Congratulations from the Department Chair

On behalf of the Spanish and Italian Department, it gives me great pleasure to tell you how much we have enjoyed teaching you, mentoring you, sharing your triumphs, and watching you reach this exciting point in your life. This newsletter is a testament to your energy, vitality, passion for learning, and desire to make a difference.

As I read through your brief bios, I was struck by the common strand that runs through all of them: the exciting plans you have for graduate school, travel, and careers in teaching, translation and interpreting, the food and wine industry, medicine, and marketing. You have already accomplished so much and have been able to excel academically while also working many hours at part-time and full-time jobs, maintaining personal relationships, and participating in our many extra-curricular activities.

Please know that we all admire you and are inspired by your desire to keep learning and growing. And of course, we will miss you and ask you to please keep in touch. Our involvement with you does not end at graduation. We want to continue to share in your successes, uncertainties, and plans for the future. You remind us daily of the reason we have chosen college teaching as our profession and you bring great joy and satisfaction to our lives.

We hope you can join us at the reception we are holding in your honor following the CHSS Convocation on May 19. I look forward to greeting you and your families and to celebrating your graduation.

¡Felicitaciones! Tanti auguri!

Linda Greer
Meet Some of Our Graduates

Rosario D. Acevedo Ramirez (Spanish) is graduating with teacher certification in Spanish and a minor in Latin American and Latino Studies. She student taught spring semester at Grover Cleveland Middle School and is now seeking a teaching position for the fall. She also plans to return to MSU in September to pursue TESL certification.

Christian Acosta (Master of Arts in Teaching Spanish) student taught 6th and 7th grade at Maplewood Middle School during the spring semester. Over the summer he plans to vacation in the Caribbean and attend teaching workshops before starting his new position at Mahwah High School. He hopes to coach soccer in his new district as well.

For reading and writing motivates her future plan to pursue a combined Master's and PhD program in Spanish Literature.

Cristel Arce (Spanish) is graduating with a concentration in Translation and with minors in Psychology and in Latin American and Latino Studies. In the future she plans to pursue teaching certification in Spanish and in elementary education and would also like to obtain a Master's degree in education.

Nataly Carolina Baltazar (Spanish) is graduating with a double major in Spanish (including a Certificate in Spanish Translation) and Biology with a concentration in Environmental Science. Her passion for reading and writing motivates her future plan to pursue a combined Master's and PhD program in Spanish Literature.

Victoria Amaro (Spanish) is graduating with a double major in Spanish and French (Teaching P-12) and a minor in Latin American and Latino Studies. She student taught at Columbia High School in South Orange / Maplewood and plans to become a French and Spanish teacher. She also hopes to attend graduate school and pursue certification in Translation or Interpretation.

Julie Buonasora (Italian) completed a double major in Italian and Latin in fall semester 2014 after student teaching at Bloomfield High School. She is currently exploring postgraduate opportunities abroad and in the future plans to teach Italian and Latin in her home state of Connecticut.
Natalia Delgardo (Master of Arts in Teaching Spanish and Teacher of Students with Disabilities) graduated in December 2014. She is currently a Spanish teacher at Lester C. Noecker Elementary School in Roseland, NJ. In the future she hopes to continue working as an educator and experience new challenges in her career.

Emilia D’Albergo (Italian) graduated in January with a major in Italian and a minor in French. She recently secured a position in the Events and Education office at La Scuola di Eataly NYC where she coordinates the cooking classes, wine and cheese tastings, and Chef’s Tables. In the future she hopes to continue working with Eataly and in the food and wine industry, perhaps in an international location!

Yeilen Concepción (Spanish) is graduating with a major in Spanish after student teaching at Washington School in Kearny. She plans to celebrate over the summer by taking a vacation. In the immediate future she is seeking a full time teaching position and eventually plans to pursue a Master's degree.

María Galindo (Spanish) is graduating from the literature track of the Spanish program. Her future plans are to apply to the Master of Arts in Teaching Program at Montclair State and pursue her goal of becoming a Spanish teacher.

Michael De Leon (Spanish) is graduating with a Spanish major. He is currently working as a teacher’s assistant and his future plans are to become a Spanish teacher.

Gabrielle Grudza (Italian) is graduating with a major in Italian and a minor in French. Her future plans are to work as an Italian translator, study abroad advisor, or as a language liaison for Italian and American companies.
Liliana Gutiérrez Suero (Spanish) is graduating with teacher certification in Spanish and a minor in Latin American and Latino Studies. She student taught at Grover Cleveland Middle School in West Caldwell and is currently seeking a teaching position. In the future she plans to pursue a Master's degree in Counseling for higher education and to become certified to teach both Spanish and English as a Second Language.

Karla Gutiérrez (Spanish) is graduating with a major in Spanish and a minor in Latin American and Latino Studies. Her future plans are to pursue a Master's degree in Counseling for higher education and to become certified to teach both Spanish and English as a Second Language.

Angela Kovacs (Italian) is graduating with a major in Italian. She is currently working as a preschool teacher of Italian and a patient care technician at an urgent care facility. In the future she hopes to study medicine, possibly in Italy.

