Dear LLC community,

Our semi-annual newsletter Of Note was begun by Dr. Cedric Herring as just one small part of his commitment to community building among LLC students, faculty and staff, affiliate faculty, graduates, colleagues and friends. He loved to be able to share the many accomplishments and stories of us all. Dr. Herring believed deeply that taking time to listen to each other, to read about and get to know each other are essential to building healthy, respectful, productive and equitable diverse communities. We truly missed his input and the editorial prowess of Dr. Felix Burgos in the compilation of this latest edition. (Thank you, Felix! His good news can be found in these pages.)

While we continue to learn to cope with Dr. Herring’s passing, we are grateful for the outpouring of support from our colleagues and friends at UMBC and beyond. Our spirits have been raised and hopes renewed as we welcome our 21st cohort, a diverse group of eleven scholars who Dr. Herring was excited to have join LLC. How he would have loved to talk with them at orientation where we learned just how privileged we are to welcome them as LLC students. Their bios describing rich and varied experiences and research interests are included in these pages.

Our students continue to be super busy and productive as they engage each other, their communities and their mentors with a wide range of interdisciplinary research projects. They too are traveling the region, country and world to engage with others about research and projects at UMBC and beyond. Two members of the LLC core faculty, Drs. Moffitt and Saper, are on sabbatical this fall working on a multitude of projects that we will hear more about in these pages and during the spring semester when they return to teach, and Dr. Moffitt returns to become the LLC Director. Dr. Mallinson is busy launching the new Center for Social Science Scholarship with a number of events and initiatives that will be of great benefit to LLC students and UMBC. And Dr. Bickel and Liz Steenrod are working together to assure that our 75 students are progressing and finding the support they need to succeed. We expect six students to be recognized in the candidacy ceremony on November 13th and a similar number to cross the commencement stage on December 19th and be honored at our reception immediately following the ceremony. All are welcome to attend these important milestone events this fall.

We are planning a spring symposium to honor Dr. Herring’s work on equity, diversity, and inclusion. If you would like to work on the symposium planning committee, please let us know—we would love to have current students and alums help plan this important event!

Our commitments to community building have made a tremendous difference in the development of LLC and continue to be at the heart of how we work together to support our students. We hope this newsletter plays a part in keeping you informed and hopeful, so please stay in touch with your news for our website and the next newsletter. As always, we are grateful to Liz for her determined and caring efforts that support all aspects of our program and have led to this fall newsletter.

Best wishes to you all for a healthy and productive fall semester!

Dr. Bev Bickel, Acting Director
Dr. Kimberly Moffitt, Incoming Director
Kris’tina Ackerman is a graduate of Morgan State University with a BA in Sociology and a MA in International Studies. She has spent the majority of her academic career immersed in different aspects of cultural heritage and policy. Her experiences range from archival work at the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, to rubbing shoulders with the greatest minds in International Development. Her studies have brought her to several parts of the globe; tea ceremonies in Japan, history lessons in Brazil, UNESCO and Rotary International symposiums in France, and high schools in Spain. Her experience in ESOL has given her opportunities to teach at local community colleges, and give back to the communities that taught her so much abroad. Her research goals center on the intersections between language communities, power, policy, and resilience.

Forrest Caskey is currently an Assistant Professor of Reading and Coordinator of the blended developmental reading and writing course at Anne Arundel Community College. In the past year he has been awarded Rookie Professor of the Year award from the SGA and received the first ever IDEAL (inclusion and diversity) award for his commitment to equity and inclusion. Being from New Orleans, food, culture, and laissez les bons temps roullez are parts of his daily life. In addition to teaching, he’s been a chef, an ornithologist, a naturalist, a bartender, a landscaper, and worked in a firearm assembly plant. He supposes that his life is interdisciplinary and is beyond excited to be a part of this program.

