The Spark Of Leadership
College of the Canyons receives $3 million grant to lead renewable energy training effort

While continually striving to meet the emerging education and workforce training needs of the state, College of the Canyons has done much to position itself as a regional leader in the move to develop renewable energy curriculum and training programs that will prepare students to work in the region’s growing renewable energy industries.

In August, the college was awarded a four-year grant totaling $3 million from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to provide funding to create the California Regional Consortium for Engineering Advances in Technical Education (CREATE) Renewable Energy Regional Center at the college.

Are these the worst of times, or the best of times, for California Community Colleges? The easy answer is to say things are as bad as they ever have been. The state budget was passed 100 days late as Governor Schwarzenegger and the Legislature struggled to close a $19.1 billion budget deficit. That was on top of the $20 billion deficit that led to more than $800 million in cuts to community colleges during the two previous budget years. But the easy answer is not always the right answer, and that is certainly the case for community colleges right now.

There are several variables at work that have created a “perfect storm” to thrust community colleges into the limelight. Some might call them challenges, but I see them as opportunities.

College of the Canyons Fast Track Institute Provides a Fast Track to Employment

College of the Canyons has developed the new Fast Track Institute to provide accelerated job preparation programs for those looking to jump-start their careers.

Opening in October 2010, the Fast Track Institute will offer fast-paced, intensive job preparation courses that will equip participants with entry-level job skills and enable them to begin working in industries where applicants with up-to-date training are in high demand.

Some Fast Track courses will take as little as a few months to complete, with participants earning a recognized professional certificate in their particular area of study or a list of skill competencies they can share with potential employers.

“This trend-setting model offers significant benefits both for our students and local businesses,” said COC Chancellor Dr. Dianne Van Hook. “We are proud to lead the way in creating accessible, responsive, timely solutions that meet the needs of Santa Clarita companies, and help local residents obtain skills to launch new careers.”
Chancellor
FROM PAGE 1

Because of our current economic climate, we have seen our enrollment swell. People are realizing education is not a one-time accomplishment. Instead, it is a life-long process that requires returning to college to obtain needed skills demanded by rapidly changing industries. With record unemployment in California, increasing numbers of students have come to College of the Canyons in recent years with the hope of launching new careers. And, entire industries are undergoing dramatic transitions and reinventing and repurposing themselves, creating a demand for us to teach reconfigured competencies not seen, nor in demand, before.

Other factors are bringing more students to our campuses. As the war in Iraq draws to a close, we are serving more and more veterans. There are eager to make the transition to civilian life, and want to make the most of the benefits available to them through the GI bill. In Santa Clarita, they are coming to COC to do so.

Students who would have attended University of California or California State University campuses turned to community colleges when state funding cuts forced the four-year systems to turn away thousands of applicants. The 2010-11 state budget restores some funding to UC and CSU and will enable them to accept more students. But new legislation that creates a smoother transition from community colleges to the CSU will draw more students to two-year campuses who desire to complete their degrees in a timely manner with less hassle and fewer obstacles.

So it might seem that these are indeed challenging times as we grapple with the competing forces of increased demand for education and dwindling resources from the state. But given these unique factors, I think the best times are yet to come. From economical, political, and social perspectives, community colleges are being propelled into a strategic position. We enjoy unprecedented recognition and appreciation from politicians and policymakers, business leaders and students. Community colleges are finally viewed as the strategic partners we have always been, appreciated for the cost-effective delivery of education, and our ability to respond quickly and address emerging needs in a fast-changing economic landscape.

These are truly amazing times, and College of the Canyons is poised to make the most of them. As you will read in this issue of Bottom Line, we are moving forward in innovative ways to meet our community’s needs.

• A $3 million National Science Foundation grant will enable us to establish the California Regional Consortium for Engineering Advances in Technical Education (CREATE) Renewable Energy Regional Center at the college. Charged with developing and expanding renewable energy courses and workforce-training programs, the center will lead the way in preparing workers to launch new careers in the rapidly expanding field of alternative energy.

• Another innovative program will also give an edge to job-seekers looking to upgrade their skills. Opening in fall 2010, the Fast Track Training Institute will offer a variety of intensive job preparation courses that will allow students to quickly develop entry-level job skills and begin working in local industries where applicants with up-to-date training are in high demand.

