This year marks our 35th anniversary at College of the Canyons. Such occasions are always an opportunity to reflect not only on what has transpired, but more importantly on what the future holds. We have done both as a college, and found the view from each perspective to be affirming, energizing and a source of motivation and inspiration. For much of the last decade the history of the college has mirrored the history of the Santa Clarita Valley. Enrollment has more than doubled since the mid-1990s and increased four-fold since 1988. It has been fueled mainly by the area’s burgeoning population and the reputation cultivated by College of the Canyons, which is a driving factor behind our programs.

Showtime!
Performing Arts Center Opens to Rave Reviews

Hundreds gathered on a picture-perfect Southern California evening to witness the much-anticipated opening of the new performing arts center at College of the Canyons and take in the very first show – a multi-pronged stage production of “Big River” that featured the combined talents of the college’s theatre, music and dance programs. The $18.3 million center – the crown jewel of both the campus and community – opened on Oct. 15. It boasts a state-of-the-art 926-seat auditorium.

State Champions!

It was an awesome and historic year for College of the Canyons football. The Cougars not only posted a perfect 14-0 season, they vanquished California’s top-rated team to capture their first state championship. To top it all off, the Cougars were named national champions by J.C. Grid Wire.

The Cougars took an early lead over the City College of San Francisco Rams and never looked back, winning...
double-digit percentage enrollment growth in recent years. Surveys indicate that students find College of the Canyons convenient, fulfilling and rewarding. We offer the classes they want and need, and we have space available in most classes. Our devoted and passionate faculty members are committed to helping our students learn. And, when our students graduate or transfer, they are eager to embrace the future.

We are proud of what we have accomplished in our first 35 years, and we are extremely excited about what the future holds for our college and, more importantly, the students and community we serve. We are prepared to embrace the future, and make the most of the opportunities and changes that await us.

If history is any indicator – and we believe it is – College of the Canyons is destined for continued growth. We currently have more than 15,000 students enrolled, and projections show we will top 20,000 before the end of the decade. In less than five years, we will be serving one-third more students than we are now.

Again, while this expansion will come in part from the continuing growth in the population of our service area, COC is increasingly becoming known as the college of choice for many students and employers. We are prepared to grow not only in quantity, but in the quality and breadth of our offerings.

We couldn’t do so without the support of the community we serve. Three years ago Measure C, an $82.1-million general-obligation bond, was passed, allowing us to expand to meet the increasing demands for what we offer – and what we will offer in the future.

The most recent visible demonstration of our commitment to providing more dynamic learning opportunities for our students is the Vital Express Center for the performing arts, which opened Oct. 15.

This state-of-the-art venue showcases the talents of our music, drama and dance students. In the next 12 months, we will commence three other capital-improvement projects that will benefit our business, economics, sciences and physical education programs by allowing us to add faculty and new academic programming to the benefit of the community. Measure C will fund those projects, as well as others that will represent the build-out and completion of the Valencia campus.

As our campus nears capacity, we have expanded our presence in the eastern Santa Clarita Valley. We began offering classes in the Canyon Country Library three years ago, and this fall added more course offerings by utilizing space available in the Hart district’s new Golden Valley High School. These are temporary measures, and they have shown that there is a high demand for classes in that part of our service area. They also prove that the area can sustain a permanent facility. We are in the process of acquiring 70 acres of land upon which we will build the Canyon Country Educational Center, an extension of the main campus that will offer a wide range of classes and options for students that we hope to open by fall 2006.

At the same time, we are moving forward with ambitious plans in workforce training. A $1.5 million Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) Collaborative will bring together five hospitals and five other community colleges to train an additional 50 to 100 badly needed registered nurses every year. Three grants from the state totaling more than $1 million will make new courses and training in welding, biotechnology and digital manufacturing available to students and local workers.

And, seeing a need for continuing education beyond what we can offer as a two-year college, we are raising funds to build a University Center. This stand-alone facility will offer bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees from partner colleges and universities on the College of the Canyons campus.

