

Dr. Brueckner to speak at SDJC Commencement

May 20, 1964

One of the nation's leading young scientists and educators will appear as principal speaker at commencement ceremonies honoring the 1964 graduates of the San Diego junior colleges on Thursday, June 18, at Russ Auditorium. The colleges are San Diego City College, Evening College, and Mesa College.

The speaker is Keith A. Brueckner, Dean of Letters and Science, The First College, University of California, San Diego, a physicist of international reputation who has recently lent his energies to developing a new sort of undergraduate education in San Diego.

He will speak on "Why Higher Education?"

Dr. Brueckner, who is 40, has played a major role in the expansion of the University of California here. His was the first faculty appointment in Physics, one of UCSD's first ventures outside the field of the marine sciences. In a short time he built the Physics Department into a position where it is one of the largest and most respected graduate departments in the country.

After a year (1961-62) as Vice President and Director of Research for the Institute of Defense Analyses in Washington, he returned to San Diego to develop graduate programs in pure and applied mathematics, engineering and applied science, and to spearhead the move to begin undergraduate teaching on the San Diego campus.

He has been instrumental in establishing the novel approach to undergraduate instruction that will characterize UCSD. The campus is accepting its first freshman class this Fall.

Dean Brueckner is a native of Minneapolis. He took his B.A. and M.A. at the University of Minnesota, his Ph.D. at the University of California, Berkeley. He worked at the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, New Jersey, Indiana University, Brookhaven National Laboratory, and the University of Pennsylvania before coming to San Diego in 1959.

His position as Dean of Letters and Science at UCSD has required an intense study of educational problems in the San Diego area, not only as they affect the University, but other elements of the educational system, including the secondary schools, the junior colleges, private colleges, and the State College.

Dean Brueckner is a Professor of Physics on the UCSD staff and has six graduate and five postdoctoral students at present. His research was honored last year by the award of the Dannie Heineman Prize for Mathematical Physics for 1963. The \$2,500 prize, given by the American Physical Society, was awarded "for contributions to the theory of elementary particles, nuclei, and condensed matter, and especially for his courage and persistence in deriving the properties of nuclear matter from nucleon-nucleon interactions."