Commission Renews Accreditation, Commends College

The Western Association of Schools and Colleges, Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, reaffirmed full accreditation for College of the Canyons this year – completing a nearly two-year self-study and peer review process.

In reaffirming accreditation status, Barbara A. Beno, president of the accrediting commission, commended the college for excelling in a variety of key areas. “The college’s commitment to collaborative governance, numerous community partnerships, data-driven planning and evaluation processes, commitment to technology including student and faculty services and professional development opportunities, and commitment to student success were all noted by the visiting team and the commission,” Beno said in a Feb. 3 letter that officially reaffirmed the college’s accreditation.

“The credit for our successful accreditation belongs to each member of the college’s faculty, staff, administration and Board of Trustees,” said College of the Canyons Chancellor Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook. “Every day they devote themselves to serving our students in the best way possible, and to establishing and pursuing high standards of excellence to foster student success, and to partnering so that opportunities that don’t exist elsewhere are thriving at College of the Canyons. It is rewarding to me that their efforts and the outcomes we have achieved were so evident to the visiting team.”

Accreditation is a voluntary process colleges and universities undergo to evaluate and assure the quality of education used by the American higher education community – and to subsequently make those results known to the public.

Not all colleges and universities can successfully complete this rigorous process. Indeed, College of the Canyons

University Center Nears Completion

Facility, Named for College Chancellor Dr. Dianne Van Hook, Set to Open This Fall

In the spring of 2007, College of the Canyons officials were joined by a collection of the Santa Clarita Valley’s civic leaders, community members and college supporters on a plot of dirt-covered land overlooking the 154-acre Valencia campus. “Our goal was to create an educational center based on partnerships,” Chancellor Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook said on that bright spring morning. “Today is a symbol of what presence, dedication and never giving up can achieve.”

Moments later, Van Hook joined the college’s Board of Trustees to plunge a set of ceremonial shovels into the earth to officially break ground on construction of the college’s University Center.

Scheduled to open this fall, the 110,000-square-foot high-technology Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook University Center now stands on that same patch of land, perched above the I-5 freeway, positioned to command a spectacular view of the valley’s majestic mountains and blue sky horizon – and designed to welcome all those with a desire to succeed.

Cited as a solution to the lack of upper-division, graduate school and continuing education programs in the area, the University Center was created to increase student access to advanced degrees by forging partnerships with surrounding four-year colleges and universities, which then make their academic programs available to students on the College of the Canyons campus.

The concept has already proven itself. An interim University Center has operated on the college campus since 2002, serving thousands of students who otherwise would not have had the time to commute to distant university campuses to pursue their educational goals.

“The University Center is a godsend to those of us who have full-time careers and busy family lives,” said Cathy Ritz, a recent University Center graduate who earned a master’s degree in educational administration and serves as chief operating officer for the COC Foundation. “The University Center allowed me to complete my educational goals right here at College of the Canyons, without the wise would not have had the time to commute to distant university campuses to pursue their educational goals.

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New Program Helps ‘Launch’ Careers

While the economic recession has forced many organizations, colleges and universities to cut back across the board, College of the Canyons continues to keep the needs of students in mind.

Among the more than 280 classes that will be taught at the college’s Valencia campus this summer – 145 are available online – College of the Canyons will introduce the LAUNCH program, which will help students jumpstart their college careers and employment opportunities.

The pilot bridge program will aid students who tested into English 081 and Math 058 to take a five-week intensive course in those subjects along with a counseling and personal development course for a smoother transition into college life.

Students who successfully complete the program will receive
Student, 92, Proves It’s Never Too Late to Learn

Dorthea Daniels hadn’t been in a classroom for more than 75 years, but seeing her grandchildren pursue a higher education prompted the 92-year-old to check out the college life.

The oldest of the College of the Canyons student, Daniels is currently enrolled in an introductory English course at the Canyon Country Campus, which is a short drive from her Agua Dulce home.

"I was inspired by my grandchildren inspired me," said Daniels of her three grandchildren who are currently attending school and work. "I thought I should go too. I don’t have anything to do, and I want to do something worthwhile for me."

But the last living founding member of the Agua Dulce Mother’s Club (now the Women’s club) also had tired of her crafts, which include making glass beads with a blowtorch, watercolor painting, silk scarf painting and ceramics.

