



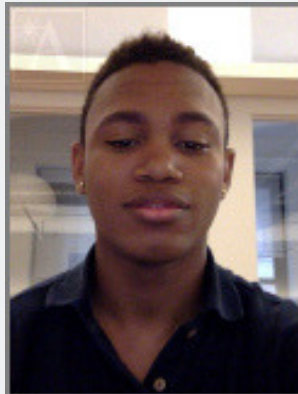
Amherst College

News from the Spanish Department
Spring 2019

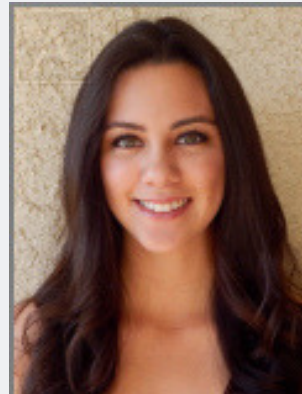
Congratulations to our graduating seniors!



Sofia Aisiks



Storm Alexander



Monica Cardenas



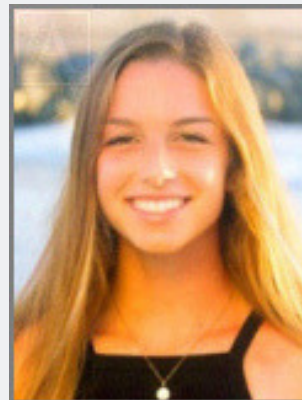
Erika DeAngelis



Hannah Firestone



Crystal Ganatra



Hayes Honea



Leah Kim



Alexandra Levinson



Moly Pines



Vernon Espinosa
Valenzu

Thank you and good luck to **Mónica Bel López** as she leaves the Spanish Department after 6 amazing years!



On Friday, April 26 the Spanish Department held a special luncheon commemorating the departure of lecturer Mónica Bel Lopez. Faculty, staff and students also had the opportunity to write messages in a farewell journal as a keepsake of her time at Amherst College.

¡Gracias y buena suerte!

New Class: Department to offer Senior Seminar SPAN-495 Fall 2019

For the first time, in fall 2019 the Spanish Department will offer a capstone seminar to its graduating seniors. This class marks the beginning of a process to change the requirements for the Spanish Major. The seminar will replace the current comprehensive exam, and is meant as an opportunity for students to apply what they have learned throughout their time in the major in the form of an individual or group project. Students will meet twice a week and work under the instruction of Professor Paul Schroeder Rodríguez. The change will be grandfathered in, and current majors have the option to take either the seminar or the comprehensive exam. The new requirements are expected to be finalized for the Class of 2023.

More information:

<https://www.amherst.edu/academiclife/departments/courses/1920F/SPAN/SPAN-495-1920F>

Sign up for two new classes offered Fall 2019!

SPAN-361 Chino: Asian Américas
Instruction by Professor Sony Coráñez
Bolton

Course Description:

<https://www.amherst.edu/academiclife/departments/courses/1920F/SPAN/SPAN-361-1920F>

SPAN-431 The Politics of Intimacy in
Recent Latin American Films
Instruction by visiting Professor Rueda

Course Description:

<https://www.amherst.edu/academiclife/departments/courses/1920F/SPAN/SPAN-431-1920F>

Publication Highlights by Faculty in the Spanish Department

Professor Sara Brenneis - *Spaniards in Mauthausen: Representations of a Nazi Concentration Camp*

Brenneis, Sara. *Spaniards in Mauthausen: Representations of a Nazi Concentration Camp, 1940-2015*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2018.

<https://utorontopress.com/ca/spaniards-in-mauthausen-2>

Professor Catherine Infante - "Painting and the Memory of Captivity in Cervantes's *Persiles* (III, 10)"

Infante, Catherine. "Painting and the Memory of Captivity in Cervantes's *Persiles* (III, 10)." *Bulletin of Hispanic Studies* 96.4 (2019): 365-82.

<https://online.liverpooluniversitypress.co.uk/doi/abs/10.3828/bhs.2019.21>

Professor Paul Schroeder Rodríguez - "A Borderlands History of Latinx Cinema"

Schroeder Rodríguez, Paul A. "A Borderlands History of Latinx Cinema." *Oxford Handbooks Online*. Ed. Ilan Stavans. March 2019. DOI: 10.1093/oxfordhb/9780190691202.013.34.

