Though it had remained in their family for more than 70 years, it was with great joy and excitement that Tom and Jeff Asher donated one of their family’s most unique and cherished heirlooms to the College of the Canyons Foundation. The recently donated item, a massive, solid granite Tataviam Indian mortar and pestle, was originally discovered on the Asher Family’s AAA Ranch – now part of the Vasquez Rocks Natural Area Park – in Agua Dulce in the early 1930s. It subsequently became one of the family’s most prized discoveries.

Tom Asher said he discovered the artifact as a young boy roaming his family’s land. He found the mortar in the middle of a dry streambed that cut through the property, in an area rich with petroglyphs and many yet-to-be discovered Indian artifacts.

$1.4 Million Grant Goes to Emerging Technology

College of the Canyons has received a $1.38 million grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration that will go toward funding the college’s new emerging technologies program, which will help train students for high-skilled jobs in emerging technical fields. The federal grant will help the college purchase the high-tech equipment needed to train students as laboratory technicians in the growing fields of biotechnology, nanotechnology and autonomous technology. It was presented to the college by U.S. Rep. Howard P. “Buck” McKeon and Sandy Barnah, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development, on Jan. 4. “America’s competitiveness and innovation flourish in vibrant, economically growing communities that are creating jobs and opportunities,” Barnah said. “The Santa Clarita Community College District’s Emerging Technologies Program will help boost the manufacturing sector, creating high-skill, high-wage jobs for the region’s citizens.” California lost 372,000 manufacturing jobs between 1990 and 2003, while Los
Proposed State Budget Concerns College Officials

The reason for this increase is simple. In times of economic downturn, community colleges historically look to their community colleges for additional, relevant training to make them more competitive in the job market. Business in training for their employees during downturns is often a way of keeping their companies on the leading edge of competitive advantage.

The proposed cuts come at a time when, despite the addition of a new campus in the Santa Clarita Valley, half of all new students coming into service at the Valencia campus, 200 of the 1461 academic sections offered during the college’s current spring semester experienced waitlists.

The two areas singled out for reduction – funding for growth and cost of living – are particularly problematic for COC, said Sue Bozman, vice president of communication for the college. “At the same time we face increased pressure to provide access to more students, we have a proposed budget cutback that will likely prevent us from hiring more faculty and adding new classes. And,” stressed Bozman, “just like the average household budget that is facing substantial price increases in everything from hand soap to insurance premiums, without a cost of living adjustment, we’ll need to find money to cover those costs from somewhere.”

College of the Canyons also committed to providing training for critical health, safety and welfare professionals in the region – skills where the demands for professional credentials are growing dramatically. College of the Canyons provides training for EMTs, nurses, and fire (CFA-O) volunteers as well as the Los Angeles Police Department. In addition, the Los Angeles County Sheriffs Department North Academy is physically located on the college’s Valencia campus.

According to Superintendent-President, Dr. Duane G. Van Hook, the governor’s proposed budget is a starting point for the state budgeting process, and it will be revised again in May. The Legislature will also discuss it in their committees, and further negotiations will take place between the governor and leaders in the Senate and Assembly before it is finalized.

In the meantime, College of the Canyons faculty, staff, administrators, students and Board of Trustees members will be working in the coming months to ensure the Legislature understands the impact of the proposed cuts to College of the Canyons, and how they might affect the college’s services to the community.

Discovery

FROM PAGE 1

“It was about 10 percent exposed, and the rest was covered by sand that had washed down from the river bed, laying right in the middle of a cluster of rocks that all had petroglyphs and small depressions on them,” he said.

“He tripped over it,” older brother Jeff Asher joked, adding that the item was discovered shortly after the property was purchased in 1932 or 1933. “He must have been 8 or 9 at the time, and I was probably 11.”

In the years that followed, the mortar and accompanying pestle - which was not discovered with the mortar and is not believed to be the original - were proudly displayed and shown to Asher family houseguests, before it was eventually decided to turn the artifact over to the foundation as a gift to the college and its students.

“My feelings on it were that I wanted to see it place where it can be appreciated and considered as part of the history of the area and part of the education of people,” said Tom Asher, who for years has had the pleasure of displaying the mortar and telling the story of its discovery to curious friends and relatives.

“The whole family felt the same way,” added Jeff. “We all felt this is the way it should be.”

“Besides, his grandchildren didn’t want it, it’s too heavy,” he said, still joking with his kid brother.

