

La Follette Notes

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

Reception builds network of La Follette School alumni, friends

Business cards and tips on who was hiring flew at the La Follette School of Public Affairs reception on February 8 at Inn on the Park in Madison. More than 110 people attended the reception, including 50 alumni and friends of the school. They enjoyed an evening of conversation and catching up with classmates.

Faculty chatted with former students and shared their current research ideas,

while alumni and students talked about employment and internship opportunities.

“At least one student is having lunch with an alum to talk further,” says Kate Clark, alumni committee chair for the La Follette School Student Association, which hosted the event.

The evening is made possible thanks to gifts to the La Follette School via the University of Wisconsin Foundation.

“We appreciate that alumni and friends of the school think so well of their time at La Follette that they turn out in such large numbers,” says school director Barbara (Bobbi) Wolfe, “or maybe it is primarily to tease their former faculty members and classmates.”

Alumni from as far back as 1964 attended, and every decade since then was

See **Reception** on page 8

D.C. Alumni & Friends

Save the evening of
Thursday, November 8,
for a La Follette School reception.

Details forthcoming — be sure we have
your e-mail address.
alumni@lafollette.wisc.edu



Donations expand student opportunities

Financial support for La Follette School students from Wisconsin is growing thanks to donations to two special funds.

One gift is from Dr. Clara Penniman, the founder and first director of the La Follette School's predecessor, the Center for the Study of Public Policy and Administration. Her contributions create an exciting opportunity for us to support a student interested in public management and policy in Wisconsin.



From the Director
Barbara Wolfe

The second fund honors Doris Hanson, a longtime leader in Wisconsin government. Upon her death in November 2006,

See **From the Director** on page 6

Economics study group crafts lasting relationships

Alumni (from left) Erin McGrath, Helene Stebbins, Sue Gander, Becca Swartz, Monique Currie and photographer Mary McGreevy formed such close friendships during a La Follette School course in the 1990s that they've promised each other to get together once a year. **Story on page 7.**

Alum's gifts honor value of La Follette degree

Throughout her career in health-care management, Peggy LeMahieu says she had an inside track on knowing how public policy influences the business of health care, thanks to the master's degree she earned from the La Follette Institute of Public Affairs.

Since graduating in 1985, LeMahieu has worked for various organizations, acute-care hospitals, third-party insurers and a couple of large physician-owned medical systems, in positions ranging from middle management to vice president of a Green Bay medical center for about 10 years. After a sojourn in New Mexico for her husband's job, she is just starting a position as operations manager in the cardiac service

area at Meriter Hospital in Madison.

LeMahieu attributes her success, in part, to what she learned at La Follette. “My graduate degree added to my credibility as a professional,” she says.

This is one reason she supports the La Follette School financially. “I donate money because I feel it is one way I can give back to the school for the benefits it gave me,” LeMahieu says.

She came to La Follette as part of a career change from being a registered nurse with public health agencies. “I wanted a broader focus,” LeMahieu says, “so I chose a public affairs degree rather than a master's degree in nursing. I had a lot of interests that

See **Giving** on page 5

Alumni attend national conference hosted by La Follette School

The La Follette School hosted the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management's fall 2006 research conference, November 2-4, at the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Monona Terrace Convention Center in Madison. La Follette School faculty, alumni and a student gave presentations. A number of La Follette School alumni and friends attended the conference, as did current students. Donations from alumni and friends enabled the school to fund registration fees for students.

The conference set an attendance record for APPAM's meetings held outside Washington, D.C., and compliments abounded. The opening night reception that La Follette hosted in the Capitol rotunda attracted 600 guests, by far the largest ever held for APPAM. Perhaps the best compliment came from the frequent inquiries about when (not if) APPAM would return to Madison.



2005 La Follette School alumni **Natalie Walleser**, left, and **Hilary Shager** visit at the APPAM conference. Walleser works for the Wisconsin Legislative Audit Bureau. Shager is a research assistant with the Wisconsin Center for Education Research at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is working on her Ph.D. in public policy.



