

The Bottom Line

NEWS & VIEWS FROM COLLEGE OF THE CANYONS **SPRING 2004**

President's REPORT



Dr. Dianne Van Hook

The times, they have changed! Community colleges, the backbone of higher education, received two long-overdue pats on the back in January. Praising community colleges, President Bush, in his State of the Union address, proposed increasing funding to expand the outstanding training the colleges provide to the nation's workforce. And Gov. Schwarzenegger, in his first budget proposal, recommended long-overdue stabilization of the base funding for California's community colleges. It's about time our political leaders recognized the value of community colleges. It is particularly appropriate, ener-

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Alliance Focuses on Nursing Shortage

College of the Canyons has received a \$400,000 challenge grant to help fund an innovative three-year pilot program that addresses the critical statewide nursing shortage on a regional level.

The grant from the Weingart Foundation will help launch the Associate Degree Nursing Regional Collaborative, a cooperative

effort by College of the Canyons and four other community colleges and at least 10 hospitals to increase the number of registered nurses.

"We're very fortunate that the Weingart Foundation recognized this unique and viable approach that will help solve the

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Kinder Budget Still Presents Challenges

Despite a lingering multibillion-dollar deficit, Gov. Schwarzenegger's proposed budget for the coming year increases community college funding by 4.2 percent.

The March 2 passage of

Proposition 57 authorizes the state to borrow \$15 billion to balance the budget, but most of that would refinance previously approved debt that faces a legal challenge.

While the shift in fund-

ing priorities is a positive development for community colleges, the plan will likely increase the number of students seeking to enroll in them, putting greater demands and pressure on the

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Van Hook

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gizing and timely that this system, which educates nearly 3 million students a year, is finally recognized for what it does better than any other institution: provide top-quality higher learning, affordable alternatives for students transferring to four-year colleges and universities, up-to-the-minute training for businesses in a broad array of industries, and a gateway for those seeking to re-enter the workforce. Each of California's 109 community colleges provides education that is accessible and affordable, convenient and flexible, in an effective and efficient manner. And, they provide an amazing return on tax dollars invested. Pretty impressive for the largest system of higher education in the world!

As one of the best colleges in the state, College of the Canyons is constantly turning challenges into opportunities. We quickly add new academic and occupational programs to meet community needs, stay current with trends in higher education, remain current and ahead of what businesses need to remain competitive, identify alternative funding sources, and find new ways to bring expanded, cutting-edge educational programs, facilities and services to the community.

We are local, affordable, competitive, responsive and committed to our community.

A prime example of our commitment to the community is the University Center, which will bring dozens of bachelor's, master's and doctoral

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degrees to the Santa Clarita Valley. We are three-quarters of the way toward our \$10-million fundraising goal and will successfully complete the campaign this year. We are designing the University Center now and look forward to breaking ground in the next 12 months.

The Performing Arts Center we are building is another prime example. The PAC will serve as a learning resource and showcase for our talented faculty, staff and students, as well as a wide range of community-based performance groups. It will also be a regional entertainment destination hosting premier performances in music, theater, song and dance.

The new music/dance building and the high-technology center for state-of-the-art curriculum planned for this year are made possible in part through the \$82.1-million Measure C general-obligation bond approved by voters in 2001. Such funding is crucial for the college to grow with the community and meet Santa Clarita's evolving educational needs.

We meet local needs in many other ways, such as a new training collaborative of colleges and hospitals in the region to address the critical nursing shortage, along with the Clinical Edu-


cation Center, where nursing students obtain training on the grounds of Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Hospital. Our new biotechnology initiative is another valuable program in an exciting, emerging field.

It is extremely gratifying to see community colleges come into the limelight, particularly as CSU and UC redirect students to community colleges for the first two years of their bachelor-degree programs, as more local students select us as their first choice, and as businesses look to us to be the primary trainer of their workforces.

We know we're making a difference in our community by providing the educational and training programs residents need to move ahead in their lives. We know it because we're in contact with them every day.

College of the Canyons, like the Santa Clarita Valley, is a progressive, forward-thinking place. We are proud to be that college and look forward to breaking more new ground in the coming year.

Dr. Van Hook is superintendent-president of the Santa Clarita Community College District and College of the Canyons.

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<p>ON THE COVER – Top row from left: animation students Krisha Moeller, John Cataldi, Phil Mayfield, Joshua Deicken and Julio Valdez, and instructor Sheila M. Sofian; front row: students Amanda Byrnes, Rex Witzel and Gina Turcios. See story on Page 5.</p>			

A Student's Perspective**A Lesson Learned
in My Own Backyard**By **ANDREW M. SEVANI***All that hard work for nothing!*

That thought plagued me when I was denied admission to the University of Southern California in the spring of 2002.

Four years of waking up at 6 a.m. for zero period and often not returning home until 12 hours later after baseball practice. That was my high school life in a nutshell.

