Changing roles mark COC’s past and future

With the start of the 2009-10 academic year, College of the Canyons also launched the celebration of its 40th anniversary this year. While 40 often is associated with the beginning of middle age, the energy, enthusiasm and innovation that pervade our campuses make me think we’re still in our 20s!

Much has changed at College of the Canyons over the last 40 years. The development of our surrounding community drove many of those changes. As the Santa Clarita Valley grew, we saw enrollment climb and

Celebrating the realization of a dream, College of the Canyons hosted a grand opening ceremony for the recently completed Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook University Center.

Ribbon-cutting festivities took place October 17 inside the Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook University Center overlooking the college’s 154-acre Valencia campus.

“This is the culmination of a dream that has been 10 years in the making,” COC Chancellor Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook said. “We have long sought to meet the higher education needs of our community beyond the community college level and we are now able to do that in a cutting-edge learning facility.”

Cited as the college’s solution to the lack of upper division, graduate school and continuing education programs in the area, the University

New Season at the Santa Clarita Performing Arts Center

With headlining acts including Three Dog Night, Kris Kristofferson and Opening Night performers Pat Benatar and Neil Geraldo — whose season opener show on Sept. 11 sold out in two hours — the 2009-10 season at the Santa Clarita Performing Arts Center at College of the Canyons is sure to be the most legendary yet.

“To mark the college’s 40th anniversary and the PAC’s fifth anniversary, this year’s season will be filled with the music that defined the five decades following 1969, when the college opened,” said Adam Philipson, PAC managing director.

As part of the Chancellor’s Choice series of headliners, music songwriting great Kris Kristofferson will usher in the new year on Jan. 16. A mainstay of the American music songwriting scene, Kristofferson penned songs for some of the biggest names in music including Janis Joplin, Johnny Cash, Willie Nelson and Cher.

See UNIVERSITY CENTER on Page 10

See NEW SEASON on Page 10
Van Hook
FROM PAGE 1

we expanded our facilities and academic offerings to meet the increased demand.

But within the last decade, a broad shift in the perception of the roles and capabilities of community colleges has influenced our continued evolution.

For many years, our primary roles were twofold. One was to offer lower division classes and help students transfer to four-year colleges and universities. The second was to offer what was called vocational education, or equipping students with the skills needed to obtain a trade.

We still do those things, and with quality that has garnered the respect of our community.

But now, we also do so much more. Economic development is a prime example of the expanded role that community colleges play not just in the local community, but also throughout the nation.

That role was highlighted this year by President Obama when he announced a $12 billion influx of federal funds into community colleges over the next 10 years.

The initiative is designed to bolster the nation’s faltering economy by equipping workers with the skills needed to obtain jobs requiring technical training.

Fulfilling the mission of economic development takes many forms at College of the Canyons. Whether we’re launching a new program that will prepare students for careers in a wide range of scientific and commercial industries which have embraced the use of advanced technology and nanotechnology, or offering advanced manufacturing training to employees at a local aerospace company, or providing counseling to an aspiring entrepreneur through our Small Business Development Center, the goal is the same – offer practical assistance designed to bolster the local economy.

As you will read inside this edition of the Bottom Line, College of the Canyons is home to one of 13 Centers for Applied Competitive Technologies in California. The CACT offers local companies technology education, manufacturing training, consulting services, access to advanced technology, low- or no-cost services due to leveraged public sector funding, and more.

In total, College of the Canyons secured $1.6 million in revenue during 2008-09 that was used to provide a wide variety of services to more than 500 employers and 3,213 employees in the area. This is just one example of what we bring to the community.

At the same time, community colleges are also expected to build bridges and establish partnerships that benefit the community as a whole. Fortunately, the organizations and agencies that exist in Santa Clarita are open to collaboration and welcome new opportunities to work together and accomplish far more than we could by working alone.

Our Performing Arts Center, which kicked off its new season last month with a sold-out show by Pat Benatar, is the result of a partnership effort with the City of Santa Clarita. Their investment in the construction of the 900-seat facility enabled us to double its size and create a regional entertainment venue that features college performances and community arts groups while also attracting world-class entertainers.

The boldest demonstration of our commitment to partnerships is the University Center. Access to higher education beyond the community college level is limited in Santa Clarita due to the long commutes needed to reach a California State University or University of California campus. The University Center removes that barrier.

