

## Real Colegio Complutense Cambridge, MA (USA)

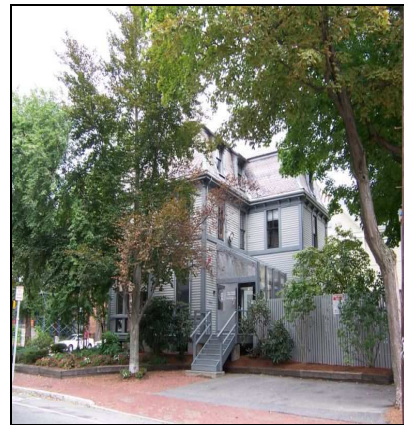


**November 2009  
Bulletin #50**

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 November**

This issue of the RCC Bulletin is a major milestone: number 50. RCC researchers work many hours in the library these days. There was time to celebrate an American Thanksgiving dinner on November 26 at RCC.



## Upcoming Events

### RCC Lectures

December 3: Alfredo Cuesta Infante, *Behind the Scenes of Machine Learning with SVM*.

December 10: María de la Válgoma, *Sentenced to Die in Prison*

December 17: Cristina Guerrero, *The Business Judgment Rule*

### RCC Films

December 4: *Sud Express*, directed by Chema de la Peña and Gabriel Velázquez, 2005.

December 11: *Una palabra tuya*, directed by Ángeles González-Sinde, 2008.

December:18: *El perro del hortelano*. Pilar Miró, 1996.

## Current Researchers

### Continuing Researchers (with Offices at RCC)

**Pablo González Saquero**, European Union Law, U. Carlos III

**Andrés Enrique**, Hispanic Linguistics, U. de Les Illes Balears

**Pablo de Andrés Alonso**, Financial Law & Economics, U. of Valladolid

**Anselmo M. Martínez Cañellas**, Commercial Law, U. de les Illes Balears

**Francisco Javier Mato Días**, Applied Economics, U. of Oviedo (start date: Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>)

**Rafael Gómez-Ferrer Rincon**, Administrative Law, UNED

**Paz Tornero**, Arts & Sciences, UCM

**Patricia Lamo de Espinosa**, Law, Defensor del Pueblo

**Eulalia Sanfrutos**, European Law, College of Europe

**María de La Válgoma**, Civil Law, UCM

**Mercedes López Salvá**, Greek Philology, UCM

**Cristina Guerrero Trevijano**, Commercial Law, UCM

**Manuel Lucena**, History of the Americas, CSIC-UCM.

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

**Alfredo Cuesta Infante**, Computer Science, Felipe II/UCM

**José Alberto Revilla González**, Law, U. Autónoma de Madrid

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

**Ignacio de la Rasilla del Moral**, Philosophy of Law, U. of Pablo de Olavide

**Pablo Moreno Ger**, Computer Science, UCM

**Virginia Caballero**, Toxicology, UCM

## Interview with Mauricio Suárez



“I see myself as working at the intersection of two worlds – a Spanish speaking and an English speaking world. I feel very much at home at the Real Colegio Complutense because of this cultural and intellectual mixture. It is very good for the Universidad Complutense de Madrid (and other Spanish universities) to have this Harvard-affiliated institution.”

Mauricio Suárez, Associate Professor of Logic & Philosophy of Science at UCM, was delighted to spend time with Harvard University faculty in the Philosophy Department because “Harvard is the birth place of American pragmatism in the field of philosophy. Harvard was and still is the Mecca of pragmatists. I was trained in this approach and very much believe in it. My time and experiences here have been enriching and strengthening, both professionally and personally.”

Mauricio Suárez left Spain at age 18 to study at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland. After receiving his undergraduate degree there in Astrophysics, he went to the London School of Economics for a Masters and a PhD in Philosophy of Science. Fluent in English and pleased with his education and contacts, Suárez was hired to teach at Oxford for a year and then for a year at Northwestern University in Chicago. “Northwestern’s Philosophy Department was a really outstanding place at that time (1997-1998). People promoted the American pragmatist tradition. It was a very important year in my professional development. In fact, I am still working on some projects that were begun there.”

It was natural for Mauricio Suárez to come to Harvard. Three key philosophers – Charles Sanders Peirce, William James, and John Dewey – were connected to Harvard. All of Peirce’s papers are in the Harvard libraries. “Harvard, especially Emerson Hall, is an intellectual home for me. I don’t have to explain myself. People know where I’m coming from. It is easy to converse with them. And, they are so friendly and supportive.”

