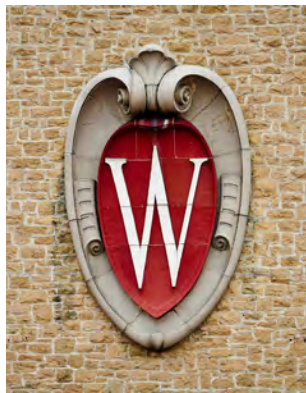


UW–Madison La Follette School of Public Affairs

2020–2021 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 and Political Science

Eric Borgerding

Wisconsin Hospital Association

Theola V. Carter (MA '91)

Dane County Tamara D. Grigsby Office for Equity and Inclusion

Curt S. Culver

MGIC Investment Corp., retired

Roger Ervin

Putnam Partners

Jason Gerlach (MA '96)

Sunrise Capital Partners

Michael Hamerlik

WPS Health Solutions

Carolyn Hill (MA '96)

MDRC

Leslie Ann Howard

United Way of Dane County, retired

Herb Kohl

U.S. Senate, retired

Bob Lang

Wisconsin Legislative Fiscal Bureau

Terry Lierman (MA '71)

Summit Global Ventures

David Lubar

Lubar & Co.

Katharine C. Lyall

UW System, retired

Luther Olsen

Wisconsin Senate, retired

Chuck Pruitt

ABD Direct

Eric Schutt

SHINE Medical Technologies

Daniel Speckhard (MA '82)

Corus International

Michael Youngman (MA '82)

Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Co., retired

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Another academic year has come and gone, and what a year it was! We welcomed 11 faculty members, celebrated 50 amazing master's degree graduates, and grew our undergraduate course enrollment to more than 400 students.

The past year certainly demonstrated the resiliency and determination of our faculty, staff, and students. Amid a global pandemic, faculty members embraced online teaching, students collaborated and networked across the globe, and staff conducted virtual meetings with students and online events with hundreds of participants.

Challenges? Yes. Successes? Absolutely!

Looking ahead, we are excited for in-person teaching, learning, and networking. With support from the Kohl Initiative, we know that the La Follette School is more prepared than ever to address the public policy issues that drive so many of the challenges we face in our communities, across our country, and throughout the world.

On, Wisconsin!

Susan Webb Yackee

Director and Professor

Faculty

Susan Webb Yackee

Director and Professor of Public Affairs and Political Science

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

Professor of Public Affairs and Sociology

Denia Garcia

Assistant Professor of Public Affairs

Sarah Halpern-Meekin

Associate Professor of Human Development and Family Studies, and of Public Affairs

Lindsay Jacobs

Assistant Professor of Public Affairs

Tana Johnson

Associate Professor of Public Affairs and Political Science

Philipp Koellinger

Professor of Public Affairs

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 Public Affairs and Political Science

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

Geoffrey Wallace

Professor of Public Affairs and Economics

Yang Wang

Associate Professor of Public Affairs

David Weimer

Edwin E. Witte Professor of Political Economy

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

6TH

BEST SCHOOL FOR
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
Center for World University Rankings

4TH

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 EMPLOY-
MENT IN THEIR FIELD
WITHIN **6 MONTHS** OF
GRADUATION.

63%

OF STUDENTS
HELD **GRADUATE
ASSISTANTSHIPS** OR
RECEIVED A **FELLOWSHIP**

78

GRADUATES IN **2ND** CLASS
OF UNDERGRADUATE
CERTIFICATE IN PUBLIC
POLICY PROGRAM

111

DONORS TO **2021 DAY OF
THE BADGER**



290%

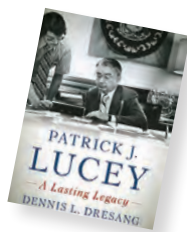
INCREASE IN DONATIONS
RAISED DURING DAY OF THE
BADGER, 2021 (\$24,600) OVER
2019 (\$6,300)



240+ LA FOLLETTE SCHOOL
ALUMNI AND FRIENDS
SHARED THEIR TIME AND
TALENTS WITH STUDENTS AS
MENTORS, MOCK INTERVIEW-
ERS, AND SPEAKERS



