PUBLIC AFFAIRS CAREERS

Career development is an integral part of the La Follette School experience, and data show extremely high percentages of employment three to six months post-graduation. The Career Services Office offers:

- Visits with local employers as well as regular trips to Washington, D.C., Chicago, and Milwaukee
- Networking opportunities
- Career development seminars with public affairs professionals
- Connections with alumni mentors

The career services coordinator works with students one-on-one to develop essential skills, such as interviewing, writing strong cover letters and resumes, and researching internships and permanent employment. During the first semester course Professional Development Workshop, students also create an individual plan and portfolio that help them proactively move toward their academic and career goals.

La Follette School alumni work in all levels of government, nonprofit organizations, and the private sector. Popular positions include policy analyst, consultant, executive director, research analyst, project manager, and government liaison. MPA alumni have held positions with these agencies, organizations, and businesses:

- Congressional Research Service
- Deloitte
- Duke Margolis Health Policy Center
- Federal Bureau of Investigation
- Grant Thornton
- National Council on Crime and Delinquency
- Oregon Legislative Fiscal Office
- UW–Madison Center for Education Research
- U.S. Government Accountability Office
- U.S. Department of Transportation
- Wisconsin Department of Health Services
- Wisconsin Legislative Audit Bureau

Associate Professor Greg Nemet, left, and student Rohan Rao, Nemet's project assistant

APPLYING FOR ADMISSION

Students are selected for the Master of Public Affairs Program on the basis of their academic records, letters of recommendation, work experience, and evidence of commitment to a public affairs career. Applicants whose native language is not English must present the equivalent of 92 or greater on the computer-based TOEFL test to be considered for admission.

PREREQUISITES

- Introduction to microeconomics
- Introduction to statistics or calculus
- American government

Candidates who have taken these courses before enrolling will be better prepared for the graduate program.

www.lafollette.wisc.edu/admissions

"I chose the La Follette School because it was highly ranked (particularly in social policy), affordable (particularly with the fellowship), practitioner-focused, and evidence-based. Moreover, I liked the small, community feel of the program set within the larger context of the university and all of its resources. And, though I didn't know it when I applied, Madison is a lovely city that would have been enough of a draw on its own."

— Max Pardo, MPA '17
Research Associate, American Institutes for Research

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

1225 Observatory Drive, Madison, WI 53706
608-262-9163
www.lafollette.wisc.edu

LFS1017

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–MADISON

La Follette School of Public Affairs

LA FOLLETTE SCHOOL MASTER OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAM

The Master of Public Affairs (MPA) Program provides education in public management and policy analysis that prepares students for careers in public policy and administration within the public, private, and nonprofit sectors.

LA FOLLETTE SCHOOL FACULTY

The award-winning La Follette School faculty includes economists, political scientists, sociologists, and public affairs scholars who teach the skills and tools needed for a career in public affairs. They are experts in social policy, health policy and management, public management administration, public policy analysis, environmental policy and management, poverty, and tax policy and government finance.

The school admits about 50 students per year to the MPA Program and the Master of International Public Affairs Program. The small class size enables the faculty to know, advise, and mentor students.

"Coming into the program, I had very little idea about where I was going. The courses led me to realize what I wanted most from a career. The career development seminars, travel opportunities, and networking events opened up rewarding career possibilities. It is also comforting to know that I have supportive advisors to help me articulate and ultimately achieve my career goals."

— Karina Virrueta, MPA '17
Grants Specialist—Advanced, Wisconsin Department of Justice

DEGREE PROGRAM

Students must complete 42 credits, including six core courses, a one-credit professional development seminar, plus eight elective courses. An internship can count for up to three elective credits. The program generally takes two years.

CORE COURSES

- **Introduction to Statistical Methods for Public Policy Analysis** develops competence with analytical tools for studying public affairs.
- **Microeconomic Policy Analysis** explores how to evaluate the implications of policies for efficiency and equity, and to employ statistical methods for interpreting and presenting quantitative data.
- **Introduction to Policy Analysis** focuses on defining policy problems, determining goals, designing policy alternatives, and assessing trade-offs to make recommendations.
- **Policymaking Process** examines the political processes that shape U.S. public policy.
- **Introduction to Public Management** introduces key theories of how public organizations work, the relationship between democracy and management, and critical public management issues such as accountability and policy implementation.
- **Workshop in Public Affairs,** the capstone course taken in the final semester, gives students experience working in teams with a faculty supervisor on a real-world policy project. They apply conceptual and analytical tools to issues their clients face in the public, nonprofit, and private sectors.

ELECTIVE COURSES

Students build proficiency beyond the core requirements through elective courses, including:

- Public Program Evaluation
- Cost-Benefit Analysis
- Politics of Poverty, Inequality, and Social Policy
- State and Local Government Finance
- Performance Management

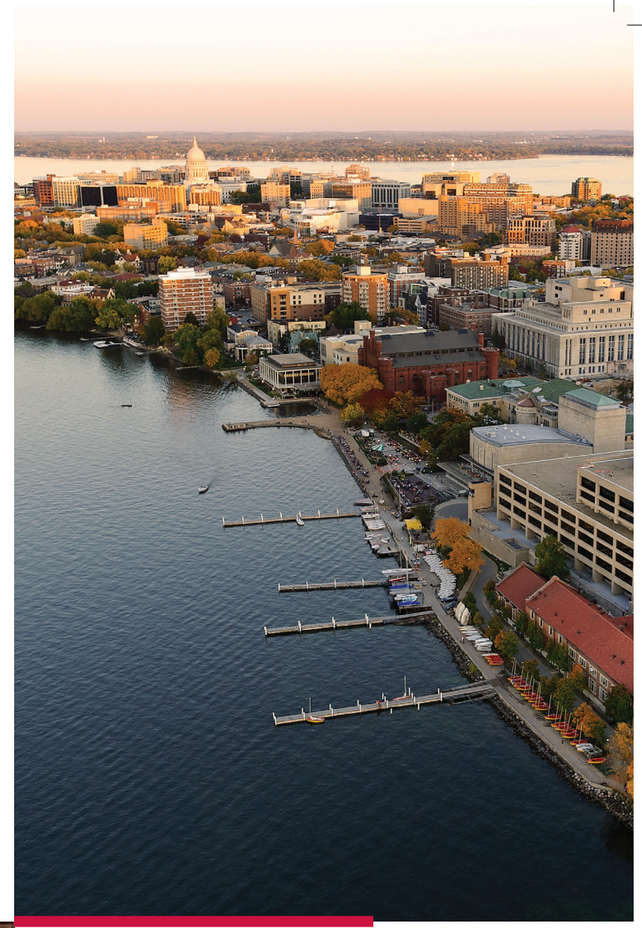
Students also may take courses from other highly regarded UW–Madison graduate programs, such as economics, political science, public health, urban and regional planning, social work, law, business, educational leadership and policy analysis, sociology, and environmental studies.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMBINED DEGREES AND CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

Some students earn additional credentials while they work toward their public affairs degrees. The following combined degree and certificate programs are available:

- Law (Juris Doctorate)
- Master of Public Health
- Master of Science in Urban and Regional Planning
- Doctorate in Neuroscience
- Energy Analysis and Policy Certificate
- Business certificates

Award-winning faculty members Susan Yackee, Michael Collins, and Yang Wang



MADISON, WISCONSIN

Beyond campus, the city of Madison, as the state capital, provides a wealth of opportunities for La Follette School students to participate in outreach and acquire practical experience as professional project assistants or interns with public and private entities. Students benefit from the strong relationships that La Follette School faculty have with these organizations, in keeping with the Wisconsin Idea of public service. This includes the Family Impact Seminar and Committee Connect – opportunities that use evidence-based research to inform policymakers and improve public policy.

INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC AFFAIRS CAREERS

Career development is an integral part of the La Follette School experience, and data show extremely high percentages of employment three to six months post-graduation. The Career Services Office offers:

- Visits with local employers as well as regular trips to Washington, D.C., Chicago, and Milwaukee
- Networking opportunities
- Career development seminars with public affairs professionals
- Connections with alumni mentors

The career services coordinator works with students one-on-one to develop essential skills, such as interviewing, writing strong cover letters and resumes, and researching internships and permanent employment. During the first semester course Professional Development Workshop, students also create an individual plan and portfolio that help them proactively move toward their academic and career goals.

La Follette School alumni have held positions with these agencies, organizations, and businesses:

- American Red Cross
- Aspen Institute
- CARE in Afghanistan
- Congressional-Executive Commission on China
- Deloitte
- Governments of Chile, Japan, and Korea
- Peace Corps
- United Nations Development Programme
- U.S. Agency for International Development
- U.S. Central Intelligence Agency
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security
- U.S. Department of State

Professor Menzie Chinn

Kaubin Neupane (MIPA '16), left, in India for his Workshop in International Public Affairs research project

APPLYING FOR ADMISSION

Students are selected for the Master of International Public Affairs Program on the basis of their academic records, letters of recommendation, work experience, and evidence of commitment to a public affairs career. Applicants whose native language is not English must present the equivalent of 92 or greater on the computer-based TOEFL test to be considered for admission.

PREREQUISITES

- Introduction to microeconomics
- Introduction to macroeconomics
- Introduction to statistics or calculus
- Comparative politics or international relations
- Three semesters of foreign language study or a year or more of experience living outside the United States

Candidates who have taken these courses before enrolling will be better prepared for the graduate program.

www.lafollette.wisc.edu/admissions

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"La Follette School courses have solidified a foundation of skills that I feel would be useful as an analyst, administrator, or Foreign Service officer. La Follette coursework has helped me grasp a new way of looking at policy issues and how to approach projects. I also have been introduced to new potential employment opportunities through La Follette. I would not have applied to the GAO if we hadn't stopped there during last year's La Follette in D.C. career development program."

— Kirsten Jacobson, MIPA '17
Associate—Public Sector, Grant Thornton

LFS1017

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–MADISON

La Follette School of Public Affairs

Master of International Public Affairs

LA FOLLETTE SCHOOL MASTER OF INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAM

The Master of International Public Affairs (MIPA) Program prepares students from the United States and around the world to work in government, in businesses engaged with the global economy, for non-governmental organizations, or with consulting firms analyzing international policies.

