

Of Note

Recent Highlights from
UMBC's Language, Literacy & Culture Doctoral Program
Spring 2022

Dear LLC Community,

Although we continue to face national and international tragedies, our doctoral students' research often speaks to those crises. Within LLC, we have all worked to complete our seven-year academic program review. Thanks to everyone in our LLC community, including doctoral students, faculty, chairs of affiliated departments, alumni, outside reviewers, and administrators, who had an opportunity this year to join in our review process as we chart our future course over the next seven years! LLC has 55 active students, with 5 earning the PhD degree at the May graduation, and possibly 2 more by August. We are going through a time of change and new opportunities, and I wanted to mention a few of note.

Please join me in congratulating LLC's former director, **Professor Kimberly Moffitt**, appointed the Dean of the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences at UMBC after an extensive national search. We know that Dr. Moffitt will forever be part of the LLC community, and two of her students whose dissertation committees she co-directed, **Dr. Ciara Christian**, co-directed with **Dr. Brandy Wallace**, and **Dr. Tunisia Lacy-Lumpkin**, co-directed with **Dr. Bev Bickel**, will graduate in May.

Dr. Beverly Bickel, who recently was awarded much-deserved emerita status, continues to work with our doctoral candidates. Two of her students, whose dissertation committees she co-directed, Dr. Lacy-Lumpkin, mentioned above, and **Dr. Kaleigh Mrowka**, co-directed with **Dr. Yolanda Valencia**, will graduate in May. Dr. Bickel has organized and initiated a new fellowship on storywork and public engagement. Please consider contributing to this or our other fellowship funds online [here](#). We acknowledge this year's fellowship awardees on page 2.

Two LLC doctoral students, **Dr. Rachel Carter** and **Dr. Ruken Isik**, whose dissertation committees were directed by **Dr. Carole McCann**, a crucial founding member of LLC's Steering Committee, will also graduate this month.

Please join me in congratulating **Dr. Christine Mallinson** for her NSF grants and Hrabowski Innovation Grant that will help

to support our students in important research projects. **Dr. Ramon Goings** is currently standing for promotion and tenure; it is a yearlong process, and we hope to hear good news in a letter from our President Freeman Hrabowski's desk before Dr. Hrabowski, a tireless supporter and champion of LLC's Doctoral Program for 25 years, retires. Our program was *crucial* in earning UMBC's new R1 Carnegie classification ("Doctoral Universities with very high research activity").

As LLC serves as a key component in our R1-status among top-tier universities, we want to welcome our newest faculty member this fall, **Dr. Tanya Saunders**. We will introduce them to the community in September, but for now I will mention that they bring to LLC a much-needed expertise on African and Afro-Latinx culture, especially LGBTQIA+ cultural and activist practices in the global south.

In conclusion, I urge all of you to read the dissertations of our graduates and my colleagues' ongoing research as they eloquently speak to the necessity of evidence-based social science and cultural literacy in facing down eliminationist rhetoric and racist violence nationally and globally.

Onward and in solidarity!

Craig Saper,
Director



LLC Program Highlights and Milestones

Ph.D. Graduates Honored in December



Harry Bhandari (cohort 19)

The Political Participation and Linguistic Integration of Nepalese Americans

Chair: Loren Henderson, PhD

May Chung (cohort 17)

Mandarin-English Dual Language Education: Understanding Parental Ideologies and Expectations

Co-chairs: Christine Mallinson, PhD and Sarah Shin, PhD



LLC Fellowship Awardees

This year LLC created two new fellowship awards. One honors the legacy of Dr. Cedric Herring's research in race and educational policy, diversity in organizations, and stratification and inequality. The other is in honor of Dr. Beverly Bickel's retirement and her commitment to publicly engaged research and digital storytelling.

