Senator Susan Collins Makes a Pitch for Moderation

Important, Innovative, and Interdisciplinary Programming
The Conservation Conversation

Community, Culture, and Conservation Conference Explores the Nature of Maine Policy

Students navigate the West Branch of the Penobscot in Oct. 2014. An interdisciplinary national conference this year—cosponsored by the Goldfarb Center and titled Community, Culture, and Conservation—will explore Maine as a model for economic development with a focus on the north Maine woods. (Photo by Director of Outdoor Programs Ryan Linehan)
Engaged Scholarship

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.

James Risen Urges Skepticism

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.
The Limits of Service Politics

Several years ago, I attended a conference in Wisconsin on youth political engagement, with the goal of better understanding why young Americans were turning away from politics at precisely the time when so many big issues confront their generation.

It was there that I first heard the term “service politics.” One team of presenters had conducted focus groups with young citizens, revealing that many in their generation wanted to make a difference, but they were turned off by the ugliness and slow pace of politics. Instead of engaging in traditional politics, they would volunteer in their community. Their work was important, the young men and women reasoned, and of course the impact was immediate. Truckloads of data seemed to buttress the argument that the trend in community engagement ran counter to the trends in political participation. They also suggested their findings should calm anxieties about a disengaged, apathetic generation. Not to worry, the kids are engaged, just not in politics.

I didn’t buy it.

Community service and volunteer work are critically important—surely fundamental in our system. But a generation turned off from politics is something to fret about. Politics is tough, even ugly, but it is how change happens. Volunteer work can be the medicine, but politics can find the cure.

Might there be a way to harness the genuine desire of young people, perhaps our students, to make a difference in their community with a deeper understanding of politics? At Colby could we also link the development of real-world analytical skills to this scheme?

Our feature story in this year’s magazine charts an innovative, maybe even path-breaking approach to service and study. We call it our Engaged Scholarship Initiative. In brief, the idea is to define a set of issue anchors—clearly defined problems—and recruit teams of students, faculty, community partners, and alumni to study the issues and produce high-quality, tangible findings. That is, they would conduct good research and find real solutions. We have high hopes for this program and the remarkable opportunities it creates for students. And, as you will read, we have taken steps to jump-start the process.

This magazine reviews some of our events from last year and charts a few projects for the coming year. For instance, if you haven’t noticed—that is, if you live on a desert island—the 2016 presidential election is underway. Colby, through faculty and alumni, boasts an incredible set of election experts. We’re planning to showcase their talents and create a broad array of election-related events.

We continue working hard to create important and innovative programs and to link our efforts to a wider and wider audience. Many of you have helped in our journey, and we are grateful. Let’s continue to chart that new course and in the process create the nation’s premier liberal arts public affairs center.

Best regards,

Daniel M. Shea, Director
Goldfarb Center for Public Affairs and Civic Engagement
The Goldfarb Center for Public Affairs and Civic Engagement brings Colby students and faculty together to make connections between work in the classroom and contemporary political, economic, social, and environmental issues. Founded in 2003 with a generous gift from Colby Trustee William Goldfarb ’68, P’00, the center links the Colby community with local, state, national, and international leaders to explore creative, interdisciplinary approaches to complex challenges.

The Goldfarb Center strives to make a vital difference in the lives and educational experience of Colby students. Through hundreds of events featuring world leaders, innovative thinkers, influential politicians, and cutting-edge academics, the center sets the standard for public affairs programming at a liberal arts institution. The establishment of significant programs for children and adults in central Maine demonstrates the center’s commitment to meaningful community engagement, while at the same time offering students ways to harness their own passion for involvement. Through research grants, internship opportunities, and course development stipends, the center contributes to the intellectual life of the College in varied, substantive ways.

**GOLDFARB CENTER: 2014-15 by the Numbers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>$200,000</th>
<th>Funding allocated to support a growing array of student and faculty research and scholarship projects since 2010. Learn more on page 18.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&gt;4,000</td>
<td>Number attending Goldfarb Center public affairs programs during 2014-15.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63</td>
<td>Faculty and staff members from across disciplines who worked with the Goldfarb Center to implement new programs, cosponsor events, serve on advisory committees, and more.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>491</td>
<td>Students enrolled in 28 civic engagement courses led by 15 faculty.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>320</td>
<td>People who attended the center’s lecture with ABC’s Dan Harris ’93 April 1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19,680</td>
<td>Hours of mentoring conducted by nearly 500 Colby Cares About Kids mentors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Number of students who worked in teams to develop comprehensive proposals to deal with invasive green crabs in Maine as part of the Goldfarb Center’s Green Crab Mitigation Competition April 3.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>466</td>
<td>Colby students who volunteered in the community through the Colby Volunteer Center—five percent more than last year.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Welcome, President David A. Greene**

