Building New Capacity
Rockefeller’s Nonprofit Team Grows to Meet Student and Community Needs
As the spring semester winds to a close, I am delighted to share with you some of the exciting activities that have occurred this year and to highlight a few upcoming events.

In particular, I would like to personally invite you to join us for Rockefeller College’s Annual Alumni Dinner and Awards Ceremony on Thursday evening, May 17th. The festivities begin at 6 p.m. at the State University of New York Plaza, 353 Broadway, Albany, New York. The event is open to all — students, faculty, alumni, staff, and members of the general public. As described in the pages that follow, we will be honoring five distinguished alumni for their achievements and contributions to public service. The new format, which includes a reception followed by dinner, will give our graduating students a chance to interact with our outstanding alumni. It’s an important evening for our students and a very special occasion for the entire Rockefeller College community. I hope to see you there.

In this issue you will find a number of interesting stories focusing on faculty research, alumni activities, and student experiences. The cover story describes Rockefeller College’s growing expertise in the area of nonprofit management. There is enormous student interest in studying nonprofit organizations and this sector has become increasingly important to our economy. According to a recent report to the New York State Attorney General, nonprofits employ 18% of the state’s total private workforce. Rockefeller College is expanding its capacity to study the nonprofit sector and is deepening its engagement with our community partners. Other articles in this issue focus on the unique and interesting pathways that lead students to Rockefeller College, early career experiences of recent alumni, and reflections of a veteran and alumnus from the 1960s.

Finally, this semester we have kicked off our first Rockefeller College Double Challenge. In a nutshell, the Double Challenge (which ends May 14th) involves students challenging the faculty to invest in Rockefeller College and faculty challenging alumni to contribute to the College. As part of this campaign, we have redesigned the Rockefeller College “Giving and Alumni” web pages to better identify funding priorities, facilitate alumni networking, and highlight how alumni can contribute in the classroom or through mentoring. Our accomplished alumni are an incredible resource for our students. If you are an alumnus, I invite you to connect with the College in any way you can.

David L. Rousseau  
Interim Dean
A strategic moment is at hand for nonprofit studies at Rockefeller College. Faculty is expanding, the curriculum is broadening and ambitious goals are being set as the program undergoes a major makeover intended to widen its impact and sharpen its ability to train the next generation of nonprofit professionals to tackle the challenges ahead.

The revitalization of the program has resulted in the addition of three tenure-track professors with wide-ranging expertise, and reflects curriculum redesign that incorporates input from the nonprofit community. The nonprofit team’s senior faculty member is Associate Professor Judith Saidel, Rockefeller’s renowned nonprofit governance and nonprofit-government relationship expert. The new faculty includes Erzsébet Fazekas, a Columbia-trained sociologist with expertise in the development of civil society and the nonprofit sector in democratizing countries; Yvonne Harrison, a specialist in nonprofit governance and leadership, volunteerism, alliances and partnerships, and information and communications technology effectiveness from the University of Victoria, British Columbia; and Jennifer Dodge, an expert on the role of nonprofit organizations in public deliberation and democratic governance from NYU’s Wagner Graduate School of Public Service. The nonprofit team also has been enriched by its collaboration with Dina Refki, director of the College’s Center for Women in Government & Civil Society, and by the contributions of professors Jim Fossett and Bob Purtell, whose rock solid financial management expertise underpins an entire sequence of coursework offered on nonprofit financial management.

Why is now the time for a bigger, better nonprofit studies program? “Student demand is the first reason. It’s a huge driver,” says Judith Saidel. “The nonprofit area is the second most popular concentration at the master’s level. Another driver is the fundamental shift in the way policies are delivered in our world at the local, state and federal levels. Nonprofits are so much more deeply involved now in the production of the public services that a school of public service must incorporate into its curriculum a response to this institutional reality.” Right in Rockefeller’s own backyard, the Capital Region of New York State, there are over 3,000 nonprofits. The College has been a vital training and research resource for many of them, and is becoming an increasingly important source of guidance for organizations struggling through these complicated times.

Identifying Essential Skills

The work facing nonprofits today is prodigious, but the resources required to accomplish the job are becoming more difficult to generate and sustain, and the economic, social, technological and political environs in which nonprofits operate undergo constant change. “We need to be working with nonprofits to help them figure out how to
work effectively and productively in this new environment, so they are prepared to do the increased work they’re being asked to do, and do it well,” explains Jennifer Dodge. “Study after study has shown that nonprofits need to develop their management and financial skills. Financial sustainability is a huge issue for nonprofits. There are also different practices and skills that can be used and developed that have to do with thinking more broadly about nonprofit work, rather than focusing on putting out fires. How do you think strategically about what you do so that you don’t have to work so hard to get the same effect? Our program is unique in that we have an unusual capacity to do this kind of work due to the number of faculty we have.” Erzsébet Fazekas concurs, “Core areas of strength are important for future nonprofit managers. Very good grounding in how to manage nonprofits is essential. That includes how to manage the financial aspects, how to deal with governance issues and the board, and how to think critically about the larger environment.”

Dina Refki, from Egypt, studied English literature at Ain Shams University in Cairo and earned her doctorate in Humanistic Studies at UAlbany. She credits her graduate education with deepening her understanding of multiple perspectives and pushing her to think critically about the world. “Students must develop cultural competency skills in order to be successful in the nonprofit world,” says Refki. “We’re increasingly becoming a diverse society. People with a global orientation and globally marketable skills who are able to understand not just the US system but systems in other places and how we all are interconnected and interdependent are more likely to find good jobs when they graduate.”

A Natural Progression

While the rethinking of the nonprofit program is spurred by students’ desire for a fuller curriculum and by the acute needs of the sector, at the same time it’s a natural progression for Rockefeller, a leader in public policy education with a mission that supports community well-being. As Saidel points out, “Because we’re a policy school, we’ve always understood that nonprofit management is part of a larger political and policy context.”

A recent report to New York State Attorney General Eric Schneiderman, titled Revitalizing Nonprofits: Renewing New York, provides a sense of that larger policy context, specifically in relation to the Empire State. It notes that the not-for-profit sector contributes greatly to the quality of life and economy of the state, but is under considerable stress. The report presents specific recommendations to enhance governance and oversight of nonprofits while reducing unnecessary burdens that drain the sector’s resources. According to the report, nonprofits are an ‘economic engine’ for New York, in 2010 employing about 18 percent of the state’s total private workforce. Improved recruitment, education, and training of individuals serving in the nonprofit field are cited as necessary for ongoing effectiveness of the sector.

In February 2012, Attorney General Schneiderman announced a new reform plan to reduce the regulatory burden on New York not-for-profits while strengthening their governance and accountability. Rockefeller College is a member of a consortium of academic institutions that will help administer Directors U, a board development initiative proposed by the AG.

The Strategic Moment

Rockefeller’s plans for expanding its nonprofit curriculum have been reflected in the proposed Nonprofit Gateway Initiative (NGI), a strategic opportunity for reassessment and enhancement of the College’s nonprofit studies program. NGI is a response to the NYSUNY 2020 Challenge Grant Program, established by State University of New York Chancellor Nancy L. Zimpher to harness the SUNY system’s potential to drive the economic revitalization of New York envisioned by Governor Andrew Cuomo. The chancellor has stated, “We have pledged to educate the most adept workforce in the nation, discover innovative solutions to some of the most vexing scientific and socioeconomic challenges, improve the business climate in our state, and enhance the quality of life for all New Yorkers.” University at Albany Provost Susan D. Phillips called for proposals to meet the challenge grant’s agenda, and thus NGI was formulated as a transformative endeavor through which Rockefeller College, partnering with the University’s schools of social welfare and public health, would promote the national and international leadership of the University at Albany in nonprofit management and policy education, research, and services.

“You have the strategic moment and the mobilization of new capacity aligned, and it all builds on a long history of engagement of Rockefeller College
in the nonprofit sector,” says Saidel. That long history was key to the success of a recent interaction that has helped shape the College’s and the University’s vision for the future of the nonprofit studies program. In December 2011, Rockefeller and UAlbany convened a stakeholders meeting with nonprofit leaders, managers, and graduate students to learn firsthand about the challenges these individuals and their staffs face and to identify gaps in their skills and knowledge that Rockefeller could help address. The group included some not-for-profit heavy hitters, such as the Parsons Child & Family Center, the Center for Disability Services, the AIDS Council of Northeastern New York, the Albany-Colonie Regional Chamber of Commerce, the Community Foundation of the Greater Capital Region, and the Northeastern New York Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure. “When you see a strategic opportunity, it’s good to involve other voices, especially those of your most important stakeholder groups. These are the people who will employ our graduates, and in whose organizations we will conduct research. We’d be remiss not to consult closely and listen carefully,” says Saidel.

