Recreation Center Expansion Becomes a Reality

It was just ten years ago when the national award-winning Recreation Center opened its doors to students on the UCSB campus. The most popular destination for prospective students and their families, the Center attracts four to five thousand students as well as numerous faculty and staff daily. Soon after the Center’s opening, students began to express a desire to expand certain features in the complex and create additional recreational opportunities for the campus community.

Armed with a student survey declaring support for a Recreation Center expansion, a group of recreational sports enthusiasts along with the Recreation Center Governance Board placed an initiative on the spring 2000 election ballot asking students to fund planning, design, construction and operation of a 56,000 square foot building project appropriately named Rec Cen II. The initiative passed and fee collection began in fall quarter.

In April 2005, the dream will become reality, as the campus celebrates the grand opening of the magnificent Recreation Center expansion. The main feature of the project is the MAC, or multi-activity court, a huge rectangular gymnasium-like space housing a hockey arena, which converts to three basketball courts, four volleyball courts and a large indoor soccer facility. The complex also contains a 7,000 square foot fitness center with state-of-the-art fitness equipment, a ceramics studio, climbing wall, multipurpose classrooms, offices and two generous locker rooms. An outdoor synthetic running track completes the expansion.

Serving one of the most active student bodies in the entire UC system, this new project will provide unlimited opportunities for drop-in recreation and meet the ongoing demand for quality facilities that promote life-long fitness. Please visit the new Recreation Center expansion on your next trip to our beautiful campus.

Resource Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity Selected as David Bohnett CyberCenter Site

UCSB’s Resource Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity received a generous grant from the Los Angeles-based David Bohnett Foundation to become one of several sites nationwide to house a David Bohnett CyberCenter. The cyber center will include three new computer stations with Internet access, a printer, and a scanner, all for student use. Workshops will assist students in using the cyber center stations to conduct research and access resources related to their academic, career, and personal needs. The cyber center will add to the many programs and services already offered through the resource center to UCSB’s lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) community.

The cyber center opening, slated for spring 2005, will mark another milestone in this, the resource center’s fifth anniversary year. In only five years, the resource center has launched a “safe zone” program and helped to create a staff position that responds to intolerance and hate crimes. The resource center also has instituted an annual Lavender Graduation and Awards Ceremony and successfully advocated for inclusion of gender identity in the University of California’s non-discrimination policy.

The resource center’s future plans include acquiring new office, Rainbow Lounge, cyber center, and library space when it moves into the Student Resource Building, currently under construction. The resource center also would like to enhance the cyber center by giving students online access to LGBTQ-related journals and periodicals. Such access would greatly benefit students who are pursuing UCSB’s new minor in LGBTQ studies. With support from interested alumni, parents of current students, and foundations such as the David Bohnett Foundation, the resource center can realize its future plans. To learn more, please contact Kyle Richards, director of lesbian, gay, bisexual, & transgender resources, at kyle.richards@sa.ucsb.edu.

SCHOLARSHIP  LEADERSHIP  CITIZENSHIP
Graduation Transition is Rewarding and Challenging

The transition from UCSB to the next phase of life is not unlike the transition from high school to college. In the best of circumstances it can be an exciting time for students and their family and friends. However, graduation from UCSB can also be stressful for all concerned. Even for those students with many aspects of the next phase of life in place, it can be a challenging time. For example, a student with a good job waiting for him or her after graduation may discover that adjusting to work demands is more difficult than imagined.

As a parent, you may find it helpful to be aware of the following issues that often arise for students as they graduate from college:
- Finances change as financial aid ends, loans become due, family economic support is reduced or ends, and credit card debt requires repayment.
- Health coverage may end causing some students to go without health insurance.
- Anxiety and panic may surface over job/career/graduate school choices.
- Decisions need to be made about remaining in Santa Barbara, returning to the family home, or relocating to a new area.
- The strength of friendships will be tested by the decrease in frequency of contact. Some friends may drift away.
- Meaningful relationships may be strengthened or weakened by leaving UCSB.
- Feelings of ambivalence can result from uncertainty about next steps and questioning the direction of life.

Insuring Continuous Health Care Coverage

If your son or daughter will be graduating from UCSB this year, the next few months will no doubt be filled with anticipation of both the opportunities and challenges of life after college. With the excitement of graduation, it may not occur to either of you to think about continuation of health insurance coverage. Each year Student Health encounters some students who have serious problems getting the health care they need because of changes in health insurance status. If your son or daughter is covered by the Undergraduate Student Health Insurance Program (USHIP) or the graduate version, GSHIP, the coverage and the rules regarding use continue until September 18, 2005 (for June 2005 graduates). If your son or daughter is covered by private insurance, be sure to contact your insurance carrier for information about terms of coverage following graduation from college. While several options are available for temporary coverage post graduation, none of them allow enrollment while you are still covered by other insurance. This means that students on the “SHIP” plans should wait until September 18th before activating temporary insurance.

No conversion plan (COBRA) is available with USHIP or GSHIP.

