

SOUTHWEST CENTER FOR ADVANCED STUDIES

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A JOINT NEWS RELEASE OF THE SOUTHWEST CENTER FOR ADVANCED STUDIES AND SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY -- ADVANCE -- DO NOT RELEASE PRIOR TO 10:30 A.M., MONDAY, MAY 27, 1968

May 24, 1968

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NEW SPACE SCIENCES GRADUATE PROGRAM ESTABLISHED AS CO-OP VENTURE; FRANCIS S. JOHNSON OF SCAS DIRECTS TEACHING PROGRAM; SCAS FACULTY WILL ALSO SERVE IN SMU INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

DALLAS --

A new Space Sciences center and graduate degree programs in space sciences have been established by Southern Methodist University in a co-operative venture with the Southwest Center for Advanced Studies.

The Space Sciences center, which is to be constituted as an administrative unit within the SMU Institute of Technology, and the degree programs were announced jointly today by SMU President Willis M. Tate and SCAS President Gifford K. Johnson after they had each signed a six-page agreement spelling out arrangements for the co-operative effort.

As a part of the agreement, Dr. Francis S. Johnson, Head of the Atmospheric and Space Sciences division at the SCAS, was named as director of the new center.

Doctor Johnson and 11 other members of the SCAS faculty were named in the agreement as faculty members in the SMU Institute of Technology.

Degrees to be awarded by virtue of work done within the Space Sciences center will be SMU degrees awarded in co-operation with SCAS. Faculty members participating in the joint program will be responsible for recommending degree candidates.

The two institutions will co-operate in the recruitment of graduate students for the new programs, according to the agreement, and two courses will be offered by the Space Sciences center over the TAGER-TV network in the coming academic year.

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CO-OP SPACE SCIENCES GRADUATE PROGRAM - SMU/SCAS -2-

Plans call for the course offerings to be expanded thereafter in accordance with student demand.

"In entering this agreement with the Southwest Center," Doctor Tate said, "the University is seeking to match educational resources available at the SCAS with the needs of North Texas industry for more engineers and scientists with advanced degrees who are able to contribute to the many phases of this country's space efforts."

SCAS President Johnson added: "Our action brings to bear -- on the graduate-level training of scientists and engineers -- one of the largest faculties in space sciences in the country; and with it, the background of a very large and diverse research effort, which has attained national recognition."

Space research being carried on by the 12-man SCAS faculty includes airplane, balloon, rocket, satellite and deep-space probe experiments, ground-based experiments, and theoretical studies. Principal subdivisions of their research are planetary atmospheres, ionospheric and radio physics, and studies of energetic particles and fields.

The training to be offered will be designed to help students prepare for work not only in space research, but also in other areas of research and development.

Named as full professors in the new Space Sciences center were Doctor Johnson, the director, and Drs. William B. Hanson, Walter J. Heikkila, and Gilbert B. Plass.

Appointed to the center's faculty with the rank of associate professor were Drs. Thomas N. L. Patterson, John H. Hoffman, Carl B. Collins, Jr., and James E. Midgley.

The faculty group also numbers four assistant professors: Drs. Richard R. Hodges, Jr., Ricardo A. R. Palmeira, Brian A. Tinsley, and Worth B. Hurt, Jr.