Students will be able to achieve their academic goals without having to deal with the challenges that come with commuting to neighboring areas to attend school.

While I don’t have a crystal ball, I can say with confidence that the future looks bright for College of the Canyons. We have laid a strong foundation in our first 35 years, and we are eager to build on it and expand with our community a wide array of outstanding academic and workforce-training programs.

If you find yourself ready to grow and challenge yourself in new ways, College of the Canyons stands ready to grow with you and meet your needs, as well as those of our community, for the next 35 years and beyond.

Dr. Van Hook has served as the superintendent-president of the Santa Clarita Community College District and College of the Canyons since July 1988.

Van Hook
FROM PAGE 1

‘If you find yourself ready to grow and challenge yourself in new ways, College of the Canyons stands ready to grow with you and meet your needs, as well as those of our community, for the next 35 years and beyond.’
The California Postsecondary Education Commission has approved College of the Canyons’ plan to establish a permanent education facility in Canyon Country.

The unanimous decision came Dec. 14 during the commission’s regular meeting in Sacramento. The approval is the final step required before the Santa Clarita Community College District can move forward with plans to acquire property and build its Canyon Country Educational Center. The district hopes to open escrow soon on 70 acres off Sierra Highway.

When completed, the facility will replace the college’s current offerings at the Canyon Country Jo Anne Darcy Library and Golden Valley High School. The district anticipates that about 4,000 students utilizing classroom space at these two locations will move to the new center when it opens in the fall of 2006.

The new center, which will include classrooms, labs and administrative space, will serve the eastern portion of the Santa Clarita Valley, where nearly 32 percent of College of the Canyons students now reside.

After the site has been purchased and prepared, the center will be housed in 30,000 square feet of modular buildings purchased at a discount from Vandenberg Air Force Base. Funding for site acquisition and development was included in Measure C, the $82.1-million bond measure approved by SCV voters in 2001.

The center was approved by the California Community College Board of Governors in July. The proposal was then forwarded to CPEC for its review, per state regulations. By securing project approval at the state level, the center will be eligible to compete for future capital-outlay funding that can be used to build permanent facilities.

The Music-Dance Building has risen quickly and should be completed in early 2005.

**FAST TRACK**

Music-Dance Building Nears Completion

Construction of the Music-Dance Building, a Measure C-funded expansion project, continued its fast pace in December. The 20,000-square-foot instructional facility, being built immediately north of the new Vital Express Center for the Performing Arts, will house the music and dance programs, music labs and faculty offices.

The facility is one of several projects funded by Measure C, an $82.1 million bond measure OK’d by voters in 2001.

Other bond-funded projects include the High-Tech Classroom Building (see back cover), whose construction is in its initial stages; the Science Laboratory Building, a 32,000-square-foot expansion scheduled to begin in 2005; the Health/Cardiovascular/Physical Education Center, slated to begin construction in late 2005; and a new graphics and reprographics building.

The Annenberg Foundation has donated $500,000 toward an innovative effort to help alleviate the statewide nursing shortage. The contribution will go to the ADN (Associate Degree in Nursing) Regional Collaborative, a $1.8 million effort and partnership of five community colleges and five regional hospitals whose focus is to increase the number of registered nurse graduates in California.

The collaborative will produce an additional 70 to 100 nursing graduates each year. Funds will be used for curriculum development, instruction and related costs.

Colleges collaborating in the effort are COC, Glendale Community College, Los Angeles Pierce and Valley colleges, and Ventura Community College. Hospital partners include Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Hospital, Providence Holy Cross Medical Center and St. Joseph’s Medical Center, Northridge Medical Center and Community Memorial Hospital.

