

# The Bottom Line

NEWS & VIEWS FROM COLLEGE OF THE CANYONS WINTER 2008

## Chancellor's REPORT



Dr. Dianne Van Hook

College of the Canyons is expected to serve 23,000 students during this fall semester. That's more than twice what we served just 8 years ago!

What explains this growth? Many things, certainly. We live in a growing area, so as the population increases, we can expect to see more students. The economy has also contributed to the rise in the number of students we're serving this semester. People come back to college to gain the skills needed to find employment in new fields. But those two things alone can't account for such a dramatic surge.

What's driving our growth is our focus on the many relationships we have with our community. There are the relationships we have

See VAN HOOK on Page 2



By spending millions of dollars on new facilities like Aliso Hall, College of the Canyons is an important driver of the local economy in the Santa Clarita Valley.

## COC Boosts Local Economy

Go anywhere in the Santa Clarita Valley and the people you meet are students at College of the Canyons, alumni, or at least have friends and family who have taken classes here.

Ask those same people about the college's economic impact on the community, however, and they probably won't be as knowledgeable. While local residents are well acquainted with the educational opportunities available at the college, most are unaware of the vital role COC plays in strengthening the local economy.

But it is a top priority for the college.

"We take our role in economic development very seriously because it not only benefits the community through the creation of jobs and direct stimulation of the local economy," explained College of the Canyons Chancellor Dr. Dianne Van Hook, "but it

also helps colleges to reinvent themselves. Colleges involved in economic development always have an eye on the future. They are anticipating the changes that are coming and constantly working to adapt themselves accordingly."

"College of the Canyons: Economic Impact 2008-09," a new report recently published by the college, explores the many ways COC enhances the economic vitality of the Santa Clarita Valley.

That influence is felt most directly in terms of the real spending the college does each year. Current-year salaries and benefits total \$67 million, and that money is injected into the local economy through employees who live in the area and spend their money at local businesses.

The college itself spent \$25 million purchasing goods and services and another \$102 million in cap-

See ECONOMIC IMPACT on Page 11

## Field Studies Moves Learning Outside

Because every student is different, College of the Canyons has introduced several different class formats over the years to accommodate different learning styles.

While some students are perfectly comfortable learning in a traditional classroom setting of

desks aligned in a row, all facing a chalkboard, others prefer learning in the comfort of their homes and pajamas, through online classes. Students who want something in between the traditional and online formats often opt for a hybrid version of the two.

See FIELD STUDIES on Page 10

# Van Hook

## FROM PAGE 1

with our students, and our desire to meet their needs for skills, training, and academic enrichment. And there are the relationships we enjoy with local businesses and the community at large.

Meeting the needs of those who count on us requires us to be constantly innovative and always on the lookout for new ways of doing things. Innovation takes many forms at College of the Canyons. Our facilities are certainly innovative, as we have one of the most active building programs of any community college in California.

Hasley Hall which was completed this past year, houses eight of our academic departments, and a new screening room for our cinema program that also hosts a Friday night foreign film series and a family/children's series for the community. Also located in Hasley Hall is a newly added athletic tutoring program called The Zone to ensure the success of our athletes as students first.

The Aliso Hall and Laboratory buildings are very innovative as they afford our faculty and students state-of-the-art labs in engineering, biology, chemistry, biotechnology, nursing, physical science and physics, as well as large lecture halls. Our award-winning MESA Center supports the access and success of the math, engineering and science majors at COC. That group, by the way, was just awarded an NSF grant in excess of \$400,000 to support their students with scholarships to transfer to four-year colleges. And, our nursing program was selected as one of only three (of 110) community colleges to receive a grant to partner with a California State University campus to create a three-year bachelor's degree program for registered nurses.

The much-needed and long-awaited expansion of the P.E. Building opened this semester. And, along with the new tennis courts that will house intercollegiate tennis teams, it provides classrooms that were full

the day we opened them, additional locker room facilities and a second gymnasium.

The University Center is under way at the south end of campus. When it opens in late spring, it will make available a diverse array of bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees – on our campus. Gone are the days when students had to commute outside the Santa Clarita Valley to continue their educations beyond COC. Instead, we brought the degrees to the students. Higher education beyond the associate degree level is now more accessible than ever, and that makes an incredible difference in our students' ability to accomplish their goals and fulfill their dreams.

Our Canyon Country Campus has continued to blossom under the leadership of Founding Dean Dena Maloney. As the community has gotten to know us and visited us on Sierra Highway, they have helped us continue to build the awareness of what a special place the CCC is for our community. That awareness is enabling us to put the building blocks in place for partnerships, training initiatives and points of access that will help more people to pursue their goals and dreams through College of the Canyons.

All of these physical places are visible examples of our innovation and commitment to developing relationships. We are committed to developing new facilities on our campus so that we can add new programs and opportunities to help people accomplish their dreams.

So how do we do it? Just as with any wild idea fueled by hope and confidence, we envision where we want to be, put it on our agenda, and our dreams take shape into plans. As Henry David Thoreau said, "If you have built castles in the air, your work need not be lost. There is where they should be. Now put foundations under them." Our opportunities are unlimited as we strive to do that for more and more students each year, and do it in different ways. And we are committed to continuing to do so.

