

UW-MADISON LA FOLLETTE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS



Highlights
2022–23



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SHINE Medical Technologies

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Corus International

Susan Webb Yackee
Director and Professor, Public
Affairs

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

Director's Message



As the La Follette School approaches its 40th anniversary, I could not be prouder of what our community has accomplished in the past year. We have continued to grow, and faculty, staff, and students have come together to imagine how we could support this growth by creating an undergraduate major in public policy, a move that would enable us to become a global leader in policy education.

Thank you to our alumni and friends who have shared their precious time and talents, and to Senator Kohl, whose generous donations have brought the Kohl Initiative to life, sparking this wonderful momentum and growth.

I am inspired by our students, alumni, and faculty every day. I hope you enjoy reading about the La Follette School's achievements from the past year and that you share in my excitement for what's to come.

On, Wisconsin!

Susan Webb Yackee
Director and Professor

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The Year in Review



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

74%

OF MPA/MIPA STUDENTS HELD GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIPS OR RECEIVED A FELLOWSHIP

ENROLLMENT IN UNDERGRADUATE CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS HAS INCREASED **SIX-FOLD** OVER THE LAST FOUR YEARS

MAJOR FACULTY AWARDS



JASON FLETCHER,
2023 Guggenheim Fellowship



HÉCTOR PIFARRÉ I AROLAS,
co-recipient of American Family Funding Initiative Award



LAUREN SCHMITZ,
National Institute on Aging R01 Grant

1,921

PEOPLE ATTENDED **13** IN-PERSON LA FOLLETTE EVENTS

1,098

PEOPLE ATTENDED EVENTS VIRTUALLY

3,573

POST-EVENT YOUTUBE VIEWS

THROUGH ITS LEGISLATIVE OUTREACH, LA FOLLETTE SCHOOL STAFF MEMBERS ENGAGED WITH **104** OF WISCONSIN'S **132** LEGISLATIVE OFFICES

\$45,000+

RAISED DURING DAY OF THE BADGER



LA FOLLETTE SCHOOL STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Carlos Puga
President

Matthew Akins
Treasurer

Casey Hanson
Secretary

Dominique Villaseñor
Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator

Doniqua Smith
DEI Standing Committee Representative

Johanna Schmidt
Community Service and Outreach Coordinator

Andrew Zaiser
Social Coordinator

Amelia Lowe
Graduation Coordinator

Lauri Asbury
Fundraising Coordinator



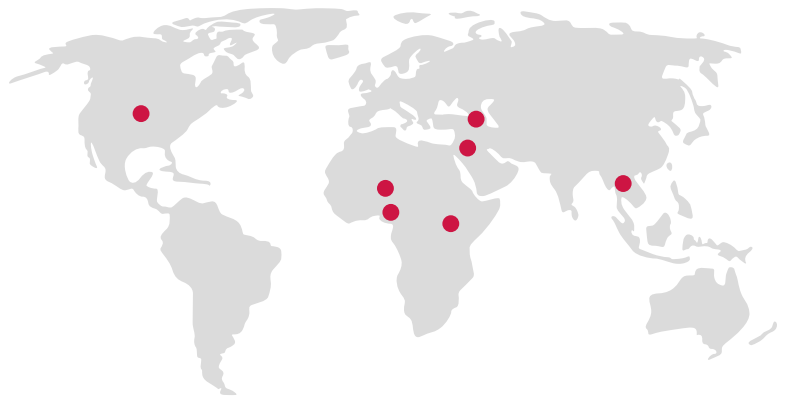
"I hope to apply the knowledge and skills I've gained over the last two years at La Follette in a public service role and PMF is a fantastic way of jumpstarting that goal."

—Ariana Hammersmith (MPA '23) was named a finalist for the Presidential Management Fellows (PMF) program, the federal government's flagship leadership development program. As part of the highly selective program, Hammersmith will be appointed to a two-year, full-time federal position to apply her skills while engaging in leadership development training.

2023 Entering Master's 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.

The incoming MPA and MIPA class will include students from 12 states plus Washington, D.C. and 7 countries.



43 incoming master's program students

9 accelerated students

5 students in dual, double, or graduate certificate programs

40 percent of incoming cohort of graduate students are from underrepresented populations

28 Master of Public Affairs (MPA)

15 Master of International Public Affairs (MIPA)



In January, students and staff from the La Follette School visited Washington, D.C., where 30 graduate students had the chance to meet and learn from staff and alumni working on a variety of public policy issues at public, private, and nonprofit organizations.



UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH EXPERIENCES

Maria Manansala, an undergraduate student in La Follette's certificate in public policy program, jumped at the chance last summer to research the effects of income on child development and family processes in families with limited resources. Through her work with La Follette School Professor Sarah Halpern-Meekin, Manansala has learned to analyze interview data while building her understanding of the complex relationships between poverty and early childhood.

Rachel Fedorchak, who graduated in May 2022 with a certificate in public policy and majored in linguistics and economics, worked for a year with La Follette School Assistant Professor Morgan Edwards and the Climate Action Lab, analyzing data on climate-tech start-ups as part of a project investigating how to better represent new technologies in energy and climate models.