"I don’t care for crochet," said Daniels, who also enjoys sewing. Daniels moved to Los Angeles in 1934 from North Platte, Neb., intent on enrolling in UCLA’s nursing school. But the school was not accepting out-of-state applicants, and after a string of odd jobs, Daniels married and started a family.

After having been out of school for so long, Daniels said she knew it wouldn’t be easy to return.

The English 092 course is her second attempt after dropping a computer course that she found difficult.

But even now, "it’s a challenge and I entail a lot of computer work that I’m not so good at," said Daniels, who uses a computer and still struggles with other computer programs.

Daniels prefers attending classes at Canyon Country than at the college’s Valencia campus because it’s closer to home and “not as confusing.” But when it comes to navigating her way around cam-

pus, Daniels said she usually asks fellow students for help. “They’ve all been very nice and helpful,” she said. “Not once have I been refused.”

Even so, Daniels says she feels like an outcast in her class because of her age.

“The young people are really nice and amaze by my age,” she said. “They’re really friendly and they talk to me, but it’s hard to relate to them. Most of them have telephones stuck to their ears when they’re in class.”

Daniels is also an avid traveler who has traveled to Costa Rica, Africa, China, France and much of the United States.

“My favorite place is China,” said Daniels, who was on the Great Wall and climbed the 400 steps at the Temple of Ten Thousand Buddhas.

As of yet, Daniels isn’t sure what subject she would like to study, but if she does well in her English class, she will continue taking more classes. Her ulti-

mate goal is to graduate with an associate degree.

Daniels recalled how her friends didn’t understand her decision to go back to school.

“They just laughed and asked why,” she said. “But I’m doing what I want to do — for me.”

Campus Connects on Earth Day

College of the Canyons celebrated Earth Day on April 22 with a variety of events designed to promote sustainability and demonstrate the many ways individuals can positively impact the environment.

The day’s events, ranging from presentations to a film screening, were organized by Students for Sustainability and the Sustainable Development Committee (SDC)

“This year’s Earth Day at College of the Canyons is a lot more student-initiated,” said Ji-Yi Cheng-Levine, SDC co-chair. “I am thrilled to see our students take interest in environmental matters and to see them share their knowledge with the community.”

Duane Morton, founder of the full-service junk removal company 1-800-GOT JUNK, gave the pres-

entation “It’s All Junk,” which was followed by a screening and discussion of “The Story of Stuff,” a documentary focusing on the connections between environmental and social issues.

Attendees planted sunflowers and poppies in biodegradable cups that were made available outside the Student Center.

Vincent DeSavio, a geology professor at the college, led the panel “Learning Community and Sustainability.” And, the Academy Award-winning animated film “Wall-E,” which shed light on the future of the earth’s environment, was screened.

Environmentally friendly door prizes such as reusable shopping bags, “green” calendars and can-

teen water bottles also were raffled.

Junior High Summer Institute to Return

Back and better than ever, this year’s Junior High Summer Institute (JSI) at College of the Canyons offers more than typical summer camp activities. It features new curriculum tracks and activities designed to provide students with a fun and engaging atmosphere.

Available to incoming sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders, JSI allows parents the option of enrolling students in week-long curriculum tracks — taught primarily by College of the Canyons instructors or field experts in areas such as art, film, math, science and musical the-

ere. New tracks focused on animation, 3-D design, teen fitness, young entrepreneurship and lake recreation.

JSI will run 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday from June 15 to July 24 (no meeting July 3) and will consist of six one-week sessions.

Cost is $185 per child per week. Some tracks may require an additional $15 materials fee.

Available-care options allows students to remain at JSI from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. each day at an additional cost of $50 per child.

JSI will offer a limited number of need-based scholar-

ships. Eligible students must be currently enrolled in a Junior High School program and must fill out the application below. The application forms will be posted in the Community and Continuing Education Office by April 17.

