Having developed a reputation across the state as an institution where innovation thrives, College of the Canyons will take those efforts one step further with TEDxCollegeoftheCanyons on April 18.

"Ideas worth spreading" is the mission behind TED (Technology, Entertainment, Design) and the independently organized TEDx events that have been inspiring audiences. Held in Long Beach, the annual TED conference is traditionally focused on a central theme or idea and has featured a wide range of high-profile and influential speakers – among them Bill Clinton, Tim Berners Lee, Bill Gates and Jane Goodall – who have captivated audiences with their thought-provoking, inspirational speeches.

Renowned in academic and intellectual circles, TED conferences have been described by attendees as “the ultimate brain spa” and “a four-day journey into the future, in the company of those creating it.”

College of the Canyons will make its first venture into the world of TEDx with TEDxCollegeoftheCanyons, an independently organized event licensed by TED and focused on the topic of connectivity – specifically how connected communities can increase the

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**Grant to Help Latino Engineering Students**

When Jose Chavarria and Daun Hemachandra arrived in Fort Worth, Texas for the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers Conference in November, they couldn’t believe their luck. The two College of the Canyons engineering students met up with a professional engineer who dispensed advice and tips on how to network at the conference.

With the engineer’s advice, the students navigated the conference and met other professional engineers and representatives from companies such as Boeing and Northrop Grumman.

What Chavarria learned proved to be indispensable during a recent job interview. “What I learned at the conference helped me with how to dress and what to do on a job interview in an

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**Summer Sessions Grow**

550-Plus In-Demand ‘Core’ Class Sections Offered

This summer, students at College of the Canyons will have access to more class sections and educational opportunities than ever before, thanks in large part to restored funding levels triggered by the passage of Prop 30 in November. The 2013 summer session will include more than 550 class sections of high-demand “core” classes representing a wide range of academic subjects and disciplines. In all, the summer schedule of classes represents a roughly 15 percent increase over summer 2012, and will provide seats for more than 18,000 students.

The majority of class sections will be made up of courses that most students need to either graduate, transfer to a four-year university or meet prerequisites, providing an excellent opportunity for students to get a jump-start on course work before the fall semester in August.

In addition, a number of elective and

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**TEDx FOCUSES ON CONNECTIVITY**

April 18 Event to Share ‘Ideas Worth Spreading’

Having developed a reputation across the state as an institution where innovation thrives, College of the Canyons will take those efforts one step further with TEDxCollegeoftheCanyons on April 18.

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University Center Introduces New Degree Programs

The Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook University Center at College of the Canyons will introduce four new degree programs in engineering at right in a continued effort to provide a wide variety of advanced degree courses in the Santa Clarita Valley.

“Advanced degree programs are introduced in response to demands from students and the community’s need for qualified professionals in the fields of nursing and the biological sciences,” said Cathy Ritz, chief operating officer for the College of the Canyons Foundation and University Center operations.

Since it opened its doors in 2002, the University Center has strived to offer students the opportunity to earn advanced degrees without leaving the Santa Clarita Valley.

More than 1,760 students have graduated with degrees from Brandman University, California State University Bakersfield, California State University Los Angeles, California State University Northridge, National University and University of La Verne.

The current 110,000-square-foot facility — which opened in 2009 — continues to offer bachelor’s, master’s and credential certificate programs from various public and private universities, all of which have received approval and accreditation from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

Cited as the college’s solution to the lack of upper-division, graduate school and continuing education programs in the area, the University Center was established to increase student access to advanced degrees by forging partnerships with surrounding four-year colleges and universities. Those institutions then make their academic programs available to students through courses offered on the Valencia campus of College of the Canyons.

For more information about the Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook University Center or to view a lineup of university partners and degree certificate programs, visit www.coconlineuniversitycenter.com or call (661) 362-5474. A full list of universities and programs can be found on Page 3.

Ground Broken for New Student Services Building

College and community dignitaries gathered for a ceremonial groundbreaking for the new 46,000-square-foot Student Services & Administration Building.

An artist’s rendering (right) depicts how the new building will look when completed in early 2015.