Expanding Undergraduate Education

With the certificate in public policy, launched in 2019, the La Follette School began educating undergraduate students for the first time in its history. In 2021, a certificate in health policy was added. In the years since launching the school's first undergraduate certificate, the La Follette School has graduated 434 certificate students.

This year's certificate graduates represent a wide range of majors, including global health, biology, political science, nursing, and economics, allowing for a truly interdisciplinary experience that prepares graduates for careers in government, nonprofit organizations, or the private sector.

The number of enrolled students in the undergraduate certificates in public policy and health policy has increased six-fold in the four years since launching the school's first undergraduate certificate.



"Taking policy courses allowed me to discover ways to target the issues I was passionate about from a different angle. The combination of my global health major and the certificate in public policy courses ultimately led me to the area I am most passionate about: health policy."

—Kaylin Hewitt, the first student to have completed both La Follette certificates



"Because of their mix of backgrounds, students in the certificate programs have the chance to look at problems through an interdisciplinary lens, which reflects exactly the kind of learning needed to address complex public problems."

—Mary Davis Michaud
Undergraduate Advisor and
Faculty Associate



"The capstone projects are such a meaningful part of a La Follette education because they fit perfectly with the Wisconsin Idea. Our students' findings in these projects are going to shape actual policy decisions in the real world."

—Professor Manuel P. Teodoro



"Working with a client really grounded us in what we are about to do when we graduate. And La Follette provided the support piece to have this experience and ultimately come up with a final product that is used in the field and is valued."

—Adam Riley, MIPA '23

Client-Based Projects



Students on the cost-benefit analysis team analyzing a universal child savings accounts (left to right) Sam Schneider, Tyler Williams, Stephanie Mertens, and Ian O'Connor-Giles with UW-Madison Division of Extension's Chelsea Wunnicke (right)

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 2022-2023 academic year, workshop students focused on projects ranging from investigating the growth of STEM research for the Government Accountability Office, to seeking to understand how child care availability affects Wisconsin's Fox Valley-area employers and what they view as challenges and solutions, to addressing the heat island effect in the city of La Crosse and its impact on the community. The La Crosse study and some of the students who worked on it were profiled in the La Crosse Tribune.

Students in the elective cost-benefit analysis course also have the chance to do hands-on policy analysis for clients. In 2022-2023, students produced cost-benefit analyses related to topics ranging from heat pump adoption in Wisconsin, replacing the UW-Madison vehicle fleet with hybrid or electric vehicles, and universal child savings accounts for Wisconsin residents, a project that was profiled in the campus-wide newsletter, Inside UW.



READ MORE
Urban heat islands identified in La Crosse neighborhoods



READ MORE
Cost-benefit analysis project on universal child savings accounts

Global Experiences

With world travel resuming, our global Bobs (La Follette School students and alumni) have taken advantage of transformative international experiences that can help shape their career trajectory or strengthen their connection with their home country.

Feed the Future Bamako, Mali

Rising second-year MIPA student and the founder of KITAB, an association that empowers youth and women in Mali, Africa by providing access to higher education and professional development, Awa Maïga traveled twice this year to her home country of Mali. In January, she hosted a workshop for youth reflecting on topics around higher education and leadership, and this summer she completed an internship with CNFA – Feed the Future, where she traveled around Mali to meet with women with thriving local businesses and to write stories highlighting their successes.

Health Access Connect Kampala, Uganda

Kiersten Frobom (MPA-MPH '19) is currently a senior evidence analyst at County Health Rankings & Roadmaps at UW–Madison. She gained valuable experience that helped to shape her career path during her monitoring and evaluation internship with the Uganda-based non-governmental organization Health Access Connect (HAC), where she completed a literature review on migration, health, and service utilization in Uganda and similarly developed regions to inform program evaluation.



Frobom completed this work remotely from UW–Madison, and then joined HAC in Uganda for a two-month field placement. The experience gave her an excellent view of how professionals approach decision-making in the real world.

Office of the Prime Minister of Kosovo Pristina, Kosovo

Last summer, MPA-JD student Migena Vula had the incredible opportunity to work for the prime minister's office in Kosovo, her home country, where she worked with senior officers on policy coordination. During her internship, she learned new cost-benefit analysis methods, project management strategies, and how to efficiently complete projects with a limited number of resources – skills she plans to incorporate into her coursework, including her final capstone project.

MIPA student Awa Maïga hosted a workshop for youth and organized the donation of school supplies to a school in Bamako, Mali in January 2023



"I dream of empowering more women and getting them involved in public affairs because I think the best way to make a difference is to include more women and youth at the decision-making table."

—Awa Maïga, MIPA student



Expanding Outreach

Upon its founding in 1983, the La Follette School was created to “engage in research, public service, and educational activities to advance the knowledge of public affairs and the application of that knowledge to the needs of the state.” One of the longest and deepest traditions surrounding the University of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Idea signifies a similar principle: that education should influence people’s lives beyond the boundaries of the classroom. The Kohl Initiative has enabled the school to fully embrace the Wisconsin Idea and expand its outreach mission. During 2022–23, faculty and visiting speakers shared their expertise via events including the annual La Follette Forum, town halls, and partnerships with on- and off-campus groups.