Mark Cassell, left, talks with La Follette professor **Andrew Reschovsky**. After graduating from La Follette in 1992, Cassell earned a Ph.D. in political science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and is now an associate professor at Kent State University. He presented a paper on the redistribution consequences of intra-state competition on Ohio's enterprise zone program.



Carissa DeCramer and **Ryan Baumtrog** are two of the 35 or so La Follette School students who attended APPAM. Donations from La Follette School alumni and friends helped the school pay for student registration fees.

On behalf of APPAM, President **David Weimer** of the La Follette School receives a commendation from Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle, presented by Department of Workforce Development Secretary **Roberta Gassman**.



La Follette School photos by Bob Rashid



La Follette School professor **Maria Cancian**, second from left, and La Follette School director **Barbara Wolfe**, right, talk with Gary Sandefur, second from right, at the reception the Institute for Research on Poverty held at the APPAM conference to celebrate the institute's 40th anniversary. Cancian is IRP's current director, a position Wolfe held from 1994-2000. Robert M. Hauser, left, was IRP director for three years prior to Wolfe's term. Sandefur is dean of the College of Letters and Science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

More information: www.lafollette.wisc.edu/appam/

News from alumni and friends

1970s

As president and CEO, **Charles E. Carlson**, 1976, oversees the firm enetrix as it hosts more than 100 survey and content management applications for client firms and associations. enetrix develops, hosts and manages Oracle-based online applications on the "software-as-a-service" model. One of the hosted surveys covers more than 50,000 employees at more than 200 Wisconsin public employers. The firm also provides database and human resource consultation.

John Bryson, 1972, is a professor of planning and public affairs and associate dean with the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota. In 2004 he was elected a fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration. In 2005 he received the Distinguished Research Award from the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration and the American Society for Public Administration. His name was selected for inscription on the University of Minnesota Scholars Walk.

Since 2001, **P. Bai Akridge**, 1978, has served as president of the minority-owned consulting firm WorldWise Services Inc., which is dedicated to international education and workforce development. He is an adjunct business professor in the Graduate School and a visiting scholar in the International Center for Transcultural Education in the College of Education, both at the University of Maryland in College Park. This year Akridge and fellow La Follette grad **Carrie Johnson-Akridge**, 1979, celebrate 30 years of marriage. Johnson-Akridge is a federal policy analyst for the New York State Department of Education, based in Washington, D.C.

1980s

Theron O'Connor, 1986, is president of TangencyGroup International, a firm he created after retiring from law practice in 1998. "We provide negotiation consulting and training services to Fortune 100/500 companies around the world," O'Connor says. "Key clients include Intel, GE, HP, Cisco Systems, Oracle, Microsoft, Dell, Taiwan Semiconductor, American Express, Sun Micro and many others. In the past several months we have worked on site from Moscow to Bangalore and most points in between. A great 'retirement!'"

William E. "Bill" Connors, 1989, started working as the continuing legal education director of the State Bar of Wisconsin in July 2006. Before that, he was city administrator for Evansville, Wisconsin.

Tom Grogan, 1984, has rejoined the administrative staff at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh on a half-time basis. He has formed a Madison-based educational consulting firm and legal office for associated services.

Michael A. Willihnganz, 1981, is assistant human resources director with Napa County, California.

Tony Carroll, 1980, has been nominated by U.S. Trade Representative Susan Schwab to a four-year term on the U.S. Trade Advisory Committee on Africa. The committee provides the representative advice on trade and economic policy matters with respect to the countries of Sub-Saharan Africa. He served in similar capacities to the Overseas Private Investment Corporation and the U.S. Import Export Bank. He continues to serve on the advisory board the La Follette School shares with the Department of Political Science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.



Alum honored for work on behalf of crime victims

1971 alum **Steve Derene**, left, stands with U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales, who gave Derene the 2005 National Crime Victim Services Award. In April 2006, Derene received the Public Policy Award from the U.S. Congressional Crime Victims Rights Caucus. Derene is the co-founder and executive director of the National Association of VOCA (Victims of Crime Act) Assistance Administrators, a position he has held since 2001. The organization supports administrators of state and other programs that receive funds from the Office for Victims of Crime, which is part of the U.S. Department of Justice. The Victims of Crime Act established the office in 1984 to provide financial assistance to support a variety of services and activities to assist crime victims.

