College Culinary Program Heats Up

In the coming weeks, College of the Canyons officials will embark on a capital campaign designed to raise funds for the construction of a state-of-the-art, on-campus culinary facility which would provide a permanent home for the college’s culinary arts department and greatly expand the number of locally available training opportunities in that field.

“College of the Canyons has cultivated a well-deserved reputation for meeting the needs of our students and the community, and the culinary arts facility is the latest example,” said COC Chancellor Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook. The college has long sought a way to expand the depth and breadth of its culinary department in order to serve as many students as possible. But the absence of a permanent facility large enough to host such an undertaking has been a continual roadblock.

In its five years of existence, the culinary arts program has been housed in three separate facilities – the existing college cafeteria, a restaurant space at the Westfield Valencia Town Center and, currently, at another restaurant space in Castaic.

While each of these temporary facilities has served its purpose by providing students with a professional setting to hone their cooking skills in, that “student experience” has been offset by the lack of access to on-campus support services and on-campus culinary equipment.

State Raises Unit Fees Beginning Fall Semester

Additional Increase May Happen in Jan. 2012

It’s common knowledge that attending a community college is one of the best ways to save money while still pursuing a higher education goal. Even minor increases in fees over the years haven’t changed the fact that California community colleges still have the lowest per unit cost in the nation, compared to community colleges in other states.

But community colleges will once again face a fee increase, as all 112 California community colleges will increase from a modest $26 to $36 per unit beginning in the Fall 2011 semester, the result of an educational trailer bill proposed by Governor Jerry Brown in late March and approved by the California Legislature.

The fee increase is designed to help offset some of the budgetary needs of the California community colleges, which are now operating on a somewhat restrained budget. The increase is also part of a multi-year, multi-million dollar commitment to continue improving our higher education system.

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OSHER ENDOWMENT SPARKS SCHOLARSHIP SUCCESS

College Surpasses Original Fundraising Goal by Nearly $500,000

In the last 18 months the College of the Canyons Foundation has raised more than $1 million in donor revenue through a matching grant initiative that offers to match gifts with a generous 50 percent gift match from the Bernard Osher Foundation, nearly $1.6 million dedicated to COC student success. Those funds will equal to 80 new $1,000 scholarship awards that the college’s scholarships committee can now award to students each year.

In addition, by participating in the Bernard Osher Endowment Matching Grant Initiative the college will also receive funds to support 15 additional $1,000 scholarships every year, for a total of 95 new scholarships annually.

“The Osher endowment was truly amazing,” said Kolodney, whose performance was well-deserving standing ovation — even bringing one of the competition’s judges to tears, due to the group’s collective “musicality and depth.”

A strong spirit of volunteerism that thrives on our campus, said College of the Canyons Chancellor Dr. Dianne Van Hook. “As a college, we believe in giving back to our community, which supports us and enables us to be what we are and what we can be.”

The college has been included on the Honor Roll of only 15 higher education institutions in the state — and the only California community college — to earn “distinc- tion” honors. The college has been included on the Honor Roll every year since its inception in 2006; having previ- ously earned “distinction” honors in 2007 and 2009. There is a strong spirit of volunteering that thrives on our cam- pus,” said College of the Canyons Chancellor Dr. Dianne Van Hook. “As a college, we believe in giving back to our community, which supports us and enables us to be what we are and what we can be.”

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Approximately 50 students from the College of the Canyons Mathematics, Engineering, Science, Achievement (MESA) program have been awarded new laptops as part of California Connects, a statewide program designed to increase digital literacy and broadband access throughout the state’s underserved communities.

The HP laptops — which were distributed to students who agreed to serve as community trainers in the coming months — came fully equipped with state-of-the-art technology provided by companies including Hewlett Packard, Microsoft, AT&T and Insight Technologies Solutions.

Since receiving their new computers, students have received intensive hands-on training and instruction on how to use all that laptop technology through the Microsoft IT Academy Program and the California Connects digital literacy website.

After their training is complete, students will go out into the community and help others, who may not have access to a computer and/or lack the knowledge of navigating the Internet, on how to use this technology for essential tasks such as securing gainful employment, exploring higher education opportunities, accessing health and finance resources and advancing the general quality of their life.

“Our students were so excited to receive their laptops,” said Susan Crowther, director of the college’s MESA program. “It’s exciting for our MESA students to have a laptop that is valuable and lastingly contributing to their community service as digital literacy trainers. This result is that computers can use in their academic pursuits, while they receive the tools and training necessary to educate friends, family and other community members while ultimately helping to increase the state’s number of broadband Internet users by more than 6,000 individuals by 2013.

