Welcome from the Director

Welcome to our Spring 2019 newsletter! Spring is here, we are excited about celebrating the students graduating and successes from our faculty.

We successfully hosted our first APPAM/UMBC Public Policy Camp. National policy organization APPAM’s goal is to diversify people practicing in public policy. The importance of bringing people from different perspectives to bear was visible in every conversation. Students had different levels of knowledge about core anti-poverty policies in the United States, and they could learn from each other. One of our alumnae, Qubilah Huddleston, generously brought her expertise in diversifying participation in computer coding; she works to bring coding to the Baltimore City schools.

The mentoring and inclusion we practice continues to inspire me. I am grateful for the opportunity I have this year to participate in the group LEADERship Baltimore, which brings together more than 60 people who work in nonprofits and business to learn more about how to work together to address challenges in Baltimore. It is an intensive program, requiring all day seminars and visits to key service organizations. It is hard not to draw connections around the globe about problems in public policy. Just after one of our meetings, I had the good fortune of participating in a workshop at the University of Cape Town in March. With colleagues from multiple universities, I coached young scholars toward making their work public. Scholars worked on human rights, including access to justice, and reconciliation after conflict and injustice. We did this work while also losing the lights daily due to the disaster in Mozambique.

In continuing to deepen our connections to policy and equity in Baltimore, we have named Dr. Peter Henderson to the School of Public Policy as a Policy Fellow. We are thrilled to tap into his expertise in housing policy.

We wish you all the best in this spring season. Thank you for your support.

Susan M. Sterett, Ph.D.
Director, School of Public Policy
Public Policy Camp

In March, the School of Public Policy hosted a one-day Public Policy Camp with the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) for undergraduate students interested in learning more about Public Policy.

Dozens of students from Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and DC joined us to unpack the idea of Public Policy, and how they can explore a career and education in the field.

Alumni, current graduate students, and local community leaders led small group exercises and shared their perspectives on panels.

UMBC President Dr. Freeman Hrabowski and CAHSS Dean Dr. Scott Casper welcomed the group in the morning, and the day’s activities and panels were moderated by Public Policy faculty:

Professor Jane Arnold Lincove, Professor F. Chris Curran, and Director of Public Policy, Professor Susan Sterett.

Each group of students was led by a community leader, many of whom are alumni. The table leaders facilitated small group discussions, a simulation policy analysis of a real issue impacting Baltimore, and playing the online Fiscal Ship budget-balancing game.

Participants engaged in two panel and Q&A sessions featuring community leaders and students offering perspectives on education and career pathways in public policy.

Featured Policy Camp table leaders and panelists:

- **Steve Sharkey**, Director of the Department of General Services, City of Baltimore (M.P.P. ’06)
- **Kristerfer Burnett**, Council Member, Baltimore City Council (M.P.P. ’11)
- **Frances Carter-Johnson**, Data Scientist, National Science Foundation (Ph.D. ’11)
- **Qubilah Huddleston**, Prodigy Program Manager, Code in the Schools (M.P.P. ’17)
- **Magui Cardona**, Director of Sponsored Research, University of Baltimore, Ph.D. student in Public Policy, UMBC
- **Glenda Lindsey**, Public Policy Coordinator, Maryland Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
- **Tanya Terrell**, Executive Director, South Baltimore Learning Center
- **Laura Matezcun**, Ph.D. Student in Public Policy, UMBC
- **Maria Garnett**, Senior Analyst, Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC)
- **Rebecca Postowski**, M.P.P. student, UMBC
- **Amanda Latimore**, Public Sector Initiatives Lead, Bloomberg American Health Initiative
- **David Farkas**, Revenue Policy Analyst, Comptroller of Maryland (M.ECPA ’14)
- **Catherine Mata Hidalgo**, Ph.D. student in Public Policy, UMBC (M.ECPA ’18)
Student Highlights

In February, four students participated in the 2019 NASPAA-Batten Student Simulation Competition on Global Migration at Villanova University. At the event, public policy students competed in teams by tackling real world data analysis problems, creating policy memos, and presentations. This year, UMBC was represented by Grace De Oro, Andrew Reinel, Leah Dubots, and Jose Godoy.

