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Vicente Cabrera publishes fourth novel

Summary: "I like to make literature of my life. It's not that my literature is an autobiography, but rather that my novels are mirrors that reflect my life and the lives of others." Spanish Professor Vicente Cabrera has had his fourth novel published.

(December 15, 2005)-"I like to make literature of my life. It's not that my literature is an autobiography, but rather that my novels are mirrors that reflect my life and the lives of others."

Vicente Cabrera Funes, UMM Spanish professor, has had his fourth novel, *Los malditos amantes de Carolina*, published by Lebresa, in Ecuador. *Los malditos amantes de Carolina* is approximately 150 pages and is written in Spanish. Before these four novels, Cabrera had six non-fiction books published as well.

Cabrera strongly values his culture and language and feels it is an integral part of his work. "Nostalgia has provoked my writing, the need to be connected to my hometown, to my region, and to my country through my native tongue," he said.

Los malditos amantes de Carolina is a series of chronicles kept by different characters in a book concerning a particularly fascinating and captivating woman. The chroniclers start out with Federico Solis Ampudio, but after much trouble and internal conflict, he passes the writings along to his intimate friend, Carmelo. But not even Carmelo can cope with the stories and, after he disappears, they are found and continued by Carmelo's daughter, Eugenia. In the end the publisher is confused as to whether or not he should allow new additions to the already published chronicles, because so many people have meddled with them.

Cabrera grew up in Ecuador and took much of his schooling at a boarding school run by Jesuits. While there, he wrote diaries and would take turns writing chapters of stories with his friend, Luis Guerra Bravo. After boarding school, Cabrera moved to Quito, and studied law at the Catholic University for four years. He then moved to the United States and attended the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, where he earned his master's and doctoral degrees in Spanish literature. Cabrera moved to Colorado to teach Spanish literature, before heading to Ecuador for two years to write for three newspapers. He returned to the United States, to Lake Forest College near Chicago, before accepting a position at UMM, where he has been a full professor since 1987.

Cabrera's colleagues are translating parts of his latest novel into English. So far, April 22, 2006, has been set for a spring reading of the book in Fargo, N.D., and at UMM, in addition to a date to be set later for a University of Minnesota, Twin Cities campus bookstore reading. Cabrera will also read from his work in October 2006 at the Chicano Latino Writer's Festival, to be held at the Public Library in St. Paul. To find out more about Vicente Cabrera's books, consult his Web site, <http://www.morris.umn.edu/-cabrerav/>. His books are available at the Resource Center of the Americas, 3019 Minnehaha Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55406, and The Latin American Bookstore, 204 North Geneva St., Ithaca, N.Y. 14850.

(UMM freshman, Theresa Novak, contributed to this story.)

PHOTO: Vicente Cabrera [courtesy of Danter's Photography, Morris]

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