Springfield, Ohio native, Ciara Christian is among the 21st cohort of the LLC program. After serving in the Peace Corps in Rwanda, Ciara came to UMBC as a Shriver Peaceworker fellow to pursue her MA in Applied Sociology and Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in the Nonprofit Sector. She also holds a BA in Political Science from Howard University. During her time in the LLC program, Ciara hopes to explore her research interests in Black identity, higher education, diversity, equity, and inclusion policy, and social inequality.

Justin Deprima is a teacher for Baltimore County Public Schools. He earned my BA in English and Secondary Education at McDaniel College and his MA in the Humanities at Towson University. He is excited to begin his pursuit of a doctorate degree at UMBC. Among other interests, he hopes to conduct research that explores how technology is affecting students’ attention spans.
Jamie Gillan is an Associate Professor of English at Montgomery College in Rockville, Maryland. She holds a B.S. in English Education from University of Central Florida and an M.A. from the College of Charleston in English Literature. After teaching high school English, she designed tutoring curriculum and trained teachers. Before going to Montgomery College, Professor Gillan taught at Trident Tech College in Charleston, South Carolina, St. Petersburg College in Clearwater, Florida, and University of Tampa in Tampa, Florida. At Montgomery College, she coordinates ENGL 102: “Critical Reading, Writing, and Research” and also coordinates special projects for the Paul Peck Humanities Institute. She teaches literature, composition, research writing, honors, and serves on or heads several active committees. From 2015-2018, she was part of the team tasked to redesign developmental education, which resulted in the launch of Integrated English, Writing, and Reading. Professor Gillan was a 2015 Smithsonian Faculty Fellow, and she is the current liaison between MC and the Smithsonian Learning Lab. She joined the Global Humanities Institute as they traveled to China in March 2016, and continues to serve on their steering board in a development capacity. Jamie’s research interests include higher education, immigrant students, and storytelling. She strives to be a positive impact on the communities of which she is a part. Outside of her professional endeavors, she enjoys athletics and adventure traveling, especially stand-up paddling.

Before moving to Baltimore this summer Adam Holden was a lifelong Oregonian raised in rural NE Oregon. Educationally, Adam earned a BA in International Studies and Spanish at Willamette University and a MA in Educational Leadership & Policy with graduate certificates in Civic Engagement & Community-Based Learning in Higher Education and Student Affairs in Higher Education from Portland State University. Professionally, Adam spent the last seven years working in a variety of Student Affairs positions at Chemeketa Community College, but primarily in Student Retention & College Life where he served as advisor to student government and coordinator of student organizations, service-learning, the LGBTQ+ Safe Zone, and free speech activities. As part of this work, he taught leadership classes where groups of students completed service projects at an on-campus youth farm and individual students served as college access mentors at local Boys & Girls Clubs. Personally, Adam is committed to ongoing, lifelong learning and personal growth which is one of many reasons he chose to return to school for the LLC doctoral program.

Rev. Michael Asbury Hunt, a native of Baltimore, received his bachelor degree from UMBC and his Master of Divinity from Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. Michael has served as a university/college administrator, middle & high school math instructor, musical vocalist, as well as a social justice educator, shaping the lives of the leaders of today. He is Pastor for Leadership and Community Engagement at The Open Church of Maryland, a faith community in Baltimore that seeks to glorify God and edify the world through radically inclusive love, courageous social justice activism, and compassionate interfaith collaboration. Michael is also the Assistant Director for the UMBC McNair Scholars Program, working to increase underrepresented minorities, first generation, and low-income student enrollment in doctoral studies programs. His personal research interest seeks to bridge spirituality and STEM education by providing culturally nuanced resources for increasing self-esteem and incorporating spirituality in fostering math literacy. Michael embraces daily the belief that, "If I can help somebody as I pass along, then my living shall not be in vain."
Originally from New Hampshire, Charlotte Keniston came to Baltimore in 2011 to participate in the Shriver Peaceworker Fellows Program and pursue an MFA in Intermedia and Digital Arts at UMBC where she completed a thesis on the intersection of art, food systems, and social justice. She remained in Baltimore as an Open Society Institute Fellow and later ran community food programs at a non-profit in Southwest Baltimore. She previously served in in the Peace Corps in Guatemala from 2008-2010, helping to form women’s groups organized around gender equity and rural community development. Charlotte has taught classes at UMBC in Food Systems, Photography, and Public Art in the Visual Arts and Interdisciplinary Studies programs. She lives in Northwest Baltimore with her partner Arnold and their children Cole and Greta. As an LLC student Charlotte plans to explore how Digital Storytelling is used for social change.

