

## Four UCSD faculty members to receive distinguished teaching awards May 20

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### FOUR UCSD FACULTY MEMBERS TO RECEIVE DISTINGUISHED TEACHING AWARDS MAY 20

Four University of California, San Diego faculty members will be honored as 1998 Distinguished Teaching Award recipients at a 4:30 p.m. program May 20 in the Faculty Club.

The winners include Willie C. Brown, Department of Biology, recipient of the Career Distinguished Teaching Award, and Mark J. Machina, Department of Economics; Jeffrey M. Rabin, Department of Mathematics; and James R. Winker, Department of Theatre and Dance, Distinguished Teaching Awards.

Marjorie C. Caserio, chair of the UCSD Committee on Distinguished Teaching, and Darrell D. Fanestil, chair of the UCSD Division of the Academic Senate, will welcome the honorees and guests.

Brown's nomination noted that "his ability to make even the most mundane topics interesting and relevant is legendary, and the clarity of his presentations is admirable. He cares passionately about what he is teaching, and is able to reveal to his students how exciting learning can be. He has an unusual ambition for his students that they will be more knowledgeable, more open to life, more understanding of the world after taking a course with him than they were when they first entered the classroom. As one student put it 'he will do anything within legal parameters to help students' understanding of the courses he teaches or their advancement toward their educational goals.'

"Perhaps Dr. Brown's most important contribution to the teaching endeavor on this campus has been his development of the course, Methods of Inquiry. Originally conceived to help minority students who came with poor learning skills, the course was so effective and well received that it was opened to all students and has become a very popular elective. Out of this course he has developed a book, soon to be published, of strategies and tactics for students at the college level."

Machina's nomination notes that "his passion for the subject, careful presentations, and dramatic style turn his lectures into captivating performances. His lectures are full of life, tied to relevant examples, and completely clear. He is generous with his time outside the classroom and goes out of his way to encourage the best students to continue their studies in economics."

One colleague described Machina's public lectures as "gems of exposition. He has the rare ability to present technical material in an inspiring way. He prepares meticulously. He entertains. His enthusiasm for his subject matter is clear to all. It inspires undergraduates to continue their studies in economics, graduate students to pursue meaningful and important dissertation topics, and established scholars to follow his research agenda."

Rabin's nomination stresses his teaching at the graduate level, described as "truly awe- inspiring." The graduate courses he teaches involve the interplay between physics and mathematics courses such as quantum field theory, renormalization, string theory and super symmetry. "In all these courses, what distinguishes Rabin is

a phenomenal ability to present complex subjects with the utmost clarity. His presentation is spare and efficient. He can cover in an hour what it might take others weeks to cover."

Rabin's contributions to teaching extend beyond his own courses, the nomination notes. For several years he has worked as the Math Department's TA training advisor, instituting a program which teaches graduate students specific skills they can use to become more effective teachers. One student writes, "Dr. Rabin is the best professor I've had at UCSD. That includes five years of undergraduate and two years of graduate work. I learned more about some basic concepts, both in math and engineering, in one quarter than all my other quarters at UCSD combined."

Winker has taught large enrollment classes to undergraduates, such as a theatre survey class and an introduction to Shakespeare on film class, "but it is the teaching of classical text that Winker truly distinguishes himself as an inspiring teacher," his nomination notes.

"The commitment, the discipline, and most of all the passion with which he teaches certainly make him unique among teachers, but it is his unwavering support of his students' personal and professional growth which makes him truly outstanding," his nomination notes. One student writes, "you come in completely prepared, thinking you can do no better or not much better, and he finds ways to push you far beyond anything imaginable. He truly cares and it's obvious, which only pushes you further. This is one of the hardest classes I have ever taken and I worked harder than I have before, but it is by far my favorite and incredibly rewarding."

Winners of Distinguished Teaching Awards last year were Hugh B. Mehan, Department of Sociology; Barbara A. Sawrey, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry; Steven H. Hahn, Department of History; David R. Miller, Department of Applied Mechanics and Engineering Sciences, and Stephen M. Baird, Department of Pathology.

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