Finding Innovative Ways to Engage
Goldfarb Center Tackles Journalism in the #InformationAge
Divided We Stand? Jan Plan Research on Geopolitical Sorting
Tackling Journalism in the #InformationAge

Since 1952 Colby has recognized courage and excellence in journalism with the annual Lovejoy Award. Building on the energy around the Lovejoy Convocation—and tapping some of the distinguished journalists who attend—the Goldfarb Center sponsored a daylong conference for more than 40 student journalists from colleges and universities across New England.

Finding Innovative Ways to Engage

What do green crabs have to do with our mission? As the Goldfarb Center strives to develop new programs and forge deeper connections in the state, the invasive crabs are just the sort of public policy challenge for Maine that the center can engage. And it has.

Talking Health Care


colby.edu/goldfarb

The Goldfarb Center offers innovative programming that confronts important issues as well as emerging topics of concern. Stay connected by visiting the new and improved Goldfarb Center website.
A Look at the Past Year and the Exciting Year Ahead

One reason for creating this magazine is to help others keep abreast of our activities. The pages that follow share stories from some of our public affairs programming, civic engagement initiatives, and research activities from the 2013-14 academic year.

We hope you will notice a second theme: our efforts to innovate and redefine important aspects of our work. The center is heading into a new era, with new leadership and staff and a host of changes at the College and in the community. Just as Bro Adams helped create and define the mission of the center, so too will our new president, David A. Greene. We have been thinking a lot about our vision and where we would like to take the center in the years to come. This is reflected in several of the stories, especially in the feature piece on civic engagement.

For all the new plans, please know that we are guided by enduring values of the liberal arts education. Our programming will push students to think—to challenge their preconceptions and the traditional wisdom of the day. Our community engagement programs will compel students to reflect on the intrinsic connections between that engagement and work in the classroom, as well as the inherent obligations of democratic citizenship. Rather than simply provide novel programs, we will push students to deepen their commitments to ideas, to become self-reliant, and to take responsibility for their own intellectual development.

The foundation laid by Bro, by my predecessor, Sandy Maisel, and by others has set the stage for a celebration of the center’s 10th anniversary. Many of the programs they established will continue. The trick is to keep Bro’s legacy alive, while also creating and defining a new era.

Because we believe that intellectual life is the life of the College in varied, significant ways.

—from the Director, Daniel M. Shea, Director, Goldfarb Center for Public Affairs and Civic Engagement

“Just as Bro Adams helped create and define the mission of the center, so too will our new president, David A. Greene.”
At the full-day conference, titled “You Tweeted What? College Journalists Report in the #InformationAge,” professional journalists from across the country tackled a range of issues student journalists face when developing stories. The conference also offered participants the opportunity to attend the annual Lovejoy Convocation, which honors a courageous journalist (see box).

“We saw an opportunity to expand the reach and impact of the Lovejoy Convocation for our students and others across New England,” said Assistant Director Amanda Cooley. “The format was carefully crafted so participants could understand the landscape of professional journalism today through real case studies and hands-on workshops.”

The conference attracted nearly 40 students from institutions including Boston University, Mount Holyoke, Wesleyan, Bowdoin, and, of course, Colby.

Cofounders of the Maine Center for Public Interest Reporting John Christie and Naomi Schalit kicked off the conference with a how-to session on investigative journalism. David Beard, director of digital content for the Washington Post, provided insights on how social media and other web-based tools are changing the ways reporters work and the ways organizations disseminate news. He stressed the need for journalists to maintain a reputation for accuracy as they compete to break the story.

A.C. Thompson, reporter for ProPublica and recipient of the 2013 Lovejoy Award, spoke on his experiences in journalism and gave advice to those planning journalism careers. He also spent time talking one-on-one with students.

Reaction roundtables provided opportunities to dig deeper into important topics in small groups with journalists that included New York Times investigative reporter Matt Apuzzo ’00, Boston Globe reporter Brian MacQuarrie ’74, and GlobalPost correspondent and University of Pittsburgh senior lecturer Cindy Skrzycki.

