

May 2021 Newsletter

Welcome from the Director

Dear Public Policy community,

Welcome to the Spring 2021 newsletter, and the end of the Spring 2021 semester. As COVID-19 vaccines are distributed and the world starts to resume some sense of normalcy once again, we look forward to safely resuming an on-campus presence in the Fall. Yet we recognize that UMBC will never completely go back to the way it was before the pandemic. At the School of Public Policy, we will continue to be flexible and open to new teaching and learning approaches, and we look forward to offering our top-tier courses and events with accessibility and inclusivity in mind.

This semester, our students, faculty, and alumni have accomplished a lot. These accomplishments are evident not only in publications, promotions, research, and coursework, but in the U.S. News ranking UMBC's School of Public Policy in the list of Best Public Affairs graduate programs.

As we celebrate the successes of our May 2021 graduates, and our community members, we have never been prouder to be part of the School of Public Policy at UMBC .

Nancy A. Miller, Ph.D.

Director, School of Public Policy



Dr. Nancy A. Miller

Up First

****Congratulations** to our Spring 2021 graduates!**

Chase Bailey, M.P.P.

Poulomi Banerjee, M.P.P.

Justin Lane, M.P.P.

Meghan Lynch, M.P.P.

Peter Morrison, M.P.P.

Andrea Salizzoni, M.P.P.

Tori Simmons, M.P.P.

Ryan Wilkens, M.P.P.

Kathy Guggino, Ph.D.

Jim Kruger, Ph.D.

Student Highlights

Graduating M.P.P. (and soon-to-be Ph.D.) student **Poulomi Banerjee** represented UMBC at the NASPAA-Batten Student Simulation Competition in February. She and her team acted as the fake country of Malldaff and made policy decisions to fight a global pandemic crisis mirroring COVID-19.



Poulomi Banerjee (top right) and her simulation teammates.

M.P.P. student **Meghan Lynch**, Vice President of the Graduate Student Association, was interviewed on WYPR's *On the Record* in January where she discussed voting and what the inauguration of President Biden means to college and graduate students. She was also featured on the first episode of the Center for Democracy and Civic Life's new podcast, *Retriever Tales*, where she shared what she has learned as a UMBC student about building collective power.



Meghan Lynch

In January, we were fortunate to be able to select two more students as DiPentima Fellows. The Renato DiPentima Fellowship supports Public Policy doctoral student success at UMBC through grants to fund educational expenses. One of our fellows, **Adebola Daramola**, will discuss his research and UMBC journey at the Public Policy External Advisory Board meeting in early May. Learn more about Public Policy Fellowships [here](#).



DiPentima Fellow Adebola Daramola



Faculty Highlights

Professors Yusuke Kuwayama, Mir Usman Ali, and Fernando Tormos-Aponte have received UMBC Summer Research Faculty Fellowships (SURFFs.) Dr. Kuwayama's research will focus on water pollution control costs. Dr. Ali's research will focus on citizen oversight organizations for police accountability. Dr. Tormos-Aponte's research will focus on the 2019 summer protest cycle in Puerto Rico. In March, Drs. Kuwayama and Tormos-Aponte participated in CAHSS Spring Faculty Microtalks, which give members of the College an opportunity to meet recently-hired tenure-track faculty and learn about their research. Dr. Ali participated in the Fall 2020 round of Microtalks.

Professor Mir Usman Ali was featured in two *Indy Star* articles this spring - one in which he weighed in on the Indiana state legislature considering a transfer of oversight of the Indianapolis police department to the state, and another in which he discussed civilian membership on the police oversight board in Indianapolis.

Professor Zoë McLaren was interviewed for a piece by *Bloomberg* where she discussed a recent study about vaccines disrupting COVID-19 transmission. She also wrote an article for *FiveThirtyEight* discussing why rolling out the COVID-19 vaccine based on specific eligibility requirements makes sense. In late April, she authored two op-eds in *Wired* and *The New York Times* about the vaccines and the social freedoms it allows.

Professor Susan Sterett spoke at the UMBC event "Balancing Inclusion and Free Speech" in January, where she discussed the challenges of balancing our shared commitments to free speech and equity and inclusion. In April, she spoke about her research on natural disasters and climate change at an Earth Week event hosted by UMBC's new chapter of the Sunrise Movement.



CAHSS New Faculty Microtalks

The Center for Social Science Scholarship, the Dresher Center for the Humanities, and the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences invite you to attend short talks by new faculty in the College.

