

Real Colegio Complutense Cambridge, MA (USA)



**January 2006
Bulletin #4**

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 January

On three Thursday evenings, researchers gave a talk and responded to questions:

On January 12, Prof Luis Girón-Negrón from Harvard University spoke about *The Canine Curse: Christian Anti-Jewish Polemic in a 14th Century Spanish Chivalric Novel*.

On January 19, Prof. María Frías from the Universidade da Coruña. gave a talk on *Black Nuns in Europe: From Slavery to the Convent and Sanctity*.

Prof. Miguel Vázquez from Northeastern University spoke on *Peirce, Chomsky, and Learnability*.

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*.

Current Researchers

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

The number of full-time researchers using 26 Trowbridge Street diminished after the December holidays. The following people work on projects related to their fields of economics, law, African American literature, economics & literature, and Hebrew poetry.

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

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

Angel Ignacio Laparte, Law, U. of
Zaragoza.

Miguel Vázquez, Linguist, UCM.

Matías Irigoyen Testa, Punitive Law,
UCM.

Manuel Santos Redondo, History of
Economic Thought , UCM.

Judit Targarona Borrás, Hebrew and
Arabic Studies, UCM.

Special Event

On Tuesday, January 31st, RCC hosted the monthly meeting of the Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood Association.

Grants

The deadline for fellowships for research is March 1, 2006. Please see our website for details (www.realcolegiocomplutense.harvard.edu)

Interview with Two Visiting Scholars



Manuel Santos Redondo

“Harvard is much more than its famous libraries, although they are wonderful; it is all about people.” Manuel Santos Redondo, UCM Professor of History of Economic Thought and Business History and columnist for “Expansión” in Madrid, summed up his sentiments near the end of his eleven month stay in Cambridge, MA at the Real Colegio Complutense.

Prof. Santos Redondo came to Harvard University to “work in a very good university”, “provide fresh air to my thinking and my life”, and “have opportunities to focus on a new topic (that I’ve been developing over the past year) in a supportive, inter-disciplinary place.” During his stay, he discovered enthusiasm, resources, assistance, and support for his innovative, inter-disciplinary work linking literature/arts and economics/business. He met people from several Harvard University departments who shared his excitement about looking at films, paintings, and writings to find out more about the economic ideas reflected in the characters and the plot and compare them to the professional treatment in textbooks.

“I was nicely surprised at how open people are here...and how kind Americans are.” Prof. Santos Redondo took advantage of a variety of activities available to Harvard University researchers, including joining the Harvard Outing Club (as well as the MIT Outing Club). He participated in many athletic activities including rowing, hiking, and kayaking on the nearby Charles River.

His time here was very professionally and personally rewarding. He has written several articles, mingled and shared ideas with many faculty and students, and will return to UCM with an “openness of mind” and “a fresher spirit”.



José Carrasco Gallego

“People are very open to help you in your professional and personal life, both at Harvard University and at the Real Colegio Complutense”. These are the words of economist José Carrasco Gallego from the University Rey Juan Carlos in Madrid. José came to Cambridge, MA. in July, 2005 as a Visiting Scholar in the Department of Economics at Harvard University attracted by the high quality of research and researchers. He was particularly interested in meeting and sharing ideas with several faculty, such as Professors Hoxby and Antràs from the Economics Department and Professors Rodrik and Abadie from the Kennedy School of Government.

His fields of interest are international trade policy and a labor market. While at Harvard, José has done extensive research, presented several papers, and written several articles. He believes that his professional research has benefited greatly from meeting and exchanging ideas with professors whose articles he had read or knew about before coming to Harvard. “This has been a very good experience for me. Unlike at my university in Spain, where I’m focused on working at my desk, here I have put faces to names and gotten to know some of the scholars personally. I see them in classes and at social events. It is different from reading their articles.”

José has taken advantage of other benefits of being here in Cambridge. He swims at the Harvard University pool; has gone to two professional basketball games (one using free tickets given by a total stranger when he and a friend visited Washington, D.C); heard some rock concerts; and travelled to New York City in addition to the U.S. capitol.

“I was surprised by how kind and friendly Americans are. Of course, some US institutions center their focus on America. However, others are welcoming of people from other places and cultures. “Although I’m looking forward to returning to Spanish cuisine, my family and friends, I’ve really enjoyed meeting new people, creating very good new friends, discovering and sharing new ideas, and trying out new types of food (such as Malaysian, Mexican, Thai) found in the Harvard Square area.”

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:

February 2: *CO2 Emission Trading on an Individual Allocation Scheme Basis*, Prof. Yanna G. Franco, Universidad Complutense.

February 9: *Losses from Non-Trade. Some Results from the Spanish Autarky Period (1940-58)*, Prof. José Antonio Carrasco Gallego, Universidad Rey Juan Carlos.

February 16: *Medieval Spanish Ceramics: Tiles and vessels from Manises, Paterna and Valencia*, Prof. María Luisa F. Mansfield, Harvard Extension School.

February 23: *Marketing Hispanic Culture*, Alberto Ribas Casasayas, PhD Candidate, Comparative Literature, Harvard University.

Films:

February 3: *Yerma*, Pilar Távora, 1999.

February 10: *Al sur de Granada*, Fernando Colomo, 2003.

February 17: *Juana la Loca*, Vicente Aranda, 2001.

February 24: *Cría Cuervos, Cría*, Carlos Saura, 1976.

What's Happening at Harvard University/Square

Many of the students and faculty were away for much of January. The *Harvard Gazette* did not publish an issue during this period.

From Our Alumni/ae Association

We are looking for a volunteer, knowledgeable about web design, to help us re-design and upscale the RCC website. We have photographs that can be added and information, such as the electronic bulletins, that can be included. We just need a person with skills, some time, and a desire to make a difference in the lives of past, current, and future Spanish and US researchers. Please contact Elizabeth Kline, Program Coordinator, if you are interested (E-mail: rcc-info@harvard.edu).