President David A. Greene participated in many Goldfarb Center events in his first year. Here he’s shown at the 2015 George J. Mitchell Distinguished International Lecture April 9 with Senator Susan Collins and Senator Mitchell.
Public Affairs Programming: Important, Innovative, Interdisciplinary

The Goldfarb Center focuses on offering programs that incorporate what we call the Three I’s: confronting important topics through an interdisciplinary lens in innovative ways. From finding a mitigation strategy for invasive green crabs in Maine to unraveling the stigma surrounding meditation, this year’s programming involved perhaps its most well-attended and diverse set of programs yet.

ABC’s Dan Harris ’93 Talks Meditation

An on-air panic attack launched ABC News anchor Dan Harris ’93 on a journey to discover a means to manage the pressure of his fast-paced career without losing his drive. Much to his surprise, he found meditation allowed him to quiet his mind and discover greater happiness. Harris provided a candid talk about his experiences to more than 300 members of the greater Colby community April 1. His journey is chronicled in his New York Times best-selling book, 10% Happier: How I Tamed the Voice in My Head, Reduced Stress Without Losing My Edge, and Found Self-Help That Actually Works—A True Story.

Mitigating Green Crabs

Green crabs are an invasive species wreaking havoc on native species along the Maine coastline. In an effort to find a solution, the Goldfarb Center hosted a mitigation competition April 3 in which 28 students worked in teams to present proposals to a panel of judges. Connor O’Neil ’15, a native of coastal Freeport, Maine, and experienced clam digger, was awarded the $1,000 prize for his multifaceted approach to tackling the problem. As part of the conference, more than 50 students from area middle schools presented posters and participated in activities about invasive species in Maine.
Nigeria’s Economy
As the first female finance minister of Nigeria, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, LL.D. ’07, is lauded for ridding the country of $30 billion of external debt and growing the GDP despite a slow global recovery. She has championed reform in the Nigerian government’s dependency on oil, the country’s main export. Okonjo-Iweala delivered a lecture April 20 titled “Nigeria Economic Prospects: Moving Forward in a Weak Oil World,” discussing some of the country’s newest challenges in managing its economy in the wake of a downturn in oil prices. The Goldfarb Center cosponsored this event with the Global Studies Program.

Sustainable Foods
Did someone say burritos?! On April 28 the Goldfarb Center hosted a lunchtime talk with Polly and Rob MacMichael, co-owners of the Kingfield, Maine-based food truck Rolling Fatties. They discussed why they make sourcing local ingredients a priority, and afterward students got to sample some of their delicious creations.

laughs with jimmy tingle
Jimmy Tingle, one of America’s top social and political humorists, performed Feb. 27, when the Goldfarb Center partnered with the Colby Alumni Council for a night of comedy. Offered as part Colby’s Giving Day, the anniversary of the College’s charter signing, the comedy act attracted 200 students and alumni who came together to network and share in the fun. Tingle brought light and humor to some of today’s most pressing public affairs issues, from money in politics to the war on terror.

Student Journeys
A program that empowered local fifth graders to explore their worlds through photography developed as a collaboration of the Goldfarb Center, the Center for the Arts and Humanities, and the Alfond Youth Center. Inspired by Colby’s 2015 humanities theme, Migrations, the schoolchildren produced photographs over two months that addressed how they imagine the idea of “journeys” through movement, foreignness, travel, and transportation. Their work was celebrated April 24 with an exhibit opening and artists’ reception where the students shared their work with members of the greater community.
James Risen, an investigative reporter for the New York Times who said he’d sooner go to jail than divulge confidential sources, praised abolitionist and newspaper editor Elijah Parish Lovejoy, Class of 1826, as a “disruptive force,” and he criticized the Obama administration for its crackdown on journalists and whistleblowers as he received Colby’s Lovejoy Award for courageous journalism Oct. 5, 2014.

The Lovejoy Convocation followed the Goldfarb Center’s daylong conference for more than 50 college and university journalists from 12 institutions. Focusing on issues related to responsible journalism on college campuses, the second annual conference offered workshops, lectures, and roundtable discussions tackling topics including legal issues and implications, the use and abuse of sources, documentation, and more.

“The conference served as a gathering point for college journalists across New England and gave us a platform to discuss common challenges and develop strategies for engaging our respective campuses,” said Emma Brown ’16, a staff writer for the Colby Echo who was awarded a Sandy Maisel Internship grant in 2014 to intern at the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. She also helped organize this year’s conference.

