

# Of Note

Recent Highlights from  
UMBC's Language, Literacy & Culture Doctoral Program  
Spring 2020

Dear LLC Community,

Last spring, I shared that I felt like LLC was in a “season of growth.” And while that sentiment remains true, this spring feels like a different type of growth. Many of us are physically confined in some way to our homes, immersed in distance learning, possibly working from home, all while maintaining our usual obligations. This is growth, indeed; but it feels quite uncomfortable, which is also a part of our evolution and unfolding. The effects of the coronavirus pandemic seem daunting, yet even in such moments, we must remain centered and focused on our values, our goals, and our hopes for the future. I suspect it is the only way to curb that cabin fever we may all be experiencing.

Our Program continues to experience positive change and development. Earlier this semester we completed a successful faculty search (more to come soon on that announcement) and we accepted our newest group of doctoral students (cohort 23) for the fall. I look forward to introducing you to all of the new members of our LLC community. We also have several dissertation defenses upon us (come join the virtual gatherings), so I'm thinking a nice celebration, in-person of course, would be in order after this semester's woes. 😊

Enjoy perusing the latest successes and accomplishments of our graduate students, core and affiliated faculty, alumni, and friends. This semester update is our way of keeping our community informed and sharing great news. As you will *note*, we are certainly experiencing growth—a growth of abundance of good scholarship,

## When This is Over

by Laura Kelly Fanucci

When this is over, may we never again take  
for granted

A handshake with a stranger  
Full shelves at the store

Conversations with neighbors  
A crowded theater  
Friday night out

The taste of communion  
A routine checkup

The school rush each morning  
Coffee with a friend  
The stadium roaring

Each deep breath  
A boring Tuesday  
Life itself.

endeavors, and opportunities that our community encounters.

While we may not share physical space for the remainder of this semester, know that our community remains ever present. We are here for one another and willing to support you during this unusual time. Please look out for the multitude of ways we are determined to keep our community thriving, even if temporarily, that means in the virtual realm. Our Facebook page (Language, Literacy & Culture – UMBC) is one such space so I encourage you to check us out there. LLC GAs Sherella Cupid (cohort 18) and Tony Hynes (cohort 19) are working diligently, as usual, to continue our community connections as well. Expect to hear from them too.

In the meantime, use some of your time to reflect on gratitude, not uncertainty, and seek your peace and live it.

Thank you, as always, for being a part of our community.



**Kimberly Moffitt,**  
Director

When this ends  
may we find  
that we have become  
more like the people  
we wanted to be  
we were called to be  
we hoped to be

and may we stay  
that way — better  
for each other  
because of the worst.

# LLC Program Highlights and Milestones

## Ph.D. Graduates Honored in December



*From left to right:*

**Delana Gregg** (cohort 16) *Effects of “High-Impact Practices” on First-Generation College Students’ Academic Success*

Mentors: Beverly Bickel (LLC) and Jane Arnold Lincove (PUBL)

**Shawntay Stocks** (summer 2019 graduate; see last newsletter)

**Diane Kuthy** (summer 2019 graduate; see last newsletter)

## LLC Students who Achieved Candidacy in 2019 honored at Reception in November

*From left to right:*

**Dawn Shafer** (cohort 19),

**Tamisha Ponder** (cohort 19), and

**Sedrick Smith** (cohort 18)



# Sharing our Good News



**Erin Berry-McCrea** (LLC 2018) accepted a new position in December 2019 as Curriculum Coordinator for the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (DPI) at North Carolina Virtual Public School (NCVPS). In this role Dr. Berry-McCrea works with teachers, content writers, and curriculum specialists in developing K-12 content that meets NC State Standards and Quality Matters Rubric Alignment Guidelines.

**Bev Bickel** (LLC) continues to serve on the faculty board of the UMBC Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation (TRHT) project supported by AAC&U and led by **Frank Anderson** (cohort 18), Assistant Director of the Choice program in the Shriver Center. The TRHT project is a community-based, multi-year initiative designed to promote positive race relations, erase structural barriers to equal treatment and opportunity and address longstanding racial hierarchies. **Shenita Denson** (cohort 22) is the new TRHT Intern and Fellow and will be involved in their work on program assessment and research about the organizing processes that will lead to a multi-authored publication.



**Forrest Caskey** (cohort 21) was promoted to Associate Professor of Literacy and Interdisciplinary Studies at Anne Arundel Community College.



**Ciara Christian** (cohort 21) received the American Association of Colleges & Universities' 2020 K. Patricia Cross Future Leaders Award. This award recognizes a graduate student who shows exemplary promise as a future leader of higher education; who demonstrates a commitment to developing academic and civic responsibility in them self and others; and whose work reflects a strong emphasis on teaching and learning.