John Elliott, 1989, has been promoted to senior manager of customer care at Cuna Mutual Group. He oversees customer processes and the overall customer experience.

1990s

Karen Goldman, 1993, is working in the Development Department of the American Civil Liberties Union Foundation. She oversees the Foundation Relations office, which involves creating and implementing the organization's strategies for foundation fund raising and supervising a team of three grant writers.

Minnesota House staffer and Democratic-Farm-Labor Party Caucus research consultant **Brad Kelly**, 1993, is now following these

committees: K-12 Finance, E-12 Education Policy and Early Childhood Learning Finance.

Dean Cira, 1990, just completed his 10-year anniversary at the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development at the World Bank. He moved in October 2006 back to Washington, D.C., from the Brazil field office, where he managed the municipal lending program. He is now working in the East Asia Region where he manages the bank's infrastructure reconstruction program for Aceh province, that part of Indonesia the tsunami devastated, and he coordinates the overall urban program for Indonesia. He also is the East Asia region's thematic leader for disaster management.

Alumni and Friends — We Want Your News

Let us know what you are up to, whether working, traveling, winning awards or volunteering. To share your news, update contact information or to give feedback, send a note to alumni@lafollette.wisc.edu. Or go online: www.lafollette.wisc.edu/alumniandfriends/intouch.php

News from alumni and friends

Jon Montgomery, 1993, and wife, Stephanie, welcomed son Jack Carson Montgomery, born June 7, 2006. Jon continues his work as an aerospace industry analyst at the Department of Commerce.

Kelly Flowers, 1998, and his wife, Flora, welcomed their daughter, Adriana Cecilia, into the world on March 1, 1999. Days later, Kelly began work for the U.S. Agency for International Development in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, to assist the design and management of the \$291 million Hurricane Mitch Reconstruction Program. In November 2005, Flowers was sworn into the Foreign Service for a five-year, limited-term appointment as a program/project development officer in USAID/Honduras. He is now deputy director of the Strategy and Program Support Office.

Peter A. Reinhardt, 1991, has left the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to become the director of the Office of Environmental Health and Safety at Yale University.

Grant Spellmeyer, 1994, has been named director of external affairs for US Cellular in Chicago. He is responsible for federal and state regulatory and legislative efforts of US Cellular.

Matt Weber, 1997, works for The Resource for Great Programs Inc. as a manager of program assessment with a focus on program evaluation. "We help legal aid organizations — nonprofits that provide free legal services to low-income folks — do their jobs better," Weber says. The Resource for Great Programs serves clients nationwide from its base in Traverse City, Michigan. Weber works from his home in Ann Arbor.

Linda Watson, 1995, left her position of eight years with the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services to work for the American Medical Association. She researches and writes educational material for primary care physicians.

2000s

Ayla Annac, a 2006 Wisconsin Women in Government seminar graduate, is regional director with the Wisconsin Entrepreneurs Network. She and Tetsuro Wakatsuki have founded InvivoSciences to test drugs on living tissue without the need for inefficient animal testing. The company is gearing up to send its screening system into a \$6 billion market.

Bryan Gadow, 2005, is now an assistant city planner with Wayzata, Minnesota.

Julie Olson Simani, a 2001 Wisconsin Women in Government seminar graduate, is associate director of the Madison Birth Center. A public health nurse with a master's degree in community health nursing administration, she has assisted public health systems research and studied the link between unwanted cesarean sections and postpartum depression. She earlier served as the women's health officer for the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services. She is a member of the lieutenant governor's task force on women and depression.

Melissa Schmidt, 2006, is living in New Haven, Connecticut, has passed the Connecticut bar and has been admitted to the Wisconsin bar. She is clerking for the New Haven Superior Courts.

After graduating in 2002, **Russ Dabel** joined the Air Force and has served as an intelligence officer. After completing his tour in southern California at Vandenberg Air Force Base, he and his wife moved to Maryland where he will be stationed for two to three years working at the National Security Agency.