Made of solid granite, measuring more than 50 inches around at its widest point, standing roughly 12 inches high, and featuring a pronounced eight-inch-deep and 10-inch-wide hollowed area - the probable result of the item having been used as a food-processing tool to mash, grind and flatten acorns, seeds, small animals and other available food sources - the Ashers estimated that the mortar weighs roughly 200 pounds. The accompanying pestle measures 36 inches long and is roughly 8 inches around at its thickest point.

“I think it must have been a daily task for them,” said Tom Asher, noting that it was used and passed on through several generations using it every day for several years. The more they used it, the more it took form, until finally the item was aesthetically pleasing. They weren’t going to put it on the back of a horse and take it with them.

But despite the mortar’s obvious signs of use, determining the actual age of the artifact may be difficult.

“There’s no real way to determine how old it is,” said COC anthropology professor Mike Mauer. “Artifacts like this may have been used for thousands of years, so they aren’t found in a context, and are just picked up on the surface without anything else around that’s dateable, there’s really no way of saying.”

According to COC anthropology professor Laurie Solis, who specializes in Great Basin archaeology and California prehistory, the Tataviam - whose name means “people who face the sun” - have a rich local history.

Having migrated into the Antelope, Santa Clarita and San Fernando valleys sometime before A.D. 450, the Tataviam eventually settled near the upper Santa Clara River drainage.

Tataviam settlements in the Santa Clarita and upper valleys included “Nuhubit” (Newhall), Piru-U-Bit (Piru) and Tocomania, which is believed to have been located at the confluence of Wiley and Towsley Canyons.

In addition, the Tataviam also lived in the areas of present day Saugus, Agua Dulce and Lake Elizabeth, with the Vasquez Rocks area once serving as a major “village complex” area used for dwelling, food processing, tool making and other ceremonial and religious practices including burials and cremations. Living in small, semi-nomadic bands, the Tataviam had an organized series of clans throughout the region and survived as hunters, farmers and house hunters.

Primary food sources included yucca, acorns, juniper berries, sage seeds and game such as deer, antelope, rabbits and ground squirrels. The mortar and pestle were used to prepare food items, including acorns, seeds and buck-wheat, which could be ground into a flour and cooked in a variety of ways.

“Generally, most large mortars were used until they were broken, so often archaeologically we find many, albeit large fragments,” said Solis, who is currently writing a book on the Tataviam. “This is exciting because it is something that provides us with a complete mortar, and will allow instructors to be able to show students something that these people actually did in terms of survival and their culture with something tangible that students can see firsthand in the classroom.”

Brothers Jeff and Tom Asher have donated this Tataviam Indian mortar and pestle to the College of the Canyons Foundation. The artifact was discovered more than 70 years ago on their family ranch, which is now part of the Vasquez Rocks Natural Area.

The Tataviam mortar and pestle are currently being housed in the College of the Canyons anthropology department, and are available for students to study and observe in a classroom setting. It may eventually be displayed in one of the soon-to-be-built permanent buildings currently under construction for the college’s new Canyon Country Campus.

“This donation has certainly caused us to start thinking about a lot of different things we could do to display this artifact,” said Richard Martinez, COC anthropology department chair. “But, quite frankly, this is a first for us and I think there hasn’t ever had that kind of recognition donated before. The college and the department are very grateful to Tom and Jeff for this one-of-a-kind donation.”

About Breaking News

Breaking News is published by the College of the Canyons Public Information Office. Its purpose is to inform the community about programs, events, issues and accomplishments of the Santa Clarita Valley’s community college. It is distributed to residences, post office boxes and businesses in the 367-square-mile Santa Clarita Community College District. Advertising is not accepted.

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Hundreds Attend ‘Focus the Nation’ Event

More than 400 people gathered at the Santa Clarita Performing Arts Center at College of the Canyons to participate in the college’s local conven-ience of the nationwide environmental awareness event, Focus the Nation.

Launched by Lewis and Clark College in Oregon, more than 1,000 colleges, schools and universities held Focus the Nation events focused on the growing concern about global warming and climate change. The event was held Jan. 31.

“Whether conference participants believe in the impact and reality of global climate change or not, the overwhel-mingly positive responses from the community, students, faculty and staff about this con-ference show that higher education not only should care about the environment and the important roles education plays in environmental sustainability, but we also need to take a leadership role in moving the nation and next generations towards a much more sustainable future,” said Jia-Yi Cheng-Levine, chair of the college’s Sustainable Development Committee.

The two-day event included 35 teach-in sessions and a conference with speakers such as College of the Canyons Super-intendent-President Dr. Duane G. Van Hook, City Council Member Marsha McLean, and Bill Ichood, vice president of government relations for Sempra Energy.

“We are proud that we do things that make sense for a community,” said Van Hook. “The college needs to take the lead and teach students, by example, how to be environmentally conscious.”

