George Rindelaub's ability to approach problems creatively won him recognition from the Minnesota Association of County Administrators. The 1981 alum and Stearns County administrator received the Joe Ries Excellence in County Management Award in December.

Rindelaub was recognized for his exemplary service and leadership in county management.

Colleagues described Rindelaub as authentic, magnanimous and creative, a skilled mentor and leader who works successfully with elected and non-elected officials, as Stearns County's criminal justice reforms show.

"By involving multiple stakeholders such as judges, law enforcement, court staff, prosecutors, defense attorneys, probation staff and jail personnel, we were able to re-examine our entire criminal justice system, address its inefficiencies, add more effective programming, reduce recidivism and reduce our daily inmate population by nearly 20 percent," Rindelaub says. "We avoided building a multimillion dollar facility in the process."

"Stearns County was experiencing a serious inmate overcrowding situation in our jail," Rindelaub says. "Rather than begin plans to expand or build a new and more expensive jail we asked a simple question: Who is in our jail? Do they need to be there? A thorough analysis concluded that our jail crowding issue was a result of a multiple of factors that could not be connected to any increase in crime."

He attributes that and other successes in part to the skills he learned while earning a master's degree from the Center for the Study of Public Policy and Administration, a precursor of the La Follette School. "The 2005 alum Shager joins school as associate director

The La Follette School is pleased to welcome 2005 alum Hilary Shager as the new associate director. We are excited to have Hilary on board. In addition to helping our students with career development, she is taking over many of the administrative responsibilities of the associate director position, which traditionally has been held by a faculty member for a two-year term.

Most recently Hilary has been a research analyst with the Wisconsin Department of Families and Children, which she joined in 2010 while completing her Ph.D. in public policy at the University of Madison–Wisconsin. She also earned a minor in education sciences via an interdisciplinary training program fellowship sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences. Hilary has twice taught our program evaluation course, bringing a perfect blend of her professional background and La Follette School training to our classroom. Ultimately, we expect she will teach a course or two every year.

Hilary's work experience is vast and impressive. She has top-notch management and leadership credentials, as well as considerable experience in hiring and career development. As a staff member of the Bureau of Performance Management, she provided research support

Dresang, donors honored at reception

Student Rob Stupar, left, was among the people who honored professor Dennis Dresang, right, at the Madison reception for alumni and friends in February. Stupar is the first student to receive a scholarship from the Dresang fund. At the reception, 2006 alum Peter Tempelis presented Dresang with a plaque listing the founding, sustaining and supporting donors to the fund.

Information on giving to the Dennis Dresang Scholarship fund is available online at www.lafollette.wisc.edu/giving/ or by calling 608-263-7657.
Journal lists articles by alum, professor among most influential

Two articles by alum John M. Bryson and two by La Follette School professor Donald Moynihan have been selected as among the most influential to be published by the journal Public Administration Review.

The American Society for Public Administration, which publishes PAR, marks its 75th anniversary this spring. As part of the celebration, PAR’s editorial board selected the 75 most influential articles since the journal started publishing in 1940.

Bryson co-authored “Initiation of Strategic Planning by Governments” in 1988 and “The Design and Implementation of Cross-Sector Collaborations: Propositions from the Literature” in 2006. Bryson is McKnight Presidential Professor of Planning and Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota’s Humphrey School of Public Affairs. He graduated in 1972 from what is now the La Follette School with a master of arts degree in public policy and administration. He then earned a master of science degree and a doctorate in urban and regional planning from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.


Grad wins fellowship for university planning

2011 alum Sylvia (Fredericks) Ramirez has won a fellowship from the Society for College and University Planning, an international society of higher education administrators who are responsible for high-level planning projects on their campuses.

As director of budget and planning in the Office of Administration and Finance for the University of Wisconsin Colleges, Ramirez leads budget and financial planning efforts for the university’s 13 campuses and UW Colleges Online.

