

Fall 2018 Newsletter

Message from the Interim Chair, Professor Daniela Flesler



It's a pleasure to introduce myself as the new interim chair of the Department. I arrived at Stony Brook University in 2001, shortly after receiving my PhD from Tulane University. I specialize in Contemporary Spanish Literature and Cultural Studies, with a focus on

Spain's negotiations of cultural identity in relation to its Jewish and Arab heritages and the ways these negotiations affect the lives of Jewish and Muslim minority populations in Spain today. My latest book, for which I received a 2017-18 NEH Fellowship, is *The Memory Work of Sepharad: New Inheritances for Twenty-First Century Spain*. I teach courses on immigration, Jewish and Arab Spain, cultural memory and the contemporary novel. I could not be happier to be chairing a department that plays such a crucial role fostering community, diversity and cultural awareness at Stony Brook.

¡Nos mudamos! We Moved to Humanities 1055

This past summer, the Department of Hispanic Languages and Literature said goodbye to the Melville Library, where for more than 30 years our faculty/staff offices, graduate seminar room and Spanish Writing Center were located. You can now find us in our new and beautiful home on the first and second floors of the Humanities building. Our main office is located in HUM 1055.

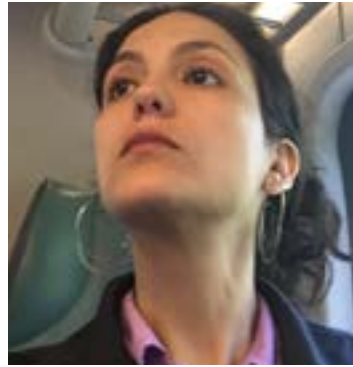


After two years of intense work and restructuring planning in the College of Arts and Sciences, HLL stands out as one of the strongest and most diverse departments in CAS. Our undergraduate program, MA, and internationally recognized PhD program are thriving with new students, publications, research plans and events.

Please stop by our new offices or attend one of our many free, open to the public events. Check our [website](#) or follow us on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#).

¡No se olviden de pasar a visitarnos!

Dr. Lena Burgos Lafuente Promoted to Associate Professor with Tenure



Our Department is extremely pleased to announce that [Lena Burgos Lafuente](#) was recently promoted to Associate Professor with tenure! Professor Burgos Lafuente came to Stony Brook University in 2010. A native of

Puerto Rico, Lena received her BA in comparative literature from the University of Puerto Rico (Río Piedras) and her PhD from New York University in 2011. She specializes in Caribbean, Transatlantic and Latin-American poetry, essay and the intersection of culture and politics. Lena teaches undergraduate courses and graduate seminars on Caribbean literatures and in Fall 2018, she is offering a new undergraduate topics class on the Latino cultures of New York City. Her new book on literature and politics in the Caribbean, *A la escucha del destiempo: poéticas de la posguerra en el Caribe transatlántico*, is forthcoming this year.

Graduate Fellows and Faculty Research Award



PhD student
Gabriel Rudas-Burgos

PhD student [Gabriel Rudas-Burgos](#), currently writing his dissertation on Latin American narratives, *The Inhumans: Literature between Nature and Humanities*, and two of our assistant professors, [Joseph Pierce](#) and [Javier Uriarte](#), received the 2018 Graduate Fellow and Faculty Research Award.

This award forms part of [President Stanley's Initiative in the Arts and Humanities](#) started in 2014-2015. It provides one-year funding for dissertation writing and reduces the teaching load for junior faculty to focus on research or program development. ¡Felicidades!

Professor Javier Uriarte Honored with the Godfrey Teaching Excellence Award



In late spring 2018, students from across the College of Arts and Sciences were asked to nominate faculty for the annual Godfrey Teaching Excellence Award, an award that recognizes faculty who "demonstrate a warm spirit, a concern for society and the individual, and who share their knowledge while challenging independent inquiry and creative thought." From more than 180 nominations, a student panel selected five professors, one from each of five areas including Humanities, Fine Arts, Social Sciences, Physical Sciences and Natural Sciences. Assistant Professor Javier Uriarte was honored for his Teaching Excellence in the Humanities. He teaches undergraduate courses on Latin American cities and travel literature. ¡Felicitaciones, Javier!



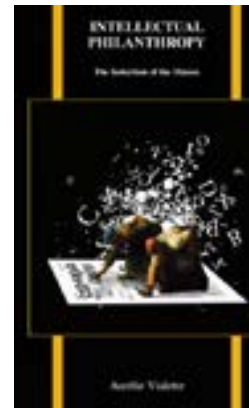
Left: Assistant Professor Javier Uriarte
Right: Assistant Professor Joseph Pierce

Adrián Pérez Melgosa Named New Director of the Humanities Institute



In Spring 2018, Associate Professor of Hispanic Languages and Literature [Adrián Pérez Melgosa](#) was chosen as the new director of the Humanities Institute at Stony Brook. Adrián teaches Latin American Cinema, Literature and Cultural Studies. His book *Cinema and Inter-American Relations: Tracking Transnational Affect* was published by Routledge in 2012. He is the principal investigator on the digital humanities research project, Cultural and Social Map of Latino Long Island, funded by a three-year grant from the Hagedorn Foundation. The Humanities Institute's theme for this year is "The Humanities Go Public: Culture and Community in the Digital Age."

