

# La Follette Notes

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

## Holden gets into retirement rhythm

For Karen Holden, the question is often one of finding opportunity, whether to help a student broaden her professional experience, for an academic staff member of the university to serve as a principle investigator on a research project, or for a husband's pension plan to ensure the widow is taken care of.

Holden retired from the University of Wisconsin–Madison in the summer of 2009 after 30 years on campus, 20 of them as a La Follette School faculty member with a joint appointment in the Department of Consumer Science.

For La Follette, Holden taught program evaluation and the public affairs workshop. She served two terms as associate director, from 1995-1998 and 2005-2007. During her second term, she helped to establish the public affairs and public health dual-degree program, a partnership between the La Follette School



**Karen Holden**

and the Department of Population Health Sciences in the School of Medicine and Public Health.

Throughout her career, Holden made listening to students a priority. "Karen has gone beyond the call of duty to reach out to students experiencing family and personal crises, helping them to manage their courses so they could finish their degrees," says La Follette School director Carolyn Heinrich. "She always gives generously of her time and effort to mentor students and young faculty."

Students appreciated Holden's warmth and receptiveness — and that she would invite them to her home for social events. "Karen is very welcoming and open," says 2008 grad Jennie Mauer. "She encouraged students to share their ideas, which made us feel valued."

When part-time student Emily Engel realized her full-time job precluded a for-

See **Holden** on page 6

## Committee, social media strengthen network

Our alumni and friends are one of the La Follette School's greatest assets.

The prestige and reputation of the school grows with your accomplishments.

You help our students with their career paths. You collaborate with our faculty to carry out research projects.

You participate in events to help inform policymakers about best practices and the research and policy achievements of faculty, students and alumni. Your financial gifts help us support our students and enable us

See **From the Director** on page 8



**From the Director  
Carolyn Heinrich**

## Institute alumni support Dresang scholarship

A missive from the Wisconsin Secretary of State's office and another from the bank led to a donation to the La Follette School. When Carolyn Heinrich was going through files after taking office as director, she found an official notice that the La Follette *Institute* Alumni Association had been decertified. Then a bank statement appeared at the school showing a \$491.01 balance for the association.

Outreach director Terry Shelton tracked down the names on the bank account and got in touch with treasurer Judith Nugent, who graduated from the institute in 1985. Turns out she periodically ran across the account's checkbook in her desk at home and wondered what to do about it. She conferred with Sue Plasterer, class of 1991, and they agreed with Shelton's suggestion to donate the money

to the Dennis Dresang scholarship fund at the La Follette School, making the alumni association a founding donor.

The two are part of a group of alumni who meet regularly for lunch ever since they graduated. Nugent, Plasterer and then career placement advisor Terese Berceau established the La Follette Institute Alumni Association in 1988. The group was active into the early 2000s, collecting dues from members, holding dinners, spring flings and conferences, and giving scholarships.

The bonus was that when Nugent went to the bank to close the account, she found out a savings account had another \$500 or so, bringing the total donation to \$1,000.

Nugent says she is pleased to be able to turn over the association's funds — and to clear out the checkbook from her desk.

See **Dresang Fund** on page 4

Please join us at our  
**La Follette School Receptions**

**Washington, D.C.**

**Thursday, November 5, 2009**

6-7:30 p.m., Washington Marriott Hotel,  
1221 22nd St. N.W.

**These faculty and staff plan  
to attend the D.C. reception**

Maria Cancian	Bob Haveman
Carolyn Heinrich	Bobbi Wolfe
Tim Smeeding	Tom DeLeire
Andrew Reschovsky	John Witte
Pam Herd	Karen FASTER
Don Moynihan	Greg Nemet
David Weimer	

**Madison, Wisconsin**

**Thursday, February 4, 2010**

4:30-7 p.m., Inn on the Park  
22 South Carroll St.

**For information and to RSVP**

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

## Alumni publish books covering yoga, public management, household structures, fraudulent transfers

### Attorney discusses fraudulent transfers

Timothy F. Nixon has co-authored *Understanding Fraudulent Transfers*. He is a 1990 La Follette Institute graduate and a shareholder and team leader of the business finance and restructuring practice group for the law firm Godfrey & Kahn. He is based in Green Bay.