By collaborating with four-year colleges and universities, we bring selected bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees and credential to our campus where they are accessible to the residents of our community.

More than 1,000 students have already taken advantage of the 20-plus programs offered in the Interim University Center and earned degrees beyond the associate level.

With the University Center complete, we are expanding access and recruiting new partners to make available an even wider array of offerings. This is an important step forward in the continuing economic development of our community, as local companies will have access to a better educated workforce.

What will the next four decades hold for College of the Canyons? Without a crystal ball, it’s anybody’s guess. But based on the past 40 years, it’s safe to say our roles, and what the community expects of us, will continue to grow. And I can say with certainty that we will grow into those expectorations and fulfill them.

We have done that consistently throughout our college’s history, and done so with quality, commitment, follow-through, energy, enthusiasm, and an optimism about what we can do together to meet our community’s needs.

Dr. Dianne Van Hook is Chancellor of College of the Canyons.
With a strong background in manufacturing technology, new Center for Applied Competitive Technologies (CACT) Director Keith Rypka hit the ground running when he arrived at College of the Canyons.

Providing workforce-training programs, demonstrations of new manufacturing equipment and technologies and access to federal, state and local resources, the CACT at College of the Canyons assists industry partners in achieving greater operational efficiencies, enhanced productivity and increased organizational performance.

Since coming aboard, Rypka has worked closely with Bruce Getzan, Dean of Eco-

The CACT has launched innovative programs designed to address key and emerging industry training needs and recruit workers to the manufacturing field.

INDUSTRIAL MAINTENANCE TRAINING BOOT CAMP

Consisting of 90 hours of training, the boot camp program prepares at-risk youth ages 18-24 for high-paying upwardly laddered careers in manufacturing. The program teaches a basic understanding of operations that keep automated or industrial plants running, as well as trouble-shooting skills.

PROCESS VALIDATION TRAINING

A grant from the state’s Economic Workforce Development (EWD) responsive training fund has launched a separate program to provide process validation training to employees at Advanced Bionics, currently located in Sylmar, Calif.

The program, which precedes the company’s move to Santa Clarita over the coming year, trains 40 employees to recalibrate, revalidate and re-qualify every piece of machinery after it is moved to a new location and put into place.

JUNIOR HIGH SUMMER INSTITUTE CLASS

The CACT offered an exploratory one-week Tech Explorer, 3-D Design and Fabrication track at COC’s annual Junior High Summer Institute (JSI).

Covering the basics of CAD design, using Google SketchUp, as well as a review of the fundamentals of machining and fabrication, the course served as a fun and effective outreach tool.

Using the Tech Explorer program model, students gained hands-on experience in the shop, before evaluating their designs — in this case miniature catapults — through a series of field tests and competitions in the college’s Honor Grove.

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College of the Canyons officially opened its new Institute for Culinary Education (COC I-CuE) at the Westfield Valencia Town Center — providing an ideal location and professional quality kitchen and dining facility for the college to train its culinary arts students. As one of the college’s fastest growing instructional programs, the culinary arts department, which was launched in its current incarnation in 2006, quickly outgrew its temporary home in the college’s Student Center cafeteria and kitchen area. The opening of COC I-CuE — located at 23400 Town Center Drive in the Valencia Town Center will allow the program to accommodate more students by offering classes throughout the day and during weekends. In addition, more than one class can be offered at the same time thanks to the increased size and layout of the new facility, which includes classroom space, a lab facility and allowing for greater flexibility on how such courses can be offered.

“Someone once asked Wolfgang Puck, ‘What is the best part of your work?’” recalled College of the Canyons Chancellor Dr. Dianne Van Hook, during ribbon cutting ceremonies at the COC I-CuE in August. “He answered, ‘The opportunity to work in the kitchen every single day.’ Cutting this ribbon symbolizes the opening of a physical door that provides new opportunities,” added Van Hook. “With the opening of the COC I-CuE, hopefully we have created an opportunity for the next Wolfgang Puck to work in the kitchen every day, hone their skills and become the next great chef.”

