

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

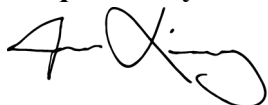
David L. Rolston, Ph.D., professor of Chinese language and literature in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, retired from active faculty status on May 31, 2024.

Professor Rolston received his Ph.D. degree from the University of Chicago in 1988. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor in 1988, and was promoted to associate professor in 1995, and professor in 2022.

Professor Rolston is a scholar of early modern Chinese literature, and is particularly known for his learned work on oral forms of literature. His period of specialization stretches from the sixteenth to the twenty-first centuries. The culmination of three decades of research, his monograph, *Inscribing Jingju/Peking Opera*, is a monumental piece of scholarship. In the book, Professor Rolston demonstrates the range and rigor of his scholarship, which spans the field of pre-modern fiction and modern performance studies. Professor Rolston's commitment to publishing in Chinese has built an impactful profile within Chinese-speaking academia and demonstrates his longstanding commitment to introducing Chinese literature and theater to Western audiences. Professor Rolston has authored 4 monographs and numerous articles. He is an active member of several professional organizations such as the Association for Asian Studies and the Association for Asian Performance. Professor Rolston has taught a wide range of classes across the Chinese studies curriculum at the undergraduate and graduate level, including large lectures (Asian 260) and a number of self-designed seminars. Professor Rolston was a serious and diligent instructor. Conscientious of student needs, he was dedicated to creating courses that emphasize dialogue and student-centered classrooms. Students have expressed their appreciation for his dedication, his deep knowledge of Chinese literature and performance traditions, and his sense of humor and approachability. Professor Rolston was an active mentor of graduate students in the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures and has served on and chaired many dissertation committees.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **David L. Rolston, professor emeritus of Chinese language and literature**.

Requested by:



Jon Kinsey
Vice President and Secretary of the University

May 2024