Living and Learning in Paradise

WITH A DRAMATIC BACKDROP of mountains, beaches, islands and sea, it sits perched upon a bluff overlooking the Pacific Ocean and the Channel Islands beyond. This 251,383-square-foot complex, with seventeen buildings including 474 rooms, 215 restrooms, view terraces, a 24-hour resource center, its own technology center, ample meeting space, indoor dining for 300 and an outdoor patio for another 150, comes with a price tag of 65 million dollars. Is this the latest Southern California resort spa for the rich and famous? Not exactly. It’s Manzanita Village, the crown jewel of the University’s housing program and the newest residence hall complex at UCSB in 30 years.

Manzanita Village, which opened its doors to UCSB students in September, offers “human scale” housing that creates intimate living-learning environments. The village is defined by 17 houses in three quads. Each house accommodates 41 to 63 beds, for a total of 800 bed spaces. Residents occupy a mix of single- and double-occupancy rooms and share a lounge with a view terrace, study rooms, baths (four students per bathroom) and kitchens. Outdoors there are recreational and open-air living areas as well as a central plaza that extends to the bluff and offers a breathtaking view of the Pacific. Manzanita Village also features newly renovated Carrillo Dining Commons with a large adjacent patio for outdoor dining.

The hub of Manzanita Village is the De Anza Resource Center, which serves as the complex’s 24-hour front desk. Residents and visitors utilize the Center for directions, general questions and assistance with lockouts, as well as interaction with the Residential Life and Residential Operations staff. In addition to these administrative functions, the Center also provides a variety of meeting spaces for residents.

With the goal of integrating academic activities into residential communities, the De Anza Resource Center was designed to provide meeting spaces suitable for academic-support activities as well as rooms for small study groups or individual tutoring sessions. A special feature is the Technology Center where residents can access state-of-the-art computer equipment and software. Here students are able to use a wide range of cutting-edge technologies, including high-speed wireless networking with today’s most advanced PCs, high-end graphics and simulations, and digital video creation and manipulation. This space was designed with a flexible configuration that can be adapted as technology evolves.

In addition to enjoying the many amenities associated with a new housing facility, residents also have access to new programs and activities facilitated by the smaller-scale living environments. The focus for this academic year is to learn about the new community and develop theme houses for fall 2003 from student interests and the campus community. Some themes being considered are International House/Global Peace, Creative Studies, and a Scholars’ House. For greater academic integration, a faculty in-residence program is also being created.

With the addition of Manzanita Village’s 800 new beds, the Residence Halls Association (RHA) now represents a larger constituency as well as a greater percentage of the first-year class. RHA has developed a system in which each quad has a governing body to develop student-focused activities. As small communities consisting of 248, 266, or 286 residents, the quads have plenty of potential to create intimate and meaningful programs.

The Technology Center in the De Anza Resource Center does not boast the only technological advancements in Manzanita Village. The laundry room has gone high tech too. Students can now purchase “smart” cards from an “add-value station” located at De Anza Resource Center. A microchip is embedded in the smart card, which fits into a reader built into each washer and dryer. Before hauling dirty clothes to a laundry room, a student can call a phone number from the comfort of his or her room to find out how many machines are available. If all the washers are in use, the student will automatically be called back when one becomes available. Students are phoned again when their laundry is finished and ready to be retrieved.

Although the original idea for Manzanita Village was conceived as a part of the 1989 Student Housing Master Plan, actual conceptualization didn’t begin until April 1996. In fall 1998 the UC Regents approved the design and certified the environmental documentation for the project. The design was then submitted to the California Coastal Commission, which didn’t act on it until June 1999 pushing the occupancy date to fall 2002.
In an attempt to make fraternities stronger and help them return to their founding principles—philanthropy, scholarship and good citizenship—the university has implemented several new initiatives. Perhaps the most publicized is the corrective measure of banning alcohol from all social events fraternities hold at their houses. UCSB defines a social event as any gathering of more than 30 chapter members or other individuals. Fraternity-sponsored events with alcohol must now be held at licensed and insured third-party locations. The notion of third-party sites is not new. UCSB’s sorority houses have been alcohol free since they began in the 1930s, and just last year the Collegiate Panhellenic Council, which governs sororities on campus, prohibited drinking at sorority socials hosted by fraternities. Implementation of the new alcohol measure will be challenging since fraternity houses are privately owned and sit just outside the campus boundaries. The Isla Vista Foot Patrol, UCSB employees, and students will share in the monitoring of UCSB’s Greek-lettered organizations.