The arrival of COC I-CuE will also put the college in a better position to offer a wider range of classes for the program’s more than 300 culinary arts, 100 wine studies students and interested community members alike. This fall, the culinary arts program also debuted a new class format that offers short-term sequential courses, allowing students to complete more classes each semester. To begin the fall 2009 semester, 12 culinary arts class sections were scheduled at the COC I-CuE. And for community members who may be interested in broadening their kitchen skills at the COC I-CuE, a selection of specialty courses will be offered during the spring 2010 semester. Potential course topics include healthy cooking for two, Southwest cooking, quick breads and rolls and barbecue grilling. “Such courses will provide a chance for the community to get involved with College of the Canyons and explore all that COC I-CuE has to offer,” said Cindy Schwanke, culinary arts instructor at the college. “That’s part of what makes COC I-CuE such a special place.”
College's Lab Technician Program Embraces New Technologies

Students interested in pursuing careers in the sciences while learning more about the emerging field of nanotechnology can now do so through the college’s recently introduced General and Emerging Technologies (GET) Lab Technician program.

The College of the Canyons GET Lab Technician program is designed to provide a basic understanding of the essential laboratory technician skills needed to prepare students with the skills for immediate employment in the biotech, electronics, pharmaceutical and chemical industries.

Comprised of entry-level chemistry, biology and engineering technician courses, lab technician software training and laboratory/clean room safety instruction, the college’s GET Lab program is designed to develop student understanding of basic science, laboratory and technical workplace skills.

Students will also have the option to complete the exploratory ‘Introduction to Nanotechnology’ elective course — signaling the first time a nanotechnology course has been offered at College of the Canyons.

“This program is a perfect example of how our community college works to bolster the local economy,” said College of the Canyons Chancellor Dr. Dianne Van Hook. “We’re providing individuals the skills they need to land well-paying jobs in highly-skilled technical fields and we’re helping to put people back to work in the midst of an ever-changing and challenging economic environment.”

The skills learned through completion of the GET Lab program will prepare students for careers in a wide range of both scientific and commercial industries which have embraced the use of advanced technology and nanotechnology — including computer science, cosmetics, dentistry, medicine and medical device manufacturing, water purification, environmental protection and other energy-efficient technologies.

To help launch the new program, College of the Canyons received a two-year California Industry Driven Regional Collaborative (IDRC) grant totaling nearly $571,000, as well as a $1.38 million grant from the Department of Commerce/Economic Development Agency (DOC/EDA) Public Works and Economic Development Facilities Program.

Together, those funds have allowed the college to lay the foundation for the program by developing and implementing curriculum, designing appropriate on-campus instructional and laboratory facilities, constructing a clean room area and purchasing furniture and state-of-the-art lab tools and equipment for student use.

Included among the tools and equipment purchased for the program are a scanning electron microscope, atomic force microscope, inverted fluorescent microscope, an ellipsometer and profilometer.

“All of this equipment has been purchased with an eye toward providing our students with hands-on training,” Instructor Kathy Flynn said.

Another important goal of the program is to work closely with the college’s Economic Development Division and Employee Training Institute in order to identify and form community partnerships and provide specialized skills training to local businesses and their employees.

“As local companies start to realize that we have this equipment we want to begin offering training in order to get them involved with using this technology as well,” Flynn said.

For more information about the college’s General and Emerging Technologies (GET) Laboratory Technician program please contact Dr. Ram Manvi, Dean, mathematics, sciences and engineering technologies (MSET), at (661) 362-3135 or visit www.canyons.edu/Divisions/MathSci/EmergingTech/.

New Center for Early Childhood Education Brings Preschoolers to College

In August, College of the Canyons welcomed the youngest group of students ever to attend the Canyon Country Campus as the college opened the new Canyon Country Center for Early Childhood Education (ECE).

The Center for ECE is committed to providing a high-quality educational experience for preschool children ages 3 to 4, while modeling an exemplary, developmentally appropriate and culturally sensitive learning environment.

“This Center will enhance the ECE department’s ability and commitment to training quality early childhood educators for our community, while providing ECE students at College of the Canyons with the opportunity for an on-campus practicum experience in a state-licensed pre-school setting,” said Diane Stewart, Dean of ECE and Training Programs at the college.

Located in Quad 2 of the college’s Canyon Country Campus, the 2,150-square-foot facility includes two fully-furnished classrooms, age-appropriate restrooms, a kitchen and observation areas to be utilized by parents and students majoring in ECE at College of the Canyons.
Gary and Myrna Condie Selected as 2010 Silver Spur Recipients

Myrna Condie Named California Mother of the Year

A mother, grandmother and foster parent, Myrna Condie has a big heart, albeit one that has troubled her since birth.

