

April A. Mattix Foster

George Mason University, Fairfax Campus
Thompson Hall 2506
4400 University Dr. MS 1E8
Fairfax, VA 22030

Office: 703.993.4007
Fax: 703.993.2020
Email: amattix@gmu.edu

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

- Ph.D.** **University of Pittsburgh**, Pittsburgh, PA
June 2012 School of Education: Literacy, Language, and Culture
Dissertation: *The Orphan Among Us: An Examination of Orphans in Newbery Award Winning Literature*
Chair: Patricia A. Crawford
- M.A.T.** **Chatham College**, Pittsburgh, PA
2003 Major: Elementary Education and Secondary Education, Social Studies
- M.A.** **University of Pittsburgh**, Pittsburgh, PA
1999 Major: International Affairs
- B.A.** **Saint Francis University**, Loretto, PA
1997 Major: History and Political Science

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- | | | |
|---|----------------|-------------------------|
| Associate Professor, Term
Teaching Culturally and Linguistically
Diverse and Exceptional Learners | 2019 – present | George Mason University |
| Assistant Professor, Term
Teaching Culturally and Linguistically
Diverse and Exceptional Learners | 2018 – 2019 | George Mason University |
| Assistant Professor, Tenure Line
Teaching Culturally and Linguistically
Diverse and Exceptional Learners | 2015 – 2018 | George Mason University |
| Assistant Professor, Term
International Elementary Education | 2012 – 2015 | George Mason University |

Teaching Fellow	2009 – 2012	University of Pittsburgh Dept. of Instruction and Learning
Graduate Research Assistant	2009 – 2012	University of Pittsburgh Dept. of Instruction and Learning
Primary Grades Teacher Lead Teacher, Grade 5	2007 – 2009	International School of Amsterdam
Middle School Teacher Social Studies	2006 – 2007	Golden Door Charter School
Behavioral Specialist	2005 – 2006	Glade Run Services
Primary Grades Teacher Grade 2	2003 – 2005	Anglo American School of Moscow
Primary Grades Teacher Grade 4	2002 – 2003	The Ellis School

PUBLICATIONS

Peer Reviewed Journals

- Ramos, K.A., & **Mattix Foster, A.A.** (2017). Bridging the gap: Building teachers' capacity for developing language, literacy, and content learning. *International Schools Journal*, XXXVII(1), 58-66.
- Mattix Foster, A. A.**, Khoshen, S. & Wrightsman, K. (2017). The future of international schools: Fostering global competence. *InterED* 44(123), 29-34.
- Mattix Foster, A. A.**, Cunningham, H. B. & Wrightsman, K. (2015). Using service-learning as a tool to develop intercultural understanding. *Journal of International Social Studies*, 5(2), 54-68.
- Mattix Foster, A. A.** & Drake Patrick, J. (2015). Promoting science inquiry: Text sets as a gateway to learning. *Making Literacy Connections*, 30, 17-23.
- Shaklee, B., **Mattix Foster, A. A.** & Lebron, J. (2015). Meeting the needs of a changing landscape: New innovations in international teacher preparation. *Journal of International Schools*, 35(1), 46-55.
- Mattix, A. A.**, & Crawford, P. A. (2011). Connecting the Dots: Exploring Themes in Adoption Picturebooks. *Early Childhood Education Journal*, 39(5), 313-321.

