

Real Colegio Complutense Cambridge, MA (USA)



**December, 2008
Bulletin #39**

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)

Ángel Sáenz-Badillos, Director



Major Activities in December

On December 8th, Spanish journalist Miguel Angel Violan visited RCC for an informal discussion. He focuses on education and is writing some articles for *La Vanguardia*.



On December 9th, a group of Fellows set up and decorated the RCC tree.



Upcoming Events

All lectures and films take place at the RCC (26 Trowbridge Street in Cambridge, in the conference room. They begin at 7:30 PM. The lectures are in English and the films are in Spanish with English subtitles. They are free and open to the public.

Lectures:

No lectures are currently scheduled in January 2009.

Films:

January 9: *Bajo las estrellas*, directed by Félix Viscarret, 2007.

January 19: *Las bicicletas son para el verano*, directed by Jaime Chávarri, 1984.

January 23: *Un novio para Yasmina*, directed by Irene Cardona, 2008.

January 30: *Innisfree*, directed by José Luis Guerin, 1990.

Current Researchers

Some of the following researchers left during the month of December.

Continuing Researchers (with Offices at RCC)

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

Florentino Rodao, Contemporary History, UCM.

Agustín Madrid Parras, Commercial Law, U. Pablo de Olavide

Javier Megías, Commercial Law, UCM

Jorge Jesús Leíva Rojo, Translation and Interpreting, U. of Málaga

Rosa María Rodríguez Izquierdo, Multicultural Education, U. Pablo de Olavide

Juan Pablo Sánchez Hernández, Classics, UCM

Rubén Arriazu Muñoz, Higher Education and Evaluation Process, UCM.

Javier García Amez, Administrative Law, U. Oviedo

Rebeca Barba Egido, Zooarchaeology, Taphonomy, Human Evolution, UCM

Rafael Caballero Sánchez, Administrative Law, UCM

Camila Paz Obligado, Classics, UCM.

Ignacio Ceballos Viro, Spanish Literature, UCM

Alfredo Cuesta Infante, Computer Science, Felipe II College, UCM

Ludmilla Ortega, International Relations, UCM.

Nirian Martín, Statistics, UCM

Demetrio Castro, History of Political Ideas, U. Pública de Navarra

María Dolores Gadea Rivas, Economics, U. of Zaragoza

Eukene Lacarra, Medieval Literature, U. del País Vasco

Interview with Alfredo Cuesta Infante



“I first heard about the Real Colegio Complutense from a friend and colleague, Victoria Rivas López. In the summer of 2007, I visited her at RCC for two days. I thought that it was a very good place – and her office was located in the basement! You don’t have to teach and you have your own office space.”

“After finishing my PhD thesis in 2006 in **Computer Engineering** with a specialty in **Automatic Control**, I started last year the transition to another line of research. I decided to continue in the general area of automatic control but expand it in a new direction in the area of “Entity extraction from unstructured texts” What does this topic mean? “It is a way of organizing information from a document. What might be intuitive for a human like telling if *Washington* is a city or a president in a sentence is a very difficult and challenging problem for a computer.” So, I applied to the RCC for a scholarship. I was granted one for nine months but I ended up being at RCC for just three months because I will spend the rest of the year at University of New Mexico as a Visiting Researcher. “Given my brief three month stay at RCC, I’ve spent most of my time reading papers and books, the first stage of the project I proposed to RCC.

When asked about his experiences at RCC, Alfredo responded: “People here are so wonderful. I think that they extract the “socialness” in me – make me more sociable because they are encouraging me to join them for meals and to do things together. I also love to talk with people from different backgrounds. At RCC, I find many good researchers who transmit their joy of their fields of expertise: they give me some of their enthusiasm. I am curious about many topics. I enjoy listening to their lectures on Thursday evenings, especially when people tell good stories or describe their research in a didactic way.”

“I feel privileged to be able to spend all of my work time on research. At Harvard’s Widener Library, everything is set up to make users feel comfortable and productive. The chairs and sofas are soft. I was amazed at the scanners – just open a book and it scans the page quickly. I feel right at home. Even though the furniture seems to be more expensive than mine, I’ve noticed that students put their feet on the chairs.”

“I would like to return and, maybe, attend some classes at Harvard. I’ve heard that they have a teaching approach that is somewhat like the one being promoted under the Spanish educational reform system. I wonder, however, if my students would follow the Harvard model of doing homework before class; then having the professor teach; followed up by more homework.”

“It is interesting to learn from the results of the Erasmus Program that Spaniards are the most likely Europeans to travel abroad and Spain is the most desired destination for students from the European Union.”

Interview with Alumnus Guillermo Guerra



1. **Your title and university affiliation.** Tenured Professor (Profesor Titular) of Commercial and Corporate Law at the Universidad Rey Juan Carlos (Madrid)

2. **When were you at RCC?** I was at the Real Colegio twice as a fellow of this institution.

The first time, I stayed 12 months (1995-1996), as a Visiting Researcher at the Harvard Law School, researching for my Ph.D thesis about *The Governance of US Listed Corporations and its Influence on European Corporate Law*.

The second time I stayed six months (July-December 2006). The first two as a member of the Advanced Research Group on Listed Corporations, sponsored by the RCC; and the other four months as a Visiting Scholar at the Harvard Law School.

3. **How has the RCC/Harvard experience affected your life, professionally and personally?** Being a fellow of the RCC has given me the opportunity not only to have access to the Harvard University's libraries (its books, legal reviews, electronic resources), but also, and more importantly, to get involved in the whole Harvard community and to attend some courses taught at Harvard Law School by prominent professors and judges and to communicate with them – especially with those who have written and researched about legal issues that interest me.

These experiences have, without any doubt, affected the way I teach and the approach of my research. In this sense, I believe that the existence of an institution like the RCC represents a great opportunity for Spanish law professors to know and learn from prestigious American professors a different way of doing our job, that every professor should try to take advantage of.

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

Several new books by RCC researchers were recently published:



UN ESTUDIO SOBRE LA AUSENCIA EN DERECHO ROMANO : ABSENTIA Y POSTLIMINIUM. (Primera Edición, Octubre 2008).

Autor: [Perinián Gómez, Bernardo](#)

Colección: [Comares/Persona](#)

Editorial: Editorial Comares, S.L.

Materias: [Derecho](#); [Derecho Romano](#)

Idioma: Español

Aristófanes: escena y comedia by Ignacio Rodríguez Alfageme. Editorial Complutense (Madrid).

Televisión digital, democracia y servicio público. Una perspectiva crítica edited by Rafael Rodríguez Prieto and José María Seco Martínez. Aconcagua Libros (Sevilla)

La Extinción de la Relación Laboral de los Deportistas Profesionales by Emilio A. García Silvero. Colección Monografías Aranzadi (Pamplona, Navarra).