College Launches Arts Education Outreach

Performing Arts Center Effort Aimed at Local K-12 Students

In keeping with the college’s mission to provide relevant academic education and lifelong learning programs for community members of all ages and educational levels, the Santa Clarita Performing Arts Center at College of the Canyons has launched a new K-12 arts education outreach program.

The program will seek to use the college’s vast cultural and community resources to expose students to the visual and performing arts – while also collaborating with teachers and administrators in school districts throughout the area to develop an enhanced arts education curriculum and a variety of unique educational opportunities for all students.

“This is a chance for College of the Canyons to begin communicating a different vision in terms of the college’s participation in arts education throughout our community,” said Adam Philipson, managing director of the performing arts center (PAC). “It’s important for the arts to be introduced to younger audiences so they can realize the powerful effect art can have on their lives, and that’s something we are committed to here at the college.”

To kick-start the new program, the college has partnered with the Saugus Union School District (SUSD), resulting in more than 600 elementary school students visiting the PAC for a special performance and presentation by the comedic acrobatic duo The Tweaksters in early October.

Students also visited the campus art gallery to view “The Sculpture of Brad Howe” exhibit, featuring a selection of the artist’s colorful, internationally renowned steel sculptures, some designed specifically for this exhibit.

“This event is just a peek behind the curtain in terms of what we hope to achieve with this program,” said Rita Garasi, a College of the Canyons Foundation board member and longtime friend of the college who is helping to implement the program.

“Utilizing the resources of the college to host these

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Funding Unshackled as Governor Signs Budget

California’s recently approved $104.3 billion budget allots more money to education than last year, but still shaves millions of dollars from schools and other state services.

While community colleges did not emerge unscathed from the budget axe, the view among many community college officials statewide is that the cutbacks could have been far worse.Gov. Schwarzenegger signed the 2008-09 spending plan – about $700 million worth of line-item vetoes included – on Sept. 23, ending the longest budget impasse in California history. The budget, signed 85 days after the fiscal year began, includes 2 percent growth funding for community colleges statewide.

“We’re thrilled that the budget preserves the 2 percent growth funding – even though College of the Canyons’ growth factor is 28 percent – because California’s community colleges serve a vital, irreplaceable role in our communities,” said Chancellor Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook; Jim Schrage, dean of physical education; and Tim Phillips of Klassen Construction Management. See EXPANSION on Page 7 for more details.

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Accreditation Process Under Way at College

As one of the community’s most trusted and highly respected public institutions, College of the Canyons has completed an institutional self-study report as part of its application for reaffirmation of accreditation with the Western Association of Schools and Colleges Accrediting Commission of Community and Junior Colleges.

Accreditation is a voluntary process colleges and universities undergo, performed in this case by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, to evaluate and assure the quality of education used by the American higher education community – and to subsequently make those results known to the public.

The Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) is the corporate entity, consisting of three separately organized commissions within the western region, which is responsible for monitoring and evaluating institutions of higher education. The commission responsible for community colleges is the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, to evaluate and assure the quality of education used by the American higher education community – and to subsequently make those results known to the public.

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The California Community College’s Economic and Workforce Development (EWD) program has awarded the College of the Canyons welding technology department approximately $100,000 in Industry Driven Regional Collaborative (IDRC) grant funds to help develop a series of metal-fabrication courses at the college.

The grant—which includes funding for new equipment and supplies, curriculum development, faculty training and industry outreach efforts—will allow the college to expand its current welding technology program to include both an associate in science degree and certificate of achievement program in metal fabrication.

“We’ve been training great welders at COC for several years now, but oftentimes our graduating students are lacking the metal-fabrication skills that give them that one-two punch needed for working in several different welding industries,” said Tim Baber, chair of the welding technology department. “This grant expands the opportunities for students to learn the whole package, welding and metal fabrication, and really puts them in a position to earn more money as an entry-level technician.”

Metal fabrication is a term used to describe the process that involves the construction of machines and structures from various raw materials, usually based on engineering drawings and involving various metalworking processes—including drilling, stretching, machining, bending, rolling, cutting, and welding. Used extensively in the commercial and defense manufacturing industries, metal-fabrication technologies are also increasingly being utilized by the motorsports, construction, entertainment and petrochemical industries, to name a few.

