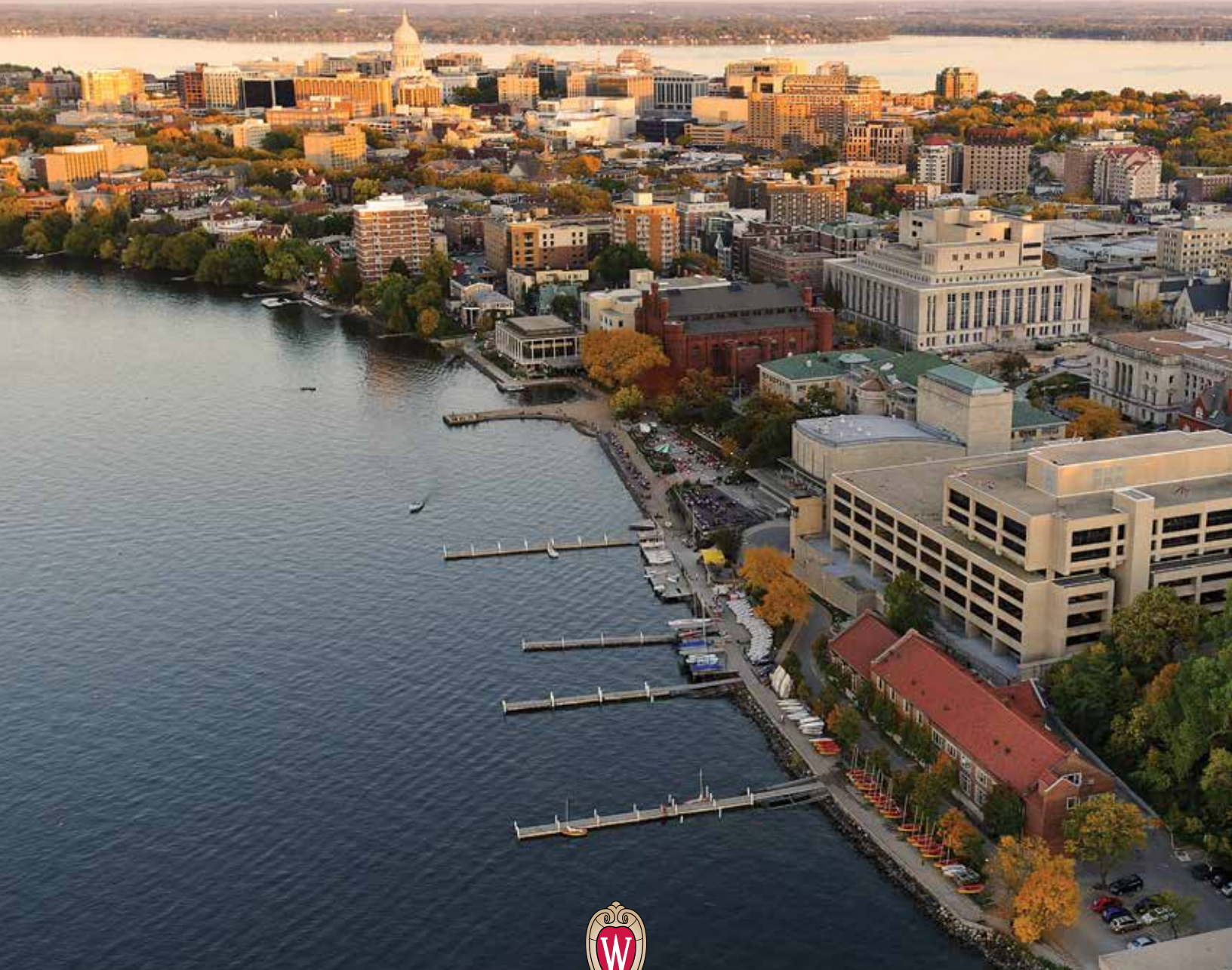


UW-Madison La Follette School of Public Affairs

2016-17 HIGHLIGHTS

Making a Difference through Teaching, Research, Service



Robert M. La Follette
School of Public Affairs
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Faculty

Don Moynihan

Director and Professor, Public Affairs

Hilary Shager

Associate Director

Rebecca M. Blank

UW-Madison Chancellor

Maria Cancian

Professor, Public Affairs and Social Work

Menzie Chinn

Professor, Public Affairs and Economics

J. Michael Collins

Associate Professor, Public Affairs and Human Ecology

Mark Copelovitch

Associate Professor, Public Affairs and Political Science

Jason Fletcher

Professor, Public Affairs and Sociology

Pamela Herd

Professor, Public Affairs and Sociology

Gregory Nemet

Associate Professor, Public Affairs and Environmental Studies

Rourke O'Brien

Assistant Professor, Public Affairs

Timothy Smeeding

Professor, Public Affairs and Economics

Emilia Tjernström

Assistant Professor, Public Affairs and Agricultural and Applied Economics

Geoffrey Wallace

Associate Professor, Public Affairs and Economics

Yang Wang

Assistant Professor, Public Affairs and Business

David Weimer

Professor, Public Affairs and Political Science

Barbara Wolfe

Professor, Public Affairs, Economics, and Population Health Sciences

Susan Webb Yackee

Professor, Public Affairs and Political Science; Director, La Follette School Board of Visitors

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



As I begin my second year as director of the La Follette School, I am more certain than ever about the importance of studying public affairs. The need for the marriage of analysis and the spirit of public service has never been greater.

