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A Message from the Dean

I want to begin by thanking the over 150 alumni, students, faculty and friends who attended the Rockefeller College Annual Alumni Dinner and Awards Ceremony held at the State University of New York Plaza on May 17, 2012. This year we altered the format of the event to include a sit-down dinner with tables that mingled students, alumni and faculty. The event celebrated the tremendous achievements of several of our graduates, highlighted outstanding role models for our students, and served as a great networking opportunity for all in attendance. I was delighted to hear the low roar of conversation throughout the evening. The party went later than we expected because everyone was enjoying themselves so much. We even had to kick people out at the end of the night because the parking garage was closing! Having a roomful of guests who didn’t want to leave was a good sign. It showed us that the event was a big success. Again, many thanks to those who attended the dinner and awards ceremony, and to those of you who were unable to make it, we hope to see you at next year’s event.

As in the past, this issue of the news magazine includes a number of interesting stories focusing on faculty research, alumni activities, and student experiences. The cover story features a faculty roundtable discussion on elections in the trenches, a faculty member’s thoughts on how rules of the game impact the realignment and voter behavior to the Occupy Wall Street movement and the Citizens United ruling. The “Rockefeller Alumni in the Classroom” story highlights our new program to encourage our alumni to visit our classrooms and then share lunch or dinner with a group of bright and energetic students. Alumni give back to the College in many ways and this program provides a mechanism for alumni of all ages to connect, inspire, teach and learn. We are hoping to continue to expand this program and are looking for volunteers interested in engaging and mentoring students. Other articles in this issue focus on the journey of a doctoral student currently completing a prestigious fellowship, an alumnus reflecting on a career in the policymaking trenches, a faculty member’s thoughts on how rules of the game impact the average size of campaign contributions, and the introduction of new members of the Rockefeller College leadership team.

Finally, I would like to thank the many alumni, students and faculty who made the first annual Rockefeller College Double Challenge such a tremendous success. The numbers tell the story: 72 percent of faculty gave to the program; 32 percent of graduate students made a gift; faculty and graduate students raised over $4,000; alumni matched this contribution on a 2:1 basis; and the entire campaign raised over $12,000 for student scholarships. We look forward to surpassing these totals with your help next year.

Sincerely,

David L. Rousseau
Interim Dean

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Snapshots from Welcome Week 2012 ...................... Back Cover
A meal can get lively when politics is on the menu, especially when the conversation turns to this year’s too-close-to-call presidential election.

You’re invited to eavesdrop on an entertaining and incisive back-and-forth shared by five Rockefeller College political scientists — Sally Friedman, Bruce Gyory, Anne Hildreth, Bruce Miroff, and Patty Strach — over a friendly summertime lunch at Taste, a downtown Albany eatery just a stone’s throw from New York’s historic Capitol where some of the most interesting politics in the country take place daily.

With award-winning journalist and New York State Capitol Correspondent Susan Arbetter asking the questions, the professors noshed on a variety of hot topics. So pull up a chair and check out what’s for lunch…

Susan Arbetter: The last congressional election was all about the Tea Party coming into its own. The election before that was all about the new hope with Obama. What is this election about?

Bruce Gyory: That’s a very good question that requires a thoughtful answer.

Anne Hildreth: You going to pass? (laughter from group)

Bruce Gyory: No, no. This election is going to be a test of what people want out of government. Each party has an advantage and a disadvantage. We remain a center right nation, which gives the Republicans an advantage. There’s skepticism about government and what government can do efficiently that is a headwind in the face of both Obama and the Democrats. On the other side of the ledger, there is a dramatic change in the political demographics of the nation for which the Republicans are ill-equipped because they have not confronted it. They have not confronted the fact that we are now a clear female majority. In the last election, 12 million more women than men voted. Obama carried that female vote 56–43. It gave him a huge edge. There’s also a huge edge coming out of the aggregate minority vote. Four years ago, 26 percent of the electorate was non-white and it voted 81 to 18 percent for Obama over McCain. If the demographics continue and that rises to 28 percent of the electorate and the vote is 85 to 15, which is where it’s trending because Hispanics are moving away from a 2:1 Democratic edge to a 3:1 Democratic edge, it could be enormously significant. The other thing is the perception is that no incumbent can win with an economy this bad, yet if you look at the polling data Obama is hanging in there so we may have to reevaluate that. People expect the election to be a question about the past. I think it’s going to be an interesting answer about what people want the future to be. Underlying it is going to be ideology versus demographics.

Susan Arbetter: Bruce Miroff, you’re not very optimistic about either candidate and about how the public feels about them.

Bruce Miroff: Well, the public is unhappy in general and across the board. I think the view that it is about the economy is simplistic. When we use the past, we see incumbents lose when the economy is in very bad shape. But the historical precedents are ones in which that party was solely blamed for a bad economy, like Jimmy Carter or the first President Bush. This is a case where people know that the economy was messed up under a Republican president and that Obama has not really fixed it. So there’s blame on both sides. The other thing is that Romney has a hard time saying exactly what positive he can do to fix the economy because they all sound like Bush’s policies or Paul Ryan’s, which are a more radical version of Bush’s policies. Furthermore, there was a Wall Street Journal poll out recently that showed, similar to most polls, that Romney has the worst average of favorable versus unfavorable of any Republican in recent history, including people who lost the campaign like Dole and McCain. Will Americans vote for a candidate they don’t like? There are a lot of things going on and to hang it on the economy is kind of shallow.

Anne Hildreth: I think the narrative is going to be about
money. When political scientists look back at this, it's going to be the election about Citizens United. I agree that Obama’s going to be given some leeway on the economy. But that’s just a little sound byte of 2012 to me. This is going to be a very different election because of the super PACs and all.

Susan Arbetter: Did you read the Matt Bai article in The New York Times?

Bruce Gyory: Yes.

Susan Arbetter: Will you sum it up?

Bruce Gyory: Well, that it’s more complicated than Citizens United but Citizens United is a major part of it and that we are going to have two $1 billion campaigns at the presidential level. That’s an unprecedented level of expenditure. Whether it has an impact or not, and how significant, is going to be a very interesting question.

Anne Hildreth: I think there are going to be people seeing political advertisements who’ve never seen political ads. Candidates aren’t going to have the same control over their message because other groups are going to be running ads, making claims that the Democrats and Republicans and Obama and Romney don’t necessarily control.

Sally Friedman: Look at the contrast between 2008 and 2012. 2008 was all about hope and a new president, an African American president and different racial relations. Now we’re emphasizing the cynical part. Obama running as an incumbent versus running as a non-incumbent — how much will that mean?

Susan Arbetter: We know him better now.

Anne Hildreth: He has a record now.

Bruce Miroff: The hope in Obama in many ways went well beyond what Obama was saying. There was a kind of willing suspension of disbelief. I don’t think Obama has changed that much. I think he’s run smack into the realities of governance in a polarized political system in the midst of an economic crisis.

Patty Strach: What’s interesting to me is that in 1980 Ronald Reagan said government isn’t the answer to the problem; government is the problem, which was a whole shift in the way we see and think about government. The private sector was the answer. Now we have a candidate who is the epitome of what the private sector can do and that isn’t the answer. It’s actually something negative. I think a lot of people see what Romney did — Bain Capital going in and shutting things down — as something that isn’t very positive. He wasn’t the head of General Motors. He wasn’t the head of a company that produced something, like a car or Coca-Cola. He was just this market actor. That’s very interesting because that’s not the answer to our problems. We’ve just passed government-mandated healthcare reform. This pushback says that maybe the private sector doesn’t have all the answers.

Susan Arbetter: A recent Marist poll said 8 in 10 Americans are frustrated with the tone of the election and they’re frustrated with the incivility in Washington. How is that going to manifest itself in November?

Patty Strach: People always say how much they hate it, but negative campaigns always bring people out to vote. They get people interested and excited. When candidates get out there and start talking policy in an Al Gore kind of way, nobody wants to hear it.

Bruce Gyory: We have yet to see the reaction of the people. We do not know, to Anne’s point, whether there will be a revulsion against the progeny of Citizens United and huge money in the campaign. We don’t know if finally people will
react and say enough of this negative campaigning. We don’t know if people will say, ‘You know what, this economy is bad enough.’ It wiped out all the income gains for the middle class for the entire decade. For 12 years we haven’t had growth of 4 percent in this economy, going back over two administrations, both parties.