Over the next three years a total of 5,800 laptops will be distributed to MESA students at 33 California Community Colleges campuses to help accomplish this goal.

The federal government recognizes that California’s college and university sector is uniquely qualified to help close our nation’s digital divide. That’s something we can all be proud of,” said Chancellor Jack Scott. “This program will give our students the necessary tools and training to provide access for underserved populations who are looking to make an impact in the economic growth and job creation.

Administered by the California Community College Chancellor’s office, MESA is an academic preparation program that supports students from educationally disadvantaged backgrounds so they will succeed in a science, technology, engineering or mathematics (STEM) field, transfer to four-year schools and attain degrees in these majors.

The MESA Program at College of the Canyons has supported strong transfer numbers throughout its history.

In recent years the program has earned statewide recognition for having transferred more students than any other community college MESA Program.

Over the last ten years the college’s MESA Program has helped more than 300 students transfer to four-year schools to pursue degrees in one of the STEM fields.

Many of these students have since gone on to thriving careers in fields including engineering, science, medicine and academia.

For more information about the California Connects program or to get involved with the College of the Canyons MESA chapter please contact Susan Crowther at (661) 362-3098 or susan.crowther@canyons.edu.
**College Mourns Passing of Music Professor**

**Operatic Composer and COC Music Professor Daniel Catán Touched Lives Around the World**

I nternationally renowned composer, librettist and esteemed College of the Canyons music faculty member Daniel Catán, who was credited with producing four operas in the United States including 2010’s highly acclaimed “Il Postino” starring Plácido Domingo, died of apparent natural causes in Los Angeles, California, on Sunday, September 26, 2021. He was 62.

**CATÁN’S IMPACT ON THE CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY WAS FELT IMMEDIATELY**

Catán arrived at College of the Canyons in 1999, and immediately established himself as an integral part of the campus, regularly participating in college events and classes and serving time to the passage of two successful bond campaigns, Measure C and Measure M.

He served as a professor of music in the College’s Fine and Performing Arts Division and taught a wide range of courses including music appreciation, fundamentals of music and musical orchestration.

In addition, the COC Catán also established a reputation for being a deeply compassionate and humble man; an amaz-ing and musical orchestration.

Catán’s friends, family and colleagues and the event attracted a sizeable collection of Catán’s life and work. Held in the Dianne G. Van Hook University Center, the college’s Fine and Performing Arts Division has established a number of musical presenta-tions and shared remembrances. In addition, the college’s Fine and Performing Arts Division has established a scholarship endow-ment in honor of Catán’s life and work. Held in the Dianne G. Van Hook University Center, the college’s Fine and Performing Arts Division has established a number of musical presenta-tions and shared remembrances. In addition, the college’s Fine and Performing Arts Division has established a scholarship endow-ment in honor of Catán’s life and work.

**Daniel Catán**

1949–2021

“Daniel Catán was a great colleague and friend. He will be greatly missed by all of us at the COC,” said Dr. Floyd Moos, Assistant Professor and Chair of the COC’s Performing Arts Division, and in par-ticular our music students. Catán is fondly remembered for his kind, gentle and gracious nature, equally as he is for his revered musical career.

“Daniel’s contributions as a faculty member and colleague are greatly appreci-ated, both by his colleagues and his stu-dents,” said Dr. Floyd Moore, Assistant Superintendent/Vice President of Instruction at the college. “He was a great instructor – knowledgeable, patient, gen-erous with his time – and always willing to help.”

Catán is survived by his wife, Andrea Puentec; three children, Chloé, Tom and Alan; and four grandchildren.

In late May, the college hosted an on- campus memorial service in celebration of Catán’s life and work, held in the Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook University Center, the event attracted a sizeable collection of Catán’s friends, family and colleagues and presented a number of musical presentations and shared remembrances.

**AUTO, SOLAR PROGRAMS SHINE IN NEW APPLIED TECHNOLOGY BUILDING AT CANYON COUNTRY CAMPUS**

The College of the Canyons Canyon Country Campus has completed its first building consisting of an assortment of new solar and technology oriented courses to house in it — with the completion of the college’s new Applied Technology Education Center (ATEC), opening in fall 2011.

The building’s design includes a set of hands-on learning and training opportunities, the ATEC’s approximately 10,000 square feet of workshop and laboratory space will provide a jump-start for students pursuing the fastest growing include: photovoltaic (PV) system installers, electricians and roofers with experience han-dling solar installations, sales personnel at wholesale solar firms and sales representatives at installation firms.

To help meet that projected need, College of the Canyons officials have developed a series of CTE cours-es that will prepare students for a variety of different jobs within the solar power and other renewable energy indus-tries.

