

# **KNOW YOUR CAMPUS**

## **Part II**

**By Dr. Mel Green**  
**Historian, UCSD Emeriti Association**

**Updated June 2024**

# Table of Contents

<b>ELEANOR ROOSEVELT COLLEGE</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>ELEANOR ROOSEVELT (1884-1962)</b> .....	4
<b>COPLEY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTER</b> .....	6
<b>JAMES S. COPLEY (1916-1973)</b> .....	7
<b>GILDRED LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES BUILDING</b> .....	7
<b>THEODORE E. GILDRED, JR (1935-2019)</b> .....	8
<b>ROBINSON BUILDING COMPLEX</b> .....	8
<b>LAWRENCE B. ROBINSON (1920-2021)</b> .....	8
<b>UNIVERSITY CENTER</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>GEISEL LIBRARY</b> .....	9
<b>THEODOR S. GEISEL (1904-1991)</b> .....	11
<b>PRICE CENTER</b> .....	12
<b>SOL PRICE (1916-2009)</b> .....	14
<b>CONRAD PREBYS MUSIC CENTER</b> .....	15
<b>CONRAD PREBYS (1933-2016)</b> .....	15
<b>THEATRE DISTRICT</b> .....	<b>17</b>
<b>THEATRE FACILITIES</b> .....	17
<b>MANDELL WEISS THEATRE (LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE)</b> .....	17
<b>MANDELL WEISS (1891-1993)</b> .....	18
<b>SHEILA &amp; HUGHES POTIKER THEATRE</b> .....	19
<b>HUGHES POTIKER (1925-2005)</b> .....	19
<b>THEODORE AND ADELE SHANK THEATRE</b> .....	20
<b>THEODORE SHANK</b> .....	20
<b>MOLLI AND ARTHUR WAGNER DANCE BUILDING</b> .....	20
<b>ARTHUR WAGNER (1923-2005)</b> .....	21

## ELEANOR ROOSEVELT COLLEGE

**Eleanor Roosevelt College (ERC)** is the fifth of the seven undergraduate colleges at the University of California, San Diego. Founded in 1988, ERC currently has 5,000 undergraduate students enrolled in all majors at UCSD. As with the other colleges at UC San Diego, ERC is led by its own provost and has deans of student affairs, residence life, academic advising, and a director of a general education writing program, the Making of the Modern World.

- ERC was named in 1994 for the former first lady, delegate to the United Nations, chair of the UN Commission on Human Rights, and member of the Peace Corps Advisory Council.
- General Education\*\*\*: The Making of the Modern World program, pioneered in 1988, still defines the college academic experience for the class entering twenty years later.
- International Engagement\*\*\*: Over one-third of ERC students study abroad.
- Student Involvement\*\*\*: Student organizations and activities such as Student Council, Programming at ERC, Rock ‘N Roosevelt, and the Spring Semi-Formal are a continuing part of ERC student life.

### **ERC’s mission is to:**

- Serve students interested in pursuing academic excellence, establishing the groundwork for success in their chosen careers or graduate study, and becoming lifelong learners and effective citizens.
- Foster the idea of an education in the liberal arts and sciences that develops intellectual capacities and expands general knowledge by exposing students to a variety of disciplines.
- Offer an academic foundation that is suitable for all majors, whether in the natural or applied sciences, the social sciences, or the humanities and the arts, and that prepares students for opportunities to study and conduct research with UC San Diego faculty and scholars.
- Feature dimensions of international understanding and cultural diversity in the general education curriculum and in co-curricular programming.
- Provide a community where students are valued and respected, where they are challenged and helped to succeed, and where they can develop a strong sense of belonging and confidence about their roles in society.

## **Eleanor Roosevelt College's Land Acknowledgement**

Eleanor Roosevelt College's mission is to deepen human connections by exploring the evolution of our global world. We recognize that the College's mission can only be sustained in a context of transparency, reconciliation and honesty. This statement therefore acknowledges that the college and university are historically connected to the oppression of the indigenous people in what is now California and Mexico. We recognize that the University is located on the ancestral land of the Kumeyaay Nation, the indigenous people of this region, who lived and continue to live here long before their land was colonized and appropriated.

### **ELEANOR ROOSEVELT (1884-1962)**

Born on October 11, 1884 in New York City, Anna Eleanor Roosevelt was the first of Elliot and Anna Hall Roosevelt's three children. Her family was affluent and politically prominent, and while her childhood was in many ways privileged, it was also marked by hardship... her father's alcoholism, as well as the deaths of both parents and one of her brothers before she was ten years old. She was raised by her harsh and critical maternal grandmother, who damaged Eleanor's self-esteem.