**Susan Arbetter:** So, people have real problems. There are real issues that this country faces and it’s going to take some serious political will and courage to push through but, Bruce Miroff, you’ve said that the politicians almost have a disdain for any sort of big idea.

**Bruce Miroff:** No, they don’t have a disdain. It’s just that when they go for it they usually lose and they know that. I am not at all a fan of Rasmussen — a notorious Republican polling operation — but one of their poll findings recently was quite stunning, which was that only 32 percent of the public thought it made a difference who won in terms of how the economy was going to do in the next four years.

**Susan Arbetter:** We’re skeptical also about our institutions. There’s pessimism and disenengagement among the electorate. How do you get people reengaged? Are people getting lazier?

**Sally Friedman:** That’s a huge debate in the civic engagement literature. My own bias is I don’t think people are getting lazier. People are more likely to get involved when people around them are getting involved.

**Anne Hildreth:** The rules also make people less engaged. You may think it’s that they’re lazy or disinterested but it could just be much harder to participate in many places, or much more perilous, or participation requires an extra step or two.

**Patty Strach:** People are making choices about what they want to do. Do I want to go vote or do I want to spend 10 more minutes with my kids? It’s clear that they’re not seeing a huge payoff from voting. Are they mistaken or are we mistaken for thinking more people should be turning out to vote? I think there’s a real difference, if you participate, in how the political system treats you. No one’s cutting Social Security because seniors turn out to vote. People are making real choices about what they want to spend their time on and voting or participating in politics isn’t the choice that they’re making.

**Bruce Gyory:** On the other hand, the rate of voting has gone up in two successive presidential elections. The vote was greater in 2008 than in 2004, which in turn was greater than the participation rate in 2000. We made an effort to make voting easier four years ago. We had early voting, increased absentee and write-in voting. Now there’s been a retrenchment of that as the Republicans became afraid of the higher rates, particularly among minorities and younger voters. Where Republicans have controlled the state legislature and the governor, they have tried to put in provisions for voter ID and other such measures. People in the polling data tend to support that because they think everybody should have a voter ID and everybody has a license. We’ll see whether that will withstand either court scrutiny or the scrutiny of public opinion when it dawns on people that there are large numbers of Americans who live their life in a way that they do not need a driver’s license.

**Susan Arbetter:** So in Pennsylvania it turns out they didn’t really have any reason for voter suppression?

**Bruce Miroff:** Well, they had a political reason.

**Susan Arbetter:** What happened in Pennsylvania?

**Anne Hildreth:** And Texas, and Ohio and…

**Bruce Miroff:** In Pennsylvania, the Republicans won the governor and entire state legislature and then passed a voter ID law. It didn’t exist until after the 2010 election. The Pennsylvania House majority leader boasted that this law would give the state to Romney. I’d like to say in defense of the voter that a huge part of the problem is whether there is a stimulus to vote or not. We know from political science
literature that the single most effective thing that can turn people out is personal contact. We also know in the debate on the Electoral College that the Electoral College basically makes the presidential election uninteresting and without advertising in roughly three-quarters of the states. If we had a national popular vote, we’d have a different kind of election and a higher turnout because everybody’s vote would count. Everybody would see ads and have people knocking on their doors.

Bruce Gyory: I’ll tell you what will drive the contest to a state like New York. The battle for control of the House of Representatives is going to be more and more of a central issue. We have at least eight truly competitive elections for the House. That will drive resources to New York. It’s going to be a very important factor in Long Island, Westchester, the Mid-Hudson, Syracuse, Rochester, Buffalo, and potentially the Southern Tier.

Anne Hildreth: That’s a great point.

Bruce Gyory: Here’s the real problem. Two things happen in January that could turn the next president’s term into very bitter ashes from which he could not recover — the expiration of the Bush tax cuts and the sequestration cuts that came out of the debacle of the 2011 debt limit crisis. If we have paralysis between the president and the Congress over those, all the tax cuts ending and the immediate cuts could trigger that double-dip recession that nobody wants. At some point it might dawn on one of the candidates that he needs a mandate from the voters to vault over this paralysis with the Congress. That’s when Obama’s going to start to say if I don’t win the House and I don’t have a net pick-up of three or four seats from New York, or if I’m Romney and I don’t do something to pick up some seats in Illinois or California, even though I’m not going to win those states in the Electoral College, I may face either a House that has Democratic control or functionally no control. We could have a situation where there is functionally no control in the House of Representatives.

Anne Hildreth: Bruce, you said that the polls suggested people support photo IDs for voting. They think voting is a right and a privilege. They think about it from an individual perspective. It’s the reason why we’re not going to have mass movements about voter suppression or campaign finance.

Bruce Gyory: If 90 percent of the American people have driver’s licenses, it doesn’t shock me that in a state like Florida, 57 percent would say they support voter ID. They don’t stop and think how this will affect others. There’s a countervailing duty for people who are worried about this — groups like the NAACP and the Democratic Party — to say, ‘Hey, look how this affects this woman sitting here in Altoona, Pennsylvania who has done nothing wrong, who has voted her entire life, and doesn’t have a government photo ID and it’s wrong to deny her right to vote.’ I think if it’s posed in that way, people will react to that.

Anne Hildreth: If we weren’t in this economy, you might have the luxury of engaging more people around those types of issues.

Susan Arbetter: Isn’t that what Occupy Wall Street was all about — disenfranchisement?

Anne Hildreth: Why doesn’t anybody make a good case for government?

Bruce Miroff: Look what just happened to Obama. Obama just made this argument and the Romney campaign spliced and diced and twisted it into something else. If you talk about government you’re attacking free enterprise.

Patty Strach: What is important is what they are not saying. They are not emphasizing Romney’s background at Bain. They won’t say that Romney did for Bain Capital what he can
do for the U.S. Ten or 15 years ago this kind of capitalism would have been something positive.

Bruce Gyory: You knew Bain would cut as an issue when South Carolina exit polls said it bothered 25 percent of registered Republicans who voted there. If it bothered a quarter of Republicans imagine what it would do in the larger electorate. If George Romney, Mitt’s father, were the nominee of the Republican Party this year, he would win in a landslide because he was a businessman who produced something — cars. He was someone who said I’m going to campaign with transparency. A release of one year of my tax returns could be a blip. I’m going to release 12. Thirdly, he was a Republican governor who was closely associated with a pro-civil rights stance and, through his wife, a pro-choice stance. If you were looking for what the center of the country wants, they would pick somebody like George Romney. But his son is befuddled and can’t be himself because if he were to be himself and run on his moderate record as governor of Massachusetts, he would not have been able to win the nomination of his party. That’s a tremendous irony.

Susan Arbetter: He’s beyond that now so why isn’t he opening his tent to welcome others?

Bruce Gyory: He can’t. There is such distrust of him on the right that if he morphed back to what he was you would have wholesale defections from his right wing, and probably have a very invigorated Libertarian candidate for president who could draw as high as 6 or 7 percent.

Bruce Miroff: He’d be mocked as a huge flip-flopper by the Democrats. He’d be hit from both sides. I agree that George Romney could be elected, but that’s not the American economy anymore. Finance capital has replaced industrial capital. These days the titans of the American economy are financial and not the people who produce something.

Bruce Gyory: When Lyndon Johnson wanted to show he was friendly to business, he had a picture taken with Henry Ford, he coused up to Governor Rockefeller of New York, and met with business titans. You don’t see the Republicans doing that in a public way. From the day Ronald Reagan was elected until last fall, the middle class functionally gave its proxy on tax policy to the wealthy and said you go fight the fight against taxes and we don’t care. So whenever somebody talked about a progressive tax proposal, class warfare knocked it right off the table. Last fall, the middle class in this country pulled its proxy and said we’re not anti-wealthy but we want the tax code to start nurturing the middle class instead of coddling the wealthy. That created tremendous dysfunction on the Republican side without creating a mandate for Democratic programs. We are in an era of dealignment and we desperately need a realignment where somebody forms a governing majority, and that is not happening.

Susan Arbetter: What do you mean by dealignment?

