University Center Construction Begins

After years of dreaming and careful planning, the College of the Canyons University Center is on its way to becoming reality.

Work began in October on erecting the 110,000-square-foot facility that will enable partner colleges and universities to offer advanced degrees on the College of the Canyons campus.

“T is a tremendous accomplishment for College of the Canyons, and underscores our continued efforts to find new and innovative ways to provide access to education and enable our students to pursue their goals,” said Dr. Dianne Van Hook, Superintendent-President of College of the Canyons.

The University Center represents an innovative concept brought to life. Inspired by the changing nature of education, it is designed to meet the needs of students in the Santa Clarita Valley and improve access to advanced degrees.

College of the Canyons boasts the highest transfer rate of any community college in Los Angeles County. Many students who wish to continue their programs say they will house degree programs from an assortment of public and private universities.
Van Hook
FROM PAGE 1

community college at COC. The topic was addressed off and on over the years, but it was in April 1999, after a presentation to The Newhall board and a trip to 258

Mr. Tom Lee, the chairman and CEO of The Newhall Land and Farming Co. at the time, jumped on the idea. Before I knew it, a month later we were off to Metropolitan Community College in Harris, Texas, to look at a university center.

Convinced that was a model we could use to establish a bigger and better university center in Santa Clarita, Tom and I began laying our groundwork forward. Meetings with area business leaders and surveys of area residents and students confirmed what we expected. The university center was the perfect solution to the lack of upper-division, graduate school and continuing education access being available to the emerging population and increasing business base in the Santa Clarita Valley.

The goal was to create a new educational facility based on partnerships that would bring training for the workforce, our students and the community.

In January 2002 we opened the Interim University Center under construction, the best is yet to come. It will open in 2009 – and it will serve as the perfect demonstration of a third such facility on the north side of campus. Combined, the central plants have an energy efficiency of 27 percent, a 30 percent reduction in carbon footprint, and a 20 percent 

The University Center was the perfect demonstration of the College of the Canyons' commitment to our students and the community. We included the University Center in We included the University Center in the projects voters approved in the statewide education facilities bond in 1997. The amount increased to $21 million. Taken in addition to the $1 million, via an energy-saving program with California Edison for our success in creating a sustainable community college system.

The University Center was not only our dream, but the dream of many others who lived and worked in Santa Clarita.

Dr. Dianne Van Hook is superintendent-president of College of the Canyons.

The Bottom Line is published by the College of the Canyons Public Information Office to inform the community of news and events of interest in the Santa Clarita Community College District.

sion classes at OCC. The topic was addressed off and on over the years, but it was in April 1999, after a presentation to The Newhall Land and Farming Co. At the same time, we embarked on an ambitious capital campaign to bring together the resources necessary to build a permanent facility. We proceeded on many fronts, including a community fund-raising initiative that was started, then run by the College of the Canyons Foundation Board of Directors, and led by two highly regarded, respected and accomplished community-minded CEOs: Lou Garasi, president of Grauber Systems, and Tom Lee, whose contagious enthusiasm for the project never waned. I also asked Congress

Van Hook
FROM PAGE 1

James' education and coaching experience began at the University of Michigan, where he played both football and baseball...undergraduateduring his high school years.

Following a successful college career on the field, he turned to coaching. It was time to start pursuing his career as a coach.

He received his first break at his alma mater, Chico State, where he spent two years as the pitching coach and recruiting coach. But it was his one-year stint as an assistant coach and field coach and a year helping the College of the Canyons at the University of Oregon, Calif., that made the biggest impact. It was there that he earned his degree in business administration and it was there that he wrote a letter to the head softball coach at Butte College.

The 12-year leader amassed more than 250 wins, and in his last six seasons led the Roadrunners to six straight post-season appearances. But the father of two wanted more – he wanted to be a full-time coach.

After a chance meeting with former Cougar head softball coach Ray Whitten who had recently retired from his position as head softball coach at OCC for the past 21 years and encouraged him to apply for Canyons' opening, Wissmath said, "I knew from then on that I wanted to be a softball coach." Wissmath said.

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The permanent University Center, as depicted in these artist renderings, includes a spacious central lobby (above). The multi-level building (left) will rise along the southern edge of the college’s property, just east of Interstate 5. Located on the property’s highest elevation, the building will have sweeping views of the Santa Clarita Valley.