Consistently I improved my grades, increased my hours of community service and tallied up additional points to my GPA to ensure my ticket to USC. At the end of my senior year I even was honored as my school's CIF student-athlete of the year, as well as upholding a life membership to the California Scholastic Federation and two-year membership to the National Honor Roll. My accolades, however, weren't sufficient for separating me from the mass of other highly credited incoming freshman competing for a spot at USC.

Once I was declined I started to think I didn't do enough, I should have studied more, I could have been more of a student and less of an athlete. Where did I go wrong?

My next step was either to enroll in another university to which I was accepted (but did not really want to attend) or, instead, try a year at our local community institution, College of the Canyons, then hopefully transfer to USC.

I chose the latter – begrudgingly.

Coming into COC I had a picture in my head of a small campus filled with students who didn't care about their educations and had no real goals in mind for their future. Like the common misconception many have of community college education, I thought this was just going to be a continuation of high school.

At this point I feared I may never make it to USC, and a community college would perhaps negate everything I labored for during the last

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The new Performing Arts Center, as seen from Rockwell Canyon Road.

**Performing Arts Center
Almost Ready to Dazzle**

If it weren't for the barren patches of dirt out front and some stray construction equipment, one would think the new Performing Arts Center at College of the Canyons is ready to go.

Not quite – but it sure is close.

Construction of the two-theater complex should be completed by mid-April, followed by several months of fine-tuning of various systems in preparation for grand-opening events in October.

The month-long series of opening events will include a collaborative performance by the college's theatre, music and dance departments, as well as a selection of performances by community-based groups and commercial artists, said Phil Hartley, executive vice president of the college.

"This is just a phenomenal facility," Hartley said. "I believe the community will be very proud of the center and its capabilities – the most important of which is providing a first-class venue for college students and community-based performing groups."

Most of the major construction has been completed on the performing arts complex, a joint venture with the City of Santa Clarita. Work is now concentrated on the center's interior, which will feature a 950-seat proscenium theater and an experimental "black box" theater capable of accommodating up to 125 people.

Seating arrangements in the 42,736-square-foot main performance hall will be divided between a main level and a balcony, with additional seating available on the orchestra pit when it's not in use.

The center has been designed so that every seat offers ideal sight lines and acoustics. Sound will be provided by a state-of-the-art, non-amplified acoustic-resonance system that electronically adapts the house to any particular performance, whether it be small theater, light opera or full orchestral concerts. The first of its kind for a col-

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Conference Focuses on China Trade

College of the Canyons and Vital Express will present a special conference in April that promises to remove the veil of secrecy surrounding doing business with China, a country with nearly 1.3 billion people and a trillion-dollar economy.

“Exploring Business with China: Risks & Opportunities” is an all-day conference that will be held at the Hyatt Valencia’s Santa Clarita Conference Center on April 21. Industry and trade officials from the U.S. and China will come together to brief participants on many aspects of trade between the two countries, including:

- Securing suppliers of materials and components;
 - Advantages and risks in setting up operations;
 - Market for U.S. goods, tools and machinery;
 - Exporting finished products and agriculture.
- As a bonus, participants may attend a reception follow-

ing the event and speak directly with Chinese government officials involved with trade and investments.

“Every business and industry leader who wants to expand their market in a dramatic way should make it a priority to attend this event,” said Dena Maloney, the college’s dean of economic development. “Although the information to be shared will be extremely valuable, I can’t stress enough the importance of the business contacts and relationships that can be developed through this event.

“It will undoubtedly be one of Southern California’s most exciting business conferences.”

Reservations may be made by calling (661) 259-3874. Additional information can be found on the Internet at <http://www.canyons.edu/offices/cact/china.htm>. The major sponsors of the conference are Vital Expresss, the college’s

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PAC

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lege in North America, the high-tech sound system eliminates the need for an orchestra shell.

The 52-foot-wide orchestra pit features a motorized lift and will accommodate a mid-sized symphony orchestra of 45 to 60 musicians.

Incorporated into the center’s design are a green room, sound- and lighting-control booths, costume and makeup rooms, covered and open scene shops, 42 line sets of rigging, and a full tension-grid ceiling system that eliminates the need for catwalks.

The 2,035-square-foot “black box” theater features flexible seating arrangements for up to 125 people, depending on its configuration.

A performing arts center has long been an important component of the college’s master plan, which was crafted when the college opened more than 30 years ago. State funding priorities prevented construction of such a center until 1997, when the California Community Colleges Board of Governors made a short-term change that allowed community colleges to complete their master plans.

The college jumped at the opportunity, winning state approval for a 500-seat performing arts center in 1999. Recognizing that the size and design of such a state-funded facility did not reflect the needs of a growing community, the college partnered with the city to expand the center’s capacity and capability. The city’s contribution of \$2.4 million nearly doubled the seating capacity. In return, the city received guaranteed use of the center.