“It was a great experience to have my questions answered by professional journalists, not to mention the opportunity to meet with editors of other college newspapers and learn how they are run,” said Christina Norris of Wesleyan University. “I went away with a better sense of what it means to produce media and the responsibilities that come along with it.”

Due to the success of the program, the Goldfarb Center and MCPIR will host a second conference Oct. 5, 2014, again in conjunction with the Lovejoy Convocation.

For more information about the conference, please visit colby.edu/goldfarb/journalismconference.

2013 Lovejoy Award recipient A.C. Thompson

About the Elijah Parish Lovejoy Award

Colby’s Elijah Parish Lovejoy Award, established in 1952, honors a member of the news media who continues Elijah Parish Lovejoy’s legacy of fearlessness and freedom. Esteemed journalists from across the country serve on the selection committee and participate in events including a dinner, convocation, panel discussion, and the Goldfarb Center’s conference for student journalists. The 2013 recipient was A.C. Thompson, whose reporting led to federal charges against seven New Orleans police officers in connection with the shooting of civilians after Hurricane Katrina.

Learn more about the Lovejoy Award at colby.edu/lovejoy.
Mitchell Lecture Features Former U.S. Senator Thomas Daschle

Former U.S. Senator Thomas Daschle used the George J. Mitchell Distinguished International Lecture April 16 to shed light on several key issues regarding health-care reform in the United States, highlighting what he sees as major strides to improve health-care coverage and options for Americans. He also addressed challenges the country’s leaders face in implementing new policies.

“Having the opportunity to talk with the senator and hear firsthand how these major issues are handled in Congress was an incredible opportunity,” said Goldfarb Student Fellow Chris Henderson ’14, who sat at the head table with Senator Daschle for the dinner preceding the lecture.

Former U.S. Senator George Mitchell was a special guest for the evening, providing a warm personal introduction of Daschle, his close friend and colleague for more than 30 years. Mitchell also invited Paula Goldfarb ’00 to the podium to introduce a new organization, Home Base, formed through a partnership between Massachusetts General Hospital and the Red Sox Foundation. The nonprofit provides support and resources to veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan and their families. Read more about this year’s Mitchell Lecture at colby.edu/goldfarb.

The Honorable D. Brock Hornby Receives 2014 Morton A. Brody Distinguished Judicial Service Award

More than 200 members of the community joined the Goldfarb Center to honor Maine U.S. District Court Judge D. Brock Hornby with the 2014 Morton A. Brody Distinguished Judicial Service Award April 6. The award, given biennially, honors an outstanding U.S. federal or state judge who embodies the qualities of integrity, compassion, humanity, and judicial craftsmanship exhibited by Judge Brody throughout his lifetime.

Judge Hornby served as the chief judge of the District of Maine from 1996 until 2003, assuming senior status in 2010. He presided over several complex multi-district litigation matters and accepted a number of national judicial administrative assignments from Chief Justices Burger, Rehnquist, and Roberts respectively.

The evening included a talk by Judge Hornby and a panel discussion titled “Techno-Snooping: Privacy, Technology, and the Evolving Rule of Law,” which explored issues surrounding the struggle to balance the right to privacy and national security. The panel featured some of the country’s leading experts on the topic, including 2008 Brody Award recipient and Judge of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia Leonie Brinkema, William Rand Kenan Jr. Distinguished Professor of Law at the University of North Carolina School of Law William Marshall, Associate Director of the Electronic Privacy Information Center Ginger McCall, and President and CEO of the International Association of Privacy Professionals J. Trevor Hughes. Learn more about the Brody Award at colby.edu/goldfarb/brody.

2013-14 Event Highlights

- The House I Live In
  Film Screening and Lecture
  Cosponsored by the African-American Studies Program
  Cheryl Townsend Gilkes, John D. and Catherine MacArthur Professor of Sociology and African-American Studies

- Lean In Colby: Women Leaders of Maine Panel Discussion
  Emily Cain, Maine state senator; Lori Kiefer, provost and dean of faculty, Colby College; Laurie Lachance, president, Thomas College; Sara Burns ’79, CEO, Central Maine Power

- True Life After Colby Lunchtime Talk
  Gillian Morejon Gutierrez ’00, program analyst, Department of Labor’s Women’s Bureau

