

New Graduate School

July 19, 1958

LA JOLLA

NEW GRADUATE SCHOOL

A new graduate school in the sciences and engineering is being formed by the University at La Jolla, until now chiefly known as the site of the University's world-famous Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

At their July 18, 1958 meeting, the Regents authorized the establishment at La Jolla of an Institute of Technology and Engineering. The action followed resolutions in August 1956 for a graduate teaching and research activity in science and technology, and in August 1957 for a general campus of the University in the San Diego area. The Regent action was in turn stimulated by State Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 107.

These actions were designed to help fill the need for expansion of the University to meet current and predicted population growth. The emphasis on graduate work in science, technology and engineering resulted from the special needs expressed by San Diego civic, industry, and service groups over the past four years and the greatly increased demands for scientific education and research because of their importance to national security.

Evidence of strong local support for the University's expansion plans in San Diego is reflected by the action of the City Council (which has been overwhelmingly approved by the people in the 1956 and 1958 elections) offering the University, free of cost, more than 500 acres of choice City-owned land which has a value of several millions of dollars. Also, the General Dynamics Corporation has given the University one million dollars to assist in the establishment and early development of the Institute of Technology and Engineering.

The new graduate facility will provide instruction and research in mathematics, physics, chemistry, the earth and biological sciences, and engineering. It was established, according to the Regents' resolution, with the understanding that it "later may be converted into one or more departments of instruction and research. The faculty of the Institute should be appointed with the expectation that they eventually will carry a full teaching load and will engage in undergraduate instruction as well as in graduate instruction as the need arises".

At their meeting on 15 August 1958, the Regents selected Roger Revelle, Director of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography since 1951, to head the new facility.

Several faculty appointments have already been made. They are:

James R. Arnold, Associate Professor of Chemistry. Arnold comes to La Jolla from Princeton University. His research interests have been in the fields of radiochemistry, adsorption of gases, and valence theory. He is currently engaged in studies of cosmic-ray produced natural radioactivities, especially beryllium 10, carbon 17, and beryllium 7, and in work on chemical valence theory.

Walter M. Elsasser, Professor of Theoretical Physics. This year, Elsasser's outstanding work in the theoretical aspects of geophysics and especially in the field of magnetohydrodynamics has won for him the William Bowie Medal of the American Geophysical Union. He is generally credited as the inventor of the "dynamo" theory of the

earth's magnetic field. He has also studied the transmission and absorption of ultraviolet radiation in the earth's atmosphere. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences.

Hans H. Suess, Professor of Geochemistry. Suess is perhaps best known for his pioneering studies in geologic age detection by use of radiocarbon techniques. Born in Austria, he came to La Jolla from the U. S. Geological Survey. His studies include chemical kinetics, the origin of tektites, cosmic abundances of nuclear species.

Harold C. Urey, Professor-at-Large of Chemistry. Urey's unusual appointment obtains for the entire University, but he makes his headquarters at La Jolla. He is a nuclear chemist whose techniques for separating the isotopes of the elements won for him a Nobel Prize. He came to La Jolla from the Institute for Nuclear Studies at the University of Chicago. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences.

Several more faculty appointments are to be made in the near future.

A few students who will eventually receive their degrees from the new facility may enroll for the Fall 1959, semester, but there will be no more than a handful until the following year. The primary cause is a lack of space. The Scripps Institution of Oceanography has been growing rapidly for several years. When the new graduate school was still in its earliest planning stages, two large new buildings were approved for the Scripps Institution. Until permanent quarters can be constructed, the new school will be housed in these buildings, sharing a portion of the facilities with the faculty of the Scripps Institution.

A completely new group of buildings on the mesa above the Scripps Institution may be completed by the early 1960s and these will house the new facility.

According to present plans, within the next five years the faculty of the new school will be constituted as follows: Discipline Faculty Members Applied Physics and Engineering 36 Chemistry 12 Mathematics 12 Earth Sciences 21 Biological Sciences 18

Initially a modest number of professors of foreign languages, economics and history should be appointed to ensure through their lectures and research a well-rounded and balanced experience for graduate students and to permit those who have been unable to complete their academic requirements prior to registering for graduate work to do so either at one of the other local institutions or on the La Jolla Campus. A number between six and twelve is planned.

The number of graduate students associated with professors will vary according to student interest. Plans are being made for accommodating a total of 450 graduate students, in addition to approximately 75 students taking degrees in the Scripps Institution of Oceanography. (1958)