

Reorganization of Scripps' departments

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The academic departments of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the San Diego campus of the University of California, have been reorganized to meet the growing demands of education, industry, and government upon oceanography the years ahead, Dr. William A. Nierenberg, dean and director of Scripps, announced today.

This restructuring has resulted in the formation of a single Department of Scripps Institution of Oceanography within the University. This department will have, at the outset, six curricular programs: biological oceanography, physical oceanography, marine biology, marine geology, marine chemistry, and geophysics. Other programs will be added to meet the rapidly expanding needs.

Dr. Warren S. Wooster, professor of oceanography, has been appointed chairman of the new department, with Dr. Melvin N. A. Peterson, associate professor of oceanography, as vice-chairman, and Miss Betty Jean Sackville as administrative assistant.

Coordinators of the present six curricular programs will be Dr. John A. McGowan, biological oceanography; Dr. Charles S. Cox, physical oceanography; Dr. A. A. Benson, marine biology; Dr. H. W. Menard, marine geology; Dr. E. D. Goldberg, marine chemistry; and Dr. J. F. Gilbert, geophysics.

Dr. Nierenberg said the academic departments formerly associated with Scripps and now unified within the new department, have been those of oceanography, marine biology and earth sciences. No change in the functions and operation of the Institution's research divisions - oceanic research, marine biology, and earth sciences - will take place now, he added.

"We feel this new organization will weld Scripps Institution into a single department with its august working group of faculty members in a position to recruit even more of the finest talent available for faculty and students at a time when oceanography, with all its interdisciplinary aspects, is developing more rapidly than ever before," Dr. Nierenberg commented.

Scripps Institution, which became affiliated with the University of California in 1912, has granted 105 doctor of philosophy degrees since the first one was awarded in 1930. The Institution offers only graduate work in the field, and has been able to award degrees through the San Diego campus since 1961.

"Significantly, the new plan, which is effective July 1, comes at a time when the government's Sea Grant college program is being initiated and also when various ocean-related programs have been set up in the new U.S. Environmental Science Services Administration," Dr. Nierenberg said.

"In addition, the President's National Council on Marine Resources and Engineering Development, under Vice-President Humphrey, was established last year to help map an overall national oceanographic program."

Dr. Nierenberg stressed that the new academic plan will give students an opportunity to work in their specialized areas and at the same time take advantage of related courses that will lead them to a mastery of the interdisciplinary field of oceanography.

"We at Scripps who are responsible for training many of the future leaders in the field of oceanography believe that a strong background in a basic science that feeds into oceanography, such as chemistry, biology, physics, geology, or mathematics, is essential before a student can begin to plan for advanced studies in oceanography," said Dr. Nierenberg. "The new organization will help strengthen this concept, which has been paramount at Scripps for years."

He said each of the curricular groups will be largely responsible for its own educational programs and requirements in admissions, curricula and examinations, and will serve as a standing committee in selection of faculty and students, and yet will retain a fluidity within the total department that will strengthen the effectiveness of the overall faculty interactions and educational groupings. Such a structure will readily allow for the development of programs and recruitment of additional faculty in disciplines not now in Scripps Institution.