Mexico Moves on Immigration Reform
Rockefeller Researchers Contribute Expertise
A Message from the Dean

Welcome back!
As our students begin arriving on campus and we get ready to kick off the fall semester, I would like to highlight a few exciting events that took place during the last year and one that is planned for the fall.

One of the most significant events was New York Governor Andrew M. Cuomo’s signing into law the NYSUNY 2020 Challenge Grant Program. After years of fiscal instability and a three-year period in which Rockefeller College saw its budget cut by almost 25 percent, the new law promises to usher in a new era in which tuition will rise modestly in a predictable manner and significant new resources will be made available for the College’s research, teaching, and service programs. The contraction of the faculty will stop and we hope to expand with several new faculty hires this year in the areas of nonprofit management, public law, public economics and finance.

In the longer term, the prospects for the College could not be brighter. The University at Albany Strategic Plan (http://www.albany.edu/strategicplan/strategic.planning.documents.shtml) was formally unveiled by President George Philip in January 2011. This general vision for improving teaching and expanding research was supplemented this summer with the Albany Impact Plan that was given to the Governor and the New York State Legislature in response to the provisions in the NYSUNY 2020 Challenge Grant Program bill. The Albany Impact Plan identifies six key areas of growth for the University [Human Health and Biomedical Sciences; Emerging Technologies; Environmental and Economic Sustainability; Public Service and Policy; Business and Entrepreneurship; and Liberal Arts and Sciences]. The Public Service and Policy Strategic Initiative recognizes that “The University at Albany is a national center of excellence for research, education and policy development in domestic and international education, social services, healthcare, criminal justice, and government.” Rockefeller College is recognized as a leading institution in public affairs and policy and an important area for future investment by the University (http://www.suny.edu/Board_of_Trustees/webcastdocs/2020-UAlbanyPlan.pdf).

This fall promises to be an exciting time at Rockefeller College. Please come and join us for our kick-off program at the start of the semester. In commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the events of September 11th 2001, Rockefeller College will be hosting a multi-event program entitled Navigating the Post-9/11 World. The program will consist of three distinct events: 1) 9/11 – 10 Years Later: A Community Dialogue—a panel discussion with historians, academics, and journalists exploring social, political, and economic changes since 9/11 (Thursday, September 8th at 7:00 pm at the New York State Museum); 2) Interrogation in the Post-9/11 World, a talk by former US Air Force interrogator Matthew Alexander (Tuesday September 13th at 7:30 pm in the Recital Hall, University at Albany Performing Arts Center); and 3) Policy Forum: Chasing Criminals vs. Chasing Terrorists: Comparing Investigation Standards and Criminal Procedures in the Post-9/11 World – Reflections on the Patriot Act (Thursday, October 20th at the Rockefeller Institute of Government). These interesting panels and speakers are open to our students, our alumni, and members of the community.

Finally, I would like to thank Jeff Straussman for his leadership as Dean of Rockefeller College over the last five years. Jeff’s commitment to outstanding educational programming and scholarly research helped the College make tremendous progress on several fronts despite the challenging economic situation. Jeff will be on leave from the College at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at the National University of Singapore before returning to the public administration faculty. The University will be conducting a national search to identify his successor.

Now let’s all enjoy a great start to a successful academic year!

David L. Rousseau
Interim Dean

[Image of David L. Rousseau]

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Rockefeller College of Public Affairs & Policy
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www.albany.edu/rockefeller
Nonprofit Research at a Higher Level

by Susan Appe ’12

Susan in the Páramo in front of Volcano Cotopaxi, Ecuador
After wrapping up many months of data collection, I am once again walking the halls of Milne, anticipating the fall semester. I will be organizing and analyzing mounds of information compiled in Ecuador and Colombia from 2009 to 2011 for my dissertation. As an advanced PhD candidate, my studies in public administration and policy have brought me closer to understanding a range of governance issues, from cross-sector collaboration in Albany’s Capital District to nonprofit regulation in the sprawling cities and mountain towns of South America’s Andean Region. My studies at Rockefeller College, specifically in nonprofit management and policy, have been well-timed. Since I enrolled back in 2007, the program has expanded tremendously. Increased course offerings and a growing number of faculty devoted to nonprofit studies make this an exciting time to be studying nonprofit management and policy at Rockefeller.

I first went to South America in 2002 as a Peace Corps volunteer. During two and a half years as a community and nongovernmental organization development specialist, I became acquainted with many of the challenges facing the nonprofit sector in the region – scarce funding, unclear legal requirements, and complex relations with local and regional government.

In 2009, my doctoral work at Rockefeller College took me back to South America. For my dissertation, I spent over 18 very busy months in Quito, Ecuador and Bogotá, Colombia1. My activities included collecting data at more than 30 nonprofit and government meetings and conducting over 80 interviews on the topic of social development and its challenges with nonprofit managers from the areas of disability services, environmental issues, women’s rights, and social accountability. In addition, I presented my research to both Spanish and English-speaking communities on numerous occasions and compiled in excess of 200 documents related to my studies. Nonprofit managers in Ecuador and Colombia were often surprised to learn that research on nonprofit management and policy is valued by US universities. Nonprofit management education programs are not prevalent in Latin America; some scholars and practitioners have attributed this to a smaller presence of schools of public administration and public policy in general2. However, I found that change is underway. Both universities where I studied have created graduate programs in public administration and policy-related fields, including doctoral programs in public administration and professional degrees in social development management as well as public policy.

When I wasn’t conducting interviews or buried under data, I was hiking the Andes. In Ecuador, I climbed four volcanoes including two that were well over 15,000 feet high – El Corazón (‘The Heart’) and Rumiñahui (named for an Incan general who lived during the Spanish conquest of South America). The mountains challenged me physically, but even more so mentally, and in a refreshingly different way from my research. The hikes generally started with a very steep climb to an ecosystem called the Páramo (usually found above 9,800 feet, often above the tree line but below snow and ice), then progressed to a sharp ascent into volcanic rock. The views were amazing at the top.

While in South America, I also took the opportunity to pursue coursework that I might not find at home. This included a graduate course on Quichua (Quechua), an indigenous language and culture in South America. Quichua is spoken by more than 10 million people throughout the Andean Region. The Ecuadorian government, like many other governments in the region, has fostered the (re)teaching of Quichua, declaring the country both multilingual and multicultural in its constitution and across all government policies.

For me, the last year and a half has been filled with opportunity – professional and personal. I look forward to telling more stories as my dissertation unfolds, exploring the many differences across nonprofit sectors in the US and South America, but also revealing some surprisingly similar challenges being faced by social development practitioners and nonprofit managers in both regions.

Susan Appe is a PhD candidate in the department of public administration and policy at Rockefeller College. Susan’s concentration is in the field of politics and administration. She has received many awards and honors, including a European Summer School on Social Economy Scholarship from the University of Bologna, July 2011; an Initiatives For Women Research Scholarship from the University at Albany, Spring 2011; a Doctoral Fellowship from the Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action (ARNOVA), 2010; an Emerging Scholar Award from ARNOVA, 2010; and an RGK Center on Philanthropy and Community Service Summer Fellowship from The University of Texas at Austin, Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, June 2010.

