

Of Note

Recent Highlights from
UMBC's Language, Literacy & Culture Doctoral Program
Spring 2024

Dear LLC Community,

In April, we hosted our celebration of the 25th anniversary of our program and reconnected with many of you in the LLC community. It was a festive occasion, and we felt humbled by the testimonials about the program's positive impact on their lives and careers.

A written history of LLC will be available later this year. As part of that historical research, we have established the LLC Collection of Papers in the AOK Library's Special Collections with a generous donation of materials from Professor **Omar Ka** (MLLI) and from the founding LLC Director, Dr. **Jodi Crandall**.

The most important thing we did in the past several months was to select and hire a new professor in LLC and we are eager to have them meet you. Dr. **Nicole Morse**, who hails most recently from Florida Atlantic University, will teach one of our foundational methods courses this fall, LLC 745. You will see more information about their research and community engaged projects on our website and through a separate communication to our LLC community.

We hope you can join us in welcoming our newest cohort on August 27th from 4 to 6 pm in 460 Sherman Hall before or after the UMBC Convocation.

Onward and in solidarity!

Craig Saper, Director



LLC Program Highlights and Milestones

Ph.D. Graduates Honored in December

Justin DePrima (cohort 21)

Digital-to-Print Adaptive Transfer: An Examination of a Pedagogical Approach for Eliciting Rhetorical Knowledge Transfer

Co-chairs: Christine Mallinson, LLC, and
Lucille McCarthy, English



Heidi Faust (cohort 13)

Extending Professional Development through Community: A Case Study of Experienced Non-Native English-Speaking Teachers of Adults Teaching English to Young Learners in Peru

Co-chairs: Beverly Bickel, LLC, and
Joan Shin, George Mason University

Alyse Minter (cohort 20)

Black Women and Unmet Fertility Desires: Experiences of Infertility, Impaired Fertility, and Involuntary Childlessness in the Quest for Motherhood

Chair: Brandy Wallace, Sociology, Anthropology, and
Public Health





Alison Morrow (cohort 19)

The Past is Calling: Adaptation as Popular Cultural Memory

Co-chairs: Craig Saper, LLC, and Edward Larkey, Modern Languages, Linguistics, and Intercultural Communication

Siobhán Quinn (cohort 17)

Singing America's ILIAD: A Study of Cultural Identity and Belonging Through Public Events of Germania Hall, Troy, NY 1889-1918

Co-chairs: Denise Meringolo, History, and Beverly Bickel, LLC



Jodi Crandall Dissertation Completion Grant Awardees



Dr. Jodi Crandall, founding director of the LLC Program, has shifted the focus of the foundation account in her name (of which she is the largest contributor) to concentrate on supporting those students who are in the final year of their dissertation. Her dissertation completion grants can provide students with the flexibility to step back from their day-to-day responsibilities and focus on research and writing so they can earn their degree.

In April, Jodi presented awards to two students, shown above with their mentors: Dr. Ramon Goings (LLC) with **Michael Hunt**, LLC Cohort 21, and Dr. Irina Golubeva (MLLI) with **Adam Holden**, LLC Cohort 21.

LLC's 25th Anniversary Celebration

On April 4, 2024 about 75 members of the LLC community came out to celebrate the program's 25th anniversary, about a third were alumni, a third were current students, and a third were faculty. Graduate School Dean Janet Rutledge and University President Valerie Sheares Ashby gave remarks, although the President's were by video since she had a last-minute conflict. Our esteemed inaugural director, Dr. JoAnn Crandall, was in attendance along with the Program's very first graduate, Dr. **Sandra Lopez-Rocha**, who gave a rousing endorsement of how the program helped to shape her and her career. Below are some photos from the event.



Sandra Lopez-Rocha, LLC PhD '02, conversing with (l-r): **Elisabeth Arevalo-Guerrero**, LLC PhD '09, **Tracy Irish**, LLC PhD '16, and **Jermaine Ellerbe**, LLC PhD '15.



Current LLC students welcomed guests in their native languages: (l-r) **Maria Razcon**, cohort 26, **Caroline Njoroge**, cohort 26, **Zareen Taj**, cohort 22, and **Xixellonje Nebihu**, cohort 26.



Craig Saper, LLC director, (above) acknowledges **Jodi Crandall's** leadership and service to the program (Jodi is in center with the black turtleneck).



Sharing our Good News



Jessica Burstrem (cohort 23) won the UMBC 3MT (three-minute thesis) competition on April 4th for her presentation on "The origins and impacts of social movements such as the American Indian Movement (AIM)." [Jessica is shown second from the left in the photograph.] She also was elected President of the Graduate Student Association and will begin her term in July 2024.

