

Real Colegio Complutense Cambridge, MA (USA)

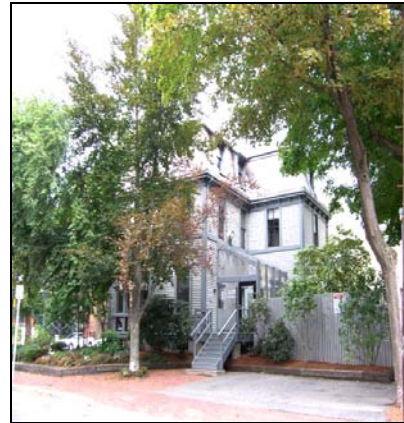


**November 2006
Bulletin #14**

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 November

Seminars are over and many Spanish faculty have returned to Spain to teach. November is a busy time for researchers who remain at RCC: auditing classes, doing research in the libraries, studying English, and experiencing the USA elections on November 7th.

Several RCC researchers joined Program Coordinator Elizabeth Kline at a community Thanksgiving dinner on November 21, 2006.



There was a grand Thanksgiving dinner celebrated at RCC, thanks to the hard work of Judit Taragona. The conference room was transformed into a dining place for the occasion. The Spanish Consul, Carlos Robles, and one of RCC's founders Francisco Marquez Villanueva joined in the festivities.



Many fellows give lectures at Harvard University departments. For example, Carmen López Alonso spoke at the Center for European Studies on November 8, 2006 – a day before she gave her lecture at RCC.



Upcoming Activities

RCC's Academic Council meets in Madrid on December 18, 2006.

RCC Thursday evening lectures at 7:30 PM:

December 7: Demetrio Castro, *Anticlericalism in Modern Spain: From moral attitude to collective action*

December 14: Carmen Alba, *Inclusion and Higher Education: Shaping accessible universities for students with disabilities*

December 21: Alejandra Bernabei, *European Union Competition Law: Reform Guidelines*

RCC Friday evening films at 7:30 PM:

December 1: *Princesas*, directed by Fernando León (2005)

December 8: *La celestina*, directed by Gerardo Vera (1996)

December 15: *La lengua de las mariposas (Butterfly)*, directed by José Luis Cuerda (1999).

Current Researchers

Continuing Researchers

Demetrio Castro Alfin, History, U. Pública de Navarra

Carmen Alba Pastor, Education, UCM

Carmen López Alonso, Political Science, UCM

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

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

Carlos Vargas Vasserot, Law, U. Almeria

Eva Botella Ordinas, History, U. Autónoma de Madrid

Alejandra Bernabei, Law, UCM

Pablo Diaz Gridilla, Law, ICADE/Garrigues

Jésus Martín Ramírez, Psychobiology, UCM

Ricardo Mateo, Business, U. of Navarra

Arturo Prats Oliván, Hebrew Literature, UCM

José Fernández-Albertos, Political Science, UCM

Raúl Fernández Fraile, Philosophy, Universidad Pontificia Comillas

Pedro Chalmeta, History/Law, UCM

Tina Lindhard Ramirez, Psychologist, Cranial Sacral Therapist, Arka Dhyana (Intuitive Meditation) Teacher

Interview with Eva Botella

I couldn't believe it when I received an immediate response to my message from a professor who is very important in my field. I read Professor Armitage's book and went to the Internet to find out where he works. It turned out to be Harvard University in Cambridge, MA. I then discovered that the Real Colegio Complutense offers office space

and, through an agreement with my university, scholarships to come study at Harvard. So, I wrote to him explaining my research, my PhD, and my project.

Initially, I could not believe that the man who is probably the most knowledgeable in my field and area of research was willing to be my sponsor. What I've learned since being here is that he and others at Harvard University share an attitude that no matter how important you are or are not, they are willing to help you out. He provides very useful commentaries on drafts of my paper and articles. He always responds with an intellectual curiosity and a human concern.

I feel so fortunate because, from the beginning, Harvard professors have suggested references (books, articles, talks) that are very important for my work. I have benefited, so far, from participating in seminars, listening to lectures, and exchanging ideas with students and faculty. For example, when I participate in a seminar with others in the History Department, I am treated as a member of that department. Indeed, they asked me to give a lecture in March, 2007.

I learn so much from listening to the interesting and challenging work of others – the Atlantic Seminar of Professor Bailyn last August was an unforgettable experience in this sense. Harvard University encourages inter-disciplinary research and looks even a bit suspiciously at someone who focuses only on a single discipline. This attitude has encouraged me to go to seminars, courses, and lectures in other areas, such as gender studies, sociology, politics, literature, and anthropology. At Harvard, people have a curiosity about other disciplines and encourage openness of thinking. This approach has opened my mind to new ideas, new ways of teaching, and new experiences. I have written several long articles and papers while at the RCC. Here, at the Real Colegio Complutense, I have as well enjoyed and learned very much from this sort of academic exchange, and I met some people so nice and important for me that I feel that their friendship is solid and brilliant like a diamond.

Although much of my time is focused on research work and writing, I have also enjoyed my six months' living where I do in Somerville, MA. I have a wonderful, nice and smart Brazilian Professor at Tufts University as landlady, and share an apartment with friendly and very clever researchers at M.I.T. from Italy, Germany, and Brazil. Our common language is English; so, I've improved my speaking in English. It is a cosy place – easy-going and natural. Often, we prepare and eat dinners together and the nicest neighbors ever join us. We laugh, we talk about everything and they are for the good and for the bad moments.

I have found many people in Boston and Cambridge to be friendly. Women stop me on the street to compliment me on my clothes. I do not feel any sense of jealousy. On the bus, I often get into conversations with people. I've been invited to a couple of parties too.

The time is going so quickly. Fortunately, I still have six more months here. I know, already, that I am a changed person. I cannot say that I was a conventional person when I arrived here, but I know that I will be more comfortable experimenting in my teaching. Perhaps, I will incorporate even more discussion time and use the Internet, power point presentations, and movies in my classes.

In addition, I have embraced the "English way of writing", which is focused on key points (messages). The unbelievable amount of research we do is even more efficient by taking into account more how our audience is receiving what we are saying or writing.

My experience has also taught me to see that exchanges are normal and desirable. I will encourage more interactions so that I and others can learn from each other.

When asked to give advice to others considering coming to RCC, I encourage them to forget about the “big” names and the authority of Harvard University. Instead, focus on looking behind these labels and their stature and go for learning and the meaning of knowledge for them. I feel that in Harvard people can “talk with crowds and keep their virtue, or walk with kings not losing the common touch” just because everybody shares the passion of knowledge, and knowledge is democratic, only reachable through exchanges. Harvard has so much to offer each of us.

Because Eva wears traditional clothes from Cádiz in Andalucía, she deserves two photos!



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