"Tales From the Mothership" and Sci-Fi Film Lab on May 11 Will Be Held To Celebrate 40th Birthday of UCSD's Iconic Geisel Library Building

Geisel Library's futuristic persona and cult following to be examined, following sci-fi entertainment

May 2, 2011

Dolores Davies

"Tales from the Mothership: The Geisel Library, Past, Present, and Future" and an experimental Sci-Fi Film "Laboratory" are two of the age-defying events being held by the UC San Diego Libraries on May 11 to celebrate the 40th birthday of the Geisel Library building, known by many as the campus "spaceship."

"Tales from the Mothership: The Geisel Library, Past, Present, and Future," will be presented by Seth Lerer, Dean of UCSD's Division of Arts & Humanities, at 5 p.m. in the Seuss Room in Geisel Library. The event, which is being sponsored by the Mandeville Special Collections Library, will be preceded by an experimental sci-fi musical performance by musician and sound wizard Scott Paulson of the UCSD Arts Library, starting at 4 p.m. Guests will also enjoy a birthday cake and refreshments. Lerer, one of the nation's leading literature scholars, is an authority on Dr. Seuss and popular culture, and played a leadership role in the successful "UCSD by Design: Art, Architecture, and Urbanism in the Campus Context," which featured a series of noted speakers on architecture and design and celebrated UCSD's built environment, including the campus' flagship building, Geisel Library.

The Sci-Fi Film Laboratory, which will be held from 4 to 4:45 p.m., will feature classic and not-so-classic science fiction film mash-ups with live music. Visitors will also have the opportunity to conduct their own sonic experiments, underscoring the films with a variety of Moog synthesizers, Theremins, and various other unusual instruments, and make their own mash-ups by choosing sounds to enhance the live screenings.

Geisel Library, UC San Diego's flagship building, was completed in 1970 and formally dedicated in the spring of 1971. The building was designed by world-renowned architect William Pereira, who was known for his futuristic, space age designs. Named for Audrey and Theodor Geisel (Dr. Seuss) in 1995, the Geisel Library building houses four separate libraries: The Arts Library; the Mandeville Special Collections Library; the Science & Engineering Library; and the Social Sciences & Humanities Library.

The UC San Diego Libraries, ranked among the top 20 public academic research libraries in the nation, play an integral role in advancing and supporting the university's research, teaching, patient care, and public service missions. The nine libraries that make up the UCSD Library system provide access to more than 7 million digital and print volumes, journals, and multimedia materials to meet the knowledge demands of scholars, students, and members of the public. Each day, more than 7,300 people stream through one of the university's nine libraries. The Libraries' vast resources and services are accessed more than 87,500 times each day via the UCSD Libraries' Web site.

Media Contact: Dolores Davies, (858) 534-0667 or ddavies@ucsd.edu