Maria Céleri (GWST), **Thania Muñoz** (MLLI), **Yolanda Valencia** (GES), and **Tania Lizarazo** (MLLI) received funding through a CAHSS Big Idea Award and a Dresher Center Summer Research Faculty Fellowship for their "Abya Yala Project," a series of community events that will culminate in the publication of an open-source edited volume about Latinx presence in the DMV area.

Nneka Chisholm (cohort 23) was named to the second cohort of the National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education's ([NADOHE](#)) Academic Diversity Officer Fellows Program (ADOFP), offering leadership development and mentorship for new and early-career academic diversity officers. Nneka was also in the 2023 cohort of the NWSA Women of Color Leadership Project ([WoCLP](#)).



[Emerald Christopher](#) (LLC PhD '15) was appointed the Race and Social Equity Officer for the City of Alexandria Virginia, effective February 2024.

Lavon Davis (cohort 25) just joined the Office of Institutional Advancement at UMBC as the Assistant Director of Alumni Engagement.



Gender, Women's, + Sexuality Studies Department received a \$100,000 [Mellon Foundation award](#) to implement its Advancing Gender and Sexuality Studies in Community project that aims to broaden three programs: the UMBC LGBTQ+ Oral History Project, the Korenman Lecture series, and social change-skills development workshops.

RJ Harvilicz (cohort 20) has accepted a Specialist position with the Creative Achievement and Research Administration at UMBC. CARAT supports humanities and social science researchers in CAHSS.



Adam Holden (cohort 21) was promoted to Director of Global Partnerships in UMBC’s Center for Global Engagement.

Latasha Eley Kelly, LLC PhD ’15, The Millennial Black Professor® Owner and Principal Consultant, is a 2023-24 Wichita Foundation Info Challenge Grant recipient. Dr. Eley Kelly was awarded funds toward the development of a newsroom focused on reimagining journalism in Wichita. Leveraging grant funds and resources provided by Tiny News Collective, she founded TMBP Media, a newsroom committed to amplifying underrepresented voices in Wichita and beyond. [TMBP Media](#) officially launched its first podcast, BLACK in One Piece™, on Juneteenth.



Jermaine Ellerbe, LLC PhD ’15, was awarded a fellow to the [Albert H. Small Normandy Institute](#) sponsored by The George Washington University. This program takes participants through an intensive program to learn about the D-Day Campaign of 1944. The Institute began in January and culminates in late June with travel to Washington, DC and Normandy, France. The mission of The Albert H. Small Normandy Institute is to preserve and disseminate the important message that "Freedom is not Free" to young people and the future generations.

Ramon Goings (LLC) was awarded the Exemplary Paper Award from the American Education Research Association (AERA), Adult Literacy & Adult Education Special Interest Group at the 2024 AERA convention in Philadelphia along with three co-presenters. Their paper is titled, “[Centering Race: Examining Literacy Skills, Civic Engagement, and Political Efficacy of Black adults in the United States](#),” April 2024.



Asli Hassan, LLC PhD ’11, received the English Language Specialist Impact Award from the US Department of State in March 2024 for the work she has been doing in Mexico. Asli is currently the Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning at Khalifa University in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

Christine Mallinson (LLC) was selected as a [Fellow of the Linguistic Society of America](#) in January 2024.

Denise Meringolo (HIST) began her two-year term as President of the National Council on Public History.



Nicole Morse (LLC) will be joining the LLC Program as an Associate Professor beginning Fall 2024. They previously were associate professor in Florida Atlantic University’s School of Communication and Multimedia Studies and served as the university’s Director of the Center for Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.

Xixellonje Nebihu (cohort 26) and **Jackson Tucker** (cohort 25) were elected to the Graduate Student Association’s Graduate Senate, representing CAHSS.

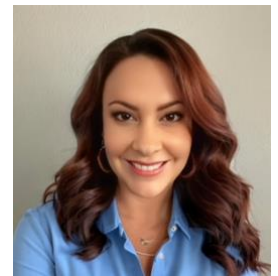


Ana Oskoz (MLLI) was named UMBC’s Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs. She also served as Co-Coordinator of the talk series "[Acquiring a Second Language: Why do we find it so difficult?](#)" for the Instituto Cervantes in Manchester and Leeds this spring. The lecturer series is a forum aimed at teachers, language students, parents and the general public, which considers how we learn a second, or a heritage language.

