What’s New at MIPAR

F. Chris Curran Joins Public Policy Faculty

F. Chris Curran has joined the Public Policy faculty as an Assistant Professor in the Education Policy concentration. He conducts research on education policy with an emphasis on improving educational outcomes for underserved and disadvantaged youth. His research interests include school discipline, student safety, early childhood education, teacher labor markets, and classroom/school level policy reform. This fall, Chris is teaching PUBL 600, Research Methodology.

Chris graduated from Vanderbilt University in 2015 with a Ph.D. in Leadership and Policy Studies and a doctoral minor in Quantitative Methods. He received his M.A. in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Mississippi, and a B.A. in Philosophy and a B.S. in Biochemistry from the University of Florida, where he graduated summa cum laude and class valedictorian. He has taught at the K-12 and higher education levels.

Faculty Fellowships

The 2015 MIPAR/CAHSS Summer Faculty Fellowship recipients are Nancy Miller (Public Policy) and Amy Froide (History). With funding support from CAHSS and the Vice President for Research, faculty fellows received a stipend and assistance in preparing proposals to secure external funding for a research project. Nancy Miller’s project will identify facilitators and barriers to state provision of Medicaid community-based long term services and supports for children, youth and adults with significant mental health conditions. Amy Froide is examining eighteenth century England’s charitable corporation, which provides a cautionary tale of microfinance, fraud and government bailouts.

MIPAR will solicit applications for the next round of summer fellowships in spring 2016. CAHSS encourages faculty to start planning this semester for a proposal submission in the spring.

Excellence in Mental Health Policy

The International Center of Mental Health Policy and Economics awarded MIPAR researchers David Salkever (Public Policy) and Brent Gibbons (PhD, ’13, MIPAR) an 2015 Excellence in Mental Health Policy and Economics Research Award for the article "Increasing Earnings of Social Security Disability Income Beneficiaries with Serious Mental Disorder." The article, published in the Journal of Mental Health Policy and Economics (2014, Vol. 17 No. 2), reports the results of MIPAR research conducted in collaboration with Westat for the Social Security Administration.

For information on how MIPAR can assist faculty in preparing applications and proposals to secure external funding, contact Linda Brown: 410-455-1083; lbrown@umbc.edu

Recent MIPAR Grants

Graduate student Sakuko Narita (Emergency Health Services) is working on-site with the Baltimore City Health Department, focusing on preparedness and response issues that are important to a large city health department.

The project is funded through MIPAR with federal pass-through funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Richard Bissell (EHS) is the principal investigator.

Upcoming Events

Public Policy Forum
Urban Sustainability in Baltimore
Friday, October 16, 2015
8:30 – 11:00 am
Columbus Center
701 E. Pratt Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

This forum will examine Baltimore's efforts to become a more sustainable city, with an emphasis on the networks of government, for-profit and nonprofit organizations that have developed around a city's sustainability goals.

Sponsored by the UMBC School of Public Policy, the Center for Urban Environmental Research and Education, Sustainability Matters at UMBC, and the Department of Geography and Environmental Systems

For more information and to register, go to publicpolicy.umbc.edu/forums