While we open the doors for more peo-

ple to plot the path to their dreams at COC, we do what we do with a quality that we are proud of because we are committed to enhancing the impact we have on individual students and how we help them grow and change in amazing, life-altering ways. It has been said that community colleges are the graduate schools of the future, so that's why we try to create as many different opportunities as possible for our students.

Our relationship with the community matters. We're constantly creating new majors and certificate programs to not only meet the needs of business and industry, but also to match our students' interests and ensure they get the training that will enable them to compete in emerging fields. We have new degrees in:

- Retail Management
- Landscape Maintenance
- Landscape Management
- Building Inspection
- Theatre-General
- Theatre-Performance
- Psychology
- Math and Science
- Humanities
- Social Science

And, we are working to develop new programs that will be approved this academic year and offered immediately thereafter:

- Insurance Certificate
- Construction Technologies (Plumbing, Electrician, HVAC, Carpentry)
- Alternative Energy and Energy Management
- Human Services
- Emerging Technologies Lab Technician
- Nanotechnology
- Medical Lab Technician

Our relationships with our students and our impact on their future matters, so we've made a point of offering classes in multiple formats so they are available to as many students as possible. Most of our students attend part-time, as they have other responsibilities to attend to, whether that be jobs, family, or both. By offering class-

See VAN HOOK on Page 8



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.

### Mailing Address

College of the Canyons  
Santa Clarita Community College District  
26455 Rockwell Canyon Road  
Santa Clarita, CA 91355

### Phone

(661) 259-7800

### Internet

<http://www.canyons.edu>

## The Arts Bring Elementary Students to COC

With a goal to augment arts education programs and learning opportunities for all local students, the Santa Clarita Performing Arts Center at College of the Canyons (PAC) has launched a new K-12 arts education outreach program.

Using the college's vast cultural and community resources, the program exposes students to the visual and performing arts, while also collaborating with teachers and administrators in local school districts to develop an enhanced arts education curriculum.

"This is a chance for College of the Canyons to begin communicating a different vision in terms of the college's participation in arts education throughout our community," said Adam Philipson, PAC managing director. "It's important for the arts to be introduced to younger audiences so they can realize the powerful affect art



Saugus Union School District students explore "The Sculpture of Brad Howe" exhibit at the College of the Canyons Art Gallery as part of the PAC's ongoing K-12 Arts Education Outreach Program.

can have on their lives, and that's something we are committed to here at the college."

"This program is particularly exciting because it not only gives local students an introduction to the arts, but it also gives them a chance to connect with their community college," COC Chancellor Dr. Dianne Van Hook said. "They get a small taste of what college is all about and that gets them excited about some day being a student here."

Kick-starting the college's new program was a field trip by more than 600 Saugus Union School District students who visited the PAC in October for a special performance and presentation by comedic acrobatic duo The Tweaksters.

As an added feature of the day's events students also visited the campus art gallery to view "The Sculpture of Brad Howe" exhibit featuring a selection of Howe's internationally known colorful steel sculptures.

See K-12 ARTS on Page 10

## High School Students Get Help on Exit Exam

This spring College of the Canyons, in collaboration with the William S. Hart Union High School District, will introduce a program designed to help students pass the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) — and ultimately move forward with their educational goals and dreams.

The result of a grant to the college worth as much as \$206,000 from the state Chancellor's Office CAHSEE preparation fund, this free program is designed to give students from the class of 2008, who have met all requirements for graduation but have not yet passed the CAHSEE, an additional opportunity to prepare for the exam in a focused, individualized and nurturing setting.

"College of the Canyons and the William S. Hart Union High School District are committed to further developing and implementing this program at the community college level," said Jennifer Brezina, the college's interim dean, noncredit division and community education. "This partnership will allow students the opportunity to utilize both the college and the Hart District's educational resources to obtain the skills needed to complete their high school degrees and move forward in their lives and academic careers."

Through a combination of coursework, workshops and intensive counseling, the college's CAHSEE preparation program will seek to provide unique educational opportunities for students to learn basic math and English skills — while also decreasing test-taking anxiety by familiarizing students with the procedural aspects of the oftentimes intimidating examination.

Counseling services will provide students with success skills needed to progress beyond achieving high school graduate status, while also evaluating the student's interests in order to explore post-CAHSEE options that may include continued college edu-

cation, technical training and/or job and career identification. Specific aspects of the program will address the learning needs of students who fall into one or more of the identified 'at-risk' student groups — special education, English learner, and economically disadvantaged students — which traditionally exhibit a lower CAHSEE passage rate. Because of the demographic complexities associated with the non-passing student groups, college officials have decided against creating an all-inclusive program with a set curriculum for every student.

"We recognize that students who fall into one or more of these three student groups will require a much more intensive assessment and more of an individualized approach to educational training in order to pass the CAHSEE," Brezina said. "So by creating a personalized path and accompanying instructor-led classroom setting, we hope to develop in students the knowledge and skills required to pass the exam and ultimately earn their diplomas."

Under the program's pathway plan, students will be placed on educational paths based on their assessment level and individualized needs, that will provide them with a greater focus while allowing them to chart their progress against a benchmarked standard.

The college's free CAHSEE program workshops, counseling and student services will be offered Monday through Thursday and Saturdays during flexible morning and evening hours throughout the Spring 2009 semester, which begins February 9, 2009.