The official groundbreaking took place Dec. 10, 2001,

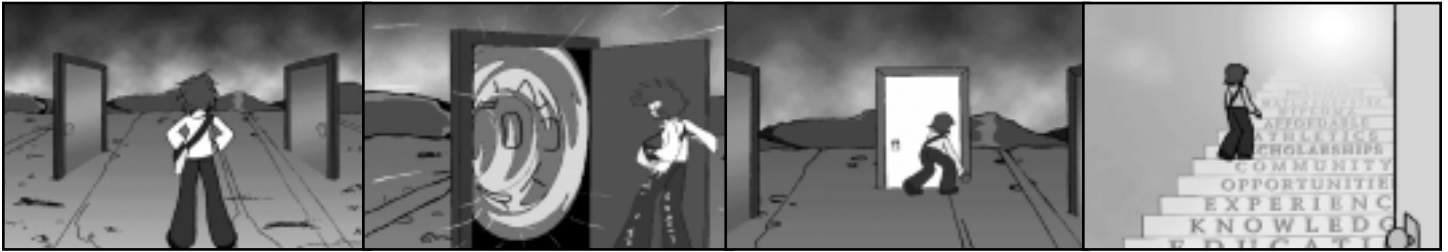
PAC Contact Information

Mail	Performing Arts Center College of the Canyons 26455 Rockwell Canyon Road Santa Clarita, CA 91355
Facility Use	Robin Williams Facilities Use Director (661) 362-3240 robin.williams@canyons.edu
Schedules	Jennifer Hauss Events Coordinator (661) 362-3422 jennifer.hauss@canyons.edu
Tickets	COC Community Extension (661) 362-3304 phone (661) 362-5425 fax

with actual construction starting the following year.

The college plans to contract with a professional promoter to develop external, commercial events and performances. The annual season will likely stretch from October to April.

Anyone interested in receiving mailed notices of upcoming performances can call Jennifer Hauss of Community Extension at (661) 362-3422. Those interested in volunteering or becoming involved in the center’s support network should call Cathy Ritz of the College of the Canyons Foundation at (661) 362-3639.



Animation Students Go **PRIME TIME**

The value of the latest cutting-edge training in animation can't be understated, but there's nothing like a little real-world experience to give students the perspective and collaborative spirit that professional animators need to succeed.

Students in Sheila Sofian's advanced animation class got just that.

They got a taste of the real world of animation – and a valuable lesson in the skills, diplomacy and commitment to craft that are required to deliver a creative product to a demanding client on a tight deadline.

The students' 30-second animated commercial, produced for the College of the Canyons Public Information Office as a promotional spot for the college, was so well-received that it aired 227 times on 17 cable stations over a two-week period in January.

"The experience of working with the Public Information Office on the commercial provided the students with an excellent real-world environment," said Sofian, an award-winning animator and chair of the college's Animation Department. "They worked as a team to solve problems and create a product they could all be proud of."

Each of the students was invited to submit storyboarded ideas that would best illustrate the benefits of attending College of the Canyons. In the end, it was the creative vision of student Joshua Deicken that was chosen as the spot's the-

matic direction. For submitting the successful theme, Deicken was also tasked as the project's director.

Deicken's idea was to paint an animated portrait of an overwhelmed young woman who takes destiny into her own hands by creating and entering a doorway to the rich and diverse opportunities available at College of the Canyons.

"Joshua exhibited wonderful management skills, and all of the students worked overtime to contribute to the commercial," said Sofian, winner of a multiple animation awards including a prestigious Guggenheim Award.

Student collaborators included John Cataldi, assistant director, layouts, background design; Philip Mayfield, technical director, digital cleanup; Krisha Moeller, sound design, animation; Carmen Ramos, character design, animation; Amanda Byrnes, color design, digital cleanup;

Rex Witzel, effects animation, cleanup; Julio Valdez, effects animation, cleanup; and Gina Turcios, production assistant.

The spot was seen all hours of the day, including prime time, on such stations as Bravo, Comedy Network, CNN, Discovery Channel, Fox Sports West, Fox News Channel, The History Channel, MTV, Nickelodeon, SciFi, TBS, TLC, Spike TV, TNT, Cartoon Network and VH-1.

Although the commercial has stopped airing for the spring semester, the plan is for it be revived when needed,

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Animation students John Cataldi, Joshua Deicken and Krisha Moeller in one of the sound studios during production of the college's animated commercial.

Budget

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system.

Introduced Jan. 9, the \$76 billion proposal for 2004/05 “puts California on a path to recovery,” Schwarzenegger said, adding that the current \$22 billion budget deficit was caused by spending that outpaced revenues.

Although the budget will likely undergo many changes before it is adopted, the newfound emphasis on community colleges is a welcome development for the largest system of higher education in the world.

Many community college officials view the plan as a refreshing shift in priorities for California’s community colleges because it includes funds for growth, equalization and COLA.

Mark Drummond, chancellor of California’s community colleges, expressed appreciation to Schwarzenegger for recognizing the important role community colleges must play in helping meet the state’s educational needs.

