

Real Colegio Complutense Cambridge, MA (USA)



**March 2006
Bulletin #6**

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 March

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

On March 2 Prof José Javier González de Alaiza Cardona from U. de las Islas Baleares spoke about *The Battle of Copyright Holders against Peer-to-Peer Systems*.

On March 9, Angel Laparte from U. de Navarra talked about *Protection of Minority Shareholders in Cross-Border Mergers*.

On March 16, José Fernández-Albertos, PhD candidate, Department of

Government, Harvard U. spoke about *Domestic Politics of Monetary Unions*.

On March 23, Alberto Fernández-Nieves, Associate of the Division of Engineering and Applied Sciences at Harvard U. talked about *Soft Matter: the excitement of being in between liquids and solids*.

On five Friday evenings, RCC hosted free films: *Mi vida sin mi*, Isabel Coixet, 2003; *El perro del Hortelano*, Pilar Miro, 1996; *Elisa, vida mia*, Carlos Saura, 1977; *You're the One*, José Luis Garci, 2000; *La colmena*, Mario Camus, 1982

Current Researchers

The number of research fellows and associates varies during the year. We are the busiest during the summer months. Three new researchers arrived during this month.

Newcomers

Cristina del Campo Campos, Mathematics, UCM
Juan Francisco Fuentes Aragonés, History, UCM
Paloma Díaz Soloaga, Communications, UCM

Continuing Researchers

María Frías, African American Literature, U. of Coruña.
Angel Ignacio Laparte, Law, U. of Zaragoza.
Matías Irigoyen Testa, Punitive Law, UCM.
Judit Targarona Borrás, Hebrew and Medieval Literature Studies, UCM.
Inmaculada Lara Bonilla, Romance Languages, UCM
Ruth Ana Stoner Nieves, Language and Literature, U. de Málaga.
Joan Rosselló, Economics, U. Illes Balears.
Fernando Merodio, Philosophy, UCM
Rafael Dobado González, History of Economics, UCM
Miguel Vázquez, Linguist, UCM and Northeastern U.

Spring/Summer Courses

Real Colegio Complutense is hosting a number of courses this spring and summer for economists, accountants, lawyers, poets, managers, and political thinkers. The first one begins in mid-May.

Special Visitor

On March 3rd, RCC received the Minister of Justice, Juan Fernández López.

This photo shows the Minister with RCC Director Angel Saenz-Badillos and some of the current researchers.



RCC with Minister of Justice

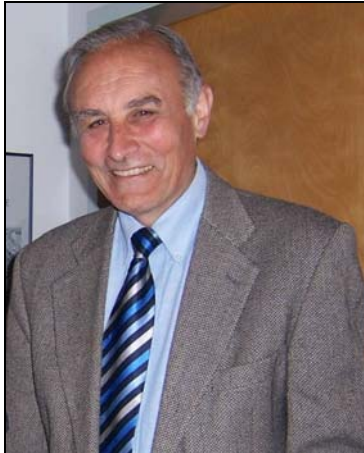
RCC Researchers Enjoy Lunch Together

RCC is a very social place these days. We go to lunch together sometimes. Other times, several researchers go to Boston events, such as the St. Patrick's Day parade.



Lunch at the Dolphin Restaurant

Interview with Director



Angel Saenz-Badillos

“In 2001, I accepted, with pleasure, the Rector in Madrid’s offer to serve as the director of the Real Colegio Complutense in Cambridge, MA. I saw the possibility of expanding opportunities for Spanish researchers.” That one year contract has become already a five year commitment to “make Harvard an acceptable and useful place for Spanish researchers, especially for my colleagues at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid. Harvard University is a unique institution, full of opportunities and it is a special privilege that we have to spend time in this incredible atmosphere.”

Angel Saenz-Badillos came to RCC having taught in Spain since 1970. In 1975, he became a full professor in the Department of Hebrew at Granada. During his 12 years in Granada as a scholar and Dean, Saenz-Badillos lived through “interesting and challenging times during the “transformation period” after the end of the Franco era.