“To work as a welder, you’re basically an operator with a torch in your hand welding. But if you’re in a metal-fabrication position and somebody gives you a blueprint and says, ‘Build this thing,’ you’re going to be cutting the metal, shaping it, rolling it and doing just about anything else you can imagine to create or build the finished product,” Baber said.

See WELDING on Page 6

**Grant Funds Metal-Fabrication Training**

Always looking for ways to help students achieve their goals, College of the Canyons is offering an accelerated learning program to enable students to transfer to four-year colleges faster.

The GO! program, which emerged from the Leadership Education in Action Program (LEAP) this past spring, offers five-week, transferable online courses in a more compressed calendar than the traditional semester format.

“These classes are a perfect way for busy students to accomplish their goals at a fast pace and in an accessible format,” said Diane Fiero, interim vice president of academic affairs at the college.

In the fall, 26 classes were offered in three consecutive five-week sessions. Students are enrolling in large numbers, said Fiero.

“The average class size in the fall was 31 students, and we have had to add more sections due to demand,” she added. Because classes are offered in back-to-back, five-week windows, students have the flexibility to start a class at the beginning of any five-week window throughout the year.

Research has shown that many students prefer the short-term class options because they generally provide more flexibility for students and provide alternatives to courses that are based on the standard academic calendar. Since courses are offered every five weeks, students have additional opportunities to pick up classes they might have missed at an earlier time.

And, with classes repeated every two to three sessions, students need to wait only weeks, not months, to try the course again if something prevents them from completing a class.

“We look forward to adding more departments to the program and offering a full complement of degree applicable and transfer level courses,” said Fiero.

The North American Council for Staff, Program and Organizational Development (NCSPOD) will present its Innovation Award to the College of the Canyons Leadership Education in Action Program (LEAP).

The Innovation Award recognizes achievement in a program, project or event that demonstrates innovative ideas, adaptations, activities or approaches that enhance the effectiveness of staff, program or organizational development.

Launched this past spring with 45 faculty, staff and administrative participants, LEAP was recognized for its innovative approach to leadership development. Key community college leaders from around the state presented sessions on vital topics, and participants worked on team projects that focused on solutions to current challenges. Both the GO! and PAL programs emerged from this effort.

The award will be presented during NCSPOD’s annual conference in Reno, Nev. on Oct. 24.
Could Textbooks Become a Thing of the Past?

With an ongoing goal to broaden the community’s access to education, while also providing new outlets for faculty innovation and creation, College of the Canyons has become involved in a statewide consortium of community colleges dedicated to the exploration, creation and wide scale use of Open Educational Resources.

Open Educational Resources (OERs) are free, electronic educational content materials, which are increasingly being used in the classroom as an alternative to traditional textbooks and course manuals. Coming in the form of high-quality content and learning tools posted on the internet, OERs range from scholarly articles, historic documents, lesson plans and lectures, power-point presentations and audio and video files made available to teachers and students for non-profit use and continued research.

"By engaging in the larger OER movement around the globe, COC hopes to continue to fulfill one of our goals as a community college to open the door a little wider and make education accessible to more and more people," said James Glapa-Grossklag, dean of distance learning programs and training.

Highlighting the specific problem the OER movement addresses, the rising cost of textbooks, Glapa-Grossklag refers to the fact that the No. 1 reason given by current college students as to why they can’t continue with their education is the cost of books.

Though there is currently no system in place for colleges and universities to share and access OERs, under the leadership of Dr. Martha Kanter, chancellor of the Foothill De Anza Community College District, and partner campuses like College of the Canyons, a move is underway to create a consortium of schools within the state to engage in a more collective effort to produce, curate and disseminate such educational content. Having joined the OER movement last year, College of the Canyons is offering a variety of classes that are just eight weeks or less in duration.

More classes, students of College of the Canyons are enrolled in classes that are just eight weeks or less in duration. And, they’re available now.

"It’s never too late to enroll," said Jasmine Ruys, director of admissions and records and services at the college.

"We offer classes at many points during the semester so students can start on their clock, not ours. Students can control when and where they take a class."