To register or to obtain additional information, call the Community and Continuing Education Office at (661) 362-3300 or vis-

it www.canyons.edu/summerhigh.
I n one of her first positions in community col-
leges, an entering young faculty member cre-
ated a model program for Santa Ana College in the
rancho Santiago Community College District – a
program that would help other women enter the
workforce by giving them access to the training and
support services they needed to succeed.
Within five years, the program became a state
model and was funded at more than 50 other col-
leges across California.
She named her re-entry program, New Horizons,
and now, decades later, the Los Angeles County
Commission for Women and the County Board of
Supervisors honored College of the Canyons
Chancellor Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook as a recipient of
the prestigious 24th Annual Women of the Year Awards
Luncheon in March.
The county’s Commission for Women was estab-
lished in 1975, (about the same time Chancellor Van
Hook helped create her first women’s re-entry cen-
ter) to represent the special interests and concerns of
women of all races, ethnic and cultural backgrounds,
religious convictions, social circumstances, and sex-
ual orientation.
Van Hook created the New Horizons program so
that women could have the same opportunities as
men, and since then, she has dedicated her life to
providing access to education for everyone, and to
helping students succeed.
District awardees are selected by each Los Angeles County Supervisor, and, aside from serving
as role models, Women of the Year nominees must
have worked on behalf of women’s issues and made
significant contributions to women’s equality.
Chancellor Van Hook was selected for this award
by Michael D. Antonovich, Los Angeles County
Supervisor, Fifth District.
“I’m passionate about California community
colleges and the opportunities they afford people
to become whatever they want to be,” said Chancellor
Van Hook. “I have been blessed to be able to work
in this amazing system of education and to build
bridges for people so they can open doors and real-
ize that they can succeed.”
Throughout Chancellor Van Hook’s career, she
has mentored women, advocated for the promotion
of women and championed women’s equity issues,
while serving as a first-hand example to her peers
and colleagues of just how powerful a role model
and visionary leader one woman can be.
Before coming to College of the Canyons, Van
Hook helped promote and staff the Asilomar
Leadership Conference, which provides training
for women seeking to advance to executive positions in
community colleges throughout California, and later
established the Association of California
Community College Administrators (ACCCA)
Mentor Program to further train future community
college leaders.
In addition, for the past two decades Van Hook
has shared her extensive knowledge and experience
by serving as a role model and mentor to women
aspiring to become college presidents – with more
than 40 of the women she has mentored going on to

Los Angeles County Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich presents Chancellor
Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook with the Woman of the Year Award.

Service-Learning Honored

Wielding hammers and wearing
hard hats, a group of College of the
Canyons students worked alongside Habitat for Humanity volunteers
and the east of the CW show “90210” in
building the 100th home in Pacoima on
March 14. “Our students had a great time
mingling with the stars and working hard
to complete construction on the Youth
United Home,” said Dr. Jennifer Hauss,
director of the Service-Learning Program.
College of the Canyons was recently
named to the 2008 President’s Higher
Education Community Service Honor Roll
to recognize the wide-ranging community
service-learning options offered.
College of the Canyons, one of the 635
higher education institutions recognized –
and one of only 39 in the state to receive
the award – created the program to inte-
grate meaningful community service with
instruction and reflection to teach civic
responsibility, strengthen communities
and enrich students’ learning experiences.
“College of the Canyons’ service-
learning students have been doing this for
years, and, as a result, their education, our
community and our community-based organizations have been enriched and
enriched by their efforts,” Hauss said.
Last semester, service-learning proj-
jects included the participation of nearly 60
faculty members, 80 non-profit communi-
ty-based organizations and more than 500
students. Projects included a collaboration
with the county’s Department of Children
and Family Services Tutoring and
Mentoring Project, in which students
established a mentor relationship with
children in foster care. The drive-through
flu clinic, in which nursing and EMT stu-
dents gained experience working with
patients and dispensing vaccinations, was
another successful service-learning proj-
ect.

Jill Harper Remembered

A bout 200 friends
and family of Jill
Harper gathered at
College of the Canyons
March 28 to remember the
day, Santa Clarita
Valley resident, devoted
cancer volunteer and
witty, unselfish, posi-
tive and genuine – present
and passionate about all
she did,” Van Hook said.
In addition to working
with seniors and starting
the American Cancer
Society’s Relay for Life
locally, Harper served on
numerous college commit-
tees and helped pass bond
measures C and M.
Harper’s family asked
that donations be made to
the COC Foundation in her
honor. All contributions will benefit the
Canyon Country campus, to which she
made a lasting impact.
Information on making a donation is
available from the COC Foundation by
calling (661) 362-5493.

