

SPANISH DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

2023-2024



Above: This year's graduating seniors in fall 2023's Senior Seminar

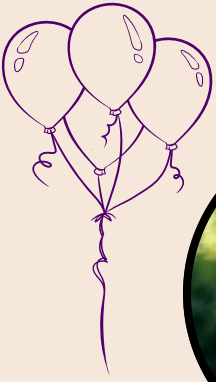
CELEBRATING COMMUNITY

Throughout the 2023-2024 academic year, the Spanish Department community collaborated and used their language skills in a wide variety of creative, research, and community-engaged projects. We appreciate the continued support of our students, faculty, staff & FLTAs, whose dedication and enthusiasm are the engine that propels our department toward new horizons. We wish you all a productive and joyful summer and look forward to seeing you again soon.

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CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2024 AND 2024 E !



[Conner Glynn](#)



[Imani Gunnison](#)



[Maddie Hahm](#)



[Juliette Brook](#)



[Sarah Weiner](#)



[Siobhán Angeles](#)



[Dory Farlessyost](#)



[Sophia Sondey](#)



[Viviana Labarca](#)



[Javier Irizarry](#)

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.

MAJORS STUDYING ABROAD



Sandor Weiss
Madrid, España



Jocelyn Nichols
Madrid, España



Ethan Neuschwander
Santiago, Chile



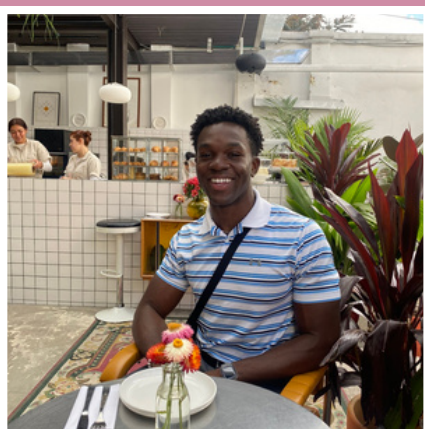
Supriya Chang
Madrid, España



Carter Hollingsworth
Sevilla, España



Daniela Gelles
Granada, España



Tyler Fields
Bogotá, Colombia



Ava Zielinski
Madrid, España



Jacinta Smith
Merida, México



MAJORS STUDYING ABROAD



Gianfranco Beran
Lima, Perú



Javier Irizarry
Barcelona, España



Inés Rossi
Buenos Aires, Argentina



Hanaa Charania
Sevilla, España

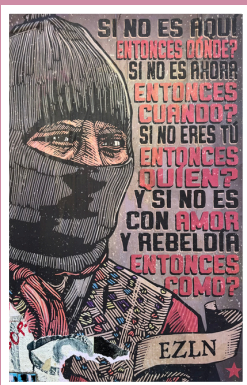


Tiia McKinney
Bilbao, España



Isabelle Tilney-Sandberg
Madrid, España

SABBATICAL RESEARCH ABROAD



A street poster related to Professor Schroeder-Rodríguez's research about indigenous peoples' community cinema in Mexico



Professor Brenneis at a Stolpersteine in Madrid - her research abroad focuses on the Spaniards who were deported to the Nazi concentration camp, Mauthausen



Professor Stavans at the Vatican in Rome, Italy - his research abroad focused on Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*

FACULTY PUBLICATIONS



Professor Brenneis:

- *Yo he estado en Mauthausen por Carlos Rodríguez del Risco: Edición Crítica*. Editorial UCA, 2024.
- *Espanoles en Mauthausen. Representaciones de un campo de concentración nazi (1940-2018)*. Marcial Pons Historia, 2024.

Professor Coráñez Bolton:

- Kelsey Henry, Anna Hinton, and **Sony Coráñez Bolton**. 2023. "Origins, Objects, Orientations: New Histories and Theories of Race and Disability." *Disability Studies Quarterly* Vol. 43 No. 1 (2023): Fall 2023. <https://doi.org/10.18061/dsq.v43i1.9719>.
- Coráñez Bolton, Sony. "Nuestros salvajes filipinos: Settler Encounters with Negro-Indigeneidad in Mexico and the Philippines." *Periphērica: Journal of Social, Cultural, and Literary History* Vol. 2 No. 2 (2024): 119–50.
- Coráñez Bolton, Sony. 2024. "The Ethnology of the Atomic: Gender, Japanese Occupation, US Empire, and the *Testimonio* of José Reyes's *Terrorismo y Redención (1947)*." In *Transnational Philippines*, edited by Rocío Ortuño Casanova and Axel Gasquet. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press. <https://press.umich.edu/Books/T/Transnational-Philippines3>.
- Coráñez Bolton, Sony. 2023. "Filipinx Negrito: Black Mestizaje and Transpacific Intimacies in Jessica Hagedorn's *Dogeaters* and José Rizal's *Filipinas Dentro de Cien Años*." In *Migrant Frontiers*, edited by Anna Tybinko, Lamonte Aidoo, and Daneil F. Silva, 59–78. *Race and Mobility in the Luso-Hispanic World*. Liverpool University Press. <https://doi.org/10.2307/j.ctv33b9w67.7>.

