

La Follette Notes

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

La Follette School marks 25th anniversary

One of the benefits of an anniversary is it gives us occasion to measure how a relationship or an institution has evolved. Another benefit is that we also look to the future and think about where we want to be in the next 10 or 25 years.

This academic year we are celebrating the La Follette School's 25th anniversary. Looking back, we mark the growth of our



From the Director
Carolyn Heinrich

program from the Center for the Study of Public Policy and Administration, established in the late 1960s under the directorship of Clara Penniman. Another important milestone was academic year 1983-84, the first for which the Wisconsin Legislature allocated

money to establish the La Follette Institute. Dennis Dresang, then head of the center, became director of the institute.

In the ensuing 25 years, the institute grew to become a highly regarded school, nationally and internationally, with 23 faculty. This growth we owe in part to Dennis Dresang's vision 25 years ago and his leadership of the center and the institute

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2009 Madison Reception for Alumni and Friends of the La Follette School

Thursday, February 5
4:30-6:30 p.m.

Inn on the Park's Top of the Park
22 South Carroll Street

For information and to RSVP
alumni@lafollette.wisc.edu
(608) 263-7657



With career taking wing, grad gives back to La Follette School

Jon Montgomery checks out the cockpit of a C-17 military cargo aircraft at the 2007 Paris Air Show. The 1993 alum attends international aerospace trade shows to check out new technology for his job with the U.S. Department of Commerce. He supports the La Follette School financially in part because it helped him follow this career path. **See story page 5.**

Founding director Dennis Dresang to retire

Dennis Dresang took a roundabout way to become an internationally recognized expert on public management. His career and research interests took him from Kimberly, a little town in Wisconsin's Fox Valley, to Madison, Los Angeles and Africa, all in pursuit of knowing more about how governmental systems function.

Along the way, Dresang taught hundreds of public affairs and political science students. Outside the classroom, he was vilified or sanctified (depending on one's position) on so many issues of fairness and equity for women that he was named an "honorary woman" and was the only man ever allowed on stage at Wisconsin Women in Government's annual banquet.

Dresang will retire at the end of the fall 2008 semester after 39 years at the Univer-

sity of Wisconsin–Madison.

Dresang's academic journey began when he attended the University of Wisconsin in Madison, graduating with his bachelor's degree in 1964. Dresang then headed for the University of California, Los Angeles, to work on his master's and doctoral degrees in political science.

"From the beginning, I wanted to specialize in public management, but in those days that field was the kiss of death for a political scientist just starting a career," Dresang says. "The hot fields were electoral studies or something comparative, so I focused on making comparisons of public management in East Africa — in Zambia, Uganda and Tanzania."

After finishing his degrees, he landed a

See **Dresang** on page 6

Policymakers adopt student proposals

The City of Milwaukee and the state of Wisconsin are reaping the benefits of the La Follette School's workshop reports.

The Milwaukee Common Council overrode a mayoral veto to adopt — in part, anyway — a May 2008 recommendation to establish a local vehicle registration fee.

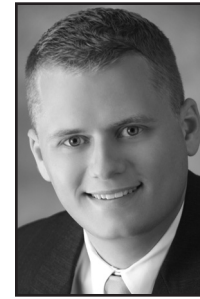
The project determines how a \$20 municipal vehicle registration fee in addition to the state fee would affect vehicle owners in the City of Milwaukee with and without a property tax offset. While the council did not include a property tax offset, the city plans to use the fee, sometimes called a wheel tax, to eliminate assessments for redoing side streets and to reduce assessments for sidewalk and alley projects.

One of the authors, Jake Miller, wasn't surprised when the mayor vetoed the registration fee in August. "When we presented our report to Mayor Barrett in May, he mentioned that he'd prefer to modify property taxes and assessments over having the vehicle registration fee," says Miller, who later joined Milwaukee's budget office as an analyst.

In addition, Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle's decision to make a record purchase of renewable electrical energy from state utilities was based on recommendations students made in a 2007 workshop report to the Department of Administration.

The reports are available online via www.lafollette.wisc.edu/publications/workshops.html. ♦

Alum running for district attorney



Peter Tempelis

La Follette School alum Peter Tempelis is running for district attorney in Jefferson County, Wisconsin. As an assistant direct attorney for Jefferson County, he prosecutes misdemeanor, felony, juvenile delinquency and child protective services cases. He has tried 20 jury trials for Jefferson County and the state. ♦

News from faculty

Pamela Herd won a \$30,000 Rockefeller Foundation Innovation Award to Strengthen Social Security for Vulnerable Groups. She will use the award to develop a proposal to improve Social Security benefits for older low-income women who raised children. "Many women end up poor in old age, in part, due to the time and energy they devoted to raising children as opposed to participating in paid labor," Herd says. "Most other countries reward women for this work. The U.S. does not do so." The National Academy of Social Insurance selected her.