Nixon and his five co-authors discuss navigating fraudulent transfer claims, developing effective litigation strategy, and responding to recent trends and developments. Nixon's chapter is titled "Thinking Ahead Before a Fraudulent Conveyance Claim is Made — Choosing Your Battleground." Aspatore Books of Boston is the publisher.

Nixon is a frequent speaker on bankruptcy law, and he has published extensively. He has represented clients before the U.S. Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals. His cases have included some of the largest bankruptcies filed in the United States.

Nixon is a member of the American College of Bankruptcy, the American Bankruptcy Institute, the board of directors of the Bankruptcy Insolvency and Creditors Rights Section of the State Bar of Wisconsin, and the bar of the State of New York. ♦



**Timothy Nixon** received the 2009 Judge W. Reynolds Community Building Award from the Eastern District of the Wisconsin Bar Association in April. He was honored for his commitment to diversity and willingness to address issues of culture and diversity in the Green Bay community.

### Academic explores management, household structure

1996 alum and Georgetown University public policy professor Carolyn Hill has published two volumes. In *Against the Tide: Household Structure, Opportunities, and Outcomes among White and Minority Youth* (W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research), Hill, Harry Holzer and Henry Chen examine the effects of household structure on young adults and how these effects might have contributed to negative trends in educational and employment outcomes for young minorities over time.

Hill's second book appeared on the syllabus for La Follette's spring 2009 public management course taught by Paul Soglin. Hill wrote the textbook, *Public Management: A Three-Dimensional Approach* (CQ Press), with Laurence E. Lynn Jr. The authors show that construction of critical analyses and persuasive arguments is the principal tool for effectively managing within the three dimensions of administrative structures and processes, organizations



**Carolyn Hill**

and their cultures, and the skills and values of individual managers.

"Managing in the public sector entails an understanding of the interaction among these three distinct dimensions," Hill says. "Public managers must produce results that citizens and their representatives expect from their government while they balance these concerns within a constitutional scheme of governance."

Hill's research focuses on the effectiveness of public programs and how they can be improved. Her work follows three initiatives: developing an overarching framework to accumulate empirical evidence about public management and program effectiveness; conducting empirical analyses of specific aspects of public programs and management in education, health and human services; and analyzing methods and measurement issues that arise in the evaluation of public programs and management. ♦

### Memoir shares experience of weight-loss via yoga

For years, 2000 grad Jessica Berger Gross struggled with fluctuating weight and bouts of unhappiness. Like many, she found comfort in food and craved cigarettes and self-confidence. Then one day Berger Gross took her first yoga class in Katmandu. She lost 40 pounds and changed her life forever.

She tells her story in her 2009 book, *enLIGHTened: How I Lost 40 Pounds with a Yoga Mat, Fresh Pineapples, and a Beagle Pointer*. "People who knew me when I was in Madison may be shocked to learn that the Jessica who enjoyed way too much cheap beer has now morphed into a healthy, happy, longtime yoga devotee who enjoys a two-hour walk in the forest with a 21-month-old strapped to her back and her dog and her husband, Neil, by her side," Berger Gross says.

She shares the core principles of yoga philosophy. "enLIGHTened chronicles my journey and shows how yoga — not simply the poses themselves but the philosophical principles behind them, drawn from an ancient but surprisingly timely text called the *Yoga Sutras* — made the transformation possible," she says. The book also includes recipes, tips for healthy eating and living, and a series of illustrated yoga poses to practice at home.

Berger Gross is editor of the award-winning anthology *About What Was Lost: 20 Writers on Miscarriage, Healing, and Hope*. Originally from Long Island, New York, She lives in Vancouver, British Columbia, with her husband, son and dog. She teaches creative writing at the University of British Columbia. ♦



**Jessica Berger Gross**

## News from alumni and friends

### 1970s

**Tony Singleton**, 1973, is the vice president and regional director for Africa for Finca International, a nonprofit organization that provides microfinance loans savings and remittance services to poor people. Finca operates in 21 countries, five of which are in Africa. Prior to joining Finca he was a principal at Development Alternatives Inc. and a CEO of two East African banks that were under a management contract with Development Alternatives.

