

# La Follette Notes

News for Alumni & Friends of The Robert M. LaFollette School of Public Affairs at the University of Wisconsin-Madison

## Alumni donations help recruit excellent faculty

The La Follette School is pleased to welcome three new faculty members, who were successfully recruited because



**From the Director**  
Donald A. Nichols

of benefits we could provide through the donations by our loyal alumni. Their arrival brings to 19 the number of faculty with at least partial appointments in our small school of public affairs. The sum of these parts gives us nine full-time faculty

positions, which is almost 50 percent more than we had just a few years ago.

This year we recruited two outstanding junior faculty who work on domestic issues and one who works on international issues. The new faculty in the domestic

### Director challenges alumni to support school

The ability of the La Follette School to attract top-notch faculty is due in part to support from alumni and friends. That support also helps us reach out to alumni through events such as the La Follette School Student Association's reception in January.

Since 1969, the La Follette School and its precursors have sent more than 1,000 alumni into the world of gover-

nance. Because we are only 35 years old and because we were quite small when we began, we don't have a large number of alumni of an age when people typically make substantial gifts to their universities. A mature social science department at Madison routinely secures \$50,000 from a request like the

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program are both graduates of the Maxwell School at Syracuse. Don Moynihan works at the core of public administration, a field in which a professional school must excel if its mission is to train good civil servants. Don, combined with

Carolyn Heinrich, a recruit of two years ago, gives us enormous strength in this must-have field. Don's appointment will be 100 percent in La Follette.

Don fills the slot vacated by Don Kettl,

See **From the Director** on page 7



### Alumni, faculty, students network at reception

Associate Professor **Carolyn Heinrich**, left, and public affairs student **Alison Bergum** talk with La Follette School alumnus **Eric Stanchfield** at a January reception for alumni organized by the La Follette School Student Association and funded in part by donations from La Follette alumni. Stanchfield is secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Employee Trust Funds. More than 50 alumni and students conversed and heard from professors about their research at the evening gathering. See page 3 for more alumni news.

### Parents' gift to La Follette demonstrates appreciation for daughter's opportunities

The ability of the La Follette School and its faculty to support their daughter's academic and professional pursuits is one reason Jim and Marie Oldani have contributed money to the La Follette School of Public Affairs.

Natalie Oldani is a second-year international public affairs student. Her academic focus on international business and government in east central Europe and the Balkans builds on her experiences teaching English in the Slovak Republic and studying abroad in Hungary and the Czech Republic.

As a project assistant with La Follette School professor Jonathan Zeitlin, Natalie helped organize and compile work he cited in his most recent publications, and she assisted with his research. Her latest project entailed researching European Union environmental regulatory agencies.

"Marie and I are very grateful for the confidence the faculty placed in Natalie," says her father, who

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## Board of Visitors hears about student, faculty achievements, concerns

Fund-raising, student internships and job placement, committee work and new faculty were considered in March by the Board of Visitors, an advisory alumni group the La Follette School shares with the Department of Political Science.

UW-Madison Vice Chancellor **Darrell Bazzell** told the board that the university's budget faces massive cuts, even with \$50 million more in state funding. Utility costs alone are expected to rise \$90 million.

This makes private donations all the more important, La Follette School Director **Donald A. Nichols** told the board. He also shared news about faculty hires.

Associate Director **Melanie Manion** updated the board about job placement.

Several La Follette students described their education, career goals and internship experiences.

**Bill Schmitt**, an international public affairs student, enjoyed seeing how government works behind the scenes when he was an intern in Sen. Russ Feingold's Washington, D.C., office.

**Tori Key**, a public affairs student, said she appreciated the opportunity to experience working for a small think tank, the Institute for Women's Policy Research.

# Lockheed Martin gift assists interns in D.C.

The cost of living in Washington, D.C., for the summer is dropping for some La Follette School students, thanks to generous support from Lockheed Martin Corp.

The corporation has donated funds to the La Follette School to aid four students participating in internships outside of Madison.