*The College of the Canyons Community and Continuing Education department's staff is available to help answer any questions you may have about the college's CAHSEE program. For more information please call (661) 362-3175 or visit [www.canyons.edu/CAHSEE](http://www.canyons.edu/CAHSEE).*

# President's Circle Members Say Aloha to "South Pacific"



*Clockwise from above:* The College of the Canyons Foundation hosted its annual President's Circle Dinner in October, which included a performance of "South Pacific" by the COC Theatre Department. Guests included Richard and Rozzie Sathre; BJ and Jeannie Atkins; Mitzi and Randy Moberg; David Sonn  and Fine and Performing Arts Dean Floyd Moos; 2009 Silver Spur Honorees Harold and Jacquie Petersen, are joined by Kathy Kennedy, Dr. Van Hook, and Bill Kennedy; Mark Jenkins and Roxie Ramey; President's Circle Chair Jill Mellady thanks guests for investing in COC; 2008 Silver Spur Honoree Wayne Crawford and Cathy Ritz; and Foundation Board Members Frank and Charlotte Kleeman.

# Student Performers Master Their Craft

Realizing the value in having students interact with and learn from the world-class artists who visit here each year, the Santa Clarita Performing Arts Center at College of the Canyons (PAC) continually provides opportunities for students to work alongside professional actors, directors and other industry professionals in

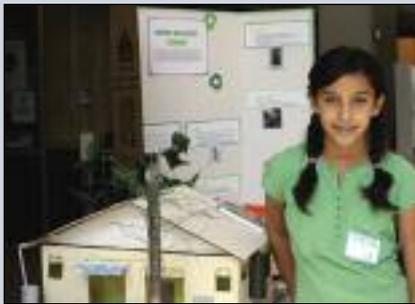
a variety of educational master classes.

Whether it's the chance to focus on a specific scene or song while receiving individualized feedback from a Broadway actress, the experience of dancing alongside members of a modern dance company, or the opportunity to test improvisational wit against members of the famed Second City

Touring Company, the college's offering of master classes continues to present students with fun and unique learning experiences.

"Providing the opportunity for our performing arts students to work so closely with these world-class acts and artists is very gratifying," said Dr. Floyd Moos, College of the Canyons dean of fine and per-

**See MASTER CLASSES on Page 8**



Golden Oak Elementary School student Crystal Orellana, 10, stands ready to present her 'green' building model design during the College of the Canyons Sustainable Development Committee's first Environmental Science Fair.



SCV International charter school seventh-grader William Atwood, 13, presents his first-place project on recycled rubber.

## 'Green' Fair Inspires Young Scientists

The College of the Canyons Sustainable Development Committee (SDC) hosted its first Environmental Science Fair with projects presented by elementary, junior high and high school-aged students from across the Santa Clarita Valley.

Sponsored by the SDC and Whole Foods Market in Valencia, the 2008 Environmental Science Fair featured more than 35 students from North Park Elementary, Golden Oak Elementary, Santa Clarita Valley International charter school, and West Ranch High School.

"Whether we're designing new facilities, creating new classes and learning opportunities for our students, or implementing recycling programs, environmental sustainability is a top priority for us at College of the Canyons," said COC Chancellor Dr. Dianne Van Hook. "This is a great opportunity for us to continue that ongoing dialog and engage the community in what we're doing."

Operating under the theme "Kids on Sustainability and Solutions," event organizers encouraged the submission of both individual and group projects from elementary and junior high students based around categories including: transportation, 'green' building and design, plastics and recycling, daily toxins, composting and sustainable gardening and organic foods.

Projects submitted by high school students revolved around "sustainable solutions for our future" and focused on what students think is the most challenging environmental issue(s) facing their generation.

"Environmental awareness has to start early," said SDC co-chair Jia-Yi Cheng-Levine about the reasoning behind organiz-

ing such an event. "We can't afford to wait until students come to college to begin talking about environmental issues. By raising awareness in K-12 students we have a better chance of effecting positive changes for a more balanced and environmentally sustainable future for all."

Throughout the day of the October event, students attentively stood by their projects, offering explanations of their research and demonstrations of their work to the science fair's group of judges, fellow students, and fair visitors.

"I learned a lot of things can be done to save the environment, and not just by turning off the lights," said Golden Oak Elementary sixth-grader Crystal Orellana, 10, whose project, a model 'green' building, showed the many ways homes can operate more efficiently.

"The purpose of green buildings is to prevent environmental degradation and to build homes that are safe," she added, while pointing out designs to incorporate skylights, utilize solar water heaters and collect rainwater for plumbing usage. "This is the kind of house I want to live in."

Though all students who participated in the event received awards, individual prizes were given out to first place, second place, third place and honorable mention projects. First place winners also received restaurant gift certificates and prize bags provided by Whole Foods Market, Valencia.

"It feels really good to win because we worked so hard," said SCV International seventh-grader William Atwood, 13, about the first-place project he and classmate Mitchell Johnson submitted about the many uses for recycled rubber. "But we had fun."

## Nursing Department Welcomes New Director

With a nursing program that continues to expand in the face of a statewide nursing shortage, College of the Canyons recently named long-time nursing industry professional Dr. Margaret “Peg” Hamilton its nursing program director.

