

Of Note

Recent Highlights from
UMBC's Language, Literacy & Culture Doctoral Program
Fall 2023

Dear LLC Community,

In celebration of our doctoral program's beginnings 25 years ago, we have planned a celebration on the evening of April 4th, 2024. ***Please save the date!***

Our 25th year began auspiciously with our esteemed colleague, Professor **Christine Mallinson**, receiving the Lipitz Distinguished Professorship. This has allowed her to take a research leave this academic year to work on two collaborative NSF funded projects, and we look forward to her Lipitz lecture on April 18th, 2024.

As part of our 25th anniversary initiatives, we have begun a recruitment program for new students at national conferences. Our students and faculty have represented LLC at AERA and NWSA. We've also begun a mini-talk series of scholars and alums to discuss their research and work. This initiative will be expanded in the spring as a way to give students an opportunity to learn about our alumni's jobs and how current students' research might fit with future research and employment.

Reading through this edition of our newsletter, I am proud of our accomplished students and affiliate faculty. LLC continues to produce excellent dissertations, including three spring/summer Ph.D. graduates and a handful more who will be awarded the Ph.D. in December. We also had three students enter candidacy by successfully defending their dissertation proposals this year, and eight bright and engaged students just began their Ph.D. journey with us this fall. We welcome Dr. **Sara Cole** as a Visiting Lecturer this year. Sara knows our program well, having received her LLC PhD in 2013 and is available to work with students individually on any bottlenecks they may be experiencing. She will be offering *Digital Media: Culture and Identity* this spring.

Dr. **Tanya Saunders** is initiating multiple projects to help our doctoral program build an extra-curricular intellectual community especially around decolonial participatory action research in Cuba and Brazil. This fall they initiated the Black in the Americas series: with the important Cuban-Haitian anti-racist activist, Roberto Zurbano Torres; with a *griot* of Black radical activism in Brazil, Diva Moreira, who spoke passionately about racism and the need for reparations in Brazil; with a visiting Maroon artist and researcher, Maya Quilolo, who held four workshops on embodied research practices and participatory action research; and with Tiely who spoke about his 30-years in hip-hop culture in Brazil and the importance of including LGBTQIAP+ artists. Building on Dr. Saunders' leadership in internationalization and decolonizing our curriculum, our students continue to work on research projects with a global focus, and even I have begun to publish in bi-lingual journals and participate in conferences in Brazil.

Dr. **Ramon Goings** continues to produce exemplary public-facing research and publications. With his guidance, LLC's **Jackie Peng** (cohort 23) won the prestigious AERA Minority Dissertation Fellowship, and he continues to revitalize our efforts at coaching our students in writing, completing, and successfully defending excellent dissertations in a timely manner. Some LLC students have published book reviews with me as a book review editor; and we hope that everyone who graduates from LLC has produced at least one publication.

Dynamic change cannot happen without expert coordination and programmatic stability. The combination of that foundation with the exciting intellectual community my colleagues are building this year fills me with hope for the start of LLC's next quarter century.

Prof. Craig Saper,
Director



Program Highlights and Milestones

Meet LLC Cohort 26



Dane Galloway is a researcher, educator, and musician with academic interests in the anthropology of family memory, the historiography of Spanish-United States-Philippine relations, and the philosophy and rhetoric of accountability and subjectivity. Dane is currently Senior Researcher at the Bloomberg Center for Government Excellence at Johns Hopkins University where he uses qualitative methods to study and improve public sector services.

Dane's prior work has included directing music technology education programs at several schools in Baltimore, teaching high school Spanish and training teachers in Philadelphia, as well as a two-year stint touring as the guitarist in an electronic pop band. He holds a BA in anthropology from the University of Maryland and an MS in education from the University of Pennsylvania, where he conducted practitioner-based research on the role of ritual in racial identity development at an Afrocentric charter school.

Cari Coleman Godin earned her Bachelor of Arts in Literature from Spelman College, a Master of Arts in Humanities from the University of Chicago, and a Master of Arts in Teaching from American University.

She has been involved in education for nearly 20 years, and has seen the impact of belonging and community has had on student well-being. She looks forward to researching methods of increasing students' sense of belonging.