Included on the new building’s first floor will be an expanded Admissions & Records Office featuring new computer labs and kiosks for student use, along with an official “welcoming center” to help ensure students and campus visitors find their way. Plans also call for a new Financial Aid Office, and expanded switchboard and mailroom areas.

The second floor will house additional computer kiosks, along with several key student service departments such as Counseling, the Transfer Center and the Career Center. Additional space has been set aside to accommodate the Student Services, Instruction, and Public Information offices.

“The ability for students to apply and register for classes, check the status of their financial aid disbursements, meet with a counselor, explore their transfer options or research a new career path — all in one location — will be more convenient, and time efficient, than ever before,” said Michael Widing, assistant superintend-ent-vice president of student services.

“By providing increased access to these services, it’s our hope that students will be able to seek out and explore even more of the academic, job training and career opportunities available at COC.”

The roughly $17.8 million project will be paid for with a combination of Measure M general obligation bond funds and state matching funds. The building is expected to be completed in early 2015.

GRANT
FROM PAGE 1

engineering environment,” said Chavarria, who is planning on transferring to a four-year college next semester to study mechanical engineering.

“With his experience was made possible thanks to the college’s AIMS2 (Attract, Inspire, Mentor and Support Students) program that was launched in 2012 through a sub award granted to College of the Canyons by California State University Northridge’s (CSUN) College of Engineering and Computer Science.

Developed by the U.S. Department of Education, this grant is a Hispanics Serving Institutions-STEM grant awarded to CSUN to help support the success and transfer of Latino and low-income engineering students studying at COC.

“CSUN approached several community colleges that would be interested in helping them increase the number of Latino and low-income graduates from their competitive Engineering and Computer Science programs,” said Susan Crowther, MESA program director at the college.

“College of the Canyons and Glendale Community College expressed interest and both colleges are working with CSUN to make their goal a reality.”

The $590,000 grant — to be dispersed over the course of five years — will provide AIMS2 scholars with tutoring, mentoring and academic success workshops to ensure they transfer successfully to a four-year school.

AIMS2 scholars also receive a stipend every semester, have individual appointments with COC faculty members about their career goals and partake in special events and field trips, including the CSUN Project Design Showcase, CSUN Tech Fest, leadership training and an engineering boot camp.

Over the summer, five AIMS2 scholars did research internships at CSUN. Recently, 10 AIMS2 scholars took a field trip to Glendale Community College in order to see the college’s planetarium and participate in engineering skill-building sessions in groups.

This grant is not only uniting three campuses but it is also making transferring to a four-year school a seamless transition for our AIMS2 scholars,” said Crowther.

“We are very happy to be part of this collaboration.”

For more information about the AIMS2 program, visit www.ecs.csun.edu/aims2.
College of the Canyons professor, activist and scholar Dr. Ali Akbar Mahdi will present a sociological analysis of the century-long history of political challenges, regional crises and ongoing hostilities associated with U.S. interests in the Middle East during the spring 2013 Scholarly Presentation at the Santa Clarita Performing Arts Center on April 17.

Entitled “The U.S. in the Middle East: A Century of Friendship and Hostility,” the presentation will begin with a geographical explanation of the region, as well as a brief overview of the United States’ historical background with several key Middle Eastern nations, including Iran, Iraq and Israel.

“The United States has been involved in the Middle East since the late 19th century,” Mahdi said. “Whether it be establishing a military footing in the region, attempting to engineer social change, or simply securing an interest in the region’s vast oil reserves, the U.S. has had longstanding interests in maintaining its influence in this part of the world.”

Mahdi will then discuss several of the most current and politically relevant issues facing the U.S. today, including some of the altering points of view and criticisms other nations cite concerning contradictions of current U.S. foreign policy.

“The Middle East is a diverse region in which our continued interests face serious challenges as we approach countries with different traditions, cultures and national interests,” Mahdi said. “Our policies and relationships in the Middle East have often appeared contradictory, and as a result the U.S. is sometimes viewed as hypocritical.”