Publicly Engaged Research and Digital Storywork Fellowship

- **Jessica Burstrem** (cohort 23): How Socially Motivated Activist Investing and 50 Years of Native Activism Changed the Game and the Name of the Washington Football Team
- **Charlotte Keniston** (cohort 21): Digital Storytelling with Black Yield Institute
- **Elaine MacDougall** (cohort 22): Exploring the Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program for Baltimore Area College Students, Inside and Out

Jodi Crandall Fellowship for Research in LLC

- **Forrest Caskey** (cohort 21): Who is Dorothy? Baltimore Drag Queens: Establishing Space and Place for Queer Culture

Cedric Herring Fellowship for Research in LLC

- **Kara Seidel** (cohort 23): How Policy Shapes Spaces: Exploring the Intersection of Disability and Race in the University Context

Bev Bickel's reflections

Now that Bev has transitioned to retirement, she shares her UMBC story and reflects on her journey.



Reflecting on my time at UMBC, I am deeply grateful for the opportunities to work with committed and values-oriented students, faculty and staff who have become mentors and friends. I first came to UMBC to complete the MA in ESOL and Bilingual Education and had the honor of being mentored by Diane Lee and then leaving to teach ESOL at CCBC. In 1998 — the same year that LLC welcomed its first cohort — I returned to UMBC to be the director of the English Language Center (now English Language Institute) and eventually also served simultaneously as an Associate Vice Provost in the Division of Professional Studies, with multiple responsibilities including as liaison for UMBC programs at the inspiring Universities at Shady Grove. During that time, I joined LLC cohort 3 and knew immediately that I had found my people, and then I found my wise and generous dissertation mentor, Pat McDermott. I've had the privilege of serving as interim director of LLC and the Drescher Center and have had opportunities to teach for the American Studies and Education departments and the Humanities Scholars program. At UMBC, I have learned and relearned the wisdom of Angela Davis' reminder of a feminist commitment to continually review, revise and relaunch. We have worked together to do just that, and I have found mentors and partners focused on equity, ethics and cultural and institutional change on the Gender, Women's and Sexuality Studies Coordinating Committee and Women's Faculty Network Executive Committee, as well as numerous faculty advisory boards including the Imaging Research Center; Shriver Center; Community Leadership Master's in Professional Studies; Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation Campus Center; and Public Humanities Minor. For years, I have learned from and treasured working with students, staff and faculty from the Mosaic Center, Women's Center, Center for Democracy and Civic Life and Breaking Ground, Provost's Writing Board, Faculty Senate, Center for the Advancement of Learning and Teaching, the Drescher Center's Anti-racist and Action working group and the Digital Storytelling working group, and numerous other university-wide initiatives. There have just been amazing people everywhere at UMBC! I was privileged to work with Lois Blum Feinblatt, Helen Atkinson (LLC alum) and others to develop and launch the ongoing Teachers' Democracy Project that was incubated in LLC and involved numerous LLC students and alums. I've had the honor of serving as UMBC's liaison to the Imagining America national consortium and working with community partners engaged in the urgent public work of sharing stories and building just communities. While I retired January 31st as a faculty member of LLC and affiliate faculty member of GWST and the Imaging Research Center, I am finding it difficult to separate from the inspiring work and open-hearted people across the campus and beyond. I have been lucky to have loved my work and the people in my life, and that never goes away. As I slowly redirect my energies, I am deeply grateful for the powerful intellectual communities of students, faculty and staff who have become mentors and collaborators inspiring my teaching and organizing. As I continue to work with some LLC students and participate in urgent equity initiatives, story work and public scholarship projects at UMBC and beyond, I celebrate LLC's accomplishments, our new faculty and students, and the knowledge-making and community building of LLC alums, current students, faculty and affiliate faculty and staff. Thank you all for fueling the energy and hope we all need!

Sharing our Good News



May Chung (LLC PhD '21) received a Fellowship from the American Dialect Society, as part of the American Council of Learned Scholars. In June, she will partake in the [Intention Foundry](#), a forum to accelerate equity, inclusion, and structural change in the academy, in Chicago, Illinois.

LaJerne Cornish (LLC PhD '05) was appointed President of Ithaca College after a national search. Dr. Cornish was previously Provost of the College.

Shenita Denson (cohort 22) accepted a full-time position with the US Department of State as an Education Program Specialist with the Foreign Services Institute in Arlington, Virginia.



Landry Digeon (LLC PhD '20) co-founded Möbius Trip LLC with Anjal Amin. Möbius Trip LLC is a data science company that measures cinematographic and cultural elements in movies and TV series.