- Women’s Empowerment and the Environment in Rural Ethiopia Workshop, Film Screening, and Lecture
  Cosponsored by the Environmental Studies Program and the Oak Institute for the Study of International Human Rights
  Tizew Shimekach Sisay, visiting women’s rights advocate from Ethiopia

- A Matter of Duty Film Screening and Lecture in partnership with the Maine Public Broadcasting Network Jennifer Roaks, Maine Watch host and producer, MPBN

- Creative Ways to Address Bullying Workshop, Film Screening, and Lecture
  Cynthia Lowen, writer and producer, Bully

- Clash! Contested Terrain, Conflicting Interests Cosponsored by the Environmental Studies Program
  Edwin Dobb, former editor-in-chief, The Sciences; contributor, National Geographic—on risks and costs of energy and natural resource extraction

- Change They Can’t Believe In
  Christopher S. Parker, Stuart A. Scheingold Professor of Social Justice and Political Science, University of Washington, Seattle—on what’s fueling the Tea Party

- Russian Media and the 2014 Olympics Cosponsored by the German and Russian Department
  Ekaterina Sivyakova, lecturer in journalism, Moscow State University

- True Life After War: America’s Veterans Today
  Cosponsored by the Anthropology Department
  Quil Lawrence, veterans’ affairs correspondent, NPR

- Policy Tools for Mitigating Carbon Emissions Panel Discussion
  Cosponsored by the Economics Department
  Tom Bauman, economist and stand-up comedian; Dylan Voorhees, clean energy and global warming project director, Natural Resources Council of Maine; Jennifer Kierstead, president, Jennifer Kierstead Consulting; Tom Tietenberg, Mitchel Family Professor, emeritus

- Concussions Circa 2014
  In partnership with the Maine Concussion Management Initiative and the Maine State Legislative Committee
  Dr. Ross Zafonte, chief of physical medicine and rehabilitation, Massachusetts General Hospital

- Maine State Legislative Panel
  Maine State Representatives;
  Robert Nutting (R-Oakland), Seth Berry (D-Bowdoinham), and Gary Knight (R-Livermore Falls)
Finding Innovative Ways to Engage

Two years ago when Connor O’Neil ’15 won a student clamming license in his hometown of Freeport, Maine, he gained a front-row seat for the escalating battle between invasive green crabs and the soft-shell clams he wanted to harvest.

This spring in Professor of Government Dan Shea’s class Introduction to American Government and Politics, O’Neil mentioned his concerns about the threat to Maine’s clam population, and the issue sparked Shea’s interest. “I began thinking about what we could do about it,” said Shea. “How much should the state invest? What role should private industry play? How can we help provide more information about it?”

Shea raised the topic with the Goldfarb Student Fellows, and they decided to wade in. In 2014-15 the Goldfarb Center will cosponsor a competition among Maine undergraduates seeking ways to mitigate the green-crab problem.

The green-crab project is just one example of how the Goldfarb Center is exploring novel, interdisciplinary approaches to community problems. “We want to think of public affairs and engagement in broad, inclusive terms,” said Shea, who arrived at Colby to lead the Goldfarb Center in 2012. “We want to step beyond the social science-centered model to explore broader questions. We also want use our resources for pedagogically enhanced initiatives.”

New Connections in Central Maine Schools

The Goldfarb Center’s longstanding volunteer efforts in the region’s public schools were expanded in 2013-14 to focus on helping high school juniors prepare for college. A tutoring program, MulePrep, which began as an independent project by Matt White ’14, has evolved into an eight-week program during the fall and spring for high school students preparing to take the SAT college entrance exam.

On Sundays, high-school students arrive at Eustis on Colby’s campus for a few hours of activities, instruction, and practice exams.

The education initiative also included a one-on-one tutoring program called Operation Impact, which was organized by AmeriCorps VISTA member Scott Dupee. It responded to a concern expressed by local school officials who were having trouble finding qualified tutors for students they saw slipping behind in their studies, Dupee said.

The program brought 21 Colby students for about one hour a week into seven schools in Winthrop, Waterville, and Oakland. One middle school student who’d had a tough time asking for extra help saw her math scores rise by 21 points after four weeks of tutoring by Operation Impact Colby volunteers, she said.

