



# UMBC

## TESOL PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

### Director's Note

Greek philosopher Heraclitus averred that "there is nothing permanent except change." Yet change is dualistic, a process of both evolution and maintenance. He offers, by illustration, a river whose presence is maintained and even deepened by the ever-changing waters flowing through it. As you will read in this issue, the fall 2019 semester marks a period of shift for the TESOL program while at the same time the affirmation of its legacy.

I am honored to join UMBC as the new professor and program director for TESOL as the most recent former director Dr. Doaa Rashed moves on to a new position at Rutgers University. With respect to legacy, the 2019-2020 academic year marks the 40th anniversary of the TESOL program. I have had the honor and privilege to learn about the program's history from all living former directors Mr. Ron Schwartz, Dr. Jodi Crandall, Dr. Sarah Shin, and Dr. Doaa Rashed, all of whom joined us for the kick-off session of the 40th anniversary lecture and workshop series in October, while also getting to know current faculty and staff. At the Maryland TESOL conference in November, it was also a pleasure to meet many TESOL alumni who are active teachers and leaders throughout the region.

Students, alumni, and faculty continue to be passionate about their work locally and (inter)nationally to foster equitable educational opportunities for learners of English. The currents of the TESOL program are strong!

**Francis M. Hult, PhD**  
Professor and Program Director

December 2019

### In This Issue

With this fall 2019 issue, we bring you the latest news from the TESOL program and our active community of faculty, students, and alumni. Longtime newsletter readers will notice the new format and layout thanks to the hard work of TESOL graduate student and newsletter editor BB Kim with support from Jim Lord of the Office of Institutional Advancement. The issue begins by honoring outgoing program director Dr. Doaa Rashed with an interview about her time at UMBC and her future directions as well as messages from former students. As Dr. Rashed departs, the TESOL program also welcomes new faculty members Dr. Francis Hult and Dr. Shannon Sauro. While the faculty shifts, the TESOL program legacy continues. The 2019-2020 academic year marks the

40th anniversary of the TESOL program, and the issue features an article by Dr. Shannon Sauro about the fall lecture and workshop series celebrating this milestone. The TESOL program was also well represented at the Maryland state TESOL conference in November 2019, and two current students write about their experiences at the event. International engagement continues to be an important part of the TESOL program's work, and faculty member Mary Tabaa writes about the initiative to host faculty members from Egypt last summer. Program alumni and students are also active globally and locally as featured in articles detailing tales from the field and the TESOL Club's fall semester events as well as updates from thirty program alumni. We are excited to share all of these developments with you!

### Upcoming Events

#### *Effective Teaching in Higher Education*

Open Lecture  
Dr. Aynur Yürekli  
March 9, 2020 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm  
Fine Arts Building, Room 459

#### *Learner-centered Assessment in Your Language Classroom*

Workshop  
Dr. Jiyeon Lee  
April 25, 2020 9:00 am - 12:00 pm  
RSVP information to follow

#### *Second Language Acquisition Difference or Disability?*

Professional Development Webinar  
Marybelle Marrero-Colón  
March 21, 2020 10:00 am - 11:00 am

#### *Co-teaching in an ESOL Classroom*

Professional Development Webinar  
Danielle Healey  
TBD

#### *Improv Comedy and Dinner*

Social Event (For TESOL students only)  
TESOL Club sponsored event  
March 7, 2020 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm

#### *3k Earth Day Fun Run*

Social Event  
University sponsored event  
April 22, 2020 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm  
RAC lobby

#### *Strategies that Work*

Western MD Mini Conference  
April 4, 2020 8:00 am - 12:30 pm  
Frederick Community College

### Application Deadlines

#### Summer Session:

May 1 for domestic applicants only

#### Fall Semester:

April 1 for international applicants

August 1 for domestic applicants

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



### Program Faculty and Staff

#### **Francis M. Hult**

Program Director

#### **Mary Tabaa**

Online/Off-Campus Academic Coordinator

#### **BB Kim**

Newsletter Editor and Program Graduate Assistant

#### **Fall 2019 TESOL Faculty**

Cara Aaron, Jill Basye-Featherston, Janet Chao, Colleen Grisham, Laura Hook, Francis M. Hult, Jiyeon Lee, Sherry Lyons, Kati Milter, Doaa Rashed, Shannon Sauro, Kara Silanskis, Brian Souders, Mary Tabaa, Ray Terhorst

To submit a contribution or alumni note for the next newsletter write to TESOL@umbc.edu

## Farewell Dr. Rashed



Dr. Doaa Rashed

It is with our deepest gratitude that we announce the departure of Dr. Doaa Rashed from her role of TESOL Program Director. She reflects on her time at UMBC and tells us about the next step in her journey.

