

Colleges open doors to learning

UCSC - Growth

New schools at UCSC expect 1,600 students

By **JONDI GUMZ**
SENTINEL STAFF WRITER

UC Santa Cruz administrators are oohing and ahing over their newest colleges, a complex where 800 students can live and learn about global issues and social justice.

"This is a fabulous living environment," Chancellor M.R.C. Greenwood said, walking through the redwoods and explaining how students will have more opportunities to work on research projects as undergraduates.

The new facilities for Colleges Nine and Ten are located near the social-science classrooms in an area once known as "Elfland." A decade ago, students protested development of the site, but those on the premises Tuesday were busy making signs to welcome new arrivals due this weekend.

About 14,000 students are expected at the campus this year.

College Ten, the newest addition, expects 260 freshmen and 147 transfer students. College Nine opened two years ago with 280 students; enrollment has grown to 1,177.

UCSC opened 38 years ago with residential colleges, which are more typical of a private institution than a large public university. What makes Colleges Nine and Ten different from the other eight is that both are linked with UCSC's highly rated social-sciences division, giving students a closer connection with top research professors.

Although administrators are pleased with the results so far, the change was considered a bold move.

"Nobody knew if this was going to work," said Martin Chemers, dean of social sciences.

UCSC is not alone in trying new ideas to get more personal.

Many big universities are using various strategies to make themselves small for students.

Some have faculty members who eat lunch with students or teach classes in dorms. Some have faculty members living in dorms.

UCSC hasn't gone that far; advisers, or "preceptors," will live in the new dorms.

For students, the advantage of a smaller-



Bill Lovejoy/Sentinel

Campbell Leaper, provost of Colleges Nine and Ten, says smaller-scale schools can help students succeed.

scale setting is that it's easier to talk to academic advisers and get to know their classmates.

Success in college is linked to mentoring by the faculty and involvement in co-curricular activities, and the colleges can facilitate that, said provost Campbell Leaper.

Freshmen take a seminar that focuses on the college theme — global perspectives at College Nine and social justice at College Ten. These are taught by lecturers rather than research professors, but enrollment is capped at 22 per seminar — UCSC's effort to counter the typical freshman experience of large, alienating lecture classes.

The colleges also offer programs geared toward faculty and students' academic interests.

Last year, 400 people came to hear Amartya Sen, an Indian economist who won a Nobel Prize for his studies of globalization, poverty and famine, to speak at College Nine.

"If you were in economics, you'd know this guy," Leaper said.

This year, investigative journalist Mark Schapiro will come in October at the invitation of College Ten. His talk will be in an auditorium in the new dining facilities, a few steps from the new dorms.

"We're so excited," said Deana Slater, who

oversees housing and co-curricular activities for College Nine, which opened two years ago when on-campus apartments were ready. "We had no facilities for programs."

In the new multistory dorms, single and double rooms are not exactly spacious, but they are wired for Internet access and there are roomier kitchens and lounge areas.

Campus architect Sara Kane said designers tried to take into account student requests for natural light.

The new dorms are in high demand, according to Jean Marie Scott, associate vice chancellor who supervises housing. Although a small number of beds will be left open for late arrivals, she expects about 500 students to be assigned to "overflow" housing, which means living in a lounge or tripling in a double until more room is available.

Some students, like Turner Spaulding, a sophomore from Sacramento, like the idea of being a pioneer in a new college, but Apple Cadavona, 20, a junior and a literature major, wanted College Ten because of her interest in social justice.

"Wow, what a great opportunity to learn through activism," she said.

Contact Jondi Gumz at jgumz@santa-cruz.com.

A model for learning

COLLEGE TEN:

Enrollment: 407 students; 260 freshmen.

Theme: Social justice and community.

Honors track: Students must spend a year in service learning or write a senior thesis.

Academic programs: Social-justice issues workshop, a two-credit winter course.

Activities: Rainbow Club, multicultural community weekend, book club, a cappella group, Leadership Institute.

COLLEGE NINE:

Enrollment: 1,177.

Theme: International and global perspectives.

Honors track: Students must spend a year abroad, study foreign language for a year, or write a senior thesis.

Academic programs: A World of Possibilities, course meets weekly in winter.

Activities: International living center, Campus Friends (links foreign students and Americans), intercultural community retreat, a cappella group, leadership program.