

Of Note

Recent Highlights from the Language, Literacy & Culture Doctoral Program

Welcome to *Of Note*, Spring 2016

The Language, Literacy & Culture Doctoral Program is an energetic interdisciplinary community of scholars committed to research, teaching, learning and social justice. We use our scholarship to engage with the world around us. The faculty and students in LLC not only study society, but we actively engage in it to enhance the quality of life for the residents of Maryland, the nation and around the globe.

Our faculty and students routinely take their expertise and research-based findings into both academic and non-academic settings. As you will see chronicled here, our broad participation results in frequent appearances in print, radio, and television including national and international outlets.



LLC is also committed to nurturing the next generation of scholars and leaders. Our faculty's commitment to graduate education also seeks to integrate our students into the life of our program. Toward that end, LLC will be hosting a conference in the Fall that coincides with UMBC's 50th Anniversary. The conference will offer an opportunity to "look back to look forward," at the technology and media strategies employed by current social movements and the realities of the neoliberal university. This conference is being organized by LLC students. Look for the call for "proposals that investigate political, historical, sociological, philosophical, pedagogical, economic, feminist, postcolonial, literary, queer," and other perspectives.

In the Fall, we will also launch a new initiative that will provide greater opportunities for more of our students to gain hands-on experience in research and publishing. We will introduce our Research Apprenticeship Program that will encourage our students to work with LLC Faculty Affiliates. We hope you will work with us to make this initiative a success.

We pride ourselves on producing critical thinkers and leaders in many different arenas. We invite you to read this edition of our e-newsletter to find out about some of the recent, notable accomplishments and activities of the Language, Literacy & Culture PhD Program's faculty, staff, students, and alumni. Enjoy!

Cedric Herring

Professor and Director

Language, Literacy & Culture Doctoral Program

Celebrating Our Accomplishments.

Frank Anderson (Cohort 18): As assistant director of the Choice Program, Frank and his team participated in the Imagining America Conference, where they created a performance showcase through a process of several arts workshops and social justice focus groups. A particular highlight included a sound collage made by a Choice youth, Jamal, and Dr. Anna Rubin of the UMBC Music Department. Throughout the spring they plan to keep this project alive, working with more students and expanding sound collage into digital storytelling for SW Baltimore youth.



Erin Berry (Cohort 15): Last November Erin presented her paper titled: “*Sister Insider, Sister Outsider, Semiotician: The Politics of Positionality in Qualitative Research with Black Female Millennials at HBCUs*” at the [31st Annual Maryland Communication Association \(MCA\) Annual Conference](#) which was hosted at Bowie State University.



David Balosa (Cohort 14): David presented at the International Academy Intercultural Research (IAIR) Symposium at the University of Bergen (Norway) in July, 2015. His paper was entitled “*Global Intercultural Citizenship: African Perspectives on the Global Order.*”



Ron L. Collins Sr., (Cohort 17): Ron brought to Coppin State’s Honors College the Eddie Conway Liberation Institute’s Debate Training camp in July and August 2015. The successful camp has spawned the development of a new Policy Debate program at Coppin, which will launch in fall 2016. The camp was unified around the theme, “Domestic Surveillance,” a current and important social justice issue.

Rachel Carter (Cohort 12) & Felix Burgos (Cohort 14): Rachel and Felix received The Dresher Center Graduate Student Fellowship. They presented their research in the *Currents: Humanities Work Now* series last Fall.



Ibrahim Er (Cohort 16): Ibrahim presented the paper “*A Funnier Monk: Rhetoric of Music in TV Series Adaptations*” at the Sound and the Screen Symposium at the University of West London (London, UK) on November 20th, 2015.



Heidi Faust (Cohort 13): Heidi received a scholarship to attend the 15th Annual SIETAR-USA conference: Expanding Intercultural Horizons: Competencies for a Global and Diverse Workforce, where she presented on a panel entitled, Expanding Intercultural Communication Competence in TESOL: Three Approaches from Higher Education Contexts. Faust presented on UMBC's Advanced Professional Writing in English online course, which she co-wrote with **Dr. Jodi Crandall** and **Dr. Joan Kang Shin**. In October, Faust was one of five recipients of an

International Research Grant awarded by the TESOL International Association. Heidi was also a featured speaker at the Kuwait TESOL 2015 Conference at Gulf University for Science and Technology (GUST), in Kuwait in November 2015. Additionally, she presented an interactive pre-conference institute entitled, Apprenticing English Learners Towards Content Area Literacy Through Metacognitive Conversation.



