

December 2023 Newsletter

Welcome from the Director

Dear Public Policy community,

As we close out another year, I am grateful to all of our talented faculty and students, and to the UMBC community as a whole, for their continued support and efforts at making the School of Public Policy shine.

This year, we celebrate more masters and doctoral graduates, fellowships, awards, and the ability to gather and recognize accomplishments.

In October, Ph.D. alumnus Dr. Josh Michael was honored by the University as Outstanding Alumnus in the Social Sciences. This is the third year in a row that award has gone to a Public Policy alumnus, and we are beyond proud of the contributions our alumni make to the community every day - even if they don't make headlines!

This year, our annual Judith A. Shinogle Memorial Lecture featured Ph.D. candidate Tanguy Ringoir, and we celebrated his achievements with a hybrid in-person/online event. We've worked hard over the past couple of years to make our events accessible to those joining us in person and from afar, and I think we have developed a good model to include everyone.

We were also honored to bring Dr. Udi Sommer to campus for a guest lecture and panel discussion on big data and cybersecurity. It was exciting to dive into this policy area with external experts and those within the UMBC community.

As we wrap up 2023, I hope you have a great winter break, and we'll see you in the New Year!

Nancy A. Miller, Ph.D.

Director, School of Public Policy



****Congratulations** to our December 2023 graduates!**

Erinn Harris, Ph.D. (August)
Margaret Kaii-Ziegler, Ph.D.
Rudy de Leon Dinglas, Ph.D.
Alizia Sollins, M.P.P.
Alison Watkins, Ph.D.



School highlights

Judith A. Shinogle Memorial Fellowship and Lecture

In November, the School of Public Policy hosted its 11th annual Judith A. Shinogle Memorial Lecture. The 2023 Fellowship awardee and speaker was **Ph.D. candidate Tanguy Ringoir** who presented his talk **“The Growing Influence of Hospital Market Concentration: Impacts on Quality, Profitability, and Medicaid Expansion.”**

The Judith A. Shinogle Memorial Fellow is chosen by a faculty panel and awarded each year to a doctoral student for their notable contribution to research in health policy. Dr. Judith Ann “Judy” Shinogle was a Senior Research Scientist with the Maryland Institute for Policy Analysis and Research and Adjunct Associate Professor of Public Policy, who passed away in May 2012. [View all lectures here.](#)



Dr. Zoë McLaren and Tanguy Ringoir

Big Data Lecture and Panel

Earlier this fall, Public Policy hosted Dr. Udi Sommer of Tel Aviv University for a lecture on Big Data policy. Dr. Sommer provided a look at big data regulation and policy-crafting in mid-sized countries. The panel discussion and Q&A that followed added insight into the ins and outs of data and AI regulation.

Joining Dr. Sommer were panelists Elliot Talbert-Goldstein (IS Ph.D. candidate), Dr. James Foulds (IS professor) and **Laura Mateczun (Public Policy Ph.D. student).**

Later that evening, Dr. Sommer held a mentoring workshop for graduate students.

The event was cosponsored by the Departments of Information Systems, Political Science, and Economics; and the The Center for Social Science Scholarship.



