

## Departamento de Estudios Hispánicos - Informe Anual (2023-2024)

### *C. To institutionalize a culture of strategic planning and assessment*

- An academic assessment plan for 2024-2027 was developed and will be submitted for faculty approval in August.
- An exit survey was given to students who graduated in the 2023-2024 academic year.
- All hiring processes for a new Literature faculty member were finalized by December 31, 2023.
- All hiring processes for a new Linguistics faculty member were finalized by June 30, 2024.

### *D. 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:
  - Curricular Sequence in Writing and Oral Communication
  - Course: Oral Communication I
  - Course: 21st Century Science Fiction by Puerto Rican Women
- The course ESPA 3131 was evaluated through:
  - Pre- and post-tests to assess digital literacy knowledge
  - Course satisfaction survey
- Two professional development lectures were organized:
  - One by Dr. Vibeke Betances on managing inferences for reading comprehension, and another by Dr. Hilton Alers on the use of artificial intelligence in the classroom. Both lectures were recorded, edited, and uploaded to YouTube.

### *E. To increase and diversify the Institution's sources of revenue*

- The department has a funding source through Rumex courses. This funding enabled the acquisition of air conditioners for four classrooms, enhancing the facilities for students and professors. The AC units are scheduled to be installed in July 2024.

### *F. To implement efficient and expedient administrative procedures*

- Administrative staff completed a government contracting course from the *Oficina del Controlador* de Puerto Rico.
- The digitization of student and faculty records is ongoing.

### *G. To strengthen research and competitive creative endeavors*

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

- **Presentaciones:**
  - Acosta Lugo, Maribel & Giron Jacqueline 2023 Presentación en el programa *En la punta de la Lengua de Caridad Sorongo* para hablar sobre la investigación de la obra y el legado de René Marqués.
  - Alers Valentín, Hilton. ChatGPT: ¿Con qué o quién estoy hablando? Ciclo de Diálogos sobre la Inteligencia Artificial. PUCPR, Ponce. 24 de octubre de 2023.

- Alers Valentín, Hilton. ¿Qué es la Inteligencia Artificial y los Modelos Masivos de Lenguaje? Charla a estudiantes de Literacidad Académica. RUM. 7 de noviembre de 2023.
- Alers Valentín, Hilton. Towards a Biologically-Plausible Computational Model of Human Language Cognition. ICAART 2024, Roma. 26 de febrero de 2024.
- Alers Valentín, Hilton. Retos de la Inteligencia Artificial y Modelos Masivos de Lenguaje en la educación universitaria. Charla-taller a profesores de Literacidad Académica. RUM. 5 de abril de 2024.
- Alers Valentín, Hilton. Hacia una inteligencia Artificial Confiable. Foro: Impacto de la Inteligencia Artificial en la Educación Superior. CoHemis, RUM. 18 de abril de 2024.
- Alers Valentín, Hilton. Modeling syntactic knowledge with neuro-symbolic computation. 2024 NSF CISE-MSI Grantees Meeting. Denver, CO. 23 de mayo de 2024.
- Figueroa Meléndez, Manuel. Presentación del libro Juan Ramón Ramos Vélez. Los Ramos de Manatí. Centro de las Artes de Manatí. Domingo, 20 de agosto de 2023.
- Figueroa Meléndez, Manuel. XXI Seminario Residencial, El impacto del cambio climático en la operación de las cooperativas. Punta Cana, República Dominicana. Del 19 al 22 de octubre de 2023.
- González S. Dalia. Junio 20-21, 2024 - “La otredad urbana de San Juan en El entierro de Cortijo: mirada, escucha y periplos del cronista Edgardo Rodríguez Juliá.” Coloquio Internacional El “otro” Caribe. Perspectivas desde la Sorbonne Nouvelle, París, Francia. (Remoto)
- González S. Dalia. Marzo 13-15, 2024 - “Entrecruzamientos de las ciudades de San Juan y Río de Janeiro en las narrativas de Rubem Fonseca y Edgardo Rodríguez Juliá” Simposio: Cuerpos, tiempos, territorios: cruces, estallidos e imaginarios entre el Caribe y Latinoamérica. IV Congreso Internacional El Caribe en sus Literaturas y Culturas, Córdoba, Argentina. (Remoto).
- Rivera Villegas, Carmen. La obra crítica de María Solá. Presentación de la Semana de la Lengua. UPR-RUM, 23 de abril de 2024.
- Rivera Villegas, Carmen. Presentación del libro Borinquen Field de Marta Aponte Alsina. UPR-RUM, 9 de marzo de 2024.
- **Publicaciones:**
  - Alers-Valentin, H., Fong, S. & Vega-Riveros, J.F. (2023). Modeling syntactic knowledge with neuro-symbolic computation. In *Proceedings of the 15th International Conference on Agents and Artificial Intelligence*, volume 3, pages 608–616.
  - Alers-Valentin, H. & Fong, S. (2024). Towards a Biologically-Plausible Computational Model of Human Language Cognition. In *Proceedings of the 16th International Conference on Agents and Artificial Intelligence (ICAART 2024) - Volume 3*, pages 1108-1118
  - Figueroa Meléndez, Manuel. (2023) Libro Juan Ramón Ramos Vélez. Los Ramos de Manatí.

- Figueroa Meléndez, Manuel. Libro de investigación histórica, La Casa del Rey de Manatí, Universo Hispánico, 2024.
- Figueroa Meléndez, Manuel. Publicación del libro de poesía, Vacío Cósmico, Universo Hispánico, 2024.
- Martell Morales, J. (2024). Para llegar a Rodríguez Juliá: notas, crónicas y cartografía en "Encuentros en el territorio Rodríguez Juliá". *Ceiba*, 1(1), 134–143. Recuperado a partir de <https://revistas.upr.edu/index.php/ceiba/article/view/21380>
- Morales Reyes, A., Pérez Vargas, José C., Rolke, W., Siberón J.(2024) English skills of Puerto Rican students: the effect of gender, SES and school socioeconomic composition. *International Journal of the Sociology of Language*, 2024(286), 23-51. <https://doi.org/10.1515/ijsl-2023-0022> Versión preprint
- Rivera Villegas C. Rocío Luque Colautti (2024) Desde el Caribe para el mundo: Lengua y comunicación [https://ufl.pb.unizin.org/desde\\_el\\_caribe/](https://ufl.pb.unizin.org/desde_el_caribe/)
- Valentín Rodríguez, Ángela. (2024) La ciencia ficción escrita por mujeres puertorriqueñas del siglo XXI. Muestrario de textos y estudio preliminar. – Sometida y aceptada para publicación a Editorial EDP University.
- Valentín Rodríguez, Ángela. (2024) “Mujer, naturaleza y vida en el Venas del desierto de la poeta marroquí Lamiae El Amrani”.- Artículo sometido y en espera de aceptación a la revista académica Punto y coma, de la Universidad del Sagrado Corazón.

#### H. To impact our Puerto Rican society

- A free creative writing and film workshop was provided for high school and university students, with participants from across the island.
- Surrounding schools, the general community, and the university community were invited to a conversation with distinguished writer Esmeralda Santiago during la Semana de la Lengua.
- Over 300 people, including teachers, alumni, and high school students, participated in these events.

#### I. To strengthen school spirit, pride, and identity

- An achievement day was held to recognize honor roll students.
- A campaign was launched to maintain and strengthen connections with department alumni. An alumni mailing list was created to keep in touch and invite them to departmental events.