(Website in progress: <https://mobiustrip.co>)

Keegan Cook Finberg (ENGL) was awarded the Fall 2022 Dresher Center Residential Faculty Research Fellowship to work on her book, *Poetry in General, or, Literary Experimentalism after 1960*.



Romy Hübler's (LLC PhD '15) position with UMBC's Center for Democracy and Civic Life has been reclassified from Assistant Director to Associate Director in recognition of the wide range of responsibilities she has assumed since the Center's

2018 launch.

Renée Lambert-Brétiere (MLLI) received a CS3 Small Research Grant (Summer 2021) titled, "The Development of Intercultural Competence in a World Language Communities Classroom." She

also received a CAHSS Dean's Research Fund award (2022-2023) for the project, "Documentation linguistique de l'innu: Steps toward the Preservation of Indigenous Languages of Quebec (Canada)." Further, Lambert-Brétiere received a Dresher Center Residential Faculty Research Fellowship for Fall 2022 for "Bridging the Digital Divide in the Documentation of the Innu Language."

Heather Linville (LLC PhD '14) has been recommended for the rank of Full Professor at the University of Wisconsin, La Crosse, pending Board of Regents approval this summer. She will additionally be taking a sabbatical next academic year to research the connections between digital storytelling and translanguaging.

Christine Mallinson (LLC) is PI and Dr. Anne H. Charity Hudley of Stanford University is Co-PI on a three-year research grant from the National Science Foundation Build and Broaden Program. The project, "[Linguistic Production, Perception, and Identity in the Career Mobility of Black Faculty in Linguistics and the Language Sciences](#)," examines how Black faculty in the language sciences linguistically navigate their professional experiences. She also was recently notified of a [2-year NSF grant](#) award to study deepfakes, focusing on audio clips. Her co-PI is Vandana Janeja of Information Systems.

Christine was also awarded a Hrabowski Innovation grant in December 2021 entitled, "Retrieving the Social Sciences: Expanding Students' Engagement with Science Communication and Public Outreach." She was accepted into the APLU's Council on Research (CoR) [Research Fellowship Program](#) that will begin in June 2022.

Alyse Minter (cohort 20) was awarded a Dissertation Fellowship for the spring 2022 semester from the Graduate School.



Kimberly Moffitt (CAHSS and LLC) is lead PI in a 3-year \$3 million grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation called, “[Breaking the M.O.L.D.](#)” (Mellon/Maryland Opportunities for Leadership

Development). The 6 female Co-PIs from UMBC, Morgan State, and University of Maryland, College Park will study the disparities in college leadership — and help usher more women, faculty of color and humanities scholars into those top jobs.



Derek Musgrove (HIST) is a [2022 Andrew Carnegie Fellow](#). His project, “‘We must take to the streets again:’ The Black Power Resurgence on Conservative America,” explores the black

activism of the 1980s and ’90s that rose in opposition to the urban crisis and the conservative ascendance in U.S. politics.



Ngeri Nnachi Azuewah (cohort 20) has become a Civil Rights Officer with the state of Maryland. She will be responsible for developing and delivering training to both internal and external audiences regarding anti-

discrimination law as it pertains to Title 20, and the value of diversity to businesses, communities and housing. She will also be responsible for coordinating all Maryland Commission on Civil Rights training activities to educate the public and MCCR staff in order to support them in reducing discrimination and effecting positive human relations within the State.

Elizabeth Patton (MCS) recently received a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) summer stipend award to work on her next book project, *Representation as a form of Resistance: Documenting African-American spaces of leisure during the Jim Crow Era*.



Tamisha Ponder (cohort 19) (shown here with FBI Director Wray) and her husband were keynote speakers for the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s February 23, 2022 observation

of National Black History Month. The theme was “Black Health and Wellness” and they spoke from the lens of social determinants of health, racial battle fatigue, over/under medicalization of Black bodies, physiological responses to racism and community of care.

Kara Seidel (cohort 23) received the GSA’s Jessica Soto Perez Award this spring which honors a graduate student who strives to aid other students in their academic and professional pursuits.