Other areas of focus will include:
• Islamic extremists and jihadist groups
• ending wars in Afghanistan and Iraq
• the Iranian nuclear program
• enduring wars in Afghanistan and Iraq
• Islamic extremists and jihadist groups

The presentation will conclude with a short Q&A session.

Scholarly Presentation Examines U.S. in Middle East

THE U.S. IN THE MIDDLE EAST
A Century of Friendship & Hostility

Dr. Ali Akbar Mahdi
College of the Canyons Professor
Activist and Scholar

6 P.M. WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17
FREE Admission

See SCHOLARLY on Page 4

Scholarly Presentation
Santa Clarita Performing Arts Center
at College of the Canyons
FREE Admission

Board Appoints Zimmer to Open Seat

The Santa Clarita Community College District Board of Trustees has appointed attorney and former Newhall Land executive Steven D. Zimmer to Seat 5. The appointment was made Jan. 14 following a special board meeting during which 13 applicants were interviewed.

“The number and quality of candidates who applied for this position were impressive,” Chancellor Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook said. “It was an honor for our district to have such a field of outstanding community members desire to serve on the board.”

Zimmer fills the seat vacated by Scott Wilk, who was elected to the State Assembly in November.

“I personally look forward to the dynamism Mr. Zimmer will bring to the board as we enter an extraordinarily busy and exciting time here at College of the Canyons,” Dr. Van Hook added.

A longtime resident of the Santa Clarita Valley, Zimmer served as an executive at The Newhall Land and Farming Co. from 1999 to 2011. He operates his own law practice and serves on the boards of several community service organizations, including the COC Foundation.

Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook
UNIVERSITY CENTER

Need an advanced degree? Look no further!

The Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook University Center offers bachelor’s, masters, doctoral and credential/certificate programs from a variety of public and private universities. The center eliminates the need to commute to distant campuses and allows students to complete their first two years at College of the Canyons, then transfer to their program of choice without leaving the Valencia campus. As of December 2012, 1,781 students have graduated from University Center degree programs. The center’s six partner universities offer a variety of programs, including:

Brandman University
B.A. in Applied Studies
B.A. in Criminal Justice
B.A. in Legal Studies
B.A. in Psychology
B.A. in Social Science
B.S. in Social Work
B.S. in Computing Technologies
M.A. in Psychology, Marriage & Family Therapy
M.A. in Education, Early Childhood Ed. Leadership
Doctor of Nursing Practice

California State University, Bakersfield
B.A. in Communications
B.A. in French
B.A. in Liberal Studies
B.A. in Public Administration
B.A. in Sociology

California State University, Northridge
M.P.A. in Public Administration
M.S.W. in Social Work

National University
B.A. in Sport Psychology
B.S. in Nursing
B.S. in Paralegal Studies
Applied Behavior Analysis Certificate Program
Master of Criminal Justice

California State University, Los Angeles
B.S. in Engineering with emphasis in Manufacturing
B.S. in Biology

University of La Verne
B.A. in Business Administration
B.S. in Child Development
B.S. in Organizational Management
Single Subject/Multiple Subject Teaching Credential
Special Education Level I and II Credential
CLAD/CTEL Certificate Program M.Ed. Special Emphasis
M.A. in Business Administration
M.S. in Special Education
M.S. in School Psychology
M.S. in Leadership Management
M.S. in Ed. Counseling: Pupil Personnel Services: School Counseling Credential
M.Ed. in Ed. Management; Preliminary Administrative Services Credential

Information: (661) 362-5474 or cocuniversitycenter.com
College Mourns Loss of Jazz Pioneer Dirk Fischer

Renowned musician, composer and longtime College of the Canyons jazz professor Stewart Roussin Fischer – known to most as “Dirk” – died Feb. 25 in Santa Clarita. He was 88.

Fischer began his teaching career at College of the Canyons in 1977 at a time when most academic institutions had yet to fully embrace jazz studies.

In fact, it was Fischer’s venture back into student life in the mid-’70s, while looking for fellow musicians to play with, that led to a chance encounter with former COC music instructor RK Downs.