“I think that kind of cohesion is essential, especially as journalism enters an increasingly digitalized age.”

In his speech Risen reviewed Lovejoy’s career and martyrdom, praising him for rejecting deeply ingrained conventional wisdom to criticize slavery three decades before the Civil War—at a time when abolitionism was at the fringe of American discourse.

“The conventional wisdom of our day is the belief that we have had to change the nature of our society to accommodate the global war on terror,” Risen said. Americans have accepted secret targeted killings of other Americans, the use of torture, the creation of secret offshore prisons, mass surveillance of personal
communications, and the longest continuous period of war in American history, he said.

“Meanwhile, the government has eagerly prosecuted whistleblowers who try to bring any of the government’s actions to light,” Risen said. “The crackdown on leaks by first the Bush administration and more aggressively by the Obama administration, targeting both whistleblowers and journalists, has been designed to suppress the truth about the war on terror.”

In a Q&A following his address, Risen defended leaks and journalists’ use of confidential sources: “Since 9/11, virtually everything that you now know about the war on terror was originally classified. This is the first war we’ve ever fought that was classified.” He credited journalists and whistleblowers who revealed the use of Predator drones, secret prisons, and abuse at Abu Graib.

“There’s virtually nothing in the whole history of the last thirteen years that came out of an official government press release,” he said. “It all came out through the press and through whistleblowers. If you go back and if you took away all of the things that the press revealed to begin with in the war on terror, you would know virtually nothing about the last thirteen years. If you would rather live in a society in which you don’t know anything, then that’s the alternative.”

A panel discussion in the afternoon discussed how the absence of a federal shield law protecting journalists, coupled with escalating prosecutions, has placed enormous pressures on reporters and news outlets. Panelists included Siobhan Gorman, national security reporter for the Wall Street Journal; Thomas Drake, a whistleblower fired from the NSA; and Fritz Byers, a lawyer who advises newspapers and is a lecturer at the University of Toledo.

Elijah Parish Lovejoy was born Nov. 9, 1802, in Albion, Maine, and graduated from Waterville College (now Colby) as valedictorian in 1826. On Nov. 7, 1837, in Alton, Ill., Lovejoy, a newspaper editor, became America’s first martyr to the freedom of the press when a pro-slavery mob set fire to the building that housed his press. Killed as he attempted to extinguish the blaze, he was buried on Nov. 9, his 35th birthday. John Quincy Adams called him the “first American martyr to the freedom of the press and the freedom of the slave.”
Senator Susan Collins Calls for Bipartisanship

U.S. Senator Susan Collins stated a case for moderation and bipartisanship to further progress in national government to a standing-room-only crowd for the 2015 George J. Mitchell Distinguished International Lecture April 9.

“The flip side of that premise, of course, is how the hyper-partisanship and incivility in Washington and throughout our nation elevate extremism and prevent progress,” Collins said.

Collins cited several major issues she believes are hindering Congress’s ability to work together: the gerrymandering of congressional districts across the United States, the use of the Internet to easily and anonymously voice partisan rhetoric, an increase in the number of inflammatory debates on television and radio shows, and the pressure for politicians to campaign seemingly nonstop.

“When you combine these four factors, it gets harder and harder to convince people to work together,” she said.

Collins referred to the filibuster-proof repeal of the 1993 Don’t Ask Don’t Tell Law and the end of the 2013 government shutdown as testaments to the power of bipartisanship and compromise.

“The vast majority of policy decisions—whether on tax policy, spending priorities, environmental decisions, or a host of other subjects—require a careful and informed balancing of different points of view,” she stated. “In short, they require compromise.”

The George J. Mitchell Distinguished International Lecture Series brings a prominent world leader to campus each fall for a lecture and dinner designed to foster interaction with students, faculty, and members of the greater Waterville community while honoring statesman, international negotiator, Waterville native, and former U.S. Senator George Mitchell. Visit the Goldfarb Center’s website to watch video or listen to a podcast of the lecture.

Creating Connections

Cosponsoring events with departments and campus organizations provides the Goldfarb Center with opportunities to form new partnerships and engage a broader audience. This year the center deepened its commitment to forming these important connections across campus.