Shawntay Stocks (LLC PhD ‘19) is the recipient of the inaugural CCMA JEDI-CCE (Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion – Civic and Community Engagement) Award, given in 2021 for an outstanding campus-community partnership that

contributes to the intersection and institutionalization of equity and civic and community engagement, within the culture of the campus and community, involving community voice in the development of partnerships and producing measurable impact in both faculty and student participants and the community.

Brandy Wallace (SAPH) is Co-PI on the 2021-2023 grant, “Understanding Trauma-Informed Care Implementation in Nursing Homes and its Impacts on Direct Care Workers and Residents,” funded by the Oregon Community Foundation Better Nursing Home Care Fund.

Hot off the Press

Marina Adler (MLLI) published "[Active Fathers in the United States: Caught Between De-Gendering Care and Caring Masculinities](#)" in the *Journal of Family Issues*, December 2021.



David Balosa (LLC PhD '20) wrote the chapter, "Existential Sociolinguistics: The Fundamentals of the Political Legitimacy of Linguistic Minority Rights," in the volume, [The Language of Higher Education in the Global South](#), Routledge, January 2022.

Steven Dashiell (LLC PhD '20) published "Masculine Compensation via Language in Judgement-Free Zones: The Case of Bronies" in *Studies in Popular Culture*, Vol. 43, No. 2. He also published "[Table Talk: Defining Metadiscourse of Analog Games](#)" in *Acta Ludologica*, Vol 4, No 2, and "[Discussions of Fantasy Characters and Demonstrations of a Defensive Hybridity in Gamer Masculinity](#)" for *The Journal of Men's Studies*, March 2022.



Keegan Cook Finberg's (ENGL) peer-reviewed essay, "American Lyric, American Surveillance, and Claudia Rankine's Citizen" was published in *Contemporary Women's Writing*, December 2021.

Jessica Floyd (LLC PhD '17) published the article, "[Seamen, Semen, and Virility: Leaky Homophones on Land and at Sea](#)," in *English Studies*, June 2021.



Ramon Goings (LLC), **Sherella Cupid** (LLC PhD '20), **Montia Gardner** (LLC PhD '21), and **Antione Tomlin** (LLC PhD '21) published the book, [Dissertating During a Pandemic: Narratives of Success from Scholars of Color](#) which explores how doctoral students across the country wrote their dissertations during the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

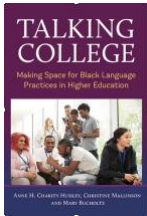
Irina Golubeva (MLLI) published a chapter, "Exploring Hungarian broader public perceptions of and interactions with Chinese," in a volume published by Brill. She also co-authored two peer reviewed articles: "Design and Validation of a Questionnaire for the Measurement of Students' Perceptions of Intercultural Practices within Bilingual Secondary Schools in the European context" in the *Journal of Language and Education*, and "Channelling discomfort through the arts: A Covid-19 case study through an intercultural telecollaboration project" in *Language Teaching Research*.



Delana Gregg (LLC PhD '19) and **Sarah J. Shin** (EDUC) coauthored the article, "Why We Will Not Return to Exclusively Face-to-Face Tutoring Post-COVID: Improving Student Engagement Through Technology" in *The Learning Assistance Review*, Vol. 26, Issue 2, Fall 2021. Their article shares UMBC's Academic Success Center's success with online tutoring and SI PASS sessions during distance learning. They gave an invited pre-conference workshop for other college learning center leaders at the NCLCA national conference in Birmingham, AL in fall 2021 based on the research for the article.

Francis M. Hult (EDUC) co-published an article for the inaugural issue of the *Journal of English-Medium Instruction* together with Dr. Amy Wanyu Ou (University of Gothenburg, Sweden) and Dr. Michelle Mingyue Gu (The Education University of Hong Kong). Based on an examination of global trends, they propose

research-based guidelines for balancing English with multilingualism in language planning for higher education.



Christine Mallinson (LLC) co-published [*Talking College: Making Space for Black Language Practices in Higher Education*](#). The book features quotes, vignettes, and research from LLC alums Dr. Erin Berry McCrea, Dr. Antione Tomlin, Dr. Steven Dashiell, and incoming LLC student Lavon Davis. LLC students Kara Seidel and Michael Hunt also participated in a focus group for the project, and Kara was instrumental as a project GA.

