John Lynch, former Governor of New Hampshire, was the inaugural Perkins Bass Distinguished Visitor at the Rockefeller Center. The Perkins Bass Visitorship brings New Hampshire policymakers to campus to engage with and enrich the Dartmouth community.

Throughout the year, Governor Lynch shared the lessons he learned from his four consecutive terms leading New Hampshire. Lynch presented a public lecture on state governance in America, visited multiple government and public policy classes, and participated in many informal discussions over meals with Dartmouth students, faculty, and staff.

During his January 2013 public lecture, Lynch's message was clear: bipartisanship and support for small businesses are necessary components of good governance. Lynch encouraged policymakers to reach across the aisle when crafting laws. A former businessman, Lynch emphasized the importance of fostering a business-friendly environment in New Hampshire to provide local citizens with jobs. Lynch was introduced by Perkins Bass’ son, Charles Bass ’74, who served seven terms in the U.S. House as a representative of New Hampshire.

Lynch's class discussions were comprehensive, covering a range of subjects – from healthcare to the role of the media. Lynch described his time at Dartmouth as a “worthwhile experience.” The students he met and interacted with were "smart, pragmatic, and not afraid to challenge each other, and me," Lynch said. Lynch mentioned that he found the class visits extremely valuable; he was able to engage students in discussion and work through problems together.

The Perkins Bass Visitorship Program is sponsored by the Perkins Bass 1934 Fund, which commemorates the legacy of Dartmouth alumnus and public servant Perkins Bass ’34. Bass served in both the New Hampshire state legislature and the U.S. House of Representatives.

The Fund also supports internship funding to Dartmouth students working in public policy to benefit the State of New Hampshire. John Howard ’15, the first Perkins Bass ’34 intern, worked in the Office of U.S. Senator Kelly Ayotte (R-N.H.) in Washington, D.C. this past winter.
POLICY RESEARCH SHOP

The Rockefeller Center’s Policy Research Shop (PRS) combines public policy research and civic engagement. By providing objective, non-partisan research to policymakers on important policy issues, PRS students can have a direct impact on public policy debates in Vermont and New Hampshire. In April of 2013, PRS reached a milestone by publishing its 100th policy brief, an assessment of the juvenile justice system in New Hampshire. PRS students testified before the New Hampshire Senate Judiciary Committee to present the brief.

Founded in 2005, the PRS has grown under the leadership of Professor Ronald G. Shaiko, the Center’s Senior Fellow and Associate Director of Curricular Programs, into a year-round research institute that now engages more than 50 students a year on 20 policy briefs. Students learn valuable research skills in a context that allows them to make an immediate impact on public policy. Just as importantly, the students’ research is regularly utilized by state legislators and other policymakers in Vermont and New Hampshire.

The Policy Research Shop was featured as an example of a high-impact engagement opportunity for students in a recent Chronicle of Higher Education article, “Undergraduate Research Gets Real in Public Policy Programs.” Given the success of the PRS, Professor Shaiko has begun sharing the model of an undergraduate policy research institution with other American colleges and universities.

More than 200 students have participated in the PRS, many describing their involvement as a highlight of their Dartmouth experience. One student featured in the Chronicle article, Richard D’Amato ’13, noted that his participation in the PRS gave him the opportunity to gain practical, rewarding, and hands-on experience.
Considered one of the most prestigious and challenging programs in Washington, D.C., the White House Internship Program has selected a growing number of Dartmouth students. Throughout their internship, White House interns gain hands-on experience, cultivate leadership skills, and dedicate their time to public service projects. Because the internship’s application process can be daunting, the Nelson A. Rockefeller Center hosted a preparatory session for future applicants during the 2012-2013 academic year.

Following their own White House internships, Brandon DeBot ’14 and Lindsay Brewer ’13 wanted to give back to the Dartmouth community, particularly to students passionate about public service. As a result, DeBot and Brewer teamed up with the Rockefeller Center to host this information session for students interested in the White House Internship Program. During the fall of 2012, DeBot worked for the National Economic Council, the agency responsible for coordinating domestic and international economic policymaking, and Brewer worked for the Office of the Vice President.

DeBot and Brewer offered advice on each step of the application process—from soliciting strong recommendation letters to structuring answers to the essay questions—and described their experiences at the NEC and Office of the Vice President. Both students discussed their personal interest in the White House Internship Program and emphasized the opportunity to learn about politics and policy firsthand.

Since 2008, more than a dozen Dartmouth students have participated in the White House Internship Program, with many more sure to join their ranks. These particular internship opportunities are examples of the hands-on student experiences that the Center supports with advising, pre-internship trainings, and funding. You can see lists of current and former funded interns at the Rockefeller Center’s website.

“I was pleased to discover more about the benefits of public service to the intended audiences, as well as those engaged in this valuable and noble work. I learned firsthand during this internship the importance of work that I consider meaningful and interesting.”

~ Lindsay Brewer ’13, about her White House internship
SHARE YOUR TIME, TALENTS, AND TREASURES

This generation of 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, 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!

The Rockefeller Center is educating, training, and inspiring the next generation of public policy leaders. We have created a teaching and learning model that incorporates in- and out-of-the-classroom experiences to elevate the scholarship and performance that we can expect from Dartmouth students. By engaging with current public policy issues on a day-to-day basis, our students learn how changes are actually made in the real world and how they can make those changes happen.

~ Andrew Samwick, Director of the Nelson A. Rockefeller Center for Public Policy and the Social Sciences

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