

## **UC Regents approve renaming of Humanities/Undergraduate Library Building at UCSD**

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### UC REGENTS RENAME HUMANITIES/UNDERGRADUATE LIBRARY BUILDING AT UCSD GALBRAITH HALL

The University of California Board of Regents has approved naming the Humanities/Undergraduate Library Building at the University of California, San Diego John S. Galbraith Hall honoring the former UCSD chancellor and early champion of library improvement and expansion on campus.

The building is located on the south side of Reville Plaza and houses the departments of theatre and philosophy, campus counseling services, several classrooms and lecture halls, as well as the Undergraduate Library.

"John Galbraith has had a distinguished career as a scholar and administrator at the University of California," said UCSD Chancellor Richard C. Atkinson. "He served as chancellor during the early years at UCSD and helped build our reputation for excellence. He also helped bring a major research library to campus, so it is particularly appropriate that the Humanities Library Building be named after him.

"Through the years, he and his wife remained close to UCSD and the community, thus their return to the campus they helped build was a welcome event to their many friends here. The naming of this building is to recognize the important contributions Laura and John Galbraith have made to UCSD," Atkinson added.

As active members of the Friends of the UCSD Library, Galbraith and his wife have made substantial financial contributions to the library, and Galbraith has donated to UCSD his large and valuable personal library and his papers. He continues to work with current UCSD University Librarian, Dorothy Gregor, in promoting the cause of the library.

As chancellor of UCSD from 1964 to 1968, Galbraith directed a substantial portion of his administrative energies to library issues. Throughout his career as an academic historian, he has taken an active interest in library development. As a strong supporter of the Friends of the UCSD Library, he has provided both intellectual and material support for UCSD's research collections.

"John Galbraith's vision for building one of the great campuses of the University of California here at UCSD includes the vision of a great library to serve the campus and its community," Gregor said. "His conviction that we cannot build a great university without also building a great library translates in a number of ways into support for the library.

"He is generous in his contributions to the library's endowment program. He is a knowledgeable user of the library and one of our best ambassadors. He is a source of advice and counsel. He is truly one of the library's best friends," she added.

Due in large part to Galbraith's strong support for the UCSD Library, an important research collection began growing on the La Jolla campus.

This collection, housed originally in inadequate quarters in Urey Hall was moved to a new and superbly designed library building in 1965. This library, constructed during Galbraith's chancellorship, was originally called the "Humanities Library," then the "Cluster I Undergraduate Library," and is now referred to simply as the "Undergraduate Library."

Also during Galbraith's chancellorship, plans for a new Central University Library were developed and approved. An essential aspect of the plans was the unusual design of the building, created by architect William Pereira. This design, promoted in large part by Chancellor Galbraith, was intended to give the library building great visual prominence in the campus landscape. Such prominence would, Galbraith felt, emphasize the intellectual importance of the library's collections for the university.

In addition to these administrative contributions to the growth of the UCSD Library, Galbraith wrote and lectured on the subject of library collections. As an academic historian, he knew the fundamental importance of large and comprehensive collections to support research in the humanities and social sciences.

Galbraith was born in Scotland in 1916. His family immigrated to the United States in 1925. He received his undergraduate degree from Miami University in Ohio and his Ph.D. degree in history from the University of Iowa in 1943. Following graduation, he joined the Air Force, serving as an official historian until 1946, when he was discharged and joined the history faculty at UCLA. He was chair of the department from 1954 until 1958.

In July 1964, Galbraith was named Vice Chancellor at UCSD, and became chancellor in November of that year, succeeding Herb York. In 1968, he resigned as chancellor to accept the prestigious Smuts Visiting Fellowship at Cambridge University in England.

The following year he returned to UCLA to teach history and remained there until 1984 when he rejoined the UCSD faculty.

Laura Galbraith was the founding president of the UCSD Medical Center Auxiliary, which has made a considerable contribution to the support of UCSD.

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