

## Visiting Researchers from Brazil

During the past month, CSD has received several researchers who have chosen our school as a site to conduct their work and/or learn more about Deaf education. Please join us in welcoming Betty and Nelson to CSD as they continue their studies.

**Betty Andrade** came to CSD to do research on terms for food and nutrition in ASL because of CSD's reputation with bilingual education. She observed food education classes and discussed methodological data with CSD staff. Betty said she was impressed with the quality of education at CSD, and the knowledge and resourcefulness of the teachers. She noted that CSD offers programs for students that no other schools she knows of offers.

Betty is a Ph.D. student in Translation Studies at the Federal University of Santa Catarina (2015), specializing in Educational Guidance at the Faculdade Integrada de Jacarepaguá (2008). She has a degree in Pedagogy from Universidade Salgado de Oliveira (2007) of Santa Catarina (2010). She is currently a Professor of Brazilian Sign Language (LIBRAS) at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro and Coordinator of the LIBRAS discipline at CECIERJ / CEDERJ. She has experience in the area of Education and Linguistics, with emphasis on linguistics, working mainly in the following subjects: Libras, culture and Deaf identity, Sorda Literature and translation process - Portuguese/Pounds.

**Nelson Pimenta de Castro** is here to do research on prosody of sign languages. He came to CSD to obtain data about how CSD teachers use prosody. Nelson said he had become inspired when a Deaf student from Brazil transferred to CSD to develop his language skills and to be involved with social activities with other Deaf students. That student thrived while at CSD. After the student's graduation, he returned to Brazil with a new sense of confidence and strengthened academic literacy. Nelson realized that CSD was the gem that had unlocked that student's potential.

Nelson was born in Brasília in 1963 into a Deaf and hearing hybrid family. Nelson always had LSB (Brazilian Sign Language) as his native language. At the age of 12, he came with his family to the city of Rio de Janeiro and right there he had his first contact with the Deaf students at INES, which is the National Institute for Deaf Education. At INES, Nelson found a suitable environment of social linguistic interaction between Deaf and hearing people.

In 1999, Nelson created an LSB video education company, which aims to strengthen deaf identity and culture through Brazilian Sign Language. LSB Vídeo also produces teaching-learning materials in LSB (Libras). The company has participated in important artistic, cultural and scientific creations such as the Rio de Janeiro Planetary Program in Libras, the 1st International Meeting of the Deaf Art and Culture in São Paulo and the Deaf culture theatrical spectacle named "Nelson 6 Live". It has covered more than 20 cities in Brazil for more than a decade.

Nelson was the very first professional in Brazil to study at New York's National Theater for the Deaf (NTD). He has a Ph.D. in Translation Studies from the Federal University of Santa Catarina UFSC, a Master's in Translation Studies and a degree in Literature-Libras of UFSC and cinema at Universidade Estácio de Sá. He has PROLIBRAS-MEC-UFSC certification as a university professor and is the author/co-author of 15 books in Pounds. He has experience in the area of Language, with emphasis on Brazilian Sign Language. In addition to being a professor, he is also a K-12 teacher.

—submitted by JAC Cook