

UCSD Alumni Association to hold annual Awards Banquet June 11 in Price Center Ballroom

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Media Contact: Pat JaCoby, 534-7404

UCSD ALUMNI ASSOCIATION TO HOLD ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET JUNE 11

An actress, a chancellor, a financier and a cell biologist are the diverse awardees who will be honored June 11 at the University of California, San Diego, Alumni Association's annual Awards for Excellence banquet.

Columnist/author Neil Morgan will be keynote speaker at the event, which begins at 6 p.m. in the Price Center Ballroom. A silent auction to benefit the Alumni Association's scholarship program and a performance by The Gospel Choir of UCSD will be included on the program.

The four award recipients include Laurel L. Wilkening, Ph.D., chancellor of UC Irvine, named Outstanding Alumna; Yareli Arizmendi, actress, cited for Professional Achievement; Jerome Katzin, president of the UC San Diego Foundation, Honorary Alumnus, and Immo Scheffler, UCSD Department of Biology, selected for the Distinguished Teaching award.

A planetary scientist, Wilkening has risen, like the comets she studied, from a chemistry student at UCSD in 1970 to her appointment in 1993 as the third chancellor of UC Irvine. Her primary research interest has been in meteorites and what can be learned from them about the origin of the solar system. As a graduate student she studied the moon rocks brought to earth by the Apollo 11 and 12 astronauts, and later became interested in asteroids and comets. In 1980 she worked at NASA on a proposed space mission to Comet Halley.

Wilkening earned her bachelor's degree from Oregon's Reed College and her Ph.D. in chemistry from UCSD in 1970. She conducted postdoctoral research in Mainz, Germany; Bombay, India, and the Enrico Fermi Institute at the University of Chicago. She served 16 years in faculty and administrative positions at the University of Arizona, and prior to her appointment at UC Irvine was provost and vice president for Academic Affairs at the University of Washington.

Arizmendi, who plays the brooding wife in the movie, "Like Water for Chocolate," earned her master's of fine arts in dramaturgy and playwriting from UCSD in 1992 after graduating with a bachelor's degree in political science in 1986. After completing "Like Water for Chocolate," the highest grossing foreign film of 1993, she was recruited to help start a theater program at the new Cal State San Marcos campus. She now co-chairs the Drama Department there.

Energetic and creative, Arizmendi has acted at the Old Globe, performed her own multimedia performance-art pieces at Sushi Visual and Performing Arts gallery and lived a "crazy binational life" also teaching and performing in Mexico City.

As president of the UC San Diego Foundation, Katzin oversees a \$26.8 million endowment, \$75 million worth of assets, and a board of trustees consisting of community volunteers, university administrators, faculty members and alumni representatives. He and his wife, Miriam, recently endowed the Katzin Chair in Jewish Civilization at

UCSD. His volunteer service in the community includes work with Soviet Jewish refugees, service on the board of the Jewish Community Foundation, and the San Diego Symphony Orchestra.

Katzin arrived in La Jolla by way of Wall Street 20 years ago. Now retired, he was a partner in the investment banking firm of Kuhn Loeb & Co., where he specialized in utility and government financing. While his career has spanned government, private- sector and academic involvement, he is proudest of his role in conceiving and developing a private financing institute for the nation's rural electric cooperative.

Scheffler graduated from Stanford University with a Ph.D. in Biochemistry and joined the UCSD faculty in 1971. He recently completed service as chair of Biology, the largest department on campus, while also continuing to teach--a feat unattained by earlier chairs. Regarded not only as one of the best teachers in the Department of Biology, but also on the entire campus, he has won a number of major teaching awards. His major research interest in the field of genetics and biochemistry of mammalian cells has received continuous grant support from the National Institutes of Health.

Winners of the UCSD Alumni Association's Outstanding Seniors Awards will be announced in late May. The awards are based on excellence in leadership skills, academic performance, service to the university and community involvement.

Tickets for the UCSD Alumni awards dinner are \$45 per person and are available to the public. For further information and reservations call 534-3900.

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