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.)
**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”

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**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.