Viewpoints on the War in Ukraine: A Panel of Students from Estonia, Lithuania, Ukraine, and Russia
German and Russian Department
A Wolf Called Romeo: Workshop and Lecture with Author Nick Jans ’77
Center for the Arts and Humanities and Colby Writing Program

Can Health-Care Quality Measures Avoid Rewarding Unethical Behavior?
Frank Chessa, director of clinical ethics, Maine Medical Center
Religious Studies Department
TEDxColbyCollege
Local speakers presenting talks on ideas that matter
Office of the President and Dean of Students Office

S.H.O.U.T! Keynote Speaker: George Takei
Cultural Events Committee (CEC), Center for the Arts and Humanities, Education Program, American Studies Program, East Asian Studies Department, Cinema Studies Program, Anthropology Department, Student Programming Board (SPB), Theater and Dance Department, History Department, Student Government Association (SGA), and the Dean of Faculty and Provost’s Office
Goldfarb Center Supports Airing of Acclaimed Ken Burns Documentary

“Getting credit for sponsoring a documentary of this caliber allows us to build new partnerships and spread the word about the exciting work we do at the center.”

— Daniel Shea

The Goldfarb Center teamed up with Bill Goldfarb ’68, P’00, Doris Kearns Goodwin ’64, and Colby Provost and Dean of Faculty Lori Kletzer to support the airing of Ken Burns’s critically acclaimed documentary The Roosevelts: An Intimate History on the Maine Public Broadcasting Network in September 2014. The series chronicles the lives of Theodore, Franklin, and Eleanor Roosevelt, three members of one of the most prominent and influential families in American politics. In 14 hours of programming, Burns follows the Roosevelts for more than a century, from Theodore’s birth in 1858 to Eleanor’s death in 1962. Goodwin appears throughout the series.

Getting credit for sponsoring a documentary of this caliber, said Goldfarb Center Director Dan Shea, “allows us to build new partnerships and spread the word about the exciting work we do at the center.”
Engaged Scholarship

by David McKay Wilson ‘76

Herbert E. Wadsworth Professor of Economics Michael Donihue ’79 reviews an informational poster by Gary Koplik ’16 on their efforts to create an index of economic well-being, which earned Koplik first place at the 2015 Colby Undergraduate Summer Research Retreat.
New Goldfarb Program Focuses Research on Policy Needs

Needs in the greater Waterville region loom large—downtown redevelopment, social-service delivery to the poor, instructional improvement in local public schools, for example. Now a new “engaged scholarship” initiative of the Goldfarb Center will send faculty and students into the community to provide research and analysis that can spark change and address such challenges. Goldfarb research teams will explore these complex issues and help find answers to these and other pressing community priorities.

“We want to promote scholarly research that can make a tangible difference in the community,” said Goldfarb Center Director Daniel Shea. “And it’s a way for students to help develop practical solutions and learn real-world skills.”

Launched this summer, the new model for engaged scholarship builds on the center’s history of support for student community service and faculty research since its founding in 2003. “It’s a merger of scholarship and service,” Shea said.

Current research projects, which will run through the 2015-16 school year, address such issues as the state’s economic health, water quality and remediation in the Belgrade Lakes region, a proposed national park for the northern Maine woods, Somali immigration in central Maine, and public education in greater Waterville area schools.

Recognizing the interdisciplinary nature of public affairs, the Goldfarb engaged scholarship program will tackle these problems and will connect researchers with community stakeholders, industry experts, students, and alumni. Shea hopes these teams may also collaborate with those at other colleges and universities to create networks of experts and research teams.

The initiative will publish timely, relevant information and create a data archive to make the studies available to policymakers in central Maine and beyond.

Chad Higgins ’97, an attorney who lives in Yarmouth and serves on the board of the Maine Children’s Alliance, is working with Shea to develop a research collaboration with Colby faculty that addresses the nonprofit advocacy group’s mission of promoting early childhood education and food security. Gathering and analyzing data on these issues could provide important insights for an agency that serves the state’s at-risk children.

“Waterville is ripe for this approach,” said Higgins, an attorney at the Boston-based law firm Goodwin Proctor LLP and a Jan Plan instructor who teaches a course on legal writing. “I like that Colby is looking to take the academic talents of faculty and students to attack these community-based problems.”

Statistical Abstract of Local Economies

An engaged scholarship initiative led by Michael Donihue ’79, Herbert E. Wadsworth Professor of Economics, will build on research of his that he started in the late 1990s, when he developed a statistical abstract for the greater Waterville area.

His current project will use new software to refine that data set into a format that can be easily updated each year. It will provide a resource for healthcare agencies and community resource providers who need such data to show where needs exist as they seek grants on the state and federal level. A consistent set of economic indicators could also be useful to real estate developers such as Paul Boghossian ’76, who continues to redevelop and market the Lockwood Mills complex in downtown Waterville including the former Hathaway shirt factory.