In 1899, Roosevelt began her three years of study at London's Allenswood Academy, where she became more independent and confident. Her teacher, Mademoiselle Marie Souvestre, with her passionate embrace of social issues, opened Roosevelt up to the world of ideas and was an early force in her social and political development.

Roosevelt returned to New York for her social debut in 1902. She became involved with the settlement house movement, teaching immigrant children and families on Rivington Street. In 1905, after a long courtship, she married her distant cousin Franklin Delano Roosevelt, a charming, Harvard graduate in his first year of law school at Columbia University. Her uncle and close relative, President Theodore Roosevelt, walked her down the aisle.

The Roosevelts settled in New York, where Eleanor found herself under the thumb of her controlling mother-in-law, Sara Roosevelt. While Franklin advanced his career, his wife raised their daughter and four sons under the watchful eye of her mother-in-law.

All that changed in 1911, when Franklin was elected to the New York State Senate, and the couple moved to Albany, away from Sara. Two years later, the

Roosevelts moved to Washington, DC, when Franklin joined Woodrow Wilson's administration as Assistant Secretary of the Navy. While she was initially uncomfortable with the DC political scene, Eleanor was growing in her political consciousness. When World War I broke out, she volunteered with various relief agencies, further increasing her visibility and political clout. Hurt when she discovered in 1918 that her husband had had an affair with another woman, she remained married, though her feelings changed. She began to live a more independent life and often escaped to Val-Kill, her upstate New York home, where she was also part of a women-owned furniture cooperative. Nonetheless, she remained his political ally and advisor, among those who urged him to remain in public life despite the polio he contracted in 1921.

Although initially wary of women's suffrage, after its passage in 1920, Roosevelt promoted women's political engagement, playing a leadership role in several organizations, including the League of Women Voters and the Women's Trade Union League. She was head of the Women's Division of the Democratic National Committee, recruited in 1928 to help Al Smith's presidential bid. Her activities were widely covered in the media in the 1920s, making her more publicly recognizable than her husband when he became governor in 1928. After her husband's successful run for the presidency in 1932, Roosevelt became the most politically active and influential First Lady in history, using the position to advance many of her progressive and egalitarian goals.

In the White House from 1933 to 1945, First Lady Roosevelt kept a busy schedule. She wrote nearly 3,000 articles in newspapers and magazines, including a monthly column in *Women's Home Companion*, where she asked the public to share their stories, hardships, and questions. In a few short months, she received several hundred thousand responses and donated what she earned from the column to charity. She also authored six books and traveled nationwide delivering countless speeches.

Roosevelt had immense influence on her husband's decisions as president and in shaping both his cabinet and the New Deal. Working with Molly Dewson, head of the Women's Division of the Democratic National Committee, she lobbied her husband to appoint more women, successfully securing Frances Perkins as the first woman to head the Department of Labor, among many others. She also championed racial justice, working to help Black miners in West Virginia, advocating for the NAACP and National Urban League, and resigning, with much media fanfare, from the Daughters of the American Revolution when they refused to allow African American singer Marian Anderson to perform in their auditorium.

Roosevelt's political activism did not end with her husband's death in 1945. Appointed in 1946, she served for more than a decade as a delegate to the United Nations, the institution established by her husband, and embraced the cause of world peace. She not only chaired the United Nations Human Rights Commission, she also helped write the 1948 United Nations Declaration of Human Rights. She spoke out against McCarthyism in the 1950s. Roosevelt's continued commitment to racial justice was evident in her civil rights work and efforts to push Washington to take swifter action in housing desegregation and protections for Freedom Riders and other activists. In 1960, at the request of President John F. Kennedy, she chaired the President's Commission on the Status of Women, which released a ground-breaking study about gender discrimination a year after her death in 1963. She also worked on the Equal Pay Act that was passed that same year. Kennedy nominated Roosevelt for the Nobel Peace Prize and though she did not win, she remained at the top of national polls ranking the most respected women in America decades after her death.

Eleanor Roosevelt continues to be remembered as one of the most prominent humanitarians of her generation, and is one of five women honored in 2023 by the U.S. Mint's American Women Quarter's Program. Her quarter features her portrait against the scales of justice, symbolizing her work on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

## **COPLEY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTER**

The Copley International Conference Center, constructed in 1994, provides meeting space for lectures, conferences and events primarily pertaining to international topics. With 4,338 square feet of assignable area, the space brings together faculty, students, community members and leading experts in the fields of international relations and foreign affairs. The Copley Center was funded by the Helen K. and James S. Copley Foundation. James and Helen Copley, former owners of the Copley Press Corporation, published The San Diego Union-Tribune and its predecessors for more than three decades. In addition to playing a major role in American newspapers, the Copleys were committed to philanthropy and community service in San Diego.

