



Santa Clarita Community College District
26455 Rockwell Canyon Road
Santa Clarita, CA 91355

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Wine Classic Tickets On Sale

Tickets are on sale now for the 20th Annual SCV Wine Classic, the popular wine-tasting event benefiting the SCV Youth Orchestra. Only a limited number of tickets will be available, so wine connoisseurs are encouraged to reserve their spots as early as possible.

The event, to be held in the Main Gallery at California Institute of the Arts from 7 to 10 p.m., Saturday, May 31, will feature a wide variety of vintage and current wines for tasting and purchase, as well as gourmet cuisine from some of the Santa Clarita Valley's finest restaurants and caterers.

The comfortable, intimate venue will be filled with a veritable sensory feast as guests listen to live orchestral music while sampling the finest vintage library wines and delicious cuisine. An impeccable array of rare and current wines, restaurant certificates and other desirable gift items will be auctioned.

Discounts will be given to those who purchase tickets early. The pricing structure is as follows:

- \$65 each/\$120 a pair through March 28
- \$70 each/\$130 a pair from March 29 to May 30

- \$80 each/\$150 a pair at the door
- \$35 each for designated drivers
- \$60 each (10 minimum) for group sales through May 23

All guests will receive souvenir drinking glasses and trays.

The SCV Youth Orchestra is a three-tiered instrumental education program that was founded at CalArts in 1969 and moved to College of the Canyons in 1989. Since its inception, the program has given thousands of young Santa Clarita musicians a leg up on their musical careers.

Tickets may be purchased by calling (661) 362-3415 or faxing 362-5309 (Visa and MasterCard accepted), or by sending a check payable to SCVYO Foundation to: College of the Canyons, Public Information Office, 26455 Rockwell Canyon Road, Santa Clarita, CA 91355.

For information about how to become a sponsor or to donate auction items for the event, contact the Public Information Office at College of the Canyons at (661) 362-3415.

As an added convenience, tickets also may be purchased on the Wine Classic website at www.scvwineclassic.org. Updated information also will be available there.

CalArts is located at 24700 McBean Pkwy., immediately east of Interstate 5. A map and driving directions are available at the website listed above.



President's REPORT



Dr. Dianne Van Hook

It's becoming something of a cliché. Right after New Year's the Governor releases a proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year. That is immediately followed by obligatory wailing and hand wringing from nearly every government agency in the state as they make dire predictions of financial doom.

This year is no different given that California faces a \$16 billion deficit. And while the January budget is just the beginning of a months-long process, College of the Canyons will be impacted by whatever shape the final budget takes.

If our funding is cut, the real impacts will be felt by students

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Ancient Tatavium Mortar & Pestle Donated To College



Brothers Jeff and Tom Asher pose with a Tatavium Indian mortar and pestle before donating the family heirloom to the College of the Canyons Foundation. The artifact was originally discovered more than 70 years ago on the Asher family's AAA Ranch in what is now the Vasquez Rocks Natural Area.

By donating one of his family's most cherished heirlooms to the College of the Canyons Foundation, Tom Asher is hopeful his gift will aid students in their quest for knowledge, while at the same time helping to preserve a piece of local history.

So it was with great enthusiasm that he turned over the massive, solid granite, Tatavium Indian mortar and pestle — which was originally discovered on the family's AAA Ranch in Agua Dulce, in what is now the Vasquez Rocks Natural Area.

"My feelings on it were that I wanted to see it some place where it can be appreciated and considered as part of the history of the area and part of the education of people," said Asher, who discovered the artifact partially submerged in a dry stream-bed on the family ranch more than 70 years ago.

"The whole family felt the same way," said Jeff Asher, Tom's brother and the older of the two Asher brothers. "We all felt this is the way it should be."

Estimated by the Asher family to weigh roughly 200 pounds, the mortar measures more than 50 inches around at its widest point and stands roughly 12 inches high. The artifact also features a pronounced eight-inch-deep and 10-inch-wide hollowed area — the probable result of the item being used as a food-processing tool to mash, grind and flatten acorns, sage seeds, buckwheat, juniper

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Governor Proposes Major Budget Cuts

With California facing a projected \$14 billion budget deficit at the time, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger released a proposed 2008-09 budget in January that calls for spending cuts in most state services, including community colleges. The deficit is estimated to have grown to \$16 billion.

"Two areas singled out for reduction — funding for growth and COLA — would have the greatest impact on College of the Canyons if enacted as proposed," said Sue Bozman, vice president of communication at the college district.

