

# M.ED. IN LANGUAGES

*Spring-Summer 2021 Newsletter*

*Inside this Issue*

## FACULTY HIGHLIGHT

Learn more about Dr. Silvia Rodríguez Sabater, one of the co-founders of the M.Ed. in Languages program.

## SIGMA DELTA PI

We honor three SPAN students for their commitment to language pedagogy and Spanish cultures.

## OUR GRADUATES

Read about the students who graduated this year and how the M.Ed. in Languages program has shaped their careers.

## STUDENT HIGHLIGHT

### Daniela Tripon - ESOL

I used to be a Special Education teacher, mostly in a resource setting, for about 12 years. I decided to switch gears a few years ago and started taking classes for the add-on ESOL certification. I ultimately felt that the master's degree program would allow me a more thorough preparation for the task of teaching language learners. My first language is Romanian and, as an English language learner myself, and as a parent and an educator, learning a different language and teaching learners are very close to my heart. I came to the United States about 19 years ago and learned English as a young adult. Later on, I learned yet another language, Spanish. My husband is a native Spanish speaker and we feel fortunate to use three languages at home. My hope in pursuing the M.Ed. in Languages is that I will be empowered to support my language learners in becoming successful English speakers, while maintaining their home language.

## FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Keep up to date with information, announcements, and teaching tips by following along on social media!



 @COFC\_GRADLANGUAGES

 @MEDLANGCOFC

 @EDFLCOFC



## DONATE TO THE PROGRAM

Help us continue to provide high quality education to the next generation of teachers and language advocates. Please consider donating - even small donations help!

[Click here to donate or scan the QR code below!](#)



## STUDENT HIGHLIGHT

### Olga Long - Spanish

Hi! I am originally from Santander, Cantabria, in Northern Spain, and I have lived in Charleston since 2002. I teach Upper School Spanish at Ashley Hall, a private school for girls in downtown Charleston. I love teaching girls because I believe they are the leaders of the future. I originally started the M.Ed. in Languages program as part of my professional development, but it has become a big part of my life. Each class at the College of Charleston has taught me something valuable, but the best classes I have taken gave me a hunger for more. Part of me would like to keep studying forever and never graduate although I do expect to graduate next year. There's so much to learn in this program. Come join us at CofC!



## FACULTY HIGHLIGHT

### Dr. Silvia Rodríguez Sabater

Dr. Rodríguez Sabater is one of the founding members of the M.Ed. in Languages program and has been an integral part of the program for the past two decades. She offered the first core course in the program, LALE 601 Applied Linguistics, in 2003. That course allows students to explore the different areas of linguistics such as the nature of language, the human capacity for learning languages, phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics with the goal of observing how these linguistic features inform second language instruction and learning. This course addresses questions about the complexities of language, as well as issues surrounding the education and training of second language teachers. After the completion of the course, students show a theoretical and practical understanding of the different areas of linguistics, demonstrate an application of the areas of linguistics to issues related to the acquisition and teaching of second languages, reflect about the complexities of first and second language learning, demonstrate a critical evaluation of the research literature, and research a topic of interest to be applied to their classroom. She will be teaching LALE 601 this coming Spring 2022. Her favorite part about the program is interacting with the students and learning about their teaching careers and passion for students. Dr. Rodríguez Sabater is a strong advocate for the M.Ed. in Languages program because it is a well-rounded, interdisciplinary program that offers students flexibility with the online format, and provides opportunities to network with other students and teachers in the Charleston area and beyond!





# HONORING OUR GRADUATES



## Cecilia Hunt - ESOL, Fall 2020

Hello, my name is Cecilia Hunt! I began my career as a first grade teacher ten years ago. I have always known that my calling was in ESOL. As a general education teacher, I felt drawn to my EL students and wanted to know how to best reach them. Furthermore, as a former EL student myself, I felt a strong sense of compassion and understanding with my Spanish speaking students. This school year, I was able to put into practice what I have learned from the M.Ed. in Languages program. I graduated in December of 2020 and began my first year as an ESOL teacher (in person and virtual) primarily working with kindergarten and first grade students. The Graduate program has helped me gain a multitude of strategies and lessons that are tailored to fit my ELs. I am better equipped to teach ELs and I truly enjoy being an ESOL inclusion educator. As an alumna of CofC I feel that the program has all the attributes needed to train and prepare future educators in English for Speakers of Other Languages.