Bruce Gyory: Samuel Lubell said American politics works best when you have a Sun Party and a Moon Party. The Sun Party is dominant but it’s challenged by the Moon Party. The Sun Party sets the agenda. David Brooks observed that we are functionally living at a time where there are two Moon Parties, neither one is capable of having a clear majority. The Democrats face an ideological gap and the Republicans face a demographic gap and they have not been able to muster a majority that will consistently support them through thick and thin the way the country supported Roosevelt and Reagan.

Anne Hildreth: And it probably never will again.

Patty Strach: And the Founders thought this was a great thing. This is the way American politics is supposed to work.

Sally Friedman: Political scientists talk about ‘issue publics’ where different people think different issues are important. Presumably the economy is going to get it as most important on this one. Voters don’t have to know about every issue but you have to know what’s important to you.

Bruce Gyory: Willie Brown told a story at a Black and Puerto Rican Caucus dinner about when he was going up against California Governor Deukmejian, a Republican, who had put forward cuts. He said all the Liberals came into his (Brown’s) office and said here are the 25 things we need to do to break Deukmejian on the budget. Brown said, “I listened to them and I looked at their list and I knew that people would not focus on 25 issues. So I looked at it a little more closely and I saw that he had cut out kindergarten. I said there’s one thing I know about California mothers. By the time those children turn five or six, they want those little bastards out of the house in school. So I went at that issue and I brought Deukmejian to his knees and then when we were negotiating, because he needed peace on that issue, I pulled out the other 24 things and I got 18 of them.” That’s an issue people can relate to. That’s the difference.

Susan Arbetter: Why is it we always have to use propaganda-like techniques to boil down huge issues?

Bruce Miroff: People need symbols to understand complicated issues. Politics works on symbols, as does everything else.

Patty Strach: When’s the last time you went to the mechanic and they said, “Oh, your head gasket needs to be replaced.” And you’re thinking, “Okay, head gasket?” My point is that we all can’t be experts on refrigerators and cars, and traffic, and kids’ education.

Susan Arbetter: Isn’t that just another excuse not to get into the weeds when it comes to issues that do matter to people, like healthcare? If your kids need healthcare it should matter to you.
Patty Strach: It does matter to them. But have you read the healthcare law? Has anybody?

Susan Arbetter: No, but I read The New York Times’s articles that make it into English and I bet a lot of people don’t even do that.

Bruce Gyory: That’s where V. O. Key comes in. Probably the greatest political scientist this country has produced.

Patty Strach: I don’t know. E. E. Schattschneider, that’s my guy.

Anne Hildreth: I’m with E. E.

Bruce Gyory: V. O. Key pointed out that the American people are too busy with their everyday lives to get into every nook and cranny and every issue. But like the parents of teenagers, Americans ‘pull the car keys’ when they don’t like what they see from their politicians. That was his essential theory. It’s not an irresponsible electorate; it’s a busy electorate.

Anne Hildreth: I’d like to ask my colleagues a question. What one thing do you want your students to absorb as we approach this election?

Bruce Miroff: I would say that however frustrating, however banal, however pointless it sometimes seems to pay attention to these matters, nonetheless, our fate both collectively and as individuals is profoundly shaped by the political choices we make as to who holds the important offices — the presidency, Congress, state officials. To turn your attention away from that on the grounds that you have no influence or say is to essentially will your own hopelessness in the face of the people and the choices that will shape our future.

Bruce Gyory: I couldn’t say it better. I’d second that.

Patty Strach: What I usually tell my students is to look around them, and I say, “What in this room is not regulated by government?” And there’s nothing. The air we breathe, the food we eat, the people who are sitting next to us, and the ergonomic nature of the chairs. All of those things are regulated by government. Who’s in charge of government and who’s making these rules matter in ways we don’t think about. So maybe your vote doesn’t make a difference in terms of who gets elected to the presidency, but politics doesn’t happen ‘out there.’ It’s all around us right here, right now. Think about the ramifications. Social Security will never get cut but financial aid will. Guaranteed. They should think about those tradeoffs when they’re deciding whether to vote.

Sally Friedman: And find some ways to get involved in any way you can. It’s your country.

Anne Hildreth: The thing I would stress is to recognize the complexity of politics and not to give short shrift to the symbolism. Often when students start to realize politics is complex, they think “I can’t deal with it.” That’s okay. That’s the reality. That’s actually part of the design. Earlier when Bruce was talking, I was thinking maybe elections don’t matter. Maybe who’s in the White House is not going to be a critical factor in what’s coming.

Bruce Miroff: If I were a multimillionaire, I think it would matter a great deal who’s going to get elected, or if I were a low-income person. They may not fix the economy but there are going to be different people benefiting.

Anne Hildreth: Right, and I know that. But in a way, the problems don’t change a lot.

Susan Arbetter: Just different winners and losers.
At Home Behind the Scenes:

A Q & A with
Brian Coyne, MPA ’87
Director of Legislative Operations, New York State Assembly
For more than a quarter-century, Brian Coyne has worked in an institution he loves, the New York State Assembly. He often jokes about being in the same office with the same phone number that he walked into as a Rockefeller College graduate intern back in 1987. Such longevity within an organization is indeed rare these days. Though his surroundings may not have changed much in the last 25 years, the scope of his duties certainly has. Today, he serves as advisor to Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver and Majority Leader Ron Canestrari. He directs floor operations for the 150-member Democratic-led body and oversees staffers involved in just about every aspect of Assembly activities, from crafting bill introductions to providing security for the chamber. On any given day you can find him juggling dozens of tasks as he tries to meet the various and constant needs of legislators and keep Assembly operations running smoothly. We grabbed him for a quick conversation about why he chose the career path he did and what advice he might have for students interested in following in his footsteps.

What brought you to Rockefeller?
I have a bachelor of arts in political science from Dickinson College in Pennsylvania. I wanted to do something that was more applied, and that’s what brought me to Rockefeller College. I came to Albany thinking that it was a great laboratory for participatory involvement. My degree from Rockefeller is an MPA with a concentration in legislative administration. When I was at Rockefeller I really thought about legislatures as an institution and I focused on institutional and organizational behavior. My role today is remarkably plugged into the things that I cared about and studied at Rockefeller College.

What sparked your interest in this area?
I was always interested in politics and political participation and the way people from all over come together to collaborate and make decisions in a group setting.

What are your responsibilities as Director of Legislative Operations?
I coordinate the day-to-day activities of the Assembly Majority on the floor — what’s the order of business, what are we arguing, what are we doing or not doing, when we are doing it, how we are doing it … People think of me as the floor manager. I’m the person sitting next to the majority leader. I’m privileged to sit as a staff person and to help coordinate the work of elected officials. In addition, I oversee the staff of the majority leader’s research office who work with me to manage the sessions. I also oversee the Journal Office that runs the desk and the Index Office that produces all the bill materials in a timely manner. And I coordinate the Document Room, the official reporter, and the Sergeant-at-Arms staff. When I train staff, I tell them we are the behind-the-scenes people who help make this work. We aren’t the people who are elected and make this work. We help, but we’re not the elected officials. That’s important. We revel in our obscurity.

You’ve come full circle. You started as an intern and now you have the opportunity to hire interns from Rockefeller College. What does that feel like?
It’s one of the most satisfying parts of my job. The Assembly has a very active graduate intern program that we use very successfully to bring in people who are interested in working in this institution. Through the years I’ve been privileged to have a wide range of interns who’ve gone on to do wonderful things. I had an intern who is now the chief of staff for the president of Sierra Leone. Now that’s cool! That’s the great part of this job.

Do you have any advice for students considering careers in government, politics, or legislative affairs?
They should come to the Legislature and try to participate through one of the various programs that exist, whether it’s a weekend program with the League of Women Voters, or it’s through an Assembly internship or another program. Just come here. If a person has any interest in working to solve the problems of their communities or their state, where they’ll find the best example of that happening is right here in Albany in the New York State Assembly. It is amazing!

Are you satisfied with the career choice you made?
I’m very lucky. I couldn’t have anticipated that it would have been such a long and consistent run. I’m pleased with the education and opportunities that Rockefeller gave me. The legislative environment is dynamic. Every year it changes. Every day it changes. For me, every decade it changes. It’s very satisfying.
Professor Bryan Early is going places — literally. His expertise on the use of economic sanctions and strategic trade controls as tools of economic statecraft have earned him international passage as principal investigator on numerous grants from the U.S. State Department. Through a partnership with the State Department’s Export Control and Related Border Security (EXBS) program, Early and his team at Rockefeller College’s Project on International Security, Commerce & Economic Statecraft (PISCES) have secured over $875,000 in grants over the past year and a half to provide strategic trade control assistance to countries in South America, Europe, the Middle East, and Central Asia.

