



For Immediate Release

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Dear Provosts, Deans, and Emeriti Association Presidents:

**UC Berkeley and UC Irvine Professors Honored with
2016-2017 Constantine Panunzio Distinguished Emeriti Award**

The 2016-2017 Constantine Panunzio Distinguished Emeriti Award honoring Emeriti Professors in the University of California system has been awarded to Professor Emeritus of Sociology Neil Smelser of UC Berkeley and Professor Emerita of English and Comparative Literature Margot Norris of UC Irvine.

Professors Smelser and Norris are the thirty-eighth and thirty-ninth UC Emeriti Professors to receive the Constantine Panunzio Award. Both awardees had 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.

Neil Smelser, UC Berkeley

Neil Smelser is Professor Emeritus of Sociology at UC Berkeley and former Director of the Center for Studies in Higher Education at Berkeley. Subsequent to leaving fulltime employment in 1994, he served as the Director of the Center for Advanced Studies in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford. Since retirement he has been active in teaching, has served on numerous committees at Berkeley and Stanford, as well as nationally and internationally, and has been a prolific scholar, publishing 7 books, more than 20 major research articles and even more numerous other pieces. The focuses of his work have been sociology, terrorism, and the free speech movement at Berkeley. The Panunzio Award is added to the numerous awards and visiting professorships that he has received nationally and internationally.

Margot Norris, UC Irvine

Margot Norris is Professor Emerita of English and Comparative Literature at UC Irvine. She is a world-renowned scholar in James Joyce and in other 20th Century Modernist literature. Until her retirement from active service in 2011, she had amassed a formidable portfolio and reputation in this field. She was awarded the title of Chancellor's Professor at UC Irvine and received other prestigious recognitions here and abroad. She has been president and an active leader in the James Joyce Society and editor of some of the leading publications in the field. She has remained an active and acclaimed teacher and mentor, and a vigorous and productive scholar, publishing three books and numerous other chapters and articles since retirement.

Please join the Selection Committee and me in congratulating Professors Smelser and Norris on winning the 2016 - 2017 Constantine Panunzio Distinguished Emeriti Award.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michael S. Levine".

Michael S. Levine

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