

**2019 LILT Annual Conference**  
**Meet the Presenters**

**Rebecca Aubrey:** Rebecca received her B.A. in Human Ecology from College of the Atlantic. She earned her M.A. in Political Science from the University of Connecticut. She holds a Teaching Certification through the Connecticut Alternate Route to Certification. She has over 20 years of teaching experience, including 10 years of teaching Spanish in grades K-8. Rebecca has presented broadly in Connecticut, and at the national level, including to ACTFL presentations. She is the 2019 ACTFL Teacher of the Year.

**Regina Casale:** Regina has been teaching Spanish/English for over 20 years both nationally and internationally. She currently holds the ACTFL Cinema SIG Chair position. Presently, she teaches at Longwood JHS and she is very active with local and national language organizations. Regina is willing to collaborate with colleagues and contribute to the field through mentoring, offering workshops and volunteering.

**Michael DeSalvo:** Michael holds a MAT in French, and an M.A. in Linguistics from Stony Brook University. He has been teaching French and Latin for two years. He also has been tutoring for seven years at the secondary university levels. Michael has presented workshops in Italy and throughout the United States.

**Marisa DeSerio:** Marisa holds a NYS certification in Birth-1st and 1st - 6th in Elementary and Special Education from St. Joseph's College. She is certified in TESOL K-12 from Hofstra University. Marisa is currently working as a 6th Grade ENL teacher at Riverhead CSD. This is her 12th year teaching. She has held various collegial circles in the district pertaining to the ENL population.

**Tina DeFalco :** Tina earned her B.A. in French Language and Literature and an M.A.T. in French both from Stony Brook University. Tina holds certifications in teaching French and Italian both at the secondary and elementary levels. She currently teaches middle school and high school French in the Miller Place School District levels 7th grade, I, III, IV, V and AP.

**Donna DiNatale:** Donna earned a B.A. from Stony Brook University in Italian Language and Culture, and an M.S. at Dowling College. For 35+ years Donna taught M.S. and H.S. Italian in the Connetquot School District and is now retired. She continues to teach Italian for the Community through the Center for Italian Studies at Stony Brook University. Donna has served LILT as 2nd Vice President and 1st Vice President. She is currently the LILT President.

**Anna Domingo:** Anna earned a B.A. in Spanish Secondary Education from St. Joseph's College. She also received an M.A. in Italian Language and Literature. She has been teaching Spanish and Italian for 5 years at Commack H.S. Anna and her colleague Margaret Krone are a dynamic duo presenting together at the NYSAWLA 2019 Conference.

**Omar Garcia:** Omar holds a B.A. in Hispanic Languages and Literature and an M.A. in Spanish from Stony Brook University. He worked in the Half Hollow Hills School District and is now teaching in the Hicksville School District. He has 20 years experience in corporate management. He also has 5 years Ministerial experience as a youth pastor and preacher.

**Mariana A. Gil:** Mariana holds an M.A. on Secondary Education from Dowling College. She earned a School Building and District advance certificate from St. John's University and is a Doctoral candidate at St. John's University. Mariana currently teaches in the Longwood School District. She also is an AP Reader for the College Board.

**Melissa Gordon:** Melissa currently holds a NYS certification in Childhood Elementary grades 1-6 from Brandeis University as well as TESOL K-12 from Touro College. She also worked abroad in Ecuador as a TEFL Teacher. Melissa recently ran collegial circles in her district on student centered learning and modifying units of study for a variety of ELL proficiency levels. This is her fifth year teaching 5th grade ENL in the Riverhead School District with 9 years total teaching experience.

**Dean Guarnaschelli:** Dean is currently a PhD student at St. John's University. He has taught German language and culture since 1995 at all levels, K-through-University. He currently teaches in the Massapequa School District. Dean presents workshops on language learning as well as European history.

**Vincenza Graham:** Vincenza holds a B.A. in Italian from Long Island University/C.W. Post and earned an M.A. in Spanish Education and the Advanced Certificate in School Administration and Supervision from Queens College. Vincenza currently serves as the Director of World Languages, English as a New Language and Library Media Specialist for the Smithtown School District. She has spent over 15 years teaching Italian and Spanish and has supervised teachers for over 11 years. Vincenza is a member of NYSAWLA, LILT, ACTFL and ASCD.

**Valérie Greer:** Valérie received her B.A. in French and Spanish and her M.A. from Stony Brook University. She has been teaching for 22 years and has been presenting workshops since 2012. Valérie has presented over 30 times for LILT, NYSAFLT, NECTFL, ACTFL, BOCES and FLENJ. She won Best of NYSAFLT in 2017 and BEST of NECTFL in 2017 and was runner up for Best of NECTFL in 2016. Valérie is presently a co- chair for the LILT Student World Language Competition.

**Denise Hannaoui:** Denise holds a B.A. and an M.A. in TESOL as well as an M.S in Instructional Technology. Denise has been a Director of World Languages/ENL for over 8 years in two districts and a teacher of ENL for over 18 years. She presently is the director for ENL and World Languages in the Connetquot School District. Denise is also the secretary/treasurer of NYSAWLA/FLACS.

