



2019-2020 Annual Report

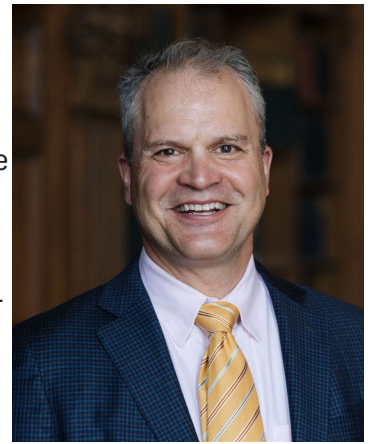
**The Nelson A. Rockefeller Center
at Dartmouth College**

The Center for Public Policy and the Social Sciences

Dear Friends,

I've always admired the Rockefeller Center, looking at it from my office next door in the Government Department, but now that I know it from the inside, I not only admire it, I love it. Seeing the Rockefeller Center from the inside gave me a vantage on its work I never would have had otherwise.

One cold evening back in February, I left my family over dinner and made my way to the Rockefeller Center to drop in on a gathering of the Management and Leadership Development Program. The sight warmed this teacher's heart: students in all their diversity, earnest and happy, shoulder to shoulder over plates of Indian food, sharing and talking, learning and exploring, connecting, and becoming friends. Looking over the room, eavesdropping a bit on the conversations, I couldn't help but wish I were a student too, sitting among them, learning to understand the world by understanding each other. This is the soul of Dartmouth College.



J. Russell Muirhead
Interim Director

The sense of mission that marks the culture of the staff and faculty at Rocky was never more impressive than in the last weeks of March—and throughout the spring term—after the pandemic caused Dartmouth to cancel on-site classes for the spring term. The faculty threw themselves into the task. They mastered new technologies—Charlie Wheelan's video midterm-oral examinations are something to behold. And they did everything they could to make the term a success—Herschel Nachlis must still be exhausted by the way he poured himself into his spring term classes.

The Rocky staff pivoted to remote programming overnight, and made it all happen. I think it is no hyperbole to say they made Dartmouth happen. As one student said, "In a lot of my other Zoom classes, I have not had the opportunity to connect with my classmates on a deeper level. I felt like the small breakout rooms during RGLP allowed me to do that." Connecting with classmates on a deeper level—isn't that the beating heart of Dartmouth College? Excuse my enthusiasm: but take it from me, the faculty and staff at Rocky were tested this year like in no other. And they revealed what they are made of.

Yet the test is not over. Beyond our local situation, the urgency of our moment is intensified by the belated realization that racism and institutionalized racial discrimination are real—and that something must be done. Stephen Stills' line from the 1967 single, "For What It's Worth" comes to mind: "there's something happening here; and what it is ain't exactly clear." Something's happening, and a lot of something needs to change. The Rockefeller Center has a great role to play in inspiring and preparing our students to renovate their country and their world—even as the Center itself may need to change too, in ways that are not easy to predict.



Jason Barabas '93
Newly named Director of the
Nelson A. Rockefeller Center

My confidence that Rocky will meet the challenge of our time is underlined by the arrival of our new director, Professor Jason Barabas, Dartmouth Class of 1993. Jason is a brilliant political scientist who specializes in American public opinion. With Jason's leadership, with devotion that characterizes Ron Shaiko (the associate director) and Sadhana Hall (the deputy director) and indeed everyone at Rocky, I have no doubt that the Center will meet the challenge that the next year promises to bring. As we welcome Jason, let us resolve also to support him, and to offer him everything we can – our ideas, our work, our encouragement. If we show him what we're made of, he will soon feel as grateful as I am to be part of the Rockefeller Center community.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Russell Muirhead".