Faculty Highlights

In March, Elaine Vaurio, Tom Gower, and Adebola Darmola attended the 2019 APPAM Regional Student Conference at American University in Washington, DC. Public Policy students from across the region gathered to network and present their research.

In March, Poulomi Banerjee, Alexandra Nguyen, and Leah Dubots participated in a Reverse Career Fair, hosted on campus by the UMBC Career Center. Instead of moving among employer booths, the students were stationary, representing themselves and the School of Public Policy as potential employers stopped by to learn more about their backgrounds and our programs.

Professor Chris Curran published an article in The Conversation about the effectiveness of traditional school disciplinary measures like suspension. His work was also featured in INSIGHT into Diversity as an example of teachers pursuing public policy degrees to better advocate for good education policy. Before pursuing his Ph.D., Professor Curran was a middle school science teacher.


Professor John Rennie Short wrote multiple articles for The Conversation, including a piece discussing the dangers of a shared road for
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pedestrians and cyclists, and another about New York City’s efforts to address traffic congestion.

He was also featured on Radiospunken about US-China-Taiwan relations and how recent legislation might affect them.


Public Policy’s Director Professor Susan Sterett traveled to South Africa in March to serve as a mentor in the Early Career Scholars Workshop at the Centre for Law and Society at the University of Cape Town. The program included scholars from Kenya, South Africa, Tanzania, the United States, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

Alumni Highlights

Lawrence Jones II (M.P.P. ’11) has created a consulting firm for early stage biotech firms.

Brent J. Gibbons (Ph.D. ’13) published an article with Professor David Salkever in February in the journal Administration and Policy in Mental Health and Mental Health Services Research. The article is titled “Working with a Severe Mental Illness: “Estimating the Causal Effects of Employment on Mental Health Status and Total Mental Health Costs.”

Ian Stockwell (Ph.D. ’14) is leading a research team at The Hilltop Institute that is designing and implementing a model that will predict the risk of avoidable hospitalizations for Maryland Medicare patients. Stockwell is Hilltop’s Senior Director of Analytics and Research and Chief Data Scientist.

Sergio I. Prada (Ph.D. ’10) was promoted to Head of Research for Fundación Valle del Lili, Colombia, the prestigious hospital ranked third in Latin America.
Announcements

The School of Public Policy is thrilled to welcome Dr. Peter Henderson as a Policy Fellow. Dr. Henderson has served as a Senior Advisor in the Office of President Freeman Hrabowski at UMBC since 2013. He has long worked on inclusion in STEM education, including as a Director at the National Academies. He is an historian with expertise in public housing policy, and has served as an expert in complex housing litigation in Baltimore.

Dr. Henderson holds an M.P.P. from Harvard University and a Ph.D. in History from The Johns Hopkins University.

In March, Dr. Henderson gave a public talk in Public Policy Director Dr. Susan Sterett’s course: “Public Housing in Baltimore, Discrimination, and Complex Litigation: Reflections from Experience as an Expert.”

We are looking forward to further collaboration, research, and guest lecturing with Dr. Henderson in his new role as Policy Fellow!

Upcoming events

A talk by Maryland Attorney General
Brian E. Frosh

April 22, 2019
7-8:30pm
AOK Library Gallery, UMBC

Attorneys General
Challenging Federal Policies

A Discussion with Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh

April 22, 2019
7-8:30pm
Albin O. Kuhn Library Gallery
Light refreshments will be served.

As attorney general for Maryland, Brian E. Frosh has joined multiple states in lawsuits challenging actions by the Trump Administration including the investigation sweeping order, the 2018 order to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, the disavowal of a national emergency at the border, protecting the Affordable Care Act, and the environment issues abuses of the U.S. Constitution.

Attorney General Frosh will discuss the legal and political issues surrounding Maryland’s involvement in these cases. Frosh was elected to the office in 2014. Prior to his current office, he served in the Maryland General Assembly for 38 years, including 10 years as chairman of the Senate Justice Proceedings Committee. He has also been an attorney in private practice since 1976.

Graduation: May 22, 2019
Keep in touch

We want to hear from you!

Do you have an achievement or event you would like to share with UMBC public policy community?

Send highlights and news to Sally Helms (helms@umbc.edu) to keep in touch and be featured in an upcoming newsletter.

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