The managers and leaders created a list of training approaches that had value for them, including short courses, workshops, speakers series, webinars, and ‘just-in-time’ training. Issues they identified as critical were: shrinking resources and shared services; partnerships, mergers, contracts and strategic alliances; regulations and regulatory change; board governance and accountability; fundraising; social enterprise management; succession planning; and ethics and decision making. Workshop attendee Anne Erickson, president and CEO of Empire Justice Center, a statewide nonprofit law firm, expressed her hopes. “We are at a real moment of challenge in the not-for-profit community. Rockefeller expertise can help us figure out some of the practical issues we face like downsizing, rebudgeting, getting into new revenue streams, repositioning ourselves, realigning our missions, and re-engaging our boards,” said Erickson. Ray Schimmer, executive director of Parsons Child & Family Center, agreed that Rockefeller has a crucial role to play, saying, “The College can do things that practitioners can’t, like developing and articulating theory, and making it relevant in the policymaking of nonprofits. When we get into controversial issues, I see the consequences of the absence of theory. We’re making huge decisions about the application of public resources, how that’s done and tracked, and how we measure the efficacy of it. Rockefeller has a unique expertise and can really help us.”

Students at the stakeholders meeting communicated interest in skills-based, hands-on training and opportunities to interact with nonprofit organizations. Taryn Couture, a BA/MPA student concentrating her studies in nonprofit management and global affairs, shared her impressions of the day. “It was really valuable to meet so many members of the local nonprofit community, and to hear them say they want us to have a role in their organizations, and it was great having the professors there to hear the student perspective.” Rockefeller PhD student Susan Appe, soon to be tenure-track faculty at SUNY Binghamton this fall, noted that, “MPA students are trained to be managers, but doctoral students are being trained to advance knowledge in nonprofit studies as professors, so it’s a very different kind of training that’s called for. I’m glad the nonprofit faculty has been talking about how to offer curriculum and programming that meet the needs of both groups of students.”

A Nonprofit “House” Under Construction

The process of redesigning the nonprofit curriculum and related program offerings is evolving as the very engaged nonprofit faculty members consider and recommend options for how to best serve Rockefeller students, the community’s practitioners, and the field itself. Among the ideas being considered are expansion of the nonprofit management/policy and civil society curriculum to include a new master’s of nonprofit leadership (the only stand-alone degree of its kind in the SUNY system) and a new nonprofit management and policy concentration within the MPA degree; creation of a continuum of University-community engagement, workforce development, and civic leadership opportunities; forging of new research partnerships based on community, state, and global civil society priorities; and increased local, regional and global service learning opportunities in the nonprofit sector.

Yvonne Harrison likens the role she and her colleagues have played to that of an architect. “We’ve designed a house that has enough room for faculty to grow, and to exercise leadership in teaching, research, and service in their areas of expertise,” says Harrison. “And we’ve also created shared spaces where faculty can connect with each other and students around issues that challenge nonprofits, and they can also engage with those working in the nonprofit community to gain a better understanding about how we can meet their needs.”

The impact of such actions is already being felt. This spring, for the first time in its history, Rockefeller College’s nonprofit studies program was included among the top nonprofit programs in the country in US News & World Report’s higher education rankings. Progress is clearly being made.
Judith R. Saidel, PhD  
**Title**: Associate Professor, Public Administration and Policy  
**Specialization**: Nonprofit-government relationships; nonprofit governance  
“The nonprofit sector is an economic actor alongside business and government and must be understood as such, not just as a recipient of charitable largesse.”

Dina Refki, DA  
**Title**: Director, Center for Women in Government & Civil Society  
**Specialization**: Women’s leadership; gender equity issues; civil society  
“One of the barometers in any democracy is the strength of its nonprofits. If they are compromised in any way, fiscally or in their capacity to serve, that will impact the health of our representative democracy.”

Erzsébet Fazekas, PhD  
**Title**: Assistant Professor, Public Administration and Policy  
**Specialization**: Organizational theory; nonprofits; civil society  
“When you manage an organization, you always have to manage your environment at the same time. You have to make changes on the inside based on what is happening on the outside. I teach my students that you have to look outside, not only to the regulatory and policy environment, but to the political environment around the organization as well, in order to have a broader perspective.”

Yvonne D. Harrison, PhD  
**Title**: Assistant Professor, Public Administration and Policy  
**Specialization**: Nonprofit organization and governance; board leadership and effectiveness; modernizing nonprofit organizations in use of information technology  
“What’s great about a nonprofit program is you can connect minds to what really matters. Nonprofit organizations and the people involved in them are tied to critical social mission, public service, values, and action.”

Jennifer Dodge, PhD  
**Title**: Assistant Professor, Public Administration and Policy  
**Specialization**: Nonprofit organizations in public deliberation and democratic governance; public and social change leadership  
“One of the major things that we should be thinking about and that we need to deal with is that the Baby Boom Generation is retiring. There are going to be people taking on leadership positions that might not be ready for those positions. I think we’re going to be seeing younger and younger people assuming leadership roles in nonprofits, and they’re going to need a lot of support.”

James W. Fossett, PhD and Robert Purtell, PhD  
Associate Professor Jim Fossett and Assistant Professor Bob Purtell of Rockefeller’s public administration and policy department complement the full-time nonprofit faculty. The two bring considerable expertise in financial management. Fossett is a specialist in health policy and state and federal budgeting. Before coming to Rockefeller, Purtell served in director-level positions at a number of major Wall Street firms and taught finance at NYU for 10 years.
Q: What are your current responsibilities at Moody’s?
A: I evaluate the credit worthiness of state governments. The majority of states and municipalities sell municipal bonds to finance capital projects. Here at Moody’s, we assess the ability of a government entity to repay its debts. Right now I have a portfolio of seven states, but I’ve covered up to 13 at a time. My current portfolio includes Georgia, Idaho, Minnesota, North Carolina, Oregon, Vermont, and Wisconsin.

Q: What does your job entail on a day-to-day basis?
A: Determining a credit rating can take anywhere from one week to a couple months, depending on the level of complexity. There was a time when the municipal bond sector was considered the boring/safe sector of fixed income. But as we’ve seen, the entire financial industry has undergone a huge structural change. Now we definitely have to keep our eyes and ears open and be ahead of the markets. I have news alerts set up to let me know when any of my credits (states in my portfolio) are in the news or if there is an event that may have an impact on my states. I’ll give you a perfect example. In one of my states, Wisconsin, there’s an effort on to recall the governor, and while it may not impact the ability of the state to repay its debt, it is something that I am paying very close attention to.

We look at all aspects of a credit. We look at its current debt profile, financial position, the state’s economy, and the governance and management of that state. In the morning, I scan the Wall Street Journal, New York Times, check Bloomberg and all of the major media outlets, return e-mails, and hold conference calls. I also reach out to my issuers frequently to stay on top of any potential problems. We have numerous ongoing projects in addition to ratings. We are responsible for putting out a lot of research. We also have frequent training at Moody’s, our in-house version of continuing education which all analysts are encouraged to participate in. Every day is different, depending on what’s going on in your state at the time.

Q: How did you go from sociology to public finance?
A: September 11th happened at the start of my senior year. That changed everything, including the economy and the job outlook. Everyone thought that it would be so easy to get work after we graduated, but the world changed for us on 9/11. I had started an internship in the New York State Assembly. During my internship,
As Kim Lyons, a sociology major, was about to begin her senior year at UAlbany, an uncertain economy forced her to rethink her plans. She hadn’t considered grad school, until the events of 9/11 made her realize finding a job might be much more difficult than she had anticipated. Highly motivated to make herself more competitive in the job market, Kim entered Rockefeller College and set out in a new direction.

Charting a New Course

Q&A with
Kimberly Lyons, BA ’02, MPA ’04
Assistant Vice President/Analyst, Moody’s Investors Service

I met some Rockefeller students who spoke very highly of the College’s MPA program. Before that, I had no thoughts of going to graduate school, but at that point I realized I needed a back-up plan. I applied to Rockefeller and was accepted. I took a public finance course with Professor David Liebschutz. He opened my eyes to the possibilities of having an MPA, working in the private sector and utilizing a background in public finance. He invited Robin Prunty of Standard & Poor’s to speak to us. She gave us insight into rating agencies, bond insurance firms, and all the opportunities that would be available to us. That was really the pivotal point in my time at Rockefeller, when everything changed direction for me and put me on the path to where I am now. One of the companies Robin mentioned was the first company I worked for after grad school, Financial Guaranty Insurance Company (FGIC).

Q: What brought you to Moody’s?
A: While I was working at FGIC, I made some friends who had begun their careers at Moody’s. One woman in particular really championed my desire to work at a rating agency and put me in contact with someone at Moody’s. I always knew it was the company I would ultimately work for. Every good credit analyst worth her salt started at a rating agency, and the majority of them came from Moody’s.