“It can be hard for students to get the individual attention they need in a class with 25 other students,” said Dupee, who spent last year in Waterville with AmeriCorps. “A tutor can make the difference. It can be as simple as helping the student locate the confidence within themselves that they need to succeed on their own. It might not be that they couldn’t understand the material. It can be hang-ups about their performance, or test anxiety.”

Concussion Management and Research

The Maine Concussion Management Initiative, which was established with a grant from the Goldfarb Center in 2009, has become a national model as public concern about concussions in school sports has increased. Over five years, 750 school nurses and athletic trainers received training to conduct 10-minute baseline neurological exams, which take about 10 minutes to administer. If a student-athlete later...
Grey Benjamin ’14 and Isaiah

Colby Cares About Kids mentors often go beyond their original commitment to make a difference in the lives of their mentees. Take Grey Benjamin ’14. Benjamin spent all four years of his Colby career as a CCAK mentor to Isaiah, a student in the nearby RSU 18 school system. In addition to making weekly visits to Isaiah’s school, Benjamin would often take Isaiah to Colby athletic games after school, and he got to know his mentee’s family.

“From the very beginning, Grey took his role very seriously and put his whole heart into being Isaiah’s mentor. He became a real inspiration to me and our entire staff,” said Lucille Hoes, a staff member in RSU 18.

As graduation approached, Benjamin wanted to ensure Isaiah’s connection to the program would not end. He personally recruited another Colby student to take on the role of Isaiah’s CCAK mentor and ensure a smooth transition.

Berkner, D.O., Colby’s director of health services and administrator of MCMI, said Paul 6,909 post-concussion tests, said Paul

sustains a head injury, practitioners can retest to determine the extent of the trauma and to provide data necessary for optimal treatment.

Among Maine’s 152 high schools, health officials at 110 schools have been trained through MCMI, with students at Deer Isle-Stonington High the most recent to undergo the test. The breadth of this data—seen in 45,597 baseline tests and the most recent to undergo the test.
Divided We Stand?
Jan Plan Research on Geopolitical Sorting

In recent years “polarization” and “hyper-partisanship” have become buzzwords in American politics to characterize the perceived dysfunction, lack of consensus, and absence of legislative production affecting elected officials. Countless explanations for this divisiveness have been proposed, including gerrymandering, money-driven special interests, and weak leadership—over which the average voter has little control. But what if political polarization is a self-inflicted wound?

What if Americans are segregating themselves, associating only with like-minded people, and distancing themselves from those with other opinions, perspectives, and viewpoints? Over Jan Plan, Professor Dan Shea and I set out to study the phenomenon of geographic self-sorting, a theory first proposed by journalist Bill Bishop in his book, The Big Sort: Why the Clustering of Like-Minded America Is Tearing Us Apart.

Bishop’s idea of sorting is rooted in the notion that partisanship extends far beyond political issues like abortion, taxes, or immigration. Rather, it is driven by deeper, more fundamental differences. Simply put, people with similar lifestyles, hobbies, incomes, and lines of work tend to live in clustered areas and therefore tend to share similar political perspectives. We have begun to sort ourselves. My research with Professor Shea aims to determine whether or not political sorting is intentional. Bishop asserts that voters have moved into neighborhoods with people with whom they share interests and ideologies, creating more politically homogenous communities. He notes that the number of “landslide counties” (where the margin of victory in presidential elections exceeded 20 percent) has increased from about 20 percent in the 1970s to nearly 60 percent in recent elections. In other words, Bishop contends that hyper-partisanship is the byproduct of the physical movement of voters over time.

This seems to challenge the view that geographical partisan change has occurred, at least partly, by the concerted efforts of political operatives. Several years ago Thomas Frank, in What’s the Matter with Kansas?: How Conservatives Won the Heart of America, argued that the growing divisiveness evolved through attitudinal change. Using Kansas as a model, Frank asserted that conservative leaders in his state (and elsewhere) made a deliberate effort to shift voters’ concerns away from economic policies by raising the specter of massive cultural decay or provoking a “culture war.” Pitted against the “real Americans,” said Frank, “are the liberal elite, the high-taxing, government-spending, latte-drinking, sushi-eating, Volvo-driving, New York Times-reading, Hollywood-loving, left-wing freak show.”