Michele Prince, chief operating officer of the Kennebec Valley Community Action Program, said the data could be useful in helping the agency target aid to pockets of poverty in the region. Including data about rental housing and homeownership would also be useful. “Good data can really help,” Prince said.
Maine is almost like two states—the southern part of the state is doing really well and flying high on all the indicators, while the north is struggling.”

— Michael Donihue '79

Working on the project over seven weeks this summer was Gary Koplik '16, of Bonita Springs, Fla., a Presidential Scholar majoring in economics-mathematics and mathematical sciences.

Koplik used ArcGIS software to map data in the 12-municipality Waterville region, using U.S. Census block groups that had about 500 residents each. The data was revealing: in two of the block groups the median income was less than $12,000.

“The beauty of the project is seeing how all the issues interact with each other,” said Koplik. “We’re creating a data-rich public resource. It’s a nice reminder that the research skills I’ve learned in class can be applied to a project that could improve people’s lives.”

A second Donihue project aims to create an index of economic well-being that assesses the quality of life of Americans based on county-level U.S. Census information. Koplik and Donihue created a pilot study this summer that analyzed and mapped four variables: the percentage of the adult population that had yet to attain a high school diploma as well as rates of unemployment, poverty, and obesity.

Koplik’s informational poster won first place at the Colby Undergraduate Summer Research Retreat.

Donihue says the index goes beyond traditional indices such as median household income to show how counties stack up within a region and across the nation. It revealed significant differences across the state of Maine, with a depressed economy in the north and a vibrant economy to the south. “Maine is almost like two states—the southern part of the state is doing really well and flying high on all the indicators, while the north is struggling,” Donihue said. “Kennebec County has its challenges, and Waterville marks a transition area.”

Education Data Analysis

When she served on the School Administrative District 49 Board of Education in Fairfield and in the Maine State Legislature, Karen Kusiak ’75, assistant professor of education, learned about the importance of data analysis in education policy. The federal No Child Left Behind law has provided mounds of information, but policymakers, she says, are hungry for studies that crunch the numbers and provide meaning.

Kusiak says she’ll tap Colby students involved in education issues—those volunteering in the Colby Cares About Kids program and those majoring or minoring in education or involved in the campus club Students for Education Reform. Assisting her this fall will be Emily Sapoch '16, an educational studies: human development and Latin America studies double major.

Assistant Professor of Education Karen Kusiak (right) discusses her education policy research with education certification minor Elisabeth Chee '16 and research collaborators Celia Emmelhainz, social sciences data librarian and Marilyn R. Pukkila, library liaison to the Education Department.
Kusiak is also collaborating with Celia Emmelhainz, social sciences data librarian, to find sources of data relevant to the greater Waterville education world, such as the education level of local residents, teacher experience, and comparative teacher compensation information, within Maine and throughout New England.

It could include student achievement data, child welfare statistics about poverty in the region, or scores on the National Assessment of Educational Progress, the national assessment of what students know in a variety of subjects.

“We want to bring together data that’s related, then provide text to explain why it’s important,” said Kusiak. “We’ll make it accessible for legislators and other policymakers to help inform their decisions. That includes finding different ways to visualize the data.”

This summer she put together a steering committee of students, community representatives, and state education experts. They will discuss which national or state education experts to invite to campus to talk about the latest in educational policy, and they’ll also come up with ideas for analysis that could help inform policymakers—and create change.

“There’s lots of information available on the Web, but it’s not always in the hands of policymakers who make the decision on education,” Kusiak said. “There’s a ton of data, but not enough analysis.”

Forging Connections between Research and Public Policy

Do Mainers really want a north woods national park? What is it like for African immigrants in Maine? How much do lakeside landowners understand about phosphorus? As part of its new engaged scholarship program, the Goldfarb Center is supplementing ongoing research projects to help uncover, illuminate, and impact important public policies.

- Assistant Professor of Economics Sahan Dissanayake, an environmental economist, surveyed out-of-state visitors about a proposed 75,000-acre national park and adjacent 75,000-acre recreation area in northern Maine. It’s an issue that divides those who favor protecting the land for conservation and recreation from those who fear a park would bring too many land-use restrictions. To bring in local perspectives, Dissanayake used Goldfarb Center support to mobilize a student research team to survey Maine residents.

- Eight Colby students working under D. Whitney King, the Dr. Frank and Theodora Miselis Professor of Chemistry, conducted research to measure phosphorous cycling in seven central Maine lakes. With additional support from the Goldfarb Center, the team will expand its work with community stakeholders to assess residents’ understanding of water quality in order to develop strategies to keep the community informed about how to reverse the ominous trends uncovered by their research.