## Kate Sanchez - ESOL, Fall 2020

I did it! I am so thankful to have completed my M. Ed. in Languages with an emphasis on ESOL. During my time in this master's degree program, I was working full time as a teacher, juggling pregnancy, and had my first baby. I could have never completed this program without the support of each professor and the encouragement of my husband. Each professor taught me SO much and continued to make me excited to learn more and to apply what I was learning in my teaching. I know that everything I learned in this program will continue to push me to be a better teacher every day. I feel so blessed to have been able to be a part of this program. Thank you to everyone who made this possible for me!



## CONGRATULATIONS ALSO TO OUR ESOL GRADUATE CERTIFICATE STUDENTS

### Graduates Fall 2020

Alexa Bergman	Valerie Jackson
Melissa Cahill	Brenda Mock
Jennie D'Angelo	Kevin Murphy
Sarah Danzell	Isabel Raisbeck
Erin Fullerton	Michelle Taylor

### Graduates Spring 2021

Allison Clark
Amy Merritt
Brenda McPeeks Schaffer
Cynthia Strandt
Katie Winch



# Faculty Interview with Dr. Antonio Pérez-Núñez

## What is your favorite part of being a professor in the M.Ed. in Languages program?

There are many things that I love about being a professor in the M.Ed in Languages program but I would say that one of my favorite parts has to do with the students and the learning community that we develop in the course that I teach, which is LALE 603 (Second Language Acquisition). Every time I teach the course, I learn new things from my graduate students' insights into the topics that we study and from their personal experiences as language learners or teachers. Moreover, although this is an online course, we are able to develop a strong, supportive learning community through a variety of activities and tools (e.g. FlipGrid, discussion boards, reflections, peer-feedback activities, projects, etc.). This way, we engage in very interesting discussions and conversations, and learn from one another. It is definitely something unique and very enriching that I don't get to experience in the same way at the undergraduate level.

## Can you tell us a little bit about yourself like what brought you to this program and the College of Charleston?

I grew up in a small town near Granada, Spain, surrounded by olive trees, horses, and the Sierra Nevada mountains. Since I can remember, I have always been interested in other languages and cultures. For example, when I was 6 or 7, I used to spend hours and hours reading information about countries in an old atlas that we had at home and dreaming about visiting those places. However, it wasn't until middle school that I first began to learn a foreign language, which was English. Later on, I had the opportunity to also study French in high school, and then German and Italian. During that time I was always curious about the process of language learning and how to become a more effective teacher, which is the reason I studied language teaching and linguistics at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Before coming to the College of Charleston, I did my Ph.D. in Hispanic Linguistics with a concentration in Second Language Acquisition and Teacher Education (SLATE) at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. While I enjoy working on research projects, my passion is teaching and I found that the College of Charleston, with its tradition as a liberal arts institution and its focus on high-quality teaching, innovation and global learning, was the perfect place to develop my career.

## What will you be teaching this fall?

This coming fall I will be teaching LALE 603 (Second Language Acquisition), which is one of my favorite courses to teach at CofC. The goal of this course is to introduce students to the field of second language acquisition (SLA), which is a fascinating discipline that tries to answer three main questions: (1) How do humans learn additional languages after they have learned their first language? (2) What factors contribute to the variability observed in the outcomes of second language acquisition? and (3) What does it take to become competent in a language other than the first language?

To address these questions, we study and discuss the most relevant theoretical concepts and research following an interdisciplinary approach in which we will examine SLA from linguistic, psychological, and social perspectives.

## Why should potential students choose this program?

First, this M.Ed is a very unique online program designed specifically for working professionals, including current teachers, and for those looking for new career opportunities at home or abroad, or who want to further their academic career in the field of language learning and teaching. The students in this program will be also part of a diverse and enriching learning community guided by a group of excellent professionals who are passionate about what they do and who really care for their students' success.







## ALUMNI HIGHLIGHT

Tristan Hill (M.Ed. Spanish 2018)

Hello, my name is Tristan Hill and I am the World Language Department Chair at Charleston County School of the Arts (SOA). Our school is a magnet high school located in North Charleston near the Park Circle area. We offer 9 majors for which students have to audition and they come to us from all around the Charleston area. According to the *U.S. News & World Report*, SOA recently ranked 2nd overall in South Carolina and 209th in the nation, putting the school in the top 99th% of schools in the U.S. I have the privilege to teach mostly 10th-12th grade young gifted artists Spanish III and Dual-Enrollment Spanish 101 and 102. I could not imagine doing my current job without having done the M.Ed. program at the College of Charleston. The program equipped me with the necessary tools to encourage my students' curiosities, but also to empower them to do their own research and delve more into the dimensions that interest them. I would definitely recommend the M.Ed. in Languages program at CofC for those who want to be that teacher who knows their content and who has a mastery to deliver it in creative and meaningful ways.