• At the same time, we are upgrading and expanding our facilities in order to create more environments that will enhance learning opportunities for our students. A 30,000-square-foot expansion of Mentry Hall opened at the beginning of the fall semester and serves students studying animation, architecture, interior design, art, graphic and multimedia design, photography and media entertainment arts.

• Within the next month, we expect to break ground on a 50,000-square-foot expansion of the Library. The new space will house an enhanced Tutorial Learning Center (TLC) lab, as well as instructional labs, classrooms, offices and expanded Library facilities.

• And at our Canyon Country Campus, construction is under way on the new Applied Technology Education Center (ATEC). This permanent structure on the campus will provide the space needed to launch several programs with an emphasis on green technology built into the curriculum. COC programs slated to move into the ATEC upon its scheduled completion in spring 2011 include: alternative energy management, solar panel installation training, automotive technology, electrical/electronics, construction management, plumbing and water systems technology.

These innovative programs set us apart and exemplify our overall commitment to educational and economic leadership in Santa Clarita, and beyond. With our can-do enthusiasm, our unwavering determination, our belief in ourselves, and the continued support of our community partners, we will move forward to meet the emerging needs of our community with vision, creativity, and passion.

Clearly, this is the best of times for community colleges, and College of the Canyons in particular, and I think they will only get better!

Dr. Dianne Van Hook is chancellor of College of the Canyons.
With construction crews still making final touches and moving furniture into classrooms mere hours before fall semester classes began August 23, the new Mentry Hall expansion was officially unveiled to students – less than one year after the project broke ground in September 2009.

Adding an additional 30,000 square feet of instruction space – including 11 classrooms, two computer labs, a large lecture room, conference rooms, a state-of-the-art animation theater and a digital darkroom — the new facility will give students the space and equipment needed to excel in the arts, whether they’re working with paint or pixels.

The expanded Mentry Hall, which originally opened in January 1997, now encompasses a total of 73,000 square feet, and houses the college’s animation, architecture, interior design, art, graphic and multimedia design, photography and media entertainment arts departments, along with the COC Art Gallery.

The added space will accommodate more students, while providing the flexibility for departments to hold classes in computer labs and other discipline-specific instruction areas like the digital darkroom and animation theater.

“The building and dedication of a college building is in itself an act of faith,” said Dr. Floyd Moos, dean of fine and performing arts, at the building’s ribbon cutting ceremony. “At College of the Canyons we believe in the capacity of our students to learn valuable skills that are indispensable in creating their own future, and we value the transformative force that is the fine and performing arts.”

“To be sure,” added Moos, “here is a building that will support great ideas and boundless curiosities.”

The $10.7 million Mentry Hall expansion project was funded See MENTRY HALL on Page 11

As a second generation Italian-American whose parents stressed the value of a good education and the importance of giving back to others, Diana Cusumano has done much to make her family, and community, proud.

Time and again, she has shown that those values are the cornerstones of her life philosophy. In honor of her record of service, the College of the Canyons Foundation Board of Directors has named Cusumano the recipient of the Silver Spur Community Service Award for 2011.

“Diana is not only a tireless, dedicated volunteer, but also she is a leader who inspires others to give of themselves,” said College of the Canyons Chancellor Dr. Dianne Van Hook. “Her legacy of selfless service epitomizes everything that is great about the Santa Clarita Valley, and we so appreciate the opportunity we have to recognize and thank her for all that she has done to touch so many lives for so many years.”

Over the years Cusumano has served as a College of the Canyons Foundation board member, playing a key role in organizing the annual Silver Spur award gala, while also volunteering her time to the college’s Library Associates and Education Scholarship committees.

Cusumano’s distinguished record of community service to this valley began when she and her family moved here in 1981. A former high school English teacher, Cusumano was always an active volunteer in her children’s classrooms and for school reading programs. She served as President of the Wiley Canyon Elementary School Site Council and spearheaded the establishment of the Newhall Elementary Education Foundation.

When her children moved on to high

See SILVER SPUR on Page 11
Scholarly Presentation Probes Deep Seas

A Southern Californian native with a love for the ocean’s vast beauty, College of the Canyons biology instructor Amy Foote eventually saw her passion for academia take a turn toward the ocean. She shared her oceanic knowledge at this semester’s College of the Canyons scholarly presentation on November 10.

