

Bread Loaf Teacher Network

Middlebury Bread Loaf School of English

Newsletter

February 15, 2021

In this Issue...

- Anti-racist Teaching Resources: Dr. April Baker-Bell's *Linguistic Justice: Black Language, Literacy, Identity, and Pedagogy*
- BLTN Meetings: February 4 Recap and April 1 Preview
- Spring Goswami Action Grants Awarded
- 2021-22 BLTN Fellowship and Scholarships
- Register Now for February Writing Events!
 - "A Day in the Pandemic"- A Writing Retreat for Educators and Youth" (Feb. 20)
 - "Re-imagining the Teaching of Writing" A Conference by ABL and The School of Writing (Feb. 27)
- Creative Conversations: What's the Story? Vermont leaders Tim O'Leary and Bill Rich offer *Professional Learning Series*
- *Fellow Feature*: Kayla Hostetler and Jamon Dubose Publish in Forthcoming Collection
- Gladys Gitau Moderates Angela Davis Talk
- *BLTN Journal*: Tales from Two Pandemics
- Alfredo Luján Featured in School Community Publication
- BLTN on Social Media

Anti-racist Teaching Resources: Dr. April Baker-Bell's Linguistic Justice: Black Language, Literacy, Identity, and Pedagogy

With anti-racist pedagogy as our focus for BLTN work this summer, and in our meetings throughout the year, we've decided to include one resource each month for those looking to extend or deepen their own repertoires. Professor April Baker-Bell joined our third meeting of the summer and entertained discussion related to her recent publication [Linguistic Justice: Black Language, Literacy, Identity, and Pedagogy](#). In addition to the book itself, we invite you to consider its trailer, which Dr. Baker-Bell used to spark our discussion and collaboration ideas this summer. View it at <https://youtu.be/BmbzPzip4Fs>.

Next month, we'll share resources recommended by Professor Eric Pritchard. Please feel free to send us recommendations of anti-racist teaching resources to share with the BLTN community in future issues.

BLTN Meetings: February 4 Recap and April 1 Preview

"Today I tried to beg a breakout room of five students to say anything about a poem we'd just read. They didn't. So we basically sat in silence for the seven minutes."

"I said: 'If you're actually here, prove it by describing your ideal grilled cheese in the Chat.' High response rate. Lots of strong emotions."

"A small thing that feels big, though, has been the absence of smiles. Obviously, we wear masks all day, so I don't even know what some of my students look like. I just miss seeing smiles."

After an opening volley of sharing moments from a day of teaching in the pandemic, BLTN teachers and colleagues got down to business last week by sharing collaborations in progress this year. Courtney Gamage (Fort Worth, TX) and Hillary Howard-Fredrick (Nicholasville, KY) shared about an exchange around gender. Yaneris Collado (Lawrence, MA), and Shaleisa Brewer (Atlanta, GA), shared notes from their "Virtual Voices" youth writing workshop and open mic series. And Kurt Ostrow (Fall River, MA) and Veronica Foster (Biddeford, ME) gave updates from an ongoing "Dear Poet" collaboration.

Don't forget to [register for the BLTN April 1st meeting](#) (7 pm Eastern) featuring a workshop hosted by Professor Damián Baca.

Please feel free to email any suggestions for future meeting topics to us at bltn@middlebury.edu.

Dixie Goswami BLTN Action Grants Awarded for Spring 2021

Congratulations to recipients of the Spring 2021 Dixie Goswami BLTN Action Grants.

- *Fallon Abel* of The Sharon Academy in Sharon, VT receives funding to support "Chain Reaction Day," "a day dedicated to exploring the work of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr, as well as the work that has been made possible by the movement he energized."
- *Liz Farrow* of Oak Park and Forest River High School in Oak Park, IL receives support for student and teacher resources for a new LGBTQ Voices Senior Elective inspired by her study at Bread Loaf and discussions in BLTN meetings.
- *Anna Loomer* of Stearns Jr.- Sr. High School in Millinocket, ME will use her grant to engage an indigenous author, teacher, and artist to "connect students with a story of our land and culture other than the white settler narrative most commonly shared in school and in town."
- *Chris McCurry* of Lafayette High School (and Kentucky High School Teacher of the Year) in Lexington, KY plans to collaborate with a colleague to connect

Kentucky BLTN teachers to a group they are launching as "a model for collaborating, researching, presenting, and implementing change."

- *Venecia Proctor* of the School for the Creative and Performing Arts at Bluegrass in Lexington, KY will use the funds to defray costs of a print collection of student writing and art, inspired by BLTN collaborations.

2021-22 BLTN Fellowship and Scholarships

Bread Loaf is still preparing fellowship and scholarship applications. Keep an eye on <https://www.middlebury.edu/school-english/admissions/financial-aid/special-funding> for application releases; meanwhile, if you're planning to apply for fellowships and scholarships, be sure to also [apply for regular financial aid](#).

Register Now for February Writing Events!

A Day in the Pandemic: A Writing Retreat for Educators and Youth

Saturday, February 20, 10 am - 12 noon Eastern

[Register here](#). Please invite colleagues and [share the flyer](#).