Our students, faculty, alumni, and staff share a deep commitment to improving the design, implementation, and evaluation of public policy and the practice of governance worldwide. This document showcases their many achievements.

Local, state, and national governments in the United States and abroad face some of the steepest challenges in recent history. Complex issues such as poverty, environmental change, and democratic governance drive each and every person at the La Follette School to excel.

Our brilliant faculty receive some of the highest accolades for their research. Our hard-working students are among the best and the brightest. Our impressive alumni embrace the call to service.

All reflect a dedication to the Wisconsin Idea—the University of Wisconsin's deeply held belief that education should influence people's lives beyond the boundaries of the classroom.

On Wisconsin!

Don Moynihan,

Director and Professor

Staff

Lisa Hildebrand

Senior University Relations Specialist

Steven Kulig

Administrator, Career Services Coordinator

Andrew Lambert

Information Technology Specialist

Cindy Manthe

Financial Specialist

Marjorie Matthews

University Services Associate

Heidi Normandin

Senior Outreach Specialist

Mo O'Connor

Senior Student Services Coordinator

Bridget Carr Pirsch

Senior Outreach Specialist

David Wright-Racette

Student Services Associate

Board of Visitors

Curt S. Culver**Katherine Gehl****Michael W. Grebe****Michael Hamerlik****Carolyn Heinrich****Leslie Ann Howard****Senator Herb Kohl****Bob Lang****Sheldon B. Lubar****Katharine C. Lyall****Chuck Pruitt****Eric Schutt****Michael Youngman**

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

2ND

**BEST GRADUATE SCHOOL
FOR SOCIAL POLICY**

U.S. News & World Report

UW-MADISON RANKS

6TH

**FOR
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
SUBJECT AREA**

Center for World University Rankings

8TH

**BEST GRADUATE SCHOOL
FOR HEALTH POLICY
AND MANAGEMENT**

U.S. News & World Report

13TH

**AMONG 272
PUBLIC AFFAIRS/POLICY
GRADUATE PROGRAMS**

U.S. News & World Report



OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS, AN AVERAGE
OF **96% OF LA FOLLETTE SCHOOL GRADUATES**
HAVE FOUND EMPLOYMENT IN THEIR FIELD
WITHIN 6 MONTHS OF GRADUATION.

IN 2017, LA FOLLETTE SCHOOL FACULTY MEMBERS **RECEIVED AWARDS**
IN 4 OF UW-MADISON'S 5 MAJOR RESEARCH COMPETITIONS.



"It's unusual for a department to win one of these awards and a wonderful achievement to win four. Now, 11 of the La Follette School's 13 eligible faculty have won UW-Madison research awards."

— **Don Moynihan**
Director and Professor

COMPARED TO PEER INSTITUTIONS, **LA FOLLETTE
SCHOOL FACULTY RANK IN THE TOP 5 PERCENT**
FOR AWARDS, CITATIONS, AND GRANTS PER FACULTY.

Academic Analytics



"The relationships that the La Follette School has with other institutions on campus and across the state really stood out to me. Students here are able to learn from all of these diverse resources."

— **Ruanda McFerren**
Second-year student in double-degree program for
public affairs (MPA) and urban and regional planning (MS)



**220+ LA FOLLETTE SCHOOL
ALUMNI AND FRIENDS SHARED
THEIR TIME AND TALENTS
WITH STUDENTS AS MENTORS,
SPEAKERS, EMPLOYER-VISIT
HOSTS, AND MOCK
INTERVIEWERS.**



THROUGH COMMITTEE CONNECT,
**LA FOLLETTE SCHOOL STAFF
MEMBERS HAVE MATCHED 67
UW-MADISON FACULTY MEMBERS
WITH 50 STATE LEGISLATORS**
SEEKING TO LEARN MORE ABOUT
SPECIFIC POLICY AREAS.

TEACHING & LEARNING



The La Follette School pursues teaching and learning in an active, collaborative environment where students, faculty, and practitioners interact closely and draw upon the outstanding scholarly resources of UW–Madison. Several courses provide service-learning opportunities, including Cost-Benefit Analysis, Performance Management, and Workshops in international and domestic public affairs.

During the Workshop courses, students work in teams and gain practical experience applying the tools of political, economic, and statistical analysis on projects for clients ranging from municipal government offices to international development organizations. In 2017, students' capstone projects addressed household financial management, academic achievement among English learners in Wisconsin, economic development strategies, and characteristics of poverty in upper middle income countries.

Foundational courses include Statistical Methods for Public Policy Analysis, Policy Analysis, Microeconomic Policy Analysis, Public Management, and International Governance. La Follette School electives and other UW–Madison courses allow students to pursue their intellectual interests and career goals.

Faculty create new courses that expand school's reach

During the 2016–17 academic year, the La Follette School added two courses to its comprehensive learning opportunities—Evidence-Based Policymaking and Inequality, Race, and Public Policy.

An experiential learning course, Evidence-Based Policymaking explores how policymakers use research to help shape policy and how researchers can make their work useful to them. Students participate in two outreach programs recently relocated to the La Follette School: the Wisconsin Family Impact Seminars and Committee Connect. Associate Director **Hilary Shager** created and taught the course.

In the school's first undergraduate public policy course—Inequality, Race, and Public Policy—students examined the impact of public policies and programs on the distribution of income, wealth, and opportunity in the United States. Assistant Professor **Rourke O'Brien** created and taught the course.