### Tell us about your history with UMBC.

I came to UMBC for the first time in fall 2000 through a professional development program for English, math and science teachers. The program was a collaboration between the Egyptian Ministry of Education and UMBC. After teaching in Egypt for five more years, I came back to UMBC for my master's degree in 2005. After earning my master's in TESOL, I

obtained my doctoral degree in Language, Literacy and Culture (LLC) from UMBC in 2017. During that time, I taught Intensive English and Academic English in the English Language Institute at UMBC. I also worked as an adjunct faculty member in the TESOL and the STEM MAE programs and served as president of the Graduate Student Association and the LLC Student Organization. I was engaged in many things on campus. In fall 2016, I was hired as a faculty member and director of the TESOL program.

### How has your time at UMBC shaped who you are today?

UMBC is a university that values and practices inclusion, and welcomes and engages with different opinions. My experience at UMBC taught me that the path to embrace a commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion requires a deep understanding of root causes and intentional disruption of behaviors that sustain systems of power. Only when we understand our identities and the forces that drive us can we embrace others, value them, and respect the similar and different values they live by. Such commitment results from continuous learning, healthy curiosity, and willingness to face and challenge injustice and inequalities.

### Tell us about your new position and what you'll be doing.

Currently, I am the Director of the Language Engagement Project at Rutgers University-New Brunswick. The project includes a series of curricular initiatives across three schools reporting to the Chancellor of Rutgers-New Brunswick: the School of Arts and Sciences, the School of Communication and Information, and the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences. The goal is to explore the relevance of specific languages to the contents of the fields themselves and/or to the cultures of the people involved in these fields. The Language Engagement Project will spearhead countless such initiatives over the next few years.

### What will you take with you from UMBC into your new role?

Caring about student success and making every effort to ensure that their

experiences on campus are relevant to their lives and their interests and future.

### What are you looking forward to in the next part of your journey?

The Language Engagement Project is a new initiative and I really am looking forward to seeing it grow across all five campuses at Rutgers University. New opportunities = new possibilities. I am also looking forward to making new friends there!

## Farewell Messages

*Doaa was one of my teachers and my advisor for the TESOL graduate certificate program and I learned so much from her about both curriculum content and planning my coursework and career in the TESOL field. She inspired me to forge ahead despite life's hurdles and gave me the practical tools to do so as well... all with a sense of humor!*

**Ruth Seidenspinne**  
ESL Instructor  
ESOL Certificate, '17

*I remember learning from chance conversations and formal meetings with Dr. Rashed, maybe half a decade ago, before she was a Ph.D. and when I was serving as Director of the UMBC Library. Though I have not seen her in at least a couple of years, I still recall with great respect her role as a student leader.*

**Larry Wilt, Ph.D., M.L.S.**  
UMBC Emeritus Faculty  
ESOL Certificate, '13

*I can't remember when I first met Doaa, but I think it was some time in around 2003 or so. Even then, I was so impressed by her depth of knowledge and her ability to apply her knowledge to help people, and how she did this in a kind and thoughtful, but firm, way. Doaa is gifted in her ability to understand others and to help them improve their own situations. I was so happy when she was hired for the MA TESOL program. I am sad she is leaving, but I wish her good luck.*

**Colleen Fuller (née Grisham)**  
MA TESOL Adjunct Instructor  
MA TESOL, '04

*I have enjoyed the opportunity to work with Doaa both as a TESOL MA graduate student and as an employee with Refugee Youth Project. Doaa has always shown support and genuine investment in her students. I will surely miss her at UMBC!*

**Amber Hengen**  
Refugee School Impact Coordinator  
MA TESOL, '18

## Welcome New Faculty Members

We welcome two new faculty members to the TESOL program. Growing up bilingual in a Swedish-American family, Dr. Hult's personal experience with bilingualism and transnationalism led him to a career in language studies. He earned his master's degree in TESOL and French education at New York University, where he also received his bachelor's degree, and a PhD in educational linguistics from the University of Pennsylvania. His research focuses on multilingualism in policy and practice, investigating ideological dimensions of national language policies, policy formation and implementation, language teacher engagement with educational policy discourses, and visual language use in multilingual communities. He has been active for many years with pre- and in-service teacher education in the United States and Sweden, having taught courses on topics such as TESOL methods, grammar, educational sociolinguistics, and practitioner research as well as conducted field supervision.



