The Rockefeller Center was one of the host organizations for the Republican Presidential Candidates Debate on October 11, 2011, in Spaulding Auditorium. Eight GOP candidates participated in the event, which focused primarily on the economy. It was broadcast worldwide by Bloomberg Television, streamed online by the Washington Post, and broadcast locally by WBIN in Derry, NH. More than 2,500 tickets were distributed to students, faculty, and the Upper Valley community to attend the two-hour debate or Student Watch Party. Additional class visits and events took place before and after the debate itself.

Professor Ron Shaiko, Senior Fellow and Associate Director for Curricular and Research Programs at the Rockefeller Center, facilitated a focus group of 16 students who met before and after the debate to discuss and share their impressions.

“I’ve never seen a live political event before. It’s reasons like this that I came to this school.”

~ Carly Christian ’15

The debate was a great success and a memorable experience for students of all political persuasions. In the words of Andrew Samwick, professor of economics and Rockefeller Center director, “Young people are what politics are all about, and there’s no better way to teach them about politics than to get them involved with hosting a debate that’s part of the free speech that leads to an informed citizenry.”


Sixteen Dartmouth undergraduates participated in a focus group prior to and immediately following the Republican Presidential Debate at Dartmouth College.

The candidates gather on the stage before the beginning of the debate held in Spaulding Auditorium.
The Policy Research Shop (PRS), an innovative program begun in 2004, is designed to give students real-life experience in public policy research and offers them the opportunity to interact with and present their findings to state legislators and policymakers from the two states of New Hampshire and Vermont.

In 2011 and 2012, their policy briefs have included presentations to:
- The New Hampshire Department of Safety;
- The New Hampshire House of Representatives Election Law Committee;
- The New Hampshire House Special Committee on Public Employee Pensions Reform;
- The Legal Aid Referral Center of New Hampshire;
- The Grafton County (NH) Jail Task Force; and
- The Vermont House of Representatives Committee on Natural Resources and Energy.

Policy briefs have addressed such diverse issues as healthcare, homelessness, education, transportation, criminal justice, mental health, child poverty, and business taxes.

This past year, PRS exceeded its goals for participation (more than 51 students have been involved) and research reports (more than 18 studies have been conducted).

A highlight of 2012 was the invitation of four PRS students to brief New Hampshire Governor John Lynch on their study of performance measurement for state governmental agencies.

“Nothing compares to solving real-world problems and knowing your research has a direct impact.”

~ David Lumbert ’12

The PRS program connects students directly with the issues that confront those who live, work, and govern in two New England states. Through their research and direct contact with lawmakers, students have the opportunity to influence and impact lives in these communities. The PRS is supported by a grant from the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE).
In 2011, the Rockefeller Leadership Fellows (RLF) program proudly celebrated its 10th anniversary. The program, which is open to students during their senior year, addresses leadership and its connection to citizen involvement, civic engagement, and community dialogue.

“RLF embodies my freshman-year vision of Dartmouth: engaging with students who have very different perspectives from me in order to improve ourselves and the world around us.”

~ Michelle Shankar ’12

A unique aspect of the program is that Fellows learn from the insight and experience of distinguished guests as well as from each other.

A three-day, commemorative conference (“Learn—Reconnect—Reflect”) was held in August, 2011. Participants were RLF alumni from the Class of 2001 through the Class of 2011. The conference, which featured presentations by Rockefeller Center leadership, Tuck School of Business faculty, and outside guest speakers, offered:

- Sessions to RLF alumni on management and leadership topics;
- Opportunities for RLF alumni to provide career advice to each other; and
- Initiatives to establish or strengthen relationships between RLF alumni and the Rockefeller Center.

Additionally, RLF alumni from the fields of education, law, medicine, and finance provided sessions on career advising for sophomores on campus.

To date, more than 220 students have participated in the RLF program, preparing them to be effective leaders who will play important roles in shaping the world’s future.

Jay Davis ’90, Director of the Summer Enrichment at Dartmouth and the First-Year Student Enrichment Programs, leads a RLF session on facilitative leadership.

“RLF taught me that followership is just as important [as leadership] and that I can make a difference by motivating others around me and being myself.”

~ Christabell Dorcas Makokha ’11

ROCKEFELLER CENTER INCOME STATEMENT 2012

“RLF is a linkage for students between theory and practice, between the classroom and the wider world.”

~ Nathaniel C. Fick ’99

MAY 2012

RLF gives presentation at Alumni Council meeting

MAY 2012

More than 350 students have now participated in our Management & Leadership Development Program

JUNE 2012

Center says congratulations to Class of 2012 at Senior BBQ

JUNE 2012

Students in the Class of 2015 attend CST in Washington, D.C.
In this generation, Dartmouth students will graduate into an uncertain world of daunting public policy challenges. They will need both the knowledge to understand these challenges and the leadership ability to mobilize people and resources to meet them. The Nelson A. Rockefeller Center is a pioneer in developing programs to engage students in the twin objectives of scholarship and leadership in public policy, whether in or out of the classroom, on or off campus. Your support for the programs of the Nelson A. Rockefeller Center is an investment in the next generation of public policy leaders.

YOU can have an impact on the next generation of public policy leaders!

First-Year Fellows explore public policy and politics in Washington, DC, after completing an intensive training to jump start their success.

At the fall weekend retreat, Rockefeller Leadership Fellows build community, learn negotiation techniques, practice public speaking skills, and plan for the year ahead.

Policy Research Shop gives students real-life experience and the opportunity to impact communities in New Hampshire & Vermont.