic building collapse in Dhaka, Bangladesh in April 2013, SUNY/CID’s Promoting Democratic Institutions and Practices Program (PRODIP) has worked closely with parliamentary committees to strengthen citizen participation and evidence-based deliberation based upon research and public testimony in the legislative process.

Most of the 1,100 people who lost their lives in this latest tragedy were workers in the garment factories housed in a single complex. Since this tragedy closely followed a November 2012 garment factory fire that claimed the lives of 112 people, the chairman of the Labor and Employment Committee quickly convened the first public hearing of its kind in Bangladesh on safe work environment in garment factories in order to “recommend actions the government should take to prevent further incidents and ensure worker safety.” PRODIP assisted the committee by providing legal analyses of occupational security and safety laws and procedural support to the members and chairman of the committee. Participants in the hearing included victims, outside experts, labor organizations, and international representatives, including U.S. Ambassador to Bangladesh Dan Mozena.

Witnesses made many concrete recommendations for reforms that have transformed the policy debate. Among these were calls to establish trade unions, strengthening the Office of the Chief Inspector for Factories, developing an intersectoral monitoring committee, establishing an independent body to develop a fire and building code, and amending the labor law to strengthen worker safety. “This hearing will be marked as a milestone in the Jatiyo Sangshad (Parliament of Bangladesh) for the cause of workers’ rights,” said MP Nani Gopal Mondal, member of the Labor and Employment Committee. SUNY/CID has been working with the Parliament in Bangladesh since 2010.

Bangladesh hearing on garment industry problems
On April 15, Professor Mitchell Abolafia presented "Fine-tuning the Signal: Image and Identity at the Federal Reserve" as part of USC Annenberg’s Media, Economics & Entrepreneurship Research Series on “Media, Money, and Society." Abolafia was also invited to speak at the University of Heidelberg in June. He presented "No Crystal Ball: The Culture of Prediction at the Federal Reserve" as part of the University’s symposium Topographies and Topologies of Knowledge.

Professor David Andersen, a specialist in system dynamics and public policy, recently joined the board of trustees of the Millennium Institute, a Washington-based organization that promotes the use of the Threshold 21 system dynamics model to support national development in developing countries to further their goal of a sustainable, equitable and peaceful global society.

Peter Breiner, associate professor of political science, presented “The Left Egalitarian Embrace of Equal Opportunity and Its Problems” at the Western Political Science Association (WPSA) meeting in Hollywood, CA in March.

Public Service Professor Kevin Bronner presented “Using Forensic Accounting to Detect Fraud in Public Service Organizations” at the New York State Political Science Conference at the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs in Syracuse on April 20.

Associate Professor José Cruz presented “Latinos in the 2012 Presidential Election” at the 23rd Annual National Latino Collegiate Conference at UAlbany in April. In May, he presented “Out of the Margins: Puerto Rican Politics in New York City, 1960-1990” at the International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association in Washington, D.C. Professor Cruz also served on the Ford Foundation Fellowship Program’s Social Sciences Panel for the 2013 program year. Dr. Cruz was awarded a $2,300 grant from the Office of Diversity and Inclusion at UAlbany to organize a lecture and concert documenting the intersection between African diaspora music and Jewish and Latino cultures in the United States.

Assistant Professor Erzsébet Fazekas participated in the Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action’s (ARNOVA) Intercultural Competence and Communication Initiative, a one-year program of workshops, readings and discussions aimed at developing more culturally competent teachers and scholars.

Public Service Professor Peter Finn, a fellow and board member for the State Academy for Public Administration (SAPA), served as a financial management subject expert for the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) program committee.

Sally Friedman, associate professor of political science, presented “The Role of Congressional Outreach in Civic Engagement Through Websites and Facebook” at the April Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Annual Conference in Chicago. The paper was co-authored by doctoral students Jessica Aubin and Robert Spice. While there, Friedman and doctoral candidate Jennifer Woodward presented a poster titled “The Promulgation of Reasonable Accommodation Policies for Faculty with Disabilities in Higher Education Settings.”

