



Stony Brook University  
*College of Arts and Sciences*

Department of Hispanic  
Languages and Literature

# SPRING 2025 NEWSLETTER

## Dear Alumni and Friends,

The [Department of Hispanic Languages and Literature](#) extends warm greetings as this semester's learning, growth, and celebration comes to an end. In this issue, we're pleased to share some of the remarkable achievements of our students and faculty from Fall 2024, highlighting our diverse academic community's research, creative projects, and contributions.

We also take a moment to anticipate our congratulations to our May 2025 graduates! As you embark on new journeys, remember that you are a cherished part of our ever-growing alumni network. We celebrate your accomplishments and look forward to staying connected in the years ahead.

With best wishes,

Paul Firbas  
Associate Professor and Chair



Photo by Daniela Ruiz



## Undergraduate Student Spotlight: Óscar López

Following the recommendation of our faculty in advanced courses, we are pleased to spotlight **Óscar López**, an outstanding Spanish major whose insightful participation consistently enriches our class discussions. Oscar describes what he loves most about our program: “I’ve gained a deeper appreciation for the richness of other Hispanic cultures besides mine (I am Salvadorian), and the role language plays in connecting communities and how diverse and rich our culture is.”

## Undergraduate Víctor Chacón Receives LACS Sánchez Award

Congratulations to **Víctor Chacón**, BA in Spanish/ Teaching Program and LACS minor, who received the 2024 Sánchez Award for Undergraduate Academic Achievement offered by the Latin American and Caribbean Studies Center (LACS). Congratulations, Víctor, for all your wonderful academic work, outstanding service to our community and for being such a wonderful student and university citizen.

[Read more](#)





## Undergraduate Trip to NYC with Professor Daniela Flesler



Prof. Daniela Flesler's SPN312 class attended Garcia Lorca's play *La Casa de Bernarda Alba* at the Repertorio Espanol in Manhattan.

## Community Gathering for Día de los Muertos and Poetry Contest



*Prof. Ruiz-Debbe welcomes guests and participants in the LACS Gallery.*

Last fall, students, faculty and staff gathered once again to honor Día de los Muertos, celebrating tradition, remembrance, and creativity.

The event, organized by **Prof. Lilia Ruiz-Debbe**, featured food, rituals, and the beloved “Calaveritas” poetry contest, where participants shared witty and heartfelt verses inspired by the holiday.

Attendees joined in decorating altars, enjoying traditional treats, and reflecting on the cultural significance of the day.

## Catalina Joseph Receives Mariposa Graduate Conference Award

Congratulations to **Catalina Joseph**, winner of this year's Mariposa Graduate Conference Award from the Latin American and Caribbean Studies Center. Maria, an HLL PhD candidate originally from Chile, will receive funds to pay for expenses at an academic conference of her choosing.

¡¡Felicidades, Cata!!



## HLL Doctoral Student Quim Solias Wins Guiliano Fellowship!



During his research stay in Naples funded by the prestigious College of Arts and Sciences Edward Guiliano '78 PhD Global Fellowship, **Quim Solias** conducted archival work on late 16th- and early 17th-century documents at different Neapolitan libraries and archives such as the National Library and the Fondazione Banco di Napoli.

This research, carried out in collaboration with the Istituto di Scienze del Patrimonio Culturale (ISP-CNR), was for a paper presented at the 2025 Renaissance Society of America Conference, and will inform both his doctoral thesis and a forthcoming peer-reviewed article.

¡Felicitaciones, Quim!

[Read more](#)



## PhD Candidate Henry Ibáñez Mogrovejo Co-Authors Book

Congratulations to our doctoral student **Henry Ibáñez Mogrovejo** for the publication of his scholarly work and co-edition with José Elías Gutiérrez (PUC Perú) of Spanish Calderón de la Barca's play, "Las cadenas del demonio."

This edition reconstructs the closest possible text to Calderón's lost original, based on the most important surviving witnesses. The play dramatizes the legendary evangelization of Lesser Armenia by Saint Bartholomew, who confronts the Devil to free the region from idolatry.

