

La Follette Notes

News for Alumni & Friends of The Robert M. La Follette School of Public Affairs at the University of Wisconsin–Madison

Alum opens doors, advances opportunities

Alum Rob Cramer is all about opportunity, whether smoothing the way for La Follette School interns or changing his own career.

Since graduating from La Follette in 1992, he has moved up through a variety of jobs with the state of Wisconsin. Most recently, he was administrator of the Wisconsin Department of Administration's Division of State Facilities and secretary of the State Building Commission. But he has left that for a new opportunity at University of Wisconsin–Platteville. There he

oversees human resources, facilities, and business and financial services as the assistant chancellor for administrative services.

And while Cramer keeps his eyes open for advancing his own career, he watches out for those coming from his alma mater.

At the Division of State Facilities, Cramer made a point of bringing La Follette School students into the agency.

"Every year for seven years we had at least one La Follette student working as an LTE or project assistant," Cramer says.

See **Job Change** on page 7

Please join us
at these La Follette
School receptions

Washington, D.C.

Thursday, November 8, 2007
6:30-8 p.m. Washington Marriott Hotel,
1221 22nd St N.W.

Madison—New Location

Thursday, February 21, 2008
5-7 p.m.

Cocoliquot, 225 King St.

For Information and to RSVP

alumni@lafollette.wisc.edu
(608) 263-7657

New students paint the town

Incoming students Lauren Benditt, left, and JP Muller paint at the Salvation Army in Madison as part of a volunteer project. The La Follette School Student Association coordinated this and other activities as part of the La Follette School's orientation for new students. See **story page 8**.



Alumni gifts bolster hiring of 3 faculty

This fall, the La Follette School welcomes three talented young scholars to our faculty. Their wide-ranging teaching and research interests complement and strengthen our programming.

The three are Susan Webb Yackee, Gregory Nemet and Thomas DeLeire. The La Follette School was able to recruit them partly due to donations from alumni and friends. Such gifts enhance our otherwise limited resources for recruitment and retention expenses.



From the Director
Barbara Wolfe

Our students will benefit enormously from our new faculty: Susan reinforces our growing expertise in the new style of public management. Greg is a specialist in environmental policy, while Tom brings experience with health policy, another area of growing interest and importance.

See **From the Director** on page 2

School sees increasing need for fellowship funding

With increasing competition for graduate students and declining state revenues, the ability to provide funding to support students is ever more critical, La Follette School Director Barbara Wolfe says.

"We are pleased to be able to offer fellowship money to some of our students, but we'd like to be able to do more," she says. Gifts from alumni and friends of the school are essential."

Some larger gifts and fund drives have

enabled the La Follette School to establish fellowship funds. These include:

- ◆ Doris J. Hanson Fund
- ◆ Clara Penniman Award
- ◆ John Gaus Public Service Fund
- ◆ Grace Argall Fund

For information on establishing a named fellowship fund or including La Follette in your estate, contact Steve Kean at the University of Foundation, (608) 263-4545, Steve.Kean@uwfoundation.wisc.edu. ◆

Incoming associate director wins award, publishes book

Menzie Chinn is the new associate director of the La Follette School of Public Affairs, taking over from **Karen Holden**, who completed her two-year term.

Undergraduate students in the Department of Economics honored Chinn with the Economics Teaching Award for 2006-07.



Menzie Chinn

Earlier this year, Chinn published the book *The Economic Integration of Greater China: Real and Financial Linkages and the Prospects for Currency Union* with co-authors Yin-Wong Cheung and Eiji Fujii.

During the summer, he presented papers on the Chinese exchange rate and trade balance, as well as the sources of global current account imbalances at several conferences, the International Monetary Fund and the European Central Bank.



Wolfe joins NIH panel

La Follette School director **Barbara Wolfe** is serving on the National Institutes of Health's Advisory Committee to the Director. The committee advises the National Institutes of Health director on policy matters. The National Institutes of Health is the primary federal agency for conducting and supporting basic, clinical and translational medical research. It investigates the causes, treatments and cures for common and rare diseases.