In October, the La Follette School’s fall Journalist in Residence, Nate Silver (top) of FiveThirtyEight, shared his experiences and insights around election forecasting and politics through a class visit, a conversation with local journalists, and a public talk to over 960 in-person and virtual attendees.

Leaders from local and state government and legislative offices (top right) engaged in two days of learning and discussion during the 18th annual Wisconsin Women in Government (WWIG) Leadership Seminar, co-hosted by the La Follette School and WWIG.

This spring, NPR White House Correspondent Tamara Keith (bottom right) shared lessons learned from her career reporting on politics, policy, and business as the La Follette School’s spring Journalist in Residence. Her visit culminated in a public talk on March 29.



Policymaker Outreach

The La Follette School has a long history of collaboration with legislators and policymakers, sharing research to inform decision-making and make a positive difference in people's lives. This year, La Follette School staff met with:

- 104 of Wisconsin's 132 legislative offices (66 Republicans and 38 Democrats),
- All 10 Wisconsin delegation congressional offices during La Follette in D.C. visit in January 2023, and
- Every new legislator who joined the Wisconsin State Legislature in 2022.



During the spring semester, undergraduates in La Follette's Workshop in Health Policy had the opportunity to research and propose recommendations for policy questions crafted by Wisconsin state legislators related to Medicaid reimbursement rates for dental services, the scope of practice for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses, and extending dental services to low-income populations. Students worked in teams to investigate what other states have done regarding these topics and produced high-level, thoughtful reports detailing their findings and recommendations. The projects culminated in May at the State Capitol, when students presented to staff from the chairs and ranking members of participating committees.



Internships

Connected legislators with highly-trained interns at the graduate and undergraduate levels



Cost-Benefit Analysis and Capstone Projects

Demonstrated the value the La Follette School brings to legislators and encouraged them to connect the school with partners who may benefit from our students' expertise



Resources

As the public affairs school at UW-Madison, the La Follette School serves as an important resource for legislators, connecting them with the expertise of La Follette and campus faculty

Faculty in the News



"Deflation is rare in America for any time longer than a year. But over the last 30 years, we're more accustomed to low inflation, rather than the inflation we've been seeing."
—**Professor Menzie Chinn** in an **April 23, 2023 Yahoo Finance** article on inflation in the American economy



"Disparities in individuals begin to develop before we're even born, before we can choose what to eat, before we can choose to exercise."
—**Assistant Professor Lauren Schmitz** in a **November 10, 2022 Fortune** article discussing her study that demonstrated the lifelong effects of in utero exposure to the Great Depression



"When we know that those big depositors won't make a run and take all the money out, then we're guaranteed we can get our much smaller amounts back."
—**Professor J. Michael Collins** in a **March 22, 2023 CNN** article about lawmakers wanting to raise the FDIC insurance limit for savings in the wake of the Silicon Valley Bank collapse



"If Republicans win big on Tuesday, it will be, in large part, because some meaningful share of voters switched their votes to or turned out for the GOP – in patterns similar to what we've seen in Poland and elsewhere – in the belief that this will improve their economic prospects."
—**Professor Mark Copelovitch** in a **November 8, 2022 Washington Post** article previewing the 2022 midterm elections



"Before making LIHWAP (Low Income Household Water Assistance Program) a permanent part of America's alphabet soup of anti-poverty programs, we ought to consider a simpler approach to water assistance: allowing participants in the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as Food Stamps) to use SNAP benefits to pay for their water bills."
—**Professor Manuel P. Teodoro** in a **March 29, 2023 Newsweek** op-ed advocating for policies that allow SNAP recipients to use their funds to pay for water utility bills



Faculty Research

A November 2022 study led by Assistant Professor **Lauren Schmitz** and published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences showed that being born during the Great Depression and having early-life exposure to poor economic conditions is associated with accelerated aging later in life. According to the study, the in utero period is particularly sensitive to economic shocks, including declines in wages and employment, that can result in increased risk of early death and decline decades later.

Professor **Greg Nemet** was one of four principal authors of the inaugural State of Carbon Dioxide Removal (CDR) report released in January 2023. He was joined by more than 20 experts in the field of CDR for the first-of-its-kind analysis. According to the report, countries are not removing nearly enough carbon through CDR strategies to meet the Paris Agreement's goal to limit warming.