- Recent influxes of refugees from Somalia to the Lewiston area have stirred debate over Maine’s immigration policies. To educate the public on this issue, two professors—Catherine Besteman, the Francis F. Bartlett and Ruth K. Bartlett Professor of Anthropology, and Maple Razsa, associate professor of global studies—will produce documentary videos to put a human face on the struggles of these new Maine residents. The Goldfarb Center provided funds to help launch a portion of the project.

By taking real-world research by Colby students into the realm of public debate and deliberations, students contribute to better-informed public policy while they learn more and learn better. That’s engaged scholarship. That’s impact.
Nine Colby Cares About Kids mentors in the senior class were awarded the Presidential Volunteer Service Award, a national honor given to citizens who display a high level of commitment through service hours spent in their community. The students received certificates, medallions, and congratulatory letters from the president of the United States.

“It is an incredible honor to receive this level of recognition,” said Grace DeNoon ’15. “Honors like this award serve to shine a light on vitally important programs like CCAK and help to get mentors the support we need.”

DeNoon was also awarded the Maine Campus Compact PILLAR Award, given annually to one student from each Maine college campus who supports the civic efforts of others and takes leadership roles in addressing and finding solutions to problems that face her community.

Alexa Williams ’15 and Emily Paulison ’15 were awarded Goldfarb Student Service Awards for their outstanding leadership and service to CCAK at the College’s Student Awards Ceremony May 5.
What’s Ahead: Two Initiatives for the Coming Year

This year the Goldfarb Center will launch two exciting new initiatives with the potential to have lasting impacts in Colby’s local community and the nation.

Community, Culture, and Conservation: Innovation in Maine as a Model for Economic Development

Natural beauty, strong communities, and an impressive history of inspiring artists, writers, and lawmakers have made Maine the nation’s laboratory for innovation in conservation. Nevertheless, many of Maine’s rural communities are now grappling with economic hardship and uncertainty.

The Goldfarb Center, Center for the Arts and Humanities, Colby Museum of Art, and Environmental Studies Program have partnered with numerous stakeholders to offer a year of events that will culminate in a national conference to address the question: Can Maine balance exploitation of its natural resources with conservation of its natural wonders and promotion of its unique culture to drive economic development?

“By including diverse perspectives, fostering innovative thinking, and embracing hard truths, we will offer Maine as a model for the nation, as numerous other states confront similar challenges,” said Kerill O’Neill, director of the Center for the Arts and Humanities.

For more information including an expanding list of programs and events, visit web.colby.edu/communitycultureconservation.

Colby Election Initiative

Even with the flaws and shortcomings in the current system, elections in America are critically important events that shape public policy and the character of our nation. The Goldfarb Center has launched a slate of diverse curricular, cocurricular, and scholarly initiatives to explore the past, present, and future of elections in the United States. Working in the state that a recent report from the Center for American Progress Action Fund calls the nation’s healthiest democracy, students will have hands-on opportunities to better understand the strengths and limitations of elections. One result: residents of Maine and citizens of the nation will have access to new information and thoughtful commentary on the 2016 presidential election.

“Colby boasts some of the most prominent and well-respected faculty and alumni in the electoral arena, so it makes sense that we would roll up our sleeves and get into the 2016 contest. It is an exciting opportunity,” said Goldfarb Center Director Dan Shea.

Specific components of the initiative include courses on the implications and nuances of the election as it unfolds, a lecture series and other public programs, off-campus alumni events, survey research, and an interactive website.
Goldfarb Grants: A History of Promoting Student and Faculty Scholarship

by Sahan T. M. Dissanayake
Goldfarb Center
Associate Director (2014-15)

From climate change mitigation work in Denmark to income inequality in China, political graffiti in Colombia to concussions in Maine, issues that are important locally and around the globe are tackled by Colby students and faculty members through research grants, internship funds, fellowships, and other opportunities provided by the Goldfarb Center for Public Affairs and Civic Engagement.

Colby distinguishes itself with the extraordinary opportunities that undergraduates have, both within classrooms and beyond, to connect learning, research, and engagement with practitioners and policymakers. The Goldfarb Center’s robust grant program has evolved to provide such opportunities, supporting and encouraging faculty and students to confront significant issues relating to public affairs and civic engagement.

The program began in 2004 with Faculty Collaborative Research Grants, which encourage faculty from different disciplines to study public policy issues together. Student Research Grants and Faculty-Student Collaborative Research Grants were added over the next two years to provide opportunities for students to work as collaborators with faculty and to further their own research.

