



# FALL 2024 NEWSLETTER

## Dear Alumni and Friends,

The [Department of Hispanic Languages and Literature](#) extends warm greetings and is delighted to connect with you once again through our e-newsletter, as we do each semester.

We would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate our May 2024 graduates. You are now a valued part of our growing alumni community, and we wish you every success in your future endeavors. We look forward to staying in touch and supporting you along the way.

With best wishes,

Paul Firbas  
Associate Professor and Chair



August 2024: Faculty and graduate student reception in our seminar room in Humanities.

## Welcome New Doctoral Students

María Paula Lizarazo comes to Stony Brook from Bogotá, Colombia, with a BA in Literature from the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana. Milena Acosta joins us from Buenos Aires, Argentina, with BA in History and Diplomatura in History and Images from the University of Buenos Aires. Welcome to our community!

[Click here to read their full profiles](#)



## Welcome Visiting Assistant Professor Rodrigo Viqueira!

Born and raised in Uruguay, Rodrigo Viqueira comes to our Department as a visiting assistant professor for the academic year 2024-2025. A scholar of Latin American Studies, Rodrigo focuses on the literary and cultural production of the Southern Cone and Brazil. His research spans the intersections of literature, film and media studies, popular culture, and sound studies. He earned his PhD in Hispanic Studies, with a certificate in Latin American Studies, from Washington University in St. Louis.  
¡Bienvenido, Rodrigo!

[Read more](#)





## ¡Maravillosa Tertulia Literaria 2024!

As in every Spring, this past April, our undergraduate students and faculty got together to show their many artistic talents and to celebrate our community. Thanks to all participating students, all faculty and staff for your fantastic work and amazing art.



## Convocation Ceremony 2024





This May 2024 we had the great honor and joy of celebrating the graduation of our BA, MA and PhD students at the Wang Center Auditorium. Congratulations to all!

[Read more.](#)



## PhD Students Awarded Summer Travel Grants

Our Department offered four summer travel grants in 2024! The grants provided support for research related to dissertation projects and for conference travel. Congratulations to PhD students Daniel Martínez, Anita Rescia, Samuel Espíndola and María Medín-Doce.

Right, Anita Rescia during her research in Spain (Salamanca).



## **Congratulations to our New PhDs!**

### **Dissertations Recently Defended:**

Omar Badessi, "Unveiling the Benevolent Facade: Spanish Colonialism and Medical Discourse in Morocco." August 2024. Advisor: Prof. Daniela Flesler.

Eritka Valdivia-Flores, "Los personajes negros en dos obras de Gregorio Martínez: Canto de sirena y Crónica de músicos y diablos." August 2024. Advisor: Prof. Paul Firbas



## **Omar Badessi '24, PhD accepts a position at Vassar College!**



Omar Badessi, who received his PhD in summer 2024, was appointed as visiting assistant professor in the Department of Hispanic Studies at Vassar College, New York. Congratulations!!

[Read more](#)



## PhD Candidates María Medín-Doce and Jesús Jiménez are named IDEA Grads for Fall 2024



We're thrilled to announce the newest cohort of Inclusion Diversity Equity and Access (IDEA) Grads for Fall 2024 includes students from our Department, María Medín-Doce and Jesús Jiménez Valdés. The IDEA Grads program supports its fellows through a stipend as well as targeted projects, professional development activities and mentoring from campus leaders.

[Read more](#)

## PhD Candidate Beatriz Solla Teaching Award!

Beatriz "Bea" Solla Vilas won the 2024 President's Award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching! Bea is currently a fourth-year PhD candidate in Hispanic Languages and Literature, specializing in contemporary Latin American trans self-narrative. Originally from the coastal region of Galicia, Bea is passionate about education, and they view teaching as a powerful tool to help others understand and engage thoughtfully with the world around them.

Congratulations on this award and recognition of your superb graduate student teaching, dear Bea!



## Doctoral Student Wins Thoma Foundation Exploratory Travel Award



Our PhD student Henry Ibáñez won a prestigious Thoma Foundation Award to study and catalog early modern materials of visual interest at the convent library of La Recoleta in Arequipa, Perú, this past summer. Felicitaciones, Henry!

[Read more](#)

## Guided Visit to the Metropolitan Museum in New York



This past spring, Prof. Fernando Loffredo organized a guided visit to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York for our students and faculty, with Associate Curator David Pullins (MET).



## Fernando Loffredo and PhD Students Study Baroque Culture in Perú



In the context of his research on "Empires, Environments and Objects" funded by the Max Planck Institute (Florence), the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú and our Fine Arts, Humanities, and lettered Social Sciences (FAHSS) awards, Prof. Fernando Loffredo led four of our doctoral students on a fascinating itinerant seminar in Peru (Lima and Cuzco).

Congratulations to Daniela Ruiz, Quim Solias, Juan David Parra and Henry Ibañez for this exceptional Andean field work and research!

[See more](#)

## Joseph M. Pierce Awarded MoMA Fellowship for 2024-2025

Congratulations to our colleague Joseph Pierce, director of the Native American and Indigenous Studies (NAIS) initiative, for being named as one of the 2024-2025 Scholars in Residence at the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), one of the most fascinating and innovative centers of art and research in the world!

[Read more](#)





## **Javier Uriarte Receives CALAS Fellowship for Research in Argentina**



Prof. Javier Uriarte won a residence fellowship from the Maria Sibylla Merian Center for Advanced Latin American Studies in the Humanities and Social Sciences (Univ de Guadalajara) for his project on "Infrastructure and Latin American Aquatic Imaginaries between the Amazon and the Southern Cone." Congratulations to Javier, who was on a research assignment this Fall 2024 semester in Buenos Aires.

[Read more](#)

## **Professor Aurélie Vialette accepts a position as Associate Professor at Yale University**

Our very best wishes for our colleague, Aurélie Vialette, who accepted a position at Yale University. Aurélie will remain connected to our Department with a courtesy appointment as a visiting associate professor until Spring 2027.



## Explore our MA Programs and Join our Community!

Students enrolled in our MA programs (MA in Hispanic Languages and Literatures and MA in Teaching) have the option of taking online summer and winter courses to speed up their graduation time. Check our website for more information on our MA programs, courses and events.

Pictured below, Prof. Lilia Ruiz-Debbe works with MA students to practice real teaching scenarios and methods.

[Read more](#)





Resources for faculty and students support and strengthen the educational experience. The Department of Hispanic Languages and Literature depends on our alumni and friends to expand field opportunities for our students and provide seed funds for senior honors theses and summer research experiences.

Please consider investing in our students and faculty by [making a gift today](#) or today or speaking with [Julianna Ashton](#), director of development, College of Arts and Sciences, at (631) 632-1455.



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