

UCSD Library receives largest gift in Library's history

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Contact: Paul Lowenberg, (619) 534-3120

FLORENCE RIFORD GIVES UCSD LIBRARY LARGEST GIFT EVER

Florence Seeley Riford of La Jolla has given the University of California, San Diego Library a gift of \$1 million, the largest in the library's history.

The funds will be used to provide materials for the library's humanities collection as part of a challenge grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, according to University Librarian Dorothy Gregor.

"Words are really inadequate to communicate how much her loyal and generous support means to the University," said Chancellor Richard C. Atkinson. "The diversity, range and magnitude of her support have established a standard of generosity and wisdom that is inspiring. Her response to the University's most pressing needs has been pivotal."

Mrs. Riford, 97, has been a frequent contributor to the UCSD campus.

She has contributed generously toward biomedical research, including the establishment of an endowed professorship in Alzheimer's disease research, and an endowed professorship in AIDS research.

Other projects receiving her support have included the UCSD Institute for Research on Aging and the Departments of Plastic Surgery, Ophthalmology, and Pathology. She has also provided funds for the purchase of a van and research equipment for osteoporosis research.

"One of the advantages of having lived so long is that you become more discerning about human progress," Riford said. "Although medical and technical advances have been astounding, much remains to be done to enrich, encourage and develop the human spirit. I believe that many of the issues facing our nation are moral and ethical in nature, and that it is the humanities which are best able to address these challenges."

In February she gave the UCSD Library a \$500,000 trust for a general endowment for the humanities. In 1986 Riford made a gift of \$100,000 to the Library in honor of Philippine President Corazon Aquino. She also has donated property on which the new La Jolla Library, presently under construction, will be located.

"Gifts to the Challenge Campaign generate federal matching funds equal to one-third of the contributed amount," Gregor explained. "Endowment income, supplemental to state funds, will support acquisitions and processing of library materials in four areas: Pacific studies, Latin American Studies, contemporary humanities, and general humanities."

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