University Center: A Dream Come True

Ceremonial Ribbon Cut for Facility Offering Bachelor’s, Master’s & Doctoral Degrees

The Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook University Center is now open, offering residents educational opportunities one could only imagine a few short years ago – and promising nearly limitless options in the future.

The new building that commands the highest ground at College of the Canyons and now bears the name of the college’s long-time chancellor and president already offers a wide variety of upper-division degree, credential and certificate programs – and the opportunity to enroll in these programs without leaving the Santa Clarita Valley.

The massive, 110,000-square-foot facility opened on Oct. 17.

A year of profound change – both in the Santa Clarita Valley and throughout the country. It is arguable that the events that occurred that year make it one of the most memorable of the 20th Century.

Here are some examples:

• Neil Armstrong and Edwin “Buzz” Aldrin became the first humans to walk on the moon.
• Women gained the right to vote.
• The Vietnam War spread to countries throughout Southeast Asia.

For those who either have forgotten those events or were born after that momentous year, here are some examples:

• Neil Armstrong and Edwin “Buzz” Aldrin became the first humans to walk on the moon.
• Women gained the right to vote.
• The Vietnam War spread to countries throughout Southeast Asia.

Focusing on Retraining, Recovery

College Bolsters Economic Recovery, Retraining Efforts

As businesses and community members throughout the community, region and state continue to be impacted by the economic climate, College of the Canyons has increased its efforts to assist in the movement toward statewide economic recovery.

“Economic development is a fundamental mission of the California Community College system, and it’s one we take seriously at College of the Canyons,” Chancellor Dr. Dianne Van Hook said. “Virtually every office and department on campus operates with an eye toward economic recovery and a mission to use the college’s vast resources and reputation for educational excellence to help bring about prolonged economic growth throughout the state.”

Always on the cutting edge of developing curriculum to address the needs and trends associated with emerging and high-demand areas of employment, the college is developing a series of innovative, academic programs with an emphasis on using “green” technology.

Expected to open in late 2010, the Applied Technology Education Center (ATEC) at the Canyon Country campus will provide the facility space needed to begin introducing such programs.

Programs under development that could eventually move into the new center include:

• Construction management technology with an emphasis on “green” construction; plumbing technology; electrical and electronics technology; and alternative energy management, including solar panel installation and maintenance training and wind energy systems.

Students participate in the Extreme Entrepreneurship Tour, which made a stop at College of the Canyons on Oct. 27. The event drew nearly 300 participants and was hosted by the Small Business Development Center, which offers young people age 14 to 27 the benefits of its Young Entrepreneurs Program. The program provides young people with opportunities to explore their budding business aspirations.

See UNIVERSITY CENTER on Page 5

See 40TH ANNIVERSARY on Page 3

Hey, Man, We’re 40! Isn’t That Groovy?

For many residents of the Santa Clarita Valley, College of the Canyons is so visible, so important and such a vibrant part of the community that it is hard to imagine a time when it didn’t exist. But prior to 1969, that was indeed the case.


If we flash back to that time, we can easily see that 1969 was a year of profound change – both in the Santa Clarita Valley and throughout the country. It is arguable that the events that occurred that year make it one of the most memorable of the 20th Century.

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College of the Canyons
26555 Rockwell Canyon Road
Santa Clarita, CA 91355


See RECOVERY on Page 2

See FALL 2009 on Page 4
Culinary arts instructors Daniel Otto and Cindy Schwance demonstrate cake decorating at the College of the Canyons Institute for Culinary Education (I-CuE).

I-CuE: A Key Ingredient to Culinary Success

The College of the Canyons Institute for Culinary Education (I-CuE) has opened at the Westfield Valencia Town Center, providing an ideal location and a professional-quality kitchen and dining facility for the college to train its culinary arts students.

“I haven’t stopped smiling for the last two months,” said Cindy Schwance, culinary arts instructor. “In the culinary world, you’re only as good as your ingredients, and with the opening of this new I-CuE’s culinary arts department finally has its key ingredient.”

The College of the Canyons Institute for Culinary Education – located at 23400 Town Center Drive in Valencia Town Center – can accommodate a greater number of students by offering classes throughout the day and on weekends, while putting the college in a better position to offer a wider range of culinary classes.