Invited

- Mattix Foster, A. A.** (2019). Interview with Paul Fochtman: Superintendent of the Year 2018. *InterED* 45(126), 5-9.
- Mattix Foster, A. A.** & Ramos, K. A. (2017). Advocating for English learners. *Early Years Bulletin*, 4(4), 5-7.
- Crawford, P. A. & **Mattix Foster, A. A.** (2017). All the colors of the world: Color explorations with young children. *Early Years Bulletin* 4(3), 6-8.
- Sobolak, M., **Mattix Foster, A. A.** & Crawford, P. A. (2017). Validating the visual: Illustrations as mentor texts. *Childhood Education* 93(2), 176-180.
- Crawford, P. A., Sobolak, M., & **Mattix Foster, A. A.** (2017). Knowing and growing with mentor texts. *Childhood Education*, 93(1), 82-86.
- Ramos, K. & **Mattix Foster, A. A.** (2016). Connecting home and school for English learners. *Early Years Bulletin*, 4(2), 11-12.
- Sobolak, M. & **Mattix Foster, A. A.** (2016). Sharing the pen: Interactive writing in the early years. *Early Years Bulletin*, 3(4), 8-9.
- Drake Patrick, J. & **Mattix Foster, A. A.** (2016). Supporting military-connected children in the classroom. *Early Years Bulletin*, 3(3), 8-9.
- Mattix Foster, A. A.** & Daly, K. (2016). Creating global citizens: Using attitudes and action to teach character education. *Childhood Education*, 92(1), 80-85.
- Sobolak, M. & **Mattix Foster, A. A.** (2015). Word sorts: Using word building blocks to bolster literacy development. *Early Years Bulletin*, 3(1), 19-21.
- Mattix, A. A.** & Sobolak, M. (2013). The gender journey in picturebooks: A look back to move forward. *Childhood Education*, 90(3), 229-233.
- Sobolak, M. & **Mattix, A. A.** (2012). The power of children's literature as a literacy instructional tool. *Focus on Elementary*, 25(1), 1-5.
- Mattix, A. A.** (2011). Teaching around the globe: The world of the Third-Culture Kids. *Focus on Elementary*, 24(1), 6.

Book Chapters

- Shaklee, B., **Mattix Foster, A. A.** & Baily, S. (2017). Globalization: Defining the terrain. In N. Aloni & L. Weintrob (Eds.), *Beyond bystanders: Educational leadership for a Humane*

Culture in a Globalizing Reality. Sense Publishers: Rotterdam, The Netherlands.

Sobolak, M. & **Mattix, A. A.** (2014). Using children's literature to explore positive gender role models. In J. Dowdy & K. Cushner (Eds.), *From the margins toward the mainstream: Activities to enhance social justice awareness in literacy education and the arts*. Rowman and Littlefield: Lanham, MD.

Fitzgerald, J. & **Mattix, A. A.** (2014). Person like me. In K. Cushner & J. Dowdy (Eds.), *From the margins toward the mainstream: Activities to enhance social justice awareness in social studies and the social foundations of education*. Rowman and Littlefield: Lanham, MD.

Shaklee, B. & **Mattix, A. A.** (2013). Connecting theory to practice: Continuity in teacher development. In M. Hayden & J. Thompson (Eds.), *Exploring issues of continuity: The IB in a wider context*. John Catt Education: Saxmundham.

Reports

Bland, L. C., Miller, A., **Mattix Foster, A. A.**, Sapp, E., Knipe, J., Ramirez, E., Gallagher, M., Apollon, M., Konapasky, A., & Menditto, A. (2014). Chesapeake Bay Watershed Education Scale-Up Initiative: Evaluation Report. National Geographic Society, Washington, DC.

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Refereed

Daly, K. & **Mattix Foster, A. A.** (2018, June). *Teacher as researcher: An exploration of developing research skills in the classroom*. Roundtable presented at the International Baccalaureate Educators (IBEC) University Conference, Bath, UK.

Mattix Foster, A. A. (2017, May). *Conceptualizing the internationalization of education*. Paper presented at the International Journal of Arts & Sciences' (IJAS) International Conference for Education, Boston, MA.

Mattix Foster, A. A. & Ramos, K. (2017, March). *Preparing teachers to advocate for equity for PK-12 English learners at home and abroad*. Workshop presented at the annual meeting of the Virginia Association of College Teachers and Educators (VACTE), Williamsburg, VA.

Parsons, A.W., Parsons, S. A., Patrick, J. D., **Mattix Foster, A. A.**, Irish, C., Sell, C. Picard, M., Silver, L. W., & Bartolini, M. C. (2016, December). *The impact of sustained literacy professional learning on teachers' knowledge and instruction*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Literacy Research Association (LRA), Nashville, TN.

