

Public Policy Bulletin

Spring 2017
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Welcome New Students!

James "J.D." DiLoreto- Education Policy



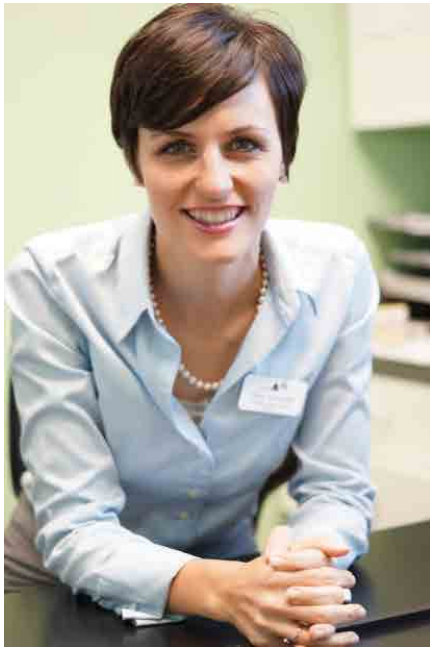
J.D. earned his B.A. in Political Science from the University of Massachusetts, Boston. During his time as an undergraduate, J.D. interned at the office of Massachusetts State Senator Jarrett Barrios, one of the nation's first openly gay Latino state legislators. This inspired J.D. to enter politics and from that time on, he worked as a political consultant and field organizer for several local political races in Cambridge and Boston. He subsequently became a labor organizer in western Massachusetts. In 2012, while working for the reelection of President Obama in Virginia, J.D. met his current partner, an administrator in the College of Engineering. After a bit of convincing, J.D. moved to Arkansas and began his work on a Masters of Public Administration and Non-Profit Studies which he completed in December 2016. His research focused on administration within post-secondary institutions of education, and specifically centered on the response by institutes of higher education to the epidemic of campus sexual assaults and Title IX Education Amendments Act of 1972. Within the Public Policy Ph.D program, J.D. plans to continue to analyze higher education policy as it relates to sexual assaults, specifically the role that sex education during the years of secondary education plays in that crisis.

Erika Gamboa- Family Policy

Originally from Albuquerque, New Mexico, Erika earned dual bachelor degrees in Criminology and Spanish from the University of New Mexico where she was a Ronald McNair Scholar. Upon completion of her first Master's degree in Higher Education from the University of Arkansas, Erika served as both counselor and academic coordinator for Veterans Upward Bound, a federally funded program through the U.S. Department of Education. Since the Center's inception in 2009, Erika, a U.S. Army Reserves veteran, has served as Director for the University of Arkansas's Veterans Resource and Information Center. In addition to overseeing the Center's daily operations, Erika manages the Vet2Vet Mentorship Program which aims to assist student veterans with career preparedness. Besides earning a second U of A Master's Degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling, Erika is a Licensed Associate Counselor.



*Inside: *New Students *SPARK *Student-Faculty Collaboration *Dissertation Awards
*Alumni Highlights *RPD*



Misty Newcomb- Education Policy

Misty Newcomb is the founding Executive Director of Prism Education Center, a faith-based nonprofit organization in Fayetteville that provides year-round educational services to students from preschool through 12th grade, and includes after school, and summer programs. Prior to this, she served as the Chief of Staff for the Office for Education Policy, a service unit for policymakers and education leaders in Arkansas that operates out of the Department of Education Reform at the University of Arkansas. Mrs. Newcomb earned her Bachelors Degree in Human Development and Family Sciences, and her Master's Degree in Child Development from the University of Arkansas. She serves on the Arkansas State Council for AdvancEd and on the Board of Directors for the Bright Path Foundation. Additionally, she is a Director of Congress-World Breakthrough Network's Education and Human Development Sector. Misty and her husband Clay live with their four children in Northwest Arkansas.

SPARK News

SPARK is a student-led organization consisting of students in the Public Policy Ph.D. program. The first SPARK meeting of the Fall 2016 was held on Friday, October 14th in Old Main 430, during which the following topics included, gaining insight into students' expectations and aspirations for SPARK, increasing participation among part-time and full-time students, enhancing SPARK's online presence, and becoming a Registered Student Organization (RSO).

