

UC SANTA BARBARA

# *THE Current*

October 8, 2004

Joan Magruder

## **UCSB Project Wins a UNESCO Digital Arts Award**

Makrolab, a project conceived by Marko Peljhan, assistant professor of art at UC Santa Barbara, has been awarded second prize in the worldwide UNESCO Digital Arts competition of 2004.

The International Jury Committee for the award said that Makrolab, and the other award winners, were selected from among 300 projects considered because "they all demonstrated a balance of artistic imagination, innovative research, social and cultural criticism, social interaction and a connection to the public space."

Currently installed in Scotland, Makrolab is a 10-year project combining the work of artists and scientists in the fields of telecommunications, migrations, and climate. It is equipped with systems to provide the most comfortable conditions for work in a confined environment, according to Peljhan.

"The lab produces its own energy from the sun and wind, and plans are to install hydroponic units, permaculture gardens, and waste recycling systems, together with internal atmosphere management systems for very extreme conditions," he says.

Begun in 1997, the project will end in 2007 when a new architecture will be placed in the Antarctic as a permanent base.

---

## **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.