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What similarities exist between a small village in Uganda and Colby’s hometown of Waterville? Through support from the Goldfarb Center, students in Assistant Professor of Government Laura Seay’s Jan Plan course have forged new connections both across the globe and in their own community.

Joining the National Conversation

The 2016 election has been anything but typical. Through cutting-edge research and an array of programs, the Goldfarb Center is shedding light on a host of issues relating to the 2016 election including campaign finance, political incivility, voting rights, and more.

Cover Photo: At the Community, Culture, and Conservation: Sustaining Livelihoods and Landscapes conference in April, Maggie Libby ’81, P’14 created a 15-foot charcoal drawing of the Maine woods hung over a charcoal “sink.” Libby encouraged visitors to use art erasers on the drawing, revealing words underneath. More on page 8.

Uncovering the Real Story

New Yorker staff writer and author of Behind the Beautiful Forevers Katherine Boo received the 2015 Lovejoy Award in recognition of the quality of her research, the intensity of her prose, and the critically important theme of inequality that informs her work. Learn more on page 4.

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.

Like us on Facebook. Follow us on Twitter. Connect with us on Instagram.
Every four years Americans are charged with choosing the leader of the free world. Who we ask to take up residence at the White House will have a profound impact on our government and the rest of the world. The campaign has been noisy and the intensity is sure to increase as November approaches.

During the past academic year, the Goldfarb Center pulled together a series of programs and events to confront a great diversity of subjects. Exploring complex issues from different angles and through interdisciplinary lenses is what we do at the center—and it is a powerful approach to learning that no one does better than Colby. This year’s Goldfarb Center magazine takes a look at several exemplary initiatives.

We highlight a hefty list of additional programs and events. We are pleased to work closely with various campus partners on many of them. Our nascent Engaged Scholarship Initiative, for example, has taken hold and is moving in exciting directions, and we have made strides in broadening the types of events we offer. For instance, this past year saw our first—but certainly not our last—student trip to Washington, D.C.

As always, Bill Goldfarb ’68, P’00 has been supportive of these new endeavors. His sustained commitment to our work has been instrumental to our success. And, true to his kind and generous nature, he has been a good friend and mentor to me. I am pleased to join so many others in thanking him for his service to Colby upon his retirement from the Board of Trustees this year.

In closing, a few words about the tone of the current election. Some of my recent scholarship has focused on the growing nastiness of elections. Many Americans are sure our system is headed off the rails, to a place of no return. Things seem bad, no doubt, and political passions are certainly intense. Will the system recover? Consider the observation by Charles Dickens from his travels around the United States in the early 1840s:

“...quiet people avoid the question of the Presidency, for there will be a new election in three years and a half; and party feelings run very high; the great constitutional feature of this institution being, that (as soon as) the acrimony of the last election is over, the acrimony of the next begins; which is an unspeakable comfort to all strong politicians and true lovers of their country; that is to say, to ninety-nine ... out of every ninety-nine and a quarter.”

America has witnessed many periods of political intensity and partisan acrimony. We will endure and thrive as a nation. As with any long journey, there are bumps in the road. Okay, this one is a major pothole. But rest assured, we will move beyond the 2016 election.

Best regards,

Daniel M. Shea
Director
Goldfarb Center for Public Affairs and Civic Engagement
Katherine Boo: Small Stories Inform the Big Story about Power

In a powerful multimedia lecture about the plight of the trans-global poor in an era when the 100 richest people in the world own more than the 3 billion poorest, journalist Katherine Boo demonstrated her mastery of storytelling, empathy, and deep analysis in the 2015 Elijah Parish Lovejoy Convocation address.

Boo outlined her talk by suggesting that four linked phenomena—inequality, temp jobs, corruption, and lightning-fast transfers of global capital—converge to fuel some of the great lies of our time. With photos of and by the children in the Annawadi slum in Mumbai, India, where she immersed herself for three and a half years for her book *Behind the Beautiful Forevers*, she talked about their lives, their wise world-views, and their absolute economic expendability as corporations and banks ferret out the cheapest labor possible.

She acknowledged that, by covering struggling children in Mumbai, she tells small stories. But when those brave families allow her into their lives, it “gives me the chance to at least try to interrogate and complicate what we generally think of as the big story, which is the story of the people and institutions that do have political power.”

We must listen more closely, she said, and record experiences that would otherwise be lost. “Here’s the problem: the greater public is never going to understand why so many of the best-intentioned social and economic policies fail.” She concluded, “Our failure to document gives credence that we all inherit a functional meritocracy, which is another functional lie of our time.”

Boo offered an homage linking Lovejoy to journalists today. She admires that in his last years Lovejoy made choices that “rebuked an assumption that many people still make today: that to be idealistic is to be naive,” she said. “Lovejoy wasn’t naïve. Long before his murder he gauged the risks inherent in trying to destabilize the economic well-being of people with power in a society, and still he took those risks—just as hundreds of journalists today are doing in Syria, Mexico, Egypt, Yemen, Pakistan, China, India, and everywhere on an incredibly dangerous planet.”

