Classes Begin at New Campus

The Santa Clarita Performing Arts Center at College of the Canyons brings a diverse array of performances to Santa Clarita for its fourth season. Mixing joy, laughter, passion and much more, the season features a line-up of national and international stars.

The season kicks off “Vegas” style with the talented and energetic legend, Wayne Newton. Known affectionately as “Mr. Las Vegas,” he is the recipient of many “Entertainer of the Year” awards and named “one of the Top Three entertainers of the century in Nevada and around the world” by the Reno Gazette-Journal.

The COC Theatre Department brings to life the tumultuous upheaval of 1930s Berlin in its rendition of the Broadway musical, Cabaret. Cabaret won eight Tony Awards and the New York Post labeled it “The best show on Broadway.” The Theatre Department will also perform Tartuffe, a hilarious French classic comedy, and The Hobbit this season.

Speaking of theatre, the SCV Theatre Project will present The World Goes ’Round and Canyon Theatre Guild will produce Man of La Mancha.

Just in time for the holidays, The Three Broadway Divas – Debbie Gravitte, Jan Horvath and Anne Runolfsson – combine their decades of experience and energy singing Broadway favorites and holiday surprises.

Santa Clarita Ballet returns with their perennial community favorite, The Nutcracker. Of course, there will be more music in several performances by the COC Music Department throughout the season including the Symphonic Band & Jazz Ensemble, SCV Youth Orchestra, SCV Philharmonic, and COC Choirs.

Later in the season, Manhattan Transfer celebrates its 35th anniversary on the Main Stage, Sweet Honey in the Rock fills the theatre with soulful harmonies and intricate

Tickets on Sale Now for Performing Arts Center’s Fourth Season

Canyon Country Campus Expands Educational Access to East Valley

It was an historic first day for College of the Canyons on Aug. 27, as thousands of students were welcomed at the newly opened Canyon Country Campus.

Officially making COC a college on two campuses but with a single mission – to increase access to education for all students – opening day at the Canyon Country Campus (CCC) had its share of inevitable opening-day complications. But they were overshadowed by an overwhelming sense of excitement shared by students and staff members alike.

Even before students arrived for morning classes, college administrators, faculty and staff gathered to provide guidance and distribute campus maps, class guides, first-day souvenirs and thirst-quenching bottled water.

“All of the students we have talked with are pleased with their classes and with the new campus,” said Dena Maloney, founding dean of the campus. “For me, that’s what this is all about, ensuring students have access to education. To see that

COUPLER FOOTBALL

New coach takes helm, vows to reclaim conference crown.

PAGE 7

NEW TON LEADS OFF

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Inside

OPENING CELEBRATION
Community invited to grand-opening event.

SEE PAGE 5

Wayne Newton

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LATE-START CLASSES!
It’s not too late to register for fall classes.

PAGE 6

College of the Canyons

Breaking News

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

New Science Lab, Lecture Halls Open

With a brand new 32,000-square-foot facility, increased classroom and lab space and improved technological capabilities for students to work with, the college departments moving into the recently opened Aliso Laboratory and Aliso Hall seem to be happily adjusting to their new high-tech homes.

“I’m actually speechless, it’s wonderful,” said TLC lab director Mojdeh Mahin, about the building’s expansive biology, chemistry and nursing labs. “When I saw everything, I said ‘I wish I could be a student again.’ I can’t tell you how impressed I am.” However Mahin wasn’t the only faculty member impressed by the new facilities, which was evident during a tour of the recently opened $18.7 million Aliso Laboratory and Aliso Hall buildings.

See SCIENCE on Page 8

Students stroll between classes at the College of the Canyons Canyon Country Campus Aug. 27, opening day at the new campus.

See NEW CAMPUS on Page 5

26455 Rockwell Canyon Road
Santa Clarita, CA 91355

College of the Canyons

See SCIENCE on Page 8
University Center Generates Interest

• Hundreds Attend Open House

More than 300 people crowded into the Interim University Center on Aug. 7 to learn more about advanced degrees offered by leading universities on the College of the Canyons campus.