From the Director from page 1

Susan is an assistant professor of public affairs and political science. Her research and teaching interests include bureaucratic politics, social policy and the policymaking process, especially in the politics of regulatory policymaking. Her research focuses on the role organized interests play in influencing the U.S. bureaucracy's implementation of policy. The American Political Science Association recognized her with its Emerging Scholar Award in August.

Greg is an assistant professor of public affairs and environmental studies, with a joint appointment at La Follette and the Nelson Institute. His research and teaching focus on improving understanding of social, technical, political and economic dynamics of the global energy system. He researches how science and technology policy affect

the rate and direction of technological change.

Tom is an economist from Michigan State University where he was an associate professor. He holds a joint appointment with La Follette of Public Affairs and Popula-

tion Health Sciences. He spent 2006-07 and 2005-06 at the Congressional Budget Office where he contributed to a study using Social Security data to highlight the volatility of middle-class incomes. His research focuses on labor and health economics. His recent work looks at family structure, choice of occupation,

health insurance spending, and the well-being of poor households. A recent project examines the health insurance consequences of welfare reform.

Our curriculum is greatly enriched by these additions, and we very much look forward to their contributions to the intellectual life at La Follette. ◆

Career development coordinator joins staff

The La Follette School welcomes **Mary Russell** as the new career development coordinator. Russell has six years of career services experience, four of them as the director of career services at Clarke College in Dubuque, Iowa. She holds a master's degree in postsecondary education and student affairs from the University of Northern Iowa and a bachelor's degree from Iowa State University. Prior to joining the La Follette School, Russell served one year with AmeriCorps VISTA at the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Office of Service Learning and Community Based Research.

Comprenez-vous la statistique?

Grad uses stats to improve quality of health care

Eleven years ago, Debra (Stone) Morse would never have imagined herself teaching quality improvement and data analysis.

While working on her master's degree at La Follette in the mid 1990s, Morse avoided policy analysis courses. "I hated math and anything related to it," says the 1996 alum, whose bachelor's degree is in French and international relations. Her courses in the latter field introduced her to social policy. She worked a year as finance secretary in Janesville, where a co-worker recommended Morse look into getting a master's degree in public affairs.

Until early August, Morse was a health-care programmer analyst for MetaStar Inc., a Madison-area quality improvement organization that works with health-care providers to improve care. The firm also reviews organizations that, under Wisconsin's Family Care program, serve frail older adults and people with developmental or physical disabilities to help them live in their communities.

Now a lead analyst of MetaStar's contract with the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family



Debra (Stone) Morse

Services, Morse is a certified provider in health-care quality. In her earlier position, she taught health-care workers how to use simple statistics.

"Anyone who went through the La Follette program with me will be surprised to learn that I often taught health-care providers how to use data analysis and statistical techniques related to improving the quality of care they provide to their patients," Morse says. "I am thankful to this day that I took Maria Cancian's public policy statistics course during my second year at La Follette."

Morse found that many of her students disliked math and statistics. "I told students that if I, as a French major, could understand basic statistical techniques, then they could do the same, which would help them to improve the care they provide to their patients."

The statistical background is essential in Morse's new job as she analyzes data related to care and services provided, ensures agencies submit accurate information and reviews the state's information system.

The La Follette School made all this possible, Morse says. "Professor Cancian's class gave me a strong set of skills that built a 'technical' foundation that led me down paths in my career I would not have envisioned for myself." ◆

News from alumni and friends

1950s

Upon retiring in 2002 after stints as a city manager in Texas and town manager for Breckenridge, Colorado, as a division and department head with the city and county of Denver, and as an academician at Texas Christian University and University of Colorado, **John P. Hall** headed for his family's 1861 ranch. "However, they found me," says the 1958 public policy grad. "I'm now leading a restoration project for Evergreen's downtown similar to our accomplishment in Breckenridge." He is also coordinating a trail project through Evergreen with the county's open space agency. As a consultant to the Denver Mountain Parks Foundation, Hall is working on the preservation of Denver's mountain parks and, through the Mountain Area Land Trust, working to keep open space from development. "There is life after retirement, even time for fly fishing," he notes, "at least that's what my Day Timer says!"