Professor Granda:

- *Retooling Study Abroad: Digital Approaches to Linguistic and Cultural Immersion*. Lexington Books, 2023.

Professor Infante:

- "Relatos de cautiverio y la circulación de objetos de lujo." *Un mar de objetos, un mar de personas. Musulmanes y cristianos en el Mediterráneo de las edades media y moderna*, edited by Borja Franco Llopis and Francisco J. Moreno Díaz del Campo, Universidad de Granada, 2024, pp. 165-86.

Professor Piazza:

- "El poder de la voz y del acto de narrar en *La amante de Gardel*." *Latin American Literary Review: Words and Rhythm, Song and Text*. Spring 2024. <https://lalrp.net/articles/10.26824/lalr.401>
- "El corazón frente al mar como un bolero crítico", Kentucky Foreign Language Conference (April 2024)
- "¡Seamos cuentacuentos! Literatura infantil en la clase de lengua", American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese annual conference (June 2024)

Professor Schroeder Rodríguez:

- "Cine comunitario de pueblos originarios en Abiyala en el siglo XX." *El ojo que piensa. Revista de cine iberoamericano* 26 (enero-junio, 2023): 9-23. <http://www.elojoquepiensa.cucsh.udg.mx/index.php/elajoquepiensa/issue/view/27>.

MORE FACULTY UPDATES:

Professor Piazza's Class Project



Thanks to support from the Davis Educational Foundation that subsidizes classes with an experiential learning component, "From Tango to Reguetón: Popular Music in Latin American Literature," taught by Professor Piazza, incorporated three dance workshops with guest professors. They taught the basic steps for salsa, bachata, and tango as well as a seminar on the power of words in songs with the Chilean singer Claudia Acuña. This last event was also supported by the Departments of Spanish and Music.

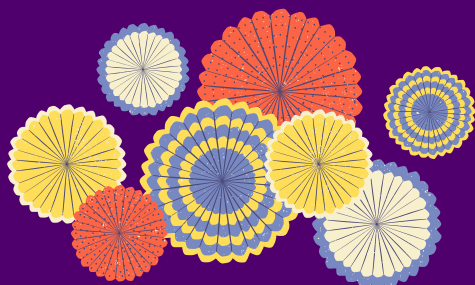
Professor Granda's New Book!



Thank you to our Fulbright Language Assistants!

We had two language assistants join the Spanish Department this year. Gabriel and Rubén, from Mexico and Spain, shared information about their countries and cultures while also providing a relaxed environment for students to practice their Spanish. Thank you for your hard work!

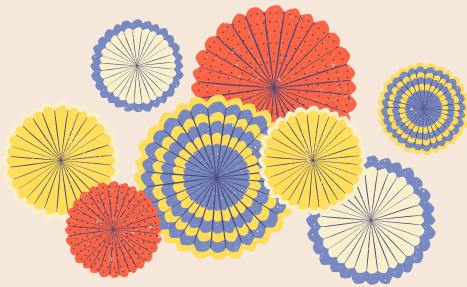
Welcome to our new faculty member: Ludmila Ferrari



DEPARTMENT EVENTS

MESA DE ESPAÑOL

Every Friday the Language Assistants host Spanish Table in Val Dining Hall to connect Spanish speakers from all levels. This is a great opportunity for students to practice causal conversations in Spanish and meet new students.



TERTULIA



The Language Assistants also host tertulias each week focused on a certain aspect of Hispanic culture. This school year, tertulias featured activities about 'Día de los muertos' and 'Navidad en España.'