By drawing upon—and digging deeper into—these two convincing but conflicting theories, Professor Shea and I have developed the foundations of our study. Rather than simply hypothesizing about a relationship between geographic movement and partisanship, we plan to turn to the people at the center of this debate: movers. Through a comprehensive survey, we will investigate the motivations for moving and the criteria for finding a new neighborhood. Do movers take into account political ideology when choosing where to relocate? If we can demonstrate this connection, then we will have substantial support for Bishop’s hypothesis.

Ultimately, whether we find support for the attitudinal hypothesis or the moving hypothesis, our results will be significant. If we find that movers do not consider politics when relocating, then we have evidence that efforts to spur attitudinal shifts in partisanship can, in fact, be successful. A finding along these lines would counter a large body of literature suggesting individual partisan changes are rare. If Americans have, in fact, sorted themselves, then there is a simple link to polarization. That is, if we are surrounded by the same political perspective—on the bumper stickers and lawn signs we see, from the peers with whom we interact, and on the news channel that we watch—then not only are we likely to adopt that view, but we’ll also eschew, perhaps scorn, the other side. Most importantly, if the trend continues unchecked, there is little hope for bipartisanship or consensus building among voters across the country, let alone in Washington. —Jane Wiesenberg ’16

Competitive Counties in 1976
- Competitive counties (margins less than 20 percentage points)
- Republican landslide counties (Ford won by 20 percentage points or more)
- Democratic landslide counties (Carter won by 20 percentage points or more)

Maps supplied by Bill Bishop, March 2014

Competitive Counties in 2012
- Competitive counties (margins less than 20 percentage points)
- Republican landslide counties (Romney won by 20 percentage points or more)
- Democratic landslide counties (Obama won by 20 percentage points or more)

Maps supplied by Bill Bishop, March 2014

In Her Words:
The Greatest Privilege

Since 2010, Sandy Maisel Student Internship funds have allowed dozens of students opportunities for hands-on learning through organizations in the United States and around the globe. One such grant sent Rumbidzai Gondo ’14 to Zimbabwe to work for the Zimbabwe Peace Project, a human rights organization that monitors and documents politically motivated violations, including assault and denial of food relief due to party affiliations. Her report:

“My ultimate goal is to earn a master’s degree in public health with a focus on environmental and community health or social justice and human rights. Through this internship, I wanted an opportunity to observe and understand the concept of human rights and the different ways they can be violated, as well as how people can be empowered to value their rights as individuals and communities.

“During my time with the Zimbabwe Peace Project, I engaged with all the major departments in the organization. Within the first three days I was a part of a strategic planning retreat that involved creating a long-range plan to best use their resources in light of the incredible political and economic changes occurring in Zimbabwe. I had the opportunity to conduct fieldwork and to travel to two of the ten provinces in Zimbabwe. It was amazing to see how the people and leaders and activists who continued to be very active in spite of being aware that each day they were risking their own lives.

“I never would have had these insights and opportunities if not for Colby and funds like the Sandy Maisel Internship grant supporting my internship pursuits. The College has shown me that it is indeed committed to civic engagement and preparing students to address some of the issues and challenges facing the world today. These experiences will allow me to pursue my interests and passions and simultaneously make the world a better place. There is no greater privilege than that.”
National Science Foundation Grant Provides Opportunities for Students, Professors

For the next three years, four Colby students and four from other institutions will have opportunities to conduct research in the church forests of Ethiopia each year thanks to a $390,000 grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF). Assistant Professor of Environmental Science Travis Reynolds and Assistant Professor of Biology Cat Collins, co-principal investigators for the grant, will provide guidance for the students’ work. The grant gives Reynolds, Collins, and their team of undergraduate researchers the ability to expand on previous research conducted by Reynolds in the church forests. Some of that research was supported by the Goldfarb Center. In January 2013 the Goldfarb Center collaborated with the international nonprofit TREE Foundation to sponsor a church forests workshop in South Gondar, Ethiopia. In one among several projects, Colby students Lydia Ball ’13, Kate Hamre ’13, and Sally Holmes ’13 worked with Goldfarb Center. In January 2013 the Goldfarb Center collaborated with the international nonprofit TREE Foundation to sponsor a church forests workshop in South Gondar, Ethiopia. In one among several projects, Colby students Lydia Ball ’13, Kate Hamre ’13, and Sally Holmes ’13 worked with five Ethiopian students from Debre Tabor University to help implement and document the workshop. Five Ethiopian students from Debre Tabor University to help implement and document the workshop.

