

UCSD's Shiley Eye Center opening gala set for April 13

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OPENING GALA SET APRIL 13 FOR UCSD'S SHILEY EYE CENTER

A high-tech theme featuring lasers and lights will keynote the gala opening April 13 of the new Shiley Eye Center on the east University of California, San Diego campus.

Guests will gather at 6:30 p.m. for a social hour in the galleria of the recently completed \$8 million facility, then--to "Close Encounters" musical accompaniment--form a grand processional to an adjacent futuristic setting. Entering a clear, see-through tent, the approximately 350 attendees will be greeted with a colorful display of lasers and lights, symbolic of the space age eye research and patient care which will occur in the new Shiley Eye Center.

Dixie Unruh is serving as general chair of the event, and honorary chairs include UCSD Chancellor Richard and Rita Atkinson, Dr. Stuart and Isabel Brown, screen actor Richard Dreyfuss and wife Jeramie, and Donald and Darlene Shiley. Joining local community and civic leaders on the honorary committee are several Hollywood representatives including Ed Asner, Susan Sarandon, Doc Severinson, John Lithgow and John Ritter.

The new eye facility is named after the Shileys in recognition of their \$1 million leadership gift. Both benefactors are involved in a number of philanthropic activities throughout the San Diego community, primarily on behalf of the arts and medicine. Additional major funding was received from the National Eye Institute, which gave a rare \$500,000 grant, and the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, which gave another \$500,000.

Mr. and Mrs. Dreyfuss have been involved in raising funds for the eye center since their infant son, Benjamin, began treatment with Dr. Brown for a rare eye disease in 1987.

Dr. Brown, professor and chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology, UCSD School of Medicine, noted that the Shiley Center will be among the world's premier eye facilities. Programs at the center will include the detection, treatment and prevention of such blinding disorders as glaucoma, macular degeneration, optic neuritis, cataracts and ocular complications of diabetes; the treatment of injury and trauma to the eye, and the continued development of innovative new ophthalmologic equipment.

The three-story facility contains approximately 32,144 square feet of patient care space, research laboratories, classrooms, conference rooms and offices. It centralizes programs currently located in several sites on the UCSD campus in La Jolla and the UCSD Medical Center in Hillcrest.

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