The Society for College and University Planning Fellows Program focuses on the use of best planning practices to improve outcomes at college and universities. The society started the program this year and Ramirez is an administrator at Georgia Regents University. She is the second SCUP fellow from Georgia Regents University. The first was alum Donna Ramirez.

SCUP fellows are expected to complete a planning-related project during their fellowship and to share results with society members. Ramirez, who is pursuing a Ph.D. in educational leadership and policy analysis at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, will work on financial management in a higher education setting.

After earning her master of public affairs degree in 2011, Ramirez served as a budget and policy analyst in the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. While a student, she was a project assistant at the Wisconsin Center for the Advancement of Postsecondary Education on a collaborative college preparation program—AVID/TOPs—for the Madison Metropolitan School District and the Boys and Girls Club of Dane County.

Radtke helps Congo scale up agriculture

Alum David Radtke is using his decades of agriculture and international policy experience to help the Republic of Congo establish large mechanized farms.

“The Republic of Congo imports almost all its food, yet has lots of open land suitable for farming,” says Radtke, who has worked as a farm manager and crop consultant since graduating from the La Follette Institute in 1989. “Their traditional farming usually involves garden-sized plots. This project is to start and promote large mechanized farms throughout the country, and then spread these ideas, and provide tractors and equipment to rent with another program.”

Radtke has been in Congo since February 2013. The mechanized farm program is a partnership with the Minister of Agriculture and the International Partnership for Human Development.

Radtke is introducing U.S. potato varieties in the Plateaux region and coordinating production of corn, soybeans, dry beans and rice on farms in Lekana, Nkoumou, Mouindi and Kinzamba. “I am training local farmers in improved and mechanized agriculture,” Radtke says. “I help them manage inputs, labor, production and sales of crops and set up farm record keeping systems.”

He reports on his blog, Crop Ideas, that the red potatoes he introduced are showing up in local markets. “We gave and sold seed after last season to local farmers,” Radtke says. “The red ones are also getting better prices than the traditional ones. A bucket of reds for 700 CFA francs and the old variety goes for 500 CFA. The sellers are quick to tell you how good the red potatoes taste.”

After completing his bachelor’s degree in agronomy from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Radtke joined the U.S. Peace Corps and spent four years in Guatemala working with vegetables and water projects. He returned to Wisconsin, and after completing a master’s degree in international policy, became a crop consultant and farm manager in the San Luis Valley of Colorado.
News from alumni and friends


2002 alum Craig Wieber is now a project manager with Springsted Inc., a St. Paul, Minnesota, public sector advisor that helps communities with planning effective strategies, discovering development options, funding projects, or managing their organizations and staff. Previously he was chief budget analyst for ARRM, a trade association of disability services providers in Minnesota and an executive budget analyst with the Minnesota Department of Finance.

2004 alum Lindsay (Nyland) Blumer gave birth to her second son, Dashiel, in March. Blumer is executive director for Ripon College’s Center for Social Responsibility in Ripon, Wisconsin. The center provides courses and opportunities for learning through community engagement, service learning, social entrepreneurship and interdisciplinary studies in the development of ethical, sustainable and socially responsible leaders.

2008 alum Brenda Mayrack, founder and owner of Mayrack Law LLC, a Wilmington, Delaware, law firm specializing in unclaimed property holder advocacy and advising, has co-authored the revised Bloomberg BNA (Bureau of National Affairs) Corporate Practice Series Portfolio: Unclaimed Property (CPS 74-3rd, Jan. 2014). “The treatise contains a comprehensive review of unclaimed property law, including historical and recent developments in holder litigation and state and federal legislation, as well as an inside look at what companies can anticipate during routine compliance, an unclaimed property examination, or a voluntary disclosure submission,” Mayrack says. She holds a dual degree in public affairs and law.

2012 alum Carly Hood marked National Public Health Week with an op-ed in the April 7 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel emphasizing how education can help improve long-term population health, particularly for Wisconsin’s most impoverished communities. “A solid education is an individual’s primary method for securing financial stability, which not only increases access to healthy foods and safe communities but also promotes an individual’s ability to provide his or her children with quality child care and educational experiences,” notes Hood, who works for the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute.