JILL HARPER

JILL HARPER
Coming Up: Tom Rush, Lovell Sisters, Los Lobos

The Santa Clarita Performing Arts Center (PAC) at College of the Canyons will be filled with a rich medley of sounds from performances by Los Lobos, Tom Rush and The Lovell Sisters.

"The season continues with some great shows at the PAC, with tickets still available," said Adam Philipson, PAC managing director. "We are proud to bring multiple Grammy Award-winning artists of a variety of genres."

Tom Rush – who paved the way for the folk-pop sound of the '60s – has made a profound and lasting impact on the American music scene. With the release of his new album "What I Know," the troubadour is back stronger than ever.

"He hasn't recorded a studio album in more than 30 years," according to a Los Angeles Times review of the album, "but you'd never guess that he'd been away so long, from the lithe spirit in his voice on these 15 tracks."

Accompanied by The Lovell Sisters, Rush will surely delight fans with old and new material when he takes the stage on May 16.

Following closely on Rush's heels will be Los Lobos, who will perform on May 29. Hailing from East Los Angeles, Los Lobos reached mainstream success with its stirring rendition of Richie Valens' classic "La Bamba" for the big-screen movie of the same name. "With the exception of U2, no other band has stayed on top of its game as long as Los Lobos," according to Rolling Stone magazine.

With origins in Vera Cruz, Mexico, Los Lobos promotes outreach to Latinos in the communities in which it performs to promote "Son Jarocho," a style of music and dance that has influenced the band. Thanks to a grant from the COC Foundation, guest artists will lead free Son Jarocho workshops at the Newhall Community Center earlier on the day Los Lobos will perform. "The 'Son Jarocho' workshops will introduce the music of Veracruz to a new generation who will learn the origin of the music and the various aspects that make it a vibrant musical culture today, here and in Mexico," Philipson said.

How to Get Tickets

ONLINE: www.canyonspac.com
Learn more about all shows at the PAC, purchase tickets securely and quickly, even select the seats you'd like to sit in.

PHONE: (661) 362-5304
VISIT THE BOX OFFICE
Hours are 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. The Box Office is located at the front of the PAC, 26455 Rockwell Canyon Road, Santa Clarita.

Upcoming acts scheduled at the Santa Clarita Performing Arts Center at College of the Canyons include The Lovell Sisters (above left), who will perform with legendary folk artist Tom Rush (above right) on May 16, and Los Lobos (right), best known for its stirring rendition of Richie Valens' classic "La Bamba," on May 29.

Chaotically Comical Play

'Noises Off' Opens May 7

A play within a play, the College of the Canyons Theatre Department production of 'Noises Off' will charm audiences for four nights at the Santa Clarita Performing Arts Center starting May 7.

The play, which New York Magazine called a "side-splitting" farce, is directed by Paul Wickline, chair of the college's theatre department.

"The concept of the 'play within the play' isn't unique," said Wickline. "Many playwrights have explored this idea. However, none has crafted as ingenious a script as Michael Frayn's 'Noises Off.'"

A hapless provincial theater company puts on a conventional sex farce called "Nothing On." For the first few minutes, the audience watches that very farce – but quickly realizes it's a disastrous rehearsal. Doors slam, plates of sardines go flying, and actors miss their cues. The result is chaotically comical.

"Working on this project with such a terrific group of both college and community actors and a talented team of designers has been a delight," Wickline said. "I look forward to sharing our work with the public."

"Noises Off" will be presented on the Main Stage beginning at 8 p.m. Thursday, May 7, continuing at that time on Friday, May 8 and Saturday, May 9. The final show is scheduled for 2 p.m. Sunday, May 10. Tickets range in price from $5 to $10.

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.canyonspac.com or call the Box Office at (661) 362-5304.
Since relocating to the Santa Clarita Valley in 2001, Harold and Jacquelyn Petersen have developed a reputation for the enthusiasm, dedication and generosity they display toward many of the community’s most benevolent non-profit organizations and causes.

To honor their generous community service, the College of the Canyons Foundation Board of Directors awarded the college’s “Silver Spur” Community Service Award for 2009 during a special dinner in their honor at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel on March 7.

Harold, president of Petersen International Underwriters, has maintained an active role in his community throughout the years. He is a supporter of the Boys and Girls Club of Santa Clarita Valley, the Santa Clarita Child and Family Center, the UCLA Alumni Association, and the Mary and Joseph League of Los Angeles.