Financial support from La Follette's Summer Learning Experience Award Program allowed Ryan LeCloux to serve as an intern with the Nanubhai Education Foundation—a small nonprofit organization in Gujarat, India. He also earned academic credit through the Administrative Internship course.

Originally from Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, LeCloux said the position gave him the opportunity to apply the management, analytical, and evaluation skills he has acquired at the La Follette School. "This internship is directly in line with my career goal of managing education programs aimed at increasing access to educational opportunities for vulnerable populations," he said.

LeCloux presents a certificate to a new scholar in India.



AARP shares students' report during state budget hearings

When AARP Wisconsin approached the La Follette School about a possible research project, Associate Professor **J. Michael Collins** eagerly embraced the opportunity with three of his students. AARP presented the resulting report, *The Case for Reducing Poverty Among Seniors*, to state legislators during 2017-19 budget hearings.

Master of Public Affairs students **Genevieve Carter** and **Jordan Krieger** and Master of International Public Affairs student **Matt Burr** conducted the research and wrote the report. The students found that even modest increases in the net worth of people who save the least for retirement would greatly improve retirement readiness and reduce government spending on public assistance programs by \$3.1 billion annually by 2030.

"The La Follette School is grateful that AARP Wisconsin and other organizations provide these type of learning opportunities for its students," said Collins. "These projects allow students to apply the knowledge and skills they are learning in a real-world situation."

AARP Wisconsin Director **Sam Wilson** said most state residents are not confident about their retirement savings, and the students' report shows the impact of helping people increase their savings through a save-at-work plan via payroll deduction. The state also can enact policies that encourage people to create their own private retirement accounts at work, he said.

Students connect knowledge, skills on the job

Learning takes many forms, and La Follette School students have numerous opportunities to apply their coursework as project assistants (PAs) and interns on and off campus. In addition to the applied learning, many students receive tuition remission, a stipend, and benefits.

A wide variety of agencies, nonprofit organizations, and businesses employ La Follette School PAs and interns to assist in statistical analysis, research, and cost-benefit studies. Students also work with several La Follette School and other UW-Madison faculty members.



"Through my project assistantship with Education Analytics, I gained a clear understanding of many of the issues faced by school district and state education administrators in measuring student achievement and supporting effective teaching practice."

— **Drew McDermott (MPA '16)**

Business analyst, data science,
Equal Opportunity Schools



"As the Evidence-Based Health Policy Project's PA, I enjoyed learning more about the legislative process and now feel that I understand the challenges elected officials face in evaluating decisions every day."

— **Richelle Andrae (MPA '17)**

Policy analyst, Wisconsin Council on
Medical Education and Workforce



"The students' analysis was instrumental in making a case for why we needed to upgrade our system. Our stakeholder watchdog task force was very impressed with the students' report."

— **Kate Battiatto (MPA '07)**

Analyst, Monterey County Resource
Management Agency;
Performance Management project client lead



"Project assistantships and client-based class projects with other campus units or with organizations outside the university are an exciting way for our students to use their training to tackle tough policy issues. They provide beneficial partnerships between the university and the community."

— **Hilary Shager (MPA '05, PhD '12)**

La Follette School Associate Director

La Follette School Student Association Officers, 2017–18

Chris Meyers
President

Mia Nafziger
Treasurer

Elgin Karls
Secretary

Morgan Pair
Community Service and
Outreach Coordinator

Dominic Habjan
Social Coordinator

Casey Hutchinson
Graduation Coordinator

Matt Burr
Fundraising Coordinator

Ryan LeCloux
Faculty/Program Liaison

Sangeetha Shreedaran
Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator

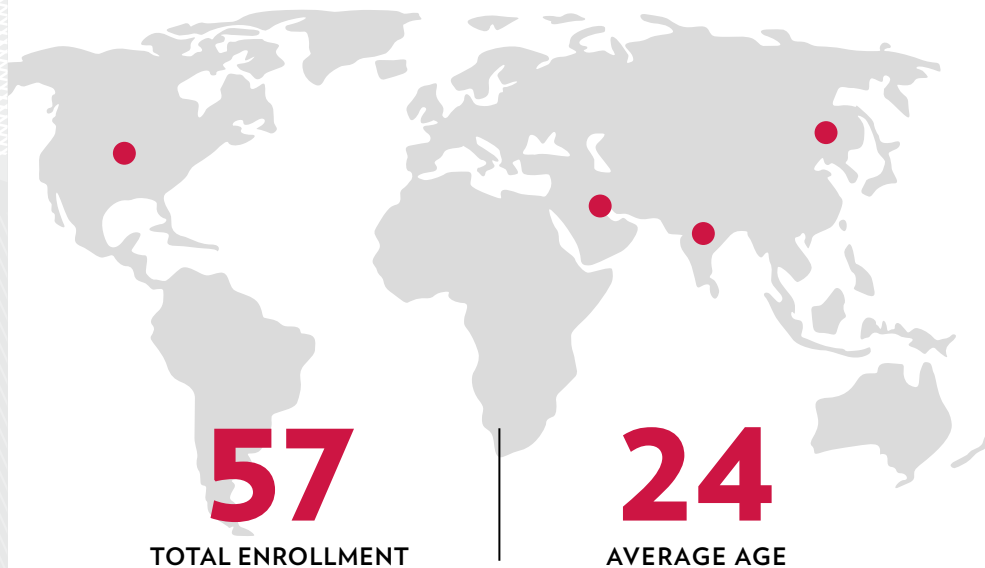


"As LSSA's first diversity and inclusion coordinator, I look forward to supporting La Follette students in being more involved with service on campus, fostering meaningful cross-cultural connections, and consciously developing a mindset that welcomes and celebrates diversity."