THROUGH ITS
LEGISLATIVE OUTREACH,
LA FOLLETTE SCHOOL
STAFF MEMBERS
ENGAGED WITH **101
OF WISCONSIN'S 132
LEGISLATIVE OFFICES.**



PATRICK J. LUCEY: A LASTING LEGACY
BY PROFESSOR EMERITUS DENNIS DRESANG

Best biography, 2021 Midwest Independent Publishers Association

12,759

PEOPLE REACHED THROUGH **14 VIRTUAL**
EVENTS DURING 2020-21

La Follette School Student Association Officers, 2021-2022

Dana Nielsen
President

Ian Pearson
Treasurer

Cartecia Lawrence
Secretary

Indu Kilaru
Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator

Kelsey Gordon
Community Service and Outreach Coordinator

Lew Blank
Social Coordinator

Katie Pollock
Graduation Coordinator

Anna Sucsy
Fundraising Coordinator

2021 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 9 STATES, WASHINGTON, DC, AND 2 COUNTRIES
(POLAND, KOSOVO)**



56

TOTAL ENROLLMENT

25.53

AVERAGE AGE

40 MASTER OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS (MPA),
16 MASTER OF INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC AFFAIRS (MIPA),
5 STUDENTS IN DUAL, DOUBLE, OR CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS,
8 ACCELERATED STUDENTS



Cartecia Lawrence, MPA

"Having spent some time in the workforce before deciding to return to school, I knew that I lacked strong quantitative skills. The La Follette School's passion for cultivating students' quantitative and qualitative skills was a big reason why I chose this program."



Henry Hundt, MPA

Energy Analysis & Policy Certificate (EAP)
"With no prior substantive professional or academic engagement with public policy, I have gained an enormous amount of clarity and depth to the subject. Being able to bring together my experience working with renewable energy technologies and the policy lessons from the EAP Program will be incredibly valuable as I move forward in my career."



Matthew Hansen, MPA, JD

"The La Follette School has been a great academic complement to the law program and has provided me with insights in cost-benefit analysis, policy-making, public budgeting, and economics."



Katie Pollock, MPA

"The small class size has allowed me to meet some amazing people who have helped make virtual learning easier."

KOHL INITIATIVE

The second year of the Kohl Initiative brought tremendous growth opportunities to the La Follette School. Launched in May 2019, the Kohl Initiative was created with a \$10 million gift from former U.S. Sen. Herb Kohl.

Goals

- ➔ Educate more students
- ➔ Support undergraduate public policy internships
- ➔ Increase partnerships with nonpartisan organizations
- ➔ Host conferences on critical policy topics
- ➔ Teach more high-demand classes
- ➔ Expand faculty research and faculty-student collaboration
- ➔ Increase the School's visibility

Areas of Focus



Train future leaders



Expand outreach



Create impactful research

2020–2021 Impact

38

**STATES
REPRESENTED
IN EVENT
REGISTRATIONS**

2ND

**UNDERGRADUATE
PROGRAM
APPROVED
CERTIFICATE IN
HEALTH POLICY**

3

**NEW STAFF
PAGE BAZAN, MARY
DAVIS MICHAUD, ANN
SHAFFER**

4

**RECIPIENTS OF KOHL RESEARCH COMPETITION AWARDS
MARK COPELOVITCH, MANUEL TEODORO, YANG WANG,
BARBARA WOLFE**

**TOTAL COURSES
OFFERED:
32 IN 2017–18
56 IN 2020–21**

**UNDERGRADUATE
STUDENTS TAUGHT:
50 IN 2018–19
440 IN 2020–21**

Certificate experience leads to MPA studies



Will Keenan made history as one of the La Follette School's first undergraduate students to complete the Certificate in Public Policy program. His interactions with Professor Geoffrey Wallace prompted him to further his studies through the School's Master of Public Affairs (MPA) program.

"While taking the class Race, Inequality, and Public Policy (PA 520), Professor Wallace encouraged me to apply for the certificate program," Keenan recalls. "More broadly, his class and the way he taught it was one of the main reasons I decided to attend the La Follette School. During his classes, he always provided engaging material, discussed his research, and involved students in good discussions."