In addition to her involvement with the Boys and Girls Club and the Mary and Joseph League Center alongside Harold, Jacquie has given her time and generosity for causes associated with the American Red Cross; the John Tracey Clinic, which provides free medical services for children with hearing loss; the Junior League; the American Heart Fund and the American Cancer Society. She has also served as president of the Mary and Joseph League and a volunteer with the Catholic Church.

Most recently they were honored for their work in the community at the Valentine’s Day Have a Heart Sweethearts event benefitting the Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Health Foundation’s ongoing work in funding the Roberta G. Veloz Cardiac Catheter Lab.

The couple’s generous and wide-ranging support for College of the Canyons has revolved around several key projects at the college, including the Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook University Center capital campaign and the annual Silver Spur celebration.

In addition, Harold and Jacquie are both members of the President’s Circle, a group of prominent community leaders, alumni and corporations dedicated to the success of the college, and major contributors to the COC Annual Fund, which provides the college with the financial resources needed to support and strive for the highest levels of excellence in teaching, vocational training, student scholarships and overall campus innovation.

“We consider ourselves lucky at College of the Canyons to count the Petersens among our closest friends and strongest supporters,” Chancellor Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook said. “We owe them an immeasurable debt of gratitude for all they have done for the college and its students over the years.”

Van Hook FROM PAGE 3

achieve that goal at a California community college.

Under her leadership, the number of female administrators at the college has increased from just two when she was hired in 1988 to 54 percent today.

With full belief and personal experience in the leadership capabilities of women, Van Hook is quick to encourage her peers, colleagues, staff and students to strive to reach their full potential through education, professional development and job advancement—demonstrating through her own actions that it can be done.

Service-Learning FROM PAGE 3

“College students represent an enormous pool of idealism and energy to help tackle some of our toughest challenges,” said Stephen Goldsmith, vice chair of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service, which oversees the Honor Roll. “We salute College of the Canyons for making community service a campus priority, and thank the millions of college students who are helping to renew America through service to others.”

The college of the Canyons Foundation invites wine connoisseurs from across the Santa Clarita Valley to partake in an evening of great wine, gourmet food and good company during the 22nd Annual Santa Clarita Valley Wine Classic.

The event is scheduled 7 to 10 p.m. Saturday, May 30, in the Main Gallery at California Institute of the Arts, 24700 McBean Pkwy., just east of Interstate 5.

Boasting a variety of new-release, rare and vintage wines, as well as a plethora of delectable dishes from some of the Santa Clarita Valley’s finest restaurants and caterers, this annual event benefits the Student Symphonic Orchestra Program at College of the Canyons.

The 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 creative outlet for hundreds of young musicians throughout the valley.

In addition to sampling the impeccable array of food and drink, guests will receive souvenir wine glasses and trivia to use while tasting, snapping and otherwise socializing during the event.

During the silent-auction portion of the evening, guests will have the opportunity to bid on an array of both rare and popular wines, restaurant gift certificates and an assortment of attractive gift baskets.

Tickets for the 2009 SCV Wine Classic are currently on sale through the College of the Canyons Foundation at (661) 362-3043. Ticket orders also may be faxed to (661) 259-9961. Visa, Mastercard and American Express are accepted.

Tickets can also be purchased by sending a check to College of the Canyons Foundation, 26455 Rockwell Canyon Road, Santa Clarita, CA 91355; please make checks payable to the College of the Canyons Foundation.

Additional information such as lists of participating wineries and restaurants, a map and directions to the event are available at www.scvwineclassic.org.

Annual Wine Classic Set for May 30

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Three convenient sessions:
• Summer Session I: 5 weeks – June 15 – July 18
• Summer Session II: 8 and 10 week sessions – June 15 – August 22
• Summer Session III: 5 weeks – July 20 – August 22

Summer Schedule of Classes: Online NOW!
• Learn new job skills
  - Make yourself indispensable at work!
• Complete a transfer degree
  - Earn your lower division units at prices you can afford!
• Paid and unpaid internships
  - Internships often lead to well-paying jobs!
• Instruction in “hot” career fields
  - Paralegal, Landscape Design, Automotive Technology, Surveying and more

Plan NOW for your Summer College Classes!
Library, Mentry Hall Set for Major Expansion

WITH construction of the Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook University Center nearing completion, construction of the College of the Canyons is preparing to embark on another wave of new construction projects designed to expand and modernize the Valencia campus.