A few years later, he would be named COC’s first instructor of jazz studies and director of its jazz band. He dedicated 28 years to building the music department before retiring in 2005.

“Dirk was equally devoted to music and teaching. He was uniquely gifted in both areas, and we were blessed that he shared those gifts so freely with us for nearly three decades,” Chancellor Dr. Dianne G. Van Hooi said. “I will miss him greatly.

Fischer also worked extensively with other professional orchestras and student musical groups. His compositions and arrangements were performed by jazz ensembles in high schools, colleges and professional bands and orchestras throughout the U.S. and abroad. In 2010, Fischer had the opportunity to catch up with one of his most successful former students, Big Bad Voodoo Daddy’s lead trumpeter Glen Marhevka, who was in town to play a show at the Santa Clarita Performing Arts Center at College of the Canyons.

“He was amazing … he is one of the most talented arrangers I’ve ever met,” Marhevka said. “He gave me passion for music and is a big reason I am here today. COC was a huge learning phase in my life, and I owe a lot to Dirk and the college.”
A Foundation for Student Success

Since its inception in 1987, the College of the Canyons Foundation has sought new ways to raise funds to make higher education opportunities accessible and affordable to students and broaden educational opportunities and an enhanced academic experience that reflects the tradition of excellence established at COC.

The College of the Canyons Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)(3) auxiliary organization that supports the Santa Clarita Community College District by generating funds to support programs dedicated to student success.

For more than 25 years the foundation and its more than 10,000 donors and community partners have worked together to provide the college with the financial resources to award student scholarships, make innovative classroom and facility improvements, and offer the types of supplemental learning opportunities that separate COC from other community colleges.

“These vital resources really can make the difference between an ordinary and extraordinary college experience for our students,” said Murray Wood, the foundation’s chief development officer. “With the continued support of our partners, the Canyons will remain a pillar in this community for years to come, educating everyone interested in learning and ensuring our students’ success.”

In support of the college’s ongoing mission to provide all students with an accessible, enriched education, last summer the foundation launched a new, three-year fundraising initiative designed to generate $500,000 in student scholarship funds before July 1, 2014.

“Now more than ever, during these challenging economic times, our students need additional financial support in order to be able to pursue their education and follow their dreams,” said Michele Edmonson, the foundation’s director of development.

“We’ve tried to identify the student populations that are most in need of this support, and this

See FOUNDATION on Page 7

10:30 to 1 p.m. at the Carl A. Rasmussen Amphitheater.

Dr. Gerard van Belle, a Lowell Observatory astronomer, will share his findings and research on optical interferometry, in which small telescopes are used simultaneously to create a single large telescope, providing astronomers with high-resolution images of stars. A Q&A session will follow.

Members of the college’s Physics/Astronomy Club, The Local Group Astronomy Club of Santa Clarita and the Burbank Astronomy Group will aim telescopes at visible celestial bodies, which attendees can view.

COC astronomy professor Teresa Ciardi will lead a demonstration with the aid of star models, which children in the audience can take home.

Chairs and blankets will be provided, attendees are encouraged to arrive early with blankets, lawn chairs and picnic baskets. Food and beverages will be available for purchase.

A portion of concession sales will be donated to the Dr. Ram Manvi Memorial Scholarship to benefit students who are majoring in mathematics, science or engineering technology.

Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook as its chancellor to be honored as distinguished alumna

The ever-expanding universe and its stars – the double star Regulus, in particular – will be brought into focus at the Spring Star Party at the College of the Canyons on May 3. The free event is scheduled 7:30 to 10 p.m.

Dr. Van Hook graduated from CSULB in 1972 with a bachelor’s degree in sociology. She worked as a Head Start preschool teacher during college and, after graduating, became a junior high school teacher.

She went on to earn both her master’s degree and doctorate in education at California State University, Long Beach.

The campus of California State University, Long Beach

If you can imagine it, you can achieve it. If you dream it, you can do it.

DR. DIANNE G. VAN HOOK
What's Happening at the PAC? Plenty!

