In This Issue

In this combined issue for Spring, Summer, and Fall 2021, read the latest news from current students, faculty, and alumni of the UMBC TESOL program. Students following the P-12 certification pathway for the MA TESOL describe their internship experiences, and a current student writes about what it is like studying online from abroad. Read about recent professional development events hosted by the TESOL program, the activities of some of our faculty members, and awards and accomplishments of current students and alumni. We also say farewell to program graduate assistant BB Kim while welcoming our new graduate assistant Lucia Demarchi. Enjoy!

Events held in Fall 2021

Tips on Taking the ESOL Praxis Exam (2nd Edition)
Thursday, October 21 at 7:15 pm EST.
Online

TESOL Club CookOut
Sunday, October 24 at 4:00 pm EST
Off-campus

Peer Mentoring Workshop: Challenges, Lessons Learned, and Resources from Online Teaching during COVID-19.
Thursday, October 28 at 7:15 pm EST.
Online

Decolonizing Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages
Tuesday, November 16 at 4:30 pm EST.
Online

Fulbright ETA/English Language Fellow Workshop
Wednesday, November 17 at 7:00 pm EST.
Online

An Intimate Conversation with Public School ESOL Teachers in Different Stages of their Careers (2nd Edition)
Monday, November 29 at 4:30 pm EST.
Online

Breaking into Adult Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages.
Monday, December 6 at 7:00 pm EST.
Online

Screen Painting Night
Friday, December 17 at 6 pm EST.
On-campus

Application Deadlines

Summer Session
May 1 for domestic applicants only

Fall Semester
April 1 for international applicants
August 1 for domestic applicants

Spring Semester
November 1 for international applicants
January 1 for domestic applicants

We offer rolling admissions. Applications are reviewed when they are complete.

Program Faculty and Staff

Francis M. Hult
Program Director

BB Kim and Lucia Demarchi
Newsletter Editors and Program Graduate Assistants

Sara Clement
Program Research Assistant

Lakisha Skinner
General Assistant

2021 TESOL Faculty
Jill Basye-Featherston, Christopher Browder, Colleen Grisham, Laura Hook, Jiyoung Lee, Sherry Lyons, Marybelle Marrero-Colon, Kati Milter, Shannon Sauru, Kara Silanski, Brian Souders, Mary Tabaa, Ray Terhorst.

To submit a contribution or alumni note for the next newsletter write to TESOL@umbc.edu
I was always confident that all my TESOL was appointed as a conditional hire at UMBC took me a step closer to live my dreams. The MA in TESOL program and go confidently in the direction of embarking on my journey once again young lives. So, after raising a family obsession in life - teaching and inspiring of continuing my one passion and country, I only had hopes and dreams it for me. When I immigrated to this special one for everyone and so it was. This past year has undoubtedly been a unpredictable world that we are living refuse to give up, with goals so strong. Success in life comes when you simply aware, and reading with partners.

I had a supportive mentor who modeled the behaviors of an exemplary ESOL teacher. At no time did I feel I was alone in the experience. My mentor set aside time weekly to discuss future lesson plans, review practice, share specific pedagogical tips and solicit ideas for upcoming activities. From this routine, I developed a disciplined approach to practice teaching. I am confident this discipline will help me hold myself accountable in the future. Teaching in a pandemic resulted in two of the most impactful experiences of my internship. At first, online teaching appeared as an insurmountable challenge, but with every challenge comes opportunities. I mastered using online tools such as Padlet, Jamboard, Flipgrid, and Kami to bring the content to life. Aside from technological expertise, I forged closer relationships with my professional learning community, relying on each other’s strengths to engage learners and find new ways to support their language development.

“The highlight of my mentorship experience was my mentor permitting me to bring my flavor to each lesson. This modus operandi served me well in co-taught classes where my authentic self established a presence and strong connections with students.”

Throughout my internship experience, I have learned a few valuable lessons. Always remain positive; things do not always go as planned. Display a willingness to learn from others; mentor, cooperating teachers, and supervisor. Collaborate with other professionals; a refining tool in your career. Spend time planning and reflecting; these habits define the teacher you will become.