Recently named the California Mother of the Year by American Mothers, Inc., Condie has had two open-heart surgeries and is on her seventh pacemaker.

“I wouldn’t be here without batteries,” said Condie. “They call me ‘bionic mom.’”

Condie was born with a heart arrhythmia so serious that her doctor said she wouldn’t live to reach adulthood.

“I often wondered if I would ever be a mother when I was younger,” said Condie.

Condie beat the odds and reached her twenties, married and had a child, just as she had hoped. But Condie—who was raised in Utah with nine siblings and five cousins—yearned to have a full house again.

But the risks of having another child were too many. “The doctors said ‘no’ to any more children,” said Condie. “They said it could mean my life.”

That’s when Condie decided to become a foster parent. With the help of her husband, Gary, she has cared for more than 15 foster children along with her daughter, Heather.

Because of her involvement in foster care, Condie was nominated as the 2009 California Mother of the Year and attended the National Mother of the Year convention held in Portland, Ore. in April.

As far as parenting advice, Condie stresses the importance of love and understanding. “Children have feelings,” she said. “Their opinions are important.”

Condie loves being a grandmother to three grandsons. “It’s so much easier and more fun,” said Condie. “I don’t have to worry about the day-to-day things.”

American Mothers Inc. is an interfaith, non-political, non-profit organization for women and men who identify with the purpose of strengthening the moral and spiritual foundations of the family and the home.

Gary Condie Receives Statewide Service Award

A father, grandfather, influential leader, and award-winning CPA, at his core, Gary Condie is a committed community volunteer. Recently named the California Society of CPAs 2009 Public Service Award honoree, Condie has always been dedicated to giving back.

CalCPA presents its Public Service Award to a member with a record of public service through participation in charitable, governmental or volunteer work.

“It was an honor to receive this award from peers,” Condie said. “It was also special to receive this award on the 100-year anniversary of the organization.”

The seeds of Condie’s commitment to volunteerism were planted early in his marriage during a summer spent working in Jackson Hole, Wyo.

Visiting with his new in-laws, Condie witnessed his father-in-law—who owned and managed several businesses at the time — come home from work, change clothes and head out to a community event.

“As if sensing a teaching moment, my father-in-law looked back at me and said, ‘That’s what you do when you live in a community. You get involved and give back,’” recalled Condie during a recent interview. And then, as if for emphasis, Condie’s father-in-law said, “These things don’t take care of themselves.”

“Those words had a lot of meaning to me,” Condie said.

A founding member of the Santa Clarita Valley Facilities Foundation, Condie has also served as a member of the William S. Hart Union High School District Advisory Committee, was the founding Chairman of the Board of the Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Hospital Foundation, and has a long-standing commitment to the Boys & Girls Club.

“The thing that has kept me there for so long has been getting involved with the kids,” said Condie. “Volunteers who limit their service to board duties usually don’t stay as long as those who get involved with an organization from the ground up.”

The College of the Canyons Foundation has selected Gary and Myrna Condie as the recipients of the coveted “Silver Spur” Community Service Award for 2010. The award ceremony will be held at the Autry National Center on Saturday, March 6, 2010.

Known for their passion, enthusiasm, dedication and generosity to many local non-profit organizations and causes, the couple’s distinguished record of community service spans over their 42 years of marriage.

The founder and president/CEO of Condie & Wood, CPAs, is an active supporter of the Boys and Girls Club of Santa Clarita, the Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Hospital Foundation, the College of the Canyons Foundation, and the SCV Facilities Foundation.

“It’s an honor to be chosen by the college as Silver Spur honorees,” said Gary Condie. “When you look over the list of prior honorees, you see how important these people have been to the college and to the community.”

“It’s humbling to be asked by the college to be a part of the 2010 Silver Spur celebration,” said Myrna Condie, who is one of 2010 Silver Spur Recipients.
COC Sociology Professor Receives Fellowship

It was more than 65 years ago when Anne Frank penned her diary while hiding from the Nazis in an Amsterdam building. But Jaye Houston, an adjunct sociology professor at College of the Canyons, insists the “world still has much to learn about the atrocity” that was the Holocaust.

“I think we must reflect on the implications of Holocaust denial,” said Houston, who received a fellowship from the Center of Advanced Holocaust Studies at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.

“It is important to explore the role religion played during the Holocaust because, while it was not caused by religion, religion played a central role,” said Houston.

