



2023

**17th Annual Arts,  
Research, & Scholarship  
SYMPOSIUM**

**GRADUATE  
PROGRAM**

**May 2, 2023**



**CABRINI**  
UNIVERSITY





## **17<sup>th</sup> Annual Arts, Research & Scholarship Symposium**

**Tuesday, May 2, 2023 ~ 5pm – 9pm**

### **Graduate Schedule**

- 5:00pm - 5:15 pm**    **Welcome and Introductions** ~ Grace Hall Atrium and online
- 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm**    **Student Presentations, Session 1**  
Hyflex (online and in-person; room assignments listed below)
- 6:45 pm - 7:45 pm**    **Student Presentations, Session 2**  
Hyflex (online and in-person; room assignments listed below)
- 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm**    **Alumni Presentations** ~ Iadarola Lecture Hall (IAD) and online

**Zoom link for all evening sessions:**

<https://cabrini-edu.zoom.us/j/88545526226?pwd=a0NBSW9ocHMyajVPTnNweTFtL2NiZz09>

Meeting ID: 885 4552 6226

Passcode: 598457

**Breakout rooms will open for Sessions 1 and 2**

**Campus Map:** <https://www.cabrini.edu/about/visit/campus-map>

**5:30 pm - 6:30 pm Graduate Student Presentations, Session 1**

**Room assignments listed below**

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**Breakout rooms will open for Session 1**

**Dr. Rasheeda Ahmad – Zoom Breakout #1, Grace Hall Multipurpose Room A**

Piro, Alexa

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Crystal Anderson

*“Is Classwide Peer Tutoring Effective for Increasing Below Grade Level Students' Fluency and Literacy Skills in the Inclusion Classroom?”*

Brewer, Julianna

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Michelle Szpara

*“Building Inclusive Practices Within General Education Classrooms”*

Lawrence, Victoria

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Crystal Anderson

*“From Trauma-Informed to Trauma-Therapy: How Can Experts in the Community Help Teachers Create a More Therapeutic Approach to Trauma-Informed Practices?”*

Boylan Free, Renee

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Michelle Szpara

*“Exploring the Impact of ABA for Students with Autism with Known Histories of Trauma: The Lived Experiences of Elementary Special Education Teachers”*

**Dr. Crystal Anderson – Zoom Breakout #2, Grace Hall Multipurpose Room B**

Vizzarri, Gabriella

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Crystal Anderson

*“A Study in the Model of the Four-Day School Week Model: How Student Achievement may be Impacted”*

Yoder, Elizabeth

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Crystal Anderson

*“A Study of Effective Communication Between Teachers as Students Enter the Next Grade Level”*

Agnew, Shannon

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Michelle Szpara

*“Novice Elementary Teachers' Experiences of Formal and Informal Supports During First-Year Teaching”*

Daou, Maral

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Michelle Szpara

*“From the Perspective of Teachers and Administrators, ‘What is the Impact of the Use of Substitute Teachers and Paid Time Off to Address Teacher Burnout?’”*

**Dr. Lyn Berenato – Zoom Breakout #3, Dixon Classroom 219**

Millison, Theresa

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Crystal Anderson

*“Teacher Attitudes Regarding Professional Development: Do Attitudes Change Depending on Years of Experience?”*

Posner, Saburah

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Michelle Szpara

*“The Importance of Mirrors: Understanding the Impact of Out Queer Teachers and Administrators on LGBTQ+ Students”*

Omosule, Johnson

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Michelle Szpara

*“Exploring the Perceptions of Stem Faculty Regarding the Needs of Students with Disabilities in Distance Learning”*

Thornton, Tamaqua

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Michelle Szpara

*“From the Perspective of Adult Learners on the Autism Spectrum, What Are Available Supports and Challenges in Attending Institutions of Higher Education (IHP)?”*

**Dr. Aisha Eubanks – Zoom Breakout #4, Founders Room 207**

Roulhac, Cynthia

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Michelle Szpara

*“Perceptions of Charter School Teachers on The Charter Renewal and Closure Process in Low-Socioeconomic Communities”*

Sadler, Treena

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Michelle Szpara

*“An examination of the Lived Experiences of Directors of Equity in Suburban PW School Districts”*

Hanrahan, Sarah

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Michelle Szpara

*“Engaging White Teachers in Urban Education: A Closer Look at SEED”*

Hayes, Matthew

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Michelle Szpara

*“Teacher Retention: Understanding Factors that Impact Teacher Retention at Title I Schools”*

**Dr. Lizanne Pando – Zoom Breakout #5, Founders Room 210**

Bolden, Melissa

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Michelle Szpara

*“Impact of Socio-Emotional Learning Supports”*

Felder, Stephanie

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Michelle Szpara

*“Examining the Perceptions and Practices of Teachers Implementing Culturally Relevant Social Emotional Learning in High Schools”*

Duffy, Christine

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Michelle Szpara

*“Social Emotional and Self Care Practices of Private, Public, and Parochial Elementary Teachers and the Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic”*

Allen, Kelly B.

