College of the Canyons

Breaking News

College to Build Applied Technology Center

Education Center Set to Open at Canyon Country Campus in 2010

As a construction project continues across the College of the Canyons’ Canyon Country campus, community members can look forward to an eventual collection of permanent buildings and facilities beginning with the campus’ Applied Technology Education Center. Currently scheduled to open for the spring 2010 semester, the Applied Technology Education Center (ATEC) will provide students with hands-on learning and training opportunities in a variety of innovative subject areas, each with an emphasis on using “green” technology. The new facility is a direct response to suggestions from business and community leaders that such a training center is needed by local industry and would prepare students for well-paying, in-demand jobs.

Expected to include four classrooms, a computer lab and instructor offices spread over 5,000 to 6,000 square feet of modular classroom buildings, the ATEC facility will also boast an additional 10,000 square feet of laboratory space—providing an ideal location to house programs and departments requiring a great deal of work and storage space.

And, because the facility will be built using a quick and cost-effective tilt-up construction design—in which the building’s walls are poured directly at the site into large concrete panels and subsequently moved into position around the building’s slab—students will be able to begin reaping the benefits of the ATEC relatively quickly.

“Adding the Applied Technology Education Center to the Canyon Country Campus expands our ability to provide cutting edge education that leads directly to employment and great careers,” said Dr. Dianne G. Van Mann, president of the college of the Canyons, standing with Al Mann (above), chairman and CEO of Mann-Kind Corp., during the ribbon-cutting ceremony for Stellar Microelectronics, which provides advanced electronics manufacturing at its 140,000-square-foot facility (right) in the Valencia Commerce Center. Mann also heads up Stellar and a variety of other companies.

Apprenticeship Program for Veterans Launched

The first engineering apprenticeship program of Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger’s Engineering Initiative will begin the state’s decade-long goal of training 20,000 new engineers for the workforce. The program, designed for veterans, is a collaboration among College of the Canyons, Valencia-based Stellar Microelectronics, Cal State Los Angeles and the California State University system.

The press conference was held Dec. 18 in conjunction with a ribbon-cutting for the 140,000-square-foot facility, whose current workforce of 300 has the potential to double.

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Governor Declares Emergency

Latest Budget Plan Prevents Community College Cuts

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, who declared a fiscal emergency on Dec. 1, has introduced a new plan to deal with California’s $41-billion budget deficit. Unlike earlier proposals, the plan introduced on Dec. 31 excludes spending cuts that could threaten funding to College of the Canyons and the rest of the state’s community colleges.

Giving the increased enrollment College of the Canyons has experienced during the 2006-09 academic year, such cuts would have impacted the college’s ability to serve students. The college had 17 percent more students in the fall of 2008 than a year earlier.

And, with more people being laid off in a softening economy, the college is seeing many of them coming back to college to be retrained for new careers. Indeed, enrollment in the winter 2009 session is up 31 percent over the winter 2008 session. Aside from eliminating a 0.68 percent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA), the governor’s new proposal calls for no budget cuts to community colleges during the current year.

His budget proposal calls for maintaining

New Classes Reflect Needs of Students

Among the more than 1,640 classes that will be offered in the spring at College of the Canyons, students will be able to take classes in culinary arts, automotive technology and landscape management/maintenance.

“As part of our efforts to stay abreast of current business and industry needs in the community we are offering newly developed courses in the spring semester,” said Audrey Green, dean of the college of the Canyons.

Wine enthusiasts are sure to enjoy the two new wine studies classes that will be offered in the spring, Wines of California and Advanced Wines of California.

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See CLASSES on Page 6

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Leadership Program Honored for Innovation

The College of the Canyons Leadership Education in Action Program (LEAP) was presented with the 2009 Action Program (LEAP) Community College of the Year Award at the American Council for Staff, Program and Organizational Development (NCSPOD) Innovation Awards ceremony at the organization’s annual conference October 24, in Reno Nevada.

The NCSPOD was formed in 1977 through the vision of several community college faculty, staff and program development practitioners across the country who shared a mutual understanding and appreciation that leaders, who understand the needs of students who intend while sharing information and networking within the field.