Cornerstone and Measure M--the $160 million bond measure--will designate additional computer labs, expanded student study areas and separate math and English instruction. Another wave of new construction projects will also create a new, permanent library. The plan of eventually removing the Classroom Village, said in reference to the college’s proper accounting procedures and approved bond oversight committees, will likely be the next project out of the gate.

The state’s uncertain economic climate and its ability to sell general-obligation bonds necessary to pay for construction could affect the expansion timeline, but college officials hope to break ground on the project this year.

With the addition of these new classrooms, we are working toward our master plan of eventually removing the Classroom Village,” Jim Schrage, assistant vice president of facilities planning, operations and construction, said in reference to the construction of modular classroom buildings on the south end of campus. “That area will then become open space for the campus, and open space similar to the Honor Grove.”

The new 30,000-square-foot Mentry Hall Library will more than double in size when its expansion is completed. The plan is to add roughly 52,000 square feet of space to the current facility.

In addition to significantly increasing the amount of space needed to house library resources and materials, the expansion will also create a new, permanent home for the college’s Tutoring, Learning & Computing Lab (TLC), which will feature a variety of instruction labs, expanded student study areas and additional computer labs. At least one of these new computer labs will be designated for community use.

Besides the college’s student bond funds, as well as Measure M--the $160 million general-obligation bond that local voters approved in November 2006--the college’s $24 million library expansion project is expected to break ground in 2010, pending the issuance of bonds at the state level.

University Center

stressed of having to leave the Santa Clarita Valley. With construction of the University Center nearly complete, College of the Canyons officials are preparing for the grand opening of the new $76.2 million library building, which was built in 1997 when the college’s student population stood at about 7,500, as well as a federal stimulus-funded portion.

This new state-of-the-art facility will enable us to dramatically expand the number of programs and degree options offered at the college while significantly increasing access to higher education right here in the Santa Clarita Valley,” said Barry Gibbler, assistant superintendent/vice president of institutional development, technology and online services. Having already established partnerships with University of La Verne, Chapman University, UCLA Extension, National University, California State University (CSU) Bakersfield and CSU Northridge, the college will have the space to begin attracting more partners -- and more degree programs.

In fact, California Lutheran University, CSU Long Beach, CSU Fresno and CSU Los Angeles have already expressed interest in offering their programs at the University Center.

New programs already set to be offered in the permanent center include a bachelor’s degree in nursing through National University, a bachelor’s degree in economics with an emphasis in mathematical sciences, and a master’s degree in small business and entrepreneurial management from California Lutheran University.

In all, the University Center will house up to 10 partner institutions and offer more than 50 bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees and credential programs.

The Board of Trustees named the new center after Van Hook because of her “irresistible commitment to enhancing access to education, her belief in the power of dreaming big and never giving up, and her premise that we, as individuals and institutions, compensate what we give ourselves the power to be.”

The University Center concept was Van Hook’s brainchild, an idea she nurtured and propelled to fruition.

Also slated to move into the new building are Academy of the Canyons, the Early College High School, the COES Foundation, Professional Development, the Institute of Teaching & Learning, Community & Continuing Education, and the Economic Development Division, which encompasses the Small Business Development Center, Employee Training Institute and O-Advanced Technology Incubator.

“Part of the University Center’s original design was to bring together and serve as a hub for an interactive network of businesses needing training and students needing education, where the college’s faculty, staff and educational partners work together to create a place where innovation can thrive,” Van Hook said.

For more information, call (661) 362-5474 or email universitycenter@canyons.edu. A complete list of program and degree options is available at www.canyons.edu.

LAUNCH

written verification from their instructor to file a pre-requisite challenge and enroll in English 091 and Math 660. The LAUNCH program will help students move on to transfer-level courses more quickly,” said Denee Pescarmona, interim faculty coordinator for basic skills and an English instructor at the college.

“By shortening the pipeline to transfer-level courses, we are helping to ensure that students will go on to meet their academic and career goals,” said Pescarmona.

For more information, contact Community Education at (661) 362-3330.

Accreditation

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The commission was among just four of 15 colleges to receive full accreditation at the commission’s January meeting.