Julie Kim grew up in Maryland and comes to the LLC program after completing an M.A. in Historical Studies, Public History, at UMBC this past summer. She previously earned a B.A. in English literature and language and a B.A. in Studio Art (metal sculpture and photography) from the University of Maryland College Park, also having studied at Lancaster University, England, for a year. She served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in the Republic of Estonia as a high school English teacher right after its independence from the Soviet Union. In the intervening years, she worked for the Peace Corps headquarters and KPMG before raising her children full time. She has also taught knitting and martial arts.



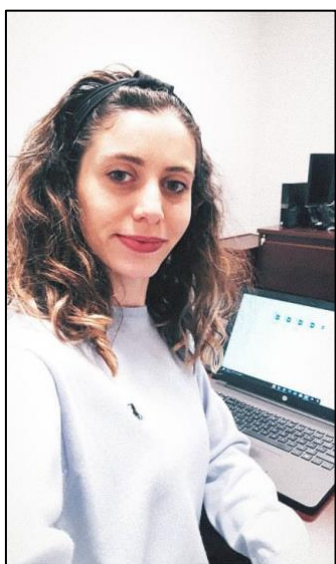
Alexis “Ally” Kocerhan is the Assistant Director of Engagement for the Linehan Artist Scholars program at UMBC. She is a Linehan alumni who graduated from UMBC in 2016 with a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Studies and Gender + Women’s Studies. She holds a Master of Arts in Aesthetics & Politics from the California Institute of the Arts. As a student in the Language Literacy & Culture program, her current research examines the social and cultural significance of the American shopping mall, using theories and methodologies that bridge the arts and humanities.

Joshua "Josh" Massey is a dedicated high school educator at the Baltimore Polytechnic Institute - a prominent STEM magnet school within Baltimore City Public Schools, where he teaches computer science courses.

Josh's research interests focus on the intersection of computer science education and policy. He examines the impact of teacher preparation on student achievement in computer science, addressing the unique challenge of educators teaching with little to no prior training.

Josh's commitment to advancing computer science education extends beyond the classroom. He actively engages in initiatives to shape the future of this field, combining practical teaching experience with rigorous academic inquiry.

Upon completing his degree, Josh aims to continue influencing policy-making, teacher preparation, and ultimately, student success in the dynamic field of computer science education.



Xixellonje “Xixa” Nebihu was born and raised in Kosovo. She received her B.A. in English Language and Literature from the University of Prizren in Kosovo and her M.Ed. in Equity and Cultural Diversity from James Madison University in Virginia in 2023. For her master’s thesis, she focused on learning about high school immigrant students’ experiences in the United States.

Prior to moving to Virginia, she taught English in Kosovo at a primary school and worked as an online ESL instructor for young adults at a company based in Saudi Arabia. While at JMU, she was a graduate assistant in the Associate Dean’s Office in the College of Education. Besides teaching, her work focuses on DEI projects.



Caroline “Carole” Njoroge is an impassioned media and communication specialist hailing from Kenya. Her journey showcases mastery not only of media management and strategic communication but also a pivotal role as a media trainer at Daystar University. With a rich reservoir of experience, Caroline adeptly oversees media endeavors, nurtures valuable stakeholder alliances, and deftly exploits diverse platforms to elevate brand prominence and authenticity.

Driven by an unwavering pursuit of excellence, she has diligently honed her aptitude for crafting impact messages and executing strategies that thrive within Kenya's dynamic media landscape. As a media trainer, Caroline embraces the responsibility of imparting invaluable wisdom to the emerging generation of communicators at Daystar University, fostering a fresh cohort of adept professionals.

Beyond her pedagogical contributions, Caroline Njoroge boasts a trail of leadership roles across various media and film initiatives. This

mosaic of practical experience and educational dedication converges to define her as a multi-faceted media skillful within the vibrant realm of Kenya's media landscape.

Maria Razcon was born and raised in Mexico. She has a BA in English Language Teaching from the University of Sonora and has just completed her Masters in Applied Linguistics/TESL at the University of Arizona. She has taught English as a foreign language in Mexico at different educational levels, from kindergarten to university. At U of A, she was a Writing Instructor for domestic and international students.