SPARK will be meeting with public policy Ph.D. students concerning hosting an off-campus social event for Public Policy Ph.D. students and their families during the spring 2017 semester. A goal is to provide more opportunities for students to develop relationships among a student body that represent diverse backgrounds and professional experience. The interdisciplinary structure of the Ph.D. program provides students with advantages of creating bonds with others who have various interests within public policy.

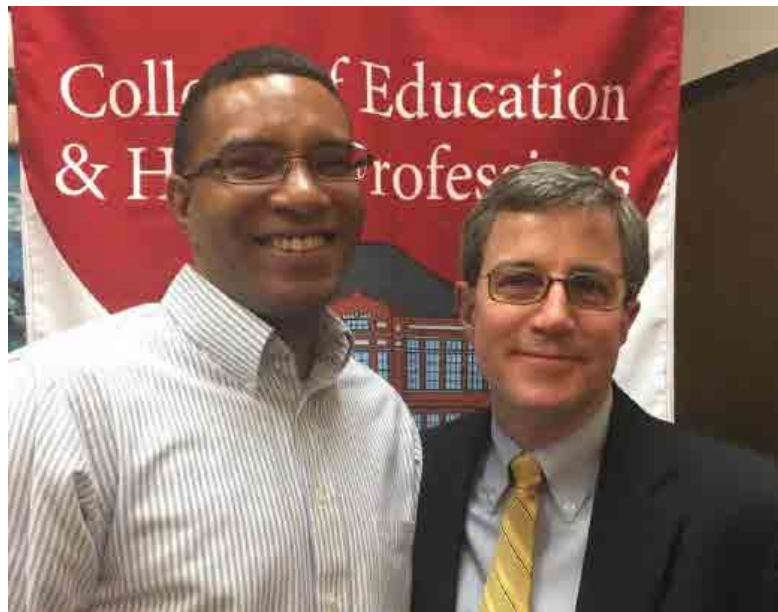
If you have any questions, please contact your 2016-17 SPARK representatives:

President- David V. Tolliver, III (dt005@email.uark.edu)

Secretary- Grant Howard (gwest@uark.edu)

Student representative to PUBP faculty committee- Larra Rucker (lkrucker@email.uark.edu)

Michael T. Miller, Dean of the College of Education and Health Professions, and David V. Tolliver, III, a first-year Ph.D. student studying public policy and specializing in higher education policy, will be co-presenting during the 2017 Eastern Educational Research Association (EERA) conference in Richmond, Virginia. They will be focusing on their work for a book titled, Student Activism as a Vehicle for Change on College Campuses: Emerging Research and Opportunities. The book focuses on the idea of activism within the context of higher education, including a historical overview of how activism has evolved. It highlights four case studies of how activism continues to impact colleges, including topics such as how college student activism is changing on college campuses, an emphasis on shifting student perspectives and behaviors, the public policy implications of college student activism, and future implications of college student activism. The book is currently in press and will be available later this year. David will also lead a roundtable discussion on his current research that focuses on matriculation by African American men from single-parent families to four-year state flagship universities. David is a Southern Regional Education Board State Doctoral Scholar and the president of SPARK, the University of Arkansas public policy student organization. Upon completing his doctoral degree, he plans to secure a tenured-track faculty position in higher education policy.



*This Public Policy Bulletin is edited by Jonathan Langner.
Please email any comments or questions to
Dr. Brinck Kerr at jbkerr@uark.edu*

PUBP Announces Dissertation Award Winners, Amundson and Diallo

The William Miller PUBP Distinguished Dissertation Award Committee is pleased to announce that two public policy students have won the Miller Award for dissertations defended in 2015-16. Thanks are due to the Graduate School & International Education and the Public Policy Ph.D. Program for funding this year's awards. Special thanks are due to the Award Committee members, Dr. Valerie Hunt (chair), Dr. Andrew Dowdle, and Dr. Patricia Koski. Each student received a handsome certificate and a check for \$ 250.00. Congratulations to the winners, Dr. Kaylynn Amundson and Dr. Anne Diallo.

