



Chancellor Stevens, center, enjoys a laugh with friends, including UC President Gardner, left.

Chip Scheuer

UCSC's chancellor inaugurated

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With pomp, oratory, and a smattering of disruption from student protesters, Robert Bocking Stevens was inaugurated as UC-Santa Cruz chancellor yesterday.

The English-born Stevens, a lawyer and legal historian, officially became the fifth chancellor of UCSC at a ceremony when he was sworn in by university president David Gardner. He took over the post last summer from former Chancellor Robert Sinsheimer.

In his inaugural address before a packed crowd at the Upper Quarry Amphitheater, Stevens spoke of strengthening UCSC's role as a research institution while maintaining the university's reputation as an undergraduate educational facility.

"I think it's a challenge we can meet," Stevens said.

Stevens also addressed the issue of university growth, which has pitted the expanding UC system against the Santa Cruz community for the past few years.

He said that in order to achieve the goal of educating a California population growing in size and diversity, the university, as a public institution, cannot turn its back on the state's educational needs.

"California public universities hold the key to the future," he said. "We live in a state where minorities will soon become the majority."

The UC system needs to accommodate the growing diversity of the state. "We already have the most diverse faculty of any UC campus. We now need, however, to ensure an equally diverse student body. That has to be one of our greatest priorities — if not the greatest — for the remainder of the century."

On a personal note, Stevens recalled that his parents had only the equivalent of a junior high school education, and said the British educational system caused them to be "short-changed from a decent education."

"I will fight that that won't happen to others," he said.

Stevens, though, has had an illustrious academic career. After getting his degree at Oxford, he later did graduate work there and at Yale University. He practiced law both in London and New York.

Stevens began his academic career as an assistant law professor at Yale in 1959 and later became a professor in 1965.

He was provost at Tulane University from 1976 to 1978, and from 1978 until 1987 he served as president at Haverford College, a small liberal arts college in Pennsylvania.

Stevens lives on campus with his wife, Katherine Booth Stevens, and their daughter, Robin Elizabeth. He also has a daughter, Carey, and a son, Richard, by an earlier marriage.

Student Union Assembly Chairman Asher Brauner, speaking on behalf of the students, said he had come to admire Stevens' sense of humor and "forthright honesty" in the past year.

The only problem he had with Stevens, Brauner said, was "convincing him that the problems I came to him with are important to the whole student body."

He asked that those in the audience who felt the university was growing too rapidly to stand up. Many students, staff

and faculty did so.

Other representatives from the student body, alumni, staff and faculty also gave short speeches for the inauguration.

Periodically, these speeches were interrupted with shouts such as, "We don't have chairs in our classrooms" — a protest of campus overcrowding.

A number of students had staged a protest before the inaugural ceremonies. They called for an active divestment plan of university money invested in companies doing business in South Africa, more ethnic

studies on campus, an end to UC weapons research and a slowing of UCSC growth.

Many of the protesters got signs into the quarry even though they were searched before entering.

Security was tight, with dozens of UC-Berkeley police imported for the occasion.

One student was arrested by campus police on charges of assault and resisting arrest when he reportedly got into a struggle with an officer who tried to stop him from marching in a procession.