When a student asked her strategy for building trust with her subjects, Boo said, “I think my greatest tool is time,” referring to her ability listen and observe at great length. At the end of a project, she allows people to be included in her work or not, because she understands that it takes considerable bravery for her subjects to be named. “One of the most reliable ways to get people to trust you is to not ask them to trust you—to let them make up their own minds.”

A panel discussion titled “Division and Despair: Reporting on America’s Income Inequality,” held in the afternoon before the convocation, filled Ostrove Auditorium to capacity. Panelists, including Wendi Thomas of the *Memphis Flyer*, Kathleen Kingsbury of the *Boston Globe*, and Mike Baker of the *Seattle Times*, talked about their award-winning investigations of the topic in a conversation moderated by Associate Professor of Government Walter Hatch.

**Students Confront Journalism in the Digital World**

How has technology changed journalism?

Students from a dozen colleges across the United States and India, as well as from other social media platforms. The event concluded with a networking social with students who discussed data-driven ways to report news.

The Goldfarb Center’s annual conference for student journalists, held in the fall in conjunction with the Lovejoy Convocation, offers college newspaper editors, reporters, advisors, and those interested in a career in journalism an opportunity to learn about issues relating to journalism on college campuses. Learn more at colby.edu/goldfarb/journalismconference.
Former U.S. Senator George J. Mitchell returned home in March to deliver an inspiring lecture about where Americans can find hope in the midst of a chaotic and contentious election cycle fraught with divisive rhetoric.

“We all watch cable television news these days, and if you watch it for just a short time, you come to believe conventional wisdom, which is that the world is falling apart, it is more dangerous than ever, and the U.S. is in decline both at home and abroad. I disagree on all counts,” said Mitchell.

Mitchell went on to cite several reasons the country is poised to become stronger in the years ahead, pointing to advances in technology and communications as an opportunity for the United States to strengthen its economy and employ more middle class workers. “Today, two hundred and fifty years after the Industrial Revolution, we are struggling with the effects of a new revolution, which I believe future historians will regard as much a turning point in human history as the Industrial Revolution,” he said.

Senator Mitchell concluded his remarks by suggesting, “Our goal should be a society that encourages striving, celebrates success, is conducive to innovation, and enables us to use the talent, energy, and skill of all Americans. The twenty-first century could be, like many in the past, a time of war, of famine, of oppression, of injustice. But it also could be a time when the dominant power uses its strength carefully and commits its people, its power, and its prestige to a great and noble vision—world largely at peace, with the rule of law, individual freedom, education, opportunity, and prosperity extending to more and more people in our country and around the world. That is our challenge; we must make it our destiny.”

The George J. Mitchell Distinguished International Lecture Series, established in 2005, has brought some of the world’s most prominent political leaders to campus each fall for a lecture and dinner designed to foster interaction among students, faculty, and members of the greater Waterville community. Past speakers have included Senator Susan Collins and former U.S. Senator Tom Daschle.

Video and audio of this year’s lecture, as well as more information on the Mitchell Lecture Series, are available on the Goldfarb Center’s website.

During the week of Veterans Day, the Goldfarb Center partnered with the Center for the Arts and Humanities and Colby’s Garrison-Foster Health Center to bring Theater of War, an international program that blends classical Greek tragedy with a contemporary town-hall style discussion of armed service members’ and veterans’ visible and invisible wounds of war.

Actors Zach Grenier of the hit television drama The Good Wife and Sally Wood of the award-winning play Papermaker delivered a moving dramatic reading of Sophocles’s Ajax, a story about the suicide of a great, respected warrior, regarded as a timeless and universal depiction of the psychological and physical wounds inflicted in combat. The reading was followed by comments from a community panel featuring first-person accounts of the psychological legacy of war from the perspectives of veterans, a family member, and an Army psychiatrist. The discussion elicited emotional accounts from audience members and panelists who had served in the armed forces and from family members dealing with the effects of combat. Students contributed insightful analyses of the play and its relevance as well as compelling questions.

“What makes Theater of War so powerful is how it brings together diverse groups of people to discuss these kind of issues in a way that breaks barriers,” said Goldfarb Center Director Dan Shea. “It’s interdisciplinary civic engagement at work.”

The event also coincided with the National Endowment for the Humanities’ 50th anniversary, which was celebrated with a lunchtime gathering that included comments by Colby president emeritus and current chair of the NEH Bro Adams, who also spoke on the panel.


Top Photo: Theater of War actors, panelists, and event organizers.
Middle Photo: Adam Cote ’95, a veteran of Iraq, Afghanistan, and Bosnia, talks with Gary J. Kitchen, a Vietnam veteran.
Bottom Photo: Bro Adams, chair of the National Endowment for the Humanities, Colby President emeritus, and Vietnam veteran; Adam Cote ’95, a veteran of Iraq, Afghanistan, and Bosnia; Amanda Cooley, daughter of a veteran; and Maj. Melanie Morin ’01, M.D., staff psychiatrist at the Maine VA Medical Center and a member of the Medical Corps of the U.S. Army Reserve, led a panel discussion.
Landmark conference brought close to 200 noted writers, scholars, performers, artists, public officials, and activists to Colby April 7-9 to discuss the intersection of environmental policy, science, and the arts.