1 This fieldwork was funded by a generous grant through the International Rotary Foundation and the Capital District Rotary Clubs.

Mexico Moves on Immigration Reform

Rockefeller Researchers Contribute Expertise

“Laws are like sausages. It is better not to see them being made.” Many find truth in that amusing and astute commentary often attributed to the formidable 19th century German statesman and politician Otto von Bismarck. However, Rockefeller College faculty members, research partners and immigration experts Rey Koslowski and Laura Valeria González-Murphy would emphatically disagree with the time-honored swipe at lawmaking. As Mexico significantly reforms its migration laws for the 21st century, Koslowski and González-Murphy take the approach that the closer they are to the process, the better. In other words, bring on the sausage. Or as Dr. González-Murphy, who has witnessed the development of Mexico’s immigration reform legislation firsthand, more elegantly states, “It is a privilege to have been part of this from the beginning.”

In recent years, Mexican government officials at the highest levels have decided the time is right for getting on with the complicated work of creating and instituting new legislation to modernize the country’s immigration laws and correct shortcomings of existing legislation that had often contributed to harsh and unfair treatment of immigrants in Mexico, particularly at the hands of corrupt authorities. Senator Humberto Andrade Quezada, President of the Committee on Population and Development, explains, “For the most part, Mexico’s General Law of Population, which regulated migration issues, was obsolete, as it dealt with a socio-demographic reality that pertained to the 60s and 70s, a very different reality than the one Mexico has been living since just before the start of the 21st century. At the same time, Mexico’s migration legislation needed to correspond with the international obligations and agreements that the Mexican government has ratified. Mexico’s migration framework also needed to coordinate with regional regulations on the services for unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents in case of deportation. Establishing a new migration regulatory framework had become a moral and political priority for the Mexican state, given the injustice and abuse that undocumented migrants transiting our country are being subject to.
There is also a need to be congruent as a nation defending the rights of our nationals residing in our neighbor country.”

Responding to those challenges, Mexico’s Congress, both the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies, after considerable ‘sausage making’ unanimously passed a Law of Migration this spring. President Felipe Calderón signed it into law in May. “Now there’s a whole host of new regulations that will need to be ironed out,” adds Rey Koslowski. “The previous immigration laws were Draconian and very restrictive, but not always enforced. So we will see what happens now.”

Professors Koslowski and González-Murphy are among a select group of academics serving as advisors to the legislative reform process, and the only American scholars invited to participate. In conjunction with their work as advisors and observers of the Mexican government’s reforms in this area, the two have embarked on an ambitious three-year research project, The International Context of Immigration Reform: US, Mexico, and Beyond. They will be examining the politics of changing immigration policies and the implementation of reforms in the United States and Mexico from a comparative and international perspective. Clearly, González-Murphy and Koslowski are in the thick of it when it comes to immigration matters. And they are highly impressed with Mexico’s decision to reform its system and with its progress to date. “What we’ve discovered directly from the senators and congressmen,” shares González-Murphy, “is that passing the new Migration Law was not easy, but all agreed that it was a major step that had to be taken. It’s not perfect but it is a start on creating a framework for how Mexico should deal with balancing human rights concerns, and security and border issues.”

The pair’s involvement with Mexican migration reform began in 2007 in Laredo, Texas at a meeting Professor Koslowski, an expert on global migration and security issues, co-organized with members of the Migratory Policy Institute (MPI). Officials from the US, the European Union, and Mexico were in attendance, including Mexican customs officials and representatives of Mexico’s National Migration Institute, the organization responsible for administering migration laws and border control. Professor Koslowski recounts, “In side conversations at the meeting, I first heard about the view that the General Law of Population was obsolete and more needed to be done about migration. I told a couple officials I had a graduate student (Laura) interested in migration and asked if they’d be willing to speak with her. Sure, they said, and next thing you know emails were flying. Laura went down to Mexico and met with some of these officials who introduced her to a leader in Sin Fronteras (Without Borders), one of the civil society organizations that aid migrants, and things took off from there. Laura was writing her dissertation on the politics of contemporary Mexican immigration, and developing policy concepts. She was introduced to more and more people interested in immigration policy, and things snowballed.”

“The University at Albany in particular has developed a substantive and in-depth research program thanks to the coordination of Drs. Koslowski and González-Murphy. Therefore, as Mexico’s senators, we have decided to open our doors so that they can contribute their experience and knowledge in order for Mexico to be able to develop modern and advanced legislation.”

— Senator Carlos Jiménez Macías
Dr. González-Murphy’s personal connections to Mexico deepened her insight and her access. She grew up in the southwestern Mexican state of Oaxaca; her father was Mexican and her mother an American experiencing the difficulties immigrants face. In addition to her impressive scholarship, Laura’s mastery of language, as well as her status as a dual national, and the fact that she had family living in Mexico, were important factors in facilitating her research opportunities and establishing her credibility with government officials and civil society organizations committed to immigration reform. Dr. Koslowski is proud to point out that, “Laura has become a ‘go to’ person on Mexican immigration policy not only within academic circles but also for the Mexican government.”

The workshop, perfectly timed in terms of Mexico’s legislative reforms, drew US and Mexican scholars and government officials to discuss Mexico’s changing immigration policies, with emphasis on the newly enacted Migration Law. Mexico’s policies were looked at in comparative terms to the international picture, especially regarding human rights, security, and implementation. Some very practical policy recommendations were presented that may make implementation of the new Migration Law more successful. These include; publicize, publicize, publicize — disseminate information on the new law, using a full array of government agencies, to the greatest possible number of immigrants; ‘socialize the law’ by engaging the energies of civil society organizations in the dissemination process; spread the word regionally and internationally; provide an English language translation of the law for the many American citizens now living in Mexico; coordinate the levels of government in their implementation of the law, being sure to avoid duplication of effort; and be transparent when it comes to implementation.

Mexican lawmakers and immigration experts like Senator Carlos Jiménez Macías of the Senate Workgroup on Migration Issues praise the contribution Koslowski and González-Murphy are making to the reform process. “The degree of complexity that the migration issue implies obligates us to find solutions together, and academia plays a very important role in the implementation of our objectives at the initiating stage. Academics understand and can develop proposals to guide this phenomenon. The University at Albany in particular has developed a substantive and in-depth research program thanks to the coordination of Drs. Koslowski and González-Murphy. Therefore, as Mexico’s senators, we have decided to open our doors so that they can contribute their experience and knowledge in order for Mexico to be able to develop
modern and advanced legislation that guarantees full respect for the human rights of all individuals independent of their migratory status."