The partners have designed a common first-year program to be shared by all participating colleges, and is drawing students from colleges’ waiting lists. Classes begin in January. Students will take courses at designated hospital sites via teleconferencing, a key element designed to relieve space issues faced by the colleges.
Catan’s Newest Opera Premieres in Houston

College of the Canyons music professor Daniel Catan’s newest opera, “Salsipuedes,” premiered to rave reviews at the Houston Grand Opera on Oct. 29. “Catan... is now one of the hottest names in the opera business,” wrote a reviewer for the Fort Worth Star Telegram following the performance. “Catan’s music for ‘Salsipuedes’ is adamantly tonal, pleasantly rooted in Latin American idioms, skillfully orchestrated (and) written well for voices.” Another review in The Wall Street Journal stated: “The opera alternated between high-spirited crowd scenes, with pungent African drums and Latin rhythms, and rhapsodic vocal writing that recalled ‘Madame Butterfly’ and ‘La Rondine.’ Mr. Catan wrote several Puccini-esque arias (that) were the most arresting parts of the opera.” This past summer, Catan’s work also was performed as part of the Ford Amphitheatre’s “Living Legends of Latin Music.”

Students Create Second Animated Commercial

For the second year, students in Sheila Sofian’s animation class have created a commercial that the college will use as part of its 2005 marketing campaign (see screen capture above). This year’s 30-second spot promotes the new Vital Express Center for the Performing Arts as an answer to the familiar refrain, “What do you want to do tonight?” Sofian oversaw production of the student-directed and produced animation, which will air on local cable in early 2005. “This commercial represented a new challenge for the class,” Sofian said. “Because the animated characters actually spoke during the commercial, the students had to find voice actors, record them, and then read the sound frame-by-frame to accurately judge what position the mouth should be in for each part of the word. This process required collaboration with the RTVF program, which supplied the voice talent as well as the recording studio.” Students who worked on the project include: co-directors Amanda Byrnes and Phil Mayfield, Katrina Swanger, Michelle del Rosario, Peter Rizkalla, Max Fuse, Kristina Swanger, Yong Seob Lim, James Partida, Tom Folven, Chris Curtis and Joshua Deicken.

Hinshaw Takes Center Stage for Presentation

Susan Hinshaw, chair of the college’s Theatre Department, took to the stage of the new Vital Express Center for the Performing Arts on Nov. 17 to present “The Art and Intimacy of the One Person Show.” The performance was part of the college’s annual Scholarly Presentation, which showcases faculty members and their work. The presentation consisted of an excerpt from her solo show, “Nirvana,” followed by a 15-minute discussion on the art and intimacy of the one-person show. “Nirvana” chronicles Hinshaw’s own disordered eating and the social, cultural, gender and familial roles that had an impact on her self-esteem and body image. Hinshaw has appeared in numerous roles on stage and in film.

Feldman Honored With ASCAP Award

The American Society of Composers, Authors & Publishers (ASCAP) has honored College of the Canyons music instructor Bernardo Feldman with its 2004-05 ASCAP Award. The award is based on the unique prestige value of his catalog of original compositions, as well as recent performances. Feldman, chair of the Music Department, has a catalog that includes music for chamber and symphonic groups, as well as compositions involving the use of computers to combine electronic and acoustic sounds. His music has been performed throughout the U.S., Mexico, Brazil, Europe and Israel by numerous major ensembles.
Vital Express has donated $2 million to the new College of the Canyons performing arts center, which has been renamed the Vital Express Center for the Performing Arts.

Vital Express is a Valencia-based transportation service provider that plans to open 120 franchises over the next year.

“This donation is generous and significant because it acknowledges that community colleges are worth supporting for the value they return to their communities,” said Superintendent-President Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook. “And the center is a significant addition to the community that will provide opportunity and add value.”

The $2 million will go toward a planned $7 million endowment campaign to support the center and programming for students.

“The endowment will benefit thousands of students down the road,” Van Hook added.

Vital Express co-owner Dan Boaz is a former student at College of the Canyons.

“This really is a long-term investment not only in the college, but in the community,” said fellow co-owner Lisa Boaz. “We really wanted to make a statement that said to our employees and to our customers that we have created a business that is in it for the long-term. Hopefully, our commitment will spur further donations from other businesses and individuals.”