The 200, 125 classes, students can earn college-transferable units in basic science, math and English courses.

Other subjects offered include:

- International Business Law
- Introduction to Photoshop
- Introduction to Culinary Arts
- Music History
- God and Politics
- Introduction to Women’s Studies
- War, Genocide and Human Rights
- Open Welding Lab

Students can also choose to enroll in classes offered by the Progressive Adult College Education (PACE) and GO! programs.

The PACE program allows working adults to enroll in two classes at a time in seven- and eight-week sessions. Class times are flexible, with students meeting at the Canyon Country campus five Saturdays per session and completing the remaining coursework online.

GO! classes are five-week, intensive-format classes that allow students to earn college units at an accelerated rate.

Late-start classes are offered at both the Valencia and Canyon Country campuses.

Registration for late-start classes is ongoing until the classes are full or the add deadline has passed.

For more information about registration, visit the college’s Website at www.canyons.edu.

Need a Flu Shot? Drive Up!

College of the Canyons has been offering numerous drive-through flu shot clinics held at the college in recent years.

"It should be simpler for campus visitors and students to receive flu vaccinations without having to leave their vehicles."

The flu-shot production line will be continued in the College of the Canyons parking lot adjacent to Valencia Boulevard, with shots being dispensed from 10 a.m. until 12:30 p.m., or as long as the serum lasts.

"Flu shots are often provided to the public in anticipation of an active flu season, but the event also serves a secondary purpose. This exercise will test the Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI) response to a bioterrorism attack."

The purpose of the CRI plan is to treat an impacted, mass population with medications in the shortest possible time period. Under the plan, the drive-through clinic is officially called a “rapid point of dispensing,” or POD. College of the Canyons is a designated POD site for the bioterrorism plan.

"Over the past two years, we have been able to train dozens of volunteers and staff members regarding the safe and efficient dispensing of medicine on a large scale," said Santa Clarita Mayor Bob Kellner. "We have refined our logistics, our delivery systems and have improved dramatically in our communications capabilities, which is the main point of this activity."
A fast approaching holiday season in the midst of a tight presidential race and tough economic times is destined to add a little stress to everyone’s lives, but Santa Clarita Valley residents still have a local place where they can escape for an evening or two and have an evening of fun and laughs: the Santa Clarita Performing Arts Center at College of the Canyons.

The Cirque du Soleil-esque dance troupe Diavolo kicks off the last two months of 2008 on Nov. 1. With a performance that New York Newsday called “masterful,” Diavolo combines dance and acrobatics to stunning effect. Diavolo has been pushing the boundaries of both the performer and what happens on stage for two decades. Music lovers should look forward to November, as a trio of superb performances from the Santa Clarita Symphony, the Symphony of the Canyons and the national touring show “I Love A Piano” all take the stage. The Santa Clarita Symphony will feature special guest Bryan Pezzone for its opening-night, black-tie gala on Nov. 8. Often cited as the greatest improviser since Mozart, Bryan Pezzone is the consummate crossover pianist of his generation.

Wine lovers will also be able to pre-order menu selections on Sept. 12, opening night of “We’re Thrilled with the addition of All Corked Up and LA-Trends Gourmet Catering to the Performing Arts Center lineup,” said Adam Philippin, managing director of the PAC. “The opportunity to arrive early and have a bite to eat or a glass of wine before seeing a world-class performance will definitely make the overall-going experience even more enjoyable for our patrons.”

All Corked Up offers a rotating assortment of high-end wines – such as a 2005 Silver Palm cabernet sauvignon and a 2007 Drylands sauvignon blanc – as well as premium specialty beers, dessert wines and ports to complement the evening’s menu selections. All Corked Up representatives will also be on hand to conduct wine education demonstrations.

LA-Trends Gourmet Catering offers salads, gourmet sandwiches, chips, caramel corn and smoked almonds, as well as a fine cheese assortment and selection of tempting desserts packaged in 100 percent biodegradable materials and accompanied by “spudware” cutlery made primarily from potatoes.

LA-Trends will team with All Corked Up to provide pre-show selections of wine and cheese pairings on the PAC’s patio, beginning one hour before shows. Patrons will be able to pre-order menu items that can be picked up during intermission. Although items can be purchased before or during intermission, patrons who preorder will be able to enjoy their selections without standing in line.