She is curious about second language learning in the digital wilds, more specifically, the use of English as a second/foreign language in digital affinity spaces and their influence in their identities.



Welcome to the LLC Community!

2023 Candidacy Reception

Three LLC students achieved candidacy in the past 12 months and were honored at a Graduate School event on November 3rd. These students have successfully defended their proposals and are in the midst of their dissertation research.



Jackie Peng and Jamie Gillan

Jamie Gillan (cohort 21)

Jackie Peng (cohort 23)

Lauren Pollak (cohort 23)



Congratulations on reaching this important milestone in your doctoral journey!

Spring and Summer 2023 Ph.D. Graduates



Alyssa Brumis, Cohort 20

Co-Mentors: Drs. Craig Saper and J. Kevin Eckert

Misinformation & Misbeliefs: Cross-belief Communication Strategies Amid the COVID-19 Pandemic

Dawn Shafer, Cohort 19

*Co-Mentors: Drs. Christine Mallinson
and Beth Douthirt-Cohen*

The First but Not the Last: An Exploration of Community Cultural Wealth Among First-Generation Master's Students





Tamisha Ponder, Cohort 19

Mentors: Drs. Beverly Bickel and Michelle Scott

**“I Wasn’t Going to Do a Hunger Strike, But in The End My Body Paid the Price:”
An Annotated Study of the Lived Experiences of Black Lives Matter Student
Activists Between 2014 and 2016**

Congratulations! You did it!

LLC Funding Opportunities

The Publicly Engaged Research and Digital Storytelling Fellowship

This fellowship was created to honor Dr. Beverly Bickel’s commitment to this type of research and LLC’s desire to support it after her retirement.

The 2023 awardee:

Jackson Tucker, Cohort 25

Queer Community Building through Food and Objects



**** CALL FOR PROPOSALS ****
due March 15, 2024

We are accepting proposals for upcoming awards to be made in Spring 2024. Please email a one-page proposal and one page budget justification to Liz Steenrod at esteenrod@umbc.edu by March 15, 2024. For further information, or to donate to support LLC’s fellowships, please go to: <https://llc.umbc.edu/program-initiatives/>

Sharing our Good News



Earl Brooks (ENGL) is a Fall 2023 Drescher Residential Faculty Research Fellow for his project, *Black Sound Studies: Resisting the Sonics of White Supremacy*. He also received the CAHSS Early-Career Faculty Excellence Award 2023 in May.

his research will be around discourses surrounding equity, access, and community participation among Black men. He will also be able to research the transmission of "folk wisdom" around Black communities. He will also maintain his Affiliate in Residence appointment at American University School of Communication.

Steven Dashiell (LLC '20) was the recipient of the Best Paper award for graduate students and early career researchers at the American Men's Studies Association (AMSA) conference in Montreal, Quebec in June, 2023. Steven's paper was titled "Revisiting Epic Glory in Dagorhir: Bleed, Masculinity, and Identity in larp."



Landry Digeon (LLC '20) is set to start a new position as Assistant Professor in the Department of French and European Studies at the University of Cyprus in January 2024.

Lori Edmonds (LLC '16) received a University of Alabama Birmingham [Blazer Bridge Fund](#) grant to develop a social app for teachers called TeaCha.

Amy Froide (HIST) and **Mary Laurents** (LLC '18) received a grant from the Cybersecurity Center for developing a class on the History of Cyberwarfare. The class will be taught in Spring 2024.



Jamie Gillan (cohort 21) was named director of the [Paul Peck Humanities Institute](#) at Montgomery College in August.



Jessica Burstrem (cohort 23) received the 2023 Alex Rittle Outstanding Senator Award, presented annually to a single UMBC Graduate Student Association

Senator "who consistently speaks up, advocates strongly, and listens to others." She has also been elected GSA Vice President for 2023-24. (photo by Jessica's younger son, DJ Bone, age 11)



Sara Cole (LLC) is Visiting Professor for LLC this academic year. Her research explores how digital players value ideologies developed through play and linguistically express

learned conceptions of morality, ethics, interpersonal relationships, and senses of self. She earned her PhD in our program in 2013.