### 1990s

Two 1999 grads, **Carrie Templeton** and **Tim Casper**, are now in the No. 3 spots at the Wisconsin departments of Corrections and Administration, respectively, as the agencies' executive assistants. Templeton held the same post at Department of Revenue, where **Linda Barth**, a 2001 Wisconsin Women in Government graduate, replaces her. Templeton earlier was executive assistant at the Department of Financial Institutions. Her eight years of state legislative experience include service as policy director and chief of staff for a senator. Casper has held public policy positions in the governor's office since 2003, focusing on the budget, economic development, education and health care expansion. He also worked for the Department of Health and Family Services and the Legislature.

**Travis Myren**, 1999, is running the Dane County (Wisconsin) Department of Administration. He was the department's deputy director since 2002, managing 130 full-time employees and overseeing a number of county divisions and agencies. The Department of Administration oversees all day-to-day operations of county government, including the Controller's Office and the Office of Management and Budget, and the divisions of Employee Relations, Information Management, Administrative Services, Risk Management, Facilities Management and Consolidated Food Services.

**Tom Eggert**, 1991, has developed and directs the first graduate certificate program offered by the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Business. The certificate in Business, Environment and Social Responsibility is available to any graduate student and serves to create "credentials" for anyone looking to work on sustainability issues.

### 2000s

Upon graduating from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a master's degree in public affairs (2003) and a law degree (2006), **Eric C. Tempelis** served for three years as a state prosecutor in Green Bay. In July 2009, he was hired as director of government relations at Gundersen Lutheran Health System in La Crosse.

**Amy Zeman Schanhofer**, 2003, is development and performance improvement director with Scenic Bluffs Community Health Centers, a community-based primary care service provider serving the rural southwestern Wisconsin. Scenic Bluffs targets the needs of the isolated elderly, Old Order Amish, Medicaid dental patients and Latino groups. Scenic Bluffs provides primary medical care, dental services, chiropractic services and behavioral health. In her new position, Schanhofer writes grants, and develops and maintains relationships to strengthen and support the health centers. She synthesizes performance data and identifies opportunities for improvement.



**Amy Zeman Schanhofer**

**Jamie Aulik**, 2006, had his daughter, Bastille Elizabeth Aulik, in December. "She's a cutie," he reports. He is appreciating their time together as he was to be deployed to Afghanistan in October with the Army Reserve. "It's my second deployment, the first was to Baghdad, Iraq, in 2003-

2004," the staff sergeant says. "I'm not quite sure where in Afghanistan, but nevertheless, it should be interesting." In his civilian life, Aulik is clerk for Manitowoc County in Wisconsin.

**Bryan Gadwo**, 2005, received certification as a certified planner from the American Institute of Certified Planners in May 2009.

**Callie Langton**, 2007, won the 2009-2010 Dissertation Research Fellowship from Institute for Research on Poverty at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is working on a special committee degree in public policy as a doctoral student in the School of Social Work. Her dissertation, "Pathways to Increasing Child Health: Implications for Policy, Research, and Practice," comprises three stand-alone papers. Two examine associations among Earned Income Tax Credit receipt and child health insurance coverage and child health outcomes; and the relationships among the presence of non-biological parents in children's homes, parental marital status, and children's health insurance coverage status. The third paper examines cross-informant variance in health-related quality of life reporting for children. ♦



### Alumni enjoy brunch in D.C.

Wisconsin legislative analyst **Jennie Mauer** was vacationing in Washington, D.C., so alumni and a student gathered for brunch in August. In the back row from left are **Kavan Kucko** and **Adam Lee**, class of 2008. Middle row from left are **Alexis MacDonald** and **Andria Hayes-Birchler**, both 2008, and student **Lilly Shields**, who was interning at the U.S. Government Accountability Office. In front from left are **Kate Nast**, **Carissa DeCramer** and Mauer, all class of

2008, and 2009 grad **Lindsay Read**. She, Nast and MacDonald are GAO analysts. Kucko is with the Federal Reserve Board. Lee is a consultant with Deloitte Consulting LLP. Hayes-Birchler is a presidential management fellow with U.S. Agency for International Development. DeCramer arrived in D.C. this summer as a budget analyst for Rock Creek National Park, after a year with the L.P. Cookingham Management Fellowship program with the City of Kansas City, Missouri.