The new Vital Express Center at College of the Canyons officially opened its doors Oct. 15.

main performance hall, as well as a more intimate “black box” theater that can accommodate up to 125 people.

The state of California provided $15.9 million in funding for the center, and the City of Santa Clarita provided an additional $2.4 million, most of which was used to significantly boost the number of seats.

The center’s first performance was a sold-out college production of “Big River,” an adaptation of Mark Twain’s “Adventures of Huckleberry Finn.”

“Everyone involved did a superb and exceptional job,” said Superintendent-President Dr. Dianne Van Hook.

Since then, the center has hosted such performers as Paul Anka, Melissa Manchester and the Three Irish Tenors, among others.

A calendar of upcoming performances can be found on-line at www.VitalExpressCenter.com. One of the more unique aspects of the on-line reservation experience is the ability to choose preferred seats from a seating chart. Tickets also can be purchased by phone at (661) 362-5304.

**Brokaw, Ditka to Head Speaker Series**

Television news anchor Tom Brokaw, legendary sports figure Mike Ditka, and Tom and David Gardner of Motley Fool fame will kick off the College of the Canyons 2005 Speaker Series at the Vital Express Center for the Performing Arts.

Brokaw, who recently retired from NBC Nightly News after more than two decades, will speak May 25 about his experiences and observations on the current state of our nation and the world.

Leading off the series on March 9 is ESPN NFL analyst and legendary NFL coach and player Mike Ditka. Ditka, who in his first year in the NFL caught 56 passes for the Chicago Bears and earned Rookie of the Year honors, will share his drive and team-building skills.

The duo of Tom and David Gardner, creators of The Motley Fool website, a guide for the complex world of entrepreneurship and finance, will present “The 10 Things We Should’ve Learned About Money in School” on April 20.

Ticket prices and on-line reservations will be available soon at www.VitalExpressCenter.com. Sponsorship opportunities also are available. For information call (661) 362-3434.
$1 Million in Grants to Bolster Training

The Economic Development Department at College of the Canyons has secured three state grants totaling more than $1 million to support training in digital manufacturing, biotechnology and welding.

The California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office awarded $525,903 for the California Alliance for Digital Manufacturing project, $311,078 for the 126 Biology Corridor project and $179,139 for the Pipe Welding project.

“This is a particularly exciting accomplishment not only for College of the Canyons, but also for area businesses in a number of different industries,” said Dena Maloney, dean of economic development. “The grants will fund needed training, build the capacity of the college to develop new training programs, and serve to enhance the effectiveness of the local workforce.”

Through three main community college partners (College of the Canyons, Riverside Community College and Saddleback College) and significant industry partnerships, the California Alliance for Digital Manufacturing project will support manufacturing in an eight-county region of Southern California representing the highest concentration of manufacturing activity in the United States.

Three digital manufacturing labs and instructional programs will be created to meet the needs of qualified engineering technicians skilled in digital manufacturing machinery and operations. The project also will provide training and support for small businesses in integrating digital manufacturing practices into their operations and link to high school and college programs to encourage engineering program enrollment. It will also provide access to digital manufacturing equipment.

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$1.8 Million Grant to Improve Services

The U.S. Department of Education has awarded College of the Canyons a $1.8 million grant to improve access to advising and counseling, automate support services, implement user-friendly on-line services, and improve teaching and learning.

“During a time when state resources are greatly restricted, this grant will enable the college to enhance both student services and the quality of instruction,” said Barry Gribbons, the college’s vice president of institutional technology and online services.

Many of the management processes on which students are dependent are handled manually, and some on-line services are difficult to use, Gribbons said.

“This grant will help us tackle both of these issues, plus it will help our faculty work with each other to develop strategies for improving student success,” he said.

The Department of Education grant totals $1,822,140, which will be disbursed to the college over a five-year period. The grant-funded project begins Oct. 1.

“This grant will help the college overcome the challenge of providing adequate academic and support services during a time of high enrollment and state budget cuts,” said Debra Malinowski, director of grants development. “By making these improvements, students will have access to resources that will help them to be more successful in their academic pursuits.”