Van Hook mentioned the many eco-friendly measures the college has taken to help the environment, such as natural lighting in buildings, drought-resistant landscaping, artificial field turf in the sta-dium and participation in the Self Generation Incentive Program, which led to a central energy plant at the college – the first of its kind.

The University Center and Performing Arts Center allow residents to “stay local,” instead of having to travel farther away, Van Hook said. She also highlighted bene-fits of the college’s online education pro-gram, whose enrollment of 3,000 students saves an estimated 90,000 vehicle trips.

“It’s worth fighting for,” she said of the commitment to a better environment. “For us, this is just the beginning.”

Van Hook unveiled future plans for solar panels in the college’s parking lots, and a biotechnology clean room that will help grow more food with less water.

Van Hook received awards from Sempra for the college’s involvement with the Self Generation Incentive Program and a certificate of appreciation from the Sustainable Development Committee.

Fourth-graders from Joanna Trafe-cany’s class at North Park Elementary School performed a groovy play, “Time Capsule Can Save the World … and other Tips,” which depicted life in the 1960s and the decisions we can make now.

The play was written by college instructor Michael Leach and student Lacy Ehrlich. Matt Levine wrote an original song for the play.

The event was capped off on Feb. 1, when more than 500 people attended the “Green Up” benefit concert in the Santa Clarita Performing Arts Center with per-formances by classic rock tribute bands “Ticket to Ride (The Beatles) and 5150 (Van Halen)."

Jai-Yi Cheng Levine, Chair of the College’s Sustainable Development Committee, addresses the audience at the local Focus the Nation environmental-awareness conference.

Tickets Now Available Online for Wine Classic

Wine connoisseurs across the valley can now conveniently purchase tickets to the 20th Annual SCV Wine Classic online — saving both time and money in reserving their spot at this year’s popular wine-tasting event benefitting the SCV Youth Orchestra.

Being held in the Main Gallery at California Institute of the Arts on Saturday May 31, from 7 to 10 p.m., the Santa Clarita Valley Wine Classic will feature a large collection of vintage and current wines for tasting and purchase and gourmet cuisine from some of the area’s finest restaurants and caterers.

Tickets may be purchased online at www.scvwineclassic.org from now until May 30, with discounted tickets available to those who purchase before the night of the event. The pricing structure is as fol-lows:

• $70 each / $130 a pair until May 30
• $80 each / $150 a pair at the door
• $95 each for designated drivers
• $60 each (minimum 10) for group sales through May 23

During the event guests will be able to sample, mingle, socialize and enjoy the live orchestral music performed by the SCV Youth Orchestra – while an impecca-bly array of rare and current wines, restaurnant certificates and other gift items are auctioned off. In addition all guests will receive souvenir drinking glasses and trays.

The SCV Youth Orchestra is a three-tiered instrumental education program that was founded at CalArts in 1969 and moved to College of the Canyons in 1989. The program provides a positive and cre-ative outlet for hundreds of young musi-cians throughout the Santa Clarita Valley.

Tickets to the event can also be pur-chased by calling (661) 362-3415 or 362-5604, or faxing 362-5309 (Visa or MasterCard accepted), or by sending a check payable to SCVYO Foundation to: College of the Canyons, Public Information Office, 26455 Rockwell Canyon Road, Santa Clarita, CA 91355.
The financial state of the Santa Clarita Community College District, the College of the Canyons Foundation and the college’s two local bond measures are all in full compliance with state, local and federal law, a series of independent audits has confirmed.

Superintendent-President Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook, the Santa Clarita Community College District Board of Trustees, the Measure C Citizens Oversight Committee and the Measure M Citizens Oversight Committee were presented with audit findings for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007. Audits were performed by Vavrinek, Trine, Day and Co. of Rancho Cucamonga.

Once again confirming the college district’s long history of fiscal stability, the results of the series of six audits – one each for the district and COC Foundation, and two for each bond measure – noted no exceptions, meaning no adjustments were found and that funds had been handled and spent properly.

In addition, College of the Canyons was issued an unqualified report, the best rating possible, for the district’s financial statements and federal- and state-award-funded funds – while also receiving high praise from the firm, which complimented the college’s staff for operating with such great financial responsibility.

“I have reviewed the district’s audit, and once again it confirms and reaffirms the highest level of fiscal stability in the Santa Clarita Community College District and attests to our compliance with appropriate accounting procedures and controls,” Van Hook said.

Findings of the audit showed the value of the district’s net assets increasing almost 48 percent to roughly $55.7 million in the last fiscal year – growth attributed to recently completed and ongoing capital projects including the new Canyon Country Campus and new Hasley Hall, Aliso Lab, Aliso Hall and Physical Education buildings on the Valencia campus.

