

SPRING 2020  
NEWSLETTER



# Amherst College Spanish Department



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# Congratulations to our graduating seniors!



**Eliza Bebe**



**Katy Correia**



**Rebecca Davis**



**Hubert Ford**



**Jahanavi Guar**



**Sophia Maldonado**



**Joey Ramesar**



**Sasha Savitsky**



**Evelyn Touchette**



**Deborah Williams**

As part of the Spanish 495: Senior Seminar, the seniors compiled portfolios to display their work over the major as well as their senior seminar projects that included community internships, research papers, and creative writing projects.”

[Click here to view a selection of the senior portfolios.](#)

# Faculty Announcements

## Carmen Granda Promoted to Senior Lecturer

Carmen Granda has been promoted to Senior Lecturer. She would like to thank the Spanish department, staff, administration, and her current and former students for all their support the last six years.

## Faculty Publication Highlights 2019-2020

- Professor Brenneis co-edited a volume on Spain's WWII history titled *Spain, the Second World War, and the Holocaust: History and Representation*. This volume is the first broadly interdisciplinary, scholarly collection to situate Spain in a position of influence in the history and culture of the Second World War. Featuring essays by international experts in the fields of history, literary studies, cultural studies, political science, sociology, and film studies, this book clarifies historical issues within Spain while also demonstrating the impact of Spain's involvement in the Second World War on historical memory of the Holocaust.
  - Available at: <https://utorontopress.com/us/spain-the-second-world-war-and-the-holocaust-3>
- Professor Sánchez-Naranjo published two articles:
  - Sánchez-Naranjo, J. (2019). "Peer Review and Training: Pathways to Quality and Value in Second Language Writing." *Foreign Language Annals*. 52(3), 612-643.
  - Sánchez-Naranjo, J. (2019). "La producción de significado y la construcción de la identidad social en el uso humorístico del lenguaje." *Studies in Hispanic and Lusophone Linguistics*. 12(2), 423-454.
- Professor Schroeder Rodríguez's book on Latin American cinema, first published in English in 2016, is now available in Spanish, with an expanded final chapter that includes a new section on memory in contemporary cinema, plus a reading of *Roma* (2018) by Alfonso Cuarón: *Una historia comparada del cine latinoamericano* (Madrid: Iberoamericana-Vervuert. Trans. Juana Suárez. 2020),
  - Available at: <https://www.iberoamericana-vervuert.es/FichaLibro.aspx?P1=170840>
- Professor Stavans published a new book titled *Seven Heaven: Travels Through Jewish Latin America*. The book reflects on five years of travel in twelve countries across Latin America exploring Jewish identities. He also published an article in the *Latin American Research Review* "Is American Spanish Healthy?" which examines the state of the Spanish language in the American continent.
  - *Seven Heaven: Travels Through Jewish Latin America* is available at: [www.upittpress.org](http://www.upittpress.org)
  - "Is American Spanish Healthy?" is available at: <https://larrlasa.org/articles/10.25222/larr.891/>

## Amherst Announces New Exchange Programs in Bogotá, Colombia

Amherst College has signed an exchange agreement with Universidad de los Andes in Bogotá, Colombia. We will begin exchanging students in the 2020-2021 academic year, with faculty exchanges to begin as early as 2021-2022. A similar exchange agreement will be finalized soon with Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, also in Bogotá. Both universities complement one another, providing more opportunities for Amherst students and faculty from different disciplines to incorporate Latin America into their studies and their research.



# Welcome to our new faculty!



**Fiona Dixon**  
*Teaching Associate*



**Phoebe Porter**  
*Visiting Associate  
Professor*

# Thank you to our Language Assistants!



Thank you to this year's Fulbright Language Assistants who joined us from Uruguay, Colombia, and Argentina.  
Best wishes Braulio Paz, Luis Pájaro Theran, and Rocío Barboza!



# Featured Course: Spanish 102

Students in Professor Dixon's SPAN-102 class were tasked with writing about environmental topics that were of interest to them.

They created a wide range of infographics to discuss important environmental issues including palm oil production, environmental racism, deforestation, animals at risk of extinction, and alternative sources of energy.

Here is a sample of some of their exceptional work this semester.



## Featured Course: Spanish 371



*The class meets with Tinti Deyá Díaz co-founder of Casa Pueblo in Adjuntas, PR*

### **SPAN/ENST 371: Climate Change and Social Justice in Puerto Rico**

Led by Prof. Schroeder Rodríguez and Prof. Ravikumar of the Environmental Studies Dept., students in this course traveled to Puerto Rico over winter break to study the island's response to environmental disasters. The class spent 10 days on the island, visiting sites in San Juan, Adjuntas, and Vieques and meeting with organizations dedicated to environmental and social justice. During the semester, students began organizing a conference to bring together organizations from Puerto Rico and the Pioneer Valley. With the pandemic, they refocused their energies to produce a collaborative translation of *Casa Pueblo cultiva esperanzas*, by Alexis Massol González ([libros787.com](http://libros787.com)).

The English translation will be published by Lever Press ([Leverpress.org](http://Leverpress.org)).

## Spanish Major's Night

On Wednesday May 6, the department held its annual Major's Night to celebrate the students' work during the 2019-2020 academic year and to honor graduating seniors.

The event, held over Zoom, began with a reading of "Spring and All That"—a poem by William Carlos Williams about the 1918 flu pandemic—in both English and in a new Spanish translation by Professor Schroeder Rodríguez. Seniors then shared reflections and memories of their time in the department. Afterward, each senior was recognized by the faculty, and the department's awards were presented. Katy Correia won the Pedro Grases Prize for Excellence in Spanish, Jahanavi Guar won the Spanish Prize in Intellectual Merit, and Deborah Williams and Hubert Ford both won the Spanish Prize in Creativity. The celebration concluded with final reflections and thank you's.

## In Memoriam Hilda Otaño-Benítez (1929-2020)

In Memoriam. Hilda Otaño-Benítez (Havana, Cuba, 1929 - Agawan, Massachusetts, 2020) passed away peacefully on May 25. She joined the Spanish Department in 1986 and retired in 2008 as a senior lecturer and language program director. We invite you to visit her [obituary](#) for more information.



## Photos from the Semester



*Students at La Tertulia, an informal gathering on Thursday nights led by our Language Assistants at Newport House to practice Spanish, learn about Spanish-speaking cultures, and enjoy snacks.*



# Photos from the Semester



The week of May 17, Carmen Granda organized a virtual Camino to commemorate last year's trip to Spain where her Spanish 210 class walked the last 75 miles of the Camino de Santiago. Current students, alumni, staff, and faculty sent in photos and screenshots after their daily walks or runs, which Carmen then posted on the course Instagram page @amherstcamino. At the end of each day, she tallied the distance and calculated where they are on the Camino Francés. Participants averaged about 60 miles per day!

Check it out at:

[www.instagram.com/amherstcamino/](https://www.instagram.com/amherstcamino/)



Spanish Table, a casual lunch gathering for students to practice Spanish conversation, is usually held on Fridays in Val. This spring when classes went virtual, so did Spanish Table!