

January 29, 2001

Butler Assumes New Bioengineering Associate Deanship

Alison Butler, professor of chemistry and biochemistry, has accepted appointment as associate dean for bioengineering for a one-year term. In this position she will focus on developing relationships among physical and biological sciences and engineering and therefore, in terms of institutional structure, between the College of Letters & Science and the College of Engineering.

Butler said, "We intend to develop joint programs in research and education and to position UCSB to lead in this field, in a manner based on our unique strengths. I look forward to the challenge."

Dean of Engineering Matthew Tirrell said, "I am sure that our campus will gain enormously through Alison's efforts in this position."

Butler holds a 1977 BA with a chemistry major from Reed College and a 1982 PhD in chemistry from UC San Diego. After postdoctoral fellowships at UCLA and at Caltech, she joined the UCSB faculty in 1986 as assistant professor and advanced to associate professor in 1991 and to professor in 1995.

In 2001 she will chair the Bioinorganic Subdivision of the Division of Inorganic Chemistry of the American Chemical Society, in 2002 the Marine Natural Products Gordon Research Conference, and in 2004 the Metals in Biology Gordon Research Conference.

Elected a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 1997, Butler was the recipient of an Alfred P. Sloan Fellowship from 1992 to 1994.

She serves on the editorial boards of the Journal of Biological Inorganic Chemistry and the Journal of Inorganic Biochemistry. Having been a member of the editorial board for Inorganic Chemistry, she is resuming that position for a two-year appointment beginning this year.

Butler holds two patents with another pending. Her published scientific work includes a Feb. 18 2000 Science Magazine article on siderophores or iron-carrying molecules secreted by marine bacteria to enable them to acquire iron, a trace element essential for life but present in vanishingly low concentrations in seawater.

Images



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