Fall Career Fair Posts Impressive Attendance

College of the Canyons’ popular Job & Career Fair returned on Oct. 6, giving job seekers an opportunity to meet with more than 100 prospective employers seeking candidates for a wide variety of entry- to upper-level positions.

The next job fair will be held in April, in the central-campus Honor Grove. During the most recent fair more than 1,000 job seekers attended. The fair is held twice a year – every spring and fall.

Sponsoring the fall job fair with the college is The Signal newspaper. Other sponsors include the Santa Clarita Valley Chamber of Commerce, A-1 Party, Star 98.7 and the Castaic Lake Water Agency.

The job fairs are free and open to the public. Parking is always free in any student lot the day of the event. For more information about the spring event, contact Lonnie Davis at (661) 362-3286 or lonnie.davis@canyons.edu.
College of the Canyons has a long history in training law enforcement and fire personnel, but a new course will take that instruction a step further by offering an interactive computer simulator to help first responders prepare for attacks of terrorism.

The Public Safety Academy at College of the Canyons is using high technology to train police officers and firefighters how to safely respond to terrorist incidents while promoting inter-agency cooperation with coordinated responses.

A newly developed eight-hour curriculum uses software simulation “modules” to train first-response officials. The modules are reminiscent of interactive video games. In this case, local defenders battle terrorists in simulations, using software originally developed for the Marine Corps. The scenarios presented as video simulations are not games, but real-life possibilities of dealing with dirty bombs or wildfire arson.

“It’s counter-terrorism and response training,” said Debra Malinowski, director of grants development and the college’s Public Safety Academy. “We want to eventually expand it to campus security and the community.”

There is a very high cost to real-life and real-time simulations, and the software will train a number of people less expensively.

A $595,698 appropriation from the U.S. Department of Justice will fund the project. Grants are being pursued to expand the program and offer additional courses.

The Counter-Terror L.A. Partners include the Department of Homeland Security, LAPD, L.A. City and County Fire Departments, and L.A. County Sheriff’s Department. Enrollment will begin in fall 2005. For more information, contact Malinowski at (661) 362-3644.

The University Center at College of the Canyons will offer a doctoral program in organizational leadership through the University of La Verne beginning in September 2005.

“The primary focus of the program is the application of leadership theory to the processes and practices of administration in education, proprietary organization, private and public businesses, and the military,” said Dr. Barbara Poling, chair of La Verne’s program.

The three-year program, one of the leading organizational leadership programs in the nation, has been in existence for more than 25 years and operates at 20 locations throughout the western U.S.

The program is an innovative blend of student-faculty interactions, practicums, community events and workshops. Students meet in their assigned regional mentor teams, attend practicums to demonstrate their skills and engage in on-line instruction throughout the year. Each year culminates with an eight-day event at the university’s main campus that involves students and faculty in an interactive learning seminar and celebration.

Additional information can be found at University Center Adds Doctorate

Top Educator

U.S. Secretary of Education Rod Paige, chief architect of the No Child Left Behind Act, took to the stage at the Vital Express Center for the Performing Arts on Nov. 29. He addressed a large crowd regarding this federal legislation that greatly affects education in the country. A reception for about 70 people was held prior to the speaking engagement, and approximately 350 people were on hand for the discussion on the main stage.
University Center Adds New Programs

The University Center at College of the Canyons will offer two new degree programs: a bachelor of arts program in sociology and a master’s program in public administration. Both programs are slated to begin in early 2005.

The two-year programs are being launched by California State University, Northridge, and the Roland Tseng College of Extended Learning. Classes are presented one at a time in an accelerated mode and augmented by on-line instruction.

The sociology program is designed for students who want to extend their education in the liberal arts with an emphasis in sociology, prepare for graduate work in the field or enter a career in which a substantial background in sociology is essential. Classes are scheduled to begin in February.

The public administration program is designed for practitioners in the public sector who have a need for professional development in order to carry out their current or desired responsibilities, as well as those who seek to enter the field. Classes are slated to begin in January.