<https://www.oxfordhandbooks.com/view/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780190691202.001.0001/oxfordhb-9780190691202-e-34>

Professor Ilan Stavans - *Don Quixote of La Mancha (in Spanglish)*

Stavans, Ilan, translator, and Roberto Weil, illustrator. *Don Quixote of La Mancha (in Spanglish)*. University Park, PA: The Pennsylvania State University Press, 2018.

<https://www.psupress.org/books/titles/978-0-271-08231-8.html>

BULLETIN OF Hispanic Studies

VOLUME 96 NUMBER 4 2019

LORETO ROMERO "Y qué cena es ésta donde my pasión porfia de mi llevar?":
espiritualidad conversiva y elogio del cristiano nuevo en el
banquete de la salvación de *Arboleda de los enfermos*

CATHERINE INFANTE "Painting and the Memory of Captivity in
Cervantes's Persiles (III, 10)"

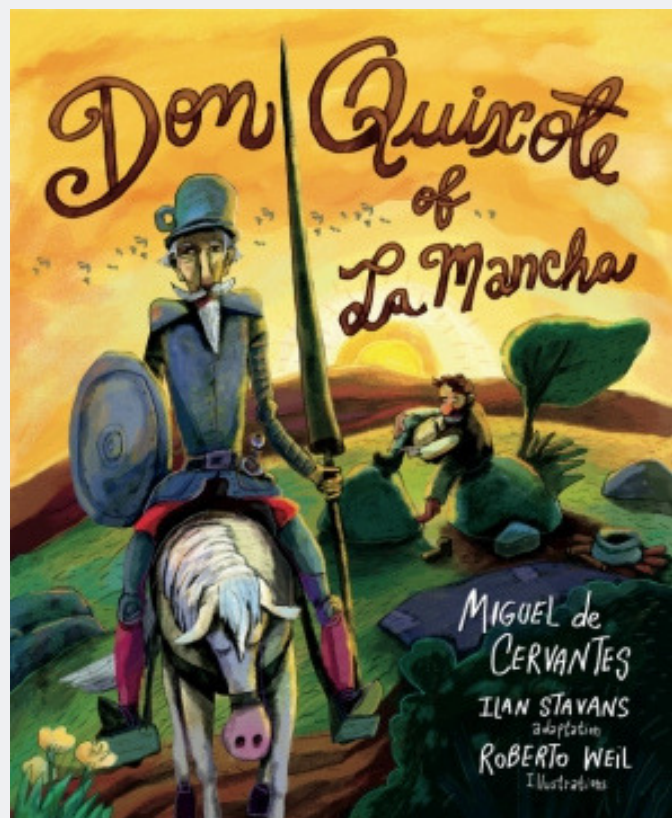
MONTserrat AMORES "El exilio liberal de Salvador Monsalud en la segunda serie
de los Episodios nacionales de Benito Pérez Galdós"

ANN DAVIES "Pleasure and Historical Memory in Spanish Gothic Film"

MIGUEL ÁNGEL GARCÍA "El papel donde vivo: Ángeles Mora y la poesía de la poesía"

ANDRÉS VILLEGAS "El imperativo alegórico: realidad y violencia en los estudios
sobre cine colombiano"

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¡Buen viaje! Photos from our juniors abroad!



Shasha Savitsky ('20, left) and a friend at an Aletico Madrid soccer game in Madrid, Spain



Hubert Ford ('20) at Playa Pocitos in Montevideo, Uruguay



DJ Williams ('20) at the Bay of Santiago in Santiago de Cuba

Featured Class: SPAN-210 Camino de Santiago

The Camino de Santiago, or the Way of St. James, is a pilgrimage to the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Galicia, Spain. This spring students in Spanish 210 under the instruction of lecturer Carmen Granda had the opportunity to explore the origins of the Camino de Santiago through the Middle Ages, and its recent transformation into a cultural phenomenon. At the end of the course, the class travelled to Spain to walk the Camino de Santiago in person. Check out this photo, as well as others available on the course's instagram page:

