

## Winter 2018 Newsletter

### Welcome from the Director

As 2018 and the fall semester come to a close, we're happy to see all our faculty, students, and alumni have accomplished at UMBC and the School of Public Policy. Four of our alumni have recently been elected to office, and we congratulate them. Others are serving in important policy roles. Current students and recent alums have presented at conferences on their work on policing and on employment in public service. We have students talking to county managers and publishing in peer-reviewed journals on school safety, and on the increasingly pressing issue of cybersecurity.

Looking to 2019, we are excited about new opportunities. Several of our M.P.P. students will participate in a policy simulation on global migration. They will join hundreds of students doing the same simulation at sites around the world. We plan on hosting a one-day public policy camp for undergraduates interested in public policy in conjunction with a leading public policy organization. We will be participating in a AAAS workshop on science and faith. Along the way, our students will continue to do good work and our faculty will contribute to making sense of policy issues in multiple national venues.

From all of us at the School of Public Policy, Happy New Year, and we can't wait to share all that 2019 will bring.

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

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PUBLIC POLICY BUILDING AT UMBC

### August and December 2018 Graduations

- Xiaobei Dong, M.P.P.  
(continuing in Ph.D. program)
- Sundiata Jangha, M.P.P.  
(continuing in Ph.D. program)
- Katherine Cox, M.P.P.
- Elyse Ashburn, M.P.P.
- Brianna Creed, M.P.P.
- Linda Ostermann, M.P.P.
- Kim Rhoton, M.P.P.
- Nolan O'Toole, M.A. ECPA
- Michelle Goddard, Ph.D.
- Harold Wallace, Ph.D.
- Cheryl Camillo, Ph.D.
- Jennifer Smith, Ph.D.
- Erin Stauder, Ph.D.

Congratulations to all of our  
2018 graduates!

## Student Highlights

December 2018

Ph.D. student **Catherine Mata Hidalgo** and alumna **Michelle Goddard (Ph.D. 2018)** presented at the Northeast Conference on Public Administration in Baltimore in November. Catherine's presentation was titled "Some causes of the poverty undercount under the Community Eligibility Provision of Baltimore City public schools." Michelle presented her paper titled "Strategic Management and Employee Morale: A Comparison of Two Federal Agencies."



CATHERINE MATA HIDALGO (TOP RIGHT)

Public Policy Emeritus Professor Donald F. Norris and Ph.D. student **Laura Mateczun** published an article with Professors Tim Finin and Anupam Joshi of UMBC's Computer Science and Electrical Engineering Department. The paper, published in the *Journal of Homeland Security and Emergency Management*, examines the most significant cybersecurity challenges facing local governments in America.

Ph.D. student **Xiaobei Dong** has worked since 2016 as a contracted research consultant for the National Center for Children in Poverty (NCCP), which is part of the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University. One of her projects resulted in a research brief that she coauthored. The brief, "How studies of QRIS measure quality improvement activities: An analysis of measures of training and technical assistance" was published in the NCCP's research journal.

Ph.D. student **Jennifer Walsh** was this year's recipient of the Judith Shinogle Award, and presented her work at the award ceremony in November. Jennifer studies the efficacy of the life-saving drug Naloxone on fighting the opioid epidemic. Professor Nancy Miller is her dissertation chair.

Judith Shinogle was a member of the research staff with the Maryland Institute for Policy Analysis and Research and an adjunct faculty member in the School of Public Policy before her untimely death. The award is presented each year to a Ph.D. student in the health policy specialization.

In attendance were members of the public health community, including nursing students and Maryland Department of Health staff, as well as members of Judith Shinogle's family.



PROFESSOR NANCY MILLER (ADVISOR) AND JENNIFER WALSH

## Faculty Highlights

December 2018

**Professor Roy Meyers** was awarded the 2018 Aaron Wildavsky Award by the Association for Budgeting and Financial Management. The award recognizes lifelong scholarly achievement in budgeting and financial management, and is named after Dr. Aaron Wildavsky, a pioneering scholar in government budget and public policy. Professor Meyers is a member of UMBC's Department of Political Science and is an Affiliate Professor of Public Policy.