“The U.S. Government has had a long-running set of programs going back to the fall of the Soviet Union in which it has sought to help countries impose more stringent domestic international controls on their nuclear technology and other weapons of mass destruction (WMD) related technologies,” says Early. “The United States’ EXBS program has been providing assistance in terms of money, equipment, and resources at the borders, and training and outreach to foreign government officials about how they can create more effective laws, regulations, and institutions to help regulate trade in items and technologies that have use in traditional military or WMD-related technology, such as nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons. The program assesses which countries are at risk and allocates funding accordingly to countries that have demonstrated interest in having outreach engagement.”
Much of the advanced technology necessary to create nuclear weapons and WMDs is available through commercial sources because of globalization and the proliferation of higher-end technology. “If the U.S. wants to protect this potentially destructive technology it can’t be passive and it can’t afford to be reactive. It’s got to be proactive in going out to the countries that have the capabilities to produce these items and technologies, or that might be exploited as places where illicit traders or smugglers would go to acquire them,” notes Early. United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 provides further incentive for countries to accept the assistance the U.S. is offering. The resolution, adopted in 2004, created an international legal obligation for all countries to impose effective strategic trade control systems.

This fall, Early and PISCES colleagues Lara Howe and Richard Young will travel to Armenia for a session with government officials. PISCES has already completed workshops in the Balkans, Lebanon, Kazakhstan, and the Kyrgyz Republic. Upcoming assignments include Brazil, Oman, and Kosovo. In preparation, the team must first conduct assessments of the current state of a country’s strategic trade control system, analyzing which areas of the system require enhancement or improvement. Early and his colleagues are then able to provide recommendations for how that country can implement international best practices.

“We have to wear many hats,” says Early about the PISCES team. “We have to be comparativists because each country we go to has a different political system. There’s no standard strategic trade control system that’s one-size-fits-all. More than any other work I do, this is the most strenuous interdisciplinary exercise. It draws on my academic knowledge, my ability to be a policy analyst, and my understanding of how to get things done within political systems. I’ve had great opportunities to travel, see different countries, be exposed to different cultures, and learn about the different ways that people govern themselves. That’s really informed my work on the academic side as much as anything I’ve learned in books or through my graduate studies. It’s a different style of work but it’s one where my academic perspective and my work for an academic audience can contribute to what I can do in the policy world. My interactions and experience in the policy world give me fresh ideas and perspectives for my academic work. I feel like I’m bridging a divide between these two different communities that have two different perspectives on politics. If you’re comfortable going back and forth between them, it can be a fruitful exchange.”
Some people say you can never go back, but at Rockefeller that’s not the case at all. Our former students come back all the time. But now they’re successful alums — government officials, attorneys, educators, nonprofit leaders, and public servants — smarter, wiser, and eager to share what they’ve learned about life and work with current students preparing for careers in political science, public policy, and public administration.

When Rockefeller launched its Alumni in the Classroom program last fall, we had three goals in mind: encourage students to begin thinking about potential careers and the skills they’ll need to succeed in those careers; open a channel for ongoing student-alumni interaction; and lay the foundation for a career network for students who are facing an increasingly competitive global job market.

“I sought out the Alumni in the Classroom program specifically to stay connected to the students at Rockefeller. I remember sitting in classes

“It was inspiring and humbling to stand before a room of students sitting in the same — literally the same — seats I sat in almost 30 years ago. The students have a depth of vision and understanding of the impact of current events on their lives that I simply did not possess at their age. I was struck most by the maturity and strength of character of these young people. I can’t begin to express how much I enjoyed speaking with them.”

— Lew Wiener, BA ’84
Partner, Sutherland Asbill & Brennan LLP
When alumni participate in this program it lets students know that the effort they put in as undergraduates now will yield wonderful and meaningful opportunities for them in the future. I view the opportunity to interact with students and answer their questions about law school admissions and the law school experience as an investment in the future of the legal profession.

— Patricia E. Salkin, BA ’85
Dean and Professor of Law, Touro College Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center

I’d like to say thank you for the opportunity to meet and interact with alumni who have experienced all that we are experiencing now and who can relate with us as well as help to guide us in making decisions regarding our careers. The visit with Professor Salkin was amazing! She provided great advice and answered all our questions.

— Amanda Egbuta, Class of 2015

There was one particular point Mr. Wiener made that stuck with me. He told us that while he was enrolled at UAlbany the majority of classes he took were ones that he was personally interested in. He regretted not taking more science courses. During his career when he’s had to do research in preparation for legal cases, he realized that having prior knowledge on certain topics would have been an advantage in the case at hand. Due to his advice, I’m broadening my scope and looking into classes that I never would have looked twice at before.

— Zachary Weber, Class of 2014

Meeting successful people who went to UAlbany shows me that all the hard work might pay off one day. It motivates me to work harder on my education. Besides hearing tips from Mr. Wiener on how to get into law school, and which skills to develop before we get there, I was interested in finding out what a regular day is like for a busy lawyer in Washington D.C. — how many hours a week he puts into his job, how much pro bono work he does per year, and how he balances work and family life.

— Zorana Lavin, Class of 2015

It was great to talk with Melinda Mack about career planning and how the real world of politics and policy-making works. Her talk really made me feel confident and excited about my future!

— Mikayla Myers, Class of 2015
Small Donors Matching Big

by Michael J. Malbin, PhD

Photo by Henrik Flor
Political advertising is pervasive. Campaign ads, which began earlier this election cycle than ever before, dominate the commercial airspace despite their enormous cost. This summer I had the privilege of appearing on a panel with former U.S. Representative Dan Glickman at the Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC) in Washington D.C., where Glickman is co-chair of BPC’s Democracy Project. At one point during the panel, the former congressman decried the fact that these days “political viability equals the ability to raise money.” He wondered — as I and many others do — how this was affecting the quality of our government.

When we see the ads it becomes obvious that Mr. Glickman was asking an important question. The concern is only heightened by the explosion of spending since the Supreme Court’s 2010 decision in Citizens United. In this landmark case the Court ruled that the First Amendment prevented the government from restricting independent political expenditures by corporations and unions. Candidates now not only need money for the campaigns they plan to run against their opponents, but they also are stockpiling record amounts to protect against the unknown. To raise money, most of them logically go where the money is — to wealthy people and organizations. This is troubling because we know from political science research that candidates’ fundraising affects their agendas while they are in office.

In the 2010 midterm elections, general election candidates for the U.S. House raised 38 percent of their money from individuals who gave them $1,000 or more, another 34 percent from political action committees (PACs) and 6 percent from self-financing. That is a subtotal of 78 percent. They raised only 10 percent of their money from donors who gave $200 or less. For most people in this country, $200 would be a lot of money.

Here is some perspective: the Washington-based Campaign Finance Institute (CFI), which I run, found that all the congressional candidates who ran in the 2010 general elections had a combined total of only 454,000 itemized donors throughout the entire country. (Itemized donors are those people who give $200 or more.) Of these, only 167,000 gave $1,000 or more. In other words, the bulk of all congressional campaign money in 2010 was donated by 0.05 percent of the total U.S. population. That is one-twentieth of the much-touted “1 Percent.”

Policymakers ask whether they can, or should, do anything about this trend. Some believe the low participation rate is not a big deal. They argue that parties and candidates should be able to raise money without limits so they can afford to counter the independent spenders. Others take the polar opposite approach — they advocate amending the Constitution so that campaign spending is restricted.