Assistant Professor Yvonne Harrison presented “The Efficacy of Board Performance Self-Assessment Using the Board Effectiveness Survey Application (BESA)” at the Critical Conversations on the Future of Nonprofit Governance Conference this past April. She was also invited to present “Setting the Agenda: Planning for the Future of Research on Nonprofit Boards and Governance” at the same conference, which was sponsored by the University of Missouri-Kansas City Henry W. Bloch School of Management’s Midwest Center for Nonprofit Leadership. Harrison presented “Changes in the Performance of Nonprofit Organization Boards of Directors: The Impact of Board Performance Self-Assessment” at the Association for Nonprofit and Social Economy Research (ANSER) Annual Conference held at the University of Virginia in British Columbia on June 5.

Assistant Professor Matthew Ingram presented his paper “Politics in Space: Methodological Consideration for Taking Space Seriously in Subnational Comparative Research,” at a conference on subnational research in comparative politics sponsored by Brown University’s Watson Institute for International Studies on May 9. The paper was co-authored by Imke Harbers of the University of Amsterdam.

Associate Professor of Political Science Rey Koslowski and Laura Valeria González-Murphy, PhD ’09 co-organized a workshop, Legislating Immigration Reform, which took place at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, D.C. on April 2. Koslowski also presented his paper “Selective Migration Policy Models and Changing Realities of Implementation” at the Council for European Studies 20th International Conference of Europeanists in Amsterdam this past June.

In March, Assistant Professor Erika Martin presented “A System Dynamics-Based Evaluation of the New York State HIV Testing Law” at the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine’s Department of Healthcare Policy and Research in Richmond, VA and at the Veterans Administration Health Economics Resource Center (HERC) Cyber-seminar. Martin and co-author Karen Wang of Yale University School of Medicine presented “Integrating Substance Abuse Treatment into HIV Care: Missed Opportunities in the AIDS Drug Assistance Program” at the AcademyHealth Annual

Two Longtime Rockefeller Faculty Retire

Professors Erik Hoffmann and George Richardson both recently retired after long and distinguished careers at Rockefeller College. Hoffmann, a professor of political science who specializes in comparative and international politics, began his career at Rockefeller as an assistant professor in 1969 following four years on the faculty of Temple University in Philadelphia, and, as noted by Professor Julie Novkov, chair of the political science department, “will always be remembered as a caring mentor who loved working with graduate students and enabling them to develop their own voices within the discipline.” Erik, whose research interests include state-society relations, Russian domestic politics and foreign policy, and democratization and marketization, is currently working on a book on the intellectual history of American Sovietology. George Richardson, professor of public administration and policy and recent Rockefeller College Lifetime Achievement Award winner, started teaching at UAlbany in the fall of 1987. His teaching, research and consulting center on computer modeling and simulation in support of systems thinking in public affairs. George serves as a trustee of the Aloha Foundation, a Vermont-based nonprofit that provides summer camps, family camps and education programs emphasizing simplicity, the outdoors and living in community. All of us at Rockefeller wish Erik and George very happy retirements.

(From left) Professor Erik Hoffmann and Professor George Richardson
At the meeting, Dr. Martin was awarded a Public Health Practice-Based Research Network Scholarship. Martin and Rockefeller College Research Associate Rod MacDonald presented “A System Dynamics-Based Evaluation of the New York State HIV Testing Law” at the same conference. The paper was co-authored by Lou Smith, Daniel Gordon, James Tesoriero, Franklin Laufer, John Leung, and Daniel O’Connell, all of the New York State Department of Health. In addition, Martin and Co-PI Tesoriero received $149,992 from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to support their project Optimizing the Use of HIV/STD Partner Services Strategies in New York State. Dr. Martin was awarded $29,628 from the New York State Health Foundation for her project Support the Health Policy Research Center to Build Capacity as a Connector Between Academic Researchers and State and Local Governments in New York. These funds will be used to identify, organize and promote applied health policy research in New York through development of a database of academic researchers and hosting of a fall conference for academics, practitioners and policymakers on important health policy issues confronting the state. Additionally, Professor Martin was named a 2012–13 Career, Leadership and University Excellence Fellow at the University at Albany.

