

September 2025 Newsletter

Welcome from the Director

Dear Public Policy community,

Welcome to the Fall 2025 semester! We are thrilled to welcome back to campus returning students, new students, and all of our faculty and affiliates. Alumni, you are always welcome back as well! We love to see familiar faces, and are proud to boast such a robust alumni network, include those who teach for us, participate in events, and stay in touch however they can.

While news and climate beyond campus are at times tumultuous, I am heartened that our community has remained strong and supportive of one another. Every day, our faculty and staff show up to educate and call on the next cohort of leaders in public policy, and our students answer the call. At UMBC, we value the dialogue and diversity that every community member brings to the table, and I am grateful that you all continue to show up to learn and have difficult conversations during these uncertain times. The accomplishments we celebrate in this newsletter are just an example the community's impact and resilience.

Before I leave you to read our good news, I'd like to invite you to save the date for our annual **Judith A. Shinogle Memorial Award Lecture: Wednesday, November 12 at 6pm.**

This year, we celebrate awardee **Tanya Kreutzer Sayyed**, who will present her research at the lecture. We welcome you to attend on campus or via Webex, and we will have more details to come. This annual event celebrates the memory of

Dr. Judith Ann "Judy" Shinogle, Senior Research Scientist and Adjunct Associate Professor of Public Policy, who passed away in May 2012. It also celebrates the accomplishments of one doctoral student whose work in health policy exemplifies Judy's scholarship.

We hope to see you soon, and until then, Happy Fall!

Loren Henderson, Ph.D.

Director and Professor, School of Public Policy



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Student highlights



This summer, **Ph.D. candidate Smitha Prabhu** was awarded the Judy Yin Shih Fellowship for the Advancement of Health Policy Research. Smitha graduated from Johns Hopkins University with a B.A. in Philosophy and a Minor in Bioethics and worked with community organizations in Baltimore for at least seven years, including the Baltimore City Health Department, International Rescue Committee, and Baltimore Harm Reduction Coalition. Her education and work experience inspire her research interest in harm reduction, maternal and child health policy, and equitable public policy. Her dissertation research explores providers' perspectives and the impact of surveillance practices on the quality of care provided to families affected by substance use disorders. Smitha currently works for the Aging and Disability team at the Hilltop Institute, where she conducts policy analysis and program evaluation to advance innovative service delivery for older adults and people with chronic conditions and disabilities.



Smitha Prabhu



Ph.D. student Matthew Reeds was selected as a Fellow in the 2025–2026 Bunting Neighborhood Leadership Program (BNLP) at the Johns Hopkins Urban Health Institute. The BNLP was launched in 2016 as a unique initiative designed to equip the next generation of Baltimore's community leaders with the knowledge, skills, and tools necessary to lead transformational change.



Matthew Reeds



M.P.P. student Riley Donahue was recently hired as Chief of Staff for Delegate Cheryl Pasteur of the Maryland General Assembly. She graduates in December 2025.



Ph.D. student Linda Appeynarh was selected for as a 2025–2026 Fellow in the National Community Reinvestment Coalition (NCRC) Fellowship for Equitable Development, with the Association for Enterprise Opportunity (AEO) as her host site. AEO creates economic opportunities for underserved entrepreneurs.



Ph.D. candidate (and M.P.P. alumnus) Ridwan Islam Sifat attended the International Political Science Association (IPSA)-Antalya Summer School for Social Science Research Methods. Additionally, his collaborative research, "Assessing Healthcare Delivery and Service Quality in Community Clinics," has been accepted for publication in the *Journal of Health Management*.

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Ph.D. student (and M.P.P. alumna) Taylor

West completed an internship with NOAA where she spent 16 weeks in Boulder, CO researching air quality monitoring and drought in the Pacific Northwest. She also spent time in Omaha, Nebraska working on Wildfire Smoke Modeling, Mortality, and Air Quality Monitoring in the Pacific Northwest. She published an [article](#) in the Kansas State *One Health Newsletter* exploring the impacts of drought and wildfires in Oregon.



Taylor West (r) and mentor Owen Cooper,
NOAA Chemical Sciences Laboratory

Faculty highlights



Professor Chul Hyun Park and his co-authors published a [new manuscript](#) in the *Technology in Society*, one of the leading journals in society-technology research, "Mapping the landscape of cybersecurity preparedness: A systematic review of non-technological determinants and consequences." He [also published](#) a new article in *Social Science & Medicine*, one of the leading journals in public health research. The article, "A Panel Data Analysis of the Impact of Government Trust on Support for Universal and Air Travel Vaccine Mandates During the COVID-19 Pandemic," looks at how trust in the executive branch influences support for collective public health measures.



Director and Professor Loren Henderson published research in the journal [Implementation](#)

Science Communications. In the study, Dr. Henderson and co-authors examined internal facilitation (IF) processes among hospitals participating in Maryland's perinatal quality improvement collaboratives (QICs) to implement national guidelines for reducing primary cesarean births.



Professor Emeritus John Rennie Short was interviewed on a [podcast](#), wrote an [article](#) for *The Conversation*, and published a [new book](#) about the geopolitics, diplomacy, and tensions driving the South China Sea dispute. He also published another [article](#) in *The Conversation* about a China-centric "New World Order."



Professor Emeritus George La Noue wrote an article "Ames and DEI's Dim Future" exploring the broader implications of the unanimous Supreme Court decision opinion in *Ames v. Ohio Department of Youth Services*. It was published in *Law & Liberty* on July 21, 2025. He published an [essay](#) in the same [journal](#) exploring the history of challenges to race-based scholarships and the role of Office for Civil Rights investigations and judicial proceedings after litigation.

Alumni highlights



Alumnus Dave Anguish (M.P.P. '19) was interviewed by [UMBC Magazine](#) about his advocacy for international students and immigrant communities as a UMBC student and employee.



Dave Anguish (r) and his husband, Ricardo Ortiz, with their puppy, Lucy. (Image courtesy of Anguish, via [UMBC Magazine](#))



Alumnus Johnny Olszewski (Ph.D. '17) has been named the 2025 Outstanding Alumnus for Social & Behavioral Sciences. The former Baltimore County Executive and current U.S. Representative for Maryland's 2nd District will be honored at the UMBC Alumni Awards on Wednesday, October 29th. The Alumni Awards are an annual celebration UMBC Alumni Association Board of Directors holds to honor alumni accomplishments.



Representative Johnny Olszewski, Ph.D.
(Photo by Marlayna Demond '11/UMBC, via UMBC Magazine)



Alumna Laura Mateczun (Ph.D. '25) published articles on cybersecurity in local government with **Professor Emeritus Don Norris**. They were published in the Journal of Cyber Policy and the Journal of Cybersecurity Education, Research and Practice.

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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