Steven Dashiell (LLC '20) was appointed Research Assistant Professor at Morgan State University's Center for Urban Health Equity. The position will allow him to apply a lot of his past work in HIV services and health to his focus on the sociology of language and gender studies. Specifically, much of



Irina Golubeva (MLLI) was elected as a Fellow of the International Academy for Intercultural Research. She is also honored to serve on the Advisory Board of the Center for Social Science Scholarship and is looking forward to supporting and promoting the CS3 activities in her new role. Irina also organized an international conference on "Competency-based education in the XXI century."

Loren Henderson (PUBL), **Jennifer Maher** (ENGL), **Tanya Saunders** (LLC), and **Fan Yang** (MCS) were named to the UMBC Cohort of [Breaking the M.O.L.D. Program](#), a professional development initiative designed to create a pipeline to senior leadership in higher education for faculty members of color and women from the arts and humanities, as well as others with a proven record of promoting diversity within the academy.

Mary Laurents (LLC '18) received a CAHSS Adjunct Faculty Excellence Award for 2023 in May. She regularly teaches for the History Department.

Gina Marie Lewis (cohort 25) was named the 2023-2025 Dr. Thelma T. Daley Distinguished Professor Endowed Chair at Bowie State University, where she is an Associate Professor. The award is made biannually by the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority to an HBCU, with financial support in the amount of \$200,000. Gina will use the award to develop her work with her students in Socially Engaged Art and Arts Based Research, which are directly related to her doctoral studies and research. (Gina is 3rd from the left.)



Tania Lizarazo (MLLI) received the 2023 Black/Latine/x Advocate of the Year Award by The Mosaic: Center for Culture and Diversity at UMBC.

Thania Muñoz D. (MLLI) was promoted to Associate professor with tenure in the Department of Modern Languages, Linguistics, and Intercultural Communication.

Ngeri Nnachi (cohort 20) was hired as the Advocacy Manager for [Bright Beginnings DC](#) to operationalize the advocacy goals of BBI's 5 Year Strategic Plan, both internally and externally, and serve as a liaison with city stakeholders. She will also be responsible for managing the organization's Policy Council and Alumni Support Network.



Jackie Peng (cohort 23) was awarded the American Educational Research Association (AERA) Minority Dissertation Fellowship in Education Research for 2023-2024. This fellowship will generously cover Jackie's research expenses, including conference travel, this year. She plans to defend her dissertation next April.

Lauren Pollak (cohort 21) was promoted to Associate Professor of English at the Community College of Baltimore County this fall.

Autumn M. Reed (LLC '14) was elected to the Editorial Board of the University of Baltimore Law School Journal, [Law Forum](#).

Craig Saper (LLC) was awarded an Erasmus+ Visiting Scholar Fellowship, University of Porto, July 3-7, 2023; he delivered the Erasmus Public Lecture on "The New Modalities of Scholarship," University of Porto, Porto, Portugal, July 5, 2023. He hopes to build international collaborations with colleagues there. Also, the Eastern Frontier Foundation awarded Craig a residency for writers on Norton Island, Maine, August 7 – August 17, 2023. He wrote a chapter of his next book there.

Tanya Saunders (LLC) spent much of the summer in Brazil. As an external affiliated professor with the



Tanya (center back) with students

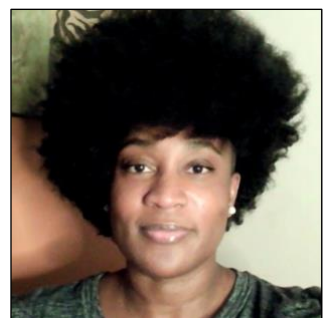
University of São Paulo (USP), they taught an intensive qualitative research methods course for minoritarian

researchers working with minoritarian populations with analysis using NVIVO in the USP School of Education.

Tanya also did a book launch (flyer below) of the Portuguese translation of their book [Cuban Underground Hip Hop: Black Thoughts, Black Revolution, Black Modernity](#). The book launch was held as a part of the 50 years of hip hop celebrations across the city of São Paulo.



While in Brazil, Tanya Saunders received an award of recognition for their work with the National Front of Women in Hip Hop (FNMH2).



Sonya Squires-Caesar (cohort 13) is the Dresher Center's [Fall 2023 Graduate Student Research Fellow](#). She was also awarded an Imagining America Fellowship for 2023-2024 and will serve a two-year term on the

Maryland Comptroller's Financial Literacy Advisory Board.