Public Service Professor and Professional Development Program Executive Director Eugene Monaco was selected to the advisory board for the International Conference on Education, Research and Innovation (ICERI) held in Seville, Spain in November. Professor Robert Nakamura, an expert on public policy and legislative development, served on a constituency relations panel at a workshop that was supported by the United Kingdom Foreign and Commonwealth Office for Arab Members of Parliament, held in Jordan in March. The conference was attended by members of Parliament from Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, and Egypt. In addition, Nakamura was selected by the United Kingdom’s Department for Foreign and International Development (DFID) to be a member of the design team for the development of the U.K.’s democracy assistance program for Nigeria.

Theresa Pardo, BA ’82, MS ’90, PhD ’98, research associate professor of public administration and director of the Center for Technology in Government (CTG), and graduate student Djoko Sigit Sayogo won the Best Management/Policy Paper Award for their “Understanding Smart Data Disclosure Policy Success: The Case of Green Button” at the 14th Annual International Conference on Digital Government Research at Laval University in Quebec City in June. Dr. Pardo’s colleague, CTG Research Director J. Ramon Gil-Garcia, PhD ’05 won the Best Research Paper Award for “Understanding the Co-Evolution of Institutions, Technology, and Organizations: The Enactment of the State Government Portal of Puebla.” The paper was co-authored by UAlbany Information Science alum Luis Luna-Reyes, PhD ’04 of the Universidad de las Americas Puebla in Cholula, Mexico.

Assistant Professor Ellen Rubin is a board member for the section on Personnel Administration and Labor Relations for the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA), with a term from 2012–2015. This past spring, Dr. Rubin joined a committee to develop guidelines for a new dissertation scholarship being developed by the section. The scholarship is funded by revenues generated from the section’s journal, the Review of Public Personnel Administration. Rubin is a member of the editorial board for the journal.

Judith Saidel, associate professor of public administration and policy and senior research associate at Rockefeller College’s Center for Women in Government & Civil Society, presented “Nonprofit Managers as ‘Smart Partners’: Contracting Practices in an Age of Turbulence” this past June at the 12th Biennial Public Management Research Conference (PMRC) in Madison, WI. Also at PMRC, Rockefeller Assistant Professor Jennifer Dodge presented “The Cultural Politics of Collaborative Governance.” Dodge also attended the 8th International Interpretive Policy Analysis Conference (IPA) in Vienna, Austria in July.

At IPA, Professor Dodge served as a critic on an author-meets-the-critics panel to discuss Hugh Miller’s book Governing Narratives: Symbolic Politics and Policy Change (2012). She also presented a paper called “The Discourse Ecology of Hydraulic Fracturing in New York State: Associations and Their Storylines of Public Policy and Governance,” which was co-authored by Rockefeller College doctoral students Steve Jackson and Jeongyoon Lee.

Professor Morton Schoolman’s paper “The Reconciliation Image in Art,” published in Theory & Event this fall, is part of a new book he is completing, Democratic Enlightenment. The Reconciliation Image and the Emancipation of Perception, in which he investigates the ways democratic ideals are taught through visual images in film. This spring, Professor Schoolman and his co-editor Kennan Ferguson of the University of Wisconsin also completed the introductions to two new books in their book series on contemporary political theory, Modernity and Political Thought. The books, Volumes 15 and 16, Impressions of Hume by Davide Panagia, and Publius and Political Imagination by Jason Frank, will be published by Rowman & Littlefield in winter 2014. Schoolman presented “Mass Deception as Enlightenment: The Reconciliation of Image in Art and Film” on March 29 at the Western Political Science Association (WPSA) meeting in California. This fall, Schoolman was named director of graduate studies in the department of political science.

Assistant Professor of Political Science Torrey Shanks developed a new course, The Politics of Happiness, that she is teaching this fall. The course will explore the role of happiness in the history of political thought, feminist critiques of the “happy home,” and contemporary theorists’ considerations of the value of political unhappiness and happiness.