“Since the surface of the Earth is approximately 71 percent water and mainly made up of our oceans, I feel it’s very important to educate the community on the many important features of this vast entity, and how we can do our part to preserve it,” Foote said.

Foote sat down with Bottom Line writer Jesse Munoz to share some insights from her research.

Obviously you have a passion for the ocean. Where does that stem from and what led you to want to explore it more, both academically and professionally?

I was brought up around the ocean and on boats my entire life. After high school I started my academic adventure and attended classes at Ventura Community College. One semester I decided to take a marine biology course, and it was in that class that I realized that this is where I wanted to be. From there it was just a question of where I wanted to study marine biology. Now I get to teach and share information about the largest and most dynamic natural phenomena on earth, for a living.

What made you want to share your passion and knowledge in an academic setting like the scholarly presentation?

Even though Santa Clarita is in a desert type of setting, we’re still very close to the ocean. Because we are so close, it’s important for people to know what the ocean holds for us aside from the waves and coastline we see on a daily basis. I just feel lucky I have the background to be able to share that.

What type of information did your presentation include?

Only a few scientists have ventured to the mid depths of the ocean, and I shared some of their amazing findings.

The ocean is dark past 1,000 meters because light cannot travel that deep. But have you ever wondered how this affects the organisms that live at those levels?

How do they eat? How do they communicate? How do they reproduce, especially if they can’t even see what is around them?

I also discussed the physical and chemical characteristics of the ocean and how organisms adapt as the depth of the ocean increases. A human on land experiences approximately 14.7 lbs. of pressure per square inch of its body. But the mid-water organisms I’ll be discussing, which live at about 1,000 meters, experience roughly 1,470 lbs. of pressure per square inch of their body. How can a living thing withstand that kind of pressure?

You mentioned that this presentation touched on the human effects on our oceans and marine life. What most concerns you about what we are doing to our oceans?

As humans we do many things that affect our oceans, but probably the largest is the lack of education out there about our oceans. I’m talking about the entire ocean, not just the parts we might encounter on a trip to the beach. It takes education and information for people to understand that when they pollute the water, or put toxins down our drains, that there are consequences.

But the only way to truly impress the community on issues like this is to educate them about what’s out there, and show them the beauty that can potentially be destroyed.

What is the main thing you wanted people to learn or take away from this presentation?

Number one, that our oceans are precious. But more importantly, the fact that we need to be better educated about how to take care of our oceans. There are some spectacular creatures living in our oceans. Hopefully, I touched on enough of what is out there to intrigue people to want to learn more – because there are definitely some mysteries out there that we don’t even know about yet.
WELCOMES KEVIN WALSH

Companies needing help in adapting their employees to the continuous improvement methods and processes of their particular industries now have a new ally at College of the Canyons, as Dr. Kevin Walsh has been appointed interim director of the college’s Employee Training Institute (ETI).

Walsh takes over the position vacated by former ETI director Kristin Houser, who is the college’s new dean of Career and Technical Education.

“It’s an honor to be appointed interim director of the Employee Training Institute,” Walsh said. “As every business leader knows, quality training is critical to achieving organizational excellence. The ETI has proven it can help local businesses achieve strategic, long term success.”

Walsh will work closely with Dr. Dena Maloney, vice president of economic development and the Canyon Country Campus, to provide leadership, direction and managerial oversight of the ETI and its operations.

“College of the Canyons is thrilled to have Dr. Kevin Walsh at the helm of the Employee Training Institute,” Maloney said. “Kevin has a wealth of experience in understanding business and organizational training needs, as well as preparing training programs that have a real impact on the bottom line.”

The ETI offers easily accessible professional and organizational development services and employee skills improvement and training courses, taught by experienced consultants and trainers with strong industry knowledge.

Walsh has worked part-time at ETI since 2006, designing curriculum, serving as an instructor, and facilitating training services in areas including communication, leadership and customer service.

From 2003 to 2007, Walsh served as senior facilitator with Destination: Change, where he developed customized trainings for more than 100 corporations and non-profit organizations.

Walsh also served as assistant director of employee relations at Loyola Marymount University (LMU) from 2001 to 2003, where he developed and facilitated more than 50 training seminars targeted at faculty, staff and students. He has also served as a part-time faculty member at LMU since 2007.