Additionally, the Office of Greek Life is helping fraternities and sororities to focus on philanthropy, community service, and leadership. According to Associate Dean of Students, Carolyn Buford, “a review of fraternities last year uncovered that a lot of their philanthropy was having a party to raise money. It was not direct community service.” As a result, the Office of Greek Life is making community service mandatory this year and helping the chapters to develop community service opportunities. Each fraternity and sorority chapter must adopt a local charity. Quarterly, at least 60 percent of chapter members are expected to volunteer a minimum of six hours to benefit the selected charity organization. It is hoped that through these two initiatives fraternities and sororities can refocus on their founding principles and provide students with a safe and productive home away from home.

Tips for First Time Renters

Contrary to rumors, students do not need to find housing in January for the following school year. However, it is never too soon to start thinking about how best to go about searching for a place to live. The Community Housing Office (CHO) will sponsor a series of educational workshops in January 2003 to orient students to the rental community. CHO’s programs educate students on all aspects of rental housing: finding a place to live, understanding leases and housing law, engaging in successful roommate relationships, and much more.

The Community Housing Office will be introducing its new edition of the Rental Housing Survival Guide at the workshops. The Guide is a wealth of factual information, “insider” tips, warnings and assurances. CHO is especially proud of this year’s Guide, which features a new colorful, user-friendly format. It includes several useful sample forms, including a Model Lease and Tenant Application. Additionally student peers will share their personal experiences renting in the community.

Many parents wonder what they can do to assist their son or daughter with the first rental experience. CHO suggests beginning conversations with your son or daughter over the holidays about where he or she might live next year. Encourage your son or daughter to communicate openly about what he or she is thinking throughout the process. Parents will very likely be asked to co-sign a lease, taking financial responsibility for payment of rent.

Consider speaking to the parents of other roommates before entering into a legal contract with them. Many leases contain a “joint and several clause” that obligates tenants—and co-signers—to pay the total rent amount if other tenants pull out of the lease.

Parents are welcome to join their son or daughter at one of the workshops scheduled this winter. Students should feel free to drop by the Community Housing Office (Room 3151 in the University Center) or visit the CHO Website at www.housing.ucsb.edu/cho_community.htm. Students and parents are encouraged to contact CHO at any time with questions at cho@housing.ucsb.edu or (805) 893-4371.

Student Affairs Embarks on Five Year Plan

As UCSB begins the 2002-2003 academic year, the Division of Student Affairs is engaged in a comprehensive strategic planning process at both the divisional and departmental levels. Strategic planning for the years 2002 to 2008 will include an in-depth review of departmental missions, assessment of student behaviors, needs and expectations, and evaluation of environmental conditions anticipated to impact Student Affairs’ work in the next five years. The Division as a whole, and each department within the Division, will participate in this dynamic process which will result in the creation of detailed five-year plans designed to guide and inform our service to UCSB students and the campus during the next five years. The first phase of strategic planning has included review and update of both the Service Mission and Division Goals, which are printed below for your information.

SERVCE MISSION OF THE STUDENT AFFAIRS DIVISION

The mission of the Student Affairs Division is to anticipate, plan for, and respond to the needs of a diverse and changing student body by providing services and programs that promote physical and emotional well-being and foster intellectual and personal development. Divisional efforts to meet student needs are intended to create supportive and challenging living and learning environments and a sense of community essential to advancing the university’s goals of excellence in education, research, and public service.

DIVISION GOALS

• To prepare, recruit, enroll, retain, and graduate a diverse, high-quality student body at both the graduate and undergraduate levels.

• To promote living and learning environments that support academic success and personal, ethical, and career development with special emphasis on leadership skills, civic engagement, and community service as well as understanding and appreciating diversity.