**Steven Dashiell** (Cohort 16) was chosen to receive the Gary Burns Student Travel Award from the Midwest Popular Culture Association (MPCA). This award provides a small grant to the best graduate school papers to be presented at the annual conference. Also, Steven won the Eastern Sociological Society Military Sociology mini-conference paper award for his paper, "Freedom is Never Free: Veteran Masculinity Configuration, Situatedness, and Stressors." The paper is the result of research from his dissertation.

**Lindsay DiCuirci's** (ENGL) 2019 book, *Colonial Revivals: The Nineteenth-Century Lives of Early American Books* was awarded the 2020 St. Louis Mercantile Library Prize through the Bibliographical Society of America.

**Adam Holden** (cohort 21) has taken a lead role with UMBC's participation in the American Council on Education's Internationalization Laboratory which includes co-writing the interim, self-study report that was recently released to the UMBC community. On January 27-29, UMBC hosted a team of external, internationally known experts to review and provide feedback on this report. During their time on campus, this team of experts repeatedly said that UMBC's self-study report was the most comprehensive and thorough that they had ever seen.

**J. Incoe** (cohort 19) is currently the Spring 2020 Dresher Center Graduate Student Research Fellow. Their research project is entitled, *Sonic Waves of Grain: Paul Harvey's American Evangelism*.

**Mary Laurents** (LLC 2019) has received a contract from Lexington Books to write a book based on her dissertation.

# Hot off the Press

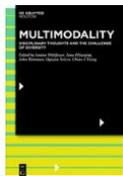
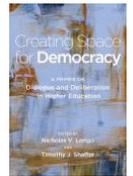


**Emek Ergun's** (LLC 2015) Turkish translation of Octavia Butler's classic novel, [Kindred](#), came out in March 2019.

**Laura (Violeta) Colombo** (LLC 2011) authored, "[Teaching Writing-for-Publishing Practices to Language Teacher Trainees: A Classroom Experience](#)," *Ideas 2da Época* 4(4), 1-12 and "[Proof-readers: a key resource in the PhD thesis writing process](#)," *Cuaderno de Pedagogia Universitaria* 15(30), 3-11.

**Lindsay DiCuirci** (ENGL) co-wrote, "[Critical Cataloguing and the Serials Archive: The Digital Making of 'Mill Girls in Nineteenth-Century Print](#),'" in *Archive Journal*, November 2019.

**David Hoffman** (LLC 2013) and **Romy Hübler** (LLC 2015) published the chapter, "Talking democracy," in Longo, N. and Shaffer, T. (Eds.), [Creating space for democracy: A primer on dialogue and deliberation in higher education](#) (September 2019). They also co-authored, "Infusing CLDE Theory of Change into student affairs: New thinking about civic learning and democratic engagement," in *Leadership Exchange* magazine, a publication for senior executive leaders in college student affairs (September 2019).



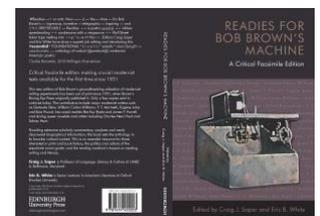
**Edward Larkey** (MLLI) published the chapter, "Narrative as a Mode of Communication: Comparing TV Format Adaptations with Multimodal and Narratological Approaches" in the volume *Multimodality. Disciplinary Thoughts and the Challenge of Diversity*, edited by Janina Wildfeuer, Jana Pflaeging, John Bateman, Ognjan Seizov and Chiao-I Tseng, 2019 (Boston/Berlin: de Gruyter/Mouton). It will be available in the UMBC open-access repository ScholarWorks@UMBC.

**Tania Lizarazo** (MLLI) published, "[Más allá del horror: Ética como performance en Chocó](#)." [Beyond Horror: Ethics as Performance in Chocó], *Revista de Estudios Colombianos* 53, 2019.

**Christine Mallinson** (LLC) co-authored, "[Toward Racial Justice in Linguistics: Interdisciplinary Insights into Theorizing Race in the Discipline and Diversifying the Profession](#)," in the journal *Language*.

**Kimberly Moffitt** (LLC) published, "[Scripting the Way for the 21st-Century Disney Princess in The Princess and the Frog](#)," in *Women's Studies in Communications* on-line journal, October 17, 2019.