A journal edited by director **Carlynn Heinrich** reclaimed the No. 1 ranking for 2007, based on its citation impact factor. The *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory* saw an increase in its citation impact factor from 2006 to 2007. The impact rating measures the number of times authors cited articles from the journal within the past two years, adjusted for the number of articles published. Citations of published research are key indicators of the influence of scholarly work. The rankings are compiled by Thomson ISI Web of Knowledge's Journal Citation Reports database.

Susan Webb Yackee won the Paul Volcker Endowment Junior Scholar Research Grant from the American Political Science Association's Public Administration Section. The \$3,000 award will support her research project "Does Political Accountability Lead to Regulatory Delay? An Empirical Assessment of Federal Agency Rulemaking."

Andrew Reschovsky is back in Madison after spending the 2007-08 academic year as a visiting fellow with the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Former director **Barbara Wolfe** is using her Guggenheim fellowship to conduct two projects on the relationship between income and health. "The evidence clearly shows that persons with higher incomes have better health," Wolfe says. "What is less clear is the extent to which disparities in income cause differences in health and vice versa. We also need to better understand the underlying causes of these disparities." One project examines how increased income for American Indians whose tribes operate casinos affects their health and use of health care. The other uses a new data set of multiple brain scans of children coupled to data on income, family status and school performance.

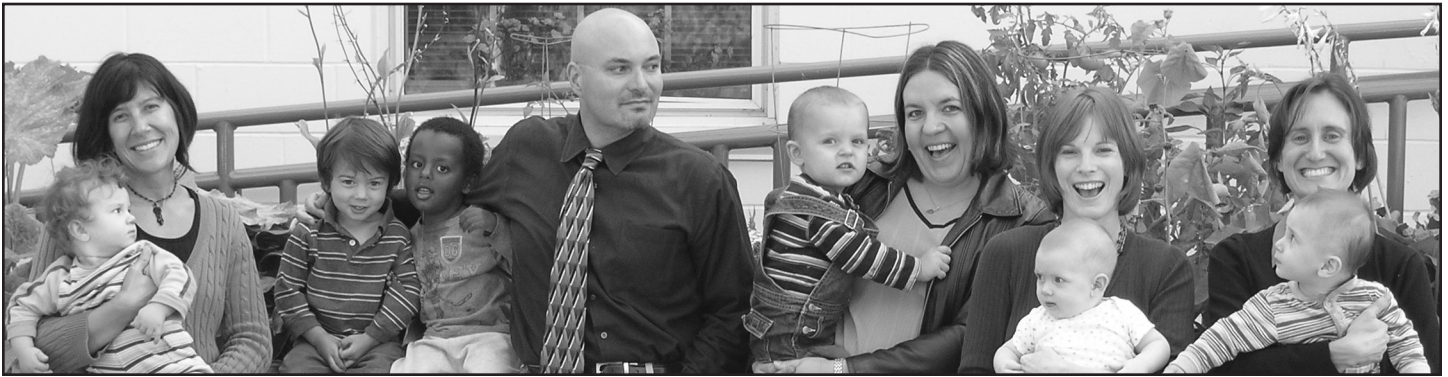
Wolfe and **Bob Haveman** participated in two conferences at the end of August. The first, the meetings of the International Institute of Public Finance (of which Haveman is a past president), focused on demography and pensions. These meetings were at the university in Maastricht, The Netherlands. The second conference, the meetings of the International Association on Research in Income and Wealth, was in Portoroz, Slovenia.

Paul Soglin is bringing his experience in the public and private sectors to the La Follette School this fall by teaching the public management course as an adjunct associate professor. Soglin served as Madison's mayor from 1973-79 and 1989-97. He taught public finance, public management and public personnel practices for the La Follette School from 1997-2002. He spent several years with health-care software developer Epic Systems, leading the move of the company's 2,600 employees to its new corporate campus in Verona outside of Madison.