The center’s annual open house drew larger-than-expected crowds, with lines of prospective students stretching out into the hallways as they waited to speak with counselors on hand from seven partner colleges, universities and programs.

“It’s been a wonderful turnout, one of the best we’ve seen so far,” said Norma Contreras, campus director for Chapman University, which offers degrees in social science, psychology and criminal justice.

Robert Foster attended the event to learn more about how programs offered by Chapman, University of La Verne, and California State University, Northridge, could help him with a career change. He teaches part time at College of the Canyons and Moorpark College and hopes to move into counseling at the community college level.

“It has been helpful so far,” he said while waiting to talk to another counselor. Having people on hand to answer questions was much better than perusing school websites. “It’s kind of dry online.”

With construction of the permanent Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook University Center slated to begin later this year, University Center administrators made a concerted effort to promote the Open House so students are aware of both current and future opportunities. “We really did an extensive job getting the word out about the programs and the Open House,” said Dr. Barry Gribbons, vice president of institutional development, technology and online services at College of the Canyons.

When completed in 2009, the 110,000-square-foot permanent University Center will have enough room to accommodate up to 10 college and university partners and nearly 75 bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral programs.

Since the Interim Center opened in 2002 nearly 13,000 students have enrolled in programs, with more than 700 earning their degrees.

Additional information about the University Center is available by logging on to www.canyons.edu/offices/UnivCtr or calling (661) 362-5474.

University Center Allows Student to Achieve Dream

While John Quam took classes at Chapman University through the University Center at College of the Canyons, all he could think about, besides graduating, was the day he would have his own classroom filled with high school students to teach social sciences.

In May, Quam came one step closer to achieving his dream when he graduated with a bachelor’s degree in social sciences, with a concentration in history, from Chapman University – just two years after he started taking classes through the University Center.

“The University Center made getting my bachelor’s degree a much easier prospect,” said Quam. “Had it not been for the University Center, I would not have been able to finish my studies in the timeframe of two years.”

Thanks to the University Center, which opened in January 2002, more than 700 students such as Quam have been able to receive advanced degrees and credentials without leaving the Santa Clarita Valley.

Quam first heard about the University Center from an ad he saw in the college newspaper. “At the time, I was two-thirds of the way toward getting my AA degree and was considering my options,” said Quam. “I thought about the University Center for a couple of days, and then walked over and asked a lot of questions.”

Quam learned that he could continue taking classes at CCOC to complete his 60 units for an associate in arts degree while also completing upper-division courses at Chapman through the University Center.

“I realized that I didn’t want to spend a great part of my college career stuck in traffic, trying to get to class, worrying about registration and if there would be any room left for you,” said Quam. “I didn’t have any of those issues. Attending the University Center gave me peace of mind, knowing that the outside pressures of going to college would not be a factor.”

When it opened in 2002, the University Center was one of the first of its kind in the country, a facility that created partnerships with various universities in order to provide students with upper-division and graduate-level education.

Besides Chapman University, other participating universities currently include California State University, Northridge; California State University, Bakersfield; University of La Verne and National University.

A student teacher at Golden Valley High School and campus supervisor for the Hart District, Quam is working toward becoming a high school teacher and receiving his teaching credentials from the University of La Verne.

Looking back, Quam said, “It was a great experience. I had really great professors and made a lot of good friends. I wouldn’t change a thing.”

Prospective students consult with University of La Verne counselors during the University Center open house on Aug. 7.
Nicholas Gerda, a recent College of the Canyons graduate and UC Irvine-bound transfer student, was one of the 102 students who received scholarships from the college totaling $42,150 last May.

“The three scholarships will help pay for the increased fees and books at the University of California and will allow me to study in Washington D.C. next summer as a political science major,” said Gerda. “The scholarships I received from the college will greatly assist me next year by allowing me to focus more on my studies.”

Every semester, students struggle to finance the cost of a college education and seek federal aid and scholarship money in order to cover their expenses. With this in mind, College of the Canyons has established 13 new scholarships to help students achieve their goals.

The Gloria McKimmey Scholarship, established in honor of recently retired Gloria McKimmey, who taught computer information technology at the college for 31 years, will be awarded to a female COC student who demonstrates merit and is a single parent.