**Craig Saper** (LLC) authored, "Introduction and Notes on the Text: – Readies for Bob Brown's Machine – Machine Art – Conceptual Poetry – Political Engagement – e-Literacies" and "Invent(st)ory: The Contributors and Their Readies," in [The Readies for Bob Brown's Machine: A Critical Facsimile Edition](#), Ed. Craig Saper and E. White (Edinburgh University Press, 2020) and "Automatic Writing: From Networked Art to Cyberwarfare," in *Symbolism: An International Annual of Critical Aesthetics* (De Gruyter, 2020).



**Yvette Mozie-Ross** (Provost Office) and Wells, T. "[Ramping Up Financial Literacy](#)," *Business Officer*, 53 (5), 12-13. (2019).

**Polina Vinogradova** (LLC 2011) and Ross, E.H published, "[Fostering volunteer ESL teacher identity through reflection on apprenticeship of observation](#)," *TESOL Journal*, 10(4):e480. (2019).

**Tymofey Wowk** (cohort 15) wrote, "[Data Triangulation](#)," *Marijuana Venture: The Journal of Professional Cannabis Growers and Retailers*. (December 2019).

Fan Yang (MCS) authored, "[Review of Jennifer Hubbert's China in the World: An Anthropology of Confucius Institutes, Soft Power, and Globalization.](#)" *The China Quarterly*, 1-2. (January 23, 2020).

## Talk, Talk, Talk



**Kris'tina Ackerman** (cohort 21) presented, "Afro-Language as Resistance" at African/Diaspora Migrations, Displacements and Movements: Histories, Politics and Poetics International Conference at Howard University, Washington, DC, 30 October - 1 November 2019.



**Marina Adler** (SAHAP) was a co-organizer of the [International Father Research Networking Conference](#), "Care-Practices of Fathers in International Comparison: Do Policies Matter?" in Landshut, Germany in January 2020. Over 60 scholars from 20 countries and 3 continents shared their work, made new connections, and discussed the founding of an international research network on father research. Marina Adler was a panelist on "Wall Stories," a panel commemorating the fall of the Berlin Wall and a discussion about barriers and how to overcome them, UMBC Center for Democratic Life, November 11, 2019.

**Bev Bickel** (LLC) worked with **David Hoffman** (LLC 2013) and **Romy Hübler** (LLC 2015) to organize a 19-person UMBC delegation to the Imagining America conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The delegation included **Charlotte Keniston** (cohort 21) and **Keisha Allen** (EDUC), **Thania Muñoz** (MLLI), and **Lee Boot** (IRC) along with community partners Denise Griffin Johnson and John Harris from the Arch Social Club in West Baltimore. The delegation that also included eight undergraduate student leaders and Preminda Jacob (Associate Dean of CAHSS) and Mike Casiana (AMST) was involved in multiple presentations including "Envisioning Imagining America's Next 20 Years," "Ripples from a Place of Belonging and The Arch Social Club Response from the 2015 Up-Rising" and "Building and a Culture of Belonging." (October 2019).



**Ciara Christian** (cohort 21) participated in the panel, "Podcasts as Contemporary Sites of Black Feminist Knowledge and the Survival of Black Women," at the National Communication Association annual convention in Baltimore in November 2019.

**Steven Dashiell** (cohort 16) presented his paper, "Indirect Advice and Masculine Discourse in Dragon Magazine Articles" at the Midwest Popular Culture Association conference in Cincinnati, Ohio. The paper was based on research done at the Strong Museum of Play which Steven attended via an academic residency fellowship he received in August. October, 2019.

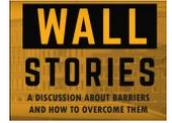
**Shenita Denson** (cohort 22) chaired and participated in the panel, "Happily Even After: Surviving Relational Dissolution," with her paper, "Dear Wives, Newlyweds, and Brides to be, Help me Make Sense of my Breakup: Resilience, Survival, and Interpersonal Interactions in Support-Based Online Forums," at the National Communication Association annual convention in Baltimore in November 2019.

**Adam Holden** (cohort 21) co-presented with **Irina Golubeva** (MLLI) and Dr. Robin Helms (Amer. Council on Education), "Internationalization of the Curriculum: From Theory to Practice," at the NAFSA: Association of International Educators Region 8 conference in November 2019. This presentation reported out about UMBC's participation in the American Council on Education's Internationalization Laboratory.

**Adam Holden** and **Katie Kohler** (cohort 22) co-presented, “International Educators Becoming Intercultural Leaders: Accessing our Full Intelligence,” at the NAFSA: Association of International Educators Region 8 conference in November 2019. **Irina Golubeva** served as chair of the presentation.



