

UCSD's seismic design experts Gilbert Hegemier, M.J. Nigel Priestly and Frieder Seible are named to receive Chancellor's Associates awards

February 3, 1994

FOR RELEASE FEBRUARY 3, 1994

Media Contact: Pat JaCoby, 534-7404

UCSD'S SEISMIC DESIGN EXPERTS ARE NAMED TO RECEIVE CHANCELLOR'S ASSOCIATES AWARDS

Three University of California, San Diego, experts in bridge retrofitting and seismic testing are among seven faculty members named to receive awards today (Feb. 3) from the Chancellor's Associates at UCSD, a group of community and professional leaders which provides support to key universitywide programs.

Structural engineering professors Gilbert Hegemier, M.J. Nigel Priestly and Frieder Seible will receive the Associates' special Shiley Achievement Award, underwritten by Donald and Darlene Shiley, in recognition of their internationally renowned work in bridge retrofitting and seismic testing.

Their unique research will be discussed by Hegemier and Seible during the Associates' 5 to 7 p.m. meeting in the Faculty Club.

Also named to receive awards in four annual categories were Sandra Daley, M.D., assistant clinical professor of pediatrics, Excellence in Community Service; Fred Gage, Ph.D., professor of neurosciences, Excellence in Research; Italo Scanga, professor of visual arts; Excellence in the Arts, and David Wong, Ph.D., physics professor and provost of Warren College, Excellence in Teaching.

Daley was cited for her extraordinary commitment to the welfare of children, extending from the university to the San Diego community and beyond. "She established a model for school- based health service delivery which provides health and social services in an efficient, cost-effective way to improve the lives of children and their families," her award noted.

As one of the first scientists to pioneer development of a gene therapy approach for the diseases of the central nervous system, Gage was recognized for offering powerful new methods to researchers and clinicians for treating brain disorders and diseases. "His research is the precursor to the genetic repair of brain cells damaged by diseases such as Alzheimer's and the restoration of normal brain function," his citation noted.

Scanga, an internationally renowned painter and sculptor, has had his work displayed in most major public collections of contemporary art in the United States. "With as many as eight solo exhibitions per year in this country and throughout Europe, Professor Scanga has been able to meet the demand for his work while maintaining a high degree of variety and creativity," the Associates' award said.

Consistently acknowledged by his students as one of the most inspirational and dedicated instructors within the Department of Physics, Wong is completing 34 years of teaching at UCSD. He was instrumental in starting UCSD's lower division one-unit seminar program, taught by faculty in addition to their regular teaching activities,

which give students remarkable opportunities to interact personally with the most prominent faculty on a wide range of novel and stimulating topics.

The awards will be presented by Chancellor Richard C. Atkinson and William Beamer, acting in the absence of Associates' president R.B. (Buzz) Woolley.

(February 3, 1994)