Descubre el español con Santillana is a collaborative effort in which teachers, writers, and editors have combined their talents to produce an innovative and modern Spanish as a World Language program for K-5. They also have recruited the help of professional reviewers and consultants who are experts in the field of foreign language in the elementary schools, and who have advised them along the way.

ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Patricia E. Acosta, M.A.
Patricia Acosta is an established author in Puerto Rico and has written and edited textbooks and children’s books in both Puerto Rico and the U.S. At Santillana USA, she has worked as a developmental editor and Teacher’s Guide writer of Santillana Spotlight on English. As a senior project editor, she is one of the developers of the concept behind Descubre el español con Santillana and the writer of prototype units. Patricia Acosta holds a master’s degree in Journalism from the University of Georgia at Athens.

Vicki Welch Alvis
Vicki Alvis is an experienced foreign language instructor for children. She serves as the Georgia Representative for the National Network for Early Language Learning and has written articles for the organization’s journal, Learning Languages. She is also a member of the Georgia Department of Education’s State Review Team for the new Georgia Performance Standards for K-5 Modern Languages, Five-Day Model. During the past three years she has chaired a committee of the Georgia Department of Education’s Taskforce for Modern Languages and Latin. The reports she has written for the taskforce advocates for early starts and well-articulated, long-term sequences of language study.
Eleanor A. Bernal, M.A.

Eleanor Bernal has taught in colleges and universities in California and Texas, including Mills College and Grove Street College in Oakland, California, and Our Lady of the Lake University and the Refugee English School in San Antonio, Texas. She holds a master’s degree in English with an emphasis in Creative Writing from San Francisco State University. Her written work has appeared in Spanish and English publications, such as Rumbo, San Antonio Express, and La voz de la esperanza. Her articles always deal with issues affecting teachers and education in general. Currently, she develops materials for teachers as an independent writer and reviewer.

Mario A. Castro, M.A.

Mario Castro is the editorial director at Santillana USA. He has previously held editorial positions at other publishers such as Hampton-Brown and McGraw-Hill. He has taught Spanish as a foreign language in elementary schools, Spanish bilingual education in elementary schools, Structured English Immersion in elementary schools, and adult English as a foreign and second language. Mario Castro holds a master’s degree in International Affairs from the University of Central Oklahoma at Edmond and a California Bilingual Cross-Cultural Language and Academic Development (BCLAD) teaching credential for K-12 and adults.

Judy Cortés, Ph.D.

Judy Cortés taught Spanish language and literature at the University of Hawaii before embarking on a career in bilingual education in California. She taught various grade levels in bilingual public school settings before joining the Teacher Education Department at California State University Monterey Bay, where she now teaches Pedagogy and Spanish. In 2007 she became a Fulbright Scholar at the Universidad Católica de Temuco, Chile. Judy Cortés completed her master’s degree in Spanish and her Ph.D. in Hispanic Languages and Literatures at the University of California at Los Angeles.

Corliss Figueroa

Corliss Figueroa is currently an independent writer and editor. She holds a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Florida and has worked for a number of publishing houses, including Harcourt School Publishing, where she was a senior editor developing Spanish foreign language and elementary bilingual programs. She also taught elementary school in Mexico City and at the Universidad Femenina in the same city.
Linda Guardia Jackson, Ph.D.
Linda Jackson is adjunct professor at the University of Texas at San Antonio and a bilingual/ESL educational consultant for Jackson & Associates. She received her doctorate in Curriculum and Instruction in the area of Cultural Studies in Education from the University of Texas at Austin. She was awarded first place in the National Association for Bilingual Education’s outstanding dissertation competition in 2011. She has researched and published extensively on Hispanic American teachers in bilingual education, dual language education, second language acquisition, foreign language instruction, program evaluation, and assessment of language proficiency.

Stephan L. Jackson, Ph.D.
Stephan Jackson is the founder and executive director of Stephan L. Jackson and Associates, an educational consulting organization specializing in second language acquisition, bilingual/ESL education, teacher training, foreign language instruction, program evaluation, and language proficiency assessment. He received his doctorate in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Texas at Austin in the area of Early Childhood Education. He has directed a number of state, national, and international assessment projects and was honored by the Texas Association for Bilingual Education for his contributions to bilingual education.