The BLTN NextGen Youth Advisory Board is planning this event in order to share what people are experiencing during a typical day learning and teaching during the pandemic. Youth leaders will prompt you to write from your own perspective, as well as another, imagined one. There will be lots of time for sharing and appreciating each other's work, and we hope, some healing energy for these challenging times. We look forward to writing and learning together. Questions? Contact the Youth Advisory Board through Tom McKenna at Tom_McKenna@breadnet.middlebury.edu.

Peace Literacy Network (ABL International) to Hold "Re-imagining the Teaching of Writing" Conference

Saturday, February 27, 8:30-10:30 a.m. Eastern

[Register here](#).

Inspired by the 10th anniversary of Karachi, Pakistan-based The School of Writing (TSW), the conference hopes to bring together 75 educators from Pakistan and across the Bread Loaf Teacher Network for two hours of workshops. Professor Beverly Moss, BLTN Director, will give the keynote address, and Professor Andrea Lunsford will be the respondent. Session leaders are Mary Guerrerro, Lee Krishnan, Dr. Ceci Lewis, and Jineyda Tapia. Dean of the Bread Loaf School of English, Emily Bartels, will

participate as well. The event is Saturday, February 27th, 8:30-10:30 am Eastern Time, 6:30-8:30 pm Pakistani time, and is open to all BLTN educators interested in "intentionally bridging geographic, cultural, and linguistic borders". Reach out to Rich Gorham at rgorham@andover.edu or Mohsin Tejanat tejani.moshin@gmail.com for more information.

Creative Conversations: What's the Story? Vermont's Tim O'Leary and Bill Rich Offer Professional Learning Series

What's the Story? is hosting "a monthly, hour-long series of free, fun, and substantive *Creative Conversations*, devoted to unpacking the five laws of learning" described in Bill Rich's blog post, [Trust the Science: Using Brain-based Learning to Upgrade our Educational OS](#). That blog includes three collections of "tiered and timely resources".

After each of these *Creative Conversations*, Bill and Tim synthesize their conversation and organize related resources in a blog post. Here are the first two:

- [Put Me in Coach! Get Them in the Game](#)
- [Free Range Learning: More or Less Design?](#)

They'll convene their third *Creative Conversation* March 3 from 3:30 - 4:30 pm Eastern. [Register here](#) to join the March 3rd conversation.

Fellow Feature: Kayla Hostetler and Jamon Dubose Publish in Forthcoming Collection

Kayla Hostetler, English Teacher at Aiken High School in South Carolina, and Jamon Dubose, BLTN NextGen Youth Ambassador, have collaborated to publish "We Be Family," an article on building communities that feel like family. The chapter is in a soon to be available collection, [We Be Lovin' Black Children: Learning to Be Literate about the African Diaspora](#). All proceeds from the book (which you can pre-order now) go to the Center for the Education and Equity of African American Students.

"It was very fun writing a chapter together," comments Kayla. "We laughed reviewing memories to build the chapter. We learned a lot about how to balance both of our voices and connect back into the larger framework of the overall book. We hope that the book will be purchased by educators and community organizations, to center their focus on loving Black children."

Gladys Gitau Moderates Angela Davis Talk

The Lawrence Public Library's Social Justice Series kicked off Thursday, February 3 with a discussion with author and activist Angela Davis, who spoke on the importance of

building communities of struggle for economic, racial, and gender justice. Gitau, a BLTN Fellow and teacher at Phoenix Charter Academy in Lawrence, was among three moderators for the evening. Gladys comments, "Speaking with Dr. Angela Davis was the dream of a lifetime. Since I learned about her work in high school, I have followed her career closely, especially this past summer when discussion of abolition rose in public discourse. Getting to ask her questions via this platform through the Lawrence Public Library felt like more than just a moderated discussion, it was a chance to tell her about the amazing work we were doing here while getting to pick her brilliant brain on topics that had stumped us in our own quest for liberation. The best part was that nearly 600 people, including Dr. Davis, got to see Lawrence the way I see it: as a city full of bright minds eager to step into a more righteous future."

The next event in the library's White Fund Social Justice Speaker Series is a March 3 discussion with Ibram Kendi. Registration is open [here](#).

Alfredo Luján Featured in School Community Publication

It's no great surprise that the indefatigable leader of Bread Loaf Santa Fe's Dawn Patrol turns to a nearby mountain for some of his community-building work at Monte Del Sol Charter School. Still, we encourage you to take a saunter into [this piece on building school community](#) featuring Alfredo and his work at Monte del Sol Charter School in Santa Fe.

BLTN Journal: Tales from Two Pandemics

We've extended our call for submissions until March 1st and are especially interested in pieces relating to your teaching experiences during either pandemic: Covid-19 or our national pandemic of racial bias and injustice. Pieces are ideally 1500-2000 words with accompanying media. Our December BLTN meeting inspired us to ask for a special round of shorter submissions (200-300 words) under the theme of "Small Victories." *What is one small victory you have experienced in your teaching or organizing?* Send all queries and submissions to Tom McKenna at bltn@middlebury.edu. *We've received several great responses to the "Small Victories" column to date. Please add to the BLTN mix.*

Follow BLTN on Social Media and the Web

[BLTN Facebook](#) • BLTN on Twitter ([@BLTNTeachers](#)) • [BLRTN Alum Facebook Group](#)
• [BLTN Journal](#) • [BLTN Summer Working Site](#) • BLTN on the [Middlebury College Website](#)

If you wish to be unsubscribed from this newsletter, send a note to us at bltn@middlebury.edu.