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## UC Berkeley Economist Wins Nobel Prize

### With 3 Prizes, UC System Builds Nobel Tradition

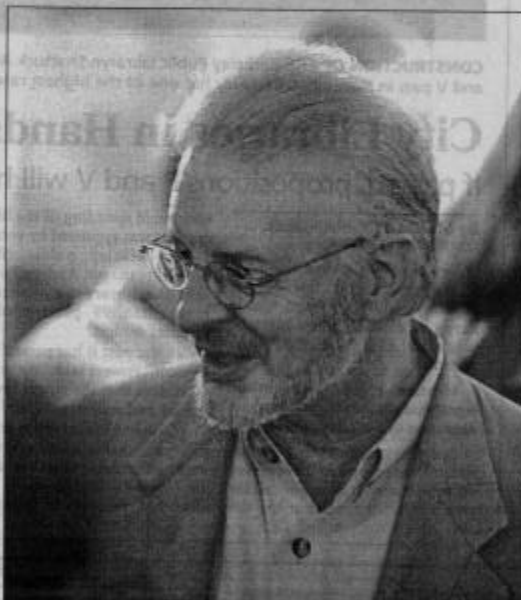
By ANNE BENJAMINSON  
DAILY CAL STAFF WRITER

Yesterday's Nobel Prize announcement brings the year's total for the UC system to three — tying the most awards the system has ever won in one year.

Two UC Santa Barbara professors picked up prizes Tuesday; Alan Heeger shared the prize in chemistry, while engineering professor Herbert Kroemer was one of the physics winners.

The university has won more than one prize in a single year eight times before. Professors from UC Irvine and UC San Diego combined for three awards in 1995.

So, with two prizes yet to be awarded, the university has won three of 11 total awards, and three of the eight given to Americans.



DAILY CAL STAFF/JOHNNY HAWKINS

**DANIEL MCFADDEN**, Nobel Prize-winning professor, greets faculty members and supports at a reception on campus yesterday.

### Economics prof's research helped design BART, prize comes with campus perks

#### UC Berkeley Nobel Prize Winners

- 1939: Ernest Lawrence
- 1946: Wendell Stanley
- 1946: John Northrop
- 1949: William Glauque
- 1951: Glenn Seaborg
- 1951: Edwin McMillan
- 1959: Emilio Segre
- 1959: Owen Chamberlain
- 1960: Donald Glaser
- 1961: Melvin Calvin
- 1964: Charles Townes
- 1968: Luis Alvarez
- 1980: Czeslaw Milosz
- 1983: Gerard Debreu
- 1986: Yuan Lee
- 1994: John Harsanyi
- 2000: Daniel McFadden

By ANNE BENJAMINSON  
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A UC Berkeley economics professor won the Nobel Prize yesterday, adding his name to the list of campus luminaries to earn one of the world's most prestigious honors.

Daniel McFadden, the E. Morris Cox Professor of Economics and director of the campus' Econometrics Laboratory, got the news at 2:30 a.m. yesterday that he had become the 17th UC Berkeley faculty member to win the prize.

"I was raised to be modest, so it's a bit shocking to be thrust into a position of prominence," he said at a press conference on campus.

While McFadden has already been invited to dinner at the White House, it pales beside the prize's greatest perk — a lifetime reserved parking space on the UC Berkeley campus.

Two UC Berkeley economists have won the prize, which is awarded by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences,

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# Prize

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before. Gerard Debreu, who won in 1983, still works in the economics department.

McFadden will share the prize with James Heckman, a University of Chicago professor. The two are pioneers in the field of microeconometrics, which is used to study the behavior of individuals, households and firms.

For example, McFadden's methods were used to predict BART ridership when the transportation system was in its infancy.

His current research focuses on a possible correlation between health and wealth and how underlying health factors are spread throughout society.

The professor hails from rural North Carolina and a farm where "there was a lot of bookreading going on." He said that in his childhood, he had no idea of what the world held in store for him.

"When I was growing up, I did not have great ambitions," he said.

At the University of Minnesota, he designed and built an X-ray telescope. It was not until he had to decide on his doctorate specialty that he settled on economics.

After McFadden finished graduate school, he spent one year at the University of Pittsburgh before coming to UC Berkeley. Three years later, he was an associate professor with tenure, a fast rise through the academic ranks.

"As far as I can gather, Dan had only one research paper published at the time," said Maurice Obstfeld, the economics department chair. "But anyone who had come into contact with him or his unpublished work had already recognized his brilliance."

Although he has taken a few breaks from teaching here, the 63-year-old McFadden has already left his mark on campus by establishing the Econometrics Laboratory, one of the few of its kind.

Yesterday's announcement continues the trend of Nobel Prizes awarded to researchers who have developed practical tools. McFad-

den's work has not unearthed any ancient secrets of the universe, but rather has provided tools that help economists better understand the world.

He may have come a long way from the North Carolina farm, but McFadden still loves the country. With his wife, Beverlee Tito Simboli, he owns and operates a small farm and vineyard in Napa Valley. From the standpoint of a Nobel Prize-winning economist, he pronounced the farm "a money-losing business," and said he would dedicate his half of the \$913,000 prize to keeping it afloat.

By noon yesterday, the prize had been added to his curriculum vitae.

**'Many (of the campus' prizes) have been for chemistry and physics and so forth, so it seems to me very revealing of the breadth of strengths here.'**

**Robert Berdahl**  
UC Berkeley chancellor

joining his seven books and hundreds of essays.

While campus officials were delighted with McFadden's honor, they also saluted him for the useful and informative nature of his work.

"The nature of his work is squarely in the service of society, helping us to understand many of society's complex challenges" said a tired UC Berkeley Chancellor Robert Berdahl, who added he got the joyful phone call at approximately 5:30 a.m. "I think it's wonderful. Many (of the campus' prizes) have been for physics and chemistry and so forth, so it seems to me very revealing of the breadth of strengths here."

McFadden said his three children and three grandchildren will join him in Sweden in December for the awards presentation.

# Awards

FROM FRONT PAGE

While no one was proclaiming world domination yesterday, the haul did elicit pride from officials.

"It's quite a statement about the quality of the faculty here," said UC Berkeley Chancellor Robert Berdahl. He was woken up early in the morning to the news that McFadden had become the third UC Berkeley economist to receive the prize.

Other Nobel notables who have

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**Robert Berdahl**  
UC Berkeley chancellor

taught at UC Berkeley include Charles Townes, who invented the laser, and luminary chemist and former chancellor Glenn Seaborg.

Although UC Santa Barbara so far leads the system in this year's Nobel tally, the Berkeley campus still has the most overall, at 17, followed by UC San Diego with 11. Systemwide, UC professors have won 43 Nobel Prizes since 1939.

McFadden joins the other six UC Berkeley Nobel winners who still teach on campus. John Harsanyi, the last faculty member to win, died just a few months ago. The 1994 winner, Harsanyi was also an economics professor who pioneered new horizons in game theory.