

# Summer 2019 Newsletter

## Welcome from the Director

We have had an exciting summer, starting with May's graduation. Alumni have been promoted, students have served in summer internships, and faculty and students have gained new publications and submitted grant proposals. The summer has also been bittersweet, as we celebrated the retirements of faculty member Dr. David Salkever, who will continue his work at UMBC as Professor Emeritus, and our Graduate Program Coordinator Sally Helms, who has helped students navigate our program for over 27 years. We also said "farewell" to Education Policy expert Dr. F. Chris Curran, who starts a faculty position at the University of Florida College of Education this fall.

As the Fall 2019 semester begins I will focus on civic engagement in the School of Public Policy. Civic engagement is central to UMBC's mission, and in turn engagement defines the School. Recent alumni serve in nonprofits, professional associations, businesses, and in federal, state and local government. Alumni contribute to improving arts policy, education equity in computer science, and advocating for improved long-term care. Aligned with this mission, we have been deepening our collaborations with the Hilltop Institute, Maryland's premier institutions for policy-relevant research on healthcare. We also have faculty members serving on state advisory commissions.

Our alumni are integral in carrying on the civic-minded nature of our program. Sylvia Trent-Adams (Ph.D. 2006), who worked closely with Dr. Nancy Miller, currently serves as the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health for the United States. Last year, John Olszewski Jr. (Ph.D. 2017) was

elected Baltimore County Executive, and Steve Sharkey (M.P.P. 2006) was recently appointed Director of Baltimore City's Department of Transportation. Across the country and the world, our alumni are making waves in public service and public policy.

The 2019-2020 year will host exciting growth for the School of Public Policy. Shelley Morris has joined us as Graduate Program Coordinator, and is looking forward to working with our students. We are also searching for two new full-time faculty members to join the School. Finally, we are excited to welcome Dr. Fernando Tormos-Aponte as a postdoctoral research associate. His work on social movements, equity and government response to disaster are a welcome addition to the School. His work on how best to communicate science aligns well with the School's civic engagement.

As you get ready to start the academic year, check out the summer's highlights in this newsletter. We are very proud of all our students, faculty, and alumni accomplish on a daily basis. As always, to keep up on our events and announcements, follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [myUMBC groups](#). Charge those laptops, and we'll see you soon.



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

## Hello's and Farewell's

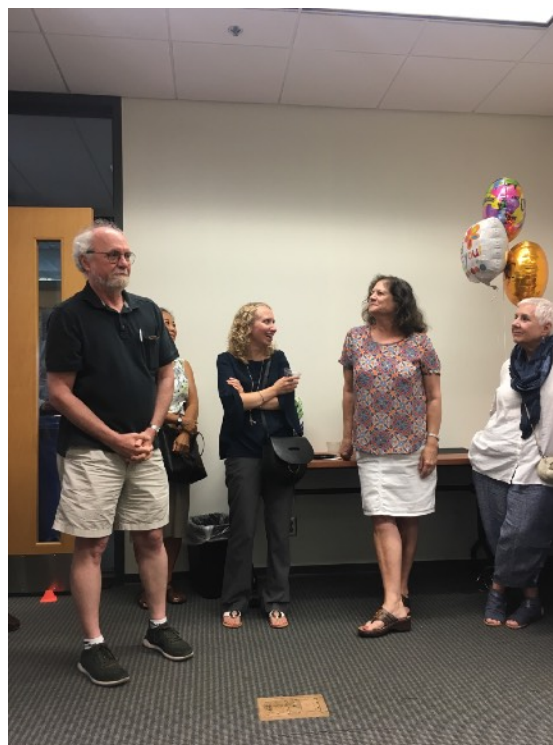
August 2019

The School of Public Policy is thrilled to welcome **Dr. Fernando Tormos-Aponte** to the UMBC School of Public Policy and the Department of Political Science as a postdoctoral research associate. Previously, Dr. Tormos-Aponte was a fellow with the Scholars Strategy Network based at the University of Missouri in St. Louis and a research fellow of the Southern Methodist University Latino Center for Leadership Development. He earned his M.A. and Ph.D. in Political Science from Purdue University, and a B.A. from the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras.

Dr. Tormos-Aponte specializes in social movements, identity politics, social policy, and transnational politics. His research focuses on how social movements overcome internal divisions and gain political influence. Tormos-Aponte's work has appeared in *Politics, Groups, and Identities*; *Environmental Policy and Governance*; *Alternautas*; and in the edited volume *The Legacy of Second-Wave Feminism in American Politics*. He is currently working on his first book, titled *Mobilizing Difference: The Power of Inclusion in Transnational Social Movements*. Tormos-Aponte has also written for *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, *Jacobin*, *St. Louis American*, and the "Entitle Blog."



