providing a ‘one-stop shopping’ experience for community members in search of employment and local businesses looking to hire, the Santa Clarita WorkSource Center moved to its new home in the Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook University Center at College of the Canyons.

The Santa Clarita WorkSource Center, which is operated by the City of Santa Clarita through funds provided by the federal Workforce Investment Act, brings businesses and job seekers together in one place by providing an array of free services.

Community members are able to search local job listings while using the Center’s computers, high-speed Internet connection, phone and fax lines, and copy machines to file job applications, prepare resumes and connect with potential employers.

Meanwhile, local businesses can utilize the WorkSource Center to post job openings, access potential job candidates, conduct pre-screenings of potential applicants and hold on-site interviews in
opportunities and resources that wouldn’t be possible without cooperation and collaboration.

Moving forward with commitment, optimism, and enthusiasm is what we do best as we strive to meet the varying needs of our students, as well as our community’s businesses. In this ever-changing and unpredictable economic environment, opportunities emerge at every turn and afford us a chance to get better at what we do, to build new partnerships, and to figure out how to combine resources to do more than any of us could ever do alone.

Recent grant-funded projects illustrate our commitment to pursue new opportunities and joint initiatives that benefit our academic programs and the students they serve, as well as local businesses. Although we too must deal with the effects of statewide budgetary challenges, we remain committed to serving our students and community. Now, more than ever, we must remain engaged and find new ways to support those who count on us to lead the way forward.

We received a two-year, $350,000 grant to offer four welding automation courses that will align with criteria from the American Welding Society. Course curriculum will include an introductory welding automation course to allow for training in building basic foundation concepts and skills. The program will include applied robotics and programming courses to provide students with a range of knowledge, applications and skills. Finally, an advanced automation course will prepare students to sit for the certification test, which will be offered in conjunction with the American Welding Society. The new curriculum will keep our students on the cutting edge of welding technology and give them a real competitive advantage in a tight job market.

“In this ever-changing and unpredictable economic environment, opportunities emerge at every turn and afford us a chance to get better at what we do, to build new partnerships, and to figure out how to combine resources to do more than any of us could ever do alone.”

Our Center for Applied Competitive Technologies (CACT), which offers responsive workforce training and technical consulting services to advanced technology companies, applied for funding to continue its services and was awarded $205,000. Due to the state’s budget constraints, only six CACTs were funded in California (down from 13 centers). Together with El Camino College, we will be responsible for serving the Southern California region from San Luis Obispo to Riverside. Retaining our CACT was a high priority for us, given the number of local companies who rely on its advanced training to upgrade the skills of their employees.

We partnered with Boston Scientific to apply for a $150,000 Responsive Training Fund grant, which was just funded. We will provide training to Boston Scientific in project management and process improvement in collaboration with the Southern California Biomedical Council.

At the same time, we are continuing our commitment to support our students through new programs, new funds, new partnerships and new possibilities. Funded by a $399,000 grant, the College of the Canyons Allied Health Division launched a Medical Laboratory Technology (MLT) program. MLT professionals work in the medical and biotechnical lab fields to collect data and information critical to effective patient care and research. With this new training option, students will find employment in hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, public health facilities and other commercial laboratories — where their training, communication and research skills will be highly valued.

In closing, I hope you will be inspired by the energy of summer and that your own accomplishments will blossom in the days and weeks ahead.

If you have any questions after reading this latest Bottom Line, please feel free to call me at (661) 362-3400.

Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook is Chancellor of College of the Canyons.
COC Foundation Establishes Chancellor’s Business Council

The College of the Canyons Foundation has launched the Chancellor’s Business Council, an innovative partnership between the college and the local business community. The intent of the partnership is to work together to strengthen economic development and to build a bridge between business and education. “This partnership has been developed to enhance relationships, identify strategic networks and create opportunities to share resources for mutual benefit,” explained Dr. Van Hook. “As businesses look ahead and take the necessary steps to move beyond current economic trends, COC stands ready to assist and support economic and business solutions. And, as COC works to meet the challenges of the 21st Century and continues to serve the educational needs of our local community, collaboration with local businesses and corporations is essential.”