1970s

Neal P. Cohen, 1974 Ph.D. in economics, retired from full-time employment after 26 years overseas with the U.S. Agency for International Development and moved to Gainesville, Florida, to be near his grandchildren. "The high points were successful economic policy reform in Nepal and South Africa," he says. "I now consult about one-third time on economic development issues with recent consultancies in Zambia, South Africa, Kenya, Azerbaijan and Afghanistan."

Edward F. Potter, 1974, is serving his second term as trustee in the village of Mount Pleasant, west of Racine, Wisconsin. He also is chair of the village plan commission and a member of the personnel committee, was treasurer of the village community development authority, and was chair of the village board finance, legal and license committee. A certified



Edward F. Potter

local government property assessor since 2004, he is licensed by the Wisconsin State Department of Regulation and Licensing as a real estate appraiser. He is self-employed as a residential and commercial fee appraiser and as a contract assessor for the village of Sturtevant and the town of Yorkville in Racine County.

Doug Zwank, 1977, served as mayor of Middleton, Wisconsin, from 2003 until 2007. In 2005 *Money* magazine named Middleton the seventh best city in the United States. In 2007 *Money* named Middleton the No. 1. city with fewer than 50,000 people in the United States. "I would like to thank the La Follette center for the great education that prepared me for politics," Zwank says. "I am now retired from politics and enjoying my free time."

1980s

Jeff Martinka, 1983, is the new executive director of the West 7th Community Center in St. Paul, Minnesota. Martinka is responsible for sustaining the strong base of community programs at the center, while creating new earned income and partnership opportunities. Established 35 years ago as a nonprofit organization in the settlement house tradition, West 7th provides a range of senior, family and youth programming, operating with a paid staff of 26, supported by hundreds of community volunteers. Martinka served previously in management and development positions at nonprofits in the Twin Cities and Milwaukee, following work in state and local government. Martinka is on the Board of MACC Alliance of Connected Communities of Minneapolis and is the marketing chair for Global Citizens Network of St. Paul.

James Alm, 1980 Ph.D. in economics, has been appointed dean of the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies at Georgia State University. He is also editor of the journal *Public Finance Review*.

1990s

Allison McEwen Vaillancourt, 1990, is associate vice president for human resources at the University of Arizona. She began her elected term in July as president of the College and University Professional Association for Human Resources, an organization with members from more than 1,600 colleges and universities in the United States and abroad. "Other good news includes being a co-investigator on a National Science Foundation ADVANCE grant designed to increase the number of women in higher education practicing in the areas of science, technology, engineering and math," she reports.

Milwaukee firm names Beyer vice president

Jane M. Beyer, 1986, has been promoted to vice president with the Marshall & Ilsley Corp., a diversified financial services corporation.

She joined the firm in 1998, moving from positions with state and local governments to a new career in the private sector.

She manages a group of senior consultants in the talent and organizational development department and leads the development and facilitation of programs within the Leadership Institute of M&I University.

Her community service includes several roles with the Mortar Board National College Senior Honor Society: She is chair of the national alumni committee, advisor to the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee student chapter and treasurer/secretary of the Milwaukee area alumni chapter.



Public affairs, public health dual degree gets final OK

The La Follette School's dual-degree program in public affairs and public health has received final approval from the University of Wisconsin-Madison Graduate School.

The 55-credit dual degree takes two years, including two summers, to complete. The student graduates with two master's degrees, one in public health and one in public affairs. The MPH and the MPA alone are each 42 credits. The MPH is a professional degree within the Department of Health Sciences in the School of Medicine and Public Health.

2000 graduate wants news of classmates

Julia (North) Boerth, 2000, wants to hear from her classmates, and asks them to e-mail her at jnboerth@gmail.com.

