

DR. FELIPE DE ORTEGO Y GASCA



Dr. Felipe de Ortega y Gasca is principal scholar of the Chicano Renaissance and is considered founder of Chicano literary history with *Backgrounds of Mexican American Literature* (University of New Mexico, 1971), first study in the field. His essay on “The Chicano Renaissance” (*Journal of Social Casework*, May 1971) is a landmark text in the Chicano literary movement.

He studied at the University of Pittsburgh, the University of Texas, and the University of New Mexico where he received his Ph.D. in English (British Renaissance Studies and Linguistics). He completed post-doctoral studies in Management and Planning for Higher Education at the Harriman Institute, Graduate School of Business, Columbia University; and studied biblical Hebrew at the Texas Institute for Classical Studies.

Author of many books, monographs, studies, plays, and hundreds of scholarly, critical, public affairs, and creative pieces, his articles, essays, fiction, and poetry appear in leading national and international publications, including *The Nation*, *Saturday Review*, *The Center Magazine*, *Journal of Social Casework*, *The Denver Quarterly*, *Chaucer Review*, and numerous encyclopedias. He was Founding Associate Publisher of *La Luz Magazine* (1972-1982), first national Hispanic public affairs magazine in English (Denver); and Founding Publisher/Editor-in-Chief of *The National Hispanic Reporter* (1983-1993), first

national Hispanic newspaper in English (Washington, DC). Along with editors and writers of leading national publications, he serves on the Advisory Board of the Mayborn Literary Non-fiction Conference of the Southwest, Graduate School of Journalism, University of North Texas.

Among myriad honors, awards, and distinctions, he is recipient of the 2007 *Letras de Aztlan Award* from the National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies (Tejas Foco) for his “lifetime work and achievement in Chicano scholarship and community activism”; and recipient of the 2005 *Patricia and Rudolfo Anaya Critica Nueva Award* from the University of New Mexico for his contributions to Chicano literary history and criticism. In 1997 he was honored by the Texas Association of Chicanos in Higher Education with the *Distinguished Faculty Award* for significant contributions to education. He is also recipient of the *Presidio La Bahia Award* (1980) from the Kathryn Stoner O’Connor Foundation and the Sons of the Republic of Texas for *Contemporary Perspectives on the Old Spanish Missions of San Antonio*, best work on the Spanish Colonial period of Texas Letters. In 1968 he received the *NEA-Reader’s Digest Foundation Award for fiction*.

He was for many years a public school teacher of French As founding director, he organized in 1971 the Chicano Studies Program at the University of Texas at El Paso (first in the state). His military service includes World War II service with the U.S. Marines (Platoon Sergeant) and an Air Force assignment (Major, USAFR) as a Threat Analyst in Soviet Studies. He is past Chair of The Hispanic Foundation (Washington, DC).

Early in his career he served as Faculty Executive to the President of Metropolitan State College in Denver, then as Vice-Chancellor for Academic Development of The Hispanic University of America in Denver. He was Founding Director of the Institute for Intercultural Studies and Research at Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio, Texas; and from 1983 to 1986 he was a Communication Consultant to the U.S. Trade Representative, Executive Office of the President of the United States. He is Dean Emeritus of the Hispanic Leadership Institute, Arizona State University where he was also Professor of English and Comparative Literature. At Texas Woman’s University he was Professor of Communication and Information Studies; and at Texas State University—Sul Ross he was Scholar in Residence in Social Studies, Director of the Title III HSI program, and professor of Bilingual Education. From 1999 to 2007 he was Visiting Scholar in English and bilingual Education at Texas A&M University—Kingsville. He is professor emeritus of English, Texas State University System—Sul Ross.

He has held visiting and adjunct appointments at a number of colleges/universities, including the University of Colorado at Boulder, Northern Arizona University, the University of Houston, San Jose State University, Angelo State University (Texas), St Philip’s College of San Antonio, Texas; and has held faculty appointments as Professor of Urban Studies; Social Work; and Research Professor of Hispanic Studies, At Western New Mexico University (2007 to the present) Dr. Ortega is Scholar in Residence and Chair of the Department of Chicana/Chicano and Hemispheric Studies (CCHS) and teaches courses on the History and Philos-

ophy of Education, Chicano Literature and Critical Theory, Second Language Acquisition, and for faculty a Professional Development course on Scholarly Communications. He is also faculty advisor to *The Mustang* student newspaper.