

January 2015  
News from the School of Public Policy

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**UMBC**  
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### **Announcing the School of Public Policy**

We are pleased to announce that the Department of Public Policy is now the School of Public Policy in UMBC's College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. The School includes the Master of Public Policy (MPP) and PhD degree programs, and the Maryland Institute for Policy Analysis and Research. Public Policy Professor and current Department Chair Dr. Donald F. Norris will serve as Director of the School. UMBC now joins the region's academic community of public policy schools at the University of Maryland College Park, the University of Delaware, George Washington University, American University, Georgetown University, and George Mason University.

## **Public Policy Celebrates 40th Anniversary**

On November 24, 2014, Public Policy celebrated its 40th anniversary at a lecture and reception in the Albin O. Kuhn Library. Keynote speaker Governor Martin O'Malley engaged over 120 faculty, students, staff and alumni in a discussion of the importance of government to the quality of people's lives in the State. He also made the announcement that the department was now the School of Public Policy.

The Policy Sciences Graduate Program was conceived in 1972 by a committee of faculty from economics, political science and sociology. The master's program enrolled its first class of 12 students in 1974. The first nine PhD students were admitted in 1978. Today, in its 40th year, Public Policy enrolls over 130 students and has over 500 alumni. MPP and PhD graduates influence government policies, conduct cutting edge social science research, play key roles in philanthropic organizations, and teach and administer in education.

Public Policy is known for a distinguished and nationally-recognized faculty, with nine full time and over 30 affiliated faculty from the departments of economics, education, history, sociology, and political science. Their research addresses some of the region's most significant problems: health, education, urban development, and poverty. The program was ranked among the top ten in the nation in faculty productivity, and is one of three programs in Maryland accredited by the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs and Administration (NASPAA) for the MPP degree.

Congratulations to the faculty, staff, students and alumni for 40 years of public policy education and public service.



Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley addressed guests at the Public Policy 40th Anniversary lecture. Photos by Marlayna Demond.



Former Maryland Delegate Larry La Motte (MPS, '77), a graduate of the first master's class, greets Dr. George La Noue (on right).

## Faculty News

**Dr. Lauren Edwards** has been appointed Assistant Professor in the School of Public Policy. Dr. Edwards earned her PhD in Public Policy in 2011 from a joint program between Georgia State University and the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies at Georgia Institute of Technology. Prior to coming to UMBC, Dr. Edwards was an Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science at Sam Houston State University. Dr. Edwards' research interests include: nonprofit and public management; strategic management, planning and performance; public participation and coproduction; program evaluation; and diversity and gender issues.

The Chronicle of Higher Education published an article by **Dr. George La Noue** (Public Policy emeritus) in its blog *The Conversation*. In [The Muddled Future of Mid-Major Athletics](#), Dr. La Noue discusses the impact of increasing costs on Division I college and university athletic programs.

In advance of the Public Policy 40th anniversary celebration, Professor and School Director **Dr. Donald F. Norris** wrote an [op-ed in the Baltimore Sun](#) in which he argues that society needs leaders trained in public policy along with scientists, engineers, teachers, and doctors. In the op-ed, Dr. Norris describes the strengths of the UMBC public policy program in educating students to make a strong, local impact after graduation: "One key to our success is the program's focus on issues impacting the state," he wrote.

The New York Observer published an article, "[Gilded Age 2.0: New York's Richest CEOs, Artists and Pro Athletes](#)" that quotes **Dr. John Rennie Short** (Public Policy) on the similarities and differences between the rich of the late 19th century or the "Gilded Age," and the rich today. Dr. Short contributed a chapter on this topic in the book [Geographies of the Super Rich](#) (Edward Elgar, 2013). He was also the keynote speaker at a conference, "The City-Region Perspective in a Globalized World" at Aarhus University in Denmark on November 20, 2014. The subject of his talk was "Big City Small World, What Do We Know After Three Decades of Global Cities Research."

## Student News

The 2014 Public Policy Alumni Graduate Fellow is **Molly Coplan**. The fellowship is funded by donations from alumni and friends of the program. Molly, a Baltimore native, is a first-year MPP student in the Urban Policy track. She received her BA from the University of Richmond. Before deciding to earn a graduate degree, Molly worked as a marketing manager for a nonprofit organization in California. She chose UMBC because "I wanted a program that would allow me to delve into the urban issues of Baltimore City while also giving me the flexibility to take courses that would complement my interests in both nonprofit management and urban policy."