Parsons, A. W., Parsons, S., **Mattix Foster, A. A.**, Irish, C., Drake Patrick, J., Bartolini, M.C.,

Silver, L., & Ewaida, M. (2016, November). *The process of developing an effective early literacy professional learning institute: Year two*. Round table presented at the annual meeting of the Association of Literacy Educators and Researchers (ALER), Myrtle Beach, SC.

Mattix Foster, A. A., Sobolak, M. J. & Solum, K. (2016, May). *Children's literature: The potential bridge to social justice education*. Paper presented at the International Journal of Arts & Sciences' (IJAS) International Conference for Education, Boston, MA.

Shaklee, B. D., **Mattix Foster, A. A.** & Lebron, J. (2016, May). *Developing critical assessments in IB teacher preparation programs*. Workshop presented at the International Baccalaureate Educators (IBEC) University Conference, Kent, OH.

Mattix Foster, A. A. & Sobolak, M. J. (2016, March). *Using children's literature to teach social justice*. Poster presented at the Association for Childhood Education International's (ACEI) Institute for Global Diplomacy Education, San José, Costa Rica.

Mattix Foster, A. A. & Wrightsman, K. (2016, January). *Building school culture through intercultural competency*. Workshop presented at the Council of International Schools Symposium on Intercultural Learning, London, UK.

Mattix Foster, A. A. & Solum, K. (2016, January). *Internationalizing teacher preparation*. Paper presented at the Hawaii International Conference on Education, Honolulu, HI.

Mattix Foster, A. A., Sobolak, M. J. & Solum, K. (2016, January). *Reading social justice: Using children's literature for equity and action*. Poster presented at the Hawaii International Conference on Education, Honolulu, HI.

Mattix Foster, A. A. & Solum, K. (2015, May). *Globalizing teacher preparation: Integrating internationalization into university preparatory classes*. Poster presented at NAFSA International Education Annual Conference, Boston, MA.

Mattix Foster, A. A., Solum, K. & Cambridge, D. (2015, March). *Global education for teachers project*. Paper presented at Association for Childhood Education International's (ACEI) Institute for Global Diplomacy Education, Washington, DC.

Sobolak, M. J. & **Mattix Foster, A. A.** (2015, March). *Girls on the run: An examination of females in children's literature*. Round table presented at the Association for Childhood Education International's (ACEI) Institute for Global Diplomacy Education, Washington, DC.

Mattix Foster, A.A. & Merz, S. A. (2014, December). *International teachers' perceptions of literacy in multilingual classrooms*. Poster presented at the Literacy Research Association (LRA) Annual Conference, Marco Island, FL.

- Mattix, A. A. & Solum, K.** (2014, April). *Reading social justice: Using children's literature for equity and action*. Poster presented at the Association for Childhood Education International's (ACEI) Global Summit on Childhood, Vancouver, Canada.
- Sobolak, M. J. & **Mattix, A. A.** (2014, April). *Gender depiction in children's literature: A historical review*. Paper presented at the European Teacher Education Network (ETEN) Annual Conference, Leipzig, Germany.
- Bland, L. C., Shaklee, B. D., Kitsantas, A., Miller, A. D., & **Mattix, A. A.** (2014, April). *A new paradigm for gifted program evaluation: From standards to utility using research-driven guidelines*. Round table presented at the American Educational Research Association (AERA) Annual Conference, Philadelphia, PA.
- Cushner, K., Mahon, J., Soppelsa, B., Emert, H., & **Mattix, A. A.** (2013, November). *Innovative approaches to enhancing the international and intercultural dimension in teacher education*. Workshop presented at the Society for Intercultural Education Training and Research (SIETAR) Annual Conference, Arlington, VA.
- Mattix, A. A. & Daly, K.** (2013, April). *Character education and the Primary Years Programme*. Poster presented at the Association for Childhood Education International's (ACEI) Institute for Global Education, Washington, DC.
- Sobolak, M. & **Mattix, A. A.** (2013, April). *The power of children's literature as a literacy instructional tool*. Paper presented at the European Teacher Education Network (ETEN) Annual Conference, Hasselt, Belgium.
- Mattix, A. A.** (2012, October). *Home is Where the heart is: The concept of home identity and Third Culture Kids*. Paper presented for the Alliance for International Education (AEI) Annual Conference, Doha, Qatar.
- Mattix, A. A.** (March, 2012). *Home is where the heart is: TCK's and the question of home*". Paper presented at the Association of Childhood Education International (ACEI) Global Summit on Childhood, Washington, DC.
- Sobolak, M. & **Mattix, A. A.** (2012, February). *Reading specialist candidates: Are preservice teaching programs doing enough?* Round table presented at the Eastern Educational Research Association (EERA) Annual Conference, Hilton Head, SC.
- Mattix, A. A.** (2011, November). *Connecting the dots: Exploring themes in adoption picturebooks*. Poster presented at the National Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators (NAECTE) Annual Conference, Orlando, FL.