Houston, who also teaches about the Holocaust and genocide at Mount St. Mary’s College, recently participated in the museum’s seminar “Holocaust and Other Genocides: Historical Contexts, Legal Issues and Ethical Dilemmas.”

“Attending the seminar also heightened my interests in understanding the ways humans lose sight of the pricelessness of life,” said Houston.

Houston first became interested in the Holocaust while doing doctoral field research in 2000 after she examined how the experiences of female survivors affected the Jewish identity of their granddaughters in the 21st century.

“Jewish women always asked me, ‘Why would you want to know what happened to the Jews? Why do you want to study us? You are not Jewish,’” recalls Houston, whose interest in understanding the complexities of human hatred toward other individuals and the destructive effects of prejudice has remained intense.

Attending the seminar has “expanded the depth and breadth” of what Houston teaches in the classroom.

“I find that students at College of the Canyons who enroll in my classes are interested in learning about the complexity of human interactions and atrocity on a global scale,” she said.

There are many current challenges that need to be addressed, Houston said, such as ending the genocide in Darfur and identifying the multitude of genocidal causes before another begins.

“Teaching these issues to our current generation of students is extremely valuable,” she said.

NEW CENTER
FROM PAGE 5

“With the opening of the Early Childhood Education Center, the campus is taking a momentous step toward realizing its full potential,” said COC Chancellor Dr. Dianne Van Hook.

“This Center is an important resource for our community,” said Dr. Dena Maloney, founding dean of the Canyon Country Campus. My children were students in the Early Childhood Education program at the Valencia campus, so I’m extremely proud to be a part of creating this lab in Canyon Country.”

Featuring a learning environment and preschool program structured around the state’s recommended preschool learning foundations, the Center provides children with a variety of creative materials needed to stimulate learning and social interaction, and curriculum designed to develop and support language arts, math/science, dramatic play, music, movement, social/emotional and creativity skills.

The primary focus of the program is to promote feelings of competence and self-worth that will serve as a strong foundation for students’ future growth and educational development.

The center offers half-day, morning preschool sessions Monday through Friday from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. and will follow the college calendar for holidays and campus closures. The 2009 pilot class has 16 children (aged 3-4) and adheres to a certified teacher-to-child ratio of 1:8.

The Center is licensed by the California Department of Social Services, Community Care Division. All staff members — including a site supervisor, master teacher, associate teacher and teacher’s aide — hold child development permits from the state commission on teacher credentialing.

In addition to certified staff, COC students studying ECE will frequently be assigned lab hours to be conducted inside the Center under the direct supervision of a master teacher, allowing students to gain valuable hands-on experience.

Classes at the Canyon Country Center for ECE officially began August 19, and a special ribbon cutting ceremony and opening celebration was held at the Center September 17.
CWEE Program Helps 1,000 Students

The College of the Canyons Cooperative Work Experience Education (CWEE) program has reached a significant milestone: the program has helped more than 1,000 students acquire internships.

Since the creation and launch of its website in 2002, the college’s CWEE program has allowed students to receive academic credit and real-life work experience through internships.

One of those students is Antonio Diaz, who interned for the department while he studied graphic design at the college.

As an intern, Diaz helped revamp the CWEE program’s website, making it more user-friendly for students to search for internship opportunities. He also designed flyers and helped update the program’s course handbook.

“Aside from working with amazing people that understand the transition from college to employment, I also learned a new programming language and how to execute a large-scale Web project,” said Diaz.

Working on this part of the college’s website “also helped me network with people on campus and employers, which is a key skill for a business owner,” said Diaz, who is now the owner of Artifice Studios, a Santa Clarita-based web design studio.

“Internships are where theory meets reality and where the community becomes the classroom,” said Stan Wright, director of the college’s CWEE program. “Internships are rapidly becoming prerequisites for quality jobs.”

Many organizations will hire successful interns over candidates they don’t know at all, added Wright. “In many cases, an internship is an extended interview.”

According to the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) Experiential Education Survey, 58 percent of internship students were offered full-time employment with their internship employers.

“The CWEE program at College of the Canyons deserves our congratulations for achieving the milestone of assisting 1,000 students,” said Congressman Howard P. “Buck” McKeon. “My office and constituents have personally benefited from CWEE placements, as several students from COC have worked as interns in my office.”

The program got its start in response to inquiries from local businesses that were working with the College of the Canyons Foundation and wanted to know how they could recruit the college’s students for internships.