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Michelle Szpara

*“Elementary Teachers’ Utilization of Social and Emotional Learning to Address Student Behaviors”*

**Dr. Martha Ritter – Zoom Breakout #6, Founders Room 211**

Hagan, Maria

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Michelle Szpara

*“A Study in the Use of Heart Word Mapping (Orthographic Mapping) to Improve First-Grade Sight Word Knowledge and Reading Levels”*

McPeak, Megan

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Michelle Szpara

*“Behavior Management with Pre-K and Early Elementary Students”*

Miller, Jacqueline

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Michelle Y. Szpara

*“Supporting All Students Through an Equity Lens: Impact of Direct Instruction on Learning and Behavior”*

Kelly, Janet

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Michelle Szpara

*“In the Perceptions and Lived Experiences of Head Start Pre-K teachers, How Do They Create and Maintain STEM Learning Opportunities for Young Children? What Are the Outcomes and Impacts of These Activities?”*

**Carolyn Wilson-Albright – Zoom Breakout #7, Founders Room 208**

Schubert, Shannon

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Crystal Anderson

*“The Use of Immediate Feedback on Assessments and its Relation to Anxiety”*

Samuel, Tamera

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Crystal Anderson

*“Covid 19 Effect on Traditional and Non-Traditional Education”*

Martin, LeRai

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Michelle Szpara

*“Exploring Nursing Faculty's Continued Use of Emerging Technologies for Teaching Beyond the COVID-19 Pandemic”*

Roth, Ian

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Michelle Szpara

*“The Continuing Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Digital Divide in K-12 Education”*

**6:45 pm - 7:45 pm Graduate Student Presentations, Session 2**

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**Breakout rooms will open for Session 2**

**Dr. Rasheeda Ahmad – Zoom Breakout #1, Grace Hall Multipurpose Room A**

Romich, Julia

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Michelle Szpara

*“Capstone Action Research - Co-Teaching”*

Williams, Michael E.

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Michelle Szpara

*“Teacher’s Perceptions: African American Males in Special Education Overrepresented”*

Davenport, Divine

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Michelle Szpara

*“The Miseducation of the Black Student: Institutional Supports That Foster a Sense of Belonging for Black Students at PWIs”*

Wattenmaker, Matthew

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Michelle Szpara

*“High School Special Education Teachers’ Feelings of Self Efficacy as Influenced by Co-Teaching Training”*

**Dr. Crystal Anderson – Zoom Breakout #2, Grace Hall Multipurpose Room B**

Milliken, Susan

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Crystal Anderson

*“Teaching New Subjects as a Social Studies Teacher: A Reflective Review”*

Berman, Matthew

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Michelle Szpara

*“Potential Impact of Team Sport Participation in Middle School Students”*

Eposito, Gabriel

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Michelle Szpara

*“Using Music to Teach Language and How It Affects the Brain”*

Porco, Noelle

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Michelle Szpara

*“Student Perception of the Arts Education Program in a Lower-Socioeconomic School”*

**Dr. Lyn Berenato – Zoom Breakout #3, Dixon Classroom 219**

Berry, Jackie

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Szpara

*“Literacy Self-Efficacy and the Novice Teacher”*

Stefan, Alexa

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Michelle Szpara

*“Elementary Principals' Knowledge, Perspectives, and Instructional Leadership Behaviors Related to Early Reading Instruction”*

Fisher-Glass, Kathleen

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Michelle Szpara

*“Principal Perceptions of Their Role as Local Education Agency Representative”*

Pezzano, Christopher

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Michelle Szpara

*“The Teachers' Role in Project-based Learning”*



**Dr. Aisha Eubanks – Zoom Breakout #4, Founders Room 207**

Sheppard, Justin

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Crystal Anderson

*“Trauma-Informed Practices and Teacher's Attitude Toward Implementation”*

Graham, Julian

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Ronald Whitaker

*“Career Technical Education Programs for Postsecondary Student Success: A Phenomenological Study”*