McKimmey began her teaching career at College of the Canyons in the 1970s and was hired as a full-time instructor of secretarial sciences after teaching part time for two years. When she realized that shorthand and typing would soon be obsolete, McKimmey taught herself to use a personal computer in the 1980s, spearheading curriculum changes as the secretarial sciences department gave way to Computer Information Technology.

McKimmey’s determination to master new programs and technology over the last 20 years has inspired countless students to embrace the computer age. Several years ago she earned a Microsoft Office specialist master certificate by passing Word Expert, Excel Expert, Access and PowerPoint tests. She thought that if she was asking her students to take the tests, she should set the example by taking them too.

Eighteen-year-old Jerrod Miyaki was a COC student and member of the hockey team when he was fatally injured by an apparent drunk driver on Nov. 9, 2006. The Jerrod Miyaki Memorial Scholarship, which was established by his hockey coach and teammates, will be awarded annually to a COC student who is a member of the hockey team.

A loved and valued friend, especially by his hockey
Aerotek, United Staffing and ConceptOne. Del West Engineering, Triumph Actuation Systems, the College of the Canyons. This summer, the college received four different grants totaling $1.7 million that will continue supporting a wide variety of initiatives benefiting students. To date, College of the Canyons will receive $5.4 million in grant funds in 2007-08. Among them are grants going toward nursing recruitment and retention, responsive training for incumbent workers in the manufacturing field, MESA renewal, and an emerging technology program.

The college was awarded $117,520 over the span of five years to recruit and retain qualified nursing staff. The grant will provide stipends for each full-time nursing faculty member based on their length of time at College of the Canyons. In an effort to address the shortage of qualified machine operators locally, the college will use a grant of $142,630 to develop and implement an intensive 180-hour machine operator training program in partnership with Del West Engineering, Triumph Actuation Systems, Aeronek, United Staffing and Concept One.

The college’s Math Engineering Science Achievement (MESA) program is among the state’s best, often transferring more under-represented students to four-year colleges and universities than any other program in the state. Given that track record of success, the college was awarded $81,500 to continue the MESA program. MESA provides academic enrichment and support services for financially and educationally disadvantaged students majoring in math-based fields who wish to transfer to four-year universities.

And, the college is being awarded $1.38 million to purchase equipment for an on-campus clean room to be located in the newly opened Aliso Laboratory building. The equipment will be used to provide career and technical education training for job placement in advanced manufacturing for biomedical and biotechnology companies.

Event Offers Insight to Entrepreneurs

With a goal to both bring local business owners and entrepreneurs together and help provide the skills and insight needed to thrive in today’s highly competitive business market, the second annual Dream & Discover Entrepreneur Conference hosted by College of the Canyons will take place in October.

“The conference is open to all existing and aspiring entrepreneurs, investors, established business owners and professionals who provide services to entrepreneurs,” said Paul De La Cerda, director of the college’s Small Business Development Center, which is sponsoring the conference. “We are particularly encouraging home-based business owners to attend. Home-based businesses represent 52 percent of all small companies in our country.

With home-based business being a $427 billion-a-year industry, I would love to see our local home-based business owners learn how to grow their companies.

To be held at the Santa Clarita Performing Arts Center at College of the Canyons Oct. 2, from 8 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., the conference will feature a wide range of speakers who will share their experiences, advice and strategies on a variety of business-related topics.

This year’s opening keynote speaker, Robit K. Shukla, founder and CEO of the Larta Institute, will present “Going Global: The New Imperative.” That presentation will be followed by the panel “Access to Capital,” featuring Doug Howe, interim director of the Advanced Technology Incubator; Al Schneider, co-founder and vice-chairman of Pasadena Angels; Matt Redensour, co-founder and managing director of Momentum Venture Management, and Nia Stefanfy, founder and managing partner of Xnergy LLP.

Later in the day Kevin Malone, co-owner of Mercedes Benz of Valencia, will present “Dreams Do Come True.” As the closing speaker, award-winning photographer and entrepreneur Steve Urzull will deliver his presentation, “Open Roads Open Minds: An Exploration of Creative Problem Solving.”