Lean In Colby: Women Leaders of Maine Spark Conversations

The Goldfarb Center hosted an event in October titled “Lean In: Women Leaders of Maine.” Prior to a panel discussion, students from Colby and Thomas colleges joined nearly a dozen women community leaders for a collegial dinner, where they had the opportunity to ask questions and talk one-on-one about being a leader in today’s world. Panelists included Maine State Senator Emily Cain, Colby Provost and Dean of Faculty Lori Kletzer, President of Thomas College Laurie Lachance, and Central Maine Power CEO Sara Burns ’79. The event, inspired by Facebook COO Sheryl Sandberg’s bestseller Lean In, was the first of a series of programs to focus on issues surrounding women in leadership.

Connecting Cultures: Colby-Moscow Exchange Program Expands

One of the Goldfarb Center’s newest scholarship initiatives, an exchange program with the Lomonosov Moscow State University (MSU) in Russia, expanded this year to provide two students with an opportunity to study Russian media with some of that country’s top scholars. Quinn Ziegler ’14 and Benjamin Carlin ’16 spent a month as interns with MSU’s faculty of journalism. The internships had three components: learning about Russian media; editing scholarly work written in English by MSU faculty on various angles of journalistic practice for the publication of the Russian annual review publication World of Media; and embarking on their own journalistic project.

“As a double major in Russian and economics and a minor in art, my choice of a topic was easy,” Ziegler wrote in his final report. “What is happening today in the commercial world of Russian art galleries?” Through interviews with Russian citizens and visits to local cinemas, Carlin found both stark contrasts and surprising similarities to American movie-going culture as it evolves with new technology and new ways to access films.

“Expanding the program to include internship opportunities proved to be a valuable experience for these two students,” said Julie de Sherbinin, professor of government and lead organizer for the MSU Exchange Program.

Again this year the program included an exchange of faculty members. MSU Professor Ekaterina Sivyakova visited Colby in February. In addition to meeting with students and faculty and participating in various classes, Sivyakova delivered a public lecture titled “Russian Media and the 2014 Olympics.” Then in March Robert E. Diamond Professor of Government and Global Studies Jennifer Yoder traveled to MSU to lecture on political institutions, media cultures, and national election campaigns in Germany and the United States.

More information about the NSF grant can be found at colby.edu/goldfarb/ethiopia.
Working for Buddhist-Muslim Reconciliation

The Oak Institute for the Study of International Human Rights hosted Maung Maung Than and Mya Nandar Aung as the 2013 Oak Human Rights Fellows. Than and Aung, a married couple, have worked with the United Nations High Commission on Refugees to protect the rights of stateless people in western Myanmar, and they are working with various organizations to encourage Buddhist-Muslim reconciliation. It was the first year the institute hosted two fellows instead of one.

The Oak Institute, a program closely affiliated with the Goldfarb Center, was established in 1998 by a generous grant from the Oak Foundation. Each year it hosts an Oak Human Rights Fellow to teach and conduct research while residing at the College. The Institute organizes lectures and other events centered on the fellow’s area of expertise. For more information about the Oak Institute, please visit colby.edu/oak.

Goldfarb Center Welcomes New Associate Director

The Goldfarb Center is pleased to announce the appointment of Assistant Professor of Economics Sahān T. M. Dissanayake as associate director. Dissanayake will oversee several key initiatives for the Goldfarb Center, including the Goldfarb-Sponsored Conference Links History of Technology to Public Policy. This year the center supported graduate student teaching awards, faculty conferences, and undergraduate research projects, faculty conferences, and student internships and research projects. The keynote address was by Joel Tarr, the Richard S. Caliguiri University Professor of History and Society Jim Fleming’s conference titled “Pressing Issues: The History of Technology Meets Public Policy.” The conference explored ways in which scholarship in the history of technology can inform and assist in the making of public policy. The keynote address was by Joel Tarr, the Richard S. Caliguiri University Professor of History and Policy at Carnegie Mellon University. A select group of approximately 20 other scholars from across the country participated in the two-day event.