Gregory Nemet has been awarded a \$100,000 multiyear grant from the Center for World Affairs and the Global Economy at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Nemet is working on a three-year collaborative

research project called "Governing New Conflicts in Global Energy Futures" with University of Wisconsin-Madison faculty in several other departments. Nemet presented research on modeling the impacts of government action on low carbon energy technologies at the International Energy Agency in Paris and at the Santa Fe Institute. In June, he participated in a two-week Fulbright seminar in Berlin and Brussels studying how science is used to inform public policy on climate change, food safety and stem cells in Germany and in the European Union.

Associate Director **Menzie Chinn** gave two papers at four conferences in May and June. One is a new paper on business cycles and exchange rates, presented in June at the Banca Monte dei Paschi di Siena conference on "The Impact of Global Financial Imbalances" in Siena, Italy, and at the Reinventing Bretton Woods/Austrian National Bank conference "Global Markets Disruptions: Will Global Imbalances Unwind?" in Salzburg, Austria. He gave a paper on the misalignment of China's renminbi at the Brookings Institution's Global Economy and Development program and at the Deutsche Bundesbank/Center for Financial Studies-Goethe University Frankfurt workshop on "Panel Methods and Open Economies." ♦



It's a Small World of Baby Bobs

Five La Follette School alumni collect their children from the same child care center near Madison's Capitol Square. From left, **Donna Wong**, 1994, holds Ilan while her son Ari sits next to his buddy Tamirat, whose father, **Brian Solomon** graduated in 1992. **Karina Silver**, 2006, holds Jacob; **Carrie Schneck**, 2007, holds Abigail; and **Alison Bergum**, 2005,

holds Simon. Bergum is with the university's Population Health Institute. The others work for the State: Wong and Schneck for Health Services; Silver for the Budget Office. Solomon is at Workforce Development and serves on the Madison Common Council. Wong's husband, **Abe Rabinowitz**, 2000, is with the Veterans Administration. The children get to play.

News from alumni and friends

Friends

The American Political Science Association presented **Judith Hicks Stiehm** the Frank Goodnow Award in August. The award is for scholars who have made outstanding contributions to the development of the political science profession. A member of the advisory Board of Governors the La Follette School shares with the Department of Political Science, she is professor of political science at Florida Interna-

tional University. She received her bachelor's degree in 1957 from the University of Wisconsin–Madison, which honored her with a distinguished alumni award in 2006.

Judge **Angela Bartell** retired from the Dane County Circuit Court in February. She now offers mediation and arbitration services through Bartell Dispute Services in the areas of business, financial, corporate, insurance, personal injury, family and general litigation.



As a U.S. Army colonel, **Darrel Branhagen**, 1974, was chief liaison officer to the Karzai government and its 32 ministries for the military coalition in Afghanistan, and he was director of the Civil Military Coordination Center in Kabul. He now is counsel with Siemens Corporation.

1980s

Jonathan S. Drake, 1987, received his Ph.D. in wildlife science from the University of Washington College of Forest Resources. He continues to work as a research fisheries biologist for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries Service in Seattle, where he focuses on species listed under the Endangered Species Act.

Grant Huber, 1985, left his position of senior policy advisor with the Wisconsin Senate in January 2007 and accepted a position with the University of Wisconsin System Administration. As a special assistant for communications and external relations, he communicates UW System policy positions to numerous internal and external groups, and he represents the UW System at the State Capitol and elsewhere on a full range of issues affecting public higher education in Wisconsin.

John Norquist, 1988, will receive the 2008 award for Professional Excellence from the Ed Bacon Foundation in recognition of his extensive career focusing on the built environment. The foundation gives the honor to an outstanding national figure who has advocated for excellence in urban development, planning and design. He will receive the award in December in Philadelphia.

1990s

Ayana (Wayne) Bemby, 1998, has formed her own management consulting group, P4 Solutions LLC. The company's tagline is "People. Processes. Programs. Projects. Defined." P4 Solutions offers innovative business transformation and program/project management solutions for public and private organizations.

Chicago Transit Authority pension trustee and Chief of Staff **Theresa E. Mintle**, 1991, reports the CTA completed the sale of \$2 billion in pension funding bonds for the pension trust and the newly created health-care trust in August.

Bill Cosh, 1993, is now a spokesperson for the Wisconsin Department of Justice.

Ben Paulos, 1997, is director of the renewable power program at the Energy Foundation in San Francisco, where he has worked since 2000. The foundation promotes clean energy policy in the United States and China. His wife Mary passed away in 2005 from pancreatic cancer. Their son, Jerome, turned 4 in September. Ben remarried in 2007, and he and his wife Jess have a baby daughter, Georgia.

