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# UNIVERSITY

## Math professor earns extended science grant

University mathematics professor Gary Seitz has been awarded an automatic two-year extension of his existing grant from the National Science Foundation.

Seitz, one of four mathematicians selected nationwide in the foundation's algebra and number theory section, was awarded \$116,000 to continue his long-term project in group theory.

"Groups occur in many areas of mathematics and in the physical sciences," Seitz said. "If one can learn about groups, one can learn about other things as well."

For example, they provide a means for organizing a study of symmetry, and have applications to most of the physical sciences, Seitz said.

For many years, the biggest problem in group theory was classifying finite simple groups. In 1980, after 25 years of work by mathematicians worldwide, the project was completed, producing a theorem that takes about 10,000 pages to prove, Seitz said.

"This classification theorem has immediate applications in many areas of mathematics," Seitz said. "However, in order to obtain deeper results, it is necessary to understand the internal structure of the finite simple groups themselves."

The finite groups are built up from objects called finite simple groups, which can be regarded as the atoms or basic building blocks of group theory.

Seitz has worked on this problem for several years, using methods from various areas of mathematics. In the last few years, he and his colleagues have made "important progress in this endeavor, and the creativity extension resulted from this success," Seitz said.

Seitz has been a University faculty member since 1970. His research in group theory has been supported continuously by the National Science Foundation for the last 22 years.

## SCIENCE

Continued from Page 1

air."

Women make the same decisions men do in selecting a university to join, said Paula Burkhardt, director of the University Office of Research and Sponsored Programs. Most importantly, women consider whether an institution provides a good environment in which to do research.

Vicki Chandler, who received a PYI award in 1985 for biology research, said she was relieved to learn that the University was interested in her research. "I wouldn't have gone somewhere that would hire me just as a woman."

"There's a good and a bad reason why there's a high number of women PYI (recipients)," said Jennifer Freyd, a University faculty member since 1987 and a 1985 PYI recipient for psychological perception research.

In recruiting, women are more likely than men to accept faculty positions with universities offering lower salaries because society has conditioned them to think that way, Freyd said.

In addition, the University has not been highly responsive to certain needs of women researchers, including child care facilities, Freyd said. "I don't think the University stands out as doing things pro-active for women."

"I felt, by and large, gender has been a nonissue," said Diane Hawley, a University faculty member since 1986 and a 1987 PYI recipient for gene research in human cells.

Hawley, a member of the University's Institute of Molecular Biology, said she was attracted to the University by its reputation for an interdisciplinary approach to research.

## ROBERTS

Continued from Page 1

erts has final say on the budget's approval.

"I'm sure there will be some changes," Gilmour said, explaining that he thinks similar programs from different universities will need to be reorganized to form consolidated programs.

Gilmour said he would also like to see students rely on their parents for more financial assistance, which would be an attempt to decrease the financial aid budget he believes goes to some less needy students.

Corson said the governor and the legislators want more than a "quick fix" solution to the current budget woes, despite students' calls from around the state to find replacement revenues instead of cutting programs and raising tuition.

Roberts wants a long-term, "responsible, workable solution" for changing the state's tax structure," Corson said.

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Thursday, February 21, 1991