

In with the New and Out with the Old

Celebrating California University's latest state-of-the-art facility and remembering the impressive individual namesake highlighted an April 13 dedication of Duda Hall.

Named for the late Emeritus President Michael Duda, the new classroom building opened Feb. 15 and houses the College of Liberal Arts office, 10 SMART classrooms, three lecture halls and seven general-purpose classrooms. The original building opened in 1968.

"Dr. Michael Duda served as president of then-called California State College for 12 years from 1956 until his untimely death in 1968," explained Cal U President Angelo Armenti, Jr. "He was famous for the buzz of construction on this campus, and he constructed 12 new buildings on this campus at that time. And we're in the midst of a significant construction buzz on this campus as we speak."

Interim Provost Dr. Sean Madden offered welcoming remarks and introduced the party platform that was highlighted by the presence of Dr. Duda's wife, Veronica; daughter, Karen Duda Hermiller; and grandson, Michael Duda.

Despite nearly 40 years between the two University presidencies, Albert L. Filoni, president of MacLachlan, Cornelius and Filoni, called the eras of Drs. Duda and Armenti ones of dramatic change and spoke of the new and old Duda buildings, which were both the cutting edges of architectural thinking of their times.

"The architecture that we are going to live and work in has to capture the best of what was in our past and in our history," Filoni said. "This building is unashamedly

eclectic in nature with its arches and its little bumps on the roof—all the things that tie it back to the wonderful older structures of the university. This was accomplished without limiting or hindering the latest technology that is in the classrooms inside. Dr. Duda was a visionary for expanding the University, and Dr. Armenti has seized that same vision."

President Armenti explained how Alan Cottrill's "Ascent of Humanity" sculpture would stay suspended on two corner walls of the old Duda Hall and remain as part of the expanded Old Main Park. He also described how this magnificent piece of art tied into Dr. Duda's beliefs.

"I've learned the most prevalent theme in his messages is that this campus encouraged its students to have a commitment to the service of humanity. I am told he would say, 'The college believes a student must prepare not only to earn a living, but also to have a life of service to humanity, to his country, to his state and to his God.' That quote has resonance today as we espouse our mission of building character and building careers. The sculpture, which was unveiled in 1996, will remain as a constant visual reminder of this University's commitment to the ascent of humanity."

President Armenti believes that Dr. Duda would be pleased with the new facility in his namesake and the University's unprecedented growth.

"When graduates received their diplomas from Dr. Duda, he would say, 'Well done.' As we celebrate the tremendous strides this institution has made and the memory of the contribution of Dr. Michael Duda, I say well done." ■



Paulette Smorada '69 scans over old yearbook photos of Binns and Longanecker halls following the dorms' farewell ceremony.

Culminating the first-ever Cal Pride Weekend on Saturday, April 14 was "A Farewell to Binns & Longanecker Residence Halls," which took place in the Binns Hall lounge.

Binns Hall opened in October of 1963, while Longanecker Hall opened in August of 1966. Both residence halls were razed last month. This fall, when it opens its sixth new residence hall, Cal U will become the first university in the country to have replaced all of its on-campus housing.

During the farewell, current students and alumni who lived in the resident halls proudly took the microphone and told others of their memories in Binns and Longanecker.

"Only in Binns can you have a conversation with your neighbor without ever leaving your room," joked biology student and Binns Hall resident, Miriel Miller. "Even with all these little imperfections, I still loved living in Binns."

Amber Nolan, a graduate student and residence hall director at Longanecker, also enjoys the old hall.

"I've lived in the new dorms, but I have also loved my experiences in Longanecker," Nolan said. "It's so open. Everyone helps you out with any problems, and it's really a feeling of home."

Judith Nevin Emmers '63 '65, a retired special education teacher, came from Marysville, PA to visit the and reflect on her days on the Dorm Council of Binns. She recounted how one exciting night included her

calling the local police to shoo away some local boys who were a bit too mischievous and tried to gain entrance to the building.

As one of the freshmen who opened Binns, Linda Chontos Costa '67 touched on the many happy memories, but added that one of the saddest moments was the weekend John F. Kennedy was assassinated.

"We just came down to this room with pillows and blankets and just camped out in front of the TV," she said. "I was here for seven semesters, and making soup in a popcorn popper was the extent of our cooking. My fondest memory, of course, was meeting my husband, Gary '67, who lived in Johnson Hall. We are both retired Baldwin Elementary School teachers, and because of the education we have from here, we enjoy the life that we have now."

The event concluded with Cal U President Angelo Armenti, Jr. explaining how a new academic building may soon sit where Binns does, though the area will be first used for temporary parking.

"This is a very interesting day, and these buildings were not always old. At the time some of you folks came, these were the very best the University had to offer," said Dr. Armenti. "Those of us on the campus now in this particular time are able to see a transition with a lot of classic buildings going down. The University moves on and time passes. These buildings will go away but not the memories." ■



The new, state-of-the-art Duda Hall opened its doors to students in February. Welcoming the latest addition of buildings to the Cal U campus are from left: Dr. Allan Golden, Vice President for Administration and Finance; June Pickett Dowdy, Vice President for University Advancement; Michael Duda, Veronica Duda, Tim Susick, interim Vice President for Student Development and Services; Karen Duda Hermiller, President Angelo Armenti, Jr.; Marvin Johnson, construction inspector manager, Department of General Services, Rev. Paul Minn, First Presbyterian Church; Jonathan Janoski, Student Trustee; Tom Jameson, director of physical plant; and Richard Schmidt, architect, MacLachlan, Cornelius and Filoni.