

UCSD Alumni Association honors Nobel Prize winner Susumu Tonegawa and UCSD Anthropologist Shirley C. Strum

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Susumu Tonegawa, a former graduate student and researcher at the University of California, San Diego, and winner of the 1987 Nobel Prize in medicine, will be honored at UCSD's Alumni Association annual awards banquet on June 11.

Tonegawa, to be named Distinguished Alumnus of the Year, was the eighth graduate student at UCSD to receive a doctoral degree in biology.

The ceremony will take place at 7:30 p.m. in the Ida and Cecil Green Faculty Club on the UCSD campus.

His Nobel Prize was won for his work in immunology which led to a greater understanding of how hundreds of millions of human antibodies mobilize to react against infection.

Shirley C. Strum, author of the book "Almost Human," a study of baboons in the wild, will be named Distinguished Professor of the Year. An assistant professor in the Department of Anthropology, Strum alternates her time between the UCSD campus and Africa. For the past 15 years she has studied baboons at the Kekopey Ranch in Kenya.

Alumni Association president Mark Broughton will present the awards and host the proceedings. Awards will also be presented to four outstanding seniors and two top senior athletes.

Masaki Hayashi, a UCSD professor of biology and Tonegawa's former graduate advisor, said of the laureate, "He was very, very bright. He knew what were the most important questions to ask in any field."

After Tonegawa graduated from Kyoto University in Japan in 1963, he entered the UCSD Department of Biology graduate program. He received his doctorate in 1968, and worked the next year in Hayashi's laboratory. The following year he worked as a research fellow at Salk Institute in La Jolla under Renato Dulbecco, also a Nobel laureate.

In 1971, Tonegawa accepted a research post in Basel, Switzerland, where he made his major immunological discovery. Since 1981 he has been a professor of biology at the MIT Center for Cancer Research and Department of Biology.

Tonegawa will give a lecture at UCSD titled "T-Cell Receptor, Gamma Delta" at 4 p.m., June 10 in the Liebow Auditorium of the Basic Science Building at the School of Medicine. The lecture is free and open to the public.

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