

Rockefeller Center

2022
2023
Annual
Report



Nelson A. Rockefeller
Center for Public Policy
and the Social Sciences
at Dartmouth

Letter from the Director

The 2022-2023 academic year was a tremendous success for the Rockefeller Center, and I am pleased to report that all signs point to our continued upward trajectory. Through its public events, policy classes, and student training sessions, many of which are featured throughout the pages of this annual report, “Rocky” serves as an anchor organization at Dartmouth. This past year, hundreds of students and thousands of Dartmouth alumni and community members participated both in person and online in Rocky programming.

The fall term showcased one of the most consequential policy changes in the long history of Dartmouth: coeducation. The decision in the early 1970s to admit women brought challenges for those who would blaze that trail, as we learned from a compelling panel that included alumnae from those first few graduating classes, as well as Government Professor and former Rockefeller Center (Acting) Director, Lynn Mather.



50 Years of Coeducation at Dartmouth: Student and Faculty Perspectives, November 2022

In the months that followed, we tackled a full range of national issues—from the U.S. Federal budget deficit to landmark Supreme Court decisions—that are reshaping America. In these civic dialogues, Rocky stayed true to its mission of helping students, faculty, and the broader community better understand the world through nonpartisan policy deliberation.

The following pages of this report will showcase many of our dynamic programs, but I want to highlight one new initiative. This past year, Rocky piloted a new judicial fellowship program, pairing Dartmouth undergraduates with sitting alumni judges. New Hampshire Supreme Court Justice James Bassett '78 and Chief Justice Gordon J. MacDonald '83 hosted Dartmouth student interns in Concord, NH alongside their regular group of top-notch law school clerks. We will continue to expand student opportunities through innovative programs like this one.

As another part of our plan to become the hub for law and public policy on campus, the Center hosted Deputy Assistant Attorney General of the U.S. Department of Justice, Maggie Goodlander, to teach a law and policy course in the Summer of 2023. We hope this course will be the first of many distinguished visiting practitioners and scholars to bring their law, policy, and social science expertise to the Rockefeller Center's classrooms.



New Hampshire Supreme Court Justice James Bassett '78 and Chief Justice Gordon J. MacDonald '83, with recent Rockefeller Center judicial fellows Jessica Chiriboga '24 and Skylar Wiseman '24.

For me, the year ended on a personal high note when I delivered a research lecture titled “Does Democracy Work?” during June reunions, whose classes included my own of 1993, celebrating our 30th. It was a great opportunity to connect with fellow alums of all years and to highlight the Center. As to whether democracy works: the empirical record is mixed. At minimum we need better data. But by marshalling the Center’s resources, faculty, and talented students, Rocky can dive into this fundamental question and a wide range of others by building state-of-the-art social science data collection platforms that can be used by faculty and student researchers at Dartmouth and across the country.



A “Back-to-Class” Lecture during Alumni Reunions, June 16th, 2023

The year also included some bittersweet farewells. Starting at the top, Dartmouth College President Phil Hanlon ’77 stepped down after more than a decade of leading the College. Phil and his wife Gail Gentes attended countless Rocky events over the years. Phil gave an especially rousing keynote address during our fall Board of Visitors meeting. He will be missed, but Rocky warmly welcomes his successor, Dr. Sian Beilock, as she begins her term as Dartmouth’s new President. Closer to home, we said goodbye to Sadhana Hall, Ron Shaiko, and Charlie Wheelan ’88, three fixtures of the Rockefeller Center. But with retirements come new faces and Rocky’s continued evolution.

Experts who write books on leadership note the importance of hiring the right people for success. In that spirit, we spent many months during ’22-’23 rethinking our internal structures and searching worldwide for a new Executive Director. The process was a success, and I am pleased to report the hiring of Anna Mahoney from Tulane University. You will see Anna and two other Rocky team members—Laura Hemlock and Herschel Nachlis, whose roles elevated as we revamped our organizational chart—profiled in the pages that follow. Fielding Essensa and Taylor Pichette also joined Rocky’s staff this year, as Financial Manager and Program Officer respectively, and quickly integrated into our core operations.