Both programs follow the cohort model of instruction, which increases retention and graduation rates among working adults. Students enter each program as a cohort, with the group progressing through the program as a cohesive and supportive unit.

Class schedules are already set for both programs, and enrollment is guaranteed in every class. Classes will meet in the evenings and on weekends to accommodate the work schedules of students.

The University Center offers a wide variety of degree programs from a collection of public and private universities in an interim facility on the College of the Canyons campus, allowing residents to earn advanced degrees without leaving the Santa Clarita Valley. Plans are under way to build a permanent University Center on the campus.

To learn more about the sociology program, contact Simin Bahmanyar at (818) 677-2465 or simin.bahmanyar@csun.edu. For information about the public administration program, contact Dr. Henrik Minassians at (818) 677-4618 or henrik.minassians@csun.edu.

Grants

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not otherwise available.

The project partners include: Los Angeles Economic Development Corp. (LAEDC), Economic Alliance of the San Fernando Valley, City of Santa Clarita, Orange County Business Council, Sony Corp., 3D Systems and Los Angeles County Business Technology Center.

From the initial design stage through completion and mass production, digital manufacturing uses new technologies to promote the reduction of time and increase precision, including the utilization of 3D, CAD/CAM, Rapid Prototyping, Rapid Tooling and management techniques that streamline the manufacturing process.

In the 126 Biology Corridor project, College of the Canyons and Ventura College have partnered to create a comprehensive biotechnology training resource to prepare highly skilled, specialized biological technicians to support the rapid growth of the biotechnology industry in California. The project is named for State Highway 126, which connects Santa Clarita, home of College of the Canyons, and Ventura, home of Ventura College. This region is also the location of the most explosive growth in California’s biotechnology industry.

The project will result in the development of educational laboratories in the Santa Clarita and Ventura areas. In Ventura, the project will develop a fermentation lab to prepare students for biotech positions in agriculture and the life sciences. In Santa Clarita, the project will support the development of a clean-room laboratory to teach students clean-room skills needed for the life sciences, medical and medical device manufacturing industries.

The project will answer a serious need in the biotechnology industry sector of the economy by addressing a chronic shortage of qualified entry-level and advanced biological technicians with specialized skills. Biotechnology is the directed modification or use of biological processes. Applications of biotechnology in society include agriculture, medicine, disease treatment, environmental projection and national security.

In addition, the project will support the development of clean room skills, essential to the biomedical device manufacturing industry.

The Pipe Welding project has been developed in direct response to strong need expressed by regional industry and is based on the college’s current welding program certificate, degree, courses and experience. It will result in a new 12-station pipe-welding laboratory, new pipe-welding curriculum and program certification by the American Welding Society.

Welding is a joining process that produces a local coalescence of materials by heating, by applying pressure, or both. In essence, the welding process fuses the surfaces of two distinct elements to form a single unit. Welding and joining technologies are used extensively in commercial and defense manufacturing, and are a significant source of value-added enhancements in the manufacturing process.

“These grants represent a major step forward in the continued economic development of our community,” Maloney said.
Bellas to Serve on Tech Coalition’s Board

Peter Bellas, director of the Center for Applied Competitive Technologies (CACT) at College of the Canyons, has been elected to serve on the National Coalition of Advanced Technology Centers (NCATC). His four-year term will begin in January. “It is an honor to be selected by the member institutions to serve this organization,” Bellas said. “The NCATC’s close relationship with legislators and organizations such as the National Council for Advanced Manufacturing and the National Science Foundation will help the college stay at the forefront of trends, technology programs and grants.” Said Dena Maloney, dean of economic development: “Our representation on the NCATC board will help in related initiatives, such as the establishment of a high-tech business incubator on the college campus, based on a technology platform using digital manufacturing.”