“The college offers a tremendous wealth of resources for local businesses,” said Jay Thomas, CEO of Six Flags Magic Mountain and Hurricane Harbor, and chair of the Council for the Foundation. “Their help has been invaluable to Magic Mountain, and I know they can make a difference for other local companies.”

Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for the MLT program, students must have completed English 101 or an equivalent course and at least four units of prerequisite coursework in anatomy, physiology, microbiology, preparatory general chemistry and at least 4.5 units of coursework in phlebotomy.

Applications can be picked up in the college’s Allied Health office (Aliso Lab Room 311) on the Valencia campus. For more information, contact the Allied Health office at (661) 362-3557.

Lab Tech Program Launches New Careers

The College of the Canyons Allied Health Division has introduced a new Medical Laboratory Technology (MLT) program designed to prepare students for high-demand jobs in the medical and biotechnical lab industries.

MLT professionals play critical roles in collecting the data and information needed to provide care to patients and/or perform research used in the scientific exploration of many areas throughout the larger medical, pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries.

Certified MLT professionals often find employment in hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, public health facilities and other commercial laboratories — where their training and communication and research skills are highly valued.

According to statistics provided by the United States Department of Labor, a certified MLT technician in the state of California typically earns a median income of more than $38,000 a year.

“Currently, as with all health care occupations, there is a shortage of personnel qualified to work in hospital and biotechnical labs,” said Sue Albert, dean of Allied Health at the college. “The Medical Lab Technician program will help to meet that need for laboratory personnel. Thanks to the support of the local hospitals and biotechnical labs in the area, COC is the first community college in the region to offer such a program.”

Integrating a mixture of classroom lectures, laboratory work and clinical training, the college’s MLT program fosters development of the technical, analytical and problem-solving skills required of this profession.

Students who complete the two-year program will receive an associate in science degree in MLT and be eligible to sit for the national certification exam.

This program will be offered pending approval by the California Community College System Chancellor’s Office and the California Department of Health Services Laboratory Field Services unit.
Dr. Ram Manvi, a brilliant engineer and dedicated educator who entrenched himself in the culture of College of the Canyons in just two short years on campus, died February 1, 2010. He was 71.

As Dean of Mathematics, Sciences and Engineering Technologies at the college, Manvi left an indelible mark on both his students and fellow colleagues, with his wry sense of humor, keen intellect, probing questions and outgoing joy for life.

During an on-campus memorial service in his honor, Manvi’s friends and colleagues shared their thoughts and feelings about a man who was repeatedly described as inquisitive, energetic, caring, accomplished, and perhaps most appropriately, brilliant.

“Ram Manvi was a special person to so many people, and to College of the Canyons he was a breath of fresh air,” said College of the Canyons Chancellor Dr. Dianne Van Hook. “He was a great leader who inspired, guided and motivated others, who never failed to brighten every room he entered and inspired us over and over again.

“He came to COC and quickly became an integral part of our college, adding value to everything he was associated with,” added Van Hook. “He made an amazing difference here, and we’re all better for how he taught us, how he listened to us and how he inspired us to be the best we can be. None of us will ever be the same.”

Manvi arrived at the college in January 2008 with an extensive resume based on four decades of international- and national-level work experience in math, science and engineering.

“One of the negatives to being an engineer on a college campus is that everyone expects you to know how everything works — whether it be mechanically, structurally or electrically related,” said David Martinez, COC engineering instructor. “So when Ram came on board I was relieved in the sense that now he could help field some of these questions.

“But what I quickly found out was that Ram really did know how everything worked. The man had an encyclopedic knowledge of all things engineering.” Martinez said.

Manvi received his Ph.D. from Washington State University in 1968, specializing in mechanical engineering and shock physics.

Manvi worked as a visiting professor at what is now Shiraz University, in Iran, before accepting teaching positions at UCLA Extension and eventually California State University, Los Angeles, where he taught and served as a department chair and dean of the college’s School of Engineering and Technology.

Manvi also worked at JPL for more than 30 years on various space exploration projects.

Manvi worked to establish COC’s Emerging Technologies Institute, the General and Emerging Technologies (GET) Lab Technician academic program and the college’s state-of-the-art Emerging Technologies Instrumentation Laboratory and Cleanroom facility.

