

Leading at the Edge



SHIMMEL THALER

Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson, president of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, “a power which generates the new, the unique, the innovative, the excellent.”

The three-day Celebration 2005 was capped by the third annual Scholarships Benefit Dinner where more than 300 guests honored campus benefactor Jack Baskin and raised additional money to support undergraduate scholarships and graduate fellowships.

“UC SANTA CRUZ does things differently but for a purpose,” said Chancellor Denton in her inaugural address. She hailed UCSC’s leadership in interdisciplinary research and challenged the campus to “lead at the edge.”

As he introduced Denton, Dynes

University of California President Robert C. Dynes presents Chancellor Denton with the Chancellor’s Medallion.



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“Today, we begin again. Our campus was born of a pioneering vision, which yet endures. Replete with stellar achievements, UC Santa Cruz is but a brilliant intimation of even more greatness to come.”

— CHANCELLOR DENICE D. DENTON

described the new chancellor as forthright, honest, and a “trailblazer in the pursuit of equity and multiculturalism.” She has the “capability to raise this campus to the next level.”

Denton received a standing ovation as she took the podium at the Music Center Recital Hall. She praised UCSC’s founding pioneers who challenged the “multiversity model” and promised to build on their achievements. UCSC’s colleges are undergoing a renaissance, she said, in which students and faculty are engaged in “scholarly activities that are changing the world for the better.”

Denton, who received her Ph.D. in electrical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, thanked her mother, a high school math teacher, who raised three children on her own. She told the audience she never imagined the opportunities that awaited her when she took her first engineering class at Rice University as a high school student. “I appreciate



Following the ceremony, Chancellor Denton receives congratulations.

those opportunities and I pledge my dedicated and passionate commitment to doing everything humanly possible to advance our great university.”

“What is excellence,” she asked her audience. “What is diversity?”

“For me, excellence is achieving the best possible results by engaging the strengths and talents of people from varied backgrounds and personal experiences.” Diversity “encompasses ethnicity, gender, race, gender identification, sexual orientation, culture, religion, academic discipline, class, ability/disability, nation of origin, diversity of perspective, age, socioeconomic status, and any other aspect of difference which characterizes humanity.”

A DAY EARLIER, symposium keynote speaker Jackson, the first African-American woman to receive a doctorate from M.I.T., noted discussions of diversity can be “turbulent and uncomfortable.” But, she said, “it is also clarifying, illuminating, leading to

(continued on page 11)

Chancellor Denton’s Six Priorities

At her investiture, Chancellor Denton outlined six priorities she said were developed over several months of campus conversations. They will inform decisions and influence the commitment of resources. They are as follows:

1 Expand educational opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students; continue to revitalize and refine the colleges to express the 21st-century version of UCSC’s founders’ original vision; acknowledge and support graduate students; and establish professional schools that will attract the world’s leading scholars.

2 Build on the quality of existing academic programs to develop new offerings that play off UCSC’s existing strengths and enhance research. Emphasize interdisciplinary connections. Developing new academic programs will enhance competitiveness for additional extramural funding.

3 Bolster fundraising and organizational effectiveness by increasing partnerships among campus units and with companies, educational institutions, and governments in Santa Cruz, the Monterey Bay Area, Silicon Valley, and beyond. This will help advance a culture of philanthropy, with the goal of increasing private support for students and faculty.

4 Renew UCSC’s commitment to its community, continuing to work with local governments to address shared concerns for affordable housing, appropriate transportation systems, and a vital economy; underscore the benefits of a great university for schools, volunteerism, cultural activities, and economic growth and stability. Honor the university’s commitment to the people of California by offering access to the students of tomorrow.

5 Increase national and international recognition for the innovation and other contributions of the UCSC community. Showcase the achievements of students, staff, faculty, and alumni who are making a positive difference in our world.

6 Invest in people. Develop new strategies to attract, recruit, retain, and promote outstanding and diverse students, staff, and faculty. Nurture talent with a leadership development program to ensure a steady progression of future leaders.