Please join us on Friday, March 5th at noon via WebEx to meet recently hired tenure-stream faculty and learn about their research.

 Kerri Evans Assistant Professor Social Work	 Molly Franz Assistant Professor Psychology	 Karrin Godwin Assistant Professor Psychology	 Raimon Gorings Assistant Professor Language, Literacy, & Culture
 Yusuke Kuwayama Assistant Professor Public Policy	 Fernando Tormos-Aponte Assistant Professor Public Policy	 Brian Van Wyck Assistant Professor History	 Lira Yoon Assistant Professor Psychology

THE CENTER FOR SOCIAL SCIENCE SCHOLARSHIP at UMBC | THE DRESHER CENTER FOR THE HUMANITIES | COLLEGE OF ARTS, HUMANITIES, AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Professor John Rennie Short and alumna Dr. Lina Martinez (Ph.D. '12) published the article "The Pandemic City: Urban Issues in the Time of COVID-19" in the journal *Sustainability*. In the article, Drs. Short and Martinez explore the impact of the pandemic on four areas of urban structure and planning: transformations in the configuration of public spaces, transportation, urban connectivities, and urban economies. Dr. Short also wrote an article for *The Conversation* about why some cities will survive, and even thrive, the COVID-19 pandemic. In January, he was featured on the podcast *Emergency on Planet Sport* discussing how the climate emergency should impact how we plan for the Olympic Games. Finally, in his newest article for the journal *Frontiers in Sustainable Cities*, he explores three intersecting issues of cities: social difference, sustainability, and social inclusion.

Alumni Highlights

Alison Knowles (M.P.P. '20) was selected as a Legislative Fellow with the State of Maryland Department of Legislative Services with the Education Workgroup during the 2021 term.

Dr. Bernadette Hanlon (Ph.D. '07) was appointed Editor of the *Journal of Urban Affairs*. When her term officially starts July 1, 2021, she will be the sixth editor of the 42 year-old journal.

Dr. Nathaniel Jones, III (Ph.D. '02) was appointed President of the College of Alameda in Alameda, California. Dr. Jones previously served as Vice President at Moreno Valley College in Riverside County, CA.



Dr. Nathaniel Jones, III

UMBC President Freeman Hrabowski and Maryland House Speaker Adrienne Jones joined Baltimore County Executive and Public Policy **alumnus Dr. John "Johnny O" Olszewski (Ph.D. '17)** as part of a Black History Month Conversation Series.

Dr. Daryl Dutrow (Ph.D. '20) presented his dissertation "The Impact of Title IV-E Waivers on the Number of Children in Foster Care from 2012 to 2016" at the APPAM research conference in November 2020.

Dr. Elyse R. Grossman (M.P.P. '08, Ph.D. '14) coauthored an article with Psychology's Dr. Susan Sonnenschein in December 2020 about adult alcohol consumption in the US during COVID-19. In April, Dr. Grossman and article were featured in *The New York Times Magazine*.

The 2022 U.S. News Best Graduate School Rankings names several UMBC programs including public affairs as among the best in the nation. In an article by UMBC, multiple Public Policy alumni are highlighted, demonstrating the breadth of the Public Policy degree. Alumni highlighted include:

- **Rear Admiral Sylvia Trent-Adams (Ph.D. '06)** former Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health for the United States and now Chief Strategy Officer for the University of North Texas.
- **Dr. Nathaniel Jones, III (Ph.D. '02)** President of the College of Alameda
- **Dr. John A. Olszewski Jr. (Ph.D. '17)** Baltimore County executive
- **Dr. Deborah Trautman (Ph.D. '04)** CEO of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing
- **Qubilah Huddleston (M.P.P. '17)** education policy analyst at the DC Policy Fiscal Institute
- **Steve Sharkey (M.P.P. '06)** Director of the Baltimore City Department of Transportation



Rear Admiral Sylvia Trent-Adams

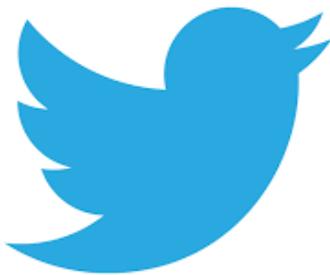
Daniel Knopp (M.P.P. '17) wrote his masters thesis on Baltimore police and body cameras. He now works for the Data Driven Strategies Bureau of the Baltimore Police Department implementing metrics to increase police accountability and community engagement.

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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