

John Dower named to Naiman Endowed Chair in Japanese Studies to be housed in the Department of History

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JOHN DOWER NAMED TO NAIMAN CHAIR IN JAPANESE STUDIES

John Dower, professor of Japanese history at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, has been named to the Joseph Naiman Endowed Chair in Japanese Studies at the University of California, San Diego.

Dower's appointment will be effective January 1, 1986. The Naiman Chair was established last January and is funded by a gift from Jack Naiman of San Diego, who wished the Chair named in honor of his father.

Naiman is chairman and chief executive officer of the Naiman Co., a real estate development company.

"The Naiman Chair is essential to our plans to develop a first-rate program in Japanese Studies at UCSD," noted UCSD Chancellor Richard C. Atkinson. "The endowment was crucial to our ability to attract to UCSD a scholar of Dower's quality."

The Naiman chair will be housed in the Department of History.

"We're very happy because, among his generation of Japanese scholars, he is regarded as one of the preeminent scholars in this country in this field," said Michael Parrish, chairman of the UCSD history department.

"To be able to recruit somebody away from an excellent school like the University of Wisconsin is a major achievement," Parrish continued. "It has indicated to everybody in the field how committed and serious we are about attempting to recruit the very best Japan specialists for this program, and how successful we can be when we make this effort."

Parrish noted that Dower is probably the country's leading authority on the American occupation of Japan and how that occupation changed Japanese society following World War II.

Dower said he was eager to join the UCSD faculty and was excited about the campus' future plans for his area of interest.

"It seems to me that the plans that the San Diego campus has for developing in general are very exciting," Dower said. "And in my own area there are plans to develop Japanese Studies across the board and to develop a Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Studies.

"I think with the kind of enthusiasm and long range thinking that is present at UCSD, there is the potential within the next decade or so for making San Diego one of the major institutions in the area of Pacific studies."

Dower's interests extend not only to modern Japanese history, but include U.S.-Asian relations and Japanese art as well.

He has co-edited a recently published book, "The Hiroshima Murals: The Art of Iri Maruki and Toshi Maruki," and has worked on a documentary film about those artists to be shown on public television next spring.

Dower is also the author of "War Without Mercy: Race and Power in the Pacific War," (Pantheon), due out early next year.

Dower earned his Ph.D. from Harvard University in history and far eastern languages, and has been at the University of Wisconsin since 1971.

(December 16, 1985) For more information contact: Paul Lowenberg, 452-3120