The conference, titled Community, Culture and Conservation: Sustaining Livelihoods and Landscapes, was part of a yearlong series of events. The largest interdisciplinary partnership the College has undertaken, it was produced and led by the Goldfarb Center, Center for the Arts and Humanities, Environmental Studies Program, and Colby Museum of Art.

Associate Professor of Environmental Studies Philip Nyhus said, “It was a highlight event for Colby, but it also served as an outstanding model for how the College can help to bring science, public policy, and the humanities together to address pressing environmental and societal issues.”

The conference led off with a lecture by noted writer and environmentalist Bill McKibben, founder of 350.org, who exhorted listeners in a packed Lorimer Chapel to take action on global warming. Climate change is “the most epic battle that human beings have ever waged,” McKibben said, adding that we have to stop it at all costs. Panels and plenary sessions on Friday and Saturday featured speakers including author and activist Terry Tempest Williams and public lands experts including Kevin Schneider, superintendent of Acadia National Park. A Goldfarb Center-sponsored Cotter Debate addressed the pros and cons of expanding the national park system.

Olivia Wright ’19, who organized parts of the conference, said hearing from Terry Tempest Williams was a highlight. “I had read some of her writing for a class, so hearing her speak in person was really moving. She was extraordinary and very willing to talk after her session.”

Conference attendees and students were invited to take part in an interactive art installation created by Maggie Libby ’81, P’14 in the Diamond Building. A 15-foot charcoal drawing of the Maine woods hung over a charcoal “sink,” and Libby encouraged visitors to use large, kneadable art erasers on the drawing, revealing words underneath. “It’s my intent that people can work on this and see, immediately, the result,” she said.

Learn more about the conference by visiting web.colby.edu/communitycultureconservation.
Two Cotter Debates Explore GMOs, National Parks

Are genetically modified foods helpful or harmful?

Now celebrating its 100th birthday, should the national parks system expand?

The Goldfarb Center tackled these two contentious issues this year as part of the William R. and Linda K. Cotter Debate Series.

In November a panel of experts representing diverse backgrounds and experiences discussed broad-ranging issues associated with genetic modification in today’s food system. Stephen Moose, professor of crop sciences at the University of Illinois, and Judith Chambers, director for the Program for Biosafety Systems at the International Food Policy Research Institute, focused on how current scientific research backs the notion that genetically modified foods are safe and have positively impacted the world’s food system. Jonathan Latham, cofounder and executive director of the Bioscience Resource Project, and Jodi Kobenmaki, Colby’s 2015 Oak Fellow and a food sovereignty activist, countered with concerns about the use of these new technologies without public vetting and comprehensive risk assessment.

The debate coincided with the Oak Institute for Human Rights 2015 theme of food sovereignty, and for the first time it offered an Oak fellow the opportunity to participate in the Cotter program. The discussion was organized and moderated by Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies Gail Carlson, who is an associate director of the Bioscience Resource Project, and Jodi Kobenmaki, Colby’s 2015 Oak Fellow and a food sovereignty activist, countered with concerns about the use of these new technologies without public vetting and comprehensive risk assessment.

The debate coincided with the Oak Institute for Human Rights 2015 theme of food sovereignty, and for the first time it offered an Oak fellow the opportunity to participate in the Cotter program. The discussion was organized and moderated by Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies Gail Carlson, who is an associate director for the Goldfarb Center and instructor of the Oak Institute’s seminar “I found the conversation to be very exciting,” said Carlson. “Students appreciated hearing the panelists respectfully challenge each other’s perspectives on such an important issue that affects literally everyone.”

A spring Cotter Debate Series program tackled the issue of the expansion of the national parks system and was offered as part of the Community, Culture, and Conservation: Sustaining Livelihoods and Landscapes national conference in April. Goldfarb Center Director Dan Shes moderated a discussion with a panel of experts for against expansion of the national parks system. The discussion covered the importance of conserving sensitive spaces, broadening public access, and concerns over the reach of the federal government. Panelists included Lucas St. Clair, president of Eliotville Plantation; Pete Geddes, manager of the American Prairie Reserve; Linda J. Bilmes, a professor at Harvard and member of the U.S. National Park System Advisory Board; and Terry Anderson, former president and executive director of the Property and Environment Research Center and now the John and Jean De Nault Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University.

In addition to sponsoring the debates, the Cotter Debate Series funds a new grant program providing resources for students and faculty to delve deeper into important, controversial issues. The Cotter Debate Series funded its first research project in 2018. More information about the Cotter Debate Series, including audio and video of the events, is available at colby.edu/goldfarb/cotter-debate-series. Learn more about the Oak Institute at colby.edu/oak.

Colby Cares About Kids’ Student Advisory Board was presented with the President’s Campus Leadership Award from Maine Campus Compact in April, Susan Fleurant ’16 and Jack Lynch ’16 traveled to the State House as part of the Community, Culture, and Conservation: Sustaining Livelihoods and Landscapes national conference in April.

Comprising 24 students, the Student Advisory Board was recognized for their work to build community within the sizable CCAK program. The student leaders are charged with maintaining a strong relationship with mentoring site coordinators, recruiting and training mentors, and assisting with pairing mentors to mentees. They also manage carpool ride boards and check in regularly with site mentors, all in addition to serving as mentors themselves.