Shani Fleming (Cohort 15): Shani served as the project lead for an inaugural leadership development workshop for minority faculty, presented on Strategies for Targeted Recruitment: Diversifying Applicants to Meet Workforce Demands. She helped coordinate a grassroots community service outreach effort to schools in the Washington, DC area.



Dr. Claudia Galindo and Dr. Mavis Sanders (Department of Education) were awarded a \$50,000 grant from the Spencer Foundation for their research project entitled: "Examining the Transformative Potential of Teachers within a Full-Service Community High." This study will use quantitative and qualitative methods to investigate the associations between selected teacher attributes and students' achievement, school behaviors, and perceptions of support. Professors

Galindo and Sanders have also been invited to write a chapter for the Handbook of family, school, and community partnerships in education, which will be published in 2017. Their article will be titled "*Searching for equal educational opportunities: Full-service community schools*".



Dr. Cedric Herring. Professor and Director of LLC, and Loren Henderson, Assistant Professor of Sociology, presented their research on the cultural and structural sources of racial disparities in wealth at the United Nations conference on "Poverty, Inequality, and Global Conflict." The conference, sponsored by the United Nations Academic Impact Programme, featured speakers such as Her Excellency Marie Louise Coleiro Preca, President of Malta; former President of the

American Sociological Association, Frances Fox Piven; President of the Russel Sage Foundation, Sheldon Danziger; and Member of the European Parliament, Glyn Ford. Drs. Henderson and Herring's paper entitled, "Wealth Inequality in Black and White: Cultural and Structural Sources of the Racial Wealth Divide," has been accepted for publication in the journal *Race and Social Problems*.



Dr. Christine Mallinson. Last October, Dr. Mallinson was interviewed by [Glamour magazine](#) on how today's use of the word 'crazy' to disparage women is a modern day parallel to how the word 'hysterical' (root word Greek hystera 'uterus') was used in the 19th century—and for centuries earlier as well—to diminish women's issues and concerns. In December, Christine and her co-editors received a contract to publish a second edition of their volume, [Data Collection in Sociolinguistics: Methods and Applications](#) (Routledge). The volume will feature updated chapters and vignettes on cutting-edge topics including the analysis of data from social media and other Internet-based sources, and its accompanying website will be thoroughly expanded to include teaching exercises, videos, and other instructional materials. The volume is expected to be published in late Summer 2017. Starting the new year, Christine co-organized and presented a panel on linguistics and higher education at the Linguistic Society of America conference in Washington, DC. Her paper, "Language in Diverse Schools and Communities: A Platform for Graduate Student Research and Outreach on Campus and in the City," highlighted the linguistic research and activism that has been carried out over the past several years by students in her LLC 612 class.



Dr. Kimberly Moffitt. Professor Moffitt made a presentation at Loyola University Maryland. The talk was entitled: "Baltimore Uprising: The 'Resiliency' of Our Youth."

Following the October 28 Republican presidential debate on CNBC, Dr. Moffitt, moderated a panel on [WEAA's The Marc Steiner Show](#), analyzing the performance of the candidates and how it affected the campaign for the Republican nomination. Moffitt is a frequent guest host and panelist on The Marc Steiner Show.



Dr. Uzma Rashid, '14. Dr. Rashid recently presented in the Fulbright and Humphrey Alumni conference held in Islamabad, titled "Lag raha hai madam Amreka se wapas ai hai!" ["It looks like madam has returned from the United States"]: Gendered religious identities and sustainable development in Pakistan. She has just had an abstract entitled "Muslim women as leaders within and outside the Muslim community: Trends and challenges" accepted for presentation at the Summer Global Symposium on Women's Leadership to be held at the University of

Riverside, CA, June 3-4 2016.



Dr. Craig Saper. Craig's photographic documentation and exhibit from "*Puppet Show for the Birds*," were featured in the current issue of BmoreArt.com's newsletter about "[Baltimore's Best Under the Radar Art Exhibits.](#)" During the fall of 2015, our former LLC affiliate faculty member, Dr. Helen Burgess, and Craig began reviewing projects for Electric Press, an open-access electronic series for multimedia works. We urge everyone connected to LLC to look at our website and propose book-equivalent scholarship for our e-book series: <http://electric.press>.