@amherstcamino

Link: <https://www.instagram.com/amherstcamino/>



Carmen Granda (far left) leading her students on the first leg of the Camino de Santiago from Sarria to Portomarín, Spain

Events Spring 2019

Latin American Cinema: Film Series

On Thursdays in Keefe Theater this spring, the department was pleased to present the screenings of a variety of films from Latin America including:

- María Candelaria (Emilio Fernández, Mexico, 1943)
- Aventurera (Alberto Gout, Mexico, 1950)
- Los olvidados (Luis Buñuel, Mexico, 1950)
- Deus e o Diabo na Terra do Sol (a.k.a., Black God, White Devil, Glauber Rocha, Brazil, 1963)
- Memories of Underdevelopment (Tomás Gutiérrez Alea, Cuba, 1968)
- Experimental Shorts by Women Directors from Latin America
- Frida, naturaleza viva (Paul Leduc, Mexico, 1984)



Art by OCAL

The film festival was part of SPAN 238 / FAMS 238 : Latin American Cinema. Students in this course prepared video-essays, and showcased them on the last day of classes in Keefe Theater. Watch a sample video-essay by Helena Burgueño ('19) below:

Link: <https://youtu.be/Y12qTaeCK2s>



Please Note:

This semester marks the last time that a SPAN-designated course will be taught in English. Starting in Fall 2019, all SPAN-designated courses will be taught in Spanish. Faculty in our department will still teach courses in English occasionally, but these will have the designator of the program that most closely approaches the course topic. For example, the course above, when taught in English, would be designated as only FAMS 238, while a course taught in English on Don Quijote would be designated as a European Studies Course.

La Tertulia featuring traditional Argentinian folkloric dances by our Spanish Teaching Assistants

On March 28, the Spanish House hosted a special edition of La Tertulia, an informal gathering every Thursday night to practice Spanish, learn about Hispanic culture and drink hot chocolate. In this particular tertulia, students were treated to a demonstration of typical Argentinian folkloric dances lead by our two Teaching Assistants, Lucas Ambrosio and Laura Zalazar. Lucas and Laura first explained the tradition behind folkloric dances in Argentina, and then taught students how to dance “la Chacarera.”



Lucas Ambrosio (far right) leads students in "La Chacarera"



Language Assistants Laura Zalazar and Lucas Ambrosio in traditional Argentinian clothing

Film screening “Experimental Women Filmmakers from Latin America”



Blues Tropical (dir. Poli Marichal, Puerto Rico, 1982-1985)

On April 4, the department presented a screening of film shorts by prominent Latin American women filmmakers. The event took place in Keefe Campus Center Theatre, and Luciano Piazza, curator and co-editor of *Ism, Ism: Experimental Cinema in Latin America* (University of California Press, 2018.), made opening remarks. The program included films from Uruguay, Argentina, Puerto Rico and Mexico. The Eastman Fund and the Georges Lurcy Lecture Series Fund at Amherst College sponsored the event.

Welcoming Elvira Sánchez-Blake for presentation “Memory and Peace Building: Women’s Resistance in Latin America”

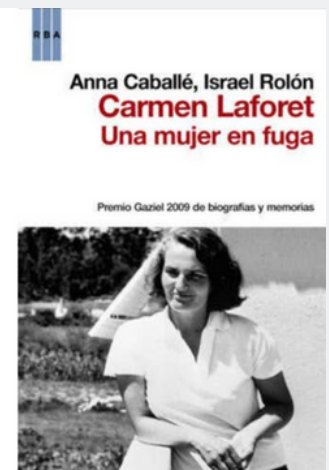
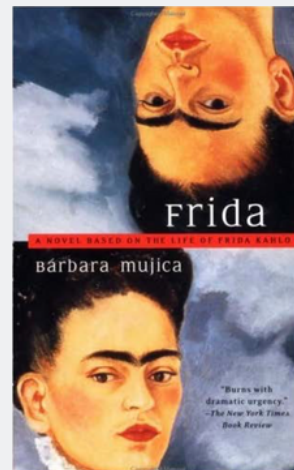
On April 3, we were joined by Elvira Sánchez-Blake, retired Associate Professor of Spanish and Latin American literature and culture at Michigan State University, and editor of *Revista de Estudios Colombianos* for a presentation in Stirn Auditorium. The lecture explored the expressive practices that women's groups have appropriated to build peace towards reconciliation in Latin America. In the discussion, she emphasized the role of Colombia's Women's Pacifist Route (Mujeres de la Ruta Pacífica) in raising awareness about women's rights through art, testimonials and performances. The event was sponsored by the Eastman Fund and the Georges Lurcy Lecture Series Fund at Amherst College.



