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Cal Poly Journalism Department Chair George Ramos Inducted Into Hispanic Journalists Hall of Fame

SAN LUIS OBISPO – Cal Poly Journalism Department Chair George Ramos, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, will be inducted into the National Association of Hispanic Journalists Hall of Fame.

Ramos is among three award-winning California journalists who will be feted during the association’s 25th anniversary convention in San Jose June 13-16. The other inductees are both Emmy Award-winning television producers Cecilia Alvear and Rigo Chacón.

Ramos, a three-time Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter with the Los Angeles Times, has been serving as chair of the Journalism Department since 2003. The 1969 Cal Poly graduate credits the university with giving him his start in the news business.

After graduating, he joined the U.S. Army. He saw combat duty in Vietnam as a first lieutenant in the field artillery. In 1978 Ramos joined the Times, serving as a reporter, editor, bureau chief and columnist.

In 1984 he was the co-leader of a team of Mexican American reporters and photographers who won the Pulitzer Prize Gold Medal for Meritorious Public Service for a series about Latinos in Southern California. The team made history – it was the first Pulitzer for Chicano journalists.

In 1992, Ramos won another Pulitzer for team coverage of the riots that broke out in Los Angeles after the verdicts were announced in the Rodney King case. Ramos was also on the team that won a 1994 Pulitzer Prize for on-the-spot reporting about the Northridge earthquake.

Back in San Luis Obispo, Ramos was named by Latino Today newspaper as one of the Central Coast's Most Influential Latinos in 2006.

“Ramos, Alvear and Chacón have inspired so many young Latinos and colleagues,” said Iván Román, NAHJ’s executive director. “They have dedicated their lives not just to their careers but to helping those in need, and have collectively spent more than a century fighting for better representation and coverage of our community. The breadth of their dedication and their work is truly humbling.

Created in 2000, NAHJ’s Hall of Fame honors those journalists and industry pioneers whose efforts either nationally or locally have resulted in a greater number of Latinos entering the journalism profession or have helped to improve news coverage of the nation’s Latino community. For more information, visit the NAHJ Web site at


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