¡Felicitaciones Henry!



[Read more](#)

## Anita Rescia Presents at the Joseph L. Tromba Lecture Series



Last November, our doctoral student **Anita Rescia** presented her research on Pinocchio's original story by Carlo Collodi (1883), and two major film adaptations: Disney's (1940) and Guillermo del Toro's "Pinocchio" (2022). This was hosted by the Center for Italian Studies.

## Congratulations to our New PhDs!

Dissertations Defended Fall 2024:

### **Regulo Silva**

Hispanic Anarchists & the Great War, November 2024.

Advisor: Prof. Aurélie Vialette

### **Mario Henao**

La Naturaleza Perversa, December 2024.

Co-Advisors: Prof. Paul Firbas and Prof. Joseph Pierce



## Meet Visiting Scholar Brenda de Oliveira! Fall 2024 - Spring 2025

Brenda de Oliveira is a PhD candidate in Aesthetics and Art History at the University of São Paulo, specializing in contemporary art and environmentalism. Her research focuses on the cultural and artistic production of the Amazon region within broader historical and social contexts.

With over a decade of experience in teaching, the art market, and environmental initiatives, she bridges the intersection of art and sustainability. Brenda was a Visiting Scholar in the Department of Art (Fall 2024) and the Department of Hispanic Languages and Literature (Spring 2025), under the supervision of Prof. Javier Uriarte.



¡Bienvenida, Brenda!

[Read more](#)



## The HLL Invita: Fall 2024 Series

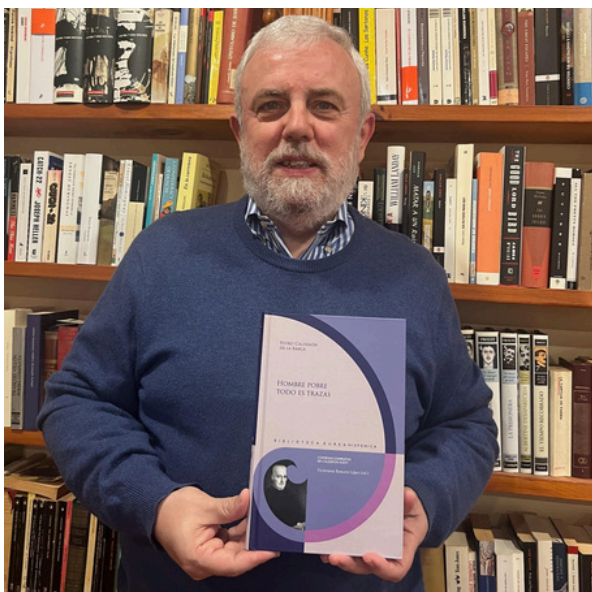
Our Department featured three scholarly talks last fall, including **Mohamad Ballan's** presentation on Nasrid Granada; a round table on Early Modern matters with **Alix Cooper, Douglas Pfeiffer, and Benedict Robinson**; and a discussion on philosophy and digital technologies by **Joseph Lemelin**. All events fostered interdisciplinary discussions over lunch!

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*Professors Paul Firbas (HLL), Ben Robinson (English), Douglas Pfeiffer (English) and Alix Cooper (History)*

## Prof. Victoriano Roncero-López Publishes New Book



Congratulations to our colleague **Victoriano Roncero-López**, professor and undergraduate director, for his new scholarly edition and study of Pedro Calderón de la Barca's *Hombre Pobre Todo es Trazas*. The book has a critical and annotated edition of one of the funniest comedies by the most important playwright of 17th century Spain. It is a cloak-and-dagger play in which real love triumphs over deception.