Trisha Schmid, 2004, left the Wisconsin Capitol in December 2006 and moved to the Central Valley of California where she works as an administrative analyst for a nonprofit organization called Self-Help Enterprises, a housing and community development organization. She works in Visalia and lives in Hanford.



La Follette School photo by Bob Rashid

La Follette School professors **Geoffrey Wallace**, left, and **Bob Haveman**, right, share a laugh with La Follette School alum **Chad Cotti**, who is teaching in the economics department at the University of South Carolina. He graduated from La Follette in 2002 and went on to earn a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Cotti just published a paper in *The B.E. Journal of Economic Analysis & Policy* called "The Effect of Smoking Bans on Bars and Restaurants: An Analysis of Changes in Employment."

After two years as a legislative aide with a Nebraska state senator, **Rochelle Mallett**, 2004, started a job with Talent Plus, a human resources consulting firm. She will help the firm expand its government section. "The job is a challenging mixture of government, policy and human resources," Mallett says. "On a personal front, my fiancé and I are getting married July 21, 2007. So, life is pretty exciting in Nebraska!"

Ending a 4.5-year stint as a D.C. bureaucrat, **Laura Miner**, 2002, moved to Chicago to work for an energy company called Invenegy. The firm made some money off natural gas five years ago and is now operating four wind farms around the United States (and developing more). "So far I'm enjoying being on the hands-on, rather than policy, side of things, but I'll probably stray back eventually," she says. "In addition to Chicago being a great city to live in, it's also close to Madison, so I recently got to see alumni living there: **Sam Harshner**, **Kirstin Nelson** and **Robin Lisowski**."

After two successful elections and four-plus years as an aide to Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle, **Shawn Pfaff**, 2002, has accepted a position with Capitol Consultants Inc., a Madison-based lobbying and consulting firm that focuses on government relations. His clients include the Dairy Business Association and Wisconsin Public Service Corp. Pfaff lives in Fitchburg with his wife, Gwendolyn Cooley, an assistant attorney general at the Wisconsin Department of Justice.

Mike Oakleaf, 2000, is now an economist with the Wisconsin Department of Revenue in the Division of Research and Policy. His main responsibilities are to estimate the fiscal effects of proposed changes to Wisconsin corporate tax law, estimate the fiscal effects for Wisconsin of changes to federal corporate tax law and to research other corporate tax policy issues. "I'm really putting to use what I learned in the State and Local Government Finance course I took while at La Follette," he says. His previous position was mental health planner for the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services, a position he held for about two years.

Partnership connects legislators, health-care research

La Follette School faculty and students will be analyzing Wisconsin's daunting health-care challenges and providing decision-makers with the best available evidence for crafting solutions, thanks to an innovative partnership to forge a stronger link between the worlds of policymaking and scholarly research.

The La Follette School is partnering with University of Wisconsin's School of Medicine and Public Health's Population Health Institute and the Wisconsin Joint Legislative Council in the project, "Advancing Evidence-Based Health Policy

in Wisconsin."

"This is the Wisconsin Idea at its best, where we help legislators make decisions based on analysis from research," says La Follette School director Barbara (Bobbi) Wolfe, "while we learn more about the important issues facing legislators, an opportunity that will inform our research and teaching."

The partnership will create opportunities for researchers, businesspeople and policymakers to sit down together, share information and better understand what each group wishes to learn and the constraints each encounters. ♦

Bobbin' along plunges students into a chilly public affair



La Follette School students and friends took a polar plunge in February to raise money for Special Olympics Wisconsin. From left, after they jumped into Lake Monona: **Carissa DeCramer, Alexis MacDonald, Justin Martin, Brad Campbell, Paul Ferguson, Matt Nast**; and, in front **Liz Zeman, Jennie Mauer, Kate Nast and Karissa Birky**.