The district also ended the fiscal year with a fund balance of more than $7.8 million, roughly 12 percent of the general fund’s unrestricted expenses. The California Community College Chancellor’s Office sets a minimum prudent fund balance of 5 percent of general fund unrestricted expenses.

The independent audit of the COC Foundation also showed no findings of concern, but did highlight some of the organization’s financial growth over the last year. In total, the COC Foundation provided the district and its students with more than $882,000 in total contributions – including instructional support to academic programs, student programs and clubs, and the awarding of student scholarships – while also holding reserve fund balances of more than $3.9 million for future use by the district, and roughly $971,000 in restricted endowment and scholarship accounts that benefit the district and its students through the use of interest earnings.

The college’s two voter-approved general-obligation bonds – Measure C and Measure M – each underwent separate performance and financial audits to ensure that the college’s expenditures are appropriate and disbursements are made in accordance with all laws and regulations. In each case, no exceptions were noted, meaning no adjustments were found and bond funds were spent appropriately.

For Measure C – the $82.1 million bond measure approved by Santa Clarita Valley voters in 2001 – auditors tested 52 percent of all bond transactions and found no exceptions, with all documents supporting transactions in order.

For Measure M – the $160 million bond measure approved in 2006, auditors examined 100 percent of the bond transactions, at the request of the college, and again found no exceptions, with all supporting documentation in proper order. Auditors typically examine only a randomly selected portion of bond transactions.

Funds generated by both bonds have been used to build a variety of new facilities, make much-needed campus upgrades and improvements, and help open the new Canyon Country Campus. Present and future projects that will benefit from bond proceeds also include the permanent University Center, currently under construction on the southern edge of the Valencia campus, and an expanded Library and Student Services Building.

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Since 2001, when voters approved Measure C, an $82.1 million general-obligation bond, College of the Canyons has successfully completed numerous major construction and improvement projects. As a result, a host of new and up-to-date facilities are now directly benefitting our students and the community we serve. With this proven track record, the college asked voters in 2006 to support another general-obligation bond, this one for $160 million. Once again, a 55 percent majority voted yes, allowing the college to continue moving forward on multiple fronts to ensure that our students and community will reap the benefits for many years to come.

The college has consistently maximized bond funds by leveraging other resources, such as matching construction funds from the state. This has allowed us to get much more bang for the buck and ensure that we can deliver on our promises to provide the very best learning environments, in-demand instructional and training programs, and cutting-edge facilities and equipment.

In the period since Measure C was approved, four major new buildings have been constructed, two others are well on their way, and an entirely new campus has been created in Canyon Country. Those are but highlights from an extensive list of new construction, improvement and renovation milestones that have been achieved.

• Hasley Hall, the 58,348-square-foot high-tech classroom building, houses instructional space for computer information technology, business, economics, computer science, cinema and journalism, as well as faculty offices, a board room and other support spaces for Distance Learning and PAC.

• Pico Canyon Hall, the 19,762-square-foot music-dance building, houses the music and dance programs, and features a choir room, instrumental room, faculty offices, dance studio, electronic music room and music library.

• Aliso Hall and Aliso Lab provide 32,000 square feet of lecture halls and instructional space for biology, physics, astronomy, allied health, chemistry, engineering and MESA (Mathematics, Engineering and Science Achievement).

• The Physical Education Expansion, expected to be completed this summer, will provide an additional 21,543 square feet of space, as well as six outdoor tennis courts. The expansion will allow a variety of new team sports and general-education courses.

• The full-service Canyon Country Campus, featuring more than a dozen modular classroom buildings on 70 acres off Sierra Highway, meets the educational and training demands of the eastern Santa Clarita Valley.

• The permanent University Center, now under construction on the southern edge of the Valencia campus property, will provide 110,000 square feet of instructional and support space for numerous degree programs offered by partner universities. It is expected to be completed in 2009.

But we’re certainly not done yet. Much more is on the way.

• The college was successful in nabbing the very last design-build pilot project from the state to move forward on a $10 million, 20-square-foot expansion of Mentry Hall. Construction is expected to begin later this year.

• The Library is on track for a $2,000-square-foot expansion that will house the TLC Lab, basic skills labs, offices and meeting rooms.

• We are currently in the design phase for a new Administration & Student Services Building. And more projects are on the way.