## **JAMES S. COPLEY (1916-1973)**

James Copley was born in St. Johnsville, N.Y., in 1916. Both of his parents died in the flu epidemic that swept the U.S. in 1918, and when he was four he was adopted by Col. and Mrs. Ira C. Copley. Col. Copley bought The San Diego Union and Evening Tribune from the Spreckels family in 1928.

Copley graduated from Yale in 1939 and started his journalism career at another of his father's papers, The Culver City Star News, where he solicited ads and circulation as well as sweeping the floor and writing news stories.

When the elder Copley died in 1947, James became Chief Executive Officer of the corporation, publishing a large family of newspapers, the flagship of which was, and is today, the San Diego Union-Tribune. He pursued a dynamic program of expansion of the newspaper plants, both technologically and in size. He took an active personal interest in the editorial quality of his papers. In the 26 years he headed the enterprise until his death in 1973, the Union's circulation tripled and the Union-Tribune moved into a wholly new plant with new presses in Mission Valley.

He also was a notable philanthropist to local causes, including large, key gifts to build the Copley Auditorium at the San Diego Museum of Art and Copley Library at the University of San Diego. His widow, Helen K. Copley, continued the tradition of philanthropy through gifts to finance Copley Symphony Hall and the City-County Animal Shelter until her death in 2004.

## **GILDRED LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES BUILDING**

Constructed and occupied in 1994, the Gildred Latin American Studies Building is located in Roosevelt College. It has an assignable area of 4,387 square feet and houses the Latin American Studies program. The building is named in honor of Theodore E. Gildred, Jr., a San Diego developer and former U.S. ambassador to Argentina. Gildred was one of the founders of the Institute of the Americas at UC San Diego, and also served as Chair of U.S.-Mexican relations at the School of Global Policy and Strategy at UC San Diego

## **THEODORE E. GILDRED, JR (1935-2019)**

Theodore Edmonds Gildred Jr. was a Mexican-born American businessman and diplomat. He served in the United States Army from 1955 to 1959, where he was stationed in Germany, and the Air Force Reserve from 1959 to 1969, in which he became a captain. He graduated from Stanford University in 1959. In 1960, he studied at the Sorbonne and Heidelberg University.

From 1986 to 1989, he was United States Ambassador to Argentina.

Gildred founded the Gildred Foundation to support Latin American studies at Stanford University and UCSD. He also developed the Lomas Santa Fe Community Development and Country Club.

## **ROBINSON BUILDING COMPLEX**

Located on the campus of Roosevelt College, the Robinson Building Complex houses the School of Global Policy and Strategy (GPS). The complex consists of four buildings clustered around a plaza: the auditorium (3,114 assignable square feet), two administration buildings (20,925 assignable square feet), and the library (17,558 assignable square feet). The architecture of the Robinson Building Complex features spectacular views of the Pacific Coast, Jerusalem marble from the Middle East and iron work embellishments. The facility has won multiple design awards, including the Award of Merit by the American Institute of Architects California Council in 1991. Occupied in March of 1990, the Robinson Building Complex is named in honor of Lawrence B. Robinson, a generous supporter of UC San Diego and the GPS.

## **LAWRENCE B. ROBINSON (1920-2021)**

Lawrence Robinson was born in Omaha, Nebraska. After attending Grinnell College with a degree in Business Administration, he pursued the balance of his education at three law schools and received a Juris Doctorate from the University of Colorado, School of Law. After practicing law in Boulder, Colorado, he eventually gravitated to a new career in real estate development and investments. Beginning with projects for IBM in Colorado and Arizona, his work eventually expanded into California, Washington State, and Utah.

After more than twenty years in real estate projects, Robinson retired to La Jolla and Rancho Santa Fe. He then turned his interests to causes such as the International Relations & Pacific Studies (IRPS) program (now the School of Global Policy and Strategy - GPS) at UCSD and the San Diego Symphony. While

GPS was still under construction in 1986, Robinson donated \$2 million to support the newly established institution, then called the School of International Relations and Pacific Studies (IR/PS). The gift served not only as strong validation of the new school's unique mission and focus on the Pacific region, but it also provided the footing on which the fledgling school was able to meet many of its new programmatic needs. Robinson also established the Robinson Summer Opportunities Endowment, which supports GPS students who complete intensive internships during their first and second years. These internships are an integral part of the GPS experience, offering students the chance to put their education in action and gain hands-on experience conducting research, shaping public policy and engaging in public service.

## **UNIVERSITY CENTER**

### **GEISEL LIBRARY**

In June 1965, William Pereira & Associates was asked to design UC San Diego's Central University Library (also referred to as Central Library), now known as Geisel Library. Pereira, known for high-profile works such as the Transamerica Pyramid in San Francisco and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), aimed to design a library that would go beyond functionality and "convey to future generations the idea of the power and permanency of the knowledge contained inside it."