In addition, a new class format adopted by the culinary arts department offers short-term, sequential courses that will allow students to complete more classes each semester and reach their educational goals faster. “Someone once asked Wolfgang Puck, ‘What is the best part of your work?’” College of the Canyons Chancellor Dr. Dianne Van Hook recalled during ribbon-cutting ceremonies at the new facility in August. “He answered, ‘The opportunity to work in the kitchen every single day.’”

“Cutting this ribbon symbolizes the opening of a physical door that provides new opportunities,” Van Hook said. “With the opening of the College of the Canyons I-CuE, hopefully we have created a chance for the next Wolfgang Puck to work in the kitchen every day, hone his or her skills, and become the next great chef.”

For community members interested in broadening their kitchen skills in the college’s new kitchen, a selection of specialty courses will be offered during the spring 2010 semester. Potential topics include “Healthy Cooking for Two,” “Southwest Cooking,” “Quick Breads and Rolls” and “Barbecue Grilling.”

“Such courses will provide a chance for the community to get involved with the culinary arts department and explore all that this wonderful facility has to offer,” said Schwance. “That’s part of what makes it such a special place.”

Western Filter Creates Endowment

The Western Filter Alliance Program (TAP) will benefit honors students transferring to Valencia College. For more information about the California Community College Endowment Fund and making donations, contact Murray Wood at (661) 362-3433.

College Offers New Honors Program

College of the Canyons’ High Intensity Transfer and Enrichment (HITE) program has transitioned into the OCC Honors Program, offering students an opportunity to enroll in honors courses and enhance their reading, writing, critical thinking and research skills. Honors classes strive to recognize academic excellence, provide transfer information, and increase the number of students transferring to four-year universities. Community service, scholarships, and enrichment activities are available to students who join Alpha Gamma Sigma or Phi Theta Kappa. The Transfer Alliance Program (TAP) will benefit honors students transferring to UCO.LA. In addition, transfer alliance agreements exist with Pomona College, Brandman University, UC Riverside, UC Santa Cruz, and others. For information, send email to Patty Robinson, dean of social sciences and business, at patty.robinson@cayons.edu.

Can You Use a Free Laptop Computer? College of the Canyons is offering a chance for you to win a free laptop computer as part of its ‘40 Ways to Change Your Life’ promotion, which celebrates the college’s 40th anniversary.

The college has been releasing fun, 40-second videos since August that examine different ways people can change their lives at COC. Forty different videos are being released each week of the 2009-10 academic year. Excluding the two weeks the campus is closed in December – culminating during finals week in May 2010. Each video is posted only on the college’s Facebook page so anyone hoping for a chance at the laptop will have to sign up for a free account. A Twitter account is also needed, because during each video a “Twitter Word of the Week” appears. The first person who tweets that word to the COC Twitter account – www.twitter.com/canyons – wins a COC 40th anniversary flash drive and is entered into a drawing at the end of 40 weeks for the laptop, provided by NE Systems and the COC Foundation. Videos are posted on a random day each week. “Fans” of the COC Facebook page get an inside shot on how it will be picked.

Holiday Arts & Crafts Fair Slated Dec. 5-6

College of the Canyons will hold its 20th Annual Holiday Arts and Crafts Fair the weekend of Dec. 5 and 6. The event will be held in Parking Lot 8, near Cougar Stadium, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday. Dozens of vendors will offer a variety of crafts and unique holiday gifts. Parking is free. The annual event is a fundraiser for COC’s Classified Senate. Half of the proceeds will be donated to the SCV Domestic Violence Center. For more information, call Seher Awan at (661) 362-3015.

Apply to the College Today

ENROLLMENT HALL EXPANSION

These artists’ renderings depict how Mentry Hall will appear when an expansion project now under way is completed. The 32,000-square-foot addition will provide 15 new classrooms, administration offices and laboratories.

Completion of the program will prepare students for careers in a wide range of scientific and commercial industries that have embraced the use of advanced technology and nanotechnology.

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Winter Session to Provide In-Demand Classes

College of the Canyons will offer a 2010 winter session during January and the first week of February, and the number of classes sections will be reduced over previous years.

The college's winter session is slated to run from Jan. 4 through Feb. 6, 2010, and will focus on classes that data reveal are most in demand by students. Registration is now underway.

Many of California's community colleges, reeling from state budget cuts, have canceled their winter sessions to save money. Although College of the Canyons received several million dollars less in operational grants from the state, it understands that many students rely on winter session classes to save money.

