



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

**Admitted Student Visit Day
Monday, March 18, 2024
Orchard View Room (room 3280), [Discovery Building](#)
330 N. Orchard St., Madison, WI 53715**

10:00am	Arrive, check-in, light refreshments
10:30am	Welcome and School Mission, Vision, and Values with Director Greg Nemet
10:45am	Program and Curricular Information
12:15pm	Lunch
1:20pm	PA 873: Introduction to Policy Analysis with Professor Christine Durrance
2:20pm	Campus tour with the La Follette School Student Association
3:15pm	Break
3:30pm	Breakout Groups with current La Follette School Students
4:15pm	Faculty panel: Morgan Edwards, Denia Garcia, Reed Lei
5:00pm	Wrap-up and final questions

Robert M. La Follette School of Public Affairs

1225 Observatory Drive Madison, Wisconsin 53706 608-262-3581 info@lafollette.wisc.edu www.lafollette.wisc.edu

La Follette School Admitted Student Visit Day Faculty Presenters



Christine Durrance - Professor of Public Affairs (she/her)

Durrance is an applied microeconomist concentrating primarily in health economics and policy who focuses much of her work on vulnerable populations. Her work includes a focus on maternal, infant, and reproductive health; risky behavior including substance use, the opioid crisis, violence, and child maltreatment; and competition in health care markets. Much of her work focuses on vulnerable populations and utilizes secondary-data and robust econometric methods to identify causal effects with important policy implications. Her research has been published in numerous peer-reviewed journals, including the Journal of Health Economics, American Journal of Health Economics, Health Affairs, Health Services Research, Child Abuse & Neglect, JAMA Pediatrics, and others.



Morgan Edwards - Professor of Public Affairs (she/her)

Edwards' research and teaching focus on modeling and tracking the effects of climate policies from local to global scales. She draws on mixed quantitative and qualitative methods, combining large datasets, community knowledge, and systems modeling. Current projects focus on fixing leaks in natural gas distribution systems, accelerating the phase-out of coal power plants, and assessing the equity implications of large-scale use of negative emissions technologies.



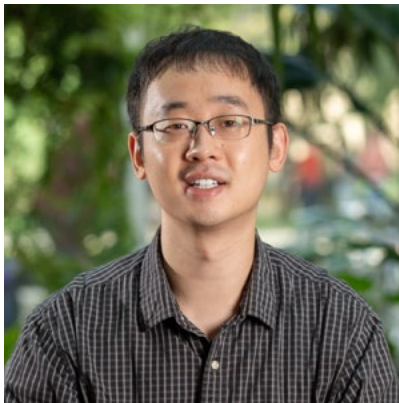
Denia Garcia - Professor of Public Affairs (she/her)

Garcia's work examines the role of space and organizations in shaping how inequalities are experienced and reproduced. She is writing a book about community and belonging in a diverse neighborhood based on in-depth fieldwork in a Chicago neighborhood. She also studies participatory budgeting, racial classification, and skin color in the United States and Latin America using quantitative and qualitative methods.



Gregory Nemet - Interim Director and Professor of Public Affairs (he/him)

Nemet teaches courses in energy systems, environmental governance, and policy analysis. His research focuses on understanding the process of technological change and the ways in which public policy can affect it. Professor Nemet's [research](#) analyzes the process of technological change in energy and its interactions with public policy. These projects fall in two areas: (1) empirical analysis identifying the influences on past technological change and (2) modeling of the effects of policy instruments on future technological outcomes. With his Andrew Carnegie Fellowship he wrote [How Solar Became Cheap: A Model for Low-Carbon Innovation](#) (2019). He serves as a lead author for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [6th Assessment Report](#).



Reed Lei - Professor of Public Affairs and Political Science (he/him)

Lei's research focuses on comparative political economy, authoritarian politics, and Chinese politics. His research also tries to understand the functions of political institutions in China, including the relationship between the Party and the government, the legislative functions of the parliament and government, and the centralization reform of the judicial system.

He is working on a book project that investigates why some governments have stronger incentives to invest in infrastructure projects than others.