“The governor’s proposal is generous under the circumstances of the state’s fiscal problems,” he said.

The budget includes \$32.2 billion for higher education – an increase of \$803 million, or 2.6 percent – but it suspends the Proposition 98 minimum

Community College: Still a Bargain

How Community College costs and enrollment compare to those of the University of California (UC) and California State University (CSU).

	UC	CSU	Community College
Enrollment	157,000	550,000	2.9 million
Cost (Average annual cost per full-time student)	\$5,000	\$2,550	\$540
Reimbursement (State reimbursement to institution per full-time student)	\$25,554	\$10,822	\$4,675

guarantee by \$2 billion overall for K-14 education.

The governor’s proposal calls for reducing general-fund dollars to both the University of California (UC) and California State University (CSU) systems, which are expected to reduce freshman admissions and redirect applicants toward community colleges.

The strain on community colleges is already significant, the result of a continually growing population, demands for retraining from businesses and budget cuts over the last two years.

Drummond took issue with a proposed tuition hike – from \$18 to \$26 per unit. “Repeated sharp fee increases threaten access for many of our stu-

dents who are in need of retraining due to ever-changing demands of the job market, and therefore they threaten the economic vitality of the state,” he said. Despite the proposed hike, tuition would remain the lowest in the nation.

Still, California needs to rethink its financial commitment to community colleges, Drummond said. Compared to two-year institutions in other states, California’s support in terms of funding per student ranks 45th nationwide.

“Given our system’s successes in meeting the demands to educate all segments of the population, there is a great underinvestment by the state in community colleges,” Drummond added.



Student Amanda Byrnes performs some digital cleanup work during production.

Animation

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with the spot’s tag line customized to fit whatever marketing message is appropriate.

“We are just extremely pleased with the outcome of this project,” said Sue Bozman, dean of communications for the college.

“The college received a wonderfully crafted animated commercial, and these nine students received valuable experience that enhanced their classroom training. We expect big things from these people.”

The project gave the class experience in all aspects of producing a finished product – from initial storyboarding to character development,

both drawn and digital animation to sound and final compositing.

Diecken and Cataldi oversaw the project from start to finish and, with Sofian’s guidance, worked through the inevitable glitches that occur when a creative team works together for the very first time.

“Despite numerous obstacles, the students worked closely together and were determined to produce animation of a high quality,” Sofian said. “In the end, they were proud of the commercial and of their contributions.”

To learn more about the college’s animation program, call Sofian at (661) 362-5039.

University Center Campaign hits Final Stretch

The capital campaign to build a permanent University Center entered its final phase following the development that more than \$650,000 has been pledged toward the project since a fundraising challenge was issued in October.

Leading the list of challenge donors with a \$250,000 contribution is Lennar Corp., the Florida firm heading up an acquisition of The Newhall Land & Farming Co. Other lead donors during the challenge period are KBZ Architects, Klassen Corp. and architectural firm Leo A. Daly, each of which pledged contributions of \$100,000. An additional \$102,000 was pledged by nine companies, organizations and individuals.

This latest round of pledges brings total contributions to more than \$7 million, which includes \$2.5 million in Measure C bond proceeds and a potential \$2 million in city use-tax revenue. About \$10 million is needed to build the center, which will rise on the southwest corner of the College of the Canyons campus.

Late last year, three donors gave a significant boost to the capital campaign by pledging a combined \$750,000 and



Emile Haddad, regional president for Lennar Corp., speaks as campaign co-chair Tom Lee looks on during a Jan. 6 luncheon in which Lennar's \$250,000 pledge was announced.

issuing a challenge that raised its potential value to \$1.25 million. Newhall Land pledged \$250,000 outright, and the Henry Mayo Newhall Foundation pledged \$50,000 per year for five years – provided an equal amount is raised each year. And, an anonymous benefactor sent in a check for \$50,000 and a pledge for \$200,000 more – provided the College of the Canyons Foundation, which is handling the fundraising campaign, raised at least \$250,000 by December 31, 2003.

“The University Center is an integral part of the Santa Clarita Valley’s future success and vitality,” said Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook, superintendent-president of College of the Canyons. “I’m proud that these donors stepped up to the plate to ensure that those who desire to better themselves through higher education will be able to do so right here in the Santa Clarita Valley.”

The University Center is an innovative concept in which students earn bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees, as well as specialized certificates, right on the College of the Canyons campus. The idea is to eliminate long commutes to

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Leadership Program Seeks Promising Candidates

College of the Canyons has teamed up with the Santa Clarita Valley Chamber of Commerce to again offer its popular leadership program, which is designed to give students the tools and resources needed to be an effective local leader.

Leadership Santa Clarita Valley 2004 will cover a variety of subjects, with all-day monthly sessions beginning in September and running through May 2005. Class meetings will generally be held the second Wednesday.

“Although this program is designed for future leaders, it’s also a perfect crash course for anyone who really wants to understand how things get



done in our community,” said Pamela Welden, director of COC’s Center for Applied Competitive Technologies.

