

Of Note

Recent Highlights from
UMBC's Language, Literacy & Culture Doctoral Program
Fall 2017

Welcome to the new academic year in the Language, Literacy & Culture PhD Program! As we begin this year, we welcome 11 new students into the LLC fold. We are happy they are joining us, and we hope they will have a great start in the Program.

In this edition of *Of Note*, we are happy to share with you some of the recent successes and accomplishments of LLC's faculty, students, alumni, and friends. You will be able to read about their new publications, awards, national and international presentations at academic conferences, and other noteworthy accomplishments. I am proud of what we, as LLC, accomplish. I hope you will enjoy reading about our extraordinary core and affiliated faculty members, our successful alumni, and all of the others who make us who we are.

I would also like to thank the members of LLC's Steering Committee for all they do to ensure the success of our Program. While not as visible to our students and alumni, they make invaluable contributions to our continued success by advocating for us in their academic departments, in our College, in the halls of power on the campus, and beyond. We are grateful for their efforts and support.

As I have mentioned in the past, LLC continues to face budgetary challenges. More than ever, we will need to rely on the generosity of our supporters so that we can continue to provide outstanding interdisciplinary education and professional development experiences to our students. We are thankful to those who have helped increase our ability to support our students. We ask that you remain committed to supporting our students. We also invite contributions from first-time givers. In particular, we invite even more contributions to help fund the Jodi Crandall Fellowship for Research in Language, Literacy & Culture. We also

welcome your contributions to the LLC Foundation, which allows us to provide additional graduate assistantships, fund our Research Apprenticeship Program, support students in the final stages of dissertation preparation, convene conferences, sponsor speakers, and host events.

LLC is moving forward. As you will see in the pages that follow, there is much to be proud of in our Program. Thanks to the generosity and effort of our friends, alumni, core and affiliated faculty, students, and staff, we know 2017-18 will be a great year.

I wish you all the best in your pursuits. And as usual, I want to thank all of you for all you do to strengthen LLC at UMBC!



Cedric Herring

Professor and Director
Language, Literacy & Culture Program
Hrabowski Innovation Fellow

Introducing Cohort 20



Alyssa Brumis After majoring in Sociology at Washington College, Alyssa spent a year serving with AmeriCorps VISTA, working at a transformation school in Baltimore. For the next five years, she was the Mentor Coordinator for a national, non-profit after school program for students with a family history of incarceration. In 2016, Alyssa received an MA in Journalism & Mass Communication with a concentration in Public Relations from Kent State University. She had her first article published last year in *Inquiries* online journal, “The Right to Privacy in a Digital Age: Reinterpreting the Concept of Personal Privacy.” She is currently an Adjunct Instructor in the Communication, Arts, and Humanities Division at the College of Southern Maryland.

Laurel Burggraf is the theatre teacher for 5th-8th grade boys at St. Paul's School. She has an MA in Humanities from Towson University and a BFA in Acting from Otterbein University. She is learning about Scottish pseudo-origin stories, encounters with the other and appropriation of the ancient in eighteenth century Great Britain. She used to do things like run a late-night cabaret before motherhood. Now she spends her evenings playing bad guy dinosaurs, managing a growing menagerie of animals and enduring the violin.



With over 15 years of experience in higher education administration, **Sonya Crosby** spent her entire career in the university setting. She began her career as an admissions counselor preparing and mentoring first generation African American females for college. Simultaneously, as Sonya navigated the leadership terrain, she encountered challenges due to her gender, race and position. Consequently, she created Upwardly Bound, a forum for African American female leaders to share their experiences of maintaining identity in the workplace. During her graduate studies, Sonya explored barriers encountered by African American female administrators which impacted their voice, representation, and advancement in higher education. Sonya enjoys spending time with family and cheering for her Pittsburgh Steelers.

Keith Harmon is currently Director of the Meyerhoff Scholars Program at UMBC. A classical pianist by training, he's been involved in higher education student development programs for nearly twenty years ago. Keith's research interests include inclusive excellence, intervention programs (in STEM and the arts), education policy, and the experiences of underrepresented groups in higher education.