In August, Craig also presented “*What Happened to Mary: The Invention of the Tie-In*,” at the University Film and Video Association’s annual meeting at American University, Washington, DC. He co-presented with Lynn Tomlinson, “*After Cinema: Projection Mapping Digital Culture in the Video-EsSéance*,” a Video Essay at the same conference. In February of 2016, he spoke to a digital humanities group called Uncertain Archive based at the University of Copenhagen, and also gave a talk and studio visits at The Royal Academy of Art in Copenhagen. Both talks were about his latest research projects on infrastructure. In the spring of 2016, Saper will be a Fellow in the Drescher Center, and will enjoy the time for research and writing.

Dr. Eleanor Welsh, '05. Dr. Welsh took part in a Fulbright International Educators Seminar in Germany in fall of 2014, and will be presenting in Havana, Cuba with the Maryland Community College International Education Consortium.

Hot Off the Press.

Dr. Claudia Galindo & May Chung

Sonnenschein, S., Galindo, C., Simon, C.L., Metzger, S.R., Thompson, J.A., & Chung, M. (in press). How do children learn mathematics? Chinese and Latino immigrant perspectives. In S.S. Chuang, & C. Costigan (Eds.), *International perspectives on parenting and parent-child relations in immigrant families: Theoretical and practical implications*. NY: Springer.



Dr. Satarupa Joardar '15

Dr. Joardar co-authored with Jen Wang the article “Cultural Capital at Work in Facebook Users’ Selection of Different Languages.” It appears on the issue of *Cross-Cultural Design Applications in Mobile Interaction, Education, Health, Transport and Cultural Heritage*. This journal article was also part of the proceedings of the Human-Computer Interaction HCI International 2015 Annual Conference held in

Los Angeles on 2-7 August, 2015.

Diane Kuthy (Cohort 14)

Diane wrote a co-authored article with Lynn Tomlinson, Assistant Professor in the department of Electronic Media and Film at Towson University, on *Hyperrhiz: New Media Cultures*, 13. Their article is titled “Animating Imaginary Worlds: A Digital-Meets-Handmade Animation Workshop Kit.”

Diane also co-authored, with Kay Bradowater, the article “Sortings, Cutways, and Bindings: Quilt-making as art-based practice for social justice teaching.” The article appears in the *Journal of the National Art Education Association*.



Erin Roth (Cohort 17)

Erin is first author of a paper accepted for publication in the journal *Health Communication*. “*Diabetes and the motivated patient: Understanding perlocutionary effect in health communication*.” (co-authors include Girling, L., Chard, S., Wallace-Harris, B., & Eckert, J.K.) The original idea for the paper grew out of LLC 601, Intercultural Pragmatics and Discourse Analysis, a course she took with Dr. Provencher in 2014.

Dr. Craig Saper

Craig's chapter "Banana Paradox" was published in *Anna Banana: 45 Years of Fooling Around with A. Banana*. Ed. Michelle Jacques. If you are interested in a leader in feminist conceptual art, then part of the exhibit travels to Pratt in NYC this spring of 2016.

Saper's article "Concrete Poetry in America: A Story of Intermedia Performance, Publishing, & Pop Appeal," was published in *Coldfront poetry and poetics magazine* (October 2015). Saper's book-review, "Half-Baked Schemes: The B-Side of Kits," was published in a special issue of *Hyperrhiz: New Media Cultures*, 13 on Kits and Maker Culture.

LLC on the Map.

Erin Berry (Cohort 15): In August of 2015, Erin L. Berry started a position as a Visiting Lecturer in the department of Communications at Bowie State University.

Shani Fleming (Cohort 15): Shani accepted a position as Assistant Professor and Associate Director of Clinical Education at Barry University in the Virgin Islands.



Dr. Asli Hassan, '11. Dr. Hassan was appointed Head of the Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching (CELT) at the Petroleum Institute (Abu Dhabi, UAE). Dr. Hassan graduated from the LLC program in 2011.

