

✓ucsc College Eight

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# College 8 has home of its own

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SANTA CRUZ — Almost 20 years after College Eight was born at UC Santa Cruz, officials, alumni and students gathered Saturday to dedicate its permanent home.

"We haven't started brand new, we just have brand new buildings," said College Eight student Aloise Miller, referring to the college's long and unlikely history without a site of its own.

College Eight was opened in 1972 and centered around Clark Kerr Hall in the middle of the 2,000-acre campus. There was no dormitory, no dining hall, no formal college at all, but Eight became the refuge of students re-entering the college system after working at jobs, fighting in the Vietnam War or raising families.

"There was nothing we could point to and call our own," said Eight alumna

Donna Maurillo. The focal point of the College's activities during much of the 70s was a Thursday night beer keg Happy Hour, built around the fact that College Eight students were old enough to legally drink alcohol.

Saturday's dedication was of a different sort of College Eight. Now the college, which retains its theme of studies in environment and society, is located above Oakes College on the west side of the campus and has more than 1,000 students.

It's buildings cover 240,000 square feet and include 228 student apartments, room for 370 students in residence halls, 40 faculty offices, a dining hall and coffee shop.

"There are a number of things that need to be done," said Acting Provost Art Pearl. "There is a Fireside Lounge without a fireside."

There is also the matter of the school's name yet to be finalized — College Eight is the only college at UCSC that has not taken on the name of a major benefactor.

"College Eight still has no major donor and that's why it's called College Eight," explained Maurillo. "There is no Mr. and Mrs. Eight."

None of this daunted the Eight enthusiasts who gathered to dedicate the new college, though. The official ceremony ended with Professor Paul Niebanck, College Eight's first provost in 1972, leading the crowd in a sing-a-long of "If I Had A Hammer" following a talk on the educational horizons the college has before it.

For all the formality of the dedication, the most telling sign of College Eight's arrival as a physical entity were the students milling in and out of the dorm rooms.