A strong advocate for the advancement of women in the fields of math, science and engineering, Manvi served as a student advisor and mentor for the college’s MESA and National Science Foundation programs.

“He always made an effort to reach out to us students,” said Angela Grayr, a former student of Manvi’s at COC. “It was impressive to have someone that high up the academic ladder that wanted to talk to you and really get to know you.”

In honor of Dr. Manvi’s life and work, College of the Canyons officials dedicated the Emerging Technologies Instrumentation Laboratory and Cleanroom facility in his honor, and will also designate an on-campus garden area to his memory.

In addition, the College of the Canyons Foundation has established a scholarship fund in Manvi’s honor, at the request of his many colleagues in the college’s Mathematics, Sciences and Engineering Technologies Division.

The scholarship will be awarded to College of the Canyons students who are majoring in mathematics, science or engineering technology, who will carry on Manvi’s legacy of research, innovation and constant learning.

“We want to remember Ram, and we want to see evidence of him everyday here on campus,” said Van Hook. “He was a very candid person with incredible character, integrity, dignity and grace. We will all miss him, but he will live in our hearts and minds for many years to come.”
the Center’s conference rooms — all while learning more about the money-saving programs available to businesses located in the Santa Clarita Enterprise Zone.

College officials also believe that the WorkSource Center, which relocated to College of the Canyons in February, will compliment the wide range of services offered by College of the Canyons and its Economic Development Division, which is also housed in the University Center.

The Santa Clarita WorkSource Center is located in the Dr. Diane G. Van Hook University Center, Suite 250, on the College of the Canyons Valencia campus. Office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

All Santa Clarita WorkSource Center services are provided to employers and job seekers at no cost through the Federal Workforce Investment Act and the City of Santa Clarita, in partnership with Goodwill Southern California, the state Employment Development Department, College of the Canyons and the County of Los Angeles Community and Senior Services.

For more information about the Santa Clarita WorkSource Center and its services please call (661) 799-WORK (9675) or visit www.SCWorkSource.com.
SBDC Finds Recognition Dinner to be an Awarding Experience

It’s official: the Small Business Development Center is the best in L.A. At the Los Angeles Regional SBDC Award and Recognition Dinner, the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) hosted by College of the Canyons was honored with three ‘highest achievement’ awards—including the organization’s prestigious ‘Overall Highest Performer’ award.

The awards ceremony, which was sponsored by the SBDC Lead Center at Long Beach City College, recognized four categories of performance in 2009 among the network of seven Southern California area SBDC locations.

The Overall Highest Performer award is annually presented to the SBDC with the most significant results in helping clients achieve their economic milestones including: job creation, sales increases, capital infusion, new business startups and long term consulting engagements.

“These awards validate our efforts to influence the economic development of our region by boosting job creation and business retention,” said COC Chancellor Dr. Dianne Van Hook. “Our ability to form partnerships, and generate cash and in-kind support for our economic development initiatives continues to be a model throughout the state.”

During the ceremony, the SBDC was also presented with the ‘Highest Capital Infusion’ and ‘Highest Extended Engagement Clients’ awards.

“I am honored to receive these awards on behalf of the 15 expert business advisors who accomplish so much for our small business clients. It’s gratifying to see their hard work and success recognized with these awards,” said Steve Tannehill, director of the SBDC hosted by College of the Canyons.

The ‘Highest Capital Infusion’ award is given to the SBDC that helped clients obtain the largest amount of capital. In 2009, SBDC clients were able to secure roughly $5.7 million in debt and equity capital.

The ‘Highest Extended Engagement Clients’ award is given to the SBDC with the largest number of clients continuously engaged in long-term intensive consulting agreements with the center. In all, the SBDC served nearly 250 such clients in 2009.

For more information about the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) hosted by College of the Canyons, please call (661) 362-5900 or visit www.cocsbdc.com.

Wells Fargo Donation Expands SBDC Services in Antelope Valley

Small business owners throughout the Antelope Valley can bank on even more support from the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) hosted by College of the Canyons thanks to a $10,000 donation from Wells Fargo.