Dr. Isabel Moreno-López, '02. Dr. Moreno-Lopez was promoted to Full Professor of Spanish and Latin American Studies at Goucher College. Dr. Moreno-Lopez graduated from the LLC Program in 2002.



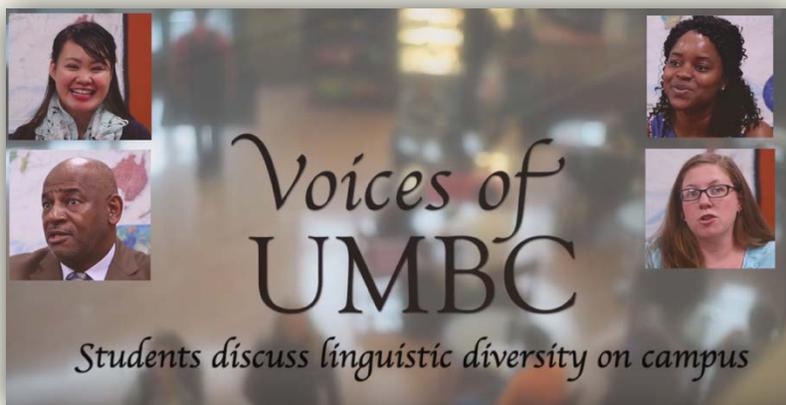
Dr. Uzma Rashid, '14. Dr. Rashid, Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Management and Technology in Lahore, Pakistan, has recently been appointed as Associate Dean for the School of Social Sciences and Humanities.

Collaborations.

Dr. Claudia Galindo will co-present, with LLC members **Dr. Cedric Herring**, Tym Wowk (Cohort 14), and, **Dr. Mavis Sanders** (LLC affiliate faculty) in several conferences in North America and Europe.

Dr. Ed Larkey (MLLI department), **Landry Digeon** (Cohort 15) and **Ibrahim Er** (Cohort 16) co-presented the paper “Measuring Transnationalism: Using Digital Tools for Cross-Cultural TV Format Comparisons” at the annual MLLI Faculty and Student Research Day in November 2015. They also organized the workshop “Transnational Television: Digital Tools, and Visualization” on January at UMBC.

Dr. Christine Mallinson, Deanna Cerquetti, May Chung, Ron Collins, Kim Feldman, and Tissa Thomas collaborated in the production of the short film “Voices of UMBC” in Fall 2015. The film, which celebrates the linguistic diversity among students on UMBC’s campus, can be previewed on Mallinson’s website, <https://baltimorelanguage.com>.



Dr. Craig Saper, with LLC doctoral candidate **Felix Burgos** and our IT specialist, **Shahid Mokal**, repaired and updated The Reading Machine project for a new edition: <http://www.readies.org>.

Research Corner.

While on sabbatical leave last year, Professor **Claudia Galindo** launched a new research Project entitled: “Promoting Children’s Math Development in Lima: Parents’ Approaches to Math Learning at Home.” The goal of this study is to describe 4th-6th grade students’ home math learning environment by examining parents’ conceptions of and their engagement in math. These two aspects of the home learning environment have been identified as positive factors impacting children’s math achievement. Specifically, the study examines:

- cognitive (understanding of math), and affective (attitudes, self-concept) dimensions of parents’ conceptions of math as both influencing their own involvement in math (Muir, 2012) and the opportunities they provide to their children for learning math (Eccles & Jacobs, 1986).



- parents' engagement in math by analyzing the perceived importance of children involvement in math at home, parents' approaches to engagement, and their own math engagement.
- mismatches between school discourses/practices on parental engagement in students' learning and parents' own engagement in math and students' math learning.

Using such theoretical approaches as cultural capital theory and socio-cultural approaches to learning, the study also emphasizes the importance of out-of-school math activities and the dichotomy between in-school vs out-of school conceptions. This research effort is a small-scale, mixed-methods descriptive study. It interviews 75 mothers of students in 4th-6th grades from low income sectors.

LLC Newest Alumni.

Below are the names, dissertation titles, and mentors of LLC's 2015 PhD recipients.



Andrew DeVos

Mixed Messages: An Interdisciplinary Narrative of Interracial Sexuality in US Films, 1956-2001. Co-Chairs: Dr. Beverly Bickel and Dr. Jason Loviglio

Jermaine Ellerbe

From Clinical Preparation to Professional Practice: A Case Study Assessing Teacher Education Outcomes and School District Domains in First Year Teachers' Performance Evaluations. Chair: Dr. Susan Blunck.