Next up on Koslowski and González-Murphy’s research project agenda is an October 2011 workshop in DC that looks at the other side of the coin, US Immigration Reform in International Perspective, and that will engage American and Mexican government officials in a discussion of immigration reforms on both sides of the border and explore potential opportunities for interaction between countries. Future workshops will cover E-government and Migration Management and Immigration Reform and Congressional Oversight and Legislative Staff Development. A planned larger public conference will examine US and Mexican Immigration Reforms. Repeat attendance by both Mexican and US officials at the sessions is one of the goals; the expectation is that it will result in greater expertise for all and will lead to ongoing and meaningful conversation among the important players. The project also includes a separate workshop for academics and journalists this fall. On the agenda will be a discussion about media coverage of immigration issues and reforms in the US and Mexico. Koslowski and González-Murphy will share their research and shed light on other immigration related matters and concerns. According to the professors, the reality is that many immigration issues often don’t receive enough attention in the media or in academia. This workshop will include US and Mexican journalists who have written extensively on immigration, reporters new to the immigration beat, and young immigrant journalists. The professors firmly believe immigration reform is sorely in need of informed messengers intent on sharing the news.

Finally, no examination of immigration issues is complete without acknowledging the elephant hulking over in the corner of the room, that is, the United States’ lack of movement on immigration issues concerning its southern border. Koslowski doesn’t see progress coming anytime soon, straightforwardly noting that “Immigration is way down there” in both the Obama administration’s and Congress’ priorities and our approach to immigration reflects “just a broken system” currently. “Politically, finally, what’s happened is that we have states attempting to pass their own laws even though immigration is ostensibly a federal competency. And we have states duking it out with the federal government in court. We’re expending all sorts of energy at the state level passing laws that comprehensive immigration reform could address.” But he and Laura Valeria González-Murphy aren’t about to give up on reform despite the complexity of the challenges, in fact just the opposite as one can tell from their extensive and highly respected scholarship and their practical application of immigration policy expertise. Their work continues.

Timeline of Mexico’s Changing Immigration Policy

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>1974</td>
<td>A population explosion along with changing demographics caused by increased numbers of Latin American refugees entering Mexico, more Central American migrants traveling through the country on their way to the US, and the emigration of Mexican nationals to the states prompt Mexico to amend its immigration policy. The General Law of Population (GLP) of 1947, which governs all aspects of immigration, is revised, essentially closing all doors to immigrants.</td>
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<td>April 2008</td>
<td>The GLP is modified to decriminalize undocumented immigration.</td>
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<td>September 2010</td>
<td>Migrants are given the right to submit complaints on the violations they may have been subject to, without fear of prosecution and/or deportation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 2010</td>
<td>Mexican President Felipe Calderón proposes a comprehensive migration law for Mexico during the Global Forum on Migration and Development, held in Puerto Vallarta.</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 9, 2010</td>
<td>A group of Mexican senators introduces legislation for a new migration law plus amendments to the General Law of Population and other related laws and codes.</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 28, 2011</td>
<td>President Calderón signs the Law on Refugees and Complementary Protection, bringing Mexico’s policies related to refugees and individuals seeking political asylum into line with international agreements. The legislation grants refugees permission to work, access to health services, health insurance, and education and recognition of educational qualifications. Mexico will grant complementary protection for people not considered as refugees, but whose life has been threatened or who could be at risk of torture, ill treatment or other forms of cruel, inhuman treatment.</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 2011</td>
<td>The Migration Law is enacted guaranteeing that foreigners and Mexican nationals receive equal treatment under Mexican law. It also simplifies entrance and residency requirements for foreigners.</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 2011</td>
<td>President Calderón signs an amendment to enact human rights reforms that will modify 11 articles of the Mexican Constitution of 1917 in order to be consistent with international commitments previously made by Mexico.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 2011</td>
<td>Deadline for drafting regulations for the implementation of the Migration Law</td>
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After a “less than stellar academic performance” in his first two years at Iowa State University, Joe Colangelo decided to leave college, uproot himself from his home state of Iowa, and chart a new course. It turned out to be the best move he ever made. Before the age of 30 — because of hard work and wise personal choices — Joe’s built an impressive resume in local government management that includes his current position as town administrator of Hinesburg and his previous job as assistant manager of Middlebury, Vermont.

Explain “less than stellar academic performance.”
I had a 1.7 GPA my final semester at Iowa State. That’s plain awful. I think they give you a 2.5 if you’re breathing. It wasn’t that I didn’t care about school, or that I was spending too much time partying. It was just a byproduct of going to college without having any true direction and purpose. The only positive I can draw from those two years is that they went so poorly I felt forced to make drastic changes in my life in order to make a better future for myself.

What did you do after you left Iowa State?
I spent a year with the AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps. I was so adamant to get into the program—and get out of college—that I called the Washington, DC office every day for nearly a month to find out the status of my application. They got so sick of hearing from me that they finally asked me to pick the assignment I wanted and told me I didn’t need to call them back again. That year was the turning point in my life. I taught kindergarten in an inner city school in Baltimore, built houses with Habitat for Humanity, worked with outdoor wilderness camps, trained and was certified as a national wildland firefighter, and worked with the National Guard and a crew of firefighters on a FEMA disaster relief mission in rural Virginia. I matured as a person and developed strong leadership skills. After AmeriCorps I moved to Brooklyn and enrolled at Hunter College on the Upper East Side of Manhattan. I was a totally changed student. I went from a 2.0 to better than a 3.5 GPA. I also found a full-time job at the New York Public Library as a technical researcher while I was attending school full-time. It was a lot to juggle, but I was able to handle it all and still enjoy the city.

Why did you decide to head upstate to attend Rockefeller College and what was your experience here like?
After I finished my bachelor’s in philosophy at Hunter, I wanted a master’s degree with a more professional focus in order to strengthen my resume. I applied to five public policy schools but ended my search as soon as I was accepted at Rockefeller. Rockefeller College appealed to me because of its value as an in-state school, the fact that it was nationally recognized, and because it offered me the opportunity to concentrate in accounting, economics, and public finance.

The emphasis on the internships at Rockefeller was a huge plus for me. I spent an entire year interning in the Classification and Compensation Unit of the New York State Department of Civil Service. I made a good decision in concentrating in public finance and economics. When I was interviewing for the jobs I ultimately got, I found those were skill areas that a lot of the other applicants didn’t have. The courses I took in municipal debt finance and financial management have been critical to my success as a professional. I use the skills I acquired in those classes almost every day.

How did you get the job as assistant manager in Middlebury?
I was fortunate to land a yearlong internship with the Town of Barre, Vermont during my final semester at Rockefeller. I was able to work out a plan with my professors that let me finish my degree and accept an internship in Vermont, three hours away from Albany. I enjoyed the internship from the moment it started. I really thrived with the variety of work that I was able to get my hands on working at the local level. I just happened to sit next to Middlebury’s town manager, Bill Finger, who is a Rockefeller alum himself, at a conference when the assistant’s job was available. That meeting led to the job offer. Middlebury was an exciting place for me to start my professional career. It’s a dynamic little college town with a complex network of interested parties.

