UC Santa Cruz and UC San Diego Professors Honored with 2010 Constantine Panunzio Distinguished Emeriti Award

The 2010 Constantine Panunzio Distinguished Emeriti Award honoring emeriti professors in the University of California system has been awarded to Harry Berger Jr., Professor Emeritus of Literature at UC Santa Cruz, and Arend Lijphart, Professor Emeritus of Political Science at UC San Diego. Professors Berger and Lijphart are the twenty-fourth and twenty-fifth UC emeriti professors to receive the Constantine Panunzio Award. The late Dr. Panunzio, a professor of sociology at UCLA for many years, has been described as the architect of the UC Retirement System and was particularly active in improving pensions and stipends for his fellow emeriti. The award bearing his name was established in 1983 and includes a $5,000 prize.

Professor Berger will publish four books this year—on Spenser, on Dutch still life, on Shakespeare, and on Plato’s Republic—bringing his post-retirement total to eight books and numerous journal articles. A prominent critic has said that reading his work is like watching Willie Mays play baseball, noting that Professor Berger “plays the hard game with the same breathtaking ease and confidence.” In 2003, the Modern Language Association dedicated a panel to his impact on literary studies, and two universities have sponsored conferences honoring his achievements.

Professor Lijphart is author of Patterns of Democracy: Government Forms and Performance in Thirty-Six Countries, an analysis of today’s democracies that has been translated into Spanish, Romanian, Italian, Portuguese, Japanese, Turkish, Mongolian, Estonian, and Chinese. Offering a proposal for establishing a more peaceful and just world order, his book includes empirical evidence that his guidelines have practical
value. Dr. Lijphart has been elected to the American Academy of Sciences, the Royal Netherlands Academy of Sciences, and the British Academy.

Brief accounts of their work in retirement follow.

HARRY BERGER JR.

Harry Berger Jr., Professor Emeritus of Literature at UC Santa Cruz, will publish four books this year—on Spenser, on Dutch still life, on Shakespeare, and on Plato’s Republic—suggesting the breadth and depth of scholarship that led the Modern Language Association in 2003 to dedicate a panel to his impact on literary studies. A prominent critic has said that reading his work is like watching Willie Mays play baseball, noting that Professor Berger “plays the hard game with the same breathtaking ease and confidence.”

After more than 40 years of playing Socrates to students of literature at Yale University and UC Santa Cruz, Professor Berger has in retirement become his own Plato, pouring the ideas of a lifetime into dozens of articles and nine books. The first of these was a major book on Shakespeare: Making Trifles of Terrors: Redistributing Complicities in Shakespeare, which drew the comparison to Willie Mays. It was selected as the focus of a special issue of Shakespeare Studies, a mark of Professor Berger’s high standing in the crowded field of Shakespeare scholarship.

His emeritus CV also includes two major books on Rembrandt and Dutch visual culture, a comprehensive study of two Renaissance courtesy books, an analysis of interpretive delirium in Spenser’s Faerie Queene, and an examination of structural misanthropology in Plato’s Republic—the last two due out later this year.

The Republic was also the topic of a seminar for UCSC faculty and students, which he co-taught with Emeritus Professor Joseph Lynch. “In a time when the University and the campus are facing tremendous intellectual and institutional challenges,” Berger’s former student and now department chair, Karen Bassi
says, “this seminar provides a much needed time and place to contemplate our communal commitment to education.”

She adds that Professor Berger has continued to teach in retirement, both in the Literature Department he helped to establish and in the wider academic community. He was Kennedy Professor of Renaissance Studies at Smith College in 2002, Whitney Oakes Fellow at Princeton and Visiting Fellow at the Humanities Institute of New York University in 2005, and the Cox Family Visiting Scholar at the University of Colorado in 2007. A “Harryfest” conference celebrating his achievements at the University of South Carolina has generated a book, *A Touch More Rare: Harry Berger Jr. and the Arts of Interpretation.*

Although “the breadth of Berger’s work is awesome,” says David Lee Miller, the book’s coeditor, “he doesn’t dabble. When he turns to art history, he challenges and transforms the field’s repertoire of methodologies. . . . Whatever his mind touches starts to glow.” Professor Miller also notes “the special ethos of Berger’s work, which makes us all feel as if the world of scholarship might still turn out to be the kind of clean, well-lighted place we imagined it would be when we were still students, peering in from the outside and idealizing our teachers.”

**AREND LIJPHART**

Arend Lijphart, Professor Emeritus of Political Science at UC San Diego, is author of *Patterns of Democracy: Government Forms and Performance in Thirty-Six Countries,* an analysis of today’s democracies that has been translated into Spanish, Romanian, Italian, Portuguese, Japanese, Turkish, Mongolian, Estonian, and Chinese. Beyond research, his book constitutes a practical proposal for establishing a more peaceful and just world order, and it includes empirical evidence that his guidelines have practical value.

A 2008 recent book, *Thinking About Democracy,* collects his most influential work in a single volume and assesses the development of his thought and its practical impact on emerging democracies. His post-retirement publication list also includes eight edited volumes and more than 70 articles and chapters. He has
completed his contributions to *The United States in Comparative Perspective*, looking at the values, institutions, and policy outcomes in the United States and 29 other long-term democracies.

As Professor Lijphart began his retirement in 1995, he was elected president of the American Political Science Association, an office awarded only to those scholars who have made a unique impact on the discipline. Under his guidance, the group’s annual meeting had record participation, and his presidential address on the problem of inequalities in voter turnout was widely acclaimed for its creative yet practical recommendations. He also serves on five editorial boards and is a reviewer for numerous journals and foundations.

One of the most esteemed scholars in political science today, Dr. Lijphart has been elected to the American Academy of Sciences, the Royal Netherlands Academy of Sciences, and the British Academy. Among the prestigious awards he has received are the Johan Skytte Prize in Political Science and the Aaron Wildavsky Book Award.

Dr. Lijphart continues to be active in the UCSD Department of Political Science, says Chair Clark C. Gibson. “Much to the delight of our graduate students, he continued to offer graduate seminars . . . and has been an invaluable resource as an advisor and mentor. He is generous with his time and knowledge and is a highly respected and valued colleague and teacher.”

One of his colleagues, David A. Lake, calls Dr. Lijphart “judicious, cool-headed, and the rock upon which his department was built.” Dr. Lake, who is Associate Dean of Social Sciences at UCSD, notes that the department has ranked in the top 10 nationally since the early 1990s. “Much credit goes to Arend, not only as its most senior and distinguished member, but because he set a tone of collegiality and respect that always kept the department moving forward in a progressive direction.”