As a result of the donation, SBDC officials have been able to draw upon an additional $10,000 in matched federal funding that will allow the SBDC to continue to expand its services in the area.

“We are very pleased to receive this financial sponsorship from Wells Fargo,” said Steve Tannehill, Director of the SBDC hosted by College of the Canyons. “This partnership — which brings together the resources of the nation’s number one small business lender and Los Angeles county’s top-performing team of SBDC business advisors — will help hundreds of Antelope Valley’s small business owners receive the assistance they need to meet the challenge of today’s business environment.”

Based on the notion that local economies thrive when small businesses thrive, in 2009 a partnership was established between the SBDC, Wells Fargo, the Antelope Valley Board of Trade (AVBOT) and the City of Lancaster to bring increased consulting and training services to entrepreneurs throughout Antelope Valley.

The SBDC serves as the core source of workshop trainers and business advisors, while Wells Fargo and the AVBOT provide the use of their facilities to host the SBDC’s lineup of low-cost workshops and no-cost counseling services.

“In the Antelope Valley we want to be known for outstanding service and sound financial advice, satisfying all of our customers’ financial needs,” said Kathie Voss, Vice President and District Manager of Wells Fargo Antelope Valley. “We are excited to partner with the SBDC, AVBOT and the City of Lancaster to promote the economic advancement of everyone in our community.”

For more information, contact the SBDC at (661) 362-5900 or visit www.cocsbdc.com.

COUNCIL

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A key benefit the Council provides is access to seminars with proven business leaders.

On April 27, Thomas presented “Leaves of Greatness, Six Flags Culture Change,” which reviewed the transformation of the theme park over the past three years and highlighted the change drivers impacting the bottom line. Key topics included:

- Brand Alignment
- Key Partnerships
- Six Flags Mantra
- Code of Conduct
- Leaves Strategy
- Individual Business Unit (IBU) Philosophy
- Momentum Management
- Successes

The Chancellor’s Business Council held its first-ever event on February 4. “A Symposium on 21st Century Solutions” featured Van Hook and Thomas. They discussed how College of the Canyons can help local businesses access resources, tap into a network of business relationships, and invest in their future workforce.

The Chancellor’s Business Council offers memberships that enable those who join to enjoy a special relationship with the college. Members will have access to Valencia campus facilities, special lectures and classes, breakfast briefings, complimentary training needs and technology assessments, special communications concerning important issues, and more.

For additional information, call the Foundation at (661) 362-3434.
Condies Earn Their Silver Spurs

The Foundation’s 20th annual Silver Spur Celebration honored Gary and Myrna Condie for their service to College of the Canyons and the community. More than 200 people gathered at The Autry National Center, site of the first Silver Spur in 1989. On hand to mark the special anniversary were (clockwise from top) many of the previous winners, or their family members. Gary and Myrna show off their new Silver Spurs with COC Chancellor Dianne Van Hook. Santa Clarita Mayor Laurene Weste and her husband Jim McCarthy joined the celebration. Congressman Howard “Buck” McKeon and his wife Patricia congratulate Gary and Myrna. COC Vice President Barry Gribbons and his wife Michelle enjoy the evening. The Condies share their gratitude for being honored. Auctioneer Mark Drilling from Stokes Auction Group encourages guests to bid freely on items during the live auction.
The College of the Canyons Paralegal Studies program is now in elite company. The American Bar Association’s (ABA) House of Delegates in February awarded its full approval to the program, making it the only program of its kind in the Santa Clarita and Antelope Valleys — and one of approximately 30 such approved programs in the state.

“College of the Canyons is pleased to offer another career training option at a time when many people are looking to upgrade their skills and be equipped for success in a new field,” said COC Chancellor Dr. Dianne Van Hook.

The principal objective of the ABA paralegal education program approval process is to foster a high quality of paralegal education and training standards.

“The ABA only approves of programs that are dedicated to the highest quality of education and which provide graduates with the tools to become successful paralegals,” said Nicole Lucy, chair of the COC Paralegal Studies department. “We are honored to be recognized as being worthy of ABA approval and excited to know that our graduates will now enjoy even greater employment opportunities as a result of completing an ABA approved program.”

