*El abra del Yumurí* is a novel that takes place in Havana during the fall of 1958, the months preceding the triumph of the Cuban Revolution. It focuses on five women from the upper classes and follows their lives and how they are impacted by instability and political and personal violence. Published in 2016, the novel stems from fragments written in the 1950s by the author’s mother, Ana Galdós. Utilizing the fragments, conversing with his mother, seeking the maternal voice, de Armas transforms the fragments into a full-fledged novel that incorporates many of the authors, artists and works that served as model for the fragments, from Miguel de Cervantes to the foremost Spanish realist novel Benito Pérez Galdós. The author reflects on the legacy of the Galdós family as it appears in the novel, from Don Benito to Domingo Galdós, the author’s grandfather, to Ana Galdós, his mother. Indeed, art is central not only to the fragments but also to the novel and to the author’s scholarly endeavors. These, in turn, circle back and further impact *El abra del Yumurí*.

*Friday, February 9th*
*4:30-6:00pm*
*CAHI*
*1211 Atwater Ave, Bloomington*

**Frederick A. de Armas** is a literature professor, critic and novelist. He is Andrew W. Mellon Distinguished Service Professor in Romance Languages and Comparative Literature at the University of Chicago, where he has also served as Chair of the Department and is now Director of Graduate Studies. He has served as President of the Cervantes Society of America and as President of AISO (Asociación Internacional Siglo de Oro). He has been awarded several NEH Fellowships and has directed several NEH Seminars.

He focuses on the literature of early modern Spain often from a comparative perspective. His interests include the politics of astrology; magic, classical mythology and the Hermetic tradition; ekphrasis; the relations between the verbal and the visual particularly between Spanish literature and Italian art; and the interconnections between myth and empire during the rule of the Habsburgs.