"The internship support program is an excellent opportunity for Lockheed Martin to help students gain valuable real-world experience," says Robert Trice Jr., Lockheed Martin senior vice president for business development and a 1974 Ph.D. in political science from UW-Madison.

Many La Follette School students take on internships during the summer between their two years at the school, says Career Development Specialist Mary Woodward. Internships outside Madison often incur extra expense: housing and transportation can cost more, and many students have to cover two rents.

"This money is a real boon to the students," Woodward says. "It can make the difference between taking an internship and having to turn it down. La Follette funds are limited for supporting internships."

Two students received support in 2004.

One spent the summer with the Institute for Women's Policy Research. Tori Key, a second-year master of public affairs candidate, prepared a survey that the Business and Professional Women's Foundation commissioned. The survey examined issues

related to working women, work and family.

Katie Keck, a second-year master of international public affairs student, conducted research for the American Enterprise Institute that included a study of what U.S. intervention could accomplish in Sudan. She says she appreciates the assistance from Lockheed Martin.

"Life in Washington is much more expensive than in Madison, especially when you are participating in an unpaid internship program," Keck says. "Without the money from Lockheed Martin,

I wouldn't have been able to afford to go to D.C."

Lockheed Martin will support two students in the summer of 2005.

Trice is a member of the La Follette School's Board

of Visitors, a group shared with the Department of Political Science at UW-Madison. The board provides guidance on development and fund-raising; research; teaching; and job and internship placement for students and graduates. The board's student committee chaired by UW-Madison alumnus Ed Behrens has assisted many students in their internship and job searches.

Trice hopes other corporations will follow Lockheed Martin's lead and support education.

"This internship support is a good investment in the people who will guide this country's public policy," he says. "Lockheed Martin is gratified to expand opportunities for students to practice what they are learning." ♦

### To aid students

For information on supporting student internships or making a donation, contact Mary Woodward, (608) 263-2409, [woodward@lafollette.wisc.edu](mailto:woodward@lafollette.wisc.edu).

## Available on the Web

[www.lafollette.wisc.edu](http://www.lafollette.wisc.edu)

### La Follette Policy Report, Spring 2005

*Assessing the Global Digital Divide*  
by Menzie D. Chinn and Robert W. Fairlie

*Improving Performance Management in Public Programs*  
by Carolyn J. Heinrich

*Enhancing Criminal Sentencing Options*  
by Pär Jason Engle and David Weimer

*The Middle Way to Property Tax Reform*  
by Donald A. Nichols

**La Follette School Working Paper Series** makes faculty research available online, in advance of its presentation at conferences, publication in journals or as book chapters, or as soon as faculty believe the work is ready to be shared.

**Information:** [publications@lafollette.wisc.edu](mailto:publications@lafollette.wisc.edu)

### The Robert M. La Follette School of Public Affairs

University of Wisconsin-Madison  
1225 Observatory Drive  
Madison, WI 53706  
(608) 262-3581  
Fax: (608) 265-3233  
[alumni@lafollette.wisc.edu](mailto:alumni@lafollette.wisc.edu)  
[www.lafollette.wisc.edu](http://www.lafollette.wisc.edu)

Donald A. Nichols, Director  
Melanie Manion, Associate Director  
Karen FASTER, Publications Director

Published by the Robert M. La Follette School of Public Affairs, University of Wisconsin-Madison, *La Follette Notes* is funded privately through the University of Wisconsin Foundation.

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# Alumni news

**Jon P. Skavlem** is director of state and local tax services for Virchow Krause and Co., LLP. After graduating from the La Follette School's precursor, the Center for the Study of Public Policy and Administration, in December 1977, he worked as a budget analyst and economist for the Wisconsin Department of Revenue's Research and Analysis Division. He joined Virchow Krause in 2002. He credits his experiences at the "Center" and his internships as instrumental in establishing his career in state and local tax.

**Craig Wieber** left U.S. Rep. Mark Green's office in Washington, D.C., in October 2004 and took a position as an executive budget officer with the Minnesota Department of Finance. He graduated in 2002.

