College of the Canyons is doing its part to address the nationwide nursing shortage by partnering with a local hospital to create an innovative new program designed to attract more prospective nurses to the field.

The doors to the new Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Hospital/College of the Canyons Clinical Education Center, a 1,400-
College Hosts Education Forum

More than 100 people gathered at College of the Canyons June 27 to discuss a draft of the Master Plan for Education, a document that will guide public education statewide for the next several decades.

Residents testified that the master plan must incorporate vocational training and parental involvement in the education process.

“The plan misses the point that completely academic college preparation leaves a majority of the students out of the loop,” said Van Hook.

From Front Page

This year, 757 students received diplomas from College of the Canyons, a 20 percent increase over 2001. We take pride in the increasing number of students who attend and earn degrees, but even more thrilling is what our students accomplish. Graduation day is the culmination of not just the previous nine months’ effort, it represents years of determination, persistence and tenacity on the part of our students.

It is a time of celebration for the college.

Our graduates, in particular, have much to celebrate. Few are simply full-time students. Most work part-time, if not full-time, while balancing family commitments and other obligations. They are often older than the average college student and have overcome a number of obstacles to achieve what many would think impossible. In spite of long odds, they persevered to make their dreams become reality in an effort to improve themselves, create new opportunities and make a better life. They are dreamers in the spirit of Walt Disney, who said, “If you can dream it, you can do it.” Dreaming means putting yourself out there to achieve your wildest expectations. Nobody succeeds beyond his or her wildest expectations unless they dream wild expectations.

At College of the Canyons, we share the same expectations of Disney and our graduates. We have big plans for the future, and as William Jennings Bryant said, “Destiny is not a matter of chance, it is a matter of choice – not something to be waited for, but something to be achieved.” With that in mind, we are working to ensure that as we enroll and graduate growing numbers of students, we can still offer the same quality of education and variety of classes and programs for which College of the Canyons has become known locally and statewide.

We recently completed an Educational and Facilities Master Plan that lays the foundation for achieving our desired destiny and will enable us to more effectively serve students, industry and the community. It identifies needed changes in our existing curriculum, recommends the establishment of new programs, and provides a blueprint for building the facilities needed to support our growth. Planned facilities include a science laboratory building expansion, a classroom building adjoining the new Performing Arts Center, a health and physical education center, a vocational technology building addition, an addition to the library, a warehouse, a Canyon Country education center, an addition to the Media Arts building, a business/industry job training center, a student services and administration building, and a permanent University Center. Our modernization and expansion of the campus will position College of the Canyons to meet the challenges of the future for decades to come.

The coming changes will alter the existing face of our campus and revolutionize our program offerings. Though far-reaching and diverse, the changes have the same intent: increase student access and success, and enable us to continue to make substantial contributions to the quality of life of our community.

In coming years, I look forward to standing at commencement, seeing even more graduates, and knowing that they are prepared to leave our campus, enter the workforce, or transfer for additional education where they can make the most of the opportunities that will come their way. No matter how you look at it, we’re building for success.

Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook is superintendent-president of College of the Canyons.
More than 750 students representing the 2002 graduating class received associate degrees during a ceremony at College of the Canyons on May 24. The number of graduates is a 16-percent increase over those receiving degrees last year. Family and friends gathered in the college’s Honor Grove to witness the ceremony in which 757 students were awarded associate degrees; a total of 762 associate degrees were awarded this year, with some students earning double degrees.

The class of 493 women and 264 men received associate’s degrees reflecting accomplishments in 39 major courses of study. The average age of the class was 26.4 years, down from last year’s 27.1. The youngest graduate was 17, the eldest 69.

Thirty-one international students representing 14 countries received degrees this year. Sixty-nine students graduated from the popular Progressive Adult College Education (PACE) program, a 25.5-percent increase over last year. Disabled Student Programs & Services (DSP&S) graduated 28 students, and another 26 students who participated in Extended Opportunity Program & Services (EOPS) also received degrees.