Ronald M. Harvilicz III (RJ) is beyond honored that he has been granted the opportunity to further his love for learning and continue in the development of his interdisciplinary writing style. RJ is currently a staff member with the Office of Institutional Advancement and a campus alum, with both a BA in History and English Literature, as well as an MA in the recently chartered Texts, Technologies & Literature graduate program. RJ's research will be focused in the collaborative writing culture and inspiration of the 18th century English coffee-houses as a foreshadowing of the contemporary digital writing sphere. RJ enjoys skulking in coffee shops, shooting photography, writing, and wandering.



Felipe Kerschbaum is an ESOL Teacher for Baltimore County Public Schools and a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi's Master of Arts in the Teaching of Languages program. He has experience teaching both Spanish and English as a Second Language at the post-secondary level. He is primarily interested in ways that raising cultural awareness can improve the efficacy of language teaching and language teacher education programs. His work has been presented at several regional TESOL conferences. He is committed to ensuring that all students, regardless of age, race, cultural or linguistic background, receive an equitable, high-quality education.



Alyse Minter holds an M.S. in Library and Information Science from the Catholic University of America. She previously earned a B.S. in Early Childhood Education from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. She is currently an Education Librarian at Towson University, where she supports faculty and students in the College of Education. Born of her interest in creating more inclusive learning and work communities, her research focuses on human information behavior, community formation and language development, organization development, and race and gender. She recently co-authored a book chapter entitled, "Sister You've Been on my Mind": The Experiences of Women of Color in LIS," which will be published in *Pushing the Margins: Women of Color and Intersectionality in LIS* in 2018.



Ngeri Nnachi is an activist, artist and lawyer. After completing her B.A. in American Studies at UMBC in 2011, she went on to obtain her J.D. and M.A. in Public Policy & Leadership at the University of St. Thomas in Minneapolis, Minnesota. While there, she worked with the Minneapolis NAACP as the Co-Chair of the Legal Redress Committee, Brotherhood Inc. and a number of other organizations. After graduation, she became the Clinical Law Fellow with the Community Justice Project, a civil rights legal clinic in Minnesota. She hopes to make an impact in education for black children, focusing on inclusion and empowerment within school curriculums to promote optimal learning outcomes.



Greg Simmons is interested in the barriers that keep underrepresented groups from full participation in innovation communities and community-based economic development activities. Greg has been a part of the UMBC community since 1993, and lives in Baltimore City with his wife and three sons.



Shelly Washington comes to LLC as a marketing executive, personal finance educator, body confidence advocate, and nationally-touring spoken word poet (Shelly Says So). Her areas of research interest include: Black millennial feminism, cumulative disadvantage of minorities in corporate America, financial implications and executions of racism, perceptions of sex-positive women, and the intersection of personal and professional identities in social media. She released a spoken word album in 2012, won Poet of the Year in Baltimore in 2013, became the first Miss Maryland Plus USA in 2014, and accepted a role as Vice President of a Fortune 500 bank in 2015. Shelly has a BA in Journalism, Public Relations and Advertising from Temple University and an MBA from University of Maryland. She has previously taught courses in Management, Communications, and Finance at Coppin State University.



Caylie Zidwick currently works as the Assistant Director of Study Abroad at UMBC. Her bachelor's is from UMBC in MLLI and she has a Master's of International Higher Education. She is pursuing this degree in order to better assist students with their international educational experiences.

Celebrating Our Accomplishments

Frank Anderson (cohort 18) has recently received a nationally competitive grant from the Association of American Colleges and Universities entitled Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation. **Dr. Bev Bickel** is working with the leadership team to establish the project at UMBC this fall by connecting with the many initiatives, courses and people involved in related work on campus.

Erin Berry (cohort 15) & Mary Laurents (cohort 16) were selected as Dresher Center Residential Graduate Fellows for the academic year 2017-18.



Dr. Gloria Chuku (AFST) received the 2017 Ali Mazrui Award for Scholarship and Research Excellence from the board of the Toyin Falola Annual Conference on African Diaspora (TOFAC).

Steven Dashiell (cohort 16) was awarded the 2018 Frankel Scholarship from the American Men's Studies Association (AMSA). Also, Steven was selected to be a part of the Wayne State University Summer Doctoral Seminar on Resilience in Communications.