J. Russell Muirhead
Robert Clements Professor of Democracy and Politics

Rocky by the Numbers

404

Enrollments in Public Policy courses, with 17 students graduating with a minor in Public Policy



15

Public Policy courses offered during the 2019-2020 academic year

14

Faculty directly supported through grants for research, classroom enhancements, and workshops

67

Unique internships funded in non-profit fields of public policy, public affairs, and social entrepreneurship, including remote internships

364

Unique student experiences across the co-curricular leadership continuum



832

People attended our virtual Rocky Watch programming in Spring 2020



50

Students participated in the Class of 1964 Policy Research Shop producing 15 non-partisan reports for Vermont and New Hampshire policy makers



A Year at Rocky

Andrew Samwick, the Sandra L. and Arthur L. Irving '72a P'10 Professor of Economics, returned to full-time teaching and research after serving 15 years as director of the Nelson A. Rockefeller Center for Public Policy and the Social Sciences



June 2019

Sadhana Hall, Deputy Director of the Rockefeller Center, was one of 45 individuals worldwide to receive the Endeavour Executive Leadership Award, presented by the Australian government to leading professionals to undertake research and professional development in Australian institutions.



August 2019

Students in PBPL 85, "Global Policy Leadership," led by government professor Herschel Nachlis, traveled to Europe to investigate international responses to the global financial crisis, Eurozone crisis and the rise of populism across Europe.



December 2019

July 2019



Jonathan Winter, an assistant professor of geography, received a faculty grant for his research on the effects of climate on water resources and agriculture.

September 2019



The Dartmouth-Oxford Exchange Program sent eight Dartmouth undergraduates to study at the University of Oxford's Keble College during this academic year.

Students gathered to learn about financial literacy and financial wellness for college students in a workshop led by employees of The Bank of America.



February 2020

The Rockefeller Center responded to the global pandemic crisis by shifting all courses and leadership programming to an online format.



March 2020

January 2020



Students participated in The Dartmouth Leadership Attitudes and Behaviors (D-LAB), a yearly student-facilitated program designed specifically for first-year students to examine their values.

March 2020



The Class of 2020 Rockefeller Leadership Fellows participated in a series of lectures offered by distinguished speakers including Alison Fragale '97.

April 2020



The Rockefeller Center launched Rocky Watch, a series of online public policy discussions. During Spring Term, Rocky Watch was attended by 832 participants over the course of nine lectures.

Rocky Student Reflections

Sunny Drescher '20



The Rockefeller Center has functioned as my home base throughout my time at Dartmouth, both welcoming me and challenging me throughout my four years. Freshman year, I participated in two programs which informed the trajectory of the rest of my time at Dartmouth: DLAB and First Year Fellows. DLAB helped me find space during my busy freshman year to think about being intentional with my time, and First Year Fellows opened professional doors and interests that would not have been possible otherwise. I also have been grateful to learn from incredible professors and mentors throughout my time engaging with Rocky, including Professor Wheelan, Professor Shaiko, and Professor Nachlis. Their courses (PBPL40, PBPL45, PBPL46, PBPL85) helped me develop an interest in issues relating to economic mobility as well as the skill set to think about these issues from a policy standpoint. Not only has Rocky been important for my academic, intellectual, and professional development, the Center has also helped me develop some of my greatest friendships through programs and classes. I cannot overstate how important Rocky has been to me throughout my time at Dartmouth, and I will miss it—the physical building and all its inhabitants—dearly upon graduation.

As an undergraduate, I studied Economics and Public Policy. My Public Policy minor was concentrated on Policy Leadership—focused on leadership within the policymaking realm as well as ways to develop exceptional leaders through policy action. These skills will certainly prove useful for me as I enter into the professional world as a management consultant working with public sector clients. I also benefited from a number of co-curricular programs offered by the Rockefeller Center. I worked almost every term from Sophomore to Senior year in the Policy Research Shop, investigating policy solutions, from marijuana legalization to the prevention of financial abuse of elderly citizens in the Upper Valley. I also participated in the Management and Leadership Development Program (MLDP) during my Junior year. The so-called “soft skills” such as proper emails and interpersonal mediation that I gained from that program have already proven beneficial in my professional and academic lives. Lastly, and most memorably, I participated in the Public Policy 85 “Global Policy Leadership” course, focused on the financial crisis and highlighted by a 2-week trip to Europe with the class. When reflecting on my time at Rocky, I cannot help but feel an immense sense of appreciation for the administration’s commitment to its goal of a holistic development of its students.

