UC SANTA BARBARA

THE Current

May 27, 2003
Joan Magruder

Creative Studies to Graduate Largest Class Ever

The College of Creative Studies (CCS) at UC Santa Barbara will hold commencement exercises for its record largest class of 90 seniors Sunday, June 8 at 11 a.m. in Campbell Hall.

CCS traditionally initiates the commencement ritual at UCSB, with the majority of graduates to participate in one of six ceremonies the following weekend (June 14 and 15).

Angela Becher, a material chemist at MIT and a CCS alumnus, will deliver the commencement address.

Becher, who was named as one of the top ten scientists in the country by Popular Science magazine last year, earned her B.A. and then her Ph.D. in inorganic chemistry at UC Santa Barbara.

CCS is unique in the University of California system in that students must provide proof of their ability to do advanced and independent work in one of the eight disciplines offered by the college.

It has been referred to as a graduate school for undergraduate students by alumni.

Courses offered by the college are designed to allow students to rigorously explore or even modify a field of knowledge rather than expose them to fixed subject

matter, according to

CCS Provost William J. Ashby.

The college currently enrolls about 350 students, nearly twice as many as a decade before.

Chancellor Henry T. Yang will preside over the CCS ceremony, and six additional commencement ceremonies to be held Saturday and Sunday, June 14-15 for College of Letters and Science and College of Engineering graduates, and graduate students who will receive teaching credentials, master's and doctoral degrees.

About UC Santa Barbara

The University of California, Santa Barbara is a leading research institution that also provides a comprehensive liberal arts learning experience. Our academic community of faculty, students, and staff is characterized by a culture of interdisciplinary collaboration that is responsive to the needs of our multicultural and global society. All of this takes place within a living and learning environment like no other, as we draw inspiration from the beauty and resources of our extraordinary location at the edge of the Pacific Ocean.