Finally, we bid farewell to two members of our Board of Visitors at the end of their terms: Ariel Stern ’05 and Monica Higgins ’86 T’90 will be greatly missed. At the same time, we welcome new Board members Jason Giordano ’00 and Joyce Campbell Giuffra ’91. To these individuals and to the Friends of the Rockefeller Center, thank you for your support and for helping to make everything you see in the following pages possible. It is an honor to lead such a dynamic organization that is so deeply woven into the fabric of Dartmouth. I hope these highlights from this past year set the stage for 2023-2024, when Rocky celebrates its 40th anniversary!

Jason Barabas ’93
Director, Nelson A. Rockefeller Center for Public Policy and the Social Sciences
Professor, Department of Government

Rocky by the Numbers

35

Students participated in the Class of 1964 Policy Research Shop producing 12 nonpartisan reports for Vermont and New Hampshire policy makers.

2,071

In-person attendees and 954 livestream viewers of 21 Public Programs in the 2022-2023 School Year. The programs have 11,695 views on YouTube as of June, 30th 2023.



511

Dartmouth students participated in at least one term-long class or program at the Rockefeller Center.

382

Enrollments in 18 Public Policy courses



Senior Feature



Mark Tao '23

Government and Computer Science Double Major

“One of my favorite Rocky-related memories at Dartmouth was the Dartmouth Leadership Attitudes and Behaviors (D-LAB) program. The program was a formative experience for me as a college freshman, and I continue to this day to reflect on my key takeaways from D-LAB.

I also really appreciated Rocky’s support of my Independent Study project with Professor Yusaku Horiuchi. Rocky provided me with the financial ability to research the impact of state-media-affiliated labels on social media platforms. Through Rocky, I got to study the wider impact of misinformation on democracy, and the future of public policy regulation in the online media sphere.

“I’ll be working at Oliver Wyman as a consultant next year, and eventually plan to earn either an MBA, and/or a PhD in political science. I hope to pursue a long-term career that focuses on the intersection of technological innovation and government regulation.”

Mounisha Anumolu '23

Economics Major, Public Policy and Computer Science Minors

“I feel so lucky to have been able to participate in the Dartmouth-Keble Exchange. The tutorial style of teaching at Oxford really taught me how to productively discuss course readings and how to effectively articulate academic ideas. I feel like I have become a better student and a better speaker. I learned so much, and I had so much fun!”



Kyle Mullins '22

History Major Modified with Economics, Public Policy Minor

“My involvement with Rocky started freshman fall and shaped my entire Dartmouth trajectory. My first college internship (at the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget) was through the First-Year Fellows Program, and my second (at the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette) was made financially possible through Rocky funding and set me up for a career in journalism. The communities I found in the public policy minor (such as the PBPL 85 class, which went to South Africa) and my work as a public programs assistant helped me start friendships that will last a lifetime. I’m so grateful to Joanne, to Bob, and to Professors Shaiko, Wheelan, Nachlis, and Kalish

for their guidance, support, and leadership over the past five years. After graduation I’ll be working at Forbes magazine as a reporter focused on money in politics.”



2022-2023 Public Programs



William H. Timbers '37 Lecture

Privacy Law and Racial Justice
Anita L. Allen



Constitution Day Lecture

Free Political Speech Under Threat: Eisenhower Would be Ashamed
Laurence Silberman '57



Perkins Bass Distinguished Lecture

Trusting Our Elections
Bill Gardner



An Evening with Andy Borowitz
Andy Borowitz



"Should You Go to Law School?"
Gerry Rosenberg '76, Sonu Bedi
Rachel Scholz-Bright '18, and
Jasmine Lee '19