“The mentor has enriched my Colby experience beyond measure,” said Fleurant. “Serving on the SAB allowed me to not only support my mentee, but also my fellow mentors, and help make the program stronger. It’s an honor to be recognized.”

The award is given to organizations that use service as an integral part of the college experience for students, are innovative in their approach to enhancing campus-based efforts to address community issues and needs, sustain their work by developing strategies that integrate into the institution’s structure, and have a deep, widespread impact on the campus and greater community.
Chief Justice of California Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye, nationally lauded for her unyielding efforts to improve public access to justice and as an advocate for the rights of women and minorities, was awarded the 2016 Morton A. Brody Distinguished Judicial Service Award in April. Cantil-Sakauye is the first Asian-Filipina American and the second woman to serve as California’s chief justice.

In conferring the Brody Award, President David A. Greene commended Cantil-Sakauye for her “principled leadership and extraordinary character ... that remind us of the remarkable legacy of Judge Morton Brody.”

Cantil-Sakauye assumed leadership of California’s judicial branch in 2010 at the height of the Great Recession. She has been widely recognized for her rigorous efforts to successfully restore funding and institute reform, traveling extensively across the state to meet with lawyers, judges, educators, and citizen groups to garner critical support.

Now Cantil-Sakauye sees the judicial branch as poised to better represent the people it serves. “We hand out very unpopular sentences,” she said in her acceptance speech. “We make tough decisions that appear to be counterproductive to majority vote. And then we write out our decision and call it a decision based on a rule of law. So in order for people to truly have faith in the jurists, and in the lawyers, who brought that case to us who argue as advocates, we have to begin to reflect the community we serve.”

Cantil-Sakauye has launched groundbreaking programs aimed at engaging youth in civic learning and democracy. She established a Civic Learning Summit and annual award to recognize public high schools for their community engagement, she regularly hosts students at the California Supreme Court, and she has spoken at some of the most challenged high schools in the state.

In honor of Cantil-Sakauye’s path-breaking career, women law professionals convened for a panel discussion on obstacles and opportunities women and minorities face in the profession. Moderated by the Honorable Nancy Torresen, chief judge of the U.S. District Court for the District of Maine, panelists shared their take on how, despite the fact that more women and minorities are entering the law field, few are rising to its highest ranks.

Together with the Brody Award selection committee, the Goldfarb Center has launched new efforts to enhance the impact and reach of the Brody Award program. As a first step, a new partnership with the University of Maine School of Law has been established, with plans to offer joint programs and networking opportunities for students at both institutions. The award program also connected with the Goldfarb Center and Career Center’s Women’s Leadership Seminar, offering opportunities for the seminar’s participants to attend a post-ceremony dinner with Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye and panelists for networking and continued discussions.

The Morton A. Brody Distinguished Judicial Service Award was created in memory of the Honorable Morton A. Brody, a U.S. District Court judge who passed away in March 2000. Judge Brody led an exemplary career as a lawyer, judge, and civic leader. A longtime friend of the College, he taught courses at Colby on the judicial system and was the husband of former Associate Dean of Admissions Judith Levine Brody ’58. The award honors an outstanding U.S. federal or state judge who embodies the same qualities of integrity, compassion, humanity, and judicial craftsmanship as were exhibited by Judge Brody throughout his lifetime. Learn more about the Brody Award at colby.edu/goldfarb/brody.
Joining the National Conversation

The Goldfarb Center discusses voting rights, political incivility, and the influence of big money in American political life.

By David McKay Wilson ’76

As 2016 proved to be a polarizing, multi-issue political year, the Goldfarb Center joined the national conversation with cutting-edge research by faculty and students and campus speakers who explored the issues of voting rights, political incivility, and the influence of big money in American political life.

As a Goldfarb Center trip to Washington, meanwhile, took students on a whirlwind trip to our nation’s capital to connect with Colby alumni who’ve found a professional home at the heart of the federal government.

At the center of this activity was Goldfarb Center Director Daniel Shea, who this year has delved into American politics at the grassroots level, with a national poll on the attitudes of current and former party committee chairs. He was conducting more surveys in the fall to help better understand how the tone of the American presidential campaign has shaped voter attitudes and behavior.

Shea was a Reunion 2016 speaker in early June, when a standing-room-only audience heard him describe how conventional wisdom hasn’t held up in 2016. Big money hasn’t ruled, early endorsements meant little in primary races, and Republicans could badmouth their opponents with little risk.

“The parties have pulled apart so far that there’s an historic gap,” said Shea. “Each sees the other side as dangerous. They say, ‘We don’t like them, and we don’t trust the other side.’”

Party Chairs Don’t Like Political Direction

Shea’s survey in late May of more than 400 current and former party leaders explored the attitudes of political party chairs—those grassroots partisan leaders who command organizations and the thousands of foot soldiers at the bedrock of American democracy.

Shea found that the party leaders were troubled by the 2016 political climate, with 79 percent saying they believed that the way we conduct politics in the United States is seriously on the wrong track. Among their biggest worries was the growing incivility in American politics, with 89 percent saying they thought politics had become less civil in the past decade.

This fall, Shea will conduct two polls focusing on the tone of the election.

