MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

LUIS DÁVILA

(January 23, 1938 – March 8, 2015)

Treasured Emeritus Professor Luis Dávila (San Antonio, Texas, January 23, 1938) passed away on Sunday March 8, 2015 at the Meadowood Retirement Community. He obtained a B.S. in Chemistry from St. Mary's University of Texas in 1960 with academic honors of magna cum laude. After entering the work force as a Formula Editor at Chemical Abstracts Services (a division of the American Chemical Society) in Columbus, Ohio, he served in that capacity for three years. Then Professor Dávila devoted himself to his love for literature as his ultimate career goal. He was admitted to the Department of Romance Languages at The Ohio State University where he completed his MA in Spanish and his PhD in Romance Literatures and Cultures (1970). He wrote his dissertation, "The Antipoetry of Nicanor Parra," under the direction of Dr. Marta Frosch. Professor Dávila arrived in Bloomington for the fall semester of 1969 and continued teaching until his retirement 42 years later in December 2011.

Professor Luis Dávila was a pioneer in promoting Latino and heritage language programs at a time when there were very few or no programs dedicated to study the language, literature and culture of Latinos in the US. In 1973, under his guidance the Chicano-Riqueño Studies Program was created. This was an innovative idea that stimulated research on Puerto Rican and Mexican culture in the U.S. This initiative was praised by scholars and intellectuals in the field. Professor Dávila was the Chicano-Riqueño Program Director for 38 years, and he was one of the founders of the Revista Chicano-Riqueña. This was a revolutionary scholarly journal devoted to Latino cultures that Professor Dávila co-edited with Professor Nicolás Kanellos from the University of Houston (1973 to 1980). This journal provided a needed venue for Latino culture in the United States and enriched scholarly research in the topic. The journal then became The Americas Review, a notable publication devoted to Hispanic literature and

art of the USA. Professor Dávila was also a leading figure in the creation of the journal Chiricú in his role as a faculty mentor. This journal was one of the few US Latino journals completely published by graduate students. Both the Revista Chicano-Riqueña and Chiricú made Indiana University and the Department of Spanish and Portuguese come to be recognized as a prominent institution in the area of Latino Studies.

Professor Dávila was nationally and internationally recognized for his academic trajectory. Early in his career he received the prestigious National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) "Younger Humanist" Fellowship (1972-73), and in 1985, he was named an Owen Duston Scholar at Wabash College. Professor Davila's scholarly and creative publications appeared in notable journals such as Revista Chicano-Riqueña, Revista Iberoamericana, and the Journal of Hispanic Literatures. He also served as an editor for Twayne books, where he contributed in publishing 18 scholarly volumes on Latin American literature between the period of 1977 and 1983. His active participation in his field of research involved planning and serving on committees for many conferences over the years. However, he remembered with special affection the symposia dedicated to the literary writings of Tomás Rivera and Richard Rodríguez, both of whom were present at their respective events. Professor Dávila was also frequently invited to give lectures and presentations across the United States, as well as abroad in Canada, Mexico, France, Italy, and Spain.

Professor Dávila served as Chair of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese between 1983 and 1989. For two of those years, he even served concurrently as the Director of Graduate Studies, guiding the Department through a period of transition as educational trends across the nation were changing. Within the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, he created eight new undergraduate courses and two new graduate courses. Professor Dávila was the faculty director of the Indiana University Graduate Studies Seminar (1976-77) in Madrid, Spain. He also directed three student summer programs at the Universidad Iberoamericana in Mexico City (1972, 1990, and 1994). Professor Dávila was the Director of the department's Honors Program, an activity that

led him to the Honors College where he taught for seven years (1995-98 and 2002-06). Professor Dávila directed twenty eight PhD dissertations. He also served on many other dissertation committees as well as MA and undergraduate Honors thesis committees. His dedication as a mentor led to long-standing professional relationships with many of these students that remain to this day.

At the level of the university and the profession, Professor Dávila was a member of the Bloomington Faculty Council (1992-94, 1996-98, 2000-02, and 2005-07). He was also a Bloomington member of the University Faculty Council for four of those years and served as a member of the Executive Committee for the Bloomington chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) between 2005 and 2007. Professor Dávila was a committed member of the local and state communities. He served as a member of the State of Indiana Civil Rights Commission (1973-75) and of the steering committee of the Chicano Art Exhibit at the Indiana State Museum in Indianapolis (2003). He volunteered as an enrichment teacher at Marlin Elementary School (1977-78), as a "Great Books" instructor to the young students at St. Charles Elementary School (1983-84), and to teach alumni and other participants at the summer Lifelong Learning Mini-University (1997, 2004, 2005 and 2006). He recorded poetry readings for WFIU and he was an active participant in their fundraising campaigns. In 2008, the Latino Alumni Association presented Professor Dávila the Distinguished Latino Faculty Award in recognition of his outstanding achievements to Indiana University and the Indiana University Latino Community for over 30 years.

Professor Dávila met his wife of 46 years, Bobbi, while both were graduate students at The Ohio State University. They have two daughters, Roxanne and Serena, who both graduated with BA degrees from Harvard University with honors. Roxanne then received her PhD from Yale University in Spanish and Portuguese and is currently teaching at Tulane University. Serena received her JD degree from the Northwestern University School of Law and currently lives

in the DC area where she works at the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU).

RESOLUTION

Whereas the Department of Spanish and Portuguese and the Indiana University community lost a valued member and leader on Sunday March 8, 2015, with the death of Professor Luis Dávila;

Whereas Professor Luis Dávila was a tireless and outspoken advocate of Latino Studies and Latino Culture in the U.S;

Whereas Professor Luis Dávila served 42 years as a mentor and researcher at Indiana University in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese;

Whereas Professor Luis Dávila inspired his students and prepared them to become effective leaders in their field;

Whereas Professor Luis Dávila served with excellence the Department, the University and the profession;

Whereas Professor Luis Dávila's true legacy lies in the profound effect he had on the men and women he mentored and taught throughout his career, now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at Indiana University

(1) on behalf of its members, recognizes the significant contributions of Professor Luis Dávila over the course of his distinguished career and mourns his death; and

(2) extends its sincerest condolences to his wife, family and friends.

Respectfully submitted,

Manuel Díaz-Campos

Department of Spanish and Portuguese