Brian V. Souders (LLC '09) was awarded the 2023 Fulbright International Education Administrator award for Germany. This award is a two-week seminar, sponsored by the German Fulbright Commission, that offers an in-depth look at German higher education institutions. One week will be spent in Berlin, gaining an overview of German higher education, while the second week will involve visits to regional universities.

Joby Taylor (LLC '05) was named Assistant Vice Provost for The Shriver Center at UMBC in July 2023. He'll be leading expanded community engaged learning programs and partner collaborations. In Fall 2023, Joby is co-teaching a new graduate course at UMBC, "Methods for Community Leadership." He developed and is co-teaching the course with LLC Candidate, **Charlotte Keniston** (cohort 21).

Jackson Tucker (cohort 25) was voted CAHSS GSA Senator for this academic year.

Tymofey Wowk (LLC '20) successfully launched his startup company, [Clean Technique LLC](#), in September 2023, after nearly six years of raising capital, building infrastructure, and passing every inspection and regulation set forth by the MA Cannabis Control Commission. Clean Technique operates as a Contract Development and Manufacturing Organization, providing not only manufacturing capacity and infrastructure to cannabis brands, but also assisting with R&D and consultation (product development, process optimization, market research and business strategy). Tym serves as the Chief Strategy Officer/Co-founder, a role he feels the LLC program trained him to succeed in doing, through his doctoral qualitative and quantitative research and his graduate assistantship.



Tym Wowk (L) with colleagues



Christine Mallinson (LLC) was appointed the [2023-2024 Lipitz Distinguished Professor in the Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences](#).

Established by the Roger C. Lipitz and the Lipitz Family Foundation, the

fellowship is intended "to recognize and support innovative and distinguished teaching and/or research in the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences." She is taking this academic year to move her research forward, especially her two current collaborative NSF funded projects at the intersection of language, culture, technology, and society. She will give a campus lecture in Spring 2024.



A UMBC team of students, faculty and staff were central to leading the [11th International Digital Storytelling conference](#)

entitled "Radical Listening: Story Work for a Just Future" June 20-23, 2023. The conference was co-hosted by and held at UMBC, Montgomery College, the Smithsonian Institution and online through the StoryCenter of Berkely, CA. Two LLC students, **Charlotte Keniston** (cohort 21 and Director, UMBC Peaceworkers Program) and **Jamie Gillan** (cohort 21 and Director, Paul Peck Humanities Center, Montgomery College) co-chaired the conference with Joe Lambert (StoryCenter) and Philippa Rappoport (Smithsonian) that brought together 350+ people from many parts of the U.S. and world. Other LLC affiliated people who were part of the international organizing committee included **Bill Shewbridge** (MCS), **Bev Bickel** (LLC emerita), and **Sarah Jewett** (Provost's Office). The UMBC day included three community tours all organized by LLC affiliated faculty and students.

Hot off the Press

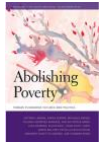
María Céleri (GWST) published "'Queer Novela:' Storytelling about Latinidad, Healing, and Resistance." *Border-Lines: Journal of the Latino Studies Research Center* 14. 2023. 89-105.

Stephen Dashiell (LLC '20) published several articles since our last newsletter: ["What Grand Theft Auto Tells Us about the 'Crisis in Masculinity'"](#) in *Scientific American*, August 3, 2023; ["Disney boys to men: erotic gaze and masculine gender capital of former Disney boy actors"](#) in the *Journal for Cultural Research*, August 2023; ["Homohysteria: Rethinking the concept"](#) in the *Journal of Bodies, Sexualities and Masculinities*, July 2023; co-published ["Analyzing gender capital in Grand Theft Auto social media conversations"](#) in *Media, Culture and Society*, July 2023; and ["Symbolic Violence in the Language of Game Descriptions of Blackness: The Case of Pathfinder"](#) in *Games & Culture*, May 2023. In April, Steven had a piece published in *The Conversation* called ["The complex relationship between Black gamers and Hogwarts Legacy"](#). The piece looked at how the greater accessibility of representation for Black players in the design of their characters caused more of them to play, in spite of a boycott of products linked to JK Rowling.