Among the questions Shea will explore: Will an ugly campaign make groups like independent and young voters less likely to vote? How will different communities react? Will it energize the hardcore partisan base?

“In the short run, the data is about the 2016 election,” said Shea. “But in the long run, the study is aimed at understanding how a profoundly negative campaign will reshape the very nature of the political process.”

— Daniel Shea
When the United States and its European allies in 2015 struck a deal to curtail Iran’s nuclear ambitions, despite the opposition of Israel and many American Jews, the ferocious debate sparked an idea for a senior thesis for Jane Wiesenberg ’16. The Iran deal had created a split in the Jewish community. She wondered how it would influence the Jewish community’s decades-long status staunchly supporting of the Democratic Party.

So Wiesenberg, with the assistance of her advisor—William R. Kenan Jr. Professor of Government Sandy Maisel, the Goldfarb Center’s founding director—set out to explore the foundations of the Jewish-American connection to the Democratic Party. She set out to answer these questions: What role do Jewish liberal social values play? Have events in the Middle East and U.S. support for Israel influenced Jewish voting in the past? What about the future?

To get to the heart of the issue, Wiesenberg and Maisel conducted four focus groups in Florida with Jewish voters to hear about their experiences. A grant from the Goldfarb Center’s Student-Faculty Collaborative Grant program helped finance the project.

Among the Colby alumni who assisted was former Colby trustee William Goldfarb, ’68, P’00, whose gift founded the Goldfarb Center in 2003. Goldfarb and his wife, Maureen, hosted a focus group at their West Palm Beach home.

Wiesenberg found that Jewish fealty to the Democratic Party was passed down through the generations, with Jewish social values the lynchpin. Wiesenberg found that Jewish fealty to the Democratic Party was passed down through the generations, with Jewish social values the lynchpin. Wiesenberg found that Jewish fealty to the Democratic Party was passed down through the generations, with Jewish social values the lynchpin. Wiesenberg found that Jewish fealty to the Democratic Party was passed down through the generations, with Jewish social values the lynchpin.

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“I’ve come to realize that Colby’s not just a place you go for four years,” she said. “Colby sticks with you and helps you move along in your career.”

Politics Poll Gets Eyeballs, Impact

The Goldfarb Center partnered with the Boston Globe to conduct a poll exploring myriad issues related to the Maine politics—from the standing of federal office candidates to voter attitudes regarding the most important issue facing the state. The poll was conducted by national opinion research firm SurveyUSA, which interviewed 1,000 adults from Maine in September. The results were reported by more than 50 news outlets, including The Huffington Post, Politico, and Real Clear Politics. Learn more by visiting the Goldfarb Center’s website at colby.edu/goldfarb.

D.C. Trip Connects GC Students and Alumni

A Goldfarb-sponsored trip to Washington this spring brought 15 Colby students together with alumni working in government. Among the participants was Susan Fleurant ’16, who now serves as staff assistant on the Senate’s Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

“It was a great opportunity to meet Colby alumni and start those connections,” she said. “I’ve learned that there is a tight community here, from a variety of class years, that’s willing to support each other.”

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“I’ve come to realize that Colby’s not just a place you go for four years,” she said. “Colby sticks with you and helps you move along in your career.”
In the tight-knit communities of Northern Maine, a contentious debate is driving a broad wedge between those that want to protect land for conservation and recreation through the establishment of a national park and those who fear the designation would bring too many land-use restrictions.

As an environmental economist, Assistant Professor Sahan Dissanayake has followed the discussion intently. “As I watched the issue really heat up, I saw an opportunity to offer data on park characteristics that would attract visitors and thereby generate revenue and jobs in this economically challenged part of the state,” he said.

Dissanayake worked with research assistant Rya Matsuura ’16 to draft a paper on the findings, which suggest a combination of a national park and a National Recreation Area would attract the most visitors and could lead to significant economic development. The article was recently published in Maine Policy Review.

“Since I have been interested in natural conservation, possibly because of my family background in farming, I wanted to be involved in economic research on environmental protection,” said Matsuura, a double major in economics and mathematical science. “I really enjoyed my role in the project, especially the data analysis and interpretation, because I could utilize the exact skills I acquired in my economics course work.”

Dissanayake’s project serves as a policy anchor within the Goldfarb Center’s Engaged Scholarship Initiative, in which faculty, students, alumni, and community partners form an inclusive network of experts surrounding a pressing public policy issue. Learn more about the initiative on the Goldfarb Center’s website colby.edu/goldfarb.

Aug. 24, 2016, Update: President Obama has designated more than 87,500 acres of land donated by Elliotsville Plantation, Inc., and located within the proposed national park and recreation area, as the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument.

“Having a nimble organization like the Goldfarb Center that can quickly provide funding to pursue these types of policy-relevant studies that engage students is a big asset to Colby and our students.”

—Assistant Professor Sahan Dissanayake

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With funding and support from the Goldfarb Center, Dissanayake mobilized a team of student researchers to launch a comprehensive survey to gauge preferences of likely visitors from New England states. The design allowed respondents to express their preferences over pairs of hypothetical parks that varied in types of access (fishing and hunting), types of trails (hiking and ATV), economic impact (expected number of jobs), and entrance fees.