The college’s Small Business Development Center will host SpeedBiz, an interactive information session offering on-site professional business consulting advice from a collection of SBDC counselors and Poole & Shaffery LLP representatives.

Chris Jacobsen of Poole & Shaffery will discuss commercial leasing, while Catherine Grooms will talk about accounting and finance. Nina Grooms-Lee will offer advice on marketing, and Gary Lawson will cover networking.

Ken Lee will focus on business planning, and Gil Murphy will address access to capital. Mikie Wichman will discuss leadership development, and Sandy Wachman will focus on human resources.

To register, visit www.canyonsconference.com or call (661) 362-3521.

College Receives Grants, Helps Local Businesses

Since 2001, College of the Canyons has secured nearly $17 million in grant revenue, which benefits both the college and local businesses in the community as well. Grant revenue enables the college to purchase new technology and equipment, providing students with a distinct advantage as they prepare to compete for jobs in high-demand, high-paying fields. Local businesses benefit as their employees receive state-of-the-art training made possible through grant-fund partnerships.

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Manhattan Transfer February 2

PAC Season FROM PAGE 1

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In an ongoing effort to provide both students and community members with increased access to education and job training in high demand career fields, College of the Canyons has added 30 new courses and one completely new program to its curriculum this fall.

"College of the Canyons strives to carry out our educational mission of providing career, transfer and life-long learning opportunities to the community," said Audrey Green, director of new programs at the college. "It is fantastic that we are in a position to provide new opportunities in areas where there is high demand for employment, transfer or personal enrichment."

For the first time, students interested in promotion opportunities within the grocery industry or the retail industry labor market will be able to earn a certificate in Produce/Local Food Systems' new retail management program - which is already recognized by the Western Association of Food Chains.

A variety of new construction management program courses will also debut this fall including construction estimating principles and California uniform building code. The class construction estimating principles introduces students to methods and practices related to construction estimating - including quantities and costs of materials, labor and management as well as miscellaneous items related to the cost of construction - and may include the use of computer program applications.

The California uniform building code course focuses on California building code requirements for residential and non-residential construction as they pertain to the building inspection process.

Other new classes being offered at the college this fall include principles of baking II, history of American cinema, photojournalism: the photo story, earth science, introduction to robotics and introduction to paralegal studies.

College of the Canyons is also in the process of establishing new programs in landscape management, medical lab technician training, advanced technology, theater, speech language pathology assistant, and human services, with emphases in gerontology and addiction studies.

For more information, to apply or register, visit www.canyons.edu or call (661) 259-7800.

College Expands Offerings for Students

Come to fruition is very gratifying," said Hart District Board of Trustees Member Glorida Mercado-Fortune said. "We’re really excited about the possibilities. We have the Academy of the Canyons at the Valencia campus, which has been such a successful program, so we know that we’re going to be just as successful with the Early College High School on this campus."

Though the CCC opening marks a new venture for the college, its educational access to students in the Canyon Country area is nothing new. The college initially offered classes at Canyon High School nearly a decade ago, before eventually developing its ACCESS Center at the Canyon Country Jo Anne Darcy Library and, now, the full-service campus.

"Probably 60 percent, if not more, of our students end up taking classes and getting educated at College of the Canyons," said Canyon High School Principal Darcey Library and, now, the full-service campus.

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Formore information, please call (661) 476-3800 or visit www.canyons.edu or call (661) 476-3800 or visit www.canyons.edu.

New Campus

from page 1

come to fruition is very gratifying." The $34 million Canyon Country Campus (CCC) is terraced into the rolling hills of the 70-acre site, providing sweeping views of the surrounding terrain.

Offering students more than 300 classes this inaugural semester, the campus opened with 28 modular buildings housing two science labs, two computer labs, a library, a book store, a PE building, an early childhood education facility, food services and 25 classrooms with wireless Internet access.

In addition to the high number of transferable, basic skills and vocational courses, associate degrees and certificate programs being offered, students will have access to a number of non-credit and community extension courses. Degree programs in business, history, math, real estate, social science, computer information technology, and English, Spanish and French all are being offered during the first semester.