— **Sangeetha Shreedaran**
Accelerated MPA student

2016 ENTERING COHORT

12 STATES, AND **4 COUNTRIES** (U.S., CHINA, INDIA, AND KUWAIT)



38: MPA, **19:** MIPA,
7: STUDENTS IN DUAL, DOUBLE, OR CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS,
11: ACCELERATED STUDENTS

Student Experiences



"My summer internship with the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau in Washington, D.C., has taught me about the inner workings of regulating and examining banks and how the many pieces that go into such a complex task fit together. I'm also excited to work with Professor Michael Collins, who already has taught me a lot about data analysis and how to synthesize and present policy research findings."

— **Mia Nafziger**
MPA student



"I have a language background and strong interpersonal qualities from my time as a legislative aide for U.S. Sen. Herb Kohl and as Government Relations Director for Special Olympics Wisconsin, but felt I needed more advanced quantitative skills to move forward in my career. La Follette was the perfect blend of familiarity and challenge."

— **Matt Burr**
MIPA student

INNOVATIVE RESEARCH

Though small in absolute number, La Follette School faculty members are campus leaders in articles published and grant dollars (based on UW-Madison performance indicators). Their work is widely recognized.

In 2017, La Follette School faculty received funding awards from four of UW-Madison's five major research competitions. The Andrew Carnegie Foundation also honored Associate Professor **Greg Nemet** with a fellowship to support his research and writing on how a diverse set of policies and international knowledge flows have led to inexpensive solar energy. Only 35 projects across the United States received funding.

"While the work takes an international and historical perspective, the motivation for conducting it is to inform more immediate policy decisions, not only about solar but also other analogous technologies," said Nemet, who chairs UW-Madison's Energy Analysis and Policy certificate program.

Nemet expects to finish his research by the end of 2018 and hopes to publish a book with the results. During the later stages of his work, he also plans to host an expert workshop with the Wisconsin Energy Institute and presentations for the public.

Other highlights included Professor **Susan Yackee** receiving the Public Management Research Association's Beryl Radin Award for Best Article in the Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory, and Professor **Menzie Chinn** presenting his paper about global current account imbalances during the influential Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City's Economic Policy Symposium in August.

Herd's microbiome, retirement income projects earn awards

Accolades and research funding continued during the 2016-17 academic year for **Pam Herd**, a professor of public affairs and sociology. In April, Herd and campus colleagues received a UW2020: WARF Discovery Initiative award for their interdisciplinary research in microbiome science.

Professor **Cameron Currie** of the Department of Bacteriology leads the project team, which is leveraging two UW-Madison population health cohort studies—the Children's Respiratory Research and Environment Workgroup and the Wisconsin Longitudinal Study (WLS).

Herd serves as principal investigator of the WLS, a long-term examination of a random sample of 10,317 people who graduated from Wisconsin high schools in 1957. The WLS supports thousands of researchers examining how early- and mid-life experiences influence well-being, income security, health, and cognitive functioning in later life. Herd has used the WLS to integrate social and biological science, by adding both genetic and microbiome data.

In addition, Herd, La Follette School Professor **Tim Smeeding**, and two other colleagues received funding from AARP's Innovation Challenge to identify policy solutions for strengthening Social Security. Their proposal would create a new Minimum Benefit Plan (MBP) for low-income retirees that examines sufficiency of retirement income in lieu of calculating years of low earnings.



La Follette School student Rohan Rao, right, assists Associate Professor Greg Nemet with his research on energy policy as a project assistant.



"Most of life's important outcomes are not one gene and one disease. They're more like hundreds of thousands of genes all with really tiny effects, if you can even find them."

— **Jason Fletcher**

Professor and coauthor of *The Genome Factor: What the Social Genomics Revolution Reveals about Ourselves, Our History & the Future*



"The human microbiome provides a tremendous source of new drug leads and of biomarkers for early life diseases—such as asthma and autism—and for aging-related diseases."

— **Pam Herd**
Professor

KOHL RESEARCH COMPETITION

With a \$1.5 million pledge from former U.S. Sen. Herb Kohl, the La Follette School invests in faculty and students through the Herb Kohl Public Service Research Competition. Eight faculty members have received awards to support their nonpartisan research that informs critical governance debates.

More than one-quarter of that funding provides full tuition coverage, a stipend, and health insurance for five student project assistants.

The Kohl Competition provides a new source of financial support for faculty members' cutting-edge public affairs research. Faculty also are leveraging the Kohl funds to obtain other national awards and grants.



From left, Dr. Deborah Ehrenthal, Renee Kramer, Professor Tim Smeeding, Dan Spika



"At least as important as the money and resources for faculty is the Kohl Research Competition's strong outward signal—to the public, to the broader university, and to state government—that one of the state's most prominent public servants thinks the La Follette School is worthy of a large-scale investment."

— **Mark Copelovitch**
Associate Professor



"Improving agricultural productivity on smallholder farms is essential for reducing poverty rates and for increasing food security and economic growth."

— **Emilia Tjernström**
Assistant Professor

Smeeding, student study family planning with medical school researchers

For La Follette School student **Dan Spika**, the Kohl Competition offers him the opportunity to expand his policy experience with one of the top poverty researchers in the United States—Professor **Tim Smeeding**.