The program will kick off with an introductory weekend retreat for participants, session leaders and local dignitaries in September. Successive sessions will cover multiple topics such

as: history and diversity; economic development; health and human services; government; public safety and justice; education; media and communications, and quality of life.

Each session will rely heavily on outside speakers and experts in their respective fields. Some sessions will include field trips, including tours of local companies and visits with various government officials and elected representatives.

Anyone interested in the program may call Jane Raleigh at the SCV Chamber of Commerce at (661) 259-4787 or Welden at the college at (661) 362-3245.

UC Campaign

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distant college campuses and provide convenient access to higher education by bringing the universities here.

It is, in fact, much more than a concept. The University Center is already operating in an interim facility, where more than 300 people have earned degrees – most of them at the graduate level – in the first two years.

Partner institutions include Chapman University, University of La Verne, English Language Schools, California State University Bakersfield, Cal State University Northridge and Cal State University Fresno. Mount St. Mary's College and California Arts Institute are expected to start offering classes next year, and discussions are under way with other institutions as well.

The interim center offers a wide assortment of degree programs, such as business administration, child development, communications, computer science, criminal justice, educational counseling, health administration, nursing, psychology and social sciences. More programs are planned.

Nursing

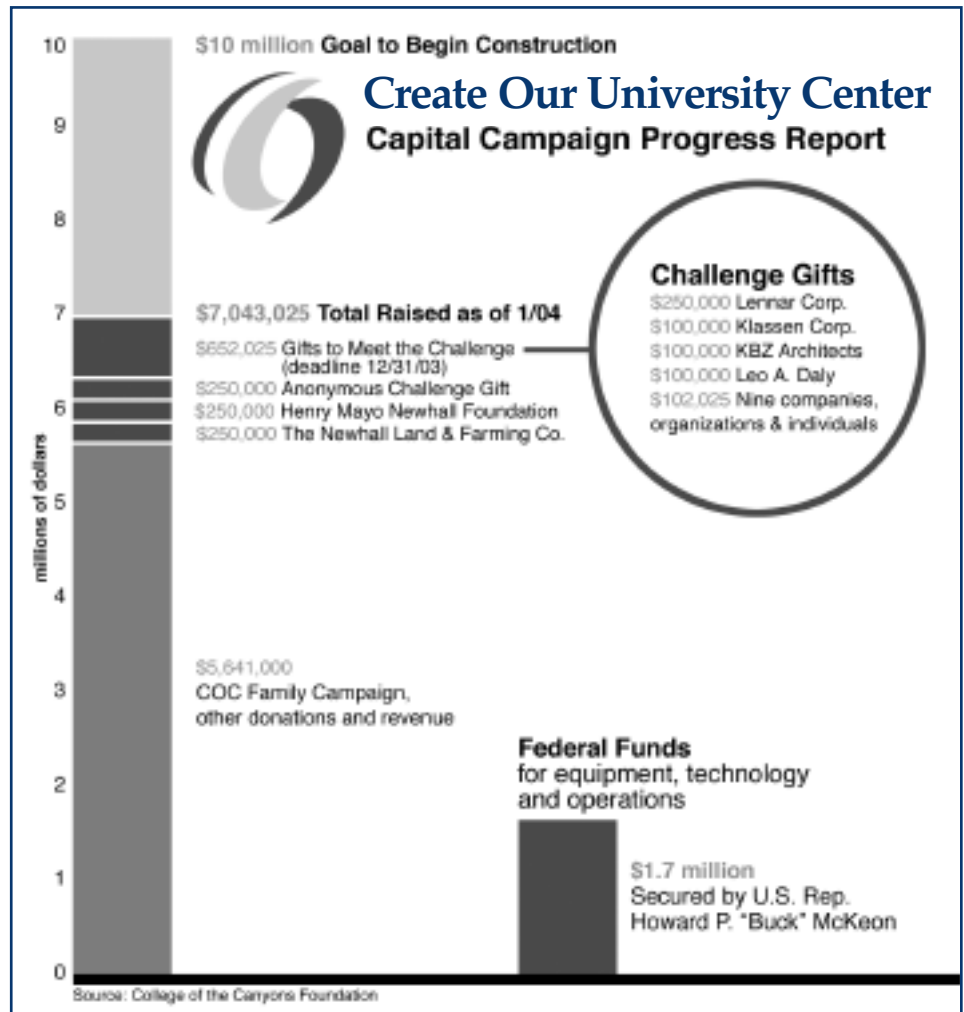
FROM PAGE 1

nursing shortage in our region,” said Sue Albert, dean of allied health at COC. “It is designed to create a more diverse nursing pool and support the needs of employers and students.”

The grant can be used only for the collaborative's equipment, and a matching amount must be raised for the Weingart funding to be granted.

