



## Building Bridges

As Amherst College moved away from the COVID restrictions this past year, the Spanish department made a concerted effort to include community engagement in their classroom curriculums. Throughout the course of the year, students used their Spanish knowledge to connect to communities near and far. From translating community documents, to offering English tutoring, our students utilized their language skills in new ways as they shared their stories, built new bridges, and more. An article was written in the Amherst Student discussing the progress the department has made towards this mission since 2017. Click [here](#) to read it!

## Spanish Department Newsletter

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

Congratulations  
Graduates! P.2

Faculty Publications P.4

Department  
Announcements P.4

Course Projects P.5

Student Awards P.6

Department Events P.7

# Congratulations Class of 2023 and 2023E!

Our seniors have worked hard this year to complete their major requirements. Click on their names to see the work they've done over the past four years, and how their senior projects interacted with Amherst's community.



**MARIA ANDRADE**



**MIKAYLA BRENMAN**



**LUCHEYLA CELESTINO**



**SIKA ESSEGBEY\***



**VICTORIA FOLEY**



**MAYA FOSTER\***



**ISABELLE GENEVE**



**EMMA LEW**

\*These graduates were featured in The Amherst Student's Commencement Issue. Click [HERE](#) to check out their profiles!

# Congratulations Class of 2023 and 2023E!



KATIE PARKER



ELLA ROSE



JULIANNE ROSS



ALEX RULE



ALLISON STAFFORD



ELIZABETH TRAN



AUGUSTA WEISS

# Faculty Publications and Conferences

## PROFESSOR SARA BRENNEIS: PUBLICATION

- Brenneis, Sara J. "Spain's new memory law dredges up a painful chapter of Spain's often forgotten ties to Nazis," The Conversation. December 15, 2022.

## PROFESSOR CATHERINE INFANTE: PUBLICATION

- Infante, Catherine. "Captive Audiences: Performing Captivity in Cervantes's Prose Narrative." Drawing the Curtain: Cervantes's Theatrical Revelations, edited by Adrienne L. Martín and Esther Fernández, University of Toronto Press, 2022, pp. 221-42.

## PROFESSOR CARMEN GRANDA: CONFERENCES

- "Viaje de ida y vuelta: la traducción y los hablantes de herencia." Co-presenter with Elena Carrión-Guerrero, Boston University. 10th National Symposium on Spanish as a Heritage Language. Harvard University, April 13-15, 2023.
- "Translating Pedagogies: Supporting Spanish Heritage Language Learners' Multilingual Experiences." NEMLA. Niagara Falls, NY. March 23-25, 2023.

# Department Announcements

*Congrats!*

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW FACULTY MEMBER!



**DANIELA BÚRBANO-NARVÁEZ**  
DEPARTMENT LECTURER



**CONGRATULATIONS TO SENIOR  
LECTURER CARMEN GRANDA FOR  
WINNING THE 2023 JEFFREY B.  
FERGUSON MEMORIAL TEACHING  
PRIZE!**

# Course Projects

During this academic year, students utilized their Spanish as they engaged with communities in Amherst and beyond.

## SPANISH 202 FINAL PROJECT

Over the course of the semester, students read children's literature related to the course's themes. For the final project in pairs students wrote an original story in Spanish and designed the cover, or chose an already existing children's book and justified why we should read or teach it. In November, students shared their stories and books in the Jones Library with little children who are or aspire to be bilingual. In order to celebrate and share their work with Amherst College students, in December Spanish 202 students organized "Cuentos y Cookies," in which they exhibited their stories in Frost Library.