The NCSPOD Innovation Award recognizes achievement in a program, project or event that demonstrates innovative and unique development efforts, new directions, or approaches that enhance the effectiveness of staff, program, and/or organizational development.

Innovation is one of our top priorities at College of the Canyons,” Chancellor Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook said. “It is included in our strategic plan, it is a quality we emphasize in our job descriptions, and we strive to create a campus climate that fosters innovation. This award is a tribute to those on our campus who dare to be different and encourage others to do the same.”

During the conference, Van Hook – recipient of the 2007 NCSPOD honors as a campus champion for outstanding leadership in support of professional development programs – provided the keynote address at the NCSPOD Leadership Breakfast, in which she spoke to the importance of providing professional development opportunities for all faculty and staff, and making those services a top priority at every college campus.

In addition, Van Hook, Diane Stewart, the college’s dean of early childhood education and training programs, and Leslie Carr, the college’s director of professional development, were asked to provide conference attendees with a LEAP themed conference workshop - to both share information about the program and demonstrate the growing and urgent need to promote and support leadership development from within.

“The LEAP workshop provided information that will serve as a catalyst to create an environment to foster their own leadership development program, while also encouraging participants to grow their own leaders from their college’s best resources – their own faculty and staff.” said Carr.

LEAP was launched at College of the Canyons in

99 Students Graduate Nursing Program

The Allied Health District graduated 99 nursing stu-
dents during a commencement ceremony held at the Santa Clarita Performing Arts Center at College of the Canyons on Dec. 10. It was the largest number of RN graduates in the history of the college. Most of the graduates already have nursing positions lined up, said Carr, one of a healthy “Our success is largely the result of the efforts of the hospital community, the nurses, and the students who have

College Hosts Tourism Bureau Luncheon

Members of the Santa Clarita Valley Tourism Board gathered at College of the Canyons in December to celebrate the season with a holiday luncheon in the Art Gallery. The turnout for the luncheon, which is a membership organization comprised of local and regional companies dedicated to the continued development of the SCV as a tourist destination, was several. Art Gallery Director Larry Hurst and Dean of Fine and Performing Arts Dr. Floyd Moos. They were on hand for Garcetti’s photo exhibit, which is a part of the museum’s “Water is Key,” which focuses on the dire need to bring clean water to the people of West Africa.

“Garcetti is one of the most influential and yet one of the most generous artists I have met. His work is thoughtful and yet has a huge canvases with drips and splats that might be described as part Pollock, Rothko and Zen calligraphy. The museum has had high profile exhibitions featuring such celebrated artists w

COC Campuses Become ‘Smoke-Free’

The College of the Canyons Valencia and Canyon Country campus will become “smoke-free” facilities on Feb. 9 – the start of the spring semester – in an effort to promote the health and safety of students and staff alike.

Under the new policy – adopted by the College of the Canyons Board of Trustees – smoking and tobacco usage will be allowed only in the parking lots, at least 50 feet from any building, and in one designated area near Cougar Stadium on the Valencia campus. A student survey conducted by the college’s Associated Student Government revealed that overwhelming majority on both campuses favored making the campuses smoke-free.

“In a straightforward and clear and adopts the same kind of policy that does on other campuses across the state in place,” said Dr. Michael Wilding, vice president of student services. Students interested in quitting smoking can find assistance at the Student Health Center.

Drive-Through Clinic Dispenses 1,200 Shots

College of the Canyons nursing students helped administer more than 1,200 flu shots to local residents during the college’s annual Drive-Through Flu Clinic held in November. The flu-shot clinic was a joint effort on the part of the college, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, the Santa Clarita County Sheriffs and fire departments. The annual event also serves as a health fair for residents interested in flu shots, which would be dispensed in the event of a bioterrorism attack.

College Hosts Awareness Day for Educators

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College of the Canyons hosted a Career Technical Education Awareness Day for educators primarily in the William S. Hart Union High School District on Oct. 12. About 140 educators and students attended the day. The goal was to inform counselors and faculty members about educational options available to students interested in enrolling in a community college but not pursue a bachelor’s degree. The event featured breakout sessions with representatives from different industry sectors and a keynote address by Sharon Huntsman, executive director of the California Edge Campaign.