This year's Santa Clarita Performing Arts Center (PAC) season at may be drawing to a close, but there are still many great shows lined up for the next three months.

“This year’s PAC season has been fantastic, and I’m very excited to be part of it,” said Evy Warshawski, the center’s new executive director (see story below). “There really is no reason to leave the Santa Clarita Valley for quality entertainment thanks to the PAC.”

New York Festival – This critically acclaimed festival, directed by David Stiers, returns April 25 to 28. Celebrating its 13th year, the festival takes submissions from aspiring playwrights and puts them on stage for the first time, creating a diverse and refreshing variety of performances.

AbbaMania – This special concert-style performance, honoring Sweden’s most famous export, ABBA, on April 26. The ‘70s pop sensation made a worldwide splash with hits such as “Dancing Queen,” “Waterloo” and “Super Trouper.” The show’s amazing singers, authentic costumes and lighting are sure to have audience members wondering if they are experiencing the real Bjorn, Benny, Agnetha, Frida. (PAC) season at may be drawing to a close, but there are still many great shows lined up for the next three months. The culminating event in the series is a presentation by Nobel Laureate Dr. Robert H. Grubbs, who will speak about “Applications of Olefin Metathesis Catalysts.” The event is scheduled to run 7 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, April 30, in the Santa Clarita Performing Arts Center at College of the Canyons. Grubbs received the 2005 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for his work in the field of olefin metathesis, which is the subject of his presentation.

All presentations are free and open to the public, but seating may be limited. For more information about the College of the Canyons’ MSEE/CSU Symposia Series, contact Torres at (661) 362-3135 or omar.torres@canyons.edu.

The Art Gallery Presents...

‘Torpor Space’ by Dinah Sargeant

For more information, visit www.canyons.edu/art-galler.

Evy Warshawski

New Director at Performing Arts Center

The Santa Clarita Community College District has announced the hiring of nationally recognized arts professional Evy Warshawski as its new executive director of the Santa Clarita Performing Arts Center at College of the Canyons. Warshawski filled the position vacated by Adam Philips, who resigned in September to become CEO of the Count Basie Theatre in Red Bank, N.J.

“We are very excited to welcome Evy Warshawski to College of the Canyons,” said Joseph Gorka, assistant superintendent/vice president of instruction. “Evy is a proven arts professional with an impressive reputation throughout the industry, who we are confident will continue to build upon the tradition of excellence that exists at the Performing Arts Center.”

With more than 25 years of experience as executive artistic director at the Napa Valley Opera House from 2004 to 2011, “I am so excited to be joining the team at COC, and I look forward to learning about the college and community,” said She. “My career has been focused on bringing artistic excellence to diverse communities and deepening that experience for participants of all ages.

Each of the scheduled speaking engagements will address an assortment of issues and attempt to show how neuroscientific research can enhance opportunities for guests to learn about a wide range of research and engagement. Audience members will both be examined at this presentation.

For more information, visit www.canyons.edu/art-galler.

Evy Warshawski

APRIL 16

Fossil Treasures of Santa Clarita Valley

Dr. Richard Squires, CSU, Department of Geological Sciences

Abstract: Rocks and their fossil contents are vastly different from the southern part (Eastern Counties Basin) and northern part (Catalina Islands of Santa Catalina Valley). The reason is primarily the San Gabriel Fault, which divides the valley. Movements along this fault, as well as along the associated San Andreas Fault, juxtaposed marine (layer) deposits in the southern part of the valley against marine (layer) and lake deposits in the northern part. Even though the two basins were created at approximately the same time, they have had very different geologic histories, which will both be examined at this presentation.

APRIL 23

Reward, Interrupted: Inhibitory Control & Its Reliance to Addictions

Dr. J. David Jentsch, UCLA, Department of Psychology

Abstract: Addiction is a disease. It is defined medically and scientifically as a clinically impairing pattern of compulsive and effortful reward seeking. It involves intense pursuit of rewards (whether they be drugs, food, sex or thrill) that almost all humans find pleasurable, but which only a small proportion of people become addicted to. The research used in this presentation includes a number of important variables, while examining why, biologically, it is so hard for some to resist the attraction of drugs, even when they are trying hard to do otherwise. A discussion of the brain mechanisms that contribute to vulnerability and resistance to addiction, along with a focus on understanding how brain molecules contribute to addiction will also be included. This presentation will address an assortment of issues and attempt to show how neuroscientific research can enhance opportunities for participants of all ages.

