

Ruth J. Williams and Lynne D. Talley named winners of Presidential Young Investigator Awards for 1987 by the National Science Foundation

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An oceanographer and a mathematician at the University of California, San Diego have been named winners of Presidential Young Investigator Awards for 1987 by the National Science Foundation.

The awards, which can be up to \$100,000 per year for a five-year period, were given to Lynne D. Talley, a researcher at Scripps Institution of Oceanography and Ruth J. Williams, an assistant professor of mathematics. They were among 200 of the most promising young scientists and engineers around the country who were chosen for the awards.

The Young Investigators Awards are used to fund researchers near the beginning of their careers and to help universities attract and retain outstanding young Ph.D.'s who might otherwise pursue non-teaching careers, according to the NSF.

"My research is in the field of probability theory and is concerned with stochastic (random) processes and their application," Williams said. "These processes arise in mathematical modeling of many dynamic random phenomena which occur in the physical and natural sciences."

Williams said the funding would help her hire more graduate students and allow her to invite faculty with similar research interests from other institutions to visit UCSD.

Williams holds a Ph.D. in mathematics from Stanford and has been a faculty member at UCSD since 1983.

Talley is an assistant professor and assistant research oceanographer in the Ocean Research Division of UCSD's Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

She is interested in the general circulation of the ocean and the role of various oceanic and atmospheric conditions that affect ocean currents.

"This award will certainly help me to continue my investigations of the ocean," Talley said. "Large scale circulation has been studied for many years, but the fine details of ocean currents and the exact details of how the circulation responds to atmospheric forces are not well understood. I hope to contribute to a better understanding of how the ocean works."

The awards carry an annual base grant of \$25,000. To encourage university-industry cooperation, NSF will provide up to \$37,500 per year to match industrial support on a dollar-for-dollar basis, bringing the possible total support to \$100,000 per year.

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