UC Santa Cruz's Harry Berger Jr. honored with top UC award for Emeriti Faculty

The 2010 Constantine Panunzio Distinguished Emeriti Award, honoring emeriti professors in the University of California system, has been awarded to UC Santa Cruz professor emeritus of literature Harry Berger Jr.

The award, which pays tribute to the post-retirement contributions of UC faculty, was presented this year to both Berger and Arend Lijphart, professor emeritus of political science at UC San Diego.

Berger, a founding faculty member of UC Santa Cruz, is known for his wide-ranging and interdisciplinary approach that goes far beyond traditional academic boundaries.

Last year, Fordham University Press published *A Touch More Rare: Harry Berger, Jr. and the Art of Interpretation*, celebrating more than four decades of groundbreaking work by Berger.

The book's 19 essays serve as a tribute to a revered and respected literary and cultural critic, whose vast body of work led to his election to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2006.

Berger studied literature and art history at Yale University, where he earned his B.A. and Ph.D. in English and taught for 12 years. He came to UC Santa Cruz in 1965 where he taught a variety of subjects under the general category of culture theory and Renaissance culture, including Renaissance drama and Shakespeare.

In art history, he specialized in Italian and Dutch painting and the theory and practice of portraiture.

Berger has published extensively over the years, with numerous books and more than 100 articles to his credit. Although he retired in the 1990s, Berger continues to teach classes as an emeritus professor at UCSC, as well as lead seminars for faculty and students at such venues as the Newberry Library and the Shakespeare Society of America.

Since his retirement, Berger has written dozens of articles and completed nine books. He has plans to publish four books this year alone—on Spenser, Shakespeare, Dutch
still-life, and Plato’s Republic—illustrating the depth of scholarship that led the Modern Language Association in 2003 to dedicate a panel to his impact on literary studies.

“Although the breadth of Berger’s work is awesome, he doesn’t dabble,” said David Lee Miller, co-editor of A Touch More Rare: Harry Berger Jr. and the Arts of Interpretation. “When he turns to art history, he challenges and transforms the field’s repertoire of methodologies...whatever his mind touches starts to glow.”

Miller also noted “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.”

A conference to celebrate the ongoing career of Harry Berger, Jr. will take place May 20, from 1 to 6 p.m. at the Cowell College Conference Room. A reception will immediately follow the conference. Admission is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Amy Tessier at atessier@ucsc.edu.

William Friedland, research professor of community studies and sociology, delivered the keynote address during a conference on "Disputed Territories: New Spaces of Agriculture and Social Reproduction Systems," which took place December 11-12 at the University of Leipzig. Friedland's paper was entitled "Critical Juncture in Globalized Agrifood: On the Brink of a Fundamental Transformation?" Friedland also presented a paper on the history of agrifood research to a graduate seminar at the university, summarizing 30 years of work by researchers affiliated with the International Sociological Association.

John Marcum of politics just returned from Angola, where he gave the introductory lecture at a conference on civil society. Marcum, the author of a two-volume history of the Angolan revolution, provided historic background and analysis for conference attendees. The meeting was held in advance of national elections, scheduled for early September.
Thomas Pettigrew

Thomas F. Pettigrew, research professor of social psychology at UC Santa Cruz, has been named winner of the 2010 Harold Lasswell Award by the International Society for Political Psychology.

Named for one of the first researchers to apply psychology to the analysis of politics, the Lasswell Award is given for distinguished scientific contributions in the field of political psychology. Pettigrew will receive the award in July at the society's annual meeting in San Francisco where he will also give an address, "The Post-Racism Myth and Mass Media Mistakes."

The honor is the most recent for Pettigrew, who a year ago was awarded the University of California's highest award for emeriti faculty. Pettigrew retired from teaching in 1994 but has been active in research since then. He has studied intergroup relations for more than five decades, spending the past 20 years focusing on race relations in Europe.

He arrived at UCSC in 1979 after teaching at the University of North Carolina and Harvard University.

Thomas Pettigrew, a research professor of social psychology, recently received an honorary doctorate in the natural sciences from Philipps University in Marburg, Germany. Pettigrew's lifelong work in intergroup relations around the globe was also recognized with the recent publication of a new book edited by his colleagues in social psychology in three nations, entitled Improving Intergroup Relations: Building on the Legacy of Thomas F. Pettigrew (Hoboken, NJ: Wiley-Blackwell, 2008).

Thomas Pettigrew, research professor of social psychology, recently presented the opening address at an international conference on immigration in Madrid. Sponsored by the Juan March Foundation of Spain, social scientists who specialize on immigration studies from throughout the world attended. Pettigrew spoke on his long-term research on German attitudes toward the nation's new immigrants.
Mary Silver, professor emerita of ocean science, has been named a Fellow of the Oceanography Society "for pioneering research on the ecology of marine organisms, excellence in teaching, mentoring and service to the oceanographic community." Silver will be honored at the society's meeting in Portland in February 2010.

Michael Soule, professor emeritus of environmental studies, recently received an E.O. Wilson Biodiversity Technology Pioneer Award from Montana State University. Soule founded the Society for Conservation Biology and The Wildlands Project and is a leading proponent of the field of conservation biology. He was one of six distinguished scientists who received an inaugural award. The awards were presented during an event that included the presentation of the university's Presidential Medal for Global and Visionary Leadership to Edwin O. Wilson, widely known as the "father of biodiversity."