

Hujer Back At UC After Paris Talks

The University of Chattanooga's Dr. Karel Hujer is back on campus for another academic year, having just returned from the 12th International Congress of the History and Philosophy of Science in Paris, where he presented a paper entitled "Nicolas of Cusa and His Influence on the Rise of New Astronomy."

Dr. Hujer, who was accompanied to the Paris convocation by his wife, is Guerry professor of astronomy and physics at UC and director of the University's Clarence T. Jones Observatory.

At the congress, which meets every third year, the Chattanooga professor described what at one time were considered radical ideas concerning the motion of the earth. Nicolas, a German cardinal who lived in the first half of the 15th century, expounded on the theory of an infinite universe 50 years before the discoveries of Copernicus and 150 years before Giordano Bruno was burned at the stake for propounding the same theory.

The most radical innovation of Nicolas of Cusa, according to Dr. Hujer, was his final abandonment of the medieval hierarchical structure of the universe.

Dr. Hujer, appointed Guerry professor at UC last June, came to the university in 1945 and has been a full professor since 1965. He holds a doctorate from the University of Prague in his native Czechoslovakia. Before coming to Chattanooga, he taught at Iowa Wesleyan College and Michigan State University.

Professor Hujer is a Fellow of the American Astronomical Society and the Royal Astronomical Society of London and a member of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific and the Societe Astronomique de France. Long in demand as a speaker, he is conversant with eight languages, having lectured in Czechoslovakia, England, France, China, Japan, India, and countries of South America, as well as in the U.S. He has also been published widely in his field.

In 1964, the fourth centenary of Galileo's birth, the noted faculty member at UC contributed to a symposium of essays on the life and works of the famous Italian astronomer. In the summer of 1965, he gave a paper on Copernicus at the 11th annual Congress of the International Union of the History and Philosophy of Science in Poland. Last year, he attended the 14th General Assembly of the International Astronomical Union in Prague.

Prof. and Mrs. Hujer live at 216 Hillcrest Ave. in Chattanooga.