LA FOLLETTE SCHOOL FACULTY

The award-winning La Follette School faculty includes economists, political scientists, sociologists, and public affairs scholars who teach the skills and tools needed for a career in public affairs. They are experts in social policy, health policy and management, public administration, public policy analysis, environmental policy, poverty, and tax policy and government finance.

The school admits about 50 students per year to the MIPA Program and the Master of Public Affairs Program. The small class size enables the faculty to know, advise, and mentor students.

"I chose the La Follette School for the emphasis on policy-making skills (quantitative analysis courses and in-depth policy analysis), the quality of instruction in economics/political science, and the flexibility to tailor a program that best suits me with electives in the MIPA program."

– Matthew Smalley, MIPA '17
Foreign Area Officer, U.S. Army

DEGREE PROGRAM

Students must complete 42 credits, including six core courses, a one-credit professional development seminar, plus eight elective courses. An internship can count for up to three elective credits. The program generally takes two years.

CORE COURSES

- **Introduction to Statistical Methods for Public Policy Analysis** develops competence with analytical tools for studying public affairs.
- **Microeconomic Policy Analysis** explores how to evaluate the implications of policies for efficiency and equity, and to employ statistical methods for interpreting and presenting quantitative data.
- **International Governance** provides students with the substantive framework for studying public affairs in the context of globalization.
- ***Macroeconomic Policy and International Financial Regulation** surveys international macroeconomics, with special reference to international monetary policy and international financial market architecture.
- ***Trade, Competition, and Governance in a Global Economy** provides students with an understanding of international trade theory, rules, politics, and institutions, and the major policy issues facing the global trading system.
- **Introduction to Policy Analysis** focuses on defining policy problems, determining goals, designing policy alternatives, and assessing trade-offs to make recommendations.
- **Workshop in International Public Affairs,** the capstone course taken in the final semester, gives students experience working in teams with a faculty supervisor on a real-world policy project. They apply conceptual and analytical tools to issues their clients face in public, private, and nonprofit sectors around the world.

* Students choose one of these

ELECTIVE COURSES

Students build proficiency beyond the core requirements through elective courses, including:

- Global Environmental Governance
- Cost-Benefit Analysis
- Comparative and National Social Policy
- International Program Evaluation
- International Development Policy

Students also may take courses from other highly regarded UW–Madison graduate programs, such as economics, political science, public health, urban and regional planning, social work, law, business, educational leadership and policy analysis, sociology, and environmental studies.

REGIONAL FOCUS FIELDS

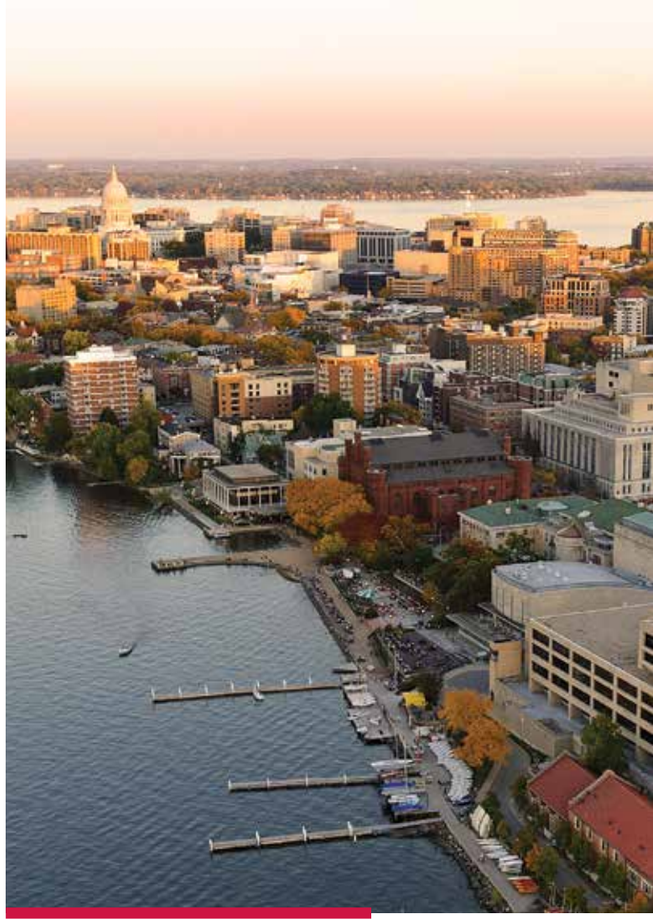
Students can develop broad expertise in a geographic region by clustering courses, including language courses, across several disciplines, typically emphasizing courses in the social sciences. In building regional focus fields, MIPA students take advantage of UW–Madison's strong area studies centers, including:

- East African Studies
- Asian Studies
- European Studies
- Latin American, Caribbean, and Iberian Studies
- Middle East Studies
- Russian, East European, and Central Asian Studies
- South Asian Studies
- Southeast Asian Studies

PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMBINED DEGREES AND CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

Some students earn additional credentials while they work toward their public affairs degrees. The following combined degree and certificate programs are available:

- Law (Juris Doctorate)
- Master of Public Health
- Master of Science in Urban and Regional Planning
- Doctorate in Neuroscience
- Energy Analysis and Policy Certificate
- Business certificates
- Certificates from area studies programs



MADISON, WISCONSIN

Beyond campus, the city of Madison, as the state capital, provides a wealth of opportunities for La Follette School students to participate in outreach and acquire practical experience as professional project assistants or interns with public and private entities. Students benefit from the strong relationships that La Follette School faculty have with these organizations, in keeping with the Wisconsin Idea of public service. This includes the Family Impact Seminar and Committee Connect – opportunities that use evidence-based research to inform policymakers and improve public policy.

UW–Madison La Follette School of Public Affairs

2021–2022 HIGHLIGHTS

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

Our mission is to train leaders and conduct research to inspire evidence-based policymaking and advance the public good.

Board of Visitors

Susan Webb Yackee
Director and Professor, Public Affairs

Theola V. Carter (MA '91)
Dane County Tamara D. Grigsby Office for Equity and Inclusion

Curt S. Culver
MGIC Investment Corp., retired

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Putnam Partners

Jason Gerlach (MA '96)
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Wisconsin Legislative Fiscal Bureau

Terry Lierman (MA '71)
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SHINE Medical Technologies

Daniel Speckhard (MA '82)
Corus International

Michael Youngman (MA '82)
Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Co., retired

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

It has been another productive and inspiring year at the La Follette School.

Despite starting their graduate program in the middle of a pandemic, the graduating class of 2022 has shown great resilience—adapting to uncertainty, supporting each other through difficult times, and going on to do great things in government, the nonprofit world, and the private sector. Whether they are working as a public sector associate for Grant Thornton, as assistant district attorney for the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office, or as a policy analyst for the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, I am confident that this year's graduates will thoughtfully address the world's most pressing policy issues.

With the help of the Kohl Initiative, this year we launched a new Undergraduate Certificate in Health Policy, which has broadened opportunities for undergraduates to learn about public policy. All told, the La Follette School taught 760 undergraduate students this year.

Our school continued to serve as a convener of thoughtful debate during a time of unprecedented partisanship through several in-person and hybrid events, including two public La Follette Forums held during the 2021-2022 academic year. The results of our first-ever La Follette Policy Poll provided a revealing portrait of public opinion in a state that could affect the national balance of power this November.

I cannot wait to see what is next for the La Follette School.

On, Wisconsin!

Susan Webb Yackee
Director and Professor

KOHL INITIATIVE

Funded by a generous $10 million gift from former U.S. Sen. Herb Kohl, the Kohl Initiative demonstrates Sen. Kohl's deep commitment to public service and his ethos of civility in public debate and policymaking. The third year of the Kohl Initiative brought tremendous growth and allowed the La Follette School to expand its undergraduate educational opportunities. In spring 2022, the new Certificate in Health Policy was launched and the release of the La Follette Policy Poll helped to point elected leaders to problems that residents agree need solving, encouraging them to work together on policy solutions.

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

6TH

BEST SCHOOL FOR **PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**
Center for World University Rankings

6TH

BEST GRADUATE SCHOOL FOR **SOCIAL POLICY**
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

59%

OF MPA/MIPA STUDENTS HELD **GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIPS** OR RECEIVED A **FELLOWSHIP IN ACADEMIC YEAR 2021-22**

150

GRADUATES IN **3RD** CLASS OF UNDERGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN PUBLIC POLICY PROGRAM

133 DONORS TO **2022 DAY OF THE BADGER**

$47K+ RAISED DURING DAY OF THE BADGER (INCREASE OF 91% FROM $24,600 RAISED IN 2021)

53 STUDENTS ENROLLED IN 1ST CLASS OF UNDERGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN HEALTH POLICY PROGRAM

THROUGH ITS LEGISLATIVE OUTREACH, LA FOLLETTE SCHOOL STAFF MEMBERS ENGAGED WITH **103 OF WISCONSIN'S 132 LEGISLATIVE OFFICES**

1,886 PEOPLE ATTENDED **16 IN-PERSON** EVENTS DURING 2021-22

1,653 PEOPLE REACHED THROUGH **18 VIRTUAL** EVENTS DURING 2021–22

30,000+ POST-EVENT YOUTUBE VIEWS

Cover photos clockwise from top left: Jamelle Bouie of the New York Times speaks at the 2022 La Follette Forum; 2022 Forum; Robert M. La Follette; David Brooks of the New York Times speaks with Susan Webb Yackee at an October 2021 event; 2022 MPA and MIPA graduates

La Follette School Student Association Officers, 2022–23

Amelia Wagner
President

Adam Riley
Treasurer

Liliana Keomanivong Teniente
Secretary

Gabriel Terrell
Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator

Jacob Boelter
Community Service and Outreach Coordinator

Stephanie Mertens
Social Coordinator

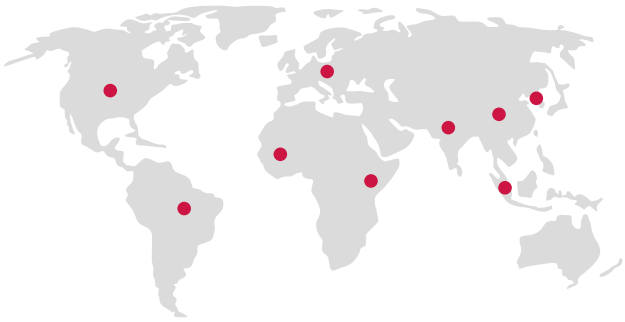
Natalia Borowska
Graduation Coordinator

Elizabeth Johnson
Fundraising Coordinator

2022 ENTERING COHORT

The La Follette School offers master's degrees in domestic and international public affairs as well as combined degrees and certificate programs in several fields of study. The Accelerated Program allows select undergraduate students to jump-start their graduate studies.