While most are unpaid, internships provide students with many valuable resources such as work experience, networking, mentoring and references, which in turn make them competitive job applicants.

NEW DIRECTOR
FROM PAGE 3

In addition, Rypka previously worked at the City College of San Francisco CACT as a program coordinator, where he played a key role in implementing the center’s 3-D printing services and Solid Works computer-aided design (CAD) software training program.

Rypka has a strong knowledge of, and background in, a variety of aspects of the manufacturing technology industry — including high volume stamping, computer numerical controlled (CNC) machining, 3-D CAD design, programmable logic controller (PLC) control systems, laser welding, vacuum forming, injection molding and hydraulic and pneumatic systems.

“Having served both with the CACT at San Francisco City College and as the interim director at the College of the Canyons CACT, Keith combines his industry experience in California with strong practical management skills ideal for working in an academic setting,” Getzan said. “His enthusiasm for working on new projects with industry partners, students, faculty and a variety of regional and statewide partners will be a great asset as we move forward in these difficult economic times.”
NEW SEASON

The ballroom dance craze comes to Santa Clarita as Champions of the Dance, featuring stars from ABC’s “Dancing with the Stars” and international ballroom and Latin dance champions, take the PAC stage on Nov. 14. Also part of the In Motion series will be a performance on April 30 from the Lula Washington Dance Theatre, an African American dance company founded in 1980 with a $25 loan and a dream.

The McDonald’s of Santa Clarita (Schutz Organization) Almost Free Family series offers affordable family-friendly entertainment. Spend the afternoon on May 1 with “Max and Ruby,” Rosemary Wells’ beloved bunny siblings who encounter some trouble putting on a play for their grandmother.

With seven critically acclaimed albums and standing-room only concerts around the world, the traditional Irish group Danú will usher in the holiday season — and the Great Performance series — on Dec. 4 with a high-energy, moving holiday experience of ancient and contemporary Irish music with members of the college’s very own Chorale programs.

The holiday season will continue with country star Phil Vassar when the Go Country 105 FM acoustic holiday show returns on Dec. 6.

Spirit of Uganda, a group of 22 children — ranging in age from 6 to 18 — will bring to life the sounds and movements of East Africa when they perform at the PAC on Feb. 6.

“We are also excited to add a new grant-funded Stimulus Series of free concerts for the community with members of the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra and the Santa Clarita Symphony,” said Philipson.

The season will close with a performance by the legendary rock band Three Dog Night on June 5. From 1969 to 1974, no other group achieved more top 10 hits, including the No. 1 singles “Mama Told Me (Not to Come),” “Joy to the World” and “Black and White.” The Grammy-nominated band has toured the globe for the past four decades, and their music releases from the past decade alone have sold more than 1 million copies.

Also part of the season are performances from the college’s outstanding performing arts departments, including dance, chorale recitals and music from the Symphony of the Canyons. The college’s Theatre Department will stage productions of “Hair: The American Tribal Love-Rock Musical,” “Keely and Du” and Shakespeare’s “A Midsummer Night’s Dream.” Community favorites such as the Santa Clarita Regional Theatre, the Santa Clarita Master Chorale and the Santa Clarita Ballet will also return to the PAC.

UNIVERSITY CENTER

Center was created with a goal to increase student access to advanced degrees by forging partnerships with surrounding four-year colleges and universities which then make their academic programs available to students at College of the Canyons.

With already established partnerships with University of La Verne, Chapman University, UCLA Extension, National University, California State University (CSU) Bakersfield and CSU Northridge, college officials began holding classes in the new facility at the start of the fall semester.

Though such academic opportunities have been available at the college’s Interim University Center since 2002, the new facility will allow the college to both expand and create new partnerships with surrounding institutions.

In all, the University Center will house up to 10 partner institutions and offer more than 50 bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees and credential programs.

In addition, the college’s Foundation, Human Resources office, Professional Development program, Teaching and Learning Institute, Employee Training Institute and the Small Business Development Center will all move into the University Center.

During the University Center opening celebration, visitors had the opportunity to tour the state-of-the-art facility while learning more about the University Center’s partner institutions and lineup of academic programs.

“We’re pleased to welcome those with a desire to succeed,” Dr. Van Hook said. “And we’re proud that we can help them achieve their goals.”
“Our City successfully utilized the free online internship development and placement program and subsequently offered part-time paid internships to College of the Canyons students,” said Ken Striplin, assistant city manager for the City of Santa Clarita.

