

UCSC dedicates research center at Long Lab for ocean's health

Long Marine Lab

By **BRIAN SEALS**

SENTINEL STAFF WRITER

A crowd of 100 gathered to dedicate a new building on the grounds of the Long Marine Laboratory on Thursday, but it was the glistening ocean in the background that was center stage.

SANTA CRUZ

Researchers celebrated completion of UC Santa Cruz's Center for Ocean Health, though scientists began moving in this past June.

Backers of the center say the facility will serve as a link between research, education and public policy.

The center is one more jewel in the marine research crown at Terrace Point.

"There are few places in the world that have this combination of marine science and conservation programs," said Gary Griggs, who

heads UC Santa Cruz's Institute for Marine Sciences.

Julie Packard of the Lucile and David Packard Foundation said she hoped the new center would lead to a new generation of scientist willing to step into the public policy fray, a new generation of students and a new generation of constituents supportive of marine conservation.

About a dozen researchers and their students and support staff work out of the center. Along with them are two nonprofit conservation groups — the Nature Conservancy's Coastal Waters program and the Island Conservation and Ecology Group.

The Nature Conservancy's Mike Beck said the center enables him to get the most up-to-date advice from researchers and relay it to the conservancy's conservation programs worldwide.



Graduate student Amy Ritter heads to the Marine Ecology lab in the Center for Ocean Health, which was dedicated Thursday.

Shmuel Thaler/
Sentinel

"I can ask specific questions about marine mammals in Alaska, then call back and say, 'The best information I have is this,'" Beck said. "I can get that by just walking down the hall."

The 23,000-square-foot facility was mostly funded with a \$5 million grant from the Packard Foundation.

On the same site are a string of marine-relat-

ed facilities — the Seymour Marine Discovery Center, a National Marine Fisheries Service lab and the Marine Wildlife Recovery and Research Center operated jointly by the university and the state Department of Fish and Game.

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