La Follette School Admitted Student Visit Day Staff Presenters



Marie Koko – Director of Career and Employer Services (she/her)

Marie is originally from the Chicago area (Oak Park) and joined La Follette School of Public Affairs in 2019 after 10 years as the Career & Internship Specialist for Government/Policy/International Affairs & Law (GPIAL) at SuccessWorks. She brings expertise in applying to federal/state/local government agencies and has worked with students applying to virtually every area of public service including AmeriCorps/Peace Corps, Congressional/State Legislature positions, nonprofit organizations, consulting firms, and many more. In this

role, she meets with MPA and MIPA students and alums as well as undergraduate certificate students to assist them in all aspects of the professional development and career/internship application process.

Marie is on the Steering Committees of UW-Madison's Wisconsin in Washington (WiW) program and the Government College Relations Council (GCRC) – a group that works to create strong connections between member universities and government agencies and hosts a Government Career Fair in Chicago every November. She also serves on the Law & Public Policy Working Group (which she co-founded), and several campus wide committees. She earned her bachelor's degree in corporate finance from Drake University and her master's in counseling from Concordia University. Before joining UW-Madison, she worked at Concordia University-Chicago, Florida Gulf Coast University, and The University of Nevada-Reno in career and academic advising roles.



Steven Kulig – Associate Director (he/him)

Steven (MPA '14) was named associate director of the La Follette School in May 2018 – two years after returning to his alma mater as the school's administrator and career services coordinator.

As associate director, Kulig serves as a member of the school's management team and provides instructional and curricular program leadership for the school's academic programs. He also oversees the school's day-to-day operations and participates in strategic planning initiatives and policy development to support the school's overall activities and mission. In addition, Kulig teaches

PA800, Professional Development Workshop, which all La Follette School students are required to take.

Kulig earned a Bachelor of Science degree in economics from UW-Madison in 2007. After graduation, he spent over six years working as a legislative assistant in the Wisconsin Senate. During the final three years in the legislature, he attended the La Follette School part-time, earning his master's degree in public affairs in 2014. He was president of the [La Follette School Student Association](#) during the 2013-14 academic year. Soon after graduation, he joined the Wisconsin Department of Health Services as a budget and policy analyst, where he administered the financial integrity of multiple Medicaid-eligible county mental health programs. He joined the La Follette School as administrator and career services coordinator in April 2016.



Mo O'Connor – Graduate Program Manager
(she/her)

Mo O'Connor serves as the Graduate Program Manager at the La Follette School of Public Affairs. She is passionate about working with prospective students, admitted applicants, and current students and supporting them as they progress toward their academic and career goals. She enjoys sharing information about the many academic options available to them at recruiting events and in individual appointments. These include joint degrees with Law, Neuroscience, Public Health, and Urban Planning. She also

works with incoming and current students as an academic advisor. Mo brings close to three decades of campus experience to this position.

Mo is a proud Badger alum of the African Cultural Studies and Women's Studies programs. She completed graduate work in the Columbia University School of the Arts and Columbia University Teachers College and has a master of fine arts (MFA) degree in Creative Writing and a master of education (Ed.M.) in English education.



Carlos Puga – President of La Follette School Student Association
(he/him)

Carlos Puga (MPA-JD '27) is a dual degree student and a University of Wisconsin-Madison graduate with a B.S in Political Science, Economics, and Legal Studies and a Certificate in Chicanx & Latinx Studies. He is the current president of the La Follette School Student Association (LSSA). As an undergraduate student, he led several student organizations like the Chicanx & Latinx Certificate Student Association (ChiLaCSA) and Lambda Theta Phi Latin

Fraternity, Inc. Moreover, he co-founded and led the Latinx Pre-Law Student Association (LPSA) at UW-Madison. He strives to support and uplift marginalized communities and hopes to continue representing and advocating for marginalized and essential workers throughout the State of Wisconsin. Above all, as a first-generation student, he understands that he is the first of many who will embark on this path. Hence, it is crucial to create and establish accessible spaces and organizations that will continue to help future generations.

Current La Follette School Students for Breakout Group Discussions



Gretchen Allman (she/her) is a Master of International Public Affairs student from St. Louis, Missouri. She graduated from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio with a Bachelor of Arts in diplomacy and global politics. Her academic interests include security studies and comparative politics. Her undergraduate research focused on the intersection of politics and religion in Eastern Europe, and she interned for an ongoing project called “Empathy and the Religious Enemy” that seeks to understand lived experiences of religious radicals. In her free time, she enjoys cooking, going on runs, swimming, reading, and watching sports.



