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Dear Provosts, Deans, and Emeriti Association Presidents:

UC Berkeley and UC Santa Cruz Professors Honored with 2015 Constantine Panunzio Distinguished Emeriti Award

The 2015 Constantine Panunzio Distinguished Emeriti Award honoring Emeriti Professors in the University of California system has been awarded to Professor Emerita of Anthropology Elizabeth Colson, UC Berkeley, and Professor Emeritus of Psychology, Pavel Machotka, UC Santa Cruz.

Professors Colson and Machotka are the thirty-fourth and thirty-fifth UC Emeriti Professors to receive the Constantine Panunzio Award. Both awardees have especially long and notable records of research, teaching, and service to the University of California, their disciplines, and their communities. 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.

Elizabeth Colson, UC Berkeley

Elizabeth Colson, Professor of Anthropology, is best known for her ethnographic fieldwork in Zambia, Africa since the 1950s, resulting in long-term studies of social change caused by forced resettlement, and theoretical contributions to applied, development, and political anthropology. Her work included coding for computer analysis demographic data gathered from three Gwembe villages and she translated and transcribed diaries kept by village research assistants. For Professor Colson, fieldwork is a way of life.

In 1971, before it became vogue, she was writing about the impact of colonialism on a changing Africa. Her approach is eclectic and problem-oriented, her theory more fine grained than grand. Professor Colson’s published work has dealt with various subjects: the history of American Anthropology, the foundation of the Association of Social Anthropologists, longitudinal research, the consequences of forced migration, linkages as a research method, the emergence of the Development/Humanitarian Community, emergent ethnicity, political organization, the work of courts, the
impact of HIV/AIDS, war and violence, witchcraft, and the role of shrines. She follows the sequence of events from the original upheaval to the present, from the point of view of those coping. Professor Colson is a consequence specialist.

Since retiring in 1984, she has continued to research, produce publications, and participate in academic meetings and conferences, in addition to serving on two dissertation committees, reading manuscripts, and working with anthropology students and scholars at Berkeley, and from around the world. Professor Colson has also generously shared her time and expertise with the University of Zambia, the Refugee Studies Programme at Oxford University, and the National Academy of Sciences as well as contributing to research collections at the UC Berkeley Bancroft Library, Phoebe Hearst Museum, and the University of Zambia. She has received numerous recognitions and honors for her post-retirement work on three continents including being named Emerita of the Year by the UC Berkeley Emeriti Association in 2014.

Professor Colson’s contributions continue to enrich: as a teacher still advising researchers, as a volunteer for the Refugee Studies Centre, and as a participant in Zambia centered and international meetings.

Pavel Machotka, UC Santa Cruz

A Professor of Psychology, Pavel Machotka’s scholarly work during the two decades following his retirement has concentrated on the psychology of artistic creativity in general and the genius of Cezanne's paintings in particular. One of his pioneering achievements is his approach to examining artworks using psychological means and analyzing how artist, context, and art medium all interact. Another important contribution that Professor Machotka made to the field was identifying numerous Cezanne motifs, especially in and around Aix-en-Provence, in essence resuming the work left unfinished by John Rewald to form as complete a directory as possible of Cezanne’s sites in Provence, Savoie and Ile de France. His strong interest to locate these sites and to compare them to the artist's realization on canvas led to the publication of a scholarly and highly praised volume, Cezanne: Landscape into Art.

Since 1994, Professor Machotka has become part of the Czech and Slovak psychological community as an Art psychologist. His art books, Cezanne: Landscape into Art; Style and Psyche: The Art of Lundy Siegriest and Terry St. John; and Painting and Our Inner World: The Psychology of Image Making, have been an asset for research in the field of Art and Personality recommended to PhD students who deal with the psychology of art in their thesis. In addition, Professor Machotka has given invited lectures, participated in international congresses, served on editorial and advisory boards, including Ph.D. dissertation committees and two scholarly journals concerned with the psychology of artistic creativity, and more
importantly, has worked in several ways to strengthen the scholarly capacities of two universities in the Czech Republic.

Professor Machotka is considered one of the great scholars in the field of the psychology of aesthetics. As a painter himself, he offers many insights into Cezanne’s working methods. As one critic notes: “In Cezanne: The Eye and the Mind, where each painting is analyzed in considerable detail, one feels like one is peaking around a corner and eavesdropping on a conversation among Pavel and the greats of the history of the field.”

Please join the Selection Committee and me in congratulating Professor Colson and Professor Machotka on winning the 2015 Constantine Panunzio Distinguished Emeriti Award.

Sincerely,

Carole Goldberg
Chair, Constantine Panunzio Distinguished Emeriti Award Selection Committee
Vice Chancellor, Academic Personnel