Q: It’s interesting that 9/11 forced you to shift gears in terms of your career focus, and now you’re working right in the heart of the financial district where it all took place 10 years ago. Do you ever think about that when you look out your window?
A: I am reminded of 9/11 every day. One of my biggest challenges when I first started working at Moody’s was overcoming my fear of the WTC site. Now that we have moved into 7 World Trade Center and I have a front row seat to the rebuilding process, it gives me a great sense of pride to see how the city and the financial district have rebounded.

Q: Where to from here? What are your career aspirations?
A: I absolutely love what I do. I definitely want to continue on my current career path. The great thing about working at Moody’s is that you never get bored. I’m challenged every day and I’m learning different aspects of my industry while enjoying the benefits of job stability.
Opportunity Knocks: One Student’s Journey

“As long as I can remember, I’ve wanted to work in public service. My grandfather was a career law enforcement officer. His service really inspired me.”
At 22, first year MPA student Brandon Kennedy is well on his way to achieving his dream. Ever since he was a young boy growing up in the small town of Woodstock, New York, Brandon has wanted to follow in his granddad’s footsteps and pursue a career in law enforcement. “His service really inspired me,” says Brandon of his grandfather, a former police chief who later became sheriff of Ulster County, New York. “You can imagine what it must have been like being the Woodstock chief of police back in the ’60s, ’70s, and ’80s,” he adds with a grin.

Brandon’s ultimate goal is to become a member of the United States Secret Service. The pursuit of that dream brought him to Rockefeller College where he’s concentrating his studies in homeland security. “I decided to pursue my MPA at Rockefeller because the program combined real-world experience with a challenging curriculum. I felt that was absolutely essential in order to gain the life experience I needed to achieve my career goals.” Before applying to Rockefeller, Brandon completed his bachelor’s in criminal justice at the University at Albany. He considered going on to law school, but decided that a master’s in public administration would give him a much more diversified background and ultimately lead to greater career choice.

A week before he was to begin his first semester, Brandon received a call that would prove his instincts about coming to Rockefeller College were right on target. “Rick Mathews, director of the National Center for Security & Preparedness (NCSP) at Rockefeller was on the phone asking me if I’d be interested in coming to work for his center,” explains Brandon. “My resume had been forwarded to Rick by the College’s director of internships and career programs, Jennifer Maclaughlin. That same week, I was interviewed by Rick and offered a graduate assistantship that provided me with full tuition coverage.”

Once on board at NCSP, Brandon played an active part in the center’s priority projects. “I’ve participated in focus groups related to budgeting and planning for the state’s homeland security training program, attended critical decision making courses, and assisted subject matter experts (SMEs) in writing and delivering an advanced active shooter course,” says Brandon. “My position has allowed me to be integrated into NCSP’s lead role in the development of the New York State Preparedness Training Center, a 723-acre, multimillion dollar facility in Oriskany, New York. My responsibilities include assisting SME’s and officials with course design and training development, attending focus groups, and providing administrative support to SMEs engaged in the development of state-of-the-art training capabilities at the facility. I often collaborate with colleagues and SMEs in conducting research and completing reports associated with state critical infrastructure protection for the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services. The most recent project culminated with our team delivering a report and presentation to the acting commissioner and members of the State Office of Counter Terrorism regarding the levels of resiliency within the critical energy infrastructure network surrounding the Great Lakes Region. Working at NCSP has been an invaluable life experience. It’s provided me with the opportunity to reach far beyond my very specific goal and to gain experience in many different aspects of the homeland security field.”

Brandon’s boss, Rick Mathews, an expert with over 35 years of professional experience in emergency preparedness, counter-terrorism, and homeland security — and a veteran of rescue and recovery efforts at the Murrah Federal Building bombing in Oklahoma City and Hurricane Katrina — looks forward to Brandon’s continued contribution to NCSP. He describes his determined graduate assistant’s enthusiasm for his work as “second to none.” Brandon is grateful to mentors like Mathews who’ve opened doors to extraordinary opportunities for him. Another important mentor and advisor is a 30-year veteran of the Secret Service who was instrumental in helping Brandon establish contacts in the Secret Service’s New York City field office that led to an internship where Brandon gained experience in protective operations and investigations. And, of course, there’s his grandfather who started it all by setting an example and helping Brandon get his very first internship working with the Ulster County DA’s and Sheriff’s offices where, at the ripe old age of 16, he helped in the preparation and litigation of felony jury trials.

Brandon Kennedy is on a mission. “With the education and experience I’ve gained at Rockefeller,” says Brandon, “I’m one step closer to achieving my goal.” Count on it.
When Will They Ever Learn?

by Lawrence J. Korb, PhD ’69
Back in 1966, when I completed my four years as a Naval Flight Officer and enrolled at what would eventually become the Rockefeller College, the Vietnam War was at its height and so were the anti-war demonstrations, fueled by anti-war songs. One of the most popular was the Kingston Trio's classic *Where Have All the Flowers Gone?* A line from that song that remains in my head to this day is "When will they ever learn?"

One of the things I learned during my time in Vietnam was that the country and the military had no idea what we were getting into when we ended up sending some 5 million men and women into that nation over a decade, losing almost 60,000 of them. This lesson was brought home to me one night in the spring of 1966, when a group of us got lost returning from a meeting with the Swift boat commanders in the Cam Ranh Bay area. Fortunately, we stumbled upon a monastery and stopped to ask directions. After telling us how to get back to our base, one of the monks asked us if we (the US) had any idea of what we were getting into; did we not learn anything from the French? The monk’s view was reinforced in my graduate studies in courses at Albany.

Over the past four decades, that conversation and that line have stuck in my head as I have spent my career in and out of government concerned about issues of war and peace, always wondering if we had ever learned about how and why to wage wars of choice.

In the quarter-century from our withdrawal from Vietnam until the attacks of 9/11, both Republican and Democratic presidents seemed to have learned. President Reagan refused to heed the entreaties of hardliners to send 25,000 American troops into Central America to fight the “Communist” Sandinistas, and when he realized we could not remake Lebanese society at an acceptable cost, we withdrew (he called it a strategic deployment). President G.H.W. Bush did use military force to evict Saddam Hussein from Kuwait, but only after he got a UN resolution, 250,000 troops, and billions of dollars from other nations. Most importantly, Bush refused to follow the advice of the hardliners, now known as neoconservatives, to march on Baghdad. President Clinton sent 30,000 troops into the Balkans as peacekeepers only after the Dayton Accords had stopped the fighting, and then used airpower to stop the killing in Kosovo. We did not lose a single life in the Balkans.

But after 9/11, President G.W. Bush, with the advice and consent of Congress, the acquiescence of the nation’s great newspapers like the *Washington Post* and the *New York Times*, and support of the foreign policy establishment, tried to reengineer Afghanistan and Iraq. President Bush evidently forgot that there was a reason Afghanistan was called the “graveyard of empires” and that the British had tried and failed to reshape Iraq after World War I. This point was brought home to me in my first trip to Iraq in the fall of 2003, when a Shiite scholar asked me the same question that the monk had asked me decades earlier — “When will you ever learn?”

We got lucky in Iraq. Members of the foreign policy establishment wanted to remain in that country indefinitely, but the Iraqis demanded that we set a deadline to get out, and so we withdrew our last troops in December 2011. We are beginning to withdraw from Afghanistan and negotiate with the Taliban. Maybe, at long last, we have learned. No one knows what will happen in Iraq and Afghanistan any more than we did when we agreed with the North Vietnamese to leave Vietnam in January 1973. But when I think about the apocalyptic predictions made about our leaving Vietnam (remember the Domino Theory?), I am reminded about what happened to me on my last trip to Iraq in October 2009. I bought a polo shirt for my grandson that said ‘Baghdad 2009.’ When I looked at the label in the back of the shirt, it said ‘Made in Vietnam!’

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*A former assistant secretary of defense (manpower, reserve affairs, installations, and logistics) from 1981 through 1985, Lawrence J. Korb is a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress in Washington, DC. He is also a senior advisor to the Center for Defense Information and an adjunct professor at Georgetown University. Prior to joining the Center for American Progress, he was a senior fellow and director of national security studies at the Council on Foreign Relations. Dr. Korb has served as director of the Center for Public Policy Education and senior fellow in the Foreign Policy Studies Program at the Brookings Institution; dean of the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs at the University of Pittsburgh; vice president of corporate operations at the Raytheon Company; and director of defense studies at the American Enterprise Institute.*
David L. Rousseau
Interim Dean, Rockefeller College of Public Affairs & Policy
invites you to attend the College’s

Annual Alumni Dinner and Awards Ceremony

Thursday, May 17th at 6 p.m.

Cocktail Hour: 6–7 p.m.
Dinner and Awards Ceremony: 7–9 p.m.

