

Richard Elliott Friedman named holder of Katzin Chair of Jewish Civilization and David Goodblatt appointed chair in Judaic Studies

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TWO NAMED TO ENDOWED CHAIRS AT UCSD IN JEWISH CIVILIZATION, JUDAIC STUDIES

The first holders of endowed chairs in the Judaic Studies and Jewish Civilization programs at the University of California, San Diego, have been announced by Chancellor Richard C. Atkinson.

Richard Elliott Friedman was named holder of the Katzin Chair of Jewish Civilization, while history professor David Goodblatt was appointed chair in Judaic Studies.

"This distinguished recognition is reflective of the high regard held by the campus community for professors Friedman and Goodblatt as outstanding scholars and teachers," noted Marjorie Caserio, UCSD vice chancellor for academic affairs.

"Both have achieved international prominence in their fields. Their intellectual leadership of the Judaic Studies Program has contributed to its international presence. The campus is privileged to honor such eminent scholars through these endowed chairs."

Friedman received a doctorate in theology (Ph.D. with distinction) from Harvard University, and is a co-founder of the UCSD Judaic Studies Program. He was instrumental in organizing UCSD faculty and students to take part in archaeological digs in Israel at the "City of David" site in Biblical Jerusalem, with The Hebrew University. Friedman's book, "Who Wrote the Bible?," became an international bestseller, and has been offered by the Book-of-the-Month Club and Quality Paperbacks Book Club. He is working on two book projects, the "Disappearance of God" (Morrow) and "Introduction to the Hebrew Bible" (The Anchor Bible, Doubleday), edited by another eminent UCSD biblical scholar, David Noel Freedman.

Goodblatt, a specialist in Ancient Jewish History and Rabbinics, is a graduate of Harvard College and the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. He received his doctoral degree in religious studies from Brown University.

He began his teaching career as an instructor at Brown University, then served on the faculty of the University of Haifa in Israel. In 1984, Goodblatt was appointed professor of Jewish History at the University of Maryland. He joined the UCSD faculty in 1988.

The chair in Jewish Civilization was endowed by Jerome S. and Miriam E. Katzin. The Judaic Studies chair was endowed by a group of distinguished San Diego citizens.

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