Contact Information

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Educational Background

- Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction
 - Institution: Oakland City University, Oakland City, IN
 - **Duration:** September 2016 May 2020
 - **Dissertation:** The Phenomenology of Bullying: Teachers and Counselors Lived Experiences of School Bullying in the Southern Region of the United States.
- Specialist of Education in Counseling Psychology
 - Institution: University of Missouri, Columbia, MO
 - **Duration:** September 2012 September 2014
- Master of Education in School Counseling
 - Institution: Albany State University, Albany, GA
- Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology
 - Institution: University of Georgia, Athens, GA

Academic Positions

- Writing Tutor
 - Institution: University of Maryland Global Campus, Adelphi, MD
 - Duration: March 2020 Present
 - **Responsibilities:** Providing feedback on academic assignments, early interventions for struggling students, and support for both native and ELL students.
- Academic Writing Coach
 - Institution: National University, San Diego, CA
 - **Duration:** October 2019 Present
 - **Responsibilities:** Guiding students in scholarly writing and research analysis, delivering synchronous/asynchronous coaching to doctoral students.

Additional Teaching and Counseling Experience

- School Counselor / Substitute Teacher
 - Place of work: Dougherty County School System, Albany, GA
 - **Duration:** August 2005-August 2010

• **Responsibilities:** Provided crisis intervention and conflict resolution in group settings with largely low-income population including emotionally disturbed children

Service Experiences Section

- Northside Elementary (1 Year):
 - Collaborated with K-5 teachers to adapt and deliver tailored instructional support for hearing-impaired students.
 - Designed and implemented strategic organizers and lesson plans to enhance learning outcomes for deaf students in primary education.
- National University:
 - Conducted writing workshops targeting adult learners, emphasizing modifications for deaf individuals to facilitate an inclusive learning environment.
 - Developed instructional strategies that ensure accessibility and comprehension for students with diverse learning needs, particularly those with hearing impairments.
 - Specializing in tutoring and support for adult students recovering from severe brain injuries and tumors, providing tailored learning strategies, resources, and emotional support.

Teaching and Mentoring Experience:

- School Counselor/Mentor (Lens Lastinger Elementary, Tifton, GA, 2012-2014):
 - Developed and implemented individualized strategies to support students with mental health conditions, focusing on comprehensive and holistic approaches.
 - Mentored a 9-year-old African American student with schizophrenia from a single-parent household. Organized a multifaceted support plan involving regular check-in, teacher support, and specialized counseling.
 - Facilitated support groups for parents and guardians to enhance their understanding and capacity to support children with mental health conditions.
- Academic Writing Coach (National University, 2020-Present):
 - Facilitated Decoding Assignment group sessions with ESL students from diverse geographical backgrounds, including Africa, China, the Middle East, Haiti, Central, and South America.
 - Created and implemented specialized instructional strategies and resources to accommodate varying learning needs and language proficiency.
 - Provided personalized support to ESL students to ensure their academic success and adjustment to higher learning contexts.

Research Experience

- Dissertation Research (Oakland City University, 2016-2020):
 - Researched bullying impacts on marginalized students in the Southern U.S.

- Analyzed systemic barriers faced by these students.
- Journalistic Research (Guardian Liberty Voice, 2016-2018):
 - Covered topics centered on diverse and underrepresented groups.
 - Examples include examining Jerusalem's multifaceted significance and analyzing public figures through diverse lenses.
- Content Research (Rodeo Software, 2022):
 - Authored articles on emerging software tools, emphasizing applications in varied organizational contexts.

Professional Writings

Title: <u>Teacher Criticizes Betsy DeVos for Reaction to Charlottesville</u> (Guardian Liberty Voice, [August 2017])

• It examines societal and educational consequences of inadequate leadership responses to racial tension, argues for unequivocal racial equity and justice in education, and analyzes the consequences of silence and passiveness when it comes to racial injustice.

Title: <u>Terror in Virginia as Charlottesville Protest Turns Deadly</u> (Guardian Liberty Voice, [August 2017]):

Examines Charlottesville's racial confrontations, underscoring the urgency to combat racism. Emphasizes societal vigilance and the ongoing pursuit of racial equality..

Title: <u>American Nationalism Raises Xenophobia</u> (Guardian Liberty Voice, [July 2017]):

• The article examines the growing xenophobic attitudes in America considering rising nationalism, demonstrating the importance of diversity and inclusion in maintaining the nation's melting pot identity. To combat divisive and exclusionary ideologies, it stresses the importance of multiculturalism and mutual respect and understanding.

Title: <u>Charleston Massacre Killer Dylann Roof Condemned to Death</u> (Guardian Liberty Voice, [January 2017]):

• The report examines the enduring impacts of racial hatred and the struggle against racism and discrimination following the Charleston Massacre. This serves as a stark reminder that racial harmony and equity must be promoted in society urgently.

Creative Works and Accolades

"Journal of a Dinka Boy" (Screenplay)

- Accolade: Winner, 2023 Bahamas Film Festival (Writers Residency)
- **Description:** A narrative set in 1980s South Sudan, capturing the trials of the "Lost Boys" of the Dinka tribe. Characters Noah, Simon, and Matthew journey through challenges of faith, displacement, and identity. The story sheds light on cultural complexities and the universal quest for belonging and acceptance.

Professional Affiliations

Online Centers Association

Merritt, Jomo - CV