Dr. Francis Hult

Dr. Sauro is a specialist in technologically-mediated language teaching and learning and second language literacy. Originally from Montréal, Canada, she was raised and educated in the United States and has taught in Japan, the United States, and Sweden. She holds a bachelor's degree in German, political science and history from Duke University, a master's degree in TESOL from Iowa State University, and a PhD in educational linguistics from the University of Pennsylvania. Her university teaching experience includes courses in academic writing for US and international students at community colleges and universities in Iowa and Pennsylvania and courses in TESOL/Applied Linguistics for future English teachers in both Sweden (at Malmö University) and the United States (at the University of Texas at San Antonio). Her areas of research include the intersection of online fan practices and language learning and teaching, and the role of virtual exchange/telecollaboration in language teacher education.



Dr. Shannon Sauro

## 40 Years of TESOL - Fall Workshop and Events

Shannon Sauro

As part of the year-long celebration of 40 years of TESOL at UMBC, the TESOL program hosted a series of speakers and workshops during the fall term. An equally exciting lineup is planned for the spring 2020 semester - stand by for more information. Here's an overview of the four fall events:

### Reenvisioning Multilinguals' English



Kicking off the year of events in honor of the 40th anniversary was a lecture by Dr. Lourdes Ortega, Professor at Georgetown University and Convener of the Initiative for Multilingual Studies. TESOL

students who have recently taken EDUC 670 will be familiar with her as the author of the course textbook, *Understanding Second Language Acquisition* (Routledge, 2009). She spoke on the fact that although the vast majority of the world's English speakers are bi/multilingual, there is still a tendency to construe their linguistic repertoire as deficient and to erase their multilingual prowess. Accordingly, she argued that there is a need to draw upon our understanding of language acquisition by children and adults as well as social theories in education to help envision a new kind of multilingual competence. Her talk was attended by researchers and students from across different programs of UMBC as well as all living current and past directors of UMBC's TESOL program.

### Emotional Turn in Second Language Teacher Education

The second featured speaker was Dr. Peter De Costa of Michigan State University, author of *The Power of Identity and Ideology in Language Learning* (Springer, 2016) and one of the current co-editors of *TESOL Quarterly*, the research



journal of the International TESOL organization. His talk introduced current themes in research on teacher emotion and drew upon studies from the fields of psychology, second language acquisition, sociolinguistics and anthropology to investigate second language teacher emotions. He explored in detail findings from three recently published studies in the area and their implications for language teaching, language policy and research. Dr. De Costa also paid a second visit to UMBC to speak with researchers and students interested in publishing in major scholarly journals.

### Fanfiction in the Classroom

On a Saturday in November, more than a dozen practicing language teachers from various counties in Maryland took part in a morning-long hands-on workshop on teaching with fanfiction. The workshop, led by TESOL faculty member Dr. Shannon Sauro, incorporated videos and materials created by FanTALES, a team of high school and university language teachers and teacher



trainers in Belgium, Germany and Sweden who are developing materials for language teaching using multilingual interactive digital stories. After learning about the many different types of fanfiction that exist in the digital wilds, workshop participants wrote collaborative prompt-based fanfiction and were trained on how to search the fanfiction database Archive of Our Own to locate further examples of fanfiction relevant to their classes. All materials used in this workshop are freely available to download and modify from the FanTALES website. More teaching activities and evaluation rubrics will also be available there soon.



### A Conversation with a Master Language Teacher

During international education week, guest lecturer Sara Bruun, an award-winning and nationally recognized secondary school English teacher at Ringsjö School in Sweden and published author of two books on teaching in the digital classroom, *Klassrummet möter världen: Autentiskt, tematiskt och digitalt* (*The Classroom Meets the World: Authentically, Thematically, and Digitally*) and *Digitala arbetssätt i klassrummet: Att våga ta språnget* (*Digital Practices in the Classroom: Daring to Take the Leap*), presented a wide array of ideas for teaching with technology and literature, including both large scale collaborations with teachers and students in other countries. Later she sat down with TESOL students to answer questions about the practical realities of dealing with the disruptions and challenges of technology as well as her experiences in teaching diverse learner populations, including newly arrived students, in middle school English classes in Sweden.



## Maryland TESOL 39th Annual Fall Conference

The conference was held on November 9 at Prince George's Community College. Current UMBC TESOL students share their experiences.