## Grad starts family development consulting business

1995 alum **Jeanine Hunkele Knapp** has launched One Sand Grain Family Consulting in Appleton, Wisconsin. The organization is devoted to The Nurtured Heart Approach for enhancing relationships in families to support success and positive choices. "After my work to help start the Appleton Public Montessori charter school and other educational and family development efforts, moving into the consulting arena is a perfect fit," Hunkele Knapp says.

She has 15 years of experience in community development. Prior to starting the firm, she worked for CAP Services Inc., a community action program based in Stevens Point for which she completed project development efforts around



**Jeanine Hunkele Knapp**

worker-owned cooperatives, an energy savings curriculum, and a volunteer income tax assistance program. She also served as project director for a home-care quality measurement effort through the Medical College of Wisconsin's Healthier Wisconsin Partnership Program.

## Lunch Bunch revels in classmates' company for 25 years

Twenty-five years ago they were juggling child care, jobs and commutes into Madison to attend their public affairs classes. Now, still drawn together by a love of political talk, the La Follette Lunch Bunch members pass around photos of grandchildren while they debate local and national politics and public policy.

"We have been there for each other through marriage, divorce, the arrival of grandchildren, deaths in the family and illnesses," Judith Nugent says. "Plus, once we have caught up on family and events, our lunch conversations inevitably turn to politics and can get quite lively on occasion."

They first started going out for lunch after Dennis Dresang's personnel administration class. In 1984, most of the Lunch Bunch members were non-traditionally aged women in graduate school in a time when universities were starting to encourage women to pursue advanced degrees. Several sought to build on volunteer work in the political arena or to refocus their careers. The La Follette Institute of Public Affairs offered the challenge and sense of political engagement they desired.

As founding director, Dresang was just reshaping the Center for the Study of Public Policy and Administration into the institute when the Lunch Bunch enrolled. Political science professor Clara Penniman started the center in the late 1960s. Sheila Earl, the center's internship and placement coordinator, served as the institute's assistant to the director. "That combination of Sheila Earl, Dennis Dresang and Clara Penniman created a real openness to non-traditional women," Nugent says. "It was a moment in time that brought us all in from all these backgrounds."

Their résumés cover many policy fields in the public and private sectors, though most went from La Follette to work in state government. "Our careers have been varied, but I think all of us can say we've benefited from our education at La Follette," says Sue Plasterer, the group's unofficial convener and social coordinator. She spent 20 years with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation.

Nugent, Plasterer, Carol Carstensen and Peggy LeMahieu live in the Madison area. Jane Beyer and Claudetta Wright try to make the trip from Milwaukee for a Lunch Bunch gathering when their schedules allow. 1985 graduate Tilli de Boor was a long-time member until she moved out of state.



Lunch Bunch members **Peggy LeMahieu, Jane Beyer, Sue Plasterer, Judith Nugent** and **Carol Carstensen**. They attended the La Follette Institute in the '80s.

### Dresang Fund from page 1

Honoring Dresang is important to Plasterer, who served as the alumni group's president from 1994-96. "Dennis played a big role in my life and graduate school career in the 1980s," she says. "Had I not gotten to know him when I worked on comparable worth in Governor Tony Earl's office, I probably would not have gone to La Follette and completed a degree in public policy. He was instrumental in my getting a La Follette fellowship, which certainly made grad school possible. His presence changed my life and my career." ♦

To donate to the Dresang Fund online, see [www.lafollette.wisc.edu/giving/dresang](http://www.lafollette.wisc.edu/giving/dresang)

Wright handles human resources for the Bradley Center, the sports and entertainment complex that is home to the Milwaukee Bucks. Beyer is vice president with the Marshall & Ilsley Corp., a diversified financial services corporation. Carstensen worked for three Wisconsin state agencies and served on the Madison school board from 1990-2008.

While Nugent and LeMahieu, both 1985 graduates, are in the same policy field, their career paths are quite different. LeMahieu, who came to La Follette with a nursing degree, now works in the care quality and innovation department with the University of Wisconsin Medical Foundation. Nugent has spent her career with the State of Wisconsin and is head of the Health Care Information Section.