His main fields of research are in the culture of Jews in Medieval Spain and in the history of the Hebrew language. One of his publications, a book titled A History of Hebrew Language was published in Spanish by Cambridge University Press and has been translated into English, Italian, and French. At times, he works with his researcher wife, Judit Targona Borrás (professor at UCM) to study and publish translations of Hebrew, Spanish poets.

After five years, Saenz-Badillos continues to be “enthusiastic about the possibilities” that RCC offers Spanish researchers. In his tenure so far, RCC has greatly expanded its physical office spaces available (from 11 in 2001 to 25 now); its cultural and academic programs (1 course in 2001 and 8 expected in 2006; weekly Thursday evening lectures and Friday evening films); and the level of researchers (attracting young and senior faculty who have PhD’s and a summer group of advanced researchers in 2005 and expected in 2006).

“I don’t know anyone who has spent time at RCC who regrets their experience here. On the contrary, many researchers tell me that this had a decisive impact on their lives.” Given the impressive libraries at Harvard University, access to brilliant colleagues and professionally rewarding courses, and the rich cultural life of the Greater Boston

region, “it is hard to understand why more Spanish researchers don’t want to come here. Sometimes during the year, there are unused office spaces and available scholarship funds. Since RCC was first established in the early 1990’s, over 600 Spanish researchers have benefited from being here. Yet, in those 15 years even more people could have been enjoying these benefits.”

What’s ahead for RCC Director Angel Saenz-Badillos? Besides continuing his administration of the RCC and his on-going research, he is committed to working closely with an NGO in Nicaragua (www.la-esperanza-granada.org) to help the poor villagers in and around Granada. “It is very important for me to collaborate with this NGO and to help provide educational programs, community work, and housing funded through micro-credits.” Recently, Saenz-Badillos brought six computers to this place for women and school children to use in courses.

In addition, he helped build the community center where these and other educational programs are offered. He and his wife are encouraging women to produce handicrafts, such as necklaces, bracelets, and tree sculptures, for sale. This activity generates a sense of pride, accomplishment, and revenues needed for additional projects.

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

The following events are free:

Lectures (in English)

April 6: *The Mining-Led Growth in Bourbon Mexico*, Rafael Dobado González, UCM

April 20: *To Construct Abstraction: Attitude & Strategy of the Modern Project*, Laura Martínez de Guereñu, PhD candidate, U. de Navarra.

April 27: *The Spanish Democratic Transition (1975-1982)*, Juan F. Fuentes Aragonés, UCM.

Films (in Spanish with English sub-titles)

April 7: *Carmen*, Carlos Saura, 1983

April 12: *Que he hecho yo para merecer esto*, Pedro Almodóvar, 1988

April 21: *El caballero Don Quijote*, Manuel Gutierrez Aragón, 2002

April 28: *Mamá cumple cien años*, Carlos Saura, 1979

What's Happening at Harvard University/Square

Spring is slowly coming to Cambridge. The days are getting longer and spring bulbs are beginning to emerge in the ground. Many events within Harvard University and elsewhere are offered to students, faculty, visitors, and the general public.

One example is the W.E. Du Bois Institute for African and African American Research. One of RCC's researchers, María Frías, is also a fellow at this institute. The description of this place comes from their Harvard University website:

"Named after the first African American to receive a Ph.D. from Harvard University (1895), the idea for the W. E. B. Du Bois Institute for African and African American Research was proposed in the Report of the Faculty Committee on African and Afro-American Studies dated 20 January 1969. In May of 1975 in its progress report to President Derek C. Bok, the Institute's Advisory Board announced the establishment of four fellowships for the 1975-1976 academic year. The fellowships were intended to "facilitate the writing of doctoral dissertations in areas related to Afro-American studies." As such, the Du Bois Institute is the nation's oldest research center dedicated to the study of the history, culture, and social institutions of Africans and African Americans.

Today, the Institute awards up to twenty fellowships annually to scholars at various stages in their careers in the fields of African and African American studies, broadly defined to cover the expanse of the African diaspora. The Du Bois Institute's Fellows Program forms the vital nucleus around which a stimulating array of lecture series, readings, colloquia, conferences, and forums, as well as research, archival, and publication projects revolve.”

From Our Alumni/ae Association

We are still 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@camail.harvard.edu).