Walsh holds a Doctorate of Psychology in Organizational Consulting from Philips Graduate Institute in Encino and a Bachelor of Science in Speech Communication from Syracuse University.

THE BOTTOM LINE • FALL 2010

Economic Development calls on two experienced leaders for key positions

Employee Training Institute welcomes Kevin Walsh

Continually looking for new and innovative ways to help boost and grow the economy, the Santa Clarita Community College District has announced the appointment of Joseph Klocko as director of the college’s Center for Applied Competitive Technology (CACT).

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

Prior to assuming his current position, Klocko served as interim director of the College of the Canyons I3 Advanced Technology Incubator (ATI).

Klocko, who comes to College of the Canyons with more than 35 years of business experience in the aerospace and industrial manufacturing industries, will work closely with Dr. Dena Maloney, vice president of economic development and the Canyon Country Campus to provide leadership, direction and managerial oversight of the CACT and its operations.

“We are so pleased to have the benefit of Joe’s aerospace and defense manufacturing experience as the Director of the CACT at College of the Canyons,” Maloney said. “Joe is truly an asset to our manufacturing and technology community and brings a wide-ranging and unique set of skills to the CACT.”

Klocko previously served as president and chief operating officer of Tactair Fluid Controls, Inc., an aerospace and defense manufacturer located near Syracuse, New York. Prior to joining Tactair, Klocko held senior management positions at HR Textron in Santa Clarita, as well as at several operating divisions of Honeywell, previously known as Allied Signal, Inc.

In addition, Klocko is a former member of the College of the Canyons Foundation board of directors. He holds a bachelor of science in Commerce and Finance from Wilkes University, an MBA in Finance from Loyola University Maryland, and has completed the Global Leadership Forum at the University of Pennsylvania’s Wharton School of Business.

“I am looking forward to working to improve the competitive position of our region’s businesses while contributing to the vibrancy of California’s economy by better positioning companies to successfully compete in the changing markets of the global economy,” Klocko said.

Center for Applied Competitive Technology selects Joe Klocko
How would you like to see a 150 percent return on your money? For a limited time, every dollar donated to one of the College of the Canyons Foundation’s Endowed Scholarship Funds will bring two and half dollars to COC students, thanks to generous challenge grants from the Henry Mayo Newhall and the Bernard Osher Foundations.

In the spring of 2008, the Bernard Osher Foundation made an historic $25 million financial commitment to the 112-member California Community College (CCC) System and Foundation for California Community Colleges (FCCC), while pledging to provide a 50 percent match, of up to $25 million, on all scholarship funds raised by all CCC schools through May 2011.

In July, the Henry Mayo Newhall Foundation established its own $50,000 scholarship endowment with the COC Foundation, pledging to contribute up to another $50,000, on a dollar-for-dollar basis, to match all future funds that COC raises for scholarship endowment purposes.

As a result, the College of the Canyons Foundation has embarked on a capital campaign to raise as many additional scholarship dollars as possible before these unique gift-matching opportunities expire in May and June 2011, respectively.

“This is a once-in-a-lifetime chance to help our local students fulfill their educational aspirations,” said Murray Wood, chief development officer for the COC Foundation. “These matching grant opportunities enable our donors to leverage their gifts and maximize the value of their contributions, like never before.”

Since the initial Osher campaign was launched, the COC Foundation has raised approximately $230,000, which when combined with the approximately $115,000 in matched Osher funds, makes for a total endowment of $345,000.

Those newly raised funds equate to 32 new endowed scholarships that College of the Canyons will award in perpetuity.

This year more than 1,250 students applied for scholarship assistance at COC. While 470 were eligible for such aid, funds were only available for 154 awards, or about 32 percent of all eligible applicants.

Matching Funds Boost Power of Scholarship Donations
Evoking the innovative and entrepreneurially-minded attitude that is so prevalent at College of the Canyons, a team of COC architectural design and engineering students was awarded first place at the Buildable Visions sustainable development design competition for their unique “sky path” campus transportation design idea.

The 2010 Buildable Visions design competition was held this summer in conjunction with the California Higher Education Sustainability Conference hosted by the Los Angeles Community College District.

For the competition, architectural design and engineering students from the University of California, California State University and California Community College systems were invited to submit project designs that provided forward-thinking solutions to urban design and transportation issues facing the communities on or around their college campuses.