The community’s support has been a key factor in our success, and we recognize that, as one of the nation’s top-10 fastest-growing community colleges, we must continue our forward momentum to meet the educational and training demands of a dynamic, diverse and equally fast-growing community. We look forward to a future characterized by boundless optimism, innovative practices and unbridled passion for the work that we do. We all combine to provide limitless opportunity and continued excellence in higher education at California’s premier community college. As stewards of this wonderful institution, we promise to impress and inspire in the years ahead.
A Day for Children Planned at College of the Canyons

E very year, mothers and fathers have their own days to feel loved and appreciated, but the refreshing and invigorating event for young children radiates the love and appreciation of the Week of the Young Child. The world's largest early childhood association, the National Association for the Education of Young Children, is sponsoring the event along with local childcare programs. The annual Play Day will be held at College of the Canyons Valencia Campus from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Parents are welcome to bring their child to a day of fun and entertainment in many activities from painting, to obstacle courses and music. Parents will receive an official driver’s license. Free water bottles will be available throughout the day.

Established in 1971 by the National Education Association, the Education of Young Children, the world’s largest early childhood education association, was the first to recognize the importance of early childhood programming. The Week of the Young Child educates the public on the needs of young children and their families and to recognize the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs.

For more information, contact Ruiz at (661) 362-3510 or visit the college’s website at www.canyons.edu.

Grant
FROM PAGE 1

Angeles saw a decline of more than 300,000 factory workers. Manufacturing creates 2.5 additional secondary jobs for every new manufacturing job. The U.S. Department of Labor estimates that the number of biological technicians, a key occupation in the biotechnology industry, is expected to grow significantly by 2012, outpacing many other occupations.

Young workers looking to learn the ways of the road – and ticketed motorists needing to fulfill court requirements – can both look to College of the Canyons for help, as Community Education is now offering online traffic school and driver’s education.

Available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, the self-paced 30-hour online driver’s education training course blends text, video and animation with accompanying study questions and quizzes over 10 units of material. Students are able to access quizzes and the driver’s education online test as many times as it takes to successfully pass, with practice permit tests available after completion of the course.

At a cost of $85, the online driver’s education training course is licensed by the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and is 100 percent guaranteed – meaning if you don’t pass, you don’t pay. Students can sample up to 10 percent of the course for free before deciding to register.

After successful completion of the course, students receive a driver’s education course certificate of completion, but will still need to pass a DMV permit test, complete the mandatory hours of driving in the company of a licensed adult, and pass the DMV driver’s license test before being issued an official driver’s license.

Also available is online traffic school, as opposed to traditional in-person courses available at both COC campuses. At a cost of $39, the online traffic school is DMV-approved and 100 percent guaranteed. The course is divided into several units, each containing text, video, graphics and accompanying review questions, allowing users the choice between completing the course all at once or progressing at their own pace. At the end of the course, the online traffic school will receive a completion notice, which is processed and forwarded to meet the necessary court requirements. Online delivery options are available.

“With a growing number of new courses and programs and a variety of burgeoning community partnerships that allow students to put their newly developed skills to work, the College of the Canyons culinary arts department is becoming a well-known entity both on campus and in the community,” said Cindy Schwanke, noted pastry chef and culinary arts instructor. “The department is really growing, and the community is really embracing us, which is exciting for our students,” said Cindy Schwanke, noted pastry chef and culinary arts instructor. “Because of that support, we’re able to bring the right culinary talent to the college and give students the best experience possible.”

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“We’ve got some real superstars coming out of the program,” said Schwaneke in reference to former students who have gone on to work for SCV area restaurants and catering businesses.

Recently, Schwaneke and a number of her students visited the Hyatt Valentia kitchen facilities on a field-trip and had the opportunity to meet with the hotel’s general manager, executive chef and catering general manager. That meeting subsequently led to a partnership between the Hyatt and COC in which a small number of students were selected to work alongside the Hyatt staff at a recent wine tasting event.

“Experience-wise, that kind of an opportunity is huge,” Schwaneke said.

Though relatively new on campus, having been formed in 2006, the college’s culinary arts department has already seen a rapid increase in enrollments on and off campus. “The culinary arts department is one of the fastest growing programs on campus. We have had over 400 students sign up for courses in the culinary arts this fall,” said Cindy Schwanke.

“We are in unique in being able to bring this level of a program to the community,” said Dena Maloney, founding dean of the college’s Canyon Country Campus, former dean of economic development and director of the Employee Training Institute at College of the Canyons. “It is certainly unique in the state.”
The opportunity to coach Team USA in the 2007 Maccabi USA Men’s Pan-American Games in Buenos Aires, Argentina was “an honor and a privilege,” but College of the Canyons men’s basketball coach Howard Fisher could only describe his team’s silver medal victory as “bittersweet.”

