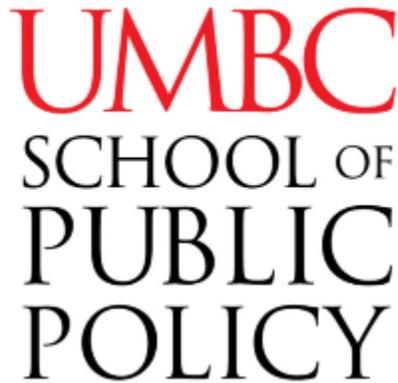


May 2016
News from the School of Public Policy

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Highlight – Cybersecurity Research

A collaboration between the School of Public Policy and the Department of Computer Science and Electrical Engineering (CSEE) has produced innovative research about the cybersecurity challenges facing local governments.

Research conducted by **Dr. Donald F. Norris** (Public Policy), and two CSEE faculty members, **Dr. Anupam Joshi**, and **Dr. Tim Finin**, found that people, policy and process in local governments substantially contribute to cybersecurity problems for those governments. Through a focus group with local government chief information officers (CIOs) and chief information security officers (CISOs) in Maryland, the investigators learned that governments face a number of barriers when attempting to prevent or mitigate cyber attacks, including: insufficient funding and staffing; a lack of control by information technology staff over all branches (e.g., legislative and judicial) within a local government; and insufficient or under-enforced cybersecurity policies. Focus group participants also provided insights on actions local governments can take to improve cybersecurity that focus not only on technical issues, but also on management practices and policy.

The School of Public Policy organized a forum on “Cybersecurity Concerns in Local Governments” on April 15 to present this research and to highlight the policy implications of these initiatives. Drs. Norris and Joshi spoke and were joined on a response panel by Baltimore

County's Chief Technology Officer, Rob O'Connor, and Baltimore City's Chief Information Security Officer, Gayle Guilford. The event was sponsored by the UMBC School of Public Policy, bwtech@UMBC Cyber Incubator, and the UMBC Center for Cybersecurity. Read more about the forum [here](#).

Cybersecurity Forum speakers (left to right): Donald F. Norris, Gayle Guilford, Anupam Joshi, and Rob O'Connor. Photo by Marylana Demond.



Faculty News

On March 18, 2016, **Dr. Tim Brennan** (Public Policy) participated on a panel of current and former federal agency chief economists on the role of benefit cost analysis in government decisions. The panel took place at the Annual Meeting of the Society of Benefit Cost Analysis. Dr. Brennan was the chief economist for the Federal Communications Commission in 2014.

Public Policy assistant professor **F. Chris Curran** was named an Emerging Education Policy Scholar for 2015-16 by the Thomas B. Fordham Institute and the American Enterprise Institute. The Emerging Education Policy Scholars (EEPS) program is a select group of promising, new PhD scholars and candidates who present innovative research ideas and demonstrate an enthusiasm for education policy.

Student News

MPP student **Michael Hassett** organized a trip to the White House for a group of fifth to eighth grade students, parents and staff from Commodore John Rodgers School after being invited to attend the arrival of Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. Students were selected by teachers for the trip based on their behavioral and academic progress throughout the year. "I think this is a great lesson: work hard and you will be rewarded," Michael commented. "This trip was meant to motivate them, to inspire and expose them to something new." Michael is a Shriver Peaceworker Fellow, serving as the "Commodore to College Coordinator" at the Rodgers School.

The Rural Maryland Council elected MPP student **Josh Hastings** to the Executive Committee as First Vice Chair. He also serves as the Chair of the Legislative Committee. Josh is the Policy Director for the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy. The Rural Maryland Council is a statewide organization that brings together citizens, community-based organizations, federal, state, county and municipal government officials and representatives of the for-profit and nonprofit sectors to address the needs of rural Maryland communities.

BA/MPP student **Parker James** was selected "Outstanding Student in Health Administration and Policy" for 2016. Students admitted to the BA/MPP program take graduate level Public Policy courses in their senior year that count toward both their BA and MPP degrees.

Alumni News

Dr. Chris Haffer (PhD, '93) was appointed to a three-year term on the Baltimore County Planning Board, representing the 7th District in Baltimore County. The role of the planning board is to advise the County Council on a variety of planning-related matters, including the Baltimore County Master Plan.

Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama has named **Dr. Keith Elder** (PhD, '02) the dean of the School of Public Health, effective summer 2016. Dr. Elder is currently professor and chair of the Department of Health Management and Policy in the College for Public Health and Social Justice at Saint Louis University. He previously served as faculty in the Arnold School of Public Health at the University of South Carolina, and in the School of Health Professions at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. His research interests include health policy, health-care delivery and health-care processes.