The College of the Canyons campus, the University Center and College of the Canyons’ Board of Trustees voted in May to name the facility the Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook University Center.

Continued development of the community’s economic potential is tied to the cultivation of an educated workforce. The University Center is a key component in doing so. When it opens in 2009, it will have the capacity to house at least 10 partnering colleges and universities offering 70 degree and credential programs.

Funding for the University Center’s construction and equipment comes from private donors, state and federal resources, and local bond measures.

Van Hook worked extensively as the state level to persuade officials to fund such an innovative concept. The private fundraising effort was led by two of Santa Clarita’s foremost business leaders, Lou Galasso, CEO of Genesis Systems, and Van Lee, retired CEO of Newhall Land U.S. Congressman Howard B. “Buck” McKeon served as the honorary chair for the fundraising campaign.

Situated at the south end of campus in a prominent location affording views of the Santa Clarita Valley, the building will also host the college’s Economic Development Department and Advanced Technology Business Incubator, along with the William S. Hart Union High School District’s Academy of the Canyons middle college high school.

Prop 92 Aims to Reduce Enrollment Fees

A ballot measure instituting fundamental changes in community college funding will be placed before voters in the February 5, 2008 election. Proposition 92, known as the Community College Initiative, has several components that will change community college funding statewide. It will reduce fees without raising taxes or affecting K-12 public school funding.

The measure establishes in the state constitution a system of independent public community college districts and a Board of Governors; requires minimum levels of state funding that grows along with the community college student population, sets fees at $15 per unit and limits future fee increases to no more than the cost of living.

“This initiative is designed to make community college education in our community and in the state even more affordable by cutting enrollment fees at a time when many students are struggling economically, and it will stabilize funding for community colleges,” said Dr. Dianne Van Hook, superintendent-president of College of the Canyons and the Santa Clarita Community College District. “It gives every Californian a chance to go to college or access workforce training – without raising taxes or hurting our public schools.”

The California Community College system offers affordable and accessible academic and vocational education for both recent high school graduates and California students returning to school. More Californians attend community college than attend California State University or University of California campuses. Community colleges strive to advance California’s economic growth by continuously improving the state’s workforce and providing a gateway to a better life for millions of Californians.

Additional factual information is available on the college’s Public Information Office.

College Launches Speech/Language Pathology Classes

A nyone interested in pursuing a career in the speech/language pathology industry now has the opportunity to do so at College of the Canyons, thanks to a pair of recently introduced courses in the fast growing field.

Serving as a preview for the college’s soon to be approved Speech/Language Pathology Assistant (SLPA) program, the course SLPA 102: Language Development Across the Lifespan was first offered to students in the spring 2007 semester.

Focusing on the normal verbal and non-verbal communication across the human lifespan, SLPA 102 is designed to give students an understanding of how the various areas of language contribute to the total communication process in a multi-cultural society.

“Many people are trying to understand the basics of language so they can better deal with what’s abnormal,” said Sue Albert, dean of allied health at the college. “It’s a nice survey class that will get your foot in the door helping people with speech language disorders.”

Offered for the first time during the fall 2007 semester, SLPA 101: Introduction to Speech/Language Pathology provides students with a strong foundation of knowledge pertaining to the field – which can then be used to form new ideas, draw inferences and think critically about human communication and its disorders. The
An Entrepreneur’s Dream Comes True

College’s Small Business Development Center Aids Small Business Owners

When Mimi Yacobucci opens the doors of her women’s clothing boutique, “Miriam,” in the Valencia Town Center, she hopes it will make the community, her family and her friends at the College of the Canyons Small Business Development Center (SBDC) proud.

“I look forward to opening my business,” said Yacobucci. “Opening my own store has been a lifelong dream of mine and my success will be attributed to the support of the Small Business Development Center.”

Launched in January 2006, the SBDC at College of the Canyons helps prospective and existing small business owners in northern Los Angeles County, like Yacobucci, to start, retain or expand their businesses.

“Mimi is a client who took advantage of the myriad of SBDC services, which includes workshops, the MasterMinds program, one-on-one counseling, loan packaging and networking opportunities, and she is now ready to make her dream happen,” said Paul De La Cerda, director of the SBDC at College of the Canyons.

The SBDC also helps new business owners with what is often considered the most daunting aspect of starting a new business: creating a business plan.