STUDENTS FROM 12 STATES AND 8 COUNTRIES



53
INCOMING MASTER'S PROGRAM ENROLLMENTS

40 MASTER OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS (MPA)

13 MASTER OF INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC AFFAIRS (MIPA)

17 STUDENTS IN DUAL, DOUBLE, OR GRADUATE CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

7 ACCELERATED STUDENTS

28% OF INCOMING COHORT OF GRADUATE STUDENTS ARE FROM ARE UNDERREPRESENTED POPULATIONS

Manpreet Kaur, MPA:

"I was drawn to the prestige of UW–Madison and the La Follette School. I was also drawn to UW–Madison because of my respect for the history of social change and challenge driven by students and select faculty."

Jean Vilbert, MIPA, MA:

"When I decided I wanted to return to grad school, I drafted an 'impossible' mixture of things I would like to pursue – deep theoretical knowledge and practical groundwork in public affairs, political science, economics, and statistics. La Follette offers all of this."

Liliana Teniente, MPA:

"As a true believer in the Wisconsin Idea, I have always sought to take my own learning beyond the boundaries of this campus, help others, and create positive change."

Gabriel Stowe Terrell, MPA:

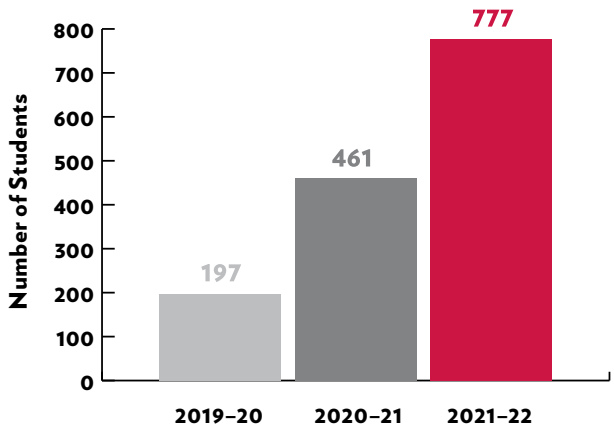
"I want to continue to help citizens secure access to high quality and affordable employment, housing, financial security, transportation, and education. I am so grateful to have an opportunity to help individuals secure greater access to these foundations of a good life here in Wisconsin, the state that has provided me so much already."

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM GROWTH

For the first 35 years of its existence, the La Follette School offered only graduate-level courses. The Kohl Initiative fueled the school's expansion into undergraduate programming in response to student interest in public service and policymaking. The La Follette School now offers two undergraduate certificates (which are like minors at other schools): the Certificate in Public Policy and the Certificate in Health Policy.

The new Certificate in Health Policy, which launched in spring 2022, has garnered interest among pre-health professional students and students from a range of other majors.

TOTAL UNDERGRADUATE COURSE ENROLLMENT



"Students find that coursework in the certificate programs grows their understanding of why policy analysis can play such a powerful role in decision making. The undergraduate courses train students to define problems, analyze issues, and frame recommendations. They then apply these lessons through internships, which often make them highly competitive for employment or slots in selective graduate programs."

Mary Davis Michaud
Undergraduate Advisor and Faculty Associate

"Through the Health Policy Certificate, I had the opportunity to gain experience with Covering Wisconsin (a nonprofit that connects Wisconsin residents with health insurance) and gained exposure to the fascinating world of public policy. As I look forward, it was through this experience that I found a passion for health literacy and how we can harness the power of video and health material design to make health-related decisions approachable and easier to understand."

Hunter Evenson
Undergraduate Certificate in Health Policy student

Undergraduate Certificates in Public Policy and Health Policy

IN THE THREE YEARS SINCE LAUNCHING THE SCHOOL'S FIRST UNDERGRADUATE CERTIFICATE, WE HAVE:

Increased the number of enrolled students **five-fold**

Added a new Certificate in Health Policy, attracting **53** students to the first cohort

Tripled the number of students taking undergraduate public affairs courses

Increased the number of undergraduate courses offered from **2 to 20**

CERTIFICATE PROGRAM ENROLLMENT:

280 students in 2022-23 (234 in Public Policy, 51 in Health Policy, 5 in both)

200 students in 2021–22

165 students in 2020–21

CERTIFICATE PROGRAM GRADUATES:

93 in 2021–22

78 in 2020–21

NOTABLE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

Ciboney Reglos (BS, CiHPx'23) will be joining the UW–Madison Social Justice Hub as the operations intern for the 2022–2023 academic year. She will assist with educational curriculum and work to build and strengthen relationships with student organizations and stakeholders across campus that share an interest and passion for social justice. Reglos is currently a Tayo summer fellow through the Filipino Young Leaders Program, where she curates relevant information to help Filipino Americans safeguard their health, well-being, and economic security during the pandemic and conducts research related to Covid-19. She was drawn to the Certificate in Health Policy because of her interest in gaining perspectives on research, government, and clinical sectors to understand exactly how policy is shaped and how it affects individuals.

"Working in public health and with Filipino populations is the marriage of my two greatest passions, and I am very grateful for the opportunity to use my own cultural knowledge to help out my own community," says Reglos.

Travis Austin (BA, CiPPx'23) was elected to the Town of Berry Board in April. As a member of the town board, he was also appointed by the town chair to the Plan Commission, which oversees zoning and other land use permit applications, and was appointed town representative on the Black Earth fire district.

Austin was drawn to the Certificate in Public Policy because of his interest in copyright law in the music industry. He is a political science major and is also pursuing a Certificate in Environmental Studies. Austin is a Kohl Scholarship recipient for 2022. Outside of his studies, Austin plays the trumpet for the UW–Madison marching band and volunteers with the American Legion Badger Boys State program.

Yahvi Mahendra (BA, CiHP '22) graduated with a bachelor's degree in sociology and health promotion and health equity and completed Certificates in Health Policy, Global Health, and Leadership. She was one of the first three students to complete the new Certificate in Health Policy. As the senior class diversity, equity, and inclusion director, Mahendra introduced the keynote speaker, Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield, during the 2022 UW–Madison commencement ceremony.

Following graduation, Mahendra secured a position as a program administrator for the American Medical Association. "Because of my health policy coursework, I felt more confident in critically evaluating health policies within my work given the examples I've been presented in class, and my health policy coursework allowed me to be more knowledgeable in the interview process as well," says Mahendra.

NOTABLE GRADUATE STUDENTS

Ethan Dickler (MPAx'23) served as a generations fellow for the Breakthrough Institute in Berkeley, California this summer. The program includes a boot camp in modern environmental policy, a distinguished speaker series, and guided research. His focus was on sustainable aquaculture practices and food development.

Dickler developed an interest in policy while serving as a freshman representative for the La Crosse Student Association while pursuing his undergraduate degree. His policy interests include environmental and social policy. Dickler is also a graduate representative for the Associated Students of Madison for the 2022-2023 academic year, where he serves on the Nominations, Legislative Affairs, and Student Activity Center Governing Board Committees.

Migena Vula (JD-MPAx'25) completed an internship this summer in the Prime Minister's Office in Kosovo, where she worked with other senior officers for policy coordination to assist the Ministries with writing and reviewing policy memos. She worked closely with the Prime Minister's chief of staff to ensure the government's agenda is being met and even had the chance to sit in on a few meetings with the Prime Minister.

After graduation, Vula hopes to work as a public servant or official, so she was eager to learn more about working in government through this internship and be able to work in her home country again. Having grown up in a disputed territory, she pursued her MPA to better understand the role of public institutions in solving large-scale problems and empowering underserved populations. While on campus, Vula serves as a project assistant for WPS Health Solutions, where she assists the senior vice president of government relations in his work with state and federal agencies.

Adam Riley (MIPAx'23) was selected as one of eight U.S. students and young professionals for the prestigious U.S. Congress – Republic of Korea National Assembly Exchange Program. The program, which takes place in Washington, D.C. and Seoul, South Korea, is designed to broaden the perspectives of Korean and American young people on the legislative process; the history of U.S. – Korean relations; and current economic, political, and security aspects of the bilateral relationship by giving participants firsthand experience of each other's people and culture.

Riley is in the accelerated MIPA program and is interested in transportation policy, particularly high-speed rail. He acts as treasurer of the La Follette School Student Association (LSSA). Riley is also the Wisconsin 4-H international programs coordinator within the UW–Madison Division of Extension, where he develops and facilitates educational programs focused on the skills of global citizenship and supports summer inbound and outbound youth exchanges with countries including South Korea, Japan, Mexico, Norway, and Costa Rica.

2021–2022 Notable News Media Mentions

Wall Street Journal: Greg Nemet on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report recommendations, 4/4/22

ABC News: Morgan Edwards on how young people can make effective change in the climate crisis, 1/22/22

Marketplace: Menzie Chinn on the effect of slowing inflation on prices, 5/10/22

NBC 15: Jon Pevehouse on boycotting Russian products in response to the war in Ukraine, 3/3/22

EXPANDING OUTREACH

Since its inception in 1983, the La Follette School has embraced the Wisconsin Idea and the university's "beneficent influence" across the state. The Kohl Initiative has allowed the school to broaden the reach of its faculty's research, and to serve as a convenor on our country's most pressing challenges. During 2021-22, faculty shared their expertise via in-person and virtual events including two La Follette Policy Forums, media interviews, and partnerships with on- and off-campus groups.