For more information, call (661) 362-5304 or visit www.canyonspac.com.
Winter Session to Offer Hundreds of Classes

Non-traditional ways of attending college classes and obtaining educational goals have become all the rage, from earning a degree online and enrolling in accelerated programs to attending school during times that were traditionally considered “breaks,” students are being forced to reach their educational potential. This winter, College of the Canyons continues its commitment to adapt to the changing needs of students by offering its popular winter session for the fourth year in a row.

“Last winter, 3,563 students were able to pick up an extra class or two during the winter,” said Dr. Harry Gibbons, assistant superintendent/vice president of institutional development, technology and online services. “This can be a tremendous help in ensuring that students attain their educational goals as quickly as possible. We expect enrollments for this winter to surpass last year’s record attendance.”

First launched in January 2006, the winter session has steadily increased its enrollment numbers and become a popular way for students to take classes they were unable to complete during the previous semester. Since it is heavily packed with general education courses that are UC- and CSU-transportable, many students take advantage of the opportunity to get ahead, allowing graduation or transfer to a four-year university to occur sooner.

The winter session also provides a unique opportunity for members of the community. By offering courses such as medical terminology, Microsoft PowerPoint and blueprint reading for construction, working professionals and those looking for jobs are offered an opportunity to quickly learn or advance skills that are most desirable in the job market.

The winter session is five weeks long, running from Jan. 11 to Feb. 7, and its courses cover the same material and offer the same number of credits as semester-long courses but at a more intensive pace. With 20-a-unit classes available online and at the Valencia and Canyon Country campuses, it’s a convenient, affordable option.

Specific classes to be offered are still being determined based on students’ needs and desires, but college officials said that so far more than 270 classes are planned. Subjects range from advanced golf to world history, providing students and business professionals, community members and anyone else interested in education an opportunity to advance themselves. A complete listing of the courses being offered during the winter session will be available at www.canyons.edu in mid-October.

New Director Aims to Expand Recreation Management

With a goal to bolster the program with new curriculum and increased opportunities for students, College of the Canyons has named Dr. Rhonda Hyatt director of its recreation management program.

As the program’s sole faculty member, Hyatt is responsible for developing and organizing new courses and curriculum; articulating more transfer agreements with four-year universities; implementing student outreach and recruitment efforts; and developing community partnerships that will foster increased recreational programs and educational opportunities.

“Having lived in the Santa Clarita Valley for a number of years, I’ve been able to follow the tremendous progress, growth and innovation that has gone on here at College of the Canyons,” Hyatt said. “So I’m looking forward to joining the team and working to develop an enhanced mission and vision for the college’s recreation management program that will fit the needs of both this campus and the surrounding community.”

Hyatt spent the last four years as athletic director at Santa Monica College. Prior to that, she spent a year as assistant athletic director and four years as assistant associate athletic director at California State University, Northridge. She also worked there as head athletic trainer and an adjunct faculty member.

Hyatt holds an Ed.D. from UCLA, a master’s degree in physical education from the University of Arizona and a bachelor’s in education with an emphasis in athletic training from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

“Dr. Hyatt’s vast knowledge and extensive professional experience will make her an important asset to the continued development and success of the college’s recreation management classes and programs,” said Len Mohney, dean of physical education. “Under her guidance, College of the Canyons will be able to better equip students with the skills and training needed to pursue careers in a variety of sports and recreation-related industries.”

Introduced in 2006, the college’s 23-unit recreation management program involves a mixture of classes and field experiences in recreation and leisure for all age groups, with the intent of preparing students for transfer to four-year recreation management programs.

“Recreational management is one of those emerging professions in which a lot of the necessary certifications and accreditations require work-related experiences gained from internships, volunteerism and observation of professionals in the field,” Hyatt said. “So we need to create and then expose those opportunities to our students, because we have many of them right here in our own community.”

Arts Outreach

Exposing students to the arts is one of the Saugus Union School District’s critical areas of focus, said Michelle Morrisey, director of childcare and preschool programs for the Saugus district. “This partnership provides a tremendous opportunity for professionals within the arts community to become involved with our teachers and students in a variety of ways.