La Follette plungers not pictured: **Melissa Swearingen, Liz Drilias, Dave Stepien and Ryan Baumtrog**. The team raised \$2,545 in pledges, \$480 of that from La Follette faculty, staff and students. This includes donations from professor **Carolyn Heinrich**, who pledged each plunger in her PA 819 class, and publications director **Karen Faster**, who gave \$5 to every La Follette student on the team.

Giving / from page 1

my public affairs degree let me pursue."

She found that her courses in health-care administration, health-care planning and the politics of health care "assisted me in understanding the 'big picture' of health care and its relationship with public policy."

"It was nice to have that broad picture to understand the political ramifications and see how health care was being politicized," she says.

Like LeMahieu, many of La Follette's students in the mid-1980s had been out of college for several years, and their real-life experiences enriched classroom discussions, she says. "The small classes and the interactions with students and faculty



"I donate money because I feel it is one way I can give back to the school."

Peggy LeMahieu

created an environment that challenged everyone's thinking."

Helping the university and La Follette in tight fiscal times is very important, she adds. "I am concerned about the daily and annual financial challenges the university is facing and the impact on La Follette."

Alumni support is essential, she says. "We are the benefactors of the education and its networking opportunities," she notes. "The faculty offer continual education through publications and through their participation in conferences and seminars. Everyone benefits from those efforts.

"We want these opportunities for others to continue into the future." ♦

Wisconsin governor appoints 3 alumni

Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle has appointed three La Follette School alumni to top positions.

Sean Dilweg (1998) is the new commissioner of insurance.



Sean Dilweg

Kevin Hayden (1984) is the new secretary of the Department of Health and Family Services.



Kevin Hayden

Randy Romanski (1995) has been appointed executive assistant at the Department of Natural Resources.

"These appointments demonstrate the value of the La Follette School's training," says Associate Director **Karen Holden**. "Our graduates understand the importance of the government providing well-administered services and oversight, and they know how to make that happen."

Student presents paper

La Follette School student **Jen Blonn** gave a paper at the Transportation Research Board's annual meeting in Washington, D.C., in January.

She wrote the paper, "Ethical Considerations in the Transportation Sector: Progress, Need, and Value," with La Follette School 2000 alum **Jason Bittner**, deputy director of the Midwest Regional University Transportation Center at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Alumni collaborate on California eminent domain reform

Alumni Shelley Curran (1998) and Peter Detwiler (1972) shared staffing duties for an eminent domain reform bill that passed the California Legislature in 2006.

Curran advises the state Senate president pro tem on judicial and public safety policy issues, and Detwiler has staffed the Senate Local Government Committee since 1982.

The two figured out they had a master's degree program in common through a mutual friend, Nettie Sabelhaus, another California Senate staffer.

"Shelley and I knew of each other, of course, because our offices are just around the corner from each other in the Capitol," Detwiler says. "Nettie has her BA in poli sci from UW, and she realized that Shelley and I also had the 'Madison connection.'"

Given the 26-year gap in their graduation dates, the two find that their experiences were different. When Detwiler arrived in Madison from California in 1971, the La Follette School's precursor, the Center for the Study of Public Policy and Administration, was a relatively new effort. "The curriculum was simpler, just 30 units and no requirements for internships or a thesis," he says.

When Curran enrolled, the La Follette



California Senate staffers and La Follette School alumni **Shelley Curran** (class of 1998) and **Peter Detwiler** (class of 1972) work around the corner from each other.

Institute was on the cusp of becoming a full-fledged school. Her coursework, she says, emphasized extensive group projects.

The two say that kind of collaboration is essential to their work in the California Senate, especially with policy setting.

As for the new eminent domain law, it boosts fairness to private property owners when public officials condemn property. This legislative response was milder than the constitutional initiative that failed in a close referendum in November, Detwiler says.

Curran and Detwiler had roots in California that drew them there after graduation.

"Although I grew up in South Bend, Indiana, I'm from a longtime California family, so I headed for California after my time in Madison," Curran says.

The year Detwiler spent in Madison is the only time he has not lived in California, he says. "A long muggy Midwestern summer and a long cold Midwestern winter combined to convince me that I really was a California kid after all." ♦

From the Director from page 1

community leaders established a scholarship at the La Follette School in her honor.