**Jonathan Hernández:** Jonathan received both his B.A. and M.A.in Spanish from SUNY College at Old Westbury. He has been teaching for 10 years. Jonathan has been an avid user of Nearpod since its inception in 2012 and presented for the instructional software company in their User Group session held on Long Island in 2019.

**Jennifer Karpoich:** Jennifer earned a degree in Interpreting for the Deaf (AAS), a B.A. in English with a minor in Speech Communication, MED in Curriculum and Instruction and coursework toward an EdD in Interdisciplinary Educational Studies. Jennifer spent nearly 15 years working as an Interpreter for the Deaf, and has been working as an ASL teacher/professor for the past eight years. She is currently teaching in the Valley Stream Central School District.

**Margaret Krone:** Margaret earned her B.A. at the University of Delaware and her MAT in Italian from Stony Brook University. She has been teaching both Italian and Spanish for 10 years at Commack H.S. where she also serves as the Lead Teacher of the World Languages Department. In 2019 she was selected as Commack High School's Teacher of the Year. Together with her colleagues, Margaret continues to work towards creating a more comprehensible and communicative language classroom.

**Dr. Pat Lennon Murphy:** Dr. Lennon Murphy holds a P.D. in Educational Leadership, a B.A. from Molloy College, an M.A. in Spanish and an Ed.D. in Leadership from St. John's University, and School Administration Degree from C.W. Post College. Pat retired as Coordinator of World Languages from the Sewanhaka School District after thirty years of teaching. Currently she is a supervisor of student teachers at Queens College, CUNY.

**Xinyuan Li:** Xinyuan Li holds a B.A in English from Beijing Language and Culture University. She earned her M.A. in Foreign Language Teaching and TESOL from New York University. She has been teaching Mandarin for 5 years at North Shore School District.

**Fabiana LoBrutto:** Fabiana earned her B.A and M.A from Queens College. She is certified as an Italian and Spanish secondary teacher. She has been teaching in the North Shore School District since 2010. Additionally, she appreciates the ability to learn more and brainstorm with her colleagues about strategies to better support the engagement and performance of her students.

**Ana Manas Lopez:** Ana holds a NYS certification in TESOL K-12. She is pursuing an additional certification in Elementary grades 1-6 from Touro University. Ana currently works as a 5th and 6th Grade ENL teacher in the Riverhead School District. Ana recently ran her first collegial circle in her district entitled Spanish for Educators and will be hosting several additional workshops on this topic.

**Christina Margiore:** Christina earned her B.S. in Adolescent Education Spanish from LIU. She holds a M.A.L.S. with a concentration in Spanish and an Administrative Certificate from Stony Brook University. She has been teaching Spanish for 10 years and has taught at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. She has presented at the LILT Annual Conference, Winter Workshops and NECTFL Conference. Christina is also one of the offsite co-chairs for the 2020 LILT Annual Conference.

**Becky Mayr:** Becky was a double major in Spanish and Linguistics at SUNY Binghamton and followed up with an M.A in Elementary Education from Hofstra. Her most recent degrees are the Advanced Graduate Certification of Educational Computing through Stony Brook University also and Google certification. She has been teaching at Longwood High School since 1986. Becky has presented in her district at Superintendent's Conference Days and taught Technobabble and Advanced Technobabble through MESTRACT .

**Wendy Mercado:** Wendy received her B.A. in Spanish and M.A. from Stony Brook University. She has been teaching for 22 years. Wendy has presented for LILT, NYSAFLT, NECTFL, ACTFL, BOCES, FLENJ, and other organizations. She and her colleague won Best of NYSAFLT in 2017 and BEST of NECTFL in 2017 and was runner up for Best of NECTFL in 2016 for their workshops. Wendy is also actively involved in LILT, NYSAFLT and ACTFL and is a coordinator of the LILT Student World Language Contest.

**Douglas Moore:** Doug earned his B.A. in Spanish and M.A. in Teaching of English as a Second Language from Queens College. He studied at the University of Valencia, Spain. He is currently teaching Jr. and Sr. HS Spanish in the Great Neck School District. Doug also assisted with the LILT Poster Contest for many years.

**Victoria Pappas:** Victoria earned her B.A. in Elementary and Special Ed. from St. Joseph's College and her M.A. in Educational Technology and Leadership from Dowling College. She is a Google Certified Trainer. Victoria currently works as a Technology Integration Specialist blending curriculum and technology in the Connetquot School District. She also has presented workshops at the LI Technology Summit and the Suffolk Asset Conference. Victoria constantly strives to expand her knowledge and support teachers in their implementation of technology through curriculum.

**Erica Peralta:** Erica is certified in Elementary Education (1-6) as well as K-12 Bilingual Education and TESOL, with a M.A. from Queens College and Advanced Certificates in TESOL and School Leadership from St. John's University. She is currently an Elementary Assistant Principal in the William Floyd School District, with 14 years of prior bilingual teaching experience in NYC and Riverhead.