As the department’s lead administrator Hamilton will be responsible for overseeing all nursing program curriculum and accreditation requirements, the recruitment, hiring and evaluation of all department faculty and staff, and the development and subsequent implementation of all grant funds awarded to the department, while also serving as a local, regional and national representative of the college’s nursing department.

“I’ve been in nursing almost all my life and I love it,” said Hamilton, who comes to College of the Canyons with 38 years of industry experience. “When I interviewed here I was extremely impressed with the people I would be working with, and in particular Dean Sue Albert and what she has meant to the department. So I’m just thrilled to be here.”

Hamilton is an advanced practice nurse, with a specialty in psychiatric and mental health nursing, having earned B.S. and M.S. degrees in nursing science from Boston College.

In addition, Hamilton holds a doctorate in nursing science from Boston University — which was followed by the completion



Dr. Margaret Hamilton

of a prestigious two-year National Institute of Health post-doctorate research fellowship at Harvard Medical School.

A native New Yorker, Hamilton comes to College of the Canyons having spent most of her professional career working in the Boston area. She has worked in a variety of clinical and academic settings. Some of these include working as a mental health and psychiatric/mental health consultant at The Children’s Hospital, graduate program director for nursing at Northeastern University, and as a principle at The Hestia Institute, a private practice of physicians and advanced practice nurses. The institute was named after the Greek goddess (Hestia) whose mission was to stand at the center of the community as a centering force and call for service to all.

Peg says she is reminded of the Hestia concept by the mission and presence of COC in the Santa Clarita community.

“Throughout her 38 years in the industry Dr. Hamilton has managed to retain her love and enthusiasm for teaching and her commitment to the field of nursing,” said College of the Canyons Chancellor Dr. Dianne Van Hook. “We’re confident she’ll bring that same expertise and enthusiasm to our nursing program, at a time when serving the public with thoughtful, caring and competent nurses is a top priority.”

Since 2000, the College of the Canyons nursing program has experienced significant growth. As a result, the number of students admitted into the program has also expanded, with a minimum of 100 new students admitted each year, compared with just an average of 48 each year in 2000. Currently there are more than 250 nursing students enrolled at the college.

Over the last eight years the department has also been awarded roughly \$4 million in grant funds, and has grown from six full-time faculty members to 14. Similarly the number of adjunct faculty members has increased from 11 to 30.

The program boasts seven local/regional clinical skills labs and 10 human patient simulators, and partnerships with an ever-increasing number of partner agencies and facilities where students are able to receive their clinical education and nursing training.

## Event Seminar Highlights Career Tech Options

More than 150 teachers, counselors and administrators from 17 local schools attended the recent Career Technical Education Awareness Day at College of the Canyons.

The event was created because there was a “perceived need to get information about career technology options to faculty, counselors and administrators,” said Audrey Green, dean of program development and community education at the college.

The event’s aim, Green said, was to “open the eyes” of teachers and education professionals that having a bachelor’s degree doesn’t always equate to having a job.

Career Technical Education (CTE) pre-

pares and trains students for middle-skilled jobs that are in demand, such as careers in welding and nursing.

“Only 70 percent of jobs need a bachelor’s degree,” said Green. “There are other options.”

But in the last two decades, CTE has taken a backseat to four-year education tracks at colleges and universities, primarily because of the heavy importance placed upon the latter by educators and parents.

While California accounts for more than 20 percent of the nation’s high tech jobs and production, only 34 percent of California high school students were enrolled in CTE courses, compared to 74 percent in 1987.

The Oct. 10 event was held in breakout sessions that were led by working professionals in the fields of: building trades and construction; engineering and design; health sciences and medical technology; public service; arts, media and entertainment; agriculture and natural resources; information technology and manufacturing and product development.

A freelance graphic artist, city land surveyor, a paralegal and the director of laboratory services at Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Hospital were among the 24 speakers who offered educators advice on how to better prepare their students for the workforce.

# Biology Internship Inspires Career

When Lesley Rakowski enrolled in Professor Fritz Costa's biology class at College of the Canyons, she had no idea that it would alter the course of her academic and professional career.

Rakowski was hand-picked by her professor to be the first student to participate in the Undergraduate Summer Research Program—a collaboration between COC and the University of Southern California (USC)—as an intern at USC's Health Science Campus.

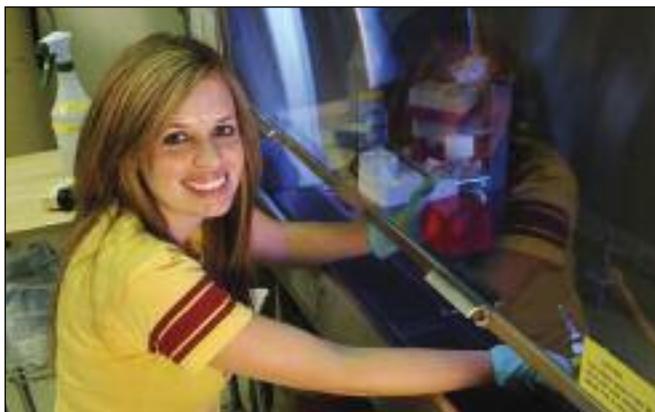
During the summer of 2007, Rakowski worked side-by-side with USC graduate students in the laboratory conducting cancer research.