Eloiza Domingo-Snyder (cohort 19) is the 2017 recipient of Baltimore's Daily Record's Very Important Professionals Successful by 40 award.

Eloiza, who is also Sr. Director and Deputy Chief Diversity Officer at Johns Hopkins Medicine (JHM), along with her colleague - James E. Page, M.S., Vice President and Chief Diversity Officer, JHM - were awarded the 2017 Senior Executive Award from the National Association of Health Services Executives.



Dr. Latasha Eley (LLC '14) became an Adjunct Faculty member with the George Mason University Center for Academic Advising, Retention, and Transitions in Fall 2016.

In addition, Latasha was recently promoted to a new position, Institutional Review Specialist with Federal Student Aid, with the U.S. Department of Education.



Jessica Floyd (cohort 16) successfully defended her doctoral thesis, *Jib-Booms, Barrels, and Dead-eyes: Singing Sex in Sea Chanteys*, on August 25, 2017.

Dr. John Fritz (LLC '16) received the [Blackboard Catalyst Award for Leading Change](#) in recognition of his work at UMBC implementing technologies on campus in innovative ways.



Dr. Ed Larkey (MLLI) has been awarded \$24,000 from the START research fellowship (Provost Office) for a project at Tel Aviv University in Spring 2018 entitled “The Transcultural Orbit of Israeli TV: Hu V’Hi (He and She) — A Comedy Series Adaptation.”



Dr. Christine Mallinson was promoted to full Professor in the LLC Program in June. She was appointed as a member of the Linguistic Society of America Committee on Ethnic Diversity in Linguistics (CEDL). Also, Dr. Mallinson received a UMBC CAHSS Dean’s Pedagogy and Teaching Award to support the project, “#lingwiki: Promoting Public Scholarship, Diversity, and Inclusion in Linguistics.” She was appointed as a member of the Editorial Advisory Board of the Duke University Press journal, *American Speech*.

Tamisha Ponder (cohort 19) accepted a new position as Director of Intercultural Engagement at the Community College of Baltimore County. Tamisha was also named to the 2017 List of Honorees for HBCU Top 30 Under 30.



Doaa Rashed (cohort 11) was invited to serve on the Fulbright U.S. Student Program National Screening Committee. She also successfully defended her doctoral thesis *Investigating the Factors Influencing ESL Teacher Professional Identity in Higher Education*, on June 21, 2017.

Dr. Craig Saper was awarded a competitive spot in the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Summer Institute at the Newberry Library on “Making Modernism: Literature and Culture in Twentieth Century Chicago, 1893-1955.”

Sedrick Smith (cohort 18) was recently promoted to the full-time position of Director of Admissions at Baltimore City College.

Antione D. Tomlin (cohort 19) was promoted to a full-time position as Senior Research Program Coordinator at The Johns Hopkins University.



Dr. Polina Vinogradova (LLC '11) was awarded the Innovative Research in International Education Award, NAFSA: Association of International Educators, in April 2017.

Dr. Brandy Harris Wallace (SOCY) was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure at the department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Health Administration & Policy.

Shelly Washington (cohort 20) was invited to curate and perform in the inaugural Black Girl Magic Monologues spoken word show for the DC Black Theater Festival's sold out show on June 28, 2017.



Kevin Wisniewski (cohort 15) was awarded the Jodi Crandall Fellowship Award for his project, "From Repository to Readership: Applied Research in Book Publishing, Production and Publicity." Dr. Craig Saper will collaborate with him on this project.

From left to right: Dr. Cedric Herring, Dr. Jodi Crandall, Kevin Wisniewski, and Dr. Craig Saper.



Tym Wowk (cohort 15) was awarded the UMBC Summer Dissertation Fellowship 2017. Tym was also the recipient of the Montgomery College "Exceptional Achievement and Service to the Department of American English Language Program, Linguistics, and Communication Studies" award in Spring 2017.



Dr. Bev Bickel and three co-authors **Romy Hübler (LLC '15)**, **Bill Shewbridge (MCS)**, and **Ana Oskoz (MLLI)** published the chapter "Faculty Reflections at the Intersection of Digital Storytelling and Community Engagement" in *Digital Storytelling in Higher Education - International Perspectives*.



