

70th birthday celebration for Marshall Rosenbluth, the "Pope of Fusion" on Feb. 21 at UCSD

February 19, 1997

Event: Time/Date: Location: MEDIA ADVISORY

Background: 70th Birthday Celebration for Marshall Rosenbluth, the "Pope of Fusion" 4:30 p.m., February 21, 1997

Colloquium: Peterson Hall, Rm. 110

Reception: Cecil and Ida Green Faculty Club University of California, San Diego

Marshall Rosenbluth will be toasted and roasted during a 70th birthday celebration on the UCSD campus. Rosenbluth, a physicist at UCSD and a senior scientist with the International Thermonuclear Reactor (ITER) program, is considered by many to be the dean of fusion theorists.

His work spans the history of fusion research. Shortly after receiving his doctorate from the University of Chicago in 1949 at the age of 22, he began an analysis of the scattering of relativistic electrons within nuclei, which led to his discovery of the so-called Rosenbluth formula--a staple of college-level physics courses.

In 1950, Rosenbluth was recruited by Edward Teller as one of the principal theoreticians at the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory, New Mexico, doing classified fusion research that led to the development of the hydrogen bomb two years later. Rosenbluth later joined a small group of eminent scientists under James Tuck investigating the possible peaceful uses of fusion energy.

Rosenbluth, who also works with General Atomics, joined the UCSD faculty in 1987 and began work with the ITER project in 1993. He has received numerous awards including the E.O. Lawrence Prize, the Albert Einstein Award, and the Enrico Fermi Award.

The birthday festivities will begin with a colloquium sponsored by the UCSD Physics Department, during which Roald Z. Sagdeev, distinguished professor of physics at the University of Maryland, will deliver a talk on "Contemporary Plasma Science as Shaped by Marshall Rosenbluth and His School." A reception will be held following the colloquium, featuring a "toast and roast," hosted by Marvin L. Goldberger, dean of UCSD natural sciences.

Media Contact: Warren R. Froelich, (619) 534-8564, wfroelic@ucsd.edu

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