Temporary insurance to cover students in the period between the ending of university or private coverage and the beginning of coverage through employment or other means is important for two reasons. First, preexisting conditions continue to be covered only if new insurance is purchased within sixty-three days of the expiration of the previous insurance. Second, a new condition that develops while your son or daughter has no insurance will not be covered by a new insurance policy. Though it may not be as interesting as talking about other aspects of life after graduation, post-graduation health care and health insurance should be a consideration for every student who is leaving the university. Information on temporary coverage is available through UCSB’s Alumni Association at www.uesbalm.com/membership/benefits.html.

If you have questions, UCSB’s Student Health insurance advisors will be happy to assist you at (805) 893-2592.
Mentor Program Reaches Out to Every Student

The Division of Student Affairs has expanded its Student Mentor Program to include outreach to UCSB students at all class levels. While the program was initially designed to provide freshmen with a clear and visible source of support and information, student responses soon revealed that many of the concerns expressed by freshmen were universally shared by the general student population. This program was the brainchild of Britt Andreatta, director of first year programs and leadership education in the Office of Student Life. It is designed to use technology and electronic communications to meet the needs of the current generation of college students—known as Millennials—and their families. With the expansion of this unique program every student at UCSB now receives a monthly e-newsletter from a team of professional staff mentors assigned by class level.

When asked why she thought this program was necessary, Andreatta stated, “First, the results from doing this program with freshmen were phenomenal. Over the year, I responded to and met with hundreds of freshmen. Many had questions and they were not sure where to turn. Although our campus features many wonderful services, programs, faculty, and staff, new students do not always know where to go. Millennials expect a different kind of service and connection to the university than did previous generations. All across the country, administrators, especially those at large public universities, are grappling with how to adjust our current modes of working to better serve this population. This particular program is specifically designed for this purpose. We are one of the first in the country to move to this new model and the first in the UC system.”

The current mentor teams are all full-time professionals at UCSB, selected through an application and interview process, and passionate about working with students. The teams reach out to each individual class and provide information and support that is specifically geared to that group’s needs. Monthly e-newsletters provide students with announcements of programs and services that might interest them, and give students the opportunity to ask questions that mentors will answer. Students can also make an appointment with their mentors if they feel the need for one-on-one attention.

Andreatta says, “My greatest hope is that it will help students feel more cared for. This is a big institution and it can sometimes feel overwhelming or even impersonal. But there are really amazing programs and personnel here with the primary focus of supporting student success. I hope that this program is able to put more students in contact with the support that is already available to them.” For more information about the Student Mentor Program, or to read biographies of the mentor teams, visit www.sa.ucsb.edu/osl/smt.

FAQS: FINANCIAL AID QUESTIONS

If a student has not yet applied for financial aid for the 2005-2006 academic year, is it too late?

No. Although the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) priority filing deadline for 2005-2006 financial aid was March 2, 2005, students can still apply for financial aid for the 2005-2006 academic year to be considered for the Pell Grant, Direct Loans (subsidized and unsubsidized), and the Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students (PLUS) programs. The FAFSA application is available on the Internet at www.fafsa.ed.gov. UCSB’s school code number is 001320.

If a student has already applied for financial aid, when will they receive an offer of financial aid?

If additional documentation is required to verify the accuracy of the FAFSA information, students will be sent an e-mail starting in April or May directing them to check their “Aid Status” on the Financial Aid Office Web site (www.finaid.ucsb.edu). When all required documents are received, the file is reviewed; and financial aid eligibility is then determined and posted on the Web site. At that time, another e-mail will notify students to view their Financial Aid Award Letter on the Web site.

What scholarships are available? UCSB awards its limited allocation of scholarship funds primarily to continuing UCSB students who filed the FAFSA by the March 2, 2005, priority deadline and who meet the dual criteria of financial need and academic merit. Additionally, there are links to free scholarship search engines on the scholarship section of the Financial Aid Office Web site.

How does a student receive financial aid?

With the exception of work-study, all aid is credited to students’ BARC (Billing, Accounts Receivable, Collections) accounts with the Billing-Accounts Receivable Office. If the aid placed on a student’s BARC account does not cover all of the institutional charges, the outstanding balance must be paid or deferred by the student. To avoid late payment penalties, students should pay particular attention to the fee payment deadline for each quarter. For fall quarter, the undergraduate fee deadline is September 15, 2005.

What is the PLUS Loan?

Parents may borrow a Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students (PLUS Loan) on behalf of their dependent undergraduate student to help fund educational expenses. A PLUS Loan may be part of the aid eligibility displayed in a student’s award letter. The interest rate is variable (currently 4.17%) and is capped at 9%. All PLUS Loan applicants must pass a credit check to have their loan approved.

Is financial aid available for Summer Session 2005?

Summer Session financial aid (grants and loans) will be available only to eligible UCSB students. All applicants for summer aid must have a complete 2004-2005 FAFSA on file with the UCSB Financial Aid Office. Additionally, students must submit a Summer Session 2005 Financial Aid Application which will be available on the Financial Aid Office Web site in mid-April. The priority filing deadline for the Summer Session 2005 Financial Aid Application is May 31, 2005.