Partnerships and teamwork make for a stronger community, so we’re thankful to College of the Canyons for the opportunity our students will have to experience the world of performing arts,” Morris said.

Philipson said he is confident the program will be a success, noting that the function of the program will be to augment, not replace, the various arts education programs that already help to meet the needs of students and schools affected by limited resources and state budget constraints.

“There are many statistics showing what happens to students when they are involved in the arts and educated in the visual and performing arts standards,” said Philipson. “The interest from the community needed to step up and encourage the arts and make this program a success is out there, and the college is in a position to help bring it all together.

Prior to coming to College of the Canyons, Philipson served as an arts administrator in various positions at Santa Monica College. While at Santa Monica, Philipson was involved in a number of community-outreach and arts education programs, including collaborations with the Los Angeles Opera Company and The Museum of Tolerance, to offer an after-school Opera Camp. In addition, Philipson played a role in the development of various K-12 arts education programs and performances in the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District.

With Philipson and Garasi leading the charge, and with the college’s full support, the Santa Clarita Valley can look forward to introducing its students to a world of high-caliber live performances.

For more information about the K-12 Arts Education Outreach Program or to get involved, contact Philipson at (661) 362-5303.
It’s accreditation season at College of the Canyons, with the Center for Early Childhood Education (CEC) having obtained re-accreditation for the nursing department currently in the midst of the re-accreditation process (accreditation story).

Over the summer, the national Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) confirmed program strengths and weaknesses at College of the Canyons, verifying that the program is in full compliance with national recognized criteria for high-quality early childhood programs.

As a result, the NAEYC accreditation validates the college’s educational standards for early childhood education and caregiver training to be modeled by other programs, while also ensuring parents that their children are enrolled in an ECE program of the highest quality.

“We’re proud to again have earned the mark of quality accreditation for our program, and excited to reaching the highest professional standards,” said Diane Stewart, dean of ECE and training programs. “NAEYC accreditation also assists in the further improvement of those institutions or programs in terms of resources cited during an evaluation visit – is continuous.”

To be considered for accreditation, institutions and programs must undergo a self-review and self-study process which lead to the site visit and evaluation visit by the institution. A college that has been granted accreditation status has been found to meet or exceed previously stated criteria of educational quality, meaning the institution functions with an appropriate purpose, can demonstrate that purpose, and has the resources needed to accomplish the purpose, while showing that perseverance that it will continue to strive to do so in the future.

A college maintains accreditation status by adhering to accreditation criteria and following a six-year cycle, during which the institutional review process — including an annual report, annual fiscal report, midterm report and completion of an institutional self-study and peer evaluation visit — is continuous.

Having most recently gone through the re-accreditation process, College of the Canyons began organizing and preparing a roughly 18-month self-study involving every member of the faculty, instructors, staff, students, program partners and community members concerned with the program’s accreditation status. The report also prepares the accreditation team for the site visit, which occurred over a three-month period in late September.

“The site visit is very beneficial in terms of finding new ways to improve and reinforce our program,” said Albert, dean of allied health at the college. “Even though we have an outstanding program that is recognized throughout the community and for our commitment and contributions, and the NNAEC visit will allow us to continue to strive toward the best.”

The site visit allowed the accreditation team to prepare the college’s on-campus and off-campus nurseries as well as surrounding community in the best way possible for the site visit.

“We are very proud of our high scores,” Albert said. “Every staff member works hard to meet the mark of program excellence,” said Monica Marshall, the CEC’s Center’s Director. “Evaluation and reflection help set a framework for continuous growth. To achieve this, we must work hard to meet the mark of program excellence.”

To achieve NAEYC accreditation under the new system, the college’s CEC center will be measured against the most robust and rigorous national standards on education, health and safety. Consisting of an extensive self-study process that measures the program and services against 10 early childhood program standards and more than 400 related accreditation criteria, the program will be measured against a set of criteria on-site visits.

The results of the accreditation visit showed that the college’s CEC center program standards exceeded the criteria threshold mandated for NAEYC accreditation in all six categories. The surveys — with scores ranging from a score of better than 90 percent, and six categories in the overall accreditation program. Programs are accredited by NAEYC for a five-year period.