In order to establish the library as the centerpiece of campus, Pereira combined various architectural schemes to develop the Library's unique exterior. After researching the architecture of other university libraries, he decided a spherical shape would be the most functional, due to the library's need to house the largest proportion of books and number of readers simultaneously. It would also maximize library patrons' access to several areas at any given point, compared to a conventional tower shape which would have limited interior mobility to some degree. Most noticeably, however, the spherical shape of the library would make for a visually impactful structure that would become iconic for UC San Diego as well as the wider San Diego community.

The exterior of the building was initially designed to be steel-framed, but due to rapidly rising costs from major commitments in national defense at the time, the design had to be reevaluated to stay within budget. Pereira developed another structural scheme that used only reinforced concrete and eliminated as much

structural steel as possible. The new design proved to be advantageous; not only did concrete supplement the unique architecture of the library more than the earlier systems explored, but unlike structural steel, it could be left in its natural state and eliminated the cost to fireproof structural steel and apply plaster to achieve architectural details.

Furthermore, the design of the interior of the library was just as critical as the exterior. Pereira noted that in addition to the basic essentials of shelter, light, and comfort, the modern reader also needed accessible stacks of books, a comfortable reading area, and reasonable privacy. To achieve this, the library was designed to have diversified, free-flowing space and a mixture of book stacks and reading areas to support active learning and put a heavier emphasis on transmitting knowledge rather than storing it away.

Complete university occupancy took place during September, 1970. Partial occupancy began in June, 1970, two years after construction began. The first books were moved into the building on June 29, 1970.

Pereira's original design allowed for the possibility for expansion in the future, and in 1990, the library underwent renovations to add underground space on the east, west, and south sides of the building. Designed by Latvian-American architect Gunnar Birkerts, the addition was deliberately intended to be subordinate to the strong, geometrical form of the existing structure. Known for using angular forms, folding planes and light-suffused interiors, Birkerts' addition provided extra space while preserving the building's original silhouette and ensuring ample natural light to the lower floors.

On December 1, 1995, the University Library Building was renamed Geisel Library in honor of Audrey and Theodor Geisel (Dr. Seuss) for the generous contributions they have made to the Library and their devotion to improving literacy.

The library is situated at the head of a canyon near the center of the campus, hence its original name, Central Library. The lower two stories form a pedestal for the six story, stepped tower that has become a visual symbol for UCSD. This magnificent structure has also gained worldwide recognition as a result of numerous appearances in movies including the famous "Revenge of the Killer Tomatoes." At night with only the top floors lighted, the library resembles a spaceship hovering above the ground.

## **THEODOR S. GEISEL (1904-1991)**

Theodor Seuss Geisel, the author and illustrator whose whimsical fantasies written under the pen name Dr. Seuss entertained and instructed millions of children and adults around the world. He was born in Springfield, Mass. on March 4, 1904, the son of Theodor R. Geisel and Henrietta Seuss. His father managed the family brewery and was later appointed to supervise Springfield's public park system. The world of Mr. Geisel's imagination was nourished by his childhood visits to the zoo with his father.

After graduating from high school, he majored in English at Dartmouth, where he contributed cartoons to the campus humor magazine, Jack-O'-Lantern, and became its editor. He graduated with a B.A. in 1925. Then followed a year of graduate work in English literature at Lincoln College of Oxford University, after which he spent a year traveling in Europe.

Geisel's first book, "And to Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street," appeared in 1937. It was followed by such classics as "Horton Hatches the Egg" in 1940 and "The Cat in the Hat" in 1957. Over the years, many animal characters, names and book titles were the Dr. Seuss trademarks. There was "Yertle the Turtle" (1958), "Fox in Socks" (1965), "Mr. Brown Can Moo! Can You?" (1970) and others too improbable to mention.

Mr. Geisel also wrote for the movies. His documentary films "Hitler Lives" and "Design for Death" won Academy Awards in 1946 and 1947, and his cartoon short "Gerald McBoing Boing" won an Oscar in 1951. He also designed and produced cartoons for television, including the Peabody Award-winning "How the Grinch Stole Christmas!" and "Horton Hears a Who."

Geisel's political cartoons, later published in *Dr. Seuss Goes to War*, denounced Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini and were highly critical of noninterventionists ("isolationists"), such as Charles Lindbergh, who opposed US entry into the war. Other cartoons deplored the racism at home against Jews and blacks that harmed the war effort. His cartoons were strongly supportive of President Roosevelt's handling of the war, combining the usual exhortations to contribute to the war effort with frequent attacks on Congress.