A March 2023 study co-authored by Assistant Professor **Morgan Edwards** and published in Joule identified corporate investments in climate-tech start-ups as a growing but overlooked aspect of energy innovation. Unlike start-ups, corporations tend to have important resources like access to global markets and supply chains,

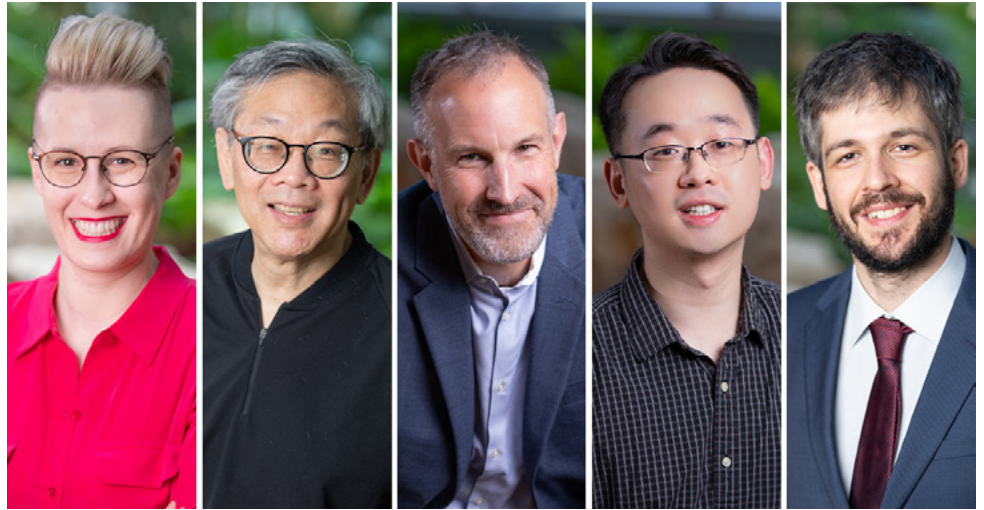
manufacturing facilities and experience across the energy system. According to the study, corporate investments should be more fully considered in efforts to advance climate technology.

According to an April 2023 paper led by Professor **Jason Fletcher** and published in Demography, geographic disparities in mortality look different than previously assumed if we look at where people were born instead of where they ultimately move to and die. By looking at state of birth instead of state of residence, all states in the Mid-Atlantic and Midwest regions of the U.S. except Minnesota have higher life expectancy measures. The opposite is true for almost all states in the Southeastern region of the country, which already had the lowest life expectancies by state of residence.

Assistant Professor **Héctor Pifarré i Arolas** co-authored a May 2023 study published in Epidemiology that developed a new measure to assess contemporary mortality inequality in the U.S. across racial-ethnic groups. The new measure, called GAP, finds that current estimates based on standard metrics such as life expectancy underestimate racial-ethnic disparities in mortality.

KOHL COMPETITION

The annual Herb Kohl Public Service Research Competition, funded through the Kohl Initiative, was launched in 2016 to support non-partisan research that policymakers can use to make evidence-based decisions when shaping public policy. The awards are intended to support La Follette School faculty's cutting-edge research and to increase the research's impact through targeted outreach.



"Working on a Kohl Competition project was such a valuable part of my La Follette education because I was able to gain experience that matched my academic and professional interests while also being able to learn and grow with the help of an amazing professor."

—Nichole Springer, MIPA student



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Creating Influential Research

2023 Kohl Competition Awards

Assistant Professor Mariel Barnes will investigate the impact of transitioning from confidential to public shelters in Wisconsin, a state that has emerged as an innovator in shelter policy.

Professor Menzie Chinn's project aims to develop a new program that will automatically integrate key macroeconomic data sources for Wisconsin as they become available to produce a dynamic model that continuously updates the forecast for the state's gross domestic product.

Professor J. Michael Collins looks to conduct a statewide survey to better understand the barriers that exclude people from being able to access basic financial services, especially for lower-wage workers and people of color.

Assistant Professor Zhenhuan (Reed) Lei will hold a book workshop to finalize a current book project on the political logic behind public infrastructure investment. The book will analyze how China and the United States have handled obstacles in efforts to invest in transportation and clean energy infrastructure.

Assistant Professor Héctor Pifarré i Arolas will continue developing a novel analytical method for studying population-level mortality patterns. Current measures used to assess mortality trends and inequality at a population level have limitations that Arolas intends to address through his research.

Alumni Connections



In March 2023, over 150 alumni and friends of the La Follette School gathered at the Overture Center in Madison to reconnect, socialize, and network at the annual Alumni & Friends Reception. The second annual Alumni of Distinction Award, which was created to recognize the many ways alumni give back to the school and the community, was presented to alum Wesley Sparkman (MPA '00) for his leadership in addressing societal disparities and creating a more equitable community in Dane County.

"I am so thrilled every time my professional path crosses with a La Follette alum – they have been so generous in helping to provide learning opportunities for students such as mentorship, internships, and jobs, and supporting partnerships that result in great policy research and initiatives."

–Hilary Shager (MPA '05), Associate Director for Programs and Management at the UW–Madison Institute for Research on Poverty

ALUMNI NEWS

Lindsay Blumer (MPA '04) was appointed by Gov. Evers to the Wisconsin Technical College System Board.

Lisa Ellinger (MPA '03) started a new position as director of strategic initiatives at the La Follette School in January.

Heidi Frechette (MPA '03) received a 2022 Presidential Rank Award from the U.S. Office of Personnel Management. Frechette works as a deputy assistant secretary of Native American Programs for the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Gordon Hintz (MPA '01) was hired as the new director for the Wisconsin Laborers–Employers Cooperation and Education Trust, which identifies and promotes issues of mutual benefit and concern to both labor and management.

Kirbie Mack (MPA '95) was highlighted in Madison365's annual list of Wisconsin's most influential Black leaders.