This past year, New York State has been considering something different. The state’s fundraising starting point is not far from that of the U.S. House of Representatives. Candidates for state legislature or governor in 2010 raised 78 percent of their money from $1,000+ donors, PACs, and other non-party organizations. Only 6 percent came from individuals who gave $250 or less. In his January 2011 State of the State Address, Governor Andrew Cuomo cited CFI’s research to urge the legislature to adopt a system of public campaign financing similar to New York City’s. In New York City, candidates who agree to accept public financing and a spending limit are entitled to a 6-to-1 match on contributions from city residents up to a limit of $175 per donor. So if Jane or John Doe from Brooklyn contributes $100 to candidate Smith, the city deposits an additional $600 in Smith’s campaign fund. The system has had a dramatic impact. City Council candidates who did not join in the system in 2009 raised only 15 percent from donors who gave $250 or less. But the candidates who participated in the program got a whopping 64 percent of their campaign funds from small ($1-$250) donors and the matching funds that the small donors generated. In other words, the system completely reversed the balance both in terms of money and participation. The sheer number of donors went up dramatically. And, importantly, the donors came from all over the city, including the poorest neighborhoods. Unlike most elections, people from everywhere could see tangible evidence that they could be an important part of the process.

There is a strong possibility New York State will adopt this proposal. New bills on the federal level and in other states have also been drawing on the city’s model. Federal legislation is not likely in the near term. But if New York State acts, I predict it soon will become a model for other states.

Michael J. Malbin is a professor of political science at the Rockefeller College of Public Affairs & Policy, University at Albany, State University of New York. He teaches courses on elections and legislative politics and runs the department’s Semester in Washington. Professor Malbin is also co-founder and executive director of the Campaign Finance Institute, a nonpartisan research institute based in Washington D.C. His several books and countless articles over more than three decades have gained him recognition as one of the nation’s leading scholars in the field of political finance.
Why I chose Rockefeller

I chose Rockefeller’s Political Science Department for my graduate education because of the number of professors at the College interested in a variety of civil rights issues and their willingness to engage in both historical topics and modern-day applications of these issues. After reviewing all the political science graduate programs in the country, I found that most programs specialized in just one area of civil rights. However, I wanted to study multiple civil rights issues, including race and ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, ability/disability, and religion.

My classes at Tennessee Tech and undergraduate thesis on school busing for school desegregation in Nashville really spurred my interest in the role of the government in shaping societal views and provided me with the skills to think critically about the following question: Is it possible that government action undertaken to protect a particular group’s rights may actually result in the further victimization of the group? At Rockefeller College I was able to pursue this interest across a variety of subordinated groups because the College had such a great mix of scholars and course offerings.

Experience I’ve gained

During my studies at Rockefeller, I’ve had opportunities to work for the New York State Department of Civil Service and the New York Latino Research and Resources Network (NYLARNet). As I was learning more about public law and public policy, I was able to rethink the reality of the law and the role that government agencies have in interpreting and applying laws. My experience with NYLARNet in particular helped me think through the important ways that interest groups interact with agencies. These experiences, plus my own personal memories of my dad working as an investigator for the U.S. Department of Labor, inspired my dissertation topic. I decided to explore how new rights are first interpreted by individuals, interest groups, and the agencies designated to implement those rights.

I hope the dissertation will help people realize that individuals are important interpreters of law and agenda setters, and that interest groups play a key role in helping individuals navigate bureaucracies and routinely lend their expertise to overwhelmed agencies. Agencies exert great influence as legal interpreters reinforcing or rejecting certain views of the law.

While at Rockefeller, I obtained my master’s in political science and published a version of my master’s essay “How Busing Burdened Blacks: Critical Race Theory and Busing for Desegregation in Nashville-Davidson County” in The Journal of Negro Education. I served as co-chair for the Graduate Association of Political Science and attended as many workshops, lectures, and conferences as I could. Because it would offer me the chance to work with a number of outstanding Title VII experts, I applied for and received the Law and Social Sciences Doctoral Fellowship jointly sponsored by the Law and Society Association and the American Bar Foundation (ABF) in Chicago. My dissertation explores Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 which prohibits employment discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex and national origin, so the fellowship was an extraordinary opportunity for me.

Grateful for what I’ve learned

At ABF, I have the privilege to attend weekly seminars and conferences on legal topics hosted at Northwestern Law School. I’m able to discuss my research with some of the most brilliant minds in law and society. It has been an invaluable experience! As I near the end of my graduate school journey, I am grateful that I have been a part of an institution like Rockefeller College that is collegial, provides valuable lessons on professionalism, and values the role of academics as educators. From my conversations with fellow graduate students from other institutions and departments, I know these are lessons that are not always taught. I am thankful I will be going on the job market having learned them.
Training Homeland Security Professionals

Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy has received a $200,000 grant from the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to support its T-STeP program, a combined education, training, and research opportunity administered by the College in partnership with the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES). T-STeP, Training for Security and Terrorism Professionals, is designed to prepare homeland security professionals for two types of long-term employment: as intelligence analysts in local, state, or federal service and as social science researchers in the public and private sectors.

“The program is a continuation of the College’s commitment to high-quality graduate education for homeland security professionals, especially in the area of intelligence analysis,” said R. Karl Rethemeyer, associate dean of Rockefeller College and chair of the department of public administration and policy. “T-STeP builds on several of the College’s strengths, including our master’s certificate and master’s of public administration concentration in homeland security, the existing program of research on homeland security and terrorism funded in part by two DHS Centers of Excellence, and our partnership with the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services.”

Admission to T-STeP was a competitive process open to U.S. citizens who had completed their undergraduate degrees by June 2012. Three applicants were selected for the program and began their studies toward an MPA with a concentration in homeland security in September 2012. The students are:

Patrick Campion, a 2011 UAlbany graduate with a BA in psychology and minor in political science, has been working as an intern for DHSES since August 2011. He is a graduate of the FBI Citizens’ Academy, where he was selected by Assistant Special Agent in Charge Richard J. Licht to participate in the six-week course on counterterrorism investigation, crisis management, IED/weapons of mass destruction, and intelligence sharing.

Tina Chang, a master’s student in the University at Albany’s Criminal Justice program, completed her BA in Asian humanities at UCLA in 2009. She is proficient in Japanese and taught English in Japan after completing her undergraduate study. Tina interned at the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services during the 2011-2012 academic year, receiving a certificate as a fingerprint examiner for the state.

Joseph Popcun, a 2010 graduate of Syracuse University with a BA in international relations concentrating in Middle Eastern security and diplomacy, worked as a research assistant for the Institute for National Security and Counterterrorism in a joint partnership with the Center for Strategic and International Studies’ Post-Conflict Reconstruction Project from May 2009 to May 2010. Currently, Joseph works on contract as an immigration research analyst, conducting case reviews based on data from Customs and Border Patrol, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Department of State, and the Transportation Security Administration.

The T-STeP instructional experience will center on a set of core courses designed to familiarize students with the challenges of public service and prepare them for in-depth study in the area of homeland security. The concentration courses are designed to ensure that each student graduates with a strong theoretical grounding paired with a methodological foundation in at least two distinct approaches to analysis. In addition, students will engage with faculty in ongoing Department of Homeland Security and Department of Defense sponsored research related to terrorism, counterterrorism, immigration enforcement, and other aspects of homeland security, and participate in an internship with DHSES.

In addition to the opportunity to work side-by-side with Rockefeller faculty on critical research and gain real-world experience working in DHSES, students will be compensated with a $10,000 stipend during their first year of study and a $9,500 stipend during the second. They will also be allowed $6,400 of travel support for participation in up to three academic or professional conferences. Students’ tuition, fees, and health insurance costs will be fully covered.

After successful completion of their course of study and graduation from the University at Albany, students accepted to the program are required to work for at least two years in a homeland security-related public or private sector job.
Amanda Carroll has joined the staff of CPR as assistant director. Amanda earned her BA in political science from the University at Albany in 2008 and her JD from New York Law School in 2011. She specializes in international law and civil liberties and has published in the area of philosophy of law. Amanda is a former articles editor for the New York Law School Law Review and was a contributor to The International Review.

Rockefeller College and CTG hosted a workshop on open innovation in government. Special guests included Robert Samson, GM, IBM’s Global Public Sector (Retired) and Deputy U.S. Chief Technology Officer Chris Vein. In the spring of 2012, Sharon Dawes co-chaired the Doctoral Colloquium at the 13th Annual International Conference on Digital Government Research at the University of Maryland, organized by the Digital Government Society of North America (DGSNA). CTG Director and Rockefeller faculty member Dr. Theresa Pardo is the president-elect of DGSNA.

CTG will host the 6th International Conference on Theory and Practice of Electronic Governance (ICEGOV), which will take place, for the first time in the United States, from October 22-25, 2012 in downtown Albany. CTG, UAlbany, and the city of Albany will welcome thought leaders from over 50 countries to join in a multi-sector global conversation. For information, visit www.icegov.org.

