

## UCSD anthropologist Thomas Levy to receive Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Research

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### UCSD ANTHROPOLOGIST TO RECEIVE AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

Thomas Levy, a professor of anthropology and a member of the Judaic Studies Program at the University of California, San Diego, has been selected to receive this year's Presidential Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Research.

The awards are made annually by the UC Office of the President on each of the eight general campuses of the University of California. Awards are given to one graduating senior with distinction as an undergraduate researcher, and to one faculty member with a distinguished record of mentoring undergraduate research. Levy will be awarded an inscribed plaque and a certificate of commendation from the UC Office of the President at the Revelle College Commencement ceremony on June 16 at 2:30 p.m.

According to Professor Donald Tuzin, chair of the Department of Anthropology at UCSD, since joining the department in 1992, Levy, an archaeologist, has displayed an "astounding amount of energy and commitment in drawing undergraduate students into the research enterprise."

From his first year at UCSD, Levy has participated in the campus Faculty-Mentor program, and every year has involved undergraduates in his research projects. He also organized a UC-wide Education Abroad Program in Israel, which helped to introduce undergraduates not only to archaeological fieldwork, but also to the post-excavation laboratory analysis of discovered artifacts. Since 1992, Levy has also conducted the department's Anthropology-Archaeology Field School in Israel during the summer, and each year has taken approximately 20 UCSD and other UC students to participate in the program.

"This hands-on research program has sparked interest in the department's expanding archaeology program," said Tuzin, "and it has inspired many students to pursue graduate studies in the field."

Tuzin also credits Levy with the design and establishment of an archaeology lab in the new Social Sciences Building. The laboratory, which houses state-of-the-art computing equipment, is geared to accommodate the needs of undergraduate research projects.

"Not only has Professor Levy made a difference in the lives of many undergraduate students, he has made a difference in the life of the department," added Tuzin. "With fellow UCSD anthropologist Guillermo Algaze, he has sponsored the Undergraduate Anthropology Society, which, since 1994-95, has brought outstanding speakers to the campus, generating an unprecedented vibrancy of interest among our undergraduates."

Levy, considered to be one of the world's most prolific and respected archaeologists, is currently digging in Israel, is the author of more than 40 publications on the late prehistory and early history (ca. 6000-3000 B.C.) of the Middle East. Professor Levy's most recently edited book is called *The Archaeology of Society in the Holy Land*, published by Leicester University Press in the UK and *Facts on File* in the U.S. His archaeological

explorations at the sites of Gilat, Shiqmim, and Nahal Tillah in Israel's Negev desert have unearthed numerous environmental and cultural artifacts that have contributed significantly to our understanding of how urbanism evolved in the Middle East.

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