Landry Digeon (LLC '20) presented "Decoding Cultural Representation in TV Series Adaptations and Movie Remakes: A Digital Approach and Deep Learning Toolkit" at Babeş-Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca, Romania, in July 2023. He presented two papers in June: "Digital Approaches to Transcultural Screen Narratives" and "Reverse-engineering and Gradational Assemblage, A Deep-learning Approach to Transnational TV series Adaptations," Keystone DH 2023, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore.

Heidi Faust (cohort 13) co-authored the book chapter “How toxic positivity prevents equity for ESOL students: Getting uncomfortable for the sake of equity” in [*The Other Elephant in the \(Class\)room: White Liberalism and the Persistence of Racism in Education*](#), pp. 51-59. Teachers College Press, September 2023.

Ramon Goings (LLC) and **Kristin Kelly** (cohort 25) co-authored with two others the article, ["Black Women Principals and Expressions of Culturally Responsive School Leadership During Crisis: An Exploratory Study"](#) in the *Journal of Urban Learning, Teaching, and Research*, Vol. 17, Special Issue, August 2023.



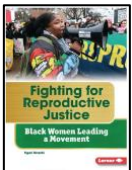
Yolanda González Mendoza (formerly Valencia) (GES) co-wrote the chapter “Relationality as Resistance: Dismantling colonialism and racial capitalism” in the open access book, [Abolishing Poverty: Towards Pluriverse Futures and Politics](#), University of Georgia Press, 2023.

Mary Laurents (LLC '18) published the chapter “‘One of the Boys’: Identity, Crisis, and Vera Brittain’s War” in the book, [Women, Children and the Collective Face of Conflict in Europe, 1900 – 1950](#), Vernon Press, 2023. She also reviewed Michael Walker's book "America and Vietnam, 1954-1963: The Road to War" in the July issue of the *Journal of Military History*.



Jason Loviglio (MCS) published [“From China to ‘Our Land,’ how Melissa Block set a standard for NPR’s reporting”](#) in *Current*, Aug. 28, 2023.

Jennifer Mata-McMahon (EDUC), **Shahin Hossain** (cohort 23) and others published “Lakeland Dual Language Program Study AY 2019-20 to AY 2020-21, Sherman Center Research Report No 3,” Sherman Center for Early Learning in Urban Communities. Baltimore, MD: UMBC, 2023.



Ngeri Nnachi (cohort 20) wrote the following children’s books: [Freedom Summer 1964: Turning Point for Voting Rights](#), [Fighting for Reproductive Justice: Black Women Leading a Movement](#), [Changemakers in Music: Women Leading the Way](#), [Changemakers in Sports: Women Leading the Way](#), Lerner Publishing Group, 2023.

Jackie Peng (cohort 23) published [“School Racial-Ethnic Socialization of Multiracial K12 students: A Systematic Review of the Literature using MultiCrit”](#) in *Sociology Compass*, September, 2023.

Ana Oskoz (MLLI) co-authored the chapter, “Sociocultural approaches to L2 digital collaborative writing” in [L2 Collaborative Writing in Diverse Learning Contexts](#) (pp. 12–31). John Benjamins Publishing Company, 2023.



Craig Saper (LLC) published “Saudades: toward a sociopoetics of diaspora, migration, & exiled writing,” in the Brazilian journal *Gragoatá*, v. 28, n. 62 (November 2023) pp. 1-24. He also continues to serve as the book-review editor for *Rhizomes.net* and *HyperRhiz.io* -- please write to him directly if you want to write a book review. He wrote a set of three essays with ChatGPT on the subjects of hope, circularity and economics called “Conversations and Collaborations” in *Hyperrhiz: New Media Cultures*, no. 26, 2023. He also co-produced two electronic literature works with Lynn Tomlinson for fulldome (planetarium) projections: a spherical essay "Global Reading Supplement," and a multilingual poem "CoDomeDigo. Also, DragonFrame Showcase features his collaboration, "Strut," made with all the student/participants in a workshop at Casa da Animação, July 9, 2023, in Porto, Portugal.

