

Event: Inauguration of the Carlos Cueto Fernandini Room

Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2026

Time: 13:00 hours

Location: Carlos Cueto Fernandini Room, Antonio Pinilla Library

Good afternoon.

Today marks a special moment for our University. We gather to inaugurate this room in honor of Carlos Cueto Fernandini, a key figure in our institutional history and a Peruvian who understood, with exceptional clarity, that education is one of the most powerful forces for transforming society.

His academic path reflects outstanding preparation. He completed primary and part of secondary education at Deutsche Schule Lima Alexander von Humboldt, finished secondary school at Colegio Guadalupe, and pursued undergraduate studies in Law at Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos. He later earned a PhD in Philosophy from Universidad de Trujillo and, through a Rockefeller Fellowship, expanded his training in Education and Psychology at Teachers College, Columbia University.

Remembering Carlos Cueto Fernandini is to recognize a distinguished educator, a committed intellectual, and a dedicated public servant. He served as our first Vice Rector, as a Professor, as Dean of the School of Education at Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos, as Director of the National Library, as Minister of Education, and as an international official. Beyond these roles, however, endures something even greater: his deep belief in the human person and in the transformative power of knowledge.

That belief continues to resonate today. Education is not simply the transmission of information; it is a process of guidance, discovery, and inspiration. It opens doors, raises questions, and supports each individual in realizing their full potential. This mission gives purpose to university life.

For this reason, inaugurating this room in our Library holds special meaning. If I may, this moment also carries personal significance. As an alumna of Universidad de Lima, I am drawn back to my years as a student and to the Carlos Cueto Fernandini Library as I remember it in 1976.

I remember that space as a place of discovery, dedicated study, shared silence, and meaningful encounters with books and ideas. It was central to our education and, in many ways, helped shape our vision of the future.

That is why this opening is especially meaningful. A library does more than house books; it preserves aspirations, effort, questions, and discoveries. It also safeguards the legacy of generations who have passed through its spaces to learn, reflect, and grow.

Carlos Cueto Fernandini understood this dimension. He recognized the importance of access to knowledge, the value of books, and the role of libraries as vibrant and inspiring spaces. Alongside this legacy, we also remember Lilly Caballero de Cueto, an exemplary educator

whom I recall as Coordinator of the Student Well-Being Office. She dedicated her life to strengthening children's libraries and expanding access to reading in underserved communities across the country. In both, we find the same commitment: to make education a true act of service.

Figures such as Carlos Cueto and Lilly Caballero remind us why we chose the path of higher education. They show us that education is a way of serving the nation—that shaping individuals, fostering reading, strengthening critical thinking, and expanding opportunities carry profound human meaning and a deeply Peruvian spirit.

This room is not only a well-deserved tribute to a distinguished figure in our history; it is also an invitation to our university community—an invitation to honor our legacy, to recognize those who came before us, and to continue building, through knowledge and reflection, the University and the Peru we envision.

I sincerely hope that the Carlos Cueto Fernandini Room becomes a source of inspiration for our students, faculty, researchers, and visitors— a space where the past connects with the present, and where each new generation finds the motivation to keep learning, creating, and contributing to the nation.

Thank you.