

Dr. Eric Reissner awarded the Timoshenko Medal for 1973 by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME)

November 20, 1973

Dr. Eric Reissner, Professor of Applied Mechanics and Mathematics at the University of California, San Diego, has been awarded the Timoshenko Medal for 1973 by The American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME). The medal was bestowed upon Reissner by the society for his "distinguished research and exceptional teaching in solid mechanics, especially in the field of thin elastic plates and shells."

The Timoshenko Medal was established in 1957 in honor of the late Dr. Stephen P. Timoshenko and is awarded to individuals "in recognition of distinguished contributions to applied mechanics."

Formal announcement of the award was made at the Society's 94th annual winter meeting in Detroit, Michigan. Reissner is the second UCSD faculty member and only the third scientist on the west coast to receive the honor. Dr. William Prager, former professor of applied mechanics at UCSD, was awarded the medal in 1966.

Reissner first came to the San Diego campus in the winter of 1967 as Visiting Professor of Applied Mechanics. He returned two years later as Professor in Residence, becoming Professor of Applied Mechanics in January, 1970. He served as Chairman of the Department of Applied Mechanics and Engineering Sciences during the 1972-73 academic year.

Before joining UCSD, Reissner was a member of the Department of Mathematics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology from 1938 to 1969. During this period one of his principal activities was research on the fundamental problems of structural mechanics. He has also made contributions to aerodynamic wing theory, in particular with reference to the problem of flutter.

Reissner has authored and co-authored some 200 technical articles, many of which have dealt with methods used in analyzing the strength and stiffness of thin elastic plates and shells.

Born in Aachen, Germany in 1913, Reissner is the oldest son of the late Hans Reissner, founder of the Aachen Aeronautical Research Institute. He studied at the Technical University of Berlin, graduating Summa Cum Laude in the field of applied mathematics in 1935, and receiving his doctorate degree in civil engineering in 1936. In 1938 he received a Ph.D. degree in mathematics from MIT.

In 1964, Reissner was awarded the von Karman Medal of the American Society of Civil Engineers for distinguished achievement in engineering mechanics, and an honorary degree of Doctor of Engineering from the Technical University, Hannover, Germany, for pioneering contributions in elastomechanics.

In 1950, he was named as a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. In 1958 he served as a General Lecturer at the Third National Congress of Applied Mechanics and in 1964 at the Eleventh International Congress of Applied Mechanics. He is also a Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, and the American Academy of Mechanics, and a member of the American Mathematical Society as well as the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. He was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1962 and a NSF Senior Postdoctoral Fellowship in 1968.

Reissner and his wife reside in Solana Beach, California. They have two children.

(November 20, 1973)