"I was the only undergraduate student," said Rakowski, who helped extract protein from snake venom as an experiment to find a method to lessen the effects of chemotherapy in cancer patients.

"It was really overwhelming because I was surrounded by people who've been studying this for a long time," said Rakowski, who is now a junior at USC studying biology. "But they took me in and trained me. I learned lab methods that have helped me in my classes."

Costas chose Rakowski because she finished first in his class of 60 students.

"Lesley is smart for sure, but I knew that being smart wouldn't be enough," said Costas. "What I wanted, and the way



Lesley Rakowski

I was trained to think at USC, was to be creative and think outside the box. This is exactly what Lesley possessed and which is absolutely essential for cancer research."

After her three-month internship ended, Rakowski was hired as a lab technician because the staff was impressed by her performance. As a USC employee, Rakowski's tuition at USC was free.

"They thought I was really good," said

Rakowski. "It made me feel really special, because they don't often hire interns."

Because of Rakowski's excellent performance, two COC students, Melissa Henrie and Carolina Megiel, were invited to intern in the summer of 2008.

As far as her future plans are concerned, Rakowski says she is exploring her options, which include either going to grad school, becoming a laboratory technician or a physician's assistant.

The Saugus High School graduate had no idea what she wanted to do when she began her studies at COC in the fall of 2005.

"Taking all those general education classes opened my eyes," said Rakowski, who soon learned of her love and affinity for the biological sciences.

Rakowski credits her success at USC to attending COC first.

While at COC, Rakowski was a member of the college's High Intensity Transfer Enrichment and Honors program, which is designed to challenge students to achieve their highest academic potential and transfer to four-year colleges and universities.

"USC is a very competitive school," she said. "I would have never gotten in straight out of high school."

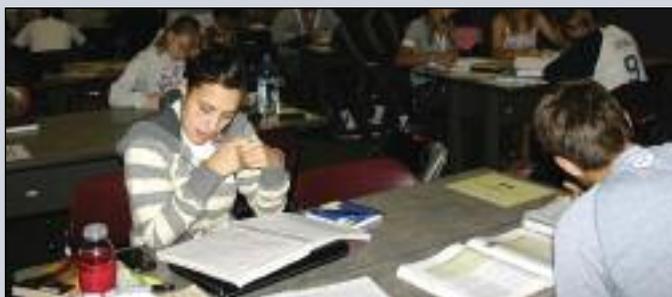
## Student Athletes Score in 'The Zone'

College of the Canyons continues its commitment to nurturing student-athletes on and off the field this fall with the opening of "The Zone," a tutoring lab developed especially for Cougar student-athletes.

"The Zone" is located in Hasley Hall, adjacent to the physical education buildings, making it easy for the members of COC's 16 athletic teams to access the facility. The 1,200-square-foot room houses 16 computers, printers, textbooks and is always staffed with tutors.

"The goal for 'The Zone' is to do exactly what the college is already doing, help students move on to four-year universities, whether it be for athletics or academics," COC Athletic Director Chuck Lyon said. "We wanted to make an environment that was comfortable for athletes to work in and to get the help they need with their academic studies."

Student-athletes are required to spend at least three hours a week in "The Zone." To provide the best service to athletes, it remains open five days a week and two nights per week for those who have morning practices.



"The Zone has been very helpful for me," said COC men's basketball player Justin Smith. "I have access to computers and the Internet. It forces me to do my work because I have to be there at least three hours a week."

Along with the addition of "The Zone" at the beginning of the school year, COC hired a new athletic counselor, Mike Sanders, who has been an integral part in creating a better academic setting for COC's almost 300 student-athletes.

## Van Hook

FROM PAGE 2

es in the evening, on weekends, and in condensed formats, we make it easier for them to attend.

New this semester are the GO Program and the PAL Programs. GO is a series of five-week, online classes that enables students to earn college units at an accelerated rate. The program helps to meet the needs of community members who prefer learning in a more compressed manner than the traditional 16-week college format. Classes are offered in back-to-back, five-week windows in which students can accomplish their goals in shorter, more intensive classes. This allows them to move on to the next level faster. In addition, students have the flexibility to start a class at the beginning of any five-week window throughout the year.

PAL, or Personalized Accelerated

Learning, is also based on a five-week model. Students participate in intensive classes in either an English or math track as well as a class that focuses on goal setting, learning styles, time management, and accessing resources that will help them to be successful. It is aimed at new students whose assessment test results reveal below college-level skills so they can complete courses to improve those skills more rapidly and be on the path to succeeding in college and transfer-level courses.

These programs, whose content and structure were the results of a new leadership program we launched last January, called LEAP, were put together quickly, advertised and started, and are full! With average class sizes of 31 students, this new format allows students to take one class at a time, pay for tuition and books for one class at a time, study and concentrate on one class at a time, get to know their classmates and

the faculty member better and more quickly, and succeed at a high rate while developing confidence in themselves. Creating that “I did it” mentality will fuel their journey to achieve their dreams.

What really makes all this innovation possible are the relationships among the creative faculty, staff, and administrators who are always devising new ideas and moving forward to implement them for the benefit of the community we serve. Of course, we couldn’t do what we do without the consistent support and encouragement we receive from our Board of Trustees.

I welcome your involvement and input as we move boldly forward to create new relationships and continue innovating at College of the Canyons. The community helps set our future direction and we can’t do it without you.

