

New Third College classroom building, Peterson Hall, to be dedicated

December 19, 1983

Peterson Hall, the new classroom building on the Third College campus at the University of California, San Diego, will be dedicated at 4 p.m. Thursday, December 29, at a ceremony in the building.

The building was officially designated as Robert O. Peterson Hall by the University Board of Regents last month in honor of San Diego businessman Robert Peterson for his "long-standing generosity to the San Diego campus." According to UCSD officials, Peterson is UCSD's largest individual benefactor.

A number of San Diego civic and business leaders will take part in the ceremony honoring Peterson. They include Mrs. Helen Copley, publisher of the Union-Tribune Publishing Company; former United States Congressman Lionel Van Deerlin; Richard Silberman, a business associate of Robert Peterson's; San Diego civic leader Philip Klauber, and Richard J. Seymour, executive director of the Foundation for Ocean Research. UCSD Chancellor Richard C. Atkinson will serve as master of ceremonies for the dedication.

Peterson is a native of San Diego who has long been active in a broad range of business, cultural and community activities. In the early 1940s he founded the company later known as Foodmaker, Inc., which was the parent company for the Jack-in-the-Box restaurant chain.

His support of UCSD includes the gift in 1972 of a major collection of impressionist paintings, and a number of major gifts over many years to the Scripps Institution of Oceanography both directly and through the Foundation for Ocean Research. Much of the support was for the research work of the late Professor John D. Isaacs who served as a professor of oceanography at Scripps for many years.

Peterson was also instrumental in the establishment of the U.C. San Diego Foundation and has been actively involved in the Theatre and Arts Foundation of San Diego, whose activities culminated in the building of the Mandell Weiss Center for the Performing Arts at UCSD in 1982.

The new \$1.4 million single-story classroom building contains two lecture halls, one for 300 students and another for 400 students; two 70-seat classrooms and one 80-seat classroom. It will be used by students for the first time during the winter quarter.

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