After the war, Geisel and his wife moved to the La Jolla community of San Diego, California, where he returned to writing children's books. In May 1954, *Life* published a report on illiteracy among school children which concluded that children were not learning to read because their books were boring. William

Ellsworth Spaulding was the director of the education division at Houghton Mifflin, and he compiled a list of 348 words that he felt were important for first-graders to recognize. He asked Geisel to cut the list to 250 words and to write a book using only those words. Spaulding challenged Geisel to "bring back a book children can't put down". Nine months later Geisel completed *The Cat in the Hat* using 236 of the words given to him. It retained the drawing style, verse rhythms, and all the imaginative power of Geisel's earlier works but, because of its simplified vocabulary, it could be read by beginning readers. *The Cat in the Hat* and subsequent books written for young children achieved significant international success and they remain very popular today. For example, in 2009, *Green Eggs and Ham* sold 540,000 copies, *The Cat in the Hat* sold 452,000 copies, and *One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish* (1960) sold 409,000 copies—all outselling the majority of newly published children's books.

Geisel died of cancer on September 24, 1991, at his home in the La Jolla community of San Diego at the age of 87. On December 1, 1995, four years after his death, UCSD's University Library Building was renamed Geisel Library in honor of Geisel and his wife Audrey for their generous contributions to the library and their devotion to improving literacy.

## PRICE CENTER

In the early 1980s, UC San Diego found that its existing Student Center in Muir College was unequipped to handle the more than 12,000 students that were enrolled at the university. As a result, UC San Diego suffered from reduced student involvement and a sense of apathy across campus. Additionally, the lack of on-campus social space contributed to the fact that nearly 60% of UC San Diego students at the time commuted to school. In November 1983, a survey of 2,000 UCSD students indicated a pressing need for a new student union. That same school year, students passed a referendum that raised their student fees from \$12.50 per quarter to \$37.50 per quarter, for the purpose of constructing a University Center that would house fast food restaurants, a movie theater, and offices for student organizations. The proposed University Center, sited southeast of the existing Central Library, now the Geisel Library, was originally estimated to cost \$9 million to construct, but the Kaplan McLaughlin Diaz design approved by the UC Regents would be an \$18.6 million facility with an added pub, ballroom, and bookstore.

Construction on the center was initially met with some opposition, as student members of the Committee for Responsible Spending argued that the fee increase was passed due to unethical actions by the Student Center Board. However, construction workers broke ground in the summer of 1986, with completion scheduled for late 1988. In 1987, retail mogul Sol Price donated \$2 million to the construction of the center. This was then one of the largest donations in university history and resulted in the center being named for him. The ribbon-cutting ceremony on 21 April 1989 was interrupted by protestors who called the \$19.6 million structure the "High Price Center," but the game room and circular plaza were met with enthusiasm. While the old Student Center remained open, Price Center went on to become the main hub of campus.

By 2002, it was becoming increasingly clear that even Price Center and the Student Center combined would be unable to support UC San Diego's projected enrollment, which was expected to surpass 30,000 students by 2010. A student-initiated task force recommended several renovations to the Student Center, and an expansion of Price Center. The expansion was to include a 24-hour study lounge surrounded by late-night fast food restaurants, as well as a grocery store, post office, and retail services. In the spring of 2003, students approved a fee increase of \$39/quarter to fund the new facility. One of the stipulations of the fee increase was that it would not take place until the facility was constructed and opened. The student fee gathered roughly \$46 million for the expansion, with the remainder coming from various campus accounts.

A 2005 report on overall campus satisfaction determined that the Price Center expansion would be best served by focusing on three areas: "building a sense of community on campus, improving the intellectual and social connection between faculty and students, and creating a stronger identity for the school by increasing publicity of its accomplishments." The architect for the expansion, Mehrdad Yazdani, was faced with the challenge of integrating the expansion into the existing facility, while redesigning the surrounding area to create an "urban center". The design for Price Center East featured a central four-story atrium which connected to the exterior of the university through a series of plazas and staircases. The adjacent Town Square and shuttle loop, too, were redesigned to create a downtown for UC San Diego students.

The university celebrated the opening of the Price Center East on May 18, 2008. The grand staircase connecting Town Square and the second story opened shortly afterwards.

## **SOL PRICE (1916-2009)**

Sol Price was an American retailer and the founder of FedMart, Price Club (which ultimately merged into Costco) and PriceSmart. He was considered the "father" of the "warehouse store" retail model. Price was born in the Bronx in New York City, the son of Samuel and Bella Price, immigrants to the United States from Minsk (Belarus), in the early years of the 20th century. The family relocated to San Diego in the early 1920s.

Sol Price was an American retailer and the founder of FedMart, Price Club (which ultimately merged into Costco) and PriceSmart. He was considered the "father" of the "warehouse store" retail model. Price was born in the Bronx in New York City, the son of Samuel and Bella Price, immigrants to the United States from Minsk (Belarus), in the early years of the 20th century. The family relocated to San Diego in the early 1920s.