**Kristyn Pellegrini:** Kristyn earned her B.A. in Spanish Education at Siena College and holds a M.A. degree in Teaching English as a Second Language from Touro College. Kristyn has 6 years experience teaching Spanish levels 1A and 1B as well as experience teaching levels 2 and 3 and Spanish Language Arts. She completed the CollegeBoard Language and Culture AP certification in 2017 in Madrid.

**Alexis Porcelli:** Alexis Porcelli earned her B.A. in Italian Language and Literature from SUNY Binghamton and her M.A. in Education from Stony Brook University. Alexis holds certifications in teaching Italian and Spanish at both the secondary and elementary levels. Currently she teaches Spanish grades 3-5 in the Massapequa School District.

**Melissa Quiros:** Melissa received her B.A. from SUNY New Paltz in French/International Relations. She completed a year of study abroad at both the Université de Paris and Université of Besancon in France. Melissa earned her M.A. in Education at Stony Brook University. She teaches English in a private school in Paris and is currently organizing a student exchange with a private catholic school in Costa Rica (Colegio Madre del Divino Pastor, Guadalupe). She has been teaching French for 18 years in the Three Village CSD.

**Kathleen de Riesthal:** Kathleen earned a B.A. in Classics from Dartmouth. She received an M.A. in Latin from University of Florida and an M.A. in Education from Vanderbilt. Kathleen has been teaching Latin for over fifteen years at the secondary and post-secondary levels. She has presented several workshops throughout the US.

**Dan Saitta:** Dan earned his B.A. in Spanish and English from SUNY Geneseo, his M.A. in Spanish from Middlebury College M.A. and his SDA from CUNY Queens College. Dan teaches Spanish at Valley Stream Central H.S. and is the World Language chairperson of Valley Stream Central H.S. and Memorial J.H.S.

**Giuseppina Santi:** Josephine (Giuseppina) Santi is a World Language Teacher at Connetquot High School. She has taught Italian and Spanish in Connetquot Central School District for 11 years, teaching different levels from level II to level V. She has also helped develop the curriculum for all different language levels and is a certified IB Teacher. Josephine has presented workshops for LILT and AATI.

**Jessica Savarese:** Jessica earned her B.A. in Linguistics of Spanish and Latin American Studies from The University of Scranton, PA. She has an M.A. in Adolescent Spanish Education from SUNY College at Old Westbury. She has 2 years experience teaching Spanish at the H.S. level in the Longwood School District. Jessica has 3 years of presenting experience at NECTFL and NYSAFLT.

**Yoshana Silver:** Joshana has been teaching Middle and High School Spanish for twenty years on Long Island and has been involved with NYSAFLT, LILT, and AATSP throughout her career. Her teaching methodology has focused on hands-on and interactive activities in a student centered environment with a focus on communicative proficiency and cooperative learning. She has studied abroad in several countries including Spain, Costa Rica, Mexico and Venezuela.

**Vanessa Sosa:** Vanessa holds a B.A. in French and Spanish Language and Literature as well as an M.A. in TESOL both from Stony Brook University. Vanessa currently holds a NYS Teaching Certification in TESOL and Childhood Education (1-6). She works as a 6th Grade ENL teacher at Riverhead CSD. This will be her second time presenting with LILT. Recently she also ran a collegial circle for Spanish for Educators in her district.

**Holly Schnittger:** Holly holds an Honors B.A. in Italian Education from the University of Delaware. She earned an M.A. in Italian from Stony Brook University. Holly has 11 years teaching experience. She has presented workshops for NECTFL and DECTFL. A former Long Islander, Holly is currently teaching in Delaware. She is an active member of the Delaware Council on the Teaching of Foreign Language and was their 2013 Teacher of the Year.

**Valeria Tovar:** Valeria earned her B.A. and M.A.T from Stony Brook University. She has taught Spanish at Memorial J.H.S. in Valley Stream for 2 years. In addition, every year Valeria is actively involved in the World Language Department event, "Heritage Night". Valeria is the 8th Grade Class Advisor of Memorial and has spearheaded various events with the class of 2024.

**Kerri Titone Ed.D.:** Kerri holds a Doctorate of Educational Leadership and Administration from St. John's University. She earned her M.A in Italian from Stony Brook University. She holds a B.A. in Secondary Italian Education and Spanish Language from the University of Delaware. Kerri has 12 years of teaching experience and 2 years administrative experience. In addition, she has experience as a presenter at NECTFL, ISTE, St. John's University Symposium and LILT. Kerri is the current secretary of LILT.

**Christopher Wendel:** Christopher holds a B.A. in French Education & Triple Language from the University of Delaware. He earned an MEd: Educational Technology and an M.B.A Information Systems Technology from Wilmington University. Christopher has 11 years teaching experience. He had conducted several workshops for NECTFL and DECTFL. Christopher currently teaches in Delaware.