Implications of the 2022 Midterms on the 2024 Election Cycle
Harry Enten '11



50 Years of Coeducation at Dartmouth
Martha Hennessey '76, Jenny Kemeny '76, and Lynn Mather



Local Government: The Untapped Innovator
Alex Torpey



A Student Conversation with MLK Keynote Speaker Tarana Burke
Tarana Burke



The Attica Prison Uprising of 1971 and Why it Matters Today
Heather Ann Thompson



How Political Ads Are Made... and How They Can Get Better
Andy Meyer



Do Voters Actually Care About Federal Budget Deficits?
John V. Kane



Public, Private, Politics, and the Press
Matt McDonald '00



The History of Roe and the Implications for Abortion Rights in Post-Dobbs America
Mary Ziegler



Empowering the Reasonable Majority
Former U.S. Congressman
Adam Kinzinger



Thurlow M. Gordon 1906 Lecture
Stephen R. Volk '57/Law Day

The Future of Affirmative Action
Jeannie Suk Gersen



Legal Careers after Dartmouth
Sue Finegan '85, John Mott '81 and David Lieberman



Brooks Family Lecture

View from the Top
NH Gov. Chris Sununu



Bernard D. Nossiter '47 Lecture

How I Became a Journalist and What I Need to Survive
Fahim Abed



MLK Jr.'s Speech to Dartmouth College



Roger S. Aaron '64 Lecture

Judges on Judging
Justice James Bassett '78, Justice Anne Patterson '80, and Judge Christopher Keating '86

“ THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR PUTTING ON SUCH AN INCREDIBLE EVENT. ROCKY IS THE BEST!”
-Joshua Paul '25

Public Program Highlights



Distinguished Public Service Award

The Nelson A. Rockefeller Center Board of Visitors presented Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand '88, D-N.Y., with the Distinguished Public Service Award at a ceremony in Washington on Sept. 27. Timothy Harrison '78, chair of the Rockefeller Center's Board of Visitors, who presented the award in the Russell Senate Office Building on Capitol Hill on Sept. 27, noted that Gillibrand, following her election to the U.S. House in 2006, became the first Dartmouth alumna to serve in Congress.

Repairing American Democracy

In partnership with the student-run Dartmouth Political Union (DPU), former U.S. Rep. Adam Kinzinger, R-Illinois delivered a speech called "Empowering the Reasonable Majority: Rejecting Division, Defending, and Repairing American Democracy." In his conversation with Jason Barabas, he stressed the importance of restoring democracy in the United States as "democracy is not a guarantee." Kinzinger conveyed this lesson by sharing his experiences on Capitol Hill during the Trump administration,

“DEMOCRACY IS NOT A GUARANTEE.”

in the wake of the January 6th, 2021 attack on the Capitol building, and being tapped for and serving on the January 6th Commission.



Affirmative Action

Professor Jeannie Suk Gersen, of Harvard Law School, spoke with the Dartmouth community about the future of affirmative action. This Law Day 2023 talk occurred before the Supreme Court’s ruling in the Students for Fair Admissions cases against Harvard and University of North Carolina, striking down the use of affirmative action in college admissions. In her talk, Gersen predicted the outcome, while exploring the implications of the 1978 Bakke Court’s rejection of past discrimination in favor of “diversity” as the compelling state interest justifying affirmative action. Gersen emphasized that colleges and universities will not change their goal of campus diversity and instead will turn to a combination of “race-neutral” tactics that achieve the same results, but predicts a new generation of litigation to emerge from these efforts.



Free Speech



Judge Laurence Silberman ‘57 passed away in October of 2022. The Rockefeller Center was deeply fortunate and honored to have him speak just weeks earlier, for Constitution Day. Judge Silberman was appointed United States circuit judge for the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit in October 1985 and took senior status on November 1, 2000. Judge Silberman gave a talk entitled “Free Political Speech Under Threat: Eisenhower Would Be Ashamed.” In his conversation with Professor Charles Wheelan ‘88, Silberman emphasized the importance of conserving free speech on college campuses and beyond.

