

UCSD astronomer Margaret Burbidge named honorary fellow

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UCSD ASTRONOMER NAMED HONORARY FELLOW

Margaret Burbidge, a professor emeritus in the Center for Astrophysics and Space Sciences at the University of California, San Diego, has been named an honorary fellow of the Inter- University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA). Headquartered in Pune, India, the center was established by the University Grants Consortium to serve as a center for excellence within the Indian university sector for teaching, research and development in astronomy and astrophysics.

Burbidge earned an international reputation as a pioneer in observing and interpreting the spectra of quasars. During her career, she has published hundreds of research articles and made fundamental contributions to the understanding of stellar evolution and galaxies. In addition to her work with quasars, Burbidge is best known for her contributions to the understanding of how nuclear reactions in stars created most chemical elements. Burbidge headed a team of UCSD astronomers who designed the Faint Object Spectrograph, an instrument aboard the Hubble Space Telescope designed to detect the physical state and chemical composition of very faint objects such as quasars at the fringe of the observable universe.

Burbidge has received numerous prestigious awards, including the National Medal of Science in 1984 and the Albert Einstein World Award of Science in 1988. She has served as president of the American Astronomical Society, president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, director of England's Royal Greenwich Observatory, and as the first director of UCSD's Center for Astrophysics and Space Sciences. Burbidge is a fellow of the National Academy of Sciences, the Royal Society of London, and the Royal Astronomical Society.

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