### My First Experience

Sue Hale

This was my first time attending the MD TESOL conference. Since I am currently taking my first class in the program, I didn't know what to expect and was a bit unsure about which sessions I should attend. I decided to focus on the elementary session, since that is the grade level I am most familiar with. Those sessions didn't disappoint!

I learned about strategies for teaching academic vocabulary, tools to increase student talk, facilitating English learning to newcomers and 12 ways to teach vocabulary. The session on facilitating English learning to newcomers was especially good because my eyes were opened to the struggles of newcomers through a video clip that was shared. Also, the presenter, Jennifer Tony, brought in many example materials that she uses in her classroom and participants had time to explore them and ask questions once she explained them.

Another session that was very practical was "12 Ways to Teach Vocabulary" presented by Shantay Rao from Howard Community College. She described many activities, often in fun game formats to help students learn vocabulary. Although geared towards older students, some activities could easily be adapted to younger learners.

I am very glad that I spent my Saturday afternoon at Prince George's Community College for the MD TESOL conference. There were so many practical sessions that I am sure will be even more beneficial to me as I head into the field as a full-time teacher.

### An Amazing TESOL Community

Rida Neuhoff

Earlier this year, I attended the TESOL International Convention in Atlanta, GA. It was eye opening to see the TESOL community. I had chosen to teach English as a second or foreign language, but I did not fully realize what I was stepping into. When I learned about the local chapter of TESOL and the 39th annual conference, I knew I needed to be a part of it. After my amazing experience at the TESOL International Convention, I knew this would be another opportunity to learn more about our profession. Everyone I have met at these conventions is so warm and encouraging and it seems as though everyone is there to learn as much as they can, as well as share what they know. I would say this is the best part about attending both conferences.

**“Attending the convention confirmed and ignited my passion for TESOL and gave me a much bigger understanding of all I could do with this career.”**

Since I am still new to learning about how to teach English, my strategy for choosing sessions was to focus on something that sounded interesting and useful in the future. Although all four sessions I attended were informative with practical advice and activities, the one that I particularly enjoyed was on how to assess your students in a way that is useful for them. The speaker gave phenomenal advice and practical assessment tools to help students connect to the feedback and look beyond the grade.

If you have an opportunity to attend the MD TESOL conference, do it. Attending the convention confirmed and ignited my passion for TESOL and gave me a much bigger understanding of all I could do with this career. Not only will you gain awesome and practical advice for becoming a better ESL teacher, but you will be able to network and build relationships with potential future colleagues, as well as gain a greater understanding of the awesome community we have in the TESOL career field.

## Fulbright Junior Faculty Development Program

Mary Tabaa



In the summer of 2019, UMBC hosted TESOL and Linguistics faculty from Egypt as part of the Fulbright Junior Faculty Development Program. For 10 weeks, the six faculty participated in workshops and seminars, went on site visits, observed classes, and developed research projects with UMBC faculty mentors. The junior faculty also enjoyed meeting with UMBC faculty and students at their homes, at points of interest around Baltimore, and on trips to DC, Ocean City, Philadelphia, and New York City.

Doaa Rashed and Mary Tabaa led the program with assistance from current TESOL student BB Kim. TESOL alumni and students Susan Hade, Paula Duarte,



Kate Schrufer, Bridget Simmons, Dawn Sharpe, and Leah Ginty volunteered their time. Past and present TESOL faculty and alumnae Sherry Lyons, Jodi Crandall, Sarah Shin, Bev Bickel, Jiyeon Lee, Joby Taylor, Amber Hengen, Cara Aaron, Alyona Yazykova, Laura Hook, Francis Hult, and Shanon Sauro presented and hosted junior faculty for site visits and observations.

## Tales from the Field

In tales from the field, we feature alumni working domestically and internationally. In this issue, the spotlight is on Owen Andrews and Jake Wines.

### Domestic Spotlight: Owen Andrews



Owen S. Andrews

MA TESOL '16 Graduate

Owen Andrews (MA '16) was promoted to Instructional Specialist of English Language Learning at Anne Arundel Community College (AACC) after a year and a half as Program Coordinator. As Program Coordinator, his team implemented innovative communications and community organizing strategies to grow enrollment in tuition-free English Basic Skills (EBS) courses to an all-time high at AACC. He has overseen a complete overhaul of curriculum within the English for Academic Purposes (EAP) courses to allow students to graduate faster with more support.