The college of the Canyons will offer a 2010 winter session about five years ago to provide students with opportunities to pick up an extra class or two in an accelerated format. The decision to retain the five-week winter session is the result of strategic programming. The state funding cuts and reduction in winter classes come at a time when students are demonstrating an unprecedented need for classes. As a result, competition for seats is expected to increase.

“This is a reality that we are facing now and for the foreseeable future as we cope with the impacts of the economic downturn,” said Sue Bozeman, vice president of communications, marketing and external relations for the college. “The community should know that we probably won't be able to serve everyone who turns to us for classes — either this winter or in ensuing semesters.

In another cost-saving move, the schedule of classes for the winter session will be available only online at www.canyons.edu. No printed versions will be available.

A printed version of the spring 2010 class schedule will be available in limited numbers, but it will not be mass- mailed to the community. Copies of the spring class schedule will be sold for $1 each at each of the Valencia or Canyon Country campus.

“By not printing and mailing class schedules to the entire community as we have done for years, we'll save more than $100,000 a year. That's money we can use in other critical areas of college operations,” Bozeman said.

The college will communicate important information and dates to students through email messages, posts on college websites and other available media.

Students are reminded to check the college’s Web site — www.canyons.edu — for important messages related to registration and class offerings.

Art Gallery Shows Promise to Engage and Inspire

With a trio of fascinating exhibitions taking place this winter, the College of the Canyons Art Gallery invites community members to stop in and experience its unique interpretation of art and culture.

“Our exhibitions feature work that will engage you, that will cause you to stop to investigate and ask, ‘What’s going on in these pictures, what is the story?’ ” said Larry Hurst, Art Gallery director. “When visiting the gallery you will no doubt see work that you like, as well as work that disturbs you. You will see styles you relate to and others that you don’t.

“Beyond the Image,” currently on exhibit through Dec. 11, features the work of 30 young California artists working as illustrators. Presented in partnership with the Black Maria Gallery in Glendale, the exhibit includes a variety of illustrative media and styles representing each artist’s diverse artistic vision.

Dedicated to non-mainstream art, Black Maria Gallery focuses on works that reverberate with the shock of the new in a way that initiates wonder and self-reflection. Owners Sam Saghatelian and Zara Zeitountsian operate the gallery with the belief that thought-provoking art has a hugely important place in civic and social discourse, especially in these times.

“This exhibition represents some of the freshest work emerging from within the Southern California art world. The styles and mediums of the work on display will vary widely, creating a wondrous visual excitement,” said Mercedes McDonald, COC art instructor and curator of the exhibition. “Beyond the Image’ will provide a glimpse into a genre of art that is both thought-provoking and approachable.”

A special artists’ reception is scheduled in the gallery from noon to 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5.

Next, the gallery will begin the new year with “Inspiration,” an exhibit scheduled Jan. 19 to 29. COC’s LIFE Magnet in collaboration between the Art Gallery and the Santa Clarita Valley’s high school art instructors, the exhibit will showcase the talent and work of local art instructors, as well as pieces from their most talented students.

An artists’ reception will take place from 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 19 at the Art Gallery.

The gallery will begin the spring semester with “Life After Life: A Contemplation of the Unknown,” running from Feb. 16 to March 4. A collaboration with the college’s English Department, the exhibit will feature the visual work of approximately 12 professional artists displayed alongside creative writing selections from COC students, faculty and staff.

“The organizers behind ‘Life After Life’ intended this to be an introspective exploration of the impact of death on the way we interpret life,” said Hurst. “This is an exciting time at the gallery, and everyone is invited to join the dialogue.

All gallery exhibitions and related events are free and open to the public.

The College of the Canyons Art Gallery is open 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. Visitors unable to visit during these hours are welcome to call (661) 362-3612 to make a viewing appointment.

For more information, please visit www.canyons.edu/Offices/ArtGallery.
With shows ranging from an acoustic country concert, to a musical journey through ancient Ireland, to an arrangement of traditional holiday selections produced by the college’s music department, the winter lineup at the Santa Clarita Performing Arts Center at College of the Canyons (PAC) is sure to provide audiences with plenty of holiday cheer.