Reaching Milestones.

These LLC students have recently accepted their official Doctoral Candidacy:

Diane Kuthy and David Balosa (Cohort 14)



Reporting from the Field.

Imagining America Conference (October 2015)



Shot of the IA UMBC planning committee in a working meeting

When over 400 people from around the U.S. gathered in Baltimore in October 2015 for the national Imagining America annual conference hosted by UMBC (and co-hosted by Morgan State University and Maryland Institute College of Art in partnership with Towson University), LLC students, faculty, and alums could be seen everywhere —leading and attending sessions, collaborating on site-specific workshops, supporting the IA Public Square in Mt. Vernon, drumming at Morgan’s Spoken Word event, meeting with the Imagining America National Advisory Board (that now includes David Hoffman, LLC ’13), and talking with President Freeman Hrabowski, Provost Philip Rous, CAHSS Dean Scott Casper and Vice President for Student Affairs Nancy Young who played leading roles throughout the conference. Beginning in fall 2014, Romy Hübler, David Hoffman and Bev Bickel, who all proudly claim LLC as an intellectual home, joined Lee Boot (Imaging Research Center), and the Imagining America directors and staff to conceive of and lead the conference. The conference theme, *America Will Be! The Art And Power Of “Weaving Our We,”* evoked Langston Hughes’ fierce poem in calling people to a conference designed to “facilitate bold, creative and effective work that enables people to build and sustain the relationships that will link our stories, fulfill the democratic purposes of higher education, and address our collective challenges.” For the team that had the honor of helping lead the conference, the organizing work and the knowledge and relationships that would be developed were as important as the conference itself. We hoped the conference would engage students, staff and faculty in new, generative work with each other and with community scholars, artists and organizers. With ambitions goals of sparking new collaborations, interdisciplinary and cross-community problem posing, and innovative culture-based efforts, we focused on building sustained relationships with people from other institutions and cultural organizations in Baltimore. We engaged in a process of deep listening, reflection and learning about historic cultural, economic and geographic boundaries as well as the legacies of mistrust that have divided us so that we could begin to communicate honestly and come together to “imagine otherwise” and envision the Baltimore we all deserve.

The central team organized a planning committee at UMBC—composed of over 20 faculty, staff, undergraduate and graduate students, and alums—which met biweekly to plan the conference, encourage and prepare 38 UMBC presenters, and organize the final day of workshops at UMBC. Organizers initiated Imagining America 2015 UMBC Fellows in different departments that included over 20 people who are continuing the work of the conference, and 26 students volunteered throughout the conference



creating a warm welcome to UMBC and Baltimore. A citywide network, launched in December 2014, of over 150 individuals, representing over 50 Baltimore organizations and higher education institutions came together throughout the year to imagine and produce a day of citywide, site-specific workshops. That organizing took on a new urgency after Freddie Gray’s death and the Baltimore uprising of April 2015, and intensified care and effort went into forming, nurturing, and facilitating relationships that led to powerful workshop collaborations. The work resulted in unprecedented diversity, richness and participation in workshops, and created innovations such as free access for community members and an increased stipend to community workshop hosts. The UMBC and Baltimore organizing groups developed an approach and ethos focused on gathering people for necessary and sometimes difficult conversations

about our city’s complex challenges as we looked towards the promising power of the arts, humanities and social sciences in communities and on university campuses to lead social justice change.



Participants in the citywide network have continued to meet, build relationships, and envision projects that can tap the power of the arts, humanities, and social sciences to address and reverse patterns of disinvestment and inequality in Baltimore. The group—now called the Baltimore Imagining Group (*big*)—includes LLC alums, students, and

faculty and has begun working together on a number of citywide projects. We hope that LLC and UMBC will continue to be well represented in collaborations in Baltimore and be part of an active UMBC delegation at the [2016 Imagining America conference](#). Join us!

Submitted by Bev Bickel with LLC alums Romy Hübler and David Hoffman.

Thank you to all the people who have shared information about their accomplishments, collaborations and projects for this issue. Please keep us updated about your contributions to academia and to the community.