For LeMahieu, the lunches continue the discussions she enjoyed at La Follette. "Everyone in the school had life and work experience to draw from," she says. "All the different interests and backgrounds were a piece of what I found to be so stimulating. We challenged each other and the professors challenged us." ♦

## Alum helps inform Obama community college plan

1996 alum Douglas Harris co-authored the Brookings Institution report that helped to inform President Obama's initiative to make a 10-year, \$12 billion federal investment in community colleges.

Harris is a professor of educational policy studies at the University of Wisconsin–Madison and a faculty affiliate of the La Follette School. He and his co-authors urged the federal government to make a significant investment in community colleges to help more people graduate.

“The basic approach of the Obama administration's education policy has been to use short-term



Douglas Harris

funding increases to leverage long-term systematic changes — and nowhere does that seem more warranted than community colleges,” Harris says.

Obama's proposal, much like the Brookings report, includes programs to give colleges grants intended to help more students complete degree programs. These grants are to be tied to a performance measurement system to require colleges to track and report results.

“The stars were aligned on this one,” Harris says. “We knew from the campaign and other speeches that President Obama was really interested in the issue. Our timing turned out just right, and our thinking fit with the administration's. As any graduate of La Follette can attest, that doesn't happen very often.” ♦

## Weimer examines Alzheimer's, social programs

Early diagnosis and treatment of Alzheimer's disease could save millions or even billions of dollars while simultaneously improving care, according to new work by La Follette School professor Dave Weimer and co-author Mark Sager, director of the Wisconsin Alzheimer's Institute of the University of Wisconsin–Madison.

Patients with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias are heavy users of long-term care, with estimated annual costs upward of tens of billions of dollars nationwide. Governments — and thus taxpayers — bear much of the cost through Medicaid and Medicare. Earlier diagnosis and treatment could reduce these costs, the authors say.

Weimer turns his attention to social policy in a book he edited with Aidan Vining of Simon Fraser University. *Investing in the Disadvantaged: Assessing*

*the Benefits and Costs of Social Policies* addresses the application of cost-benefit analysis to social policy. The MacArthur Foundation funded the project.

Experts, including Barbara Wolfe of the La Follette School, examine 10 policy domains: early childhood development, elementary and secondary schools, health care for disadvantaged people, mental illness, substance abuse and addiction, juvenile crime, prisoner reentry, housing assistance, work-incentive programs, and welfare-to-work interventions. Each contributor discusses the applicability of cost-benefit analysis to actual programs, describing proven and promising examples.

In Taipei, Taiwan, in June, Weimer delivered the keynote address, “The Universal and the Particular in Policy Analysis Training,” to the International Comparative Policy Analysis Forum. ♦

## Heinrich receives grant, co-edits book on safety net

La Follette School director Carolyn Heinrich is expanding her evaluation of federally mandated tutoring programs in Milwaukee public schools thanks to a four-year \$3 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

Heinrich and colleagues Patricia Burch and Rob Meyer have added Minneapolis, Chicago, Dallas and Austin, Texas, to their study of the effectiveness of tutoring services offered by private providers and local educational agencies in improving student achievement in schools that are not meeting standards under No Child Left Behind.

A book Heinrich edited with University of Wisconsin–Madison economist John Karl Scholz reassesses U.S. labor market policies and examines

areas of the safety net where policies and institutions should be changed to better help low-income families. Published by the Russell Sage Foundation, *Making the Work-Based Safety Net Work Better* examines eight areas where the safety net fails families and describes how policies and institutions could evolve to enhance their self-sufficiency.

“Putting work first was the core idea behind the 1996 federal welfare reform, legislation, but this goal collides with reality,” Heinrich says. “The degree to which work provides a way out of poverty depends greatly on the ability of low-skilled people to maintain stable employment and make progress toward an income that provides an adequate standard of living.” ♦

## Students honored for accomplishments

The La Follette School faculty recognized several graduating students at the May 2009 graduation for their academic records. **Allison Quatrini** and continuing student **Evan Johnson** received the first Piore Prize for Best Paper in Science and Public Policy. **Lauren Benditt** received a Director's Award as the student with the most outstanding academic record who demonstrates the ability to apply policy analysis and management skills. She also received the Penniman Prize for the most outstanding paper. **Emily Engel** received a second Penniman Prize for a paper she and 2008 grad **Andria Hayes-Birchler** wrote. A second Director's Award went to **Collin O'Rourke**.

