

Scripps, UCSD Professors Garner Prestigious Honors

Scripps and UCSD professors elected to National Academy of Sciences and President Obama's Science Council

April 30, 2009

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Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UC San Diego professor Peter Shearer has been elected to the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) in recognition of his distinguished and continuing achievements in original geophysical research. Shearer is one of 72 new members and 18 foreign associates elected to the Academy during its annual meeting on April 28, which is considered one of the highest honors that can be accorded to a U.S. scientist or engineer. In a separate announcement on April 27 during the academy's meeting, President Barack Obama announced Scripps and UCSD chemistry professor Mario Molina as a member of the President's Council on Science and Technology.

Shearer, a professor of geophysics in the Scripps Cecil H. and Ida M. Green Institute of Geophysics and Planetary Physics, is a leader in developing new methods to improve our understanding of earthquakes in California and around the world. He recently released a new catalog of more than 400,000 Southern California earthquakes with dramatically improved location accuracy and delineation of fault structures. He developed a technique for direct imaging of earthquake ruptures and applied it successfully to the devastating 2004 Sumatra-Andaman earthquake and the 2004 Parkfield earthquake in central California. He has also used seismic waves to resolve details of deep-earth structure by applying large-scale data processing methods. Shearer earned his Ph.D. in earth sciences from Scripps in 1986.

For his dedication as a professor and mentor, Shearer was awarded the Scripps Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award in 2003. He is a fellow of the American Geophysical Union, authored a textbook on seismology and has published more than 100 articles in peer-reviewed scientific journals.

"Peter joins an impressive cadre of Scripps academics and alums, past and present, who have achieved the extraordinary career achievement of National Academy membership," said Tony Haymet, director of Scripps and vice chancellor for Marine Sciences at UC San Diego.

The National Academy of Sciences is a private organization of scientists and engineers dedicated to the furtherance of science and its use for the general welfare. It was established in 1863 by a congressional act of incorporation signed by Abraham Lincoln that calls on the Academy to act as an official adviser to the federal government, upon request, in any matter of science or technology.

In a related announcement during the academy's annual meeting, Mario Molina, a professor of chemistry at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography and professor of chemistry and biochemistry at UC San Diego was one of 20 scientists and engineers recently named by President Barack Obama to the president's scientific advisory panel. Molina was elected to the NAS in 1993 and in 1995 was awarded the Nobel Prize in chemistry for his pioneering research into the threat to the earth's ozone layer caused by chlorofluorocarbon gases.

Called the President's Council on Science and Technology, the panel will advise Obama and Vice President Joe Biden on a range of issues pertaining to science, technology and innovation. Molina is also director of the Mario Molina Center for Energy and Environment in Mexico City. David E. Shaw, chief scientist of D. E. Shaw Research and 1972 UC San Diego alumnus, is also a newly-appointed member of the President's science council.

Note to broadcast and cable producers: UC San Diego provides an on-campus satellite uplink facility for live or pre-recorded television interviews. Please phone or e-mail the media contact listed above to arrange an interview.

Scripps Institution of Oceanography: scripps.ucsd.edu

Scripps News: scrippsnews.ucsd.edu

Scripps Institution of Oceanography, at UC San Diego, is one of the oldest, largest and most important centers for global science research and education in the world. The National Research Council has ranked Scripps first in faculty quality among oceanography programs nationwide. Now in its second century of discovery, the scientific scope of the institution has grown to include biological, physical, chemical, geological, geophysical and atmospheric studies of the earth as a system. Hundreds of research programs covering a wide range of scientific areas are under way today in 65 countries. The institution has a staff of about 1,300, and annual expenditures of approximately \$155 million from federal, state and private sources. Scripps operates one of the largest U.S. academic fleets with four oceanographic research ships and one research platform for worldwide exploration.

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