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PROFESSOR PRESENTS AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Rio Hondo College Spanish Instructor Mariano Zaro hosts session on LA poets

Whittier – Renowned poet and Rio Hondo College Spanish professor Mariano Zaro was among an elite group of writers, poets and literary professionals to host sessions at the *XIII Congreso Internacional de Literatura Hispánica* conference in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia in March.

The *Congreso Internacional de Literatura Hispánica* (International Congress of Hispanic Literature), which occurred March 12-14, is a gathering of authors, professors and others interested in literature in Spanish, who exchange ideas and discuss new literary movements and theories.

“For me, it’s always an eye-opening experience,” Zaro said. “You discover new writers, new theories to analyze literature and make connections with other professors who have similar interests.”

Zaro, a published poet and short story writer, presented a session titled “*La Poetica Hispánica en los Estados Unidos*,” (Hispanic Poetry in the United States), an overview of poetry production in Spanish authored by poets in Los Angeles, including both Latin American exiles and US-born from immigrant families.

“Rio Hondo College has a knowledgeable, talented and diverse faculty, and Dr. Zaro is one of our stand-outs,” said Rio Hondo College Superintendent/President Teresa Dreyfuss. “Any time one of our faculty members gives a successful lecture or workshop session, it reflects well on our College as others learn we are poised to obtain the best of the best for our students.”

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Zaro has written four poetry books: "Where From/*Desde Donde*," "Poems of Erosion/*Poemas de la erosión*," "The House of Mae Rim/*La casa de Mae Rim*" and "Tres letras/Three Letters." His poetry has appeared in *New Baroque*, *LA Melange*, *Rio Hondo College's River Voice*, *Askew*, *The Seattle Muse*, *Badlands*, *Al Aire Nuevo* and *Luces y Sombras*.

Also an accomplished short story writer, Zaro's fiction has appeared in many literary journals in both Spain and the United States, including *The Louisville Review*, *The Baltimore Review* and *the Portland Review*. In 2004, his work garnered him the *Roanoke Review Short Fiction Prize*.

Zaro, who was born in Spain and immigrated to the United States in 1994, holds a master's degree in Spanish literature from the University of Zaragoza and a doctorate in linguistics from the University of Granada.

Currently, Zaro has several projects on the horizon, including speaking engagements and a video series featuring local poets.

"It is an honor to have a professor at Rio Hondo College of Dr. Zaro's caliber," said Rio Hondo College Dean of Communications and Languages Dr. Robert Holcomb. "His work is world-renowned and he is an outstanding role model for his students. As a member of the international literati, he represents our College well to those who may not have ever heard of Rio Hondo. He is an asset and a talent."



Rio Hondo College, located in Whittier, California, is committed to the success of its diverse students and communities by providing dynamic educational opportunities and resources that lead to associate degrees, certificates, transfer, career and technical pathways, basic skills proficiency, and lifelong learning. For information on the College or its programs, please call 562-692-0921, or visit www.riohondo.edu.