

May 20, 2020

ITEM 188-1007-R0520

Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus on John Hunt, University of Montana-Missoula.

THAT

Upon the retirement of John Hunt from the faculty of the University of Montana, the faculty wish to express their appreciation for his 32 years of dedicated and valued service to the University and the State of Montana by requesting that the rank of Professor Emeritus be conferred upon him by the Board of Regents of the Montana University System.

EXPLANATION

Professor John Hunt earned his PhD at Stanford University in 1984, completed a one-year post-doc at the University of Rochester, taught for two years at Tufts University, and then joined the English Department at the University of Montana in 1988. Over the years he rose in rank to Professor, served as Chair of the Department in 2013-14 and, after nearly thirty-two years at UM, retired in December 2019.

Professor Hunt was an engaged and energetic teacher. He taught courses across the entire curriculum, from introductory survey courses to seminars, and courses that ranged across time and place. His field of specialization was early modern drama and poetry, in particular Shakespeare, but he also regularly taught courses in Dante's Divine Comedy, the seventeenth-century "metaphysical" poets, and James Joyce. His range of teaching interests helped set the tone and spirit of the department over the last three decades.

Professor Hunt's scholarship, similarly, has ranged from the Renaissance drama to modernist fiction. In his early years at UM he published several articles on Shakespeare's work. He has composed an unpublished book-length manuscript on Shakespeare, Shakespeare's Entangled Selves, that he intends to revise and publish during retirement. His major project over the last decade has been the Joyce Project, an immense website available at joyceproject.com (on personal computers) and at m.joyceproject.com (on mobile devices), a website that presents carefully edited texts of the 18 chapters of Joyce's landmark novel Ulysses and, within these texts, hyperlinks that lead to short essays clarifying difficult passages: the essays address topics as diverse as literary allusions, Irish history, the city of Dublin, musical and dramatic performances, religious rituals, nursery rhymes, medicine, sexuality commerce, and newspapers, among other things. At present there are almost 700 essays of anywhere between two and twenty paragraphs. The website will continue to grow for years to come. This seems to be exactly the kind of innovative scholarship that Joyce's pathbreaking novel, published almost a century ago, calls for.

Over the years, further, Professor Hunt has given a great deal of time to department and campus service. In the department he was a member of many committees and served at different points as Director of Graduate Studies, Associate Chair, and Chair. On campus he served as a faculty senator and Chair of the Graduate Council, participated actively in the older Humanities and the more recent Liberal Studies programs, and was involved in various ways with the Davidson Honors College and the MOLLI program for adult education. He has been an engaged citizen of both the English Department and the wider campus community during his time at UM.

The English Department is very happy to nominate Professor John Hunt for emeritus status.

ATTACHMENTS

None.