"The Kohl program enables me to reach across departments and interact with people in public health and medicine that I would otherwise not have a chance to work with," said Spika, an accelerated student in La Follette's Master of Public Affairs Program.

Smeeding is examining the benefits of increased use of birth control for family planning, especially long-acting reversible contraceptives (LARCs)—the most effective method available; yet, the most difficult to access—in Wisconsin.

As Smeeding's project assistant, Spika is working with Population Health Sciences doctoral student **Renee Kramer** to conduct literature reviews and assist with statistical analyses for quantifying the economic, educational, and social/familial benefits of increased LARC usage to delay pregnancy.

The research grew out of a 2016 La Follette School student workshop project on LARCs conducted for **Dr. Deborah Ehrenthal** and **Amy Williamson** at UW-Madison's School of Medicine and Public Health.

"Research indicates that mothers of unintended children and their families are more likely to suffer from adverse health outcomes and struggle to achieve upward economic and social mobility, making them more likely to need publicly funded health care, food and daycare subsidies, and more," the students' report said.

Building on this report, the Kohl project will estimate the cost to young mothers, young fathers, and their children of the parents having an unplanned birth before they complete their schooling, find good jobs, and establish a solid partnership to support the child.

"Without the Kohl funding and Spika's assistance, not to mention the hard work of our partners—Dr. Ehrenthal, Renee, and Amy—the project would not be possible," said Smeeding.



Chris Stassel (MIPA '17), right, field manager of food security project in Kenya

Award broadens research in Kenya, provides student opportunity

Assistant Professor **Emilia Tjernström**'s Kohl Competition award has allowed her to expand her research about food security and agricultural inputs in Kenya. Tjernström is investigating the extent and impact of counterfeit and poor-quality fertilizer among subsistence farmers in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The Kohl Competition also provided much-needed funding to support Project Assistant **Chris Stassel** (MIPA '17).

"The PA funding was crucial in two key ways: First, I was able to use it as leverage to generate additional outside funding for the project," said Tjernström. "Second, Chris provided invaluable assistance with all stages of the research project."

Stassel's comprehensive literature review helped inform a survey designed to characterize the fertilizer market and how store owners assess fertilizer quality. During a month-long visit to western Kenya in June and July 2017, she led implementation of the survey, and as field manager was responsible for data collection, cleaning, and initial analyses.

"The applied learning aspect of my project assistantship has been invaluable and has complemented my formal coursework," said Stassel. "The Kohl Competition directly benefits students by expanding opportunities to hone our analytic and technical skills while contributing to critical policy research."

Tjernström plans to share the results with policymakers in Kenya and will likely seek funding for an intervention designed to alleviate the problems identified.

KOHL COMPETITION PROJECTS, RECIPIENTS, PROJECT ASSISTANTS

THE SOCIAL GENOMICS REVOLUTION

Jason Fletcher

Professor, Public Affairs and Sociology

UNDERSTANDING ALZHEIMER'S AND DEMENTIA

Pam Herd

Professor, Public Affairs and Sociology

BEHAVIORAL INSIGHTS FOR GOVERNMENT

Don Moynihan

Director and Professor of Public Affairs

Eric Hepler

Student Project Assistant

PREVENTING UNINTENDED PREGNANCY

Tim Smeeding

Professor, Public Affairs and Economics

Dan Spika

Student Project Assistant

IMPROVING FOOD SECURITY, REDUCING POVERTY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Emilia Tjernström

Assistant Professor, Public Affairs and Agricultural and Applied Economics

Chris Stassel

Student Project Assistant

MINIMUM WAGES AND IMMIGRANTS' HEALTH

Yang Wang

Assistant Professor, Public Affairs and Business

Mitch Running

Student Project Assistant

CHILDREN IN POVERTY

Barbara Wolfe

Professor, Economics, Population Health Sciences, and Public Affairs

REGULATORY REVIEW & POLICY CHANGE

Susan Webb Yackee

Professor, Public Affairs and Political Science

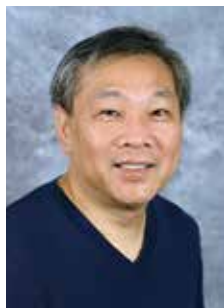
John Winters

Student Project Assistant

OUTREACH & THE WISCONSIN IDEA



State Reps. Debra Kolste and Mike Rohrkaste at the Evidence-Based Health Policy Project's discussion on the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid at the State Capitol.



Menzie Chinn



Sam Austin

La Follette School faculty, students, and staff take great pride in the Wisconsin Idea—the principle that education should influence people's lives beyond the boundaries of the classroom—and practice it throughout the state and the world.

One of the UW System's oldest and deepest traditions, the Wisconsin Idea is evident in Professor **Menzie Chinn's** analysis of economic conditions and policy on his Econbrowser blog, the La Follette School's leadership seminar for Wisconsin Women in Government, and public presentations honoring the late Wisconsin State Senator Paul Offner and his legacy of applying good scholarship to public policy solutions, especially for disadvantaged people.

The La Follette School also collaborates with campus and community partners to extend UW-Madison's reach. For example, Professor **Susan Yackee** led pre-election public forums in Milwaukee and Madison with the Wisconsin Alumni Association and the Department of Political Science. La Follette School Director and Professor **Don Moynihan** and Associate Professor **Justin Sydnor** of the Wisconsin School of Business also launched the Behavioral Insights for Government lecture series, which presents new research directly to policymakers.