Also on the campus is the William S. Hart Union High School District’s Early College High School (ECHS), where students take both high school and college-level classes, with the goal of graduating with both high school diplomas and associate degrees. The school’s freshman class is composed of 85 students; a new freshman class will be added each year.

“We’re just ecstatic to be partnered with College of the Canyons on the Early College High School," Hart District Board of Trustees Member Glorida Mercado-Fortune said. "We’re really excited about the possibilities. We have the Academy of the Canyons at the Valencia campus, which has been such a successful program, so we know that we’re going to be just as successful with the Early College High School on this campus."

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College Explores Use of Open Educational Resources

While the $20-per-unit tuition fee for classes makes education widely affordable, too many students identify the cost of textbooks as the main reason they cannot continue their studies. College of the Canyons has joined a growing movement to utilize high-quality online material in instruction, thereby reducing financial barriers to higher education.

The Open Educational Resources (OER) movement is encouraging the creation of free, high-quality content for community college courses to replace commonly used textbooks. The OER movement offers community colleges an innovative opportunity to address the rising cost of textbooks, increase college affordability and leverage technology.

OER consists of high-quality content and tools, posted on the Internet and thereby accessible to everyone, everywhere, at anytime. OER could range from online encyclopedias, such as Wikipedia, to scholarly articles, from historic documents to proven lesson plans. These materials are either in the public domain or made available for non-profit use and re-use. Further, as digitized material, these educational resources can be accessed with a wide variety of devices, from a desktop computer to cell phone.

The OER movement also supports faculty innovation by providing a way for faculty to share their teaching materials and research projects in a widely accessible format. Since OER materials are intended to be shared and re-purposed, teachers all over the world can translate and adopt the most effective teaching materials available for their own, local purposes.

With the development of ubiquitous computing devices and low-cost personal computers, the cost of getting online and accessing high quality online teaching materials is becoming less than the cost of textbooks for one semester.

Community Invited to Opening Celebration

The College of the Canyons Canyon Country and campus will host an "Opening Celebration" on Saturday, Oct. 6 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., giving the community an opportunity to visit and experience its newest college campus.

Highlights of the day will include food, live entertainment, and the opportunity to meet college faculty and staff from dozens of programs and departments. Faculty and staff will be on hand to share information, accept applications and help students enroll in one of the college’s newest programs.

Raffles will be held throughout the day, and one lucky winner will walk away with a prize package that includes a scholarship from the COC Foundation for one free year of college, a parking permit from student services, textbook gift certificates from Barnes & Noble, and school supplies from Staples. Other prizes include a laptop computer donated by CBC Cleaning & Restoration, a GPS navigation device from NE Systems, tickets to shows at the Performing Arts Center and a variety of gift cards donated by local businesses.

For more information, please call (661) 476-3800 or visit www.canyoncountrycampus.com.
The Jack Oakie and Victoria Horne Charitable Foundation began in the fall of 2007. As part of the application process, students were required to watch one of Jack Oakie's movies and write a brief synopsis of the film, detailing what they might have done differently had they been the screenwriter, director, specific actor, etc. Students applying for the “Myrtle Mae” award were also encouraged to watch one of Victoria Horne Oakie's films. Jack Oakie arrived in Hollywood in 1927 with a career that already included vaudeville, Broadway musicals and appearances in a few work films. Jack Oakie made 87 pictures, most of them comedies and musicals. Victoria Horne Oakie made 38 pictures, mostly in the genre of musicals and operettas—with editing software before classes begin in the fall. One of the first instructors to teach at COC, John J. O'Brien passed away on Jan. 19. O'Brien taught administration of justice classes and traffic school as a part-time instructor for more than 30 years. O'Brien retired from the California Highway Patrol in 1980 after 28 years of service. He was very active in the Santa Clarita community and was an integral part of the efforts to incorporate Santa Clarita in 1987. Married for 54 years to Pauline “Mimi” O'Brien who had deceased him in 2005, the O'Brien's raised their family in Saugus where their children attended Hart High School and COC. The John J. O'Brien Memorial Scholarship will be awarded to a student pursuing a career in law enforcement in honor of O'Brien’s commitment to the community and service. For more information about the scholarships and how to contribute, contact the COC foundation at (661) 362-3435.
While serving as the face of Cougar Football for the last nine seasons, head coach Chuck Lyon helped bring eight bowl games, seven conference titles and a 2004 National Championship to College of the Canyons.