This internship experience has given me the confidence to step into an ESOL classroom as the teacher of record. Without this opportunity to practice techniques learned in the classroom and observe other professionals, I would tremble at the thought of facing my students this coming Fall.
Perspective from an Asynchronous Student Living in Japan

Uraness Anne Feuz-Kawano

When I started looking into TESOL, I found UMBC and was very pleased with its reputation as an outstanding program. Plus, I have the added benefit of having my tuition paid for me because I am an employee within the University System of Maryland (USM), as I have been working for a different University of Maryland on a small U.S. Navy base in southern Japan for 12 years. My interest in TESOL certainly stems from my experiences and the personal relationships that have developed during my 19 years living in Japan. I find the main challenge of being a UMBC TESOL student while living in Japan is simply the difference in time zones! I am impressed with all the webinar opportunities for TESOL students and wish I had the ability to participate in more of them; being 13/14 hours ahead of EST, it is difficult to do so, although not impossible! The university I work for has a year-long program that brings ELLs from an intermediate to an advanced level, and it is my dream to take over that program. Also, as the wife of a Japanese citizen, I will be here until I die, literally, so I think I will always have the valuable knowledge and skills I need from the TESOL program to use in my lifetime in Japan in whatever capacity I need, whether it’s academic or private teaching, or simply living here as a foreigner. I am finishing my second semester of the TESOL program and am so proud of everything I have learned in the program so far. Much of what I have learned in the program is absolutely relevant to my everyday life. I am able to employ so much of what I learn to my daily experiences in Japanese society as well as in my home, as my husband is an EFL learner and depends on me a great deal for improving his English.

The TESOL program has taught me so much about myself as a language learner and foreigner. I have personally grown a great deal in the two semesters I have been a TESOL student, and I am truly grateful for that!

Here is an overview of the events held in Spring 2021

BB Kim

To create engagement and connection during the pandemic, the UMBC TESOL program continued to host professional development webinars. Here is an overview of the events.

Understanding and Using K-12 English Language Proficiency Assessments to Promote Beneficial Outcomes for English Learners

As a part of the TESOL Workshop and Lecture Series, Dr. Ahyoung Alicia Kim, a researcher at WIDA at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, led a presentation on WIDA ACCESS for ELL, an English language proficiency assessment used across 40 U.S. states and territories, including Maryland. Her talk focused on how educators can use ACCESS scores to promote beneficial outcomes for ELLs.

English In a Multilingual World

Dr. Constant Leung of King’s College London was invited to discuss the state of English in the world today and the social responsibilities of English language educators who teach multilingual student populations. The webinar was moderated by TESOL faculty members and program director, Dr. Francis Hult. English Language Day is recognized by the United Nations each year on April 23rd. UN language days aim to raise awareness about global multilingualism and cultural diversity.

An Insider’s Guide on Preparing a Competitive Public School Job Application

An Insider’s Guide to Fulbright for English Teachers

An Intimate Conversation with Public School ESOL Teachers at Different Stages of their Careers

Tips on Taking the ESOL Praxis Exam

An Insider’s Guide on Preparing a Competitive Public School Job Application

Teacher candidates gained valuable insider tips and knowledge as Carlene Durant and Nylca Vandillen, recruiters with Anne Arundel County Public Schools, gave a presentation on how to prepare a strong application and present yourself to school districts. Ahyoung Alicia Kim, a researcher at WIDA, led a presentation on WIDA ACCESS for ELL, an English language proficiency assessment used across 40 U.S. states and territories, including Maryland. Her talk focused on how educators can use ACCESS scores to promote beneficial outcomes for ELLs.

An Insider’s Guide to Fulbright for English Teachers

Students interested in working and teaching abroad were invited to learn more about the Fulbright program. The session was moderated by TESOL faculty member Dr. Brian Souders, who is also UMBC’s Fulbright advisor. Of note, thanks to Dr. Souders, UMBC has been named a Fulbright top-producing institution in the nation. To speak on behalf of the Fulbright program, Christina Crawford, an M.A. TESOL student and 2014-2016 Fulbright alumna, shared her experience teaching English in Austria. Leah Ginty, an M.A. TESOL and 2019-2020 Fulbright alumna, also joined the conversation and talked about her experience working in Benin. And last but not least, Mike Schapiro, an M.A. TESOL and 2019-2020 Fulbright alumnus, talked about his Fulbright experience in Colombia.