EMBRACING THE CAMPUS’S 40-YEAR RECORD of achievement and presenting an inclusive view of its future, Denice D. Denton was invested as chancellor of UC Santa Cruz in November. The swearing-in ceremony was preceded by a two-day academic symposium on “Achieving Excellence Through Diversity.”

Serving as UCSC’s ninth chancellor since last February, Denton had worked with a committee of students, staff, and faculty to create a series of inaugural events that would ensure campus and community engagement.

The symposium, underscoring the chancellor’s twin commitments to excellence and diversity, included a number of well-attended workshops.

Leading one was UC President Robert C. Dynes, who previewed a UC Faculty Diversity Study that shows UCSC generally doing better than the UC system in hiring a diverse faculty. Later, Dynes officially invested Denton and presented her with the UC Santa Cruz Chancellor’s Medallion.

“Diversity is a kind of energy,” said symposium keynote speaker

Achieving Excellence through Diversity...

At the Symposium

Right: Chancellor Denton welcomes participants to the “Achieving Excellence Through Diversity” symposium.

Below, left: Shirley Ann Jackson delivers her keynote, opening the symposium.

Center: History of consciousness professor Angela Davis launches the symposium’s second day of activities.

Other photos: Students, staff, faculty, and visitors meet each other and participate in second-day discussion sessions.



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a deeper understanding of one’s self and one’s world. Diversity advances innovation—diversity powers excellence.”

“Just throwing people together does not necessarily create innovation,” Jackson said. It requires smart, focused people who can and will challenge each other. “It requires excellence, leadership, and community,” she said.

Conditions in today’s world demand nothing less, Jackson said. College graduates now confront population growth, energy demand, and resource consumption. It is a “thriving, though turbulent, global environment” in which nations and corporations are struggling for advantage. Corporations get it, she said. “Corporations are embracing diversity because it is essential to maintain their market edge.”

UC Foundation president Anuradha Luther Maitra presented Jackson with

the third UCSC Foundation Medal, recognizing individuals whose achievements illustrate the ideals of UCSC.

Jackson’s speech was followed by a panel discussion and the next day by three forums: “What is Diversity? Thinking at the Edge,” “Teaching to a Diverse Student Body,” and “Update on the UC Faculty Diversity Study.”

SPEAKING at the Scholarships Benefit Dinner, on the final day of Celebration2005, Tremain Jones, a 2005 UCSC graduate, described the rigors of growing up in East Palo Alto. A Pister Scholarship helped him complete a B.A. in anthropology. “Now a kid from East Palo Alto will be going to Borneo,” he said. Jones plans to study orangutans in the natural environment.

Chancellor Denton said that a record \$2.7 million to support under-

graduate scholarships and graduate fellowships had been raised in the past year. She announced that the campus Cornerstone Campaign had raised more than \$67 million, nearly \$18 million over its goal.

Jack Baskin, a key contributor to UCSC since the 1970s, was presented the first Fiat Lux Award. Chancellor Denton announced that Baskin’s family, friends, and UCSC colleagues have created the Jack Baskin Engineering Scholarship in his honor.

Inspired by these events, the campus and community are poised to embrace the opportunities and challenges ahead.

Read Chancellor Denton’s inaugural address, watch a video of the address and Shirley Ann Jackson’s symposium keynote, or download podcasts of either at celebration2005.ucsc.edu.

...and Celebrating Student Support



ROD SEARCY



ROD SEARCY

At the Scholarships Benefit Dinner

Left: Philanthropist Jack Baskin, with Chancellor Denton and Campus Provost David Klinger looking on, receives the campus’s first Fiat Lux Award.

Above: Following Chancellor Denton’s announcement that a record \$2.7 million in student support was raised in the past year, scholarship recipient Tremain Jones (B.A. anthropology, Kresge ’05) speaks about the personal impact of student support.