After being home with her 2- and 5-year-old, she has rejoined the workforce as a program officer for the Stoneleigh Center in Philadelphia, a foundation established in 2006 to help improve the life chances of children and youth.



Prof's Cajun band wins award for album

La Follette School professor **Karen Holden** and her band, Cajun Strangers, have been recognized for producing the best CD by a non-Louisiana Cajun band. The Cajun French Music Association gave the Cajun Strangers the Prix Dehors de Nous (the Prize Outside of Ourselves) for the band's 2006 album, "Valse a Deux Temps."



Four students honored at graduation

Thanks to donations to the La Follette School, four students received recognition at the graduation celebration at the Wisconsin Capitol.

Yeri Lopez and **Matthew Steinberg** were honored with the Director's Achievement Award for their grade-point averages and scholarly work. **Dani Fumia** received a Director's Achievement Award for her leadership as faculty liaison to the La Follette School Student Association.

The Penniman Prize went to **Kristen Yarber Grill** for a paper she wrote for the Advanced Public Management course taught by associate professor **Donald Moynihan**.

News from Alumni and Friends from page 3

Sarah Archibald, 1998, completed her Ph.D. in May from the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis at the University of Wisconsin—Madison, where she is teaching a course on financing elementary and secondary education in fall 2007 and spring 2008. She continues her work as an associate researcher with the Consortium for Policy Research in Education at UW-Madison.

Robert Zeinemann, 1996, and his wife, Rachael Wyman, are the proud parents of a boy named Asa, born October 12, 2006. Zeinemann and his family just moved to the Seattle area for Wyman's work, and he is studying for the Washington bar exam – and watching after Asa. He published an article in the spring 2007 *The Urban Lawyer*, a scholarly journal put out by the American Bar Association. Titled "Overlooked Linkages Between Municipal Incorporation and Annexations Laws: An In-Depth Look at Wisconsin's Experience," the article, is "over 60 pages long and has 372 footnotes (law journals are insane about footnoting everything)," Zeinemann says. "I consider it one of my greatest achievements."

Michael Derr, 1992, and the Cooperative Educational Service Agency 6 based in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, secured a \$1 million U.S. Department of Education grant. It is the second federal grant the agency received to provide professional development activities for history teachers in eastern Wisconsin. Derr continues his role as lead project coordinator for the initiative. He has been a grants specialist with the agency for eight years and has secured more than \$9 million in federal and state grant awards for school districts and educational institutions in the Fox Valley Region.

Victoria Flood, 1994, has worked in the Research and Evaluation unit of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in Chicago for more than six years. "I mostly work on surveys and grant evaluations; and I am the one who teaches ELCA staff about how to effectively create, use and measure outcomes," she says. She and her husband, Rod Boriack, live in the northwest suburbs of Chicago.

2000s

WenChuen Lin, 2003, is a financial analyst for General Electric, her employer for the last two and a half years. She is heading to Singapore for a new assignment with CNBC.

Tori Key is pursuing a career in federal government consulting. Her first client project is with the Federal Aviation Administration. After graduating in 2005, she spent two years in the government of the District of Columbia's Capital City Fellows Program. She worked in the Department of Transportation, the Mayor's Policy Office and the Office of the Chief Financial Officer.

Upon completing a one-year international development fellowship with Catholic Relief Services in Nicaragua in May 2007, **Bill Schmitt**, 2005, moved to Sudan to accept the position of area coordinator for CRS's emergency relief operations in the northern corridor of West Darfur. In col-

laboration with United Nations agencies and other international non-governmental organizations, CRS manages a multifaceted intervention comprised of food security, shelter, water and sanitation, education, health and nutrition, and agricultural recovery programs that benefit more than 125,000 Darfurians, many of them living in internally displaced persons camps.

What Have You Been Up To?

Please tell us your news, whether it is about your work, travel, awards, family or volunteer efforts.