In June, the Center for Women in Government & Civil Society hosted a Celebration of Women’s Leadership to recognize women leaders who have made it to the top of the leadership ranks and emerging women leaders who are poised to chart their journey into public service leadership. Six women were nominated and selected by a committee of their peers to receive the Advancing Women’s Rights Award. The six honorees were: Marie Bosman; Tracey Brooks, Shirley Gordon, Anne Saile, Ellen Sax, and Kathy Sheehan.

In May, PDP received a Bronze Telly for its instructional video Infant Brain Development. The Telly Awards honor the best in film and video production and receive over 13,000 entries annually. In June, PDP provided a custom training for 22 New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) administrative law judges and supervisors in New York City. The focus of the five-day institute was temporary cash assistance and food stamp policies, including eligibility, budgeting, special grants, handling difficult parties, and establishing intentional program violations (IPVs).

Four Institute researchers have contributed to a comprehensive volume on government finance. The Oxford Handbook of State and Local Government Finance features “The Social Safety Net, Health Care and the Great Recession” by RIG Director Thomas Gais, Senior Fellow Donald Boyd and Senior Policy Analyst Lucy Dadayan, and “Achieving Fiscal Sustainability for State and Local Governments” by former Deputy Director Robert Ward. Earlier this year, the Rockefeller Institute Press published Fighting for Our Health: The Epic Battle to Make Health Care a Right in the United States, Richard Kirsch’s account of his efforts advocating for passage of the Affordable Care Act in 2010. Kirsch, an Institute fellow, has since been interviewed extensively in the media. The book has received many positive reviews, including one from the prestigious New York Review of Books.

In April, the Institute partnered with SUNY Global and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development to host a conference in New York City that looked at how internationalization can support economic development. The Institute’s regular series of public policy forums considered the adequacy of education funding amid fiscal constraints, the politics of health care reform, and higher education’s role in international relations. A report by Senior Fellow Swati Desai shared lessons from New York City’s welfare-to-work programs.
Enhancing Government Capacity in Kenya

In March, David Rousseau, interim dean of Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy, traveled to Nairobi, Kenya to deliver the welcoming address at the Kenya National Assembly’s Decade of Legislative Development Conference.

The conference marked more than 10 years of collaboration between the Kenya National Assembly and the SUNY Center for International Development (SUNY/CID). For over a decade, the two have been partners in the Parliamentary Strengthening Project (PSP), an initiative that has assisted the Kenya National Assembly in designing and carrying out a host of reforms that have made the Kenya Parliament one of the strongest in Africa. “No partnership has met or exceeded our hopes more than the thoughtful, effective and collegial partnership that we have shared with the Kenya National Assembly. In our work, we have rarely seen an institution grow and develop in a concerted and systematic way wherein positive changes throughout all departments develop space and are mutually reinforcing,” said Rousseau in his remarks to conference attendees. PSP is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the United Kingdom’s Department for International Development (DFID).

Since 2000, Kenya’s Parliament has been growing and transforming into one of the most progressive parliaments in Africa. PSP has contributed to positive change and development in the growth of the parliamentary committee system, the transformation of Parliament into a coequal branch of government, improved budget and oversight capacities, and the professionalization of Parliament and its support services departments.

A large part of the success of PSP is the project’s ability to connect Parliament to other public sector organizations such as think tanks, academic institutions and NGOs in order to provide public input on policies, proposed legislation, and allocation of public resources.

Later in the spring, Rockefeller College welcomed representatives from the Kenya School of Government (KSG) and the Institute for Development Studies (IDS) University of Nairobi to Albany. The two organizations signed a memorandum of understanding with Rockefeller allowing for the development of future partnerships to enhance government capacity in Kenya. The Kenya School of Government is the premier Kenya government institution, with a mandate to build capacity among individuals and organizations in the public sector through training, education and research. The Institute for Development Studies is one of the oldest and best-established research institutes in Africa. A CID/KSG/IDS partnership is envisioned to build academic collaboration between the three institutions for program development exchanges with the public administration faculty and to develop programming to support implementation of Kenya’s new county-level governance and service delivery framework mandated by the new Kenya Constitution.

Founded in 1986, the Center for International Development became part of Rockefeller College in 2007. It has held projects in over two dozen countries. In the last year alone, the Center has worked in seven countries and has received in excess of $17 million in external funding.
New Leaders Named

Rockefeller College is proud to announce the appointment of three associate deans: R. Karl Rethemeyer, John Rohrbaugh, and Anne Hildreth. “The success of any college or school is in large part a function of two factors: the quality of its faculty and its leadership team,” said Interim Dean David L. Rousseau. “I am delighted that Deans Rethemeyer, Rohrbaugh, and Hildreth have stepped into these critical positions and will help lead the College through this challenging and exciting time. Their experience and dedication will be key to our success.”

R. Karl Rethemeyer, associate professor and chair of the department of public administration and policy, will serve as associate dean of Rockefeller College. In this role, Dr. Rethemeyer will be responsible for representing the College within the academy, conducting strategic planning, building alumni relations, expanding research funding, improving development efforts, and building external relations. Rethemeyer joined the faculty in 2002 and has served the College in a number of key positions, including director of the MPA program and director of the doctoral program in public administration and policy. He will continue to act as chair of the department of public administration and policy as well as co-director of the Project on Violent Conflict.

Anne Hildreth, and R. Karl Rethemeyer

Professor John Rohrbaugh has been named associate dean of international programs. Dr. Rohrbaugh will work collaboratively with the dean and department chairs to expand international activities in the areas of teaching, research, and service. His duties include building academic partnerships, expanding international enrollments, improving global affairs course offerings, soliciting grants for international activities, expanding study abroad, and assisting faculty in building international research programs. Dr. Rohrbaugh has served the College and the University in a wide variety of roles during his career, including director of the Office of International Education for the University at Albany from 2003 to 2006.

Associate Professor Anne Hildreth, the longtime director of undergraduate studies in the political science department, will now serve in the newly created position of Rockefeller College Associate Dean of Undergraduate Education. She will coordinate all undergraduate programs across the College. Dr. Hildreth joined the University at Albany in 1990 and has held a number of service positions including associate dean in the Office of Undergraduate Education from 2004 to 2009.

Dean Rousseau encourages alumni and friends of Rockefeller to contact the associate deans if they’d like to discuss ways they may personally contribute to the College, its international programs, and its undergraduate students.

Ingram Joins Rockefeller Faculty

The Rockefeller College Department of Political Science is pleased to welcome new tenure-track assistant professor Matthew C. Ingram. Dr. Ingram’s research examines justice sector reforms in Latin America. Specifically, he studies the political origins of institutional change and judicial behavior in the region’s justice systems, focusing on subnational courts in Brazil and Mexico. He draws also on a family history in Mexico (born in Guadalajara, Jalisco), extensive fieldwork in Latin America, and years of professional experience in law enforcement in California. Ingram’s academic work has appeared in several peer-reviewed journals and edited volumes. He is completing a book project, Crafting Courts in New Democracies, that presents his research on Mexico and Brazil. Ingram’s research has been funded by the National Science Foundation, the Social Science Research Council, and the Fulbright Commission.

Ingram held postdoctoral fellowships at the University of California, San Diego (2009-2010) and Notre Dame’s Kellogg Institute (2011-2012). He was an assistant professor of political science at the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth from 2010 to 2011. This academic year, Ingram will offer courses in comparative judicial politics, comparative criminal procedure, and Latin American politics. Born and raised in Mexico, Professor Ingram speaks English, Spanish, and Portuguese.

Matthew Ingram holds a law degree (2006) and a PhD in political science (2009) from the University of New Mexico.
Faculty Publications September 2011 through August 2012

Book (author)


Book (chapter)


Book (editor)


Journal article (print)


Journal article (online)


Other


College Launches Dean’s Leadership Council

Fifteen political science and public policy undergraduates have been named to serve on Rockefeller College’s inaugural Dean’s Leadership Council (RCDLC). The students will advise the dean and faculty leadership on a variety of matters including College and University policy, programming, student recruitment, and community building.

