

Dr. Marisa Lally

Bailey Fordham & Olivia McAllister

Dr. Reyes TCLD 423I Fall 2026



Dr. Marisa Lally
Assistant Professor of Educational
Leadership

“You’re not too old to
learn”



“What I hope that people know is that every immigrant story is really different and unique and I feel proud to represent what they call generation 1.5”

COMMUNITY STORY

DR. MARISA LALLY

Marisa was born in Bangkok, Thailand, and moved to rural Ohio with her family when she was about five years old. She now lives in Georgia and works as a professor at Georgia Southern University. Growing up, she experienced both Thai and American cultures, even though there was not a large Thai community where she lived. Her Thai heritage is still an important part of her life through her family, food, Buddhism, and traditions such as Loi Krathong. She also began learning Thai as an adult to reconnect with her grandparents and her culture. Marisa described herself as part of the “1.5 generation” because she immigrated to the U.S. as a child, and she is proud of how her experiences have shaped who she is today.

REFLECTION: FUNDS OF KNOWLEDGE

Valuable cultural and linguistic assets from Marisa’s immigrant experience and 1.5-generation background. Their experiences give them knowledge of different cultures, languages, and perspectives. A teacher could use these funds of knowledge by allowing them to share their traditions, language, and experiences during relevant lessons. This could help the interviewee feel valued while also helping other students learn about different cultures and perspectives.

PRIMARY SOURCES



Books:
Thailand coloring (practiced writing her name)
Thailand dessert
Spanish to Thailand



Duck: Reminder of her dad’s carnival game
Buddah: Gift from her mom
Thailand earrings



WORKFORCE CONNECTIONS

We learned that everyone has a unique story and that hearing someone’s experiences can help us better understand their culture. We really enjoyed learning about Marisa’s connection to Thailand and how her experiences shaped who she is today. As a future teacher, we could use Community Archives to let students interview family or community members and learn about their personal histories. This would make learning more meaningful and personal for our students.

ORAL HISTORY



REFERENCES

Marisa Lally interview and artifacts