

Four faculty members named to American Academy of Arts and Sciences

May 14, 1975

Four University of California, San Diego faculty members were elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences at the academy's annual meeting today (Wednesday, May 14) in Boston.

They were Dr. E. Peter Geiduschek, professor of biology; Dr. Henry W. Menard, professor of geology at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography; Dr. Helen M. Ranney, professor of medicine at the School of Medicine, and Dr. Melford E. Spiro, professor of anthropology. All four individuals are residents of La Jolla.

In all, 121 individuals were named to the national honorary society bringing total membership to 2,300. Dr. Ranney was one of six women selected and the only woman named from the western states.

Fellows of the academy include noted mathematicians, physical and biological scientists, members of the legal profession, social scientists, artists and humanists. Academy membership is considered one of the highest professional honors which can be received by a scholar.

Geiduschek, 47, joined the UCSD biology faculty in 1970 after serving on the faculty of the University of Chicago for 11 years. He received his B.A. degree in chemistry from Columbia University in 1948 and his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in physical chemistry from Harvard University in 1950 and 1953 respectively.

A specialist in the field of genetics, Geiduschek was a Guggenheim Fellow in 1964-65, a Lalor Foundation Fellow in 1957 and a U.S. Public Health Service Fellow from 1950 to 1952.

In 1974 he was elected to membership in the National Academy of Sciences, one of the highest honors that can come to any American scientist. He is also a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Chemical Society, American Society of Biological Chemistry and Biophysical Society.

Menard, 54, has been on the SIO faculty since 1955. He has discovered many major topographic and structural features of the sea floor through his research in marine geology, tectonics (movement of the continents) and sedimentation.

While on leave from SIO in 1965-66 Menard served as technical assistant in oceanography for the White House Office of Science and Technology. In addition, he has been a consultant to governmental agencies on the potential of off-shore oil resources and the environmental impact of drilling.

Menard is also a member of the National Academy of Sciences as well as several other professional societies. He was a Guggenheim Fellow at Cambridge University and is the author of many scientific and technical publications. He received his B.S. and M.S. degrees from the California Institute of Technology and his Ph.D. degree in geology from Harvard University.

Ranney, 55, has served as chairman of the department of medicine since 1973 when she joined the UCSD faculty. She received her bachelor's degree from Barnard College and her M.D. degree from the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Columbia University.

Honors she has received include the Joseph Mather Smith Prize of Columbia University and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Medical Achievement Award for outstanding research contributions in the field of sickle cell anemia.

She is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, president-elect of the Western Association of Physicians and a past president of the American Society of Hematology. She is also a member of the American Society for Clinical Investigation, Association of American Physicians and American Society of Biological Chemists.

Spiro, 55, has been a member of the UCSD anthropology faculty since 1968 and served as chairman of the department of anthropology from 1968 to 1971. He was graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1941 with a B.A. degree and from Northwestern University in 1950 with his Ph.D. degree.

He has conducted field work in Thailand, Burma, Israel and Micronesia as well as with the Ojibwa Indians in Wisconsin. His books include "Children of the Kibbutz," "Burmese Supernaturalism" and "Buddhism and Society."

Spiro was honored for his "exceptional service, achievements and leadership in the field of education" in the 1973 edition of "Outstanding Educators in America."

He is a past president of the American Ethnological Society and a member of the scientific advisory board in anthropology for the Encyclopedia Britannica. He has served on numerous other advisory committees and editorial boards for a variety of scientific organizations and publications.

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