Photo credit: Samford University

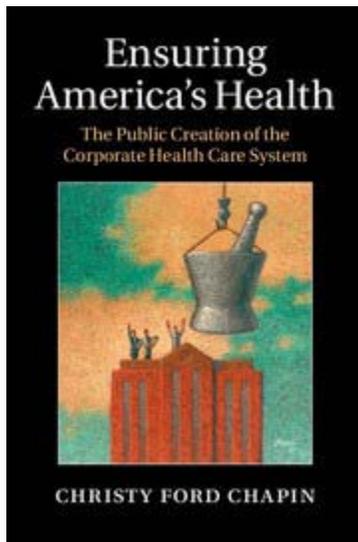


Dr. Samuel L. Brown (PhD, '97) has been appointed director of the Wichita State Hugo Wall School of Public Affairs, effective July 2016. As director, Dr. Brown will oversee the Master of Public Administration degree and the department's applied research and community service centers. Dr. Brown is a professor at the University of Baltimore's College of Public Affairs. Prior to his academic career, he served in positions with the private sector, as well as in state and federal government.

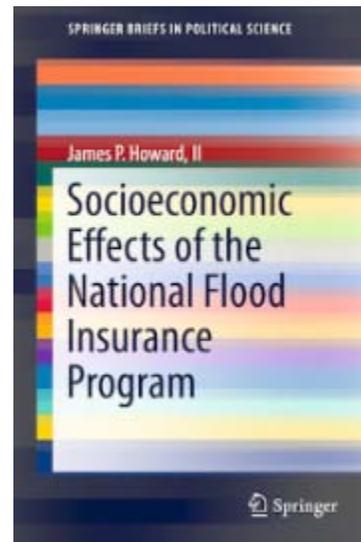
Photo credit: Wichita State University



Books



A new book by **Dr. Christy Ford Chapin** (History) explains how the U.S. health care system offers world class medical care, but has become exceedingly costly with fragmented care, poor distribution, and increasingly bureaucratized processes. The book, *Ensuring America's Health: The Public Creation of the Corporate Health Care System* (2015, Cambridge University Press) won the 2016 Ralph Gomory Prize from the Business History Conference.



Dr. James P. Howard, II (PhD, 2014) authored a benefit-cost analysis of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP,) as well as an evaluation of its cumulative socioeconomic effects. The book, *Socioeconomic Effects of the National Flood Insurance Program* (2016, Springer) is based on his dissertation research.

Publications

Public Policy PhD student **Cheryl A. Camillo** authored an article about efforts to increase dialogue between U.S. states and Canadian provinces seeking solutions to the same health system challenges. Cheryl is a Fulbright Fellow at the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy at the University of Regina. [Next on the Agenda for the Health Ministers: Meeting With their American Counterparts?](#) appeared in *Policy Magazine* (April 2016).

A chapter by **Dr. F. Chris Curran** (Public Policy) in the book, *Critical Examinations of School Violence and Disturbance in K-12 Education* (2016, IGI Global) examines how zero tolerance policies in schools may contribute to racial disparities in the use of discipline. The chapter is titled, [Racial Disproportionalities in Discipline: The Role of Zero Tolerance Policies](#). Dr. Curran also co-authored an article about the [hiring](#)

[practices of school principals](#) in the *Journal of Educational Administration* (2016, Vol. 52, No. 2, 173–190).

Dr. John Rennie Short (Public Policy) published an article that examined power outages in the Washington, DC area in 2012 to highlight two broader themes: rising urban vulnerabilities as the impact of global climate change increases the incidence of extreme weather events; and how urban network vulnerabilities are heightened by the nature of regulatory regimes. The article, [A perfect storm: climate change, the power grid, and regulatory regime change after network failure](#) appeared in *Environment and Planning C: Government and Policy* (2016, Vol. 34, 244–261). The online magazine *Slate* republished his analysis of the problems in the nation's infrastructure, [Why America's Public Transportation is Crumbling](#), on April 4, 2016. That article originally appear in *The Conversation*.

Upcoming Events

UMBC 50th Anniversary



UMBC turns 50 on September 19, 2016. As the University prepares for the big day, we invite all alumni, students, faculty, staff, and partners to stand up proudly and be recognized as pioneers in building a public university that is nationally known for excellence.

- There will be 50th anniversary events throughout the next year – go [here](#) to see the calendar of events. Special celebrations are planned for September 16-19, including a Public Policy alumni panel. Details will be shared soon.
- Visit the online space retrieverstories.umbc.edu, where alumni and other members of the university community can share their memories, reconnect with one another, and tell their stories of grit and greatness through the years.

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