“Business plans are necessary to align our resources in a fiscal manner to ensure a company’s survival,” Yacobucci said.

SBDC mentor Nina Grooms-Lee describes developing a business plan as a “time-consuming and very emotional journey.”

“Small Business Owners

HUNDREDS ATTEND BUSINESS CONFERENCE

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Sponsor: College of the Canyons/Small Business Development Center (SBDC), Center for Applied Competitive Technologies (CANT), Employee Training Institute and the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at the college, joins Mimi Yacobucci (left) and SBDC mentor Nina Grooms-Lee in front of Yacobucci’s soon-to-open retail store.

Hundreds Attend Business Conference

Designed to provide expert advice and information for entrepreneurs and small business owners throughout Los Angeles County and the surrounding areas, the 2007 Dream and Discover Entrepreneurs Conference hosted by College of the Canyons attracted more than 200 business-minded community members and was hailed as a tremendous success.

Organized by the College of the Canyons Economic Development Division, which includes the Small Business Development Center (SBDC), Center for Applied Competitive Technologies, Employee Training Institute and the SBDC at the college, joins Mimi Yacobucci (left) and SBDC mentor Nina Grooms-Lee in front of Yacobucci’s soon-to-open retail store.

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See DREAM on Page 6

Technology Incubator Nurtures Start-ups

In a math class, a professor would say that i3 is equal to -i but the i3 of the Advanced Technology Incubator at College of the Canyons is equal to three things: innovate, invest and incubate.

 Started in 2005 in collaboration with the Los Angeles Business Technology Center, an established technology incubator in Altadena, the i3 Advanced Technology Incubator was launched with the recognition of the growth potential of the Santa Clarita Valley.

The incubator brings together entrepreneurs, investors, mentors, student interns and third-party service providers in the local area to spur economic development in the Santa Clarita Valley and is the only one to be located on a community college campus in the state of California.

“The incubator is located on the campus of College of the Canyons to provide the unique benefits and unprecedented opportunity of marrying education with entrepreneurship,” said Doug Howe, interim director of the incubator. “This provides selected entrepreneurs with access to entrepreneurial curricula through the college, access to student interns and exposure to business, engineering and biotech faculty in addition to the traditional services of an incubator.”

These services include “introductions to investors, a mentoring program staffed with local business professionals, connections to local service providers and eventually a state-of-the-art facility to nurture and grow start-up and early stage companies that will eventually graduate into the local community and contribute to job creation and overall economic development,” he said.

Similar to an incubator for a premature newborn baby, the incubator nurtures “start-up and early stage companies in an environment of incubation,” said Howe.

Clockwise from left, Computer Support Services Director Jim Temple leads guests on a tour of the new campus; a young visitor gazes at a scale model of the campus as it will look when built out; guests arrive at Quad 1; a boy peers into the lens of a telescope specially equipped to safely view the sun; members of the Pearce Family Bluegrass Band of Canyon Country perform for guests; a member of the L.A. County Sheriff’s Department mounted posse on patrol; and “Leona Cox,” portrayed by Connie Tripp, explains her role in the history of Canyon Country.
Ceremony Marks Opening of Campus

Providing an early look at the Santa Clarita Valley's newest college campus, the ribbon-cutting ceremony at the College of the Canyons Canyon Country Campus officially opened the roughly $34 million facility and was attended by an assortment of local legislators, educators and community leaders who took part in the historic event.

The Aug. 28 event also provided college officials an opportunity to reflect on how the opening of a second campus will allow College of the Canyons to better serve the surrounding community.

"This Canyon Country Campus and our drive to develop it is an obvious demonstration of this college's commitment to the community," said OCC Superintendent-President Dr. Dianne Van Hook.

"It's a testament to the ingenuity, passion, dedication and can-do spirit that marks everything we undertake at College of the Canyons."

Located on Sierra Highway, less than two miles north of Soledad Canyon Road, the CCC is terraced into the rolling hills of the 70-acre site, which provides a sweeping view of the surrounding terrain.

Campus developers planned more than 3,000 square feet of instructional space – including two science labs, two computer labs, a library, a bookstore, food services, a PE building, an early childhood education facility and 24 classrooms complete with wireless Internet connectivity – the campus is already serving more than 3,000 students housed in more than 300 classes in its inaugural semester alone.

