

May 2022 Newsletter

Welcome from the Director

Dear Public Policy community,

We have a lot to celebrate this spring, including the arrival of beautiful weather! To kick off summer, we recently celebrated the graduation of six masters students and one Ph.D., and we were excited to toast them *in person* (COVID-consciously and outside) for the first time in over two years.

We are also celebrating the establishment of a new fellowship: the Judy Yin Shih Fellowship for the Advancement of Health Policy Research, thanks to the generous support of Ph.D. alumna Dr. Judy Yin Shih. We were also able to award a new group of students fellowships from the DiPentima and Yarmolinsky funds.

Recently, UMBC was named a “Research 1” or “R1” institution by the the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education. This category affirms what we already knew about the quality and rigor of our doctoral program’s academic training and research opportunities, and recognizes UMBC in the ranks of top research universities.

Finally, with great fondness, we wish our long-time administrative assistant Pam Doppler and faculty member Dr. Tormos-Aponte farewell, as they move to other opportunities. At the same time, we are thrilled to welcome Dianna Kearney to the Public Policy staff. I hope you will join me in congratulating all of our community members in transition, and help us celebrate their accomplishments!



Nancy A. Miller, Ph.D.

Director, School of Public Policy

****Congratulations** to our
May 2022 graduates!**

Jack Casper-Woodhead, M.P.P.

Alex Nguyen, M.P.P.

Alexandra DeCraene, M.P.P.

Abbey Farmer, M.P.P.

Donte Coleman, M.P.P.

Deveraux Smith, M.P.P.

Lauren Mauriello, Ph.D.

Student Highlights

The School of Public Policy is thrilled to announce the establishment of a new fellowship: the **Judy Yin Shih Fellowship for the Advancement of Health Policy Research**.

Dr. Judy Yin Shih is a 2002 School of Public Policy alumna, with a focus on health policy. Dr. Shih's dissertation examined the impact of an intensive case management program on health care costs and service utilization for a Medicaid population of children with rare and expensive medical conditions. Dr. Shih is active in community and philanthropic endeavors, and has served on several boards including the inaugural Board of Trustees for Southern Oregon University, the American Association of University Women (Ashland Branch), the Johns Hopkins Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences Advisory Board, and the Marquette University Arts and Sciences College Leadership Council. In addition to her Ph.D., Dr. Shih has a B.S. in psychology from Iowa State University and a M.S. in clinical psychology from Marquette University.

The Judy Yin Shih Fellowship for the Advancement of Health Policy Research is intended to assist School of Public Policy doctoral candidates in devoting the necessary time and attention toward the expeditious completion of their dissertation in the field of health and mental health policy.

Ph.D. candidate Alison Watkins is the first recipient of the Judy Yin Shih Fellowship. Her research interest focuses on how patient care is currently being impacted by drug shortages and how physicians and hospital pharmacists are handling this crisis. Drug shortage in the United States is a well known problem in the medical community, which has resulted in costly health impacts as well as economic losses. The research will use current drug shortage tracking methods as well as semistructured interviews to shed some more light on the problem.



Dr. Judy Yin Shih and Alison Watkins

This spring, we were also fortunate to award a new round of DiPentima and Yarmolinsky student fellowships:

- Catherine Mata Hidalgo (DiPentima)**
- Tanya Sayyed (DiPentima)**
- Melody Pinamang (Yarmolinsky)**
- Michele Berry (Yarmolinsky)**
- Shawana Lachir (Yarmolinsky)**
- Michele Caldaron (Yarmolinsky)**

[**Learn more about our student fellowships.**](#)

Ph.D. candidate Catherine Mata-Hidalgo was featured on a panel at the 2021 [APPAM Fall Research Conference](#) (rescheduled to March 2022). Mata-Hidalgo and Public Policy **Professor Jane A. Lincove** shared their joint work on the effects of a non-tested alternative for high school graduation.

Ph.D. candidate Rudy de Leon Dinglas received an award from the [American Society of Public Administration \(ASPA\)](#). He was named a 2021 Emerging Leader for ASPA's Center for Accountability and Performance.

Ph.D. student and M.P.P. '21 alumna Poulomi Banerjee was awarded the 2022 Rising Star award for District II (Mid-Atlantic) of the Council for Advancement and Support of Education. This award recognizes a District II professional who has less than five years of advancement experience and demonstrates the potential for leadership in the areas of Advancement Services, Alumni Relations, Philanthropy, or Communications and Marketing. It honors the accomplishments of those whose early success demonstrates their enthusiasm for and commitment to the profession, and an understanding of the needs and goals of the philanthropic tradition.