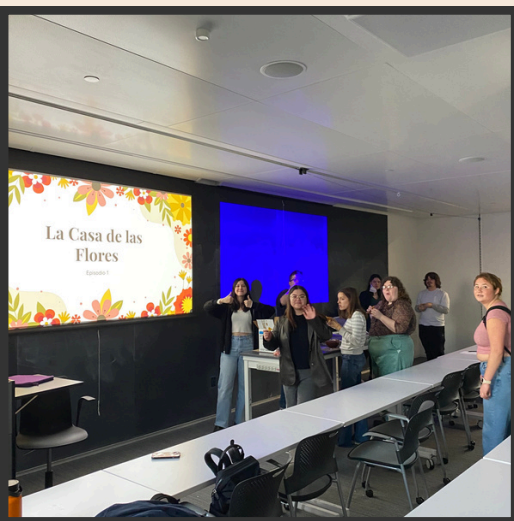


DEPARTMENT EVENTS

SENIOR CLASS EVENTS



During the Fall 2023 Semester, Spanish majors from the Spanish Senior Seminar planned two events for the department. “Fall Into the Spanish Major” featured a panel discussion that focused on Spanish classes, study abroad and other areas of interest for prospective majors. For the second event, the seniors planned a telenovela watch party about “La casa de las flores,” a popular show from Mexico. After watching the pilot episode from the show, the group spoke about the telenovela’s key themes and cultural significance.



NUESTRAS VOCES



In the Spring 2024 Semester, Professor Granda and her class, “Finding Your Bilingual Voice,” hosted Nuestras Voces. Professor Granda explains, “The event is a space where students can share their voices and embrace their full linguistic repertoire. By performing their works for an audience, students feel a sense of pride in their cultural heritage and belonging, and they will feel empowered to use their voice to affirm their bilingual identity in a receptive and supportive space.”



Photo Credit: Gabriel Cisneros Enriquez

DEPARTMENT EVENTS

MURAL IN NEWPORT



During the Spring 2024 semester, students contributed to a new mural in the Newport Residence Hall. La Casa, the Latinx Cultural House at Amherst, collaborated with an organization consisting of artists from Puerto Rico, called Colectivo Moriviví, to design the project. Senior Spanish major Sarah Weiner '24 wrote about the mural project for the *Amherst Student*. Click on the link below to read the piece!

<https://amherststudent.com/article/mural-breathes-new-life-into-newport-lounge/>



CUENTOS DE SÁBADO

Photo Credit: Colectivo Moriviví

“Cuentos de sábado” is a program created by Daniela Nárvaez Burbano and Claudia Matachana López to serve the Amherst community since 2021. This collaboration with the Amherst Regional Public Schools fosters a space where families and Latinx students can engage in Spanish conversation and celebrate cultural differences. Twice a month, families gather for arts and crafts, games, and stories in Spanish at the Mead Art Museum. Children and parents can explore new experiences through literature and art.



Photo Credit: Victoria Thomas

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:

Hear from recent alum on how they've continued to pursue Spanish after their time at Amherst.

Sika Essegbey '23 - English Teaching Assistant in Colombia



“My grant started at the end of July, and since then I’ve been an English Teaching Assistant at the Universidad de Cartagena. This semester, I am working with four professors and I also have 3 tutoring groups each week. Outside of the university, I volunteer with a local nonprofit called “Movimiento de Mujeres Negras y Barriales”, that is dedicated to supporting black womxn at risk of being displaced. Currently, I am in the process of translating a book they are creating that documents their progress over the past few years.”

“I started studying translation at Amherst to learn how to write and ended up translating Julio Cortázar's story collection *Las armas secretas* as a thesis for the Spanish Department. After graduating in 2016, I worked with Professor Stavans translating Ricardo Piglia's *The Diaries of Emilio Renzi* for *Restless Books*. In order to further explore the possibilities of English and Spanish, I went on to translate works by several other Argentine authors, focusing mainly on creative nonfiction. I've also had several chances to use my Spanish during travel, including while walking the Camino francés across northern Spain in 2017 and 2019. Although I haven't used my language skills quite as much over the past two years while completing an MFA program in Chicago, the linguistic experimentation I learned as a translator continues to inform my work.”<https://www.rmccroll.com/translation>

Rob Croll '16 - MFA Student





STUDENT AWARDS

Dory Farlessyost - the Spanish Prize in Creativity

- This prize is given annually by the Spanish Department to Spanish majors and members of the senior class who display engaging, dynamic creativity and originality in the pursuit of knowledge about Hispanic civilization. The Department acknowledges these qualities through research, writing, class involvement, and extra-curricular activities.

Siobhán Ángeles and Conner Glynn - the Pedro Grases Prize for Excellence in Spanish

- This award was established by a member of the class of 1939 to honor a great teacher and cordial scholar. The prize is awarded each year to that senior(s) 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.

Sarah Weiner - the Spanish Prize in Intellectual Merit

- This prize is given annually by the Spanish Department to Spanish majors and members of the senior class who have proven to be passionate, wide-ranging thinkers of Hispanic civilization in its multiple levels (political, social, cultural) and diverse geographical realms. The Department acknowledges these qualities through research, writing, class involvement, and extra-curricular activities.