Lada Kratky, M.A.
Lada Kratky is a well-known children’s book author and educator. She obtained both her undergraduate and graduate degrees from the Monterey Institute of International Studies in California, where she also taught for ten years. In addition, she is a Reading Recovery specialist and has worked as an elementary school teacher and specialist in the Salinas City and Monterey Peninsula Unified School Districts. A native of Uruguay, Lada Kratky has traveled the world extensively and has authored, among other things, Rimas y risas, Avenues, Reach, and De canciones a cuentos for publishers such as Macmillan, Hampton-Brown, and National Geographic.

Elizabeth Millán, M.A.
Elizabeth Millán is a seasoned educational publishing professional who has worked for other publishing houses, including the National Textbook Company (NTC), where she developed and produced ¡Viva el español!; McGraw-Hill, where she developmentally edited ¡A toda vela!; and Prentice-Hall, where she worked on Realidades. Elizabeth Millán has a master’s degree from the University of Madrid in Spain and is currently an independent writer and editor.
About the Contributing Writers Cont.

Angela Padrón, M.A.
Angela Padrón has been an elementary bilingual, ESL, and art instructor at public schools in both Florida and New Jersey. In addition, she has worked as an adjunct ESL professor at Miami Dade College. At Santillana USA, Angela Padrón has been both an author and developmental editor of a variety of components for both Santillana Spotlight on English and Descubre el español con Santillana.

María A. Pérez, M.A.
María Pérez holds a master’s degree in Spanish Literature from Portland State University in Oregon. She is a fully certified ACTFL tester and is certified in PRAXIS, Spanish Content Knowledge and Productive Language Skills. She has also taught Spanish and Spanish literature at the University of Illinois at Chicago. She’s previously worked on number of projects for other publishers, including Texas Senderos, a Spanish Reading Program published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, Spanish Texas Reading 2011 published by Pearson Education, and Excursiones en California published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. María Pérez is currently an independent writer and editor.

Marta Pérez Portolés, M.A.
Marta Pérez Portolés has thirty years of experience teaching in Spanish language classrooms. She holds a master’s degree in Education from Holy Names University in Oakland, California. She has been trained in Reading Recovery in Spanish and has worked as a bilingual teacher and Reading Specialist, teaching struggling readers in Oakland, California. Marta Pérez Portolés has also been coaching beginning teachers for the past ten years. She has written several titles published by Rigby. Currently, she is working on a new collection of books for early readers based on High Frequency Words.

David Plaut, M.A.
David Plaut is a bilingual classroom teacher and reading specialist with more than ten years of experience. He holds a master’s degree in Education from the University of California at Berkeley. David Plaut worked as a bilingual classroom teacher in the Oakland Unified School District in California and as a bilingual reading specialist at the Spanish Immersion program in the Davis Joint Unified School District, also in California. He currently teaches in the Holyoke Public Schools in Massachusetts.
Palmira Rojas, M.A.
Palmira Rojas is currently a professor of Spanish at the Universidad Metropolitana in Bayamón, Puerto Rico. She was previously an editor at Terranova Editores in San Juan, Puerto Rico, where she worked on a variety of educational projects, including Spanish language arts, science, and social studies. Palmira Rojas holds a master’s degree in Spanish writing from the Universidad Sagrado Corazón in Santurce, Puerto Rico.

Marcela Villegas, M.S.
Marcela Villegas is an expert in environmental education. As an environmental researcher, she has worked for several nonprofit and for-profit organizations in her native Colombia and also in the San Francisco Bay Area in California. She is currently an independent writer and editor.
ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTING REVIEWERS

Maribel Bueno, M.A.
Maribel Bueno taught public school in Mexico City for twenty-four years. She currently resides in San Diego, California, and teaches elementary school Spanish at La Jolla Country Day School. Maribel Bueno is a graduate of Universidad Pedagógica Nacional de México where she obtained a master’s degree in Educational Development.