Brelynn Bille (she/her) is a senior here at UW studying community and nonprofit leadership with certificates in public policy and disability rights and services. An accelerated Master of Public Affairs student, her policy interests mainly include increasing access and inclusion for people with disabilities and eliminating administrative burdens for disabled and multiply marginalized folks. She has worked in the Wisconsin Senate Sergeant at Arms office, Schreiber GR Group, and the National Disability Mentoring Coalition, but you are more likely to see her working as an event manager at the student unions! Outside of school, Brelynn enjoys reading, knitting, watching documentaries, and pointing out every dog in Madison.



Caroline Corona is a Master of Public Affairs student. She is originally from the Cincinnati, Ohio area and graduated from The Ohio State University in 2019 with a Bachelor of Arts in public management, leadership, and policy and a Bachelor of Science in city and regional planning. She has lived in Washington, D.C. for the past few years and most recently worked at the Greater Washington Partnership, a civic alliance dedicated to advancing an inclusive and competitive economy from Baltimore to Richmond. Previous experiences in D.C. include roles with the National Fund for Workforce Solutions, Brookings Metro, and the International Economic Development Council. Caroline is particularly interested in local economic development for mid-sized, Midwest cities and how they can support inclusive growth amid shifting migration patterns and a changing climate.



Jennifer Gaxiola is originally from Tucson, Arizona but she lived in Nogales, Sonora in Mexico most of her life. Spanish is her first language, and she learned English when she was 15 years old. She completed her undergraduate degree at the University of Arizona, where she triple majored in political science, global studies, Spanish and Portuguese. Jenny has experience translating and interpreting through an internship at the YWCA in Southern Arizona, where she focused on teaching English and translating legal documents. In addition, she was an intern at the Consulate of Mexico in Tucson where she worked with the Protection Department which focused on migratory, criminal, and administrative affairs. After graduating in May 2023, Jenny volunteered with the Secretaria de Relaciones Exteriores in Mexico City, Tlaxcala, and Queretaro, where she helped teach English to students, restore schools, and plant trees, among many other activities. As a student who has mainly focused on international relations and diplomacy, she is mostly interested in foreign and educational policy. She loves outdoor activities such as hiking, biking, and swimming. She also loves learning new languages! Currently, Jenny speaks English, Spanish, and Portuguese and is in the process of learning German.



Owen Jonas is an Accelerated MPA student who will graduate in May 2024. Originally from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, he earned his bachelor's degree in political science and environmental studies and pursuing a minor in public policy. Owen previously interned for Representative Deb Andraca in the Wisconsin State Assembly and for a PAC in Washington DC called End Citizens United // Let America Vote. His main areas of interest are environmental and voting rights policy. Outside of school Owen loves to watch movies, cook, and play piano and guitar.



Erin Kennon is a first year Master of Public Affairs student. Erin received her undergraduate degree from UW-Madison, double majoring in Spanish and legal studies while also receiving certificates in public policy and gender and women's studies. She is interested in social policy, specifically gender equality, and education policy. Outside of school, Erin loves spending time with her friends and family, traveling, enjoying all the different restaurants and activities Madison has to offer, and attending Badger sporting events. She could not be more excited to remain in Madison and pursue her education at La Follette!



Luis Navarrete is pursuing a Master of Public Affairs and a Master of Science in Urban and Regional Planning. He graduated from Marquette University with a bachelor of arts in political science and previously worked as an assistant in the Office of Mayor Cavalier Johnson in Milwaukee. Additionally, he serves with local and national nonprofits such as Hispanic Professionals of Greater Milwaukee and Hispanics Forward. He works as a development intern for Genesys Works, a nonprofit that assists high school students in underserved communities in their professional development through skill training, work experience, and networking opportunities. His hobbies include following professional sports, working out, video games, cooking, dancing, and getting out of his comfort zone.