As soon as I arrived in Middlebury, I started work on a large project—the Cross Street Bridge. I put together all the financial models for this $16 million project that was to be completed using 100 percent local financing. I did all the analysis of what the paybacks would look like for a $16 million bond over 30 years. Half of the financing came from Middlebury College and half from implementation of a local option tax. That required going through town charter changes, holding a number of public meetings about how the tax was going to work, and showing that if you implemented the 1 percent local option tax, the revenues generated would be enough to pay back the bond with the support of Middlebury College, without a further increase to the already high property tax. I gave a number of public presentations on how the financing would work and became an expert in Vermont municipal bonds.

Do you consider the bridge your biggest accomplishment so far?
I would be surprised if anything ever topped that. I feel honored that I was able to be part of a project like that, especially so early in my career. It’s a very handsome bridge and it’s heavily used. I was able to be part of everything from the financing to the actual design of the bridge. It solved the traffic problems we said it was going to solve. People are happy with it. I think the community took pride in the fact that we did it on our own without any help from the state or federal governments.

What’s on your agenda in Hinesburg?
Hinesburg and Middlebury are vastly different communities. Hinesburg is more rural and its population is smaller but, unlike Middlebury, it is part of the greater Burlington area so I’m able to work on more urban issues. One project on the horizon is to implement commuter bus service from downtown Burlington to Hinesburg. Also, there are more regional economic development issues in Hinesburg because it is closer to the only true urban center in Vermont. In June I helped secure a $550,000 Community Development Block Grant to help a business relocate to Hinesburg. That will help add much needed manufacturing jobs to the area. Furthermore, I will use the grant payments to start a community revolving loan fund in Hinesburg to help new and existing businesses. I think it’s important to keep my own aspirations out of it as much as I can. I focus on having the right mechanisms in place to deal with what could be coming. For example, my first month on the job I implemented the Hinesburg Sustainable Economic Development Commission which will put together a comprehensive economic development plan for Hinesburg and have responsibility for the new revolving loan fund that will be created from the Community Development Block Grant. One aspiration I do have is to promote a healthy and supportive work environment for all town employees. I place a high premium on workplace satisfaction. I like to do team-building exercises with the staff and I work to promote a productive and energetic workforce. I like to be around happy people.

Are you happy with the choices you’ve made?
Yes. Since I got my degree at Rockefeller, I’ve had nothing but upper management jobs. There’s definitely a lot of responsibility that comes with that—which I enjoy—but I am also able to be in charge of my own hours and set my own schedule. I think of it as being the CEO of a company. The company just happens to be a town. That’s really how I try to attack it. I like talking to people from all walks of life and from all backgrounds and I get to do that every day. I’m talking with engineers, landscape architects, CPAs, attorneys, and business owners. Local government is exciting. Every day is different and I can’t imagine it being any other way. I try to take advantage of all the outdoor activities here in Vermont. I go hiking every week and I go skiing in the winter. I’ve been able to find that work-life balance that makes me happy. Without the Rockefeller degree that wouldn’t have happened.
Iowa to Vermont and Points In Between

Q&A with

Joe Colangelo ’06

Town Administrator of Hinesburg, Vermont
Rockefeller College at a Glance

Dean of Rockefeller College

Department of Political Science
www.albany.edu/rockefeller/pos

Department of Public Administration & Policy
www.albany.edu/rockefeller/pad

Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government
www.rockinst.org
The Institute works with experts and top officials at all levels of government to forge creative solutions to public problems. Their studies and special projects enhance the capacity of states and localities to meet present challenges.

Center for Women in Government and Civil Society (CWGCS)
www.albany.edu/womeningov
CWGCS works to strengthen public policy access and outcomes for women and children. Center programs help develop the management and leadership capacity of nonprofit organizations and of women serving in the public sector.

Professional Development Program (PDP)
www.pdp.albany.edu
PDP offers comprehensive services to federal, state, and local government to improve individual and organizational performance. Staff conduct needs assessment and organizational analysis, and offer program development, implementation, and management using leading-edge training and production capacity.

Center for Policy Research (CPR)
www.albany.edu/cpr
The Center was created to ensure that the College continues to establish and maintain research excellence in the field of public policy, emphasizing both methodological and substantive issues.

Initiative for System Dynamics in the Public Sector
www.isdps.org
The Initiative for System Dynamics in the Public Sector develops system dynamics computer simulation models of specific problems identified by government agencies and nonprofits. These models are used to test scenarios and develop understanding about the possible implications of different policies and programs prior to implementation.

Intergovernmental Studies Program (IGSP)
www.albany.edu/igsp
IGSP works to improve governmental performance and collaborative outcomes for state and local governments. The IGSP team studies public services delivered by local governments or through intergovernmental systems to understand how they operate and how they can be improved.
The Center for International Development (SUNY/CID) and the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA), the legislative arm of the East African Community (EAC), have signed an agreement to create and develop the East African Parliamentary Institute (EAPI).

The Institute is expected to facilitate the strengthening of the human and institutional capacities of both EALA itself and member parliaments in the region (Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, and Uganda) in such areas as leadership development, legislative drafting and review, human resource management, budget analysis, and the utilization of information technology. It will also seek a leading role in information exchange among the affected parliaments, as well as harmonization and optimization of legislative training resources in the region. The three-year agreement was signed by EALA’s Rt. Hon. Abdirahim H. Abdi, and SUNY/CID Director Malcolm Russell-Einhorn on May 26 at the EALA offices in Arusha, Tanzania. The memorandum of understanding constitutes a framework of cooperation and collaboration between the organizations that will be refined through subsidiary projects and documents/understandings affecting both substantive training and development activities.

The Center for International Development at Rockefeller College is a leading international development center enhancing the knowledge and practice of governance and policymaking. CID draws upon the extensive intellectual and technical resources of SUNY and serves as a key component of the University’s overall commitment to excellence in international education, cross-cultural exchange, and sustainable development. SUNY/CID has operated field offices on five continents and has implemented over $200 million in international development projects over the past quarter century.

SUNY/CID Director Malcolm Russell-Einhorn (left) and EALA’s Rt. Hon. Abdirahim H. Abdi sign the three-year partnership agreement at the EALA offices in Arusha, Tanzania.
News from the Research Centers and Institutes of Rockefeller College

Center for Women in Government and Civil Society (CWGCS)
The inaugural session of NEW Leadership™ New York (NLNY) welcomed 14 emerging undergraduate leaders to the University at Albany campus on Sunday, June 5th for six days of leadership development and career exploration workshops, panels and activities. The 2011 class of NEW Leaders arrived from every corner of New York State.

Center for Policy Research (CPR)
Professor Rey Koslowski was awarded a grant from the MacArthur Foundation that will allow him to examine the politics of changing immigration policies and the implementation of reforms in the US and Mexico from an explicitly comparative and international perspective. Professor Bryan Early received a grant from the State Department to conduct a seminar on strategic trade control legislation and implementing regulations in Beirut, Lebanon. Early will meet with selected Government of Lebanon agencies in order to address specific questions and concerns. CPR Director Victor Asal received an award from the US Department of Homeland Security to study factors related to hate crimes and terrorism.