An Intimate Conversation with Public School ESOL Teachers at Different Stages of their Careers

To find out what it’s really like in the classroom, we invited three ESOL teachers at different stages of their careers to talk about their experiences. The three teachers were Joanne Amaro from Old Mill High School, Tema Encarnacion from Annapolis High School, and Bridget Simmons from Baltimore Highlands Elementary School. This webinar was especially valuable to teacher candidates, as it helped them to understand what goes on day-to-day in the classrooms.

Tips on Taking the ESOL Praxis Exam

Sarah Gawens and Bridget Simmons from Anne Arundel County Public Schools, gave a presentation on how to pass the exam. Sarah Gawens and BB Kim, MA TESOL students, shared their experiences and offered tips on how to pass the exam. Continued on next page
Virtual Webinars continued

Participants had hands-on experience as they went into small breakout rooms and worked on sample Praxis questions.

**Webinar on Writing a Thesis with Current Thesis Students Christina Crawford and Rida Neuhoff**

Christina Crawford  
Rida Neuhoff  
Students interested in completing their thesis had an opportunity to connect with M.A. TESOL thesis candidates, Christina Crawford and Rida Neuhoff. Christina’s thesis examines the cultural contents of secondary ELT readings used in Austria. Rida’s thesis focuses on language learning in online communities.

**Teaching Fellows for MD Scholarship**

Marisol Barrera  
Marisol Barrera, MA TESOL student, has been awarded the highly competitive Teaching Fellows for Maryland scholarship by the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC). The fellowship fully supports the studies of a pre-service teacher who will teach in one of Maryland’s high-need schools upon completing their degree. Congratulations, Marisol!

**Fullbright Scholarship**

Elliott Eig (MA TESOL ’21) has been awarded a prestigious Fulbright English Teaching Assistant (ETA) scholarship to teach in Panama for the 2021-22 academic year. Elliott was chosen from among more than 11,000 applicants for this year’s competition cycle of the flagship exchange program sponsored by the U.S. State Department’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Congratulations, Elliot!

**TESOL Faculty Involvement**

Dr. Shannon Sauro  
Sauro, S. Bridging the digital wilds and the language classroom with fanfiction. Invited talk for the Georgetown University Roundtable, Washington, DC, USA. (March 2021)


Dr. Francis Hult  


**TESOL Students Land Public School Teaching Jobs**

Sarah Gawens  
Sargent Shriver E.S. in MCPS

Izumi Howe  
Kingsview M.S. in MCPS

Nishi Sheth  
Murray Hill M.S in HCPSS

Heather Boedeker  
Fields Road ES in MCPS

Shazia Khan  
Goshen ES in MCPS

Deborah Milani  
Marriotts Ridge HS in HCPSS

Miriam Walter  
Talbott Springs ES in HCPSS

**Alumna Terra Greene is Selected as Teacher of the Month**

In February 2021, M.A. TESOL alumna, Terra Greene, was selected as Pegasus staff member of the month at Brookland Middle School in Washington, D.C. The Teacher of the Month award is given to teachers based on their commitment to the school and community.

When asked about why she thinks she was chosen, she replied, “I was simply doing my job and introduced a newsletter entitled, ESL Mindful Minute, that considers teachers’ full schedules, giving them valuable resources for the virtual learning environment in a minute’s worth of reading, but with more resources available in text and video form, should they choose to delve deeper. In our school, we have push-in instead of pull-out services, but I am unable to go into everyone’s classroom. So, I also designed a portal providing interactive information for teachers whose classes do not receive direct ESOL support.”

Terra Greene
TESOL Staff Transition

During Summer 2021, we had a transition in our program as BB Kim left the position of program graduate assistant (GA) and Lucia Demarchi joined us.