**DR. FERNANDO TORMOS-APONTE**



**DR. BRENNAN TOASTING MS. HELMS AT HER SEND-OFF**

This summer has also held its fair share of happy farewells, as three of our faculty and staff members have set off in new directions in their careers and life. **Dr. David Salkever** and **Sally Helms** both retired from their positions after 42 years of service between them. Dr. Salkever has worked as a professor and advised many Ph.D. students that came to the School of Public Policy.

Sally Helms has been an integral part of Public Policy for 27 years, and has been a strong pillar of support for both students and faculty, leaving us with a legacy of her incredible work.

**Dr. F. Chris Curran** left Baltimore for sunny Florida weather and will join the faculty at the University of Florida's College of Education as an Associate Professor. We we wish him great success with the future that lies ahead of him, and look forward to reading more of his education policy articles.

We will miss these colleagues, but we wish them well with their next adventures.

## Student Highlights

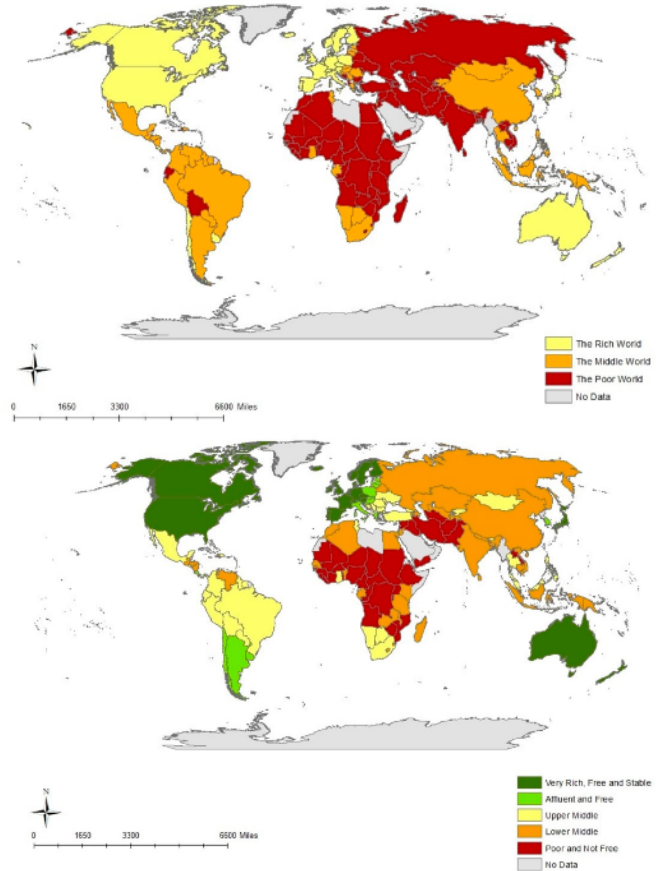
Ph.D. student **Jeevan Lohani** has been named an Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) 2019 Equity & Inclusion Fellowship Winner. The Fellowship supports travel and participation of students from traditionally underrepresented backgrounds to this year's APPAM Fall Research conference in Denver.

Professor **John Rennie Short**, Ph.D. student **Justin Velaz-Hagen**, and M.P.P. student **Leah Dubots** published the paper "What Do Global Metrics Tell Us about the World?" In the article, the authors examine various methods of measuring economic, social, and political characteristics of countries across the world.

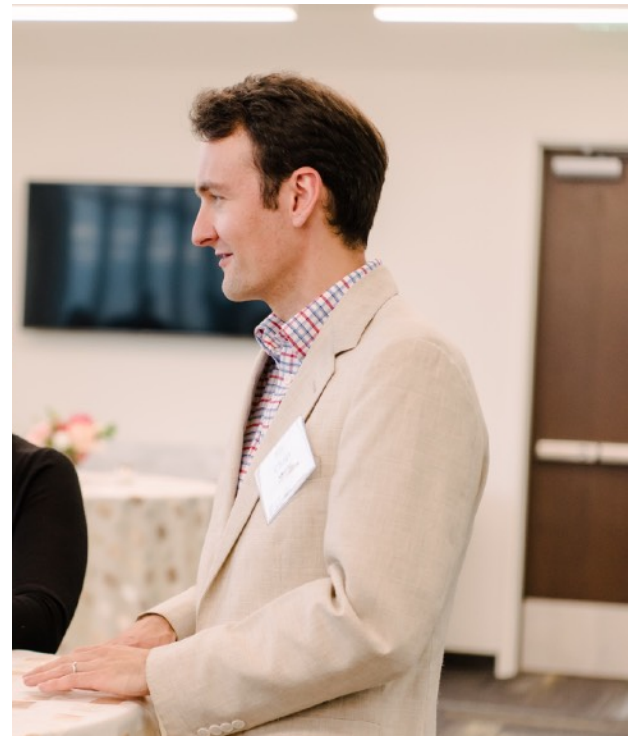
M.P.P student **Felipe Milan** won the Federal Government's Gears of Government Award for implementing a process improvement project with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration in the U.S. Department of Labor.