National Center for Security & Preparedness (NCSP)
US Senators Charles E. Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand reintroduced legislation to include the National Center for Security and Preparedness in the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium (NDPC), a partnership of several organizations meant to enhance the emergency preparedness of federal, state, local, and nongovernmental emergency responders and counter-terrorism teams. The NDPC is sponsored by the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). National Preparedness Directorate and has a 12-year history of substantial improvements to national preparedness.

CPR Director Victor Asal received an award from the US Department of Homeland Security to study factors related to hate crimes and terrorism.

Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government
The Rockefeller Institute of Government released several major reports in the first half of 2011, including analyses of the economic impact of the State University of New York; errors in states’ revenue estimates and their impact on budget gaps; revenues from state-sanctioned gambling; and state and local government revenue trends after the Great Recession. The Institute assisted the Spending and Government Efficiency (SAGE) Commission, a body established by Governor Cuomo to restructure and streamline New York State government. Seven public policy forums engaged attendees in such topics as collective bargaining by public employees, the impact of an aging society, and the expansion of public health insurance.

Professional Development Program (PDP)
In May, PDP won a US Distance Learning Association Gold Award for Best Practice in Distance Learning Programming for the e-learning course Preventing Shaken Baby Syndrome, a course developed under contract to the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS).

PDP has been a key partner in the development and launch of the new Child Care Time and Attendance (CCTA) System for OCFS. The system addresses the needs of state and local departments of social services staff, along with those of day-care providers submitting and managing subsidy payments for children in day-care programs around the state, and parents checking their children in and out of day-care settings. PDP developed three classroom training courses, along with two online learning modules.

Intergovernmental Studies Program (IGSP)
Michael R. Hattery has joined IGSP as associate director. Dr. Hattery comes to IGSP from Binghamton University where he ran the Local Government Center and taught in the MPA program.

After completing justice court restructuring studies for more than a dozen towns and villages in New York State, IGSP reports some interesting and fairly consistent findings. As it turns out, few local officials are aware of town and village oversight responsibilities for courts, and neither municipal or court officials have data about the true costs or caseload carried by their court. Lack of data makes it exceedingly difficult to consider restructuring options or to know if their court is more expensive than it needs to be.

Institute for Traffic Safety Management and Research (ITSMR)
ITSMR conducted its annual statewide seatbelt compliance survey in June. Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) Commissioner and Chair of the Governor’s Traffic Safety Committee Barbara J. Fiala announced that the seat belt compliance rate for New York had reached an all-time high. The usage rate increased from 90 percent in 2010 to 91 percent for 2011. The New York State Seat Belt Observation Survey was conducted at 200 individual locations in 20 counties where drivers and front-seat passengers were monitored for seat belt compliance.
Most Americans yearn for a United States Senate where thoughtful speeches and polished legislation address the major issues of the day. We think of Webster’s reply to Hayne in 1830 buttressing Jackson heading toward the Nullification Crisis, and Clay’s crafting the Compromise of 1850 as models. Had the Senate in both instances not been instrumental in keeping the Union together, an early Civil War would have splintered and weakened our nation.

We thus instinctively agree with George Washington, who saw the Senate’s role to be that of a saucer, where the hot coffee emerging from the people’s House of Representatives would cool.

How disappointed we have become. All too often today’s senators follow the perverse politics of photosynthesis: mistakes political heat for policy light, gravitating to their party’s base, while turning away from the consensus in public opinion.

If we want the Senate from our mind’s eye, the Senate itself must make changes [e.g., so that a mere 41 senators cannot block every major initiative and confirmation]. But we the people can also bring change. One way is to send people of substance to the Senate with two sets of throwback skills: legislative craftsmen and people of prior accomplishment.

New York State has a rich bipartisan tradition of sending just such senators to Washington. Democratic Senator Robert Wagner was the lead sponsor of Social Security and Republican Senator Jacob Javits was the author of the War Powers Resolution. Senator Schumer is today a throwback to the tradition of Wagner and Javits. We have also sent senators whose past accomplishments both graced and informed the Senate — from Republican governor and later secretary of state, William Seward, to former ambassador and author Daniel Patrick Moynihan.

We have had breakthroughs. Senator Webb of Virginia was secretary of the Navy and an author of note. Webb brought informed insight to the Senate on foreign policy questions. Last year, Kentucky sent us Dr. Rand Paul. Senator Paul is not everyone’s cup of tea, but his libertarian views challenge the Senate’s complacency. Regrettably, Webb decided not to seek re-election this year. If Webb saw more senators adding wisdom to the public discourse and value to the legislative craft, might he have stayed?

There is a chance that Professor Elizabeth Warren, who repeatedly warned before the foreclosure crisis hit that consumers were being bilked and who has guided the Obama administration’s construction of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, might run next year for the Senate from Massachusetts. I hope she does, so that at least one senator could go toe-to-toe on substance with the financial industry. How fitting it, instead of having senators blackballing her prospective confirmation, Warren came to the United States Senate with an electoral mandate.

Warren would have to face the campaign gauntlet of fundraising and negative campaigning. To succeed as an unorthodox candidate, she must develop grassroots fundraising networks and fresh messaging techniques, including robust use of social networking, to combat the negative barrage of traditional campaigns.

Regardless of party and philosophy, the United States Senate won’t change unless voters send senators of real accomplishment (folks as varied as Dr. Harold Varmus, Richard Parsons, T. Boone Pickens or David Brooks). Imagine the value of a Varmus, who once led the National Institutes of Health, posing questions at a hearing on investment in biomedical research or a Parsons authoritatively debating the consequences of a debt limit crisis. The fields of climate change and energy (Pickens) cry out for real expertise, rather than sound bites recited by rote on the floor of the Senate.

I hope someone like an Elizabeth Warren or a David Brooks will someday be elected to the Senate. It might just satisfy our yearning to hear more informed senatorial debates, driving actual solutions for our newly flat world.

Bruce N. Gyory is an adjunct professor of political science at Rockefeller College of Public Affairs & Policy, University at Albany, State University of New York. Gyory is a political and strategic consultant with Corning Place Consulting in Albany, New York. He has over 28 years experience as a lawyer and lobbyist, and has served three governors of New York (two as senior advisor). Bruce received a B.A in political science from Columbia University in 1976 and a J.D from New York University in 1979.
“Since 9/11, al-Qaeda has been dealt a serious blow in terms of being kicked out of many areas of Afghanistan and the reduction of the areas where it can operate with impunity. It has had to restructure itself into a more loosely connected network structure and rely more on franchises. Nonetheless, it is still a dangerous actor. More troubling is the creation of a new generation of anti-American terrorist organizations in Iraq and surrounding areas that did not exist before the invasion. Equally troubling is the fact that certain of our funded allies appear to be sponsoring some of these terrorist organizations, and the sponsorship has increased and not decreased after 9/11. Pakistan is the most prominent case.”

– Victor Asal, Associate Professor, Political Science

“I am less struck by the differences caused by time since 9/11 and more by the differences caused by emotional distance. Class discussions about terrorism, 9/11, and Muslims take on a different dynamic in Albany than they did when I taught in Seattle. When ‘everyone knows someone,’ objectivity and thoughtful analysis become a real challenge for students. The closer I get to Ground Zero, the more I see among students a willingness to disregard longstanding democratic commitments, like adherence to the rule of law, in times of danger. I think our work as political science professors is even more important in such a context, where our students experienced the tragedy more intimately and may still struggle to make sense of their feelings on the subject.”