State University of New York
Plaza Courtrooms
353 Broadway, Albany, New York

RSVP by May 8th at
www.albany.edu/alumni/register.htm
Distinguished Alumni Award in Political Science

Victoria A. Farrar-Myers, PhD ’97
Professor of Political Science and Distinguished Teaching Professor, University of Texas at Arlington

Victoria A. Farrar-Myers, PhD is a full professor of political science and Distinguished Teaching Professor at the University of Texas at Arlington. She specializes in the American presidency, presidential-congressional relations, separation of powers, and campaign finance. Dr. Farrar-Myers is the author of numerous publications including *Scripted for Change: The Institutionalization of the American Presidency* (Texas A&M Press). She is co-author of *Legislative Labyrinth: Congress and Campaign Finance Reform* (CQ Press) and *Limits and Loopholes: The Quest for Money, Free Speech and Fair Elections* (CQ Press); and co-editor of *Corruption and American Politics* (Cambria Press). During 1997–98, she served as an American Political Science Association Congressional Fellow. From 2005–07, Dr. Farrar-Myers served as the coordinator for developing UT Arlington’s Quality Enhancement Plan, a campus-wide initiative designed to enhance student learning at the University. She was the recipient of the 2001 University of Texas at Arlington Chancellor’s Council Award for Excellence in Teaching, the 2005 *Arlington Star-Telegram* Service Learning Award and the 2007 Honors College Faculty Award. In 2011, she was inducted into UT Arlington’s Academy of Distinguished Teachers.

Distinguished Alumni Award in Public Administration & Policy

The Honorable Peter D. Lopez, MPA ’88
Member, New York State Assembly, Assembly District 127

Peter D. Lopez was elected assemblyman for the 127th Assembly District of New York State on November 7, 2006. His district includes all of Schoharie County, most of Greene County, and parts of Chenango, Columbia, Delaware, Otsego, and Ulster Counties. Prior to his election to the Assembly, Peter Lopez served as a legislative staff member for more than 20 years. Among the positions he has held are: associate director of the Senate Agriculture Committee; assistant director of the Legislative Commission on Rural Resources; district office director for Assembly Minority Leader John J. Faso; and executive assistant to Senator John J. Bonacic. While working as a legislative staffer, Assemblyman Lopez helped develop legislation and budget proposals, assisted with agency regulatory review, served on interagency advisory committees, responded to individual constituent needs, and advanced community projects.

Peter Lopez served as Schoharie County Clerk from 2004 through 2006. He has also been a village trustee, town councilman and member of the Schoharie County Board of Supervisors. He was appointed to the Association of Counties’ Statewide Transportation Advisory Committee and the Association of Towns’ Statewide Legislative Advisory Committee. In recognition of his town and county service, Schoharie County Operation Desert Care awarded Peter Lopez the David Williams Award for Preservation of Freedom. Assemblyman Lopez was a founding member of Habitat for Humanity of Schoharie County, and has served as a board member for the Bassett Hospital of Schoharie County, Schoharie County Chamber of Commerce, State University of New York (SUNY) Cobleskill Foundation, and the SUNY Cobleskill Alumni Association.

He received the Distinguished Alumni Award from SUNY Cobleskill, SUNY’s Golden Anniversary Chancellor’s Recognition Award, the New York State Masons’ General Douglas MacArthur Award for Service to Youth, and the Schoharie County Chamber of Commerce’s Leader of the Year Award. Peter Lopez is a graduate of SUNY Cobleskill and Rockefeller College at the University at Albany, where he earned a master’s degree in public administration.

Among the positions he has held are: associate director of the Senate Agriculture Committee; assistant director of the Legislative Commission on Rural Resources; district office director for Assembly Minority Leader John J. Faso; and executive assistant to Senator John J. Bonacic. While working as a legislative staffer, Assemblyman Lopez helped develop legislation and budget proposals, assisted with agency regulatory review, served on interagency advisory committees, responded to individual constituent needs, and advanced community projects.

Peter Lopez served as Schoharie County Clerk from 2004 through 2006. He has also been a village trustee, town councilman and member of the Schoharie County Board of Supervisors. He was appointed to the Association of Counties’ Statewide Transportation Advisory Committee and the Association of Towns’ Statewide Legislative Advisory Committee. In recognition of his town and county service, Schoharie County Operation Desert Care awarded Peter Lopez the David Williams Award for Preservation of Freedom. Assemblyman Lopez was a founding member of Habitat for Humanity of Schoharie County, and has served as a board member for the Bassett Hospital of Schoharie County, Schoharie County Chamber of Commerce, State University of New York (SUNY) Cobleskill Foundation, and the SUNY Cobleskill Alumni Association.

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Rockefeller College Young Alumni Award in Political Science

Charley E. Lozada, BA ’05
Associate, Corporate Department, Proskauer Rose LLP

Charley E. Lozada is an associate in the Corporate Department at Proskauer Rose LLP, New York and Hong Kong offices. Ms. Lozada has experience in a wide range of corporate matters, with a focus on capital markets transactions, privacy and data security matters, and intellectual property and technology transactions. She has extensive experience representing investment banks and issuers in connection with 144A high-yield debt financings, municipal bond offerings, public equity offerings, private
placements, exchange offers, tender offers, and consent solicitations. Ms. Lozada also handles an array of pro bono matters, providing general corporate assistance to a number of not-for-profit organizations.

Prior to joining Proskauer, Ms. Lozada served as a law clerk in the Office of Commissioner Michael J. Copps of the Federal Communications Commission. She also served as a law clerk for the Economic Justice Project at the Brennan Center for Justice at the New York University School of Law. Ms. Lozada holds a juris doctor from the New York University School of Law.

Rockefeller College Young Alumni Award in Public Administration & Policy

Donald E. Boyce III, BS ’06, MPA ’08
Assistant Vice President, US Regulatory Group, Deutsche Bank Securities, Inc.

Donald Boyce is an assistant vice president in US Regulatory for Deutsche Bank Securities, Inc. As one of the first graduates from the Institute for Financial Market Regulation (IFMR), he initially joined the regulatory ranks as an examiner for the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA). His work focused on financial and operational risks associated with US securities broker/dealers.

While a graduate student, Mr. Boyce served as the president of the State University of New York (SUNY) Student Assembly, representing over 400,000 SUNY students on the SUNY Board of Trustees. He was the only SUNY student to serve on the 2008 New York State Commission on Higher Education and was part of the committee that selected SUNY’s 12th Chancellor, Dr. Nancy L. Zimpher. Mr. Boyce contributed to the State University of New York’s strategic planning efforts by serving on the “Group of 200” as one of a small number of alumni representatives.

Donald Boyce serves as an advisory board member to the UAlbany/Albany Law Institute for Financial Market Regulation and has chaired the IFMR Alumni Network since its inception, working to unite alumni, connect faculty with industry professionals, and aid current students as they prepare for their future careers.

Distinguished Continuing Professional Education Leadership Award of Excellence

Mary L. McCarthy, MSW ’82
Director, Social Work Education Consortium
Co-Principal Investigator, National Child Welfare Workforce Institute

Mary L. McCarthy, PhD, LMSW ’82 is director of the New York State Social Work Education Consortium, a partnership of the New York State Office of Children and Family Services Bureau of Training, the New York State Association of Deans of Schools of Social Work, the social work education community, and local social services. The Consortium works to identify and implement programs and activities that promote a forward-looking approach to training and education, emphasizing workforce stabilization and professionalization.

Dr. McCarthy is also co-principal investigator for the National Child Welfare Workforce Institute (NCWWI), a service of the Children’s Bureau of the US Department of Health and Human Services. NCWWI builds the capacity of the nation’s child welfare workforce and improves outcomes for children and families through activities that support the development of skilled child welfare leaders in public and tribal child welfare systems, and in private agencies that are contracted by the state to provide services traditionally provided by the public child welfare system.

Professional development and lifelong learning are constant and interwoven themes in Mary McCarthy’s work. From 1979–82, she worked as a project assistant and associate for the University at Albany’s Continuing Education Program (CEP), which later became the Professional Development Program (PDP). She serves as Region III representative to the board of directors for the National Association of Social Workers (NASW), and from 2006–08, she was president of the New York State Chapter of NASW.

A faculty member at the University at Albany School of Social Welfare since 1988, Mary McCarthy earned her MSW from the University at Albany in 1982 and her PhD with distinction from Memorial University, Newfoundland, Canada in 2003.
News from the Research Centers, Institutes, and Partners of Rockefeller College

Center for Women in Government & Civil Society (CWGCS)
www.albany.edu/womeningov

The Center for Women in Government & Civil Society (CWGCS) has named its 2012 Fellows (see photo at right), CWGCS’s Fellows Program is designed to prepare women for leadership roles in public policy. Fellows are placed in one of three policy arenas: a state agency, a statewide advocacy organization, or the office of a New York State Senate or Assembly member. In addition to their placement, the fellows take nine credits of policy coursework and participate in a rigorous, co-curricular program that consists of professional development workshops, community service, fellowship group sessions, and mentoring. Fellows receive a $9,000 stipend and tuition assistance for coursework.

