

# THE LIVING ROOM OF CAMPUS

BY RHASHAD PITTMAN

1. Judith M. Chambers Student Life Suite
2. Barnes & Noble at Pacific (The Kent Lathy University Bookstore)
3. Tony and Virginia Chan Café
4. Fire pit and patio
5. The Marketplace (The Edwin B. Fuld Servery) Fresh and local fare, grilled and international cuisine
6. Arnold Scott Dining Commons
7. Welcome Center
8. Grand Ballroom
9. Ultra Gaming Lounge
10. The Lair Pub with grill items and live entertainment
11. The River Room Fine dining
12. Leatherby Family Conference Center



## Don and Karen DeRosa University Center

From the day it opened in August, the Don and Karen DeRosa University Center has become the central place students spend their time outside of class and home. And that is exactly what Pacific's first green building was designed to do — to serve as a “third place” for students while inspiring tomorrow's leaders to be stewards of the earth.

The new Don and Karen DeRosa University Center has changed the culture of student life at Pacific. In the past, many students would retreat to their residences after their last class. Now, students say, there is a sense of vitality. They come to the Center to dine with friends, enjoy live entertainment, hear a guest speaker or meet with a student group. “This is where the life of the campus is,” says senior Edwin Lindo, student body president.

The 55,000-square-foot traditional red brick building sits along the Calaveras River, bridging residential and academic spaces to the north with the rest of campus. The center provides a casual, lounge-like

atmosphere. Students have plenty of space to study, meet in groups, work on class projects or simply unwind and relax with friends.

The two-story entry atrium serves as the welcome and information center. There is wireless Internet inside and outside the building, a full service pub, café, performance area, the University bookstore, high-tech conference rooms and a grand ballroom. Mounted flat-screen televisions air music videos, news programs and sporting events. Outdoor patio seating is available for sunny days and a fire pit for cool evenings.

“We had promised to give them their living room, a place where they can gather freely with ease,” says Jason Velo, director of the DeRosa University Center and Student Activities. “I think it's a promise delivered.”

As the University's first green building, soon to be LEED certified, the center uses less energy and water than most buildings of its kind. Environmentally-friendly features include retractable

skylights, daylight sensors, a mixed-mode heating and air conditioning system, water saving dish washers and a number of recycled materials.

Making sure the building was environmentally friendly was a top priority for students, says Dan Shipp, assistant vice



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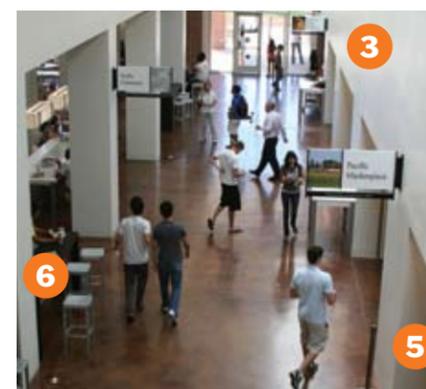
president of Student Life. “It really speaks to our culture and our community.”

Since the center opened, Student Life and student government have put on activities nearly every night. Entertainment is provided by local bands and comedians, karaoke nights and performances by the Brubeck Institute Jazz Quintet. During the first month-and-a-half of school, attendance at student events had already reached half of the total for all of last year, according to Velo.

The surge in student activity is also reflected in the busy dining areas. Bon Appétit, the University's food service provider, is serving 2,200 meals per day more than last year. Food choices range from South American and Asian-style food to American classics, vegetarian dishes, soups and dessert bars. Each dining venue offers slightly different menu options. Beer and wine are available after 5 pm in the Lair for those 21 or older, monitored by trained students and staff.

Freshman Erica Ruiz says when she first walked into the

center she was in awe of its aesthetics and amenities. The 18-year-old eats breakfast, lunch and dinner in the center with her roommate Carmen Rojas nearly every day of the week. They also attend student events held at the



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center, such as the Tiger Nights held in October, which featured a variety of performances, including contortionists, a hypnotist and a Bay Area reggae band.

The event attracted hundreds of students, far more than similar events in the past. “I really like it here,” says Ruiz one afternoon while eating lunch in the center. “Most of the students I have in class, this is where I see them. And I also meet a lot of new people here.”

Planning for the new student center began nearly three years ago. As a result of growth in student enrollment and expanded student activities, Pacific outgrew its old student center, the McCaffrey Center. Construction began in late 2006 and was completed in mid-August.

In October, Pacific hosted a week of activities to celebrate the facility's opening. The celebration included a gala, a campus-wide barbecue, musical performances and guest speakers, including César Gaviria, the former president of Columbia.