BB Kim served us for two years as our program GA and is now starting a position as an ESOL teacher at Monocacy Middle School in Frederick County. Besides teaching, BB is participating in the Leadership for Emergent Academic Preparedness (LEAP) program at Hood College. She is also involved in a year-long, FCPS sponsored professional development program, called Expectations Into Action (EIA). Prior to coming to UMBC, she taught English at Daegu University in Korea for seven years. She has a BA in Speech from University of Hawaii and an MA in Communication from Hawaii Pacific University.

Lucia Demarchi is an international student who comes to us from Argentina, where she gained a number of years of experience teaching English as a foreign language for middle grades. She has already begun working with learners of English in the Baltimore area, volunteering for the Esperanza Center. In addition, Lucia also has research experience working with scholars at the Universidad del Valle Atemajac (Mexico) and the Universidad del Salvador (Argentina). She is an MA TESOL student.

TESOL Club Happenings

Virtual Meet-and-Greet

To kick off the spring term, the TESOL club hosted a virtual meet-and-greet to create a space for students to connect and get to know each other better.

End-of-the-term magic show

The TESOL club enjoyed an evening of fun and magic with Justin Willman to close out the spring term.

Jessica Soto-Perez Memorial Award Recipient

Congratulations to TESOL program graduate assistant, BB Kim. She has been selected by the UMBC Graduate Student Association (GSA) to receive the Jessica Soto-Perez Memorial Award. The award honors a graduate student who strives, during their time at UMBC, to aid graduate students in their academic and professional pursuits.

Alumni Notes

Cara Aaron, MA ’15, is an ESL instructor at St. Timothy’s School.
Renée Burgos, MA ’08, is a high school ELD teacher in Delaware County Intermediate Unit, PA. She is working towards an Ed.D. at West Chester University.
Sherry DeFrancisci, MA ’17, works as an assistant director at the Adult Learning Center of Strong City Baltimore.
Mary June Beasley, MA ’10, is a teacher at Trinity Catholic School.
Ryan Good, MA ’17, is in his fourth year working as an EFL teacher at English First in Indonesia. In March 2020 he was accepted into the English Language Fellows program to teach on the island of Timor in Indonesia.
Sue Hale, PBC ’20, works as a literacy tutor with Baltimore City Elementary School students. She has accepted an open contract offer from Montgomery County Public Schools.
Kathryn Claire Nee, MA ’06, is an admissions specialist at UMBC and an ESOL faculty at CCBC.
Jignasha Parikh, MA ’21, works as an ESOL teacher at Neelsville Middle School in Montgomery County Public Schools.
Carmen Starling, PBC ’08, is a first grade teacher in Howard County Public Schools.
Erika Sun, MA ’20, works as an ESOL teacher at High Point High School in Prince George’s County Public Schools.
Laurel Williams (nee Doerfer), MA ’03, is an EL Title III Education Specialist for the Maryland State Department of Education.
MA - Master of Arts in TESOL
PBC - Post Baccalaureate Certificate in TESOL
Congratulations, Spring and Summer ’21 Graduates

We would like to congratulate our Spring and Summer ’21 graduates and certificate awardees.

Best of luck in the future!

Master of Arts in TESOL

Kenya Avalos  
Homeretta Ayala  
Liz Bauer  
Michael Beyrent  
Hae Joon Chang  
Jiuk Choi  
Chiara Collette  
Christina Crawford  
Anjali Branch  
Terrica Duncan  
Elliott Eig  
Melissa Griggs  
Tamara Hawkins  
Timothy Mallard  
Danielle Manos  
Jignasha Parikh  
Nishi Sheth  
Katherine Smith

Kate Zimmerman  
Joanne Amaro  
Elizabeth Celi  
Terrica Duncan  
Katherine Friske  
Erica Gonzalez  
Izumi Howe  
Antoinette Irons  
Ji Hyun Ryu  
Jennifer Stotler

Post Baccalaureate Certificate

Jonathan Browning  
Leah Davidson-Wolf  
Beth Edwards  
Brian Horlick-Cruz  
Katlin Iszard  
Hannah Jackson  
Megan Jiron  
Maria Lee  
Aaron Levin  
Karla Swartz  
Joby Taylor  
Sydne Arnold  
Megan Frekot  
Pat Michael  
Hannah Shulse  
Liliana Stelmach