Dr. Anne Diallo



Dr. Anne Diallo has taken a long and non-traditional path to earn her Ph.D. in Public Policy. She attended four different schools as an undergraduate before finishing a B.A. at the University of Arkansas. For much of this time, she was a single parent, and worked many different jobs, the most memorable of which were her years in health care. When her children finished high school, and with the help of a supportive family, Anne was able to come back to the University and finish her undergraduate degree. She went on to receive a Master of Public Administration before entering the Public Policy Ph.D. program. During her time in PUBP she has made friends and built relationships that are both personally and professionally rewarding. The range of topics that she has become familiar with through classes and seminars continues to excite her.

Anne's primary research interest is the urban political and social environment. The title of Anne's dissertation is Factors Affecting the Sustainability of Public-Private Collaborations at the Municiple Level: The Case of Motorcycle Rallies. Her dissertation addressed public-private collaborative promotion of urban tourism. In particular, she examined urban motorcycle rallies, specifically the way that the public and private sectors work together to resolve differences in missions and goals to successfully promote large-scale events that serve as an economic resource. Her research is typically qualitative, as she utilizes stories that people have to answer her research questions. The faculty in the Public Policy program, as well as the staff of the Graduate School and International Education, were supportive, challenging, and professional. Anne is thrilled that the committee thinks her work deserving of an award.

Anne's current research, which she is conducting with Dr. Margaret Reid, involves conflict management in public-private collaboration, specifically how disparate entities resolve inevitable conflicts. They plan to next examine the role of stakeholders in public-private tourism collaborations.

Anne thoroughly enjoys working with the students on campus. She serves on the board of directors of Supporting STEM and Space Inc., a non-profit organizaion that is building a science hub and planetarium for the citizens of Northwest Arkansas. Additionally, she has 10 grandchildren, a great-grandson, and numerous nieces and nephews. Anne hopes to serve as an example that it is never too late to learn, never too late to grow intellectually, and never too late to try something new and exciting.

Distinguished Dissertation Award Named for Dr. Will Miller, Founding Director of PUBP

In fall 2015, PUBP faculty members voted unanimously to name the program's Distinguished Dissertation Award after Dr. William Miller, the founding Director of the Public Policy Ph.D. Program. The award will be known as the William Miller PUBP Distinguished Dissertation Award and comes with a \$ 250.00 prize. Professor Andrew Dowdle, who proposed the idea, argued that the name change would properly recognize Dr. Miller's contributions in founding the program and shepherding it through its early years. Although many people played a part in the program's creation and growth, Dr. Miller's contributions were indispensable. Dr. Miller retired from his position at the University of Illinois, Springfield in May of 2015. He and his spouse, Dr. Anne Miller, reside in Boston.

Dr. Kalynn Amundson



Dr. Kalynn Amundson graduated from the Public Policy Program in July 2015. Her area of specialization is Family Policy, with a focus on social welfare policy. Dr. Amundson's dissertation, Socially Constructing Drug Addicts from the Poor: A Critical Discourse Analysis, examines political discourse surrounding welfare drug testing debates. This project utilized the three journal article format.

The first article, "Pathologies of the Poor: What do the War on Drugs and Welfare Reform Have in Common?" was published in the Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare. This study examines the conflation of the war on drugs and welfare reform policies through political discourse at the federal level. The continuity in policymakers' rhetoric in both debates, with common themes of social pathology (crime, drug addiction, welfare dependency, and drug addicted newborns), is indicative of a merging of the two policy arenas. However, since the passage of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) of 1996, the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program is designed, implemented, and managed (within broad federal guidelines) at the state level.

Thus, the next two articles focus on policymakers' discourse at the state level, specifically in reference to welfare drug testing policy. "A Social Metamorphosis: Constructing Drug Addicts from the Poor" examines state legislators' rhetoric, both proponents and opponents, to assess the discursive construction of welfare recipients. This analysis demonstrates a strong negative construction of welfare recipients as deviants, and indeed as drug abusers. This research was published in Sociological Spectrum.

Using the same data set, the final article assumes an intersectional perspective, examining policymakers' discourse through a race, class, and gender lens to examine whether categories of race, class, and gender give meanings to policy discourses concerning drug testing of welfare recipients, and conversely, whether policy discourses concerning welfare drug testing give meanings to categories of race, class, and gender. Welfare provision has historically been racialized and gendered, with the construction of recipients based on societal expectations of proper womanhood. Interestingly, recent debate has taken a decided turn where race and gender are both eclipsed by a virtually exclusive class-based discourse. Allusions to race and gender are subtextual, a trend that is in line with the rise of colorblind racism. This work is in the revision process.