Among students who report that Goldfarb-supported internship and research experiences have been transformational is Kayla Turner ’15. As a sociology major who graduated with honors, she said, “I have spent the last three years learning about how people act and why and patterns surrounding social interaction and society. It has been fascinating and challenging.” But a Goldfarb-sponsored internship at a legal assistance firm in Portland, Maine, allowed her to see, “first-hand for the past ten weeks what the pattern of poverty looks like. What it talks like. How it feels. During my internship social problems came to life.”

When initial funding from the Mellon Foundation was slated to end in 2010, a group of alumni, many of whom had experienced the power of Goldfarb grants and internships, contributed to an endowed fund named in honor of Sandy Maisel, Kenan Professor of Government and the Goldfarb Center’s founding director. The endowment supports opportunities that “directly benefit Colby students who wish to explore issues related to public affairs or civic engagement,” and gifts have

This research trip [to England] revitalized my interest in Gertrude Bell, who I think is one of the most interesting and important figures in the formation of the modern Middle East, inspiring me to work towards getting a portion of it published after I graduate in the spring. My research trip allowed me to see my topic, not just in the context of Colby College, but in the broader context of creating a cohesive picture of the foundation of one of the most volatile regions of the world as part of a greater historical dialogue.”

— Alice Gauvin ’15
“I met so many amazing individuals through this program [Saha Global in Ghana] who are studying everything from public health and international development to business. This experience has broadened my view of how I can get involved in international aid work, and I think it has made me more excited and thankful to be in a liberal arts environment where I have the opportunity to take a public health class and Spanish classes while I also complete a chemistry major.”

— Kiana Kawamura ’17

had impact: 120 grants totaling over $200,000 have supported student and faculty work in the United States, Russia, China, Nepal, Zimbabwe, Syria, Cuba, Guatemala, and other countries.

The center is again expanding its grants program through the new Engaged Scholarship Initiative (see page 12). Grants are largely supported by contributions from alumni and friends of Colby and the Goldfarb Center, and as the program expands, so does the need for support. To learn more about how to contribute to these efforts, please contact Interim Director of Donor Engagement and Stewardship Chris Bicknell Marden at cbmarden@colby.edu or 207-859-4388.

For more information about the Goldfarb Center’s grant program, please visit colby.edu/goldfarb/research.

Common Cause: Colby Cares Day Connects Students and Alumni

On Saturday, April 25, nearly 300 students volunteered for 28 local organizations as part of the 19th annual Colby Cares Day. And on Saturday, May 2, about 80 alumni in Boston and Washington, D.C., pitched in to help their communities in the second annual alumni component of the event.

The Colby Volunteer Center (CVC) coordinated Colby Cares Day in Waterville and connected with alumni to implement off-campus projects. “We were very excited to organize the events together and increase the Colby student-alumni connection,” said CVC Codirector Meghan Harwood ’15.

Likewise, alumni have the chance to connect with their local community and with the Mayflower Hill community by partnering with the CVC—a collaboration that enriches the experience for all, according to Madison “Madi” Louis ’13, one of the organizers and former CVC director. “For students, it allows them to see that Colby’s value on community service continues even after they leave Mayflower Hill, and for alumni, it reunites them with the Colby community,” she said.

Learn more about the CVC at colby.edu/cvc.
Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies Gail Carlson will serve as associate director of the Goldfarb Center for the 2015-16 academic year, overseeing major initiatives including the grant program and Cotter Debate Series.

Carlson's background is in biochemistry, and her courses focus on environmental public health and activism. She regularly incorporates civic engagement into courses focused on environmental policymaking in Maine. Since joining the faculty 10 years ago, she organized two Goldfarb-sponsored conferences, “Celebrating Rachel Carson and the Natural World” in 2007 and “Chemicals, Obesity and Diabetes: How Science Leads Us to Action” in 2011. She also teaches a course along with Colby’s Oak Human Rights Fellow each year. Carlson is chair of the Science Advisory Council and a former executive board member of the Portland-based nonprofit Environmental Health Strategy Center.

Carlson steps in as associate director as Assistant Professor of Economics Sahan Dissanayake, who served in that capacity in 2014-15, goes on sabbatical.

“Gail brings a wealth of experience in issues relating to health and the environment,” said Goldfarb Center Director Dan Shea. “This will be especially important as we focus on GMO’s for this year’s Cotter Debate and launch a collaborative initiative relating to the management of the nation’s natural resources.”

On the other end of the exchange, Christina Loginova and Olga Shmelyova, journalism majors at MSU, arrived at Colby in October and spoke to classes across a range of disciplines, shadowed and networked with Echo staff, attended the Goldfarb Center’s conference for student journalists, and participated in a student-led panel discussion on the war in Ukraine. They also traveled to Washington, D.C., where they visited media outlets as well as museums and landmarks.