**PROF. ROY MEYERS (RIGHT)**

The American Political Science Association's *PS: Political Science & Politics* published a [symposium](#) co-edited by **Professor Susan Sterett**, Director of the School of Public Policy, and Dr. Jennifer A. Diascro of the University of California Washington Program. The symposium focuses on improving inclusion in the profession by using experience to diagnose problems.

**Professor John Rennie Short** published three books in 2018:

*The Unequal City: Urban Resurgence*, *Displacement and the Making of Inequality in Global Cities*; *Hosting the Olympic Games: The Real Costs for Cities*; and *A Regional Geography of the United States and Canada: Toward a Sustainable Future*. The first two were published by Routledge, and the latter by Rowman & Littlefield.

In November, **Professor Pamela R. Bennett** spoke on a panel at the [Legislative Black Caucus](#) of Maryland's 23rd Annual Legislative Weekend. The two-day event focused on educating and engaging local leaders on a variety of topics impacting the African-American community in Maryland in order to craft policies for the coming decade. Professor Bennett participated on a panel during the session "Reconciliation and Equity, a Conversation on Race: Impact on Health" organized by the Health and Human Services Committee (chaired by Sen. Shirley Nathan-Pulliam) in partnership with the Baltimore chapter of the National Association of Health Services Executives (NAHSE).



**PROF. PAM BENNETT (AT RIGHT FRONT TABLE CORNER)**

**Professor F. Chris Curran** published a [study](#) which examines how the Chicago Safe Passage program, which places workers on designated "safe passage" streets around schools during morning and afternoon commute times, influences crime reported around schools. "The Chicago Safe Passage program is remarkable in its scale, currently employing over 1,000 monitors and serving nearly 160 schools; yet, to date, little empirical research had examined school district claims that the program reduces crime," notes Dr. Curran. The study provides the first peer-reviewed evidence on Safe Passage while also suggesting the need for future work to examine the program's impact on academic outcomes like feelings of safety, attendance, and achievement. The study has also been covered by [The Conversation](#) and the [Chicago Sun-Times](#).

## Alumni Highlights

December 2018

**Sylvia Trent-Adams (Ph.D. 2006)** was elected to the National Academy of Medicine. The election is one of the highest honors in the field, and recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to the medical sciences, public health, and health care. Trent-Adams was elected "for leading the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services efforts; working with counterparts at the WHO, the U.S. Army, and other governments to build systems of care and strengthen human resources for underserved populations; and contributing to scientific and policy advances to improve health of persons living with HIV/AIDS."

Trent-Adams is the Rear Admiral in the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, and is Deputy Surgeon General of the United States. As of January 2019, Trent-Adams will serve as Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health and Human Services.

**Sally Chan (Ph.D. 2017)** published an article in the October 2018 issue of the Journal of Adolescent Health. The article, "The Effect of the Affordable Care Act's Dependent Coverage Provision on Health Insurance Gaps for Young Adults With Special Healthcare Needs" discusses the impact the coverage of dependents with special health needs had on insurance gaps for these individuals. Dr. Chan's research found that



**REAR ADMIRAL SYLVIA TRENT-ADAMS**

the dependent coverage provision reduced the number of insurance gaps. The article was also pick up by The American Journal of Medicine's *AJM+* newsletter, which reaches 25,000 subscribers weekly.

On Election Day in November, four School of Public Policy alumni won their campaigns for public office during the Maryland 2018 elections. **John "Johnny O" Olszewski, Jr. (Ph.D. 2017)** won his first campaign bid for Baltimore County Executive, having previously served on local state boards. Delegate **Charles Sydnor, III (M.P.P. 2000)** of Maryland's District 44B won reelection to the Maryland House of Delegates. He was first elected to the House in 2014. **Jon Cardin (M. Policy Sciences 1996)** won election as Delegate representing Maryland's District 11 in the House of Delegates. He was previously elected to the House in 2002, 2006, and 2010. **Josh Hastings (M.P.P. 2017)** won election to the seven-member Wicomico County Council. Wicomico County is located in southeastern Maryland.



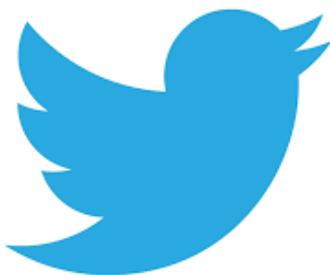
**JOHN OLSZEWSKI, JR. ON ELECTION NIGHT**

# 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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