That the La Follette School is home to this scholarship is very appropriate. Doris dedicated her professional life to public service. She served in the Cabinets of four Wisconsin governors and was the only woman ever to head the state Department of Administration.



Doris Hanson

Doris was the catalyst for one of the La Follette School's premier outreach activities, the annual Wisconsin Women in Government seminar that the school conducts with the nonprofit organization of the same name. As a member of WWIG's executive council, Doris helped conceive of the seminar as a way to develop leadership among women working in Wisconsin government. She approached La Follette to see if the school would be

interested, and professor Dennis Dresang and outreach director Terry Shelton proceeded to get the series of classes up and running in partnership with WWIG.

More than 35 Wisconsin leaders and residents have made contributions to the Doris Hanson Scholarship. We are delighted that people are so pleased about the fund and its support of La Follette School students from Wisconsin.

The University of Wisconsin Foundation is accepting gifts to the Doris Hanson fund on behalf of the La Follette School.

We will use proceeds from both funds to help students pay for their studies. This spring, we are pleased to be able to recruit a student whose interests are very much in line with those of Dr. Penniman: Wisconsin's government and public management.

A specialist in taxation and public finance, Dr. Penniman was the first female chair of the University of Wisconsin-Madison's (then otherwise all male) political science department. She retired in 1984.

Every year, the La Follette School

awards the Clara Penniman Prize to the graduating student who has written the most outstanding paper while a graduate student in public affairs.

With fewer state tax dollars to use to offer teaching and project assistantships to incoming students, at a time when tuition requirements to support each student are increasing, gifts like these are especially valuable. They help us recruit top students who go on to become leading policymakers in Wisconsin and around the world.

We saw the fruits of these efforts at our Madison reception for alumni and friends in early February. This year drew more than 110 people, an increase of about 10 percent from 2006. Financial contributions from alumni and friends to the La Follette School via the University of Wisconsin Foundation help make scholarships and events like this possible. We thank our donors and hope that all of you will consider making a gift this year. ♦

Information on supporting the school is available at www.lafollette.wisc.edu/giving.

La Follette study group crafts lasting relationships

A two-year stopover in Wisconsin created lifelong friendships for Erin McGrath.

She came to the La Follette Institute in 1993 with her husband, who enrolled in the economics department's master's program. "It was a two-year plan. We moved to Madison, lived there for two years and moved on," says McGrath, now a project manager for the mayor of San Francisco.

Yet, nearly 12 years after graduating, McGrath is still looking back. She and five friends from a La Follette economics study group formed such close friendships that they promised each other to hold an annual reunion — and they are keeping their word. Since 2004, they have gotten together three times for long weekends in spots around the country, including Madison in November 2006.

"We stayed in touch in the early years after graduation by attending each others' weddings," says Helene Stebbins, who works in an occasional visit to Madison with her job. "But as life got busy, it was harder to stay in touch. So we agreed to meet for a weekend, and we had a fabulous time in Miami Beach. Our second trip was going to be New Orleans, but that was only six weeks after Katrina, so we had to relocate to Vegas."

They picked Madison for their early November reunion because it is home

for two of the group's members, Monique Currie and Becca Swartz. Mary McGreevy drove down from St. Paul to join them.

They spent Friday night in Madison and had dinner at a new restaurant on Williamson Street, near the Capitol.

"We ran into Karl Scholz who taught the economics class where we all met and formed that study group," McGrath says. "We got a good laugh out of that."

The November weekend was the first time McGrath returned to Madison. On Friday, McGrath, Stebbins, Swartz and Gander drove through campus just as dark was falling. They stopped at the La Follette School at the top of Observatory Hill.

"We tapped on the door, and someone let us in," McGrath says. "The student lounge looks the same. I love that little building."

The group isn't sure where they will meet next year, but they are looking forward to it. "The truth is, the economics study group brought us together, but we had so much in common before we met that getting to know one another sometimes felt more like a reunion," Stebbins says. "We all have Catholic backgrounds, four of us have fathers who are university professors, four have Italian grandmothers ...