John Lawton has served on a nationally recognized Culturally Responsive Teaching team for six years in addition to teaching political science, anthropology, and sociology courses. He possesses a bachelor's degree in English, a master’s degree in Critical Global Politics and is working toward his PhD in Language, Literacy and Culture. He has trained hundreds of faculty and staff in culturally responsive pedagogy and intercultural competence nationwide, and presented his work at a range of conferences and organizations including, most recently: Achieving the Dream's annual Dream conference; Towson University’s Black Student Leadership Conference; The Community College Humanities’ Association's National Conference, Farleigh Dickinson University's MUSE Retreat, the Morris School District's Curricula Revision Symposium, The American Academy of Religion's Mid-Atlantic Conference, and the Maryland Consortium for Adjunct Faculty Professional Development (MCAPD). His primary areas of interest are media literacy and culturally responsive pedagogy.

Kaleigh Mrowka currently works as the Assistant Director of Residential Education at UMBC. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in Speech Communication from Ithaca College and also holds a master's degree in Higher Education and Student Affairs from SUNY Buffalo State. Her current educational goal is to learn more about the development of community and community engagement capacities within co-curricular activities in educational settings and programs.

Caron Wildy is an artist and writer with over fifteen years of experience in higher education, including nine years teaching composition, literature, and academic success techniques to community college and transfer students. He is interested in exploring visual narratives, storytelling across visual and textual media, and techniques for fostering creativity in writing.
LLC Program Highlights and Milestones

Spring 2018 Ph.D. Graduates

A Toast to their Achievement!

From left to right:

**Erin Roth** (cohort 17)
*Affective Childhood Origins of Type 2 Diabetes Among Older Adults*
Mentor: Dr. J. Kevin Eckert (SAHAP)

**Teresa B. Foster** (cohort 14)
*Felonious Women & Familial Bonds: Convict Transportation to the Maryland Colony, 1718-1739*
Mentor: Dr. Marjoleine Kars (HIST)

**Shirley B. Dunlap** (cohort 16)
*The Oral History Project of African American Stage Directors in American Theatre*
Co-Mentors: Dr. Beverly Bickel (LLC) and Dr. Michelle Scott (HIST)

**Inte’a DeShields** (cohort 12)
*Spitfire: Framing White Rage in Response to Black Rhetoric*
Mentor: Craig J. Saper (LLC)
Summer 2018 Ph.D. Graduates

Navigating through the Program as Friends and Collaborators

Felix Burgos (cohort 14)

*Memory and Memorialization in the Midst of Colombia's Armed Conflict*
Mentor: Dr. Craig J. Saper (LLC)

Kevin Wisniewski (cohort 15)

*American Amateur: Francis Hopkinson and the Poetics of Publishing in Revolutionary America*
Mentor: Dr. Craig J. Saper (LLC)

While finalizing their dissertations and oral defenses, Felix and Kevin co-published the latest issue of their online journal, *Textshop Experiments*, in Summer 2018.

Jodi Crandall Fellowship Award Winner

After a competitive application process, Steven Dashiell (cohort 16) was presented the Jodi Crandall Fellowship for Research in Language, Literacy and Culture Award on July 3, 2018 by Dr. Jodi Crandall, founder of the LLC Program. Steven’s project is called "Understanding the Power Imbalances in "Thanks for your Service"" and he will be working in collaboration with Dr. Bryce Peake (MCS).

