

Real Colegio Complutense Cambridge, MA (USA)



**September 2006
Bulletin #12**

Welcome to the monthly electronic bulletin of the Real Colegio Complutense at Harvard University. Its purpose is to provide, past and future researchers and interested friends, a sense of what is going on at the RCC, and to maintain the contact with our Alumni.

We invite your comments and suggestions at rcc-info@camail.harvard.edu (Elizabeth Kline)

Angel Saenz-Badillos, Director



Major Activities in September

The Real Colegio Complutense experiences major changes as the summer ends and the fall begins. The flurry of activity lessens with the return of many researchers to Spain. New researchers arrive, however, and immediately get settled in their office spaces and spend hours in the Harvard University libraries and classes. Several of these people have commented on how friendly the Harvard professors are and how much they appreciate meeting them in person and being accepted into their classes.

The Inauguration (Opening Ceremony) of the Real Colegio Complutense for the academic year 2006-2007 took place on Friday, September 15.



Guitarist George Little

Violinist Gabriel Solomon

The program included introductions by each RCC researcher, brief speeches by Director Angel Saenz-Badillos, Harvard Dean Margot Gill, and Academic Council Member Brad Epps, a violin/guitar concert of classical Spanish music, and a reception.



Official Photo of RCC Researchers and Students 2006-2007

The RCC lecture series will begin on October 5th, delayed one week because Academic Council member and RCC Treasurer, Professor David Kennedy, delivered a talk on September 28, 2006 at the Cambridge Forum in Harvard Square.

The RCC Friday evening movie series began in September:

September 22: *La vida secreta de las palabras. The Secret Life of Words*. Isabel Coixet, 2005. Goya Winner 2006

September 29: *Tierra*. Julio Medem, 1996. Julio Medem Monographic Series



María Luisa Gómez from Universidad de Málaga, a current RCC researcher, and a Fellow at the Joint Center for Housing Studies spoke on September 14, 2006 on “**Opportunities and Comparative Aspects in Housing Public Policy: United States of America & Spain, the needs of the elderly**”. Coincidentally, it was María’s birthday and the Joint Center provided cake for everyone.

Upcoming Activities

Seminar on Finance Law: October 23-27, 2006. Directors: Francisco Cabrillo, UCM, and Fernando Gómez, UPF. Coordinator: Rocío Albert. Sponsor: Fundación Rafael del Pino.

IV Seminar on Commerce Law: October 30 and 31, 2006. Directors: David Kennedy , Harvard University and Juan Sánchez-Calero, UCM. Sponsor: ICO et al.

RCC Thursday evening lectures at 7:30 PM:

October 5: Gloria Corpas, University of Málaga, *Tourism Contracts in the WWW: a Multidisciplinary and Multilingual Approach to Research*

October 12:Guillermo Guerra

October 19: Pablo Díaz

October 26:Marina Aguilar

RCC Friday evening films at 7:30 PM:

October 6: *La niña de tus ojos. The Girl of Your Dreams.* Fernando Trueba, 1998. Goya Winner 1998

October 13: *El método. The Method.* Marcelo Piñeyro, 2005. Goya Winner 2006

October 20 :*El séptimo día. The Seventh Day.* Carlos Saura, 2004. Carlos Saura Monographic Series

October 27: *Barrio.* Fernando León, 1998. Fernando León Monographic Series

Current Researchers

Newcomers

Jésus Martín Ramírez, Psychobiology, UCM

Ricardo Mateo, Business, U. of Navarra

Arturo Prats Oliván, Hebrew Literature, UCM

José Fernández-Albertos, Political Science, UCM

Marina Aguilar Rubio, Law, U. Almería

Raúl Fernández Fraile, Philosophy, Universidad Pontificia Comillas

Continuing Researchers

Demetrio Castro Alfin, History, U. Pública de Navarra

Carmen Alba Pastor, Education, UCM

María Frías, African American Literature, U. of Coruña.

Judit Targarona Borrás, Hebrew and Medieval Literature Studies, UCM.