“From a competitive standpoint, there’s always a little bit of disappointment,” Fisher said about his team’s 70-63 loss to Argentina in the tournament’s decisive gold-medal game. “But with our travel and everything else, it was a well-earned medal nonetheless, and to be a part of that group was an honor.”

Compounding that disappointment was the fact that Team USA had previously beaten Argentina 83-74 in a thrilling, come-from-behind victory just three days earlier. But a combination of devastating injuries and the young age and inexperience of players, many competing on an international level for the first time, all were contributing factors in sending Team USA home with silver instead of gold.

Nevertheless, Fisher could not have been more proud of his players, or more excited to represent his country and his culture in such a capacity.

“When you have the opportunity to represent your country, it’s a privilege, but to also be able to represent the Jewish community, the Los Angeles area and College of the Canyons was amazing,” said Fisher.

Maccabi USA/Sports for Israel is a volunteer organization that provides Jewish athletes around the world the opportunity to share their heritage and customs in competitive environments.

The 2007 Maccabi USA Pan-American Games took place in Buenos Aires in late December, and included athletes from more than 20 countries competing in 17 sports including baseball, volleyball, field hockey, golf, gymnastics, soccer, swimming, tennis and water polo.

Fisher, who has been involved with the organization for a number of years as a coach, scout and volunteer, also served as head coach of Team USA at the 2006 Maccabi Australia International Games - a role he was happy to reprise for the Pan-American games.

“The fact that they approached me to coach was an honor and humbling at the same time,” he said. “And the chance to coach on an international level with a national team was a tremendous opportunity.”

But despite Team USA fielding a team composed of players with four-year college and professional playing experience - including former COC player Jeremy Lake - Fisher acknowledged that his squad was “easily the smallest and youngest team” at the games.

Averaging 22 to 23 years of age, with just one player taller than 6 feet 6 inches - after losing starting center Chad Goldstein to a devastating knee injury in the first game - the team also had to adjust to the loose officiating style of international play.

“Adjusting to the officials was an ongoing occurrence. I now have technical fouls on three continents,” Fisher said while describing how obvious fouls often went uncalled during games. “The level of communication with officials is just different, and the game is also very different. But I think we did a nice job adjusting.”

Opening the tournament with Goldstein’s injury and a subsequent loss to Canada in Round 1, Team USA quickly bounced back with victories over Brazil, Argentina and Australia. After a semi-final rematch victory over Canada, Team USA headed to a New Year’s Day gold medal game against previously beaten Argentina.

However, Team USA was unable to overcome Argentina a second time. Despite battling back from a 14-point deficit to briefly regain a third-quarter lead, Argentina won the game and the gold with a score of 70-63.

“They were just bigger and deeper and more experienced than we were,” Fisher said. “But for a group to come together like this and compete, they showed a lot of character. It was a tremendous experience to work with this group of outstanding young men. The relationships and experiences will long be remembered.

**COLLEGE OF THE CANYONS BREAKING NEWS • SPRING 2008**

**Basketball Coach Howard Fisher, seen here with the Cougars basketball team, coached Team USA at the 2007 Maccabi USA Men’s Pan-American Games in Buenos Aires, Argentina.**

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**Philipson Named PAC Managing Director**

Former Santa Monica College arts administrator Adam Philipson has been hired as the new managing director of the Santa Clarita Performing Arts Center (PAC) at College of the Canyons.

Philipson, who holds a master of arts in organizational management with a special customization in arts management from Antioch University, reported to his new position on Jan. 2. He replaces outgoing PAC theater manager Karen Schmidt, who relocated to Nevada.

“I had the opportunity to tour the Performing Arts Center when it first opened and have since seen some performances in it and have been able to watch how well it has served the community,” he said. “I’ve been absolutely impressed with how well it’s run,” he said. “I see this as a great opportunity to help take the PAC to the next level, and that’s really exciting.

Philipson has an extensive 16-year professional acting background that included roles in several Off-Broadway performances, two national tour theatrical productions, and one Broadway role with more than 400 performances as Eugene Morris Jerome in Neil Simon’s “Broadway Bound.” He has appeared in more than 100 television and radio commercials and more than 25 episodic television programs and feature films. Philipson previously worked at Santa Monica College.

“Mr. Philipson’s professional experience made him a very strong candidate for this position,” said Dr. Floyd Moos, dean of fine and performing arts. “Our hiring committee was especially impressed with his passion for theater administration and arts education and his commitment to community involvement and community outreach programs. We strongly believe he will be an asset to the continued development and success of our Performing Arts Center, the college and the Santa Clarita Valley community.”