The grade-point average of the graduating class was 3.02, identical to last year’s class GPA. Four women and one man graduated as valedictorians, having posted perfect 4.0 GPAs. The subject area with the highest number of graduates was social science, boasting 238 graduates. There were 134 general arts and sciences graduates, and small business management and biological and physical science each awarded 46 degrees. The nursing program had 42 graduates. Ethnic minorities comprised 35.9 percent of the graduating class.

The number of students who achieved enough credits to transfer to four-year colleges and universities, as well as those who worked toward completion of certificate programs, will be available in late summer.

Grad Facts

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<thead>
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<th>Category</th>
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| Leading Majors    | Social Science: 238 Gen’l Arts/Sciences: 134 Small Business Mgmt: 46 Bio/Phys Science: 46 Nursing RN: 42

Another Class Moves Ahead

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Students ‘Discover’ Options

Discovery Night at College of the Canyons was once again a hit, with hundreds of prospective students and their families dropping in to get a feel for the college’s educational opportunities.

The fourth-annual open house was held in the Student Center on April 30.

The event is designed to provide as much information about the college in the most convenient way possible, allowing visitors the chance to drop in for any part of the evening.

Visitors met with instructors and counselors; learned about student government, clubs and student life; obtained information about honor’s and transfer programs to four-year colleges; spoke with representatives of academic departments; filled out applications; and toured the campus.

New programs are always being added, so it’s tough to stay current with all the college has to offer, said Sami Salvatori, the college’s outreach coordinator. “Discovery Night gives people a chance to update themselves on all of the opportunities on campus,” she said.

Classified Employees Recognized

Classified employees at College of the Canyons were recognized for their contributions during an awards luncheon May 15.

The outdoor event was held with the twist that board members, administrators and managers were on the serving side of a catered meal.

Classified employees are most often the behind-the-scenes people responsible for the college’s day-to-day operation.

The College of the Canyons Employee of the Year Award went to Joe Silva, who works in the college’s warehouse. The award recognizes an individual who has made contributions to the college through service to the campus.
University Center Momentum Builds

The University Center at College of the Canyons continues to generate excitement and build momentum. The newest additions to the roster are Woodbury University and California State University, Northridge, bringing to eight the number of partners. Cal State Northridge will introduce a master’s degree program in educational administration, and Woodbury will offer an MBA program and a bachelor’s degree program in business and management.

A number of advanced-degree programs have already begun at the college, even though the planned University Center has yet to be built. An interim building for University Center programs was completed in January to meet demand.

The idea behind University Center is to bring bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degree programs from a wide range of colleges and universities to the College of the Canyons campus, eliminating the need for local residents to commute to distant campuses.

Already, the number of other participating institutions includes California State University, Bakersfield; Cal State Fresno; Cal State Northridge; Chapman University; Chapman University; English Language Schools; Nova Southeastern University; University of La Verne; MBA – Business Administration; M.Ed. – Ed. Management; MS – School Counseling; BA – Business Administration; Credential Programs; School Counseling; Administrative Services; Woodbury University; MBA(Accelerated Program); BS – Business & Management – As of August 2002

Students Awarded Scholarships

A record number and dollar amount of scholarships were awarded to College of the Canyons students during the annual ASG Student Awards Ceremony May 9.

Family members and friends packed the Student Center as 96 scholarships totaling nearly $46,000 were awarded to students.

The scholarships are funded by a host of sources, ranging from the Associated Student Government to the College of the Canyons Foundation, and from the Partnership for Excellence program to a wide variety of donors from the community and industry.

Gail Pyle (left), scholarship specialist at College of the Canyons, congratulates nursing students who were awarded more than $5,000 in scholarships.
Nursing Center
From Page 1

square-foot standalone facility on the hospital’s campus, will open for the program’s first students this fall.

Setting this program apart from those that preceded it is the fact that nursing students will receive both training and employment in a real-world setting.

