

Departamento de Estudios Hispánicos - Informe Anual (2024-2025)

Objective 1. To institutionalize a culture of strategic planning and assessment

- An academic assessment plan for 2024-2027 was submitted for faculty approval and it was approved in December 2024.
- An exit survey was administered to students who graduated during the 2024–2025 academic year.
- A provisional plan was developed to strengthen the program and boost student enrollment.
- An ad hoc committee on program strengthening was established to support the development of a comprehensive enhancement plan, including a review of the curriculum and the program's student profile.

Objective 2. To lead higher education throughout Puerto Rico while guaranteeing the best education for our students

- The following proposals were submitted to the departmental Curriculum Committee:
 - As part of the curriculum enhancement efforts of the Hispanic Studies Program, an online curricular sequence in Academic and Professional Writing in Spanish was proposed. This sequence is intended for students interested in developing advanced competencies in the use of Spanish as a language for academic and professional communication. The proposal includes the creation of a course on Writing in Spanish and Artificial Intelligence.
 - An interdisciplinary course in Forensic Linguistics was approved to be included as part of the Criminology Curricular Sequence offered by the Department of Social Sciences. This course represents a collaborative effort to integrate linguistic knowledge into the broader study of criminal behavior and justice.
 - A course on Linguistics and Economics was proposed as a collaborative initiative with the Economics Program, aiming to explore the intersections between language and economic behavior.
- A series of workshops on literacy was organized for the faculty of the Department of Hispanic Studies.
 - This initiative is part of a broader effort to support faculty members who are currently teaching or will be teaching the Academic Literacy course. The goal of the workshops is to strengthen the teaching and learning of Spanish as a language for academic, social, and professional communication. The sessions address key topics related to reading, writing, and oral communication practices across various academic contexts.
- An assessment instrument was administered to identify the level of mastery of academic literacy concepts achieved by a group of students who completed the literacy sequence ESPA 3131 and ESPA 3132.

Objective 3. To increase and diversify the Institution's sources of revenue

- The department has a funding source through Rumex courses. Courses are scheduled strategically to continue channeling these funds into the department's account, thereby supporting its operational and academic initiatives.

Objective 4. To implement efficient and expedient administrative procedures

- Administrative staff completed a government contracting course from the *Oficina del Controlador* de Puerto Rico.
- The Director participated in the Academic Leadership Academy for Deans and Department Chairs.
- The digitization of student and faculty records is ongoing.
- A cloud-based Excel spreadsheet was developed to monitor the income and allocation of funds from the department's special accounts, organized by expenditure category (e.g., wages, meals, compensations, equipment).

Objective 5. To strengthen research and competitive creative endeavors

The department's faculty have produced the following publications and presentations:

- Dra. Carmen Rivera Villegas
 - Presentation of the book *Cuentos desastrosos* (2024, Sean Grant, FPH, NEH) on October 29.
 - "Paisajes con voces": Borinquen Field de Marta Aponte Alsina (*Nuevos Horizontes* Volume 1, Number 1, Fall 2024 Universidad de Puerto Rico-Mayagüez, Departamento de Humanidades)
- Dra. Mairym Lloréns Monteserín
 - Publication accepted in the *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America* titled "Ticcing and speaking by adults with Tourette's is distinguishable on the basis of acoustic indices of falsetto."
 - Presentation on a panel at the International Pragmatics Association titled "Cognitive strategies employed by individuals experiencing communicative difficulties."
 - Selected to participate in a workshop organized by a consortium between the Department of Mathematics at UPRM and Clark Atlanta University: the 2nd UPRM Regional Workshop on Computational Data Science-Exchange.
- Dr. José Santos
 - Participated in an interview for the literary magazine *Letralia, Tierra de Letras*, published by Wilkis Román Samot.: <https://letralia.com/entrevistas/2025/04/13/jose-e-santos/>
 - Published the following books:
 - Santos, José E. *Crestomatía interior* (Antología poética, 1987–2020). Obsidiana Press, 2024.
 - Santos, José E. *Flechas son de Diana: Ensayos*. Isla Negra Editores, 2024.
- Dr. Jaime Martell
 - Published the following book: *Monstruos, portentos y metamorfoseados*. Microbestiario. Abril 2025.