We also are looking for photographs of alumni and friends at work to use in the newsletter and on the school's web site. We prefer high-resolution images, as close to 1800 by 2700 pixels as you can get.

To share your news, update contact information or ask a question, send a note to alumni@lafollette.wisc.edu. Or go online: www.lafollette.wisc.edu/alumnifriends/intouch.php

Jamie Aulik, 2006, was elected Manitowoc County clerk in a special election in April. At age 27, he is the youngest of Wisconsin's 72 county clerk by 11 years. While roles vary, county clerks are generally responsible for administering elections; budgeting; issuing marriage licenses, dog licenses, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources licenses and work permits. County clerks may process passport applications and maintain county records. They also serve their county boards by announcing ordinances, recording votes and taking minutes.

Liz Krueger, 2004, and her family have relocated to Haleiwa, Hawaii, where she is honing her policy skills with Isaiah, 2¹/₂, and Josie, 9 months.

Students consult with expert, present research

Students just finishing a report on sulfur dioxide emissions in China had the chance to meet with an expert on the issue — and pick up the tab for breakfast, thanks to donations to the La Follette School.

The breakfast meeting was with Jennifer Turner, director of the China Environment Forum at the Wilson Center. The discussion was good practice for the students' subsequent presentation of the report at the Multi-State Working Group on Environmental Performance conference in Madison in June, says co-author Allison Quatrini.

Policymakers use workshop findings

A city of Madison's 2008 budget proposal includes \$1.6 million for a center to aid would-be builders. A 2005 La Follette workshop report suggested to Mayor Dave Cieslewicz and the Economic Development and Plan commissions that the city streamline permitting with such a one-stop shop.

The 2007 report on justice alternatives continues to be in demand, with calls from legislators and the Wisconsin Department of Justice for more copies. Another 2007 report informed a request for proposals for Wisconsin to purchase renewable energy for state facilities.

A donation enables the La Follette School to print the reports and pay for related expenses. The reports are at www.lafollette.wisc.edu/publications/workshops.html

Donations also paid for two authors to attend the full conference.

The report was one of three produced as part of the international public affairs workshop.

"Those of us who had the opportunity to present at the Multi-State Working Group Conference were ebullient following our presentation; it felt so good to have worked as hard as we did, learn and analyze, and then present our research

to those in the environmental innovation community," says co-author Leah Larson-Rabin. "What a way to end our time at La Follette!" ♦

Lecture to honor public intellectual Paul Offner

The legacy of former Wisconsin State Senator Paul Offner will be celebrated with a public lecture series sponsored by the La Follette School of Public Affairs. The first lecture and social event will be Wednesday, November 14, at 5 p.m. at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Harry Holzer and Peter Edleman, who co-authored the 2006 book *Reconnecting Disadvantaged Young Men* with Offner, will speak. The book was published after Offner died of cancer in 2004 at age 61.

Offner, who had a doctorate from Princeton, moved to La Crosse, Wisconsin, to start what turned out to be a long career as a public intellectual.

He represented the La Crosse area in the Wisconsin Senate from 1977 to 1983. After a stint as deputy director of the Ohio Department of Human Services, he became an assistant to U.S. Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, D-N.Y. He was then chief health and welfare counselor for the Senate Finance Committee and commissioner of

the District of Columbia Commission on Health Care Finance. He joined the Urban Institute in Washington, D.C., and contributed to breakthrough research on poverty in America.

"Paul Offner represents the best of public service," says La Follette School Director Barbara Wolfe. "We are honored to sponsor a public lecture in his memory with the Urban Institute."

One of the event organizers, University of Wisconsin Regent Tom Loftus, says Offner made a difference in Wisconsin policy debates. "Paul taught us all to challenge the conventional and embrace the different way," says Loftus, a 1972 alum of the La Follette School's precursor, the Center for the Study of Public Policy and Administration. Loftus served as speaker of the Wisconsin Assembly and as ambassador to Norway in the Clinton administration.