– Jennifer Fredette, Visiting Professor, Political Science

“The size and scope of our security vulnerabilities became painfully evident after September 11th, and it was clear that we had to overhaul how governments coordinate protection and response to terrorism and extreme events. The magnitude of change required was breathtaking. Every step of keeping the public secure—gathering intelligence, mitigating exposure to attacks, preparedness, response, and recovery— involves some measure of federal, state, and local involvement. We are undoubtedly in a better position to avoid or recover from attacks in 2011. But the job of sorting out what should be done in threat situations, and who should do it, may take another decade and some costly failures before the nation can reliably and nimbly respond to security threats.”

– Sydney Cresswell, Director, Intergovernmental Studies Program

9/11 – 10 Years Later
How Have We Changed?

We asked public policy experts from the Rockefeller College faculty to share their observations on how we, and our institutions, have changed in the 10 years since September 11, 2001.
“9/11 revealed two harsh realities that we are still coming to grips with 10 years after the attacks took place: that the rest of the world is more dangerous than Americans expected it to be and that Americans are more dangerous than the rest of the world expected us to be. Whether those expectations remain permanently altered—for both Americans and the rest of the world—will be one of the defining legacies of 9/11 and will shape international politics for decades to come.”

– Bryan Early, Assistant Professor, Political Science and Public Administration

“Though 9/11 might seem to be closely linked to foreign affairs, much of the way we think and talk about it is in terms of families and family relations. Further, policymakers use the language of family (e.g., ‘closure for victims’ families’ and ‘benefits available to families’) to give their positions legitimacy and to personalize public policy.”

– Patricia Strach, Associate Professor, Political Science and Public Administration

“9/11 provoked important and at times painful debates about the rule of law in times of emergency. Americans had to grapple with the erosion of our vision of ourselves as a nation fully committed to liberty and equality as we reacted to the fears triggered by the attacks and their aftermath. Serious questions remain for both policymakers and citizens about how to balance civil liberties and the desire for security, keeping our nation safe but also restoring and protecting our commitment to justice.”

Julie Novkov, Professor, Political Science

“The aftermath of 9/11 has meant that women in politics need to compete on the basis of national security issues, an area where their toughness and credibility has stereotypically been called into question. Even as women are achieving important milestones—holding top-level leadership positions in Congress and waging serious bids for the presidency, 9/11 created different challenges for the growing number of women seeking all levels of public office.”

– Sally Friedman, Associate Professor, Political Science

“September 11th brought together two educational and research endeavors that had grown apart since the height of the Cold War: emergency management and national security. During the height of the Cold War, duck and cover drills reminded everyone that a failure of national security policy could lead to a massive emergency management task. But over time, emergency management focused more on tornado shelters and hurricane evacuation plans than keeping the national system of fallout shelters stocked for a nuclear attack. After September 11th, emergency management specialists needed to recalibrate their focus to again consider the ramifications of security failures, and security specialists began to consider anew how terrorists would consider and strategically account for community resilience and response capability in their plans for attacks on the US. Out of this crucible has emerged a new set of programs on ‘homeland security’ that are often an amalgam of traditional emergency management courses and courses on the nature and scope of terrorist and other security threats.”

– R. Karl Rethemeyer, Chair Department of Public Administration and Policy
A number of Rockefeller MPA students were on the move this summer. **Taryn Couture** traveled to South Africa to intern for the IMAGE (Intervention with Microfinance for AIDS and Gender Equity) Project. Through education and microfinance, IMAGE has been effective in reducing domestic violence and the rate of AIDS in that region. **Magdalena Kura**, a SUNY/CID Arthur Sist Fellow, spent the summer in Bosnia-Herzegovina working on the USAID Parliamentary Strengthening Project. **Ryan Quinn** and **Mike Sapak** headed to DC. Ryan interned in the White House while Mike worked as an analyst for the US Census Bureau.

In June, doctoral student **Katie Truby** traveled to Mexico with Professor Rey Koslowski and Research Professor Laura González-Murphy to participate in a workshop titled “Mexican Migration Reform in International Perspective” at the offices of the Mexican Senate.

Congratulations are in order! **Samrat Bose**, a doctoral student in the department of public administration and policy, received a grant from the Horowitz Foundation for Social Policy for his dissertation research. Samrat is evaluating the impact of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 on the migration and participation rates of recipients in order to examine the effects of welfare reform on welfare-induced migration. PhD student **Wendy Johnston** received the SUNY Adirondack President’s Award for Teaching Excellence. Wendy’s concentration area is American politics and public policy. Rockefeller doctoral student **Na’ama Nagar** has accepted a position as assistant professor in the department of political science and public affairs at Western Carolina University. **Jennifer Woodward**, a doctoral student in the political science department, garnered multiple honors this spring. She was awarded the Law and Society Association/American Bar Foundation Fellowship, which funds two years of residential dissertation research and writing at the American Bar Foundation in Chicago, as well as the Anne Gustin Scholarship for Women in Law and Government through the University at Albany’s Initiatives for Women. Congratulations to all!
Yvonne Harrison is passionate about nonprofits and leadership. So much so that she and research partner Vic Murray from the University of Victoria, British Columbia have spent years developing an interactive online tool that helps nonprofits gauge and improve the leadership effectiveness of their boards of directors. “Research has shown that boards of nonprofit organizations that take time to regularly assess their performance are more effective than those that don’t,” says Harrison, a nonprofit management specialist in Rockefeller College’s Department of Public Administration and Policy. “Very often board members themselves, and those who connect to the board on a regular basis, have many ideas about what is working and what might be done better. One of the best ways to tap the potential for board members and others to contribute to improving board performance is to have them complete a well designed and tested questionnaire covering all facets of board performance. When summarized and analyzed, the results provide an excellent basis for learning and board self-development.”

To date, over 50 organizations have taken “Board Check-Up,” a free, secure and confidential online survey developed by Harrison and Murray. The innovative virtual tool has even made its way into the classroom. This spring, graduate students in Professor Harrison’s nonprofit governance and public management courses used it to evaluate the effectiveness of boards from a number of Capital Region nonprofits that volunteered to take part in a semester-long exercise in academic service learning (ASL), an approach that links academic course concepts and content with real-world experience and relevant community service. In the ASL nonprofit governance course, students, acting as board effectiveness management consultants, worked with boards to identify board effectiveness strengths and challenges and to make recommendations for improvement.

“Essentially the boards took ownership of participating. They consented through the online website and disseminated the survey themselves indicating they wanted to be involved. The students observed, gathered documents, conducted interviews, and compared the survey findings that the board had facilitated to the data they had collected to see if they matched up,” explained Harrison. “The students then completed focused literature reviews on the issues the boards were experiencing to provide their clients with best practices and useful tools to consider in their deliberations about how to improve and set goals in these areas for their organizations.”

