

## Real Colegio Complutense Cambridge, MA (USA)



**December 2005  
Bulletin #3**

Welcome to the third 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 December

Every Thursday evening, one of the researchers gave a talk and responded to questions:

On December 1st, Abel Arias Castaño from U. of Oviedo spoke about *Clear & Present Danger Test & Democracy*.

On December 8<sup>th</sup>, Leonor Rams from U. Rey Juan Carlos gave a talk on *The Public's Right of Access to Documents*.

The last lecture before the holidays was a talk by Daniel Parejo connected with the Fundación Garrigues-Garrigues Abogados on *Institutional Investors*.

On December 14, Prof. Rafael Rodriguez Prieto from the U. Pablo de Olavide de Sevilla gave a special lecture on *Revisiting Ralph Miliband's Political Thoughts*.

On three Friday evenings, RCC hosted free films: *El día de la bestia (Day of the Beast)*; *Valentina (Crónica del Alba I)*; *1919 Crónica del Alba II*.

## **Special Video Conference**

The second annual conference celebrating the Spanish Constitution was held at RCC on December 5, in conjunction with the University of Cadiz (EUEJE, Campus Algeciras). The topic was “The De-Centralization Process in Spain”.

Organized by Angel Sáenz-Badillos, Rafael Rodríguez Prieto, Yanna Franco, and José Joaquín Fernández Alles (Prof. Titular de Derecho Constitucional, Univ. de Cádiz), views were shared and exchanged between people in the audience at RCC and those at the U. of Cadiz.

### Participants from RCC:

Abel Arias, Prof. Ay. de Derecho Constitucional, Univ. de Oviedo  
Carme Fernández, Prof. de la Universidad de A Coruña  
José Fernández Albertos, PhD Candidate, Dpt. Government, Harvard University  
Albert Bravo, PhD. Candidate Economics, Harvard University

### Participants from Universidad de Cádiz (Spain)

José Joaquín Fernández Alles (Prof. Titular de Derecho Constitucional, Univ. de Cádiz)  
Pablo A. Fernández Sánchez (Catedrático de Derecho Internacional, Univ. de Huelva)  
Rafael Machuca (Prof. Titular de Derecho del Trabajo, Universidad de Cádiz)

## **Academic Council Meeting**

The RCC Academic Council met in Madrid on Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>. The group focused on a number of items including ways to increase participation of UCM senior and junior faculty in RCC activities. Two special conferences were approved (one on humanities, organized by Prof. Brad Epps, and another on scientific topics, organized by Prof. M. A. Alarios). Most of the 2005 courses will be repeated in 2006; it is possible that some new courses will be organized. Go to the RCC webpage for up-to-date information/.

## **Request for Grant Applications**

There is now a call for grants from the Garrigues-UCM for law faculty who are young and for law professionals.

## **Current Researchers**

The number of research fellows and associates varies during the year. We are the busiest during the summer months.

The 17 of the 18 people who had offices at the RCC in November remained for most of December. Their fields include economics, law, politics, romance languages, philosophy, African American literature, economics & literature, and Hebrew poetry.

**Milagros Alvarez Verdugo**, Law, U. of Barcelona.

**Abel Arias Castaño**, Law, U. of Oviedo.

**Germa Bel**, Political Economy, U. of Barcelona.

**José Antonio Carrasco Gallego**, Economics, U. Rey Juan Carlos.

**Carme Fernández Pérez-Sanjulián**, Romance Literature, U. of A Coruña.

**Yanna G. Franco**, Law, UCM.

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

**Angel Ignacio Laparte**, Law, U. of Zaragoza.

**Matías Irigoyen Testa**, Punitive Law, UCM.

**Sheila Muñoz Muñoz**, Law, U. of Valencia.

**Daniel Parejo Ballestro**, Corporate Law, UCM.

**Josep Puig Montada**, Islamic Philosophy, UCM.

**Leonor Rams Ramos**, Administrative Law, U. Rey Juan Carlos.

**Rafael Rodríguez Prieto**, European Law, U. Pablo de Olvide de Sevilla.

**Manuel Santos Redondo**, History of Economic Thought, UCM.

**Judit Targarona Borrás**, Hebrew and Arabic Studies, UCM.

**Miguel Vázquez**, Linguist, UCM.

## Holiday Fun

The current researchers at the RCC went together to a Malaysian restaurant in Harvard Square on December 12<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the holidays. It was lots of fun and the food was fantastic.

The RCC Christmas tree brightens up the main public room



Some of the fellows came to Elizabeth Kline's (RCC Program Coordinator) nearby home to bake holiday cookies and sing Spanish and American songs.