A Deeper Connection: Goldfarb Student Fellows

The Goldfarb Center initiated a new program this year to enhance student involvement in public affairs programming. In its inaugural year, the Goldfarb Student Fellows Program provided seven of the center’s most engaged students with opportunities to work alongside the center’s professional staff to develop and implement programming and coordinate the Goldfarb Student Associate Committee. “We wanted to create a way for students interested in leadership to form a deeper connection to the center,” said Assistant Director Amanda Cooley. “We work with these students just as if they are our staff colleagues, providing them an opportunity to contribute meaningfully at every level.”

The fellows were instrumental in developing several of the center’s new public affairs programs this year, including a conference for student journalists, the Lean In Colby: Women Leaders of Maine panel discussion, and a lecture on the economic and political rise of China. “I have enjoyed being on the other side of these events—planning their formats and logistics,” said Goldfarb Student Fellow Jane Wiesenberg ’16. “Making questions for the Lean In Colby event was a unique opportunity to set the agenda and plan the direction the event would take. I’ve not only been able to learn more and engage in exciting discussions about issues that I’m interested in, but my range of curiosity has also been tremendously broadened.”

In an effort to engage a more diverse group of students across departments, the fellows redeveloped the center’s student committee, implementing an application process and renaming it the Goldfarb Student Associate Committee. The committee now has 25 members who regularly attend events and assist with center projects on an ad hoc basis.

Learn more about the Goldfarb Student Fellows program by visiting colby.edu/goldfarb.
Rising to the Challenge:
Seniors Reflect on Learning to Lead

Whether serving as a member of the Colby Cares About Kids student advisory committee, implementing public affairs programming as a Goldfarb student fellow, or directing the student-led Colby Volunteer Center, students involved in the Goldfarb Center are provided opportunities to lead in varied, meaningful ways. Two exemplary students, Madeline Wilson ’14 and Joshua Balk ’14, graduated this year, but not before leaving their mark on the programs they led. Both were awarded Goldfarb Center Student Awards at the Colby Student Awards Ceremony in May for their leadership and dedication to their respective programs.

Madeline Wilson ’14
Goldfarb Student Fellow
Majors: Global Studies and Science, Technology, and Society
Hometown: Ridgewood, N.J.
What was your most memorable experience with the Goldfarb Center? I have so many, from meeting senators and judges to organizing conferences for student journalists. But organizing Election Day programming, especially the viewing parties for the presidential debates, was the most exceptional.

How has your experience with the Goldfarb Center prepared you for your life and future career? It allowed me to take on a much greater leadership role on campus, and I truly believe it has prepared me for the professional world in a way that few of my other campus activities could have. My experiences planning and executing events and interacting with influential policymakers, journalists, and intellectuals have prepared me to step back, listen to the ideas and suggestions of your team, and to assist them.

Why do you think academic centers like the Goldfarb Center are important? They are an essential component in the liberal arts experience. Goldfarb events complemented what I learned in the classroom and gave me a fuller, more comprehensive understanding of policy issues, scientific advancements, and world events.

What advice do you have for the next generation of Colby students? Take full advantage of all of the opportunities, programs, and events that Colby has to offer, because once you graduate you probably won’t be able to attend lectures given by members of Congress, education leaders, judges, or prestigious journalists.

Joshua Balk ’14
Co-Director of the Colby Volunteer Center
Majors: Government and Sociology
Hometown: Needham, Mass.
What was your most memorable experience with the Goldfarb Center? It was being involved with the Colby Volunteer Center, a completely student-led organization. It was so great working with passionate and motivated people who cared about improving not just the Colby community, but also the greater Waterville community. I was also able to see the best side of students who were willing to donate their time to give back to the local community.