Tanya Saunders (LLC) worked to secure a partnership between UMBC and the Instituto de Filosofia e Ciências Humanas (UNICAMP) whereby graduate students from Brazil can spend two semesters studying abroad at either UMBC or the University of Puerto Rico in celebration of the 50th anniversary of hip-hop. Successful applicants will be doing research on racism, inclusion, accessibility and intercultural education. The program will last for four years beginning in Fall 2024.



Kara Seidel (cohort 23) was recently hired by the American Council on Education as an Education Futures Lab Associate.



Anissa Sorokin, LLC PhD ’16, recently accepted a position at [Medici Road](#), a DC-based non-profit focused on alleviating poverty and promoting racial equity and inclusion. As Senior Director of Education, she will be guiding research, policy development, and evaluation and consulting services.



Brian Souders, LLC PhD ’09, was nominated for the inaugural cohort of the [Fulbright Program Advisor \(FPA\) Mentor Program](#) for the Fulbright U.S. Student Program. The FPA Mentor Program allows national experts on the Fulbright U.S. Student Program to share their expertise with newer advisors. In addition, he was invited to two trainings this spring: the Fulbright Development Initiative in Washington (February 2024) and a nationwide Fulbright U.S. Student Program Training Session at the University of Washington-Seattle (March 2024). Brian was also highlighted in a [Retriever Magazine](#) article on November 10, 2023.

Antione Tomlin, LLC PhD ’21, was awarded tenure in March at Anne Arundel Community College. He also received their 2024 Riverhawk Faculty/Staff Community Engagement Award in April.

Jackson Tucker (cohort 25) was selected to be a Fellow for the 2024 Modern Language Association Summer Institute on Reading and Writing Pedagogy at Access-Oriented Institutions held at the University of Delaware in June 2024. Jackson became book reviews editor for the new *Rust Belt Studies Journal* and sits on their editorial board. He will also be participating in the Graduate School’s Dissertation House this summer.



Brandy Wallace (SAPH) chaired the expert advisory group which produced the report: "[An Introduction to Social Determinants of Health Across the Life Course and Workplace Well-Being](#)" sponsored by the Gerontological Society of America and Bank of America (published Nov. 2023).

Hot off the Press

Maria Céleri (GWST) published, [“‘Bésame otra vez’: The Use of Obscenity to Denounce Violence in Pedro Lemebel’s *Incontables* \(1986\), *Journal of Latin American Cultural Studies*, 587-603, December 2023.](#)

May Chung, LLC PhD '21, published the chapter “War, Language, and Leadership,” in *Female Leadership Identity in English Language Teaching – Autoethnographies of Global Perspectives*, Volume 16 in the series, *Critical New Literacies: The Praxis of English Language Teaching and Learning*, Brill, 2024. This volume was co-edited by **Doaa Rashed**, LLC PhD '17.

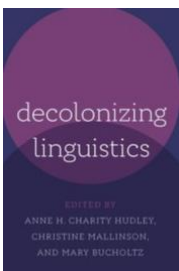
Steven Dashiell, LLC PhD '20, published [“Revisiting Epic Glory in Dagorhir – Bleed, Masculinity, and Identity in *larp*”](#) in the *Journal of American Culture*, November 2023; co-published “Erotic habitus and collapsed masculinity in male-dominated spaces: The case of the no Fap relapse spaces,” in Sage’s *Sexualities*, January 2024; and published an invited book review of *The Privilege of Play: A History of Hobby Games, Race, and Geek Culture*, *American Journal of Play*, Vol. 15, No. 3.



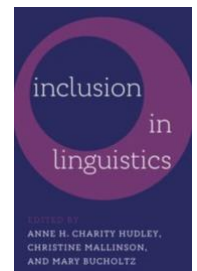
Ana Oscoz (MLLI) authored the chapter, “Destreza y Digitalización lingüística: podcasts e historias digitales” in the edited volume *La enseñanza del español mediada por tecnología de la justicia social a la Inteligencia Artificial (IA)*, pp. 294-310, Routledge/Taylor & Francis group, 2024.

Shahin Hossain (cohort 23), **Jennifer Mata-McMahon** (EDUC) and Michael Haslip co-authored the article, [“How U.S. Early Childhood Educators Understand Children’s Spirituality: A Framework of Essence, Origin, and Action”](#) in *Early Childhood Education Journal*, March 2024. Shahin also co-authored with **Patricia Young** (EDUC) and Deborah Kariuki the article [“Challenges in Developing a Systematic Learning Process to Understanding Computational Thinking for Early Childhood Educators: A culture-based Study”](#) in *Sage Research Methods: Doing Research Online*, March 2024.

Mary Laurents, LLC PhD '18, wrote the chapter, “‘One of the Boys’: Identity, Crisis and Vera Brittain’s War,” in in [Women, Children, and the Collective Face of Conflict in Europe, 1900-1950](#), Vernon Press, May 2024.