Undergraduate Certificate in Public Policy

The La Follette School offered its first undergraduate courses in 2018–19 and awarded its first undergraduate certificates (like minors at other schools) the following year.

UNDERGRADUATE COURSES OFFERED

16

IN 2020–21

8 IN 2019–20

2 IN 2018–19

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS TAUGHT

440

IN 2020–21

197 IN 2019–20

50 IN 2018–19

CERTIFICATE PROGRAM ENROLLMENT

165

STUDENTS IN 2020–21

50 STUDENTS IN 2019–20

CERTIFICATE PROGRAM GRADUATES

78

STUDENTS IN 2020–21

20 STUDENTS IN 2019–20

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.

Nearly 100 undergraduate students have received public policy certificates since the program began in 2018–19. For the 2021–22 academic year, the program will increase enrollment to more than 200 students.



"Students find that the Certificate coursework grows their understanding of the public policy process and how change happens," says Undergraduate Advisor Mary Davis Michaud. "The undergraduate courses train students to analyze and apply evidence in policymaking, and they apply these approaches in policy-relevant internships. That applied experience often makes them stand out as job or graduate-program candidates."

Mary Davis Michaud
Undergraduate Advisor and Faculty Associate



"I would like to pursue a Certificate in Public Policy because I want to learn the skills that will help me create more equitable and inclusive policies in my future endeavors. In Public Affairs 200, I learned about many of the social welfare programs like Medicaid, SNAP, and TANF, and I learned to think more critically. The Certificate will help me hone my skills in researching, communicating, and creating policies that are less burdensome."

Andrea Corro
Undergraduate Certificate in Public Policy student



"I learned more in Professor Durrance's Analytic Tools for Public Policy class than I have in any other class thus far, was continuously interested, and always felt safe participating and asking questions. I can easily say I have enjoyed this class more than I have any other and look forward to hopefully take another class with her in the future."

Peyton Dabby
Undergraduate Certificate in Public Policy student



"The Certificate in Public Policy program informs, it empowers students to see how government, how policy can improve the things that they care about."

Professor Eric Wilcots
Dean, UW-Madison College of Letters & Science



Notable Undergraduate Students

DANIEL LEDIN (BAx '22)

Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Summer Enrichment Program Scholar

Daniel Ledin, who is majoring in political science and international studies, is the first UW–Madison student chosen for this highly selective program, which began in 2002 and is funded by the U.S. Department of State.

"I pursued the Rangel program because I knew it would grant me unparalleled professional development and career exposure," says Ledin. "I look forward to interacting with various think tanks, government agencies, and non-governmental organizations to learn about the different opportunities available in the international affairs sector."

SHEHROSE CHARANIA (BA '21)

UW–Madison's 2020 Newman Civic Fellow, a national honor



During her senior year at UW–Madison, Shehrose Charania participated in leadership development, networking events, and a national conference of Newman Civic Fellows, including 290 students from 39 states, Washington, DC, Mexico, and Greece. Chancellor Rebecca Blank nominated Charania for the honor.

Charania, who received her bachelor's degree in health promotion and health equity, combines her identity as a Pakistani Muslim American and passion for health promotion to combat health inequities. The combination of her identity and passion is informed by her first-hand experience as a teenage immigrant living in Chicago, and by helping her parents navigate the complex health care system.

Undergraduate Certificate in Health Policy

In March 2021, the University Academic Planning Council unanimously approved the La Follette School's Undergraduate Certificate in Health Policy program. The certificate will help students build a solid understanding of the ways public policy influences individual and population health. Enrollment begins Nov. 1, 2021.



"Students will learn data and analytic skills necessary for navigating and improving health care systems and 'upstream' policies that influence health. These are critical competencies for UW–Madison graduates seeking employment in the health sector."