At a time when some colleges have cut back or eliminated nurse-training programs due to their high costs, the collaborative will create a new first-year nursing program that will be developed and shared by Los Angeles Valley College, L.A. Pierce College, Glendale College and Ventura College.

Most colleges have waiting lists of



prospective nursing students, illustrating the fact that there is no shortage of applicants. Rather, colleges are unable to accommodate those on waiting lists because of a lack of faculty, space and equipment. The collaborative will transform those waiting lists into nursing students who can be advanced into the workforce.

The need for nurses is critical. Not only is California dead-last nationally in the ratio of nurses to patients, state officials project a statewide shortfall of 25,000 nurses by 2006.

Partner colleges will develop the curriculum in partnership. College and hospital officials have already begun developing a shared curriculum that will be implemented this fall. Courses also will be offered via video teleconferencing at hospitals, which also will provide skills lab space.

Key to the program's success is the securing of adequate funding. The program's projected cost is about \$1.8 million. Several hospitals have committed a total of \$235,000 to the program so far. They include Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Hospital, site of the Clinical Education Center, a nurse-training partnership with College of the Canyons, as well as Providence Holy Cross and St. Joseph's, and Northridge Hospital Medical Center.

Launching of the collaborative means students now on waiting lists can be enrolled in the program and acquire first-year nursing skills and knowledge, then fill vacancies in second-year courses at the partner college of their choice.

Associate degree nursing programs are the primary source for registered nurses in California.

NEWS & EVENTS IN BRIEF

Cusumano Honored for Community Service

Gary Cusumano, chief executive officer of **The Newhall Land & Farming Co.**, was named the recipient of the **2004 Silver Spur Community Service Award**.

Cusumano was presented with the recognition during a black-tie gala at the **California Club** in Los Angeles on March 13. "Gary is one of those people who not only leads an important local company, but who directs his time and passion toward worthwhile causes that improve our quality of life," said **Kathleen Maloney**, executive director of the **COC Foundation**.



Childhood Education Forums Planned

The Santa Clarita Valley's explosive growth poses a dilemma for those who provide early childhood education. They must somehow keep pace with the community's ever-increasing number of families with children who need education and care. That and other issues will be addressed during three special forums designed to bring administrators and providers of early childhood education together with business leaders. The forums are: **Santa Clarita Growing and Changing**, 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, March 23; **Early Care & Education Needed to Meet Community Growth**, 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, April 27; and **Putting it All Together: Building a Plan for the Future**, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 8. All sessions will be held at the Activities Center of the George A. Carvalho Sports Complex, 20880 Center Point Pkwy. Refreshments will be provided during the first two forums; lunch will be provided during the third workshop. Cost is \$10 per session, \$25 for all three. To register call **Sheryn Monheim** of the COC Economic Development Division at (661) 259-3874.

Youth Orchestra Event Moves to New Location

The **Santa Clarita Valley Wine Classic**, the region's premier wine-tasting event and fundraiser for young musicians, will move to a new home this year. After 15 years at **California Institute of the Arts**, the event will be held College of the Canyons on June 5. "The Wine Classic has become so popular and well-attended that we had no choice but to find a larger facility," said **Sue Bozman**, executive co-director of the Wine Classic Committee. The 16th-annual event promises to be the biggest yet for wine connoisseurs and music lovers, offering a huge variety of wines, gourmet food from some of the area's best restaurants, and live orchestral music. In addition to the latest releases poured by wineries, more than 50 library wines will be uncorked. The event, a fundraiser for the **SCV Youth Orchestra** and **Santa Clarita Symphony**, will be held 7 to 10 p.m. Saturday, June 5, in the Physical Education Center at College of the Canyons, 26455 Rockwell Canyon Road, Valencia. For more information or to purchase tickets to the event, call (661) 362-3415 or 362-5604. Information also may be found at www.scvwineclassic.org.

Spanish Institute to Travel to Costa Rica

This year marks the fifth anniversary of COC's popular **Intensive Spanish Institute**, which is being expanded to include an optional week of study abroad. The institute is scheduled Aug. 2 to 6, with the theme "**Contemporary Issues of Latin America**." The trip to Costa Rica will occur Aug. 7 to 15, offering students the opportunity to earn up to nine units of college credit in biology, history and Spanish. The cost of \$1,595, plus enrollment fees, includes roundtrip airfare, seven nights lodging – four of them in a beach-front hotel – all excursions, 12 meals and all transfers. For information contact Spanish Department Chair **Claudia Acosta** at (661) 362-3530 or claudia.acosta@canyons.edu.

Third Grant-Writing Seminar in the Works

College of the Canyons' second grant-writing seminar to bring together representatives of non-profit organizations and the charitable foundations that help fund them attracted a packed room of nearly 50 people Nov. 17. A third seminar will likely be scheduled this fall. Designed for organizations seeking to boost their fundraising ability, **Meet the Grant Makers** demonstrated the ins and outs of successful grant-writing. "There's no question that these sessions give non-profits a key advantage in formulating their grants and attracting the funding they need," said **Barry Gribbons**, dean of institutional development and technology at the college. The panel of grant-making experts included **Mark Eiduson**, program director for the **Ralph M. Parsons Foundation**; **Adrienne Wittenberg**, program officer for the **S. Mark Taper Foundation**, and a representative from the **Wells Fargo Foundation**. For more information about the seminars call **Debra Malinowski** at (661) 362-3644.