Ian Pearson (MPA '22) was selected as a finalist by the Presidential Management Fellows program, the federal government's flagship leadership development program.

Shishir Khanal (MIPA '05) was elected to Nepal's Federal Parliament as a representative from Kathmandu in November.

Manpreet Kaur Sandhu (MPA '22) was appointed to the city council in her hometown of Bakersfield, California, the ninth largest city in California.

Ken Smith (MPA '18) helped to designate Milwaukee's Hyacinth Roman Catholic Church as a Milwaukee County Landmark and is working with the parish to have the church listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Farha Tahir (MIPA '10) won the Wisconsin Alumni Association's Forward Award, which acknowledges rising stars who exemplify the Wisconsin Idea through an emphasis on service, discovery, and progress.

La Follette Forum 2023



All Policy Is Implementation

On March 1, 2023, national, state, and local leaders convened to share success stories in policy implementation during the fourth annual La Follette Forum. Chaired by Professor Manuel Teodoro, the daylong event drew over 200 in-person attendees, and an additional 230 people viewed the livestream. Panelists and keynote speakers generously shared success stories from across the state. Topics included overcoming barriers to equitable policy implementation, addressing substance abuse, and keeping communities safe and informed during the pandemic.

Former White House Chief of Staff Andrew Card (top right) discussed lessons learned from his career with Professor Manuel Teodoro. “The policy isn’t defined by the rhetoric around it. The policy is defined by the implementation,” said Card.

Closing keynote speaker Melissa Harris-Perry (bottom right), professor and former host of *The Takeaway*, shared how responses to natural disasters have affected the public’s trust in the government.

Above: Benoy Jacob moderates a panel on inclusive policy implementation at the 2023 La Follette Forum



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Wisconsin Main Street Agenda Town Halls



As voters prepared for the hotly contested and deeply consequential midterm elections last November, the La Follette School partnered with the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel and Wisconsin Public Radio to engage Wisconsin's voters in a conversation about the policy issues that are most important to them. The project, known as the Wisconsin Main Street Agenda, aimed to bring La Follette's policy expertise to a wider audience and lend context to the sound bites that characterize political campaign season.

Through a survey and public forums held across the state in Milwaukee, Pewaukee, Green Bay, and Wausau, hundreds of Wisconsinites contributed to discussions on topics ranging from health and climate to inflation, the economy, and financial security. Each town hall featured a La Follette faculty panel responding to voter priorities and closed with a moderated conversation among members of a citizen panel drawn from poll respondents. Attendees were encouraged to submit questions for the faculty panelists, and the citizen panels talked more about the priorities they identified as most important to them.

La Follette School faculty address an audience of voters during a town hall in Pewaukee, Wisconsin



"We learned that voters want policymakers to work together in a bipartisan manner to solve society's problems. The audience members for these events were engaged, intelligent, and informed, and they asked thoughtful questions. They treated each other with respect and dignity, even when they came from different political perspectives. They modeled the civil behavior they would like to see in the larger public discourse."

—Susan Webb Yackee, La Follette School Director and Professor



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Elevating Equity



This year, the La Follette School community – shepherded by student leaders – came together to develop concrete goals for improvement in key areas related to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), including climate, curriculum, and student/faculty retention and recruitment.

Students, faculty, and staff gather for a DEI strategic planning session

Through strategic planning sessions with students, faculty, and staff, the school began working on proactive ways to create community and belonging, foster inclusive learning environments, and apply a DEI lens to public policy training.

In order to continue this important work, the school will create a DEI standing committee composed of faculty, students, staff, and alumni that will be empowered to manage DEI initiatives. The committee will begin meeting regularly in fall 2023.

As DEI coordinators for the La Follette School Student Association (LSSA), Gabriel Terrell (MPA '23) and current MPA student Dominique Villaseñor provided leadership around advancing DEI and creating a more inclusive and welcoming environment within the La Follette School. LSSA Secretary Liliana Teniente (MPA '23) and Terrell also coordinated several Elevating Equity in Policymaking events highlighting the wide-ranging careers and experiences of people working to promote equity in the policy world.



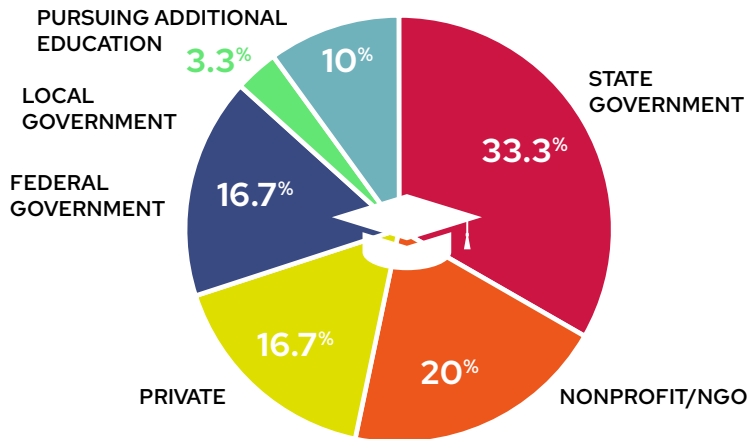
"It was a pleasure to work with student DEI leaders and our La Follette community this past year on these important initiatives, and I look forward to serving on the DEI standing committee in the upcoming academic year. Together, we will continue to work toward our shared goal of creating a more inclusive learning community."