Instructor Spearheads $50,000 Book Donation

The Antigua and Barbuda State College received a book donation valued at $50,000, thanks to the efforts of anthropology instructor Roger Basham and the generosity of College of the Canyons faculty and textbook suppliers. The 70 boxes of books more than doubled the collection of the island college’s library. “Everybody involved in this effort, from our faculty members to the book suppliers, took a real interest in seeing that this project was a big success,” Basham said, adding the book-collection effort will continue. The donation was coordinated with Basham’s son, Larry, general counsel for Elite Island Resorts. Some of the books also were given to Antigua’s public libraries.

University Center Enters Final Fundraising Phase

In order to complete the goal of raising $10 million for the University Center, College of the Canyons has signed a contract with Netzel Associates to pursue the “Final Four” million dollars. The College of the Canyons Foundation hopes to complete its capital fundraising campaign in July. The money raised will help build a permanent University Center building on the southern edge of the college campus. The University Center will house a collection of public and private universities offering advanced degree programs locally, eliminating the need to commute to distant campuses.

Early Childhood Center Earns Accreditation

The Center for Early Childhood Education at College of the Canyons has earned accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the nation’s leading organization of early childhood professionals. “We’re proud that the program has been recognized for reaching the highest professional standards,” said Cam Valenzuela, director of the center. “This accreditation lets families know that their children are getting the best possible care and early learning experiences.” The stand-alone center is an on-campus laboratory preschool that was established to provide both a supervised educational experience for students majoring in early childhood education and a developmental program for toddlers to 5-year-olds. The center also offers Early Childhood and Foster & Kinship Care Education courses developed to meet California licensing requirements. For more information about programs offered at the center, call (661) 362-3541.
Football
FROM PAGE 1

the matchup 39-32 in a fog-shrouded stadium in Visalia and shattering San Francisco’s 24-game winning streak. The Rams trailed the Cougars 39-18 with less than 10 minutes left in the game, and Rams quarterback Joe Ayoob rallied in the final minutes but came up short. In the end, the Cougars showed everyone why they entered the game undefeated, with five shutouts.

Cougar quarterback and ex-Marine Corey Miles was the ball-carrying star, rushing for 104 yards on 18 carries. Taking turns with tailbacks Gerrell Cain, Will Caldwell and Brandon Clayton, the Cougars piled up 218 yards rushing. San Francisco concentrated on them so much that huge holes were left for Miles, who had rushed for only 72 yards all season.

“We kept running it, and they kept biting,” Miles said. He completed 18 of 23 passes for 226 yards and three touchdowns, with no interceptions.

“I’m so proud of this team and this school,” said Cougars Head Coach Chuck Lyon. “To win a national championship in our seventh year, that’s unbelievable.”

The football program was resurrected at College of the Canyons in 1998 after a 17-year absence. Lyon, a former Cougar quarterback who threw the first touchdown in Cougar Stadium, has coached the team since its revival.
Wooden to Speak at Hall of Fame Event

Legendary basketball coach and player John Wooden will be the keynote speaker during the College of the Canyons Athletic Hall of Fame Inaugural Dinner and Induction Ceremony on Jan. 20.

Wooden is the only athlete to have been honored in the Basketball Hall of Fame as both player and coach. He was named Player of the Year at Purdue University in 1932, then went on to coach UCLA to 10 national championships in 12 years.

During his UCLA coaching career (1949 to 1975) his teams won 664 games for the fourth all-time highest winning percentage (0.804).

The 2005 Hall of Fame inductees are Linda Chislo-Carillo, an original member of the inaugural women’s volleyball team who became a silver medalist in the 1988 Olympics; Clint McKinney, a running back whose rushing records still stand; Chuck Reinschmidt, the original administrator who hired numerous staff and coaches; and Lee Smelser, the retired head basketball coach who began the program 35 years ago and coached for the first 31.

The event will be held in the Grand Ballroom of the Hyatt Valencia & Santa Clarita Conference Center, 24500 Town Center Drive, Valencia. Cocktails are scheduled for 5:30 p.m., with dinner to follow at 6:30 p.m.

Cost is $75 per person. For reservations call Michele Edmonson at (661) 362-3435.