A poster, "Obtaining Experimental Evidence Regarding the Effectiveness of Interventions Intended to Support the Success of Freshman STEM Undergraduates," presented by Public Policy doctoral student **Ann Kellogg**, was awarded first place among 64 posters presented at the November 6 poster session of the 2014 Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management (APPAM) Fall Research Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The poster reported preliminary results of the iCubed@UMBC project, a National Science Foundation grant-funded study. The following iCubed@UMBC project assessment team members were co-authors of the poster: **Dr. Marvin Mandell** and **Dr. Dave Marcotte** (Public Policy), **Dr. Lisa Dickson** (Economics) and **Dr. Kenneth Maton** (Psychology).



**Alison Mitchell**, a Public Policy PhD candidate, has been named the 2014 Judith A. Shinogle Award recipient. She was selected by a committee of faculty in recognition of her outstanding scholarship and research in health policy. Alison received the award and presented her research at the Shinogle Award Lecture and Reception on Friday, November 14, 2014.

The family of Judith Shinogle established the award in her memory to provide support and recognition for doctoral students committed to health policy research.

*Alison Mitchell with her award at the Shinogle Lecture*

The Daily Record selected **Erin O'Keefe** (MPP, '10), a current PhD student, as one of their 2014 Leading Women. The list honors women 40 years old or younger who have already made outstanding contributions in their fields. Erin is Director of the Loyola University York Road Initiative, where she works with neighbors and partners to strengthen the York Road commercial corridor.

## Alumni News

**Dr. Renny DiPentima** (PhD, '84), the first recipient of a Policy Sciences PhD, wrote an [essay for the UMBC Magazine](#) about his experiences in the early years of the Policy Sciences (now Public Policy) program. A founding member of the Public Policy External Advisory Board, Dr. DiPentima had a distinguished career, rising to the rank of Deputy Commissioner of the Social Security Administration. He was also named UMBC Alumni of the Year in 2004.

**Dr. Steven Hemelt** (PhD, '09), is a co-leader of a \$2 million research project funded by the U.S. Department of Education to study the impact of Tennessee's dual credit policy. The Tennessee policy allows students to earn college credits for advanced math courses taken in high school. Dr. Hemelt is an Assistant Professor of Public Policy at the University of North Carolina.

**Dr. Dale Thomson** (PhD, '01) was promoted to Chair of the Department of Social Sciences at the University of Michigan-Dearborn. The Department of Social Sciences houses the university's undergraduate programs in political science, economics, history, geography, and urban and regional studies, as well as graduate programs in public policy and public administration.

## New Publications

**Dr. Bernadette Hanlon** (PhD, '07) and **Dr. Thomas J. Vicino** (PhD, '06) authored a new book, [Global Migration: the Basics](#) (Routledge, 2014). The book examines the role of migrants in society and the policy challenges confronting a rapidly changing world economy and society.

Dr. Hanlon is Assistant Professor in the City and Regional Planning Program in the Knowlton School of Architecture at The Ohio State University. Dr. Vicino is Associate Professor of Political Science at Northeastern University, where he is also affiliated with the School of Public Policy and Urban Affairs.

An article by **Dr. George La Noue** (Public Policy emeritus) and **Mark Bennett** (MPP, '14) measures the impact of higher education desegregation on athletes. "[The Impact of Desegregation on College Choice of Elite Black Athletes](#)" was published in the International Journal of Higher Education (2014, Vol. 3, No. 3).

**Dr. Eylse Grossman** (PhD, '14) co-authored an article that concluded that the majority of medical marijuana users in the U.S. report using marijuana to alleviate severe or chronic pain. The article, "[Why do people use medical marijuana? The medical conditions of users in seven U.S. states](#)," appeared in the *Journal of Global Drug Policy and Practice* (2014, Vol. 8, No. 2). Dr. Grossman is a post-doctoral researcher in the Johns Hopkins Department of Health, Behavior and Society.



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Anne Roland, Editor

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