P ast exhibitions at the College of the Canyons Art Gallery have exhibited the artwork of local artists that have provided opportunities to present the work of established and emerging artists. The college has created a three-wheeled bicycle that operates a home-built movie projector, and 300 vintage cardboard village houses.

In keeping with that tradition, the gallery’s art exhibitions for 2009 will showcase the artistry behind weaving, abstract expressionist painting, graphic design illustrations and kites.

The exhibit “Fine Art of Weaving: Reconnecting the Hand Woven Tradition” will feature several local fiber artists that work specifically as weavers. Technically speaking, a weaving is a textile composed of two intersecting threads, the warp and the weft. Most modern weavers use a loom, but other methods are also employed. The artists will exhibit a wide variety ofadic that includes traditional shawls and garments, as well as wall-mounted abstractions.

“It’s amazing to scrutinize these works,” said Larry Hurst, director of the Art Gallery. “As an artist, I am naturally drawn to the rich color and abstraction created by this process. These are objects that will appeal to everyone.”

The exhibition will run from Jan. 12 to 28. A reception for the artist will be held 3 to 6 p.m. on Jan. 17.

The gallery will exhibit the work of the late abstract expressionist painter, Sam Francis, in the exhibit “Sam Francis: American Master.” From Feb. 17 through March 14.

Francis, considered one of the world’s top painters at the time of his death in 1994, was influenced by French impressionists and Japanese art. But the California native developed his own style by producing huge canvases with drips and splats that might be described as part Pollock, Rothko and Zen calligraphy. “I am particularly pleased to be showing Sam’s work,” said Hurst. “As a young artist I had the opportunity to spend time in Mr. Francis’ enormous studio and to talk with this important artist. He was bigger than life, and yet one of the most generous artists I have met.”

Francis’ work can be found in every major museum in the world, including the Museum of Modern Art in New York, Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris, the Identitum Museum of Art in Tokyo and the Norton Simon Museum in Pasadena. A reception for the exhibit will be held 3 to 6 p.m. on Feb. 21.

The exhibit “Beyond the Image,” running from March 24 through April 16, will feature the work of approximately 12 of the most creative and cutting-edge illustrators working today. Mercedes McDonald, a COC art faculty member and noted professional illustrator, will curate this exhibition with Sam Sugahatan, owner and director of the Black Maria Gallery in Glendale.

“Students often ask how to utilize their creativity in the work force,” said Hurst. “Illustration offers an interesting and challenging career choice for artists where they are free to apply all types of artistic approaches.

“Flourish is a way to think outside the box with their own personal creativity, so the artist can create their own inspiration for the world of illustration.”

The college has planned additional art events for the coming year including the college’s Book of the Year program celebrating “The kite Runner.”

The Santa Clarita Valley Tourism Board will run from May 5 to 21 in honor of the college’s Book of the Year program celebrating “The kite Runner.”

Similarly to the gallery’s recent birdhouse exhibition, students, faculty, classified staff and community mem-

ers were asked to create kite-inspired paintings, paintings, collages, assemblages and sculptures. This exhibition showcases this richness and diversity of style.

In place of the college’s annual student show, the kite-themed exhibition “College of the Kites” will run from May 5 to 21 in honor of the college’s Book of the Year program celebrating “The kite Runner.”

For more information about the COC Art Gallery and exhibitions, visit www.canyons.edu/offices/artgallery.

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.

Mail: College of the Canyons Public Information Office 26655 Roadside Drive Santa Clarita, CA 91355 Email: info@canylons.edu
College of the Canyons has three final events – a one-man performance at the Santa Clarita Performing Arts Center on Feb. 21, a cooking class and a special folk-art kite workshop for kids – in conjunction with the college’s Book of the Year activities celebrating “The Kite Runner” by Khaled Hosseini.

The Literature to Life presentation “The Kite Runner” at the PAC will bring to privileged Pashtun, and Hassan, a Hazara without ever leaving the Santa Clarita Valley. The performance will pit at 4 p.m. on Feb. 22. Due to the thematic elements of the story, the performance is age appropriate for middle and above. To purchase tickets for the event, visit www.canyonspac.com. The hands-on cooking class “Camel’s and Vegetarian Afghanistan Culinary Art” will be led by Zel and Reuben Allen, authors of The Nut Gourmet, featuring the intriguing and diverse, richly seasoned cuisine of the multi-ethnic nation of Afghanistan.