In February, CWGCS hosted a breakfast event for members of the New York State Legislative Women’s Caucus. The purpose of the event was to raise awareness about the underrepresentation of women in the New York State Legislature (and in every political office nationwide), and invite the Caucus to proactively address the problem.

The importance of balanced representation in the Legislature to preserving the health of our democracy, public trust and credibility of the Legislature was a central theme in the discussion. Members deliberated on how the Caucus can help bring more women into the legislative arena through the Women’s Leadership Academy of CWGCS. A number of New York State legislators participated in the meeting, including Assemblywoman Michele Titus, chair of the Legislative Women’s Caucus, and Assemblywoman Ellen Jaffee of the Task Force on Women’s Issues.

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

CPR Director Victor Asal and research partner Karl Rethemeyer, chair of the department of public administration and policy at Rockefeller College, were awarded a $200,000 grant from the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in support of the T-STEP program, a combined educational, training, and research opportunity administered cooperatively by the College and the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (NYSDHSES). T-STEP, Training for Security and Terrorism Professionals, is designed to prepare homeland security professionals for long-term employment as intelligence analysts in local, state, or federal service in the public and private sectors.

The grant will enable the College to provide support for up to three students beginning their studies toward an MPA with a concentration in homeland security in the 2012/2013 academic year.

Center for International Development (SUNY CID)
www.cid.suny.edu

A consortium of firms led by SUNY CID was awarded the United States Agency for International Development’s (USAID) fourth Legislative Strengthening Indefinite Quantity Contract (IQC) in November 2011. This award continues SUNY CID’s record of success as USAID’s most frequently selected implementer of parliamentary strengthening programs. The contract constitutes the primary mechanism under which legislative support projects will be funded and prequalifies SUNY CID as one of five organizations to compete for USAID contracts that aim to build the capacity of parliamentary institutions and enhance democracy throughout the developing world.

The collaboration to develop the Uganda Parliamentary Research and Internship Program (PRIP) between SUNY CID, Makerere University, the Islamic University in Uganda, and Uganda Martyrs University was named Partnership of the Month in the January/February 2012 Higher Education for Development Newsletter.

The newly established Arab Institute for Parliamentary Training and Legislative Studies, supported by SUNY CID’s USAID-funded Project to Support the Lebanese Parliament Through Development of a Legislative Resource Center, hosted the Arab regional workshop Emerging Trends and Challenges for ICT in Parliament on January 16–17 in Beirut, Lebanon.

USAID awarded SUNY CID a 12-month, $1.26 million extension on February 16 to the USAID Parliamentary Support Project in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The award brings the total value of the cooperative agreement to $4,157,586 over four years.

USAID awarded SUNY CID a 12-month, $1.26 million extension on February 13 to the USAID Parliamentary Support Project in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The award brings the total value of the cooperative agreement to $4,157,586 over four years.

The 2012 Fellows are (from left): Jie Wang, Julie Deo, Jessica Rowell, Emily Hoops, Ellena Young, Mandy Sheridan, Jamie Dughi, Dorcey Applyrs, and Beth Meah.

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SUNY CID organized an extended seminar in October 2011 for three lecturers, one from each of our partner universities in Uganda, as part of PRIP. While in Albany they toured the New York State Capitol and spoke with Assemblyman Jack McEneny.
Rockefeller Institute of Government (RIG)

The Rockefeller Institute Press published "Fighting for Our Health, a vivid, first-person account by Institute Fellow Richard Kirch of how progressive activist groups drove passage of landmark, national healthcare legislation in 2010."

In fall 2011, the Institute produced several reports and hosted a number of events that considered New York's economy relative to the nation, including a policy forum on the impact of globalization on the state.

RIG also helped organize a conference in Buffalo for the State University of New York (SUNY) on measuring the economic impact of universities. Other Institute events included an examination of how terrorism investigations have changed since 9/11 and a look back at the legacy of former Governor Hugh L. Carey, who died in August 2011.

National Center for Security & Preparedness (NCSP)

The National Center for Security & Preparedness (NCSP) has continued to grow and evolve since its inception in July 2007. Currently, NCSP is engaged in a number of projects and enjoys a very strong partnership with the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (NYSDHSES), which sponsors a number of the Center's projects. At present, NCSP is engaged in the development of a comprehensive strategic plan for homeland security training and education for the State of New York. Other projects include the development and delivery of a cutting-edge, scenario-based training program that helps prepare law enforcement, EMS, and bomb technicians to be better prepared to respond to a series of synchronic attacks involving multiple attackers against multiple locations within a single jurisdiction or region. Such an attack occurred in Mumbai, India in 2008 and is considered to be a potentially significant threat to the US.

NCSP has also been asked by NYSDHSES to conduct the After Action Review (AAR) for dealing with the state's recent response to Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee. Additionally, NCSP was tasked by the NYSDHSES Office of Counter Terrorism to engage in a critical infrastructure protection research project related to the energy sector in the Great Lakes Region (including New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and the Canadian Province of Ontario). The project involved a comprehensive open source review of the vulnerabilities and resilience of oil and natural gas pipeline and electric infrastructure in the region, threats to this infrastructure, and the security and economic consequences of power disruption. The review also covered federal, state, and local security initiatives and discussed the United States' energy relationship with Canada.

Project on Violent Conflict (PVC)

Under the direction of Professors Karl Rethemeyer and Victor Asal, PVC won a $1 million award over five years as part of the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START), based at the University of Maryland, to continue to expand the scientific understanding of the human causes and consequences of terrorism, specifically addressing crucial homeland security issues, such as terrorist behavior, violent extremism and counterterrorism. The project will focus on collecting data on terrorist and extremist organizations and analyzing factors that help explain their organizational behavior.

PVC has announced some recent additions to its staff. Robert Tynes, PhD, is now research director. Tynes's work focuses on African politics, political anthropology, and child soldier use. Marcus Schulze, a PhD candidate in the department of political science whose research interests include military ethics, just war theory, new weapons technologies, new media, and political theory, will serve as PVC research coordinator.

Program on Local & Intergovernmental Studies (POLIS)

POLIS is engaged in a three-part study of the fiscal impact of lawsuits involving municipalities in New York State. A first report has been released that provides statewide data for judgments and claims paid by local governments over a five-year period. The report examines one of the three streams of payouts that occur in settling liability claims—funds expended out of the general funds of local governments. Over a 5-year period, about one-fifth of New York State local governments paid out an average of $200 million a year for judgments and settlements. These sums are, in essence, deductible payments made by localities. Their insurers also pay out for liability claims up to the limit of the insured's coverage, and sometimes reinsurance kicks in for the biggest claims. For each year examined, researchers found county and city governments are more likely to incur expenses relating to judgments and claims than towns and villages.

Conducting the study has been challenging because very little information on lawsuits is collected and available, making it difficult to have an evidence-based approach to policy analysis and reform. The report is a first step in addressing this existing information gap. Though the focus of the work is to estimate outcomes for lawsuit costs above and beyond the cost of liability insurance, POLIS researchers hope to develop a more complete understanding of operational costs incurred in responding to legal actions against local governments.

Professional Development Program (PDP)

In conjunction with its state agency partners, PDP's work was recognized with two Best of New York Awards at the September 2011 New York Digital Government Summit in Albany. The Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance's (OTDA) website won the category of Most Innovative Use of Technology. Jason Morris, PDP staff member and webmaster, optimized the OTDA site for use with mobile devices.

The Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) Child Care Time and Attendance application was named Best Application Serving the Public. PDP's work providing training for this application was recognized during the award ceremony. PDP staff developed curriculum and delivered classroom training to 1,116 new users at 37 different locations. Working under an aggressive schedule, PDP's contributions were vital to OCFS becoming fully operational within a federally mandated timeframe.
Faculty News

Professor Mitch Abolafia will be the keynote speaker this June at a conference in St. Petersburg, Russia organized by the Center for Study of Economic Culture of the Department of Liberal Arts and Sciences, St. Petersburg State University. The conference will examine the economic culture of modern capitalism. Abolafia’s talk is titled “The Cultural Contradictions of Capitalism, Revisited.”

Congratulations to Rockefeller faculty members David Andersen and Holly Jarman. With UAlbany colleagues Luis Luna (Center for Technology in Government) and Deborah Andersen (College of Computing and Information), and Douglas Derrick of the University of Nebraska, Omaha, they have been awarded funding for their program Creating a 21st Century Border: Border Technologies from the Puentes Research Consortium.

A number of articles co-authored by Victor Asal, associate professor of political science and director of the Center for Policy Research at Rockefeller College, are forthcoming. An article Professor Asal wrote with Marcus Schulzke titled “A Shot Not Taken: Teaching About the Ethics of Political Violence” will appear in an upcoming issue of International Studies Perspectives. Asal, Rockefeller colleague Kathleen Deloughery, and UAlbany’s Ryan D. King collaborated on “Close Cousins or Distant Relatives? The Relationship Between Terrorism and Hate Crime” which will soon appear in Crime & Delinquency.