“Having a nimble organization like the Goldfarb Center that can quickly provide funding to pursue these types of policy-relevant studies that engage students is a big asset to Colby and our students,” he said.

Professor Neil Gross to Lead New Policy Anchor on Police Reform

Not since the civil unrest of the 1960s have issues of police reform occupied such a prominent place on the national agenda as they do today. Charles A. Dana Professor of Sociology Neil Gross, who was once a police officer, will spearhead a new policy anchor in 2016-17 on police reform. Components will include two years’ worth of programming on police reform issues with links to new and existing courses across campus, a robust website of resources, and the establishment of connections with criminal justice research institutions around the country.
The Engaged Scholarship Initiative established or moved forward several policy anchors. Some highlights.

Through his extensive research in the Belgrade Lakes, D. Whitney King, the Dr. Frank and Theodore Misell Professor of Chemistry, has charted key data that has drawn attention to issues of water quality in the region. To help understand public attitudes and perceptions and to explore policy alternatives, the Engaged Scholarship Initiative provided King and his team of researchers funding to focus on these issues, with the goal of creating an extensive policy-centered component to the research in the years ahead.

Assistant Professor of Education Karen Kusiak ’75 launched a policy anchor focused on education reform. In what they called the Community Engaged Scholarship in Education (CES-E), Kusiak and her team help Colby students and faculty across disciplines use data analysis, program evaluation, advocacy, and original research to assist policymakers and the greater community tackle challenges in public education. They brought a number of speakers to campus, including Emily Kennedy-Talmage, the Wadsworth Professor of Economics, and Patrick Stewart ’16, and launched a policy-centered component to aid their efforts. Read more about King’s work in Colby Magazine.

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Catherine Besteman, the Francis E. Bartlett and Ruth K. Bartlett Professor of Anthropology, and Maple Raza, associate professor of global studies, launched a collaborative research project to educate the public on issues facing refugees from Somalia in the Lewiston area through documentary videos. The Goldfarb Center supported the purchase of equipment and modest stipends to aid their efforts. Read more about Besteman’s work in Colby Magazine.

Shifting Baselines of Marine Species in the Caribbean

Throughout the Caribbean, overfishing, habitat degradation, and climate change have had devastating effects on marine ecosystems and communities that rely on them. As degradation occurs, memory of past states is lost, resulting in a phenomenon known as “shifting baselines” As a Sandy Maisel Student Research Fellow, environmental policy major Sam Lovell ’16 traveled to Montserrat, Antigua, and Barbuda to help reestablish these baselines through interviews and archival research. While on Montserrat, Lovell interviewed fisherfolk, divers, naturalists, and others representing various age groups to gauge perceptions of changes in the marine environment surrounding the islands. She also visited archives on Antigua and at the Montserrat National Trust to identify historical references to marine species and the environment there. Her work was part of a larger project led by the Walt Institute that aims to inform island communities about the past productivity of their waters and empower marine restoration efforts.

Uncovering the Road to Social Policy Reforms in Latin America

When are egalitarian social policy reforms possible in Latin America? Over Jan Plan, Cam Coval ’16 set out to uncover new information on the issue through field research in Valparaíso and Santiago, Chile, where policy reforms have strengthened the role of the state and promoted equitable access to quality control services. Coval conducted more than two dozen interviews with public policy experts, bureaucrats from the health and education ministries, and leaders of doctors’, teachers’, and students’ unions—many of whom were directly involved in designing, negotiating, and mobilizing the health and education reforms that occurred in the country in the last decade. The data and interviews offered valuable insights into behind-closed doors processes and enabled comprehensive tracing of the social policy reforms.

New Approaches to Understanding Global Citizenship

Patrick Stewart ’16 and Luke Westman ’16 partnered with Professor Adam Howard and the Education Program to embark on the third phase of an unprecedented multinational, multi-site ethnographic research project aimed at exploring affluent adolescents’ understanding of self and global citizenship. Through a Student-Faculty Collaborative Research Grant, the Goldfarb Center funded opportunities for members of the research team to travel to Jordan and Denmark, two of six countries in which they visited elite schools to interview teachers and head administrators, gather school documents, and meet with students they had interviewed in earlier phases of the project. Forty-one students have served as researchers in the project since it was launched in 2014. Learn more about their research and findings at web.colby.edu/global-elites.
There are 6,979 miles separating Kikuube, a rural village nestled in central Uganda, and Colby’s hometown of Waterville. Through a Jan Plan study-abroad course and a subsequent Goldfarb-sponsored visit, Assistant Professor of Government Laura Seay and her students discovered that, despite the distance, there is more common ground between the two communities than one might think.

In January Seay and 10 students traveled to Kikuube for a study-abroad course on African development. They worked closely with Milly Kugonza, the local village chairman, and Pamela Nyakato, Kugonza’s daughter and also a community leader and small business owner, to see firsthand their approach to community building in an agricultural community facing considerable challenges of poverty.

Talking with Kugonza, Nyakato, and others in the village and surrounding area uncovered several underlying similarities in the challenges facing the two communities. Seay recognized an opportunity to develop a long-lasting partnership that could be even more meaningful for both the students and the small rural village.

