

Two elected to National Academy of Sciences

April 28, 1970

Two UCSD professors were elected today (Tuesday, April 28) to membership in the National Academy of Sciences. They are Dr. Albert E.J. Engel, professor of geology at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, and Dr. Nathan Kaplan, professor of chemistry on the Revelle College and School of Medicine faculties.

Their election brings to 32 the number of UCSD faculty in the academy.

Engel and Kaplan were among 50 scientists throughout the nation elected to membership by the academy at its annual meeting in Washington, D.C. Eight of the 50 are from University of California campuses, including four from Berkeley, two from UCSD, one from UCLA, and one from the Lawrence Radiation Laboratory at Livermore. Their election brings the university-wide total to 117.

Engel, a native of St. Louis, Mo., received his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Missouri. In 1945 he was awarded his doctor's degree in geology from Princeton University, where he was a Proctor Fellow. Following service with the U.S. Geological Survey he became a member of the faculty at California Institute of Technology in 1948. He joined the Scripps faculty in 1951.

Engel is one of five UCSD scientists named by NASA to receive lunar samples for analysis.

Engel has served as a "Distinguished Lecturer" at the University of Wisconsin, Brown University, University of Texas, Princeton, and the University of Rhodesia. Since 1965 he has been a member of the International Working Group, Upper Mantle Committee, of the International Geophysical Year. Engel is a fellow of the Geological Society of America, the Minerological Society of America, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He is a member of the Mineralogical Society of London, the Society of Economic Geologists, the American Geophysical Union and the Geochemical Society.

Kaplan received his doctorate from UC-Berkeley in 1943. During World War II he was a research chemist on the Manhattan Project, then joined the staff of the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston as a research biochemist until 1949. That year he joined the University of Illinois medical school faculty, and a year later became a professor of biology at Johns Hopkins University. In 1957 he was named chairman, graduate department of biochemistry and professor of biochemistry at Brandeis University.

In 1968, Kaplan joined the UCSD faculty as a professor of chemistry. His research at UCSD has included studies on the evolution, differentiation and genetics of enzymes. At the School of Medicine, he is involved in studies on cancer etiology and chemotherapy.

Kaplan has received numerous awards and fellowships. In 1946 he shared the Sugar Research Award for work on sucrose, and in 1948 shared the Nutrition Award for investigations of coenzyme A. In 1953 he was granted the Eli Lilly Award in Biochemistry for studies of the metabolic significance of vitamins. He has received fellowships from the National Science Foundation, the Commonwealth Foundation, and the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation.

Kaplan is a member of the board of directors, American Cancer Society, and a special senior consultant to the National Cancer Institute. He is also a member of the National Institute of Health Child Health Human Program Project Committee.