My work focuses on the theory and methodology of science. Philosophers ask the general questions. How is “science” defined, for example? I also still work on the philosophy of physics – the study of the conceptual foundations of physics. What does

physics tell us about the world? For example, Quantum Theory seems to tell us that electrons can be in two places at once. How is this possible? Basically, philosophers work with ideas. We are paid to work at the abstract level. Albert Einstein changed our concept of time, for example. Newton and Galileo called themselves “natural philosophers”; Adam Smith, often called the founder of modern economics, was a philosopher.”

In Spain, Mauricio Suárez teaches undergraduate and graduate students at UCM. “I introduce my students to the American philosophical tradition. I encourage them to read philosophers in their original English language. I publish mainly in English because most of the prestigious journals and 90 percent of the readers read English.”

Suárez mentioned in the interview how frequently English and Spanish speaking faculty and students interact and learn from each other. “There is a long history of Spanish universities modeling themselves after the United States. Even in the 1920’s when others looked to France, UCM designed its architectural plans based on the University of Chicago. The Spanish job structure was originally modeled on the United States with a tenure system and different levels of professorship.”

“I have to return to Spain to teach but am looking for ways to continue my relationships and work projects with faculty whom I met while at Harvard. I want to continue to live and work in both worlds for the foreseeable future.”

## **Interview with Anita Fuentes**



“I am walking around Cambridge and suddenly I remember that I’ve been here before. I remember the stores, Harvard Yard, the streets, the restaurants, and the squirrels. I remember lots of things from when I was here four years ago.” As a then ten year old, Anita Fuentes accompanied her mother, Yanna Franco, from July 28, 2005 to January 3, 2006. Yanna Franco teaches law at UCM and was a RCC researcher during that time period.

Usually, the RCC Bulletin’s interviews focus on current and past RCC researchers. Since Anita Fuentes was in town for a week in October it seemed like a good

opportunity to get a child's perspective on what it feels like to move from Spain to the United States for part of a year.

Adjustments were not easy going first to one 5<sup>th</sup> grade Cambridge school and then transferring to another one. "With my mother's encouragement, I took an exam and passed from the immersion program at the Graham and Parks' school into the Baldwin school."

"I liked this school a lot. It was like a school in the movies! There were lockers. Teachers gave us work and helped us learn. We did many activities. Some Harvard students came to our school and taught us. For example, we had a civics class every Friday. One time, two law students came and told us about a court trial. In another example, Harvard students came to a science class and helped us make a compass."

"I went to the Graham and Parks' After School program. It was so much fun. I took drama and Kung Fu for girls. Harvard students helped us with our homework. I also went to the Baldwin School to play basketball in the Hoops program. For Halloween (October 31<sup>st</sup>), we carved faces on pumpkins."

"I cried more than any other time in my life when I had to leave Cambridge. I liked the education better here than in Spain. There are many interactions between teachers and students. We did many projects together. Every day we had time during the class to read a book which we chose from the school library. Sometimes, the teachers read to us. I remember studying about Native Americans."

"When I returned to Spain in January, it was a hard adjustment. But, I kept on with my life and readjusted. I am very glad to be visiting Cambridge again. I can see everything more clearly because I'm older. It is easier for me to go out beyond Harvard Square because I don't feel scared anymore of a new place. Also, I have more time to enjoy Cambridge and Boston this week because I am not in school."

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

**The current President of the Asociación de Colegiales del Real Colegio We know that you are extremely busy with your professional careers, family, and friends.**

**So, we would like to know: Are there some activities and/or communication forums that would be of value to you as alumni/ae? Would you be interested in coming to Madrid for a meeting once a year? Does the existence of an Association matter to you?**

## Alumni/ae News

**Antonio Diéguez Lucena** from the Universidad de Málaga ([dieguez@uma.es](mailto:dieguez@uma.es)) recently had his article THINKING ABOUT TECHNOLOGY, BUT... IN ORTEGA'S OR IN HEIDEGGER'S STYLE? published in the journal "Argumentos de Razón Técnica". It is a Spanish journal on Philosophy of Technology.

**Ana Rosado Cubero** recently had an article *Barriers to New Competition* published in [\*Perspectives in Economic and Social History\*](#) (Hb: 240pp: November 2009 978 1 85196 644 8: 234x156mm: £60.00/\$99.00). "Barriers to entry as an economic concept was defined by Joe Bain in his 1956 book *Barriers to New Competition*. Bain's analysis focused on the ways in which various industries functioned within the market: whether there were few or many firms in each industry, how labour-intensive/expensive they were, and whether or not there was collusion among existing firms to prevent the entry of new, competing ones.

This is the first book to focus on the different methods that economic science has employed in order to detect and measure barriers to entry. A chronological analysis is presented, as well as an in-depth look at the competing Harvard and Chicago Schools' interpretations of this phenomenon."