

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Enoch Brater, Ph.D., Kenneth T. Rowe Collegiate Professor of Dramatic Literature, professor of English language and literature, College of Literature, Sciences, and the Arts, and professor of theatre in the School of Music, Theatre & Dance, retired from active faculty status on May 31, 2025.

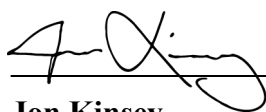
Professor Brater earned his B.A. in English from New York University in 1965 and his Ph.D. from Harvard University in 1971 (following an M.A. in 1967). After serving as a teaching fellow at Harvard, where he was also managing director of the Loeb Drama Center from 1970-71, Professor Brater was appointed assistant professor of English at the University of Pennsylvania in 1971. He joined the University of Michigan in 1975 as assistant professor of English. He was promoted to associate professor in 1977 and professor in 1987. Since 2006, he has held the Kenneth T. Rowe Collegiate Professorship.

Professor Brater ranks among the world's leading scholars of Samuel Beckett, cultivating continued appreciation of the late author's work, including by serving two terms as president of the Samuel Beckett Society (1988-91, 2005-07). *Beyond Minimalism: Beckett's Late Style in the Theater* (1987) was one of the first critical monographs on Beckett's late plays. It was followed by five more books on Beckett's drama and fiction, including *The Drama in the Text: Beckett's Late Fiction* (1994) and *Ten Ways of Thinking About Samuel Beckett: The Falsetto of Reason* (2011). Another important focus of Brater's work has been the plays of Arthur Miller, including a biography published in 2006 and two important critical anthologies, *Arthur Miller's America* (2005) and *Arthur Miller's Global Theater* (2007). As these and other titles indicate, Brater's impact on the field of theatre and performance studies derives in part from his groundbreaking work as an editor. The University of Michigan Press series "Theater: Theory/Text/Performance," which began in 1988 with Professor Brater as founding series editor, remains the cornerstone series of theatre and performance studies in the U.S. He is currently co-series editor of Bloomsbury's Methuen Drama Engage series and was the editor of *Theatre Journal* (1988-91) among other editorial achievements, for which he earned the Excellence in Editing Award from the Association for Theater in Higher Education. He also published over 39 journal essays and 31 chapters in books; served visiting professorships in Jerusalem, Rome, Madrid, and Trento; and lectured widely in the U.S., Europe, Japan, and elsewhere.

Among Prof. Brater's proudest accomplishments are the many students he has mentored and scholarly careers he has midwived during his fifty-year teaching career at the U-M, which included directing 22 dissertations and serving on an additional 23 committees. He taught undergraduate and graduate courses in a variety of topics including modern drama, Shakespeare, dramatic criticism and theory, and (of course) Beckett and Miller. He also worked to promote U-M students' study abroad, including as director or co-director of Michigan's programs in Florence and London. For this work he earned the Distinguished Faculty Achievement Award, the John D'Arms Award for Graduate Mentoring, and the Amoco Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching.

The Regents now salute this distinguished teacher and scholar by naming **Enoch Brater, Kenneth T. Rowe Collegiate Professor Emeritus of Dramatic Literature, professor emeritus of English language and literature, and professor emeritus of theatre**.

Requested by:



Jon Kinsey
Vice President and Secretary of the University

May 2025