The Board of Regents acted to name the Center the Don and Karen DeRosa University Center. “Because of the President's many accomplishments and the DeRosas' obvious passion for enhancing the student experience at Pacific, the Board felt it was highly appropriate to name the University Center in their honor,” said Tom Zuckerman, chair of the Board of Regents.

# ROOM TO DISCOVER Biological Sciences Center

BY RHASHAD PITTMAN

What's going on in the new Biological Sciences Center? Professor Kirkwood Land and his students are testing possible new drugs for treating infections. Professor Mark Brunell is working with Civil Engineering Professor Gary Litton and students studying the water quality of the San Joaquin Delta. Craig Vierra, co-chair of the Biology department, is studying the biomechanics of spider silk with his students in hopes of learning how to make stronger, lighter materials for vital products like bullet-proof vests.

Before the Center opened this fall, it was not unusual to find biology students sitting on the floor, on window sills and even in the hallway during their classes due to lack of space. Sometimes rooms had to be used that were not designed for scientific research, such as the Pacific Theatre.

Professors and students in the Biological Sciences Department who remember those days have a profound sense of appreciation for the \$27-million Biological Sciences Center. The two-story, 60,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art teaching and research facility serves 1,200 students in the College of the Pacific's department of Biological Sciences, Pacific's most popular undergraduate major.

Over the years, the growing number of students put a strain on the department's facilities. Faculty members had little or no research space. "I couldn't involve students in a real way in undergraduate research," says Gregg Jongeward, co-chair of the Biology department. "Now we have space where



students can work side by side with faculty."

The additional teaching space enabled the department to reduce lab class sizes from roughly 24 students to 16. "It's a lot nicer," says 22-year-old Angela Peralta, who earned a bachelor's degree in biology and is in her second year of graduate study. "There's more research space and smaller class sizes. As a student, those are all things that you need to have a better education."

The new Center features two large lecture halls, numerous classrooms and teaching and research laboratories. The larger 178-seat auditorium is named in honor of the late alumna Barbara Bechtel Davies '79 and the smaller HEDCO Lecture Room seats 96 students. Both lecture halls have wireless Internet and feature automated projection screens, adjustable whiteboards and a sound system that allows professors to record their lectures to post online as podcasts.

Each faculty member has a private, secure research lab, which allows for close and constant interaction between professors and students as they conduct research. The spacious labs include rooms to prepare specimens for research and abundant storage space.

Craig Vierra says he expects the Biological Sciences Center to lead to faculty members receiving more research grants. Since coming to Pacific in 1994, Vierra has received nearly \$2 million in research funding, mostly from the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health. He says many

organizations look closely at the quality of facilities when deciding whether to award research funding.

"One of their primary concerns is the infrastructure," Vierra says. "When you can say you have a brand new building, it demonstrates that the entire University is behind you and the program."

"This facility will help attract top faculty and students to the Biological Sciences department and will serve as the academic core for our future scientists, pharmacists and dentists, and other healthcare professionals," says Provost Phil Gilbertson. The department currently has 14.5 full-time faculty members and there are plans to hire more. The additional professors will allow more undergraduates to conduct research



and gain valuable hands-on experience.

"Students want to work in an environment that is cutting edge, where the equipment is new and the technology is at the frontier of science," Vierra says. "You get that in the new Biological Sciences Center, among so many other benefits."

Major gifts supporting construction of the Center were provided by the Wayne and Gladys Valley Foundation, the late Arnold Scott, Tony and Virginia Chan, the Lakeside Foundation, the HEDCO Foundation, the Ralph M. Parsons Foundation, Steve and Kristy Goulart, James Payne, Alice Hunter, Dr. James Stavosky, Lynwood Swanson, Dr. Amit Patel, Mr. Amish Patel and others who requested not to be named.



## A PROFESSOR'S LEGACY

The new Biological Sciences Center is a symbol of Pacific's commitment to scientific research and study and a tribute to **Paul Richmond**, the former longtime chair of the Biology department. A professor of biology for 26 years, Richmond served as chair for 12 years. His ultimate dream was to see the new center built, and he worked tirelessly to make sure it happened.

Richmond passed away in August 2005 — only months before the center broke ground — after undergoing heart surgery. Richmond's family asked that friends and colleagues wishing to honor his memory make donations to the Biological Sciences Center.

Richmond's legacy will forever be present in the building. The center's layout is based on that of the Biology Lab building, which Richmond helped design, and a microscopy laboratory in the new center has been named in his honor.

Top: Barbara Bechtel Davies Lecture Hall.  
Far Left: Main Entrance.  
Below: Faculty Research Lab