Price launched the first FedMart in 1954 and, together with his son, Robert, Giles Bateman, a nephew, Rick Libenson and others, founded Price Club in 1976. The company went public in 1980. In 1993 Costco merged with Price Club to form PriceCostco. Leadership in the new organization was shared between Sol Price's son, Robert, and James Sinegal. After eight months, PriceCostco spun a separate company called Price Enterprises, led by the younger Price. PriceSmart continues to operate warehouse clubs in Latin America and the Caribbean, while the domestic operations became Costco.

In the late 1980s, Price donated \$2 million to the construction of a new student center on the campus of University of California, San Diego. Named for Price, the Price Center, which houses the main student bookstore, food court, movie theater, ballrooms, and student activity rooms, opened on April 21, 1989.

Price is responsible for financially supporting the renaissance of the San Diego mid-city neighborhood of City Heights, near his childhood home. He was a member of the Board of Trustees for the Urban Institute in Washington, D.C., the Board of Directors for the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, the Consumer Affairs Advisory Committee of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, and the San Diego Financial Review Panel.

## **CONRAD PREBYS MUSIC CENTER**

Named for local philanthropist and music enthusiast Conrad Prebys, the Conrad Prebys Music Center was occupied by the Department of Music faculty, staff and students in January of 2009. Located in the Arts District, across the street from the Gilman parking structure, the facility is part of the campus “neighborhood plan” that connects buildings through public spaces and walkways. The music center was designed by top architects and acoustical engineers, including Mark Reddington and Wendy Pautz of LMN Architects in Seattle, and renowned acoustician Cyril M. Harris. It has an assignable area of 45,876 square feet and includes the 400-seat Conrad Prebys Concert Hall, considered one of the best small concert halls in the world. The interior of the concert hall is an asymmetrical system of triangular surfaces designed to diffuse sound evenly through the space.

## **CONRAD PREBYS (1933-2016)**

Conrad Prebys was a property developer and philanthropist based in San Diego, California. Prebys was born in South Bend, Indiana, and graduated from Indiana University. Prebys graduated with distinction from Indiana University's Kelley School of Business in 1955 with a bachelor's degree in business.

He moved to San Diego in 1965 and co-founded Progress Construction. He bought out his partner in 1980. Over the years, Prebys shifted his focus from construction to property ownership. As of 2015 Prebys' Progress Management owned 81 properties in the greater San Diego area and had an estimated net worth of approximately \$1 billion. The Blackstone Group agreed to purchase the Prebys apartment portfolio in 2021.

Prebys owned many apartment buildings, which provided housing for thousands of families with children. His concern for the well-being of these children resulted in his support of local Boys & Girls Clubs, where these children participate in educational and recreational activities and receive guidance from caring adults. In appreciation for his generous contributions, Boys & Girls Club facilities in Escondido, Ramona and Santee were named in his honor.

In December 2004, Conrad Prebys made his first philanthropic gift of \$1 million to build the Conrad Prebys Clubhouse in Santee and transform the Boys & Girls Clubs of East County into a premier youth-serving organization. His financial support of the organization enabled the organization to grow in quality and scope of service for the next twenty-plus years. Thanks to his largess, more children are

coming to state-of-the-art facilities in some of East County's neediest neighborhoods. The result is a population of children who are positively motivated, physically fit, and receiving better grades at school.

Prebys was a prolific philanthropist, and made major donations to biomedical research, higher education, and public broadcasting. His donations helped to underwrite the Conrad Prebys Music Center at the University of California, San Diego and the La Jolla-based Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute, a nonprofit medical research institute. Other major donations went to PBS's Masterpiece, the San Diego Zoo, San Diego State University, Indiana University, the Salk Institute, and Scripps Health.

In support of San Diego State University (SDSU), Prebys donated \$20 million to create endowed scholarships that now support costs of attendance for at least 150 students per year. Recipients of Prebys' scholarship funds include those pursuing biomedical research, those practicing the creative and performing arts, those inducted into the Guardian Scholars and SDSU Honors programs, and those studying entrepreneurship and leadership. At the time, his was the single largest gift ever made to San Diego State University. The SDSU campus also recently named its student union the Conrad Prebys Aztec Student Union. in his honor.

In the summer of 2014, Prebys donated \$25 million to the Salk Institute for Biological Studies, to fund cutting-edge biological research on a wide range of diseases. His gift was the institute's largest, enabling its researchers to pursue breakthrough medical therapies.

Prebys gave his all-time largest gift of \$100 million to the Sanford Burnham Medical Research Institute in June 2015. The goal was to support its 10-year strategic vision to develop and implement innovative medical treatments that can have lasting, positive effects on the field of healthcare. The gift resulted in the renaming of the institute, which is now known as the Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute.