See **News from Alumni and Friends** on page 4

News from Alumni and Friends from page 3

Matthew Weber, 1997, has started a Ph.D. program at the University of Michigan in urban and regional planning. "I will be focusing on planning and policy initiatives to address issues particular to shrinking cities (e.g. Detroit)," he says. "Please set aside a professor position for me at La Follette. I'll be there in four years (I hope!)." He holds a dual degree in law and public affairs.

2000s

Ellen (Wuennenberg) Gruby, 2005, is now an associate consultant with Euromonitor International in Chicago. Euromonitor offers high-level market intelligence on various industries and provides macroeconomic data on countries and consumers. As part of the consulting and custom projects team, she researches and analyzes markets, industry trends and products.

Melissa Schmidt is back in Wisconsin after clerking for the New Haven (Connecticut) Superior Court for two years. She earned a dual degree in public affairs and law in 2006. Now an attorney with the Wisconsin Joint Legislative Council, she staffs the Special Study Committee on High Risk Juvenile Offenders and the Special Study Committee on School Safety. She interned with the Legislative Council in 2005 while a student at La Follette, having won the Bonnie Reese Women in Government Scholarship.

Katie (Davis) Herrem, 2008, and her Wisconsin Center for Education Research teammates will present their research at the American Evaluation Association conference in Denver in November. "I worked on this project for a little over two years while I was a graduate student, so I am very excited that I get to be a part of presenting our work to a national audience of professional evaluators." She is now an analyst with the Wisconsin Legislative Audit Bureau.

Natalie (Walleser) Solverson, 2005, married fellow Badger Karl Solverson on August 30. She works at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse in the Admissions Office, where she is primarily responsible for the recruitment of non-resident students.

The wedding of **Trisha Schmid**, 2004, to Franz Helchinger in July in Milwaukee brought together La Follette School alumni from several classes. **Carrie Hoback**, 2005, was a bridesmaid, while **Anna Niles**, 2004, **Chad Ruppel**, 2004, **Trevor Pelot**, 2003, and **Krista Willing**, 2008, attended. Trisha Helchinger started working for Wisconsin Senator Russell Feingold's Washington, D.C., office in March and is responsible for issues related to women's health.



1994 grad **Frances Huntley-Cooper**, left, was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in Denver, Colorado, August 25-28. She was a pledged delegate for Senator Barack Obama and one of 92 delegates. She says this was her third national convention but the most memorable and historic during her lifetime. Huntley-Cooper is the worker's compensation administrator for the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development. With her, from left, are Wisconsin Department of Regulation and Licensing Secretary **Celia Jackson**, DWD Secretary **Roberta Gassman**, Wisconsin State Senator **Lena Taylor** and Madison community leader **Mary Lang Sollinger**.

Carrie Schneck, 2007, is co-author of an article forthcoming in the journal *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis*. She wrote "A Multi-Site Cluster Randomized Field Trial of Open Court Reading" with Geoffrey D. Borman and N. Maritza Dowling of the University of Wisconsin-Madison. On the home front, Schneck and her husband, Mike, are the proud parents of Abigail Magdalene Schneck, born March 1, nine days after Schneck attended the Madison reception for La Follette School alumni and friends.

Louisa (Kennedy) Kuljurgis, 2007, married Philip Kuljurgis in August in Minneapolis, Minnesota. They live in Washington, D.C.

Joe Fontaine, 2008, is engaged to Kaelin Butch. They plan to marry May 23 in their shared hometown of Green Bay, Wisconsin.

Bai Linh Hoang, 2006, is enrolled in the political science Ph.D. program at University of Michigan-Ann Arbor. Her fields will be political theory, public law and American politics, with an emphasis on the values and ethics that shape domestic policymaking and implementation.

Share Your Story: alumni@lafollette.wisc.edu or www.lafollette.wisc.edu/alumnifriends/intouch.php

Shigeaki Kamo, first from right, visits with customs officials from the United States, Canada and Japan at the U.S.-Canada border at Niagara Falls. Since graduating from the La Follette School in 2002, Kamo has held several positions with Japan's Ministry of Finance. As deputy director for the Customs Clearance Division, he was in charge of planning policy for border enforcement for goods that infringe intellectual property rights. He reports that when he is dealing with international issues, his U.S. counterparts have been customs officials and trade representatives, with whom he gets along well. "Every time I had one of those interactions, it reminded me of the policy implications I learned about at La Follette," he says.



