

## **Carolyn Dean, graduate student, selected to receive grant under a fellowship program for women and ethnic minorities, sponsored by UC President David Gardner**

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### UCSD GRADUATE STUDENT WINS GRANT

Carolyn A. Dean, a graduate student in mathematics at the University of California, San Diego, was one of 22 scholars selected to receive a grant under a new fellowship program for women and ethnic minorities, sponsored by UC President David Gardner.

The program is designed to combat a "serious lack" of female and minority faculty members on UC campuses, according to a statement from Gardner's office. Fields in which there is a marked deficit of women and minorities include computer science, mathematics, business, engineering, life sciences and physical sciences.

Dean will receive \$15,000 for one year to complete her doctoral dissertation. She is conducting research on non-commutative ring theory, an abstract algebraic system that operates like a matrix system and may have applications to physics.

Mathematics Professor Lance Small, Dean's advisor, credits her with solving a complex problem that had been puzzling mathematicians for the last decade. An article by Dean on her findings will appear within the next year in the *Journal of Algebra*.

Dean says she was originally an English major who hated math.

"I was funnelled into a calculus sequence based on my SAT score. I took the course and I loved it, which was a big surprise," she said.

She is concerned about the large percentage of women who arrive at college poorly equipped to handle calculus and other rigorous math courses.

"Women are not prepared to take college calculus, which (at UCSD) locks them out of about half the majors," she said.

"I would like to see more women approach mathematics with an open mind. They have to grit their teeth and be ready to take calculus. It's too bad if someone goes into humanities just because they are scared of math," she said.

Dean, a La Jolla resident, said the fellowship will free her from taking a part-time job while she works on her dissertation.

(June 27, 1985) For more information contact: Susan Pollock, 452-3120