Journalist in Residence, Fall 2021

Politics & Policy

David Brooks, New York Times columnist

Policymaker in Residence, Fall 2021

Surveillance Capitalism in the Digital Age

Jon Leibowitz, former chair of the Federal Trade Commission

Hilldale-Offner Lecture, Spring 2022

The Great Divide: Education, Despair & Death

Anne Case, author of Deaths of Despair and the Future of Capitalism

Journalist in Residence, Spring 2022

A Conversation with David Haynes of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (virtual event)

Catherine Rampell, Washington Post columnist

40th Family Impact Seminar, Spring 2022

Rebuilding Wisconsin's Child Care Infrastructure

Attendees: 92, including 18 legislators, 25 aides, and 10 state agency representatives

Inaugural Policymaker in Residence Jon Leibowitz visits with La Follette students

During his visit, David Brooks spoke with MPA student Carte'cia Lawrence (left) and Susan Webb Yackee (center), Director of the La Follette School, at a meeting with community leaders. Brooks' public talk attracted 732 in-person attendees, 550 people via livestream, and 27,500+ post-event YouTube views (watch here: go.wisc.edu/brooks).

Eighty-seven people attended Anne Case's April 2022 talk in person, with 115 attending via livestream and 650+ post-event views.

On May 2, 2022, Washington Post columnist Catherine Rampell discussed her data-driven coverage of economics, public policy, immigration, and politics with Milwaukee Journal Sentinel Ideas Lab editor David Haynes during a virtual event.

2021–2022 Notable News Media Mentions

Washington Post: Tim Smeeding on Biden's child tax credit and its impact on poverty and workers, 11/8/21

Washington Post Monkey Cage: Mark Copelovitch on why the global economy runs on dollars, 6/2/22

WISN, UpFront: Michael Collins discusses the La Follette Policy Poll, 1/9/22

The Hill: Susan Webb Yackee on the need for reform in federal guidance processes, 11/16/21

FORUM FACTS

2021

26

total speakers including Katharine Wilkinson, author and co-founder of the All We Can Save Project, and Kathryn Huff, assistant secretary and principal deputy assistant secretary for the Office of Nuclear Energy

122

in-person attendees

277 virtual attendees (including registrants from 17 states, 33 Wisconsin counties, 5 countries)

506 post-event views

LA FOLLETTE POLICY FORUMS

The school's recent expansion has allowed La Follette to serve as a convener of thoughtful debate and evidence-based research for moving our country forward during a time of unprecedented partisanship. With funding from the Kohl Initiative, during the 2021–2022 year the La Follette School facilitated two Forums which gathered researchers, policymakers, and community leaders together for engaging conversations about innovative solutions to some of the most challenging policy issues.

La Follette Forum 2021: Climate Policy

Co-chairs: Gregory Nemet, Professor, La Follette School of Public Affairs; Morgan Edwards, Assistant Professor, La Follette School of Public Affairs

October 6, 2021

2021 Climate Policy Forum panel on Communication & Youth Mobilization

Keynote speaker Kathryn Huff, principal deputy assistant secretary for the Office of Nuclear Energy, at the Climate Policy Forum reception

La Follette Forum 2022: American Power, Prosperity & Democracy

Chair: Mark Copelovitch, Professor, La Follette School of Public Affairs

May 4, 2022

Photos: 2022 La Follette Forum panel on American Democracy; La Follette Professor Menzie Chinn and Washington Post columnist Catherine Rampell participate in the American Prosperity panel; Sen. Janet Bewley asks a question of the panel

FORUM FACTS

2022

30

total speakers including keynotes from Washington Post columnist Catherine Rampell, Peterson Institute for International Economics president Adam Posen, Stanford University Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies center fellow Oriana Skylar Mastro, Centre for International Governance Innovation senior fellow Paul Blustein, New York Times columnist Jamelle Bouie, and Harvard University professor Daniel Ziblatt

226

in-person attendees (from 13 states, 19 Wisconsin counties, and 3 countries—Germany, South Africa, India)

178 virtual attendees

697 post-event views

CREATING INFLUENTIAL RESEARCH

The Kohl Competition supports non-partisan research that policymakers can use to make evidence-based decisions about how to solve the big problems we face as a society. The awards are intended to expand the influence of La Follette School faculty research and to increase the research's impact through targeted outreach.

"These influential projects focus on advancing the public good, giving La Follette School researchers the opportunity to share their work with policymakers, practitioners, and anyone devoted to solving the pressing problems facing our society."

Curt Culver, La Follette School Board of Visitors member

7 YEARS

31 AWARDS

26* STUDENTS

32 FACULTY

*As project assistants, the 26 students received tuition remission, a stipend, and health insurance. These positions—and the student funding provided—allow the La Follette School to attract the best and brightest graduate students.

2022 Kohl Competition Awards

Edwards, Fletcher, and Durrance

Mapping Inequities in Building Energy Transitions
Assistant Professor Morgan Edwards is using data from Zillow.com on everything related to American homes to analyze the relationship between heat pumps—a low-carbon home-heating technology—and demographic characteristics like race, ethnicity, and income. She plans to share her results with community groups and policymakers to inform them about how to make heat pumps more available and appealing to Wisconsin households.

Why is Wisconsin an Outlier in Racial Inequality?
Professor Jason Fletcher is reexamining data that suggests that Wisconsin has some of the country's largest racial inequalities in incarceration, education, and health outcomes. His research will consider the extent to which inequalities are concentrated in urban versus rural areas of the state. He is also drawing on research showing that where people are born, not just where they reside, has a huge effect on how their lives turn out.

New Insights for the Opioid Crisis
Associate Professor Christine Durrance is drawing on data, recently released by court order, that tracks all U.S. opioid shipments from manufacturers to the hospitals, pharmacies and practitioners who dispense them. Using this data to calculate rates of inappropriate opioid prescribing will allow Durrance to draw conclusions about the effects of these prescriptions on overdose mortality, neonatal health, and the well-being of families.

Trade Wars and Institutional Gridlock
Associate Professor Tana Johnson is zeroing in on negotiations in the World Trade Organization (WTO), focusing on how rich countries demand reciprocal reductions in trade barriers, while poor countries argue for one-way redistributions of resources and technology to benefit their populations. Her goal is to determine if global shocks like the 2008 financial crisis exacerbated signs of gridlock, causing governments to double down on their demands.

CLIENT-BASED PROJECTS

In the capstone workshops for the La Follette School master's degree programs, students gain policy analysis experience by collaborating with real-world clients. Working in teams, they produce research-based, analytical, evaluative, and prescriptive reports for clients in the public, non-governmental, and private sectors that range from municipal government offices to international development organizations. Each report is the equivalent of the thesis for a master's degree from the La Follette School of Public Affairs.

Many alumni say work on these client-based projects has helped them find public policy employment. At the same time, the information-packed reports allow clients to move ahead with problem-solving projects that might otherwise not be possible amid tight budgets and other challenges.

In the 2021–2022 academic year, workshop students focused on projects ranging from identifying and analyzing successful mental health services in Wisconsin schools, to recommending land-use policies to enhance housing development, to bringing electricity to health facilities in Sub-Saharan Africa.

"Learning policy analysis skills in class is important, but there's nothing like the experiential learning students gain by doing real-world policy analysis. Our graduate students take this work very seriously, determined to produce reports that can help our partner organizations make important decisions about projects affecting people in Wisconsin, the nation, and the world. This is a great example of outreach inspired by the Wisconsin Idea, UW–Madison's guiding philosophy."

Michael Collins, La Follette School Professor

"My team and I were so pleased with the report on improving Wisconsin's residential building code. It will be an invaluable resource for several related projects and initiatives, including our new Sustainable Building Council, so the timing could not be better. The report also generated insights we were not expecting, including ways our agency could assist efforts to expand access to affordable and workforce housing. We anticipate using this report as the foundation for future initiatives within our agency and across the administration. We could not have generated a resource like this without the La Follette School and UW–Madison."

Jennifer Garrett, Assistant Deputy Secretary, Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services

Wisconsin Idea

One of the longest and deepest traditions surrounding the University of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Idea signifies a general principle: that education should influence people's lives beyond the boundaries of the classroom.

Today, more than ever, faculty, students, and staff at the La Follette School practice the Wisconsin Idea across the state and around the world through research, teaching, and outreach. The school's multidisciplinary emphasis on service and scholarship allows it to take on problems of public policy and governance such as the design and management of social welfare programs, international currency and trade, and public management and finance.

In just the past **10 years**, La Follette students have collaborated on reports for **100 client-based projects**—all at no cost to clients other than their time. A public policy consulting firm would charge approximately $25,000 for similar reports. Multiplied by 100 projects, that's **$2.5 million** in consulting services provided by La Follette School master's students to local, state, national and international organizations in 10 years.

LA FOLLETTE POLICY POLL

An example of the Wisconsin Idea in action, the La Follette Policy Poll pointed elected leaders to problems that residents agree need solving, encouraging them to work together on policy solutions. Made possible by the Kohl Initiative and released in January, the poll asked 5,000 state residents about the issues that matter to them most and the problems they most want solved.

The results paint a revealing portrait of public opinion in a state that could affect the national balance of power this November. On issues such as government regulation, residents divide along party lines, but they are generally in agreement on healthcare and retirement savings. Younger respondents consistently rank climate change, healthcare, and income and wealth distribution as bigger problems than older respondents.

"The poll helps us understand both consensus and divisions in our state, as well as shedding light on the topics that the political parties and candidates ought to be talking about most during 2022."