The college’s first solar energy technician certificate program will include 13 units of instruction spread over three courses — Introduction to Energy Technology, Solar Photovoltaics Systems and Solar Thermal Systems. The program scheduled to debut in spring 2012.

Including instruction in electricity fundamentals, alternative energy technologies, energy efficiency con-cepts and industry relevant mathematics, this introductory course will also serve as a prerequisite for future degree and certificate options in the college’s solar and energy series.

Upon successful completion of the solar energy tech-nician certificate program students will possess a detailed understanding of the PV and solar thermal passion for music, love for educa-tion and legacy as a composer, when he was fully realized the endorsement would pro-vide annual awards, in perpetuity, to College of the Canyons students majoring in music.

Daniel was both inspired, and an inspiration to those who came in contact with him.”

— Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook

Kristin Houser, Dean of Career Technical Education at the college. “He was a great instructor – knowledgeable, patient, gen-

erous with his time — and always willing to help.”

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"Libraries have actually become more popular in the digital age because students need guidance in using the many online resources available to them," said COC Librarian Leslie Bretall. "You only have to come by our library on a weekday morning during the fall semester to see students working and studying in groups, with every seat taken and every computer being used."

Included on the second floor of the expanded area will be 10,000-square-feet of space designed to address two of the library's most essential needs — computer access and student workspace.

"We decided early on that we did not need more traditional stack space, because we're not planning to enlarge the collection," Bretall said. "Our key needs now are computer access, for both students and community members, and space for students to meet and work collaboratively."

"COMPUTER COMMONS" WILL PROVIDE DEDICATED SPACE FOR COMPUTER ACCESS

Among the many highlights of the new facility will be a large "computer commons" area devoted entirely to computer access. The commons area will include both individual and group workstations, laptop plug-in ports, and a collection of group seating areas arranged in different seating configurations.

"Students using the computer commons area, on both sides of the upstairs expanded area, need new areas of study rooms, which students can reserve to work on assignments, prepare for exams, view media and meet with classmates in a more private educational setting."

"One of the library's most popular services is the group study setup in our commons area devoted entirely to computer and student workspaces. The south parking lot sans asphalt. More than 50,000 square feet of space will be added to the library facilities, including 10,000 square feet alone dedicated to computer and student workspaces."

The commons area, on both sides of the upstairs expanded area, will be a new lineup of study rooms, which students can reserve to work together, we need to also provide access to spaces that are conducive to learning."

Other highlights of the expansion will include a unique special collections space dedicated to the display of unique exhibitions and other historically significant items in the college’s possession, and a small children’s meeting area which is expected to attract younger students from the college’s Early Childhood Education (ECE) Center and other visiting schools and community organizations.

"Usage of the TLC has gone through the roof the last few years," said Glapa-Grossklag. "As a result of the statewide budget crisis, class seats have become more scarce. So students are doing everything they can to make sure they pass a class the first time around, and that includes using the TLC services."

Increasing the demand for such services is the college’s commitment to offer basic skills math and English workshops, supplemental learning activities and tutoring services at the TLC.

During the 2009-10 school year, the TLC provided approximately 85,000 hours of tutoring and supplemental learning services to students at the Valencia campus, with more than 15,000 additional service hours logged at the college’s Canyon Country campus.

"Usage of the TLC has gone through the roof the last few years," said Glapa-Grossklag. "As a result of the statewide budget crisis, class seats have become more scarce. So students are doing everything they can to make sure they pass a class the first time around, and that includes using the TLC services."

However, during the 2010-11 school year those numbers jumped to nearly 91,500 and 15,700 service hours, respectively, representing an increase of more than 11 percent.

"During the fall and spring semesters we open at 8 a.m., and every day there is a line of students waiting to get in," said Mary Brunty, one of the college’s TLC instructional lab technicians. "Some days we open at 8 a.m., and every day there is a line of students waiting to get in," said Mary Brunty, one of the college’s TLC instructional lab technicians. "Some days there simply aren't enough seats for everyone."

The south parking lot sans asphalt. More than 50,000 square feet of space will be added to the library facilities, including 10,000 square feet alone dedicated to computer and student workspaces.
CULINARY FROM PAGE 1

facilities — library, academic counseling, health office etc. — which their time between the classroom and the kitchen,” said Cindy Schwankel, COC culinary arts instructor and lead culinary arts faculty member.

College of the Canyons has long played an integral role in the educational and economic development of the Santa Clarita Valley. Because of this stability, many of the valley’s businesses and industries have come to rely on the college to provide the skills and knowledge their employees need.