The Crandall Award is a monetary award made to at least one current LLC student with a research project in collaboration with another person in the LLC community (another student, professor, affiliate faculty member, or program graduate). Click [here](#) to contribute to the Jodi Crandall Fellowship for Research in LLC fund. Thank you!
Erin Berry-McCrea (cohort 15) has accepted a tenure track position as an Assistant Professor at Saint Augustine's University in Raleigh, NC in the Department of Media & Communication. She also was awarded the National Council of Teachers of English Early Career Educator Award this summer for her dissertation research.

Dr. Felix Burgos (LLC’18) is Visiting Assistant Professor of Spanish in the World Languages and Cultures Department at University of Indiana East as of Fall 2018.

May F. Chung (cohort 17) is Academic Writing Specialist at the National Defense University which provides joint higher education for the nation’s defense community.

Dr. La Jerne Cornish (LLC’05) is the new Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs at Ithaca college.

In June, Steven Dashiell (cohort 16) was named to the US Advisory Editorial Board of the journal Men & Masculinities, one of the top academic journals focusing on masculinity studies in the world.

Dr. Jermaine Ellerbe (LLC’15) was awarded a 2019-19 classroom grant from the Transatlantic Outreach Program of the Goethe Institute. He is also a participant in the National Geographic Education Certification Program this academic year.

Heidi Faust (cohort 13) was recently hired as the Director of Professional Learning and Research at the TESOL International Association.

Dr. John Fritz (LLC’16) represented UMBC on a research team with instructional technology software companies, Blackboard and VitalSource, to collect and analyze a semester of UMBC student digital tool use data. The study’s findings were reported in the August 9, 2018 issue of Campus Technology.

Dr. Christine Mallinson (LLC) was appointed inaugural Director of UMBC's Center for Social Science Scholarship. She will devote 50% of her time to this new initiative.

Dr. Uzma Rashid (LLC’15) recently joined the University for Peace in Costa Rica (established by the UN General Assembly) as Assistant Professor in the Department of Peace and Conflict Studies.

Dr. Autumn Reed (LLC’14) was promoted to Assistant Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs at UMBC.

Dr. Anissa Sorokin (LLC’16) is Assistant Professor and Writing Coordinator, Department of English, at Stevenson University, as of Fall 2018.

Jacki Stone (cohort 18) has been named to the Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Committee as part of NASPA-Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education.

Antione Tomlin (cohort 19) has accepted a position as Assistant Professor of Reading at Anne Arundel Community College.

Dr. Kevin Wisniewski (LLC’18) was appointed Lecturer of Professional Writing in the English Department at the University of Maryland, College Park beginning Fall 2018.
Caylie Zidwick (cohort 20) was promoted to Associate Director of International Education Services in July 2018. She now leads the study abroad efforts at UMBC.

Dr. Zuotang Zhang’s (LLC’14) Lecturer of Chinese position at Georgia Southern University was made permanent.

**Hot off the Press**


Dr. Amy Bhatt (GWST) authored the book, *High-Tech Housewives: Indian IT Workers, Gendered Labor, and Transmigration* (University of Washington Press, 2018). Dr. Bhatt has also written two articles in *The Conversation*, “White men may be biggest winners when a city snags Amazon’s HQ2” and “India’s sodomy ban, now ruled illegal, was a British colonial legacy.” She also published the article “Keeping dependents dependent” in *The Society Pages*.

Dr. Emerald Christopher-Byrd (LLC’15) wrote the essay “Popular Music and Misogyny” in *Misogyny in American Culture: Causes, Trends, and Solutions* (ABC-CLIO, 2018) and the entry “Feminism and Hip Hop” in the *St. James Encyclopedia of Hip Hop Culture* (St. James Press, 2018).

In September, Steven Dashiell (cohort 16) published "Rules as Written: Game Algorithms as Game Capital" in the academic journal, *Analog Game Studies*.