Rockefeller Remembers Holly Sims

The life of Elisabeth Hollister “Holly” Sims, associate professor of public administration and policy at Rockefeller College, was celebrated by family, friends, colleagues, and former students at a memorial service on the downtown campus this past June. Dr. Sims, a member of the Rockefeller College faculty since 1989, died May 5. Throughout her long service to the University, Holly, as she was affectionately known, was called upon to share her considerable expertise in many areas, including environmental policy, international development and bureaucratic politics. Her idealism and passion for teaching will be greatly missed.
**New Rockefeller READS**

*The Supreme Court and The Presidency: Struggles for Supremacy*  
(CQ Press, 2013)  
by Julie Novkov, PhD

This newest edition to *The Supreme Court’s Power in American Politics* series explores and analyzes the dynamic alliances and tensions between the nation’s chief executive and the Court over time. Through primary source and other documents and insightful narratives, this work discusses appointments, prerogative governance, and the role of time and regimes in the complex scheme of checks and balances. Featured topics include: major theories of constitutional interpretation and their application to the exercise of executive power; the political dynamics in the relationship between the three branches of federal government; the evolution of executive authority and the struggle over the legislative veto; precedents for treaty-making and executive agreements with foreign governments; executive and legislative relations and powers in times of war and national emergency, particularly after 9/11; the president’s authority as commander-in-chief; historical controversies of executive privilege, and censure and impeachment; and executive authority to issue pardons.

*Julie Novkov is a professor of political science and women’s studies at the University at Albany. Dr. Novkov is chair of the political science department at Rockefeller College.*

*Protecting Immigrant Rights in Mexico: Understanding the State-Civil Society Nexus*  
(Routledge, 2013)  
by Laura Valeria González-Murphy, PhD ’09

*Protecting Immigrant Rights in Mexico* offers scholars, as well as policymakers and civil society actors, a greater understanding of the domestic and international political issues and constraints that shape immigration policymaking and its implementation. The state-civil society relationship to migration policy “is an area both largely unexplored and little understood in current scholarly literature,” says Dr. González-Murphy. Using Mexico as her primary case study because of the recent impact of immigrants on its legislation, González-Murphy details the ways that civil society has become a participant in immigration policy changes, including Mexico’s new migration law. Mexico’s experience is also closely compared with countries presently experiencing similar immigration and political dynamics, such as Spain and Italy. The book closes with an examination of what the Mexican experience contributes to our understanding of the actors, processes, issues, and obstacles involved in migration policy development.

*Laura Valeria González-Murphy received her PhD in 2009 from the University at Albany. Dr. González-Murphy served as research assistant professor at Rockefeller College until her recent appointment as an Empire Fellow with the Office of New Americans in the New York State Department of State.*
Faculty Publications

BOOKS


BOOK CHAPTERS


BOOK REVIEWS


JOURNAL ARTICLES


Policy Reports

Publications from Professional organizations
Making an IMPACT

Why I Give
Dr. Peter W. Brusoe, BA ’03, MA ’04
Campaign Finance and Lobbying Data Analyst
Bloomberg, LP

What motivated you to make a gift to Rockefeller College?
There were two reasons. The first was a desire to honor my parents, Mary and Peter J. Brusoe, MS ’90, CAS ’05. My siblings and I were extremely lucky to have had such dedicated and loving parents. They served as homeroom parents and PTA officers, helped us to understand quadratic equations, were there for our soccer and lacrosse games, made gingerbread houses for classes — you name it, they were there, loving, helping and encouraging us. They instilled in us values, like serving others, always trying our best, and doing unto others as we would have them do unto us. I would not be where I am today without them. I wanted to find a way to be able to do for others what my parents had done for me.