In addition, the La Follette School collaborated with UW-Madison's Population Health Institute and the Wisconsin Legislative Council to present seven programs on health-related topics of interest to legislators during the 2016-17 academic year. As director of the Evidence-Based Health Policy Project, **Sam Austin (MIPA '08)** leads these highly popular programs on topics such as opioid use, the Affordable Care Act, and food systems and nutrition policy.

Family Impact Seminars and Committee Connect

In 2016, the La Follette School assumed leadership of the highly regarded Wisconsin Family Impact Seminars and the Committee Connect initiative. The Family Impact Seminars program encourages state legislators and other policymakers to consider how policies affect families and provides them with high quality, objective information from researchers at UW-Madison and elsewhere.

At the January 2017 seminar, national and state experts presented strategies for addressing homelessness in Wisconsin to nearly 100 policymakers. Thirteen lawmakers and three UW-Madison faculty members also participated in a follow-up discussion about families experiencing homelessness in rural and urban Wisconsin.

"I have used information from the Family Impact Seminars to be better informed and more confident as I support policy and cast votes on bills," one legislator said after the 2017 seminar.

Building on the Family Impact Seminars, Committee Connect brings together researchers and policymakers early in the legislative process. Both programs, established by Professor of Human Ecology Karen Bogenschneider, are rooted in the belief that good government should be based on hard evidence drawn from rigorous research and analysis.

Through Committee Connect, launched in 2015, La Follette School staff members have matched 67 UW-Madison faculty members with 50 legislators seeking to learn more about specific policy areas.

Funding from the Ira and Ineva Reilly Baldwin Wisconsin Idea endowment allows the La Follette School to hire a graduate student project assistant who supports Committee Connect. La Follette School Associate Director Hilary Shager (MPA '05, PhD '12) is director of both programs; Senior Outreach Specialist Heidi Normandin (MA '98) is associate director.



Panelists respond to policymakers' questions during the 2017 Family Impact Seminar about evidence-based strategies for addressing homelessness across Wisconsin.

Campus & community partnerships

As one of higher education's top research institutions, UW-Madison offers La Follette School students and faculty myriad opportunities for on- and off-campus collaborations. Madison also is home to Wisconsin's State Capitol, public agencies, and high-profile nonprofit organizations, allowing the La Follette School to extend its reach throughout the state, nation, and world.

During the 2016-17 academic year, the La Follette School hosted and co-sponsored numerous community events, including a panel discussion after the 2016 election with Public Affairs Writer in Residence **Dave Weigel** of *The Washington Post* that brought more than 280 people to campus. A discussion on criminal justice and incarceration with **Yamiche Alcindor** of *The New York Times*—another writer in residence—drew more than 100 people.

With UW-Madison's Jean Monnet European Union (EU) Center of Excellence, the La Follette School also welcomed **Gillian Tett** of the *Financial Times*, **Peter Hall** of Harvard University, and other distinguished speakers for a symposium on the future of the EU and trans-Atlantic relations. More than 200 people participated, including dozens of Midwestern student members of European Horizons, a U.S.-based non-partisan think tank working to reform and strengthen the European Union.



Yamiche Alcindor

21

GRADUATES OF THE
WISCONSIN WOMEN IN
GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP
SEMINAR IN 2017

Community Impact

During the spring 2017 semester, the La Follette School hosted 10 noon-hour policy seminars, including one by visiting scholar Elizabeth Linos about increasing police force diversity, which Madison Police Chief Mike Koval attended.



ALUMNI IN ACTION

In addition to their tremendous efforts to improve the design, implementation, and evaluation of public policy and the practice of governance worldwide, La Follette School alumni enthusiastically give back to their alma mater. For example, dozens of alumni and practitioners share their time and talent with students in the required Professional Development course. They also met with students during daylong career-development programs in Milwaukee and Washington, D.C.



Mark Hadley **Deputy Director of Congressional Budget Office**

The independent Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has come under intense scrutiny in recent months, and Deputy Director Mark Hadley (MA '97) has been front and center. Hadley, who has worked at the CBO for 16 years, began his duties as agency's deputy director in June 2016. He previously served as the CBO's general counsel for eight years.

Understandably, much of Hadley's recent attention has focused on health care. In September 2016, he testified before the House Budget Committee on the budgetary effects of the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation.

He also answered several questions about the Affordable Care Act and efforts to alter that legislation during a January 2017 news conference with CBO Director Keith Hall announcing the CBO's 2017–2027 Budget & Economic Outlook.

Following graduation from the La Follette School, Hadley served as a presidential management intern at the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). "A summer internship at the Federal Reserve Board was instrumental in helping me secure the SBA position," he said.

Hadley began his career in the Budget Analysis Division at the CBO in 1998, earned his law degree from the George Washington University, and then worked for the global law firm Jones Day. He returned to the CBO in 2006 as deputy general counsel.



Farha Tahir **Supporting democratic institutions, practices**

No matter where Farha Tahir's work takes her or what project is top priority, the La Follette School is not far from her mind. "The subject matter of my daily work is exactly what all of my courses were about in one way or another," said Tahir (MIPA '10), a senior program officer at the National Democratic Institute (NDI) in Washington, D.C. "I can't think of a professor I had who hasn't been formative in some way."

NDI is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, nongovernmental organization that has supported democratic institutions and practices in every region of the world for more than three decades. As part of NDI's international election observation mission, Tahir is currently in Liberia to assist with the country's upcoming polls, when Liberians hope to usher in their first post-war democratic transfer of power.