Holiday Party (December 10, 2005)

## **Special Recognition**

One of the fellows, Rafael Rodriguez Prieto, commented on the extraordinary value of Rose Moss to RCC researchers. This former South African woman comes to RCC once a week for two hours.

“Even if you speak English fluently or teach English as a second language, it is still a terrific experience to go to Rose’s classes. You can learn so much more about American culture. You can discuss about American topics of interest. You can learn how to make contacts at American universities. You learn about how to make presentations to an American audience. Of course, you also get to practice English and have your mistakes corrected” (Rafael Rodriguez Prieto).

The Bulletin recognizes the contributions of this remarkable teacher. In addition to her work at RCC, Rose Moss also teaches creative writing to Harvard University’s Nieman Fellows.

## Interview with a Visiting Scholar



María Frías, Professor of African American Literature at the University of A Coruña in Spain, comes to the Real Colegio Complutense because of her passions and dreams. “It is a dream long deferred”, she said quoting from African American poet Langston Hughes.

After teaching in Spanish high schools and raising her daughter, Maria went back to Madrid to get a Masters and PhD. She came upon her research topic in a serendipitous way: while touring a convent in Salamanca, her daughter (knowing her mother’s professional and personal interest in African American culture, history, and people) pointed out a surprising portrait of a black nun.

Intrigued with this image, Maria went on to discover a 1752 manuscript documenting that this woman was brought from Ghana and given to a Spanish aristocratic family and then later entered the convent. Why, Maria wondered? This question led her to discover the role that the Spanish played in the “horrors of slavery”, something that Maria was not taught about in school.

At Harvard University, Maria is affiliated with the DuBois Center for African and African American Studies.

She is excited about having the time to focus a whole year on her research topic (She had previously come to Harvard U. for a summer course and a short research study); to exchange ideas and information with “wonderful” colleagues; to participate in the many seminars, lectures, and cultural events; and to listen to writers such as Jamaica Kincaid. “I had read all of her books and now I speak to her in the corridors of the DuBois Center!”

Maria “would always encourage anyone to come to RCC and Harvard University” to take advantage of the many opportunities and benefits. Still, she encouraged future researchers to come with a good knowledge of English; a clear research project in mind; take advantage of Harvard’s incredible libraries; realize that “you are dealing with people at Harvard at a high intellectual level”; and enjoy the many cultural activities that are available in the Cambridge/Boston area. She added one more piece of advice, based on her recent experiences here: “Learn about the private space that many people give you and want for themselves. This means waiting before speaking and understanding when they don’t immediately engage in a long conversation. They are simply in their own world at that moment.”

Maria ended the interview expressing the following feeling: “This is the beginning of something else in my life. Though I love teaching, I’m so glad to have the break from my academic life and know that I will return to Spain with more energy and, hopefully, a book.

## **Upcoming Events at 26 Trowbridge Street (7:30 pm)**

The following events are free and in English. Films are in Spanish with English subtitles:

### Lectures:

January 12: *Spanish Literature in the 15<sup>th</sup> century*, Prof. Luis Girón, Harvard U.

January 19: *Black Nuns in Europe: From Slavery to the Convent*, Prof. María Frías, U. of A Coruña.

January 26: *Peirce, Chomsky, & Learnability*, Prof. Miguel Vázquez, Northeastern U.

### Films:

January 6: *Te doy mis ojos (Take My Eyes)*, Icíar Bollaín, 2003.

January 13: *El otro lado de la cama (The Other Side of the Bed)*, Emilio Martínez-Lazaro, 2002.

January 20: *Vacas (Cows)*, Julio Medem, 1992.

January 27: *Todo sobre mi madre (All about my Mother)*, Pedro Almodóvar, 1999.

## **Special Event**

RCC will host the monthly meeting of the Mid Cambridge Neighborhood Association on Tuesday, January 31. We are pleased to be of value to people in our neighborhood.

## **What's Happening at Harvard University/Square**

Harvard Square is full of holiday activities: The Cambridge Center for Adult Education had its annual fair on the weekend of December 10 & 11<sup>th</sup>. The annual crafts fair held at the First Parish Church was open for an extra weekend this year. Holiday lights are overhead on main streets, creating a friendly atmosphere.

We had the first large snowstorm on Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup>. Cold temperatures linger, making the warmth of RCC offices even more inviting.

Harvard University Provost Steven E. Hyman, in consultation with the deans, created a task force to review the university's policies and practices concerning its international projects. A comprehensive report was recently issued. One of the key recommendations is to create a new position within the Provost's Office to oversee all of Harvard's international initiatives and policies. The new vice president for international affairs will provide leadership, coordination, and collaboration.

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

We encourage previous researchers of RCC to share information about your activities and accomplishments in this space. Send your information to:

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