Located in the Student Center at the college’s Valencia campus, CWEE received the Outstanding Program Award from the California Cooperative Education and Internship Association in recognition of “one of the best internship development and placement programs in the state of California.”

“Internships help students make a seamless transition from college careers,” said Wright. “Internships also help employers lower their hiring costs, decrease turnover and ensure employer and employee fit.”

To learn more about CWEE, visit the program’s Website at www.canyons.edu/offices/CWEE.

Silver Spur
FROM PAGE 6
also involved with the Boys and Girls Club of Santa Clarita, the Boy Scouts of America and is a College of the Canyons Foundation board member. “Next year will mark the 40th anniversary for the college and the 20th anniversary for Silver Spur. It will be fun to return to the Gene Autry Museum where it all began.”

Since 1999, the couple’s generous support for College of the Canyons has revolved around several projects at the college, including the Performing Arts Center Endowment, the Early Childhood Education Center, the Foundation’s Silver Spur event and the Boys and Girls Club At Risk Scholarship. For the past three years, Gary and Myrna have served as co-chairs of the Silver Spur committee.

“It is a privilege to recognize the Condis as our Silver Spur honorees for 2010 and thank them for their many years of selfless service, support and friendship,” said COC Chancellor Dr. Dianne Van Hook. “Their record of service is uniquely impressive, as they invest so much of themselves in what they undertake for the benefit of the community through their principled leadership. We are so grateful for the many ways they have supported College of the Canyons and created exciting opportunities for us to better serve our students and meet the needs of this community.”

The Silver Spur Celebration was originally the brainchild of LaVerne Rosa Harris, a member of the COC Foundation Board of Directors who became the 1996 Silver Spur honoree. The very first gala was held at the Gene Autry Museum in 1989, with Cliffie Stone as the recipient. The Foundation Board of Directors at the time wanted to create a signature event for the COC Foundation and also to reflect the western heritage of the Santa Clarita Valley.

“Gary and Myrna Condie, our honorees for the 2010 Silver Spur, are models and examples of how community leaders can enhance the quality for all people in the Santa Clarita Valley,” said Murray Wood, the Foundation’s chief development officer. “Their efforts in the community have truly made a difference.”

For more information about the COC Foundation, visit www.canyonsfoundation.org.

Physician
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Henschke says his instructors at COC “were more approachable, attentive and interested” than the professors he had at other colleges. “You are not passed off to a teacher’s assistant and the instructors show a genuine capacity to teach as a primary activity rather than research first and teaching second,” he said.

Out of all of Henschke’s professors at COC, Don Takeda and the late James Boykin had the most profound influence.

“They were like prize fighters with a one-two punch,” said Henschke. “When I look back, I actually called it the ‘educational brainwash.’ Those two guys as a team could convince anyone that they could do whatever they wanted as long as they worked hard. They were instrumental in getting me on course and understanding my eventual potential.”

Because of professors like Takeda and Boykin, Henschke now “teaches constantly” because “those who dare to teach may never cease to learn.” He is an adjunct clinical faculty member in the physician assistant program at the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and is a visiting clinical lecturer in the Osteopathic medicine program at the University of New England.

“It’s one of the best rewards in teaching -- knowing when a student exceeds the instructors’ knowledge and makes a positive contribution to society,” said Takeda, who continues to teach biological and physical sciences at the college.

When it comes to his patients, Henschke believes in respect.

“I try to treat everyone like I would like to be treated myself,” he said. “I want people to feel secure that I will do everything in my power to maintain their health because without health you have nothing.”

The Consumer’s Research Council of America is an independent research company based in Washington, D.C. that evaluates professional services throughout America based on a point value system that awards points to physicians for education, years in practice, affiliations with professional associations and medical board certifications.

In order to be selected for the “Patient’s Choice” Award from MDx Medical, Inc., physicians must have near perfect scores from the exceptionally high praise of patients based on online feedback. Of the nation’s 720,000 active physicians, less than 5 percent were given perfect scores by their patients in 2008.
Moving Forward with Mentry Hall

College of the Canyons celebrated the expansion of Mentry Hall with a groundbreaking ceremony on September 10. The 32,000-square-foot addition will provide 16 new classrooms for students studying Animation, Radio/Television/Film, Photography, Graphic Multimedia Design, Art and Interior Design.