Mitjl Capet, assistant superintendent and vice president of instruction, was the college’s accreditation liaison who shepherded the preparation of the institutional self-study report and coordinated the accreditation process. "Accreditation is about accountability, and our outstanding accreditation results reinforce the fact that College of the Canyons has been able to accountable to the community and to the high ideals and standards of higher education,” Capet said.

During the commission’s peer evaluation of the campus and its operations in October, and in the official accreditation report, commission visiting team chair Dr. Robert F. Aelliga, superintendent/president of Santa Rosa Junior College, praised the college for an array of accomplishments, while also recognizing the members of the college community for the attitude they display and important role they play in the community.

“You are to be commended for your entrepreneurial attitude, enthusiasm and spirit that you display," Aelliga said during the team’s exit interview.

Committee members in the team’s exit interview were just three recommended areas of improvement: an acceleration of the timeline to transfer the storage of past student records to a digital format; a program review of library services designed to better serve the needs of the libraries at both campuses; and the continue focus on developing increased student learning outcomes – a recommendation made by the commission undergoing the reaccreditation process.

“For an institution of your size and complexity have to just three recom- mendations to belausad,” Aelliga said, adding he has never prepared an accreditation report with fewer recommendations.

The full report, as well as the visiting team’s official evaluation report, are available at http://www.canyons.edu/Offices/PIO/Accreditation/.

Bond Oversight Panels: College in Compliance

C

College of the Canyons is in full compliance with legal require- ments that mandate public over- sight of the disbursement of bond rev- enues for both Measure C and Measure M, the oversight committees for the respective bond measures determined.

The two citizens’ oversight committees make on-going determinations after reviewing the results of inde- pendent audits covering the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008. All of the audits were in accordance with applica- ble laws, regulations and approved oversight committees approved formal resolutions affirming the college’s compliance on Dec. 11, 2008.

The Measure C oversight committee was formed following voter approval of that $82.1 million bond measure in 2001. It has provided much-needed construction of new facilities, renovation of the existing campus and creation of a new campus in Canyon Country.

The Measure M Oversight Committee was formed after passage of the $160 million bond measure in 2006.

California law requires that citizens’ oversight committees be appointed to oversee the disbursement of bond funds, as well as ensure that they are not used for student aid or administrative salaries or district operating expenses.

Meeting dates, agendas, minutes and additional information are posted online at www.canyons.edu. Click the “About Canyons” button directly beneath the college logo, then click the respective committee’s button in the left-side navigation columns.
Students Benefit From Math Textbook Program

Faculty-Enrichment Program Honored

Tannehill Named Director of Small Business Center

Lessons Learned in Competition, Victory and Defeat

The Academic Senate for California Community Colleges named the College of the Canyons' Institute of Teaching and Learning (ITL) the winner of the coveted 2008 Exemplary Program Award — for its excellence in providing book-full-time and adjunct faculty members with an innovative on-campus professional development program.

The Exemplary Program Award allows colleges to showcase and share innovative programs within California. The ITL would receive a $4,000 award from the Foundation for California Community Colleges.

Since its inception the book program has awarded a total of 19 books, at a cost of roughly $200 apiece, and has since expanded to provide 20 books each year on an ongoing basis.

Making the program even more beneficial is the fact that each book is anonymously donated.

To some, a “lost book” is the best book,” said College of the Canyons mechanical engineering student Angie Gray, 21, pointing out that the $200 she saved through the award program reduced her total semester book cost by more than 35 percent. “You’ll use these books semester after semester, and probably even after as reference material. I’m planning on keeping my book forever!”

To be eligible for the Contributing Book Award Program, students must demonstrate a financial need, have a GPA of 3.0 or higher and be majoring in a field of math, engineering or science.

After receiving the books, students must then meet with an academic advisor to discuss their education plan, and submit academic progress reports throughout the semester and commit to maintaining at least a “B” average in the chosen course. If a student fails to receive a final grade of a “B” or higher in the class they must then return the book to the MESA office.

“They have to keep their grade up, so they have to perform,” said Susan Crowser, MESA program director.

“We like the idea of there being a little bit of competition involved, so that students will aspire to be awarded the book as something to strive for,” said Crowser. “The book award program is especially important because of the role it plays in the college’s larger effort to support technical industries through- out the state. California needs more engineers, and College of the Canyons has shown a strong commitment to supporting students pursuing the engineering and science fields.”