The second reason I support the College is that it’s a way to help others have the same great experience I had as a student. I would not be working in Washington, D.C. today if it weren’t for Rockefeller’s Semester in Washington Program. We jokingly call it “Potomac Fever” and I wound up with a really bad case of it after having gone through the program. Every year at the alumni-student intern reception in D.C., I would be amazed by the academic credentials, work ethic and passion to change the world that the Semester in Washington students had. I wanted to be able to support their work. I had a great conversation with Justin Hogan in the UAlbany Development Office and was pleased to be able to accomplish both things by creating the Washington Semester Fund.

How do you hope your gift will benefit students?
Every student at UAlbany who is academically qualified should have the opportunity to live, learn and serve in Washington, D.C. The financial situation for students has gotten very tenuous with the sizeable increases in student loan rates, as well as sizeable decreases in public support for higher education. I hope that my gift will enable students who may not otherwise be able to afford the program to be able to have that great experience.

Ready to Serve
Rachel Jones, MPA ’13

Recent Rockefeller College grad Rachel Jones, MPA ’13 is poised to make a mark on the world! After completing an internship with the New York State Division of the Budget, Rachel began working in the Department of Civil Service as an Excelsior Service Fellow. The fellowship program is an initiative to bring highly talented graduates into government service. Fellows are placed in the Executive Chamber and at 41 New York State government agencies and authorities.

“Attending Rockefeller College not only gave me the skills to succeed professionally but also helped me in making connections and receiving opportunities I otherwise might not have had,” said Rachel. While at Rockefeller College, Rachel excelled not just academically — studying public finance, economics and information strategy and management — but also outside the classroom. She was active in the Public Affairs Student Association (PASA) and worked at the Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government and at the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Budget and Planning. Rachel, a recipient of the Dean Frank Thompson Scholarship, was able to attend Rockefeller in large part because of the award. “The financial assistance I received
There are so many things that make the Washington Semester an amazing experience. Dr. Michael Malbin, who runs the program, arranges for world-renowned speakers to come talk to the students. And the internships are substantive. During my internship experience I was able to work with policymakers in Housing & Urban Development to help increase the capacity of organizations serving the homeless. Other interns have gone on to work on briefs for the Solicitor General’s office, plan an event for the Department of Commerce, act as lead on an issue in a congressional office, or work with a nonprofit to fight for equal rights. So many of my classmates and other program alumni have reported experiencing such a feeling of accomplishment at the end of the program.

How does giving back to the College make you feel?

Rockefeller College has given me so much — a great academic experience, skills that I use in my professional life, the start to my professional network, and world-class experiences. I feel a strong sense of obligation to give back to a place that has given so much to me. When I give back I feel happy and when I meet the students that our donors are helping I feel a strong sense of joy that I have perhaps helped them as others have helped me.

Peter established the Mary and Peter J. Brusoe Washington Semester Fund to provide support for University at Albany students participating in Rockefeller College’s Semester in Washington Program.

Rachel Jones, MPA ’13, a member of the inaugural class of the Excelsior Service Fellowship Program
Announcing the 2013–2014 Rockefeller College Dean’s Leadership Council

Tyler Norton, Albany, NY (president)
Adriana Carozza, Thornwood, NY
Steven Cummings, Staten Island, NY
Tim Curran, Hauppauge, NY
Vanessa DiSpigna, New Windsor, NY
Jodi-Kaye Haber, Beacon, NY
Kelsey Hanson, Clifton Park, NY
Brian Junquera, Scotia, NY
Joe Messemer, Horseheads, NY
Mikayla Myers, Newfield, NY
Meghan Nyman, Oswego, NY
Eva Petkanas, Sherman, CT
Kim Segura, Albertson, NY

