School to Offer Two New Courses of Study

The School of Public Policy is offering two new policy-relevant courses of study starting in fall 2017: environmental policy and emergency health services.

The environmental policy track (MPP and PhD) is for students who wish to understand the complex problems of the physical environment, and the nexus between the environment and public policy. Course content will draw on experiences in Maryland, a state that is home to the Chesapeake Bay and other notable natural resources. Through courses in environmental politics, environmental economics, urban ecosystems, and scientific practice, students will learn to formulate and analyze environmental policy.

The emergency health services track (PhD) is for professionals that specialize in public health, disaster care, and emergency management. There are two pathways: health, and emergency management. The health pathway includes courses in disaster health, catastrophes, and systems design. The emergency management pathway includes courses in disaster mitigation, catastrophe preparation and response, and strategic planning.

Prospective and current students interested in either track should contact Sally Helms (helms@umbc.edu).
Faculty Share Reflections, Analysis of 2016 Presidential Election

In partnership with the League of Women Voters of Baltimore County and the Friends of the Towson Library, Lauren Hamilton Edwards (Public Policy) organized the "Voices on Government" series this past fall at the Towson Library. The timely eight-part series brought political experts to discuss how politics and elections work in the United States. Topics ranged from media in politics to the electoral college.

On November 9, the day after the presidential election, the Maryland Institute for Policy Analysis and Research hosted the "2016 Post Election Forum: What Happened and Why?" John Fritze, Washington correspondent for The Baltimore Sun, joined Donald F. Norris (Public Policy), and Thomas Schaller (Political Science). The three speakers shared observations on the election results and fielded questions from a standing-room-only audience. Read a summary of the forum discussion here.

On election night, Dr. Norris was an in-studio guest for WJZ-TV and provided real-time analysis as the results came in. John Rennie Short (Public Policy) provided post-election analysis in the essay, "The politics of de-legitimacy" for Bournemouth University in the UK.
Faculty News

Nancy Miller (Public Policy) received the 2016 Philip G. Weiler Award for Leadership in Aging & Public Health. The American Public Health Association's (APHA) Aging and Public Health Section presented the award to Dr. Miller at the APHA annual meeting in Denver, CO on October 31. The award honors an individual who has made significant contributions to the field through policy, research, education, and leadership. Dr. Miller is a professor of public policy and an affiliate professor in the Gerontology Doctoral Program. She conducts interdisciplinary health policy research on chronic disease, disability, and long-term care, with a particular focus on access to health care.


Lauren Hamilton Edwards (Public Policy) participated in a panel at the Maryland Association of Counties summer meeting titled "Surviving the Information Supernova: Open Government and Public Management," with representatives from Prince George's and Kent counties.

The National Institutes of Health awarded a grant to David Salkever (Public Policy) to study the long-term impacts of major innovations in services for Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) beneficiaries with serious mental disorders. Researchers from Westat and the Social Security Administration are also participating in the study.
The School of Public Policy welcomed two new members to our faculty in fall 2016.

Jane Arnold Lincove joined the faculty as an associate professor in the Education Policy track. Her research focuses on the implementation and effects of market-based policy in public education, including teacher compensation, and the equity effects on low-income families, minorities, and girls. She has received funding for her research from the Spencer Foundation, the Laura and John Arnold Foundation, the U.S. Department of Labor, and the Texas Education Agency. Prior to joining the School of Public Policy, Dr. Lincove was a research assistant professor in the Department of Economics at Tulane University, and associate director of the Education Research Alliance for New Orleans. She received a BS from Northwestern University, an MPP from the University of California at Los Angeles, and a PhD in Public Administration from the University of Southern California.

