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ON THE SOCIAL SCENE

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UCSB BREN SCHOOL

It is a good thing when different groups pool their resources, for out of this grows information and interaction.

That is the goal of the UCSB Donald Bren School of Environmental Science and Management, along with leadership, vision and innovation.

Excitement surrounded the reception at Bacara Resort & Spa for the new dean of the Bren School, Dennis Aigner.

Inside the auditorium were Kurt Beucheler, senior director for Microsoft media division, and James Cameron, noted director and founder of the Blue Planet Marine Research Foundation that operates the research vessel Sojourner.

The two men introduced the film "Ghosts of the Abyss," a 3-D documentary about the Titanic, soon to be in IMAX theaters across the country. This is not the technology of 40 years ago -- it was breathtaking.

Mr. Cameron, who lives in the Santa Ynez Valley, said, "We call it a film, but no film is used. The camera is digital. The thing we have in our hip pocket is the technology."

What does this have to do with UCSB? Mr. Cameron and Microsoft will be making the technology available to the Bren School in two ways -- access to the Sojourner vessel by both professors and students for marine research, and sharing the technology to enable 3-D projection, remote computing and distance learning-video conferencing.

Chancellor Henry Yang and Dilling were there with Nobel Prize winner Alan Heeger and his wife, Ruth, as well as former Bren School Dean Jeff Dozier and Linda; Martin Moskowitz, dean of mathematical sciences; Matthew Tirrell, dean of engineering; and UCSB sponsors Jim and Deanna Dehlsen, Bill and Diane Wineland, Richard Ahul with Sandy Heron, Brandy O'Gorman, Charlie Eckberg and Jean and Barry Schuyler.