In June 2015 Prebys was awarded an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from San Diego State University's College of Business Administration.

## **THEATRE DISTRICT**

The **Theatre District Living and Learning Neighborhood** is located in the southwestern area of the campus near the La Jolla Playhouse. It is a major public gateway to the campus. When completed it will provide housing to 2,000 undergraduate students and help the university refine the college program by reducing the population of each college from 5,000 to approximately 4,000 students. This will ensure that students will continue to benefit from a world-class education in the smaller, more intimate environment offered by UC San Diego's college system. The original master plan had only 2500 students in each of eight colleges.

## **THEATRE FACILITIES**

Mandell Weiss Theatre (La Jolla Playhouse)  
Sheila and Hughes Potiker Theatre  
Theodore and Adele Shank Theatre  
Arthur Wagner Theatre  
Molli and Arthur Wagner Dance Building  
Galbraith Hall Mandell Weiss Forum

## **MANDELL WEISS THEATRE (LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE)**

The nationally renowned La Jolla Playhouse is a not-for-profit performing arts complex comprised of three distinct venues on the UCSD campus. Created in 1947 by Hollywood film actors (Gregory Peck, Dorothy McGuire, and Mel Ferrer) eager to reconnect with live audiences, the Playhouse has earned a reputation for quality and innovation, garnering hundreds of major awards over the years, including a 1993 Tony for outstanding regional theater. Scores of productions have made the leap to Broadway, including "The Who's Tommy" and the current Tony Award-winning hits, "Memphis," and "Jersey Boys."

The Playhouse provides residencies for UC San Diego graduate students, and some undergraduate students take advantage of internships in various areas of the theatre. Playhouse artistic, administrative and production staff frequently teach in UC San Diego's graduate theatre programs and UC San Diego faculty have been engaged by the Playhouse as actors, directors, designers, stage managers, choreographers and voice and movement coaches.

The Weiss Theatre is also home to the technical shops that serve all five of the production spaces. The shops are supported by a 21-member professional technical

team shared by the La Jolla Playhouse which is comprised of creative crafts people and artisans who articulate the designs and artistic vision of the design students in the program.

### **MANDELL WEISS (1891-1993)**

Mandell Weiss, a Rumanian immigrant and one-time penniless actor who became one of San Diego's leading theatrical benefactors, died at his home in San Diego at the age of 102.

As the youngest of six children, Mr. Weiss came to the United States when he was six from Galatz, a small Rumanian port village on the Danube River. He ran errands after school in the Bowery tenement section of New York, where his mother and sisters took in sewing. It was there that Weiss was first introduced to the theater, which served as an escape from his harsh life.

The young Weiss worked as a theater usher during high school in Portland, Oregon after the family moved to join his older brothers, who were in the tailoring business. In 1909, Mr. Weiss and some of his schoolmates put on a minstrel show, which sold out to rave reviews and presented two never before performed tunes, "Alexander's Ragtime Band, and "Oh, You Beautiful Doll."

Following high school, Mr. Weiss entered the University of Oregon where he studied economics, journalism and drama. After graduating, he pursued a career in journalism as a reporter in Washington. However, it wasn't long before he moved back to Portland where he became affiliated with the theater and the famous Baker stock company, directed by the father of the great thespian John Gilbert.

His theatrical career was interrupted by the military and World War I, during which he served as an instructor in the Ordnance Corps. When his military duty ended in 1919, Mr. Weiss moved south to San Diego where he worked as a jewelry merchant before opening his own business, Globe Jewelers, five years later. He had hoped to save up enough money to go east and try his luck in the New York theater. Instead, Mr. Weiss remained with Globe Jewelers until his retirement in 1954.

It was at that time that Sol Price, Mr. Weiss' attorney, persuaded him and 10 other investors to contribute \$5,000 each to open a discount store in San Diego, FedMart. After one year, his \$5,000 investment grew to \$75,000. Mr. Weiss managed FedMart's jewelry division for the next 20 years until the company was sold.

In 1975 Mr. Weiss became a founding investor of the Price Club. He soon became a multimillionaire and was able to spend time on his first love - the theater. As one of the founding investors in both FedMart and the Price Club, Mr. Weiss played an instrumental role in establishing the University of California, San Diego as a major center for theater in the United States.

He initiated a new era for theater facilities at UCSD in 1981 with a \$1.14 million contribution. Shared by UCSD's Department of Theatre and the La Jolla Playhouse, the Mandell Weiss Theatre began operation in 1983. The Weiss Forum, made possible in 1988 by a \$1.3 million gift from Mr. Weiss, was the second stage

In recognition for his contributions, the city of San Diego declared April 22, 1991 as "Mandell Weiss Day" in the philanthropist's honor. In the tribute, then Mayor Maureen O'Connor cited Mr. Weiss as "one of the city's most generous philanthropists...a citizen who has enriched the cultural life of San Diego for over 70 years."