Pamela R. Bennett is an associate professor in the Education Policy track. She investigates racial, ethnic, and nativity differences in post-secondary educational outcomes, the consequences of higher education policy on college outcomes, and the consequences of racial residential segregation. Her research has been supported by the National Science Foundation, the Spencer Foundation, the American Sociological Association, and the Poverty and Race Research Action Council. Dr. Bennett was an associate professor of sociology at Queens College and the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. She spent 2012-2013 as a visiting scholar at the Russell Sage Foundation. Dr. Bennett received a BA and MA in Sociology from Louisiana State University, and a PhD in Sociology from the University of Michigan.
Student News

The 2016 Public Policy Alumni Fellow is **Gregory Fitzgerald**. A part-time MPP student in the education policy track, Greg is Chief of Staff and Title IX Coordinator at Notre Dame of Maryland University. Prior to coming to Notre Dame, he worked for the Maryland Higher Education Commission and the Maryland General Assembly. The Fellowship is supported by donations from Public Policy alumni.

**Cheryl A. Camillo** received the 2016 Judith A. Shinogle Memorial Fellowship. Cheryl is a PhD student in the health policy track. She is currently an assistant professor at the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy (JSGSPP) at the University of Regina in Saskatchewan, Canada, where she teaches health and social policy and conducts research on health system reforms. In 2015-16, she was a Fulbright Fellow in Canada. The family of Dr. Judith Shinogle established the Memorial Award in her memory to provide support for doctoral students committed to health policy research.

Cheryl presented her research to an audience of faculty, staff, students, and friends at the annual Shinogle Lecture on the UMBC campus on November 18, 2016.

Alumni News

The School of Public Policy celebrated UMBC’s 50th anniversary with an alumni roundtable on Friday, September 16, 2016. The roundtable, titled “We Can Work It Out: Reflections on How Public Policy Impacts our Lives,” brought together five distinguished alumni to discuss how public policies have impacted the quality of life in the U.S.

Three alumni, **Renny DiPentima** (PhD ’84), former president and CEO of SRA International, and deputy director and CIO of the Social Security Administration; **Robert Cenname** (MPP ’08), Baltimore City Deputy Budget Director; and **Laura Bruner** (MPP ’14 and current PhD student), a policy analyst with the Maryland Governor’s Office of Performance Improvement, discussed public management and urban policy. **Rear Admiral Sylvia Trent-Adams** (PhD ’06), the U.S. Deputy Surgeon General; and **Keith Elder** (PhD ’02), Dean of the School of Public Health at Samford University, shared their insights on health policy. The roundtable highlighted the strengths of our graduate program, and the achievements of over 550 Public Policy alumni.
Dean Scott Casper introduces the Public Policy Alumni Panel at UMBC's 50th Anniversary weekend. Left to right: Scott Casper, Laura Bruner, Bob Cenname, Sylvia Trent-Adams, Keith Elder, and Renny DiPentima.

Books

Dr. George R. La Noue (Professor Emeritus and Research Professor) has published *Improbable Excellence: The Saga of UMBC* (Carolina Academic Press, 2016).

The book explores the remarkable history of UMBC, from its opening in 1966 as a commuter school, to its role today as a national model for new American universities. The book was released in conjunction with UMBC's 50th Anniversary celebration.

Publications

Timothy Brennan


“Data From drones: A new way to see the natural world” (with Molly K. Macauley), *Resources* (Spring 2016, no 192).

F. Chris Curran


"Facilitating the transition to kindergarten: What ECLS-K data tell us about school practices then and now" (with Michael H. Little and Lora Cohen-Vogel), *AERA Open* (August 2016).

"The state of abstracts in educational research," *AERA Open* (June 2016).

"Understanding science achievement gaps by race/ethnicity and gender in kindergarten and first grade" (with Ann T. Kellogg, a PhD student in the Education Policy track), *Educational Researcher* (June/July 2016, vol 45, no 5).

Nancy. A. Miller


"Facility characteristics and risk of developing pressure ulcers in U.S. nursing homes" (with Yu Kang and Huey-Ming Tzeng), *Journal of Nursing Care Quality* (2016, vol 31, issue 1).

"State design and use of Medicaid 1915(c) waivers and related benefits to provide services to children and youth with Autism Spectrum Disorder" (with M. Beth Merryman, Karen Goldrich Eskow, and Gregory S. Chasson), *American Journal of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities* (2016, vol 121, issue 4).

John Rennie Short