Dr. Abdullah Alshanbri graduated from the Public Policy Ph.D. Program in 2014 with specialization in Community Development and Recreation Policy. He is currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Landscape Architecture at King Abdul-Aziz University in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. Dr. Alshanbri is also a committee chair for program development in the Faculty of Environmental Design.



Dr. Abdullah Alshanbri

Ph.D. in Public Policy (Community Development and Recreation Policy), University of Arkansas, Fayetteville (2014).

Master of Science in Operations Management, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville (2009).

B.S. in Landscape Architecture, King Abdul-Aziz University, Jeddah Saudi Arabia (2002).

In which department are you presently working and what is your role?

I am an Assistant Professor in the Department of Landscape Architecture at King Abdul-Aziz University in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia teaching environmental planning and management, project research, community development, and environment & man. I also serve as committee chairman for academic program development in the Faculty of Environmental Design and as a conjunction professor in the Department of Political Science, Executive Masters Program of Public Policy, teaching public policy analysis.

What are your current research interests?

During my study in the Public Policy Ph.D. Program, I directed my research interests towards youth and public space such as parks and cities open spaces. The main goal of this approach is to get a better understanding of youth needs in the urban space, since this age group is the largest in Saudi Arabia. Also, I am focusing on the built environment and how policies can enhance the way we design the urban outdoors. In addition, I am working on developing new and updated material for the courses I teach. This is always an on-going process to make sure the students get the latest information in their field.

What are some interesting facts about you?

Between classes, students, and research I am blessed with a wonderful family who supported me during my study in the U.S. and now it is time to give them more time. I consider myself as different from other people in my country. I enjoy helping my wife with cooking and other house duties. I am also pleased to spend a good amount of time with our four children. Living in the U.S. helped me develop many personal interests such as hiking, tennis, and camping. Currently, I am taking diving classes so I can enjoy the beauty of the Red Sea marine life. To whomever is reading this, I welcome you to visit my city, Jeddah, located in the western region of Saudi Arabia and to enjoy the culture and the food.

I really want to take the chance and thank Dr. Moiseichik, Dr. Kerr, Dr. Hunt, and Dr. J. Gaber for their support during my Ph.D. journey. The Public Policy Ph.D. Program is a very diverse program concerning both students and areas of study. This is what makes it such a strong program. If you are new to the program or thinking of applying, trust me, you are making the right step towards a brighter future.

Research and Professional Development (RPD) Series

The Research and Professional Development (RPD) series includes research presentations as well as discussions/presentations on professional development, both inside and outside of the academy. These sessions are organized as faculty and student panel discussions, or in the alternative, as research presentations.

In the Fall of 2016, two RPD sessions were held.

The first was held on Friday, October 28, 2016 in order to help students warm up for their APPAM (Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management) conference presentations (held November 3-5, in Washington, DC.) Dr. Geoboo Song helped schedule three papers for presentation.

The second session was held on Friday, December 2 and the title of this session was “Choosing a Dissertation Topic.” The panelists were Professors Dowdle, Gaber, Kerr, and Reid.

We are very grateful to the presenters as well as to those who attended!

3 New RPD Sessions this Spring!

Friday, March 31 from 1:00 -2:00 p.m. in Old Main 422

Larra Rucker and Professor Jennifer Henk will present their research, ”Who’s Caring for our Youngest Children? The Characteristics, Beliefs, and Practices of the Early Childhood Workforce.”

Monday, April 3 from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. in Old Main 430

Blake Sandridge and Professor Joshua Mitchell will present their research, “Examining the Interstate Adoption of Electronic Cigarette Regulations.”

Rachael Moyer and Professor Geoboo Song will present their research, “Value Predispositions, Affect-Driven Semantic Expressions, and Benefit-Risk Perceptions of Hydraulic Fracturing Practices.”

Clayton Tumlison will present his research, “Knowledge Hubris and Humility: A Theory of the Antecedents of (In)Accurate Self-Knowledge Assessments and Their Role in the Policy Process.”

Friday, May 5 from 9:00 -10:00 a.m. in Old Main 430

Jonathan Langner will present his preliminary dissertation research, “Socially Constructing Marijuana Policy in the National News Media: A Discourse Analysis.”

Food and refreshments will be available at each session!