–Lauren Schmitz, Assistant Professor of Public Affairs and DEI Student-Faculty Liaison

Recent Graduates

Over the past three years, an average of 96% of La Follette School MPA and MIPA graduates have found employment in their field within six months of graduation.

Post-Graduation Career Statistics, Class of 2023



2023 Graduation Awards

Ethan Dickler (MPA) – Piore Prize for the best paper in science and public policy. “Strategies to Reduce Black Infant Mortality in Wisconsin,” nominated by Professor David Weimer.

Lucas Knight (MIPA) – Penniman Prize for the best paper demonstrating the school’s writing and analytic tools. “Analyzing Employment-Focused Immigration Reform in the United States,” nominated by Professor Greg Nemet.

Amelia Wagner (MPA) – Director’s Achievement Award for an outstanding academic record, initiative, and professionalism as a La Follette School student.



“Never stop being curious about the world around you and your ability to effect positive change,” said student speaker Liliana Keo-manivong Teniente (MPA ‘23) during the 2023 commencement ceremony for MPA and MIPA students.

WHERE 2023 MPA/ MIPA GRADUATES ARE WORKING

STATE GOVERNMENT SECTOR

Arizona Joint Legislative Budget Committee
County Health Rankings & Roadmaps
State of Maine Department of Labor
Wisconsin State Departments: Corrections, Health Services, Workforce Development
Wisconsin Legislative Audit Bureau
Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau
Wisconsin Public Service Commission

PRIVATE SECTOR

Associated Physicians, LLP
Alight Solutions
Hoffman
MetaPhase consulting
University of Chicago - UrbanLabs

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Waukesha County

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Government Accountability Office
Peace Corps
United States Agency for International Development
U.S. Department of Labor
Veterans Benefits Administration

NONPROFIT/EDUCATION

CALSTART
Community Service Society of New York
Madison Regional Economic Partnership
Great Lakes Intertribal Food Coalition
University of Wisconsin-Madison

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

Professor of Public Affairs and Human Development and Family Studies

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

Héctor Pifarré i Arolas

Assistant Professor of Public Affairs

Lauren Schmitz

Assistant Professor of Public Affairs

Timothy Smeeding

Lee Rainwater Distinguished Professor of Public Affairs and Economics

Manuel Teodoro

Professor of Public Affairs

Yang Wang

Associate Professor of Public Affairs

David Weimer

Edwin E. Witte Professor of Political Economy

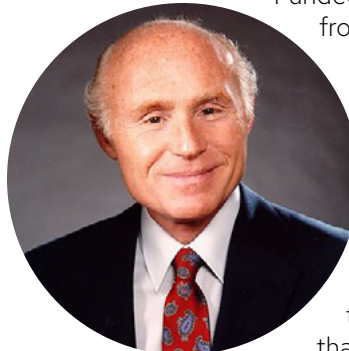
Barbara Wolfe

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



The 2022-23 academic year capped off an illustrious career for Professor Tim Smeeding, who retired after five decades in academia. Professor Smeeding's work has contributed to understanding poverty and inequality and how to design more effective programs to reduce them. In his career he has written or contributed to 24 books, 271 peer-reviewed scholarly articles, and numerous policy reports that have helped inform public policy. He also helped to create the cross-national Luxembourg Income Study in 1983 and served as its director through 2006. Professor Smeeding joined the La Follette School in 2008, returning to UW-Madison where he received his master's and doctoral degrees in economics at the start of his career. An accomplished and award-winning teacher who impacted the lives of countless students during his career, he helped to design and teach the initial course in the La Follette School's popular certificate program in public policy. The La Follette School is grateful to Professor Smeeding for his incredible contributions to students, scholarship, and the school's development.

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 civil discourse and has empowered the La Follette School to greatly expand policy education and outreach on campus and beyond. During the fourth year of the Kohl Initiative, the school hosted several events that encouraged productive policy discussions with a focus on civility and collaboration. Last fall, the school engaged voters in conversations about the policy issues they care most about through town halls across the state, and the March 2023 La Follette Forum reinforced the importance of working together when it comes to policy implementation, as panelists and attendees shared success stories from across the state.

Looking Ahead



Journalist in Residence, CNN Anchor and Senior Political Correspondent Abby Phillip

October 18, 2023



On the Horizon

As the La Follette School approaches its 40th anniversary, the school is exploring the possibility of creating an undergraduate major in public policy. This would allow the school to reach more people than ever before through its outreach, education, and research. The school is also making plans to move to a new home on campus that can accommodate its expanding number of faculty, staff, and students.