The class will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. on Feb. 21 at the Valencia Library meeting room, located at 23743 Valencia Blvd. in Santa Clarita. To register, call (661) 259-8942.

A special kite-making workshop for children will also be held at the Valencia Library on 2:30 p.m. on Feb. 7. Led by artist Margo Gravelle, the workshop will teach school-age children (grades 3 and up) how to make and decorate folk-art kites. Registration for this limited-space event is required. Registration is under way and can be done in-person at the library’s adult reference desk or over the phone at (661) 259-8942.

“The Kite Runner” begins with, “I became what I am today at the age of twelve, on a frigid overcast day in the winter of 1975. I remember the precise moment, crouching behind a crumbling mud wall, peeling into the alley near the frozen creek... Looking back now, I realize as well as a master’s program in psychology, with an emphasis in marriage and family, plans to offer a bachelor of sciences program in nursing, and La Verne plans bachelor of arts programs in public administration and government. And, UCLA Extension will offer Ryan designated subjects teaching credentials for both career technical education and adult education.

The Interim University Center is best accessed via University Center Drive, the new entrance on Rockwell Canyon Road. For more information, call (661) 5474 or visit www.canyons.edu/universitycenter.

Final Book of the Year Events for ‘The Kite Runner’
Second Half of PAC Season Has Much to Offer

There’s still plenty of entertainment in store during the second half of the 2008-09 season at the Santa Clarita Performing Arts Center at College of the Canyons.

“We are looking forward to an even more exciting second half of the season with performances from Art Garfunkel, Tom Rush, the L.A. Chamber Orchestra and Los Lobos,” said Adam Philipson, the center’s managing director.

Five-time Grammy Award-winner Garfunkel kicked off the new year with a sold-out performance on Jan. 11.

Giordano Jazz Dance Chicago is sure to dazzle with its fancy footwork on Feb. 7. This original dance company continually expands the boundaries of jazz dance.

What do you get when you mix drama, comedy, suspense and magic? The concoction results in the illusion sensation, The Spencers, who will perform on April 4.

Rush, who arguably paved the way for the folk-pop sound of the ‘60s, will bring his distinctive guitar style, wry humor and warm, expressive voice to the PAC on May 16. Accompanied by The Lovell Sisters, Rush’s performance will blend storytelling, sweet and melancholy ballads, and gritty blues.

Los Lobos will perform a wide-ranging music set of blues, rockabilly, jazz and Latin on May 29. The Mexican-American group caught the music scene’s attention with its rendition of Richie Valens’ “La Bamba” for the movie of the same name.

“We are also thrilled to offer a few free events, some family-friendly programs and the COC Arts on Campus shows,” Philipson said.

Back by popular demand, the U.S. Air Force Band of the Golden West will perform on Feb. 23. The band will perform band/wind ensemble literature, orchestral transcriptions, military marches, pop arrangements and Broadway excerpts.

On March 8, members of the L.A. Chamber Orchestra will grace the stage for the second time. Both events are free and open to the public. Seating for these special performances will be first-come, first-served.

For more information about upcoming shows or to purchase tickets, visit www.canyonspac.com or call the Box Office at (661) 362-5304.

Arts Pros Share Their Expertise

Artists Offer Master Classes to Students

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

Whether it’s the chance to focus on a specific scene or song while receiving individualized feedback from a Broadway actress or the experience of dancing alongside members of a modern dance company, the college’s offering of master classes continues to present students with fun and unique learning experiences.

“Providing the opportunity for our performing arts students to work so closely with these world-class acts and artists is very gratifying,” said Dr. Floyd Moos, dean of fine and performing arts at College of the Canyons. “Artists booked into the Performing Arts Center not only benefit the community, but also make possible a value-added instructional experience for our students.”

During the 2008 spring, summer and fall sessions, College of the Canyons students were treated to several such experiences, the first being an “improv for actors” master class with cast members from the famed Second City Touring Company.

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

In October, the PAC hosted a master class featuring accomplished Broadway singer and actress Susan Egan, providing the chance for more than a dozen students to perform in front of Egan and receive unique learning experiences.