Bill Shewbridge (MCS) wrote a [book review](#) of *The Lab Book: Situated Practices in Media Studies* by Darren Wershler, Lori Emerson, and Jussi Parikka in *Hyperrhiz: New Media Cultures*, no. 26, 2023.

Jackson Tucker (cohort 25) wrote a [book review](#) of the edited volume, *Global Debates in the Digital Humanities* in *Hyperrhiz: New Media Cultures*, no. 26, 2023.

Scholarly Presentations

Nneka Chisholm (cohort 23) and **Chelsea Mays-Williams** (cohort 23) presented “Spatialized Violence of Borders on Black Women in West Baltimore” as part of a panel called States of Resistance: Local Struggles, Global Impacts at the National Women’s Studies Association Annual Conference, Baltimore, MD, October, 2023.

Steven Dashiell (LLC ’20) presented "Situating the Table: Gaming Doxa, Gamer Exceptionalism, and Perceptions of Inequality in Analog Gaming" at the online conference Generation Analog in July. He participated in the panel discussion, "Emerging Voices in Black Game Studies" sponsored by the Games Institute of the University of Waterloo in September.

Lavon Davis (cohort 25), **Christine Mallinson** (LLC), and **Vandana Janeja** (COEIT) and 3 others presented “Learning to Listen and Listening to Learn: Spoofed Audio Detection through Linguistic Data Augmentation” at IEEE ISI 2023 (The 2023 IEEE International Conference in Intelligence and Security Informatics), Oct. 2023. They also had a poster presentation, “Training Students to Listen Better: Advancing Deepfake Audio Discernment,” that was presented at the UMBC Provost's Teaching & Learning Symposium, April, 2023.

Irina Golubeva (MLLI) gave talks on the campus climate of a minority-serving university and on intercultural learning at the International Association of Intercultural Research Conference (IAIR) conference in Philadelphia, July 2023. She and **Adam Holden** (cohort 21) moderated a session titled, "Internationalization at Home: Why Campus Climate Matters" at the NAFSA: Association of International Educators Conference in Washington DC, June 2023.



Shahin Hossain (cohort 23) presented, “Language Policy in Bangladesh in Relation to English and Other Languages: Inconsistencies and Consequences,” at the 25th International Association of World Englishes Conference in June 2023 at Stony Brook University, New York.

Shahin, **Jennifer Mata-McMahon** (EDUC) and Michael Haslip co-presented [“U.S. Early Childhood Educators’ Understanding of Spirituality – Connections, Virtues, and Meaning-making \(Virtual Poster\),”](#) at the 2023 AERA Annual Meeting in May 2023.

He and Mata-McMahon co-presented two papers at the 2023 Sherman Center Research Conference, “Children’s Spirituality? Sharing teachers’ voices,” with Jennifer Mata-McMahon and “Evaluating the Sherman Center Programming to Strengthen Community Partnerships and Improve Early Childhood Education” (the second one with 3 other colleagues), June 2023.



Keegan Finberg (ENGL) **Tania Lizarazo** (MLLI), and **Elaine MacDougall** (cohort 22) led a [workshop](#) on April 28 on their experiences teaching transformed and community-engaged courses through the HTLabs Course Transformation Grant program.

Ana Oskoz (MLLI) was one of the keynote speakers at the Second Language Multimodal Literacies symposium in April 22, 2023. The title of the talk was "[Second Language Digital Literacies in a Multilingual, Multimodal World.](#)"



Tom Penniston (LLC '14) presented "Toward a New Paradigm: Learning Analytics 2.0" at the 25th International Conference on Human-Computer Interaction, [HCI International 2023](#), in Copenhagen, Denmark, July 2023.

Craig Saper (LLC) gave a series of papers this summer and fall including "... silence," a paper on Nam June Paik's "The Moon is The Oldest TV," Science Literature and Arts Society annual conference, October 2023; "Reading, Writing, and Technology," Eastern Frontier Residency for Writers, Norton Island, Maine, August 14, 2023; "Intimate Bureaucracies: Revolução Ocular do Globo [Eyeball Revolution]," Global Studies Conference, Oxford, UK, July 20, 2023; and gave a presentation and curated screening with Lynn Tomlinson, called "ELO-Dome: exploring immersive electronic literature for digital fulldome projection," Electronic Literature Organization Conference, Coimbra, Portugal, July 13, 2023.

