

## **Florence Riford donations establish aids research chair and pacific studies library fund**

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La Jolla philanthropist Mrs. Florence Seeley Riford, already a major benefactor to the University of California, San Diego, has given the campus two more major gifts, one of which is to establish what is thought to be the first endowed chair in the United States to focus on AIDS research.

Mrs. Riford gave UCSD a gift of real property worth in excess of \$500,000 to establish the Florence Seeley Riford Chair for Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) Research.

"I established the chair because AIDS is a terrible disease which is threatening to afflict all segments of our population including even infants, and something has got to be done about it," said Mrs. Riford. "I think establishing the chair will help generate more funds for research to fight AIDS."

Pending approval by the UC Board of Regents, a nationwide search will be conducted to find an outstanding researcher to fill the chair.

To date, Mrs. Riford has donated more than \$3 million to UCSD for a variety of projects including more than \$1 million to establish the Florence Riford Chair for Alzheimer's Disease Research, and the remainder for construction funds for the Institute for Research on Aging, a Mobile Osteoporosis Unit, and further development of the Departments of Ophthalmology and Pathology, and the Division of Plastic Surgery.

Through its Medical Center and clinics, UCSD is the major center for the care of AIDS patients in San Diego County, and operates the only clinic dedicated to the diagnosis and treatment of AIDS.

"The establishment of the Riford Chair for Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome Research means that UCSD will play an important part in the research which may eventually put an end to this vicious disease," said Chancellor Richard C. Atkinson. "Her gift will enable us to assemble a team of researchers at UCSD which will achieve the reputation necessary to attract substantial federal and foundation grants."

A number of research projects and experimental treatment programs are currently underway at the UCSD School of Medicine and the Medical Center.

Mrs. Riford also established the Florence Seeley Riford Pacific Studies Library Fund with a gift of \$100,000 to the UCSD Library.

Income from the Pacific Studies Fund will enable the UCSD library to build a substantial collection of books and other library materials on the Pacific Basin countries.

"This gift will richly support one of the most significant and expanding academic programs at UCSD," said Dorothy Gregor, University Librarian. "A library collection focusing on Pacific Studies is an ideal way to support generations of students and scholars who are dedicated to increasing our knowledge and understanding of Pacific nations."

The new collection will significantly complement UCSD's major commitment to Pacific Basin studies, including the recent establishment of a new Graduate School on International Relations and Pacific Studies. The campus also has strong programs in Chinese, Japanese and Latin American studies, Pacific oceanography, international health, and many other related fields.

Mrs. Riford chose to focus the collection on the Pacific Basin in honor of the new Philippines' President Corazon Aquino.

"I'm so proud of what she has done that I wanted to do something for her personally," Mrs. Riford said. "I think she has done something so very wonderful, and I'm delighted she was able to go ahead and do this work."

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