Dr. Jessica Floyd (LLC’17) has been a monthly contributor since last December to the blog site Global Maritime History Broadly Conceived, where she can expand on her dissertation work on sea chanteys. [https://globalmaritimehistory.com/dr-jessica-m-floyd/](https://globalmaritimehistory.com/dr-jessica-m-floyd/)


Alyse Minter (cohort 20) co-wrote the chapter, “‘Sister, you’ve been on my mind’: Experiences of women of color in the library and information sciences profession,” in *Pushing the margins: Women of color and intersectionality in LIS*. (Library Juice Press, 2018).

Dr. Kimberly Moffitt (LLC) and Tunisia Lumpkin (cohort 19) co-wrote the article, “The Tangled Weave We Wear: It Still Matters,” in *media res: a media commons project* in February 2018. Tunisia Lumpkin also contributed “Natural Black Hair: The New Class in School” in that issue.


Dr. Uzma Rashid (LLC’15) has jointly written a research article titled, “Masculinities: Tracing the Trajectories of Gender Performance in War Poetry,” in the journal, *Masculinities and Social Change*.


Dr. Laura Strickling (LLC’12) wrote *On Fire in Baltimore: Black Mormon Women and Conversion in a Raging City* (Greg Kofford Books, 2018).
Kris’tina Ackerman (cohort 21) spoke at UMBC’s Fall Opening Meeting, describing her journey to UMBC.

Dr. Marina Adler (SAHAP) presented "Teaching and learning how to put the sociological imagination to work locally" at the Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting in New Orleans in April, 2018.

Dr. Bev Bickel (LLC) and others have organized a delegation of 28 people to the Imagining America National Gathering in Chicago (Oct. 19-21) focused on "Transformative Imaginations: Decarceration & Liberatory Futures" that includes eight CAHSS faculty including Dr. Kimberly Moffitt and Dr. Craig Saper from LLC, three UMBC staff members, Dr. Joby Taylor (LLC’05), Dr. David Hoffman (LLC ‘13) and Dr. Romy Hübler (LLC’15), four graduate students including Sherella Cupid (cohort 18) and Frank Anderson (cohort 18), ten undergraduates, and three community partners. UMBC will lead two presentations including a workshop organized by Dr. Bickel entitled "Enacting and narrating a new youth-powered story in Baltimore and beyond."

In August, Steven Dashiell (cohort 16) presented "Reconceptualization of Masculine Performance as Constrained Masculinity and Achieved Marginalization: The Case of the Male Student Veteran" at the 113th meeting of the American Sociological Association in August. In February, Steven presented "Analyzing the Implications of Populist 'Thanks Discourse' on Veterans" at the Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting.

Heidi Faust (cohort 13) co-presented "Extending Professional Development Through Community: Teaching Young Learners in Peru" and "So You Wanna Talk About Race?: Addressing Our Blind Spots" at the TESOL 2018 International Convention in Chicago last spring. Additionally, she organized a panel "Integrating Social Justice into Teacher Education."

Kimberly Feldman (cohort 16) and Dr. Nancy Shelton (EDUC) presented “Energy and Joy: Rehumanizing Teaching through Collaboration and Planning” at the Whole Language Conference, "Literacy for All" in Baltimore in July, 2018.
Dr. Jessica Floyd (LLC’17) and Steven Dashiell (cohort 16) will be on a panel at the Popular Culture Association-South meeting in October titled “Erotics, Semiotics, and Manhood.” Jessica’s individual presentation is “‘With a prick from here to Tennessee’: Fetishizing Male Genitals in Sea Chanteys.” Steven’s is titled “Penis in a combat boot: Erotic Images, Military Deployment, and Masculinity.”

Montia Gardner (cohort 19), Tamisha Ponder (cohort 19), and Sonya Squires-Caesar (cohort 13) participated in UMBC’s Graduate Student Conference in March 2018 by presenting microtalks or a 3-minute thesis.