The Goldfarb Center partnered with Seay to facilitate just such a visit, and Kugonza arrived in mid-October for a week-long stay. Kugonza’s son, Teddy Ruge, who was living in the U.S. at the time, joined her. Between several visits to local high schools and classes at Colby, Kugonza and Ruge spoke to more than 230 people in their week in Maine. They engaged students in Assistant Professor Travis Reynolds’s environmental studies senior seminar in a discussion on the tremendous challenges their community faces in trying to balance agricultural development for economic growth and long-term environmental sustainability. In Professor Mary Beth Mills’s anthropology class, they shared the disastrous effects of commercial sugarcane farming in their village, including hunger, deforestation, and sustainability issues.

Kugonza met with officials in Waterville, including representatives of the city manager’s office and economic development leaders, and they discussed several similar challenges their respective communities face: the need for diverse economic opportunities, the role that sustainable agriculture can play in providing good jobs and boosting the economies, and the need for more education and training to help citizens prepare for new job opportunities.

“The Colby visit left a great impact on our community,” said Kugonza. “What an exciting visit it was for me, too—sharing with students and meetings with the local community. I will treasure those moments for all time.”

The visit was successful in opening the door for future trips, with the next study-abroad trip in the works for January 2017. A visit from other Kikuube residents is possible for the following fall.

“One thing I realized from this first experience is that many central Maine educators would love to have more international visitors speak to their classes and broaden their students’ horizons, so I’ll be actively looking for more ways to engage with future speakers and visitors,” said Seay.
Maine Concussion Management Initiative Sees New Growth, Connections

By David McKay Wilson ’76

The Maine Concussion Management Initiative has gone national. In early August, 25 national concussion experts gathered at the institute’s first annual summer Concussion Summit to explore issues involving diagnostic tools and setting national standards to help prevent mild traumatic brain injury.

Among the questions that were explored. Should tackle football be barred for children under the age of 12? When is it safe for a child to head a soccer ball?

“Too many times, those calls are gut political decisions,” said MCMI’s founder, Dr. Paul Berkner, a pediatrician who serves as the health director for Colby’s Garrison-Foster Health Center. “My goal is to develop good data on these issues.”

MCMI was founded in 2009 to do outreach, advocacy, and research in the state of Maine. By 2016 Berkner’s project was operating in two states, 110 high schools, and 11 colleges while partnering with researchers at Harvard Medical School and the University of Colorado at Denver.

Concern about concussions is growing. One in 10 high school athletic injuries is a concussion. More than 700,000 occur each year, a troubling fact that concerns parents whose children play the big four collision sports: football, soccer, lacrosse, and hockey.

Among Colby’s partners in studying concussion is Dr. Rebekah Mannix, a Boston Children’s Hospital emergency room physician and codirector of BCH’s Brain Injury Center. With financial support from the National Hockey League Alumni Association, Mannix this year aims to enroll 300 Massachusetts high schools in the Colby program.

“Maine is at the forefront of concussion management in the country,” said Mannix. “And Colby has a huge research tool through which many exciting research revelations have been made.”

The Colby concussion database has sparked robust multidisciplinary research by faculty and students at Colby while attracting researchers like Mannix from Harvard Medical School. So far, the database has gathered baseline data on 52,235 students, and post-concussion data on about 5,000 students.

Seven research studies have been published in peer-reviewed scholarly journals, with the studies creating new knowledge about the common injury.

Colby students have authored studies as well. Rose Solomon ’16, reported her findings at the American Public Health Association’s November 2014 annual meeting, which found that football and rugby players underreport concussions suffered on the field.

Goldfarb Center Director Dan Shea says that scholar collaboration has flourished with the Goldfarb Center’s commitment to engaged scholarship. It’s an approach that encourages faculty to address real-world problems through collaboration with their scholarly peers, students, and community partners when there is an issue they want solved.

Across campus, Colby faculty have engaged their scholarship on concussions in myriad studies. They include:

- Professor Bruce Maxwell, who chairs the Department of Computer Science, is developing a diagnostic tool with iPhone technology to assess an athlete’s balance after sustaining a head injury.
- Professor Eric Reuss, who chairs the Department of Communication Studies, is exploring the use of social media in sports.

The Data is Broad, Deep, and Growing

MCMI’s Head Injury Tracking Project (HIT) in 2015 began working with athletic directors and school officials at 30 Maine high schools and the 11 NESCAC colleges. So far it has data on about 400 concussions. Summer interns Vlad Murad ’17 and Erin Lavoie ’17 helped develop the online reporting tool, which asks for details about how and when the head injury occurred as well as information about when the student returned to academic studies and competition.

It’s a new trove of data that researchers are mining to provide more insight on how concussions rattle the human brain and what can be done to resettle it or prevent the concussion from being sustained in the first place. The HIT project attracted a $320,000 grant from the state of Maine’s Department of Health and Human Services to create a statewide reporting program. It will provide researchers data that will show ways coaches can limit concussions, such as barring collisions in football practice, where HIT data shows most football concussions occur.

Jennifer Corriveau ’10 shows scans of a rat’s brain. Associate Professor of Psychology Melissa Glenn is currently working with MCMI to conduct studies on traumatic brain injury in rats.