Invited Presentations

Mattix Foster, A. A. (2018, February). *Innovative teaching practices*. Workshop presented for Guangdong Polytechnic of Science and Technology, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA.

Mattix Foster, A. A. (2018, January). *Promoting international education*. Workshop presented for Dalian Neusoft University, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA.

Mattix Foster, A. A. (2017, November). *Teaching and developing critical thinking*. Workshop presented for Beijing Information Science and Technology University, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA.

Mattix Foster, A. A. (2017, November). *Innovative teaching practices*. Workshop presented for Ningxia University, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA.

Mattix Foster, A. A. (2017, July). *The development of higher education in the United States*. Workshop presented for Jiangsu Normal University, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA.

Mattix Foster, A. A. (2017, July). *Integrating innovation into teaching higher education*. Workshop presented for Dalian Neusoft University, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA.

Mattix Foster, A. A. (2017, March). *Global citizenship education*. Presentation for Fairfax County School District's *Globalizing Your Classroom* program. Robinson High School, Fairfax, VA.

Mattix Foster, A. A. (2017, February). *Innovations in teaching*. Workshop presented for Changing Teachers Program, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA.

Mattix Foster, A. A. (2017, February). *Innovations in teaching*. Workshop presented for Jiangsu Province Business Professors Program, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA.

Mattix Foster, A. A. (2017, January). *Supporting English learners*. Presentation for the Greater Washington Literacy Council. Edward L. Kelly Leadership Center, Manassas, VA.

Mattix Foster, A. A. (2016, November). *Global competence*. Presentation for the Peace Corps Global Competence Training for Educators Program. Peace Corps Headquarters, Washington, DC.

Mattix Foster, A. A. (2016, November). *Global citizenship education*. Presentation for Fairfax County School District's *Globalizing Your Classroom* program. Fairfax County High School, Fairfax, VA.

Mattix Foster, A. A. (2016, September). *Building global competency in teacher preparation*

- programs*. Presentation for International Education at George Washington University Seminar Series: Building Teacher Global Competency, a Focus on Teacher Education and Professional Development. George Washington University, Washington DC.
- Mattix Foster, A. A.** (2016, September). *Innovative teaching methods*. Workshop presented for Ningxia Teaching Innovation Capability Advancement for Elementary and Secondary School Teachers Training Program, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA.
- Mattix Foster, A. A.** *Interactive teaching strategies*. (2016, September). Workshop presented for George Mason University-University of Management and Technology Collaboration for Faculty Excellence in Teaching and Research (CFETR) program, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA.
- Mattix Foster, A. A.** (2016, August). *Intercultural competence*. Workshop presented for Fulbright Fellows, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA.
- Mattix Foster, A. A.** *Assessment in higher education*. (2016, April). Workshop presented for George Mason University-University of Management and Technology Collaboration for Faculty Excellence in Teaching and Research (CFETR) program, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA.
- Mattix Foster, A. A. & Wrightsman, K.** (2015, September). *Intercultural competence*. Workshop presented for Fulbright Fellows, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA.
- Mattix, A. A. & Drake-Patrick, J.** (2013, October). *Military connected children in school settings*. Workshop presented for Stratford Landing Elementary School, Fairfax County, VA.
- Sturtevant, B. & **Mattix, A. A.** (2013, August). *Improving reading outcomes: A comparison of instructional approaches*. Panel Moderator for USAID Global Education Summit: State of the Field, State of the Art, Washington DC.
- Mattix, A. A.** (2013, August). *Models of teaching*. Presentation for the Beijing Technology and Business University, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA.
- Mattix, A. A.** (2013, June). *The study of teaching*. Presentation for NUST, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA.
- Mattix, A. A.** (2013, March). *The power of picturebooks in early childhood literacy and development*. Workshop presentation for Literacy and Society, University of California, Los Angeles, CA.
- Mattix, A. A.** (2012, October). *Professional development: Continuing education for educators*. Presentation for a U.S. Department of State sponsored visit by the Ministry of Education of the Bahamas, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA.
- Mattix, A. A.** (2011, March). *English language learning and young children*. Presentation for