Additional information can be found on UCSB’s Financial Aid Web site at www.finaid.ucsb.edu.

UCSB Briefs

Parents’ and Family Weekend will be held November 4-6, 2005. Plan now to join hundreds of students’ families to explore the campus and get a firsthand look at what life is like at UCSB. You will have the opportunity to attend classes, participate in faculty presentations, take part in campus area tours and activities, as well as meet a variety of UCSB faculty and administrators, including Chancellor Henry T. Yang and his wife Dilling Yang. Remember to book your hotel accommodations early. A schedule of events will be posted at www.ia.ucsb.edu/pfw/ in July 2005. For questions send an e-mail to parent@ia.ucsb.edu or call the Office of Public Events at (805) 893-7382.

The Office of Public Affairs is now producing a free monthly electronic newsletter about UC Santa Barbara featuring brief summaries of campus news, events, and current topics. You are invited to view the current issue on the Web at www.ia.ucsb.edu/ucsbnws/. Where you can also enter your e-mail to become a regular subscriber.

Summer Sessions offers your student several unique advantages. Thousands of UCSB students choose to attend the summer quarter to:
• Save money – unit fees for UC undergraduates are capped at eight units and there are no out-of-state fees.
• Graduate sooner – make up a missed class or finish some general education (GE) requirements.
• Enjoy learning – focus on a few subjects at a time while attending less crowded classes.

For detailed Summer Sessions information including a copy of the current catalog contact Summer Sessions at:
UCSB Summer Sessions, 2214 SAASB
Santa Barbara, CA 93106-2010
Phone: (805) 893-2047
Fax: (805) 893-7306
Email: infoquestions@summersessions.ucsb.edu
Web: www.summer.ucsb.edu
Gaucho Graduation At a Glance

Schedule of Ceremonies:
- Sunday, June 5, 2005 - 11:00 a.m. College of Creative Studies, Campbell Hall
- All Saturday (June 11) and Sunday (June 12) ceremonies take place on the Faculty Club Green.
- Saturday, June 11 - 9:00 a.m. Science and Mathematics
- Saturday, June 11 - 1:00 p.m. Engineering and Science
- Saturday, June 11 - 4:00 p.m. Social Sciences I
- Sunday, June 12 - 9:00 a.m. Social Sciences II
- Sunday, June 12 - 1:00 p.m. Arts and Humanities
- Sunday, June 12 - 4:00 p.m. Graduate Division

Students must make a commencement reservation for an open and available ceremony in order to participate in commencement. Special note: Parents, please remind your student that declaring candidacy for an official degree and making a commencement reservation are two separate actions on the GOLD system.

Please keep in mind that thousands of graduating seniors will be inviting family and friends to the commencement ceremonies. Students participating in the College of Letters and Science ceremonies should limit their number of guests to a maximum of six to help maintain sufficient comfort and decorum.

For more information, call the Commencement Hotline at (805) 893-8289 or visit the Web site at www.ia.ucsb.edu/commencement. For accommodations information visit www.santabarbara.com. Book hotel rooms soon; space is limited!

Grad Fair
A grad fair will be held April 6 - 7 from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. in the University Center lobby. Various campus department representatives and vendors will be available to answer commencement questions. Check out the Graduation Center on the UCSB Bookstore Web site at www.bookstore.ucsb.edu/graduation/graduation.html.

Grad Gift: Gaucho for Life
Need a special graduation gift idea for your son or daughter? Consider giving the gift that will last a lifetime—a life membership in the UCSB Alumni Association. Benefits include career connections, job postings, networking, Coastlines publication, travel tours, alumni directory, and locator service. More information can be found on the Alumni Association’s Web site at www.ucsbalum.com.

Staying Connected
UCSB Campus Calendar: http://events.sa.ucsb.edu/calendar/
UCSB Home: http://www.ucsb.edu or call 805-893-8000
Campus Connection Newsletter: http://www.sa.ucsb.edu/parentnewsletter; e-mail: Newsletter@sa.ucsb.edu
Campus Learning Assistance Services: http://www.clas.ucsb.edu or call 805-893-3269
Associated Students: http://www.as.ucsb.edu or call 805-893-2566
Counseling & Career Services: http://career.ucsb.edu or call 805-893-4411
Division of Student Affairs: http://www.sa.ucsb.edu or call 805-893-3651
Educational Opportunity Program: http://www.sa.ucsb.edu/eop or call 805-893-3235
Financial Aid Office: http://www.finaid.ucsb.edu/ or call 805-893-2432
Housing & Residential Services: http://www.housing.ucsb.edu or call 805-893-2760
Office of the Registrar: http://www.registrar.ucsb.edu/ or call 805-893-3592
Office of Student Life: http://www.sa.ucsb.edu/osl/ or call 805-893-4569
Orientation Programs: http://www.sa.ucsb.edu/orientation/ or call 805-893-3443
Student Health Service: http://www.sa.ucsb.edu/studenthealth/ or call 805-893-3371
UCSB Bookstore: http://www.store.ucsb.edu/ or call 805-893-3271