APRIL 30

Fundamental Research to Commercial Products: Applications of Olefim Metathesis Catalysts

Dr. Robert H. Grubbs, Nobel Laureate (2005) in Chemistry, California Institute of Technology, Division of Chemistry & Chemical Engineering

Abstract: The olefin metathesis was discovered in the 1960s as a method for the inter-conversion of olefinic hydrocarbons. The nature of the catalysts and the mechanism of the reaction was unknown. Fundamental studies of the possible mechanisms of the transformation led to the development of well-defined catalysts that would promote the transformation. Evolution of the catalytic structure resulted in the formation of a family of catalysts, based on ruthenium, that promises the conversion of hydrocarbons. The nature of the catalysts and the mechanism of the reaction was unknown. Fundamental studies of the possible mechanisms of the transformation led to the development of well-defined catalysts that would promote the transformation. Evolution of the catalytic structure resulted in the formation of a family of catalysts, based on ruthenium, that promises the conversion of hydrocarbons. The nature of the catalysts and the mechanism of the reaction was unknown. Fundamental studies of the possible mechanisms of the transformation led to the development of well-defined catalysts that would promote the transformation. Evolution of the catalytic structure resulted in the formation of a family of catalysts, based on ruthenium, that promises the conversion of hydrocarbons. The nature of the catalysts and the mechanism of the reaction was unknown. Fundamental studies of the possible mechanisms of the transformation led to the development of well-defined catalysts that would promote the transformation. Evolution of the catalytic structure resulted in the formation of a family of catalysts, based on ruthenium, that promises the conversion of hydrocarbons. The nature of the catalysts and the mechanism of the reaction was unknown. Fundamental studies of the possible mechanisms of the transformation led to the development of well-defined catalysts that would promote the transformation. Evolution of the catalytic structure resulted in the formation of a family of catalysts, based on ruthenium, that promises the conversion of hydrocarbons.
campaign will directly benefit those students."

Included in this group are veterans who have served, students entering the seventh, eighth, ninth and tenth grades, and adult re-entry students seeking to complete their education and graduate. Each track allows students to discover a multitude of career possibilities through a unique blend of innovative, hands-on plans and hands-on activities that are scheduled each week. Each track is made fun through the informal and 'summer camp' format so students have the opportunity to push themselves and expand training opportunities and student success in the culinary industry. A permanent facility would also allow culinary arts students to enroll in other general-education college courses needed to earn certifications or degrees, without interfering with the inconvenience of having to travel back and forth between the current culinary facility in Castaic and the college’s campuses in Valencia and Canyon Country.

CHANCELLOR
FROM PAGE 5

‘Dr. Van Hook is a passionate visionary who is committed to uncompromising excellence.’

DORIS MARIE ZIMMER

Dr. Van Hook is a strong and consistent advocate for community colleges at both the state and national levels, with her leadership recognized by a wide range of organizations (see “Awards” at left). She has received every statewide recognition that can be bestowed on a California community college CEO. The College of the Canyons Summer Institute is open to all community colleges at both the state and national levels, as well as to state and local agencies. The program was founded by Van Hook in 1988 to help students find a new path in their personal and professional lives by earning educational opportunities for the benefit of all those served by College of the Canyons.

In the community, she is actively involved with many organizations. She has served as a board member of the Red Cross, SCV Chamber of Commerce, Education Foundation, as well as a member of the Newhall Memorial Hospital Governance Committee and the Michael Hoefflin Foundation for Children’s Cancer Board of Directors. She helped launch the SCV Economic Development Corp., for which she still serves on its board of directors.

