

# Science departments benefit from award-winning faculty

By B.J. Thomsen  
Of the Emerald

Three science programs at the University have gained considerably more prestige in the past two years because of the addition of several young award-winning scientists, most fresh from doctoral degree programs around the country.

Five recently hired faculty members from the University's biology, chemistry and physics departments have won the Presidential Young Investigators Award in the past two years. Together the five have been awarded more than \$5 million in grants.

The award, sponsored yearly by the National Science Foundation, is bestowed on the best young university faculty members in the nation. The award was created to give the recipients a financial head start in establishing costly research laboratories.

The NSF started the program because it was concerned with helping universities attract and retain highly talented scientists who might otherwise pursue non-teaching careers, said Erich Bloch, NSF director.

The award gives research support of \$25,000 a year for five years and up to \$37,500 more yearly in matching funds for support award winners can get from private industry. In all, PYI award winners can receive \$500,000 in research funds in a five-year period.

The awards prove the University is able to attract outstanding young researchers, said John Moseley, University physics professor and vice president for research. The awards will enable the University to carry on its tradition of outstanding science programs.

Diane Hawley, assistant chemistry professor, won the award this year and is the most recent University faculty recipient.

She is the fifth University scientist in the past two years to be chosen by NSF to receive the award.

Vicki Chandler, an assistant biology professor who came to the University in the summer of 1985, won the award the same year. The University biology department nominated her for the award, which resulted in her being chosen as one of only 50 scientists from 1,400

nominees to receive the award in 1985.

Chandler was attracted to the University primarily because of the outstanding faculty within the Institute of Molecular Biology and the national reputation of the school's science departments, she said.

"The strength of the sciences

here and the interaction between the biology and chemistry departments" was a motivating factor for choosing the University, she said.

Chandler has a Ph.D. in biochemistry from the University of California at San

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