Students Host Albany Mayoral Issues Forum

The UAlbany Chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, the National Political Science Honor Society, presented a mayoral issues forum on Thursday, October 17, 2013. Participating were candidates Kathy Sheehan (D), Jesse Calhoun (R) and Theresa Portelli (G). The forum was moderated by Rockefeller Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education Anne Hildreth. (In photo at top left, from left) Corey Carmello, Pi Sigma Alpha treasurer; Albany Mayor-Elect Kathy Sheehan; Jesse Calhoun; Theresa Portelli; and Jacob Sherretts, Pi Sigma Alpha president.
Y. Hugh Jo, PhD ’07 is an assistant professor in the political science department at Westfield State University in Westfield, Massachusetts. When Hugh was hired by Westfield State in 2009, he was responsible for teaching courses on Asian and American politics and U.S. foreign policy. He was also tasked with the important challenge of helping to develop a minor in Asian Studies. Working with faculty in economics and sociology, Hugh co-designed Introduction to Asian Studies, the required introductory course for the minor. The curriculum for this course includes a field trip to Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, Massachusetts where students have an opportunity to experience a diverse array of collections that highlight Asian culture and history. Hugh credits the Rockefeller College Department of Political Science with giving him the confidence to interact effectively with faculty and students. Congratulations to Hugh on his achievements at Westfield State.

The Village of Scarsdale in Westchester County, NY employs a number of Rockefeller College alumni. This summer, the group gathered for lunch to share their Rockefeller stories and discuss their experiences working in government. Pictured from left to right are Rita Azrelyant, MPP ’06, assistant to the village manager; Justin Datino, MPA ’07, assistant to the village manager/assistant sanitation foreman; Mayor Robert J. Steves, MPA ’72; Glenn Schnabel, MPA ’13, assistant to the village manager; Eric Gerringer, MPA ’04, deputy superintendent of public works; and John D. Goodwin, MPA ’09, assistant to the village manager.

Lieutenant Aaron W. Gladd, MPA ’12 (pictured second from left) is currently serving as Sapper Platoon Leader for the 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Eastern Afghanistan. Aaron’s platoon conducts counter-IED missions along Highway 1, one of the primary trade routes in Afghanistan that has been targeted for violence by extremists and criminals.
Edward Lopatin, BA ’74, MPA ’76 recently published How to Survive Your Promotion. Ed, an author, speaker, and intrepid traveler, previously served in a variety of executive and financial management positions in the City and County of San Francisco, CA.

Jim Diamond, BA ’81 has joined the law firm of Cacace, Tusch & Santagata in Stamford, CT, with an emphasis on criminal defense. Jim was in residence last year at the University of Arizona College of Law, where he is a doctoral candidate.

Matt Ernandes, MPA ’81 received the Distinguished Career Service Award from the New Jersey Association of School Business Officials. Matt is retiring from his positions as Township Manager of Bordentown, NJ and Business Administrator for the North Hanover Township School District.

David Glasser, BA ’81, MPA ’83 was named the director of administrative services for the City of Union City, CA.

Brad Rothbaum, BA ’81, MPA ’87 was appointed chief operating officer of BMO Capital Markets Corp., a division of the Bank of Montreal.

Theresa Pardo, BA ’82, MS ’90, PhD ’98, director of UAlbany’s Center for Technology in Government and associate research professor at Rockefeller College, was appointed to New York Governor Andrew Cuomo’s Open NY team to improve government transparency through technology.

Scott Rothenberg, BA ’82 was appointed to the executive committee of the board of directors for the Texas Bar.

Frank Rieger, MA ’83 was re-elected president of the Union of Journalists in Hanover, Germany.

David P. Schaffer, Esq., BA ’83, a partner at Malaby & Bradley, LLC in New York City, recently celebrated his 25th anniversary as a civil court defense litigator.

Joan M. Phillips, BA ’84 was promoted to professor of marketing in the Quinlan School of Business at Loyola University Chicago where she also serves as director of the MS in Integrated Marketing Communications.

Joseph Fusco, BA ’86, vice president of Casella Waste Systems, Inc., has been appointed chairman of the State of Vermont’s Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee.

Laura Masse, BA ’86 has been named executive vice president for marketing of NUVOtv, the premier English-language entertainment channel for the Latino community. Laura is a member of the Rockefeller College Advisory Board.

James Alexander, BA ’91, entrepreneur and founder of Vizibility Inc., became division president after the company was acquired by ALL-STATE International, Inc. in June 2013.

Derek A. Cohen, BA ’92 has been named a partner with Goodwin Procter LLP in New York City.