But with Lyon having ascended to the position of the college’s athletic director in June, the new face of the Cougars should still be somewhat familiar to fans, as long-time assistant coach Garett Tujague has assumed interim head coaching duties for the 2007 season.

“I have no doubt that he will do a fantastic job this year,” said Lyon. “He was there with me from the beginning, and I know he’ll carry on the traditions of Cougar pride forward.”

Bringing more than 14 years of coaching experience and past success, Tujague first joined the College of the Canyons staff in 1998, helping Lyon restore the Cougar Football program to greatness after a 17-year-long hiatus.

“Since my return to the college has never been more apparent. And, as the new face of the program to the student body—our primary audience I’m proud to be a part of that success.”

Now with Tujague in control and more focus on educational goals at four-year universities,” Tujague stresses was again successful last season, despite the team’s final 5-5 mark. A school record 26 players went on to commit to four-year universities – including the University of Oregon, Iowa State, University of Minnesota and University of Hawai’i.

“It’s incredible the amount of players who leave here every year and I’m so proud to pursue their goals at four-year universities,” Tujague said. “And that includes a couple of our freshman who were offered scholarships. I’m proud to be a part of that success.”

The new building will give us the best of two worlds, thanks to a unique opportunity to renovate Measure C – the $82.1-million local bond measure voters approved in 2001 – the new facility will feature new locker rooms, badly needed office space for full-time instructors and additional storage space for equipment.

“We definitely need it – we have outgrown our current space,” said athletic director Chuck Lyon. “This expansion will allow us to do both, the instructional and athletic sides. We will be able to offer more sections of classes that are popular and add more variety to the curriculum. It’s an exciting time to be at COC, with all these new buildings going up. It’s a tribute to everyone – to the faculty, administration and the community.”

The new building will give us some much-needed space to take the pressure off our main gym,” said Len Mohney, division dean of physical education at the college. “We are hoping it will allow us the opportunity to bring men’s volleyball and also help carry the load for some physical education classes.

Tujague’s resume prior to joining College of the Canyons breaking news: fall 2007
High-Tech Hasley Hall Opens this Fall

- 43,000-Square-Foot Facility’s Classrooms Already Being Used

As the latest example of College of the Canyons’ commitment to both plan for future growth and keep pace with rapid changes in technology necessary to prepare students to be competitive in a constantly changing work environment, the 43,000-square-foot Hasley Hall is set to open this fall; many of the classrooms already are in use.

“We can’t predict the future, but we can prepare for it by ensuring we have the space necessary to offer the latest technology and training our students and members of the local workforce will need to remain competitive in their fields,” Superintendent-President Dr. Diane Van Hook said.

As the most recent project to be built with Measure C funds – the $82.1 million bond measure voters approved in 2001 to provide more facilities to the fast growing campus – Hasley Hall will join both Aliso Laboratory and Aliso Hall in officially opening to students this fall.

Nestled between the Student Center and Physical Education Center, Hasley Hall features classrooms, computer labs, faculty offices, a cinema screening room and a communication studies room for students to hone their speech and debate skills.

The building also houses the departments of business, cinema, computer information technology, computer science, economics, and journalism and communications.

The additional computer lab space will allow the college’s computer science department to better serve the campus’ increasing number of students by offering a number of unique learning experiences.

Through the use of innovative technologies – designed to help students acquire computer literacy, proficiency with the latest software applications and knowledge of Internet technologies – the goal is to equip students with the skills necessary to embark on careers in business and computer applications, Internet and Web technologies, and e-commerce.

The technology incorporated into Hasley Hall will also permit the business department to connect its students with other institutions and research facilities throughout the world, allowing the department to expand its course offerings and provide a level of technical training competitive with institutions of higher learning across the country.