Dr. Udi Sommer

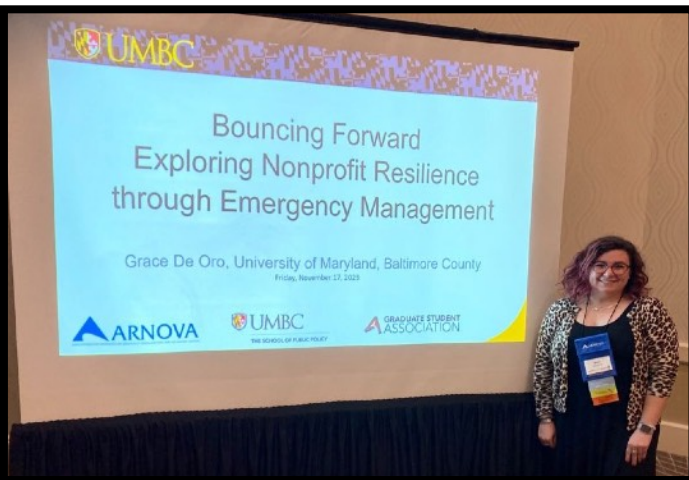


Dr. Udi Sommer, Dr. James Foulds, Laura Mateczun, and Elliot Talbert-Goldstein

Student highlights

Ph.D. student Ridwan Islam Sifat attended the Southeastern Conference for Public Administration (SECoPA) 2023 in Atlanta, GA. His two paper proposals have been accepted for presentation at the Conference on Policy Process Research (COPPR24) at Syracuse University and the Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Conference 2024.

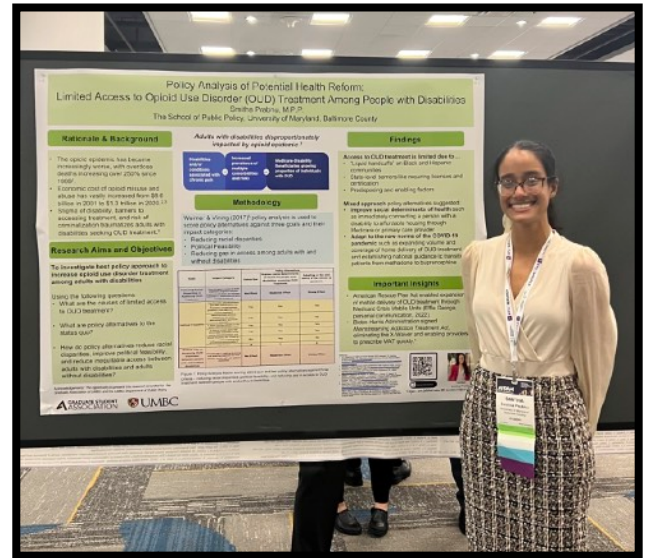
Ph.D. candidate and DiPentima Fellow Grace De Oro was awarded the 2023 ARNOVA Conference Scholarship to attend and present her work titled "Bouncing Forward: Exploring Nonprofit Resilience during COVID-19 through Emergency Management."



Grace De Oro

Ph.D. student Taylor West was chosen as a NOAA NCAS-M Fellow, and will begin her fellowship in Spring 2024. The NCAS-M Cooperative Science Center funded by the NOAA Educational Partnership Program is comprised of 9 partner institutions, including UMBC. Its mission is to increase the number of graduates from underrepresented communities working in NOAA-related sciences, like Atmospheric Sciences and Meteorology.

Ph.D. student Smitha Prabhu attended and presented at the annual APPAM conference, displaying her work during a poster session on Opioid Use Disorder treatment among people with disabilities.



Smitha Prabhu

Faculty highlights

Professor Jane Lincove and **Ph.D. alumna Dr. Catherine Mata** recently published an article in the journal *Education Finance and Policy* titled "A Bridge to Graduation: Post-Secondary Effects of an Alternative Pathway for Students Who Fail High School Exit Exams." In the article, they explore alternative pathways to high school exit exams and associated employment and education outcomes. **Dr. Lincove** has also played a key role in new research on expanding access and equity in New Orleans Schools, including authoring the report "[The Effects of Unified Enrollment Systems on New Orleans Schools.](#)"

Seeking the best books about a changing climate? Pandemics are more likely as our climate changes, and books about managing pandemics are climate books. **Professor Susan Sterett** [shares recommendations](#) and draws links, including with her new book, on the book recommendation site Shepherd.com.

Professor Loren Henderson's book *Race, Ethnicity, and the COVID-19 Pandemic* has been selected as an Outstanding Academic Title of 2023 by *Choice Reviews*. Choice received 14,000 submissions this year for review and selected less than 4000 to review. Of those less than 500 are identified as a Choice Outstanding book.

Professor Emeritus John Rennie Short published a new book on cities titled *The Urban Now*. The publisher describes it: "Drawing upon over a quarter of a century's worth of research, *The Urban Now* illuminates our present urban condition. John Rennie Short captures the main features of this moment of urban significance, investigating the city as a crucial arena strategically located between global flows and national surfaces." **Dr. Short** also published an article in *The Conversation* on the future of downtown districts in U.S. cities.