Susan Webb Yackee
La Follette School Director and Professor

2021 Notable News Media Mentions



Milwaukee Journal Sentinel: Tim Smeeding on potential impact in Wisconsin of proposed federal anti-poverty legislation, 5/5/2021



InBusiness: Denia Garcia on immigrant business owners' role in state, national economy, 2/23/2021



New York Times, Ezra Klein Show: Greg Nemet on solar power, 2/26/2021



Wisconsin Public Radio: Susan Webb Yackee on how using guidance from government agencies as a policy tool may improve transparency and accessibility, 7/1/2021

EXPANDING OUTREACH

Critical policy topics always take center stage during a presidential election year, and 2020 put the spotlight on health policy, social policy, and other issues exacerbated by a global pandemic. During 2020–21, La Follette School faculty shared their expertise via online events, media interviews, and partnerships with on- and off-campus groups.

Election 2020: A Spotlight on Policy



Maggie Haberman
Public Affairs Journalist in Residence

Fall 2020

Events: 8

Participants: Live—1,458; Total views—4,493

Partners: Wisconsin Alumni Association, WisPolitics, UW–Madison Chancellor's Office, Wisconsin Historical Society Press, UW–Madison Elections Research Center, UW–Madison School of Journalism and Mass Communication

Faculty member participants: Menzie Chinn, J. Michael Collins, Mark Copelovitch, Dennis Dresang, Christine Durrance, Jason Fletcher, Denia Garcia, Sarah Halpern-Meekin, Greg Nemet, Tana Johnson, Jon Pevehouse, Tim Smeeding, Geoffrey Wallace, Susan Webb Yackee

Featured guests: Maggie Haberman of The New York Times, Gov. Jim Doyle, Gov. Scott McCallum, Gov. Tommy G. Thompson



Professor Emeritus
Dennis Dresang



Former Gov.
Jim Doyle



Former Gov. Scott
McCallum

Patrick J. Lucey: A Lasting Legacy

Former Govs. Scott McCallum and Jim Doyle joined Professor Emeritus Dennis Dresang for a discussion about the late Patrick J. Lucey, Wisconsin's 38th governor, and his impact on the state. The Wisconsin Historical Society Press published Dresang's book *Patrick J. Lucey: A Lasting Legacy* in 2020. Video of the event, featuring introductory remarks by UW System President and former Gov. Tommy G. Thompson, is on the La Follette School's YouTube channel.



Spring 2021 Offner Lecture

Politics and Policy: Democracy in the Digital Age
Katie Harbath, former global public policy director at Facebook



Spring 2021 Public Affairs Journalist in Residence

Widening the Circle of Accountability: Media & the Climate Debate
Amy Westervelt, founder, Critical Frequency podcast network

39th Family Impact Seminar

Beyond Healthcare Policy: Building the Foundation of Health for Wisconsin Families
Attendees: 193, including 21 legislators, 27 aides, and 42 state agency representatives

2021 Notable News Media Mentions



New York Times: Professor Menzie Chinn on taxing foreign purchases of U.S. assets, 3/1/2021



Voice of America: Sarah Halpern-Meekin on the potential for the American Rescue Plan to cut U.S. poverty in half, 3/10/2021



Yahoo! Money: J. Michael Collins on Wisconsin's looming retirement crisis, 3/17/2021



Mississippi Today: Manny Teodoro on the role of racism in U.S. broken water system, 3/24/21

CREATING INFLUENTIAL RESEARCH

Launched in 2016, the **Herb Kohl Public Service Research Competition** supports nonpartisan faculty-led research that informs critical public policy and governance debates and advances evidence-based decision-making. It also provides learning opportunities for graduate students to work alongside faculty as project assistants and expands the School's outreach activities.



6

YEARS



27

AWARDS



22

STUDENTS*



28

FACULTY

*As project assistants, the 22 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.

2021 Kohl Competition Awards

Earned income Tax Credit (EITC) and Intimate Partner Violence

Associate Professor Yang Wang and Professor Barbara Wolfe

Water System Excellence Project

Associate Professor Manuel Teodoro

Democracy, Prosperity, Hegemony: Global Finance and the Future of American Economic and Foreign Policy

Professor Mark Copelovitch



Jacobs, Smeeding part of human, robot collaboration project

Faculty members Lindsay Jacobs and Tim Smeeding are co-investigators for a research project to bolster human and robot collaborations in the manufacturing sector. The research, led by Professor Robert Radwin of the College of Engineering, is funded through a three-year, \$1.5 million grant from the National Science Foundation.

