

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

*Regents Communication*

ACTION REQUEST

**Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement**

**Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir**

**Clement Hawes, Ph.D.**, professor of English language and literature and professor of history in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, retired from active faculty status on December 31, 2024.


Professor Clement Hawes received his Ph.D. degree from Yale University in 1986. He joined the Albion College faculty as assistant professor in 1986. In 1990, Professor Hawes moved to Southern Illinois University and was promoted to associate professor in 1996. He joined the faculty of University of Michigan in 2010 as professor.

Professor Hawes is a premier scholar in the fields of early modern English literature (both poetry and prose) and history and an internationally recognized expert on the Ranters, the eighteenth-century novel, and the poet Christopher Smart. He first explored the connections between mania and creativity from the mid-seventeenth century to the mid-eighteenth century in *Mania and Literary Style: The Rhetoric of Enthusiasm from the Ranters to Christopher Smart* (1996). Adept at historical contextualization and interdisciplinary insight, he wove into his nuanced analysis an appreciation of the evolution of societal understandings of mental illness and how that evolution variously shaped matters like authorial structure and rhythm. His second major monograph – *The British Eighteenth Century and Global Critique* (2005) – appealed to a wider range of scholars with its examination of the impact of colonialism and imperialism on English literature, by how authors entered into (and sometimes even initiated) an evolving conversation on empire, race and identity. With it, he contributed to the dethroning of the notion of single literary canon, drawing as he did from texts arising in all parts of the empire. In addition to groundbreaking monographs, Hawes coedited at least a half-dozen volumes of text and essays, most notably *The Cambridge History of the English Novel* (2012).

Since arriving at Michigan in 2010, Professor Hawes taught numerous graduate and undergraduate courses in British history, most notably “Religion and Politics in Early Modern Britain,” “Eighteenth-Century Historiography,” and “Empire and British Identity, 1660-1800,” in addition to the countless lecture and seminar courses he offered in English. He also quietly and faithfully, sat on committees in both departments too numerous to count.

The Regents now salute this distinguished scholar and teacher by naming **Clement Hawes, professor emeritus of English language and literature and professor emeritus of history.**

**Requested by:**



**Jon Kinsey**  
Vice President and Secretary of the University

**December 2024**