## Honor society inducts first members

The La Follette School's chapter of Pi Alpha Alpha, the national honor society in public affairs and administration, inducted its first members in May. The chapter also granted honorary membership to Shirley Abrahamson, chief justice of the Wisconsin Supreme Court and this year's commencement speaker.

Along with Bush, the inductees are **Lauren Benditt, Daniel Bush, Emily Engel, Gail Krumenauer, Seth Nowak, Collin O'Rourke, Alison Patz, Lindsay Read** and **Megan Stritchko**.

Pi Alpha Alpha is an initiative of the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration.

## Holden from page 1

mal internship, she asked Holden how she could get a taste of that public policy experience. Holden invited her to attend a meeting for a project the Wisconsin Department of Health Services and the Institute for Research on Poverty were conducting.

“They ended up hiring me as project assistant, even with my limited schedule,” says Engel, who graduated in May 2009. “I would not have had that opportunity without Karen taking the time to listen to me and inviting me to participate.”

Holden focused her research on women and retirement. “She is one of the foremost experts in Social Security,” says colleague and collaborator Barbara (Bobbi) Wolfe, a former director of the La Follette School. “Karen was among the first public policy researchers to focus on the ways in which social insurance influences incomes in the retirement of women who combine work and family in different ways.”

While Holden retired 20 years after starting her appointment as an assistant professor, she has been on campus since 1975 in research positions with the Department of Economics, the Center for Demography and Ecology, and the Institute for Research on Poverty. As an academic staff member, she worked alongside faculty on investigations into retirement, pensions, Social Security, and the economic well-being of elderly women. When the principal investigator for a grant died, Holden won her argument that academic staff members should be eligible to be lead researchers on grant-funded projects. “Since then, UW has granted more faculty-like privileges to academic staff researchers,” Heinrich says. “Indeed, one of Karen’s last committee appointments was (appropriately) to the campus committee that approves permanent PI status to nominated academic staff.”

After becoming a professor, Holden continued to investigate retirement and widowhood, looking at pension survivorship provisions. Her findings on who chooses the pension option influenced the U.S. debate on privatized Social Security. Closer to home, she convinced administrators of the Wisconsin Retirement System to require spouse approval when a married worker rejects a survivor benefit. “While federal pension law requires spouse approval for private employer plans, it does not cover public pensions,” Holden says.

“What we find is that women whose husbands sign away the survivor benefit are more likely to be poor as widows.”

Holden plans to continue to examine happiness and financial well-being of older women to determine the circumstances in which higher economic status increases their satisfaction with life.

As for her own happiness in retirement, Holden will play music with the Cajun Strangers and the new Prairie Bayou Band. She plays the t-fer (triangle) with the Cajun Strangers and is the bassist and a vocalist for the Prairie Bayou Band. Cajun Strangers released its second album “Cajun Country Ramble” in summer 2009 with Swallow Records, one of the major Cajun labels.

Holden, who began playing Cajun music about eight years ago, finds that the demands of performing and maintaining camaraderie among the band members are very similar to skills teaching requires, lessons she shared with students.

As associate director, Holden invited students to her home for potlucks. At one gathering she had several students playing musical instruments. “It was pretty hilarious,” Mauer says. “I turned around, and there were my classmates strumming guitars and playing percussion.”

Associate professor Pamela Herd feels she has known Holden for her entire career. “I read her work on women and Social Security when I was an undergraduate,” Herd says. “I read her throughout graduate school, then when I was considering coming to Wisconsin, I met with her at a gerontology conference.

“Now, when you read people’s scholarly work, you build up this image of them, and then you’re often disappointed in the real person, disappointed in their character,” Herd says. “This was not the case with Karen. She was so very lovely — and I think we spent about half of that breakfast talking about her band.” ♦



Wisconsin Center for the Advancement of Postsecondary Education photo by Bob Rashid

**Karen Holden**, left, enjoyed helping students get the most of their experience at the La Follette School. Here she talks with **Jocelyn Gibert**, center, and **Kate (Clark) Amoroso** at a 2007 seminar. Gibert graduated in May 2009 with master degrees in public affairs and social work. Amoroso, a 2007 graduate, is an analyst at the Government Accountability Office in Washington, D.C.