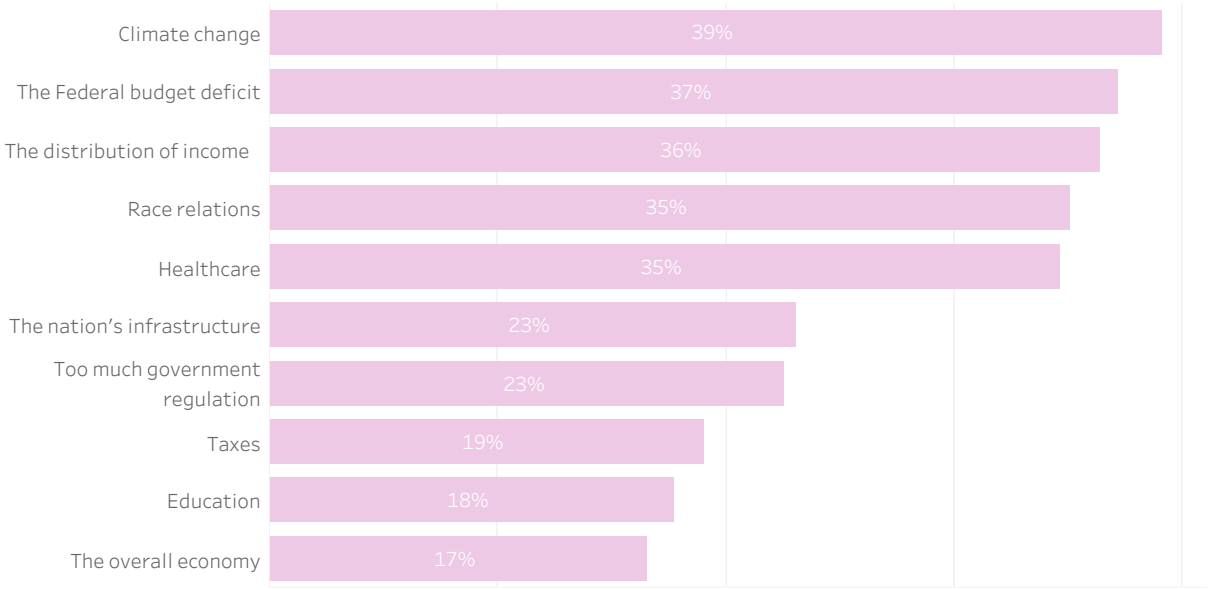
Susan Webb Yackee, La Follette School Director and Professor

La Follette Policy Poll

"Policies to invest in renewable energy and reduce pollution are particularly popular. Seventy percent of Wisconsinites support doubling the amount of electricity coming from renewables and 76% support taxing industries to remove industrial pollution. These policies create benefits beyond climate change, including creating renewable energy jobs and reducing emissions of air pollutants that harm human health."

Morgan Edwards, La Follette School Assistant Professor

Percentage of Wisconsinites who think these issues are extremely big problems



Note: These estimates are accurate within +/- 2.5% at a confidence level of 95%. Respondents who skipped a question and did not give a response (20 on average) are not shown.
Question: How much of a problem are each of the following issues facing the country today?

PARTNERSHIPS

In June, the La Follette School partnered with the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel and Wisconsin Public Radio to launch the Wisconsin Main Street Agenda project, which will focus news coverage on public policy issues in the months leading up to the November elections.

As part of the project, the partnership has released a survey and La Follette School faculty will participate in four town halls throughout the state to find out what citizens want candidates to talk about as they compete for votes this fall.

"Our students, from widely diverse backgrounds, come together to learn how to solve problems affecting our entire country—poverty; inflation; the pandemic and its many related health care issues; and the need for clean water, a market-driven economy, and equality for all," says La Follette School Director and Professor Susan Webb Yackee.

The project was inspired by the La Follette Policy Poll, which showed that Wisconsin voters are worried about difficult issues for which there is no simple solution—issues like education, health care, and race relations. These issues require nuanced policy solutions, and La Follette School research shows that Wisconsinites recognize these complexities.

New Partnerships

Over the past year, the La Follette School has expanded its partnerships with the media and other organizations to raise the profile of the school and extend the impact of the Kohl Initiative.

milwaukee journal sentinel

AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE

WISCONSIN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

WISEYE

WISCONSIN POLICY FORUM

WISCONSIN PUBLIC RADIO

Wisconsin Women in Government

THE CAP TIMES

Where 2022 graduates are working

STATE GOVERNMENT

Office of the Wisconsin Governor

University of Wisconsin System

Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development

Wisconsin Legislative Audit and Fiscal Bureaus

Wisconsin State Assembly

Wisconsin State Departments: Children and Families; Corrections; Health Services; Natural Resources; Workforce Development

Wisconsin Statewide Intelligence Center

PRIVATE SECTOR

Cornerstone Research

Grant Thornton

QuestionPro

Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

City of La Crosse

City of Madison

Dane County Office of Energy & Climate Change

Madison Police Department

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Government Accountability Office (GAO)

NONPROFIT/EDUCATION

American Institutes for Research

Burke Museum at the University of Washington

Center for the Study of the American Constitution

Houston Audubon Society

Indianapolis Hunger Network

Policy Center at Washington University

The Mary Amelia Center for Women's Health Equity Research

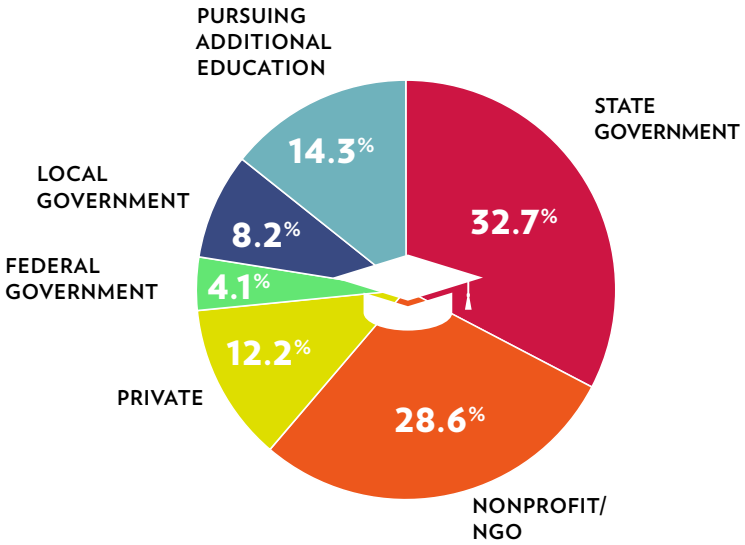
Tommy G. Thompson Center on Public Leadership

UW–Madison Center for Health Disparities Research

UW–Madison Population Health Institute

RECENT GRADUATES

Over the past three years, an average of 96.3% of La Follette School MPA and MIPA graduates have found employment in their field within 6 months of graduation.



Postgraduation career statistics, Class of 2022

2022 Graduation Awards

Matthew Voss (MPA) — Director's Achievement Award for his outstanding academic record and professionalism as a La Follette School student

Indu Kilaru (MPA) — Piore Prize for Best Paper in Science and Public Policy

Liz Duffie (MPA) — Penniman Prize for the best paper demonstrating the school's writing and analytic tools

"Though many of us are so different, we're all passionate about making this world a more thoughtful, equitable place, and that's what makes us special," said student speaker Carte'cia Lawrence (MPA '22) during the 2022 Commencement ceremony for MPA and MIPA graduates.

ALUMNI CONNECTIONS

Alumni & Friends Reception

In April 2022, the La Follette School held its first in-person alumni and friends reception since 2020 in Madison. The inaugural Alumni of Distinction Award was presented to alum Bill Cosh for his outstanding commitment to La Follette students via mentorship.

Alumni reception attendees spanned 46 years – from the Class of 1976 (when the La Follette School's predecessor the Center for the Study of Public Policy and Administration was in place) to the Class of 2022.

Day of the Badger

This spring, the La Follette School participated in Day of the Badger, UW–Madison's two-day annual philanthropic event. With the help of alumni and our La Follette School community, we raised over $47,000 to support students from groups underrepresented in higher education. A generous $20,000 challenge from Michael (MA '82) and JoAnn Youngman and Terry Lierman (MA '71) rallied fellow alumni and donors to support students.

Lauren Jorgensen (MPA '20) was recently promoted to senior budget and policy analyst for the Colorado Governor's Office of State Planning and Budgeting as recognition for the work she did coordinating two major initiatives in the Governor's Budget.

Atiya Siddiqi (MIPA '18) was the analyst-in-charge for a U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) report about long COVID, which was highlighted in the Washington Post, the New York Times, and Rolling Stone.

Rob Cramer (MA '92) was named Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration at UW–Madison.

Ken Meyer (MA '91) recently started as commissioner of the City of Chicago Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection (BACP).

Students and alumni in action

Kao Lee Yang (MPA, N&PPx'24) was named a 2022 Morgridge Fellow. The program supports teaching, research, and scholarly activities that are performed in equitable, mutually beneficial collaboration with communities.

Colin Higgins (MPA '16) is a presidential appointee to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, where he has served as policy advisor to Deputy Secretary Todman since March. He supports various programs including expanding rental assistance and tackling homelessness, better responding to natural disasters for vulnerable populations, and producing more affordable housing and increasing fair access to neighborhoods.

Jess Rutstein (MPA '20) presented The Evolution & Impact of Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) with Jonelle Brom at the annual Feeding Wisconsin Hunger and Health Summit in April. Rutstein is a FoodShare program and policy analyst with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS).

ELEVATING EQUITY

This year, our graduate students continued their work to address ways the La Follette School can improve diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) within our school, on campus, and in society.

Indu Kilaru, (MPA '22)

Gabriel Terrell, MPA

As DEI coordinators for the La Follette School Student Association (LSSA), Indu Kilaru (MPA '22) and current MPA student Gabriel Terrell provided leadership around advancing DEI.

LSSA also launched a new DEI Student Advisory Committee as a platform for La Follette students to advocate for DEI issues. Spearheaded by Terrell, the advisory committee works on important advocacy and outreach activities that create an inclusive and vibrant collective future.

The La Follette School continued its Elevating Equity in Policymaking series, which was launched in 2020 to highlight the wide-ranging careers and experiences of people working to promote equity in the policy world. In April, students gathered in person and virtually to discuss pressing health equity issues with La Follette School alum Shireen Ohadi-hamadani (MPA '20), who is the communications strategist for the Office of Health Equity located within the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS). The series will continue in fall 2022.

