

This year the Hispanic Forum is dedicated to commemorate the anniversary of the death (1616) of one of the most prominent novelists of all time: Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra. Born in Alcalá de Henares, near Madrid, Spain, in 1547, he is considered the father of the modern novel. His main work, *Don Quixote* (1605-1615), has been translated to more languages than any other book with the exception of the Bible.

This time we will put together a number of UVM scholars from very different backgrounds and disciplines, all them connected in one way or other with the Hispanic world. Some will talk about their own research, and others about Cervantes as well.

As most of you know, the Spanish language is not a foreign language in the United States. The very first descriptions of the land, flora and fauna of what is today the United States were written in Cervantes' language, early in the 16th century. The oldest capital of this country (Santa Fe, NM) as well as the first permanent settlement (San Agustín, FL) have Spanish names too. Today the United States is the second Spanish speaking country in the world and we should tell our students the same thing that Thomas Jefferson, one of the fathers of our constitution, told his future son-in-law Thomas Mann Randolph: (cont..)



Contributors:

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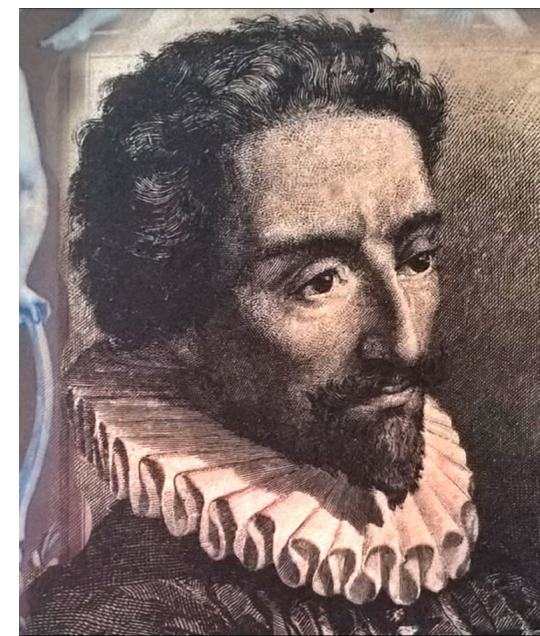


The University of Vermont

The Department of Romance Languages

& Linguistics presents

The Twenty-Third Annual Hispanic Forum



Hispanic Culture at UVM
in the 400th Anniversary of
Cervantes' Death

Thursday, October 27th

10:00-11:00

Keynote speaker:

Wolfgang Mieder,

Department of German and Russian

"Stringing Proverbs Together" The Proverbial Language in Miguel de Cervantes's *Don Quixote*.

11:15-11:45

Kelley Di Dio

Department of Art and Art History

"Art and Diplomacy between Italy and Spain in the 17th Century".

Lunch 12:00-1:30

1:30-2:00

Jim Vigoreaux

Department of Biology

"Failed science or experiment in progress? The US territorial relation with Puerto Rico and the legacy of Pedro Albizu Campos"

2:15-2:45

Antonio Cepeda-Benito

Department of Psychology

"De tapas con Antonio: Tasters from my academic trajectory"

3:00-3:30

Caroline Beer

Department of Political Science

"Gender and Politics in Mexico"

Friday, October 28th

10:30-11:00

Juan F. Maura

Department of Romance Languages and Linguistics

"Científicos y cientistas: la buena y la mala ciencia en Cervantes y Unamuno"

11:15-11:45

John Waldron

Department of Romance Languages and Linguistics

"Cervantes desde Borges hasta 'el crack'"

12:00-12:30

Mercedes Rincón

Department of Med-Immunology COM
Microbio & Molecular Genetics

"Enfermedad y causa de la muerte de Cervantes: ¿ha mejorado el tratamiento del siglo XVII al siglo XXI?"

1:00-2:00

Round Table

Juan F. Maura (Moderator)

Can a scholar afford to be monolingual? The importance of languages in the academic world.



"Spanish is most important to an American. Our connection with Spain is already important and will become daily more so. Besides this the ancient part of American history is written chiefly in Spanish". In another letter sent in 1783 to her aunt, Elizabeth Eppes, Jefferson wrote: "I have insisted on her reading ten pages a day in her Spanish *Don Quixote*, and getting a lesson in her Spanish grammar ..."

The second oldest Spanish in the world, after the one spoken by Judeo-Spanish (Sephardic) communities in the Eastern Mediterranean, is spoken in several towns from Northern New Mexico and Southern Colorado.

Before the first Englishmen arrived at Jamestown in 1607, Spain already had several universities in the Americas, some of them as important as those in Mexico City (1551) and Lima, Perú (1551), and the language and basic principles of education were taught in schools in the north and the south of Spanish America. The first printing press was established in Mexico in 1539.

Can a scholar afford to be monolingual in today's academic world? That will be the subject of the round table at the closing of this 23rd Annual Hispanic Forum. We would like to continue with this almost quarter a century old tradition (1994-2016) at UVM for many years to come. Thanks to all of you for your support and "hasta la vista".

-Juan Maura (organizer) &

Tina Escaja (co-organizer)