Dr. Erin Hogan (MLLI) presented “Hasta que la muerte nos separé, of Relatos salvajes (Szifron 2014) within Spanish grotesque (esperpento) tradition,” at North East Modern Language Association Conference in Pittsburgh in June 2018. She co-presented “Fostering Intercultural Competency Through CineMaestro, a Collaborative Digital Humanities Project,” at the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese Conference in Spain in June 2018.

Felipe Kerschbaum (cohort 20) presented "Making the Insignificant Significant: Using Critical Incidents in the Classroom" at the TESOL 2018 International Convention last spring.

John Lawton (cohort 21) designed and facilitated a pre-conference Institute, "Culturally Responsive Teaching: Training for Equity and Institutional Change" which took place at Achieving the Dream's national conference in February 2018. John also presented his research on White Hegemony and Fragility at the Washington Regional Task Force Against Campus Prejudice's symposium, Radical Interventions and Healing in the Midst of Pervasive Prejudice in March 2018. He ran a session, Whiteness: Hegemony, Invisibility, and Fragility at Towson Universities' Black Student Leaders Conference in March 2018; and co-facilitated a pre-conference institute on the work of Claude Steele (Overcoming Stereotype Threat) and led a workshop on White Fragility at CCBC's 4th annual Culturally Responsive Teaching Conference in April 2018.

Dr. Christine Mallinson (LLC), May Chung (cohort 17), Antione Tomlin (cohort 19), and Forrest Caskey (cohort 21) co-presented "#Lingwiki: Wikipedia Engagement in Promoting Public Scholarship in Linguistics” and Jonathan Inscoe (cohort 19) presented “‘Skyrim is for the Nords!’: Linguistic Difference and White Male Nationalism in a Role-Playing Game” at the 85th Southeastern Conference on Linguistics in Spring 2018.

Alyse Minter (cohort 20) presented "'This is a Marathon, Not a Sprint': Self-care and Women of Color in LIS" at the Joint Conference of Librarians of Color (JCLC) in Albuquerque, NM, September 2018.

Ana Oskoz (MLLI) co-presented “Analysing data from a bilateral, bilingual, bicultural exchange project” at the CALL conference in Burgess, Belgium, July 2018. She also co-presented “Telecollaboration and virtual exchange across disciplines: In service of social inclusion and global citizenship” and presented “Developing a community of inquiry in telecollaborative encounters” at the Unicollaboration, Krakow, Poland, April 2018.


Jacki Stone (cohort 18) will be presenting research on Faculty Responses to Students Disclosures of Sexual Misconduct at the Association of Title IX Administrators (ATIXA) conference in Philadelphia in October 2018.
Erin Berry-McCrea (cohort 15) was interviewed for an xoNecole.com article where she discussed her experiences with Imposter Syndrome as a PhD Student, February 2018.


Tamisha Ponder (cohort 19) was interviewed in June by Glamour Magazine for the article, "Fixing Racism Is a Tall Order for Starbucks—But They’re Game to Try."

Sedrick Smith (cohort 18) has recently written two Op Eds in the Baltimore Sun: on July 9, 2018 and on September 19, 2018.

Tymofey Wowk (cohort 15) was interviewed on Ralph Nader Radio Hour broadcast on June 7, 2018.

Dr. Craig Saper (LLC) served as an election judge for the gubernatorial primary election in Maryland.

Shawntay Stocks (cohort 13) and Shawniel Williams got married in Montego Bay, Jamaica on June 9, 2018 with their daughter Kaylyn as the flower girl, and other family and friends joining them. Sherella Cupid (cohort 18) was in attendance to witness their wonderful union.

Caylie Zidwick (cohort 20) and Dan Middleton will get married on October 6th in Ellicott City, MD. That day will be their 6th anniversary of dating. They love to travel together and will be taking their honeymoon in Tanzania in December later this year. Here is a photo of them when they got engaged in Machu Picchu, Peru in 2016.

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/)

Edited by Liz Steenrod and Sherella Cupid.