

## NEW STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS!

# let us welcome...



Mariana Stone received her Ed Doctorate from Georgia State University (2018) in Curriculum and Instruction with a concentration in foreign language education. She graduated with a BS in Educational Sciences from the University of La Pampa in Argentina. She later obtained her MA in Linguistics from the University of Florida and then worked for a number of years as Director of Language. Her main area of research, as a specialist in language acquisition, is examining the factors that help and hinder the learning of languages. She is especially interested in research on promoting autonomous learning experiences as catalysts of motivation. Mariana has worked in developing curriculum for multiple languages using technology to support the teaching and learning experience. She is also the lead author and editor of an online textbook *Saludos A Todos* used to teach beginning Spanish at the university level. Finally, her interest in promoting the study of languages and intercultural awareness has led her to be involved in state organizations like FLAAC, FLAG and ACTFL either presenting at one of their conferences or in administrative roles.

## Mariana Stone

*Associate Director of Undergraduate Studies  
and Online and Professional Education - start date: January 1, 2019*



Lucero "Lucy" Aradillas joins Georgia Institute of Technology as the Academic Program Manager in the School of Modern Languages. Prior to joining Georgia Tech, Lucy served as the Associate Director of Multicultural Affairs at Georgia Southern University's Armstrong Campus in Savannah, GA. Prior to the consolidation of Armstrong State University and Georgia Southern University, Lucy served in multiple roles within Armstrong State's Division of Student Affairs with a focus on the retention of underrepresented students, campus programs, fundraising and development, community outreach, and grant management.

Born in Houston, Texas, Lucy was raised in Monterrey, Mexico and the Metro-Atlanta area. She received her bachelor's degree in Political Science from Kennesaw State University and her master's degree from Armstrong State University in Professional Communication and Leadership. She is currently pursuing her doctorate in Educational Leadership at Georgia Southern University. Lucy and her husband, Yovany, are the proud parents of two young boys, Javier and Max, and their dog, Nacho.

## Lucero "Lucy" Aradillas

*Academic Program Manager - start date: January 3, 2019*



## Şebnem Özkan

*Associate Director*

*Atlanta Global Studies Center (AGSC)*

*start date: February 1, 2019*

Dr. Şebnem Özkan will serve as the Associate Director of the Atlanta Global Studies Center (AGSC), a U.S. Department of Education Title VI National Resource Center (NRC) and Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) fellowship program operated in a consortium with Georgia State University (GSU) starting February 1, 2019. Dr. Özkan will oversee the programmatic activities of the Center in collaboration. Şebnem comes to AGSC with almost two decades of professional experience and extensive academic background in the field of international and area studies, including holding critical positions at U.S. Department of Education Title VI National Resource Centers at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) and the University of Wisconsin-Madison (UW-Madison). She has worked at the European Union Center at the UIUC (2008-present), serving, first, as Outreach & Foreign Languages and Area Studies Fellowship (FLAS) Coordinator, then, as Associate Director and Director of Graduate Studies. She also held positions at the European Studies Alliance at the UW-Madison as research assistant and student advisor from 1999-2008.

There she also held a research fellowship at the Center for World Affairs and the Global Economy. Dr. Özkan holds Ph.D. and M.S. degrees in industrial relations from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and a B.A. degree in labor economics and industrial relations from Ankara University, Faculty of Political Science (Mülkiye). She is also a Certified Research Administrator (CRA). Her teaching and research interests include global labor and employment issues; European Union; European political economy, social policy and welfare state; Turkish politics; EU-Turkey relations; and global higher education.



## Lorette Garcia

*Administrative Professional III - start date: January 3, 2019*

For the past six years, Lorette has been working as an Undergraduate Program Assistant at Florida International University in Miami, FL. During her time there, she learned many valuable traits. She is currently obtaining her bachelor's degree in Interdisciplinary Studies in hopes of finishing this upcoming semester. Lorette recently moved from Miami, FL to Georgia with her husband and daughter, residing in Villa Rica.

Aside from her work and school life, you will find her running after her toddler, answering to "MAMA" for the eleventy-bajillionth time, and folding laundry. She is a lover of music, animals, hikes and coffee.