Students worked with nonprofits of all different mission types and sizes — from the small voluntary nonprofit where there’s no paid staff to the multimillion dollar professional nonprofit with a full-time executive director and paid staff. Participating organizations represented a variety of constituencies including people with disabilities, the critically ill, the elderly, youth, and the impoverished. Some even had missions to support other nonprofit organizations such as churches and local community associations.

Lynette Stark, executive director of the Northeastern New York Affiliate of the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, was grateful for the chance to participate and planned on reserving ample time in her organization’s upcoming annual retreat to discuss with her board the findings and suggestions she was given by student consultants. When asked why she answered Harrison’s call for volunteers, Stark replied, “Commitment to community service is something we need to ingrain in all our college students.”

Second year MPA student Sara Horan consulted for the New York State Speech-Language-Hearing Association. “This project, and this class overall, has really helped me define what I want to do with my career. I already knew I wanted to work in the public sector in some form of management, but this has allowed me to really get a good handle on the type of issues that can arise and how to address them. I gained a lot of confidence through the process and I feel inspired to help other organizations in a similar way.” Katie Neer, a master’s candidate studying political institutions and policy, worked with an Albany-based nonprofit that assists the poor and disenfranchised. “This was truly the most beneficial and memorable experience of my graduate program,” said Neer.

To learn about Yvonne Harrison’s research, visit www.boardcheckup.com
Faculty News

Victor Asal, associate professor in the department of political science and co-director of the Project on Violent Conflict (PVC), recently took over as director of the Center for Policy Research (CPR).

Sharon Dawes, senior fellow at the Center for Technology in Government, was recently named chair of the advisory board for the United Nations University-International Institute for Software Technology.

Helen R. Desfosses, associate professor of public administration and policy, recently retired from the University at Albany. Her retirement caps a 33-year career on the campus. Desfosses arrived in 1978 as dean of undergraduate studies, and in 1983 became full-time faculty jointly appointed to public administration and Africana studies. She plans to devote her time to international consulting in governance and legislative strengthening.

Assistant Professor Holly Jarman is Co-PI on “The Building Information Sharing Networks to Support Consumer Choice Project” (I-Choose Project). “I-Choose” is a three-year research activity funded by the National Science Foundation that aims to develop a data interoperability framework to provide consumers with a wide range of information about how, where, and by whom products are manufactured and brought to market. The research team consists of a network of researchers and practitioners from Canada, Mexico, and the US including Rockefeller Professor David Andersen. The project is led by Theresa Pardo, director of the Center for Technology in Government.

Public Service Professor Bob McEvoy has been reappointed to another three-year term on the Government Law Center Advisory Board at the Albany Law School.

Julie Novkov, professor of political science and women’s studies at UAlbany, has been named chair of the 24-member department of political science.

Rockefeller Research Professor Tom Stewart was invited to speak at Shih Hsin University in Taiwan by alumnna Yu-Ying, professor and chair of public administration at Shih Hsin University.

Congratulations to Patricia Strach and Meredith Weiss on receiving tenure. Strach is an expert in American politics and public policy. Weiss specializes in the field of comparative politics with a focus on Southeast Asia.

Jeffrey D. Straussman has stepped down as dean of Rockefeller College and joined the Lee Kwan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore as a visiting professor. Associate Professor David Rousseau has been named interim dean of Rockefeller College.

The System Dynamics Society presented its Outstanding Service Award to David Andersen and George Richardson at its conference in Washington, DC this past July. The award recognizes individuals who have, on a volunteer basis, made exceptional contributions to the Society over an extended period of time.

Jerry Marschke, an associate professor in the department of public administration and policy, will be moving to the economics department at UAlbany where he has received a full-time appointment.

Department of Public Administration and Policy Adds Faculty

Jennifer Dodge, PhD has joined the Rockefeller College faculty as assistant professor in the department of public administration and policy. “We are excited to welcome Jennifer Dodge to the faculty,” said Karl Rethemeyer, department chair. “Dr. Dodge adds to our growing expertise and capability in the study of nonprofit management and the role nonprofits play in civil society and government provision of public goods and services. Her research focuses on what she terms ‘deliberative citizenship,’ a process by which citizens articulate, develop, and promote collective knowledge about political action and policy. Dr. Dodge will also add to our nationally recognized expertise in qualitative analysis.”

Jennifer Dodge is the book review editor of Critical Policy Studies, and a fellow at the Research Center for Leadership in Action at The Wagner School at NYU. Previously, Dodge conducted policy research at MDRC, and has partnered with various organizations to support nonprofit and public leadership, including the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation, the US State Department, and the New York City Research and Organizing Initiative.

(From top, left to right) Sharon Dawes and Holly Jarman; Tom Stewart meets with alumni and their families in Taiwan; (Third row, from left) Bob McEvoy, Julie Novkov, Theresa Pardo, and Helen Desfosses; (Fourth row, from left) George Richardson and David Andersen are honored by the System Dynamics Society, Victor Asal, Meredith Weiss, David Rousseau and Jeffrey D. Straussman
Publications and Presentations

Faculty Publications


Presentations


Marschke, Gerald 2011. "Teams in R&D: Evidence from Inventor Data." Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA) in Bonn, Germany and Bocconi University in Milan, Italy.


* Doctoral program in public administration and policy
** Doctoral program in political science
*** Master’s program in public administration and policy

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Trial attorneys learn to tell a story well and put prior events in perspective. That may be why a recent conversation with Lew Wiener about his legal career and advisory role at Rockefeller College was actually a thoughtful and reflective narrative. Wiener, who is a partner and head of the financial services litigation practice group at Sutherland Asbill & Brennan in Washington DC, related his story by pointing out the experiences, from college to the courtroom, that prepared him for each step of his career.

In his narrative, Wiener describes his political science education at Rockefeller College as a cornerstone and building block of his career. “I learned a legal standard in law school,” said Wiener, “but my political science education helped me see the process and politics of government in action.” More importantly perhaps, given his career as a litigator, Wiener found the critical appraisal he faced as an undergraduate made him a better thinker — more discerning in analysis, more skeptical of the easy answer, and more willing to push himself past his comfort level to find meaning in a concept or theory.

A second part of his narrative began in 1994, when he left private practice to join the Department of Justice (DOJ) during the Clinton administration. In 1996, Wiener became lead counsel in the largest class action case ever brought against the federal government. The Cobell case involved federal management of trust accounts for mineral, mining, and oil leases of Indian lands dating back to 1887. The case was daunting and terribly complex, and in Wiener’s view, “not the finest moment for the US.” Nevertheless, the work drew on every skill he had and allowed him to forge alliances with dedicated and talented colleagues. Wiener left DOJ in 2000, as a better and far more careful attorney, with an abiding appreciation for public service.

Wiener then joined Sutherland and the lessons kept coming. Every case provided a new opportunity to meet interesting people, learn another business, and speak the language of a new client. And his work is not solely limited to financial services litigation. In his pro bono work for the firm, Wiener has had to learn new areas of the law and work outside his comfort zone, reminiscent of his undergraduate days.