2000 alum Jason Bittner has joined Cambridge Systematics’ transportation planning and management group as a senior associate. Based in Madison, Bittner is affiliated with Cambridge Systematics’ Chicago office. He will leverage his extensive research background to develop and improve Cambridge Systematics’ asset management practice, as well as deliver innovative work to support intermodal freight, mobility and vehicle technology policy. Bittner is active with the Transportation Research Board, serving as a member of the Committee on Transportation Asset Management, co-chair of the Committee on Conduct of Research and chair of the 10th National Conference on Transportation Asset Management Planning Committee.

2003 alum Carly Hood has been selected to participate in the Future of Public Health Law Education: Faculty Fellowship Program. The program is funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to foster innovations and build a learning community among those who teach public health law at professional and graduate schools. Davis is associate director of the Center for Patient Partnerships at the University of Wisconsin–Madison and a clinical associate professor of law in the schools of Law, Medicine and Public Health, Nursing and Pharmacy. Davis, who holds a dual-degree in law and public policy, will use the fellowship to create an online community learning space to complement students’ public health law externships at local and remote locations. Davis, the other nine fellows, their deans, mentors, distinguished public health practitioners and leading legal education experts will participate in an intensive 10-day summer institute in July in Park City, Utah, to kick off the program.

2013 alum Tawsif Anam received a “Trailblazer Award” award from the Urban League of Greater Madison Young Professionals chapter at its Emerge Gala in March. “Trailblazer Awards” are given to young professionals who have shown leadership within their company and industry. The Urban League of Greater Madison Young Professionals was founded in 2011 to support the National Urban League and Greater Madison Urban League. The organization engages young professionals through volunteerism, philanthropy and membership development.

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Share your news

Email alumni@lafollette.wisc.edu or call 608-263-7657
Schnoor helps municipalities navigate finances

The different ways elected boards function never ceases to intrigue 2003 alum Sara Schnoor.

As a senior portfolio advisor at PMA Financial Network in Milwaukee, Schnoor helps county boards and other Wisconsin governments and their staff make financial decisions as they manage cash flow, and navigate state policies and budget changes.

“We are constantly evolving and shaping our services to help municipalities handle situations efficiently,” Schnoor says. “On a daily basis, I may provide a client with a cash-flow analysis or other financial calculation. For example, a county may have a building project underway. We will assist the county in investing borrowed funds, tracking funds through the duration of the project and reviewing the portfolio for compliance with regulations.

“Recently, we built a cash-flow analysis for a technical college to help them understand their financial peaks and valleys on an annual basis,” Schnoor says. “Typically, technical colleges have a lot of cash on hand in January and February when they receive tax revenues and tuition, then income is limited until a final tax distribution and tuition payments are received in August. We help clients to understand what their cash flow looks like and help them make short-term investments until excess funds are needed.”

Schnoor has been seeing more of county boards around Wisconsin thanks to a partnership between PMA and the Wisconsin Counties Association. “I have been going to county board meetings and seeing how those boards function,” Schnoor says. “What I love about my work is seeing all these different interactions and how the different levels of government operate.”

Schnoor knew she was interested in local government work out, and it did,” says Schnoor. “I was lucky. Moody's Investors Service was opening an office in Chicago and they wanted to hire Midwesterners. Looking back at my career I can clearly see how La Follette was the foundation for my later success. I believe a key part of being hired at Moody’s was the credibility of my MBA.”

After a couple of years as a senior associate and bond rating analyst with hundreds of municipalities and school districts as clients, Schnoor moved back to Wisconsin to serve as management assistant with the village of Whitefish Bay near Milwaukee. She returned to the private sector a few years later to join PMA.

