On March 12, 2015, the department’s Spanish MA students, led by Dr. Ana Rodríguez Navas and Dr. D. Scott Hendrickson SJ, visited the Newberry Library to explore its extraordinary collection of Spanish and Latin American materials.

Our group was able to view the following treasures:

- “Third Letter of Relation” (1522), Hernán Cortés
- Map of Tenochtitlán (1524), Hernán Cortés
- El ingenioso hidalgo don Quijote de la Mancha (1605, 1615), Miguel de Cervantes
- Historia natural y moral de las Indias (1590), José de Acosta, SJ
- Historia naturae, maxime peregrinae (1635), Juan Eusebio Nieremberg, SJ
- Facsimile of the Popol Vuh (1700-1715), possibly the earliest surviving copy

“Not many people can say that they got the opportunity to touch the original copy of Don Quijote, or the letters of Hernán Cortés. That was an awesome experience that I will never forget.”

- Nate King

“It was one of the most unique experiences I’ve ever had in my life, and it was fantastic.”

- Alex Korte

“I thought it was interesting not only seeing Don Quijote and the letters of Hernán Cortés, but also learning about how the Library acquires all of their books, the collections. And it was really interesting to see the original pigskin covers...”

- Allyson Doorn

“For me it was amazing to see these documents up close, not only because the literature has been so influential, but it was also cool to think about just physically, where these books and documents have been and whose hands they’ve passed through, ...about the books having a life of their own.’’

- Amanda Swanson

“The best part for me would be just learning about the history of the Newberry library, and knowing that it is free to the public, and also getting to see the stacks, and seeing basically where the magic happens... It was a beautiful experience.”

- Sharon Almonte