See MASTER CLASSES on Page 6
College Coordinates Governor’s Conference

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger kicked off Global Entrepreneurship Week with the first-ever Governor’s Conference on Small Business and Entrepreneurship held at the Renaissance Montura Hotel in Los Angeles on Nov. 18 and 19.

Coordinated by College of the Canyons, the conference gathered California’s most innovative entrepreneurs and small business leaders to create a forum for ideas and practical solutions that will propel the state’s entrepreneurial economy forward.

Incoming Chancellor for California Community Colleges Sen. Jack Scott spoke at the conference, as did experts from the fields of economic development, technology, venture capital and entrepreneurial. The speakers included Louis Rossetto, CEO and creative director of TCHO Ventures; Tom Hayes, Silicon Valley marketing guru and author of “Jump Point”; Michael S. Malone, ABC News journalist and “Silicon Valley Insider” columnist; David Fischer, vice-president of Google; Janine Popick, CEO of VerticalResponse; Dan Rose, vice-president of Facebook, and Phil Romero, dean of the canyon Country campus.

Stellar Microelectronics will provide paid apprenticeships as part of the Governor’s Engineering Initiative.

Technology

FROM PAGE 1

One of the many highlights of the center will be a long-awaited permanent facility for the college’s automotive technology program, which currently shares space and operates out of the Saugus High School automotive facility.

Expected to encompass approximately half of the 10,000 square feet of designated lab space, the ATEC auto lab will be comprised of eight automotive bays, a transmission lab, an engine lab, tool cribs and storage space for additional equipment – and provide the space needed to become a National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation-certified program.

In an effort to best utilize the new facility, college officials are already in the process of developing a number of new career technology programs that will eventually be introduced at the canyon Country campus and housed in the ATEC.

Programs under development that could be housed in the new center include: construction technology with an emphasis on “green” construction; plumbing technology; automotive transmission (HVAC); carpentry; electrical and electronics technology; alternative energy management, including solar panel installation and maintenance training, solar water heating and wind energy systems.

As such, the ATEC design plans also call for the inclusion of a 2,500-square-foot electrical/mechanical lab and 2,500-square-foot alternative energy lab.

“The reality of current and future workforce needs is that potential employees must be skilled in the areas they hope to find employment,” Audrey Green, dean of program development.

A laboratory setting designed to facilitate hands-on instruction is crucial for students to develop such skills, Green said.

“Opportunity abounds in the skilled labor market, and the programs being developed for the Applied Technology Education Center will prepare students for that type of employment,” she said.
ing into the deserted alleys of our own childhood.

The book was chosen not only because it has “universal themes and wide appeal but because it has application across disciplines,” said Cooper. “Its setting, Afghanistan, is currently in the news, and parallels,” said Cooper. “Its setting, Afghanistan, is currently in the news, and formulations,” said Cooper. “Its setting, Afghanistan, is currently in the news, and disciplines and to become equal participants in the kind of wide-ranging, ongoing, and open-ended conversation that characterizes academia.

For additional information, visit www.canyons.edu/offices/library/bookoftheye.png.

Master Classes

From Page 4

The Book of the Year project provides a wonderful opportunity for both students and community members to come face-to-face with a diverse array of people who were able to provide valuable insight into the world of musical theatre, said Julie Lawson, music instructor at College of the Canyons.

“Our students truly enjoyed their time with Susan, and they were thankful for the experience,” said Lawson.

Later in the month, professional dance company Diavolo hosted a set of master classes designed for both College of the Canyons and William S. Hart Union High School District dance students.

Focusing lessons in teamwork, physicality and artistry, both master class instructors were trained in the performing arts, where by students used learned vocabulary and elements of dance to create a short dance piece.

“We’re looking forward to helping students build on their more classical and creative opportunities for student education and growth,” said Adam Philipson, managing director of the Performing Arts Center. “To do so enriches and expands the learning experiences for participants at all ages and all stages.”

