

Del Bene receives Chemistry Award

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Del Bene

Y S U chemistry professor Dr. Janet E. Del Bene has one more great achievement to put under her belt. Iota Sigma Pi, a national honor society with chapters all around the country, named Del Bene as its "Outstanding Woman Chemist" for 2002.

She is the 31st woman to receive this prestigious national award. This honor joins her long list of noteworthy accomplishments, which include 10 grants totaling \$1.53 million, 153 published papers over a 25 year span, and she has also given 43 international speeches.

In June, Del Bene traveled to San Francisco's University of California at Berkley, to Iota Sigma Pi's 100th year celebration. Del Bene received her honors at the celebration.

During her acceptance speech she said, "We do research because we relish the challenge of the problems and the satisfaction that comes when we solve at least some of them."

Del Bene received a certificate, a plaque, \$500 and a lifetime honorary membership.

She was given this award for the quality of her research, which included trying to find out how molecules interact with each other and investigating hydrogen bonds. Del Bene said, "the great thing is that I do all my work by computer."

The Iota Sigma Pi has over 10,100 members and 40 local chapters. Iota Sigma Pi's primary goals are to nourish the interest of chemistry among women students, to push for academic advancement and to encourage achievements in the field of chemistry.

Del Bene said every chapter can nominate someone to receive this award. When she received word that she was nominated, Del Bene said she had to send her resume to the Cleveland chapter to be evaluated. She was chosen out of a

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large pool of women scientists.

With further gratitude, during the banquet she said, "Research has its own rewards, but having one's research recognized by one's peers is a very satisfying and humbling experience."

Del Bene also has a position as adjunct professor at the University of Florida and has recently returned from the University of Madrid in Spain,

where she did a fellowship.

This is not the only time Del Bene has received recognition by the Iota Sigma Pi society.

She also received the Agnes Fay Morgan Research award in 1972.

The "Outstanding Woman Chemist" award is not an annual award. The next honoree will not be announced until 2005.