Student Program Highlights: Traveling with Rocky



Montreal

During the 2022-2023 academic year, two groups of students participated in the Rockefeller Global Leadership Program (RGLP) and traveled to Montreal for a weekend of experiential learning. Building empathy for other cultures, interpreting intercultural experiences from more than one's own worldview, and developing adaptability and ambiguity tolerance are the main objectives of RGLP, and the multicultural, multilingual city of Montreal provides the perfect backdrop for students to put these skills into practice. Once in Montreal, participants are given ample time to explore the city in small groups, observing and interacting with its rich, diverse culture. Other large-group activities are designed to both push students out of their comfort zone and expand their understanding of diversity and culture.

One of these activities is a workshop on Deaf culture led by members of the organization Seeing Voices Montreal, as well as a dinner at Onoir, a restaurant that offers guests the opportunity to eat in total darkness and experience what it is like to be blind. For many RGLP participants, the blind dining experience ends up being not only a highlight of the trip but also one of the most impactful and memorable parts of the entire program. After the Spring 2023 trip, Neena Shell '26 wrote, "The Onoir dinner expanded on the topics of community we discussed in the deaf community workshop to expand my concept of what culture and community is and can be."

Another Spring 2023 participant, Michaela Nsubuga '25, shared, "I absolutely loved the Montreal trip! Learning how to sign and our dining experience eating in the dark were definite highlights for me. Experiencing different cultures, learning new skills, and developing relationships with diverse individuals during the Montreal trip has helped me become a better global leader by broadening my perspective, increasing my cultural competence, and strengthening my communication and collaboration skills. The trip reminded me of the importance of embracing diversity and creating inclusive environments that value and empower individuals from all backgrounds."

"The Montreal trip has helped me become a better global leader by broadening my perspective."



South Africa

Students in Public Policy 85: Global Policy Leadership headed to South Africa in December of 2022 as the culmination of their 10 weeks of study. During their two weeks traveling around the country the students met with business representatives, journalists, NGO leaders, and government officials. They also were able to explore the cultural and natural highlights of the nation. After an intense two weeks of meetings and travel, the group completed a final policy memo, *The Elusive Rainbow: Racial Reconciliation in South Africa with Lessons for the United States*. Senior Hayden Welty '23 shared, "Taking PBPL85 and going to South Africa was one of the academic and personal highlights of my time at Dartmouth. Professor Wheelan and the entire group were fantastic, and I learned a lot about not only the country itself but also larger lessons about public policy and life more broadly."



Orvis

In May of 2022, Simon Perkins, the President of Orvis — a nationally renowned outdoor sports retailer specializing in flyfishing gear — and Bill McLaughlin '78, T'81, the former President and CEO of Orvis, came to campus for the Portman Lecture in the Spirit of Entrepreneurship, an event cosponsored with Tuck School of Business. As a follow up in Fall of 2022, a group of Tuck students and Dartmouth undergrads were invited to a "Workplace of the Future" program. The students participated in a workshop to explore possible ideas for what Orvis' workplace might successfully look like moving forward and then traveled to Orvis' headquarters in Sunderland, VT. One participant shared "The Orvis program was a great opportunity as an undergrad. The experience was both informative and exciting. We went to Orvis headquarters where we met C-suite executives who gave us valuable insights about the business and shared the challenges they faced during Covid-19. We also had the chance to try [out a] rod ourselves on the pond beside their flagship store. Overall, the field trip was beneficial in learning about manufacturing, sales, and management of a family-owned business in a niche market."

Distinguished Faculty Visitors

Constitutional Law

The Rockefeller Center welcomed Professor Maggie Goodlander, Deputy Assistant Attorney General of the U.S. Department of Justice, to teach “Constitutional Law, Development and Theory” (PBPL40.02 / GOVT66.02), in the Summer 2023 Term.