"It was a time when debate about the future of the state and the country resulted in policy that moved us forward. He was amazing." ♦

State Bar board adopts report that includes students' analysis

A cost-benefit analysis by La Follette School students is part of a final report adopted by the State Bar Board of Governors.

The analysis, requested by the State Bar of Wisconsin, finds that a \$1 million investment in providing victims of domestic abuse greater access to legal assistance would yield more than \$9 million in net benefits.

One of few examinations of the costs and benefits of access to justice, the full La Follette study is an appendix in the State Bar of Wisconsin's Access to Justice Committee's final report, *Bridging the Justice Gap: Wisconsin's Unmet Legal Needs*.

"The La Follette team's cost-benefit work has been repeatedly cited by me, by the committee chair, judges and by others around the country who have read the report," says Jeff Brown, pro bono coordinator for the State Bar of Wisconsin.

Authors **Liz Elwart, Dani Fumia, Christina Enders, Nina Carlson,** and **Kevin Murphy** conducted the study as part of a cost-benefit analysis class Professor **David Weimer** taught in 2006. The authors all graduated in May with master's degrees in public affairs.

"All of us who worked on the access to services project are really pleased that the State Bar was able to make such extensive use of our work," says Carlson, now a policy advisor in the Wisconsin governor's office. "It's really rewarding for us to see our classwork translated into policies and recommendations."

The report was given to the Wisconsin Supreme Court, Wisconsin's congressional delegation, attendees at the State Bar's Equal Justice Conference, Wisconsin legislators and Legislative Fiscal Bureau staff.

Support La Follette School students and programs

- ♦ Write a check *payable to UW Foundation-La Follette* and send it to:

Alumni and Friends Giving
La Follette School of Public Affairs
University of Wisconsin-Madison
1225 Observatory Drive
Madison WI 53706

- ♦ Donate *online* via credit card at:
www.lafollette.wisc.edu/giving/

Questions, comments or concerns?

Please contact Karen FASTER
kfaster@lafollette.wisc.edu
(608) 263-7657

Project briefs legislators on university budget

A policy brief by a 2007 alum of the La Follette School provided background and analysis to Wisconsin legislators as they debated the University of Wisconsin System budget.

Kate Clark developed the Wisconsin Center for the Advancement of Postsecondary Education brief based on work she did in the Public Budgeting course taught by associate professor **Donald Moynihan**. She is now an analyst with the U.S. Government Accountability Office in Washington, D.C.

The brief urges lawmakers to be aware that state funding, adjusted for inflation, for the University of Wisconsin System has declined since 2000. The state's university system increasingly draws a larger percentage of its funding from non-state sources.

Alum heads to Europe for program on Balkans

After nearly a year of working on bids and proposals for an international development company, **Natalie Oldani** was looking forward to heading to Berlin in September for a leadership development academy sponsored by the College of Europe and TRANS-FUSE Association, a Robert-Bosch Foundation affiliate.

"Working is great for enhancing skills and gaining valuable experience, but it is also nice to have the time to engage in academic debate," Oldani says.

After completing her coursework at the La Follette School, Oldani spent the 2005-06 academic year studying in Serbia.

She returned to the United States in August 2006 and started in January as a business development associate for Constella Futures in Washington, D.C.

Donation helps cover costs of student internships

Two international public affairs students spent their summers in Washington, D.C., and New York City writing memos, attending meetings and doing research courtesy of a generous donation from Lockheed Martin Corp. to the La Follette School.

The gift meant the La Follette School could provide stipends to two students working unpaid internships. The funds helped to cover the extra expenses of living outside Madison for the summer.

"The internship support program is an excellent opportunity for Lockheed Martin to help students gain valuable real-world experience," says Robert Trice Jr., Lockheed Martin senior vice president for business development and a 1974 Ph.D. in political science from University of Wisconsin-Madison. He is a member of the La Follette School's advisory Board of Visitors, a group shared with the Department of Political Science at UW-Madison.