"The La Follette School is committed to expanding its DEI initiatives at all levels, including within the school itself, so we can continue to prioritize inclusivity in our curriculum and in how we train policy leaders. Today's pressing policy issues require inclusive solutions that address the needs of all individuals rather than the needs of a select minority. If we take seriously the need for a more equitable society, then we need to prioritize elevating equity in our own backyard."

Lauren Schmitz, Assistant Professor of Public Affairs

"As a public policy program, engaging with people from different backgrounds and serving diverse populations is key to the work we do. I am so grateful to our dedicated La Follette School students, who have taken a lead in researching concrete ways to improve our community."

Susan Webb Yackee, La Follette School Director and Professor

LOOKING AHEAD

Politics & Policy with Nate Silver

Oct. 26, 2022

Policymaker in Residence, Former Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives Paul Ryan

Feb. 22, 2023

La Follette Forum – Trust in Government

March 1, 2023

The La Follette School's fourth annual policy Forum, supported by the Kohl Initiative, will bring together researchers, policymakers, and community leaders Wednesday, March 1. La Follette School Professor **Manny Teodoro**, author of "The Profits of Distrust: Citizen-Consumers, Drinking Water, and the Crisis of Confidence in the American Government," chairs the day-long conference. Attendees may participate in person at the Monona Terrace or online.

La Follette School Professor Geoffrey Wallace (left) poses by a bust of Robert La Follette with Emeritus Professor Robert Haveman (right). The La Follette community mourns the loss of two beloved professors: Haveman passed away in June of 2022 and Wallace passed away in July of 2022.

THANK YOU!

... for providing financial support for scholarships, research, and professional development
... for participating on policy, career, and other panel discussions
... for assisting students with fellowships and employment applications
... for serving as mentors, mock interviewers, and networking partners

TO DONATE

- **Visit supportuw.org/give-to/lafolletteschool**
- **Call 800-442-6162**
- **Email alumni@lafollette.wisc.edu**

Contact us

www.lafollette.wisc.edu
608-262-3581
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Faculty

Susan Webb Yackee
Director and Professor of Public Affairs

Mariel Barnes
Assistant Professor of Public Affairs

Menzie Chinn
Professor of Public Affairs and Economics

J. Michael Collins
Professor of Public Affairs and Human Ecology

Mark Copelovitch
Professor of Public Affairs and Political Science

Christine Durrance
Associate Professor of Public Affairs

Morgan Edwards
Assistant Professor of Public Affairs

Jason Fletcher
Vilas Distinguished Achievement Professor of Public Affairs and Sociology

Denia Garcia
Assistant Professor of Public Affairs

Sarah Halpern-Meekin
Associate Professor of Human Development and Family Studies; Public Affairs

Lindsay Jacobs
Assistant Professor of Public Affairs

Tana Johnson
Associate Professor of Public Affairs and Political Science

Reed Lei
Assistant Professor of Public Affairs and Political Science

Ross Milton
Assistant Professor of Public Affairs

Gregory Nemet
Professor of Public Affairs

Jon Pevehouse
Professor of Political Science and Public Affairs

Lauren Schmitz
Assistant Professor of Public Affairs

Timothy Smeeding
Lee Rainwater Distinguished Professor of Public Affairs and Economics

Manuel Teodoro
Associate Professor of Public Affairs

Yang Wang
Associate Professor of Public Affairs

David Weimer
Edwin E. Witte Professor of Political Economy

Barbara Wolfe
Richard A. Easterlin Professor of Economics, Population Health Sciences, and Public Affairs

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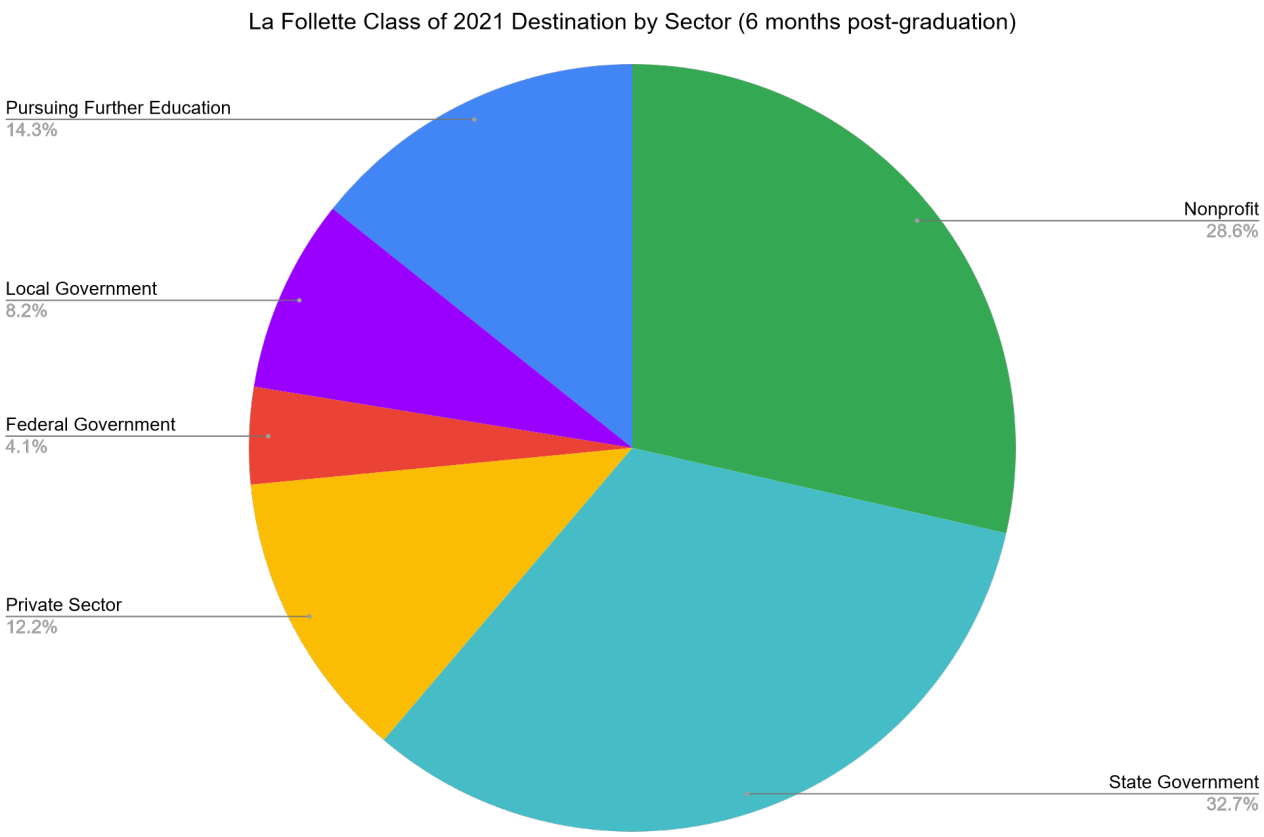
Welcoming Héctor Pifarré Arolas

Assistant Professor of Public Affairs

Héctor Pifarré Arolas joins the La Follette School in Fall 2022. His research focuses on social and health policy. He is interested in the determinants and measurement of health and mortality inequality, fertility, and the implications of and for population age structures. He is also evaluating the direct and indirect impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on health outcomes and healthcare access. Previously, he served as research director at the Centre for Research in Health Economics in Universitat Pompeu Fabra.

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



La Follette School 6-Month Post-Graduation Career Statistics for the Class of 2021

Of 50 La Follette School 2021 graduates, 43 entered the workforce and seven sought additional degrees. Of those entering the workforce, 98% (42 out of 43 graduates) reported that they had secured employment in their fields by December 2021. Of those who secured employment, 95% of graduates found jobs focused on domestic policy and management and 5% found jobs focused on international policy and management.

Where 2021 graduates have landed:

Nonprofits

- American Institutes for Research (AIR)
- Burke Museum at the University of Washington
- Center for the Study of the American Constitution
- Houston Audubon Society
- Indianapolis Hunger Network
- Policy Center at Washington University
- The Mary Amelia Center for Women's Health Equity Research
- University of Wisconsin-Madison, Tommy G. Thompson Center on Public Leadership
- UW Madison Center for Health Disparities Research

- UW Population Health Institute
- Wisconsin Housing Preservation
- World Bank, Asset Management and Advisory Department
- World Resource Institute

State Government

- Office of Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers
- University of Wisconsin System Institute for Business & Entrepreneurship
- UW System Administration Project Management Office
- Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development
- Wisconsin Department of Children and Families
- Wisconsin Department of Children and Families, Bureau of Working Families
- Wisconsin Department of Corrections, Division of Juvenile Corrections
- Wisconsin Department of Health Services
- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
- Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development
- Wisconsin Legislative Audit Bureau
- Wisconsin Legislative Fiscal Bureau
- Wisconsin State Assembly
- Wisconsin Statewide Intelligence Center

Private Sector

- Cornerstone Research
- Grant Thornton
- QuestionPro
- Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren

Local Government

- City of La Crosse
- City of Madison
- Dane County Office of Energy & Climate Change
- Madison Police Department

Federal Government

- Government Accountability Office (GAO)

