

## Real Colegio Complutense Cambridge, MA (USA)



**March, 2007**  
**Bulletin #18**

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](mailto:rcc-info@camail.harvard.edu) (Elizabeth Kline)

Angel Saenz-Badillos, Director



### Major Activities in March

Sometimes at RCC, we have informal parties to encourage visiting researchers and scholars to get to know each other better and have fun. On February 28<sup>th</sup>, we celebrated Andalucia Day by drinking wine and eating paella (made by Antonio Diéguez from the University of Málaga). Here are two photos: one of some of the party-goers and the other of the food/wine. Eva Botella, originally from Andalucia, wore traditional clothes.





RCC Party Food & Drinks

One of the RCC Fellows wrote the following poem to entertain others who wait at a #86 bus stop. A copy was placed in a box that some anonymous person built and placed for such a purpose:

*"Eighty six minutes waiting for the BUS.*

*Wandering thoughts. Wavering mind. Hearts beating.*

*HOPE S T A N D I N G.*

*Waiting for the bus is just not enough.*

*Coming minutes, and hours, and days.  
Time will come, and weeks, and years.*

*IN HOPE.*

*Fairies determined to bring us THERE.*

*Where the 86 would like to drive US.  
When the 86 would like to appear.*

*Under the frozen SUN.*

*Over the dusty EARTH."*

Often, researchers can be found chatting in the main gathering room. Some eat their lunches here when the cold weather prevents going outside. The white line in the photo below is a post which holds up the ceiling.



RCC Fellows Conversing with Each Other

## Upcoming Activities

### **Lecture Series (7:30 PM, Free, in English)**

April 5: Manuel Lucena-Giraldo, *The Empire of Cities: Urban Models in Colonial Spanish America*

April 12: Elena González-Blanco, *The Spanish cuaderna vía. Origins and development in Romance Languages*

April 19: Antonio Diéguez, *Two Opposing Views of Technology*

April 26: Eva Botella, *Spanish Imperial Decline and British Imperial Rise: A colonial debate*

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### **Film Series (7:30 PM, Free, in Spanish with English Subtitles)**

April 6: *El lobo*, Miguel Courtois, 2004

April 13: *Honor de cavallería*, Albert Serra, 2006

April 20: *La niña santa*, Lucrecia Martel, 2004

April 27: *Mujeres al borde de un ataque*, Pedro Almodóvar, 1988

## Current Researchers

### Continuing Researchers (with Offices at RCC)

**Demetrio Castro Alfin**, History, U. Pública de Navarra

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

**Eva Botella Ordinas**, History, U. Autónoma de Madrid

**Arturo Prats Oliván**, Hebrew Literature, UCM

**Raúl Fernández Fraile**, Philosophy, Universidad Pontificia Comillas

**Pedro Chalmeta**, History/Law, UCM

**Antonio Martínez Marín**, Administrative Law, U. of Murcia

**Bjoern Arp**, International Law, U. of Alcalá

**André de Sousa**, Commercial Law, U. of Barcelona

**Antonio Diéguez Lucena**, Philosophy, U. of Málaga

**Julia Mendoza**, Classics, UCM

**Diego Rodríguez Rodríguez**, International Economics, UCM

**Francisco Javier Pueyo**, Sephardic Language and Literature, CSIC

#### New Researchers

**Miguel Vasquez-Larruscaín**, Linguistics, UCM & Northeastern U.

**Josep Puig**, Philosophy, UCM

**M. Victoria López Cordón**, History, UCM (for the month of March)

## Interview with Rosa Urbano



*Rosa Urbano is an example of many Spanish researchers and students who receive partial scholarships from RCC. To date, the interviews have been conducted with researchers who have an office at RCC. Rosa is a full-time Harvard University student, who benefits from Harvard and RCC's partnership arrangement.*

“I came to the USA because of my specialty in technology and design. I am a Spanish architect, having received my degree in 2003. Initially, I began my PhD studies

at the Polytechnical University in Madrid. After two years, I spent my third year (last year) in the United Kingdom. By then, my research introduced me to authors and professors in the United States.

My field is quite specialized: there are only a few people who do research on technology and design. I decided to come to the USA and learn from some of these people. I applied for and received a Fulbright scholarship, which provides most of the payment towards a masters degree.

So, here I am in my fourth year of a PhD program and also getting my Masters in Design Studies at Harvard University's Graduate School of Design! Once admitted to Harvard, I received a letter which included information about the Real Colegio Complutense. Everyone was so kind and helped me apply for a RCC scholarship, which helps pay for items not covered by my Fulbright.

I feel so fortunate. I received, from the Fulbright Program staff, an orientation in Madrid and another one (also sponsored by IIE) in Portland, Oregon. From some Spanish-speaking people in the Cambridge/Boston area, I found out about various websites (craigslist and Iberia) that I used to find housing. If I have a problem, I send an email and soon get many responses. This helps in getting settled in a new place.

This kind of quick response is what surprises me about my life here at Harvard. Professors answer my emails right away. I even received responses when I wrote from Spain before coming here. Once here, I communicated with the Daylighting Laboratory, in the Department of Architecture Building Technology at MIT. Within days, I met with the director and formed a collaboration! Everything seems so flexible here. You speak to someone and possibilities open up.

In my first semester, I felt a bit overwhelmed – getting adjusted, trying hard to understand my classes in English, doing the homework, conducting research, and spending time with my husband. Initially, I was so worried about my English skills that I did not listen well.

Now, in this semester, I feel so much more comfortable. I've been able to go to New York City twice, spending time with the Spanish woman whom I met in the UK when we were both there doing research and going to a traditional American Thanksgiving dinner. I've visited historic places in Massachusetts – Salem, Rockport, and Cape Cod. I've been coming to some of RCC's events – lectures and films.

I find that the longer that I am in the USA, the more that I feel like a stranger when I return to Madrid on visits as well as the more I feel Spanish. I enjoy seeing Spanish films at RCC because I enjoy Spanish jokes, Spanish culture, and Spanish life.

My time away from Spain has allowed me to see myself differently. I've changed. For example, after experiencing the openness and helpful nature of people in the USA and UK, I now offer help to foreigners when I see them in Madrid searching for something. I will have many more experiences, as my grant lasts until September, 2007.”

### **From Our Alumni/ae Association**

Former Visiting Scholar, Almudena Hernando, from UCM's Department of History is involved in a research project in the Brazilian Amazon. Her story was described in the *Tribuna Complutense* (March 8, 2007). She and researcher Alfredo González Ruibal

went to the state of Maranhao in the Amazon where the Awá Indians live. Their way of life is being undermined by deforestation by “madereros” who illegally enter the protected reserves. The article calls attention to these very negative impacts to encourage corrective actions.

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](http://www.realcolegiocomplutense.harvard.edu)) and email Elizabeth Kline of any desired changes ([rcc-info@camail.harvard.edu](mailto: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