Goodlander brought a wealth of legal, policy, and political experience to the classroom this summer. In addition to her time at the Department of Justice, Goodlander has worked on the House Judiciary Committee, as a Law Clerk to Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer, as a Law Clerk to (now-Attorney General, then-Circuit Court Judge) Merrick Garland, and for Senators John McCain (R-AZ) and Joseph Lieberman (D-CT), and has taught previously at the University of New Hampshire Franklin Pierce School of Law.

Affirmative Action

The Rockefeller Center also welcomed Professor Jeannie Suk Gersen, the John H. Watson Jr. Professor of Law at Harvard Law School and a Contributing Writer at The New Yorker, in the Spring 2023 Term. Gersen’s visit addressed “The Future of Affirmative Action” and the Supreme Court companion cases brought by Students for Fair Admissions against Harvard and University of North Carolina, a subject about which she has written extensively in The New Yorker.



Professor Suk Gersen was enormously generous during her time at Dartmouth, holding lunch and dinner conversations with senior Dartmouth administrators, faculty, staff, and alumni; delivering her public lecture and extended Q&A with approximately 200 Dartmouth community members; and visiting Rockefeller Center Associate Director and Government Professor Herschel Nachlis’s PBPL28 / GOVT30.09 course, “Law, Courts, and Judges.” In all of these settings, Professor Suk Gersen addressed

subjects ranging from affirmative action, the Supreme Court, the future of college admissions, admissions litigation, and the state of American democracy, to career and life advice for aspiring young public servants and legal practitioners.

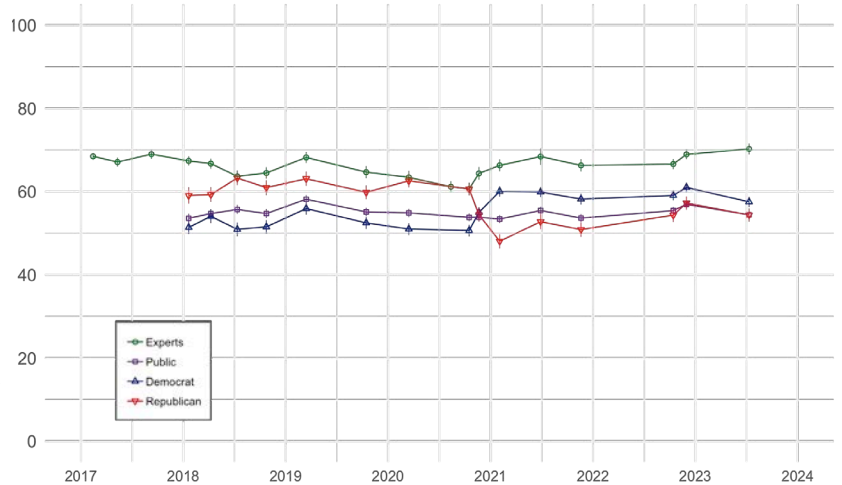
Faculty Research

Every year, through various Faculty Research Grants, the Rockefeller Center funds a significant amount of important research by Dartmouth faculty on a range of public policy social science subjects. Among other work, the Grants program funds direct research expenses for things like data collection via interviews, surveys, archives, and other sources, as well as collaborative faculty research workshops for research in progress, including book manuscripts in progress. Two highlights among such Faculty Research Grant funding from 2022-2023 include:

Bright Line Watch

Bright Line Watch is a collaborative research project of scholars from Dartmouth, the University of Chicago, and the University of Rochester that examines democratic norms, institutions, and practices; potential threats to democracy; and democratic resilience. Dartmouth faculty members John Carey, the Associate Dean of Faculty for Social Sciences and Wentworth Professor in the Social Sciences, and Brendan Nyhan, the James O. Freeman Professor of Government, are Co-Directors of Bright Line Watch. The project's survey results have attracted wide scholarly and public attention, including in *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Washington Post*, *The New Yorker*, and *The Atlantic*. In addition to Democracy Fund, The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, and Wilhelm Merck, the Rockefeller Center is supporting Bright Line Watch research.

