

High Tech time capsule highlights engineering celebration

October 20, 1986

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HIGH TECH TIME CAPSULE MARKS ENGINEERING CELEBRATION

A wide variety of state-of-the-art high tech items will be placed in a time capsule, then sealed until 2060 during a celebration of the construction of the huge new engineering building at the University of California, San Diego, October 24 at 1 p.m.

When completed in early 1988, it will be the largest building on the UCSD campus.

The celebration will be on the plaza of the Central Library overlooking the construction site, and will also feature remarks by UCSD Chancellor Richard C. Atkinson, M. Lea Rudee, dean of the Division of Engineering and a talk by Dr. Frank Mayadas, Director of IBM's Almaden Research Center in San Jose. A reception will follow.

The items for the time capsule, which will be opened on November 18, 2060, the centennial of UCSD, were donated by UCSD faculty members, students, and several major San Diego firms.

Included among the items are: a piece of a structural element from Rohr Industries designed to help reduce jet engine noise; a custom designed very large scale integrated circuit, called a digital vector generator, used in high performance computer graphics application from Megatek; a small vial of fuel particles from a High Temperature Gas-cooled Reactor designed by GA Technologies, and a multiple quantum well structure used to alter the intensity of laser light from Professor Harry Wieder of the UCSD engineering faculty.

Teledyne Ryan will donate an updated version of the diode transmitter which was used to guide the first U.S. spacecraft to make a soft landing on Mars. Hewlett Packard will contribute a grit wheel, a device they invented to assist with shifting paper around a plotter and expedite the creation of graphs and charts.

The capsule will also contain a description and configuration of the CRAY XMP-48 supercomputer from the San Diego Supercomputer Center.

Other companies contributing to the time capsule include: NCR Corp., Aerojet General, TRW-LSI, Burroughs, M/A-COM Linkabit, and Hughes Aircraft Co.

Invited guests will include UCSD engineering students and faculty and their colleagues from the San Diego area engineering community.

The new structure will provide much-needed relief for the rapidly growing Division of Engineering at UCSD. Engineering is one of the most popular majors at UCSD, with around 1,000 juniors and seniors currently enrolled.

"Presently, only about half of the UCSD students who want to major in engineering can be admitted to an engineering department," said Rudee.

"This building will provide the additional space and facilities for the next major increment of growth of the Division of Engineering," he added. "It provides specialized facilities that have not been available on the campus and support for our teaching and research programs. It is designed to give maximum flexibility for our future needs."

Construction of the \$43 million structure, known as Engineering Building Unit I, was begun in June by Hensel Phelps Construction Co. with offices in Greeley, Colorado and San Diego.

The 214,000 square-foot building, designed by the San Diego architectural firm of Buss, Silvers, Hughes and Associates, is being built on a 15-acre site east of the Central Library and north of the recently opened Center for Magnetic Recording Research.

It will have 128,700 net square feet of space and will provide teaching and research space for most of the programs of two academic departments within the Division of Engineering: Applied Mechanics and Engineering Sciences (AMES) and Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (EECS).

The building, to be constructed of reinforced concrete and glass, will be seven stories tall, but will be stepped back in a series of terraces to give the illusion that the structure is less massive than it really is. It will be divided into two separate parts with laboratories located on the north in an air-conditioned section and offices in the south portion. Walkways will connect the offices and laboratory corridors at the third floor and above.

Construction of the building was approved by the UC Board of Regents at their November, 1984, meeting and marks the first building at UCSD to be built with state funds since Third College Step II in 1977.

The first engineering courses on campus were offered in 1964 through the departments of AMES and EECS. In 1982, the Division of Engineering was established, with Rudee named dean following a nationwide search.

Since that time the Division of Engineering has grown to include two major research facilities: the Center for Magnetic Recording Research (CMRR) and the Charles Lee Powell Structural Systems Laboratory.

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MEDIA ADVISORY

EVENT: HIGH TECH TIME CAPSULE HIGHLIGHTS ENGINEERING CELEBRATION

DATE: Friday, October 24, 1986

TIME: 1 p.m.

LOCATION: East patio of the Central Library

REMARKS: Members of the San Diego and UCSD engineering community will gather to celebrate the on-going construction of the new \$43 million Engineering Building Unit I at UCSD. Construction of the building, the largest on the UCSD campus, began last June, with completion set for early 1988.

One of the highlights of the celebration will be the placing of items in a time capsule to be buried in the building and opened on Nov. 18, 2060, the campus' 100th anniversary. The items, donated by various firms and UCSD faculty members, will represent the state-of-the-art in high technology.

VISUAL POSSIBILITIES: High tech items to be placed in the time capsule. Shots of Engineering building under construction.

See accompanying press release for further details.