Designed for students who are working professionals — with classes primarily offered in the evenings at both the Valencia and Canyon Country campuses — the college’s Paralegal Studies program prepares students for positions as paralegals, while operating with a broader goal to improve the accessibility, quality and affordability of legal services throughout the community.

For more information, please visit www.canyons.edu/departments/parlgl or contact Nicole Lucy at (661) 362-5377.

K-12 Arts Education Outreach Program Receives National Honor

Just two years after unveiling its K-12 Arts Education Outreach Program, the Santa Clarita Performing Arts Center (PAC) at College of the Canyons and its local educational partners — the Newhall, Saugus Union and Sulphur Springs School Districts — have been invited by the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts to participate in the prestigious Partners In Education Institute.

Held May 5-8 at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., the program assists arts organizations throughout the nation develop and/or expand educational partnerships with local school systems in order to establish arts-based professional development programs for teachers.

The program is based on the belief that educating teachers is an essential component of any effort to increase the artistic literacy of young people.

“As one of only 14 national teams to have been selected, this is a great honor for College of the Canyons, our program partners and the city of Santa Clarita,” said Adam Philipson, PAC managing director. “What’s most exciting is that while our team will consist of four members, what we are bringing back will serve all five local school districts and the entire Santa Clarita Valley.”

During the Institute, partnership teams, consisting of a member of an arts organization and a senior level administrator of a neighboring school district, were presented with a model and planning strategies on how to launch an arts-oriented professional development program.

The PAC’s K-12 Arts Education Outreach Program seeks to use the college’s vast cultural and community resources to introduce students to the visual and performing arts, while collaborating with teachers and administrators in school districts throughout the area to develop an enhanced arts education curriculum and a variety of unique educational opportunities for all students.

“Through this collaboration we will touch thousands of children across the valley for years to come,” said Kathy Harris, Sulphur Springs School District assistant superintendent of instruction and curriculum. “Who knows how many future artists, dancers, musicians and performers we might help inspire along the way?”

For more information, contact Adam Philipson at (661) 362-5305.

Paralegal Program Granted Full American Bar Association Approval

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For more information, please visit www.canyons.edu/departments/parlgl or contact Nicole Lucy at (661) 362-5377.
Wakefield Becomes COC's First Player of the Year for Women's Basketball

In April, the College of the Canyons nursing department received a $10,000 donation from the Facey Medical Foundation to add to the COC Foundation’s Yvonne Wiggins Memorial Scholarship Endowment.

“It’s a significant thing when a corporate supporter presents us with something we can use to help our students, and we thank the Facey Medical Foundation very much,” said Murray Wood, COC Foundation chief development officer. “This money will be leveraged to benefit our students to the highest degree.”

The Facey Medical Foundation originally established the endowment in 2008 in memory of late Facey Medical nurse and COC nursing alumna Yvonne Wiggins. With this donation the permanent scholarship endowment now has a current value of $20,800.

“Yvonne was the heart and soul of our nursing leadership team,” said Dr. Fredrick Russo, president of Facey Medical. “She loved nursing, she loved her family, she loved her cat, and she loved the Ohio State Buckeyes. I hope you’ll find a good way to spend this money on the great nursing minds of the future.”

Since its establishment, the Yvonne Wiggins Memorial Scholarship Endowment has awarded a total of seven scholarships to COC nursing students. The endowment’s ongoing investment earnings will be used to provide scholarships to College of the Canyons nursing students for years to come.

“Most of our nursing students come to us as parents and working adults, and they need this money to be able to go to school,” said Sue Albert, dean of allied health. “It’s expensive to go through a nursing program, so we are very grateful and our students are very grateful for this donation.”

Russo and members of the Facey Medical Foundation visited College of the Canyons in April to present the check to nursing faculty, students and college administrators, including COC Chancellor Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook, who said: “College of the Canyons would not be what it is today if it were not for the quality organizations and people we have in this community, and the commitment to creating a community of care. Your efforts to support us do not go unnoticed, and we are grateful for your support each and every day.”

Facey Medical Foundation Adds to Nursing Scholarship Fund

In April, the College of the Canyons women’s basketball team – until now.