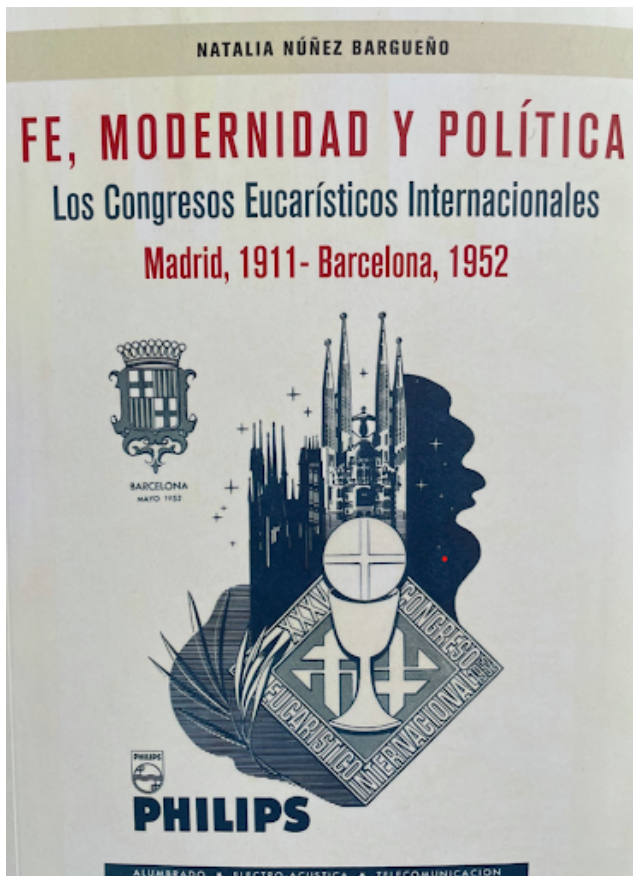
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## Elena Davidiak: Mentoring, Research, and Internship Supervision

**Elena Davidiak** has successfully developed the field of Medical Spanish and enthusiastically organized and supervised five student interns enrolled in Medical Spanish Experiential Learning who worked at Stony Brook Home student clinic and the Cardiothoracic Unit of Stony Brook University Hospital.

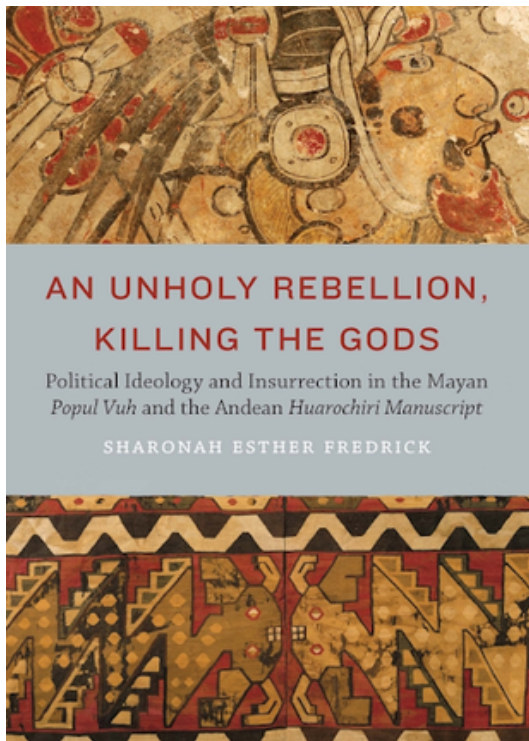


## HLL Alumni Publish New Books



Alumna **Natalia Núñez Bargueño '07, PhD**, published her new book *Fe, Modernidad y Política: Los Congresos Eucarísticos Internacionales. Madrid, 1911-Barcelona, 1952* (Comares, 2024). She is currently a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellow at the University of Leuven, Belgium, director of the Feliciano Montero Seminar of Contemporary Religious History, and vice president of the Asociación Española de Historia Religiosa Contemporánea.





**Sharonah Fredrick '15, PhD**, current faculty member in the Department of Hispanic Studies at the College of Charleston, published *An Unholy Rebellion, Killing the Gods: Political Ideology and Insurrection in the Mayan Popul Vuh and the Andean Huarochiri Manuscript* (University of Nebraska Press).

[Read More](#)

## Explore our MA Programs and Join our Community!

Students enrolled in our 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.

Below, Prof. Lilia Ruiz-Debbe works with MA groups to practice real teaching scenarios and methods.

[Read more](#)



Resources for faculty and students support and strengthen the educational experience. Our Department 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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