The culinary arts, restaurant and food industries are no different, but since the majority of culinary training is conducted by for-profit, proprietary schools and institutions, which charge much higher per-unit rates — the College of the Canyons Institute for Culinary Education is one of the few options available to students looking to receive affordable, high-quality training in this high-demand field.

CULINARY IN INDUSTRY IN GROWTH MODE, AND WILL CONTINUE FOR FORESEEABLE FUTURE

According to the National Restaurant Association, the number of jobs for chefs, cooks and food preparation workers has increased nine to 17 percent since 2004 and is projected to continue rising. Statistics also show that the industry employed 12.7 million people in the United States in 2010 and ranked sixth among all private sector employers in the United States.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Department of Labor projects that food service management jobs are expected to grow by nearly five percent from 2008 to 2018.

The college’s culinary arts program currently offers programs designed to allow students to work toward a certificate of achievement in culinary arts, along with a certificate of specialization programs in baking and pastry, wine studies and hospitality wine service. Whatever the presence of a permanent culinary arts facility would allow the college’s culinary department to greatly expand its degree offerings, in accordance with the needs and trends of the food service industry.

In fact, college officials are already in the process of developing an associate in arts degree program for culinary students.

“In good times and in bad, food brings people together,” said Schwankel. “It’s exciting to know College of the Canyons will be a part of that.”

For more information about the Culinary Arts Campaign, please visit www.CanyonsCulinaryArts.com

FEES FROM PAGE 1

et cuts that will be handed down to the state’s community colleges in the coming months.

According to the state’s Legislative Analysts Office, the fee increase will generate approximately $110 million in additional revenue for the state’s general fund, despite placing an increased financial strain on community college students.

California’s most recent budget was created with assumption that an additional $4 billion in new revenue would be found in 2011-12. If only $2-3 billion is found, this may result in an additional increase in fees, to $46 per unit.

Community college enrollment fees are determined by the state legislature.

O.SHER FROM PAGE 2

feels about College of the Canyons and the future of the culinary arts department: Murray Wood, chief development officer for the COC Foundation.

O.SHER FROM PAGE 2

In all, 107 California community colleges that participated in the Osher program completed the CNC program and the college received $32,268 in JDIF funding. The college has also referred to the Fast Track Institute by their students since the JDIF-funded program began in 2009 semester. That year increased represented a 30 percent rise from the previous fee of $20 per unit, which went into effect in January 2007.

“I think the unfortunate thing is that the state has never come up with a predictable fee increase formula to prevent such large increases from taking place at one time,” said Michele Jenkins, president of the college’s Board of Trustees. “An instant $10 per unit fee increase will be hard on our students, and is a poor way for the state to handle this issue.”

While the fee increase may present financial challenges to some students, those receiving financial aid shouldn’t be negatively affected by the change. Students receiving a Board of Governors Fee Waiver — which covers enrollment fees for eligible students — will not be impacted by the increase. Students should check with the college’s financial aid office about their individual award status. The Fall 2011 semester will begin Monday, Aug. 22.

A.T.E.C. FROM PAGE 4

Students who complete the program will also be eligible to sit for the North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners (NABCEP) exams in the areas of entry-level solar thermal and/or entry-level photovoltaics.

College officials are currently in the process of developing additional solar technology and energy program options in the areas of photovoltaic sales/customer service, weatherization and energy efficient technology, energy code compliance and energy auditing.

Once these program options are developed, students who first complete the introductory course prerequisite, Introduction to Energy Technology, will be eligible to enroll in the solar or general energy technology certificate program option of their choice.

Students interested in learning more about the College of the Canyons solar technology program or the lineup of alternative energy courses can visit www.canyons.edu/solar.
The College of the Canyons Art Gallery recently hosted its “16th Annual COC Student Exhibition” to close out the spring 2011 semester and also begin collecting works for a permanent Student Art Collection to be displayed in the gallery.

“This is an exciting year for the Art Gallery as we begin to build our permanent student art collection,” said gallery director Larry Hurst. “Students were eager to participate in this project, so we received some very high-quality pieces to choose from.”

The creation of a permanent Student Art Collection has been a long-time goal for Chancellor Dianne G. Van Hook, who asked the campus for innovative ideas to address the issue through the college’s LEAP leadership project. The end result was a solution that aims at both collecting the works, while also providing an opportunity for students to compete on a professional level, while stressing the importance of presentation, professionalism and the development of the interactive skills required to become a successful artist.

The existence of the Student Art Collection is also expected to aesthetically enhance the many college facilities work will be displayed in and help develop a greater sense of connection to the college amongst current and former students.