Lockheed Martin has supported internships for La Follette students for four years. "This internship support is a good investment in the people who will guide this country's public policy," Trice says.

The two students, Mikaela DeGroot and Patti Reis, say the stipends made quite a difference to them.

"With an unpaid internship and the high cost of living in Manhattan, I would not have been able to survive this summer without financial assistance," says DeGroot, who interned with the U.S. Department of State at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations in New York City.

Assigned to the Economic and Social Council, DeGroot attended U.N. meetings and wrote memos on what transpired. She also carried out research on upcoming meetings and events related to global climate change, Haiti, peacebuilding and the UN Development Programme.

At the Organization of American States, Reis helped the Summit of the Americas Secretariat prepare for its 2009 meeting. She researched the Summit Implementation Review Group to help staff develop mechanisms to supervise implementation and follow-up of summit mandates.

The Lockheed Martin gift to La Follette enabled Reis to gain this experience. "Without the financial support of Mr. Trice, my internship this summer would have not been possible," she says. "With his help, I was able to gain experience in the policy world while living in a very expensive city." ♦

Sample of student internships

La Follette School students spent their summers interning with these agencies in Wisconsin and around the world:

- ◆ UN International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in Arusha, Tanzania
- ◆ U.S. Senate Office, Washington, D.C.
- ◆ U.S. Government Accountability Office, Washington, D.C.
- ◆ European Commission, Brussels
- ◆ Grassroots International
- ◆ Wisconsin Senate Office, Madison
- ◆ U.S. Department of State at the U.S. Embassy in Dhaka, Bangladesh
- ◆ Violence Against Women Program, Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance
- ◆ FINCA International, Nicaragua and Guatemala
- ◆ Public Policy Forum, Milwaukee
- ◆ United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta
- ◆ Federal Student Aid, U.S. Department of Education
- ◆ Collective Bargaining and Research Department, Wisconsin Education Association Council, Madison, Wisconsin



Mikaela DeGroot, left, and **Kavan Kucko**, right, visited **Andria Hayes-Birchler** in Washington, D.C., during the summer. DeGroot interned with the U.S. Department of State in New York City. Kucko worked at the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey in the department of policy and planning doing regional transportation economic research and economic impact analysis. Hayes-Birchler interned with the U.S. Agency for International Development's Europe and Eurasia Bureau.



La Follette School students **Sean Moran**, left, and **Justin Martin**, right, interned under alum **Rob Cramer**, center, at the Wisconsin Department of Administration's Division of State Facilities. Martin attended meetings that tracked the progress of initiatives to bring state facilities into compliance with Governor Jim Doyle's Conserve Wisconsin agenda. He also worked on environmental issues as an intern with Wisconsin state Senator Mark Miller. Moran tracked the job performance of maintenance mechanics and revised database classifications to better monitor how well the mechanics met performance goals related to corrective and preventative maintenance.

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"They had a lot of interest in working on real issues and brought a wide range of backgrounds and perspectives to the team."

One of those students, Tanya (Wagner) Iverson, 2002, is now a community services specialist at the Wisconsin Department of Commerce. She attributes her career path in large part to Cramer's influence and the opportunities he gave her.

She found Cramer to be an excellent mentor and manager. "Rob let the opportunities unfold and never took over proj-

ects," Iverson says. "All the work I did seemed meaningful and important, plus I had a lot of latitude. He made sure I had no obstacles in completing a project."

Cramer also collaborated with La Follette School faculty and students on classroom projects, most recently two capstone workshop reports. One offers a framework for reducing the environmental impacts of Wisconsin state office buildings. A 2007 report advises DOA how to comply with the mandate to acquire 10 percent of the state government's electricity from renewable resources. It informed a request for proposals issued in June.

Bringing in students is a boon to state government, Cramer notes. "Students help balance the professional staff who are used to a certain way of doing things. La Follette School students ask why and bring new perspectives to the table."

Being at the table was invaluable for Iverson. "Rob created opportunities for me to take on really big projects," Iverson says. "That included having me — as an intern — present the study I did to the DOA secretary and his staff."

