

Distinguished Teaching Awards go to four UCSD faculty members

April 23, 1996

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Four University of California, San Diego, faculty members who have been lauded for their significant influence on the lives and careers of their students are 1996 recipients of Distinguished Teaching Awards from the Academic Senate.

The awards will be presented May 13 at a 4:30 to 6 p.m. program in the Faculty Club. Laurence Milstein, professor of computer science, is chair of the event.

Receiving the Distinguished Teaching Awards are Linda K. Olson, M.D., professor of clinical radiology; Gerald Doppelt, professor of philosophy; Peter G. Doyle, professor of mathematics, and Immo E. Scheffler, professor of biology.

Dr. Olson has overcome the effects of a tragic accident that would have sidelined most victims to become chief of diagnostic radiology at UCSD, her nomination notes. A train accident in Europe, which resulted in losing both her legs and right arm, only spurred her on to become a top-notch radiologist, according to George R. Leopold, M.D., chair of the Department of Radiology.

Her career has been nothing short of phenomenal, notes Leopold. In addition to being recognized at UCSD and within the San Diego community as a top radiologist, she won the coveted Marie Curie Award of the American Association of Women in Radiology in 1991. She also is beloved for the compassion she shows all the patients with whom she comes in contact, Leopold added.

Doppelt is so highly regarded by his students because he has demonstrated during his years as a philosophy professor that he is more than willing to go the extra mile to help them learn, Richard Arneson, Philosophy Department chair, commented.

Another colleague said of Doppelt that he has a record of inspirational teaching, course innovation, graduate student advising and sheer dedication to teaching.

A fixture at UCSD since the 1970's, Doppelt has played a major role in developing many of the philosophy courses taught on campus. He is noted for his commitment to affirmative action in the areas of graduate advising and postdoctoral mentoring, Arneson said.

Doyle's nomination cites his success in engaging students in novel areas of mathematics that often are not taught at undergraduate level, and his ability to grab students' attention.

Michael J. Sharpe, Mathematics Department chair, praises Doyle's enormous energy in developing new courses and seeking fresh methods of presenting existing courses.

Doyle is an expert in diverse areas of mathematics, including logic, computer algorithms, probability, classical algebra and geometry.

Since coming to UCSD four years ago, Doyle has taken part in developing two new courses, "Geometry and the Imagination" and "Chance."

In student evaluations of his classes, Doyle's ability to make the material fresh and relevant is cited, as well as his rapport with students.

Colleagues in the Biology Department hail Scheffler as an exceptional faculty member and a true scholar, excelling both as a teacher and a researcher.

Scheffler exemplifies the definition of an outstanding teacher, according to his colleagues. His nomination notes that Scheffler's knowledge of biology is unusually broad, in this era of specialization, and his genuine interest in students' intellectual and personal growth stands out in his teaching.

Scheffler's achievements have been recognized in the past. Among them were the Excellence in Teaching Award from Revelle College seniors; the UCSD Chancellor Associates' Award for Excellence in Teaching, and the Teacher of the Year Award from the UCSD Alumni Association.