Ushering in the PAC’s holiday season will be the critically acclaimed traditional Irish ensemble Danú, performing “A Christmas in Ireland” at 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 4, on the PAC’s main stage.

Featuring virtuosi musicians on the flute, tin whistle, fiddle, button accordion and bouzouki, with a mixture of Irish and English-derived vocals, the group’s mixture of ancient and contemporary Irish music has been described by audiences as a high-energy, memorable and moving holiday experience.

“We are very excited about bringing Danú to the Santa Clarita Valley to kick off the holiday season,” said Adam Philipson, the PAC’s managing director. “Portions of this concert will be performed alongside the College of the Canyons Choir, making this show one of those memorable holiday moments not to be missed.”

Featured in the PAC’s holiday season lineup for the second year in a row is the GO Country 105 FM Acoustic Holiday Concert. This year’s show features Phil Vassar, “the hardest working man in country music.” The concert is scheduled for 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6.

Including an array of Vassar’s heartfelt ballads, and a holiday nod to his legions of “Phil Phriends,” this year’s concert also includes country music newcomers Jonathan Singleton and The Grove.

With new songs audiences are destined to love – along with a selection of holiday favorites – the Acoustic Holiday Concert is quickly becoming a Santa Clarita Valley holiday tradition.

“Seats are going fast on this one,” said Philipson. “The GO Country concerts give us the opportunity to reach new audiences and encourage people from outside our valley to visit the PAC. Last year’s sold-out acoustic holiday show was one of the best shows of the season.”

The COC Music Department will present a trio of holiday-inspired performances beginning with the COC Music Winter Spectacular at 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, on the PAC main stage.

Grouping the three-tiered instrumental education programs offered by the college, the Winter Spectacular will feature the Canyons Prelude Strings, Student Orchestra and Symphony of the Canyons combining to present a concert of orchestral classics such as Tchaikovsky’s “The Nutcracker Suite.”

The Music Department will host its annual holiday concert at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11. Featuring traditional holiday favorites – with a jazz flavor – the concert will be presented by the award-winning Jazz Ensemble and Lab Jazz Combo.

The following day, audiences are invited to join the COC Choirs for an evening of diverse musical selections ranging from favorite Christmas and Hanukkah songs to multicultural pieces representing a variety of languages and ethnicities. The concert is scheduled 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12.
Persistence Transformed Dream into Reality

The University Center concept has proven itself in very short order, allowing thousands of people to pursue their educational dreams without leaving the Santa Clarita Valley.

Dr. Van Hook said.

The University Center concept was proven viable in 2002. To prove a point, Dr. Van Hook said.

The idea was resurrected in 1993, when a new president emerged at CSUN. When a new president emerged at CSUN, the idea – from the California State University perspective – was one whose time had yet to come,” Dr. Van Hook said.

While I was enthusiastic, the idea – from the perspective of the president of California State University, Northridge 20 years ago.

The idea was resurrected in 1993, when a new president emerged at CSUN. Dr. Van Hook and former Signal owner and editor Ruth Newhall explored the possibility of developing a higher-education learning center in the Santa Clarita Valley, but the timing was off yet again.

“The stars were not aligned then either, as a month later the Northridge earthquake occurred, and recovery from that occupied the CSU system for years to come,” Dr. Van Hook said.

Undeterred, Dr. Van Hook was convinced the community would embrace the concept. She had heard story after story from triage residents who could not gain access to four-year universities because of community and child-care issues, work schedules and time constraints, and other roadblocks. Business owners, too, had their own frustrations, citing a lack of qualified graduates in the local workforce.

All the University Center concept needed was a chance – and the funding. With a vision and planning team in place, the college began identifying potential revenue sources and moving forward on multiple tracks. The CS Foundation was the first to come aboard to make private funds available. At the same time, Dr. Van Hook secured the support of two project chairs: Tom Lee, retired chairman and CEO of Newhall Land, and Lou Garasi, president of Giruter Systems. Congresswoman Howard “Buck” McKeon came on board as a honorary chair shortly afterward.

The University Center capital campaign officially began in 2001 with the CS Foundation’s family campaign, in which 99.6 percent of the college’s staff, and all of the Board of Trustees, supported the effort with personal contributions. Local leaders and businesses began to step forward with large donations and pledges.