Mark Baskin, research professor in the department of political science and senior associate at the Center for International Development at Rockefeller College (SUNY CID), participated in the annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association in New Orleans in January. Baskin served on two panels organized by the Research Committee on Legislative Studies. In a roundtable about legislatures in post-authoritarian societies, Baskin spoke on the topic of constituency development funds. A second roundtable featured a discussion of SUNY CID’s work with the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia.

Public Service Professor Kevin M. Bronner is involved in a project at National Grid in Brooklyn that is looking at the results of a labor productivity study comparing union employees’ labor productivity to that of outside contractors. In January, Bronner filed formal comments before the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) in support of a proposal by GASB to require state and local governments to make five-year economic and financial projections showing items such as projected revenues, spending, and the amount of debt maintained by the government. Last October, Professor Bronner presented a paper on accounting fraud issues at the Northeast Conference of Public Administration at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York City. In 2012, Kevin Bronner reaches a professional milestone; he will become a 30-year member of the American Society of Public Administration.

Ik Jae Chung, research associate professor and director of the Albany-Korea Development Institute Program (KDI), co-edited the book The Emergence of a New Urban China: Insiders’ Perspective with UAlbany colleagues Zai Liang, Steve Messner, and Youquin Huang. In addition, Professor Chung’s paper “Social Amplification of Risk in the Internet Environment” was selected by the Society for Risk Analysis to be featured in its 2011 Media Outreach Campaign.

Assistant Professor Jennifer Dodge participated as an organizer and presenter at a number of conferences this past fall. In September she presented “Civil Society Organizations and Democratic Spaces: Assessing Unique Contributions to Collaborative Governance” at the American Political Science Association (APSA) Conference in Seattle. She was also co-organizer of the conference panel Governance, Policy Learning and Change. In November, Dodge presented “Nonprofit Organizations and Advocacy: Adapting to New Governance and Cross-Sector Collaboration” and chaired the Change Agents at the Grassroots: Reforming Institutions in Developing Countries panel at the Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action Conference (AR-NOVA) in Toronto. That same month, Professor Dodge served as a discussant on the Motivation and Discretion in Street Level Service Delivery panel and chaired the International Organizations, Development and the Policy Process panel at the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Conference in Washington, DC.

Over the course of the last year, Rockefeller College Assistant Professor Bryan R. Early has received nearly $ 600,000 in grant funding from the US Department of State to provide strategic trade control assistance to countries in South America, Europe, the Middle East, and Central Asia. Early, jointly appointed in the departments of political science and public administration and policy at Rockefeller, has been working closely with the State Department’s Export Control and Related Border Security (EXBS) Program and a team of strategic trade control experts at Rockefeller College’s Center for Policy Research. Early has received funding for a variety of projects including: Strategic Trade Control Legislation and Implementing Regulations Assistance-Lebanon ($ 84,899); Seminar on Strategic Trade Controls, Western Balkans and Armenia ($ 99,703); Strategic Trade Control Legislation Development Assistance in Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Region and Uzbekistan ($ 299,751); and Licensing Mechanics Assistance, Brazil ($ 99,984).

(Pictured from left to right) David Andersen; Rey Koslowski; Bryan Early; Erzsébet Fazekas; Victor Asal; and Bob Purcell (pictured at top)
Assistant Professor Erzsébet Fazekas received a University at Albany Faculty Research Award for the project “International Grantmaking by US Foundations, 2003–2008: Data Coding and Analysis.” The project analyzes patterns and mechanisms of strategic giving by private, philanthropic foundations and the factors impacting foundation behavior within the global arena, in 36 post-communist, socialist or transitional countries. In November at ARNOVA, she presented “Seeding Change: US Foundation Support to Eastern Europe and the Middle East Before the Upheavals,” which examined the role American foundations play in grounding the path to democratic changes in countries with non-democratic regimes.

Also participating at ARNOVA was nonprofit specialist Yvonne Harrison. Harrison presented two papers at the November conference. Her paper on the leadership role and impact of nonprofit board chairs has been accepted for publication in a special issue on nonprofit governance in Nonprofit Management and Leadership.

Global Mobility Regimes, edited by Associate Professor Rey Koslowski, was published by Palgrave Macmillan in December 2011. The second edition of his co-edited volume, Global Human Smuggling: Comparative Perspectives, was published by Johns Hopkins University Press in November 2011.

Assistant Professor Erika Martin was invited to present “Expanded HIV Screening: Who Will Pay, and What Will It Cost?” for the Veterans Administration Health Economics Resource Center Cyberseminar in September 2011. Professor Martin and Research Associate Rod McDonald received a grant from Health Research Inc. [AIDS Institute, New York State Department of Health] for a project titled “A Systems Dynamics-Based Evaluation of the Economic Impacts of the Mandatory Offer of HIV Testing in New York State.” In addition, Martin was appointed as a committee member for the Institute of Medicine (IOM) of the National Academies Review of Data Systems for Monitoring HIV/AIDS Care. The committee was established as a result of a request from the White House Office of National AIDS Policy to convene a group of experts to assess available public and private data systems that capture information about HIV care.

The Liberals’ Moment, by Rockefeller College political science professor and Collins Fellow Bruce Miroff, was recently named to the Wall Street Journal’s “Five Best” list. In the book, Miroff, an expert on American politics and the presidency, writes about Senator George McGovern’s remarkable 1972 presidential bid and explores how McGovern’s devastating loss to Richard Nixon would go on to impact and shape the Democratic party and its election efforts for years to come. Professor Miroff is beginning a book project on the political ground of presidential leadership. The work will reflect Miroff’s four-decade engagement with the study of the presidency.

Professor Robert Nakamura, a specialist in public policy and legislative development, presented “Parliamentary Representation in Four States of Melanesia and Polynesia” with colleagues Quinton Clements and David Hegarty at the International Studies Association Regional Conference in Brisbane, Australia in September 2011. Their findings were also presented at the Pacific Islands Political Studies Association Annual Meeting in Apia, Samoa this past December. In addition, Professor Nakamura and colleague Samir Musovic had their paper “Success Where You Least Expect It: Parliamentary Oversight in Bosnia-Herzegovina” accepted for presentation at the International Political Science Association Meeting to be held in Madrid, Spain in July 2012.

Professor Julie Novkov, chair of the political science department, gave an invited lecture at the University of Vermont in February. The talk, titled “Making Citizens Out of Freedmen and Polygamists,” compared the legal campaign to extend rights to freedmen after the Civil War with the campaign to suppress polygamy in Utah. She also presented a revised version of that paper at the annual meeting of the Western Political Science Association in Portland, Oregon in March. Professor Novkov just signed a contract with her co-editor Carol Nackenoff of Swarthmore College to publish an edited volume, State Building from Margin to Mainstream: Progressive Era Policies that Revisioned the State. In addition, she recently accepted invitations to join the editorial boards of the American Political Science Review and the Journal of Law and Courts. Professor Novkov also has several works in progress. She is finishing up work on The Supreme Court and the Presidency which will be published by CQ Press. And she continues work on her newest scholarly manuscript, which addresses how subordinate people in America have succeeded and failed in their attempts to gain greater rights based on their service to the nation in moments of crisis.

(Pictured top row, left to right) Bruce Miroff; Kathleen Deloughery; Erika Martin; Mitch Abolafia; Robert Nakamura; and Ellen Rubin
(Pictured lower row, left to right) Kevin Bronner; George Richardson; Jennifer Dodge; Ik Jae Chung; Mark Baskin; and R. Karl Rethemeyer
Robert Purtell, an expert in finance and fiscal policy, is co-author on the 4th edition of Financial Management for Public, Health, and Not-for-Profit Organizations with Steven Finkler, Thad Calabrese, and Daniel Smith. The book will be available in early summer 2012. Professor Purtell and doctoral student Santiago Guerrero presented papers on the impact of the 9/11 attacks on nonprofit revenue at the Association for Budgeting and Financial Management (ABFM) and the Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action (ARNOVA) conferences.


Professor George Richardson recently took part in a two-day workshop teaching system dynamics at the Duke-National University of Singapore (NUS) Graduate Medical School in Singapore. The workshop attracted 60 participants from Southeast Asia. From there, Richardson headed to Nijmegen in the Netherlands, to teach a two-day workshop for students in the Erasmus Mundus Masters Program in System Dynamics at Radboud University.

Assistant Professor Ellen Rubin was invited to be a panelist at the American Society for Public Administration’s Section on Personnel Administration and Labor Relations (SPALR) Symposium titled Public Employee Rights in a Changing Environment. The symposium took place March 2 in Las Vegas. Professor Rubin also was elected to the SPALR board for the first time.

 Associate Professor Judith Saidel and Steven R. Smith of American University are co-authors of “A Curriculum Integration Model: The State of Nonprofit Management Education in Schools of Public Affairs.” Most recently, the model was presented at the 2011 Annual Conference of the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA). Professor Saidel is also principal investigator of a multi-year research project titled “Civil Society and the Origins of Public Affairs Education: The Roles and Influence of Philanthropy in the Early Years.”