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— Dr. Rebekah Mannix, codirector of Boston Children’s Hospital’s Brain Injury Center
On Meeting Martin Luther King Jr.

Near the end of my freshman year at Bowdoin, Martin Luther King came to speak in Brunswick. I went to his talk—I’m pretty sure everyone in Brunswick went to his talk. And it was everything you expected a Martin Luther King speech to be.

After the speech I was hungry and I walked over to the student union to get something to eat. As I was walking past one of the lounges, I looked in and saw Dr. King sitting there, by the fireplace, with two or three students. So I walked in and sat down. For the next two hours I was part of one of the most vivid conversations of my life.

Dr. King was very upbeat that evening. The Civil Rights Act was moving toward passage in the senate. He talked of following that with a challenge to some of the southern governors on voting rights. That would come in Selma, Alabama, a few months later and lead to the passage of the Voting Rights Act in Congress.

“We also need an open housing bill,” he said, “but I’m optimistic about that, too.” When the conversation ended he excused himself to go back to his hotel, I think we all felt uplifted, too. “We also need an open housing bill,” he said, “but I’m optimistic about that, too.” When the conversation ended he excused himself to go back to his hotel. For the next two hours I was part of one of the most vivid conversations of my life.

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This was the report for just one division of 20,000 men at a time when there were still more than 300,000 American soldiers in Vietnam—just a small piece of the action. In 1970, hundreds of Americans were being killed every week. Ten of them died on this day in this division. Michael Mayberry, David Geiser, James Conway, Richard Forte, Gary Sanceverino, Larry Loncon, Blaine Smiley, Michael Brown, Robert Williams, Harold Grisson.

On Vietnam

In the last few months of my tour in Vietnam, I was asked to take responsibility for drafting the letters of condolence that went from company commanders in the First Cavalry Division to the next of kin of soldiers in their units who were killed in combat. I wasn’t one of those commanders, but I could write a little and I guess that’s why I got this assignment. I wrote the letters; the company commanders just signed them. Over the next few months, working mostly at night when it was quiet, I drafted scores of those letters to the parents and wives of dead soldiers.

I’m holding here a copy of the division casualty report for one day. I found it in my files not long ago and it is for April 27th, 1970. I saved it because that was my 25th birthday, and it is for April 27th, 1970. I saved it because that was my 25th birthday, and I wanted to remind myself never to take for granted the precious gift of being alive.

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On Lifelong Learning

One of the rarely spoken pleasures of the academic life is the constant opportunity for new learning. Every professor experiences those pleasures, but it’s a little different for political scientists. In our field, the foundations of knowledge are always quaking, the targets of our analysis are always moving. Just when we think we understand something and can explain it to our students, it changes. So a lot of the learning we have to do first requires a good deal of unlearning. We have to constantly resist the confines of the conventional wisdom and never stop interrogating what we are told is the truth.

On His Colby Career

To have lived my life as a teacher has been a blessing beyond words. I have loved coming to work every morning. I have loved the hours in the classroom, I have loved the conversations after class and in my office and on the sidewalks of this campus. To me, this has always been noble work. And so much fun.

A complete transcript of Mackenzie’s talk can be found at colby.edu/goldfarb.

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The G.C. Heads to D.C.

In the wake of a historic Super Tuesday, the Goldfarb Center, together with the Career Center and Division of College and Student Advancement, flew students to Washington, D.C., in March to explore career opportunities, network with alumni, and engage with experts on issues related to the 2016 election.

Components of the three-day trip included one-on-one job shadows and site visits with alumni and parents at various organizations and government agencies, a cocktail mixer with the Colby Club of Washington, D.C., dinner and dialogue with alumni, and a tour of the Capitol building followed by an alumni and student networking brunch. Learn more on page 14.

Confronting Women’s Workplace Issues Expands

What started as a mealtime seminar on women’s workplace issues has grown to offer more than 50 students and dozens of others in the Colby community opportunities to gain new leadership skills.

In spring 2014 Assistant Director of Career Services Sarah Whitfield ’09 recognized a need to provide awareness and training around complex issues facing women in the workplace. The Goldfarb Center awarded Whitfield a mealtime seminar grant, and 26 students went through a semester-long series of events facilitated by women in leadership roles on campus. The series was so popular that the Goldfarb Center and Career Center decided to team up to establish it as an ongoing program.

“I’ve gleaned a lot of really useful information through the program—from interview skills to dressing professionally—that I’ve put to use right away,” said Zoe Kaplan ’18.

The seminar seized an opportunity to partner with the Office of the President and Student Government Association in April to offer a panel discussion with women members of Colby’s Board of Trustees. Jane Powers ’86, Joerose Thanikan ’08, and Anne Clarke Wolff ’87 led a powerful discussion moderated by Bonnie Maldonado ’16 and Kat Restrepo ’18, sharing personal accounts of their paths to become leaders and how their Colby experience influenced their leadership style.

The Women’s Leadership Seminar is growing even further in 2016-17. With the theme “Finding Your Voice,” the program will offer field trips and new kinds of networking opportunities.

For more information about the Women’s Leadership Seminar, please visit colby.edu/goldfarb/womensleadershipseminar.