Aside from his philanthropy to the theatre, Mr. Weiss also was a major donor to the United Jewish Fund, United Way, KPBS, and the North County

In recognition for his contributions, the city of San Diego declared April 22, 1991 as "Mandell Weiss Day" in the philanthropist's honor. In the tribute, then Mayor Maureen O'Connor cited Mr. Weiss as "one of the city's most generous philanthropists...a citizen who has enriched the cultural life of San Diego for over 70 years."

### **SHEILA & HUGHES POTIKER THEATRE**

The Sheila & Hughes Potiker Theatre is a black box theatre that seats up to 417 audience members depending on the configuration of the space. The theatre can be transformed into a 3/4 Thrust, Proscenium, in the "L," Traverse, or in the Round stage configuration.

### **HUGHES POTIKER (1925-2005)**

The co-founder of Troy-based Entertainment Publications, Detroit native Hughes Potiker, together with his wife Sheila, founded Entertainment Publications in 1962. They sold the discount coupon book business in 1992 and retired to California. The Potikers became major philanthropists after their retirement. The couple's donations made

## **THEODORE AND ADELE SHANK THEATRE**

The Theodore and Adele Shank Theatre is a black box theatre that seats 100 audience members in its current proscenium configuration. The theatre is seated on a first-come, first-served basis, so no seating chart is available or necessary. It is a 2,240 square-foot performance and rehearsal space in black box configuration with a 22-foot ceiling that features a permanently installed lighting grid and circuits. Thirty-four dressing room stations are shared by the Mandell Weiss Forum.

### **THEODORE SHANK**

Theodore Shank was the Founding Chair of the Theatre Department at UC Davis and taught in the department for 33 years, from 1956 to 1989. He then transferred to the UC San Diego Theatre Department where his wife, UC Davis alumna Adele Edling Shank, was Department Chair. Shank was promoted to Distinguished Professor of Theatre and taught in the department until retiring. He is the former Head of the Graduate Directing Program at UCSD and founding editor of TheatreForum, an international journal of innovative performance.

Prof. Shank is an award-winning playwright, author, and director. His eight books, chapters in more than thirty others, and more than a hundred articles on contemporary

Prof. Shank is an award-winning playwright, author, and director. His eight books, chapters in more than thirty others, and more than a hundred articles on contemporary

## **MOLLI AND ARTHUR WAGNER DANCE BUILDING**

The Molli and Arthur Wagner Dance Building was built in January 1998 and is located just east of the Mandell Weiss Forum. The state-of-the-art facility was designed by award winning and internationally recognized architect Antoine Predock. It has three naturally lit and temperature-controlled studios with superior acoustics. Spacious shower and locker rooms provide service to ongoing and overlapping classes.

The Molli and Arthur Wagner Dance Building was built in January 1998 and is located just east of the Mandell Weiss Forum. The state-of-the-art facility was

designed by award winning and internationally recognized architect Antoine Predock. It has three naturally lit and temperature-controlled studios with superior acoustics. Spacious shower and locker rooms provide service to ongoing and overlapping classes.

"It gives the students a chance to make and show their own work," said Jean Isaacs, a member of the UC San Diego dance faculty. "I hope the theater will also be a place for alumni and faculty to show work, too."

### **ARTHUR WAGNER (1923-2005)**

Arthur Wagner was born May 11, 1923, in the Bronx, New York City. After graduating from Stuyvesant High School in NYC, he earned a B.A. degree in Philosophy from Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana in 1946 and a M.A. degree in Theatre Arts two years later from Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts. Wagner earned his theater doctorate at Stanford University in 1962. He began his career in the theatre as an actor and then an artistic director before becoming an educator.

Wagner was recruited to UCSD to become founding chair of the fledgling department of drama in 1972. Under his guidance, the department grew from an undergraduate program with a dozen students to one of the top three theater and dance programs in the nation. Today, the Department of Theatre and Dance includes more than 300 students and offers Master of Fine Arts degrees in acting, dance theatre, design, directing, playwriting and stage management as well as a doctoral degree program.

Arthur Wagner retired from teaching in 1991. A gifted professional actor and director, Wagner had numerous directing and acting credits. He was still performing on stage at UCSD in 2012. Many of Wagner's students went on to Hollywood and Broadway success, earning top accolades, including Tony and Emmy awards.

Arthur Wagner retired from teaching in 1991. A gifted professional actor and director, Wagner had numerous directing and acting credits. He was still performing on stage at UCSD in 2012. Many of Wagner's students went on to Hollywood and Broadway success, earning top accolades, including Tony and Emmy awards.