Caroline Riordan (she/her) was raised in rural, central Wisconsin. In 2020, she started her Bachelor of Arts in sociology with certificates in political science and public affairs from UW-Madison. Entering her first year as an accelerated Master of Public Affairs student at La Follette, her policy foci are rural healthcare, rural poverty, income inequality, and education. While studying at UW-Madison, Caroline interned for the Wisconsin State Assembly, worked as a restaurant supervisor, practiced dance, and worked as a brand ambassador. When not studying or working, Caroline spends her time cycling, reading, and spending time with friends. After completing her MPA, she plans to pursue another degree in law or sociology.



Sammy Rothman (she/her) is a first year Master of Public Affairs student from Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She graduated from UW-Madison in 2018 with degrees in political science and history and a certificate in studio art. Since graduating, Sammy has worked for progressive digital firms helping candidates up and down the ballot win elections through persuasive advertising strategies. While at the La Follette School, Sammy is excited to focus on energy, climate, and health policy. In her free time, she loves to spend time with her dog, hike, and discover new restaurants and bars.



Jarunee Shuller is a Master of International Public Affairs student. Originally from Maha Sarakham, one of the poorest provinces in Thailand, she received a Bachelor of Arts in civil engineering from Washington State University in 2021. She works as a transmission line engineer in Madison. In her free time, Jarunee has been helping refugees get settled. She has always dreamed that one day she would return to her hometown and start enacting change there. She would like everybody there to have equal access to education and to stop human trafficking. Jarunee's policy interests are education, social justice, and economic policy. She enjoys social work, volunteering, biking, and rock climbing in her free time.



Annalisa Solis (she/her) is a first year Master of Public Affairs-Juris Doctor dual degree student. Born and raised in Los Fresnos, a town located in the southernmost region of Texas, she graduated with her Bachelor of Arts in English and political science with a minor in Spanish from Texas A&M University- Kingsville in fall 2022. During her undergraduate career, Annalisa studied abroad at Stellenbosh University, located in Stellenbosch, South Africa, and interned with the Smithsonian Institute National Museum of the American Indian. These experiences, along with her lived experience in the Rio Grande Valley, fueled her interest in the study of communities impacted by social injustice. She hopes to explore and expand her knowledge on immigration policy and energy regulation throughout her time in this program. Outside of school, Annalisa loves spending time outside with friends and her dog, reading anything she can get her hands on, and exploring different types of food!



Megan Westerman (she/her) is a first year Master of Public Affairs student from Chesapeake, Virginia. She recently received her bachelor's degree in political science with minors in global studies and history from Randolph College in Lynchburg, Virginia. While obtaining her undergraduate degree, she interned virtually with the social media team for Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America in Boston, Massachusetts. She also held a summer position with Qualcomm's D.C. office, where she attended various meetings on behalf of the company and tracked the 2022 CHIPS Act. Her senior research focused on the effects of the NRA on the passage of gun policies in the U.S. and she plans to continue pursuing gun safety measures. Megan enjoys running, horseback riding, and spending time with family.



**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 2022-23, 74% 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

Robert M. La Follette School of Public Affairs

1225 Observatory Drive Madison, Wisconsin 53706 608-262-3581 info@lafollette.wisc.edu www.lafollette.wisc.edu

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)