Minnie Cardona, Ed.S.
Minnie Cardona serves as the ESOL/World languages Coordinator for Seminole County Public Schools. She has a master’s degree in TESOL and a degree of specialist in Educational Leadership. While in the classroom, she obtained her World Languages National Board Certification. She has taught ESOL and Spanish levels 1 through AP (Grades K-12) and post secondary. She has also served on the state committee that helped develop the new Florida Next Generations Standards for World Languages. She was also awarded Foreign Language Association for Managers in Education World Languages Supervisor of the Year in 2009-10.

Sheila Guzmán, Ph.D.
Sheila Guzmán is currently a Bilingual Education and ESL Program Specialist at Elgin Independent School District in Texas. She oversees the implementation of the Bilingual/ESL Program in grades K-12, including instruction, assessment, and data analysis. Dr. Guzmán is also a lecturer at the University of Texas at Austin, where she plans and prepares instruction for courses in second language acquisition. She also has been a member of the faculty at St. Edwards University in Austin and the University of Texas at San Antonio. She previously worked as a principal at St. Elmo Elementary and Harris Schools in Austin.

Frances S. Hoch, Ph.D.
Frances Hoch holds a Ph.D. in Romance Languages from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She taught Spanish for thirteen years, and in 1983 was hired as a foreign language consultant at the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, where she worked for twenty-four years until her retirement in 2007 as Section Chief for Second Languages, ESL, Arts Education, Health and Physical Education, and Computer and Information Skills. During this time, she served as a visiting professor at the University of Salamanca (Spain). Since retirement, she has served as a consultant to schools and universities.
Rachel Noto, M.A.T.
Originally from Atlanta, Georgia, Rachel Noto has lived in California since 2005. She is a Lower School Spanish teacher at La Jolla Country Day School in San Diego. She received her undergraduate degree in Spanish at the University of Georgia and a dual master’s degree in Teaching Spanish as a Foreign Language and Teaching English as Second Language at New York University.

Beatrice K. Palls, M.A.
Bea Palls is the former Supervisor of Foreign Languages and ESOL for both Hernando County and Pasco County School Districts in West-Central Florida. She taught foreign languages, ESOL, curriculum and methodology through the graduate level, and has served on the committees that developed the Florida Sunshine State Standards for Foreign Languages and ESOL, as well as other curriculum frameworks. Bea Palls is also a co-founder of the Florida Foreign Language Association and has served on the board of several other Florida educational organizations. In June 2011, the Florida State Leadership Executive Committee established the Bea Palls Diversity Educator Award in her honor.

James Peattie
Jim Peattie worked as a Spanish instructor at Pinecrest Schools Valencia in Valencia, California from September 2004 to January 2010. He holds a bachelor of arts degree and a Multiple-Subject Teaching Credential Cross-Cultural Language and Academic Development (CLAD) from California, with certification to teach ESL.

Linda Prieto, Ph.D.
Linda Prieto is an assistant professor at Midwestern State University in the West College of Education. She teaches in the department of Reading and Education at the undergraduate level and the department of Curriculum and Instruction at the graduate level. Her area of expertise focuses on Spanish/English bilingual education and teacher preparation. She received her doctorate in Curriculum and Instruction with a focus in Cultural Studies in Education and a portfolio in Mexican American Studies from the University of Texas at Austin. At present, she is working on improving the access to print literacy to Hispanic American families in north Texas.

Carol Radchik, M.B.A.
Carol Radchik is an experienced elementary, middle, and high school Spanish teacher, tutor, and curriculum developer. She holds a bachelor’s degree in Psychology and a master’s degree in Organizational Development from the Universidad de Monterrey in Mexico. Carol Radchik is an active member of the California Language Teachers Association (CLTA) and the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL). She currently teaches at a private school in La Jolla, California.
María Guadalupe Ramos, M.Ed.
Lupe Ramos has taught for thirty-six years at the Austin Independent School Districts in Texas. Currently, she is a first-grade teacher at Perez Elementary School in Austin. Perez is one of six two-way dual language campuses in the district. Lupe Ramos received her master’s degree in Education from the University of Texas at Austin.