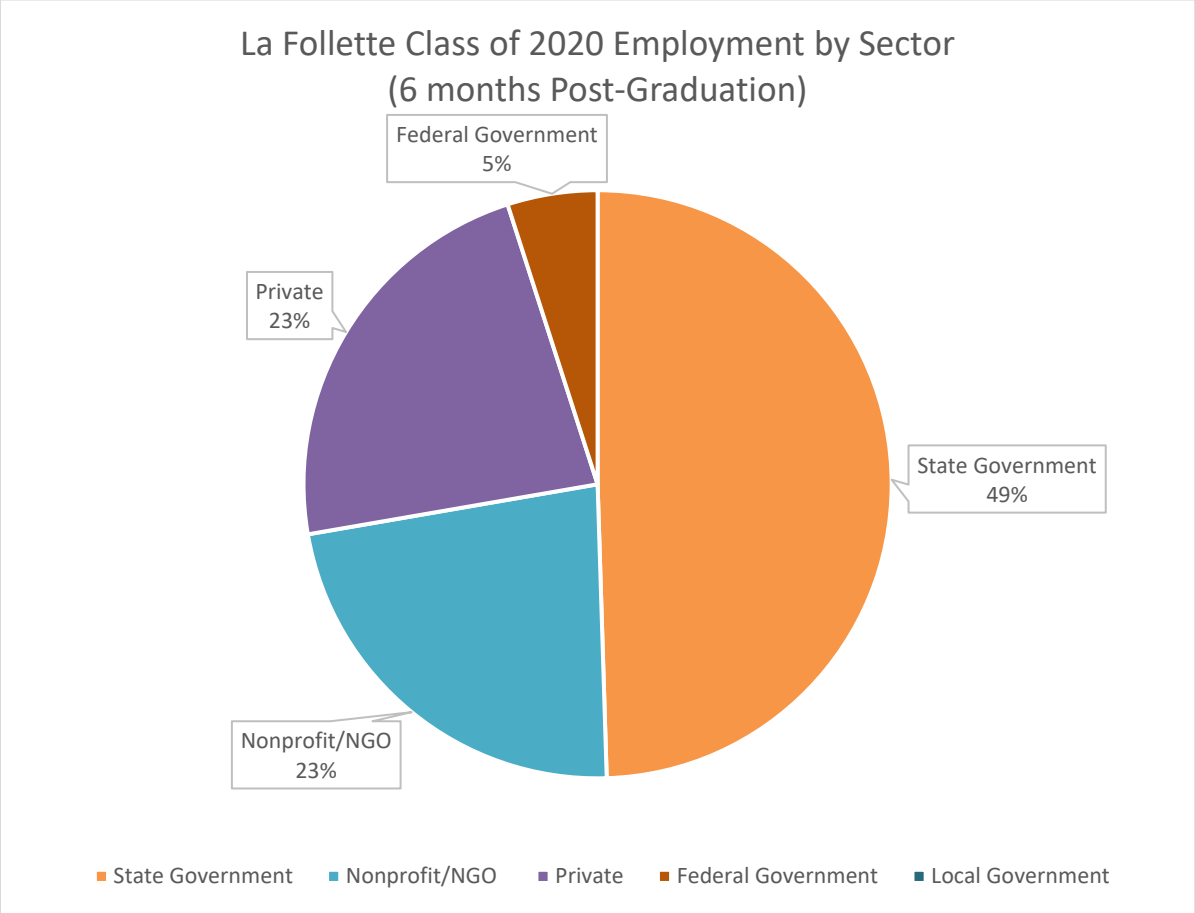
Pursuing Additional Graduate School (all students pursuing PhDs)

- Emory University, Laney Graduate School
- University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, Gillings School of Public Health
- University of Wisconsin Madison Law School
- University of Wisconsin Madison

La Follette School 6-Month Post-Graduation Career Statistics

Class of 2020 Employment by Sector

(6 months Post-Graduation)



Of 48 La Follette School 2020 graduates, 40 entered the workforce, six sought additional degrees, and two did not provide a status update. 96% of those entering the workforce (46 out 48 graduates) reported that they had secured employment in their fields by December 2020. Of those who secured employment, 93% of graduates found jobs focused on domestic policy and management and 7% found jobs focused on international policy and management.

Where 2020 graduates are working:

Federal Government Sector

- Army National Guard

State Government Sector

Intersect Illinois
Joint Legislative Budget Committee
National Conference of State Legislatures
Office of WI Governor Evers
WI Dept of Natural Resources
WI Legislative Audit Bureau
WI Legislative Reference Bureau
WI Dept. of Health Services
WI Dept. of Children and Families
WI National Guard
Vermont Department of Health

Nonprofit/NGO Sector

- Brightpoint
- Center on Budget and Policy Priorities
- Urban Institute
- Fulbright
- Girl Scouts USA
- Heartland Alliance for Human Needs and Human Rights
- Institute for Community Alliances
- The American Red Cross
- The iCenter for Israel Education
- UW Madison

Private Sector

- Baker Tilly
- Grant Thornton
- Big Sky Resort
- Deloitte Government Consulting
- Glacier Valley Ford
- Proviso Partners

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

Graduate Student Funding Information

The La Follette School offers fellowships, assistantships, and scholarships to incoming students each year. Unfortunately, due to limited funding, not all well-deserving students will receive funding offers. This handout provides funding information about opportunities outside of the La Follette School.

Students are highly encouraged to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by December 1 or as soon as possible. UW–Madison's school code is 003895. Applicants for most types of financial aid must be a U.S. citizen, permanent resident, or other eligible non-citizen.

Many first-year La Follette Public Affairs students fund their education through unsubsidized loans and personal resources. Other students find graduate assistant positions through UW-Madison departments outside the La Follette School by browsing UW Graduate Assistantships on the Student Job Center site. This year about half of second-year students work as project assistants (PAs) or as teaching assistants (TAs) either on campus or through off-campus organizations.

The following schools, institutes, and research centers have recently hired a La Follette student:

- Wisconsin Center for Research on Education (WCER) http://www.wcer.wisc.edu/
- School of Medicine and Public Health http://www.med.wisc.edu/
- Center for Financial Security (CFS) https://cfs.wisc.edu/
- Center for Community and Nonprofit Studies, School of Human Ecology: https://commnsknowledge.wisc.edu/
- Center on Wisconsin Strategy: http://www.cows.org/
- Institute for Research on Poverty: https://www.irp.wisc.edu/
- The International Division: https://international.wisc.edu/
- The Waisman Center: https://www.waisman.wisc.edu/

Other Project Assistant Positions:
Some project assistant positions are not advertised on the UW website. If La Follette staff become aware of opportunities, they will reach out to students about project assistantships with local non-university organizations as the information is received. In addition, La Follette Faculty will occasionally advertise for project assistantships tied to grants. These notices are sent to current students and incoming students by email.

Teaching Assistant Positions:
Some academic departments post Teaching Assistant (TA) openings on the UW Graduate Assistantships site. In the past 3 years, these academic departments hired a La Follette student:

- German, Nordic, and Slavic Department
- History Department
- School of Business
- School of Human Ecology
- Social Work
- Spanish and French
- Political Science
- Letters and Science Integrated Studies
- Gender and Women's Studies

Students with assistantships above the 33% generally receive tuition remission regardless of residency status, health insurance, and a stipend for their appointments. The stipend depends on the time commitment of the position. All graduate assistants pay for student segregated fees. Please see this site for on-campus assistantship details: https://grad.wisc.edu/funding/graduate-assistantships/

Foreign Language and Area Studies Scholarship (FLAS)

Academic-year FLAS fellowships are awarded for a full academic year to graduate students engaged in a **formal overseas or domestic program of full-time language and area studies** coursework. Several MIPA students have funded their second year of school through the FLAS. Summer FLAS fellowships are also available and intended to help students gain the equivalent of **a year's worth of college level language study**. The Foreign Language and Area Studies Scholarship, FLAS, is offered through these centers: The African Studies Program, Center for East Asian Studies, Center for European Studies, Latin American, Caribbean and Iberian Studies Program, Center for Russia, East Europe and Central Asia, Center for South Asia, Center for South East Asian Studies, and Global Studies. The application is due in early February each year. Specific requirements may vary depending on the language. Please consult the relevant area studies program or the following website for further details and application forms: http://flas.wisc.edu/

Other Funding Information and Resources

- Cost of Attendance Information: http://www.finaid.wisc.edu/cost-of-attendance.htm
- Cost of Living Information for Madison, WI: https://www.numbeo.com/cost-of-living/in/Madison
- Financial Wellness Program: https://financialaid.wisc.edu/free-to-uw-madison-students-salt/
- UW-Madison Graduate School Funding Information: https://grad.wisc.edu/funding/
- UW-Madison Graduate School External Fellowship database: https://grad.wisc.edu/funding/external-fellowship-database/
- Institute for Regional and International Studies (IRIS) Funding Opportunities: https://iris.wisc.edu/funding/
- Wisconsin Scholarship Hub: https://wisc.academicworks.com/
- UW-Madison International Student Services Funding & Scholarships: https://iss.wisc.edu/students/new-students/funding-scholarships/
- Current UW-Madison students are encouraged to use Research Guides curated by Librarian Ellen Jacks that include topics such as Funding for Graduate Students and Funding for International Students.
- They are encouraged to review the link below to a PPT about funding ideas from a workshop recently hosted by the Graduate School:
    - https://researchguides.library.wisc.edu/grantsgraduates/GrantsForEducation
- On-campus jobs open to public: https://jobs.wisc.edu/
- University of Wisconsin-Madison Financial Aid Office: http://www.finaid.wisc.edu/graduate-and-professional.htm
- Public Service Loan Forgiveness: https://studentaid.gov/manage-loans/forgiveness-cancellation/public-service
- Outside UW Scholarship Opportunities for minority Students: https://collegestats.org/resources/best-scholarships-minorities/
- Outside UW Scholarship Information: https://www.reviews.com/best-scholarship-search-platforms/
- Private Fellowships and Scholarships Search (FastWeb): http://www.fastweb.com
- Private student loans: https://loans.usnews.com/student-loans

POLICY POWERHOUSE

Approaching its 40th anniversary, the La Follette School of Public Affairs has never been in a better place to capitalize on its potential.

BY AARON R. CONKLIN

Tucked away below the crest of Observatory Hill, an old, Italianate-style house presents the same dignified façade as it did 167 years ago, when three university presidents (Chadbourne, Twombly and Bascom), as well as the first director of Washburn Observatory (James Watson), lived there. Inside, however, the building reverberates with visions and plans for the future. It's now the administrative home of the La Follette School of Public Affairs, a public-policy powerhouse, where leaders of one of our most forward-looking schools ponder the future with a watchful eye on the past.

The school, named to honor the legacy of legendary former Wisconsin Governor and U.S. Senator Robert M. La Follette, also known as the Father of Progressivism, aims to train future generations of leaders in the art of shaping public policy in areas such as energy, water, poverty, trade and public health. It dates its existence back to 1967, when it was called the Center for the Study of Public Policy and Administration and was attached to the Department of Political Science. It became the La Follette Institute for Public Affairs in 1983, when former Wisconsin Speaker of the Assembly Tom Loftus navigated a bipartisan law through the state legislature to create it. In 1999, it upgraded to become a full-fledged school, teaching classes in eight different buildings on the UW-Madison campus.

