

Dr. Trini Stickle

By Collin Massie and Bailey Cooke



Dr. Trini Stickle is an assistant professor, who teaches ENG 302, “the grammar class” for educators, and Linguistic Analysis. She also teaches the general education classes (ENG 100, 200, and 300). No matter what she teaches, though, she always enjoys seeing how her **great love for linguistics and literature** is naturally integrated into the fabric of the classroom. One may be surprised however, that Dr. Stickle didn’t originally want to be an English professor; she wanted to be a scientist.

Dr. Stickle has always had a **scientific mind**, showing a great interest in biology and microbiology, but then found that “chemistry was not as fond of me as I was of it.” Recalling the words of T. S. Eliot, she says, “I measured my life in coffee spoons’ and found myself wanting.” This realization started her on a new path, one which focused on her deep love for literature. And, rather than enduring

a battle between science and English, she found ways to integrate both loves into one. Her passion for linguistics, fueling much of her more specific research, is where her scientific interests met her love for literature.

“Dr. Stickle brings a great deal of unique experience to our program from both the theoretical and applied sides of linguistics.”

– Dr. Elizabeth Winkler

Since then, she has and continues to research elements surrounding these subjects, one example being learning how to better communicatively equip co-participants of persons with dementia. She has also written a number of articles on these subjects, published in journals, including *Applied Linguistics*, *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorder*, and *American Speech*.

In a very real sense, most of what Dr. Stickle enjoys doing is involved in the pursuit of, as she describes it, “what it means to be human,” and this gives her **a genuine investment in other people**. Her greatest passion is helping others, but her desire to that end doesn’t stop at the classroom door; that drive shows itself in almost every facet of her life.

Her spare time used to be filled with Zumba and volunteering at retirement homes, the latter still being part of her extracurricular interests. Even her cooking, which helps her as a kind of stress-management tool, reveals itself to be another opportunity she uses to make a positive impact on others, often giving treats to the English Department’s staff. Dr. Alex Poole says, “[She] brings great energy to the TESL program and the department, as a whole. She is **an excellent scholar and teacher**, yet she still finds time for lots of service.”

In the nature of that service, she advises English students and aspiring writers to “[not] put the **English degree in a box... Communication is foundational. And literature wrestles with all of the core meanings of [who we are]. That pairing, when pursued, opens the door to any subject that you want; it can take you to all kinds of places.”**