Her La Follette training gives Schnoor valuable insight into forces affecting local governments. “I hope to help them understand the opportunities local governments have to make changes and what the impact would be from a financial perspective,” she says. “Given my work experience and thanks to the foundation of my degree in public affairs, I strive to provide thoughtful solutions to public entities in Wisconsin.”

Alum wins award for dissertation research

1997 alum Matthew Weber has won the 2014 Alma H. Young Emerging Scholar Award from the Urban Affairs Association.

Weber is a Ph.D. candidate in the University of Michigan's urban and regional planning program, and he is completing a dissertation entitled “Informal Property Ownership and Shrinking Cities: Causes, Consequences, and Policy Options.”

Weber is studying “legacy cities,” those cities that came of age amidst the Henry Ford's mode of mass production and that now struggle with a diminished tax base, population loss, vacant and abandoned properties, crime, poverty, and low educational attainment.

“My dissertation makes use of the unique research opportunities legacy cities afford: how their scope and scale of decline brings to light phenomena that may be more difficult to observe in growing cities, in turn building a deeper understanding of urban processes and exposing gaps in urban theory and mismatches between policies presuming growth and places dominated by population loss and weak real estate markets,” Weber says.

At Michigan, Weber has been co-instructor of the integrative field experience class and primary instructor of the neighborhood planning class. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin–Madison with degrees in law, and public affairs and policy analysis.
Students grateful for donor generosity with scholarships

Donations to the La Follette School made the transition from full-time work to graduate school much less daunting for three first-year students.

Ann Drazkowski, Matt van Buren and Ben Emmel had been out of college and working for several years when they decided to pursue master of public affairs degrees. All three are grateful for the scholarships they received.

After graduating in 2005 from Winona State University in Minnesota, Drazkowski headed to rural Peru where she designed development projects that included a campaign about the disease leishmaniasis, school construction and programs on sustainable farming practices.

When she returned to the United States, Drazkowski worked in retail, taking on night shifts and a few days to save money for graduate school. News that she received a scholarship meant she could ease up on her work schedule. “Knowing I had the scholarship to help with finances permitted me to work less, thereby giving me more time to prep for the first semester’s course load,” Drazkowski says. “I returned to school with significantly less apprehension as a result. I am very appreciative of the scholarship.”

Van Buren’s career in political fundraising and journalism brought him to the La Follette School. He graduated from the University of Missouri in 2004 with a major in journalism. He moved to St. Louis and became finance director for a U.S. House representative, then spent several years as a newspaper reporter and editor in New Mexico, positions that put him on the periphery of public decision-making, he says. “I see the study of public affairs at La Follette as a way to more directly advocate for and craft beneficial public policy.”

“After working for nearly a decade in low-paying fields, I found unappealing the idea of incurring substantial debt to attend graduate school,” van Buren adds. “I am grateful for the scholarship because it helped make the leap less daunting.”

Emmel graduated from Seton Hall University in 2011 with majors in theology and philosophy, thinking he would become a Catholic priest. He spent time in Rome, Italy, and found life was taking him a different direction, but he still wanted a public service career. He returned to Madison, where he grew up, and worked an information technology job and then for the Wisconsin Technical College System’s Office of Instruction.

“I appreciate the generosity of donors to the La Follette School,” Emmel says. “Now in my second semester of my graduate education, I’m encouraged by the support of alumni and friends of the school. It’s a real testament to the reputation of La Follette in the Midwest.”

To Donate
Donations can be made online or by mail with a check payable to UW Foundation-La Follette sent to: La Follette School, 1225 Observatory Drive, Madison WI 53706.

For information, go online at www.lafollette.wisc.edu/giving, call 608-263-7657 or email giving@lafollette.wisc.edu

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critical thinking I learned at Wisconsin enables one to weigh alternatives to proposed public policy solutions,” Rindelaub says. “The La Follette School opened up opportunities for added experience within the state of Wisconsin that later enabled me to stand out as an applicant for other positions,” Rindelaub says. “Nearly all the coursework encouraged me to become a more critical thinker. This is a skill that I believe enables public administrators to make sound judgments on a host of public policy questions.”