McKeon helped the college acquire roughly $2.3 million in federal funding to help open and equip the college’s Interim University Center, which opened in 2002 and proved the concept was viable. Next, the William S. Hart Union High School District, whose Academy of the Canyons is housed in the University Center, signed on. Later in 2001, the college designated the University Center project as an allowable expenditure on Measure C, the $82.1 million general obligation bond that voters approved that fall.

The opportunity to prove that the University Center concept was viable arrived in 2002. To prove a point, Dr. Van Hook opened an Interim University Center on the campus. California State University, Bakersfield was the first to sign on, bringing degree and credential programs that proved wildly popular. Soon, other institutions – including California Polytechnic State University, Chapman (now Brandman) University, CSUN, ELS Language Centers and National Univer-sity – signed on as well.

With the groundwork laid, Dr. Van Hook began talking about the University Center concept to contacts at the state level. Eventually, the California Com-
College Helps Community ‘Get Back to Work’

A dult students and community mem-
bers returning to college for ad-
ditional training and career transition
without a specific employment field in mind, will find a wealth of services available to help
them pursue their career goals.

Among them is the Adult Re-Entry
Program, which helps new, returning
and continuing adult students 25 and older
prepare for academic and professional careers.

By providing helpful information ses-
sions, workshops, campus and community
referrals, support groups, and ongoing coun-
selling services, the Adult Re-Entry
Program helps students identify and plan
their next steps without alleviating fears about returning to college.

“As a former re-entry student at College of the Canyons, I understand the courage and determination it takes to come back to school,” said Carolyn Powell, counselor at the college. “The Adult Re-Entry Program was helpful to students who are looking to move toward their educational and career goals.”

Throughout each semester the Adult Re-Entry Program offers hour-long information sessions that introduce re-entry students to the college and provide an overview of the program. Students receive information about various associate degree and certificate pro-
grams, and learn the importance of meeting with adult re-entry counselors before the indi-

erialized “educational roadmap.”

“Meeting with a counselor is an impor-
tant first step toward easing the stress of the re-entry process and ensuring a student’s academic success,” said Carolyn Powell, counseling faculty member at the college.

Also available to re-entry students are counseling courses covering a range of top-
ics such as career exploration, job search preparation, career and life-planning, and academic success strategies.

Introduced in 2009, the “Counseling 101: Success for the Re-Entry Student” course offers an exploration of the factors that impact lifelong learning, personal-
al well-being and student success.

Specific topics include motivation, criti-
cal thinking, effective study strategies while caring for children, health and lifestyle choices, time management, educational planning and success strategies.

“Counseling courses are a great way for re-entry students to begin the transition back into the higher education system, especially if they have been away from the classroom for a family or working too long,” said Liz Shaker, counseling faculty member.

In just its second year, the Young Entrepreneurs Program at the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) hosted by College of the Canyons continues to provide resources and opportunities to explore their budding business aspirations.

The Young Entrepreneurs Program (YEP) offers free face-to-face, interactive counseling and training programs in management, finance, marketing, sales and technology, all aimed at those age 14 to 27.

“Even if a company is unsure what training they need or not, teaching them to think and act entre-
preneurially and create opportunities for

By attending YEP-hosted events and completing assignments from projects, stu-
dents gain transferable business skills and an understanding of the relevance of education to their careers. They also develop life-man-
agement and problem-solving skills.

“The mission is to use engaging and interactive techniques to show young people that being an entrepreneur is a viable career path,” said Steve Tannehill, SBDC director. “We believe that whether our participants want to start their own business or find employment with a more entre-
preneurially and create opportunities for themselves will be extremely successful.”

SBDC hosted the high-energy Extreme Entrepreneurship Tour helps students take the initial steps needed to start a small business by offering inspiration and practical advice.

The Extreme Entrepreneurship Tour fea-
tures guest speakers who have made significant impacts in the business world before the age of 30.

For more information about the Young Entrepreneurs Program is available by calle-
ing 661-362-3326 or sending an email to sbdc@canyons.edu.
New Early Childhood Education Center Opens

Class of 2026 Opens Center at Canyon Country Campus

Over the summer, members of the Class of 2026 formally began their education at the newly opened Canyon Country Center for Early Childhood Education (CCE) with a ribbon-cutting ceremony held at the college’s Canyon Country campus.

A group of students ever new to study at the Canyon Country campus, the center’s first students began classes in the new 2,150-square-foot ECE facility on Aug. 19.