**Marlia Moore**, a 2004 graduate, is a fiscal analyst with the Wisconsin Legislative Fiscal Bureau.

**Ronald Luskin**, a 1979 graduate, was named vice president, director of marketing for Marshall Erdman & Associates, which specializes in the design and construction of medical facilities. Luskin's graduate studies focused on health-care policy and public information.

**Terry Lierman** has been elected chair of the Maryland Democratic Party and to the executive committee of the State Democratic Chairs Association for which he represents 11 northeastern states. A 1971 graduate of the La Follette School's precursor, the Center for the Study of Public Policy and Administration, Lierman supports the school by serving on its Board of Visitors.

## Send us your news

Read *all* of Bill Clinton's autobiography? Won an award? Climbed a mountain? Crunched numbers that led to a bona fide tax increase?

The La Follette School wants to share your accomplishments with alumni and friends.

Send news to [alumni@lafollette.wisc.edu](mailto:alumni@lafollette.wisc.edu).

Alumni can keep their contact information current at

<http://home.uwalumni.com/Login.asp>. ♦

**Gordon Hintz**, a 2001 graduate, ran unsuccessfully for the Wisconsin Assembly in fall 2004, his first bid for office. Several La Follette School alumni contributed to his campaign and attended fund-raisers in Washington, D.C., and Madison, he reports. "Nothing could have prepared me more to discuss and debate all aspects of the public policy challenges Wisconsin faces than my La Follette School education." He is a consultant with Public Administration Associates, LLC, specializing in city administrator searches and budget and personnel studies. He is running for the 6th Congressional District Democratic chair.

**Lyonpo Yeshey Zimba**, the prime minister of Bhutan who earned his master's degree in public affairs from La Follette's predecessor, the Center for the Study of Public Policy and Administration, met with the U.S. assistant secretary of state for population, refugees and migration in October.

**Jennifer Strei**, who graduated in 2004, is a management analyst with the Minnesota Department of Human Services. ♦

## Alumni needed to help students with job searches, mentoring

In today's competitive job market, finding work after graduation has become more difficult and time-consuming.

To help students master different approaches to their job searches, the La Follette School's Career Development Office is seeking alumni willing to be contacted by students for informational interviews.

This newly expanded list is directly available to students who want to know what kinds of work La Follette graduates do.

Through this list, alumni and students can enjoy mutually beneficial exchanges in a simple, straightforward way.

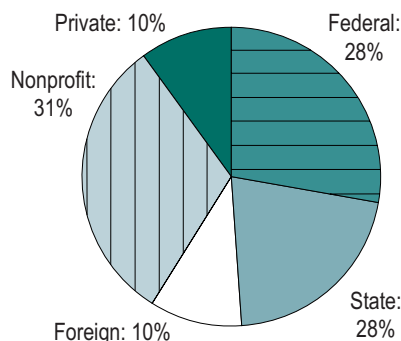
Through informational interviews, alumni can help students with techniques, provide advice on applications and give encouragement when job prospects fall through. They also can celebrate when students succeed.

This list supplements the La Follette School's Alumni Network that Career Development coordinators have used to connect students with alumni.

"We thank those of you who have participated in the Alumni Network and hope that you will give us permission to include you in the new informational interview list," says Career Development Coordinator **Mara Warner**.

To give permission to be listed, contact (608) 265-6724, [careerdevelopment@lafollette.wisc.edu](mailto:careerdevelopment@lafollette.wisc.edu).

## Career placement update



Three trends are evident in the careers of recent La Follette School graduates. Students seeking public-sector positions are increasingly looking to the federal government, not just state government, the Career Development Office reports. A second major trend over the last several years is that more students are accepting positions with nonprofit organizations. Third, private-sector employment is emerging as a significant interest among students.

About one-third of the class of 2005 had accepted positions by the end of March.