The researchers plan to analyze manufacturing jobs and then create a “matchmaking” computational framework to identify specific tasks where collaborative, intelligent robotic assistants could boost productivity and worker health and safety. Industry collaborators include General Motors and Ford Motor Company.

Jacobs specializes in labor economics and modeling the interactions among health, job tasks, and labor supply decisions. Smeeding is an expert on modeling social and economic mobility across generations, inequality of earnings, income, consumption and wealth, and earnings and income-support policies.



Durrance, Fletcher, Wang receive funding for inequality research

Three faculty members received funding to support their research from UW–Madison's Understanding and Reducing Inequalities Initiative. Their projects were among only 15 selected from 73 proposals.

Understanding and Reducing Inequalities During the COVID-19 Crisis, Associate Professor Christine Durrance

The Foundational Inequality—Race Differences in Equal Opportunity in the United States, Professor Jason Fletcher

Impacts of the Earned Income Tax Credit on Intergenerational Health Mobility, Associate Professor Yang Wang

CLIENT-BASED PROJECTS

La Follette School master's degree students gain highly transferrable experience working with public, private, and nonprofit clients on projects that might otherwise not be possible amid tight budgets and other challenges. Many alumni say that their work on these client-based projects have been instrumental in securing jobs.

During the 2020–21 academic year, several projects focused on equity and climate policy. One group of students worked with Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers (SSCHC) in Milwaukee to identify nine actions for improving SSCHC's ability to connect patients with stable, safe, high-quality housing and to advocate for beneficial housing policy.

"This work is going to have a long-term effect on our patients and our clinic and the way we do things here," says Jose Salazar, a manager at SSCHC.

For the Cost-Benefit Analysis (CBA) course, another group of students saw the impact of their work for the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families in Gov. Tony Evers' 2021–2023 state budget proposal.

Following the students' recommendation, the proposal included "expanding eligibility for independent living services to youth who have been in a qualifying court-ordered placement for at least six months after age 16 and who are not adopted or entering guardianship ... (and) increasing the maximum age for these services to 23."



"I was excited to hear that our cost-benefit recommendation about foster care services made the executive budget, especially the driver's license program for foster youth. We had a really great and supportive client who was excited about our work."

Madeline McIlhon (MPA '21)



During client-based courses, "you get a sense of professionalism and thinking about how to frame your work and research succinctly and to address a pain point."

Kate Austin Stanford (MPA, MPH '15)



"There are two things faculty are looking for: to do world-class research that matters and the ability to work with great students. The Kohl Initiative allows them to do that."

**Professor John Karl Scholz
Provost, UW-Madison**



"Ultimately, these items were not included in the final state budget, but this does show that client projects completed by La Follette School students are taken seriously by our clients, and I am hopeful that foster care issues will continue to be recognized and addressed in the future."

Jacob Pankratz (MPA '21)



"This is a great example of the kind of outreach inspired by the Wisconsin Idea, UW-Madison's guiding philosophy. Our graduate students do their best possible work, conscious that our partner organizations will use these reports to make important decisions. It is a win-win for the students and our partners."

**J. Michael Collins
Professor of Public Affairs and Human Ecology**



"Green Bay is facing a severe blue-green algae issue, and it threatens public health, local tourism, and fishing. My CBA team worked with Brown County, and our report provided insights for the county to make decisions about whether to harvest blue-green algae, and if they were interested, how to do it."

Mingxin Zhang (MPA, EAP certificate '21)