The narrative wound full circle as Wiener entered a new relationship with the University at Albany and Rockefeller College. For the past seven years, Lew has been a co-chair of the College’s Advisory Board, working with the dean and university leaders on matters of strategic significance to the College. More recently, Lew was elected to the Board of Directors of the University at Albany Foundation. As Lew tells it, he never envisioned his current relationship with the University, nor how deeply satisfying it would be to give back to the institution that provided the intellectual foundation for his career.

State and Local Government Experts Join Advisory Board

Rockefeller College is delighted to announce the addition of two distinguished public servants to its Advisory Board. Interim Dean David Rousseau noted that the new advisors, Nancy G. Groenwegen and Barbara VanEpps, bring critical insight and balance to the board’s work. “As a public affairs program, so much of our thinking is about the College’s critical connections to government,” said Rousseau. “It is so important to have advisors who understand the challenging circumstances faced by state and local governments.”

Nancy Groenwegen was appointed Counsel to the Comptroller by State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli in December 2010. In her role as general counsel, Ms. Groenwegen leads a team of 50 lawyers, providing advice to the Comptroller and the operating divisions of the agency. Prior to this appointment, Nancy served as the New York State Commissioner of Civil Service, serving in tandem as President of the Civil Service Commission.

Before being appointed as commissioner, Ms. Groenwegen served as an assistant attorney general in the New York State Department of Law under Attorneys General Rober Abrams and Eliot Spitzer. Nancy earned a BA in political science from the University at Albany, and her law degree from Boston University School of Law. She was named the Outstanding Alumna of the Department of Political Science in 2008, and she is the 2011 recipient of the University at Albany Alumni Association’s Excellence in Service Award.

Barbara VanEpps is the Deputy Director of the New York State Conference of Mayors and Municipal Officials (NYCOM). In addition to her administrative duties, Barbara handles municipal finance matters and NYCOM’s legislative advocacy efforts. She authored position papers titled “You Can’t Cap What You Can’t Control” and “Connecting the Dots: A Blueprint for Revitalizing Our Communities and Our State.” Barbara has increased NYCOM’s visibility at the State Capitol and strengthened its relationship with larger cities in New York State.

Prior to her employment at NYCOM, Barbara served in the Office of the New York State Division of Budget as a principal budget examiner working primarily on local government issues and programs. Barbara holds a BA from Binghamton University and an MPA from Rockefeller College.
Alumni News & Notes

Catherine Bertini, BA ’71 was honored with the 2011 Borlaug Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST) Award for her outstanding efforts to communicate the importance of agriculture and science through the many humanitarian programs she has organized in the United States and throughout the world. Catherine is a professor of public administration and chair of the international relations program at the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University.

Timothy J. Buddenhagen, MPA ’07 entered the Doctor of Education program at Northeastern University’s College of Professional Studies to study higher education administration.

Joanne Carman, PhD ’05 has been promoted to associate professor at the University of North Carolina, Charlotte where she has substantially expanded the nonprofit curriculum and chaired the program committee of the American Evaluation Association Annual Meeting. Together with former Rockefeller classmate Kim Fredericks, PhD ’05, Joanne published Nonprofits and Evaluation: New Directions for Evaluation.

Joe Colangelo, MPA ’06 became town manager of Hinesburg, Vermont in March. Joe was formerly assistant town manager in Middlebury, Vermont where he served with town manager Bill Finger, MPA ’70.

Sally Corbett, BA ’93 was named inaugural executive director for ArtWorks! Gwinnett. Gwinnett County is one of Atlanta’s five core metropolitan counties. In June, Sally was recognized as “Chapter Champion” by the Georgia chapter of the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) for her commitment to public service.

Dan French, MPA ’06 has been selected to be the Democratic candidate for the office of Dutchess County Executive, the highest elected office in the county of approximately 300,000. If Dan succeeds in his bid, he will be one of the youngest-ever elected county executives at the age of 30. Dan is currently serving as town supervisor of his hometown of Beekman, NY.

Ken Juras, MPA ’08 recently accepted the position of director of finance for the Schenectady County Department of Social Services in Schenectady, NY.

Michael Rinella, PhD ’97 received a National Endowment for the Humanities Distinguished Visiting Professorship at SUNY Potsdam. Dr. Rinella is senior acquisitions editor at SUNY Press.

In June, Jennifer Roman, MPA ’10 completed her Graduate Healthcare Administration Training Program (GHATP) Fellowship with VA Health Care Upstate New York. The GHATP program enhances the health care trainee’s experience with opportunities in the field to apply his or her knowledge and skills in a hands-on approach in a hospital setting. Jennifer’s training led to a job as supervising program specialist at the Rochester, New York VA Outpatient Clinic.

Rockefeller College Director of Internships and Career Programs Jennifer Williams is hearing good news from the Class of 2011. From Westchester County, Chris Ameigh, MPA ’11 reports being hired as assistant to the village manager in Port Chester, NY. Ashley Smith, MPA ’11 has landed a position just a few blocks away from Rockefeller College as budget analyst for Albany County. Sean Gemerek, MPA ’11 is working for the Healthcare Association of New York State as a healthcare financial analyst. And Chelsea Ruediger, MPA ’11 is the recipient of a prestigious Presidential Management Fellowship with the US Office of Personnel Management in Washington, DC.

Pictured from top: Sally Corbett, BA ’93; Dan French, MPA ’06; (at left) Joanne Carman, PhD ’05; Chelsea Ruediger, MPA ’11; (at left) Ken Juras, MPA ’08; and Catherine Bertini, BA ’71.
Snapshots

Chief Counsel to the NYS Comptroller, Nancy G. Groenwegen, BA ’79, addresses the Class of 2011 at Rockefeller College’s Undergraduate Recognition Ceremony on May 15.

US Department of Homeland Security Assistant Secretary for the Private Sector Douglas Andrew Smith visited Rockefeller College in April. Students and faculty gathered to hear his presentation on the growing threat of cyberterrorism.

Congressman Paul D. Tonko (NY-21) speaks to Rockefeller College political science and public policy students.

Nancy G. Groenwegen, BA ’79, Chief Counsel to the NYS Comptroller, addresses the Class of 2011 at Rockefeller College’s Undergraduate Recognition Ceremony on May 15.

Chief Counsel to the NYS Comptroller, Nancy G. Groenwegen, BA ’79, addresses the Class of 2011 at Rockefeller College’s Undergraduate Recognition Ceremony on May 15.

David M. Van Slyke, PhD ’99, associate professor of public administration at the Maxwell School, Syracuse University, delivers the keynote address at Rockefeller College’s Graduate Recognition Ceremony on May 13, 2011.

Graduates, their families, and friends celebrate on Commencement Day.

Members of Rockefeller’s Public Affairs Student Association (PASA) celebrate at PASA’s Annual Gala at the Albany Pump Station in May.

Stay Connected
There’s a convenient way to update your contact info and share your news with fellow alums. Stay connected by visiting Rockefeller College at www.albany.edu/rockefeller/career.