“We have an outstanding program that is recognized throughout the community and for our commitment and contributions, and the NNAEC visit will allow us to continue to strive toward the best,” Albert said. “Every staff member works hard to meet the mark of program excellence,” said Monica Marshall, the CEC’s Center’s Director. “Evaluation and reflection help set a framework for continuous growth. To achieve this, we must work hard to meet the mark of program excellence.”

American Welding Society to predict a shortage of more than 200,000 welders and metal fabricators by 2010.

According to California labor market industry projections, there will be an increased demand for welding fabrication technicians will grow, most by double digits, between 2004 and 2016. In California alone, jobs that require metal-fabrication skills are projected to grow at double-digit rates, outpacing national growth rates.

“This grant was really important for helping to meet the needs of students that are already developing OER materials available to use and share. While faculty members have responded – and OER now remains before the open educational community. However, there is still the need to continue our efforts,” Baber said. “We have a great reputation within the industry, but we can always raise the bar higher and that’s what this grant does. So it’s a very exciting and rewarding project to be a part of.”

For more information about the welding department or the Welding Program, contact Doug Baber at (661) 362-3062 or visit www.canyons.edu/weld.

Textbooks from 3 of the colleges is now focusing on raising consciousness about OER among staff, students, and faculty. In addition, a number of faculty members are already developing OER materials in their discipline and making those materials available to use and share.

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Budget

College of the Canyons Chancellor Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook. “From the governor and Legislature to the students, College of the Canyons because our community continues to grow. The budget, which includes no new taxes, is an improvement over Schwarzenegger’s initial proposed plan. In addition to increased enrollment growth funding from 1 to 2 percent, it includes the combined effort of the nursing program’s nursing process.”

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Review

FROM PAGE 1

From the college’s 200-page self-study included the combined effort of the nursing program’s faculty, instructors, staff, students, program partners and caregivers. In fact, a handful of faculty members are already developing OER materials available to use and share.

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Soccer Championships Coming to Canyons

College of the Canyons will have the chance to showcase some of the best soccer talent in the California community college system in December as COC has earned a bid to host the California Community College Athletic Association (CCCAA) Men’s and Women’s Soccer State Championships in 2008 and 2010. The state title game is the first ever championship that COC will play host to on its campus.

“I am excited to have our first ever state championship competition here at College of the Canyons,” athletic director Chuck Lyon said. “We have great facilities on this campus and we will be able to showcase them to a very large audience. I, along with the COC Staff, am ready to make this a great event for not only the college, but the CCCAA.”

The four state championships, which will be a four-day event starting on Dec. 4, and include a sophomore showcase and semi-final and finals action, will be held at Cougar Stadium on FieldTurf synthetic grass. This will also be the first time that the state title matches will be played on synthetic grass instead of natural grass.

The 7,500-seat capacity stadium replaced the natural grass surface in May of 2003 with FieldTurf synthetic grass, which is used by professional sports teams and universities all over the world.

The state championship will feature four teams from each gender and will stimulate the tourism economy in the Santa Clarita Valley.

“There eight teams traveling to Santa Clarita, there will be a need for hotel rooms and restaurants, which will bring tourism money to the city,” Lyon commented. “And what a great way to showcase soccer talent. Santa Clarita already has a huge soccer community, this will offer another opportunity for the surrounding area to see great athletes at our stadium at an affordable price.”

The soccer playoffs begin with three regional rounds in northern and southern California before the field of 56 teams from across the state are dwindled down to the top-two men’s and women’s soccer squads from their respective regions.

Following the semifinals round that will bring each gender down to two teams, the remaining teams will play on Sunday, Dec. 7 for the title.

Following a two-year stay at Fresno Pacific University in conjunction with the CCCAA Championship Festival, the last game of the season will rotate to a northern or southern school every other year, with a two-year commitment. The title game will return to Cougar Stadium in 2010 after its first visit this December.

Men’s and women’s soccer head coach Phil Marcellin played a large part in bringing the matches to COC as the acting president of the California Community College Soccer Coaches Association.

