

Christos H. Papadimitriou appointed to fill the Irwin Mark and Joan Klein Jacobs Chair in Information and Computer Science

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ENDOWED CHAIR IN INFORMATION AND COMPUTER SCIENCE FILLED

Christos H. Papadimitriou, professor of Computer Science and Operations Research at Stanford University, has been appointed by Chancellor Richard C. Atkinson to fill the Irwin Mark and Joan Klein Jacobs Chair in Information and Computer Science at the University of California, San Diego.

Papadimitriou is internationally known for his research in computer science. He is the author of four books, has contributed chapters to two others, and has written more than 75 professional papers. He has been an invited speaker at many national and international meetings, and serves on the editorial board of several professional journals.

"There is a wonderful opportunity in the computer science and engineering department," said Papadimitriou. "The department is young and small but it is going to grow. San Diego has an excellent track record of having outstanding science departments and I expect it will do the same in computer science."

The main focus of Papadimitriou's work is a field called complexity theory.

"Some problems which require a computer to solve appear to be so complex that they are virtually unsolvable," Papadimitriou said. "The theories that I work with try to find out if this is an inherent property of the problem, or if other methods can be found to solve the problem."

"Getting a professor of his great international stature will accomplish two things," said Walt Burkhard, chairman of the Department of Computer Science Engineering. "It will enable the UCSD Computer Science Department to recruit top-ranked faculty more aggressively, and it will greatly improve the department's national ranking."

The Jacobs Chair is funded by a \$250,000 gift from Dr. Jacobs, who left UCSD to found the Linkabit Corporation, and his wife Joan. Jacobs is currently president of Qualcomm, Inc. The annual income from the endowment will be available to the chair holder to support teaching and research activities.

Irwin Jacobs was a professor of Information and Computer Science at UCSD from 1966 until 1972. Before coming to UCSD, Jacobs was a faculty member at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and was a Resident Research Fellow at the California Institute of Technology prior to then.

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