Carmen Rodríguez, M.Ed.
Carmen Rodríguez retired from the Austin Independent School District in 2003 where she taught dual language for nineteen years. She has a master’s degree in Elementary Education and a minor in Curriculum & Instruction from Texas State University. Since retirement, Carmen Rodríguez has worked as a mentor and field supporter for new teachers from TSU and Region XIII ESC. She has worked at Hays CISD the last four years as a Bilingual Instructional Strategist in the district’s Two-Way and One-Way programs.

Carol McKenna Semonsky, Ph.D.
Carol Semonsky, Associate Professor Emeritus from Georgia State University, has a master’s degree in French from Michigan State University and a Ph.D. in foreign language education from the University of Georgia. Her research focuses on foreign language in the elementary schools (FLES). She is co-author of a book on the subject: Early Language Learning: A Model for Success. Carol Semonsky was the Foreign Language Education program coordinator at Georgia State University and has received teaching awards from Fulton County Schools, the State of Georgia, the Foreign Language Association of Georgia (FLAG), and the Southern Conference on Language Teaching (SCOLT).

Martin J. Smith, M.A.
Martin Smith is a supervisor of World Languages, ESL, and Bilingual Education at Edison Public Schools in Edison, New Jersey. He is also a part-time lecturer at Rutgers University MAT (Master of Arts in Teaching) program, teaching Second Language Acquisition and Methodology. Previously, he was a supervisor of World Languages, ESL and Bilingual Education at Princeton Regional School District in Princeton, New Jersey. Martin Smith holds a master’s degree from Temple University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
Marcia A. Spielberger, M.A.T.
Marcia Spielberger has been a teacher of French and ESOL at the elementary, middle, and high school levels and served as Supervisor of Foreign Languages for the Georgia Department of Education for nine years. She has also served as Supervisor of Foreign Languages for Fulton County Schools in Atlanta, Georgia for four years. She is coauthor of an important work, *Early Language Learning: A Model for Success*, and has taught courses at Kennesaw State University and Georgia State University, where she supervised student teachers. Marcia Spielberger holds a master’s degree in Teaching from Emory University and is consultant and conference presenter for Santillana USA.

Peter B. Swanson, Ph.D.
Peter Swanson is an assistant professor of Foreign Language Methods and serves as the Coordinator of the Foreign Language Teacher Education program at Georgia State University. He is a former public school Spanish teacher who has taught Spanish at all levels. After earning his master’s degree in Spanish literature, he received his doctorate in Curriculum and Instruction with an emphasis in second language acquisition from the University of Wyoming in 2006. Peter Swanson also is a recipient of the Foreign Language Association of Georgia’s Professor of the Year award as well as the Leadership in Education award bestowed by the Southeastern Association for Employment in Education.
ABOUT THE EDITORIAL STAFF

Jill Aronson, M.A.
Jill Aronson is an experienced teacher and editor. She holds a master’s degree in Professional Writing from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia. She has taught at Middlesex County College and in public schools in New Jersey, at Bryant & Stratton College in Virginia, and at Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts in Florida. She previously worked as an editor at McGraw-Hill. At Santillana USA, she is a senior editor and is responsible for conceptualizing and developing entire series, such as Santillana Spotlight on English and Descubre el español con Santillana.

Andreína Borges
Andreína Borges has worked at Santillana USA since 2002. As a developmental editor, she always endeavors to maintain consistency and quality in all the projects she participates in. She is as comfortable working with artists and illustrators as she is working with authors and reviewers. Andreína Borges has participated in the development of many Santillana programs, such as Santillana Intensive English, Santillana Spotlight on English, and Descubre el español con Santillana.

Lourdes M. Cobiella
Lourdes Cobiella is an experienced editor who has worked at Santillana USA for more than sixteen years. She has developmentally edited other programs, such as Nuevo, ¡Bravo, bravo!, Nuevo siglo de español, Santillana Intensive English, Santillana Spotlight on English, as well as Descubre el español con Santillana. She is used to overseeing projects from manuscript to bound copy, and conferring closely with colleagues, authors, teachers, and reviewers.

Christine Mosso, M.A.
Christine Mosso taught Spanish, French, and ESL for more than twenty years in Florida, New York, and Pennsylvania. She holds a master’s degree in TESOL from New York University. At Santillana USA, she has worked as a developmental editor, overseeing the workflow of a variety of components for Santillana Spotlight on English and Descubre el español con Santillana.