‘Dr. Van Hook’s visionary leadership is evident and far reaching, but what truly sets her apart is her compassion toward those around her,’ COC Professor Jia-Yi Cheng-Lee said. ‘She cares about the students at COC. She cares about the people who call here to help launch their own professional lives by mentoring them patiently and graciously.’

Herself a graduate of a community college – Long Beach City College – she has spent the past 25 years building and expanding educational opportunities for the benefit of all those served by College of the Canyons. ‘Dr. Van Hook who I work with raised the bar of excellence for every- one around them, Dr. Van Hook is truly an inspiration to me,’ said Michael Krasni, president of the College of the Canyons Associated Student Government. ‘Watching her inspire millions for higher education and her students has helped mold me into the student leader I am today. I’m grateful to have someone like Dr. Van Hook who I can look up to for guidance in my life.’
Gumps Honored for Community Service

Barry and Pati Gump, the driving force behind the family business Andy Gump Inc., were honored with the college’s Silver Spur Award for Community Service during a gala event at Universal Studios’ Globe Theatre (top) on March 2. Guests socialize along the 1920s-era London Street (above, left). Chancellor Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook (above, right) speaks to the crowd before posing with the Gumps (above, center).

District’s ‘AA’ Bond Ratings Reaffirmed

The Santa Clarita Community College District’s “AA” bond ratings have been reaffirmed by Standard & Poor’s and Fitch in advance of the college’s bond refunding. In addition, the $20.4 million in outstanding certificates of participation received an affirmed “AA-” status.

The agencies issued their reports in response to a resolution passed by the Santa Clarita Community College District Board of Trustees on Jan. 16 to move ahead with the refunding of a portion of the Measure C and Measure M general obligation bonds.

Bond refunding is similar to refinancing a mortgage, with savings achieved from lower interest rates. The process creates the potential for millions of dollars in savings to be passed on to local property owners in the form of lowered property taxes.

The “AA” rating is in keeping with most other community colleges and K-12 school districts across the state. By comparison, the state of California’s general obligation bonds have an “A” rating.

Standard & Poor’s rating was based on:
- strong available general fund reserves
- low-to-moderate overall debt with no additional debt plans

The Fitch rating was based on:
- improved long-term financial prospects based on the passage of Proposition 30 and the elimination of mid-year budget cuts
- a strong economic base in the SCV

“The ‘AA’ ratings underscore the college’s commitment to strong fiscal management despite severe state funding cuts due to the recession,” said Sharlene Coleal, vice president of business services. “The future for education is bright and we look forward to continuing to be a good partner with our community.”

The Chancellor’s Circle is a partnership between College of the Canyons and a diverse group of businesses, community members, non-profit groups, government leaders and others who are committed to strengthening our community – by actively supporting a strong community college. The underlying tenet of the Chancellor’s Circle is the strong belief that by working together we can add value to a community college education, provide support for creative and innovative programs that enrich the educational experience of students, and provide needed workforce skills that will strengthen and sustain our economy – that we can achieve, by working together, much more than we can by working alone.

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Please consider joining us!
- Call the College of the Canyons Foundation at (661) 362-3435
- Visit canyonsfoundation.org and click the Support Groups button

CHAMPION
AT&T
Morton Manufacturing Inc.

LEADER
Boston Scientific Neuromodulation
Honda Performance Development Inc.
Mark Jenkins and Roxie Ramey

SoCal Edison – Ana Frutos-Sanchez

Haas Automation Inc.
Andrew and Elisa Horowitz
Dr. Susan Komsky
Math Support Services Inc.
Jim and Jill Mellady
Mitzi and Randy Moberg
Dr. Skip Newhall
NE Systems Inc. – Ed Padilla

Haas Automation Inc.
Andrew and Elisa Horowitz
Dr. Susan Komsky
Math Support Services Inc.
Jim and Jill Mellady
Mitzi and Randy Moberg
Dr. Skip Newhall
NE Systems Inc. – Ed Padilla

Harold and Jacquie Petersen
Shepard Insurance Agency
Dr. Dianne and Mr. Roger Van Hook
Wells Fargo

LIFETIME MEMBERS
Lou and Rita Garasi
Tom and Colleen Lee