Alumni are encouraged to contact the Career Development Office about job and internship possibilities: (608) 263-2409, [careerdevelopment@lafollette.wisc.edu](mailto:careerdevelopment@lafollette.wisc.edu).

# Faculty news



## Professor elected to organization's governing council

La Follette School faculty member **Geoffrey Wallace** has been elected to a four-year term, 2005-08, on the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management's Policy Council.

The Policy Council is the board of directors for APPAM, which brings together policy practitioners and researchers to address substantive public policy problems.

Wallace's research examines labor economics, the economics of marriage and the family, and policy issues relating to poverty.

Wallace joins two other La Follette School faculty members on the council, **Carolyn Heinrich** and **Maria Cancian**, who serves as secretary.

La Follette School professor **David Weimer** is APPAM president-elect.

The La Follette School will host APPAM's 28th annual research conference Nov. 2-4, 2006, at the Monona Terrace convention center.

**Menzie Chinn** and **Charles Engel** participated at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago's Academic Advisory Council meeting in January. In December, Chinn presented a paper on world interest rates at a Federal Reserve Bank of New York conference on financial globalization. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development will publish his paper on "Macroeconomic Management and Financial Stability" this year.

**Bob Haveman** has published a book, *Human Capital in the United States from 1975 to 2000: Patterns of Growth and Utilization* with Andrew Bershader and Jonathan A. Schwabish. In January and February, Haveman pursued his research at Australian National University, in Canberra, Australia. He and **Barbara Wolfe** are involved in research on the transmission of welfare dependence between Australian parents and their children.

**Karen Holden** served on a National Academy of Social Insurance task force on Social Security and individual retirement accounts. She takes over as La Follette School associate director this summer.

**Melanie Manion** finishes her term as associate director of the La Follette School in May before heading off to China to conduct research. Her new book, *Corruption by Design: Building Clean Government in Mainland China and Hong Kong*, contrasts experiences of mainland China and Hong Kong to explore the pressing question of how governments can transform a culture of widespread corruption to one of clean government.

**Andrew Reschovsky** published two papers that analyzed how state governments have responded to budget shortfalls. Closer to home, he analyzed proposals to amend the Wisconsin constitution by including provisions to limit annual

increases in state and local government spending. He presented his research around the state. Reschovsky also organized an OECD conference in Paris on fiscal challenges of metropolitan areas. He presented a paper at the 10th Year Anniversary Conference of the South African Financial and Fiscal Commission in Cape Town.

**David Weimer** is completing a study to determine why African Americans in New York state tend to have heart by-pass surgery performed by surgeons with higher risk-adjusted mortality rates. During the last year he was an advisor to the Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan for Wisconsin.

**John Witte** has completed research on charter schools funded by a U.S. Department of Education grant. Contrary to research done in other states, his results found that Wisconsin charter schools performed at least as well, and probably somewhat better than traditional schools. He also found that charter schools were used with Wisconsin's open enrollment law to create considerable competition between districts to acquire students and capture their state aid payments.

**Jonathan Zeitlin** spoke in August at a conference funded by the European Commission. He presented the findings of a new book based on the work of an international research network he co-organized: Jonathan Zeitlin and Philippe Pochet, with Lars Magnusson (eds.), *The Open Method of Coordination in Action: The European Employment and Social Inclusion Strategies*. Zeitlin's *Local Players in Global Games: The Strategic Constitution of a Multinational Corporation* was published last fall. Zeitlin spent July as a visiting scholar at the Amsterdam Institute for Advanced Labour Studies and the Amsterdam Graduate School of Social Research. ♦



## Professors inform new legislators about issues

Professor **Andrew Reschovsky**, center, answers a question from a new Wisconsin Assembly member. Reschovsky and professors **Maria Cancian**, left, **Graham Wilson** and **Donald Nichols** shared their expertise on welfare, government finance, environmental regulation and manufacturing in the Midwest as part of a legislators orientation in January organized by the Wisconsin Legislative Council.

# Student wins prestigious internship in Kansas

La Follette School student Bryan Gadow is off to Kansas City, Missouri, as an intern with the L.P. Cookingham Management Internship Program with the city manager's office.