Start Summer Off Right with 'Junetoberfest'

College of the Canyons will kick off the start of summer with the first-annual **Junetoberfest**, a day-long celebration featuring an **International Chili Society**-sanctioned chili cookoff, classic car show and microbrewed beer garden. The event, a fundraiser for the **College of the Canyons Foundation**, is scheduled Saturday, June 26, in the college's stadium area off Valencia Boulevard. The college's address is 26455 Rockwell Canyon Road, Santa Clarita. Also part of the day's festivities will be a homerun derby, a 5K fun run, a children's play zone, vendors, live entertainment and food. For more information call **Cathy Ritz**, director of annual giving for the foundation, at (661) 362-3639. Information and entry forms also may be found on the Internet at www.junetoberfest.org.

Showing the Way

Three lighted kiosks were installed recently at the college, providing visitors with detailed maps and facilities directories of the campus. They are located at the main entrance off Rockwell Canyon Road, near the Technical Center and between the A and C buildings.



Perspective

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four years of my life. Was I about to be sucked into a black hole of procrastination and stagnation?

My fears were laid to rest once I started my first semester.

I began to see a diverse lot of highly motivated students and passionate teachers. My classes were demanding, enlightening and, most of all, highly grooming toward the level of commitment needed for higher education. I embarked upon the various facets of edification as I studied the roles of gender, race and culture in Sociology 101 under Mrs. Tracie Gardner, as well as the literary and aesthetic foundations of Theatre 220 under Ms. Nancy Kissam. I learned the guidelines for proper citations and formatting for a college essay in English 101 under Mrs. Susan Cornner, while at the same time brushed up on my Spanish as well as my grasp of Latin cultures in Spanish 220 under Ms. Claudia Acosta.

My second semester was just as interesting and challenging as the first. I studied the basics of molecular structures in Biology 100 under Ms.

Kim Jesu, the imagination and knowledge required for creative writing in English 103 under Mr. Chris Murphy, and the expansion of the media in Journalism 201 under Mr. Chuck Whitten. Cinema 122 under Mr. Gary Peterson showed me the development of cinematic approaches, and History 191 under Ms. Sherrill Pennington taught me about the ancient history of Eastern civilizations such as Japan, China and India. I was learning from all spheres of influence and avenues of life, while developing myself not only as a student but as a human being. This is due largely to the guidance and support of such teachers, for they truly brightened my college experience thus far.

My year of study at COC challenged and rewarded me. It showed me a whole new world of education I had never seen in high school; one based more on subjective expression and understanding of the materials presented – with classes largely of my own choosing. But most of all it represented a steppingstone toward my readiness for a university education.

After one year at COC I was accepted to USC as a transfer student; my goal was finally realized. Without those two semesters spent at COC I

China

FROM PAGE 4

Center for Applied Competitive Technologies and the college's Economic Development Division.

With the highest foreign direct investment in the world, the People's Republic of China is fast becoming a focal point for businesses and industries seeking to expand their markets.

The country's GDP (gross domestic product) was estimated to be close to \$6 trillion in 2002, quadruple what it was in 1978 when economic controls were loosened.

In 2003 China stood as the second-largest economy in the world after the United States.

wouldn't be nearly as prepared as I am today for the demanding curriculum and competitive atmosphere that is bred in such a prestigious school as USC.

In many ways my denial for admission as a freshman was a blessing in disguise. It not only prepared me for USC, it kept me close to my home and loved ones for one more year. I honestly feel that for many students in a situation similar to mine, or at the very least a student who is unsure of what path to take after high school, a year or two at a community college is definitely advantageous. It not only saves money, it prepares you as an undergraduate.

Hopefully my experience can shed some light and bring hope to all graduating seniors and junior college students out there.

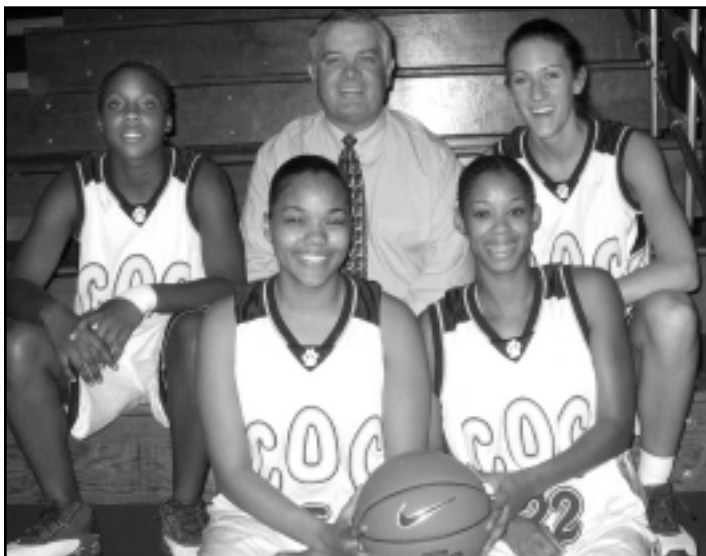
Don't feel that you've failed if you are denied to the school of your choice initially.

