



## For Immediate Release

August 21, 2015

### Renowned Yale scholar to speak at Meredith College as part of statewide Quixote Festival

Sterling Professor of Hispanic and Comparative Literature at Yale University, Roberto González Echevarría, will be giving a free public lecture on Wednesday, September 30, 2015, at Meredith College titled “Reading *Don Quixote* Today” as one of the events kicking off the seven-month long El Quixote Festival ([iamquixote.com](http://iamquixote.com)). The lecture, which will be followed by a Q&A and reception with the speaker, will be at 6:30 pm in Jones Chapel.

Miguel de Cervantes’s celebrated Spanish novel consists of two parts, published in 1605 and 1615, respectively. It was an instant success at the time and made the best-seller’s list in the United States as recently as ten years ago. Over the course of four centuries *El Quijote* has consistently rated as one of the greatest novels ever written. The dates of El Quixote Festival coincide with the birth (September 29) and death (April 23) of Cervantes (both he and Shakespeare share the same death date: April 23, 1616). In celebration of the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the novel and its author, the statewide festival will feature art exhibits, literary gatherings, opera, music, dance, theater, cinema, and gastronomy, together with several academic and educational events ([events calendar](#))—including several at Meredith College. For festival founder, Rafael A. Osuba, the festival is the realization of a longstanding dream: “This is a very quixotic project that has captured the imagination of many in our community and reaffirms what can be done when we collaborate and dare to dream big.”

[Roberto González Echevarría](#) is the author of numerous books and articles written in both Spanish and English. In 2014 Yale University Press published *Cervantes’ Don Quixote: A Casebook*, which derived from [his Open Yale Course](#) of the same name. In addition to three honorary doctorates, he is an inducted member of the North American Academy of Arts and Sciences and received a National Humanities Medal from President Obama in 2011. He has lectured throughout the US, Europe, and Latin America and will focus his remarks at Meredith College on the relevance of *Don Quixote* for readers in the twenty-first century.

The lecture is made possible thanks to the generous support of the Kenan Charitable Trust, the Departments of Foreign Languages and Literatures at Meredith College and NC State, and Artist Studio Project.

**WHAT:** Free Public Lecture: “Reading *Don Quixote* Today” by Dr. Roberto González Echevarría (El Quixote Festival)

**WHEN:** September 30, 2015, 6:30 pm

**WHERE:** Jones Chapel, Meredith College

**MORE INFORMATION:** Contact Dr. Jonathan Wade, Associate Professor of Spanish at Meredith College / (919) 760-8738 / [wadejon@meredith.edu](mailto:wadejon@meredith.edu)

### About Meredith College

Chartered in 1891, Meredith College opened with just over 200 women. Today, its student body has grown to nearly 2,000, and includes men at the graduate level. Meredith challenges students to explore their interests, expand their skills, and build on their strengths.