

McHENRY SHOWS OFF EXPANSION

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UCSC opens new library wing as original facility now closed for face-lift

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UC Santa Cruz's McHenry Library will one day be the future home of the Grateful Dead's vast collection of memorabilia, but right now it's home to grateful librarians who are excited about a \$99 million renovation and eager to see it completed.

"It's nice to finally be in the building," university librarian Virginia Steel said during a recent tour of the new part of the facility. "I'm pleased by how light and bright it is."

UCSC opened the 82,000-square-foot McHenry addition on March 31 after moving over spring break from the original 144,000-square-foot library, which will be closed for 18 months to two years during seismic upgrades and extensive renovations. The two buildings eventually will be merged and, as always, open to the public.

In the meantime, the new four-floor addition, which has been under construction since September 2005, will host the library's 1.4 million volumes and Special Collections, which will house the Grateful Dead Archives, the acquisition of which was announced Thursday.

The tab for the new addition and renovation of the old building rose from the original estimate of \$86 million due to rising construction costs. While the majority of the project is financed through state bonds, UCSC has garnered about \$3.5 million in private donations, which is nearly halfway to its fundraising goal of \$8 million.

The new addition's design is steeped in design "green" principles and, with floor-to-ceiling windows on several levels, takes advantage of the library's idyllic setting among the redwoods and rescues the otherwise drab, albeit sustainable, floors and walls that are reminiscent of a bomb shelter.

Wood-like panels covering the ends of the book stacks are made of compressed sugar cane. Nature and research also meet on the third floor's two reading porches, where park benches beckon for quiet reading in the sun. And "study bars" on the third floor, complete with data ports, are placed in front of eye-level windows so that, when a person sits down, the view is similar to sitting in treehouse.

The addition is also more user-friendly and technology-driven than its nearly 45-year-old predecessor. It offers more electrical outlets for powering laptop computers and numerous group work spaces and media rooms, the walls of which are purposely unparallel so sound travels more equally throughout.

There is only a coffee cart in the lobby now, but once the

facility is done there will be a Global Village Cafe with a variety of snacks. Anyone with ideas or feedback is welcome to pen their thoughts on notebooks by the front door.

Karin Mak, a second-year graduate student who was vis-

iting for the first time, said the entrance to the new addition seemed cold and confusing, but the inside was inviting.

"It's not very welcoming at first," Mak said, "but once you're in here and you know where you're going, it's a nice

place to study."

For information about the McHenry Library renovation project, visit www.library.ucsc.edu.

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TOP: The study bar at the new wing of the McHenry Library features data drops and electrical outlets at each station.

ABOVE: Screened-in reading porches are a unique feature of the new McHenry Library expansion.

LEFT: Social documentation graduate student Karin Mak researches Chinese workers in the oversized section of the new wing at the McHenry Library.

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Sentinel photos