

Sloan Foundation Fellowships

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SLOAN FOUNDATION FELLOWSHIPS

Six researchers at the University of California, San Diego are among 90 "young scientists of extraordinary promise" from throughout the United States selected to receive fellowships from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation.

UCSD and Princeton, with six fellows each, led 41 other universities in the number of faculty members chosen.

Three of the winners are from the physics faculty: Patrick H. Diamond, Herbert Levine and Andrei E. Ruckenstein; two are from chemistry: John D. Simon and T. Don Tilley; and the sixth is from mathematics: Ruth J. Williams.

The Sloan Research Fellowships are designed "to identify exceptionally able young scientists and to provide them with flexible funding that can be used to advance their research in whatever way they think best," according to Albert Rees, president of the foundation. Fellows receive awards of \$25,000 each.

Both Williams and Simon have been honored previously with Presidential Young Investigator Awards given by the National Science Foundation.

Williams, an assistant professor of mathematics, joined the UCSD faculty in 1984 after receiving her Ph.D. from Stanford University in 1983 and completing a postdoctoral year at New York University. Her research is in the field of probability theory and is concerned with stochastic (random) processes and their applications.

Simon came to UCSD as an assistant professor of chemistry in 1985 after earning his Ph.D. at Harvard University and serving a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of California, Los Angeles. He is working in a new field of chemistry called fast reaction dynamics, using pulsed lasers to study photochemical energy storage.

Tilley, who earned his doctorate at the University of California, Berkeley, joined the UCSD faculty as an assistant professor of chemistry in 1983 after completing postdoctoral work at the California Institute of Technology and the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology. His research centers on synthetic and mechanistic problems in inorganic and organometallic chemistry.

Announcement of Diamond's selection comes only two and a half months after he joined UCSD as an associate professor of physics. He was previously a senior lecturer in physics at the University of Texas, Austin, and before that held research posts at that university's Institute for Fusion Studies. His research interests include theoretical plasma physics, plasma astrophysics and plasma turbulence theory and its applications to controlled fusion.

Levine, who joined the UCSD faculty last July as an associate professor of physics, was previously a member of the professional staff at Schlumberger-Doll Research in Ridgefield, Connecticut. The focus of his research is

theoretical physics as it applies to condensed matter systems. His specific emphasis is on pattern formation under non-equilibrium conditions.

Ruckenstein was appointed assistant professor of physics at UCSD in 1984, the year he received his Ph.D. from Cornell University. He spent the first year of his faculty appointment on leave as a visiting professor at the Max-Planck Institute for Physics and Astrophysics in Munich, West Germany. He is a condensed matter theorist, most recently working on properties of strongly interacting electron systems with possible applications to the newly discovered high-temperature superconductors.

The Sloan Research Fellowships have been awarded annually for 33 years "as a means of encouraging basic research by young scholars at a time in their careers when teaching duties can be most pressing and when other support is difficult to obtain." Thirteen former Sloan fellows have won Nobel prizes.

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