• To offer a variety of programs and services that enhance and improve the quality of life at UCSB and promote positive interaction between members of the campus and surrounding communities.
Leadership: Everyone Has a Role

UCSB WANTS TO encourage all students, as part of a well-rounded experience, to consider becoming involved in leadership education and opportunities on the campus. The Division of Student Affairs has created a student leadership development and education program designed to assist students in recognizing and developing the leadership potential within themselves. As part of this program, students can earn a co-curricular certificate which is offered through the University Leadership Certificate Program (LCP). The LCP is designed to value a diversity of styles as well as to develop awareness and understanding of various leadership approaches, styles and attitudes. The program will:

• introduce students to the theories and concepts of leadership
• enhance student leadership skills
• develop awareness of major social issues confronting our global community and leaders
• enhance a student’s academic experience without impeding regular progress toward the degree, and
• acknowledge the involvement and dedication of student leaders.

If your son or daughter is interested, he or she may fill out a program application at the Office of Student Life (SAASB 2201). Applicants will be notified of individual or group advising sessions to discuss the program's requirements. The program is open to new, continuing, and transfer students.

Annual Student Leadership Conference

Each year UCSB hosts the Annual Student Leadership Conference which is designed to provide students with the information and skills necessary for becoming successful leaders. A wide variety of workshops and presentations will focus on personal development, organizational development, and community building. The workshops are intended to cultivate strong student leaders for the betterment of both the University and surrounding community. Topics have included: public speaking, motivating and inspiring others, finding funding, dealing with group conflict, publicizing events, building coalitions, and developing a great team. In the past, the conference has attracted over 300 students from diverse backgrounds and is designed for all students, regardless of their leadership experience. Please encourage your son or daughter to join us on Thursday, January 23, 6:00 p.m. at the University Center for a great evening, complete with free food and great prizes.

UCSBbriefs

• UCSB's Associated Students (A.S.) and the Campus Elections Commission (CEC) held the campus’s first successful joint on-line election in October. The election was called to correct an error in last spring’s election related to the MultiCultural Center (MCC) fee. In addition, A.S. asked the students to increase the fee that supports A.S. operations. The election turnout exceeded all expectations and set a record for numbers of students voting. The MCC reaffirmation passed handily, but the A.S. fee failed to obtain the necessary two-thirds support. Online voting will most likely be the process for all future A.S. and CEC elections.

• In a fall voter registration drive, sponsored by the Division of Student Affairs and Associated Students, UCSB registered 9,000 students. This makes UCSB the top UC campus in registering students to vote. Voters are required to re-register every time they move, which for a college student can be each academic year. Universities and colleges are mandated by the 1998 reauthorization of the Federal Higher Education Act to make a “good faith effort” to register all enrolled students. This federal legislation supports UCSB’s long-standing commitment to engendering leadership and citizenship in its student body.

• Commencement 2003 information will be available on the following Website—www.instadv.ucsb.edu/commencement. A complete listing of majors with corresponding ceremony dates and times will be mailed to parents during mid-December. Included will be hotel contact information. After mid-December 2002 questions may be forwarded to 805/893-7382 or parent@ia.ucsb.edu.

• Student Health Reminder: California State law requires that all new UC students who will be 18 or younger at the time of enrollment must provide proof of immunity to Hepatitis B. Registration blocks have been placed for winter quarter if satisfactory progress toward completion of the series has not been documented. Students who have not completed the series by February will not be able to register for spring classes. Information about Hepatitis B, mandated health insurance and the meningitis vaccine is available on the Student Health Website at www.sa.ucsb.edu/studenthealth.

Financial Aid Dates, Deadlines & Details

December 16, 2002

Fees for winter quarter 2003 must be paid or deferred with the Billing-Accounts Receivable Office by 4 p.m. on this date. If your son or daughter is a financial aid recipient, the aid (except some parent loans) will be automatically credited to his or her billing account, which requires an enrollment minimum of six units. Students can review their account status on the GOLD system. For more information on this process, refer to pages 13 and 14 in the Winter 2003 Schedule of Classes.

January 1, 2003

The 2003-2004 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) can be filed with the federal processor. To be considered for financial aid, your son or daughter must re-apply each year and list UC Santa Barbara, school code #001320, in Step 6 of the FAFSA. The FAFSA is available at all high schools, colleges, and universities across the U.S. It can also be filed electronically on the Internet at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Electronic filing of the FAFSA is recommended.