Thank you!

for providing financial support for scholarships, research, and professional development

for participating in policy, career, and other panel discussions

for assisting students with fellowships and employment applications

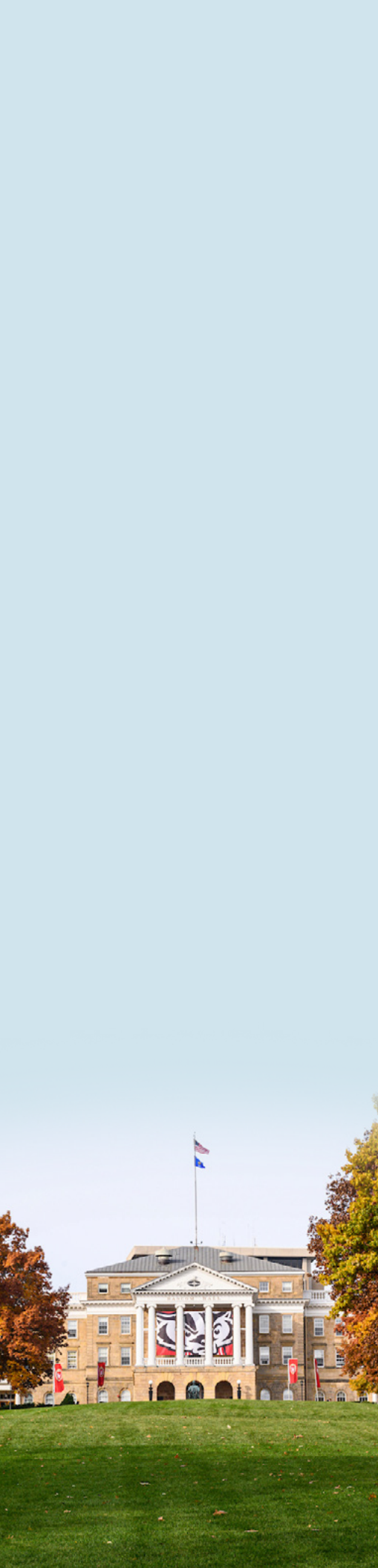
for serving as mentors, mock interviewers, and networking partners

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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.*

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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



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

La Follette School of Public Affairs

Master of Public Affairs

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

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



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.



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

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

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

La Follette School of Public Affairs



Master of International
Public Affairs

LFS1017

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

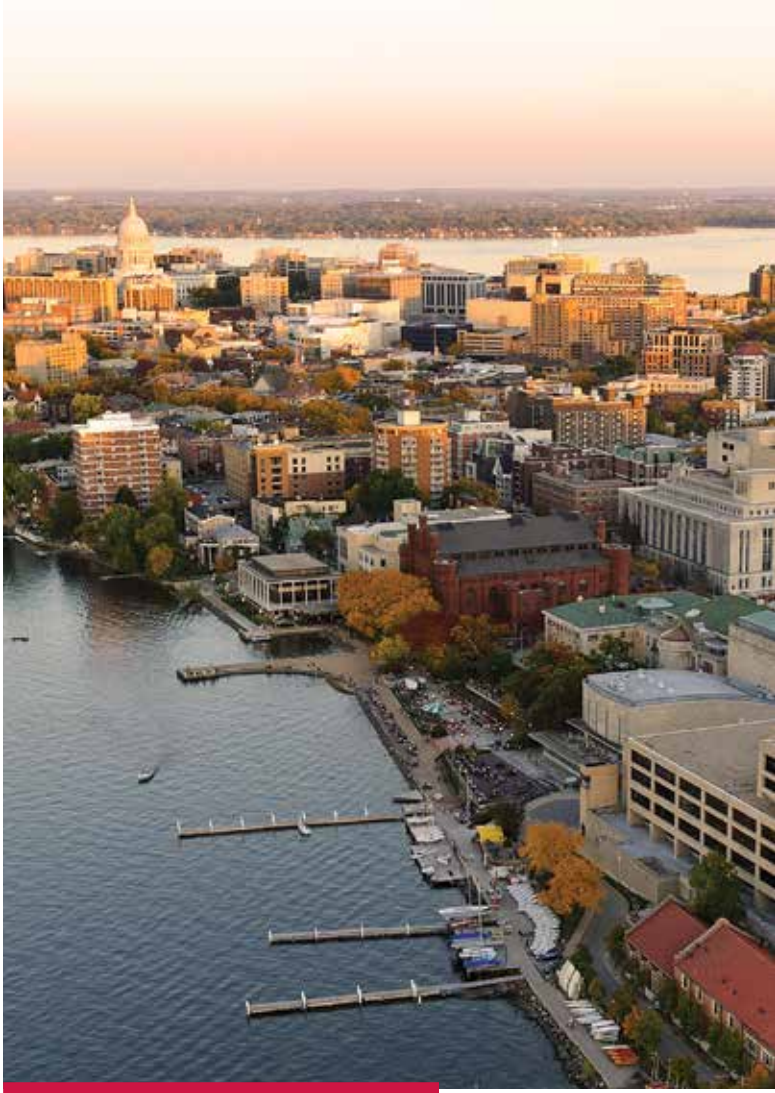
Students can develop broad expertise in a geographic region by clustering courses, including language courses, across several disciplines, typically emphasizing courses in the social sciences. In building regional focus fields, MIPA students take advantage of UW–Madison's strong area studies centers,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



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.