Also housed at Hasley Hall is the cinema department’s new 103-seat theater, which includes an expanded lecture area, instructor viewing room and top-notch sound and projection systems – all designed to offer students a more complete cinematic learning experience.

The three-story Aliso Labs (left) and Aliso Hall (right) greatly enhance the college’s ability to offer expanded instruction and training in the sciences.

Members of the college’s economics department are also looking forward to using the new facility, which they hope will foster more collaboration among instructors and bring about an increased use of technology in the macroeconomics, microeconomics, statistics, personal finance and U.S. economic history classes.

The public is invited to attend a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the building scheduled 11 a.m. Oct. 25 in Hasley Hall, Room 101. To RSVP, call (661) 362-5400.

Science

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“I’m really looking forward to teaching here in the fall; it feels so big and roomy,” Betty Rose, a biology, anatomy and physiology professor at the college, said about the impressive size of the new facility. Our old room was much smaller, so to have this big new open lab is truly a joy.”

With two skills labs, a computer lab, a human-patient simulation lab, wireless Internet connectivity and ample storage space, the college’s nursing program, which has nearly tripled in size since 2000, is settling in nicely. The opening of Aliso Laboratory will immediately fill a tremendous need for the program, which had previously been headquartered in a single cramped room.

Prior to the move, we only had one nursing skills lab and one nursing classroom, said Nancy Faulconer, nursing program division office manager. “The extra space, new technology and research center now available will enhance the nursing student’s learning and enable OCC to increase the number of nursing graduates out into the workforce, which in turn, will help with the nursing shortage.”

Sure to be a crowd pleaser with nursing students, who can now put theory into practice, is the human-patient simulation lab - which while accommodating up to 24 students is equipped with talking mannequins that can be programmed to respond in certain ways.

“You can change their pulses and you can change their (respiration) sounds,” Sue Albert, dean of the college’s Allied Health department, said about the interactive mannequins. “We can change all those things and then the student has to respond in a certain way.”

Included also within the building is a soon-to-be state-of-the-art, multi-purpose classroom, thanks to a grant from the Department of Commerce, and a laboratory cold room that at a temperature of 4 degrees Celsius, will store a biology department human cadaver.

“State of the art facilities must be a commitment of every college in order to thrive and help our students to reach further, gain more knowledge and attain their goals,” said College of the Canyons Superintendent-President Dr. Diane Van Hook, in offering reason behind the college’s investment in the two buildings.

Construction on Aliso Laboratory began in October 2005, and was largely funded by a collection of state and local Measure C bond funds. The adjacent 11,000-square-foot Aliso Hall will provide classroom space for the college’s biology, physics, astronomy, chemistry, engineering and Math, Engineering, Science, Achievement (MESA) programs beginning in the fall.

Because of the increase of classroom and lab space provided by the two new buildings the college will now be able to increase the amount of science classes being offered to students.

“Typically it’s the amount of lab space that’s the bottleneck, having enough lab space to accommodate all the students,” said Dena Maloney, Canyon Country Campus founding dean, in explaining how the lack of open lab space often prevents students from fulfilling prerequisite requirements and moving on in their programs. “This way we can kind of overcome that. And it also helps us in terms of opening up access to classes that use biology labs as prerequisites.”

With the additional lab space, we can now host many more outreach and professional development workshops on campus,” said Jim Wolf, lead faculty of the college’s biotechnology department. “We will also have dedicated space to pursue our outreach program in biotechnology that brings training, equipment, supplies and curricula in advanced biotechnology to local educators.

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“The new Aliso Lab allows for more technology infusion in the classroom with an adjoining instrumentation room, more
tissue culture hoods and sets of sophisticated devices and support software and numerous laptops,” Wolf said.

Don Takeda, chair of Biological Sciences, is equally enthusiastic about the program’s new, expanded facilities.

“The Aliso Lab and lecture hall will remain important for the biology department,” Takeda said.

“We will be able to schedule more core classes to support general education and training requirements, as well as more prerequisite classes to support students varying for positions in the growing field of allied health,” he said.

The department faculty and staff will have the opportunity to create new and innovative courses to diversify and expand our curriculum to provide a comprehensive life science curriculum of quality, second-to-none, at the community college level.”