Note: If your student filed a FAFSA for the 2002-2003 academic year, the federal processor will automatically send you a “renewal” FAFSA in the mail in late January or early February. If your son or daughter does not receive the “renewal” FAFSA in the mail and the March 2 deadline is approaching, he or she can file a regular FAFSA or file a FAFSA on the Internet.

March 2, 2003

This is the priority-filing deadline for UCSB financial aid and for Cal Grants. Students who file after this deadline will be considered only for federal Pell Grants and student loans. Students who file the FAFSA should obtain a “certificate of mailing” from the U.S. Post Office as proof of meeting the priority-filing deadline.

March 17, 2003

Fees for spring quarter 2003 must be paid or deferred with the Billing Office by 4 p.m. If your son or daughter is a financial aid recipient, the aid (except some parent loans) will be automatically credited to his or her billing account as long as your student is enrolled in a minimum of 6 units. Students can review their account status on the GOLD system. For more information on this process, refer to pages 13 and 14 in the Spring 2003 Schedule of Classes.

April 15, 2003

This is the deadline to file the 2002 federal tax return with the Internal Revenue Service. Please note that your son or daughter can file the 2003-2004 FAFSA using estimated income tax information. In order to meet the March 2, 2003, priority-filing FAFSA deadline, do not wait to file the FAFSA until your taxes are prepared. Educational tax credit information can be accessed at the following Website: http://www.nasfaa.org/publications/2000/greghopec111098.html.

For more information on financial aid, visit the UCSB financial aid Website at www.finaid.ucsb.edu or call the Financial Aid office at (805) 893-2432. The office, located in 2103 SAASB, is open from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.
UCSB Partners with Parents

Throughout a student’s career, UC Santa Barbara strives to keep families engaged with their son or daughter’s college experience and connected to the academic and cultural environment of the university. The Office of Development has initiated a new outreach effort to foster parent and family members’ engagement with UCSB. The goal is to improve communication between UC Santa Barbara and students’ families, to provide a parent network, and to create a better understanding of the need for philanthropic resources and support to the University.

There are a variety of activities that enhance interaction and understanding among parents, families, the faculty, staff, and alumni of UCSB. For example, parents are encouraged to share their professional talents with the University. UC Santa Barbara is always seeking experts in their respective fields to serve as guest speakers for conferences and classes or to participate in regional activities in the students’ hometown. Additionally, the Office of Development looks forward to working with parents to help identify corporations that may benefit from a closer relationship with UCSB.

UCSB parents are encouraged to partner with UCSB with giving that makes a difference in the education of their children and future generations. For more information on the Development Office’s outreach initiatives to parents, please contact Amelia Picciotto at (805) 893-7040 or via email at amelia.picciotto@ia.ucsb.edu.

Former Bank Gets Facelift

The former Bank of America building in downtown Isla Vista (935 Embarcadero Del Norte) was purchased by the University in early 2000. UCSB immediately embarked on a renovation project converting it into a classroom and office building. Construction has taken just under a year, and the result is a 225-seat, state-of-the-art classroom auditorium. In addition, the ground floor contains a smaller classroom, tutorial room and computer lab to be operated by Campus Learning Assistance Services (CLAS). These facilities allow students to access CLAS services in Isla Vista as well as on campus. The second floor houses the Office of the Isla Vista/UCSB Liaison, which includes a meeting room for student and community use. The remodel of the former bank proved to be a challenging project as the building had no exterior windows on the second floor. Large skylights, interior windows allowing borrowed light, and bright colors were used to enliven the space. The former bank vault will be used by the University Art Museum to store art that is not currently on display.

One of the major changes made, aside from the interior renovation, was the addition of an exterior plaza and new entrance on the north side of the building. The plaza elements include colorful concrete paving, bike racks, public seating, and new landscaping. The exterior of the building was repainted, the parking lot repaved, and exterior eave lights replaced to enhance public safety. Embarcadero Hall will open its doors for classes beginning January 6, 2003.

UCSB Campus Calendar: http://events.sa.ucsb.edu/calendar/
UCSB Home: http://www.ucsb.edu or call (805) 893-8000
Campus Connection Newsletter 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) 893-4569
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.bookstore.edu/ or call (805) 893-3271

Staying Connected