“Students enrolled in the political science and public policy majors have long been active across the campus in both academic and community service activities,” said Rockefeller Interim Dean David L. Rousseau. “The Council is designed to tap this energy by allowing students to play a more central role in planning and implementing activities at Rockefeller College. Our Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education Anne Hildreth and I will have the opportunity to sit down with these outstanding students a few times a semester to assess college-wide programming and to brainstorm about activities that will enrich the academic experience for all Rockefeller students. We hope that as these student leaders transition to alumni, they will remain an active voice in the College.”

Membership on the Council was determined through an open, competitive process. “A committee of faculty evaluated applicants on the breadth of experience they brought to the Council,” explained Anne Hildreth. “The council members who have been selected are already making big contributions to campus life and reflect the diverse array of opportunities available to Rockefeller College students. Many are double majors or double minors. They represent the spectrum of academic involvement on this campus. For instance, we have members who are involved in student government and community outreach, the college newspaper and campus TV station, student political organizations, and honor societies. Three students just completed internships in Washington, D.C.”

Council members have hit the ground running and are already busy working on their top-priority initiative — developing a new speakers series for the College. “I want to give students access to individuals that affect their daily lives,” said Council Member Joe Alicata, a senior from Northport, New York and editor-in-chief of the Albian Student Press. “Legislators, members of the media, members of interest groups, policy specialists, researchers — all of these people have an influence on our daily lives, whether we like it or not, or realize it or not. I want to utilize the RCDLC as a platform where students can gain access to these types of individuals and meet them face to face.”

Alicata’s fellow council member, Alex Traum, a senior from Bellmore, New York, fondly recalls attending a campus conversation with former U.S. Senator and Democratic presidential nominee George McGovern. The event, sponsored by Rockefeller College, was in Traum’s estimation “fantastic.” Like Alicata, he is committed to making opportunities for students to interact directly with national figures and policymakers a regular occurrence at Rockefeller. “I’d like to work with faculty and students to foster a greater sense of community and to make the Rockefeller College undergrad experience a memorable one with programs that inspire and engage students,” said Traum.

Launching an ambitious new program like a speakers series, and blazing a trail for other future Rockefeller student leaders to follow, won’t be easy, but Alicata and Traum expect the payoff will be big, particularly for the College. “I hope to leave the Rockefeller College Dean’s Leadership Council in a place where it can continue to grow and help Rockefeller College students to gain career experience overseas. I want to open it up to more people, to make it a league of its own.”

The 2012–2013 Rockefeller College Dean’s Leadership Council

Andrew Abramowitz, Port Jefferson Station, NY
Joseph Alicata, Northport, NY
Lauren Bailey, Endwell, NY
Deanna Cucharaie, Rome, NY
Matthew Curran, Hauppauge, NY
Alison Delgado, Commack, NY
Brendan Flinn, Rochester, NY
Amanda Levit, Brooklyn, NY

Ethan Morrissey, Perry, NY
Meghan Nyman, Oswego, NY
Kimberly Segura, Albertson, NY
Kimberly T. Smith, Lagrangeville, NY
Alex Traum, Bellmore, NY
Cassie Travener, Perry, NY
Chantelle Wilkinson, Brooklyn, NY

Partnership Offers MPAs Opportunity to Gain Career Experience Overseas

Beginning this fall, graduate students will have the opportunity to combine Peace Corps service with a master’s degree in public administration (MPA) through the Master’s International Program at Rockefeller College.

Program participants will be able to utilize their Peace Corps experience to satisfy the master of public administration degree’s career experience requirement. Students accepted to the program will complete required coursework in Albany during their first year, serve overseas with the Peace Corps for two years, then return to school to finish graduate work.

Participants in the Master’s International program must be accepted to both Rockefeller’s MPA program and the Peace Corps. Interested students should first apply to Rockefeller College’s MPA program. Once accepted to Rockefeller, students may submit their application to the Peace Corps.

For more information, please visit www.albany.edu/rockefeller/pami.

[Seated from left to right] Lori Thompson, Director of the Office of International Programs, State University of New York; Alicia Barrera and Kathy Rulon of Peace Corps; and Rey Koslowski and John Rohrbaugh (foreground) of Rockefeller College
Alumni Scholarships Awarded

Five Rockefeller College upperclassmen majoring in political science and public policy were awarded $1,000 scholarships for outstanding academic achievement and public service during the College’s Annual Alumni Awards Dinner at the State University of New York headquarters in Albany on May 17. The undergraduate scholarships were the gift of a generous alumna who wishes to remain anonymous.

“There were many deserving applicants,” said Anne Hildreth, associate dean for undergraduate education at Rockefeller. “It was a difficult decision indeed, so much so that the awards committee asked if it could make an additional award because of the outstanding pool of students. We created three types of awards: one for achievement in academics, another for excellence in public service, and a third to support a student’s participation in the Semester in Washington Internship program,” she explained.

Students applying for a scholarship were required to provide a degree audit and personal statement, as well as evidence of a consistently high level of academic achievement and challenge or consistently high participation and leadership on campus and in the community.

The 2012 Rockefeller College Alumni Scholarship recipients are:

Emily Finnegan, Class of 2013
Rockefeller College Alumni Academic Excellence Scholarship
Emily Finnegan is a student in the University’s Honors College. She is a Political Science Honors major with a second major in globalization and a minor in Spanish. Emily, a scholar athlete who competes on UAlbany’s cross country and track and field teams, has pursued a diverse array of academic disciplines and taken advantage of study abroad and co-curricular service learning programs. Emily is from Niskayuna, New York in the state’s Capital Region.

Daniel Gustafson, Class of 2013
Rockefeller College Alumni Academic Excellence Scholarship
Dan is in the University at Albany’s Honors College and a student in the Political Science Honors Program. He is minoring in English. While at the University, Dan has served as an undergraduate teaching assistant for Professor Victor Asal of the political science department and Professor Langdon Brown of the English department. Dan is from Orchard Park, New York, home of the NFL’s Buffalo Bills.

Youngki Hong, Class of 2012
Rockefeller College Alumni Academic Excellence Scholarship
Youngki is a public policy major concentrating in state and society. A Korean national, Youngki transferred to the University at Albany from Seoul National University. While at Rockefeller, he has worked in internships for the New York State Legislature and the office of U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand. Youngki participated in Rockefeller’s Semester in Washington program in spring 2012.

Meghan Nyman, Class of 2013
Rockefeller College Alumni Academic Excellence Scholarship and Rockefeller College Alumni Public Service Scholarship
Meghan is a dual scholarship recipient, being honored for both academic excellence and public service. Meghan was unable to accept the award in person at the alumni awards dinner because she was studying abroad in Chile. She is a member of the UAlbany Honors College and the Honors Program in the public policy major. Her concentration is in urban issues. Meghan is a Purple and Gold Ambassador, and a member of the Presidential Honors Society and the Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Honor Society. A founding member of the Rockefeller College Dean’s Leadership Council, Meghan is from the city of Oswego, located on Lake Ontario in north central New York State.

Kimberly Smith, Class of 2013
Rockefeller College Alumni Public Service Scholarship
Kimberly is a political science major minoring in sociology and philosophy. She has served the University’s Student Association in a variety of capacities and has been active in a number of community organizations including the Pine Hills Neighborhood Association, Habitat for Humanity, and Ronald McDonald House. Kimberly is a founding member of the Rockefeller College Dean’s Leadership Council. She hails from Lagrangeville in New York’s Hudson Valley.

Deloughery Represents Rockefeller in Russia

Rockefeller College Assistant Professor Kathleen Deloughery recently traveled to Russia to participate in the School of Public Administration’s International Summer School at Lomonosov Moscow State University (MSU). This year’s summer school focused on Russian-American academic collaboration and dual-degree programs between Russian and U.S. universities. Taking part in the summer session were faculty from Russia, Ukraine, Estonia, Latvia, and China.

Moscow State is in the process of developing a dual-degree program for master’s of public administration students and invited Rockefeller College to the Russian capital to share its experience in successful instructional methods with summer school participants and MSU faculty and administration.

During her visit to Moscow State, Dr. Deloughery, an economist whose research interests include government susceptibility to terrorism and the effects that terrorism has on elections, presented a number of lectures related to graduate education at the University at Albany. Among the topics she covered were curriculum design, syllabus design, selecting readings and assignments, grading schemes, and encouraging student interaction.