College of the Canyons women’s basketball has always had the reputation of nurturing athletes who excel on the court. The Cougars have two players in the California Community College Women’s Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame, a handful of former players have participated in the professional ranks and seven women’s basketball players have been honored with the conference MVP award.

Since the start of women’s basketball, there has never been any Cougar who was named California’s top female basketball player, until this season.

College of the Canyons women’s basketball player Ashley Wakefield was named California Community College Women’s Basketball Coaches Association Co-Player of the Year for her efforts during her 2009-2010 sophomore season. She shared the honor with Fresno City College’s Sumiya Darden.

After being named the state’s co-player of the year, Ashley Wakefield has signed with the University of the Pacific in Stockton.
Center to the person who first dream of the idea and whose tireless efforts, tenacity and grit brought the dream to reality – Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook – Chancellor of College of the Canyons.

“I couldn’t have hoped for a more meaningful, deeply personal experience or honor than this evening provided,” said Dr. Van Hook. “While the University Center project was a long and challenging one, the idea that so many hands joined together for the common purpose of creating community access to high-quality, higher education could only be conceived and carried out in this community. I am humbled,” said Dr. Van Hook, “and so very pleased that the Board of Trustees chose to honor me in this way.”

Long-time College of the Canyons trustee, Mrs. Michele Jenkins, who was one of the trustees when Dr. Van Hook was hired said, “We were searching for someone with vision. Someone who could create a dream and then inspire, and certainly, as we have all experienced - massage, poke and prod others to follow in creating innovative, cutting-edge services for students and businesses such as those housed in this magnificent structure.”

The program for the evening struck a comfortable balance between the formal and respectful business of dedicating a building in a person’s name and the lighter side of getting to know the person being honored through the eyes of the assembled guests – all with very different perspectives of the guest of honor.

Long-time friend, Dr. Martha Kanter, currently the Under Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education and who formerly worked her way through the ranks of the California Community College System to the position of Chancellor of the Foothill-De Anza Community College District, travelled across country to participate in the ceremony and acknowledge the uniqueness and significance of Dr. Van Hook’s achievement. Calling the University Center a “model to be emulated” across the nation, Kanter also marveled at the will of the community to see the project through to completion.

“Dr. Dianne Van Hook, in my opinion, is the best CEO in the California Community College System,” said Dr. Diane Woodruff, former Interim Chancellor of the California Community College System – the first woman to ever hold that position – and former Superintendent-President of Napa Valley College. “It is appropriate that this University Center is dedicated to my good friend now, while she is here to fully appreciate the honor,” said Dr. Woodruff.

Mr. Tom Lee and Mr. Lou Garasi, co-chairs of the capital campaign to raise funds for the University Center, also took to the lectern to provide their views of Dr. Van Hook’s leadership and vision and praise her for her unwavering dedication to the building project.

“This simply would not have been accomplished without Dr. Van Hook,” said Mr. Lee. “She is an outstanding person who accomplished an incredible task in completing the University Center.”

Mr. Garasi described working with Dr. Van Hook this way. “Once I said ‘yes’ to Dianne, I felt as if I had hopped into the back seat of a jet fighter…with Dianne Van Hook at the throttles, I soon found out that the only speed she knows is ‘full throttle.’”

Additional speakers ranging from former mentors, to family, to architects and contractors, to donors and a student who has already achieved his degree through one of the University Center partners painted a complex portrait of not only the building itself, but what it stands for in terms of opportunity for students. But most importantly, they provided glimpses of the woman behind the building – her tenacity, her attention to detail, her battle to win state and local funds for the project, her commitment to the dream of the Center and – the unique personality that is Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook.

While playful MCs kept the evening moving with a continual banter with the audience and an audacious wearing of several specimens from Dr. Van Hook’s hat collection – she has hundreds of them! – there were several highlights that cemented the event from a historical perspective.

First, a video produced by college staff was shown that visually captured the progress of the University Center from pre-construction through completion. It also took the audience on a somewhat personal, but touching and fun look at Dr. Van Hook’s life, with photos from her days growing up on a farm in Minnesota through her young-adult years and her professional career.

