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Introduction

In its 34th publication, *Mester* lives up once more to what it means to us: the art of editing and crafting a journal that can provide the reader with a broad range of academic studies related to different periods in Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian literature. In light of the 400th anniversary of the publication of Miguel de Cervantes's *Don Quixote*, *Mester* is proud to present the 2005 issue, which explores some of the topics highlighted in this landmark of Universal Literature. We hope that the avid reader can enjoy and find in *Mester XXXIV* the pleasures of exploring, through these articles, some of the new scholarly perspectives of our times.

We would like to thank the UCLA Department of Spanish and Portuguese, the Del Amo Foundation, and the UCLA Graduate Student Association for their support in publishing this issue. The crafting of this number would not have been possible without the extensive collaboration of the Editorial Board. Special thanks to Prof. John Dagenais, Chair of the UCLA Department of Spanish and Portuguese, for his invaluable support and advice; and to Kenneth Luna for his meticulous labor throughout the long hours in the editing process.

Marisol Castillo
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