Where 2020 graduates are working

STATE GOVERNMENT SECTOR

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

PRIVATE SECTOR

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

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

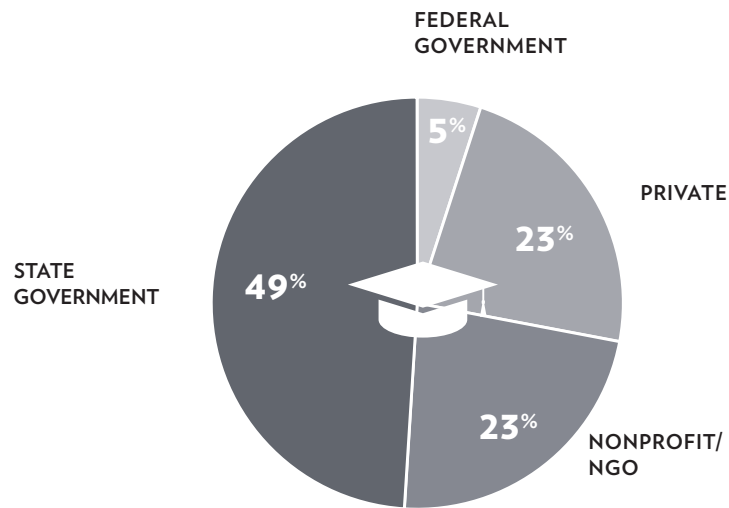
Army National Guard

NONPROFIT/EDUCATION

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

RECENT GRADUATES

Over the past three years, an average of 96 percent of La Follette School graduates have found employment in their field within 6 months of graduation.



Postgraduation career statistics, Class of 2020

2021 Graduation Awards

Alyssa Dooley (MIPA) — Director's Achievement Award for her outstanding academic record and her initiative and professionalism as a La Follette School student.

Muhammad Shayan (MPA, EAP) — Penniman Prize for the best paper demonstrating the School's writing and analytic tools. Quasi-Experimental Evaluation of Pakistan's Sehat Sahulat Social Health Insurance Program: Impact on Maternal Health Care Utilization and Child Health, nominated by Professor Tim Smeeding.

Sarah Ebben (MPA) — Piore Prize for Best Paper in Science and Public Policy. Regulating Forensic Genetic Genealogy: Future Policy Interventions, nominated by Assistant Professor Lauren Schmitz.



"The La Follette School has shown me the importance of informed policymaking and data-driven policy decisions, both commonly overlooked in our current political space."

—Anna Barry (MPA '21)



"The La Follette School has helped me better understand the policymaking process and some of the pitfalls of our democracies. It also has helped me think a lot about how to improve our society."

—Victor Escalona (MPA '21)

ALUMNI IN ACTION

Top media outlets publish 2018 alumna's writing



Since relocating to the United Kingdom, Stephanie (Rubin) Murray (MPA '18) has had her work published in The New York Times, Washington Post, Atlantic, and other major publications. The mother of two young girls, Murray often writes about parenting-related topics.

Her first article in The Atlantic, The Danger of Shortchanging Parents, was published in April. In it, Murray wrote: "Parenting is not a hobby—it's an indispensable part of a properly functioning economy, and our present system works only if people continue to do it."

She also has tackled difficult topics like parental depression. In My 3-Year-Old Can Tell I'm Depressed, published in The New York Times, Murray wrote about her personal struggles, sharing advice from experts and insight from others.

"In my darkest moments, I find myself doubting whether things will get better no matter what I do," Murray wrote. "Offering my daughter reassurance when I feel so unmoored feels disingenuous."

Interdisciplinary focus benefits 2020 alumnus



Jackson Parr (MPA '20) began his career as a journalist in northeastern Wisconsin. Writing about the difficulties local governments had in navigating state and federal policy prompted him to pursue a master's degree at the La Follette School.

"I wanted to further understand these relation-

ships to improve outcomes in rural communities," says Parr, the J. Phillip Keillor Flood Resilience Fellow with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services and Wisconsin Sea Grant.

The interdisciplinary focus of his La Follette School coursework has been instrumental in this role. "Flood events trigger many different social and institutional dynamics that all must be considered when identifying solutions," he says.

Parr, who also received a master's degree in water resource management, is helping develop the Flood Resilience Scorecard, a tool that communities can use to assess their own infrastructural, social, and administrative capacity to manage flooding. The scorecard will then provide recommendations to improve flood resilience based on the results, he says.



A career diplomat, **Linda Thomas-Greenfield (MA '75)** was sworn in as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations in February 2021. She previously served as ambassador to Liberia under President George W. Bush and held foreign postings in Switzerland, Pakistan, Kenya, The Gambia, Nigeria, and Jamaica.