## To honor Karen Holden, her service to the La Follette School

In keeping with Karen Holden’s desire to expand student opportunities, she has asked that alumni and friends interested in making donations to the La Follette School in her honor direct that such gifts be used to help students attend conferences.

“Students often don’t have enough money to cover the costs of attending research conferences,” Holden says. “Even a \$100 registration fee, not to mention travel and lodging, can be too much. Attending such conferences add a wider dimension to students’ academic experiences.”

### To donate

- ♦ make check payable to **UW Foundation-La Follette** and write *student travel/Holden* on the memo line. Mail check to La Follette School Alumni Office, 1225 Observatory Drive, Madison WI 53706; or
- ♦ go to [www.lafollette.wisc.edu/giving](http://www.lafollette.wisc.edu/giving) for link to give to the La Follette School. On the UW Foundation page, add *student travel/Holden* in the field with La Follette School in green letters.

## International trade professor, 2 staff join school

Isao Kamata has joined the La Follette School as an assistant professor of public affairs. His research and teaching interests include international trade; international macroeconomics; development economics; and applied microeconomics.

This fall he is teaching the public affairs 880 course, Microeconomic Policy Analysis with professors Tom DeLeire and Bob Havenman. He also is teaching international trade and



Isao Kamata

finance in the economics department.

Prior to joining the La Follette School, he was an assistant professor with the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs at the University of Pittsburgh. He earned his Ph.D. in economics from the University of Michigan in 2008. Prior to his doctoral work, Kamata served in positions with the Japan Bank for International Cooperation focusing on economic development. He has overseen energy sector development projects in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia.

In addition, Terri Karls joins the school's staff as payroll and benefits specialist, and Mickie Waterman is the director's assistant. ♦

## Faculty news

The National Science Foundation has awarded La Follette School professor **Donald Moynihan** an \$82,480 grant to study how different levels of government, non-profits and private actors can prepare to respond to crises. The project will further understanding of how organizations interact and form relationships. When a crisis occurs, organizations must collaborate to respond effectively. But limited familiarity and experience among these organizations makes coordination difficult, resulting in delays and duplication in the critical hours after an event.

Moynihan's 2008 book, *The Dynamics of Performance Management: Constructing Information and Reform*, won the Best Book Award from the Public and Nonprofit Division of the Academy of Management. The *Dynamics of Performance Management* examines the growth and implementation of reforms intended to make government work better. In addition, Moynihan took over as the La Follette School's associate director in July when **Menzie Chinn** finished his term.

The *Wall Street Journal* rates Chinn's Econbrowser blog among the top 25 economics blogs. Chinn and his co-blogger, James D. Hamilton, a professor of economics at the University of California, San Diego, have been analyzing current economic conditions and policy since June 2005. On a scale of one to five, Chinn and Hamilton earned five light bulbs for originality, five calculators for geekiness and three reading glasses for readability.

Per the *Journal's* judging criteria, that means Chinn "consistently includes original insights" and the judges assume he knows "what the Phillips curve is." The three reading glasses rating suggests that he "should keep [his] day job," which is good news for his students enrolled in the fall 2009 public affairs 974 course Policy Responses to the Great Recession.

Also, Chinn has won a \$10,000 grant from the University of Wisconsin-Madison Center for World Affairs and the Global Economy to pursue his research on the determinants of how fast current account balances adjust. Chinn will investigate which economic factors (openness to trade and financial flows) and policies (exchange rate regimes, capital controls) determine the pace at which current account balances and real exchange rates adjust.

**Melanie Manion** was one of four experts invited by the Congressional-Executive Commission on China to present testimony and answer questions during a May roundtable discussion on "What 'Democracy' Means in China after 30 Years of Reform." Drawing on her sabbatical research, Manion explained how, in recent years, without challenging the communist party monopoly, Chinese local people's congresses have become significant political players. "Understanding what has (and has not) changed in these congresses is a window on the 'officially acceptable' meaning of representative democracy in mainland China today," she says.