Gachelin, Sasha

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Michelle Szpara

*“In the Perceptions of Teachers in an Approved Private School Serving Predominantly African American Boys Who Have Experienced Trauma, What Works in the Curriculum, Pedagogy and Climate to Support Reading Progress?”*

Wilson-Albright, Carolyn

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Michelle Szpara

*“Trauma-Aware Professional Development and the Impact on Middle School Teachers' Perception of Student Behaviors”*

**Dr. Lizanne Pando – Zoom Breakout #5, Founders Room 210**

Custer, Gina

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Michelle Szpara

*“Exploring Classroom Strategies and Practices for English Language Learners (ELLs) in Preschool”*

McArthur, Crystal

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Michelle Szpara

*“Round and Round We Go - Elementary Teachers Effectively Using Circles Post Pandemic”*

Paldino, JoEllen

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Michelle Szpara

*“Teacher Perceptions of English Language Learners during SEL activities”*

**Dr. Martha Ritter – Zoom Breakout #6, Founders Room 211**

Blaisse, Lyndsay

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Crystal Anderson

*“Using Goal Setting to Increase Upper Elementary Reading Achievement”*

Drummond (Di Siro), Teresa

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Crystal Anderson

*“The Effects of Homework on First Graders’ Reading Comprehension”*

Coni, Anastasia

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Michelle Szpara

*“Exploring the Impact of Storytelling in Raising Cultural Proficiency, in Increasing Student Voice and Choice, and in Implementing Equitable Practices for Multilingual Learners”*

**Dr. Vinayak Mathur – Zoom Breakout #7, Founders Room 208**

Gabriele, Erin

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Michelle Szpara

*“Critical Thinking Skills: Examining Student, Faculty and Employer Perceptions and The Effectiveness of College Curriculum Instruction for Post-Graduate Success”*

Soll Rising, Sara

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Michelle Szpara

*“High School Seniors Perceptions of Current Math Class Post-Secondary Preparedness”*

Senoyuitas, Ann

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Michelle Szpara

*“Adapting Middle School Math Instruction for English Language Development Students”*

Tom Carey

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Michelle Szpara

*“The Effects of Group Work in an Algebra Classroom”*

**8:00 pm - 9:00 pm Alumni Presentations ~ Iadarola Lecture Hall (IAD) and online**

**Cookies and Refreshments in the IAD Lobby**

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### **Alumni Presentations**

**Saher Masoodi, Doctoral Candidate ('23)**

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Alia Sheety

*"Experiences and Perceptions of English Language Learners from Bangladeshi, Indian, and Pakistani Backgrounds in U.S. Public Secondary Schools"*

**Dr. Aisha Eubanks ('23)**

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Colleen Lelli

*"Examining Trauma-informed Practices in a Title I Urban School: Educators' Perspectives"*

**Dr. Lizanne Pando ('23)**

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Alia Sheety

*"Supports for Higher Education Students with Down Syndrome"*

## **Acknowledgments**

### **Dean of Academic Affairs**

Dr. Michelle Filling-Brown

### **Symposium Committee**

Dr. Lyn Berenato

Dr. Sheryl Fuller-Espie (Co-chair)

Dr. Richard Gebauer

Allison Malazita

Dr. Martha Ritter

Patricia Stocker

Dr. Michelle Yvonne Szpara (Co-chair)

### **Moderators – Graduate Presentation Sessions**

Dr. Rasheeda Ahmad

Dr. Crystal Anderson

Dr. Lyn Berenato

Dr. Aisha Eubanks ('23)

Dr. Vinayak Mathur

Dr. Lizanne Pando ('23)

Dr. Martha Ritter

Carolyn Wilson-Albright, Doctoral Candidate ('23)

**Conference and Events Staff**

Andrew Sennett  
Felix Rodriguez Ortega

**Photography**

Emily Rowan ('17, MS '21), Senior Digital Manager

**Poster Printing**

Professor Jeanne Komp  
Raina Johnson  
Bridget O'Donnell

**Program and Abstract Book Covers and Advertising Designs**

Leah Jones ('24)  
Lauren Perkins ('24)  
Misty Spang ('23)  
Kendall Trumbore ('24)  
Steven Woolard ('23)  
(Undergraduate students of Asst. Professor David Copestakes)

**Social Media**

Skyler Kellers ('24)

**Technology Support**

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