*Dr. Dianne Van Hook is Chancellor of College of the Canyons.*

## Master Classes

FROM PAGE 5

forming arts. “Artists booked into the PAC not only benefit the community, but also make possible a value-added instructional experience for our students.”

During the 2008 spring, summer and fall sessions College of the Canyons students were treated to several such experiences, the first being an ‘improv for actors’ master class with cast members from Second City — whose alumni list includes comedy legends John Belushi, Bill Murray, and Chris Farley.

Later that summer the PAC partnered with the college’s theatre department and The SCV Theatre Project to offer a theatre production master class, in which students worked alongside professional composers Georgia Stitt and David Kirshenbaum to develop and ultimately perform in the workshop production of the musical “Sing Me a Happy Song”— which was featured in The Festival of New American Musicals.

Accomplished Broadway singer and actress Susan Egan hosted a master class in October. Beginning with an introductory question-and-answer session open to both students and community members, the class also provided the chance for more than a dozen students to perform in front of Egan and receive instruction in the art of the audition.

“This master class was a wonderful opportunity for both students and community members to come face to face with a professional who was able to provide valuable insight into the world of musical theatre,” said Julie Lawson, College of the Canyons music instructor. “Our students truly enjoyed their time with Susan, and were thankful for the experience.”



Broadway singer and actress Susan Egan (center) introduces herself to College of the Canyons theatre students (from left to right) Shannon Bouknight, Rebecca Coones, Michele Janes, and Stephanie Jewell during a master class hosted by the PAC. More than a dozen students were able to perform for Egan and receive individualized feedback and instruction.

Later in the month, professional modern dance company Diavolo hosted a set of master classes designed for both College of the Canyons and William S. Hart Union High School District dance students. The event was funded by a donation from the Found Penny Foundation.

Featuring lessons in trust, teamwork, physicality and artistry, both master classes also incorporated a “creation” aspect, where students used learned vocabulary and elements of dance to create a short dance piece. During the event high school students were also paired with College of the Canyons dance students, to help form a lasting mentor relationship between students.

“We’re looking forward to helping sponsor future master classes and other creative opportunities for student education and growth,” said PAC Managing Director Adam Philipson. “To do so enriches and expands the learning experiences for participants at all ages and all stages.”

## Grant Pays For Students to Study Abroad

The College of the Canyons educational travel program has been awarded a \$346,027 Community College Study Abroad grant by the United States Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs — to help increase educational travel opportunities and learning experiences for California community college students.

The grant will provide scholarships for up to 70 community college students from across the state, including 35 College of the Canyons students, to take part in the college's multi-disciplinary travel opportunities to Central and South America.

In addition, four other California community colleges will each receive grants of \$22,500 to develop study abroad educational opportunities based on COC's program model.

"College of the Canyons looks forward to broadening our ability to provide

all students with the opportunity to participate in educational travel," said James Glapa-Grossklag, dean of distance learning programs and training at the college. "The study abroad grant will allow the college to build on its experience in offering educational travel opportunities, while also providing a model for multi-disciplinary travel and learning experiences from which other educators can draw."

These one-time grant funds will be used to fund the educational experience and travel costs associated with two upcoming study-abroad opportunities. The first trip, scheduled for January 2009, will take a group of hospitality and tourism students to Argentina and Uruguay. The next venture, scheduled to take place in summer 2009, will take a second set of students to Costa Rica.

During the trip students will participate in formal language classes, educa-

tional excursions, and other activities in non-traditional environments including historical sites, plazas and museums.

"Both of the 2009 study abroad opportunities will be incredible," said Kevin Anthony, College of the Canyons hotel/restaurant program department chair. "We'll get to use the city of Buenos Aires as a classroom."

Students will also interact with local residents and businesses, observing firsthand the practices of the tourism industry in South America, while also studying a variety of contemporary environmental biology issues related to the ongoing rise of ecotourism.

"International travel is a great way to broaden a student's college resume," said Anthony. "It can be a cornerstone in one's career development, and for many students often translates into a life-changing experience."

## COC Art Students Invited to Exhibit in Japan

College of the Canyons art professor Robert Walker has spent countless summers in Paris and Italy, touring the cities' most renowned museums with students who are eager to fulfill the art student's rite of passage: staring at Leonardo DaVinci's "Mona Lisa" in the crowded Louvre.

But while Europe's artistic legacy is undeniable, Walker has always wished for the opportunity to show his students the rich and vibrant aspects of Japanese art and culture that are deeply rooted in tradition.

It seems as if Walker's wish is well on its way to becoming a reality when, this summer, he and a group of COC students participate in an international exchange exhibition with a group of art students from the Musashino Art University in Tokyo, along with their instructor, Yoshio Ikezaki.

The group of COC students will exhibit their work at Musashino's new art gallery from June 15 to 29, 2009, while the Musashino group will exhibit their work at LA Artcore in Los Angeles.

"It's very important for artists to show internationally," said Walker, who has exhibited his work in five museum shows and three gallery shows in Japan, within the last 10 years. "It's very rare for students to have this opportunity."

Students who exhibit will be chosen by Walker based on a portfolio review of their work.

Once chosen, students will have to enroll in a Special Topics class in the spring, in which they will dedicate the entire semester to creating their exhibit pieces, for which they will receive academic credit.