Byron Dorgan, chair of the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, selected **Heidi J. Frechette**, 2003, to be senior counsel to the majority in December 2007. Her work for the committee includes drafting and managing major American Indian bills regarding housing, health care and education.

2006 classmates **Karyn Kriz** and **Roberto Dall'Asta** got married on May 24. They met and started dating during new student orientation in 2004. ♦

Grad pays dividend to La Follette School in thanks

A desire to understand the practical application of economic theory led Jon Montgomery to enroll at the La Follette Institute of Public Affairs — and to a 15-year career with the U.S. Department of Commerce, where he is an expert on the development of economic and trade policy affecting the U.S. civil aerospace manufacturing sector.

The 1993 La Follette alum hadn't considered federal service until he spent some time in Madison. "I was inspired by my education — the coursework and conversations with classmates and professors — to use my skills and abilities for the betterment of the nation," Montgomery says. "My diverse coursework at La Follette gave me a sense of direction and purpose for how to apply my education. In addition to the theory and mechanics of public policy analysis, I learned how that analysis could shape policies and legislation that would, in turn, affect everyday lives."

While at the La Follette Institute, Montgomery applied his analytical skills as a research assistant to a project that assessed the financial impact of a gas tax on people in different income groups. He won a scholarship that placed him with the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Washington, D.C. "I saw firsthand how the U.S. government helps companies to build partnerships with businesses in other countries, and how the federal government funds technical and policy exchanges with foreign government officials to share best practices and govern more effectively. I was hooked."

These experiences are why Montgomery supports the La Follette School financially. "I believe it is important to pay a dividend back to the school that invested in me," he says. "The Wisconsin Idea encourages a lifelong partnership between the school and the community. Just as the university participates in and contributes to the community, so do alumni have a responsibility to nurture and

enable that partnership after graduation."

"Financial assistance was a critical enabler for me to take an internship in Washington," he adds. "And I remember what it was like to live on a shoestring budget while at La Follette. Hopefully my contributions will help alleviate at least a small portion of that financial burden for a current La Follette student or provide an activity or resource that would otherwise be unavailable."

Montgomery is fond of the La Follette School for personal reasons as well: He met his wife, Stephanie, at the 1994 wedding of fellow student Colleen (Prentice) Meiman, who is now a management analyst with the Health Resources and Services Administration in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Montgomerys had their first child, Jack Montgomery, in June 2006.

As for his federal-sector career path, Montgomery has served on

U.S. delegations to international negotiations on trade finance and environmental standards for aviation. He organized and developed policy recommendations as a staff member of the Presidential Commission on the Future of the United States Aerospace Industry. He co-developed an integrated plan for modernizing the nation's air transportation system in partnership with executives from the White House, seven other federal agencies and industry. Most recently, he helped devise the first policy to cover all aspects of national aeronautics research and development.

"My success in each endeavor has been based on the solid foundation of education and experience gained during my time at the University of Wisconsin–Madison," Montgomery says. "At La Follette, I learned that I have a unique responsibility as a federal employee to provide help to those who need it, to speak for those who don't have a voice, and to be an effective steward of public money and public trust." ♦

Support the La Follette School

Information is available at
www.lafollette.wisc.edu/giving/
or call 608-263-7657.

60 percent of May graduates working in their fields

Three months after graduation, 60 percent of the members of the class of 2008 had found work in their fields. Including the three students who plan to continue their education, 66.1 percent of the 56 new alumni are taking the next steps in their careers.

"That's an impressive percentage of students to have jobs so soon after graduation," says Career Development Coordinator **Mary Russell**. "This shows how in demand our students are."

An unprecedented three students reached the finalist stage in the Presidential Management Fellows Program that places applicants with federal agencies for two years. **Andria Hayes-Birchler** and **Patti Reis** moved forward, while **Kavan Kucko** took a position with the Federal Reserve Board of Governors.

Carissa DeCramer won the L.P. Cookingham Management Fellowship with the City of Kansas City in Missouri.

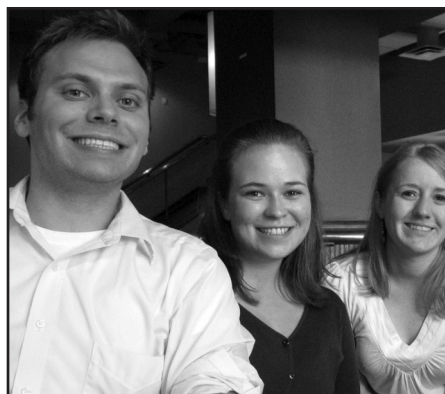
Twenty are in Madison, while three are in Milwaukee. Seven are in Washington, D.C., and seven are elsewhere in the United States.