Springs 2009 Late-Start Classes

See LATE-START CLASSES on Page 7
Over the next two years local businesses will have access to more than $470,000 in employee training grants under the governance of the Employment Training Panel contract secured by the College of the Canyons Employee Training Institute (ETI). With this contract the college will be able to provide funds to train as many as 580 workers, providing in skills in a variety of areas including computer-aided design (CAD), computer-aided manufacturing (CAM) and other skills for small and medium enterprises in order to remain globally competitive.

All training is based on the specific needs of participating businesses, and was the focus of the Second Annual Governor’s Conference on Small Business and Entrepreneurship in 2009. The commitment was reinforced and clearly communicated in his luncheon speech to a room filled to capacity. It was a pleasure for the EWD Coordination Services Team and me to coordinate events such as the Governor’s Conference and be the designated clearinghouse for captioning and transcription services.

“Our economic development program is one of the best in the state, and the awarding of this grant is recognition of that,” said Dr. Bruce Getzan, dean of economic development. Panel contract, College of the Canyons will be able to quickly respond to the dynamic employment training needs of our emerging region,” said Dr. Bruce Getzan, dean of economic development.

‘Dream and Discover’ presented to College of the Canyons. The college has been customizing business training to businesses since 1989 and has greatly expanded its ability to create economic and workforce development programs. The 2009 Employment Training Panel contract is the ninth such contract secured by the college since funding was first offered to it. Our unique partnerships with industry help the college anticipate workforce training demands and leverage the resources necessary to meet the economic development goals of our community,” Getzan said. “We value the support of local business leaders who look to College of the Canyons to be their provider of choice for workforce development programs. Strong industry partnerships are the foundation of Employment Training Panel contracts.”

While the Employment Training Panel maintains specific eligibility criteria, which governs participation in this program, College of the Canyons’ ETI staff are available to help local companies ascertain their eligibility status and receive employee-training services.

The Employment Training Panel is a business- and labor-supported state agency that provides employers the cost of training employees. The program, funded by the Employment Training Tax paid by California employers, targets firms threatened by out-of-state competitors for their businesses.

For more information about the Employment Training Panel, visit the website of the College of the Canyons, contact Kristin Houser at (661) 362-3245.

College Secures $470,000 to Train Employees

Governor

FROM PAGE 5

of the CSU Los Angeles School of Business.

“I would like to thank Allison Korse-Devlin, Kristianne Toledo, the College Ambassadors, EWD Coordination Services volunteers for their contribution in helping to make the Governor’s Conference on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, said Catherine Grooms, executive director of the California Office of Economic Development. "The Governor’s Conference is evidence of the varied support for the college’s EWD Coordination services and the demand for workforce development services in the county. We are pleased to be able to offer the grants to businesses for a second year. We look forward to expanding our program over the next two years."
The 2008 Cougar football season fell just 10 seconds short of head coach Garett Tujague and his team’s goal to compete in the state title game. Despite a stellar season that earned the Cougars 12 consecutive wins in a row, Mt. San Antonio College defeated the Cougars 51-44 in the final seconds of the Southern California Championship to move on to the state title game.

The 2008 season opened with a huge ball’s eye on their back; COC was named the No. 1 team in the nation by Street & Smith’s Sporting News College Football 2008 Yearbook. College of the Canyons returned a majority of its team that made it to the 2007 Southern California Semifinals, including conference co-player of the year running back Fred Winborn and first-team all-conference wide receiver Hayo Carpenter.

Thirteen teams came after COC looking to knock off the highly regarded Cougars – and 12 teams were unable to defeat COC. Some came close, including a Fullerton team that almost beat the Cougars on the Hornets home field. The Hornets outscored Canyons 21-6 in the second half and were unable to come one score away from tying the Cougars, 34-28. Fullerton drove the ball down the field in the final minutes, but a fumble with 1:28 left in the game and the recovery by defensive back Marlon Douglas saved the Cougars and improved their perfect record to 4-0.

The next team to threaten COC’s unblemished record was Pasadena City College. Not only was the perfect record at stake, but the teams were also competing for a conference title – an honor that COC had not won since the 2005 season. COC played for most of the game with the winning advantage, but the Lancers came from behind and took a 35-28 lead with 3:28 left in regulation. Cougar running back Winborn scored in the last minute of the game to tie it up again and move the game into overtime. In the extra period, the Cougars looked again to Winborn for the score, and the extra point by kicker Ricky Drake put COC up 42-35. On Pasadena’s possession, the Lancers scored and tried to close out the game with a two-point conversion. The gusty move proved costly for PCC as they fell short of the end zone and COC pulled out the win.