Giving students experience with a state agency is essential, Cramer says. "We should try to get the right people into public service. Most of us were given opportunities by people, so opening doors for others is a way of paying that back." ♦

Wisconsin DOA internship steers alum into public sector

Nonprofit management was the original career goal for Tanya (Wagner) Iverson when she started at La Follette in the fall of 2000. "At the time, I didn't really have experience with state government," she says. "I was on a nonprofit tilt."

Then she interned at the Wisconsin Department of Administration's procurement office under Rob Cramer, 1992, and worked with a bureau director on a enterprise travel study that looked at how to consolidate travel-planning services for the state and university system. When Cramer was appointed to what was then the Division of Facility Development, Iverson continued her internship there.

Iverson went on to the state budget office, thanks in part to Cramer introducing her to people. "Rob made sure there were open doors, that at all times when top-level people were talking about my projects, that I was in the room for the discussions," she says.

A 2002 graduate, Iverson is now a community services specialist with the Wisconsin Department of Commerce, where she works in the Division of Housing and Community Development administering and measuring the performance of emergency shelter and transitional housing grant programs. These grants go to nonprofits and some local governments throughout the state.

"I work with the federal government, state government and a bunch of nonprofits," she says. "I get to work with entities as large as the City of Milwaukee and as small as a 12-person emergency shelter in Rock County for chronically homeless individuals run by a man who had been chronically homeless."

"Through my internships I learned that I worked really well with state bureaucracy," Iverson says. "Now I have the best of both worlds." ♦

For information on internships

To learn more about internships for La Follette School students, contact **Mary Russell**, 608-263-2409, mrussell@lafollette.wisc.edu

Alum supports students

Rob Cramer expands opportunities for students with donations to the La Follette School via the University of Wisconsin Foundation.

For him, financial support on top of his collaborations with students goes a long way in helping the La Follette School promote public service among students and around Wisconsin.

"Gifts from alumni support students and faculty in the outreach work they do," Cramer says. "The research and analysis they provide state agencies help inform policymakers' decisions, and our donations help cover some of the costs involved."

Information on giving
www.lafollette.wisc.edu/giving

Orientation sets tone for La Follette School experience

Exploring curriculum, picnicking and a little painting brought new and continuing students together at the La Follette School fall orientation, setting the stage for the friendships that often form during the two years students spend in the program.

Orientation activities spanned five days and covered the nuts and bolts of being a student, plus lots of social events.

Donations from alumni and friends made some activities possible by covering food and beverage costs.

A picnic at Tripp Commons in Memorial Union followed a daylong session at which new students talked with faculty, staff and continuing students; learned about courses and curricula; and heard about career development opportunities.

The La Follette School Student Association added a few social and volunteer

activities to the orientation agenda as a way to facilitate first- and second-year students getting to know each other.

Students painted a hallway at the Lussier Teen Center and four rooms at the Salvation Army’s family shelter, both in Madison.

“I think that the experience will help to set the stage for a wide depth of experience for the La Follette community,” says Jennie Mauer, LSSA’s social chair.

The six who painted a hallway at the teen center had a great time, Mauer says. “It was nice to have a sense of accomplishment when the day was over. I also really enjoyed having an opportunity to interact with fellow students in a small-group setting and do something useful.”

The crew at the Salvation Army did such a good job on their four rooms that

they were asked to return and finish another eight.

“At the end of the afternoon, the volunteer coordinator gathered us together to tell us more about what the Salvation Army does in Dane County—how they’re funded, what kinds of services they provide, etc.,” reports Alexis MacDonald, LSSA alumni chair.

Other events included a pub crawl, text book sale, potluck at professor Karen Holden’s house and another picnic after the community service day.

“We appreciate the contributions LSSA makes to orientation every year,” says Associate Director Menzie Chinn. “These opening activities encourage students to interact and help them form the kinds of the friendships and professional contacts that our alumni continue to enjoy.” ♦

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