

Shing-Tung Yau named to Chancellor's Associates Endowed Chair

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Shing-Tung Yau, one of the world's outstanding young mathematicians, has been named to the first Chancellor's Associates Endowed Chair at the University of California, San Diego.

Last year, Yau, who is only 34, was named a co-winner of the Fields Medal, the highest award in mathematics, which is presented every four years by the International Congress of Mathematicians.

Yau has divided his time between UCSD where he has been a visiting professor of mathematics and the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton.

Yau's appointment has been approved by the University of California Board of Regents, and he will assume his new position during the coming spring quarter.

Yau's acceptance of a full-time position at UCSD is considered a major recruiting coup for the campus, according to Chancellor Richard C. Atkinson.

"Professor Yau was heavily recruited by many major research universities," Atkinson said. "We are pleased and honored that he has decided to come to UCSD as a permanent member of the faculty. Prof. Yau's appointment to the Chancellor's Associates Chair is an example of the campus and the community working together for their mutual benefit. Our students and faculty will benefit greatly from Prof. Yau's presence at UCSD. San Diego will benefit from his research in nonlinear dynamics, a field with significant promise for science and technology."

Yau, a native of Kwungtung, China, is doing research in the analytic and complex geometry of manifolds, the topology of low-dimensional manifolds, and the theory of nonlinear elliptic partial differential equations.

His work is very profound and has constituted the cutting edge of some of the most exciting developments in the last ten years, according to Prof. Hubert Halkin, chair of the mathematics department.

"We are very excited to get him here," he said. "He is the world's leading geometer. It will mean that we are making a great leap forward as a department. With the coming of Yau, the department is propelled into the elite ranks of the top mathematics faculties in the country. His presence here will reinforce the high standing of nonlinear studies in the San Diego area."

Yau has been a visiting professor at UCSD since the spring of 1981, but held a permanent post with the Princeton Institute. In 1979 he was honored as California Scientist of the Year and in 1981 was awarded the Veblen Prize from the American Mathematics Society and the Carty Prize from the National Academy of Science.

Yau earned his Ph.D. from UC Berkeley in 1971 and spent 1971-72 as a fellow at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton. In 1972, he became an assistant professor at the State University of New York, Stony Brook. He spent 1973-74 as a visiting assistant professor at Stanford before being named associate professor at Stanford in 1974. Three years later he was made a full professor of mathematics.

You become the first occupant of the Chancellor's Associates Chair, which was created in June 1983. The Chancellor's Associates is a group of more than 200 members of the San Diego Community who contribute a minimum \$1,000 per year to enrich UCSD's academic programs. Last year the Associates agreed to contribute \$125,000 of the \$250,000 needed to establish an endowed chair. The remainder of the funding came from an unidentified source.

(March 12, 1984) For more information contact: Paul Lowenberg, 452-3120