

James K. Lyon named provost of Fifth College

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LITERATURE PROFESSOR NAMED PROVOST OF FIFTH COLLEGE

James K. Lyon, professor of German literature at the University of California, San Diego and current chairman of the UCSD Academic Senate, has been named provost of Fifth College scheduled to open at UCSD in fall, 1988.

Lyon's name has been forwarded by Chancellor Richard C. Atkinson to UC President David P. Gardner for approval. Lyon will head the campus' first new college since Fourth College (now Warren College) was founded in 1974.

"Jamie Lyon will be an outstanding founding provost of the Fifth College," said Harold Ticho, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. "We are fortunate that he is willing to accept this challenging assignment to provide leadership in the development of a new undergraduate program at UCSD."

"Professor Lyon is a distinguished member of the department of literature and a campus leader," said Atkinson. "I am extremely pleased that he has agreed to be the provost of our next college."

Lyon will have the task of overseeing creation of the academic program for the new college. In a report prepared last May, the preliminary planning committee for Fifth College recommended that the college's academic program focus on comparative culture and take advantage of the establishment of the new Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Studies.

"I'm very excited about being named provost for several reasons," said Lyon who joined the UCSD faculty in 1974. "I want to give the college a distinctly international flavor. If I had my way I would like to see every student spend at least one quarter abroad. I feel experience living in another culture is a vital component of any education.

"I want to start something new with an international focus," he said. "I was born in Holland and spoke Dutch before I spoke English. I grew up thinking everyone spoke several languages. I worry that many California students are parochial and isolated. They seldom have much experience with cultures outside the United States. So this is an opportunity to do something in an area about which I feel strongly."

It is expected that the first students, all freshmen, will enroll in the fall of next year. Within the following four years enrollment will climb to around 3,000 undergraduates. The college will be housed on the former site of Warren College in an area now referred to as the Matthews Academic and Administrative Complex.

Lyon, who earned his Ph.D. at Harvard in 1963, is a former chairman of the UCSD literature department.

He joined the faculty in 1974 after serving as an assistant professor at Harvard and an associate professor at the University of Florida.

He was born in Rotterdam, Holland, in 1934 of American parents and moved to the United States in 1937.

While at UCSD, Lyon served as associate dean of graduate students in 1977-78 and as chairman of the literature department from 1978 until 1982.

He has received fellowships and grants from the Harvard University Canada Humanities Fund, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the American Council of Learned Societies, and the Guggenheim Foundation.

Lyon's areas of interest include German lyric poetry, prose and drama from 1900 to the present, German literature since 1945, and relationships between German, French and American literature.

He is an authority on the life and works of the playwright Bertolt Brecht. In 1980 Lyon published a book, "Bertolt Brecht in America," which discussed the famed dramatist's life in the United States from 1941-47 when he lived and wrote in Santa Monica.

His interest in writers who have lived and worked in cross-cultural settings has also produced a number of publications on the work of Paul Celan, thought by many to be the major European poet since 1945. Celan, an Eastern European Jew who survived the Holocaust, wrote his works in German while spending most of his adult life in Parisian exile.

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