Alum testifies before U.S. House panel

Sean Dilweg, a 1998 alum who is Wisconsin commissioner of insurance, testified in July before a U.S. House subcommittee about long-term care insurance. On behalf of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, Dilweg spoke before the Energy and Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations.

Gifts fund hors d'oeuvres at D.C. happy hour

Student **Justin King** and alumni **Alexis MacDonald**, 2008, and **Christie Enders**, 2007, met up at a Washington, D.C., happy hour that recent alumni arranged this summer. Five interns visited with seven 2007 grads and one from 2008. "We had some good conversations about our experiences in D.C. and at La Follette," reports 2007 grad **Kate Clark**, who helped organize the gathering, which was partly made possible through gifts from alumni and friends of the La Follette School. "People were very appreciative of the food," Clark says.



Dresang from page 1

tenure-track position with the University of Wisconsin–Madison’s Department of Political Science in 1969. He used his international expertise to teach public management for the Center for Development, which trained mid-level civil servants from developing nations and Americans interested in development careers. “I was primarily teaching professionals, people from Africa, Asia and Latin America, who had been working for several years and could take a two-year leave from their government jobs to come to Madison to earn master’s degrees,” he says.

As the political scenes in Africa shifted,

Dresang found that African immigration officials could no longer tell the difference between professors and Central Intelligence Agency operatives and barred him from their countries. So when Wisconsin Governor Patrick Lucey asked Dresang for help with an examination of the State of Wisconsin’s personnel structure, Dresang welcomed the opportunity. He took a leave of absence from the university for the 1976-77 academic year and directed the Wisconsin Employment Relations Study Commission. “It was an opportunity to work on management issues,” Dresang says, “which I couldn’t do in Africa at the moment, and public management was no

longer the taboo specialty that it had been. The rest is history.”

That history includes a memorable debate with conservative political activist Phyllis Schlafly on pay equity — the effort to remove the effects of gender discrimination from pay scales. Dresang and Schlafly argued about the effects pay equity might have on the workplace and the role and status of women. Dresang’s involvement with the issue and other personnel matters marked him as someone open and committed to fairness and equity in pay and work for women and minorities — issues he championed outside the classroom.

See **Dresang** on page 7

Champion of the Wisconsin Idea: Alumni, friends value Dresang’s expertise, style, advice

Dennis Dresang’s influence reaches all of Wisconsin, not just with his service to the state, but through the hundreds of students he has taught and mentored. These students are now local, state, federal, and international public officials and civil servants.

“Each of his students has taken the tools, education, and commitment to serving the public that Professor Dresang helped us cultivate,” says **Peter Tempelis**, a 2006 alum and one of three siblings to earn master’s degrees in public affairs under Dresang’s tutelage. He is assistant district attorney in Jefferson County, while his brother **Eric**, 2003, holds the same position in Brown County. Their sister **Mindy**, 2002, is a managing deputy district attorney in Outagamie County.

Tempelis and his siblings say that as Dresang’s students they lived the Wisconsin Idea, the extension of the university’s resources to the borders of the state, by traveling with Dresang and fellow students across Wisconsin to research public policy problems and make recommendations to address them. “While we each became lawyers, we bring something special to the table because of our training at La Follette,” Peter Tempelis says. “We see things differently than a lot of other lawyers, thanks in part to Professor Dresang.”

2000 graduate **Amy Brennan** gained many valuable lessons while watching Dresang interact with national public policy experts and with the people affected by the policies the experts advocated. “As we hosted gang prevention conferences, Professor Dresang made at-risk kids from throughout the state feel at ease with his down-to-earth style and genuine listening skills,” says Brennan, a lobbyist for nonprofit organizations in Illinois. “I feel blessed and thankful to have worked with him and learned from him. What he taught me keeps me a little more grounded as I navigate Illinois politics.”

Dresang’s teaching style, plain-spoken manner, commitment to good public policy, plus solid advice about courses and career decisions made him a popular teacher. “He always encouraged you to think outside the box with his probing questions or gentle direction to see a different perspective,” says **Frances Huntley-Cooper**, a 1994 graduate who is now a division administrator with the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development. “It was great to have a

professor with experience in the community and the state that he brought into the academic world of public policy.”

