

New graduate fellowship for minority women in Pacific Studies established at UCSD

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Contact: Winifred Cox, University Communications, 534-3120

NEW GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP IN PACIFIC STUDIES ESTABLISHED AT UCSD

Philanthropist M. Larry Lawrence, chairman of the board of the Hotel del Coronado, has donated \$100,000 to the University of California, San Diego to establish a fellowship for minority women attending the university's new Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Studies (IR/PS).

First recipient of the M. Larry Lawrence Graduate Fellowship in Pacific Studies is Alejandra Valdez, a Hispanic student in the IR/PS international affairs program. Income from the endowed fellowship will cover the tuition of each year's recipient.

"To fill this fellowship, we are looking for minority women who are seeking careers in international affairs," graduate school dean Peter Gourevitch said. "Alejandra Valdez was selected because she is a bright person with a strong record and is hard working with a lot of promise for future growth.

"Fellowships are vital for providing opportunities to students. Endowments like this one from Larry Lawrence are a model for investing in the future by providing the young with greater opportunities. I admire Mr. Lawrence's concern for minorities and his commitment to education as a way of encouraging social mobility and opportunity."

Lawrence is widely known in the San Diego area as the chairman of the board of the Hotel del Coronado and as a leading philanthropist and political activist. He is chairman, chief executive officer or major partner of 36 companies. He is active in the Democratic Party, in which he has chaired or co-chaired campaigns ranging from local races to presidential elections.

He has held leadership positions in scores of civic, professional and charitable organizations, including president of Young Homebuilders of America, state chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, chairman of the San Diego County Charter Review Committee, local chairman of the United Way Campaign and vice chairman of the 1985 Nobel Peace Prize Nominating Commission. His name appears in "Who's Who in World Jewry," "Who's Who in America" and "Who's Who in American Politics."

Since becoming involved with the historic Hotel del Coronado, Lawrence has invested many millions of dollars to restore, expand and modernize the "elegant old lady." Today, the "Hotel del" is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is a National Historic Landmark.

Valdez, the current Lawrence Graduate Fellow, received a bachelor's degree in political science from UCSD in June 1988. She plans to establish a business career dealing with Latin America, following completion of her master's degree.

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