The ‘Avant Verdant’ team from COC included Jolene Lain, Denisse Alejandre, Charlyn Bjerg, Jorge Cea and Eric Wagner, with COC adjunct architecture instructor Jason Oliver serving as faculty advisor.

Participating in the competition outside of class and on their own time, the team spent more than three months generating ideas and design solutions to a variety of issues affecting the college’s Valencia campus — including transportation, pedestrian accessibility, heat reduction and the generation of on-campus wind and solar energy.

“These students enthusiastically chose to address some of the issues they saw related to transportation around the campus,” Oliver said. “As their faculty advisor I was extremely impressed with the way they came together and worked as a team to develop their design solution.”

What they came up with was a plan to build a wind and solar-powered, elevated tram system known as the “sky path,” that could be used to transport students, staff and visitors between buildings and across the 153-acre Valencia campus.

Also included in the hypothetical design were connecting bike and pedestrian paths that would connect to three main campus “sky plazas” or tram ports.

Solar tents positioned along the tram path and throughout college parking lots would provide shade, collect the energy needed to operate the tram and light the campus’ exterior.

“The inspiration and focal point of our project was to solve a growing problem that was not only relevant, but something that was immediately viable,” said Bjerg about the collaborative project. “This design will encourage walking and biking, lessen the need for parking, increase energy efficiency and improve pedestrian lifestyle.”

As a result of their efforts, the students were awarded a $500 check and recognition in front of the audience at the California Higher Education Sustainability Conference held in June 2010.

The Team was invited to present their design proposal to COC Chancellor Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook and the college’s Board of Trustees in early September.

“I want to thank you for daring to imagine the future, and being so bold about it,” Van Hook said after seeing the presentation. “I think your proposal is historic. In a few years, when these ideas are adopted on a widespread basis, we’ll look back and remember that we first heard about them from a group of students at College of the Canyons.”

“These five students are a genuine reflection of the entrepreneurial spirit at work here at COC,” said Oliver, “and are a glimpse of the next generation of leaders in the field of sustainable design.”

Renderings designed by the COC team depict the Valencia campus enhanced with a “sky path” elevated tram system.
A 51,000-square-foot expansion to the College of the Canyons Library is expected to break ground in November. The new space will provide facilities to house the Tutorial Learning Center (TLC) lab, instructional labs, classrooms, offices and expanded Library facilities. With an 18-month construction schedule, the new facility should be open for students in the fall 2012 semester.
FAST TRACK
FROM PAGE 1

careers in industries that are actively hiring new employees.”

According to the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation, the county’s unemployment rate is expected to hover at about 12.4 percent through the remainder of 2010.

However, several local employers have maintained their market position, and are predicting job growth within their respective industries. Local manufacturers have an almost constant need for employees trained to perform entry-level jobs related to micro and precision assembly — positions with the potential to pay $18 an hour.

The Fast Track Institute’s first offerings will feature 18 programs in Manufacturing, Green Technology, Medical/General Office and Managerial/Professional.

Fast Track Institute classes will typically be offered as intensive day and evening classes held at several Santa Clarita Valley locations, including the college’s training center at Aerospace Dynamics International, Inc., in Valencia and at both College of the Canyons campuses.

Classes being offered in fall 2010 include Machinist Training, Precision Assembly, Inspection/Quality, Office Automation and Medical Office Administration.

Courses are fee-based and paid for by the student or through the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) system, subject to student and course eligibility.

For more information, please contact Pete Bellas at (661) 362-5182 or pete.bellas@canyons.edu.

RETURN
FROM PAGE 6

“More students than ever before now struggle to make ends meet and stay in school,” Wood said. “Expenses for books, housing, transportation and childcare present a growing barrier to students.”

In recent months the COC Foundation has received major gifts from Western Filter/Donaldson Co., The Betty Ferguson Foundation, Martin Sosin and the Stratton Petit Foundation, while also having several individual scholarship endowments established by a variety of campus and community organizations.

One such example, the Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook “Dare to Dream” Endowment for reentry students, has already received contributions from a number of donors, including many of Van Hook’s colleagues, business and community partners, friends, along with members of the college’s faculty, administration and staff.

The COC Foundation Board of Directors has also established its own scholarship endowment, further demonstrating that both the college and Foundation’s leadership are committed to this endeavor.