Associate Professor Patricia Strach presented her paper “Selling Health: Consumer Marketing, Political Participation and the Breast Cancer Campaign in the United States” at the Institute for Health, Healthcare Policy and Aging Research at Rutgers in February.

Assistant Professor Stephen Weinberg presented “Why do Medicaid Recipients Use Emergency Departments So Much?” at the Midwest Political Science Association meetings this April in Chicago. He co-authored the project with Rockefeller doctoral student Niyousha Hosseinchimeh, and Avinash Bachwani, a doctoral student in the department of informatics.

The Australian Centre for Democratic Institutions (CDI) has committed to funding a series of research and training workshops in Southeast Asia conducted by Meredith Weiss, associate professor of political science. The project is a cross-national, multi-method study on money politics in Southeast Asia, tracing the flows and implications of patronage for electoral gain in four middle-income, developing countries: Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia and Thailand. Professor Weiss’s book, Student Activism in Malaysia, was published last fall. She recently gave a talk in Singapore titled “Civil Society in the 13th Malaysian GE: The Wider Contest and Context.”

At the request of the Political and Constitutional Reform Committee of the United Kingdom’s House of Commons, Professor Joseph Zimmerman provided evidence on recall elections in the United States. Zimmerman is the author of The Recall: Tribunal of the People in which he examines the use of the recall by US voters to remove elected state and local officials from office. Zimmerman’s newest book, State-Local Governmental Interactions, will be published by SUNY Press in May.

[Top row] Julie Novkov; Stephen Weinberg
[Lower row, left to right] Meredith Weiss; Judith Saidel; Joseph Zimmerman; and Yvonne Harrison
Thank You to Our Advisory Board Co-Chairs

Rockefeller College relies on its distinguished board of advisors for expertise, guidance, and support in many critical areas. The board is currently led by co-chairs Vincent Abramo ’67 and Gerard Citera ’77.

Vince Abramo has served as construction safety and occupational health manager for overseas buildings operations for the US Department of State since 1992. He is responsible for overseeing global construction contracts on new construction and major renovation of US embassy projects worldwide. Jerry Citera is counsel at Davis Polk & Wardwell’s Financial Institutions Group and a senior lawyer in the firm’s broker-dealer and market regulation practice in New York City. He is a member of the advisory council for the Institute for Financial Market Regulation, a collaboration of Rockefeller College, UAlbany’s College of Computing and Information, UAlbany’s School of Business, and Albany Law School. We are grateful to Vince and Jerry, and former advisory board co-chairs Jeffrey Mishkin ’69 of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher and Flom, LLP and Lewis Wiener ’84 of Sutherland Asbill & Brennan LLP, for their outstanding leadership and unwavering commitment to the College and its students. They make all of us at Rockefeller very proud to have them as alums, and they inspire our students to do great things.

MPA Class of 2010: Where Are They Now? A snapshot one year after graduation*

Where They Work
Some Examples:
• American Red Cross, Citizen Preparedness Coordinator
• Cardinal Health, Internal Communications Manager
• Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, Program Manager
• Mount Sinai Hospital, Training Coordinator
• New York State Division of the Budget, Budget Fellow
• New York State Department of Public Service, Utility Analyst
• Office of New York State Assemblywoman Barbara Clark, Policy Analyst
• Office of the New York State Comptroller, Local Government & School Accountability Research Analyst
• Office of United States Senator Charles E. Schumer, Deputy Regional Director
• Schenectady County Board of Elections, Voting Systems Operator
• United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Financial Analyst
• United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Financial Analyst
• United States Department of Veterans Affairs, Graduate Healthcare Administrative Training Program Fellow

Employed After One Year
Rockefeller College MPA Class of 2010 96%
National Average** 65%

**According to the National Association of Colleges and Employers (www.naceweb.org)

Where They Are Located
A Few Examples:
• Albany, NY
• Charleston, SC
• Columbus, OH
• New York, NY
• Newark, NJ
• Seoul, South Korea
• Tokyo, Japan
• Washington, DC

* The most recent post-graduate employment statistics available are for the Class of 2010. Annual statistics for the Class of 2011 will be available in June 2012.
Student News

Bridget Baker presented “Economic Recovery in Action: The Faces of Rebuilding and Recovery After the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act, An Analysis of Success by Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) and CSBG-ARRA Funded Programs” to the New York State Department of State’s Community Service Division in September. Bridget works as a graduate assistant in the department of political science with Professor Peter Breiner.

Several students nominated by Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education Anne Hildreth were chosen to represent UAlbany at the SUNY Undergraduate Research Discovery Showcase held in the New York State Legislative Office Building in Albany this past February. In a poster presentation titled “And the Nominee is…,” Georgia Crinnin, Marissa Hirschbaum, Jeffrey Pritchard, and Matt Repetto shared the results of their research from Professor Hildreth’s Running for President senior seminar. Professor Hildreth also worked on the paper “Letters to the Editor as Community Discourse” with Shannon Scotece, a doctoral student in political science, and alums Leah Murray, PhD ’04. The trio presented their work at the Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting in San Diego in April.

In August, Navid Ghaffarzadegan, a doctoral student in public administration and policy, and David Andersen, professor in the department of public administration and policy, presented “Optimization of Warning Decisions to Increase Security in a Public Place” at the Academy of Management Conference in San Antonio, Texas. Navid also presented a paper with Research Professor Thomas Stewart, titled “Examination of Barriers to Learning in Public Services: A Multi-Method Approach,” at the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) Conference held in Washington DC. Navid is currently doing postdoctoral research on healthcare education at Ohio State University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

American Intelligence Journal has accepted an article for publication by Michael Landon-Murray, PhD candidate in Rockefeller’s Department of public administration and policy. The article, “Next Steps in the Intelligence Education Literature: Stipulating Academic Competencies with Greater Precision and the Pursuit of Curricular Innovations,” is forthcoming.


Katie Truby, a doctoral student in political science, participated in two workshops that took place in Washington, DC last fall as part of Professor Rey Koslowski’s MacArthur Foundation funded research project “US Migration Reform in International Perspective.” The workshops were held at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and German Marshall Fund on October 31 and November 1, respectively. In addition, Katie presented “Contesting HIV/AIDS: Civil Society-State Relations at Mexico’s Two Borders” at the New England Council on Latin American Studies Annual Conference at Dartmouth College in November. Katie will travel to Mexico City this summer to interview government officials and members of community groups about health and migration policy.

Political Science doctoral student Jennifer Woodward presented a paper titled “Interpreting Civil Rights: Early Racial Discrimination Claims under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964” at the 2011 American Political Science Association Annual Meeting (APSA). She and fellow doctoral student Wendy Johnston presented a workshop on “Social Media in the Classroom: Facebook as a Catalyst for Group Work and Classroom Discussion” at the 2011 APSA Teaching and Learning Conference. Jennifer, a law and social science doctoral fellow at the American Bar Foundation in Chicago, is the recipient of a graduate student travel award for the Law and Society Association Annual Meeting in Hawaii this coming June.

[Top row, from left] Michael Landon-Murray; Navid Ghaffarzadegan (Lower row, from left) Xiaoye She; Jennifer Woodward; Bridget Baker; Author and journalist Jeffrey Koye, Rockefeller Research Assistant Professor Laura Valeria González-Murphy, Katie Truby, and Associate Professor Rey Koslowski at Washington, DC workshop on immigration policy reform
Undergraduates Embrace the Washington, DC Experience

Nineteen University at Albany juniors and seniors are participating in Rockefeller College’s Semester in Washington this spring. The program is led by Professor Michael Malbin of the College’s political science department. Students have had quite the introduction to the nation’s capital. It all began with a tour of the city led by noted Washington historian Jeanne Fogle. Other opportunities our students have enjoyed include a visit to the Newseum, the interactive museum of news and journalism; a Secret Service-led tour of the White House arranged by Representative Paul D. Tonko; a discussion with Howard Gleckman, author of Caring for Our Parents (St. Martin’s Press) and the writer and editor of TaxVox, the fiscal policy blog of the Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center; and a trip to the historic Watergate to hear a talk by Charlie Cook, editor and publisher of the Cook Political Report and a political analyst for NBC News and National Journal.

Students also have had the chance to meet and interact with a number of Rockefeller’s distinguished alumni who live and work in the Washington area. Members of the College’s advisory board have welcomed the undergrads to a Rockefeller alumni breakfast series that features discussions about opportunities and issues related to careers in public service. Jennifer Manner, BA ’86 and Frank Jazzo, BS ’80 hosted a program on communications issues, and board co-chair Vince Abramo, BA ’67, shared his insights on the Foreign Service during a breakfast in March. So as you can see, our students are in good hands and are learning from the best in the business.