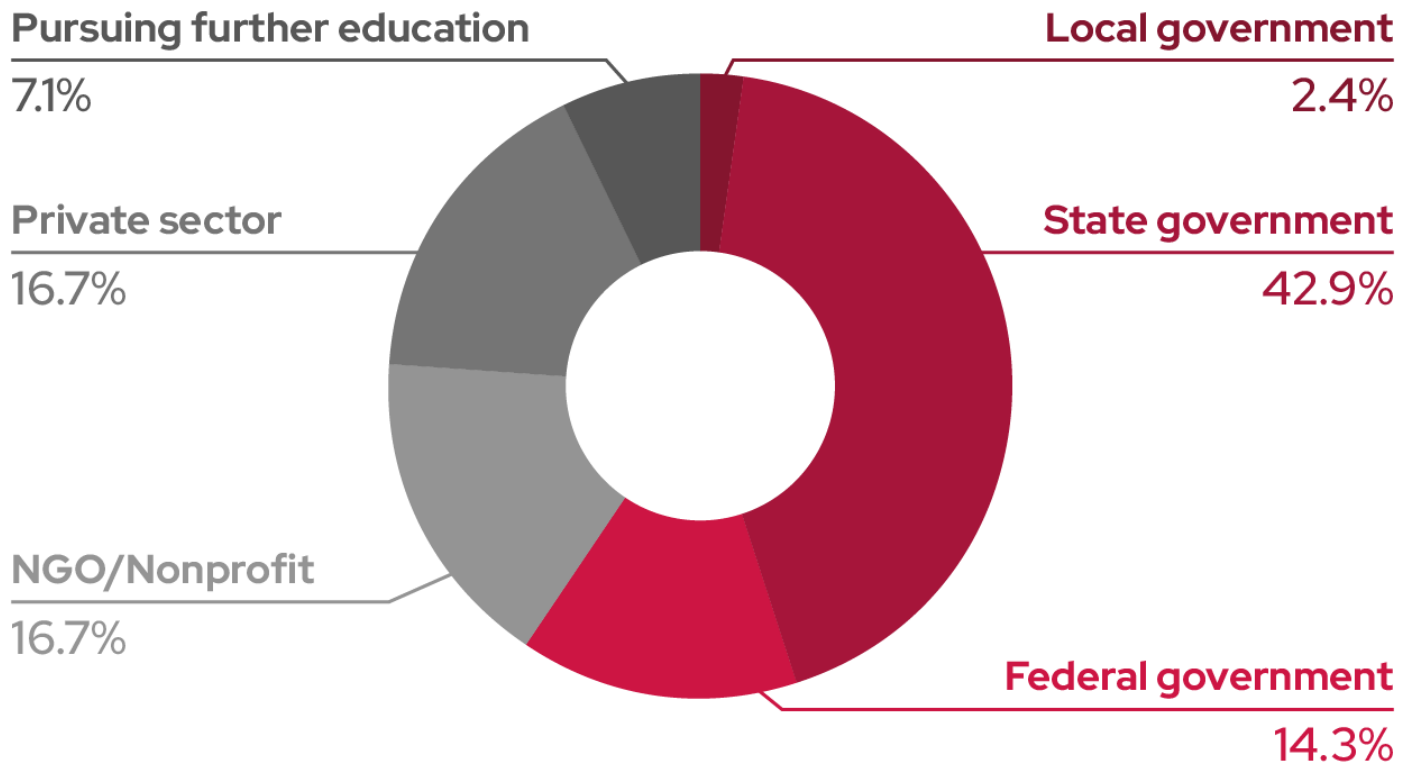
Academic-year FLAS fellowships are awarded for a full academic year to graduate students engaged in a **formal overseas or domestic program of full-time language and area studies** coursework. Several MIPA students have funded their second year of school through the FLAS. Summer FLAS fellowships are 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>

Graduate job placement

Information about job placement for our master's degree graduates, including where our most recent graduates are working.



Of 43 La Follette School 2023 Master of Public Affairs (MPA) and Master of International Public Affairs (MIPA) graduates, 40 entered the workforce and three sought additional degrees. Of those entering the workforce, 97.5% (39 out of 40 graduates) reported that they had secured employment in their fields by December 2023.

Of those who secured employment, 95% of graduates found jobs focused on domestic policy and management and 5% found jobs focused on international policy and management.

Where 2023 graduates are working

Local Government (2.4%)

- Waukesha County

State Government (42.9%)

- Arizona Joint Legislative Budget Committee
- State of Maine Department of Labor
- Wisconsin Department of Corrections
- Wisconsin County Health Rankings & Roadmaps
- Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB)
- Wisconsin Public Service Commission (PSC)
- Wisconsin Department of Health Services
- Wisconsin Legislative Audit Bureau (LAB)
- Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD)
- Wisconsin Department of Transportation (DOT)
- Wisconsin Department of Corrections (DOC)

Federal Government (14.3%)

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

Nonprofits (16.7%)

- Madison Regional Economic Partnership (MadREP)
- University of Wisconsin–Madison
- Wisconsin School of Business, UW-Madison
- Great Lakes Intertribal Food Coalition
- Community Service Society of NY
- CALSTART

Private Sector (16.7%)

- Associated Physicians, LLP
- Alight Solutions
- Hoffman
- University of Chicago – UrbanLabs
- MetaPhase consulting
- Management Science and Innovation
- Mathematica