Tahir is meeting with key stakeholders to understand Liberia's political and electoral developments, liaising with NDI's long-term observers and analysts to develop reports on issues that merit additional attention, and managing a team of election-day observers.

"Our work varies in different countries, based on their unique political systems and needs," said Tahir, who also received undergraduate degrees in political science and history from UW-Madison. "I do everything from helping design programs to supporting their implementation in-country."



Wes Sparkman

Dedicated to equity at work, in service

Dane County government leaders have made a commitment to reducing racial inequity issues, and they called on Wes Sparkman (MPA '00) to lead the way. After 18 years as the county's contract compliance officer, Sparkman began serving as director of the Tamara Grigsby Office for Diversity and Inclusion in May 2016.

In that role, Sparkman oversees the county's efforts to provide and promote excellence in public service through the development of an inclusive, equitable, and sustainable county government. "I am especially excited about the county's Access to Opportunity program, which calls attention to the many leadership roles for county government to help reduce disparities throughout the community," said Sparkman.

In particular, he said, a scholarship program for students to attend driver's education has the potential for reducing economic and employment disparities, and an internship program with the Boys and Girls Club allows students to gain valuable work experience.

Sparkman's volunteer activities also reflect his deep commitment to community service. He served as president of the Madison Rotary and the Madison Police and Fire Commission, on boards for SSM Health Care of Wisconsin, the Madison Children's Museum, and the YMCA of Dane County, and in various other roles. For all of his efforts, the online news site Madison365 in 2016 named Sparkman as one of the 44 most influential African-Americans in Wisconsin.

Sparkman's commitment to public service and community engagement drew him to the La Follette School, and the training in research, analysis, and the practical implementation of public policy has been instrumental in all of his professional and volunteer activities. "The La Follette School provided me with practical problem-solving skills that are still applicable today," he said.



Carolyn Hill

Senior Fellow for nonpartisan research organization MDRC

As a project assistant with UW-Madison Professor **John Karl Scholz**, Carolyn Hill (MA '96) studied the earned income tax credit and published two papers with him.

"Professor Scholz was instrumental in opening up the possibility of me of getting a PhD and thinking about the best kind of program given my interests," Hill said about Scholz, now Dean of UW-Madison's College of Letters & Science.

The clear, systematic thinking and analysis she learned in Scholz's microeconomics class and from other La Follette School faculty members have served her well, Hill said. She earned a doctorate in public policy from the University of Chicago and was a tenured associate professor at Georgetown University until 2014, when she joined MDRC as a senior fellow.

MDRC is a nonprofit, nonpartisan education and social policy research organization dedicated to learning what works to improve programs and policies that affect people who are poor. It is best known for leading large-scale demonstrations and evaluations of real-world policies and programs targeted to low-income people.

Hill focuses on the Mother and Infant Home Visiting Program Evaluation and the Families Forward Demonstration. She also co-curates MDRC's Implementation Research Incubator and helps lead MDRC's Implementation Research Group.

Hill recalls fondly her two years in Madison and the community of friends and colleagues she found. "We had some great games of euchre over lunch in the Union and had really helpful study groups," said Hill. "A few highlights were seeing Wilco at the Club de Wash in 1995 and having access to fresh cheese curds and New Glarus beer."



Former FBI Director James Comey presents Katie Sanders (MIPA '05) with the 2016 Community Leadership Award.

Katie Sanders

Making profound impact in Milwaukee

Within her first year as executive director of Safe & Sound, Katie Sanders (MIPA '05) led the implementation of a new strategic plan for the nonprofit organization in her hometown of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The impact has been profound.

Sanders transformed the organization from a focus on after-school programming for at-risk youth to a community-safety team model that emphasizes improving relationships between law enforcement and the community. In recognition of its efforts to improve safety and build safe and empowered neighborhoods, Safe & Sound received the 2016 FBI Director's Community Leadership Award.

"Too often, we look to law enforcement to solve problems and overlook the incredible importance of residents and community members in public safety," she said. "It's an honor to serve my community, my city, and my colleagues at this special organization."

Sanders also changed Safe & Sound's revenue model to one that is less reliant on government sources, which has resulted in a 300 percent increase in private support. Each year, Safe & Sound serves more than 20,000 Milwaukee residents and 7,000 youth through 3,000 front-door conversations and over 1,000 community events and activities in high-need neighborhoods.

"Public servants have the opportunity and responsibility to improve the community," said Sanders, who also received a bachelor's degree in international relations from UW-Madison. "Safe & Sound operates at the intersection of policy and practice, and it's an exciting opportunity to see how the research plays out in community work on a daily basis."



Peter Tempelis (MPA, JD '06), received a Forward under 40 award at a La Follette School reception in February 2017. To his left are La Follette School Emeritus Professor Dennis Dresang and his twin brother, Eric Tempelis (MPA '03, JD '06). To his right are Wisconsin Alumni Association President Paula Bonner, and his sister, Mindy Tempelis (MPA, JD '02).

Peter Tempelis

Serving vulnerable people as Assistant Attorney General

Peter Tempelis (MPA JD '06) considers his career a calling—to serve others, especially vulnerable people and their families. As an assistant district attorney for Milwaukee County, Tempelis helped lead the Domestic Violence Unit's transition to serve the new Sojourner Family Peace Center, the most comprehensive family justice center in the country.

With the Sojourner center, Tempelis and other Milwaukee County community leaders secured federal funding to implement the Lethality Assessment Program (LAP)—an evidence-based initiative for addressing domestic-violence homicide risk.