Casilda Pagan (San Diego State) and Poulomi Banerjee

Ph.D. student Adebola Daramola participated in the May conference "Measuring Development 2022: The Role of Mobile Data in Global Development Research," hosted by the World Bank and UC-Berkeley's Center for Effective Global Action.

Hellos and Goodbyes

After sixteen years of working with the School of Public Policy as our Administrative Assistant, we said farewell to **Pam Doppler** in March, as she transitioned to another role within the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences at UMBC. Since 2006, she has helped keep the School running smoothly working with faculty, students, and staff. We are so thankful for the work she has done over the years, and will miss her greatly!

In that vein, we welcome **Dianna Kearney** to the School of Public Policy as our new Administrative Assistant. She joins us from the City of Baltimore's Department of Public Works and Enoch Pratt Free Library, and is one of the friendliest faces you will encounter on the 4th floor of PUP. Please stop by and say "hello" when you come to class or visit.

This summer, we will also say "farewell" to **Dr. Fernando Tormos-Aponte**, who will be joining the faculty at the University of Pittsburg. Dr. Tormos-Aponte joined Public Policy in 2019 as a post-doctoral associate, and was converted to tenure track in 2020.

Ph.D. student Laura Mateczun co-authored two publications with Public Policy faculty. The book *Cybersecurity and Local Government* (published in April) was co-authored with **Professor Emeritus Donald Norris** and UMBC's Richard Forno. She also co-wrote the article "Legal Claims and Compensation in Climate-Related Disasters" with **Professor Susan Sterett**, which was published in *Political Science Quarterly*.

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Faculty Highlights

In April, UMBC hosted the RetriEVER Empowered event to celebrate the accomplishments of the community, and Public Policy faculty were able to showcase their research.

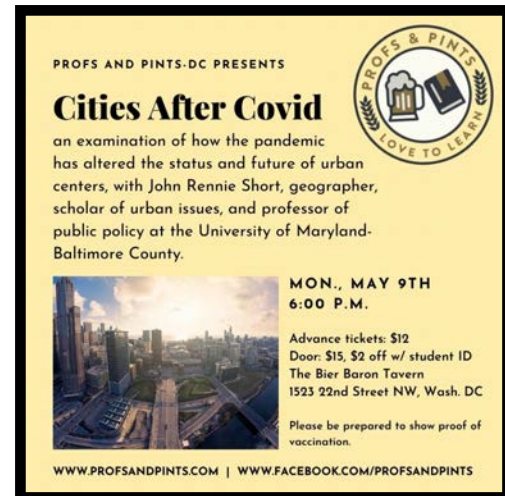


Top: Dr. Mir Usman Ali, UMBC President Dr. Freeman Hrabowski, Dr. Pamela R. Bennett, and Dr. Zoë M. McLaren.
Bottom: Drs. Hrabowski, Ali, Bennett, and McLaren.

UMBC News highlighted **Professor Pamela R. Bennett's** new book *Parenting in Privilege or Peril: How Social Inequality Enables or Derails the American Dream* in April. In the book, Dr. Bennett explores some of the social, educational, and economic factors that impact the decisions that middle- and working-class parents make in hopes that their children can attain the "American dream." In February, Dr. Bennett discussed college access and affordability on the public radio show *Marketplace*.

Professor Fernando Tormos-Aponte was featured on public radio show *The Takeaway* in February, where he discussed Puerto Rico's history, economic struggles, and governance in the light of early 2022 protests by public workers. He was also awarded the inaugural Minority-Serving Institution Virtual Book Workshop Award to support upcoming book authorship.

Professor John Rennie Short gave a talk in the Washington, D.C. series "Professors and Pints" about how the pandemic has altered the status and future of cities.



Professor Emeritus George R. La Noue published two pieces on education policy. In one, he discusses the question of if donors should give endowment gifts. In the second, he explores an aspect of free speech: compelled speech.

Research Recognition

In February, UMBC was named an **Research 1 (R1)** institution, a tier of doctoral universities with very high research activity. UMBC News explains, "Carnegie's research activity index is based on many factors, including productivity in research and creative achievement, graduate education, and research expenditures across a broad range of fields. The university's classification as an R1 university with comprehensive doctoral programs reflects the strength and diversity of UMBC's research portfolio."

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 Myriam Ralston (myriam@umbc.edu) to keep in touch and be featured in an upcoming newsletter.



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