Tanya Saunders (LLC) presented "Theorizing Black Femininities and Black Feminist Solidarities Across the Diaspora: Notes from Brazil" in the panel, Theorizing Black Feminist Solidarity Across Black Femininities: The Diasporic Implications of Brazilian Trans*national Black Feminist Activism at the National Women's Studies Association Annual Conference, Baltimore, MD, October 2023.

Media and Outreach



Jessica Burstrem (cohort 23) was an invited panelist for a discussion of collective bargaining for academic workers at Red Emma's Bookstore Coffeehouse with Morgan State University's Jared Ball and **Kate Drabinski** (GWST), moderated by Max Alvarez, Associate Editor at *The Chronicle Review* on September 28, 2023.

Ramon Goings (LLC) was a featured expert in a [WalletHub](#) article on the Best States for Teachers. This article since publication has been picked up by over 10 news outlets throughout the United States. He was also featured in the [Academic Minute](#) on September 21, 2023 for "There's No Dissertation Like a Done Dissertation."

Shahin Hossain (cohort 23) wrote [“The Battle for Free and Fair Elections in Bangladesh,”](#) in *DC Journal* on August 2, 2023. He wrote another political opinion piece in *Foreign Policy News*, [“Walking the tightrope: Sheikh Hasina Wajed’s high-stakes political gamble amid economic crisis in Bangladesh”](#) on July 14, 2023.

Tania Lizarazo (MLLI) was quoted in a [Baltimore Banner](#) article about the labels used to name the Latin American diaspora community in the U.S., September 25, 2023.

Mejdulene Shomali (GWST) was featured in the [Academic Minute](#) on October 18, 2023 for “Challenging Misconceptions about Queer Sexualities in Arab Cultures.”



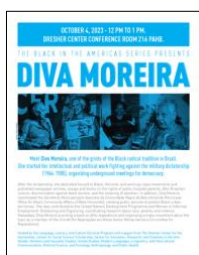
Jackson Tucker (cohort 25) at NWSA

LLC purchased booths to market its PhD program at two conferences this year, AERA in April and NWSA in October. LLC students, **Kristin Kelly** (cohort 25), **Michael Hunt** (cohort 21), **Jackie Peng** (cohort 23) and **Ramon Goings** (LLC) worked the booth at AERA and **Kristin Kelly**, **Julie Kim** (cohort 26), **Jackson Tucker** (cohort 25), and **Iñaki Zárate** (cohort 24) worked the booth at NWSA.



Ramon Goings (LLC) at AERA

This fall, **Dr. Tanya Saunders** (LLC) invited four Central and South American scholars, activists, and activists to UMBC as part of **The Black in the Americas** series and secured the support of the Dresher Center for the Humanities; the Center for Social Science Scholarship; the Center for Innovation, Research, and Creativity in the Arts; Gender, Women’s and Sexuality Studies; Global Studies; Modern Languages, Linguistics, and Intercultural Communication; Political Science; and Sociology, Anthropology, and Public Health. The series sparked cross-cultural connections and vibrant discussions.



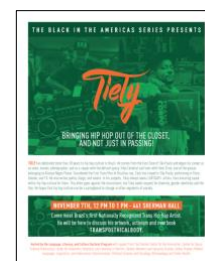
[Diva Moreira](#)



[Maya Quilolo](#)



[Roberto Zurbano](#)



[Tiely](#)

And on a more personal note

Dontae Phillips (cohort 25) and his wife Jenelle welcomed their beautiful baby girl, Syncere Renee Phillips, on June 27, 2023.



Landry Digeon (LLC '20) shares how a baobab helped him to complete his PhD journey. You can read this inspirational personal account on his [website](#).

**Please join us on April 4, 2024
as we celebrate the
25th Anniversary
of the
Language, Literacy, and Culture Program**

Our event will feature founding faculty, amazing alumni, and an opportunity for current students to make professional connections with others who share their research interests

Thank you for your contributions to this edition of our newsletter! We love hearing from you. (If you discover inaccuracies on these pages, please write to esteenrod@umbc.edu so they can be corrected.)