Dresang also brings his students and his academic expertise into the practitioner’s world. As part of Lieutenant Governor **Barbara Lawton**’s Wisconsin Women = Prosperity initiative, Dresang oversaw 35 students’ independent studies every semester for two years as they helped develop public policy on the status of women in Wisconsin. “Dennis Dresang works at the top of his field, leading with an infectious spirit of generosity that kindles innovative research and brings all of us — students, community and state officials — to better imagine the possibilities for public policy,” Lawton says.

Dresang is always ready to give advice or serve as a sounding board. “He takes the time to talk with you,” says 2000 graduate **Wes Sparkman**, contract compliance officer for Dane County, Wisconsin. Sparkman still values Dresang’s advice and approach, especially when trying to solve complex policy questions. “He reminds me that it is OK to solve really big problems and keep it simple,” Sparkman says. “You can tell that he cares about what he talks about.”

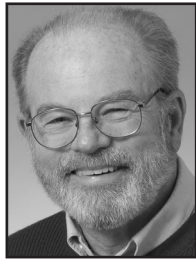
This plays out in Dresang’s service to the state. “I consider him the foremost scholar on public personnel administration in Wisconsin because he has dealt with so many departments and institutions,” says Sparkman, who also serves on the Madison Police and Fire Commission. “It’s a testament to him and the quality of his work that he has had state agencies coming to him to work on projects and that they keep coming back to ask for help.”

Roberta Gassman, secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, echoes that sentiment. “I can think of very few individuals who so embody the Wisconsin Idea as does Dennis Dresang,” she says. “Throughout his career he has shared his nationally recognized expertise and research capacity with many units of government to spark the very best in public policy. Multiple governors, mayors, county executives and legislators have all turned to him. Not only is Dennis an incredibly principled and trusted advisor, but he has been a remarkable leader on behalf of equality and fairness in the workplace.”

Dresang from page 6

When Dresang returned to campus, he added teaching American public management and public policy to his repertoire. He became associate director of the Center for the Study of Public Policy and Administration in 1977. As director in the early 1980s, he won a Ford Foundation grant so faculty could conduct research for the State of Wisconsin. "The program brought together state agencies and the university, and it enabled us to enhance the center and create what became the La Follette Institute of Public Affairs," Dresang says.

As director, Dresang nursed the unit through its transition, working with Wisconsin Assembly speaker Tom Loftus, a 1972 center alum, and Rep. Tom Harnisch to phase in the institute as part of the university's budgeted state funding.



Dennis Dresang

"It was kind of improbable that we began the institute when we did because we were in the middle of the Reagan era and the recession," he says.

The institute was formally established in 1983, with Dresang as its first director, a position he held until 1988. During that time, he served as chair and research director of Wisconsin Governor Tony Earl's Task Force on Comparable Worth. The panel's 261-page report presented research findings, policy recommendations and legislation that was subsequently enacted. For his effort, Dresang is still praised or damned because the changes that came about included new job descriptions and more pay for many women in Wisconsin government.

In the classroom, Dresang teaches two courses for La Follette, Public Management and Personnel Management, and he developed Advanced Public Management. Three of his textbooks are standards: *Politics and Policy in American States and Communities*, co-author James J. Gosling, now in its sixth edition; *Public Personnel Management and Public Policy* retitled *Personnel Management in Government Agencies and Nonprofit Organizations* for the fifth edi-

tion; and the *Public Administration Workbook*, co-author Mark W. Huddleston, sixth edition.

Dresang has advised federal agencies, state units in Alaska and Iowa, and governmental units in South Korea and Eastern Europe. Continuing to serve the State of Wisconsin and help its public managers improve employee relations, Dresang:

- ◆ worked with the City of Madison and Dane County on good government, pay equity and the merger of their public health departments;
 - ◆ collaborated with many of Wisconsin's 11 Indian tribes on a variety of issues, including special training projects with the Ho-Chunk, Menominee and Lac du Flambeau Chippewa;
 - ◆ ran, for 10 years, a class on gangs and youth violence that visited almost 50 Wisconsin communities to help form teams to address this major public health issue;
 - ◆ directed a project in 2004-05 that recommended how the Wisconsin State Supreme Court could overhaul its personnel administration; and
 - ◆ has been the primary organizer, for 15 years, with the Council of State Governments to give leadership training to legislators as part of the Bowhay Institute for Legislative Leadership Development. Nearly half of all Wisconsin legislators have participated since its inception.
- Dresang is the La Follette School faculty member behind an annual six-week leadership program for mid-career women that La Follette and Wisconsin Women in Government sponsor. More than 160 women from around the state have participated to improve their skills in management, networking and leadership to help them advance their careers. His work with WWIG earned him a spot on stage at the group's 2006 meeting, where Lieutenant Governor Barbara Lawton named him an "honorary woman" for his work on leadership, equity and pay issues for women.