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

PHOTO: HARRIS & EWING COLLECTION / LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

“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 health policy — has more than quadrupled

“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

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.

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

“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.”

SUSAN WEBB YACKEE

on democracy and elections; this year’s will center on trust in government.

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.

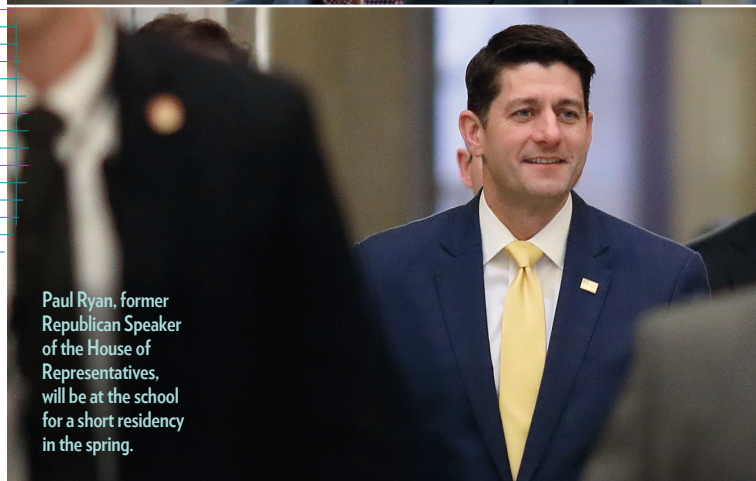
Participants from both sides of the political aisle attended a four-day workshop sponsored by the La Follette School of Public Affairs.



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

**"The school ...
has really
championed
... this idea of
providing objective
information in a
bipartisan way.
And that is really
important, because
the politics are
so polarized."**

GREG NEMET

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.

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.

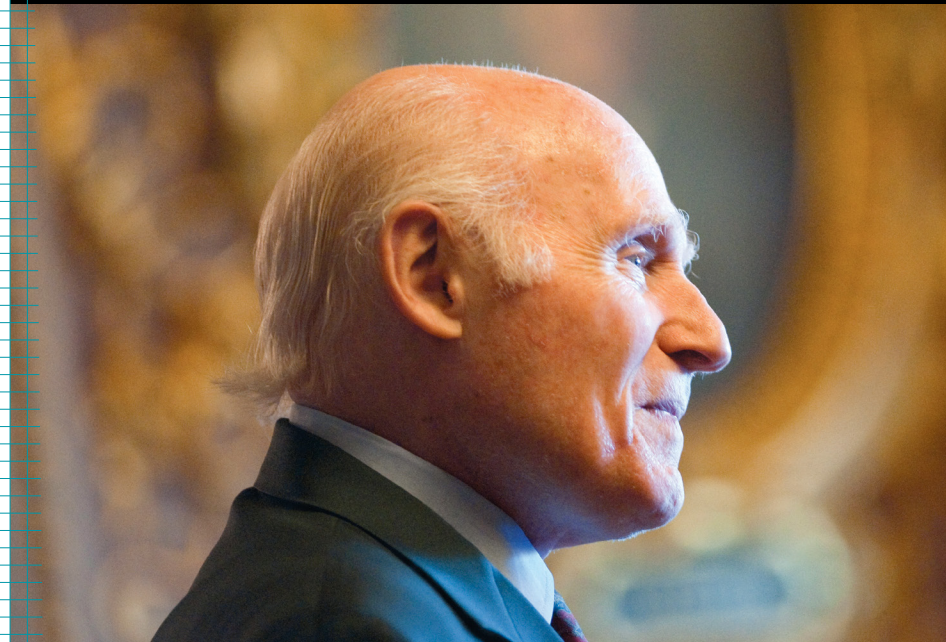
“One of the best things we teach our students is a set of structured techniques that can be used to apply to any policy problem,” he says.

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



**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. In academic year 2021-22, 66% of La Follette School students held an assistantship or fellowship with tuition remission.

The following schools, institutes, and research centers have recently hired a La Follette student, although this is not an exhaustive list, and we encourage you to spread your net wide when searching for assistantships:

- 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 the Humanities: <https://humanities.wisc.edu/>
- Institute for Research on Poverty: <https://www.irp.wisc.edu/>
- The International Division: <https://international.wisc.edu/>
- Posse Program: <https://posseprogram.wisc.edu/>
- University of Wisconsin Survey Center: <https://uwsc.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. The following departments have recently hired a La Follette student as a TA, although this is not an exhaustive list:

- American Indian Studies
- Communication Arts
- Consumer Sciences
- Counseling Psychology
- English
- Gender and Women’s Studies
- History Department
- Integrated Liberal Studies
- Political Science
- Sociology

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Students with assistantships above the 33% level generally receive tuition remission regardless of residency status, health insurance, and a stipend for their appointments although it is good practice to check with the hiring unit to review the compensation and benefits. 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: <https://financialaid.wisc.edu/cost-of-attendance/>
- 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 also 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/>
- Private Fellowships and Scholarships Search (FastWeb): <http://www.fastweb.com>
- Private student loans: <https://loans.usnews.com/student-loans>