Prof. Elvira Sánchez-Blake

Celebrating National Women’s History Month: “Women in the Spanish-Speaking Word”

On March 5th, the Spanish Department inaugurated National Women's Month with a talk by two distinguished academics Dr. Bárbara Mujica (Georgetown University) and Dr. Israel Rolón-Barada (Independent Scholar). The discussion was held in the Prynne Lecture Hall and centered on Mexican Artist Frida Khalo and Spanish writer Carmen Laforet. The event was funded by the Eastman Fund and the Georges Lurcy Lecture Series Fund as well as the Latinx and Latin American Studies Department and the Spanish Department.

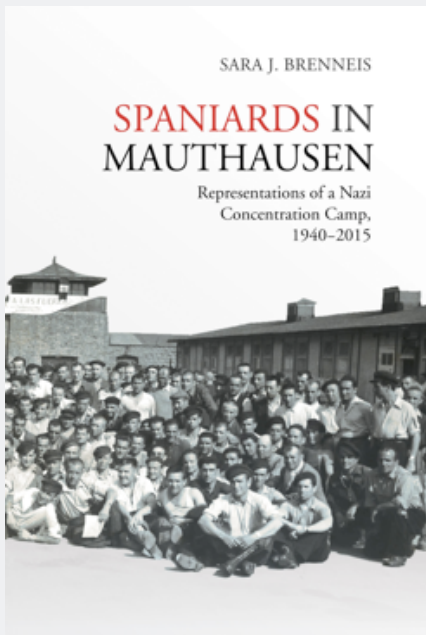


"Frida" by Bárbara Mujica and "Carmen Laforet: Una mujer en fuga" by Israel Rolón-Barada and Ana Caballe



From left to right: Israel Rolón, Barbara Mujica, Paul A. Schroeder Rodríguez and Catherine Infante at a dinner following the event.

Footnotes: Leah Kim ('19) Interviews Professor Sara Brenneis



On February 7th, Spanish major Leah Kim ('19) interviewed Professor Sara Brenneis about her new book, *Spaniards in Mauthausen: Representations of a Nazi Concentration Camp, 1940-2015*. The discussion focused on the process of writing and researching the book, which examines the lives and legacy of Spanish prisoners in the Mauthausen concentration camp. The interview was held in the Frost Library CHI Think Tank and was sponsored by Amherst College Library.

"*Spaniards in Mauthausen*" is available for sale at Amherst Books and Amazon:
<https://www.amazon.com/Spaniards-Mauthausen-Representations-Concentration-1940-2015/dp/1487521316>

Photos Spring 2019

Spanish Majors Dinner
April 2, 2019

The dinner included the announcement of the Pedro Grases Prize for Excellence in Spanish. This year's winners were **Hannah Firestone ('19)** and **Leah Kim ('19)**.



Left to Right: Valentina Velazquez-Zvierkova (Lecturer), Laura Zalazar (LA), Carmen Granda (Lecturer), Mónica Bel Lopez (Lecturer), Lucas Ambrosio (LA)



Dash & Dine 5K organized by UMass-Amherst for the Amherst Survival Center April 6, 2019

Members of SPAN-210: Camino de Santiago, Spanish Department faculty, and Amherst College staff participated in the race.

Students of Professor Cathrine Infante's SPAN-222: Short Stories from the Hispanic World paint covers from recycled cardboard for their original short stories in the same tradition as the cartonera publishers that began in Argentina. April 4, 2019



Spanish Table in Valentine Dining Hall

A lunch gathering held every Friday for students to practice Spanish with language assistants and faculty in the department.

Thank you to everyone for a great spring semester!