Edward Larkey (MLLI emeritus) published "[German Narratives in International Television Format Adaptations: Comparing Du und Ich \(ZDF 2002\) with Un Gars, Une Fille \(Quebec 1997-2002\)](#)," in *Digital Humanities Quarterly*, Vol. 15, No. 1, Special Issue Audiovisual Data in Digital Humanities. This article cross-culturally compares the German remake of the Quebec sketch comedy/sitcom series Un Gars, Une Fille ("A Guy and a Girl").

Jason Loviglio (MCS) co-edited the 46-chapter book, [*The Routledge Companion to Radio and Podcast Studies*](#), with chapters from scholars and practitioners on 5 continents. He also wrote the chapter on the history of the car radio and emotional transportation.



Kindel Nash (EDUC) co-wrote the feature article, "[Literacy is Everything](#)," in *Literacy Today*, Vol 39, Issue 3. It explored new directions in teacher preparation programs, with a specific focus on student-centered practices and how they can better support readers who struggle.

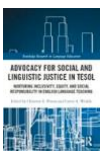
Ana Oskoz (MLLI) co-published the book chapter, "The place of Digital storytelling in SLA," in the co-edited volume, *The Routledge Handbook of SLA and Technology*, (pp. 258-271), Routledge/Taylor & Francis Group, 2022. She also co-edited "[Special Issue: 25 Years of Emerging Technology in CALL](#)," of *Language Learning & Technology*, 25(3). 2021.

Craig Saper (LLC) served as a film producer for Lynn Tomlinson's "[Ten Degrees of Strange](#)" (a music video for Johnny Flynn and The Sussex Wit), and "[The Elephant Song](#)."



Shannon Sauro (EDUC) published "Online fanfiction for language teaching and learning" in *Apprentissage des langues et systèmes d'information et de communication*, 24(2), 2021. She was also highlighted in "[Finding your Voice in Fan Fiction](#)" in the Fall 2021 issue of *UMBC Magazine*.

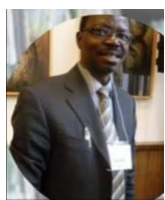
Antione Tomlin (LLC PhD '21) has produced a new volume in the series: *Identity & Practice in Higher Education-Student Affairs*, through Information Age Publishing. Tomlin's book, [*Working While Black: The Untold Stories of Student Affairs Practitioners*](#), examines the narratives of student affairs professionals and how they navigate their professional experiences.



Polina Vinogradova (LLC PhD '11) and **Heather Linville** (LLC PhD '14) co-wrote a book chapter entitled, "Voices, perspectives, and actions of advocacy in diverse ELT contexts," in the co-edited volume, [*Advocacy for social and linguistic justice in TESOL*](#) (pp. 153-165). Routledge, 2022.

Patricia Young (EDUC) published the article, "[Future of college will involve fewer professors](#)," in *The Conversation*, October 20, 2021.

Scholarly Presentations



David Balosa (LLC PhD '20) gave the virtual lecture, "Existential Sociolinguistics and Educational Linguistics in the 21st century," at the Federal University of South Bahia and the State University of Santa Cruz in Brazil on April 14, 2022. His presentation was in Portuguese. David also gave a virtual seminar at Colégio Evolução in Castro Alves, Bahia, Brazil, where he discussed in Portuguese his notion of "Global Intellectual Mentors Using Existential Literacy (GIMEL) in an intercultural World" on November 4, 2021. In addition, David also gave an invited virtual lecture at the English Language Studies Department/College of Human Sciences at the University of South Africa (UNISA) entitled, "Social Justice and Globalization: Perspectives for Major World Languages' Studies," October 27, 2021.

Note about Existential Sociolinguistics:

This term was coined by David Balosa with a nod from his dissertation defense committee in 2020. He states, "After the analysis of my data, I thought that general sociolinguistics had not paid sustained attention to minority languages and their overarching treatment in terms of their 'existence.' As long as a given language exists, it deserves to be treated with dignity and all the rights related to its existence no matter how small or how big it is. Hence, a treatment of a given language is tantamount to the treatment of the speakers of that language. I think that it is time to bring about this awareness and to give a new understanding and direction to this analysis for the dignity and the sustainable development of all."