The 2008 National Division, Northern Conference championships now looked toward the playoffs to begin, a post-season they had been prepping for, for so long. Canyons met a familiar team in the first round – Antelope Valley – a team they defeated in the first week of play, 54-14. College of the Canyons easily defeated AVC 41-17 in the 2008 Western State Bowl, but faced a difficult challenge in its next opponent, National Division, Central Conference co-champion El Camino College.

In the Southern California Semifinals, the El Camino College Warriors looked to end the Cougars’ post-season run by slowing their high-powered offense. It didn’t work well for the Warriors as Carpenter broke his own single-game receiving yards record with 326 yards and quarterback Brad McClellan threw for 300 yards, while Drake kicked three field goals of 32, 23 and 47 yards for a 36-27 win. COC’s biggest challenge came in the Southern California Championships, where they faced 2007 state runner-up Mt. SAC. COC and Mt. SAC were compared to each other during the season.

SAC entered the 2008 football season with the No. 1 ranking by the California Community College Athletic Association and the California Community Colleges Football Coaches Association’s weekly poll, but fell to No. 3 in week 10 after falling to Cerritos College. Mt. SAC’s misfortune was COC’s good luck, and the Cougars reached No. 1 in the coaches’ poll.

The game between the two teams was a testament to both teams as they battled back and forth in a very balanced game. Winborn broke his own single-game rushing yard record after accumulating 264 yards. As a team, COC had the advantage with 610 total offense yards to Mt. SAC’s 487, but the scoreboard read a whole different way at the end of the game. Canyons took a 44-38 lead with 2:15 left, but the Cougars couldn’t hold off Mt. SAC, which made a late charge and scored with 10 seconds remaining. A COC fumble that was returned for a Mt. SAC touch-down on the ensuing kickoff sealed Mt. SAC’s 51-44 win.

Though the season ended before the coaches, team and fans wanted it to, COC had a great season that ended with a conference title, a 12-1 record, conference coach of the year honors for Tujague, conference defensive player of the year award for Carpenter, conference defensive player of the year accolades for defensive lineman Marquis Jackson and 18 all-conference nods. The Cougars will also have to say a fond farewell to two of the most explosive players to don a Cougar uniform: Winborn and Carpenter, who held a combined 23 of 24 rushing, receiving and scoring records.

Golfers Raise $90,000 for Students

With a goal to provide more opportunities for students of all ages to attend college and pursue their educational goals, the College of the Canyons Foundation held its 18th annual golf tournament last year, raising more than $90,000 to help fund student programs and provide student scholarships and textbook assistance.

“Education can change lives by creating new opportunities,” said Barry Gribbons, assistant superintendent and vice president of institutional development, technology and online services at the college. “This tournament just opened some more doors for people who need these new opportunities,” added Gribbons, who also served as chair of the tournament.

Sponsored by C.A. Rasmussen Inc. and presented by Calix Engineering Co., the tournament was held at Valencia Country Club in September and featured 120 golfers teeing off in support of education.

“We are lucky to have such a great community college in our midst. Over the years many of us have benefited from classes offered at College of the Canyons,” said Charlie Rasmussen, president of C.A. Rasmussen. “It has been amazing to watch the incredible growth that has taken place at the college, enabling more students to enroll in a wide variety of classes and programs.”

On average, College of the Canyons students pay roughly $2,100 per year for academic fees, textbooks and supplies – making the cost of attending school one of the greatest barriers students will face on their educational journey.

In response, the COC Foundation has continually worked to generate funds – through annual giving, special events and endowment programs – to provide more opportunities for an affordable and accessible college education for all those with the desire to succeed.

Each year the foundation grants more than $500,000 back to the college in various forms of support. These funds enable the college to strive for the highest levels of excellence in teaching, scholarship, vocational training and innovation.

“We were delighted with this year’s tournament, it was a great day of golf,” Gribbons said. “But, more importantly, the generosity of our sponsors and participants was incredible. These funds will enable us to build our student assistance programs and help even more students in need.”