David Nero, MPA ’93 has been named the first chief information officer (CIO) at Perkins School for the Blind in Watertown, MA. Previously, David worked for 19 years for the City of Boston, most recently as deputy CIO.

Chris Sandor, BA ’93, MPA ’96 was named the director of operations and budget for the Office of Assessment at the New York City Department of Education.

Carl Meacham, BA ’94 was appointed director of the America’s Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, following over ten years as senior professional staff with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Washington, D.C.

Lauren Tobias, MA ’96 was appointed director of policy by the Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy. She previously served in a senior position in the New York State Department of Health. The Schuyler Center works to shape policies that improve health, welfare and human services in New York State.

Dave Bergh, MPA ’97 was named dean of Student Life & College Relations at Johnson State College in Johnson, VT.

Gregory Wahl, BA ’98, MA ’99 has joined the Secretary of State’s Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC) to lead the Regional Analysis Unit. He will continue his work within the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Diplomatic Security (DS), where he has been since 2003. He moves from the Office of Intelligence & Threat Analysis after having led that office’s Europe Team and major-event coverage, including serving as the lead DS analyst at the 2012 Summer Olympic Games in London.

David VanSlyke, PhD ’99 was named the Louis A. Bantle Chair in Business and Government Policy in the Department of Public Administration and International Affairs at Syracuse University’s Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs.

Michael Gendron, PhD ’00 is pleased to announce the early 2014 release of his third book, Business Intelligence and the Cloud: Strategic Implementation Guide (Wiley and SAS Business Series).

Benjamin Young, BA ’03 was promoted to director of operations for the Office of New York State Senator David Carlucci (38th Senate District: Rockland/Westchester). Benjamin has been at the New York State Senate since January 2012 and also teaches American Government as an adjunct instructor with Berkeley College in Manhattan.

Kristie Sammons, MPA ’03 has accepted a position as director of research and legislation at United University Professions.

Brian Cechnicki, BA ’03, MPA ’04 has been appointed assistant secretary for education in the Office of New York Governor Andrew Cuomo.

Ryan Conrad, MA ’05, CEO of the Lehigh Valley (PA) Association of Realtors, was selected as a member of the inaugural class of the Lehigh Valley Business “Forty Under 40.” He previously served as director of government affairs for the association and was elected a township commissioner for Lower Macungie Township in 2009.

Nandhini Rangarajan, PhD ’05 was named associate professor of political science at Texas State University, San Marcos.

Corey Driscoll, MPA ’07 was recently appointed district director for U.S. Representative Dan Maffei (NY-24th District). He will supervise the district office in Syracuse. Corey previously worked as director of code enforcement and director of constituent affairs for the City of Syracuse.

Wayne Lair, BA ’07, MA ’10 was named director of government affairs at The Vandervort Group, LLC in Albany, NY. He joined the firm as a legislative associate in December 2009. He practices in many areas, including economic development, health care, agriculture, environmental conservation, consumer protection, and information technology, and represents a vast array of clients, including pharmaceutical companies, small business associations and labor groups. Previously, Wayne served as legislative coordinator for New York StateWatch, an Albany-based legislative tracking service.

Pavani Rangachari, PhD ’07 was named associate professor in the Master of Public Health program at the Georgia Regents University.

David A. Rozen, Esq., BA ’07 won the Albany Law School Outstanding Young Alumni Award in July 2013. David is legislative
counsel to New York State Senator Michael N. Gianaris (12th Senate District).

First Lieutenant Kevin Caneco, BA ‘08, U.S. Army, has been selected to be promoted to the rank of Captain. Kevin is currently serving in Hawaii after returning from a deployment to Afghanistan in 2012.

Kenneth Juras, MPA ’08 accepted a position as deputy commissioner of finance for Ulster County in New York’s mid-Hudson region.

Laura Valeria González-Murphy, PhD ’09 was accepted into the Empire State Fellows Program. She will work in the Office for New Americans within the New York State Department of State.

Michelle Mittler, BA ’10 has accepted a position as director of scheduling and special events in the office of Congressman Steny Hoyer of Maryland.