Dr. Scott Casper (CAHSS Dean and HIST) authored the chapter "Slavery and Freedom at Nineteenth-Century Mount Vernon," in *Lives Bound Together: Slavery at George Washington's Mount Vernon*, edited by Susan P. Schoelwer. Dr. Casper also served on the advisory committee for the "Lives Bound Together" museum exhibition at Mount Vernon.

Dr. Latasha Eley (LLC '15) published the chapter, "Black Body Politics in College: Deconstructing Colorism and Hairism toward Black Women's Healing" in *Color Struck: How Race and Complexion Matter in the "Color-Blind" Era*, edited by Lori L. Martin, Hayward Horton, **Cedric Herring**, Verna M. Keith, and Melvin Thomas, and published by Sense Publishers.

Dr. John Fritz (LLC '16) published the article, “[Using Analytics to Nudge Student Responsibility for Learning](#)” in the *New Directions for Higher Education* journal. John also co-authored with John Whitmer, “[Moving the Heart and Head: Implications for Learning Analytics Research](#)” and “[Learning Analytics Research for LMS Course Design: Two Studies](#)” both published in EDUCAUSE Review Online.



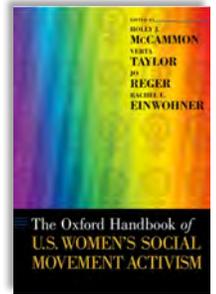
Dr. Cedric Herring co-edited with Lori Latrice Martin, Hayward Derrick Horton, Verna Keith, and Melvin Thomas, *Color Struck: How Race and Complexion Matter in the “Color-Blind” Era*, published by Sense Publishers. In the same book, Cedric and **Anthony Hynes (cohort 19)** co-authored the book chapter “Race, Skin Tone, and Wealth Inequality in America.”

Dr. Herring also published the article “[Is Diversity Still a Good Thing?](#)” in the 82nd volume of the *American Sociological Review* journal.

Christopher Justice (cohort 13) published a [review](#) of Sidney I. Dobrin’s *Writing Posthumanism, Posthuman Writing*. The review appeared in *Rhizomes*, issue 32.

Dr. Christine Mallinson produced “[The Revelatory Power of Language](#),” a five-minute podcast about language variation, produced for the Maryland Humanities Council’s Humanities Connection and featured on WYPR 88.1FM.

Dr. Mallinson published the chapter, “Language and Its Everyday Revolutionary Potential: Feminist Linguistic Activism in the U.S.” in *The Oxford Handbook of U.S. Women’s Social Movement Activism*, edited by Holly McCammon, Verta Taylor, Jo Reger, and Rachel Einwohner, and published by Oxford University Press.



Dr. Bryce Peake (MCS) authored the article “[Listening Like White Nationalists at a Civil Rights Rally](#)” for issue 14 of the *Journal of Sonic Studies*. Bryce also wrote “[Media Anthropology: Meaning, Infrastructure, Embodiment, and Activism](#)” for the peer-reviewed open access textbook *Perspectives: An Open Invitation to Cultural Anthropology*, edited by Nina Brown, Laura Tubelle de González, and Thomas McIlwraith.

Finally, Bryce also wrote “[Fake News and the Rotten George Soros](#)” for *Platypus: The Blog of the Committee on Anthropology, Science, and Computing*, and “[Net Neutrality is a Feminist Issue](#)” for *Ms. Magazine*

Dr. Craig Saper contributed to the collaborative essay, “[Meme Culture, Alienation, Capital, and Gestic Play](#)” featured in the 32nd issue of *Rhizomes: Cultural Studies in Emerging Knowledge*. Also, Craig’s work appeared online in an international collaboration called #NeWWorlDisorder, which is part of a larger project, the [Third Space Network](#), a broadcast channel for live Internet performance and social discourse.

Finally, Dr. Saper wrote an entry on the history of the book and publishing practices and the cultural, literary, and aesthetic contexts of a rare William Morris book in The Newberry’s collection, which will appear online in October.



Dr. Laura Rutter Strickling (LLC '12) wrote the book, *On Fire in Baltimore: Black Mormon Women and Conversion in a Raging City*, which is due for publication by Kofford Books at the beginning of 2018. This book is a study of the conversion stories of sixteen Black Mormon women from Baltimore and an inquiry into our racialized, gendered faith.