As Instructional Specialist, he will lead a team of four dozen adjunct faculty teaching in English Language Learning programs

with more than 2,000 students and 3,000 enrollments annually, including EBS, EAP, Interactive English (for au pairs), the Teaching English as a Second Language non-credit certificate courses, and several workforce development bridge courses (including Dental Assisting, Central Sterile Processing, and Electrician Apprenticeship).

**Owen believes in the transformative power of language acquisition and teaching to shift power within our English-dominant society toward a more plurilingual future.**

Most recently, Owen co-authored an opinion-editorial in the *Baltimore Sun* with Dr. Marvin "Doc" Cheatham calling for greater equity in Maryland higher education. The piece specifically cited harmful budget and staffing cuts to the English Language Services Department at Baltimore City Community College, where he taught as recently as summer 2018. Owen believes in the transformative power of language acquisition and teaching to shift power within our English-dominant society toward a more plurilingual future.

### International Spotlight: Jake Wines

When I entered the MA TESOL program, I already knew I wanted live and work abroad. I had been traveling South America as a backpacking "teacher" and decided that I wanted to actually get some real credentials in the field instead of masquerading around the world shamelessly selling myself as a "professional".



Jake Wines, MA TESOL '17 Graduate

**"To everyone studying right now, I promise it will all be worth the effort."**

I was hired in January 2018 for a two-year contract to start the following school year. The school is a bilingual immersion school servicing 100% local Chinese English language learners from grade 7 to 12. We use co-teaching as the mode of instruction, and I am lucky enough to be working in a full parity model with our middle school English Language Arts teacher.

Continued on next page

## The TESOL Club

### Social Event



On November 24 the TESOL Club sponsored a social event open to current students. The group spent the day at McFadden Art Glass creating individual art pieces. They also shared a delicious, authentic Greek meal at Ikaros Restaurant.

## Professional Development

On November 23 the TESOL Club organized a professional development webinar featuring Meagan Turano. In the session, Meagan shared practical tips and tools that could be applicable in the classroom. Meagan is a secondary ESOL teacher in Anne Arundel County Public Schools. She has been teaching for 13 years and graduated with her MA TESL from the University of Texas at San Antonio in 2010. She has experience in both the elementary and secondary levels. She has co-written a curriculum for newcomer students with limited or interrupted formal education (SLIFE) that focuses on foundational literacy skills. She enjoys leading professional development sessions for both ESOL and content area teachers. When not working with students and teachers, she is reading as many books as she can about educating English learners. You can follow her on Twitter @MsTuranoESOL.



Meagan Turano

### Announcements

The TESOL program would like to recognize and thank the 2019-2020 officers. They are Christina Crawford, Sarah Gawens, BB Kim, and Miriam Walter.

If you are interested in getting involved, send an email to TESOL@umbc.edu

## Tales from the Field continued

While most co-teaching ESL teachers are split between multiple partnerships and classrooms, I only have one, which means we are completely integrated with each other in every aspect of the classroom from planning to assessment. This has been an amazing experience that is constantly refining and transforming my teaching practices. Working as a team brings endless possibility to the classroom to benefit language and content learning of all students. Our school also has an amazing staff of Chinese teaching assistants who help us leverage students' home language, culture and background knowledge. I can't think of a more perfect model to facilitate academic language growth and bilingualism.

Living in China has its challenges, but living here is fascinating. Learning Mandarin has been rough, but I'm still working towards it every day. Being able to speak and write a little bit has been a huge benefit when working with students. Not only does it help me analyze their language errors, but embarrassing myself

in class with broken Mandarin is a great tool for creating an environment where students feel comfortable taking risks with their English use in class.

For anyone looking to teach abroad, I highly recommend looking into international schools. The pay and benefits are competitive, and schools exist in an arena where they can make sweeping progressive choices quickly (I guess that could also be a bad thing under different circumstances than mine). I feel very fortunate to be in an institution that has wholly embraced a teaching model on the forefront of language education, and that is providing all the resources it can to build its capacities to make instruction accessible to all of its students.

I'm thankful to our MA TESOL program and the ELI for helping me lay the foundation for becoming the educator that I am today. From roundtable discussions about bilingualism with Dr. Shin, unpacking SLA theory with Dr. Lee, and Dr. Nelson's words of encouragement early during my time in the program, I am where I am today thanks to everyone in this wonderful program. To everyone studying right now, I promise it will all be worth the effort.

## Alumni Notes

**Owen Andrews**, MA '16, is the ELL program coordinator at Anne Arundel Community College. He happily wed Mairin in December '17.

