

Kurt Shuler named chairman of chemistry department

February 12, 1968

Dr. Kurt E. Shuler, Senior Research Fellow at the National Bureau of Standards in Washington, D.C., has been named Professor of Chemistry and Chairman of the Department at the University of California, San Diego, it has been announced by Dr. John S. Galbraith, UCSD Chancellor.

Dr. Shuler, who is currently serving as a Visiting Professor of Chemistry at UCSD, will take over his new post as chairman at the start of the fall, 1968, quarter. He succeeds Dr. Bruno H. Zimm who has served as Chairman of the Department for the past two years.

Dr. Shuler's primary interests are in the field of chemical physics. His most recent research has been in nonequilibrium, rate processes, energy transfer and the theory of stochastic processes. He is well known for his work in kinetic flame spectroscopy, vibrational relaxation in gases, and his recent research on the application of the theory of stochastic processes to nonequilibrium rate processes.

He was born in Nuremberg, Germany, in 1922 and came to the United States in 1937. He received a B.S. degree in chemistry from the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta in 1942. After several years in the U. S., Army serving in the infantry and in Technical Intelligence in the Italian campaign, he entered Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., where he received a Ph.D. degree in physical chemistry in 1949.

Dr. Shuler was associated for seven years with the Applied Physics Laboratory of Johns Hopkins University, first as an Atomic Energy Commission Postdoctoral Fellow and later as Senior Staff member and as Assistant Supervisor of the Chemical-Physics Group.

In 1955 he joined the National Bureau of Standards in Washington, D.C., and was appointed Consultant to the Director in 1960. A year later he began a two-year term as Special Assistant to the Director and Vice President for Research at the Institute for Defense Analyses in Washington. He returned to the National Bureau of Standards in 1963 as Senior Research Fellow and Assistant Director. He was the first federal employee to be appointed to a "super-grade" level in the U. S. Government solely for his scientific work.

Dr. Shuler served for two quarters last year at UCSD as Visiting Professor of Chemistry and Visiting Research Fellow in the Institute for Radiation Physics and Aerodynamics.

He is a consultant to the Department of Defense (ARPA), the Institute for Defense Analyses, and a number of industrial concerns. He is an editorial advisor to Academic Press, a member of the Advisory Board of Chemical Engineering News and was an Associate Editor for the Journal of Mathematical Physics from 1963 to 1966. He has served as an official U. S. delegate to the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) and was a member of the 1962 Solvay Conference. He has published more than 60 scientific papers on his research and has edited a number of books.

Dr. Shuler is a Fellow of the American Physical Society and the Washington Academy of Sciences and a member of the American Chemical Society, Sigma Xi, Phi Kappa Phi and the Cosmos Club of Washington.