Days later, College of the Canyons staff and administrators were joined by a collection of Santa Clarita valley community leaders to officially open the center and celebrate the accomplishment of opening one of the first permanent additions to the Canyon Country campus.

“Having the development centers on our campuses is inspiring and energizing the way children approach life,” College of the Canyon Chancellor Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook said. “We can all learn from their unbridled enthusiasm, their ability to learn and explore, and their dogged determination to master new skills.

“… And we could all use their energy,” she added.

The CCE is centered on providing a high-quality educational experience for preschool-aged children and their families while modeling an exemplary developmentally appropriate and culturally responsive early childhood education program. Featuring a learning environment and preschool program structured around the state’s recommended early childhood education program and curriculum, the center provides children with a variety of illustrations and opportunities to stimulate learning and social interaction, and curriculum designed to develop the whole child. The college’s ECE and Early Childhood Education Center offer a modified dramatic play, music, movement, social/emotional and fine motor skills.

The program’s primary focus is to promote feelings of competence and self-worth that will serve as a stronger foundation for students’ future growth and development.

“As we celebrate the opening of the Early Childhood Education Center at Canyon Country we take another important step in the development of this campus and all it has to offer,” said Diane Stewart, dean of ECE and Training Programs at the college. “The children who will attend our Early Childhood Education Center are going to be the students of tomorrow, and with this center they now have a place to learn and grow.”

Located in Quad 2 of the college’s Canyon Country campus, the facility includes two fully furnished classrooms, age-appropriate restrooms, a kitchen and observation areas to be utilized by parents and ECE students.

Students majoring in ECE at College of the Canyons will frequently be assigned lab hours to be conducted inside the center, under the direct supervision of a master teacher, allowing students to gain valuable hands-on teaching experience.

“The center is far more than just a preschool and day-care. It’s a laboratory for learning that will benefit young children and college students alike. It’s a place where children will learn by doing,” Dr. Van Hook said. “By opening this center we have created a magical place.”

Condies to Receive Silver Spur Award

The College of the Canyons Foundation Board has selected Gary and Myrna Condie as recipients of the Silver Spur Community Service Award for 2010.

The award ceremony will be held at the Canyon Country campus on March 7. “It’s an honor to be chosen by the college and its students,” said Myrna Condie, founder and president/CEO of Condie & Wood, CPAs. “When you look over the past year, you see how important these people have been to the college and to the community.”

The Condies’ record of service is unique. The family, which has an extensive family history in non-profit organizations and causes, the college has planned, visit Canyon.edu and click on the calendar.

Mommy College Chancellor’s Office verbally approved the scope of the project, with the understanding that Dr. Van Hook and the college would need to file a final capital project submittal by July 1, 2004. So it was then on vacation, from high in the Eastern Sierras in early July 2004, that Dr. Van Hook began working with Jim Schrage, vice president of facilities planning and operations and construction at the college, to begin the development plans.

The course of a normal project is to submit the initial proposal, then resubmit a final proposal the next year, after the initial proposal has been approved. The challenge was that the district was allowed to skip the initial proposal process and move straight to the final project process, which meant completing all of the necessary pre-planning, design and detailing – a process that even on an aggressive schedule takes six months – in less than two months. A prime example of Dr. Van Hook’s “if you can dream it, you can do it” mantra in action, College of the Canyons embarked on its trademark funding approach to big projects submitted the final proposal to the Board of Trustees on July 7, 2005. The college was initially approved for $9 million in state funding.

Dr. Van Hook and college administrators convinced the Board of Trustees in 2006 state appropriated $37 million for early childhood education facilities bond – Prop 1D, to be placed on the November ballot – which would allow for the funding of collaborative projects/joint-use facilities like the University Center. By the time votes went to the polls on Nov. 8, 2006, the school had $21 million in state and local funding for the University Center project in the 2006-07 governor’s budget – pending passage of Prop 1D in addition, to develop a pool of people who can step in and run multiple PODs if necessary.

Mother of the Year by the California Association of American Mothers, Myrna Condie & Wood, CPAs. “When you look over the past year, you see how important these people have been to the college and to the community.”

There are always things to learn and always ways to improve,” said Dr. Michael Wildtong, assistant superintendent/vice president. “In fact, we learned last year that we needed to redirect the traffic flow so that more cars could be accommodated in the relative safety of the college’s parking lots rather than on busy streets, so this year cars entered the parking area from Rockwell Canyon Road instead of Valencia Boulevard.”