Pursuing Additional Graduate School (7.1%)

- University of Wisconsin–Madison Ph.D. programs
- Marquette University

UW-MADISON LA FOLLETTE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS



Highlights
2022–23



BOARD OF VISITORS

Roger Ervin, Board Chair
Putnam Partners

Jennifer Abele
VC 414

JoAnne Anton
Herb Kohl Philanthropies

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

Alex Conant (MPA '03)
Firehouse Strategies

Curt S. Culver
MGIC Investment Corp., retired

Jason Gerlach (MA '96)
Sunrise Capital Partners

Carolyn Hill (MA '96)
MDRC

Leslie Ann Howard
United Way of Dane County, retired

Bob Lang
Wisconsin Legislative Fiscal Bureau

Terry Lierman (MA '71)
Summit Global Ventures

David Lubar
Lubar & Co.

Katharine C. Lyall
UW System, retired

Theresa E. Mintle (MA '91)
FYS Ventures

Luther Olsen
Wisconsin Senate, retired

Chuck Pruitt
ABD Direct

Jack C. Salzwedel
American Family Insurance

Eric Schutt
SHINE Medical Technologies

Daniel Speckhard (MA '82)
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

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



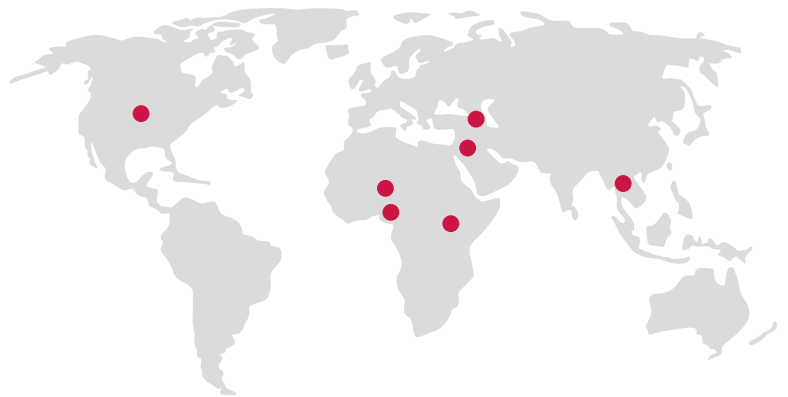
"I hope to apply the knowledge and skills I've gained over the last two years at La Follette in a public service role and PMF is a fantastic way of jumpstarting that goal."

—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,

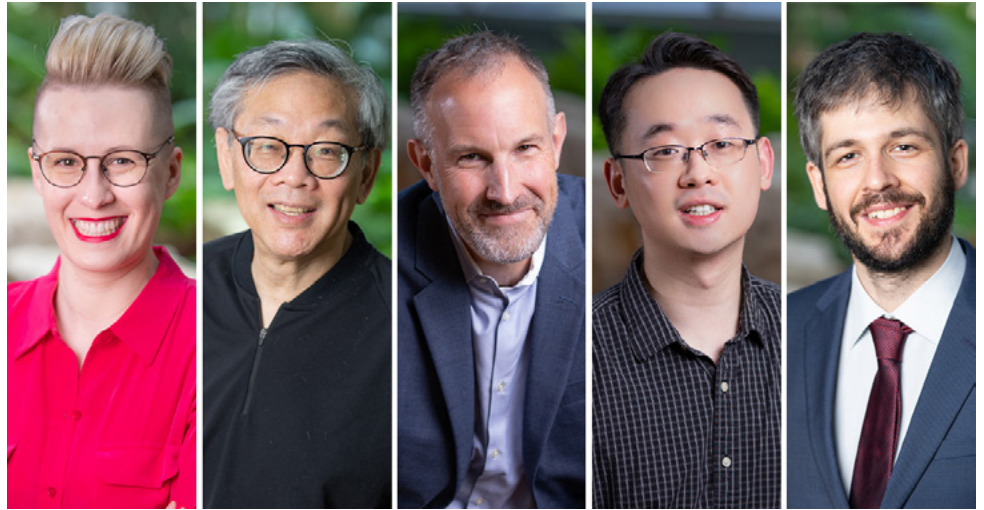
manufacturing facilities and experience across the energy system. According to the study, corporate investments should be more fully considered in efforts to advance climate technology.