Here is a list of our students’ internship placements while studying in Washington this semester:

• American Enterprise Institute
• Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
• Blue-Green Alliance
• The Enough Project (The Project to End Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity) of the Center for American Progress
• Foundation for the Defense of Democracies
• Human Rights Campaign
• National Archives and Records Administration
• Office of Representative Gary Ackerman (NY-5th District)
• Office of Representative Tim Bishop (NY-1st District)
• Office of Representative Ann Marie Buerkle (NY-25th District)
• Office of Representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (FL-12th District)
• Office of Representative Nancy Pelosi (CA-8th District)
• Office of US Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (NY)
• Partners of the Americas
• Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN)
• United Nations Information Center
• United States Department of Education
• The Victory Fund
• World Affairs Council

Pictured from top: Washington Semester students gather outside the White House after being given their own private tour. US Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-New York) with UAlbany student Youngki Hong, who is interning in the senator’s office this semester. Nick Aquino (at left), a UAlbany intern in the office of Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen of Florida (standing next to Nick) this semester, had the opportunity to meet Kasiviswanathan Shanmugam, the foreign minister of Singapore (at center of photo). Former Speaker of the US House of Representatives, Nancy Pelosi (California – 8th Congressional District) and Rockefeller student Andrew Abramovitz, who has been assigned to the former Speaker’s office this semester.
Several recent Rockefeller graduates have accepted job offers at KPMG LLP, the audit, tax and advisory firm. Among the latest alums to join KPMG are Zamira Akchurina, MPA ’10, Ryan Ashe, MPA ’11, and Denis Serdiouk, MPA ’11. Zamira and Ryan will be assigned to KPMG’s office in Albany while Denis will be working in New York City.

Courtney Asker, MPA ’10 is on assignment with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Bangkok, Thailand.

In news from the Green Mountain State, Shawn Benham, MPA ’11 now holds the position of assistant town manager for the town of Barre, Vermont and Joe Colangelo, MPA ’06 is town administrator of Hinesburg, Vermont.

In February, Bonny Betancourt, MPA ’99 was named associate director of government relations for Covanta Energy in Albany, New York. Bonny represents the company’s legislative positions on energy before the state legislatures of New York, Pennsylvania, Minnesota, and Oklahoma, as well as before the city council of New York.

Jeff Blauvelt, MPA ’10 was recently appointed to a position as intelligence analyst/crime analyst for the city of Buffalo.

Ben Brennan, MPA ’10 is a community health worker and coordinator of the Food for Families program at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston.

Se-Hoon Cha, MPA ’09, formerly the captain of a Korean warship in the West Sea of the Korean Peninsula, is now serving in an administrative role in budget management and planning for the Korean Navy.

Ian Coyle, MPA ’03 will become president of the New York State City/County Management Association (NYSCMA) at the organization’s annual conference in Syracuse, May 20–23. Ian is a credentialed manager and county administrator for Livingston County in western New York State.

Tanya Dugal, MPA ’09 has started a new position as policy analyst with the New York State Authorities Budget Office (ABO). Formerly, Tanya served as a financial analyst for GE Global Research and as budget analyst for the New York State Senate.

In January, James Hanson, MPA ’11 was appointed deputy county executive and budget director in the Office of the Ulster County Executive. Ulster County is located in the heart of New York State’s Mid-Hudson Valley and Catskill Mountain Region.

Rockefeller College alumni Nick Hobson, MPA ’11 and Steven Winter-Bona, MPA ’07, along with current MPA students Deirdre Brodie, Ellen Baum and Sarah Horan, presented Tomorrow’s Leaders Are Here: What the Next Generation Wants You to Know as part of the State Academy for Public Administration’s (SAPA) Candid Conversations series Thursday, March 22 at the Alfred E. Smith Office Building in downtown Albany. The program was moderated by Nick Vogianelis, MPA ’71, retired director of Classification and Compensation for the New York State Department of Civil Service and adjunct professor of public administration at Rockefeller College. SAPA board member Pete Finn, MPA ’77, the former deputy commissioner for finance and administration at the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, organized the event.

Mike Lefebvre, MPA ’04 is chief financial officer and director of budget and fiscal management for the Office of the New York State Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman in New York City.

Joe Micancin, MPA ’11 is an intern in the executive office of Chelsea Clinton at the Clinton Foundation in New York City.

Thomas O’Connor, MPA ’90 is now director of public affairs for PC Public Affairs in Albany, a full-service public affairs firm focused on strategically positioning clients to be successful in their government relations, strategic communications, business development and political campaign initiatives.

Mitchell Pawluk, MPA ’10, an attorney with Harris Beach in Albany, was recently appointed chairman of the City of Cohoes Board of Ethics. Mitch serves on Harris Beach’s Government Compliance and Investigations Team and practices in the Business and Commercial Litigation Practice Group.

Sauwakon Ratanaowikitrasis, PhD ’93 has become director of the Regional Centre for Higher Education and Development (RIHED) in Thailand. RIHED is a small international organization within a larger system called SEAMEO or the Southeast Asia Ministers of Education Organization. Its mission is to facilitate collaborations, harmonization, and development of higher education in the region.

Ashley Ryle, MPA ’11 began working as a legislative fiscal analyst for the New York State Assembly Ways and Means Committee in January.

Tony Scardino, MPA ’90 is chief financial officer for the United States Patent and Trademark
Office (USPTO). He serves as principal advisor to the USPTO director to support and improve the accounting, budgeting, planning, and organizational performance systems of the USPTO. Before coming to USPTO, Tony was assistant CFO for Budget at the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). There he oversaw a budget of more than $45.5 billion and an additional $13.6 billion in Recovery Act funds.

In December 2011, Denise Sheehan, MPA ’88 was named executive vice president at the Center for Non-Profit Development. The Center provides management and planning services to nonprofit organizations.

After a long career in public service that included working as director of the public sector reform program at the Civil Service Commission, Royal Thai Government and an appointment as one of the first full-time commissioners of the Thai Government’s Public Sector Reform Commission, Orapin Sopchokchai, PhD ’84 has retired and accepted a position teaching at the Far East University in South Korea.

Sean Stephens, MPA ’11 is working in Albany as a legislative budget analyst for the New York State Assembly.

Closer to home right here on campus, Tuuli Edwards, MPA ’10 and Liz Vose, MPA ’11 are working for the University at Albany in the budget office.

Frank Vander Valk, PhD ’05 will have his first book published by Routledge Press this spring. Essays on Neuroscience and Political Theory: Thinking the Body Politic concerns the recent important contributions to the field of political theory made by developments in the neurosciences.

[Top left] Tanya Dugal, MPA ’09 (Top right) Sean Stephens, MPA ’11 (Lower photo) Se-Hoon Cha, MPA ’09

Nick Vagianelis, MPA ‘71 (in black) leads a SAPA Candid Conversation with students and alums; (directly underneath) Rockefeller students and grads participate in the SAPA panel; (at right) Jim Hanson, MPA ’11

(Below, starting with upper level row, left to right) Tony Scardino, MPA ’90; Courtney Asker, MPA ’10; Denise Sheehan, MPA ’88 (Lower level row, left to right) Ian Coyle, MPA ’03; Ashley Ryle, MPA ’11; Thomas O’Connor, MPA ’90 (Corner photo) President Bill Clinton with Joe Micancin, MPA ’11
On October 20, 2011, Rockefeller College and the National Center for Security & Preparedness (NCSP) presented a policy forum that brought together experts from criminal justice and homeland security to discuss how investigation standards and criminal procedures have changed in the 10 years since the attacks on 9/11. The forum was moderated by Paul Clyne, former Albany County district attorney (pictured in photo at left). Panelists included (seated at table, from left to right) Richard Hartunian, US Attorney for the Northern District of New York; Boris Lederer, senior advisor, NCSP; James Horton, assistant director, New York State Office of Counter Terrorism; and Kevin Luibrand, defense counsel in United States of America v. Mohammed Mosharref Hossain.

New York State Assemblyman Lou Tobacco ’94 of Staten Island (seated at left, second from front) enjoys lunch with a group of Rockefeller undergraduates after serving as the inaugural speaker for the College’s Alumni in the Classroom program.

The New York State Museum was the setting for 9/11–10 Years Later: How Have We Changed?, a Rockefeller College public forum moderated by WCNY Capitol correspondent Susan Arbetter (seated at left) on September 8, 2011. Taking part in the forum were (from left) Victor Asal, PhD, associate professor of political science, Rockefeller College; Jamie Tarabay, managing editor of White House and national security & foreign affairs, National Journal; Kenneth Jackson, Jacques Barzun Professor of History and the Social Sciences, Columbia University; Paul Grondahl, journalist, Times Union; and Mark Schaming, director of the New York State Museum and creator of the museum’s acclaimed 9/11 exhibit, World Trade Center – Rescue, Recovery, Response.

Author and former US Air Force interrogator Matthew Alexander speaks to members of the UAlbany community at the University’s Performing Arts Center on September 13, 2011.

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.

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