



## Media Release

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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.”



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