To help ensure quality training for future public administrators, Rindelaub supports the La Follette School financially. “My donations to the La Follette School reflect my desire to see that future public administrators reflect the public service values developed by the school’s namesake: Robert La Follette.”

**donor George Rindelaub, 1981 alum, Stearns County administrator**

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Rindelaub started practicing those values in Stearns County when he became its top administrator in 1988. He serves a nonpartisan board of five elected county commissioners. “My duties include that of chief operating officer and chief budget officer for the county,” he says.

Rindelaub emphasizes that his graduate training in Wisconsin made a difference in his career. “The school encourages students to follow their passion while insisting that they learn the basic tools required to analyze and manage public policy,” Rindelaub says. “Our freedoms and liberties are dependent on a highly functional form of representative government. Officials elected to represent the will of their constituents depend on management professionals able to translate that will into public policy that is effective, efficient and fair.”

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Campus colleges honor Treleven for advising

Admissions and academic services coordinator Mary Treleven received an Academic Advising Award from the University of Wisconsin—Madison’s College of Letters and Science in May.

“I feel very honored to receive this recognition from students and faculty,” Treleven says. “I have always felt lucky to work with public affairs students who truly care about improving the lives of people around them and throughout the world.”

“I am thrilled with this recognition of Mary’s terrific work,” says school director Susan Yackee. “Academic advising is critical to student success.”

“Faculty rely greatly on the excellence in all aspects of her work that we see in Mary—but most of all on her outstanding work as an academic advisor to the students in our master in public affairs and master of international public affairs degree programs,” says professor Melanie Manion, who nominated Treleven with Yackee, Menzie Chinn and Donald Moynihan. “We all served as associate directors and benefited from Mary’s outstanding service. We could not have done our job without Mary.”

Treleven coordinates graduate program admissions and advising services for La Follette School students. She meets with prospective students and assists them throughout the application process. She serves as a resource for students in navigating university departments, enrollment and graduation requirements. She works closely with students to ensure they meet course requirements. She also collaborates with faculty on curriculum development, advising, admissions and enrollment management.

“As a mid-sized professional graduate program, the La Follette School has few staff dedicated solely to our more than 100 highly diverse and appropriately demanding graduate students,” Manion says. “Mary knows the students before they arrive. She is the one who tells some of them, based on what she knows from their applications, that they should do preparatory work in math—before they arrive for boot camp in August—if they hope to survive the first semester of statistics and microeconomic policy analysis.”

Treleven’s skill at advising students was indispensable, says 2013 alum and then-president of the La Follette School Student Association Phil Sletten, who wrote a letter of support for Treleven’s nomination. “Mary made a point to be knowledgeable about every class taught at La Follette and the ways in which those classes complemented each other.”

Sletten says, “She also learned the details of each student’s schedule and interests. Stories of Mary’s ability to advise students in their coursework selections, secure spots in classes, tackle tricky course schedules and help out with other events abound in the student body.”

...continued from page 1

for all of DCF’s programs: early childhood care and education, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, child support and child welfare. In addition, grant writing and management made up a large component of Hilary’s responsibilities—she helped to procure and manage more than $60 million in federal grants. She used the quantitative skills she learned at La Follette every day, plus her management and human resources skills when she coordinated DCF projects and teams.

In addition, Hilary knows many La Follette School alumni from her time on campus and through her work with the state, and so will tap that network as she advises students about their career paths and helps them take advantage of internship and job opportunities.

Hilary joins the school’s staff as part of a restructuring faculty undertook this year when career development coordinator and 2007 alum Kate Battista announced her plans to move to California where her husband found work after completing his Ph.D. here at UW–Madison.

We look forward to working with Hilary in the years ahead. 

Save the date
If you will be in Madison, please join us
Thursday, February 5, 2015
for the annual reception at Inn on the Park, 4:30-7 p.m.