ILLUSTRATION: NICK OGONOSKY

PHOTO: HARRIS & EWING COLLECTION / LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Former Wisconsin governor and senator Robert M. La Follette, for whom the school is named

"It all started with the translation of evidence into the policymaking process," says Susan Webb Yackee, the Collins-Bascom Professor of Public Affairs who has directed the school for the past ten years. "There has been a real responsibility and mission for the school to be a leader in the Wisconsin Idea, and we have really stepped up our game in the last few years."

As it prepares to celebrate its 40th anniversary in 2023, the La Follette School of Public Affairs is having a profound impact on the campus, Wisconsin, and the world.

Student enrollment in the school's four programs — two-year graduate training programs in public affairs and international public affairs, and undergraduate certificate programs in public policy and in health policy — has more than quadrupled since 2019. The number of undergraduate classes taught has leapt from two to 22, with more than a thousand students expected in 2022–23. Meanwhile, the number of faculty members has doubled, and seven new staff have joined the ranks in the old house on the hill.

"It's important that we share the evidence, the findings and the conclusions of our research, as well as be very transparent about how we got there."

SUSAN WEBB YACKEE

The stunning growth is due to careful planning, strong leadership and the Kohl Initiative, a $10 million donation from UW–Madison alumnus and former U.S. Senator Herb Kohl. It's designed to support students, research and outreach (see sidebar on page 29).

"Good things happen to organizations that are ready for those good things to happen," says Yackee. "We had done the work to think about who we are, what we want to do, where our talents could be best directed in the future. You can't have this degree of growth and success if you don't have a really strong sense of who you are."

"Who they are" encompasses many things. The school's 22 faculty members are involved in researching and shaping nearly every imaginable hot-button issue at the national and international levels. Christine Durance, an economist by training, studies the causes and consequences of the nationwide opioid crisis. Menzie Chinn, who's also a member of the Department of Economics, is an expert on trade and currency manipulation, U.S.–China relations and inflation. Tana Johnson, one of the school's newer hires, studies the ways international organizations like the World Health Organization structure our society — and how people have increasingly come to distrust them.

"It's important that we share the evidence, the findings and the conclusions of our research, as well as be very transparent about how we got there," says Yackee, explaining the school's approach to research and outreach.

Susan Webb Yackee, director of the La Follette School of Public Affairs

"In classrooms, in the media and in public meeting settings, we're not just talking about the statistics around opioid use here in Wisconsin but also about how we collected those statistics and what they imply — and also what they don't mean."

The La Follette bench also includes rising stars like Manny Teodoro, an associate professor whose hiring was made possible through the Kohl Initiative. Teodoro studies water policy through an environmental justice lens, examining questions such as why so many members of the public are opting to buy bottled water from corporations instead of trusting in the public water system. In the spring, he will lead the school's annual signature event: a full-day public forum that brings state and national experts together to discuss a central topic. Last year's event was focused on democracy and elections; this year's will center on trust in government.

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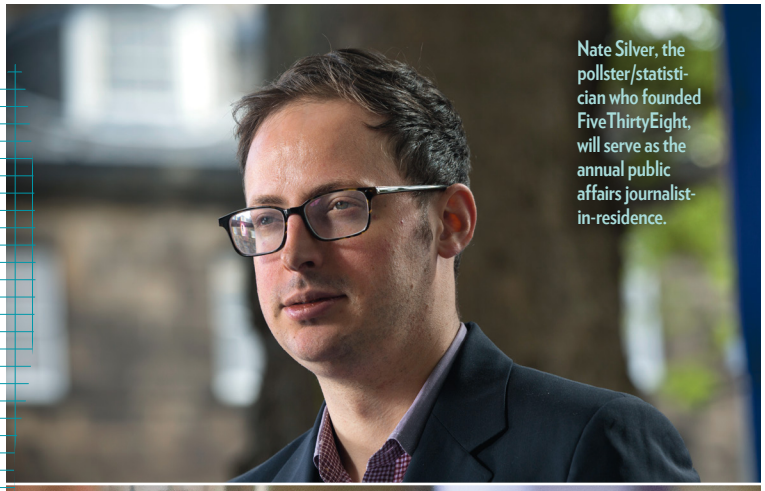
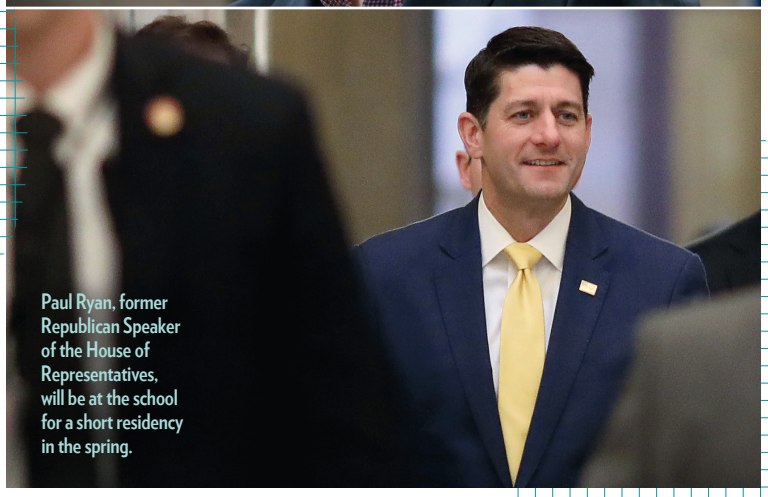
Outreach has always been a part of the school's charge, but under Yackee's extroverted style of leadership, those efforts have redoubled, coalescing around something dubbed the Main Street Agenda, a partnership between the school, the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* and Wisconsin Public Radio, facilitating discussion of public-policy issues in the lead-up to the November 2022 midterm elections. La Follette faculty members like Yackee and Professor of Public Policy and Political Science Mark Copelovitch have contributed regular editorials in the *Journal-Sentinel*'s Opinions page, and recently, the school conducted a statewide survey of Wisconsin voters to determine the public-policy issues that are most on their minds.

Participants from both sides of the political aisle attended a four-day workshop sponsored by the La Follette School of Public Affairs.

PHOTO: YANG YIN / GETTY



Nate Silver, the pollster/statistician who founded FiveThirtyEight, will serve as the annual public affairs journalist-in-residence.



Paul Ryan, former Republican Speaker of the House of Representatives, will be at the school for a short residency in the spring.

PHOTOS: (TOP) COLIN MCPHERSON, (BOTTOM) WIN MCNAMEE

Greg Nemet, a professor of public policy with the La Follette School who researches energy and climate policy, is one of the school's most public faces — he contributed policy recommendations to the most recent United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Report.

"One of the aspects of the school that I think Susan, more than anyone, has really championed is this idea of providing objective information in a bipartisan way," says Nemet, who frequently serves as a national media expert. "And that is really important, because the politics are so polarized."

Yackee and the La Follette School are doing their part to break down the walls of polarization. Earlier this summer, the school hosted a four-day training session with staff members from both sides of the aisle in the Wisconsin Assembly. Experts like Nemet and Chinn presented their research on energy policy and inflation, while other experts spoke on social policy and polling. While many of the topics might be categorized as contentious — particularly in Wisconsin's current political environment — Yackee says reviews from the participants were glowing.

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GREG NEMET

This fall, the school will host Nate Silver, the pollster/statistician who founded FiveThirtyEight, as its annual public affairs journalist-in-residence; in the spring, Paul Ryan, the former Republican Speaker of the House of Representatives, will be at the school for a short residency.

Many graduate students come to the La Follette School having worked in Washington, D.C., or for a private or public nonprofit organization. Undergraduates, meanwhile, have recognized the value of adding public policy to their degree portfolio. A biology major who hopes to someday become a doctor, for instance, could benefit tremendously from learning about insurance risk and Medicare through the school's new undergraduate health policy certificate program.

Graduates often go on to law school or become public servants or public-policy experts. One recent La Follette grad works as the scheduler for U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris; another works as a meteorologist for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Others work in the offices of prominent Wisconsin politicians, have founded nonprofit organizations or landed in other levels of city and state government.

"The students that are attracted and come to the school, they're taking these ideas, they're learning statistical

techniques, how to work with data, how to graphically show information," says Nemet. "They're learning how to communicate and how to write, how to get ideas into policymakers' hands. That, to me, is the Wisconsin Idea."

Each year, Nemet asks the students in his policy analysis course to pick a public-policy topic out of a hat — such as health care, climate change or education—to research and learn about, so they can begin developing their own potential policy alternatives.

"One of the best things we teach our students is a set of structured techniques that can be used to apply to any policy problem," he says.

Student projects often have significant real-world impact. Yackee cites a former graduate student who produced a report for the City of Milwaukee that offers policy solutions to the emerging problem of failing sewer laterals. Milwaukee's aging housing stock has resulted in decaying laterals, and homeowners, many of whom are low-income families, were shocked to learn they are responsible for the expensive cost to replace them.

While she looks forward to growth and change, Yackee says there's at least one thing she wants to stay constant.

"The informed and evidence-based approach of our school is a real testament to its faculty, who put in the work to generate the research and synthesize our best understanding and to translate it in the classroom and in our broader public outreach," she says. "That is a part that I never want to change." ■

Former U.S. senator from Wisconsin Herb Kohl

PIVOTAL SUPPORT

Susan Yackee makes no bones about it: The Kohl Initiative has been "pivotal" to the transformation of the La Follette School of Public Affairs. What Yackee once thought of as a small yet successful boutique school has exploded on the strength of Sen. Herb Kohl's seven-year, $10 million gift. That donation has helped recruit top faculty to the school and fueled a new wave of public outreach in Wisconsin and beyond.

"We now have the resources to make the connections with citizens who feel differently on policy issues and to bring them together and try to find common ground," says Yackee.

PHOTO: CHRIS MADDALONI / GETTY