“This is a very exciting and positive development for the nursing program at College of the Canyons,” said Sue Albert, dean of the college’s Allied Health Department. “It will allow us to expand and set a great precedent in the state for industry-educational collaboration to address the need for high-quality nurses.”

A key component of the new program is the hospital’s employment of student nurses, who will be hired at 80-percent pay for 67-percent time. This arrangement is designed to give students steady paychecks, time to study and incentive to succeed.

Indeed, a recent study focusing on California Community College associate degree nursing programs determined that situational factors among nursing students often hamper their educational pursuits and are a significant barrier to their success.

“Lack of money and material resources is frequently a problem for many community college students and they must often work part- or full-time to support themselves or help support their families,” according to the study by The Center for Student Success. The report cited such situational factors as changing work schedules and responsibilities as common reasons for students dropping out of nursing programs.

College of the Canyons’ new program is designed to allow nursing students to concentrate more fully on their chosen careers by learning and working in a real hospital environment in their own community, Albert said.

The opening of the center comes nearly a year after Albert testified before Congress about the college’s success in attracting nursing students and the challenges they face in trying to juggle educational pursuits with other commitments.

“I’m not talking scholarships; I’m talking living expenses,” she told the House Committee on Education and the Workforce in September, explaining that the federal government must offer financial assistance to colleges and students to build up the pool of qualified nurses. The situation is no longer just a shortage, she added. “It’s a crisis.”

The nursing shortage is particularly severe in California, which ranks lowest in the country in terms of per-capita nurses. The state will need at least 25,000 new nurses over the next several years just to keep up with population growth, Albert said.

It is hoped that the partnership will help the situation on a local level.

The hospital donated the Clinical Education Center to be used as a comprehensive teaching lab, agreed to pick up the cost of a full-time nursing instructor for two years and will pay for students’ tuition and other costs. The facility will also be shared with the William S. Hart Union High School District’s Regional Occupational Program.
Students who need information about transferring to four-year colleges and universities are encouraged to attend the next Transfer Day, scheduled 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 24, outside the C and M buildings. For more information about this event, contact the college’s Transfer Center at (661) 362-3455.

Thirty Peachland Elementary School sixth-graders spent the day at College of the Canyons May 8 to get a feel for college life. The students, mostly from Hispanic families, were each paired with a College of the Canyons student enrolled in a Spanish class. The idea of Claudia Acosta, chairwoman of the foreign language department, the students toured the campus and visited a class. The concept for “One Day at COC” evolved when Acosta visited Peachland as part of “Principal for a Day.” “This program is a wonderful way for these young students to get a glimpse of what college life is like, and, hopefully, they will be inspired to seek a college education when they are old enough,” Acosta said.

Peter Bellas has been named director of the college’s Center for Applied Competitive Technologies (CACT). Bellas replaces Dena Maloney, who now serves as dean of economic development at College of the Canyons. “His background in technology and training will enable him to make a significant contribution,” Maloney said. “He is moving CACT in a new direction, with a focus on new engineering design methods, robotics and a outreach to our high school students.”

Digital Manufacturing Seminar Slated

If you have a manufacturing business, what is the next logical step from the so-called “Lean Manufacturing?” How do you address the demand for product customization? And, can your business take advantage of digital manufacturing?

These questions will be addressed during a special seminar hosted by College of the Canyons’ Center for Applied Competitive Technologies (CACT) and Suresh Jayanthi of MassCus Technologies. “Digital Manufacturing: The Journey from Mass Production to Mass Customization” is scheduled 9 a.m. to noon Tuesday, Sept. 24, at the Hyatt Valencia. A continental breakfast will be served at 8:30 a.m.

Mass customization is a new paradigm in product creation and manufacturing that levels the playing field between large and small manufacturers. Small manufacturers gain efficiencies and cost reductions, while large manufacturers gain agility and customer responsiveness.