"I never felt so connected to a group of strangers, so quickly, as I did with these ladies." ♦

What they are doing now

- ◆ **Sue Gander** is a senior policy specialist with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Energy-Environment State Partnership Program in Washington, D.C.
- ◆ **Becca Swartz** is a project coordinator with the Wisconsin Caregiver Background Check Pilot in the state Department of Health and Family Services.
- ◆ **Monique Currie** is a budget and policy analyst for the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services.
- ◆ **Mary McGreevy** is home with her children in St. Paul, Minnesota. She is board president for the Playwrights' Center in Minneapolis.
- ◆ **Helene Stebbins** runs a policy and research firm in the Washington, D.C., area. She specializes in the coordination of the health, education and care of children from birth to first grade.
- ◆ **Erin McGrath** is project manager for the mayor of San Francisco. She has been working on the negotiations about the city's financial participation in building a stadium for the San Francisco 49ers.

Student practices international legal affairs via D.C. internship

Jamisen Rueckert got a taste of her dream job last summer — and an idea of what it takes to land it permanently some day.

Thanks in part to a donation to the La Follette School, Rueckert took an unpaid internship with the Commercial Law Development Program, housed in the U.S. Department of Commerce's Office of the General Counsel in Washington, D.C.

"CLDP works with the governments of developing nations to improve the rule of law in those countries," Rueckert says.

The program provides technical assistance to developing nations. Rueckert helped plan an intellectual property adjudication forum in Pakistan. She also worked with business and government officials from Bahrain who came to Washington to explore options for implementing a corpo-

rate governance code in their country.

CLDP may expand to Latin America, an area of expertise for Rueckert, who is working on a dual degree in law and international public affairs. She prepared a 107-page report for CLDP that identified programs in five Latin American countries that seek to improve intellectual property rights, good governance and judicial capacity.



Jamisen Rueckert

In working with the attorneys and specialists who operate CLDP's programs, Rueckert came to appreciate the need for a new attorney to get solid experience before

going to work for an agency like CLDP.

"Most of the attorneys had prior legal experience before coming to CLDP," she says. "Working there, I learned that you really need to understand the way law works in practice before you can help others utilize it in a way that advances their goals."

To that end, Rueckert plans to practice law after she graduates, ideally at a firm with some international business. She took Indiana's bar exam in February because she will be moving to the Indianapolis area after graduation to join her fiancé, who is enrolled in a graduate program there.

"Long term, I'd love a job like what I experienced at CLDP that combines policy and legal work with international travel," Rueckert says. "But first, I'm going to get some more experience." ♦

Reception / from page 1

represented. The classes of 2005 and 2006 had good turnouts. "I'm so pleased that this reception has taken off like it has," says 2005 alum Alison Bergum, who helped to organize the 2005 gathering, the first in many years. "It was great to see so many people from so many years."

"I enjoyed hearing from alumni about where they are working, especially from those I wrote letters of recommendation for," says professor Dennis Dresang.

Among those in attendance were former La Follette School staff members Bonnie Cleary and Molly Rose Teuke; Gordon Hintz, class of 2001, who was just elected to the Wisconsin Assembly; and Kevin Hayden, class of 1984, the new secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services. Several graduates of the La Follette School's Wisconsin Women in Government seminar also attended.

The formal program featured welcomes by Wolfe and LSSA president Julius Svoboda. Tom Eggert, class of 1995, reflected on the relationships between his time at La Follette and his work as an environmental innovation coordinator with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Associate Director Karen Holden touched on how alumni can help with career development and introduced student panelists who talked about their internships. They were:

- ◆ Kevin Murphy, who interned at the Council for Excellence in Government in Washington, D.C.;
- ◆ Whitney Gantt, who interned with The Nature Conservancy in Indonesia; and
- ◆ Vanessa Allen, who works as a project assistant with the State Budget Office in the Wisconsin Department of Administration. ◆

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

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
Paid
Madison, WI
Permit No. 658

La Follette
Robert M. La Follette School of Public Affairs
University of Wisconsin-Madison
1225 Observatory Drive
Madison WI 53706