In September, **Professor Emeritus George La Noue** gave a lecture at the University of Florida titled "The Role of Campus Public Policy Debates in Civic Education: Will Florida be the Model?" Florida passed a law based on

recommendations in Dr. La Noue's book *Silenced Stages: The Loss of Academic Freedom and Campus Policy Debates*. The law requires each of the 16 Florida public university campuses to create an office responsible for hosting and recording public policy debates. In November, **Dr. La Noue** was a panelist on a Federalist Society webinar on the impact of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision on campus admissions preferences (*SFFA v. Harvard and UNC*) as it relates to racial preferences in employment and contracting.

Alumni highlights

Alumna Cheryl Camillo (Ph.D. 2018) published a research article in the November 2023 issue of *Health Affairs*. As part of a larger research project, she is leading for the Coronavirus Variants Rapid Response Network (CoVaRR-Net) that is performing a comprehensive comparative analysis of the COVID-19 vaccination campaigns of Canada's provinces and territories, her team investigated whether provincial proof-of-vaccination requirements had an impact on vaccine uptake and, if so, what the impact was by age group. Drawing on evidence from their study, they recommend that, when formulating policies to promote uptake of vaccines, policymakers and health system managers consider the differential responses of age groups and allocate resources accordingly.

Alumnus Brian Frazee (M.P.P. 2012), president of the UMBC Alumni Association, was featured in *UMBC Magazine's* "Meet a Retriever" story. Frazee is the president and CEO of the Delaware Hospital Association.

Alumnus Brent Gibbons (Ph.D. 2013) was featured at an Alumni Panel event with the Center for Social Science Scholarship, which was later turned into an episode of the podcast *Retrieving the Social Sciences*.

Alumna Jamie Chriqui (Policy Sciences Ph.D. 2000) was awarded the Stephen P. Hooker Outstanding Research Award from the American Public Health Association Physical Activity Section at the 2023 annual meeting of the American Public Health Association that was held in Atlanta in November.

Alumna Lauren Hall (Ph.D. 2023) was featured in the Fall 2023 Economics and Public Policy seminar series, where she presented her talk "Do Equity Measures Counteract Unintended Consequences of Performance Funding? Estimating Impacts on Enrollment of Black, Hispanic/Latina, and Low-Income Students."

Alumnus Joshua Michael (Ph.D. 2022) has been awarded the "Outstanding Alumnus" award for the Social Sciences at the 2023 UMBC Alumni Awards. He was appointed to the Maryland State Board of Education by Governor Wes Moore in Spring 2023, and was elected unanimously as Vice President of the Board a few months later. He currently serves as the Executive Director of the Sherman Family Foundation, which provides grants to non-profit organizations to promote education and opportunities for young people in Baltimore focusing on early childhood and K12 education.

Alumna Sherece Y. West-Scantlebury (Ph.D. 2007) has been named among top women in non-profit leadership by Women We Admire. She received UMBC's Outstanding Alumnus/na in the Social and Behavioral Sciences in October 2013. **Dr. West-Scantlebury** is the President & CEO of the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation, a private foundation that seeks to disrupt the systems that block Arkansans who are striving to get out of poverty.



Sherece Y. West-Scantlebury

In October, **alumnus Felipe Millan (M.P.P. 2020)** spoke at the MD Department of Health Office of Suicide Prevention 35th annual conference with the theme of Connecting to Hope. His talk focused on mental health and disability and the ways in which individuals with disabilities can be caught between seen as inherently "special" (inspirational solely on account of dealing with a disability) and "suspect" (disability as an expression of some moral shortcoming).

Millan was also recently interviewed for an episode of the podcast "Reimagining Life - from pain to purpose" where he spoke about the intersection between disability and professional life, and growing up between two countries (Mexico and the United States) with different cultural expressions of disability.



UMBC alumnus Mark Chang, UMBC President Valerie Sheares Ashby, Joshua Michael, and Political Science Professor Dr. Laura Antkowiak

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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