“This is the last chance for potential donors to have their gifts matched with Osher Foundation dollars,” Wood said. “This endowment and these scholarships will last forever.”

For more information about the College of the Canyons Foundation, or the Bernard Osher and Henry Mayo Newhall scholarship endowment programs, please contact Murray Wood at (661) 362-3433.

College of the Canyons Foundation Chair Jill Mellady (from left), Chancellor Dianne Van Hook, Henry Mayo Newhall Foundation Board Member Tony Newhall, and COC Foundation Chief Development Officer Murray Wood celebrate a $50,000 contribution by the Newhall Foundation.
New Facility to Give Students a Green Employment Edge

At the college’s Canyon Country campus, construction is currently underway on the new Applied Technology Education Center (ATEC), which will provide the facility space needed to begin introducing several programs with an emphasis on green technology built into the curriculum.

COC programs slated to move into the ATEC upon its scheduled completion in spring 2011 include: alternative energy management-solar panel installation training, automotive technology, electrical/electronics, construction management, plumbing and water systems technology.

ATEC will include five classrooms and 10,000 square feet of workshop space. The new facility will provide students and community members with a multitude of hands-on learning and training opportunities that can be put to use in the renewable energy and green technology industries.

“Adding the Applied Technology Education Center to the Canyon Country campus will expand our ability to provide cutting-edge education that leads directly to employment,” said Dr. Dianne Van Hook, College of the Canyons Chancellor. “The programs housed in the ATEC will be specifically focused on the in-demand, new technologies our economy needs and our community expects to receive from College of the Canyons.”

ENERGY

FROM PAGE 1

The purpose of the Center will be to develop and expand renewable energy courses and workforce-training programs, purchase equipment, hire new instructors and/or train current faculty in new areas in order to help address the high demand for renewable energy technicians throughout the state — particularly in the wind and solar energy fields.

As a part of the grant, funding will also go toward developing renewable energy programs and workforce training at the consortium’s partner colleges, which include: Cuesta, Cerro Coso, Santa Barbara City, L.A. Pierce, Oxnard, Merced, and Porterville community colleges; California State Universities in Los Angeles, Fresno, and Channel Islands; and University of California, Davis.

“We are very enthusiastic about taking on this leadership role in a field that is far-reaching and forward-looking. The grant will give us the chance to be prepared for opportunities that may not be clearly evident at the moment, but will make themselves available before we know it,” said COC Chancellor Dr. Dianne Van Hook. “We can get a jump-start on equipping students with the skills and education needed to secure well-paying positions. That, of course, will also lead to significant positive economic impacts in those communities where our partner institutions are located.”

Through the consortium, College of the Canyons can now begin a wide scale assessment of the renewable energy curriculum available at all partner colleges, in order to better align those courses, programs and training methods with both the current economic climate and the identified needs of industry partners and employers throughout the region.

“With that assessment, the college will play a larger role in determining what curriculum areas most need to be strengthened, and in what areas of the region new renewable energy programs would prove to be most beneficial,” said Kathy Alfano, COC faculty member and Director of the CREATE Center.

Another area the consortium will explore is training for the growth of non-technical positions associated with sales, clerical, leadership, IT and other office jobs.

“An education in renewable energy can be beneficial on several levels,” Alfano said.

RENEWABLE ENERGY BY THE NUMBERS

- Wind turbines in California provide enough energy to power over 747,000 California households.
- The CA Wind Energy Association (CalWEA) expects wind energy to serve five percent of California’s electricity needs by 2012 or sooner.
- Wind energy could realistically provide 20% of California’s electricity supply by 2020.
- About half of the nation’s solar energy installers work in California.
- In 2007, wind energy production increased by 21 percent nationally, and the U.S. Department of Energy suggests wind could contribute 20% of the nation’s electricity by 2030.
Top of their Class

Athletic Hall of Fame Welcomes 2011 Inductees

The College of the Canyons athletics department is gearing up for its fourth Athletic Hall of Fame induction ceremony on Thursday, Jan. 20, 2011, at the Hyatt Regency Valencia.

The 2011 class of inductees includes: the 1993 state championship men’s golf team; women’s basketball player Kyetra Brown; football player Mike Herrington; women’s soccer player Kristine Marbach; and football player Isaac Sopoaga.