A study by **Susan Webb Yackee** demonstrates that public commenters who participate during the early phases of regulatory policymaking play an important agenda-setting role. Results suggest that these "public" participants — who are often interest groups — can help shape the content of regulatory proposals as they move through the regulatory process and may thwart unwanted regulations. "Understanding Commenter Influence During Agency Rule Development" appears in the *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*.



Susan Yackee

**Andrew Reschovsky** has been using a computer simulation of Wisconsin's school funding system to analyze the impact of the state budget on the allocation of aid among Wisconsin's 426 school districts. A June analysis suggested that for many districts, federal economic stimulus money would not make up for the cuts in Wisconsin state aid in the state budget. He built the model to assist the School Finance Network, a coalition of education groups representing elected school boards, school administrators, teachers' unions, and other groups interested in public education in Wisconsin, in developing school funding reform proposals.

## Career development coordinator is president-elect of campus group

Career development coordinator **Mary Russell** is president-elect of the Student Personnel Association at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. After serving one year, she will serve a year as president, then another as past-president. The association creates cross-campus connections among people who work with students.

Russell has been involved with SPA since she started at La Follette in 2007. "Being a one-person office at La Follette, SPA has been a great way for me to network with other student services personnel on campus," she says.

She first joined SPA's conference planning committee. During the 2008-09 school year she planned and coordinated a large group speed-networking program for the 100 attendees the Madison campus. She based the event partly on the speed-networking sessions she organized for La Follette School students and alumni.

Indeed, service on the SPA board has been a mini-exercise in La Follette School networking: She joins 2007 grad **Will Lipske** on the executive board, while 2007 grad **Raul Leon** is ending his term this year. Both hold master's degrees in international public affairs. Lipske is an academic advisor in the College of Letters and Science, while Leon is pursuing a doctorate in education leadership and policy analysis.

## From the Director from page 1

to offer programs that we could not otherwise afford.

To strengthen this valuable asset, we are exploring new ways to connect with you. One is the La Follette School online networking group on LinkedIn.com. More than 180 people have joined the group since its inception in 2007. Career development coordinator Mary Russell approves each member to ensure everyone has a professional affiliation with the La Follette School, whether as a student, an alum, a faculty member, a Wisconsin Women in Government graduate, or as a friend of the school. To join, go to [www.linkedin.com](http://www.linkedin.com), sign in and search groups for *la follette*. You control how much information is displayed and how often you receive emails, and you can use the network to keep in touch with classmates and other La Follette affiliates.

Another change in how we are connecting with alumni and friends is our new advisory committee. This smaller group, currently being formed, replaces the Board

### Has your **Hotmail** cooled off?

If you've changed your e-mail address,  
*please tell us.*

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To support the school financially  
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of Visitors that we shared with the Department of Political Science from 2001-08. The two departments agreed that both would benefit from separate advisory groups dedicated solely to each unit. We thank all the members of the Board of Visitors for their service.

I'm very pleased that alumni Ron Luskin and Michael Youngman will continue their service on our new committee. Joining them are alumni Jennie Mauer, Robin Erdmann and Peggy LeMahieu, plus Joe Quinn, a Milwaukee-area businessman whose son Brian is enrolled in his second year at La Follette.

The mission of this advisory committee is to guide and support the La Follette School in the achievement of long-term

goals and to assist the school in promoting and enhancing its network of students, alumni, faculty, staff and friends. The committee facilitates the exchange of ideas, job opportunities, mentoring and social opportunities among network members and explores ways to grow the connections and strengthen support for the school and alums.

LinkedIn is a primary tool we are using to keep in touch with you. This newsletter and the school web site are others. We will continue to update you by postal and electronic mail (unless you have asked us to remove you from any of our lists). We strongly encourage you to join us at LinkedIn and help us to expand our flourishing network — the value of this asset will grow with our numbers!

Finally, we'd like to hear from you or see you at one of our receptions in Washington, D.C., on November 5, or in Madison on February 4 (details are on page 1). If you can't make it, drop us a note, to [alumni@lafollette.wisc.edu](mailto:alumni@lafollette.wisc.edu), to tell us what you are doing. We look forward to learning your news and to staying connected! ♦

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