

Fund-raising efforts to create an endowment for Judaic Studies

August 10, 1981

Fund-raising efforts to create an endowment for Judaic Studies at the University of California, San Diego have neared the half-million dollar mark.

According to UC San Diego development officer Ray Ramseyer, 22 San Diego residents have so far donated \$461,000 toward the goal of \$700,000 necessary to set up the endowment fund.

The fund would provide support for a distinguished professor of Judaic Studies, still to be recruited, as well as money for publications, research, graduate student support, a library fund, and undergraduate scholarships and prizes.

Some 600-800 students, both Jewish and non-Jewish, currently enroll each year in courses offered through Judaic Studies.

The faculty includes program director Richard Friedman, a biblical scholar from Harvard, and members of the anthropology, history, literature, philosophy and political science departments. Friedman has also recruited a number of distinguished scholars to serve as visiting lecturers during the year.

Student interest in Judaic Studies dates back to the late 1960S and in response to that interest Muir College offered a three-quarter sequence on Judaic cultural traditions beginning in 1970-71. Under the direction of Muir Provost John Stewart, the Judaic Studies program got underway in 1974. Following a succession of visiting professors who headed the program, Friedman was appointed as full-time director in 1976.

The effort to raise funds to endow the program in Judaic Studies has been considered since the time of Friedman's appointment, but the actual solicitation began only last April.

A committee of local residents headed by Jerome Katzin and Dorothy Garfield, both of La Jolla, has spearheaded the fund raising which is expected to reach its goal early this fall.

"The establishment of an endowed professorship and the appointment of a distinguished scholar of international reputation is an essential next step in expanding the program," according to a committee report. "This will involve numerous academic disciplines and attract general students as well as those seeking to specialize in areas of Judaic scholarship."

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