

## UCSD philosopher Philip Kitcher appointed to new Presidential Chair

**April 19, 1993**

Media Contact: Dolores Davies, (619) 534-5994

### UCSD PHILOSOPHER PHILIP KITCHER APPOINTED TO NEW PRESIDENTIAL CHAIR

Philip Kitcher, a professor of philosophy at the University of California, San Diego, has been appointed by University of California President Jack Peltason as the first holder of UC's newly endowed Presidential Chair in Philosophy.

Kitcher, an internationally known authority on the philosophy of science, is one of the founding faculty members of UCSD's Science Studies Program, an interdisciplinary program incorporating philosophy, sociology and history in the study of modern science and scientific research.

The Chair endowment will support Kitcher's teaching and research activities, including interdisciplinary studies of the implications of the Human Genome Project and the evolution of altruism. Kitcher's recently published book, "The Advancement of Science," (Oxford University Press) sets a new agenda for the philosophy of science and other science studies disciplines. During the last three decades, many historians, sociologists and philosophers who have studied the growth of scientific knowledge have argued that scientific objectivity is a myth. In his book, Kitcher attempts to resurrect the notions of objectivity and progress.

An award-winning teacher as well as a respected researcher, Kitcher has recently been honored with the UCSD Alumni Distinguished Teaching Award. Over the last two decades, he has also been the recipient of numerous teaching fellowships and research grants, including a five-year research and training grant from the National Science Foundation in 1990 to develop the Science Studies Program at UCSD.

The Science Studies Program, established at UCSD in 1989, involves scholars from philosophy, sociology, and history in studies of how the scientific enterprise works and the role of science in society. The multidisciplinary program is unique in the United States in integrating the perspectives of researchers in three disciplines, and also in requiring students to complete an internship in a scientific laboratory so that they have direct experience with scientific practice. Students major in a single discipline -- history, sociology or philosophy -- and minor in the other two.

Kitcher's published books include the award-winning "Vaulting Ambition: Sociobiology and the Quest for Human Nature," (MIT Press, 1985), "The Nature of Mathematical Knowledge," (Oxford University Press, 1983), and "Abusing Science: The Case Against Creationism," (MIT Press, 1982). In addition, he is currently under contract with Harvard University Press to write a book on the philosophy of biology.

(April 19, 1993)