New Books Published This Semester



[Professor Aurélie Vialette](#), our new director of graduate studies, has just released her first monographic book, *Intellectual Philanthropists: the Seduction of the Masses* (Purdue University Press, 2018), dedicated to the study of the culture of popular workers and the rise of revolutionary movements in 19th-century Iberia (Catalonia, Basque Country, Asturias and Galicia in Spain). Aurélie received her PhD from the University of California Berkeley in 2011 and joined our department in 2014. Congratulations to Aurélie!



[Professor Victoriano Roncero-López](#), specialist in Golden Age Literature, has just published his annotated edition of a rare short play by Félix Lope de Vega, *La privanza del hombre* (Kassel, Reichenberger, 2018), a religious piece (auto) written c. 1604 and staged in Seville in 1605.

The book also includes the edition of Lope's auto *El nombre de Jesús*, by our graduate student [Ignacio D. Arellano-Torres](#). This play was first published in 1644, together with two other short theatrical pieces also included in this volume. Ignacio is currently finishing his dissertation on travel literature in the Golden Age under the direction of Prof. Roncero López.

Our Department INVITA!

HLL INVITA is a new series of talks organized by our department along with faculty from other Stony Brook departments to foster intellectual contact between students and faculty and promote interdisciplinary research.

[Our first session](#) was with Professor Brooke Larson, Department of History, who discussed her research on "Rethinking 'neo-colonial modernity' in the Bolivian Andes."

Welcoming our New PhD Students!



It was another successful year recruiting graduate students and TAs for our doctoral program. Thanks to all students who sent their applications from different parts of the world. We were extremely glad to accept and welcome four new students to our PhD program in 2018: Kira Berman, Fiordaliza Ippolito, Sara Martínez Navarro and Carlos Vicéns.

During the first week of classes all new TAs and lecturers, under the guidance of Dr. Lilia Ruiz-Debbe, attended training sessions and workshops to prepare teaching materials, review new methodologies and share strategies to deliver the best Spanish education to our Stony Brook undergraduates.

Community Outreach

As part of the Melville Library Talk Series, Dr. Elena Davidiak, a lecturer in our department, presented a free workshop in early October, "Raising Bilingual Children: A Workshop for Parents and Educators."

If you missed Elena's talk on bilingualism last year, you can watch it [here](#) at home!



Recent PhD Graduates

¡Felicitaciones! Congratulations to our new doctors Sally Scott-Sabo and Pilar Espitia, who defended their dissertations on Latin American and Spanish texts and cultures, from saintly narratives in colonial Peru to contemporary post-war memories in Guatemala and Spain.

- Sally Scott-Sabo, *Reading Remains and Imagining New Beginnings in Present Day Guatemala and Spain* (June, 2018)
- Pilar Consuelo Espitia, *Queering the Andean Mystics: Represiones, subversiones y deseos en las prácticas religiosas de la América colonial (Perú, siglos XVI-XVII)* (May 2018).

For a list of all 26 dissertations defended in our department since 2011, visit our [website](#).

Alumni Achievements



Professor Miguel Gomes ('93)

Congratulations to our colleague and HLL alumnus **Professor Miguel Gomes**, recently named University of Connecticut Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor! Professor Gomes grew up in Venezuela in a Portuguese family. He received his PhD in our department in 1993, working under the guidance of Professor Pedro Lastra, now Emeritus Professor. Professor Gomes specializes in modern Spanish American literature and culture and was Chair of Spanish and Portuguese Studies at the University of Connecticut from 2001 to 2010.



Alex Salinas ('11) in his hometown, Sucre, Bolivia

Alex Salinas finished his PhD in 2011 and worked as professor of Spanish at Erskine College in South Carolina. He returned to his native Chuquisaca in Bolivia, where he just published his second novel, *Beat*, the story of Alberto Aranda, a young musician in the 1960s during times of political crisis and cultural internationalization in Bolivia. The novel was officially presented at the Casa de la Cultura Universitaria de San Francisco Xavier this past September.

Alumni Lecture Series

In Spring 2019 we will inaugurate our Alumni Lecture Series with the visit of N. Michelle Murray, who received her PhD in Hispanic Languages and Literature from Stony Brook in 2010. Michelle is Assistant Professor of Spanish at Vanderbilt University, and her research and teaching focus on contemporary Spanish literature and film. Her book *Home Away from Home: Immigrant Narratives, Domesticity, and Coloniality in Contemporary Spanish Culture* will be published by University of North Carolina Press in December 2018.




Events Organized by Graduate Students Spring 2018



Last Spring, our graduate students organized two important events that had a positive impact on our University community. The first was the 9th [Stony Brook Hispanic Film Festival](#), "Living on the Verge of Violence," which included the screening and discussion of films from Cuba, Peru, Spain

and Argentina. The second was our annual Graduate Student Conference, "No Direction Home: Travels, Travelers and (Trans)formations," with keynote speaker Prof. Sylvia Molloy (NYU).

Congratulations to our graduate students for their fantastic work!



Thank you for your generosity!

Resources for faculty and students support and strengthen our diverse educational experience. The Department of Hispanic Languages and Literature depends on our alumni and friends to build and improve our research opportunities through study abroad scholarships, graduate fellowships and graduate and undergraduate travel that supplements teaching and research.

Your generosity, whether it's the renewal of your support or the decision to give for the first time, allows us to do what we do best – innovative, creative research and teaching that's the hallmark of a great public research university. I hope you'll consider investing in our students and faculty by making a [gift](#) today or speaking with the College's advancement representative, Assistant Dean Rebecca Bair, rebecca.bair@stonybrook.edu, or 631.632.6178.

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