"But more than just a collection of classrooms and labs, this new Canyon campus is a place where student dreams, community vision and the college's commitment to create a very special place for student learning and community development," said Dana Maloney, founding dean, before speaking to the college's dedication in fostering continued student achievement at both campuses.

In addition city of Santa Clarita Mayor Marsha McLean and Councilman Bob Kellar both took part in the event, with each taking grand prize tokens for the college's latest accomplishment.

"This is fantastic. It's amazing what you can do when you set your mind to it," McLean said. "What you are doing for this side of the valley is just tremendous."

"This is another building block of excellence for this community," added Kellar, and "I can not thank the college enough for continuing to be such a great partner in so many ways."

During ceremonies at the second annual Leaders of Character fundraising gala at the Hyatt Valencia in late October, the Van Hook began applying for funds to construct a water tower and have the CCC become central plant housed on the roof of what is now Bonelli Hall. But as the campus started to expand in the early 1990s, OCC Superintendent-President Dr. Dianne Van Hook began applying for funds to construct a water tower and have the CCC become an environmental leader among other community colleges, CCC's most beneficial eco-friendly project has come in the form of three energy co-generating central plants housed on campus.

Housing chillers, boilers and cooling towers in one location, central plants serve as a single source of both hot and chilled water, used to heat and cool air and produce a potable water supply for multiple buildings on campus.

Central plants differs significantly from the highly popular practice of constructing a new building to provide sufficient heating and cooling and hot water supplies to only that building.

"But that is a tremendous waste of natural resources, as the efficiency of a perennial building approach is much less than a single, larger facility that can serve several buildings at one time," said Jim Schrage, COC dean of facilities. "When a campus becomes a conglomeration of 30 or 40 buildings amassing 600,000 to 700,000 square feet, the combined inefficiencies and waste of separate systems is enormous. However this has never been the case at College of the Canyons."

In fact, life at the college began with a central plant housed on the roof of what is now Bonelli Hall. But as the campus started to expand in the early 1990s, OCC Superintendent-President Dr. Dianne Van Hook began applying for funds to construct a water tower.

College staff members and community dignitaries join Superintendent-President Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook (second from right) during the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Situated near the center of the new campus and adjacent to a large green space, the amphitheater is envisioned as a venue for performances and gatherings by students or community groups. It is expected to be completed by early 2008.

A unique addition to the amphitheater will be commemorative recognition stones. Available for $300, the decorative stones will be placed around the amphitheater in honor of donors to the campus. A naming opportunity for the amphitheater is available for a $25,000 contribution.

Sustainable Development Embraced

College Uses Variety of Energy-Efficient Tactics in Operations, Construction

Long before environmental concepts like sustainable development and energy conservation became the popular social movements and publicized business practices they are today, College of the Canyons had already begun employing a number of energy-efficient and environmentally friendly tactics in its operations, maintenance and construction.

Though constantly seeking ways to improve efficiency, reduce waste and serve as an environmental leader among other community colleges, CCC's most beneficial eco-friendly project has come in the form of three energy co-generating central plants housed on campus.

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Among the many highlights of the conference—which included a full schedule of presentations and panel discussions on topics ranging from entrepreneurial success in global markets, proper business planning techniques and the many opportunities available for accessing capital during a business’ startup and growth—were a closing keynote by award-winning photographer and entrepreneur Steve Uzzell.

Uzzell’s presentation, “Open Roads, Open Minds,” focused on the importance of maintaining an open mind and seizing opportunities to capitalize on success, while stressing that success is achieved through constant planning and preparation. The presentation by keynote speaker Steve Uzzell received rave reviews from the audience, treaty, and made him proud. People were just floored by his presentation,” La Cerda said. “Yacobucci defi- nitely didn’t have to be an entrepreneur or business owner to get something out of his presentation, and that’s exactly what we wanted to bring to this conference.”

‘Roger is the one person without whose influence and confidence I could not have accomplished what I have.’

—DR. DIANNE G. VAN HOOK

including exemplary character, leadership attributes and a demonstrated effort to make the community a better place for all, Duffy said Van Hook’s selection was also based on the college’s strong academic, athletic, and visual and performing arts reputation and volunteerism throughout the valley. With specific criteria for the award, the i3 Incubator will be able to host companies in the new facility.