The seminar will cover the basic concepts of mass customization, which is poised to become a significant industry trend, and stimulate dynamic thinking on ways to integrate and adapt it as part of a competitive business strategy. Planners, engineers and business development leaders will benefit from learning about the current state of this technology.

Cost for the seminar is $25 per person. To register, call (661) 259-3874.
Training Day
Cadets from the Sheriff’s Department’s North Academy at College of the Canyons undergo training under a blazing June sun. The college-based academy is one of two sheriff’s training facilities county-wide.

Luncheon
From Page 4

The Humanitarian Award went to Dennis Lettau, who works as an instructional lab technician in the Tutoring/Learning/Computing Lab (TLC) on campus. This award acknowledges an indispensable contribution to the college and cites community involvement and dedication.

The New Visions Award went to Michael Gunther, the college’s webmaster. The award recognizes an employee who brings new insight to the job, thereby improving the college.

The Professional Achievement Award went to Renee Drake, who works in the graphics office and coordinates Distance Learning and College-by-TV classes.

The California School Employee Association Member of the Year Award went to Chris Miner, administrative assistant to the facilities office.

The awards were presented by Superintendent-President Dianne G. Van Hook.

Science Grant
From Page 1

ATE) – to a greater scale.

Implemented in the Fall of 1997, CREATE brought together community colleges and businesses in an effort to produce new technology-related educational programs, expand existing ones and provide professional development for teachers in technology, so they can provide hands-on training to students. CREATE relies on the expertise and resources of seven Southern California community colleges – College of the Canyons, Antelope Valley College, Allan Hancock College, Cuesta College, Moorpark College, Santa Barbara City College and Oxnard College – to provide specialized training in specific engineering technology fields ranging in breadth from Cisco, NetPrep and Microsoft systems training to manufacturing technology to robotics. This partnership allows students enrolled at one campus to transfer to any other college in the consortium to take classes in a specialty area. Since 1997, CREATE has educated over 3,500 students, developed and implemented 30 new degree programs and 105 new courses and has facilitated more than $1 million in cost-sharing through innovative industry and college partnerships.

The CREATE Regional Center will now take this mission further by increasing feeder classes for students and training opportunities for teachers at the high school level, developing workshops for community college professors, creating internship and job-training opportunities with local businesses, expanding and implementing regional programs in network security and wireless and telecommunications technologies and developing transfer agreements with four-year universities.

Currently, five universities have also agreed to become part of the CREATE Regional Center, including Cal State University, Northridge; Cal State University, Channel Islands; Cal State University, Fresno; Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and Cal Poly Pomona.

showcase

Charlotte and Frank Kleeman.

Longtime College of the Canyons supporter and foundation member Frank Kleeman was named the Santa Clarita Valley Man of the Year on May 10. The retired judge was honored for his outstanding volunteer service and his dedication to the community. Also honored as Woman of the Year was Adele Macpherson, who works for the City of Santa Clarita.

College of the Canyons received good news from Fitch Ratings and Standard & Poor’s regarding its $82.1 million bond measure to expand the campus. The rating agencies assigned an AA rating for the first sale of $21 million in bonds. The bond measure – Measure C on the November ballot – was approved soundly by local voters. Although the college did not qualify for the top AAA rating – a result of the state’s inability to qualify for such a rating – the still-excellent AA rating is higher than most school districts are receiving, Superintendent-President Dianne G. Van Hook said. The rating was bolstered because the college has a unique and robust level of outside support from the community, an aggressive grant-writing program and healthy partnerships with private industry, Van Hook said. The bond revenue will be used to help build a host of new facilities, among them a library addition and a science laboratory.
Nearly 100 pieces of student art vied for attention during the 2002 Student Art Exhibition.

The 2002 Student Art Exhibition featured nearly 100 unique pieces of art, all vying for attention in the College of the Canyons Art Gallery. The show ran April 16 through May 11. “This will be the first time for many of these students to participate in a formal exhibit,” gallery director Joanne Julian said before the show began.