- Dra. Ángela Valentín Rodríguez
 - Speaker at the First Latin-Americanist Congress: “AMÉRICA LATINA: ARTE, CULTURA Y LITERATURA,” Department of Hispanic and Iberian Studies, University of Zadar, Croatia (26–27 September 2024). Paper title: “Distopía nuestra de cada día: la realidad actual de las mujeres puertorriqueñas a través de la ciencia ficción de Ana María Fuster.”
 - Poetry and musical performance at the Festival Internacional de Poesía del Bío Bío – Wednesday, 16 October 2024, Figueroa Chapel Amphitheater.
 - Keynote Speaker for the opening conference of Asia-Africa Fest, Department of Humanities, UPR-Mayagüez – “Poesía marroquí escrita por mujeres,” 22 October 2024, Chardón 218.
 - Presenter at the Annual WISPS Conference (Women in Spanish and Portuguese Studies), Westminster University, London (31 October – 2 November 2024). Paper title: “Distopía nuestra de cada día: la ciencia ficción escrita por mujeres puertorriqueñas en el siglo XXI.”
 - Contributor to the national anthology Poetas de Puerto Rico in the XII Festival Internacional de Poesía, Playa Sucia Collection, 2024.
 - Contributor to the anthology Crisol de almas: Voces del mundo contra el racismo, la xenofobia y la aporofobia, Ediciones Scriba NYC, 2024.
 - Contributor to the anthology Celestina Cordero Molina, siempre viva, Editorial EDP University, 2024.
 - Publication of the short-story collection De la carne y otras fatalidades, Portadas, 2024.
 - Grant awarded by Humanities Puerto Rico and the Mellon Foundation for the project “Empowerment through Poetry,” led by Drs. Ángela Valentín (Hispanic Studies) and Ingrid Rodríguez (Social Sciences) – February 2025.
 - Contributor to Poetas de Puerto Rico in the XIII Festival Internacional de Poesía, Playa Sucia Collection, 2025.
 - Invited presenter of De la carne y otras fatalidades at the UPR-Carolina Book Fair – Wednesday, 26 February 2025.
 - Presenter of Mirada urbana y variaciones poéticas by Yvonne Ochart and Ana María Fuster Lavín (Caligrama Editorial, 2025) – Leticia Ruiz Rosado, Museum of the History of Aguadilla, Tuesday, 25 March 2025.
 - Speaker at the LASA–Puerto Rico Section Conference “Futuros terrenales y luchas,” 27–29 March 2025. Paper title: “Futuros imaginarios y afrofuturismo puertorriqueño: nuevas coordenadas para la nación en Afroalgoritmos de Yolanda Arroyo Pizarro.”
 - Speaker at the 1st International Congress on Philosophical Thought, Literature, and Women, Universidad del Valle, Cali, Colombia (9–10 April 2025). Paper title: “Futuros imaginarios y afrofuturismo puertorriqueño: nuevas coordenadas de raza y género en Afroalgoritmos de Yolanda Arroyo Pizarro.”
 - Invited panelist for the Conversation on Science Fiction and Fantasy Literature in Puerto Rico, Semana de la Lengua, UPR-Mayagüez – Tarzán Room, 22 April 2025.
- Dra. Dalia S. González
 - Publications:

- “Resistir, la luz de la poesía contra el caos del mundo” (Anthology of over 200 authors), May 2025
- “Del campo a la ciudad: lenguaje, poder y marginalidad en los cuentos de Bosch y Alcántara”, In press Ediciones Callejón.
- Externally funded initiatives and projects
 - Project Coordinator – Proyecto de Escritura Creativa sobre el Cambio Climático, Implementation period: October 2023 – May 2025.
- Presentations
 - “Espacios colonizados y narrativas de pérdida: una lectura geohumanística de Vanessa Vilches Norat”, November 1–2, 2024, University of Westminster, London.
 - No-lugares y fronteras: Apropiación y resistencia en Doce versiones de soledad de Janette Becerra., September 26–27, 2024, *América Latina: Arte, Cultura y Literatura* Congress, University of Zadar, Croatia.
 - La otredad urbana de San Juan en El entierro de Cortijo: mirada, escucha y periplos del cronista Edgardo Rodríguez Juliá, June 20–21, 2024, International Colloquium *El “otro” Caribe: Perspectivas desde la Sorbonne Nouvelle*, Paris, France.
 - Book Presentation – “La carne y otras fatalidades” by Ángela María Valentín, at the Book Fair, University of Puerto Rico, Carolina Campus.

Objective 6. To impact our Puerto Rican society

- As part of the *Proyecto de Escritura Creativa sobre el Cambio Climático (PECC)*, a series of creative writing workshops was conducted in public high schools across the western region of Puerto Rico. The workshops, held between February and May, focused on literary genres such as the love letter, poetry, and short narrative. Designed to develop students’ creative writing skills, the sessions were supported by specialized instructional materials provided by professors and writers.
 - Each school received a two-session cycle: the first introduced writing about climate change through guided exercises, while the second provided personalized feedback and culminated in students’ active participation in the creation of a written piece centered on the project’s core theme.
 Participating schools included:
 - Escuela Superior Eugenio María de Hostos (Mayagüez)
 - Escuela Dr. Carlos González (Aguada)
 - Escuela Manuel García Pérez (Rincón)
- The general community, and the university community were invited to the activities of *Semana de la Lengua*. This year’s *Semana de la Lengua* was dedicated to the literary genres of science fiction and horror. The program included the following activities:
 - Panel discussion on Science Fiction and Fantastic Literature in Puerto Rico
 - The presentation of *Andújar: El Robot Galán de San Juan* by Carolina Cardona, writer and UPRM alumna.
 - Panel discussion on horror genres in Puerto Rico

- Faculty members from the department participated in the celebration of International Mother Language Day, organized by the Puerto Rico Department of Education. The following lectures were delivered:
 - Lecture: Adquisición y desarrollo del lenguaje – Dr. Alexandra Morales Reyes
 - Lecture: El español puertorriqueño – Dr. Mayrim Llorens
- In collaboration with the Teacher Preparation Program, a Seminar on Children's and Young Adult Literature was held for teachers from the Department of Education (DE), librarians, parents and/or guardians, and education students from the University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez.
- The Department of Hispanic Studies launched the first season of the *Encuentros Literarios*, a community initiative aimed at promoting emotional well-being and reducing social isolation among older adults in western Puerto Rico. The sessions, moderated by faculty members, combined literary reading with artistic activities such as music, creative writing, and visual arts to foster personal expression. Three sessions were held on March 1, April 5, and May 17, 2025, each with the participation of approximately 20 retired individuals, including former teachers and professionals from various fields.
- Hosted the International Poetry Festival, featuring participants Paola Senseve (Bolivia), Paul Catafago (Palestine/Lebanon), and Amariliz Rivera (Puerto Rico).

Objective 7. To strengthen school spirit, pride, and identity

- An achievement day was held to recognize honor roll students.
- A social media campaign titled "Get to Know Our Faculty" was launched, with the goal of introducing the department's faculty members to the broader community.