Learn more about the program at colby.edu/goldfarb.

Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies and Goldfarb Center Associate Director Gail Carlson
Cuzzi shared his experiences as a political, communications, and advance veteran of presidential and congressional campaigns and talked about his current work with clients in the energy, sustainability, natural resources, and economic development sectors.

It wasn’t a lecture so much as a conversation. Students asked questions about the obstacles he had confronted and about aspects of his Colby education that most enhanced his skill set. And they got to pick his brain for advice as they planned to embark on their own careers.

Welcome to one of the Goldfarb Center’s most popular programs: True Life After Colby. Each semester an alumnus or alumna returns to campus to have lunch with a small group of students interested in their career field and to discuss opportunities and challenges they faced as they made their path through the “real world.”

Maddie Neider ’17 found Cuzzi honest and informative. “I learned there is no ‘correct’ career path for a person interested in public relations and governmental affairs,” she said. “Many times it is a series of steps that lead to your ultimate destination.”

Other recent True Life After Colby speakers included Mitchell Bartkiewicz ’07, an assistant principal and science teacher at KIPP Memphis University Middle School, and Gillian Morejon Gutierrez ’00, a program analyst for the U.S. Department of Labor’s Women’s Bureau.

Interacting with alumni gives students opportunities for networking, chances to explore internship and employment opportunities, and insights on what life might be like after their time on Mayflower Hill. Alumni benefit, too, reconnecting with their alma mater and giving back in a way that is personal and meaningful.

Learn more about the True Life After Colby program at colby.edu/goldfarb/truelife.
COTTER DEBATE SERIES

Offers Opportunities for New Research, Perspectives

Beginning this year a new grant program, part of the Cotter Debate Series, will provide resources for students and faculty to delve deeper into important, controversial issues. The Goldfarb Center has designated upwards of $10,000 in funding for students and faculty to conduct research projects that explore the intricacies of and opposing views on an issue of their choice.

The research grants will extend the Cotter Debates program, which has for 16 years brought leading experts in a variety of fields to campus to debate contentious topics including LGBT rights, health-care reform, and foreign aid. The debate series was established in honor of Colby President Emeritus William R. Cotter and his wife, Linda Cotter.

“There is no shortage of complex, difficult issues that face our nation and the greater world,” said Assistant Professor of Economics Sahan Dissanayake, associate director of the Goldfarb Center. “We want to provide students and faculty with the means to explore issues they are passionate about with the goal of making important scholarly contributions that could have a lasting impact.”

The grants aren’t the only expansion of the program. The Goldfarb Center will begin holding Cotter Debates each year rather than every other year, and instead of two experts discussing a topic with opposing viewpoints, a panel of three or four experts will present different angles and perspectives.

The panel format was introduced Nov. 6 at the 2014 debate, “Hydraulic Fracking: Economic Boon or Natural Disaster?” which drew a large audience to Ostrove Auditorium. Tim Carr, the Marshall S. Miller Energy Professor at West Virginia University, focused on the benefits of hydraulic fracturing. Jessica Helm, leader of the Sierra Club’s Hydrofracking Grassroots Network Team, opposed fracking, focusing on adverse environmental impacts. Erin Mansur ’95, the Revers Professor of Business Administration at the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth, analyzed issues relating to the economics of fracturing.

“The Cotter Debate program provides the ideal format to explore large-scale, arguable problems with civil dialogue,” said Dissanayake. “Hosting it every year and including more perspectives will allow us to maximize the program’s effectiveness and engage a wider audience.”

The 2015 Cotter Debate will be held in November and will present various perspectives on genetically modified organisms, known as GMOs.

More information about the Cotter Debate Series can be found at colby.edu/goldfarb/cotter-debate-series.
New Internships

Five Colby students completed research internships at medical centers in New England thanks to new resources made available for the Maine Concussion Management Initiative’s (MCMI’s) Concussion Research Consortium. Funding from Bill ’72 and Joan Alfond and William Goldfarb ’68, P’00 allowed students to conduct summer research at Red Sox Foundation and Massachusetts General Hospital Home Base Program, MaineGeneral Medical Center, and Boston Children’s Hospital. This year MCMI and its research partners used their extensive data sets to publish five articles on topics that ranged from concussion history in student athletes diagnosed with ADHD to the relationship between neurobehavioral quality of life and concussions in Division III collision sports.
Not able to make it to campus for an upcoming event? Let the Goldfarb Center come to you! The center’s website offers a library of video and audio featuring some of our most recent events.

Log on today!

colby.edu/goldfarb