Rob Cramer (MA '92) was named Interim Associate Vice Chancellor for Facilities Planning & Management by UW-Madison Chancellor Rebecca Blank. He previously served as vice president for administration for the University of Wisconsin System, vice chancellor for administrative services at UW-Platteville, secretary of the State of Wisconsin Building Commission, and administrator of the Division of State Facilities.



"One of the reasons I decided to go back to school after 20 years was to gain the analytical tools necessary to develop policy solutions that address the predicament of what I call "flex-term workers"—small entrepreneurs, independent contractors, and gig workers."

Christine Welcher (MIPA '21)



Atiya Siddiqi (MIPA '18) was promoted to senior analyst at the U.S. Government Accountability Office in Chicago. At the La Follette School, Siddiqi conducted research on solar energy as part of Professor Greg Nemet's Andrew Carnegie Fellowship award.



Sara Eskrich (MPA, MPH '15) was quoted in the Politico story New York's 'head-swirling' mistake puts harsh spotlight on ranked-choice voting. Eskrich is executive director of Democracy Found, an organization pushing to incorporate Final Five Voting in Wisconsin elections.



Rachel (Moskowitz) Svoboda (MPA '07) was the analyst in charge of the report Firearm Injuries: Health Care Service Needs and Costs published by the U.S. Government Accountability Office. Moira Lenox (MPA '17) assisted Svoboda on the report, which was requested by U.S. Rep. Carolyn B. Maloney, the head of the House Oversight Committee, and U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren.

ALUMNI CONNECTIONS

While the pandemic kept people physically distanced, the La Follette School hosted three events this spring to bring alumni together virtually for the very first time in its history.

In March, beloved emeritus and current faculty members participated in a panel discussion about the Importance of Public Policy, Before, During, and After COVID-19.

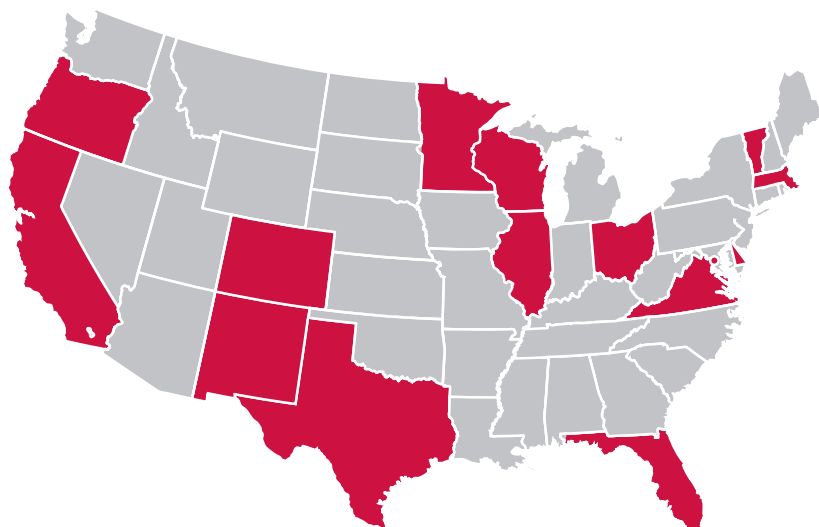
Professors Geoffrey Wallace and Bobbi Wolfe and Emeritus Professors Dennis Dresang, Bob Haveman, and John Witte shared their insights and answered audience questions. Director and Professor Susan Webb Yackee moderated.

In April, alumni from various policy sectors volunteered to share career insights and words of wisdom with students during a Virtual Networking Event.



In May, alumni re-connected with old friends and welcomed the Class of 2021 during an online reunion.

Alumni participants spanned 50 years—from the Class of 1971 (when the La Follette School was the Center for the Study of Public Policy and Administration) to the Class of 2021.



Alumni participation by location

ELEVATING EQUITY

This past year, numerous graduate students demonstrated outstanding leadership around diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) issues. These students included Anna Barry, Molly Gallagher, Kelsey Gordon, Amber Joshway, Indu Kilaru, Cartecia Lawrence, and Toni Sopukeeva.