Tempelis began state service in 2006 as an assistant district attorney and public service (volunteer) special prosecutor for Jefferson County, where he drafted the legal policy and procedure creating the first juvenile drug treatment court in Wisconsin. He is continuing his work on behalf of crime victims as an assistant attorney general in the Medicaid Fraud & Elder Abuse Unit of the Wisconsin Department of Justice.

Since completing the dual-degree Law and Public Policy Program, Tempelis also has worked with La Follette School faculty members and students on various research initiatives, including a study about the high turnover rate among assistant district attorneys in Wisconsin. The study and advocacy efforts by two professional organizations led to state legislation that provides statutory pay progression for assistant district attorneys, assistant attorneys general, and assistant public defenders.

In 2017, Tempelis received a Forward under 40 award from the Wisconsin Alumni Association.

RECENT GRADUATES

Over the past three years, the La Follette School's six-month post-graduate placement rate (number of graduates entering the workforce who have secured jobs or internships in their field—the standard measure in the industry) has been above 90 percent (97 percent in 2016; 98 percent in 2015; and 93 percent in 2014).



"My goal is to serve as the defense attaché at a U.S. Embassy in Europe, and the La Follette School has given me the core skills necessary to provide the best advice possible to senior, strategic decision-makers."

— **Matt Smalley (MIPA '17)**
Foreign Area Officer, U.S. Army



"As a graduate student, I was in a position to help solve critical issues by connecting research and campus resources with the greater community, locally and statewide."

— **Karina Virrueta (MPA '17)**
Recipient of the 2017 Excellence in Engaged Scholarship Graduate Student award from the Morgridge Center for Public Service at UW-Madison



"La Follette's focus on developing familiarity with both qualitative and quantitative data, exposure to real-world applications of classroom lessons, and fostering communication skills all are extremely valuable takeaways that I use every day in my workplace."

— **Nick Lardinois (MPA '16)**
Performance Evaluator, Legislative Audit Bureau

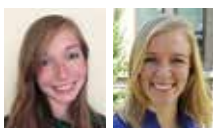
2017 graduation awards



PENNIMAN PRIZE: Samuel Rebenstorf (MPA),
Analyzing the Fiscal Impacts of Capping and Reducing Federal Funding for Medicaid on State Governments



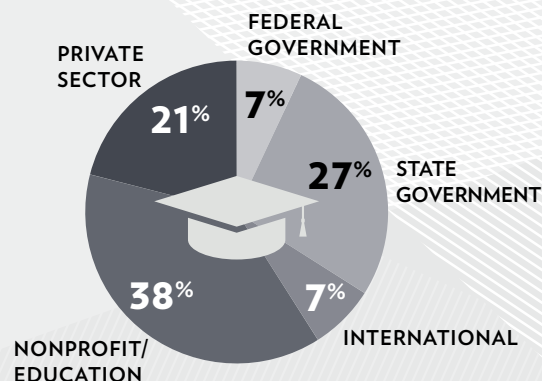
PIORE PRIZE: Cole Korponay (MPA),
The Neurobiology of Antisocial and Amoral Behavior: Insights from Brain Science and Implications for Law



DIRECTOR'S AWARD: Miranda Ehrlich (MPA), Kirsten Jacobson (MIPA) for their outstanding academic records and evidence of being outstanding public policy thinkers and communicators

Class of 2016

Six-month post-graduation career statistics



Sample of where graduates are working

7%: FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

- U.S. Department of Transportation
- Government Accountability Office

27%: STATE GOVERNMENT

- Department of Corrections
- Department of Transportation
- Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection
- Department of Justice
- Legislative Audit Bureau
- Legislative Fiscal Bureau
- Legislative Reference Bureau
- State Assembly

7%: INTERNATIONAL

- Ministry of Justice of Ukraine
- Edukeys USA

38%: NONPROFIT/EDUCATION

- Duke Margolis Health Policy Center
- UW Carbone Cancer Center
- Equal Opportunity Schools
- Institute for Community Alliances
- Wisconsin Center for Education Research
- Center for Patient Partnerships, UW-Madison Law School
- Practical Farmers of Iowa

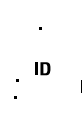
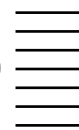
21%: PRIVATE SECTOR

- Grant Thornton LLP
- Cognizant Technology Solutions



**Robert M. La Follette
School of Public Affairs**
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

1225 Observatory Drive
Madison, Wisconsin 53706



Looking ahead

Thursday & Friday, November 2 & 3
La Follette in Chicago

Thursday, February 1
Madison Alumni & Friends Reception

Thursday, April 12
Spring Symposium: Emerging Policy
Implications from Neuroscience,
Genetics, and the Microbiome

Wednesday, April 18
Fitch Lecture, Curt Culver:
Public Sector Leadership within the
American Free Enterprise System

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When you give to the La Follette School of Public Affairs at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, you are doing more than simply supporting an exceptional school and university. You are helping transform the La Follette School by elevating its impact and visibility.

Donor investment is necessary to provide the critical resources for

- ▶ Increasing financial support for students and growing undergraduate programming
- ▶ Broadening the breadth and impact of the school's research
- ▶ Expanding outreach to policymakers, practitioners, and community members

A strengthened public affairs school at UW-Madison would also put the university at the center of a large-scale effort to improve governance and public policy in Wisconsin and beyond—the Wisconsin Idea in action!

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"Robert M. La Follette School of Public Affairs Fund-132549080"
or call 800-443-6162.