“…The planning and implementing of the CCE and its partners continually work to enhance readiness efforts for all types of emergencies and also the importance of practicing for emergencies,” Mayor Frank Ferrara said.

Each year, more volunteers are brought into the POD organizational structure to learn the responsibilities of key positions. As a result, more people are trained to assume the various responsibilities within the emergency structure. The hope is to continue to involve the community in ways that will both encourage and support the POD functions.

It’s a laboratory for learning that will benefit young children and college students alike. It’s a place where children will learn by doing.” Dr. Van Hook said. “By opening this center we have created a magical place.”
TRIUMPH AND DISAPPOINTMENT

Cross Country, Golf, Soccer, Volleyball Rack Up Wins

 Cougar athletics is once again bustling, as College of the Canyons’ 2009-10 seasons are under way. First-year women’s soccer head coach Justin Lindin is having a strong season with the team. The Cougars are in the top half of the Western State Conference, South Division and are fighting for second place behind conference leader Pierce College. With only a few matches left, the Cougars have some strong opponents ahead of them, but still have a chance to make the playoffs, which begin on Nov. 21. The Cougars will have to be one of the top 16 teams in Southern California for a bid into post-season play.

The men’s soccer team took a turn for the better this season, after finishing 2008 with only four wins. But there are no reminders of last season’s squad as the Cougars are now vying for first place in the conference and their first playoff bid since 2004. Much of the success has come in the form of Golden Valley High School alum Andres Bueno who leads the conference with 13 goals, eight assists and 34 points through the end of October. As with the women, 16 teams from Southern California will make the regional playoffs.

COC volleyball is looking for its first conference title since 2000. A tight race between Bakersfield College and College of the Canyons has kept things exciting, as perennial powerhouse Pierce College, the team who has won the conference title for the past eight years, has had a down season. The Cougars, who have made the playoffs for the last four campaigns, are following the lead of sophomore Lindsey Wilcox who ranks among the top five individuals in the conference in individual kill percentage and leads all Western State conference school women’s volleyball players in block assists at the end of October. Head coach Lisa Hooper prepared her team for the season with matches against the strongest teams in the state, including defending state champion El Camino College.

The tough match-ups have only helped COC, who is now a strong contender for state title. With only four wins. But there are no reminders of last season’s squad as the Cougars are now vying for first place in the conference and their first playoff bid since 2004. Much of the success has come in the form of Golden Valley High School alum Andres Bueno who leads the conference with 13 goals, eight assists and 34 points through the end of October. As with the women, 16 teams from Southern California will make the regional playoffs.

ATHLETICS ROUNDPUP

Although Cougar football’s 2009-10 season has been disappointing, playoff spots included a 26-12 victory over Fullerton College (above). The women’s golf team (far left) hopes to compete for a state title, while men’s soccer (left) hopes to make the playoffs.

Hundreds Line Up for Flu Shots

Lines of cars filled with Santa Clarita Valley residents snaked through several College of the Canyons parking lots Friday, Oct. 30, as 1,561 seasonal flu vaccinations were dispensed in what amounted to a “mobile production line.”

For the fourth consecutive year, the City of Santa Clarita, the L.A. County Department of Public Health and College of the Canyons – along with the L.A. County sheriff’s and fire departments – conducted a drive-through flu shot clinic that dispensed vaccine to people in their vehicles.

In all, 1,499 adult and 32 pediatric seasonal flu shots, and 30 nasal vaccinations, were administered during the event, which opened an hour earlier than the scheduled 9 a.m. start time. The clinic operated until 12:30 p.m., disposing inoculations against the seasonal flu – not the H1N1 virus.

“The logistics of screening for both types of shots presented a larger number of logistical challenges that we were able to accommodate in this type of format,” said Michael Joslin, dean of student services at the college and the day’s designated “incident commander” under the state’s Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) operational structure. “We’ll be monitoring the spread of the H1N1 virus and will coordinate closely with all of the appropriate agencies in the event that we need to conduct a similar event for H1N1.”

Flu shots are often provided to the public in anticipation of an active flu season, but the event also serves a secondary purpose. This drive-through clinic once again tested the College of the Canyons’ parking lots.

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