How has your experience with the Goldfarb Center shaped your leadership skills and abilities? They have been invaluable. They have taught me that Colby has to offer, because once you graduate you probably won’t be able to attend lectures given by members of Congress, education leaders, judges, or prestigious journalists.

What advice do you have for the next generation of Colby students? Take advantage of all of the opportunities that Colby has to offer and get involved.

Joshua Balk ’14 graduated summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa in government and sociology majors. He is co-president of the Colby Volunteer Center, a completely student-run organization. He has worked with the Maine Children’s Home for Little Wanderers in his Nonprofit Organizations and Philanthropy course. He will attend the University of Pennsylvania Law School with plans for a career in child advocacy.

Madeline Wilson ’14 graduated magna cum laude with distinction in government and sociology majors. She was a Goldfarb Student Fellow, an advisor for both of my majors and was unbelievably thoughtful and encouraging. He always pushed me to be a better writer and thinker.

How has your leadership role in the Goldfarb Center shaped your leadership skills and abilities? I came to understand how to work with a group of people with diverse interests and leadership styles. As a leader, your best asset is your team. There are times to take the reins and there are (probably more) times when it’s best to step back, listen to the ideas and suggestions of your team, and to assist them.

What is your most memorable experience with the Goldfarb Center? I have so many, from meeting senators and judges to organizing conferences for student journalists. But organizing Election Day programming, especially the viewing parties for the presidential debates, was the most exceptional.

How has your experience with the Goldfarb Center prepared you for your life and future career? It allowed me to take on a much greater leadership role on campus, and I truly believe it has prepared me for the professional world in a way that few of my other campus activities could have. My experiences planning and executing events and interacting with influential policymakers, journalists, and intellectuals have prepared me to step back, listen to the ideas and suggestions of your team, and to assist them.

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Contested Terrain
Bakken Shale oil rig in North Dakota
Edwin Dobb, former editor-in-chief of The Sciences and author of a series of articles in National Geographic, visited the Goldfarb Center in November to discuss some of the environmental implications of the increasing demand for resources—including the rapid and dramatic transformation of North Dakota. His lecture was titled “Clash! Contested Terrain: Conflicting Interests.”

Colby Concussion Research
Breaking New Ground

The Maine Concussion Management Initiative (MCMI)—the groundbreaking effort to track effects of head injuries among Maine student athletes founded with a Goldfarb Center grant five years ago—continues to grow. A new partnership with the Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital in Charlestown, Mass., and a $120,000 grant from the Maine Department of Health and Human Services will both support continued concussion research, data collection, and treatment.

The Colby College Research Consortium will partner students with researchers and physicians at Spaulding and other Boston-area institutions to conduct scholarly work aimed at understanding concussions and their impact on the brain. The consortium will explore new ways to reduce concussion risks and prevent injuries through best practices. It provides Colby students new opportunities to gain real-world research experience.

Lily Cabour ’14 interned at Spaulding last summer and afterward reached out to Colby Director of Health Services Dr. Paul Berkner seeking to join the initiative. “I wanted to be more involved in health research at Colby,” she said.

Led by Berkner and under the auspices of the Goldfarb Center, MCMI was formed in 2009 to help high schools throughout Maine recognize the signs of concussions in athletes and properly manage their effects. MCMI worked with the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center’s computer-based testing model, ImPACT, to log data from 45,597 baseline and 6,909 post-injury assessments.

The result is an extensive database on concussions in football and other contact sports that has garnered considerable attention from leading experts in the field. One Harvard researcher has called it “the largest database on concussions in the world.”

“The grant supports our program for monitoring concussions in high school and college athletics, letting us grow the program to include all of Maine and expand into Massachusetts.”

—Bruce Maxwell, Professor of Computer Science

said Professor Bruce Maxwell, chair of Colby’s Computer Science Department, who is collaborating on the project. “It gives us the ability to monitor a large population of athletes, creating the most comprehensive concussion monitoring system developed to date.”

“With this data,” said Berkner, “we hope to better understand the epidemiology of concussions. This is the critical first step in eventually reducing concussions.”

For more information about MCMI, contact Dr. Paul Berkner at pberkner@colby.edu.
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In 2013 the Goldfarb Center sponsored a workshop in Ethiopia on the country’s church forests.