Students showed off their video and film projects during the Student Film & Video Showcase May 11. The popular twice-yearly event gives the community an opportunity to view student works covering a wide range of formats and subject matter. The next showcase will be held this fall. For info call (661) 362-3865.

Love jazz? The college has an excellent jazz ensemble, which will perform 8 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 17 in Room S-130 of the Student Center. For info call (661) 259-7800.

All three of the Choral Department’s choirs joined forces to deliver a Musical Extravaganza on May 17. Directed by Julie Lawson, the concert by Voices of the Canyons, Chamber Singers and Les Chanteuses covered a wide variety of languages, styles and composers. Works ranged from Schubert to Berlin, gospel to Renaissance Motet, and Latin to Japanese.

‘Romeo and Juliet’ Presented

Professional and student actors alike took the stage for a special outdoor engagement of Shakespeare’s timeless classic, “Romeo and Juliet.” The College of the Canyons Amphitheater was transformed into an elaborate set for the Theatre Department’s production, which was a collaborative effort with the Shakespeare and Friends Foundation. The foundation, composed of professional actors, is a non-profit acting company that tours junior and senior high schools.

Playing the lead role of Juliet was Eva Vander Giessen, recent recipient of a scholarship to the prestigious Steppenwolf School of Summer Arts. She was paired with professional actor Brett Elliott.

The show, which ran May 17 to 19, was directed by Dee Marie Nieto.

Brett Elliott and Eva Vander Giessen portray “Romeo and Juliet” during the production at College of the Canyons.

The saucy sounds of the big-band era filled the evening air the weekend of May 3-5 as the College of the Canyons Theatre Department presented its musical revue “Under the Stars.”

The show, directed by Mark Salyer, featured a three-piece musical ensemble and a cast of 12 performing classic tunes such as “Anything Goes,” “Puttin’ on the Ritz” and “Too Darn Hot.”
showcase

Cinco de Mayo
A mariachi band entertains during Cinco de Mayo festivities at College of the Canyons on May 6. Dozens of students, faculty and staff participated in the midday event, which also featured an authentic Mexican lunch and dancing outside the Student Center.

Forum
From Page 2
Phil Hartley, vice president of instruction for the college. “It’s a lofty goal to prepare all students for college, and it’s a disservice to a majority of the students in high school.”

Others recommended that the plan should support educational partnerships with private industry to provide career paths for students who opt to enter the workforce. An example cited was College of the Canyons’ nursing program partnership with Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Hospital, whereby students receive on-the-job training while taking classes (see Page 1).

Hartley was joined on the panel by those representing Santa Clarita Valley schools and the master plan committee. The event was hosted and moderated by state Assemblyman George Runner.

The panel also included Marc Winger, superintendent of the Newhall School District; Paul Priesz and Ed Colley, principal and teacher, respectively, at Valencia High School; Brenda Barham Hill, CEO of the Claremont University Consortium; Carrie Rothstein-Fisch, assistant professor at Cal State Northridge; and Michael Shires, assistant professor of public policy at Pepperdine University.

In development for the last two years, the Master Plan for Education will replace the state’s 40-year-old plan for higher education and establish a comprehensive plan that will guide students from kindergarten through college.

Strength
From Page 11
we weren’t surprised that people wanted to listen.”

The panel was composed of some of the most respected strength-and-conditioning specialists in the country, including Jim Liston, director of strength and conditioning for the L.A. Galaxy; Eric Burkhardt, head strength-and-conditioning coach for University of California, Irvine; Tom Storer, professor of medicine from the UCLA School of Medicine; Zach Weatherford, strength-and-conditioning coach for the Olympic Training Center in Chula Vista, and Dave Moore, president of strengthcoach.com.

The all-day event was broken up into eight hour-long sessions, each addressing a variety of topics ranging from the effects of nutritional supplements on athletic performance to techniques in developing agility, speed and quickness.