“That video touched me,” revealed Dr. Van Hook, “in ways that I’ll cherish forever.”

The unveiling of the official dedication plaque in Dr. Van Hook’s honor by the Board of Trustees constituted the ‘official’ act of naming the building. The moment the plaque was unveiled was one of elegant simplicity, requiring little explanation but – by the deed itself – having profound meaning for the honoree.

“At that moment, I could not have been more proud,” said Dr. Van Hook.

As a culmination of the evening, the College of the Canyons Foundation announced that it had established a “Dare to Dream” scholarship in Dr. Van Hook’s name and in her honor. The scholarship was initially funded with $50,000 and an appeal was made for additional donations that would be eligible for matching funds from the Osher Foundation. The target for the endowed scholarship is $100,000.

The dedication ceremony was special in many ways for Dr. Van Hook but she is the first to acknowledge that she didn’t build the University Center by herself.

She said it best herself in a personal note that was part of the printed program for the ceremony:

“Ten years ago we all shared in the dream of this University Center. Today as we witness this magnificent building – the culmination of so much effort by so many – I am reminded of a line from German writer and philosopher, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe. He said in the simplest of terms, ‘What is not started today, is not finished tomorrow.’

That is how we did it. We had the dream, we started and, together, we finished it!

To everyone who helped, who believed, who supported and who cared, please accept my deepest thanks and gratitude.”
1. Performing Arts Center Managing Director Adam Philipson (left) and Martin Sosin, Executive Director of the Sosin Stratton Petit Foundation.
2. Foundation Board Member Rita Garasi (left) and COC Vice President of Human Resources Diane Fiore.
3. COC Dean of Fine and Performing Arts Floyd Moos and his wife Karen.
5. Dr. Van Hook, former Napa Valley College Superintendent-President Diane Woodruff, U.S. Undersecretary of Education Martha Kanter, former Mendocino-Lake Community College District Superintendent-President Marilyn Brock, former Kern Community College District Chancellor Jim Young, and former Cuesta College Superintendent-President Grace Mitchell-Berg.
6. Guests toast Dr. Van Hook.
7. Dr. Woodruff and Dr. Van Hook.
8. COC Vice President Barry Gribbons (left) and Dr. Van Hook.
9. Senator George Runner, Dr. Van Hook, and Community College League of California CEO Scott Lay.
10. Dr. Young.
11. Dr. Van Hook’s husband, Roger Van Hook.
12. Masters of Ceremonies Eric Harnish and Diane Stewart.
Former College of the Canyons defensive end Jason Pierre-Paul was picked in the first round of the 2010 National Football League Draft by the New York Giants with the 15th pick. Pierre-Paul becomes the highest drafted player in COC football history.

“I am very excited for Jason and hoping the best for him and his family,” College of the Canyons head football coach Garett Tujague said. “He has been waiting and working to get better each day in preparation for this day. For those who don’t know much about Jason, they will learn quickly about the talent he possesses.”

Pierre-Paul spent his freshman year with COC where he tallied 49 tackles, 42 solo, a team-high 14 sacks for a loss of 101 yards and an interception. For his efforts he was named first-team all-conference.

He then transferred to Fort Scott Community College and spent one year with them and earned second-team All-America honors.

The Deerfield Beach, Fla., native moved his way back east his junior year, signing with the University of South Florida. With the Bulls, he turned in 45 tackles, 16.5 tackles for a loss, 6.5 sacks, and a team-high seven hurries. After the conclusion of his junior season, he declared for the NFL Draft on Jan. 6, giving up his senior year of eligibility with the Bulls.

The Giants finished with a 8-8 overall record last season. They are coached by Tom Coughlin.

College of the Canyons currently has six former players who are on active rosters in the NFL – Troy Nolan (Houston Texans, COC 2004-2005), Justin Tryon (Washington Redskins, COC 2004-2005), Domata Peko (Cincinnati Bengals, COC 2002-2003), JJ Arrington (Denver Broncos, COC 2001-2002), Jonathan Fanene (Cincinnati Bengals, COC 2000-2001), and Isaac Sopoaga (San Francisco 49ers, COC 2000-2001).