To be considered for inclusion in the COC Student Art Collection students must submit their work for competition in the annual “Student Exhibition.” Each year, four submissions from that exhibition will be selected for inclusion in the college’s permanent art collection, to be displayed at various locations on the Valencia and Canyon Country campuses.

Selected from the 2010-11 year were works created by students Paul Candelaria, Eduardo Martinez and Amanda Phillips and Lisa Jane Turner.

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

For more information regarding the COC Art Gallery or any of the upcoming exhibitions please visit the art gallery website at www.canyons.edu/artgallery.
COC Student-Athletes Finding Success in “The Zone”

Randy Horton considered himself an average student before joining College of the Canyons in 2009. He left Simi Valley High School with a 2.9 grade point average, but as part of the Cougar football team, it was mandatory for him to maintain certain academic standards in order to participate in an athletic team. Horton began spending time in The Zone, a tutoring lab created especially for COC student-athletes – and it didn’t take long before he started to shine in the classroom, as well as on the field. Though only required to spend three hours a week there, Horton quickly found a haven where he found the academic assistance he needed. He also found himself spending two or even three times the mandatory time commitment in The Zone.

“The things I learned in the Zone as a freshman, compared to where I was in high school, were leaps and bounds ahead,” Horton said. Horton graduated this past spring with a 3.5 GPA and earned a full scholarship to play football at the University of Nevada, Reno where he will study civil engineering.

Horton is just one of the many College of the Canyons student-athletes who have benefited from the services of The Zone. Much of the success of the lab can be attributed to the caring and dedicated staff and innovative programs that focus on the needs of a special population.

Opened at the start of the fall 2008 semester, The Zone is a 1,200-square foot facility in Hasley Hall that has a staff of academic advisors and tutors, including Lisa Helfrich, who is the Zone supervisor and spearheads the day-to-day operation of the tutoring lab. The room is also home to 16 desktop computers with a wide variety of programs a student might need, a printer, workstations and a lending library stocked with more than 350 textbooks in more than 35 disciplines.

“Student-athletes have a tough schedule and most people don’t realize what they go through,” Helfrich said. “They have 30 to 35 hours a week of just sports – meetings, practices, lifting and games. It is like a full-time job. Then they have a full class load. Having The Zone close to them and designed around their needs allows them to get the services they need quickly.”

THE ZONE’S SENSE OF COMMUNITY HELPS STUDENT-ATHLETES SUCCEED WHILE ENCOURAGING EACH OTHER

The Zone, which is centrally located to the athletic facilities, has helped nearly 300 student-athletes over its three-year history. It also provides a sense of community for student-athletes who can look to each other for support, guidance and encouragement.

“We want them to know that we want to see them succeed,” Helfrich said. “When they come to an academic institution, they need a community and The Zone facilitates that community.”

Along with creating a learning environment where student-athletes can find the help they need to be successful students, Helfrich also preaches a proactive approach to the 20 tutors she supervises to provide trusting relationships between students and educators.

The Zone has now become a valuable tool for academic success with current student-athletes. Coaches, faculty and staff at the college have provided a place where student-athletes can receive the skills they need to help them reach athletic and academic excellence – skills that will help them make the transition to four-year universities.

Three Cougars Taken in the MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL DRAFT

Two members of the 2011 College of the Canyons baseball team and one former Cougar were called in the three-day 2011 Major League Baseball First-Year Player Draft earlier this week. Shortstop Juan Perez was picked up by the Cincinnati Reds as the 805th pick in the 26th round, pitcher David Haerle was taken as the 1180th player in the 39th round by the Houston Astros and former COC third baseman Brian Hernandez was tabbed the 1219th pick in the 39th round by the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim.

Perez was the Cougars’ most productive player on the 2011 squad, leading the team in most statistical categories. The sophomore was second in the Western State Conference, South Division, with a .400 batting average and 54 hits, and was named the conference player of the year.

Haerle made 14 appearances for the Cougars in 2011. The right-handed freshman had a 7.94 ERA in 11.1 innings of work. He gave up 16 hits, 12 runs (10 earned runs), 14 walks and struck out six.

Hernandez played second base for COC in 2008 before transferring to the University of California, Irvine, to play with former COC baseball coach Mike Gillepie. As a Cougar in 2008, Hernandez was named a Southern California All-America after collecting first-team all-conference and Western State Conference Player of the Year accolades. Hernandez broke the team records in hits (84) and doubles (26) and also led the state in the respective categories. Hernandez hit for a stunning .454 average on the year and drove in 56 RBIs to lead the team to a 30-13 (23-8) record and its first conference championship since 2004.

COC’s three baseball players were part of the 78 current and former California community college baseball players who were drafted in this year’s draft.