Dr. Polina Vinogradova (LLC '11) published the chapter “Teaching with Digital Stories for Student Empowerment and Engagement” in *Digital Language Learning and Teaching: Research, Theory, and Practice* edited by Michael Carrier, Ryan M. Damerow, and Kathleen M. Bailey, published by Routledge & TIRF.



Kevin Wisniewski (cohort 15) and **Felix Burgos (cohort 14)** released the third issue of their online journal *Textshop Experiments* in June 2017.

Talk, talk, talk



David Balosa (cohort 14) presented “Transformational Educators for the 21st Century Classrooms” at the Professional Development (PD) organized by the School District of Philadelphia at Motivation High School.



Dr. Bev Bickel. The work of the Art of Transformation team in the Imagining Research Center that Dr. Bickel helps anchor with **Lee Boot**, Director of the IRC, has continued and includes current LLC students working alongside graduate students and faculty from other departments. The team presented at the university retreat in August and will be running several sessions at the IA conference at UC Davis this fall.

Steven Dashiell (cohort 16) presented the paper “Analysis of Masculine Discourse in Online Discussions of Male/Male Military Rape” at the American Men's Studies Association conference, U of Michigan, in Ann Arbor, MI. He also presented “Soldier, You’re A Fag: Analyzing Impacts of College Campus Homophobic Discourse on Student Veterans” at the Cultural Studies Association conference, Georgetown University, in Washington DC, in May 2017.



Eloiza Domingo-Snyder (cohort 19) was chosen as one of four main-stage presenters at the 2017 Stanford MedicineX Conference at the Stanford University School of Medicine. Her presentation regarded patient preference accommodation theory and policy and was featured in the session "Diversity 3.0: The evolving conversation on diversity and inclusivity in medical education."



Ibrahim Er (cohort 16) presented “Multimodality Through Transnational Lenses in the Age of Digitalization” at the Third Bremen Conference on Multimodality in September 2017. This is a special “project showcase” panel for introducing the research project with **Dr. Ed Larkey (MLLI)** and **Landry Digeon (cohort 15)**.

Jessica Floyd (cohort 16) gave the paper presentation, “Ye Might Break Yer Jibboom, Like Did Our Poor Jack: Sexual Disappointment in ‘Blow the Man Down’” at the April 2017 Mid-Atlantic Conference on British Studies.

Dr. John Fritz (LLC '16) presented the paper, “Using Technology to Leverage Peer Pressure” at the Blackboard Analytics Symposium, Austin, TX last February.

Dr. Cedric Herring and **Dr. Loren Henderson (SOCY)** delivered the paper “Racial Tax or Racial Premium? Race and Earnings in the STEM Sector,” which was presented at the Association of Black Sociologists Annual Conference in Montreal, Canada in August.

Dr. Ed Larkey (MLLI) was selected to present an overview of his work with LLC candidates, **Landry Digeon** and **Ibrahim Er**, at the conference Perspectives of German Language and Culture in Science: Canada, US and Germany last April. The title of his paper was “German Television Series in Transcultural Comparison: Benefits of Using Computer-Supported Multimodal Methods of Analysis.”

Also, Dr. Larkey gave a paper at a conference in the Media Mutations series at the Dipartimento delle Arti of the Università di Bologna, in Bologna, Italy in May. His paper was titled “Excavating TV formats: using multimodal digital tools for comparatively analyzing adaptations of the Quebec sketch comedy series Un Gars Une Fille.”

Dr. Christine Mallinson delivered a keynote address, “We Do Language: Valuing Student Voices in North Carolina Schools,” at the C.A.R.E. conference, “Compassion and Realistic Expectations: Showing All Teachers how to C.A.R.E. for English Language Learners,” organized by Carolina TESOL, in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

Dr. Craig Saper presented on work related to his research at The Newberry at the Modernist Studies Association’s annual meeting in Amsterdam this summer.