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



READ
MORE

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



**READ
MORE**



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



**READ
MORE**

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.



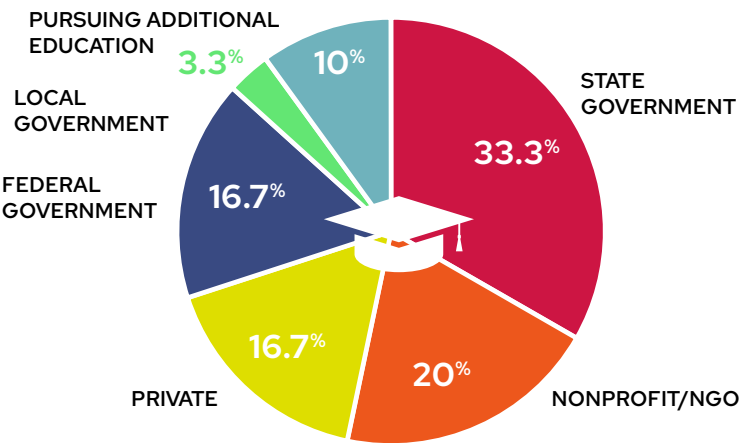
"It was a pleasure to work with student DEI leaders and our La Follette community this past year on these important initiatives, and I look forward to serving on the DEI standing committee in the upcoming academic year. Together, we will continue to work toward our shared goal of creating a more inclusive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

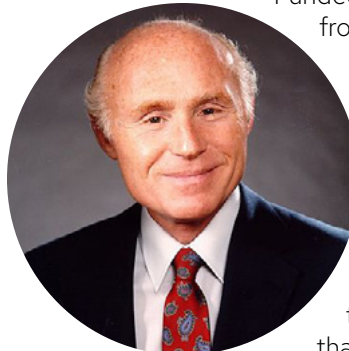
Barbara Wolfe

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

To Donate

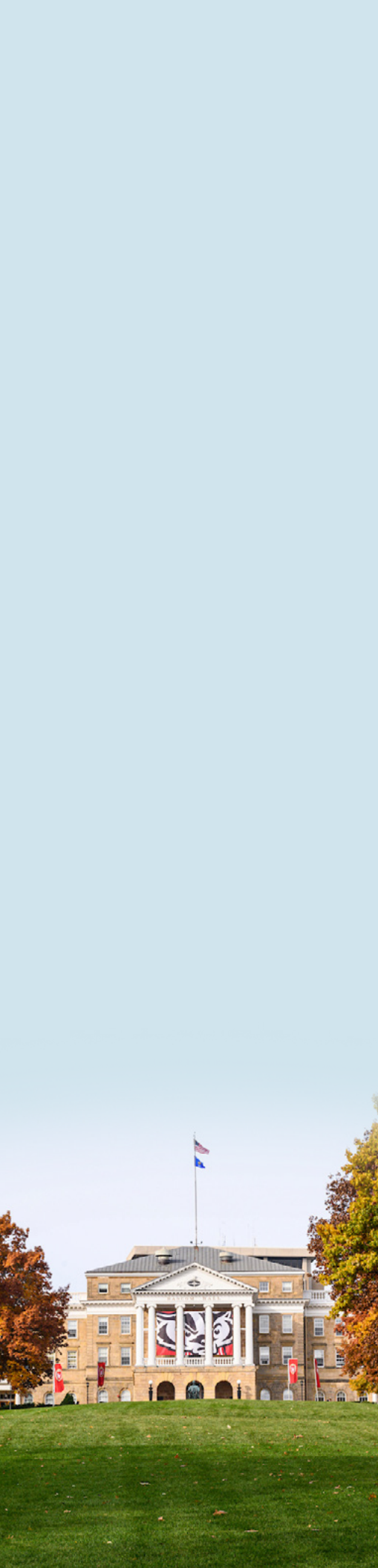
Visit supportuw.org/giveto/lafolletteschool

Call 800-442-6162

Email alumni@lafollette.wisc.edu



Connect with La Follette and learn about upcoming events



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.*

www.lafollette.wisc.edu • 608-262-3581 • info@lafollette.wisc.edu