When one path evades you there is often another waiting that's even better than the original.

Sevanian, a Stevenson Ranch resident, is in his second semester at USC and pursuing a degree in communications and journalism.



COUGAR SPORTS ROUNDUP



The Lady Cougars rule! Back row: Kaipresha Price, coach Greg Herrick and Jessi Loring. Front: Linnea Barber and Krystal Clay.

Women's Basketball

The Lady Cougars Basketball Team has some well-earned bragging rights. Recently crowned as the **Western State Conference champion**, the fourth-ranked team has been racking up playoff wins, most recently against fifth-ranked Antelope Valley College with a 79-73 overtime win on March 3. Head coach **Greg Herrick**, who led the team to an 11-1 regular-season record and 22-5 overall mark, was named **WSC coach of the year** for a fifth time. Sophomores **Krystal Clay** and **Kaipresha Price**, and freshman **Jessi Loring**, were named to the **WSC All-Conference First Team**. Clay has averaged 14.9 points and 3.6 assists per game and shot 31 percent from three-point range. Price has led the conference with 10.1 assists per game, and also added 14.5 points. Loring has led the team with 17.9 points per game, while adding 11.9 rebounds and shooting 53 percent from the floor. Sophomore **Linnae Barber** was selected for honorable mention for averaging 13.8 points, 10 rebounds and 2.5 assists, while shooting 48 percent from the floor and 38 percent from three-point range. As of press time, the team was headed for another playoff game, this one against top-ranked Mt. San Antonio College. For playoff results, log on to www.canyons.edu and click on "Athletics."

Men's Basketball

The men's basketball team, after struggling for most of the past decade, recaptured its former magic with its first conference title in 10 years. Led by a pair of transfers from Louisiana in **Durrell Davis** and **Carlton Spencer** and home-grown talent in **Andrew Bruckner** and **Alex Dunwoody**, the Cougars are ranked among the state's top-20 teams. Head coach **Howard Fisher** was named **WSC coach of the year**. Spencer, who led the Cougars with 19.1

points, 6.2 assists and 5.1 rebounds per game, was named **most valuable player** in the conference. Joining Spencer on the **All-Conference Team** were Davis and Bruckner. Davis averaged 19.3 points per game in conference play, while Bruckner averaged 11.6 points and 9.7 rebounds per game. Honorable-mention awards went to brothers Alex and **Curtis Dunwoody**, both from Valencia High School. The Cougars finished the regular season with a 9-1 conference record and 18-5 overall record after finishing last season with a 5-7 conference record and 10-19 overall mark.

Football

On the field, the College of the Canyons football team stormed the 2003 season with style, strength and heart. Racking up more than 40 points a game, the Cougars leapt to a 10-0 record, the team's **first perfect season**. The team also scored its fourth consecutive **Western State Conference** championship with a victory in the **WSC Bowl**, the program's sixth-consecutive bowl appearance and third consecutive bowl victory.

Off the field, **Chuck Lyon** and his coaching staff continued their strong tradition of helping players advance to the next level. This past off-season, 11 Cougars were offered scholarships to four-year universities (*see chart below*), nine of them Division-I programs.

Look for the first former Cougar to be drafted by the **NFL**. Former defensive standout **Isaac Sopoaga**, a Cougar in 2000-01, received a scholarship to the **University of Hawaii** where he was lauded for his quickness and strength. Now he's showing up on scouting lists as one of the Top-10 defensive ends in the country, which could translate into a third- or fourth-round pick. The draft takes place April 24 and 25 in New York City.

FOOTBALL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

PLAYER	POSITION	SCHOOL	DIVISION
Jason Beck	QB	Brigham Young	I-A
Trevor Brackett	WR	Nevada	I-A
Marcus Crawford	RB	Utah State	I-A
Josh Cummings	K	University of Pittsburg	I-A
Shawn Huntsinger	OL	Charleston Southern	I-AA
Kevin Jones	DB	Utah State	I-A
Faitasi Lefiti	OL	Portland State	I-AA
Nick Longshore	OL	Brigham Young	I-A
Charles Manigo	LB	Portland State	I-AA
Domata Peko	DL	Michigan State	I-A
Daniel Zynn	DL	Michigan State	I-A

Note: Since football was reinstated, 75 players have received scholarships and advanced to four-year universities.



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Almost there!

The Performing Arts Center at College of the Canyons is nearing completion, with a grand-opening expected in October. **See** Page 3