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**ADAM PHILIPSON**

**College of the Canyons Performing Arts Center Great shows. Close to home!**

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**2007-08 Season**

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**The Hobbit**

May 4

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**Spring Dance Concert**

College of the Canyons Dance
Friday, May 9 – curtain 8 pm

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**Turtle Island Quartet**

2008 Grammy winner!
Saturday, May 10 – curtain 8 pm

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**The Second City**

One Nation, Under Blog
Saturday, April 19 – curtain 8 pm

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**Swingtime in Santa Clarita**

SCV Concert Band
Sunday, April 20 – curtain 7 pm

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**Music From The New World**

SCV Youth Philharmonic
Saturday, April 26 – curtain 7 pm

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**The Hobbit**

College of the Canyons Theatre
Thursday-Sat, May 1-3 – curtain 7 pm
Sunday, May 4 – curtain 2 pm

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**Spring Dance Concert**

College of the Canyons Dance
Friday, May 9 – curtain 8 pm

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2008 Grammy winner!
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For complete information about the 2007-08 season and ticket sales: www.canyonsPAC.com • Box Office: (661) 362-3304

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**T**he 2007 Maccabi USA Pan-American Games took place in Buenos Aires in late December, and included athletes from more than 20 countries competing in 17 sports including baseball, volleyball, field hockey, golf, gymnastics, soccer, swimming, tennis and water polo.

Fisher, who has been involved with the organization for a number of years as a coach, scout and volunteer, also served as head coach of Team USA at the 2006 Maccabi Australia International Games - a role he was happy to reprise for the Pan-American games.

“The fact that they approached me to coach was an honor and humbling at the same time,” he said. “And the chance to coach on an international level with a national team was a tremendous opportunity.”

But despite Team USA fielding a team composed of players with four-year college and professional playing experience - including former COC player Jeremy Lake - Fisher acknowledged that his squad was “easily the smallest and youngest team” at the games.

Averaging 22 to 23 years of age, with just one player taller than 6 feet 6 inches - after losing starting center Chad Goldstein to a devastating knee injury in the first game - the team also had to adjust to the loose officiating style of international play.

“Adjusting to the officials was an ongoing occurrence. I now have technical fouls on three continents,” Fisher said while describing how obvious fouls often went uncalled during games. “The level of communication with officials is just different, and the game is also very different. But I think we did a nice job adjusting.”

Opening the tournament with Goldstein’s injury and a subsequent loss to Canada in Round 1, Team USA quickly bounced back with victories over Brazil, Argentina and Australia. After a semi-final rematch victory over Canada, Team USA headed to a New Year’s Day gold medal game against previously beaten Argentina.

However, Team USA was unable to overcome Argentina a second time. Despite battling back from a 14-point deficit to briefly regain a third-quarter lead, Argentina won the game and the gold with a score of 70-63.

“They were just bigger and deeper and more experienced than we were,” Fisher said. “But for a group to come together like this and compete, they showed a lot of character. It was a tremendous experience to work with this group of outstanding young men. The relationships and experiences will long be remembered.

Former Santa Monica College arts administrator Adam Philipson has been hired as the new managing director of the Santa Clarita Performing Arts Center (PAC) at College of the Canyons.

Philipson, who holds a master of arts in organizational management with a special customization in arts management from Antioch University, reported to his new position on Jan. 2. He replaces outgoing PAC theater manager Karen Schmidt, who relocated to Nevada.

“I had the opportunity to tour the Performing Arts Center when it first opened and have since seen some performances in it and have been able to watch how well it has served the community,” he said. “I’ve been absolutely impressed with how well it’s run,” he said. “I see this as a great opportunity to help take the PAC to the next level, and that’s really exciting.

Philipson has an extensive 16-year professional acting background that included roles in several Off-Broadway performances, two national tour theatrical productions, and one Broadway role with more than 400 performances as Eugene Morris Jerome in Neil Simon’s “Broadway Bound.” He has appeared in more than 100 television and radio commercials and more than 25 episodic television programs and feature films. Philipson previously worked at Santa Monica College.

“Mr. Philipson’s professional experience made him a very strong candidate for this position,” said Dr. Floyd Moos, dean of fine and performing arts. “Our hiring committee was especially impressed with his passion for theater administration and arts education and his commitment to community involvement and community outreach programs. We strongly believe he will be an asset to the continued development and success of our Performing Arts Center, the college and the Santa Clarita Valley community.”

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Community Partnership Feeds Needy Students

• College, Food Pantry

A college student needs many things, but the single most practical and overlooked necessity is food. It may come as a shock to some in the Santa Clarita Valley that many COC students have to make daily choices as to whether to buy food or meet other expenses. All too frequently, students are forced to pay other bills and go to class hungry.