Hall of Fame to Reach Back in Time

Honorees Include ’81 Baseball Champs, Jesse Boyd, Susan Latch, Larry Reisbig, Al Adelini

A night of great College of the Canyons athletic memories and stories is quickly approaching. The third COC Athletic Hall of Fame event is set for Thursday, Jan. 22. With two induction dinners already past, this Hall of Fame is on its way to being the best yet.

The 2009 class includes the first team ever honored – the 1981 state champions baseball team – as well as men’s basketball player Jesse Boyd, women’s golfer Susan Latch, football coach Larry Reisbig and counselor Al Adelini.

“Our Hall of Fame dinners and ceremonies have been a tremendous success in the past,” dean of physical education Len Mohney said. “This year’s induction class had many successes on the field and at College of the Canyons and I’m honored to take out some time to recognize those accomplishments.”

Also a first this year, the dinner will be held on the Valencia campus – in the East Physical Education gym. Previous dinners were held at off-site venues.

“We just completed the East PE building that houses a new gym, and what better way to showcase it than at our Hall of Fame induction.” Mohney said.

The 1981 Western State Conference Champion baseball team, which was coached by 2007 inductee Mike Gillespie and Mohney, rebounded from a second-round loss in the 1981 playoffs to go on to win four straight games and snag College of the Canyons’ first state championship in its history.

Jesse Boyd was the first Cougar men’s basketball player to earn All-America and All-State honors for his efforts in the 1974-75 season. Coached by 2005 inductee Lyle Smeltzer, Boyd still holds college records for best scoring average in a season (25.2 ppg), best scoring average in a career (23.5) and most points in a career (1,266 points).

Women’s golfer Susan Latch was a member of the 2008 and 2001 golf teams. She earned Western State Conference Women’s Golfer of the Year accolades during both years. She was also a part of the first women’s golf team to win the state title in 2001. She’s currently enrolled in the COC nursing program.

Football coach Larry Reisbig was the second coach of the Cougar football program. He led the team to two conference championships during his nine-year tenure from 1973 to 1981, including one in his first season as head coach. He is now the men’s athletic director at Long Beach City College.

Al Adelini has been a longtime friend of athletics and dedicated much of his time to athletics before COC even had an athletic counselor. Adelini spent 30 years with the college and retired in 2000.

For more information and tickets, visit www.cocathletics.com or call the COC Athletics Office at (661) 362-3434.

PE Expansion Paves Way for New Classes Such as Tennis

Students at College of the Canyons don’t have to pay for a gym membership to stay fit and healthy because the college expanded its physical education facilities for the first time since 1976 with the recent opening of a second PE building.

Even more exciting are the new classes the 21,543-square-foot building funded by Measure C bond funds will allow. Introduced for the first time this fall were classes in tennis, badminton and jujitsu.

The new facilities also provide much-needed new space to house classrooms, lockers and offices.

The new East Physical Education Building serves as an auxiliary gym to the Valencia campus’s existing PE building, which houses a gym, swim and dive pool, baseball/softball courts, weight-training and conditioning facility, locker rooms and staff offices.

With the auxiliary gym and tennis courts, men’s volleyball, women’s badminton and men’s and women’s tennis are being considered as additions to the 16 sports that College of the Canyons currently offers on a competitive level.

In September, the college began offering eight-week tennis classes for community members through the Community Education program.

For $99, tennis players of all levels can take Cardio Tennis, Basic Tennis (for ages 17 and older), Tennis for Teens (ages 12 to 16) and Youth Tennis (ages 7 to 11) at the college’s six new tennis courts. The courts are fully lighted for night play and are equipped with windbreaks. On a side note, the courts were recently featured in an episode of the Fox television show “House.”

“Santa Clarita is a fit-minded community, and I think these classes will really spark an interest for all of the health and exercise enthusiasts,” said Gina Bogna, interim director of the college’s Community Education program.

“Tennis is a great alternative to a spin class or Pilates.”

The tennis classes are taught by David Schwartz, who has been a member of both the U.S. Professional Tennis Association and the U.S. Professional Tennis Registry for 13 years. The six tennis courts also allow the college to potentially play host to tournaments.
College, Saugus Schools Offer Free ESL Classes

Need Help With Math, English? Check Out PAL.

Free Fundraising Seminar Slated

New Theatre Chair Hopes to Broaden Offerings