

UCSD hosts teacher of the year ceremony

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Media Contact: Nancy Saint John, (858) 534-3141 or nsaintjohn@ucsd.edu

Arcadia High School mathematics teacher Jeffrey Belwood is the first to admit that math may not be the most stimulating subject to study. Because of his superb teaching techniques and excellent relationship with his students, Belwood was named High School Teacher of the Year by the University of California, San Diego. He will be honored in a ceremony at 7 p.m., Jan. 11, 2000, at the Arcadia Unified School District Board of Governors meeting, 234 Campus Drive.

Richard Backer, UCSD Assistant Vice Chancellor of Enrollment Management/Registrar, Board President John McClain and Arcadia High School Principal Martin Plourde, will lead the ceremony.

"He didn't really feel like a teacher, but rather more like a friend." "He was very patient and explained things so well." "He had a lot of concern for the students." "He was very approachable." These are among the thoughts expressed by Belwood's former students.

Jeffrey Belwood is one of two teachers to receive the 1999-2000 award. He shares this honor with William Harvie, a physics teacher at Torrey Pines High School in Del Mar who will be similarly recognized in June. This program is unique in that these teachers were selected by their former students, all of whom are now enrolled at UCSD.

Belwood has taught at Arcadia High School his entire six-year career, and is currently the Department Chair for Mathematics. He is known to put his students before everything else. "I make myself available at lunch or before school," he says. "I tend to talk with the students a lot. At the beginning of the year I have them fill out a sheet listing other activities they're involved in, and then throughout the year, I ask about them."

Sue Hutson, another teacher nominated from Arcadia High, notes, "Jeff is well thought of by all of the teachers. He is always willing to find a compromise. He will vary his teaching methods in order to get his students to learn." Belwood's students concur. Says UCSD freshman Nathan Eberhardt, "He created an atmosphere within his class that was conducive to learning. When the weather was nice he would even teach the class outside." Arcadia graduate Shirley Lac says Belwood was "very patient and explained things well. I'm taking Calculus at UCSD; without him I would really be struggling."

This year, Arcadia High School placed 53 freshmen at UCSD, the most of any high school in the country. Arcadia also had the highest number of nominated teachers in the recognition program, at 27. They were: Mike Allee, Kimberly Cabrera, Janel Coats, Kate Coffman, Linda Colley, Randy Cox, Margaret Feher, Charles Freberg, Natalie Gray, Susan Hutson, Stephanie Kazlauskas, Tom Landes, Lisa Lucas, Rollie Maxson, Rick Onderdonk, Margarita Ortiz, Gerald Penny, Susan Ridgeway, David Silah, Judy Swift, Albert Sylvia, Liza Tedford, Patrick Tierney, Sharyn Wang, Taro Yoshinaga and Lesley Zimmerman, along with Belwood.

UCSD's Outstanding Teacher Recognition Program was initiated in the spring of 1996 by the Office of Admissions and Outreach as a way of showing appreciation to the high school teachers who work hard to instill a

lifelong love of learning in their students. Each spring, students who accept UCSD's offer of admission are given the opportunity to nominate a teacher who had a strong, positive academic influence on their lives.

This year the university received more than 2,800 nominations for approximately 2,300 teachers from across the United States and 14 foreign countries. Each teacher was given a certificate of recognition and a letter from UCSD Chancellor Robert C. Dynes. Those teachers garnering the most nominations were named Teachers of the Year.

"We are proud of this program and the feedback that we have received," said Mae Brown, director of UCSD's Office of Admissions and Outreach. "Our students thoroughly enjoy this opportunity to express their gratitude to their former teachers. It also allows us to thank those teachers who have devoted their time and energy to preparing their students for a university education."

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