**Romy Hübler**, **Marina Adler** (SAHAP) and **Ed Larkey** (MLLI) were panelists and **David Hoffman** was the moderator for “[Wall Stories: A discussion about barriers and how to overcome them](#),” a UMBC program commemorating the fall of the Berlin Wall. (November 2019).



**Edward Larkey** (MLLI) presented, “Adapting Un Gars, Une Fille for German Television. Cultural Translation or Discursive Proximity?” at the Association for Canadian Studies in the US (ACSUS), Montreal, Canada, November 2019.

**Tania Lizarazo** (MLLI) presented, “Utopian Archives: Collaborative Digital Collections in the Colombian Pacific,” [First Continental Conference on Afro-Latin American Studies](#), Harvard University, December 2019.



**Kimberly Moffitt** (LLC) moderated two panels, “Communication and #\_\_\_ing While Black or Brown” and “Race Relations in Charm City: Communicating Social Justice,” and participated in the panel, “Is it Surviving or Thriving? Media Representations of Baltimore, An American City,” with **Sedrick Smith** (cohort 18), **Sonya Crosby** (cohort 20), and **Ciara Christian** at the [National Communication Association annual convention](#) in Baltimore in November 2019.

**Alison Morrow** (cohort 19) presented the paper, “Princes and Wolves: Global Storytelling in the K-pop Band 2PM’s ‘My House’ Music Video” at the [Association of Graduate Liberal Studies Program's Annual Conference](#), which was themed around The Commons: Exploring Common Ground in Uncommon Times. Washington, DC, October 2019.

**Fred Pincus** (SAHAP emeritus) read excerpts from his forthcoming memoir, *Confessions of a Radical Sociologist*, and shared some reflections on his life and time at UMBC as a faculty member while involved in the civil rights and anti-Vietnam War movements, November 21, 2019.

**Fan Yang** (MCS) was invited to comment on Eben Kirksey's "The China Dream: Dr. Jiankui He’s Research in Context" at a symposium, Gene Editing and Hope for an HIV Cure at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey, in November 2019.

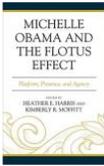
## *LLC in the Media*

**Christine Mallinson** (LLC) was interviewed for Quartz about gender neutral language and Southern culture for the article, “[The Trends That May End the ‘Y’all’ vs. ‘You Guys’ Debate](#),” November 26, 2019.

**Kimberly Moffitt** (LLC) shared a public commentary on [The Importance of the CROWN Act](#) on January 8, 2020 and [Black History is Living](#) on February 19, 2020 on the WYPR 88.1 FM Baltimore radio station.

**Sedrick Smith** (cohort 18) wrote the op-ed, “[Kobe and other athletes are the super heroes black kids don’t see in movies](#)” in the *Baltimore Sun*’s January 28, 2020 edition.

## LLC Hosts a Panel Discussion on Newly Released Book



On February 27, 2020, the LLC Program hosted a panel discussion and celebration for **Kimberly Moffitt's** new co-edited volume, *Michelle Obama and The Flotus Effect*, Lexington Books, October 2019. Moderated by **Sonya Crosby** (cohort 20), the panelists included **Sherella Cupid** (cohort 18) and **Shawntay Stocks** (LLC 2019). They reflected on their involvement in the volume (as co-editor or contributor) and shared their thoughts on the prospective legacy of the former First Lady.



*Left to right:* Sonya Crosby, Moderator; Tahira Mahdi, contributor, Sherella Cupid, contributor, Kimberly Moffitt, co-editor, Heather Harris, co-editor, Leticia Williams, contributor, and Shawntay Stocks, contributor

## LLC's Offices Receive a Make-over

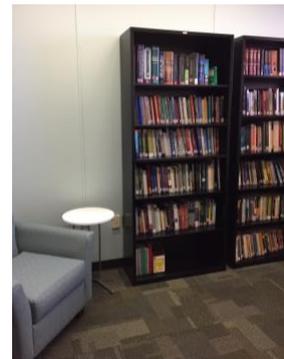
The LLC Program is grateful for the funding it received from the CAHSS Dean's Office to upgrade its conference room and create a graduate assistant office and student reading room. When the campus reopens, we hope you'll make use of our comfy reading room with lending library. On behalf of the CAHSS Black Faculty Committee, our reading room is serving as the temporary home for UMBC's Black faculty-authored books collection and you are invited to enjoy those books as well.



Conference Room



Sitting area outside of GA room



Student Reading Room



Thank you for your contributions to this edition of our newsletter!  
We love hearing from you.

(Virtual copies of all *Of Note* editions can be found at [https://llc.umbc.edu/of-note-llc-newsletter/.](https://llc.umbc.edu/of-note-llc-newsletter/))