Ph.D. student **Deveraux Smith** was selected as the 2019-2020 Pat Schroeder Board Fellow for the Board of Directors of the Marguerite Casey Foundation. As a fellow, he will bring his experience in social justice and fighting poverty to the Board, proving a youth perspective, and gaining community leadership experience.

Professor **F. Chris Curran** and Ph.D. student **James Kitchin** released an article in the American Educational Research Association journal on early elementary science instruction. Using data from the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study, the authors explored the impacts of time spent and breadth of science topics taught on achievement in early elementary science classes.



**FIGURES 1 AND 2 FROM THE SHORT, VELAZ-HAGEN, AND DUBOTS ARTICLE: CONTRASTING WORLD CATEGORIZATIONS**



**PROFESSOR F. CHRIS CURRAN AT AN EVENT IN JUNE 2019**



## Faculty Highlights

In June, Professor **Tim Brennan** participated in the Global Antitrust Economics Conference at the NYU Stern School of Business. He later spoke on a panel at the [Technology Policy Institute](#), addressing the problem of how to reallocate the c-band spectrum.

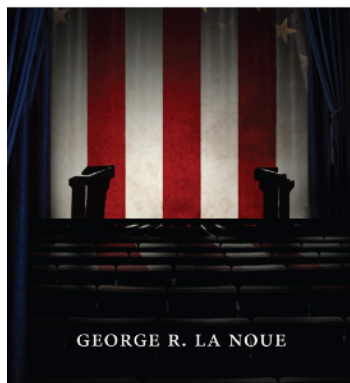
In July, Professor **John Rennie Short** wrote a piece in [The Conversation](#) about the recent Supreme Court decision on gerrymandering. This piece was picked up by *The Herald* of Everett, Washington, the *International Business Times*, and other news publications.

Postdoctoral Research Associate **Fernando Tormos-Aponte** has been covering the protests and gubernatorial transition in Puerto Rico for months, and has become a frequent interview guest and columnist for publications like [The Monkey Cage](#) (part of the *Washington Post*), and [Jacobin Magazine](#).

Professor Emeritus **George La Noue** recently published a new book, [Silenced Stages](#), about academic freedom and the impacts of limiting campus discourse for policy debates. In June, he hosted a breakfast roundtable at the [Heterodox Academy Conference](#) on "Measuring Academic Freedom." In July, the Bipartisan Policy Center in Washington, DC held an [event](#) for the book release with a moderated discussion about Professor La Noue's book and research.

### SILENCED STAGES

The Loss of Academic Freedom and Campus Policy Debates



GEORGE R. LA NOUE

August 2019

## Alumni Highlights

M.P.P. alumnus **Steven Sharkey** has been appointed [Director of Baltimore City's Department of Transportation](#). Mr. Sharkey received his M.P.P. in 2006 from The School of Public Policy at UMBC, and has been an engaged member of our alumni community, including participating in our first Public Policy Camp in March 2019. Mr. Sharkey previously held the role of Director of Department of General Services for Baltimore.



**STEVEN SHARKEY, M.P.P. 2006**

M.P.P. alumna **Qubilah Huddleston**, also a participant in our inaugural Public Policy Camp, started a new job at the Fiscal Policy Institute in Washington, DC as an Education Policy Analyst.

**Tom Vicino**, an alumnus of both the M.P.P. and Ph.D. programs, became [Associate Dean of Graduate Studies](#) of the College of Social Sciences and Humanities at Northeastern University. He had previously served as Department Chair of Political Science, and was also elected Vice Chair of the Urban Affairs Association (UAA).

**Mike Auerbach**, an M.P.P. alumnus, has been growing his start-up [Kinful](#). Kinful is a classroom-based social-emotional learning (SEL) curriculum that uses virtual reality and other tools to make cross-cultural connections.

## May 2019 Graduation

## Upcoming Events on Campus



### May 2019 Graduates

- Nicole Katsikides, Ph.D.
- John Moeller, Ph.D.
- Timothy Galpin, Ph.D.
- Micahayas Akama, M.P.P.
- David Anguish, M.P.P.
- Agnes Buanya, M.P.P.
- Corris Davis, M.P.P.
- Grace De Oro, M.P.P.
- Rebecca Postowski, M.P.P.
- Andrew Reinel, M.P.P.
- Michael Rush, M.P.P.
- Kyle Shea, M.P.P.
- Rachel Thomas, M.P.P.

**Congratulations to all of our graduates!**

### Public Policy

#### **New Student Orientation**

Saturday, September 7

9am- 12pm

Public Policy Building, 1st Floor

#### **Public Policy Annual Picnic**

Friday, September 27

3:30-6pm

Commons Terrace

#### **Judith A. Shinogle Award Lecture**

Thursday, November 7

4:30-6pm

AOK Library and Gallery,  
1st floor Gallery

#### **Graduate School Candidacy Ceremony and Banquet**

Tuesday, November 19

5-7:30pm

UC Ballroom

# 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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