Ben Spear, BA ’10, MPA ’12 accepted a position as an intel cyber analyst at the Center for Internet Security in East Greenbush, NY.

Ben O’Shaughnessy, MA ’11, MPA ’12 was appointed project coordinator at the National Center for Security & Preparedness.

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Amanda Setaro, MPA ‘11 has accepted a position as fiscal analyst in the New York State Assembly.

Carmen Duncan, CGS ’12, MSW ’12, who completed a Certificate in Nonprofit Management and Leadership as well as a Master’s in Social Work in 2012, is the founder and CEO of Mission Accomplished Transition Services, a nonprofit established to support adolescents and their transition to adulthood. She also was recently appointed to the New York State Office of Children and Family Services Runaway and Homeless Youth Advisory Board by Commissioner Gladys Carrión.

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Bernadette Flynn, MPA ’12 was promoted to senior budget analyst with the NYS Assembly Minority Ways and Means Committee.

Colleen Kutney, BA ’12 has accepted a position as digital campaign associate with the Democratic National Committee in Washington, D.C.

Jonathon Steiner, MPA ’12 was promoted to assistant project manager for Performance Management and Evaluation Systems at the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA).

Joseph M. Alicata, BA ’13 is now the community liaison for New York State Assemblyman Brian Curran.

Whitney Brown, MPA ’13 was hired at the University of Alaska Anchorage as the coordinator of student affairs research, assessment and staff development. In this role, Whitney provides leadership in advancing student affairs strategic planning and evidence-based decision making, serves as an assessment consultant to the vice chancellor for student affairs and the student affairs executive team, and develops needs-based comprehensive professional development programs for employees.

Alex Dean, MPA ’13 has accepted a position as a researcher/policy analyst with Governor Cuomo’s Cyber Security Advisory Board, in association with the Center for Internet Security.

Andrea Richards, MPA ’13 is working at the SUNY Charter Schools Institute as program analyst for new school applications. The Charter School Institute is one of two charter school authorizers in New York State.

Several Rockefeller College alumni were honored by City & State in June 2013 as “Rising Stars Under Forty.” Recognized were Michael Cassidy, BA ’08, MPA ’10, assistant director of state operations, Office of New York Governor Andrew Cuomo; Joshua Terry, BA ’05, legislative representative, Civil Service Employees Association; Alithia Rodriguez-Rolon, MPA ’98, director of government affairs, NYS Council of School Supervisors and Administrators; and Dan Katz, MPA ’05, general counsel, The Parkside Group.

Amanda Ghezzi, MPA ’13 has accepted a position as an associate at KPMG.

Come back to class!
Alumni are invited to participate in the Alumni in the Classroom Program (AIC). AIC is designed to connect alumni having issue-area expertise to related courses in political science and public administration and policy. If you have 30 minutes and would be willing to share information with students about the work you do and the skills required to succeed in your field, we’d love to hear from you! Email alomanto@albany.edu for more information.

Stay Connected to Rockefeller College

www.albany.edu/rockefeller/alumni

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UAlbany’s Emerging Issues in the Nonprofit Sector seminar series continues this year. The series, a collaborative effort of Rockefeller College, the School of Social Welfare and the School of Public Health was launched in spring 2013 with visits by Anne Bryce, CEO of Achieve Australia, Ltd (below left) and Jason Lilien from the New York State Attorney General’s Office (below at podium).

UAlbany President Robert J. Jones leads a community conversation with the daughters of Desmond Tutu, Nontombi Naomi Tutu (center) and Thandeka Tutu-Gxashe (right), during Celebrate & Advance Week, September 28. (Below) Naomi and Thandi visit a classroom on the downtown campus.

**Save the Date**

**February 6, 2014**
Semester in Washington Welcome Reception in Washington, D.C.

**January 24, 2014**
Alumni-Student **JEOPARDY CHALLENGE**

**May 16, 2014**
2014 Annual Alumni Dinner & Awards Ceremony

**February 5, 2014**
Roundtable on Women’s Leadership Challenges in the 21st Century in NYC