Thirty-two athletes were honored for athletic excellence with Western State All-Conference honors for 2004.

Women’s Volleyball
First Team: Breanna Trudeau (SO); Second Team: Melissa Gillard (SO), Ashley Lawler (SO), Taryn Maxwell (SO); Honorable Mention: Natalie Coe (SO), Krista McAhren (SO).

Women’s Water Polo
First Team: Seeoong Young (SO); Second Team: Kalie Boggio (FR), Christa Elias (FR).

Men’s Soccer
First Team: Eric Garcia (SO), Mauricio Harrie (FR), Tommy Humeck (SO); Second Team: Dave Garcia (SO), Jaime Hernandez (FR); Honorable Mention: Joe Gunterman (SO), Wayne Johnson (SO).

Women’s Soccer
First Team: Sophia Constantinou (FR), Kelly Holloway (SO), Danielle Johanson (FR), Kayce Matsunaga (FR), Jessica Resendez (SO); Second Team: Monica Gonzales (FR), Jennifer Sager (SO), Christina Sanchez (SO), Jessica Szajner (SO); Honorable Mention: Bethany Devandry (FR), Jessica Gudino (FR).

Cross Country
First Team: Jessica Gomez; Honorable Mention: Jose Flores.

Women’s Golf
First Team: Nicole Desanto, Eriko Hiren, Jasmine Koehler.

Men’s Basketball
College of the Canyons basketball player Carlton Spencer, a sophomore guard, has signed a national letter of intent with University of Houston, a Division 1 institution. Spencer (6-2, 180) joined College of the Canyons from West Jefferson High School in New Orleans and excelled for the Cougars, averaging 19.1 points, 5.7 assists and 5.2 rebounds per game. College of the Canyons finished the 2003-04 season with a 19-7 overall record and 10-2 conference mark to capture the team’s first Western State Conference title in more than a decade. “Houston has two senior guards graduating this year, so Carlton has the opportunity to start right away,” said Head Coach Howard Fisher. “Houston has an up-tempo style of play that should match Carlton’s style of play very well.” Spencer was named First-Team All-Conference, Conference Most Valuable Player and First-Team All-State last year.

Football
Along with the All-Conference honors that were announced, four football players were named All-Americans, plus one honorable mention. Punt kicker Jason Thompkins was named First Team Offensive All-American and led the state in kick scoring with an average of 8.9 points per game during the regular season and was ranked seventh in the state for individual scoring. Thompkins was the only individual player ranked in the top 10 for individual scoring without scoring a single touchdown. Thompkins scored 105 points total going into the championship game against City College of San Francisco. He has gone 60 for 66 in extra points and 15 for 18 in field goals on the year. Wide Receiver Tyrell Smith was named Second Team Offensive All-American after he ranked second in the state polls for pass receiving. He averaged 116.1 yards per game and 8.7 pass carries per game during the regular season. His total yardage through the playoffs was 1,117 yards. Defensive Lineman Dennis Ellis received Second Team Defensive All-American honors for his 10 sacks, 36 unassisted tackles and 12 assisted tackles during the regular season. Offensive Lineman James Paul was named Third Team Offensive All-American, and Defensive Linbacker Jerrod Perry received Honorable Mention.

College of the Canyons has produced its first NFL player. Former Cougar wide receiver Jamali Broussard, who signed as an undrafted free-agent with the Cincinnati Bengals in the pre-season and was assigned to their practice squad, was signed by the Carolina Panthers on Oct. 13. Broussard was brought in primarily for returning kicks for the Panthers, who lost their top two returners to injuries this season. Broussard led the Cougars in receiving yards in 2001, amassing 423 yards and five touchdowns on 26 receptions.
The most recent construction project to commence at College of the Canyons is the High-Tech Classroom Building, which is being paid for via Measure C, the bond measure approved by voters in 2001. The 34,000-square-foot complex of classrooms, laboratories and offices will be nestled between the Student Center and Physical Education Center. It is expected to be completed in 2006.