

Three UCSD faculty to receive major awards at American Geophysical Union meeting

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THREE UCSD FACULTY WIN MAJOR AWARDS AT AMERICAN GEOPHYSICAL UNION MEETING

Three faculty members at the University of California, San Diego will receive major awards at the meeting of the American Geophysical Union in San Francisco, December 5-9.

Nobel Laureate Hannes Alfvén, professor emeritus of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE), will receive the William Bowie Medal for "outstanding contributions to fundamental geophysics and for unselfish cooperation in research."

The Swedish-born scientist, who won the Nobel Prize in physics in 1970, shares his time between UCSD and the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm.

Kevin Quest, an associate professor of ECE was named a winner of the James B. Macelwane Medal. The medal is given in recognition of "significant contributions to the geophysical sciences by a young scientist of outstanding ability."

Wolfgang H. Berger, a professor of oceanography at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, won the Maurice Ewing Medal, given jointly by AGU and the U.S. Navy for "significant contributions to understanding geophysical processes in the ocean, and service to marine sciences."

Alfvén is considered the "father" of the modern discipline of magnetohydrodynamics, which is the study of magnetic fields and electricity. His research into space plasmas, (enormous interstellar fields of hot, charged particles), has led him to postulate an alternative theory to the current idea that the universe resulted from a "big bang" billions of years ago.

Alfvén, the 50th recipient of the Bowie Medal, will address the AGU meeting Thursday, December 8, on the topic "Development of Space Plasma Physics."

Quest has been studying the "solar wind," the stream of ionized particles which shoots from the sun and engulfs the Earth. His recent research provides insight into the behavior of shock waves created when the solar wind encounters the Earth's magnetic field.

Berger is a paleoceanographer who studies sediments in the deep sea and how they relate to climate change and global ocean productivity. He has been a member of the SIO faculty since 1968. He has published more than 100 scientific papers, and is a Fellow of the Geological Society of America.

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