The term has now been published in the co-edited Routledge volume, *Language of Higher Education in the Global South: De-Colonizing the Language of Scholarship and Pedagogy* (2022) referenced in this newsletter.

Shenita Denson (cohort 22) gave an invited presentation at the UMBC library's guest lecture series on her dissertation research, titled "Retrospective Storytelling, Meaning-Making, and Generativity (the passing down of wisdom): Black Intergenerational Stories About Love," on April 22, 2022.

Landry Digeon (LLC PhD '20) and Anjal Amin presented "From American Crime show to Série Policière Française, An AI toolkit for genre prediction in Transnational TV series Adaptation" at the IEEE 2021 International Conference on Industrial Engineering and Engineering Management, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers.



Irina Golubeva (MLLI) gave a plenary talk at the 7th International Conference on Bilingual Education in Cordoba, Spain on "Interrogating Linguistic Inequality and Disrupting Linguistic Hierarchies through Translanguaging," and also presented her research at the conferences organized by the International Association for Languages and Intercultural Communication (Bogota, Colombia) and by the School of International Letters and Cultures at Arizona State University. She also gave a plenary talk at the [JoLLE conference](#) at the University of Georgia in 2022, and co-presented at the conference of the Center for Educational Resources in Culture, Language and Literacy at the University of Arizona.

Craig Saper (LLC) gave three virtual presentations: "CRISPR Fluxus: A Finding-aid to a Pandemic Memorial Reading," Revisiting Midcentury Experimental Movements and Techniques at NEMLA in March of 2022 and "The Mail-art of Professor Owen Smith," [a tribute to Smith who passed away within days of the presentation]

at Science Literature and Arts Society annual conference in October of 2021 and also “An IQ test for Artistic Genius Based on Fluxus and Black Mountain College Experiments,” as part of a workshop on the educational utopia of an artistic colony at Black Mountain College in North Carolina, at the Zachęta National Gallery of Art in Warsaw, Poland, on October 25, 2021.

Shawntay Stocks (LLC PhD ‘19) gave the virtual keynote address, “Just Community Engagement,” at the SLCE (Service-Learning and Civic Engagement) Conference on April 5, 2022.

Zareen Taj (cohort 22) was part of a virtual panel discussion, *Afghanistan Twenty Years Later: How Everything Has Changed and Nothing Has Changed*, in honor of International Education Week at UMBC, on November 18, 2021.

Brandy Wallace (SAPH) and two colleagues gave the presentation, “Strategies for Developing an Inclusive Geriatrician Workforce for Older Adults in the U.S.,” at the Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America in November 2021. She also co-presented “...just because I'm visible doesn't mean I'm heard:’ A Black Feminist Approach Centering the Voices of African-American Women in Medicine” at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Sociological Society in Birmingham, Alabama in April 2022.

Fan Yang (MCS) has delivered invited presentations on her book project, *Disorienting Politics: Rising China and Chimerican Media* at Columbia University and the Ohio State University in Oct 2021. She was also a featured speaker in the Cultural Studies Graduate Program at Trent University in Canada in March 2022. Her recorded talk is entitled "[Window of the World: Transparency, Digital Placemaking, and Shenzhen Urbanism.](#)"

Media and Outreach

Latasha N. Eley-Kelly (LLC PhD ‘15) founded [The Millennial Black Professor, LLC](#) in December 2020 as a way to make meaningful contributions to and about Black culture and society. Under this umbrella, Dr. Eley-Kelly recently launched the *Life UN•disserated* podcast. Honoring the fact that Black people and their experiences are not a monolith, the podcast acknowledges topics and issues impacting everyday lives as not only culturally relevant but valid, important, and worthy of deep consideration.

Jessica Floyd (LLC PhD ‘17) presented for [Profs and Pints](#) in both digital and face-to-face formats. The presentations concerned the history of chanteys and the new fascination with these work songs on TikTok.