"This is one of the oldest, most competitive city government internships," says La Follette professor Dennis Dresang. "Bryan competed with a diverse group of finalists from some of the largest public affairs schools in the country."

The range of experiences the 12-month internship offers excites Gadow, who graduates in May with a master's degree in public affairs. He enrolled in La Follette through the Accelerated Program, through which undergraduates can complete their master's in a fifth year of study.

"The Cookingham internship is a thorough introduction to local government," Gadow says. "I hope to learn more about community economic development, an area I want to pursue professionally."



The program rotates interns through the offices for the city manager, capital improvements, budget and public works. In each of these offices, interns work closely with staff on projects ranging

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## Students accept internships

Left: **Bryan Gadow** and **Ashe Haté** confer on a project. Gadow will spend a year as an intern with the city of Kansas City, Missouri, starting in June. Haté is interning with the Combat Blindness Foundation in Madison. The organization provides free cataract treatment in India, where Haté is from. Both students graduate in May, Gadow in public affairs and Haté in international public affairs.

Many other first- and second-year La Follette School students are interning during the school year. They include:

**John Vander Meer, Paul Smart:** Office of the Wisconsin Governor

**Carrie Schneck:** Office of the Minority Leader, Wisconsin Senate

**Andrew Kramer:** Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

**Hsiu-Ching Wang:** Wisconsin Department of Commerce

**Hirokazu Tanaka:** Dane County Collaborative Council

**Mary Regan:** Atwood Community Center

## Student news

**Karina B. Silver**, an international public affairs student, has been an intern in the Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance's Violence Against Women Act program. She works with grant writing, reports and application reviews. She also is researching human trafficking in Wisconsin.

**Jamie Aulik** is interning in the legislative affairs and policy section of Wisconsin Gov. Jim Doyle's government office. A sergeant in the U.S. Army Reserve, Aulik returned in April 2004 from active duty in Baghdad. He appeared in radio and televi-

sion commercials for U.S. Sen. Russ Feingold, and co-chaired the 400-member Veterans for Feingold. He is becoming a U.S. Army officer.

**Melody Sakazaki** is working on two projects at the Energy Center of Wisconsin. The first involves gathering data about climate change and holding meetings for industry, government, university and interest groups. The second analyzes air-conditioner use in Wisconsin.

**Melissa Miller**, who enrolled in the La Follette School through the Accelerated Program, receives her bachelor's degree in economics and political science this spring. Pending security clearance, she will intern at the U.S. embassy in Sri Lanka this summer, and begin her second year of studies with the La Follette School in the fall.

**Roberto Dall'Asta**, an international public affairs student, is the first intern in a new program administered by the La Follette School and the Wisconsin Court System. The judicial administration internship is modeled after a program Chief Justice Shirley Abrahamson learned about in California. Dall'Asta is working on a grant application for Outagamie County as it tries to implement a problem-solving court initiative for cases related to substance-abuse and mental-health problems. "It's a great opportunity to engage the legal community and work on important initiatives that have direct impacts on individuals," Dall'Asta says. ♦



Students **Allison Schill**, and **Sam Wayne** tell prospective students about their workshop project researching the ramifications of a sales tax in the city of Milwaukee. More than 40 prospective students from around the country attended the La Follette open house March 31-April 1. They also heard from faculty and staff and dined with the director.

# Legislative Council selects student for internship

The Wisconsin Legislative Council has selected La Follette School student Melissa Schmidt to receive the Bonnie Reese internship this year.

Schmidt is in her third year of earning a dual degree in public affairs and law. She plans to graduate in May 2006.

"Much of what we do involves providing legal analysis to the Legislature and its committees. Melissa's background in public policy and law makes her a valuable asset to the Legislative Council," says Director Terry C. Anderson. "We are pleased to be able to support her."