Introduction to Early Childhood Education courses, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA.

Mattix, A. A. (2011, February). *Understanding the ELL experience*. Presented to *Teaching English Language Learners* courses, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA.

GRANT FUNDING

Mattix Foster, A.A., (Principal Investigator). (2013). *Global Education for Teachers Collaborative (GET Collaborative)*. Revenue amount \$25,766. Longview Foundation. [Funded, Fall 2013 – Spring 2016]

Longview Mini-Grant
Fall 2012

Graduate and Professional Student Organization
Spring 2012

Council of Graduate Students in Education Research Grant
Spring 2012

Council of Graduate Students in Education Travel Grant
Fall 2011

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Transforming School Culture through Intercultural Competency, a Level 3 workshop for the International Baccalaureate

Teaching for International Mindedness, a Level 2 workshop for the International Baccalaureate

Supporting Military Connected Children, an online learning module for George Mason University College of Education and Human Development

UNIVERSITY TEACHING AND CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

George Mason University, Fairfax, VA
College of Education and Human Development
Center for International Education
Division of Advanced Professional Teacher Development and International Education

Graduate Courses Taught:

Teaching and Learning in the International Baccalaureate Schools

Curriculum Development Across International Baccalaureate Programs
Introduction to Education in International Schools
Internship in Education
Contemporary Issues and Trends in the International Baccalaureate
Inquiry into Action: International Baccalaureate Teachers, Learners, and Schools
Research into Practice
Teaching Elementary Social Studies in International Schools
Language Across the Elementary International School Curriculum
Intercultural Competence: Theory and Research Application to Int'l Education

University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA
Department of Instruction and Learning

Graduate Courses Taught:

Psychology of Learning and Human Development
Sociocultural Perspectives on Literacy Learning
International Teaching Assistant Tutoring

Graduate Course Teaching Assistant Responsibilities:

Applied Principles of Reading Remediation

Undergraduate Courses Taught:

Reading and Vocabulary for ESL Students

Clinical Supervision and Administration:

Assistant Director of the Reading Center
Reading Specialist Intern Supervisor
Student Teaching Supervisor

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

IREX International Teachers of Excellence: Teaching English Language Learners, *Spring 2016, Spring 2017, Spring 2018*

Mason Interactive Literacy Institute: Early Literacy Professional Development Partnership with Arlington Public Schools, *Fall 2015*

AWARDS

George Mason University “Excellence in Online Teaching” Teacher of Distinction - 2019

George Mason University “Excellence in Online Teaching” Teacher of Distinction - 2018

George Mason University “Excellence in Teaching” Winner - 2017

Distinguished Alumni Keynote Speaker – St. Francis University Annual Awards Ceremony 2014

“Student Leadership Award” - University of Pittsburgh, School of Education 2012

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Inviting the Voices of First Year ESOL Teachers to Inform Our Practice

Researcher: Summer 2017 – present

Principal Investigators: April Mattix Foster and Kathleen Ramos

The purpose of this study is to examine what recent graduates of the Teaching Culturally, Linguistically Diverse and Exceptional Learners (TCLDEL) program at George Mason University view as successes and challenges in Key Practices of Teaching English Learners

Internationalizing Teacher Education (Funded through The Longview Foundation)

Researcher: Fall 2013 – Spring 2016

Principal Investigator: April Mattix

Examining ways to initiate and sustain a system of comprehensive internationalization of the teacher education programs.