Hands-on training also was available. Particularly valuable was the lunchtime question-and-answer session, which allowed attendees to get feedback from a panel of experts.

“If you want to stay on top of the latest training and conditioning methods, these are the people you want to talk with,” said dos Remedios.

The clinic is designed as an annual event open to the public. (see page 11 for details on the next clinic.)

“We’ll do our best to make the next event even better,” said dos Remedios.

Two College of the Canyons students have been awarded scholarships from the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation for both their academic achievement and community service. Tamara Collins and Hernan Salazar each were awarded $1,000. The foundation awards 400 scholarships annually to students attending higher-education institutions granting two-year degrees. To receive the honor, Salazar and Collins had to demonstrate academic success and complete 100 hours of community service in the past year.

College of the Canyons will receive an $800,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Education for the college’s ambitious University Center project. Congressman Howard P. “Buck” McKeon requested the grant from a department fund that supports innovative reform projects that solve problems in postsecondary education. University Center is the name of a future facility that will house multiple bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degree programs from other universities on the College of the Canyons campus. A handful of universities are already offering degree programs at the Interim University Center, which was completed early this year to meet demand.

Longtime College of the Canyons supporter Roberta Veloz was named Woman of Honor by the Betty Ferguson Foundation on June 2. Veloz, chief executive officer of AquaFine Corp., was the College of the Canyons Silver Spur recipient in 1999, SCV Woman of the Year in 1998, and California’s 36th District Woman of the Year in 2000.
Golf Teams Capture State Titles

There could be only one ending to a season that saw the men’s golf team set school records and finish with each player ranked in the top 10 in the Western State Conference: a state title. The Cougars did just that, winning their second state title in the past three years by beating College of the Desert 744-746 at the SCGA Members Course in Murrieta on May 13.

Coach Gary Peterson, who also led the College of the Canyons women’s golf team to its first state title this past November, called his men’s team “arguably the best I’ve ever coached.” Canyons is now the only community college in California that has had both a men’s and women’s golf team win a state title in the same academic year.

Sophomores Brad Uptgraft (Valencia) and Tommy Barber (Notre Dame) were dominant all year and finished atop the standings as the No. 1 and 2 players in the Western State Conference, with 73.5 and 73.7 averages, respectively. The rest of the team followed closely. Jay Montes (Sylmar) finished the regular season with a 74.1 average. Daniel Marsh (Perth, Australia) finished with a 74.4 average, Anthony Harju came next with a 75.2 average, and Tommy Mansuwan (El Camino Real) brought up the rear with a 75.6 average.

Barber, Marsh and Mansuwan also were named to the All-State Team.

Program Exercises its Strength

College of the Canyons strength-and-conditioning coach Robert dos Remedios is proud of his program, one of the few such programs at a community college.

The simple motto “Cougar Strength” says as much about the determination of the staff as it does the students. When the college organized its first strength-and-conditioning clinic to share that determination and experience, dos Remedios was thrilled by the turnout.

More than 75 coaches, trainers and athletes from throughout Southern California participated in the first-annual “Building Better Athletes” strength and conditioning clinic on March 16.

“It was a fantastic event,” said dos Remedios. “But with the panel of experts that we put together, I think it’s safe to say that it was a success.”

Strength Workshop Slated in December

College of the Canyons will host an all-day workshop Dec. 14 focusing on speed, agility, quickness and power for coaches, trainers and athletes. Cost is $60 per person. For information, call (661) 362-3527.
Performing Arts Center

Construction is under way on the Performing Arts Center, a joint venture with the City of Santa Clarita. The building is expected to be completed by late 2003 and fully equipped for operation by spring 2004.

Main hall capacity: 950
Black box capacity: 125
Size: 42,896 square feet on two levels
Cost: Nearly $15 million
City contribution: $2.4 million to boost capacity
Other features: Hydraulic orchestra pit, outdoor sculpture garden

College of the Canyons
Performing Arts Center
Coming Spring 2004