Linda M. López (Spanish–MA) is completing her MA in Spanish. She is currently teaching Spanish/ESL classes at adult schools. She also works as an interpreter at medical and immigration appointments. Her future plans are to continue teaching at adult schools, teach at community colleges, and have more interpreting work.

Jennifer Infante (Spanish) student taught at Teaneck High School during the spring semester of 2015. Her future plans include a teaching position at the high school level and continued work as a Spanish tutor.

Ashley Majano (Spanish) is graduating with a Spanish major and Latin American and Latino Studies Minor. She plans to pursue teacher certification in Spanish through the Alternate Route and return to MSU for a Master's degree in Spanish. She looks forward to travels in Latin America that will inform her teaching.
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Gabriela Marca (Spanish) is graduating with a major in Spanish and minors in Psychology and in Latin American and Latino Studies. Her future plans are to complete a Master's degree in Education and in Spanish Literature and become a Spanish teacher.

Carlos Martinez (Spanish--MA) is currently certified to teach Pre-K to 3rd grade (P-3). His future plans are to write a book and attend Rutgers University for a Ph.D. in Spanish Literature. He would also like to learn French and Italian—it is never too late to follow your dreams!

Jessica Montesdeoca (Spanish) is graduating with a concentration in translation. She is currently working in the Provost's Office at MSU and plans to continue in higher education to acquire new administrative skills and further her professional development. Ultimately, she plans to pursue a Master's degree in Educational Leadership at MSU.

Magaly Y. Novoa (Spanish--BA/MA) is completing the MA component of her combined BA/MA degree in Spanish. She is a Linguist Specialist and Project Manager at a Translation Services company in Hackensack, NJ, that specializes in cultural adaptation communications. Her next steps are earning ATA (American Translators Association) certification and becoming a cultural adaptation expert.

Josephine O’Brien (Spanish--Certificate in Translation & Interpretation) is employed by XCEL Federal Credit Union in Business Development. She works with the Hispanic market and does presentations in Financial Literacy in both English and Spanish. Her future plans are to become ATA (American Translators Association) certified and take the NJ Courts Exam this summer.

Colleen O’Rourke-Heredia (Spanish--Certificate in Translation & Interpretation) is looking forward to taking the NJ Court Interpreter's Examination. Her future plans include interpreting and teaching Spanish.
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**Johanna Reyes** (Master of Arts in Teaching Spanish) graduated with her teaching certification in December 2014 and is currently teaching at Morristown High School. This summer she plans to travel to Peru and Mexico as well as study for her ESL Certificate. In the future she hopes to teach ESL at the college level in NJ.

**Robert Ottogalli** (Spanish--Certificate in Translation & Interpretation) works as a project coordinator at a translation agency and translates freelance. He plans to continue translating and pursue his language and translation skills, with the ultimate goal of working for the UN. He recently became certified by the American Translators Association as a Spanish to English translator.

**Catherine Rojas** (Spanish--BA/MA) is completing the MA component of her combined BA/MA degree in Spanish. She plans to continue teaching Spanish in grade school as well as high school and hopes to one day become a college professor.

**Olivia Rosiello** (Spanish--MA and Certificate in Translation & Interpretation) is currently seeking employment in which she can utilize her Spanish and business skills. In the future she would like to work for a corporation such as Telemundo or Univisión or any organization in the marketing field.

**Guadalupe Rodriguez** (Spanish--BA/MA) is completing the MA component of her combined degree. She is currently working as a Spanish Instructor for a private company and plans to pursue certification to teach high school and eventually become a Spanish professor.

**Sthefanya Ruiz** (Spanish) is graduating with a major in Spanish and a certificate in Child Advocacy and Policy. Her future plans are to work for Child Protection and Permanency at NJ's Department of Children and Families and, eventually, to open her own pre-school.
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María Saldanha  
(Spanish) student taught at Parsippany High School during the spring semester. Over the summer she plans to travel with her family before starting a teaching position in the fall. In the future she plans to return to MSU to pursue a Master's degree in Child Advocacy.

Gloria L. Villaquirán  
(Spanish--MA) is completing her MA this semester. She is currently employed as a Spanish teacher at the Plainfield Public School District, at PAAAS school. Her future plans are to teach AP Spanish Language and Culture courses and continue on to a doctoral program.

Sandra Scavuzzo  
(Italian) student taught at Elizabeth High School Upper Academy during Spring 2015, and her students won 1st place at the MSU Italian Language and Culture Day Competition sponsored by the Coccia Institute for the Italian and Italian American Experience. Her future plans as an Italian teacher are to foster a passion for the Italian language and culture.

Allison Wacker  
(Spanish) completed a major in Spanish and minor in Mathematics after a semester of student teaching at Central Middle School in Parsippany. She is currently looking for a position as a Spanish or Math teacher and as a girls' soccer coach. Her ultimate goal is to become a Principal or Athletic Director.

Stephanie Vecco  
(Spanish) is graduating with a Spanish major and K-5 Elementary School certification. Her future plans are to work as an elementary teacher. She wants to motivate and inspire children to see their potential and be the best they can be.

Pierre Wright  
(Spanish) completed his major in Spanish and minor in International Studies in December 2014. He is currently "chillin" and his future plans are to travel to Spain and complete a Master’s degree in Spanish/Latin American Literature.