Since returning home to the U.S., Professor Deloughery has been in contact with a number of MSU conference participants. “Several of the professors I spoke with are planning on implementing textbooks more commonly used at U.S. universities; others are looking into using some of the simulations and case studies that we use in our classes here at Rockefeller,” said Deloughery. “The students, faculty, and staff at Moscow State University were wonderful hosts and planned several sightseeing excursions for me during my time in Moscow. In the very near future, representatives from Moscow State will be visiting UAlbany to continue our conversation about a possible Russian-American academic collaboration. I’m looking forward to their trip.”
Affinity Group Attracts Alums

On April 28, 2012 the UAlbany Alumni Association Board of Directors unanimously approved the Rockefeller College Alumni as an affinity group within the Association. Rockefeller College joins the University’s Schools of Business and Social Welfare in having its own alumni group.

The drive to create an alumni group for the College was spearheaded by Bryan Haynes, MPA ’09, who is an active member of the Rockefeller College Public Administration Young Alumni Network. “I wanted to take our alumni efforts to the next level, to involve the whole Rockefeller community and not just recent MPAs”, said Haynes. “We have many very accomplished alums from all areas of the College whose careers started at what is now Rockefeller College, and who have a lot to offer. We have to give them a way to get involved in the College again, and to help support the next generation of students and graduates.”

Over 150 Rockefeller alumni answered the call to become founding members of the affinity group. The UAlbany Alumni Association only requires 10. “The response was immediate and overwhelming. We exceeded the Association’s requirements by miles and did so within only 10 days. It was truly a remarkable show of support,” said Peter Finn, recently hired as an assistant to Rockefeller’s Interim Dean David Rousseau. Pete, an alumnus himself, has taught at Rockefeller for over 10 years.

Founding members include Rockefeller grads from New York to California, and points all around the globe. They represent five decades of graduating classes, from 1970 to 2011. And the group continues to grow.

A key advantage of creating an alumni affinity group within the UAlbany Alumni Association is that most of the administrative and financial infrastructure is already in place; the group can function with a relatively informal organization. Over the next months, a steering committee will be created and regional and decade representatives will begin to plan and sponsor social events and career development opportunities.

To become a member of the Rockefeller College Alumni Group, please visit www.albany.edu/rockefeller/alumni.

Rockefeller Adds Alumni Relations and Events Coordinator

Ilana Shapiro, MPA ’12, has joined the Rockefeller College staff as alumni relations and special events coordinator. Ilana will be coordinating alumni events, assisting in the development of an alumni database, working with the young alumni networks in Albany, Seoul, and Washington, D.C., managing the alumni dinner and awards ceremony, coordinating the Alumni in the Classroom program, and assisting in development efforts including the Rockefeller College Double Challenge.

Ilana, a recent graduate of our MPA program, served as President of the Public Affairs Student Association (PASA). She holds a certificate in Chinese American studies from Johns Hopkins University-Nanjing University and a BA in East Asian studies from Brandeis University. Previously she worked for the United States Department of State, the Center for International Development, and Asia Pacific Properties in Shanghai.

Ilana can be reached via e-mail at ishapiro@albany.edu
Thank You for Answering the **Challenge!**

Special thanks to all of you who made the first annual Rockefeller College **Double Challenge** such a resounding success!

In the six-week period that constituted stage one of the **Double Challenge**, April 1–May 14, 72 percent of faculty and 32 percent of students contributed. These are incredible results! This is the highest percentage of faculty giving by an academic unit ever achieved at the University at Albany. The rate of student giving is also unprecedented according to the University Development Office. The faculty and students gave over $4,000 during this six-week period. The second stage of the **Double Challenge** focused on alumni giving and ran for six weeks as well, from June 7 to July 19. Alumni donations totaled $8,300.

In a survey of 1,800 schools by *U.S. News & World Report*, on average 14 percent of alumni make some form of financial contribution each year. Faculty and staff are also important financial supporters to higher education. According to the Council for Aid to Education (CAE), the average annual percentage of faculty and staff giving ranged from 19 percent at research universities to 26 percent at liberal arts colleges.

The Rockefeller College **Double Challenge** was designed to achieve several goals. First, it establishes a tradition of giving among our students. We hope that students, as they transition to alumni and embark on their own careers, will see the positive impact of alumni giving and continue to invest in the College. Second, the **Double Challenge** demonstrated the commitment our faculty has to our students and to our academic programs. Rockefeller faculty shattered campus records and surpassed national average rates of giving. Third, the **Double Challenge** provides a vehicle for generating alumni support for student scholarships. Alumni investments in the College are absolutely essential to our ability to attract outstanding students, provide quality learning experiences, and train and prepare the next generation of public servants.

Thank you, alumni, faculty and students for your generous support!

If you’d like to learn more about the Rockefeller College **Double Challenge**, please visit www.albany.edu/rockefeller/challenge.

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**ALUMNI NEWS**

Good news from the Class of 2012!

**Mark Agnello, MPA ’12**, is working in association communications for the Association Development Group. **Deirdre Brodie, MPA ’12**, is a senior associate at KPMG in Albany. **Erin Fitzpatrick, MPA ’12**, has joined the New York State Division of the Budget as budget examiner. **Sarah Horan, MPA ’12**, is a senior research analyst at the Center for Human Services Research. **Christine Gifford, MPA ’12**, and **Brian Peter, MPA ’12**, are both working as assistant project managers for the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA). **Cyndi Mellen, MPA ’12**, and **Ben Spear, MPA ’12**, are project coordinators for the National Center for Security & Preparedness (NCSP) at Rockefeller College. **Ilana Shapiro, MPA ’12**, will be working right here at Rockefeller as alumni relations and events coordinator.

And just a hemisphere away… Two recent Rockefeller graduates are working in Seoul, Korea. **Hyunjun Kim, MPA ’12**, is deputy director for the Film and Video Content Industry Division of Korea’s Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism. **Jinwon Park, MPA ’12**, is deputy director for the Board of Audit and Inspection (BAI) of the Republic of Korea. In Milan, Italy, **Silvia Sommariva, MPA ’12**, a former New York State Assembly intern while at Rockefeller, is a research fellow at Bocconi University’s Centre for Research on Health and Social Care Management.

View photos from Rockefeller’s May 2012 commencement and alumni celebrations

Graduate and Undergraduate Recognition Ceremonies, May 18 & 20, 2012
albany.edu/rockefeller/commencement2012

Alumni Dinner and Awards Ceremony, May 17, 2012
albany.edu/rockefeller/awards2012
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/connect

Welcome Week Jump-Starts MPAs

It’s becoming a rite of passage.

Every August since 2010, first-year MPAs at Rockefeller have participated in Welcome Week, a basic training of sorts for prospective public administrators that tests and hones incoming students’ writing, math, and computer skills. Students are expected to demonstrate that they have the core skills to succeed in the rigorous program that lies ahead, and ultimately in the careers they hope to pursue. Not to worry. If anyone’s rusty, the Rockefeller faculty is on hand to offer a host of refresher courses in academic writing, memo writing, math, Access, Excel, and Power Point. The Career Services Office also provides sessions on resume preparation and internship basics.

Welcome Week creator Kara Pangburn, director of admissions for the department of public administration and policy, points to a decrease in the number of instances of academic probation as evidence that the intense seven-day orientation is working. There’s also been feedback from MPA students who’ve completed their first year of study that Welcome Week has contributed to their personal development in a number of professional competencies, or learning objectives, set forth by the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA), the accrediting body for public affairs schools.

It’s not all about academics though. There’s plenty of “welcome” in the week too — workshops designed to help newcomers find their way around campus, student breakfasts, lunches, dinners, a happy hour hosted by the public affairs student association, even a rousing game of kickball. “Welcome Week gave us an opportunity to get to know each other before the work started piling up. We all bonded during the stresses of the week and became a strong support network for each other throughout the next two years,” said Ilana Shapiro, MPA ’12, a member of the very first Welcome Week class in 2010.

“We want incoming MPA students to feel ready to begin graduate study,” said Pangburn. “We’ve found that Welcome Week not only prepares students academically, but also builds a strong cohort. Robust cohorts contribute to a great MPA program, and lead to stronger alumni networks.”

Welcome Week 2012 received high marks from both students and faculty. At far right, Kara Pangburn and Dan Butterworth enjoy a much-deserved break during Advise-A-Thon.