In learning how governmental systems operate, Dresang has uncovered inequities and made recommendations for improvement. "My interest in removing barriers faced by women and minorities is personal, part of my value system," he says. "Inequities in pay or access to government should be addressed. Inequities are an injustice." ◆

MIPA alum organizes training in Qatar

Young women from the Middle East and North Africa gathered in Doha, Qatar, to improve their leadership skills, thanks in part to the organizing efforts of alum **Katie Croake**.

"The participants were students, civil society leaders and political activists from Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Qatar and Yemen," Croake says. "During the week we were in Doha, they gained the intellectual tools, comparative knowledge and practical skills they need to become leaders in their communities."

Croake designed and implemented the Young Women Leaders Academy as part of her job as program manager with the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs in Washington, D.C. The nonprofit organization strengthens and expands democracy worldwide. Croake graduated in 2003 with a master's degree in international public affairs.



If you plan on passing through Wisconsin ...

If you will be visiting Wisconsin and would enjoy adding the La Follette School to your itinerary, please let us know. Our students appreciate talking with alumni and friends about their career experiences.

To set up your visit, contact Career Development Coordinator **Mary L. Russell**, 608-263-2409, mrussell@lafollette.wisc.edu

Network via the Web

You're invited to join the **La Follette Alumni Group on LinkedIn**, a professional networking web site. Joining allows you to find and contact more than 60 other La Follette members. You can

- ◆ reach other members of the La Follette community — current students and alumni
- ◆ accelerate careers and business through referrals from La Follette Alumni Group members
- ◆ know more than a name — view rich professional profiles of fellow La Follette Alumni Group members

Here's the link to join: www.linkedin.com/e/gis/39199/57C421450A06

Information

Career Development Coordinator Mary L. Russell ◆ 608-263-2409 ◆ mrussell@lafollette.wisc.edu

From the Director from page 1

for most of the 1980s. Dennis is retiring at the conclusion of this fall semester, and I join our alumni and friends in thanking him for his 39 years of service to the university and the state.

This year we welcome to our faculty Timothy Smeeding, who is serving as director of the Institute for Research on Poverty. He is founder of the Luxembourg Income Study, a research center and cross-national wealth and income data archive. Sweden's Stockholm University gave Tim an honorary degree in September to recognize this important contribution to research. We also welcome former University of Wisconsin-Madison chancellor John Wiley to our faculty and the expertise he brings in higher education studies and leadership.

Looking ahead, our priorities continue to be providing more support for graduate students, further strengthening our international program, enhancing the vitality of the Wisconsin Idea and raising funds for a new campus home for the school.

Our alumni and friends help us toward these goals not only through financial donations but also by giving their time to our students. This fall, 2005 international public affairs graduate Bill Schmitt shared with our students his experiences as an area coordinator with Catholic Relief Services in West Darfur, Sudan. We encourage our alumni who will be visiting Wisconsin to contact us about meeting with our students.

All our alumni and friends practice the Wisconsin Idea by extending the reach of the university worldwide as they analyze problems, devise alternative courses of action and select the best solutions. The success of our graduates and quality of our faculty and staff show why the La Follette School's reputation for excellence has grown nationally and internationally. We have a demonstrated impact on the residents of Wisconsin and their government, as well as the federal government and international programs.

I hope that our anniversary or the news

We'd like to hear from you

To update your contact information

www.lafollette.wisc.edu/alumnifriends/intouch.php

To support the school financially

www.lafollette.wisc.edu/giving

To work with students

mrussell@lafollette.wisc.edu or 608-263-2409

To ask questions or submit comments

alumni@lafollette.wisc.edu or 608-263-7657

of Dennis' retirement prompts you to take further stock of your relationship with the La Follette School. Some of you find that your experiences here helped you achieve your career goals. Others witness the differences sound public policy can make in people's everyday lives. Some alumni and friends stop by our receptions, help our students in their job searches or send financial contributions. This issue of *La Follette Notes* recounts some of these stories.

We look forward to hearing from more of you and to strengthening our relationship with you in the years to come. ♦

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