

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Alejandro Herrero-Olaizola, Ph.D., Arthur F. Thurnau Professor and professor of Spanish, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, retired from active faculty status on December 31, 2023.

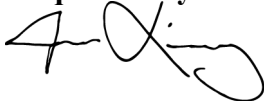
Professor Herrero-Olaizola attended West Virginia University (Morgantown, WV) where he earned a Master of Arts degree in foreign languages in 1989. He completed his Ph.D. degree in Spanish at the University of Southern California (Los Angeles, CA) in 1994. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor of Spanish in 1997, and was promoted to associate professor in 2003, and professor in 2008.

Professor Herrero-Olaizola is an internationally recognized scholar in the field of Latin American literary and cultural studies. Over the past two decades, his research trajectory has evolved from traditional textual analysis of twentieth-century Latin American literature to encompass diverse cultural, social, and critical perspectives on cultural history. His scholarly inquiries are grounded in meticulous archival research, theoretical exploration, and in-depth close readings, facilitating dialogues among cultural texts across disciplinary, national, and cultural boundaries within the Hispanic world. Noteworthy among his contributions are his monographs: *Narrativas híbridas: parodia y posmodernismo en la ficción contemporánea de las Américas* (2000), *Censorship Files: Latin American Writers and Franco's Spain* (2007), and *Commodifying Violence in Literature and on Screen: The Colombian Condition* (2022). These substantial works, along with his two influential co-edited volumes — *Teaching the Latin American Boom* (2015) and *Territories of Conflict: Traversing Cultural Studies in Colombia* (2017) — and numerous published essays in peer-reviewed journals and book chapters, reflect his profound reevaluation of the aesthetic and social landscapes of Latin American postmodernity and contemporaneity in relation to histories of authoritarianism, violence, and cultural commodification. Professor Herrero-Olaizola's scholarly achievements have been recognized with prestigious awards and grants, including the National Endowment for the Humanities (2002), the ACLS Charles A. Ryskamp Research Fellowship (2003), the Fulbright Foundation US Scholar Fellowship (2010), and various internal accolades from the University of Michigan.

Professor Herrero-Olaizola is not only a talented, knowledgeable, and widely respected scholar in his chosen field, he is also an inspiration to his students. His undergraduate course offerings have become not only a staple of the upper-level curriculum in Spanish but also of the department's commitment to teaching the values of diversity, equity, and inclusion. In 2014, he was named Arthur F. Thurnau Professor, specifically acknowledging his exceptional undergraduate education contribution to teaching, mentoring, and our department's curriculum. His significant contributions to university service and our academic community are apparent through his tenure in key RLL administrative roles, including associate chair and graduate chair.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Alejandro Herrero-Olaizola**, Arthur F. Thurnau Professor Emeritus and professor emeritus of Spanish.

Requested by:



Jon Kinsey
Vice President and Secretary of the University

May 2024