Schmidt's career goal to become a prosecutor builds on her experiences with the district attorney's offices in Rock and Jefferson counties. In the fall, she was a La Follette School project assistant with the Wisconsin Sentencing Commission. This semester she is researching Dane County's

criminal justice system and sentencing process for law professor Michael Smith.

For the Legislative Council, Schmidt is conducting legal research and analysis in response to legislator questions. This includes background for potential bills and amendments.

"The compensation for the internship was unexpected, and I am very appreciative of Terry and the Legislative Council for securing the funds," Schmidt says.

Funded by Wisconsin Women in Government, the Reese internship rotates annually among the Legislative Council and the three other legislative service agencies, the Fiscal, Audit and Reference bureaus. Bonnie Reese was the first woman to lead a legislative service agency and was an early director of the Legislative Council.

Reese also helped organize Wisconsin Women in Government, a bipartisan



**Melissa Schmidt**

organization that promotes women's participation in public affairs. By offering women financial support, mentoring and educational opportunities to help them build successful careers in government-related fields, WWIG seeks to foster diversity in government and to encourage more women to seek elective and appointed office.

"I am pleased to have the opportunity to work in the agency that Bonnie Reese pioneered and to receive the internship named for her," Schmidt says. "I am honored to be the one Wisconsin Women in Government entrusted with their funds, and I hope that I will make them proud." ♦

## Alumnus talks with students about job opportunities

La Follette School alumnus Jason Bittner, right, talks with student Jeff Sartin and other students about careers in transportation policy and management. Bittner is a program manager with the Midwest Regional University Transportation Center at UW-Madison's College of Engineering.



## La Follette hosts 2 influential conferences

In January, La Follette School faculty and staff sponsored the two largest conferences in the school's history.

The first, Taxing and Spending Limits in Wisconsin, emphasized that while the state's tax burden has not increased in recent years as a share of income, the growth of medical care spending threatens the state's fiscal stability.

The second conference, Environmental Law in a Connected World, brought together more than 300 environmental regulators, policy-makers, business representatives and citizens

to explore international environmental policies and practices. The conference is part of a larger research project by La Follette School professor Graham Wilson that is funded by the Ira and Ineva Reilly Baldwin Wisconsin Idea Endowment at UW-Madison.

"Both conferences and the materials they produce will inform debate about government spending and environmental regulation for years to come," says Outreach Director Terry Shelton.

Conference materials are available at [www.lafollette.wisc.edu](http://www.lafollette.wisc.edu). ♦

## Internship / from page 5

from researching hospitalization insurance, analyzing intersection collisions and working with media.

While working in the rotations, Gadow and the other interns will select and design a yearlong project that will significantly affect Kansas City government. This provides interns with an opportunity to work together in an area of interest to them.

Gadow, who is from Kaukauna, Wis., has been working for the Office of the President of the University of Wisconsin System, where he is involved in government relations and communications activities. He serves as chair of the Morgridge Center for Public Service Committee of Civic Participation, a UW-Madison group that examines strategies to incorporate civic learning into the curriculum.

"My training at La Follette has provided me with skills that I need to succeed in this position," Gadow says. "The Cookingham interview committee was really impressed with the broad array of policy fields that I had experience with. But I think that my La Follette internship experience, working at UW System on 'Brain Gain' strategies for attracting young professionals to the state, was what sealed the deal. I look forward to applying what I learned at La Follette in my new position." ♦

**From the Director / from page 1**

a nationally recognized scholar who was lured to Penn by, among other things, a \$50,000 raise in pay. After a very careful search of the field of public administration, we concluded that Don Moynihan is the best young scholar in the field, and we went after him vigorously.

The second Syracuse grad is Pam Herd, an expert in aging, women and health, and we had to battle the offers of several other universities to land her. Pam will have a 50 percent appointment in La Follette and a 50 percent appointment in the Department of Sociology. Madison's sociology department is known for its strong quantitative work and is often ranked No.1 in the nation. Pam is an outstanding young sociologist, and we are very happy to have her join our faculty.