Gabriela Prati
Gabriela Prati has been associated with Santillana USA since the year 1999. She has worked both in the marketing and editorial departments. As a developmental editor, she has been instrumental in conducting all of the literature research and in handling the workflow for some of the components of Descubre el español con Santillana. She has also worked in other programs such as Santillana Intensive English and Nuevo ¡Bravo, bravo!
Andrea Sánchez
Andrea Sánchez arrived at Santillana USA in 2003. She started out as an editorial assistant but later became an assistant editor and, more recently, a developmental editor. Her specialty is ensuring the quality control of any material that passes through the editorial department. She has worked in both Santillana Spotlight on English and Descubre el español con Santillana.

Camila Segura, Ph.D.
Camila Segura has taught elementary and middle school in Colombia, and Spanish at Columbia University in New York. She holds a Ph.D. in Spanish from Columbia University and has previously done editorial work for publishing houses in Colombia and in Spain. At Santillana USA, she is a developmental editor and recently completed her task with Descubre el español con Santillana.

Pedro Urbina
Pedro Urbina has extensive educational publishing experience in the areas of Spanish as a World Language, Spanish Language Arts, and Spanish Immersion. Pedro holds a bachelor’s degree in Spanish and History from Tufts University and received Magna Cum Laude in his Honor’s Thesis. He has worked in various editorial capacities for several development houses and publishing houses, such as Mazer Creative Services, Bill Smith Group, Houghton Mifflin, and D.C. Heath. He is an executive editor at Santillana USA and has applied his considerable knowledge and expertise to the organization, workflow, and development of programs such as Santillana Spotlight on English and Descubre el español con Santillana.
ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATORS

Alexandra Artigas
Alexandra Artigas grew up in Spain, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela, where she pursued studies in illustration for children. She later took specialization classes at the Art Center College of Design in California, where she currently. She has illustrated for the Alfaguara publishing house for twenty-two years. Alexandra Artigas illustrated Level E of *Descubre el español con Santillana*.

Mónica Candelas
Mónica Candelas was born and reared in Puerto Rico. She attended the Universidad del Sagrado Corazón and obtained a bachelor’s degree in Visual Arts, graduating Cum Laude in 1994. She started working for Santillana Puerto Rico in 1995, being transferred to Santillana USA in 2005, where she currently holds the position of art director and production manager. Mónica Candelas oversaw and supervised the graphic design and the development of all the art involved in *Descubre el español con Santillana*.

Marcela Gómez
Marcela Gómez is an experienced Mexican illustrator and graphic designer based in Mexico City. She has illustrated books for Pearson, Macmillan, McGraw-Hill, Santillana Mexico, Santillana USA, Oxford University Press, and many others. Marcela Gómez illustrated the student book for Level C of *Descubre el español con Santillana*.

Alejandra Lunik
Alejandra Lunik was born in Chile, but her family moved to Argentina the same year she was born. She attended the Escuela Nacional de Bellas Artes Manuel Belgrano. She has been illustrating books and magazines since the year 1999. Alejandra Lunik illustrated Level A of *Descubre el español con Santillana*.

Emi Ordás
Born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Emi Ordás studied graphic design, but he concentrates only on illustrating now. He has worked for a variety of publishers around the world, such as Ediciones Infantil.com, Santillana USA, Santillana Mexico, Santillana Puerto Rico, Santillana Argentina, Macmillan, and many others. Emi Ordás illustrated Level B of *Descubre el español con Santillana*.
**Esteban Tolj**
Born in Rosario de Santa Fe, Argentina, Esteban Tolj is a children’s storybook illustrator as well as a developer of comic books. He is currently a columnist at a program for literature, comics, and cinema at the Radio Universidad in the city of Rosario. Esteban Tolj illustrated Level D of *Descubre el español con Santillana*.

**Wally Rodríguez López**
Wally Rodríguez was born in Ponce, Puerto Rico. He studied art at several academic institutions in his country. He has developed illustrations for advertising agencies, and his drawings have appeared in textbooks as well as in newspapers and magazines. Wally Rodríguez illustrated the student book for Level F of *Descubre el español con Santillana*.