To meet the needs of students like these, College of the Canyons has teamed up with the Santa Clarita Valley Food Pantry. In exchange for the food pantry’s expertise in collecting and distributing food to needy students, the college is conducting periodic food drives to help stock the pantry’s shelves.

The first food drive on the college’s Valencia and Canyon Country campuses has already begun. Students and staff, a number that now well exceeds 20,000, have been asked to participate in the food drive by donating canned goods and other non-perishable items.

“We are thrilled to partner with COC to distribute supplemental food to low-income students,” said Belinda Crawford, executive director of the SCV Food Pantry.

“Studies have shown the link between nutrition and learning, and we all know how difficult it is to concentrate when you’ve skipped even one meal,” Crawford said. “The SCV Food Pantry wants to do our part to see that COC students have the opportunity to excel.”

Hunger leads to slow thinking and a lack of energy, both of which hinder a college student’s performance, according to Freedom from Hunger, a non-profit organization that helps feed the hungry in 17 countries. To survive a long day of classes, work and everyday activities, the human body requires proper sustenance. College students, in particular, need to have available nutrition during such a high-pressure time of life.

“I am one of many employees at COC who embraces our students as family, and I don’t know of anyone who would let a family member go hungry,” said Fashia Skjelstad, scholarship specialist at the college. “This partnership will help students who are struggling with transportation by bringing the food pantry to them.”

Once collected, food will be available on campus for Board of Governors Fee Waiver (BOGW) students. The BOGW waives enrollment fees for qualified California residents. The college has 3,897 BOGW students. To qualify for BOGW, a student or student’s family must be 150 percent below the poverty line.

The Santa Clarita Valley Food Pantry, established in 1986, provides qualified local residents with supplemental food. As residents of the Santa Clarita Valley, students of College of the Canyons are now able to benefit from this volunteer-operated program.

Anyone wishing to volunteer for food drives and distributions may contact Crawford at (661) 255-9078 or (661) 755-3190. More information is available by visiting the SCV Food Pantry online at www.scvfoodpantry.org.

Dean of Economic Development Hired

Dr. Bruce Getzan has a full schedule. The new dean of economic development at College of the Cannons hit the ground running since arriving from Sullivan County Community College in New York, filling his calendar with meetings and events to get a feel for the Santa Clarita Valley.

But that’s nothing new for Getzan. “This job combines what I’ve been doing for much of my professional life in terms of developing partnerships,” Getzan said.

As dean of workforce development, continuing education and lifelong learning at Sullivan County Community College, he oversaw a variety of customized training, economic development, employee retention, tourism and corporate and community partnership initiatives.

He was also active with chambers of commerce, economic development agencies, state and regional offices and other colleges and universities in the state and region.

Getzan looks forward to being equally involved here, but first he wants to hear what others have to say. “One of the first things you do is come in the door and listen,” he said.

“That’s my goal here in the first weeks.”

He wants to learn the needs of the local business community, hear their ideas about what the college can do to help bolster the continued growth of local companies, and then move quickly to implement them.

“That’s one of the challenges in this field, delivering things that are needed yesterday by the entrepreneur on campus.”

And that too is nothing new for Getzan. His previous experience includes serving as vice president for lifelong learning and CEO of the regional police academy at Gloucester County College in New Jersey and developing a broad range of customized training programs for business and community groups.

He was a liaison for business and community development at Delaware Technical & Community College, serving as chair of the New Castle County Chamber’s Training and Education Committee in Delaware and a facilitator at the White House Conference on Small Business. He also has been a consultant on economic development in Delaware, metropolitan Philadelphia and the Mid-Atlantic regions.

Amphitheater

FROM PAGE 1

Amphitheater

A new campus, like the Valencia campus, is a place for the entire community to come together to enjoy and celebrate. As a unique addition to the amphitheater, the College of the Canyons Foundation is providing the opportunity for community members to show their support for the Canyon Country Campus with the purchase of engraved Founder’s Circle stones. Available for a donation of $300, each decorative stone will feature the engraved name of the person or business making the donation and will be placed around the outside of the amphitheater, the donors’ honor.

All proceeds will go to support the foundation’s Innovation Fund, which enhances academic programs, provides for campus improvements, and promotes student and staff innovation at the Canyon Country Campus.

For more information about the Amphitheater Founder’s Circle stones, please contact Sharon Pfitz of the COC Foundation at (661) 362-3434.

A tent was erected over the Canyon Country Campus Amphitheater on March 19, when College of the Canyons hosted the Santa Clarita Valley Chamber of Commerce After Hours Business Mixer.