Pam and Don Moynihan are spouses, and given the difficulty that married couples encounter when seeking two positions in the same city, we hope to have this couple in Madison for a long time. They join us after a few years on the faculties of Texas and Texas A&M, respectively.

Our third hire, Mark Copelovitch, has accepted a 25 percent position in our international program and a 75 percent position in the Department of Political Science. He

will begin his appointment in Madison in fall 2006 after completing a postdoctoral research appointment at Princeton at the Woodrow Wilson School's Center for Globalization and Governance. Mark's expertise in international organizations will complement the strength our economists provide in this area.

Next year, we will have a new associate director. Melanie Manion, professor of public affairs and political science, has completed her nearly three-year term, and she will be succeeded by Karen Holden. Karen will end her tenure as associate dean of graduate education and research in the School of Human Ecology when she becomes our associate director.

As associate director, Melanie oversaw the development of the international public affairs degree, upgraded the Career Development Office and advanced student services in general. She developed internships and assistantships so our students gain practical experience in public agencies, and she led the effort to attract better and better students to the program.

Melanie did this with great energy and charm, and she remains popular with students and staff as she steps down. ♦

**Support / from page 1**

one I am making to you now.

If each of our 1,000 alumni gave a minimum of \$50, we could secure funds at a level that would help us maintain our reputation. We think we provide as good an education as any school in America. We need your help if we are to continue training the best possible civil servants and policy analysts.

Your donations to the school through the University of Wisconsin Foundation give us the resources and flexibility we need to put together attractive packages that let us recruit successfully in an increasingly competitive environment. We also use private funds to support student activities and summer internships in Washington for students who otherwise could not afford to go.

We want La Follette alumni to be proud of our accomplishments, and I challenge you to support the school's mission with a gift of \$50 or more.

— Donald A. Nichols

**Support La Follette School students and programs**

Please join friends and alumni in supporting the La Follette School of Public Affairs. To make a gift online or to receive information about planned giving, go to [www.uwfoundation.wisc.edu](http://www.uwfoundation.wisc.edu).

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**Gift / from page 1**

added that they especially appreciate La Follette School Associate Director Melanie Manion's support of their daughter.

Natalie will spend the 2005-06 academic year studying in Serbia thanks to a Foreign Language and Area Studies fellowship funded by the U.S. Department of Education. "This experience will enable me to round out my education here at University of Wisconsin and confidently pursue a career, preferably in the public sector, focusing on the Balkans," she says.

At La Follette, donations support student activities, services and learning opportunities and aid faculty recruitment.

"Gifts from donors like the Oldanis are essential if we are to continue to improve our program. State budget support for the university is likely to continue to be very tight," says school Director Donald Nichols.

"While La Follette is already a very good program, additional donations will enable



**Natalie Oldani**

the school to continue to develop into an even stronger one, allowing it to remain competitive with other public affairs programs," Natalie says. "This has long-term benefits both for incoming students as well as alumni."

Jim knows the value of fellowships for graduate students. Assistance he received from UW-Madison allowed him to graduate from the Business School in 1972 with a master's of business administration. "The Vilas Fellowship I was awarded enabled me to afford graduate school," he says. "I never forgot this."

The Oldanis' gift was doubled by the Matching Contributions Program at General Motors, where Jim has spent his entire career, primarily in the Finance Department.

While their contributions are not

substantial, he says, "any contribution, no matter the amount, is helpful for the university, the school and its students. Further, the corporate matching program can often double the amount of a gift with minimal effort on the part of the donor."

"The donation is important to me because it symbolizes my parents' support for my pursuit of higher education and the numerous choices and decisions I have made during this period," Natalie says. "We are deeply appreciative of the numerous opportunities La Follette has afforded me."

La Follette, like the Business School, is living up to its excellent reputation, Jim says, by giving his daughter a good education.

"We believe in being loyal to those who have helped our family," he says. "UW has provided a fine education for me and Natalie and offered financial assistance. Our contributions are just a small thank-you from a grateful alumnus and soon-to-be alumna." ♦

<http://home.uwalumni.com/Login.asp>

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