Chris McCorkle '20



Faculty Grantee Reflection



Jason Houle
Associate Professor of Sociology
Dartmouth College



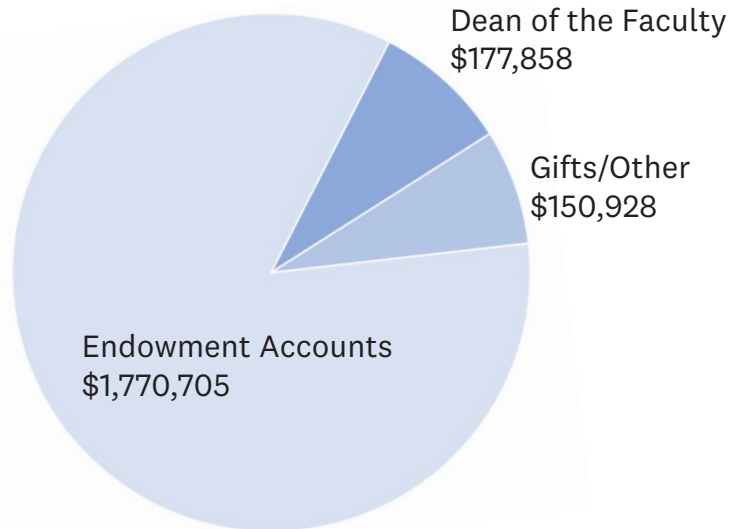
Co-Author Dr. Fenaba Addo
Associate Professor of Consumer Science
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Last year, I requested grant support from The Rockefeller Center for an ongoing project on racial disparities in student debt, with my co-author Dr. Fenaba Addo at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. When we started this project, there was little research on race and student debt. A nascent literature recognizes that student debt disproportionately impacts Black youth, but we know little about the causes and consequences of this disparity, and how this disparity changes after young people leave college and enter repayment. In this project, we examine the causes and consequences of racial disparities in student debt, focusing on initial levels of debt when young people leave college and trajectories of indebtedness over time as they repay (or fail to repay) that debt.

The generous grant from the Rockefeller Center afforded us with the opportunity and the resources necessary to go into the field to collect qualitative interviews with 50 Black student borrowers. These interviews allowed us to better understand Black borrowers' student debt narratives and gave us crucial insight into how race shapes debt accumulation and repayment that we were not able to capture with our quantitative data. Because of this grant we are now able to move forward on a book project under contract with Harvard Education Press, tentatively titled *A Dream Defaulted: Race, Student Debt, and the Reproduction of Inequality in Credential Society*.

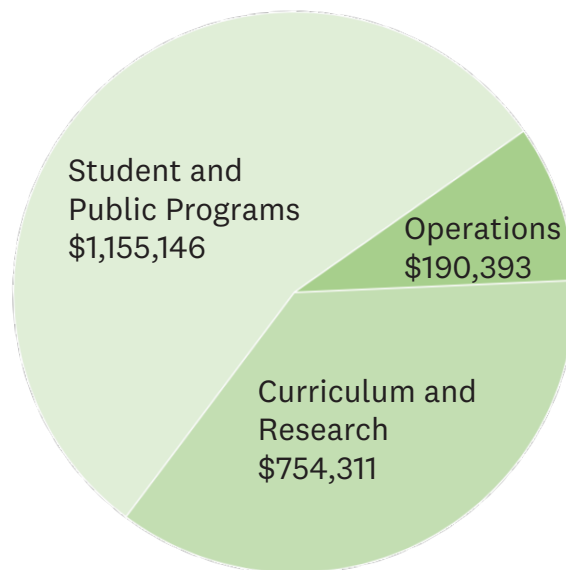
Financial Statement

Revenues



Total Revenues:
\$2,099,491

Expenses



Total Expenses:
\$2,099,850

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The Nelson A. Rockefeller Center at Dartmouth College

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and the Social Sciences*

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