National Geographic Chesapeake Watershed Program Review (Funded through National Geographic)

Researcher: Fall 2013 – Fall 2014

Principal Investigators: Lori Bland, Angela Miller, and April Mattix

Programmatic review of National Geographic’s NOAA funded grant focusing on teacher professional development surrounding the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

Fairfax County Advanced Academic Program Review (Funded through Fairfax County Public Schools)

Researcher: Spring 2013 – Summer 2013

Co-Principal Investigators: Lori Bland, Beverly Shaklee, Anastasia Kitsantas, Angela Miller, and April Mattix

Programmatic review of the advanced academic program at Fairfax County Public Elementary and Middle Schools.

RAVE: Middle School Vocabulary Development (Supported by US Department of Education, Institute for Education Sciences (IES))

Research assistant: Spring 2012

Principal Investigator: Margaret G. McKeown

A middle school vocabulary intervention designed to deepen and accelerate learning of academic word list words that students encounter across a range of texts.

Reading Specialist candidates: Are preservice teaching programs doing enough?

Researcher: Fall 2011 –Spring 2012

Co-investigators: April Mattix and Michelle Sobolak

Co-researcher on project aimed at assessing preservice reading specialist teachers' knowledge and understanding of reading terminology and instruction prior to undergoing Reading Specialist training and following the completion of the Reading Specialist certification program.

EDITORIAL SERVICE

Editor:

Focus on Elementary, Co-editor (2011- 2016)

Activities in the Classroom, Co-editor (2015 – present)

External Reviewer:

Greater Washington Literacy Connections (2016 – present)

Childhood Education (2011 – present)

National Reading Conference (2010)

SERVICE

Service to the field:

Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching Program review panel, Spring 2013 - present

ECIS (European Council of International Schools) ESL and Mother Tongue Committee, advisory board Spring 2014 – Fall 2017

Service to the University:

College of Education and Human Development (George Mason University)

Cross Disciplinary Coursework Task Force, Spring 2013 – Spring 2015

Educating the Educators Work Group, Spring 2013 – Spring 2015

Clinical Practice Implementation Work Group, Spring 2014 – Spring 2015

On-line Teaching Faculty Mentor, Spring 2014 – present

CAEP Standards 1 & 2 Committee (co-chair), Fall 2016 – Fall 2017

Elementary Undergraduate Work Group, Spring 2018

Faculty Search Committees

Fall 2010 – Spring 2011

Language, Literacy and Culture Department, reading specialization. (University of Pittsburgh)

Spring 2015 – Spring 2016

Teaching Culturally, Linguistically and Diverse and Exceptional Learners – Academic Program Coordinator (George Mason University)

Spring 2016

Teaching Culturally, Linguistically and Diverse and Exceptional Learners (George Mason University)

Spring - Summer 2016

Teaching Culturally, Linguistically and Diverse and Exceptional Learners – Program Administrator (George Mason University)

Spring - Summer 2017

Teaching Culturally, Linguistically and Diverse and Exceptional Learners (George Mason University)

Graduate and Professional Student Assembly (University of Pittsburgh)

School of Education Representative – Fall 2011 – Spring 2012

By-Laws Committee – Fall 2011 – Spring 2012

Elections Committee – Fall 2011 – Spring 2012

Innovation in TA Instruction Exploratory Committee – Fall 2011 – Spring 2012

School of Education Graduate Student Council (University of Pittsburgh)

President, Fall 2011 – Spring 2012

Department of Instruction and Learning Representative, Fall 2010 – Spring 2012

Grants Committee Co-Chair, Fall 2011 – Spring 2012

Conference Committee Co-Chair, Fall 2010 – Spring 2012

Workshop and Special Programs Committee, Fall 2010 – Spring 2012

School of Education Extra Mile Teaching Award Co-Chair, Spring 2011 – Spring 2012

*Conference Organization:***17th Annual School of Education Research Conference**

Lead organizer, March 2011

School of Education Research Colloquia

Lead organizer, November 2011 and March 2012

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATES

Pennsylvania

Elementary Education (K-8)
Secondary Social Studies
Library and Media Specialist

New Jersey

Elementary Education (K-8)
Secondary Social Studies