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 Abramowitz, who has been assigned to the former Speaker’s office this semester.