“These leaders, and so many others, are deeply committed to our School’s mission, vision, and values,” said La Follette School Director and Professor Susan Webb Yackee. “We are extremely grateful for their efforts to make our world a better place for all.”

As DEI coordinators for the La Follette School Student Association (LSSA), Kilaru and Sopukeeva (MIPA ’21) hosted a TED circle to celebrate Black History Month, while Barry (MPA ’21) and Gallagher served on the School’s DEI Task Force, which was launched in summer 2020.



Indu Kilaru, MPA



Toni Sopukeeva (MIPA ’21)

Kilaru also organized LSSA’s Women’s History Month event featuring Suvai Gunasekaran, vice president of UN Women, Chicago. Joshway and Kilaru co-moderated the event, while Gordon and Lawrence co-presented at virtual Visit Day and regularly contributed to the School’s efforts around DEI.

In addition, the La Follette School launched Elevating Equity in Policymaking and hosted two alumni. Theola Carter (MA ’91) and Frances Huntley-Cooper (MA ’94) shared brief information about their careers in public service and answered questions from students.

Lawrence (an MPA student) moderated the hour-long events, which she also helped organize and promote in her role as a La Follette School project assistant.



“Effective public policy requires thoughtfully engaging with stakeholders from a range of backgrounds and cultural contexts and with varying needs and capacities.”

Geoffrey Wallace
Professor of Public Affairs and Economics

Staff

Steve Kulig (MPA ’14)

Associate Director

Page Bazan

Associate University Relations Specialist

Lisa Ellinger (MPA ’03)

Outreach Director

Lisa Hildebrand

Communications Director

Marie Koko

Senior Career Services Coordinator

Andrew Lambert

Senior Information Systems Specialist

Bonnie Lane

Payroll & Benefits Specialist

Bonnie MacRitchie

Senior Outreach Specialist

Cindy Manthe

Financial Specialist

Mary Davis Michaud

Faculty Associate

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LOOKING AHEAD



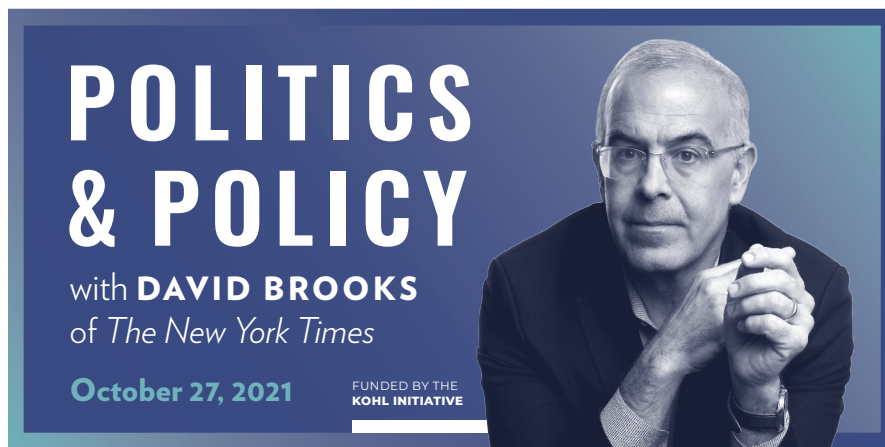
The La Follette School's second annual policy forum supported by the Kohl Initiative is bringing together researchers, policymakers, and community leaders Wednesday, October 6. Faculty members Greg Nemet and Morgan Edwards are leading the daylong conference on climate policy. Attendees may participate in person at Union South or online. Details at go.wisc.edu/climatepolicy.



Welcoming Mariel Barnes

Assistant Professor of Public Affairs

Mariel Barnes joins the La Follette School in Fall 2021 and is a core faculty member of UW-Madison's Sexual Violence Research Initiative, an interdisciplinary group designed to investigate the psychological, societal, and policy aspects of sexual violence. Her research examines everyday forms of violence against women, gender, and the politics of the welfare state with a specific focus on highly industrialized countries. She is also interested in the relationship between gender and institutions, including the representation and incorporation of women.



2022 La Follette Policy Forum

Wednesday, May 4

Thank you!

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