



Bios

Francisco de la Calle

Born in Madrid, **Spain**, Francisco de la Calle holds a bachelor of Electrical Engineering from Universidad Politécnica de Madrid. It's college, ETS de Ingenieros Industriales, is accredited by US ABET. In Madrid, he worked for the international firm of Architects DEGW. During this time he developed software tools to minimize the impact in projects of office restacking.

In the San Francisco Bay Area, he worked as a relocation specialist, successfully relocating 250 residential and business cases. This gave him the opportunity to interview hundreds of people from all walks of life. He was recognized with an award from the developer John Stewart Co. and The City of San José. He has also collaborated with Cal State East Bay in the Upward Bound Program to help low income students, and with the Mentoring Program, where he was awarded Student Mentor of the Year 2001.

In 2009, he created **Bruquetas Publishing** to launch his first book *Spanish for Californians: Using English to Learn Spanish*.

He obtained his MA Spanish with summa cum laude honors in San José State University, and he currently is lecturer of Spanish culture and language and technical Writing.

John C. Trifari

A native of **New York**, John Trifari has spent over 8 years as a professional teacher of English as second language, GED preparation and Spanish at the University level. He is a graduate of Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service in Washington DC, and holds a Master's degree in Spanish from San Jose State University. He attended the University of Madrid for one year and later studied at the graduate level at the University of Lisbon, Portugal, under fellowship from the Portuguese government. While in Lisbon, he taught English at the Berlitz School of Languages.

Prior to teaching, he owned and operated a high-tech public relations agency in Palo Alto, CA, worked in advertising and public relations for a number of computer companies including Digital Equipment Corporation, Vorax Corporation and Seagate Technology, and for many years was a freelance writer covering the high-tech industry in California and Boston. He began his business career as an advertising copywriter and publicist in New York. He lives in Sunnyvale CA.

Blanca Smith

Born in Michoacán, **Mexico**. She studied Economics at the University of San Nicolás de Hidalgo in Morelia, Michoacán. She came to the United States in 1989 where she studied English as a second language at Cabrillo College in Santa Cruz, California. She worked for the Santa Cruz City Schools as an RSP Specialist Technician at Bay View and Delaveaga Elementary Schools. Attended and graduated from the University of California at Santa Cruz with a BA in History.

She is currently the CFO of the Mystery Spot, Inc. and has worked in this position since 1995. In this position she manages the financial affairs for this local tourist attraction. She attended San José State University and received a Master's Degree in Spanish. She attended a summer program at the University of Coimbra, where she received a diploma in Language and Culture of Portugal. She also attended a summer program at the University of Porto in Portugal. She is literate in Spanish, Portuguese and English.

She currently has been teaching three upper division classes of Spanish culture and literature at San José State University. She travels extensively in Europe and Latin America.