Throughout the 17-year career.

MESA students benefit from Math Textbook Program

All-College Roundup

Lessons Learned in Competition, Victory and Defeat

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Canyons Team Travels to New York to Compete in National Championships

For the past six seasons, the College of the Canyons hockey team has proven over and over again that it has the talent, coaching and campus support to be highly competitive throughout the season. The Canyons sharpened their on-ice reputation even further this past season, winning the Pacific Collegiate Hockey Association’s (PCHA) coveted Adams Cup and earning the chance to compete at the American Collegiate Hockey Association’s (ACHA) Division III National Championships in Rochester, N.Y. March 4 through 7.

“At the beginning of the season we probably would have been happy to get to the playoffs and be competitive,” said John Taferner, head coach of College of the Canyons hockey. “But as the team started to gel throughout the course of the season, we started winning games and the kids started to gain confidence.”

That confidence helped lead the Canyons to PCHA playoff victories over Fresno State University and nationally ranked Oakland University before advancing to a second-round match-up against Grand Valley State University (GVSU) of Allendale, Mich.

But Canyons would meet its match in GVSU, as the Cougars went on to play two more games in Rochester, finishing the weekend with a 1-3 record and 14th-place tournament ranking.

As a West Coast team, it’s very tough to win at the national level of hockey,” said Taferner, adding that playing games in back-to-back days also presented challenges.

The level of hockey talent in Southern California is a lot broader and deeper than most people think. The problem is we don’t have the big leagues and facilities that will promote big-time hockey,” said Taferner. “And that’s one of the reasons why we started the program at College of the Canyons.”

With a roster of players hailing primarily from the Santa Clarita Valley, Taferner and General Manager Jim Mohney – have built the college’s hockey program from mostly home-grown talent.

Because of the team’s success, Taferner expects the Canyons to begin the 2009-10 campaign at a higher pre-season ranking than last year’s PCHA playoff and ACHA National Championship tournaments.”

Golfers Honored for Academics

The California Community College Athletic Association (CCCAA) named the 2007 College of the Canyons state champion women’s golf team the 2007-08 Pepsi Scholar Women’s Golf Team.

The honor, awarded during the 12th Annual CCCAA Convention in Ontario in March, goes to a sports team that had at least a combined GPA of 3.0 and demonstrated better-than-average accomplishments in intercollegiate athletic competition. The 2007 Cougars women’s golf team earned a combined 3.09 GPA while winning the Western State Conference, Southern California and state titles.

“It is an amazing feat when your team can win an academic award,” head golf coach Gary Peterson said. “It is even more impressive when you can also win a state championship in the same year. I am very proud of the women of the 2007 team and applaud their pursuit of success in the classroom and on the golf course.”

Hall of Fame Event Reunites Teammates

College of the Canyons wrapped up its third Cougar Athletic Hall of Fame on Jan. 22 in the East Physical Education Building on the Valencia campus. During a night filled with old stories and teammates reunited for the first time in more than 25 years, the dinner and ceremony went off in true COC style.

Keynote speaker Todd Donoho provided personal stories of his life as an L.A. sports broadcaster and his run-ins with some of the greatest sports figures. Donoho’s anecdotes kept the crowd of about 230 guests enthralled.

The college inducted four individuals – men’s basketball player Jesse Boyd, women’s golfer Susan Latch, football coach Larry Reisbig and basketball coach Gary Peterson – into the College of the Canyons Athletic Hall of Fame.

Inductees spoke about the privilege of being honored among COC’s finest. Guests heard stories of expertise from Reisbig, hope and triumph from Latch, adoration for his running career from Boyd. Former baseball head coach Mike Gillespie, who went on to coach at USC, relived the 1981 road to the state championships. Former assistant coach and now Dean of Physical Education Len Mohney introduced each player and described what they were doing now.

The event rekindled memories and reunited athletes with friends, coaches and others they encountered at the college, but, most of all, it reminded them what they loved and cherished about College of the Canyons.

Golfers Honored for Academics

The 2007 women’s golf team was honored for both its athletic and academic prowess. They are (from left) Ashley Windsor, Ashley Redmond, Tessa Harp, coach Gary Peterson, Eleana Yin, Darlene Bagni and Jenny Lee, who was the 2007 individual state champ.