Annual Report

The Nelson A. Rockefeller Center at Dartmouth College
The Center for Public Policy and the Social Sciences
"Fill these physical spaces with intellectual excellence. Build a true center of dynamic inquiry, controversy, and cross-fertilization. Realize within these walls the excitement and the stimulus of the life of Nelson A. Rockefeller. If you do all this, the building will be transposed into a true center, and the hopes and expectations of all of us will be realized."

Thirty-five years ago, Rodman Rockefeller '54 spoke these words at the dedication of the Nelson A. Rockefeller Center on September 24, 1983. He and members of the Class of 1930 were instrumental in the creation of the Center, inspired by the life of Nelson A. Rockefeller '30, former governor of New York State and vice president of the United States.

Nelson Rockefeller combined optimism and tremendous energy for public service and informed public debate. He cared deeply about the issues that resonate with every generation. He believed in people and was convinced that when informed people of goodwill came together, any challenge, even the most complex problems, could be solved.

Today, the Center’s programming develops undergraduates’ potential for civic leadership, experiential learning in the policy realm, and understanding of policy issues. In recent years, over twenty-five percent of graduates have participated in a Center-sponsored program and graduate equipped with both expertise and vision for policy that serves the greater good.

“The Rockefeller Center has been a constant source of inspiration and has proven to be much more than a building where I pursue my academic interests,” says Estephanie Aquino ’18, who graduated in the spring with a double major in Environmental Studies and Government, and with a minor in Public Policy. “It has been a community that has connected me to today’s and tomorrow’s leaders and further developed my own abilities and confidence in those abilities.”

As President Phil Hanlon ’77 expressed in the launch of “The Call to Lead” campaign, “there is unprecedented demand for problem-solvers who can step up and serve humankind—broadly educated men and women who can create meaningful change.”

The Rockefeller Center meets that demand by enabling Dartmouth students to work on issues that matter to society, to engage more with others, to purposely apply knowledge to complex challenges for far reaching impact.
Mentored by Professor Ron Shaiko, Class of 1964 Policy Research Shop students conduct fieldwork in Kosovo on maternal and child health in partnership with the Dartmouth Global Health Policy Lab.

AUGUST 2017

The Rockefeller Center hosts six young Dartmouth alumni working in the not-for-profit sector for a Sophomore Summer Conference in connection with the Professional Preparation Program piloted this year.

SEPTEMBER 2017

Sociology professors Emily Walton and Kimberly Rogers organize a two-day Interacting Across Difference conference, bringing together notable social science scholars from on and off campus.

JANUARY 2018

Kelly Ayotte, former U.S. Senator for NH, is named the 2018 Perkins Bass Distinguished Visitor and keynote speaker for Constitution Day celebration in September.

2017-2018 HIGHLIGHTS

Read a full account of these events and more on Rocky’s Website.
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JUNE-AUGUST 2017

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Led by Professor Charles Wheelan, PBPL 85: Global Policy Leadership students conduct two weeks of field research in Liberia during the off-campus portion of the course.

DECEMBER 2017

JANUARY 2018

Kelly Ayotte, former U.S. Senator for NH, is named the 2018 Perkins Bass Distinguished Visitor and keynote speaker for Constitution Day celebration in September.

The Economist hosts the first student debate in its Open Future Initiative at Dartmouth with student debaters: Connie Lee ’18, Olivia Hunter ’19, Albert Chen ’20, and Zachary Johnson ’20.

RY 2018

Former U.S. Senator named the 2018 Distinguished keynote speaker on Day celebration.

MAY 2018

Upper Valley residents gather at the Rockefeller Center for a community discussion on affordable housing in the Upper Valley.

JUNE 2018

FEBRUARY 2018

The Rockefeller Center hosts a Student and Alumni Reception in Boston, MA, in conjunction with the Rockefeller Global Leadership Program’s cultural immersion field trip.

APRIL 2018

The manuscript for Teaching Leadership: Bridging Theory and Practice, co-authored by Deputy Director Sadhana Hall and Gama Perruci, completed for a July publication.

The Rockefeller Center hosts its annual Student and Alumni Reception in Washington, DC during the First-Year Fellows Civic Skills Training program.

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ROCKEFELLER CENTER

Read a full account of these events and more on Rocky’s Website.
Rocky by the numbers

450 Students enrolled

17 public policy courses offered during the 2017-2018 school year.

15 Class of 1964 Policy Research Shop non-partisan research reports produced for Vermont and New Hampshire policymakers.

390 Students participated in co-curricular leadership programs offered through the Center.

46 unique INTERNSHIPS funded in not-for-profit fields of public policy, public affairs, and social entrepreneurship.

44 faculty directly supported through grants for research, classroom enhancements and workshops.

32 Public Programs hosted, offering an even closer look at public policy and policymaking through the lens of public officials, distinguished scholars, political figures, journalists, and activists.
The Nelson A. Rockefeller Center delivers innovative programs that engage students in scholarship and leadership. It is only through the generosity of past, present, and future donors that the Center can pursue this mission and to achieve it with such positive impact. Thank you for your support!
“At the Rockefeller Center, we believe that the formula for creating citizen leaders is to provide students a home, with mentors and peers, for their academic and extracurricular pursuits. Our program of study supports students as they seek knowledge and engagement in public policy as well as the leadership skills they will need to translate that experience into socially beneficial outcomes in the world beyond Dartmouth. Look anywhere in the world today and you will find challenges and opportunities that can only be addressed through this unique combination – knowledge, engagement, and leadership.”

Andrew Samwick
Director of the Nelson A. Rockefeller Center for Public Policy and the Social Sciences, Sandra L. and Arthur L. Irving ’72a, P’10 Professor of Economics

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Rockefeller.dartmouth.edu