The American Anthropological Association (AAA) is proud to present the 2014 Franz Boas award for Exemplary Service to Anthropology to Michael Silverstein, Ph.D.

The Franz Boas Award for Exemplary Service to Anthropology, formerly the Distinguished Service Award, was established in 1976. This award is presented annually by the Association to its members whose careers demonstrate extraordinary achievements that have well served the anthropological profession. Service to the Association is commonly recognized as are outstanding applications of anthropological knowledge to improving the human condition. Great teachers of anthropology at all levels have received this award. Although the activities of the recipients will vary from year to year, all awardees have made many sacrifices, usually without personal reward and sometimes against personal safety. They have all used anthropology for the benefit of others.

Michael Silverstein received his Ph.D. from Harvard in 1972, at the age of 27, and took a position at the University of Chicago, where he has remained to this day. Silverstein has come to reshape linguistic anthropology, and bring it into a closer relationship to the rest of the discipline. In his breadth of vision and range across subfields, as well as his unstinting service to the profession, he is an exemplary recipient of an honor bearing the name of Franz Boas.

For forty years he has been a virtual force of nature in the discipline through his pedagogy and service. The generosity and energy he has poured into the training of several generations of students is legendary. In recognition of the originality and creativity of his work, Silverstein was one of the first, and at the time youngest, recipients of the MacArthur Award (1982). He has held a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship and been elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Philosophical Society, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Silverstein will be honored at the 113th AAA Annual Meeting Award Ceremony held on Wed., Dec., 3 from 6-7:45p.m. at the Marriott Wardman Park – Marriott Ballroom Salon 2.

The 113th AAA Annual Meeting will be held at the Marriott Wardman Park and Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C., where more than 6,000 anthropologists will tackle some of the world’s most pressing issues, including: Ebola, public health, food security, the Middle East, social change and climate change. There will also be a week-long media festival.

Many sessions are open to the public, registration is required.

To participate, press must register by Dec. 1, 2014. Press will receive complimentary registration to the Annual Meeting sessions, press conferences, admittance to invited sessions, special events and access to press-only workspace. The AAA has a new Press Credential Policy to better serve press and their editorial coverage. Onsite press registration will not be granted.