Christine Mallinson (LLC) published two co-edited volumes, *Decolonizing Linguistics* and *Inclusion in Linguistics*, with Oxford University Press in 2024. The books, which are available open access, were also featured in Dr. Mallinson's [Lipitz Distinguished Professorship lecture](#) at UMBC on April 18, 2024.



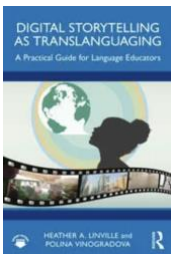


Jennifer Mata-McMahon (EDUC) co-published the book, *Children's Spirituality in Early Childhood Education: Theory to Practice*. New York, NY: Routledge. 2024. She co-published "[Validation Study of the Early Childhood Educators' Spiritual Practices in the Classroom \(ECE-SPC\) Instrument using Rasch](#)," *International Journal of Children's Spirituality*, 28(3-4), pp 99-132.

Tanya Saunders (LLC) published the article, "Rise of the Sapatão: Race, Gender, and Decolonization" in *Transition: The Magazine of Africa and the Diaspora's special issue on Species* dedicated to Sylvia Wynter, June 2024.

Antione Tomlin, LLC PhD '21, wrote the chapter, "[The black department chair: Black experiences in white space](#)" in *The Future of Black Leadership in Higher Education: Firsthand Experiences and Global Impact*, IGI Global, 2023. He also co-wrote the chapter, "[Supporting students of color in language learning environments: Approaches from black community college faculty](#)" in *Promoting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Language Learning Environments*, IGI Global, 2023. Antione also edited or co-edited several volumes for *Information Age Publishing*.

Antione Tomlin, LLC PhD '21, co-produced 5 articles for *Interfolio*: "[It Takes a Village. Faculty and Staff Genuinely Supporting Black Male Students](#)," 4/18/2024; "Marching Through Madness: Faculty Supporting Doctoral Students as They Navigate Higher Education While Avoiding Burnout," 4/19, 2024; "Black Faculty: Protecting Our Peace," 2/23/2024; "What Faculty Do During the January 'Break,'" 1/17/2024; and "Should Faculty Think Twice about Using AI?," 11/20/2023. Antione also reviewed two books in late 2023 for *Teachers College Record*: *Stakes is high: Trials, Lessons, and Triumphs in Young Black Men's Educational Journeys* and *School: Questions and Centering Possibility in Black Education*.



Polina Vinogradova, LLC PhD '11, and **Heather Linville**, LLC PhD '14, co-published the book *Digital Storytelling as Translanguaging: A Practical Guide for Language Educators*, Routledge, 2024. They also co-wrote "[Digital storytelling for peacebuilding in a multilingual community](#)," *TESOL Journal*, March 2024.

Brandy Wallace (SAPH) co-authored three articles: "Advancing the Inclusion of Black Women in Studies of Menopause," *Journals of Gerontology: Medical Sciences*, 79(2); "[Addressing Racialized Aging in Medicine](#)," *Academic Medicine*, 99(2); and "[Differences in Staff-Resident Care Interactions by Nursing Home Racial Composition](#)," *Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities*, June 2023.



Fan Yang (MCS) published "[Disorienting Politics: Chimerican Media and Transpacific Entanglements](#)," University of Michigan Press, June 2024.

Scholarly Presentations

Jessica Burstrem (cohort 23) presented “Black Players, Indigenous Mascotry, and White Settler Masculinity in U.S. American Football,” as part of a Men and Men's Studies Area panel at the Popular Culture Association conference in Chicago in March 2024. She served as chair of the panel, “Questioning Settler/Indigenous Solidarity” at the American Studies Association Annual Meeting in Montreal, Quebec, Canada in November 2023. She was a panelist on the Activism and Social Justice division's “Is Liberty and Justice Truly for All?: Graduate Students Tackling Important Activism and Social Justice Topics on Freedom” at the National Communication Association Annual Convention in Baltimore in November 2023. Jessica also presented “Susan S. White and Shareholder Advocacy: Why the Washington Football Team Changed Its Name,” and “Thanks, Reagan: How Shareholder Activism can enable Progressive Change” at the Mid-Atlantic Popular & American Culture Association conference in Philadelphia in November 2024. On November 29, 2024, Jessica gave an invited guest lecture on political activism in Indian Country and her processes for Indigenous studies research as a white settler scholar for ANTH326: American Indian Cultures with Maggie Knisley at UMBC.