Guillermo Guerra Martín, Commercial Law, U. Rey Juan Carlos

Gloria Corpas Pastor, English Philology, U. of Málaga

Carlos Vargas Vasserot, Law, U. Almería

Maria Luisa Gómez Jiménez Housing, U. de Málaga

Eva Botella Ordinas, History, U. Autónoma de Madrid

Alejandra Bernabei, Law, UCM

M. Victoria Rivas López, Business, UCM

José Manuel Cortés Martín, Public Law, U. Pablo De Olavide de Sevilla

Carmen López Escribano, Education-Psychology, UCM

Pablo Diaz Gridilla, Law, ICADE/Garrigues

Miguel Vázquez, Linguist, UCM and Northeastern U.

Interview with M. Victoria Rivas



“I’m surprised at how friendly Americans are, at least those in Boston and Cambridge. And I feel happy walking on the streets.” These comments from M. Victoria Rivas, a Visiting Researcher at the Harvard Business School from the Universidad Complutense de Madrid, express common feelings of visiting Spanish researchers and students.

Her surprise and pleasure extended to the way she celebrated her birthday here. Her five English-speaking women roommates, who share a large house in Cambridge, bought her presents. At dinner (she had two, one with the Americans and another with Spanish friends), the waiter and everyone else in the restaurant sang “Happy Birthday” to her as she was presented with a cake and a lit candle.

Victoria chose to use many opportunities, such as living with Americans, to improve her English and understand American culture. Like many RCC researchers, she took a course in English. She recommends that future Spanish researchers “mix the RCC life with life outside. RCC provides comfort: You speak Spanish there all the time, eat at Spanish hours, and have a quiet space to do work. Yet, you miss out if you don’t also meet and talk with Americans and other peoples from all over the world: Koreans, Chinese, Germans, and many other nations.”

Another surprise was the large portions of food. What pleased her, however, was the popular tradition of taking home any left-overs. “It is a good custom”. Another common practice in Cambridge and Boston is walking. The cities are pedestrian-friendly. She does, however, recommend that women bring sandals or some other kind of comfortable walking shoes.

Professionally, Victoria has only high praise for Harvard University and RCC. After sending out many e-mails in advance of her stay, she connected to several Harvard professors who are very important in her field of financial decisions by insurance companies. She found experts in both business and statistics. One, Associate Professor Luis Viceira at the Harvard Business School, spent considerable time with her as her informal supervisor. He even introduced her to Baker Library, where she spends hours and hours doing research in a quiet, relaxed atmosphere. “Baker is particularly great when the temperatures are either hot or cold because there is a tunnel that students take to go from the library to the cafeteria. The cafeteria serves inexpensive, good food. I learned about it from a librarian who literally showed me how to walk from one place to the other.”

Victoria found that Baker Library has “so many books, articles, and papers...and the people are very helpful.” Besides the Harvard libraries, there is the Harvard Coop (bookstore). “The second day after I arrived, I went to the Harvard Coop in Harvard Square. I couldn’t decide which books to buy. I wanted them all!”

In addition to Luis Viceira, Victoria met other professors, such as Rustam Ibragimov, who works in her specialty area. Her experience here made her want to return. “I want to come back”, she said as she gets ready to return to Spain. “My friend Monica Fuentes was right in encouraging me to come here.” She added that it might be even better to come during the academic year (rather than during the summer months) when Harvard is in session. Many fellows take advantage of the Harvard affiliation to take courses, listen to lectures, and meet professors who are away during the non-academic months.

“I came to Harvard because it is one of the best universities in the world. I came also to improve my English and to learn more about Americans. In this global economy, it is important to travel to and spend time in the USA. I’m very glad that I came.”

From Our Alumni/ae Association

We encourage all RCC alums to email us information about their research projects, articles, books, and other related activities. We really encourage former RCC researchers to view their contact information on our website, under “Antiguos Colegiales”, (www.realcolegiocomplutense.harvard.edu) and email Elizabeth Kline of any desired changes (rcc-info@camail.harvard.edu). We also want to publicize any articles and/or books based on your research while at RCC. Email these references and they will appear in the next monthly bulletin.

There is an official **Asociación de Colegiales del Real Colegio Complutense en Harvard:**

Presidente: Ignacio Rodríguez-Alfageme

Vicepres.: Octavio Ruiz-Manjón

Secretaria: María Pérez-Ugena

Tesorera: Elena Gallego

Vocales: José Luis de Castro, Emilio García Silvero, Tiscar Lara,
Esteban Moro, Judit Targarona