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# FAMED SCHOLAR VISITS FENWICK UNIVERSITY

BY Alfonso Fernandez

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It was with great delight that our beloved University welcomed famed academian Pierre Menard to campus last week. After touring the grounds and meeting with Fenwick's illustrious faculty, Monsieur Menard's visit culminated in a much anticipated lecture in Carbuncle Hall, where he presented his recent research in the area of Miguel de Cervantes' Don Quixote. Though the University administration predicted the event would be standing room only, even they were surprised when every chair, crevice, and ledge of Carbuncle was occupied by attentive listeners eager to learn about Monsieur Menard's fresh, distinct recreation of Don Quixote.

Very rarely does one encounter scholars with such command of the podium. To our credit, they exist at Fenwick University in greater proportion than at other, lesser institutions. Still, even the world's finest professors would not be surprised if they scanned their sea of pupils and saw one unappreciative soul dozing at the back of the lecture hall. There was, however, no snoring nor heavy eyelids in Carbuncle last week. Monsieur Menard's firm grasp of narrative and talent for storytelling extended beyond the page into a vivid performance that captivated students and faculty alike.

Pierre Menard, however, is not without his critics. No lecture would be complete if, during the portion when the audience is permitted to ask questions, one deeply misinformed individual did not raise their hand with a fantastically misguided question in an attempt to stump the visiting lecturer. Monsieur Menard was unfazed by such an inquiry. "I am not, as you say, 'transcribing Don Quixote word for word,'" Monsieur Menard replied in his charming Continental accent. "I am recreating Don Quixote from the perspective de moi, Pierre Menard!" The scholar's response was meant with nods of approval in the audience. According to Monsieur Menard, it was far easier for Cervantes, who was immersed in the world of Cervantes, to write Don Quixote. For a man of our modern world, it is a feat of genius.