...continued from page 1
Moynihan wins campus award, faculty fellowship

Public management expert Donald Moynihan has won two research awards. One is the prestigious Vilas award from the university’s Graduate School to conduct research on the burdens citizens encounter as they interact with government.

Moynihan plans to use the funds to work on a book with La Follette School sociologist Pamela Herd.

“Any context in which the state regulates private behavior or structures how individuals seek public services is a venue to study the burdens imposed in that process,” Moynihan says.

The book project builds on Moynihan’s research funded by the Institute for Research on Poverty that supported 2012 master of public affairs graduate Hope Harvey, who is now working on a Ph.D. in sociology at Harvard University.

Moynihan is also being named the La Follette School’s new Jerry and Mary Cotter Faculty Fellow. The $10,000 award is made possible through financial support from the Cotters to support research, programs and/or grant applications that would improve the legislative branches of government.

Moynihan says he will use the award to examine whether new legislatively mandated reporting requirements generate the expected benefits in terms of agency use of performance data.

“A key question for the relationship between legislative action and good government is how legislators observe and direct the effort of public employees,” Moynihan says. “One way members of Congress have done so is to put in place performance reporting requirements, asking agencies to generate some form of strategic plan and performance measures, and to present this information to Congress on a regular basis.”

Using data from a 2012 survey of federal employees conducted by the U.S. Government Accountability Office, Moynihan will assess whether the Government Performance and Results Act Modernization Act is working and, more generally, the utility of legislative reporting requirements.

“The Cotter fellowship will support the first systematic analysis on the effects of the latest attempt by Congress to use performance reporting mechanisms to assert legislative influence in the executive branch,” Moynihan says.
Cost-benefit analysis aids mental health services in Wisconsin

Thanks in part to a La Follette School cost-benefit analysis, children and adolescents in Wisconsin’s Fox River Valley have access to school-based mental health services.

In 2008, United Way Fox Cities partnered with three community mental health providers and the Menasha Joint School District to start Providing Access to Healing for Students. In fall 2012, students in David Weimer’s cost-benefit class prepared an analysis for United Way Fox Cities’ PATH for Students that has helped the program receive support and expand.

PATH for Students was designed to provide evidence-based, mental health therapy to students experiencing barriers to care, including limited financial resources, lack of reliable transportation, parent work schedules and lack of parental engagement.

A school-based program was created for several reasons: a school is a safe and accepting environment, on-site therapy eliminates transportation concerns, and on-site therapy greatly reduces missed appointments and missed classroom time. Services are provided by licensed therapists with expertise in child and adolescent mental health.

The three-year pilot in Menasha quickly demonstrated outstanding results, so much so that other districts asked for the service. PATH has expanded to 23 schools in 10 school districts. “We wish we could serve all schools in all of our local districts, but we just don’t have the financial resources,” says Mary Wisnet of United Way Fox Cities. “That’s where the La Follette cost-benefit analysis comes in.”

Wisnet, a graduate of the Center for the Study of Public Policy and Administration, a precursor of the La Follette School, was happy to have data on the cost-benefit of the program to use in grant applications.

Weimer’s students found that for 155 students treated in a single school year in the Menasha, Appleton, Kaukauna, Kimberly and Little Chute school districts, the net benefits of PATH for Students totaled $7,472,000 over the lifetime of the student or approximately $49,000 per person.

“That’s huge,” says Wisnet. “For students, the benefits include avoided medical costs, increased productivity and lifetime earnings, decreased risk of suicide and increased quality of life. School districts experience decreased truancy, and behavioral and counseling expenditures. For the community, there are avoided costs to the criminal justice system.”

The La Follette students found that the benefits of PATH for Students far outweigh the program costs.

The analysis has been a boon for the people in the Fox Valley as they expanded the program. “We use the La Follette study extensively to show the value of our school-based mental health program,” says Peter Kelly, president and chief executive officer of United Way Fox Cities. “As we talk with other similar programs around the country, they are envious of our data and our relationship with the La Follette School.”

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