This year’s keynote speaker will be former NFL player and University of California head football coach Joe Kapp. Kapp began his football career in the Santa Clarita Valley as a quarterback for the Hart High School Indians and transferred to Cal to play his college ball. He spent four years in the NFL with the Vikings and Patriots, where the effects of his stand against the league in an antitrust case helped shape today’s NFL contracts.

2011 Athletic Hall of Fame
January 20, 2011

SILVER SPUR

FROM PAGE 3

Diana has integrity, and is a person of her word,” Dr. Van Hook said. “She never compromises her standards of care, compassion, commitment and quality.”

The 2011 Silver Spur Celebration will take place Saturday, March 5, 2011, at the historic and exclusive California Club, located at 538 South Flower St., in Los Angeles. The event begins at 6 p.m. and the dress code is “black tie optional.” The evening includes a dinner, live auction and a tribute video to the honoree.

Please call the Foundation at (661) 362-3434 to purchase tickets, become an event sponsor, or receive more information about Silver Spur.

MENTRY HALL

FROM PAGE 3

entirely by Measure M funds, the general obligation bond passed by SCV voters in November 2006.

The project was completed using an innovative design/build construction model, whereby both the design and construction of the project are contracted through the same entity, in this case Klassen Corporation, and performed at the same time.

By overlapping the design and construction aspects of the project, the contractor is able to streamline the building process, while cutting costs and accelerating the construction timeline.

Though common in the private sector and gaining acceptance with other types of public sector projects, until recently community colleges had been prevented from using this model.

In fact, the college’s Mentry Hall expansion was one of just a handful of projects allowed to utilize the design/build project model as part of a demonstration pilot used to test the feasibility of implementing that specific approach on future projects.

Of the five projects originally approved for the trial, four were parking structures. Mentry Hall was the only instructional facility approved for design/build construction.

While the normal timeline to request state approval, plan and design, secure funding and construct and open a building takes roughly seven years – the Mentry Hall expansion was completed in less than 12 months.

“The Mentry Hall expansion moved along remarkably fast, and with very few problems along the way, which is a testament to the design/build construction methodology,” said Jim Schrage, vice president, facilities planning, operations and construction at the college.

“For the district to end up with exactly the building they wanted, at a fixed cost and per a pre-determined fast-tracked schedule, only proves that this construction delivery method is here to stay,” added Schrage.
Acclaimed Composer Catán Puts COC on Opera’s Big Stage

With its highly anticipated world premiere taking place on opening night of LA Opera’s historic 25th Anniversary season, critically acclaimed composer, librettist and esteemed College of the Canyons faculty member Daniel Catán’s new Spanish opera “Il Postino” captured the hearts of audiences throughout Southern California.

Based on the Academy Award-winning film of the same name and the novel “Ardiente Paciencia” by Antonio Skármeta, “Il Postino” tells the story of a shy young postman in a tiny Italian fishing village who discovers the courage to pursue his dreams through his daily deliveries to the famous (real-life) Chilean poet Pablo Neruda.

“I realized, from the very first time I saw the film, that it was a perfect theme for an opera,” said Catán in a recent interview about the project. “It deals with Art and Love, the foundations upon which we build our lives.”

Starring world-renowned tenor and opera legend Plácido Domingo in the role of Pablo Neruda — whose poetry is featured extensively in the opera — the six-show run of “Il Postino” premiered Sept. 23, 2010 at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion in Los Angeles to rave reviews.

“This was one of those all-too-rare nights when every individual element melded marvelously into a whole, a performance that reminded us that opera — at its best — can touch emotions and tell stories like no other medium,” exclaimed music critic Robert D. Thomas in his review of the opening night performance.

“‘Il Postino’ delivers in a way few modern operas do,” wrote Ronald Blum of the Associated Press. “Catán has created a throwback, with arias, duets and lush tonal music, closer to the style of Puccini than of Catán’s contemporaries.”

Because of the excitement surrounding “Il Postino,” LA Opera officials quickly announced a series of free public screenings of the opera to be held at outdoor venues in Los Angeles and Orange County during the month of October — opening up the opera to an even wider audience.

“Having someone of Daniel Catán’s talent on our faculty enhances the status of our college as a place of creativity and innovation and, as that translates to our classrooms, a place of academic rigor and excellence,” said College of the Canyons Chancellor Dr. Dianne Van Hook.