## SPANISH 349 COMMUNITY WORK

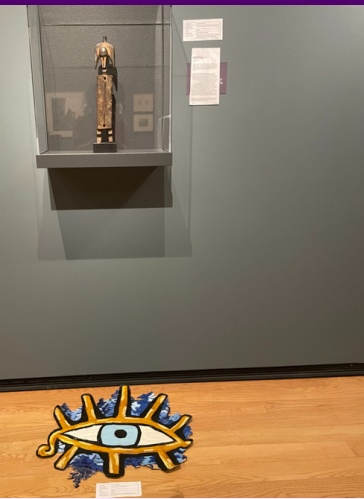
During the Spring semester, members of Professor Schroeder Rodriguez's class went to Puerto Rico and visited Casa Boriké and Casa Pueblo, two community based organizations that center their work around culture and the environment. They participated in the "Marcha del Sol" which was planned by Casa Pueblo in order to celebrate a project the organization had been working on in Adjuntas, Puerto Rico.



PHOTO TAKEN AT CASA BORIKÉ EN RINCÓN, PUERTO RICO ON MARCH 15, 2023



PHOTO TAKEN DURING THE MARCH IN ADJUNTAS, PUERTO RICO ON MARCH 17, 2023



### SPANISH 321

Students in Professor Ferrari's class spent this semester learning about the implications of the historical violence associated with certain environments and architectural spaces throughout the Americas. One of the course assignments required the students to intervene with the "Architectural Ghosts" exhibit at Amherst's Mead Museum using their own items from home.



### SPANISH 205

Through *Nuestras Voces*, an event organized by Professor Granda and the students of her SPAN/LLAS 205 class, students were given the space to celebrate their bilingual identities and share their stories. More information about the event is provided in [this article](#) by the Amherst Student. Students in this class also published the first magazine specifically created for Amherst College's Latinx community.



### SPANISH 303

Another course taught by Professor Granda offered students the opportunity to learn about the origins and history of the Camino de Santiago, a pilgrimage to the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela located in Galicia, Spain. The course culminated in a trip to Spain, where students were able to walk part of the path themselves. The Instagram, where they shared photos of their journey can be found [here](#).



# Student Awards

## LUCHEYLA CELESTINO AND ALLISON STAFFORD

*The Pedro Grases Prizes for Excellence in Spanish*

This department prize is given by a member of the Class of 1939 to honor a great teacher and cordial scholar. It is awarded each year to that senior who has shown the greatest progress in the ability to read Hispanic literature with insight and to write and speak Spanish with intelligence and humane sensitivity. This year the prize was split between two students.

## SIKA ESSEGBEY

*Fulbright English Teaching Assistant in Colombia*

As an English Teaching Assistant, Sika will be collaborating with a lead instructor at the Universidad de Cartagena to support Colombian students in their English learning. She will be affiliated with the Professional University Program in Foreign Languages, as she facilitates cultural exchange inside and outside the classroom.

## ELLA ROSE

*Fulbright for Research in Chile*

Ella Rose will be working with an affiliate at Universidad de Concepción in Concepción, Chile. They will be studying blue whales in the wild, and then incorporating them into a biological model that the affiliate developed of an area with threatened fish populations. Ella's goal is to assess whether blue whale population numbers can be indicators of imminent declines in these fish populations.

# Department Events

To keep up with department events, visit our Instagram: [@amherstmamuts](https://www.instagram.com/amherstmamuts)

## HUGE Thank You to our Fulbright Language Assistants!

We had three language assistants join us in the fall to support the Spanish Department throughout the course of the year. Micaela, Belen, and Luis, from Argentina, Spain, and Colombia respectively, spent the year planning Tertulia events and hosting the Mesa de Español. They shared information about their countries and cultures while also provided a relaxed environment for students to practice their Spanish. Thank you for your hard work!



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, MICAELA, BELEN, AND LUIS

## TERTULIA

Tertulia is an event that takes place every Thursday, and is planned by our language assistants. Though each week brings something new, it always offers students a unique way to learn about hispanic culture and practices their Spanish with other students.



These events include movie nights, game nights, and sometimes even nights spent in the kitchen. In these photos, students worked with the language assistants to prepare arepas and tres leches!

## MESA DE ESPAÑOL

Each week on Fridays, our language assistants hosted Spanish table, where students of all levels were able to practice their conversation skills with each other in Val dining hall.

