

International symposium on laser diagnostics and spectroscopy to be held to honor 65th birthday of Stanford S. Penner

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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE HONORS UCSD'S STANFORD PENNER

An international symposium on laser diagnostics and spectroscopy will be held at UCSD on July 7-8 to honor the sixty-fifth birthday of Stanford S. Penner, a pioneer and leading engineering scientist in several research fields.

At the symposium, experts working in several of the research fields to which Penner has made major contributions will discuss such topics as the application of lasers to combustion research, space exploration and medicine; also, the use of spectroscopy in studying atmospheric radiation and high-temperature gas dynamics. The symposium will be held in Sumner Auditorium at UCSD's Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

Penner is internationally recognized for his contributions in three broad areas of research: energy; combustion and its applications to aerospace, propulsion and energy; and quantitative spectroscopy (the science which underlies laser technology) and radiative transfer (which underlies, among other applications, the study of how light and radiation travel through stellar atmospheres). In each of these fields, Penner has conducted pioneering research, written textbooks, founded and edited international journals and won major scientific awards.

Penner has also played a key role in UCSD's history since joining the faculty in 1964. He established the first engineering department at UCSD -- Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering Sciences (AMES). He served as director of the Institute for Pure and Applied Physical Sciences, and became the founding director of the Center for Energy and Combustion Research, a position he currently holds. Penner also served as vice chancellor for academic affairs at UCSD.

The Energy and Combustion Research Center which Penner heads takes an interdisciplinary approach to such critical problems as energy conservation, the effectiveness of fossil-fuel technologies, the development of new fuel sources, air pollution and energy planning.

Penner's career includes major industrial, academic and federal research appointments. He served on the faculty of the California Institute of Technology for fourteen years; worked in research at the Allegany Ballistics Laboratory, Standard Oil Development Company, Jet Propulsion Laboratory at the California Institute of Technology; and directed the Research and Engineering Division of the Institute for Defense Analyses in Washington, D.C.

Penner has received major international prizes and awards from numerous organizations, including NATO, the Technische Hochschule Aachen (FRG), the International Institute for Communications, in Genoa (Italy), and the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics. He is a member of the International Academy of Astronautics, the National Academy of Engineering and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

The author of 265 publications, including seven books, Penner has also co-authored 11 books and monographs, and is the founder-editor of the international "Journal of Quantitative Spectroscopy and Radiative Transfer" and "Energy, The International Journal." He also founded and edited (1963-'67) the classified "Journal of Defense Research."

He has served as lecturer for NATO, Sigma Xi and the Guggenheim Foundation and has had key advisory roles with NASA, the Department of Defense, the National Academy of Science, the Department of Energy, and the Presidential Office of Science and Technology.

The symposium speakers reflect the broad range of interests Penner has explored throughout his career. The president of the American Institute of Astronautics and Aeronautics, the Chief Scientist of the Federal Aviation Administration, NASA, numerous universities, national research centers, and major private research companies will all be represented among the speakers. A large number of former graduate students who trained under Penner will attend the conference and participate as speakers.

A dinner in Penner's honor will be held on July 7, at the Bahia Hotel Restaurant.

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