

Appointment of University Professor

July 20, 1984

The Regents of the University of California have appointed E. Margaret Burbidge to the distinguished position of University Professor. Dr. Burbidge is one of the world's leading astronomers and a professor in the Department of Physics at UCSD. The Regents made the appointment Friday morning during their meeting at UCSD.

Dr. Burbidge has been a member of the faculty of UCSD since 1964; also, since 1979 she has been director of UCSD's Center for Astrophysics and Space Sciences. Her research in astronomy has covered a broad array of topics, including nucleosynthesis, the nature of quasars, and the properties of galaxies.

Chancellor Richard C. Atkinson said Friday, "This is a splendid appointment. Margaret Burbidge is an outstanding scientist and teacher, she is deeply dedicated to the work of the university, and she is a fitting successor to Harold Urey, UCSD's first University Professor. The University Professorship is designed to allow all nine campuses of the university to share in the special talents of scholars of international distinction who are also teachers of exceptional ability. I can think of no one in the university more deserving than Margaret Burbidge."

Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Harold Ticho was also pleased by the announcement, saying, "I am absolutely delighted by this recognition. Dr. Burbidge is an outstanding scientist in the field of observational astronomy, and is particularly noted for her contributions to our understanding of quasars. This is a much deserved recognition and all of us at UCSD are proud to have her on our faculty."

Dr. Burbidge is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and the American Philosophical Society. Her outstanding professional standing is further attested by her presidency of the American Astronomical Society (1976-78) and presidency of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (1982-83).

She has received many honors, including the Lowell Lectureship of the American Astronomical Society, the Catherine Wolfe Bruce Medal of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific, and eight honorary doctoral degrees. She carries out numerous professional activities, including serving as member-at-large of the NASA Advisory Council and as trustee for the La Jolla Institute and the San Diego Hall of Science.

Dr. Burbidge has been very active in efforts to improve science education activities at the pre-college level throughout the United States and in the United Kingdom where she received her education. She has been responsible for starting many young scientists on successful research careers. Her teaching covers all levels, from freshman seminars to advanced astrophysics courses, and she demonstrates an exceptional ability to communicate both with laymen and with scientists.

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