Dr. Laura Rutter Strickling (LLC '12) presented her research at the Sunstone Symposium, University of Utah, Salt Lake City: "Black Mormon Women from Baltimore: What They Have Taught Me about Race and Faith," in July. She has also presented at the Symposium on Pilgrimage Studies at the College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Va.: "I saw her face and she was well": African American Mormon Women's Pilgrimage to the Latter-day Saint Washington D.C. Temple and Narrations of Spiritual Reuniting with Deceased Mothers," as well as in Chapel Hill, North Carolina for an interfaith group, "Black Mormon women of Baltimore: Mothers, mothering and conversion."

Polina Vinogradova (LLC '11) delivered the paper, “Willingness to Communicate, 21st Century Skills, and Student Engagement in Content-Based English Medium Instruction” at the Center for Language and Culture, in Hosei University, Tokyo, Japan in April. She also presented, “Action Research for Professional Development” at the Washington Area TESOL professional development workshop in January. Finally, Polina co-presented “Apprenticeship of Observation and Self-Reflection: Thinking about How We Teach” at the professional development workshop for volunteer ESL teachers in Washington, DC.

Kevin Wisniewski (cohort 15) delivered conference talks on Political Propaganda and Fake News During the American Revolution & Early American Satire: The Society of Early Americanists, 28th Annual Conference of the American Literature Association; Early Modern Satire: Themes, Re-Evaluations, and Practices, University of Gothenburg, Gothenburg, Sweden. He also gave a public lecture on the American Flag History at the The North American Vexillology Society and the The 90th Anniversary of Flag Day Ceremony and Celebration, The Star Spangled Banner Flag House.



LLC in Media



Erin Berry (cohort 15) was interviewed for the *Washington Post's* article, “[Managing finances might be graduate students' toughest test](#)” in April.

Eloiza Domingo-Snyder (cohort 19) was recognized by the *Profiles in Diversity* Journal as one of their 2017 Women Worth Watching. This annual award recognizes women who are promoting and advocating diversity in their industry, supporting mentoring and coaching of other diverse women, and advancing inclusion efforts personally and professionally.



Ruken Isik (cohort 17) authored an [Op-Ed](#) in the *Huffington Post* about the violence committed against protestors during Turkish President Erdogan's visit to the US. She was also featured in *Democracy Now!* on May 27, 2017 to talk about the same protests.

Dr. Christine Mallinson and Dr. Anne H. Charity Hudley published the article, “[The Sound of Inclusion: Why Teachers' Words Matter](#),” in the online magazine, *The Conversation*. The article has since had over 14,000 views and has been reprinted, among other sources, in *Salon* and in *Newsweek*, retitled “What Teachers Say Is Critical to Making an Inclusive Classroom.”



Sedrick Smith (cohort 18) authored an Op-Ed in the *Baltimore Sun* titled, “[Baltimore City College students 'crushed it.'](#)”

Kevin Wisniewski (cohort 15). Kevin’s lecture on the origins of the American flag, which was part of the program celebrating the 90th Anniversary of the Star-Spangled Banner Flag House, was featured in “The Best of Baltimore 2017” issue in *Baltimore Magazine*.



We are Family!



Dr. Satarupa Joardar (LLC '15) and her husband Rohit Mojumder welcomed their son, Rupam Christopher Mojumder on Mothers' Day this year. Rupam, at four months old, is having cooing conversations with his mother about whether or not to attend the LLC PhD program in the future!



Jiselle Providence-Jules (cohort 16) also welcomed her son Jalen Caleb Jules, who was born on July 25, 2017.

Dr. Masi Ngidi-Brown (LLC '15) and his wife Jenny also want to share the birth of their son Nachshon Ngidi-Brown, who was born in Blue Hill, Maine in July 2017.



We would like to thank the **2016-17 LLC Steering Committee** for their service and dedication to our doctoral program. They are (from left to right): Jennifer Maher (ENGL), Cedric Herring (LLC), Susan Blunck (EDUC), Bev Bickel (LLC), Kimberly R. Moffitt (LLC), Christine Mallinson (LLC), Bambi Chapin (SAHAP), Carole McCann (GWST), Bill Shewbrigde (MCS), Craig Saper (LLC), and Ed Larkey (MLLI). Not pictured: Gloria Chuku (AFST) and Michelle Scott (HIST).

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.

This issue was edited by Felix Burgos (cohort 14), in collaboration with Liz Steenrod, and Mary Farrell.