Expert and public ratings of U.S. democracy: 2017-2023



Ratings of U.S. democracy by the public and experts on a 0-100 scale. Figure shows mean values across eighteen survey waves. Vertical error bars are 95% confidence intervals. Source: @BrightLineWatch - July 2023

Reconfiguring Difference

Dartmouth Professor Sun Kim (Sociology) held a Book Manuscript Workshop for his manuscript, *Reconfiguring Difference: Race and the Unruly Facts in the Early Twentieth Century Immigration Debate*, in June 2023, funded by the Rockefeller Center. Participants included Professors Ann Morning (NYU), Michael Omi (UC Berkeley), Hana Brown (Wake Forest), John Campbell (Dartmouth), and Matt Garcia (Dartmouth).



The book workshop included feedback from these external and internal faculty members aimed at revising the manuscript for publication. More generally, Professor Kim's research brings insights from the sociology of culture and knowledge into the study of race and immigration in the United States.

2022-2023 Board of Visitors

Kal Alston '80

James Badenhausen '87

Welton Chang '05

David Duckenfield '88

Monica Higgins '86, T'90

Ann Kappler '79

Amanda Brown Lierman '07

Maxine Lum Mauricio '93

Mary Pavel '88

R. Bruce Rich '70

Michael Rockefeller '86

Alvaro Saralegui '78

Leah Wright Rigueur '03

Peter Sisitsky '97

Catherine Solomon '82

Ariel Dora Stern '05

Timothy Harrison '78 - Chair

Neal Katyal '91 - Board of Trustees Liaison

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Taylor Pichette

Program Officer

Whitney Rosenbaum

*Assistant to the
Director*

Leslie Wagner

Program Officer

*Left the Center in 2023

Staff and Faculty Highlights

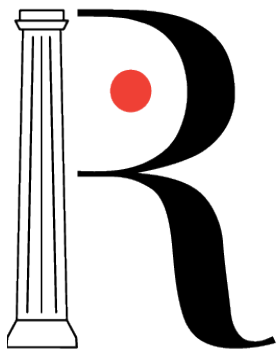


Laura Hemlock advanced into the role of Communications Manager this past year. She continues to focus on external communications for the Center along with expanded responsibilities in stewardship and internal communications. Laura oversees Rocky's communication strategy and manages Rocky's many outreach and social media platforms, producing original media content including video, email communications, print materials, podcasts, and website articles. When Laura is not at work, you are most likely to find her at the movie theater or looking for birds in the woods with her spouse, Nick and dog, Asta.

The Rockefeller Center for Public Policy and the Social Sciences welcomes Professor Anna Mahoney, Ph.D., who joins our team as Executive Director, as well as Senior Policy Fellow and Lecturer of the Rockefeller Center. Anna started in August 2023 and has already been challenging the team in exciting ways during her onboarding. In this newly-created position, Anna will handle daily operations and oversight at Rocky as well as assisting in areas such as long-range planning, inter-office relations, stewardship, and partnerships with other campus organizations. Anna joins the Rockefeller Center from the Newcomb Institute at Tulane University, where she was an Administrative Associate Professor of Women's Political Leadership. She enjoys reading and attending her children's sporting events in her free time.



Professor Herschel Nachlis, a longtime Dartmouth faculty member, began serving as the Rockefeller Center's Associate Director on July 1, 2023, and continues to serve as Senior Policy Fellow in the Rockefeller Center and as Research Assistant Professor in the Department of Government. As Associate Director, Herschel will oversee the Center's Curricular and Research offerings. He will also work with the Director and other organizational leaders in central areas including partnerships with academic Departments, Centers, Institutes, and other campus organizations, strategic planning, and law and policy-related programming. Herschel lives in Hanover, NH with his wife, Government Professor Julie Rose, baby daughter Sarah, and Fern The Dog. In his (dwindling) free time, he enjoys travel, film, and house projects.



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