## WHERE ARE OUR ALUMNI NOW?

**ASHLEIGH MULDOUGH  
(M.ED. ESOL 2018)**

Assistant Language Teacher with the Japanese Exchange and Teaching program in the Niigata prefecture of Japan.

**EDMUND CARSON  
(M.ED. SPAN 2016)**

Currently a Spanish teacher at James Island Charter High School in Charleston County School District.

**ARE YOU AN ALUM OF THE M.ED. IN LANGUAGES PROGRAM? WE'D LOVE TO HEAR HOW YOU'RE DOING! IF YOU'RE CURRENTLY TEACHING, PLEASE LET US KNOW HOW YOU'RE DOING AFTER THIS CRAZY YEAR. IF YOUR CAREER PATH HAS TAKEN A NEW DIRECTION, WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU, TOO!**

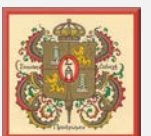
**PLEASE CONTACT PROGRAM DIRECTOR DR. EMILY S. BECK:  
BECKE@COFC.EDU OR SCAN THE BARCODE BELOW**



## MEET THE NEW MEMBERS OF SIGMA DELTA PI, NATIONAL COLLEGIATE HISPANIC HONOR SOCIETY



Congratulations to Frances Díaz-Evans, Nikki Parrott, and Shannon Withers as our new inductees to Sigma Delta Pi, the National Collegiate Hispanic Honors Society. In addition to academic excellence, candidates for membership are honored for their commitment to promote the study of Hispanic language, literature, and culture. Frances, Nikki and Shannon were inducted in a virtual ceremony over Zoom on April 9, 2021. Sigma Delta Pi is the largest foreign language honor society for college students in the US, with over 620 chapters nationwide. The College of Charleston's Nu Zeta Chapter of Sigma Delta Pi was installed on November 21, 1977 and has earned eight Honor Chapter Distinctions over the past decade. Are you an alum who was initiated into Sigma Delta Pi? Contact us to check in about what you're currently doing! We are so proud of our students who have been inducted!





# TELL YOUR FRIENDS ABOUT THESE M.ED. IN LANGUAGES COURSES OFFERED IN FALL 2021

All classes are asynchronous and online

## LALE 602

Advanced Language Teaching Methodology: Incorporates the latest research findings on foreign language pedagogy and theory. Students will create lesson plans, units and activities based on specific aspects of foreign language teaching. Class sessions involve discussion of assigned readings and application of the content of the readings to teaching diverse learners.

## LALE 603

Second Language Acquisition: Introduces the field of second language acquisition from a theoretical and methodological perspective. Students will explore the most important linguistic, psychological and social influences that affect the rate and course of second language acquisition. The course draws comparisons between the acquisition of a first and second language. Students will analyze actual second language learner data.

## EDFS 670

Principles and Strategies for Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL): A survey course intended to provide pre-K through grade 12 educators with knowledge of the principles, underlying methodologies and techniques for promoting acquisition of a second language through academic content. The main focus is to demonstrate a variety of instructional strategies that can benefit all students in a multicultural classroom.

## EDFS 674

Linguistics for ESOL Teachers: Provides prospective and practicing teachers of English as a second or foreign language a broad understanding of the grammar of English and a foundation in general linguistics. The course provides a theoretical basis for selecting language teaching strategies. Differences in descriptive and prescriptive grammars and their roles in ESOL/EFL instruction are explored. Participants develop skills in linguistic analysis through exploring traditional, transformational, case, and discourse perspectives.

## SPAN 624

An in-depth study of topics in U.S. Latino/a literature and culture focusing on Mexican-Americans, Puerto Ricans, and Cuban-Americans. Content includes history, literacy production, and cultural manifestations within contemporary theoretical concepts.

**REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR FALL 2021.**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT  
EMILY S. BECK AT [BECKE@COFC.EDU](mailto:BECKE@COFC.EDU)**