As the instructor of the course and curator of his students' work, Walker hopes to encourage his students to "work on an individual theme and develop their own style."

Focusing primarily on paintings and sculpture, the real challenge, Walker says, will be in making lightweight sculptures modular and portable.

While the college will cover the cost of shipping the work of the student artists, funds are still needed to help the students travel to Japan to see their work exhibited, in person.

In light of the dismal state of the economy, Walker knows raising the money will be difficult, but he is determined to give his students the full foreign exhibiting experience.

The students who participate in the program "will learn how to exhibit in a foreign country," said Walker who will "push them in the direction of creating upper division and graduate-level work."

Back home in Santa Clarita, Japanese artist Aguri Uchida will visit College of the Canyons in the spring of 2009 to lead a workshop on traditional Japanese painting.

Uchida will demonstrate how she prepares her own paint by grinding pigment and mixing it with animal fat. The one-day workshop will be free and open to the public.

Walker, who has taught art history and sculpture at the college for 19 years, is excited and anxious to get the program off the ground.

"I've always loved Japanese culture," said Walker, who visits Asia at least once every year.

"It's so rich and fascinating."

## Field Studies

FROM PAGE 1

But still, some students would rather trade the mortar and concrete of a college institution for the expansive blue skies of the wild outdoors.

Among the 276 classes that will be offered in the 2009 Winter session are six field studies classes in the disciplines of forensics, geology, photography and sociology that will be taught at Camp Tahquitz, located 120 miles away from the college, between Redlands and Big Bear.

"There is no community college doing this at this level," said Vincent Devlahovich, a COC geology professor who will be teaching at the camp in the winter. "There are a lot of students who enjoy learning outdoors, but it's not for every student."

Surrounded by the majestic San Bernardino Mountains, 50 students will take two classes at the same time and will forge friendships with fellow students during their two-week stay at the Boy Scouts of America-owned camp.

"College of the Canyons is a commuter school so students don't get to know each other," said Devlahovich.

The field studies program, which was unveiled in the fall, takes an interdisciplinary approach to learning.

"So many subjects overlap," said Wendy Brill-Wynkoop, a photography professor who will also teach at the camp along with COC professors Michael Leach and Anne Marenco. "Students are not just learning one thing in the classroom, but are learning several subjects at the same time."

In the first round of field studies classes held in May, sociology students needed to observe people performing a task or doing an activity as an exercise, so they observed their fellow campmates studying photography.

"The classes offer broader socialization by building learning communities," said Devlahovich. "It's like a university experience in a residence hall. Students look out for one another and receive academic support."

Very much like an educational camping trip, students stay in cabins that are each equipped with a wood-burning fireplace.

At an elevation of 6,500 feet, the site boasts thick, pristine forests of cedar, oak and pine trees, including some of the world's tallest Ponderosa pine trees.

The location is especially ideal for teaching photography, said Brill-Wynkoop, who taught a photography course during the slate of field study classes held in the fall.

Brill-Wynkoop hiked with her students to a waterfall, where she taught them how to use shutter speed when photographing active subject matter like running water.

The biggest benefit of shooting out in the field is that "students get immediate feedback," said Brill-Wynkoop.

"Students can learn theory and can put it into practice," she said. "They don't quite understand it until they do it."

All of the winter field classes require on-campus meetings and may require some online instruction as a component of the course.

The college will cover the cost of accommodations, but students must provide their own means for transportation.

In the spring, organismal and environmental biology, photography, sociology and geology courses will be taught as field studies classes at the camp.

*For additional information about the college's field studies program, visit [www.canyons.edu/fieldstudies](http://www.canyons.edu/fieldstudies).*

## K-12 Arts

FROM PAGE 3

Also in October the PAC hosted an audience of local junior high and high school students from the William S. Hart Union High School District, who were joined by a collection of College of the Canyons students for a special performance by world-renowned modern dance company Diavolo.

"These events are just a peek behind the curtain in terms of what we hope to achieve with this program," said College of the Canyons Foundation board member and longtime friend of the college Rita Garasi, who is assisting with the arts education program's implementation.

"The PAC is not just a theater, it's a cultural arts center where students will be able to see all that College of the Canyons has to offer in terms of music, theatre and dance," added Garasi. "The college is like a treasure box in that regard."

Among the many goals of the new pro-



gram will be the promotion of arts education teaching and learning strategies, which could potentially be passed on from artists to teachers in a variety of different settings — including workshops, artist classroom visits, special presentations,

mentor programs and various teaching/learning community partnerships.

*For more information about College of the Canyons' K-12 Arts Education Outreach Program, or to get involved, please contact Adam Philipson at (661) 362-5305.*

## Economic Impact

FROM PAGE 1

ital improvement projects at the Valencia and Canyon Country campuses.

COC's economic influence is also felt in more subtle ways as it provides opportunities for job training, transfer education, workforce preparation, and cultural and athletic opportunities. Shows at the Performing Arts Center help bring visitors to the community. New academic programs in high-demand fields like medical lab technician and the construction trades help meet a demand in the community for skilled workers.

By offering educational opportunities, the college creates higher future earning potential among students. The U.S. Census Bureau reports that associate degree recipients will earn 33 percent more over their lifetimes than those with only a high school diploma. And, students who earn bachelor's degrees make 75 percent more than those who only graduate from high school.