**Karen Arledge**, MA '19, is an ESOL teacher at Relay Elementary School in Baltimore County.

**Erica Ashton**, MA '18, is an ESOL teacher at Springhill Lake Elementary School in Prince George's County.

**Beverly Bickel**, MA '94, is an associate professor in the UMBC Language, Literacy, & Culture Doctoral Program.

**Kate Brillon**, MA '02, teaches ESOL at Dumbarton Middle School in Baltimore County. She is finishing up her master's in School Counseling.

**Kathy Bryan**, MA '19, is a senior lecturer in American Studies at UMBC.

**Lorine Dabeck**, MA '18, is planning on an early retirement from UMBC in April 2020. She is looking forward to pursuing the TESOL training she has had.

**Sherry DeFrancisci**, MA '17, is the assistant director and ABE instructional specialist at Strong City Baltimore's Adult Learning Center.

**Michelle Domangue**, MA '11, is enjoying being a non-degree-seeking student at UMBC and studying advanced French. She has previously worked at Community College of Baltimore County and in the TESOL program as an adjunct faculty.

**Colleen Fuller** (née Grisham), MA '04, is an adjunct faculty in the UMBC MA TESOL Program.

**Carol Haddaway**, MA '00, is a lecturer at Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University.

**Amber Hengen**, MA '18, serves as the refugee school impact coordinator at Baltimore City Community College Refugee Youth Project.

**Katherine Kirsch**, MA '17, is an ESOL teacher at Jackson Road Elementary school in Montgomery County.

**Marissa Levinson (née Mosk)**, MA '13, is a 5th grade team leader at Antigua International School in Guatemala. She got married in '19 and she and her new spouse are currently debating where to go next in the world.

**Mary Murphy**, PBC '19, works as the volunteer coordinator at Family Services, Inc. in Gaithersburg. She also volunteers at Family Services, teaching an adult ESL class.

**Kathryn Nee**, MA '06, is a graduate admissions program specialist at UMBC. She also works part-time as an ESOL instructor at Community College of Baltimore County.

**Noah Northcott-Grant**, MA '15, is an ESOL teacher at William Paca Elementary School in Baltimore City. He recently relocated to Baltimore after having lived in Barcelona for the past nine years.

**Paola Pella**, MA '17, is an ESOL teacher at Cherokee Lane Elementary School in Prince George's County. She is also the coordinator for an after school program called Imagine Learning. She has recently been tenured.

**Madelaine Schwartz**, MA '10, is an ESOL teacher in the Baltimore City Public School System.

**Ruth Seidenspinner**, PBC '17, works as a tutoring program manager and an ESL instructor at the Literacy Council of Montgomery County.

**Colleen Shaughnessy**, MA '06, is an ESL instructor and IET/Career Pathways coordinator at the University of New Mexico-Taos.

**Kara Silanskis** (née Burnside), MA '02, is an adjunct faculty in the UMBC MA TESOL Program.

**Sharon Unger**, MA '06, works as an instructor in the English Language Center at Howard Community College.

**Felicia Verrett-Dale**, MA '19, is a health insurance specialist at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

**Linda Vesey de Castro**, MA '11, is a crisis center manager at New Hope Ministries in New Oxford, PA.

**Meghan Walrath**, MA '16, is a senior instructional designer at the Armstrong Institute. She also teaches as an adjunct faculty member at the Maryland Institute College of Art. She is married with two children (Alex, who is one year old, and Jaxon, who is three years old).

**Laurel Williams** (née Doerfer), MA '03, is an English language acquisition teacher specialist in Anne Arundel County Public Schools.

**Larry Wilt**, MA '13, is retired and works ad hoc.

**Tymofey Wowk**, MA '12, is the co-founder and vice-president of strategic business development at Clean Technique, LLC. He will graduate from the UMBC's LLC Ph.D. program in May 2020.

**Alyona Yazykova**, MA '18, is a lecturer in Russian at the University of North Georgia. She mentions that switching from teaching ESL to teaching Russian has been the most significant challenge lately. She is excited about teaching her native language and culture.

**MA - Master of Arts in TESOL**  
**PBC - Post Baccalaureate Certificate in ESOL**

# Congratulations Fall '19 Graduates

We would like to congratulate our fall '19 graduates and certificate awardees. Best of luck in the future!

## Master of Arts in TESOL

Marivit Gamboa  
Jeffrey Haas  
Madelyne Puri

Marisa Rhodes  
Christina Verrette  
James Ward

## Post Baccalaureate Certificate in ESOL

Gloria Plawner  
Virginia (Kate) Schrufer