Nneka Chisholm (cohort 23) and **Chelsea Mays-Williams** (cohort 23) presented a collaborative content analysis of HBO's *Lovecraft Country* at the Mid-Atlantic Popular & American Culture Association Annual Conference in Philadelphia in November 2023, funded by a Jodi Crandall fellowship award with cohort members Lauren Pollak and Kara Seidel. The presentation explored the series' portrayal of Black women's identities and experiences, intertwining historical events with fictionalized narratives of racism and magic.

Steven Dashiell, LLC PhD '20, presented “Keeping it real: constrained masculinity & African American men in dating” at the Eastern Sociological Society annual meeting in Washington, DC, March 2024.

Shahin Hossain (cohort 23) presented “AI in Higher Education: University Student’s Engagement with Chatbots and Literary Impact” and co-presented with **Patricia Young** (EDUC) “Designing a Culture-based Computational Thinking Curriculum for Urban Early Childhood Educators” at the 2024 AERA Annual Meeting in Philadelphia in April 2024.

Jennifer Mata-McMahon (EDUC) presented “Children’s Spirituality Nurtured through Play,” at TASP in Rochester, NY in March 2024; “Spirituality the North Star - How can we support children's spirituality in the secular classroom?” at NAEYC Annual Conference in Nashville, TN in November 2023; and a poster, “Exploring U.S. Early Childhood Educators’ Understanding of Spirituality and its Implications for Teacher Preparation Programs,” at the AERA Annual Meeting in Philadelphia in April 2024. She also gave three invited presentations at the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso in Chile in March 2024.

Ana Oskoz (MLLI) gave the keynote address, “Multilingual and multicultural expression in critical times” at the Céfiro Conference in Texas, March 2024. She also gave the keynote, “Multimodal, multicultural, multilingual expressions in the language classroom,” at the CALL Conference in Ohio in April 2024.

Tanya Saunders (LLC) presented “Solidão: Engaging a Black Feminist Theory of Affect,” and gave two workshops: “Breaking Open the Gates,” and “Dreamweaving new Futures in Academic Writing: How to Publish Unorthodox Research on Race, Gender and Sexuality” at the Latin American Studies Association Conference in Bogotá, Columbia in June 2024. They also presented a film screening of their documentary, “Afro Feminisms in Cuba: Perspectives from Havana” and co-presented “Transpoethicalbody: A Book of Black

Trans* Erotic Poetry” and “Black Translation Across the Atlantic as Black Solidarity Praxis” at the American Studies Association Conference in Montreal, Quebec in November 2023.



Iñaki Zárate (cohort 24) and **Jackson Tucker** (cohort 25) presented "Nourishing Connections: Queer Food Fanzine Workshop," at the first [Queer Food Conference](#) in Boston, MA in April 2024..

Media and Outreach

Jessica Burstrem (cohort 23) was an invited witness representing UMBC's Graduate Student Association in support of HB0493 in the Maryland House of Delegates Appropriation Committee hearing on February 13, 2024. Jessica has also been responsible for the traveling version of the exhibit, Honoring the Women of Wounded Knee, based on the 25-year Indigenous-led Warrior Women oral history project (in which she is not otherwise involved). On 25 April, the UMBC History department hosted a launch event for this exhibit.

Steven Dashiell, LLC PhD '20, was featured in the Fall 2023 issue of the University of Baltimore magazine. In the spotlight, he discussed being an alum who studies gaming culture.

Ramon Goings (LLC) published the OpEd, "[Frustrated with your dissertation chair?](#)" The piece provides actionable strategies for doctoral students on how to foster a more effective working relationship with their dissertation chair. *Inside Higher Ed*, January 2024.



Francis Hult (EDUC) addressed the United Nations on the occasion of International Mother Language Day on 21 February 2024. The day is observed annually by the UN to draw attention to linguistic diversity in society. In his remarks, Professor Hult discussed how the linguistic human rights enshrined in international law need to be upheld in order to advance equitable educational and social opportunities and support sustainable development.

Sonya Squires-Caesar (cohort 13) was featured in the UMBC Magazine article, "[Finding one's face and building financially resilient spaces through 'susus'](#)", December 2023.

Zareen Taj (cohort 22) co-published, "[Taliban Gender Apartheid: Genocide of Hazara Women](#)" in Genocide Watch on April 10, 2024. to bring more awareness about the dire situation of Hazara in Afghanistan right now.

On a Personal Note



Michael Hunt (cohort 21) and wife Ariel joyfully introduce to the world their first child, Imani Brielle Hunt, born March 26, 2024! Imani - “Faith” “Belief”; Brielle “Heroine of God/God is My Strength”; Hunt - “Search Determinedly”.



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.