The economic impact of the college's financial transactions is like a snowball rolling downhill.

College of the Canyons receives revenue and spends it in the community, and the impact of the spent funds is multiplied as it flows throughout the community. This multiplier effect fuels job creation and economic growth. College of the Canyons is the sixth largest employer in the Santa Clarita Valley with 1,454 full-time and part-time employees. As a result of this employment and the college's expenditures in the community, the college generated 14,012 full-time equivalent jobs in 2007-08 – a 377 percent increase from eight years ago.

Similarly, companies receiving payment from the college pay employees who spend money on living and entertaining expenses. The effect of each dollar of the college's expenditures is multiplied, increasing the total impact on the Santa Clarita Valley's economy, creating more jobs and income.

College of the Canyons' revenue

reached \$109.6 million in 2007-08. As a result of the college's spending and the multiplier effect throughout the community, the college increased its economic impact on business volume from \$45.6 million in 1999-00 to \$202 million in 2007-08.

And that number is expected to grow in coming years.

"Looking forward, we are excited to build on our partnerships, to continue to identify needs of the community, to increase our impact on our local economy, and together with our partners, to work on solutions which can ensure that people in our community have access to the education and training programs they need to be successful, and that our local businesses have the workforce that they need to thrive," Dr. Van Hook said.

*Copies of the report can be obtained from the College of the Canyons website at [www.canyons.edu/offices/pio/publications.html](http://www.canyons.edu/offices/pio/publications.html).*

## Career Tech

FROM PAGE 6

"It reinforced the need for technical education and the value of what I have to teach," said Sandy Geyer, a computer teacher at Bowman High School. "I learned that everyone's journey is different."

Sharon Huntsman, the event's keynote speaker and the executive director of the California Education, Diversity and Growth

in the Economy (EDGE) Campaign echoed the need to emphasize CTE to students and parents.

"Career technical education will be the engine to California's economic recovery," Huntsman said, alluding to the state's high unemployment rate.

"It was really inspiring and shocking to hear about people who didn't go to college but are making six figures and are doing really well," said Jessica Chanos, a coun-

selor at Hart High School. "I'm going to encourage my students to get experience and mentors and do job shadowing."

Green said that the college is currently working towards expanding its CTE programs—which include welding, automotive technology, water treatment and land surveying—to generate interest in emerging technology fields such as nanotechnology, biotechnology and advanced energy conversion.

## Hall of Fame

FROM BACK COVER

and 2001 golf teams where she earned Western State Conference Women's Golfer of the Year accolades during both years. She was also a part of the first women's golf state title in 2001 and is currently in the COC nursing program.

Football coach Larry Reisbig was the second coach of the Cougar football program. He led the team to two conference championships during his nine-year tenure from 1973 to 1981, including one in his first season as head coach. He is now the men's athletic director at Long Beach City College.

Al Adelini has been a long-time friend of athletics and dedicated much of his



Football coach Larry Reisbig (right)



Counselor Al Adelini

time to athletes before COC ever had an athletic counselor. Adelini spent 30 years with the college and retired in 2000.

*For more information and tickets, please visit [www.COC Athletics.com](http://www.COC Athletics.com) or call the COC Foundation at (661) 362-3434.*



Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Santa Clarita, CA  
91355  
PERMIT 56

Santa Clarita Community College District  
26455 Rockwell Canyon Road  
Santa Clarita, CA 91355

---

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

---

Bruce D. Fortine

---

Michele R. Jenkins

---

Joan W. MacGregor

---

Ernest L. Tichenor

---

Scott Thomas Wilk

---

Nicolas Cardenas, Student Trustee

---

## New class to join Athletic Hall of Fame

A night of great College of the Canyons athletic memories and stories is quickly approaching with the third COC Athletic Hall of Fame set for Thursday, Jan. 22, 2009. With two induction dinners already past, this Hall of Fame is on its way to being the best yet.

The 2009 class includes the first team ever honored – the 1981 state championship baseball team – men’s basketball player Jesse Boyd, women’s golfer Susan Latch, football coach Larry Reisbig and COC counselor Al Adelini.

“Our Hall of Fame dinners and ceremonies have been a tremendous success in the past,” dean of physical education Len Mohny said. “This year’s induction class had many successes on the field and at College of the Canyons and I’m honored to recognize those accomplishments.”

Also a first this year, the dinner will be held on the Valencia campus – in the East Physical Education gym.

“We just completed the East PE building that houses a new gym and what better way to showcase it then at our Hall of Fame induction,” Mohny said.

The 1981 Western State Conference Champion baseball team, which was coached by 2007 inductee Mike Gillespie and now-dean Mohny, rebounded from a second-round loss in the 1981 playoffs to go on to win four-straight games and COC’s first state championship in school history.



COC’s 1981 State Championship Baseball team will be inducted into the COC Athletic Hall of Fame

Jesse Boyd was the first Cougar men’s basketball player to earn All-America and All-State honors for his efforts in the 1974-75 season. Coached by 2005 inductee Lee Smelser, he still holds school records for best scoring average in a season (25.2 ppg), best scoring average in a career (23.9) and most points in a career (1,266 points).

Women’s golfer Susan Latch was a member of the 2000

**See HALL OF FAME on Page 11**