Francis M. Hult (EDUC) spoke at a special UN session about enhancing international cooperation at the United Nations in March 2022. Addressing the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly, and Member States, he talked about the need to use multilingualism to advance multilateralism and global solidarity. While in New York, he also met with Ambassador Ifigeneia Kontoleon, Permanent Observer of L'Organisation internationale de la Francophonie to the UN to discuss the advancement of multilingualism in the practice of international relations.

Christine Mallinson (LLC) and **Inte'a DeShields** (LLC PhD '18) were featured in the February 7, 2022 episode of WYPR's The Maryland Curiosity Bureau podcast entitled, "[How did the Baltimore accent happen?](#)"



Alyse Minter (cohort 20) was featured in [WBUR/NPR's Here & Now](#), discussing the legacy of her ggg-grandmother, Harriet Powers

(1837-1910), and her quilts. Powers' two known remaining quilts were displayed together for the first time in the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston exhibition, "Fabric of a Nation: American Quilt Stories," October 10, 2021–January 17, 2022.

Shannon Sauro (EDUC) was interviewed by the *Baltimore Sun* for the article "Preparing tomorrow's educators: Connecting in the classroom in new and innovative ways" in its education supplement published October 17, 2021. She spoke on the use of virtual exchange in teacher education courses to foster internationalization and intercultural learning among MA students in TESOL (teaching English to speakers of other languages).

Kara Seidel (cohort 23) was featured in UMBC's segment of [The College Tour](#), a TV series that tells the story of what life is like on college campuses around the U.S.

Zareen Taj (cohort 22) wrote "The U.S. Has a Moral Obligation Toward Afghan Women," in *MsMagazine.com*, December 13, 2021.

And on a more personal note

Why am I here? I don't know these big words and I'm not the strongest writer... why did I want to be in this Ph.D. program, again? And heck, why did they choose me? I don't belong...Those were my initial thoughts when I was accepted in Cohort 19, and those thoughts continued to exist most of my time in the doctoral program...but that shifted for me when I got to the dissertation stage. When I started my research and received the responses and positive feedback from my participants, such as:

"Thank you for allowing me to be in your group study, I learned a lot, but more importantly I felt connected to our collective struggle to be ourselves 100% without diluting our essence to exist in a world that continues to try and suppress us. It certainly is a monumental accomplishment to become a DOCTOR. The dedication is sometimes unbalanced as Ketanji Brown Jackson stated, but the rewards will in some way level that out in the future. Much respect and continue to be a light for our people!"

It wasn't until the end of my journey that I realized that I am worthy enough to be in this program, that my study adds value, not only to research but to the lives of others...I realized there is a seat for ME at the table...

And as my LLC journey comes to an end, I reflect on the numerous challenges I experienced, not just as a student but in my personal life, the overwhelming support I received from my LLC family, and how much this program has stretched me to be a better version of myself. I Learned, I'm Liberated, and I will forever be a part of this Community of learners, to which I cultivated long lasting relationships. And that is the LLC experience....

To the future doctors, if you ever feel those moments of uncertainty and lack of confidence while on your LLC path...remember, there is a seat for YOU at the table....

Tunisia Lacy-Lumpkin, PhD

(degree to be conferred this spring)



LLC and UMBC lost a dear friend and champion of equity in education when **Lois Blum Feinblatt** passed away in April just weeks before her 101st birthday. Lois was the force and

imagination behind the Blum Mentoring Program in the Baltimore City schools led by Helen Atkinson, an LLC alum, that later inspired the [Teachers' Democracy Project](#). The first four years of TDP were incubated at UMBC supported by Bev Bickel as grant PI and led by Dr. Atkinson with support from now LLC alums including Romy Hübler, Shawntay Stocks, Sherella Cupid, Montia Gardner and Rachel Carter. We will be forever grateful for Lois' generous support, expansive vision, and unflinching belief in the power of teaching and learning to create just and loving communities throughout Baltimore.



Ruken Isik (LLC PhD—this spring) welcomed her latest daughter into the world this winter. Meet Lorin!



Amy Pucino (LLC PhD '14) and Anjal Amin and their family during the holidays.



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/>.

We regret any errors; if you discover any, please contact Liz Steenrod at esteenrod@umbc.edu so they can be corrected.