"The Governor initially included an increase in COLA in the budget, but then proposed a reduction in funding equal to the amount of the projected COLA for 2008-09. Without COLA, the budget fails to provide the necessary resources to cover inflationary costs of utilities, maintenance agreements, and other forced costs" Bozman said.

Superintendent-President, Dianne Van Hook, explained that funding for enrollment growth is equally critical to the College's long-term success. Typically, state budgets include a three percent increase over prior year funding to account for

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Van Hook

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who will see long waiting lists and not be able to get all of the classes they need to graduate and go to work. It will take them longer to get a degree or certificate, become employed and contribute to the state's economy.

Unlike other state agencies, College of the Canyons and the state's 108 other community colleges play a vital role in helping to overcome the state's budget situation. And we do it for less. The state provides community colleges with an average of \$5,708 per full-time student, while the California State University and University of California systems receive \$11,972 and \$18,749 respectively. Although the state budget that has been introduced proposes to cut community college funding, the education and training we provide are major parts of the solution to the economic downturn in the state:

- Our businesses know that in order for us to compete in the world economy, we have to invest in education because it is critical to maintaining a competitive work force.
- Businesses know that we are in what they are calling an "invest or die" world.
- It is the same for our state. We must invest in education to turn this economy around.
- Long gone are the days when a high school diploma was sufficient to secure a high-wage job. In today's economy, such jobs require education and training beyond high school.
- California's business sector is deeply concerned about getting more skilled and educated workers to help support their businesses and to replace the boomers who are now retiring in record numbers.
- The demand will not decline. In fact, when the economy slumps and unemployment rises, demand for community college access increases.

With that in mind, the state's community colleges are working together, and individually, to make sure our legislators understand the significance of our roles. We need to communicate widely to underscore the importance of community colleges in California:

- We serve 73% of all students enrolled in higher education in California.
- Two-thirds of all CSU graduates and one-third of all UC graduates began their college years at community colleges as transfer students, and when community college students transfer, they earn grade point averages that are equal to or better than students who started out at UCs and CSUs.
- California community colleges are the largest provider of workforce training in California.
- Students earning a degree or certificate from a California community college increase their annual earnings by 63% in 3 years, so for every dollar that California invests to get students in and through college, the state's economy receives a \$3 return on investment as graduates earn better wages and become taxpayers too.

‘Although the state budget that has been introduced proposes to cut community college funding, the education and training these colleges provide are major parts of the solution to the economic downturn in the state’

— DR. DIANNE G. VAN HOOK

The current situation did not come as a surprise to us at College of the Canyons. It is something we anticipated and for which we prepared. Consequently, we are not considering layoffs of permanent staff. Although other districts are pursuing these as well as other "cut back" options, our planning will emphasize the retention of our faculty and staff, as well as support for our educational mission. We will also do our

best to keep instructional offerings at the level needed by our students.

The Santa Clarita Community College District has a sound budget system, has little debt, and maintains strong reserves. However, the reductions proposed in the Governor's budget could have a serious impact if they are enacted as they were proposed. We will work together as faculty, staff, students, administrators and Board of Trustees while we advocate preventing across-the-board cuts, as the impacts would be severe.

We have already started working to shape the outcome by meeting with our local state legislators, emphasizing the importance of growth and COLA funding, and providing them with sensible suggestions for budget cuts that will not impact our students. In the meantime, here are my predictions on the state budget situation:

- We won't have a state budget for FY 2008/09 until September or October;
- At COC, we will get more funding than most districts because we are a growth district (if growth funding is preserved);
- At COC, we will survive any mid-year budget cuts without chaos;
- We will develop spending plans with numerous scenarios as we can't spend money we don't get, but we need to be ready to move forward with the relevant plan when the budget is approved;
- We will continue to do what we have planned with new facilities, instructional equipment, and the high regard of the community; and
- We will continue to develop our people, our programs, our facilities, and our partnerships, and our students will benefit from what we do.

This is the fourth major budget crisis/recession the state has gone through in the last 18 years. Based on our history, COC has survived the challenges because people have pulled together, found solutions, looked for alternatives, and kept our college moving forward with amazing results. I expect nothing less in the current situation, and I am confident we will continue to make our community proud of our efforts and all that we have to offer.

Dr. Dianne Van Hook is superintendent-president of College of the Canyons.

COLLEGE RECEIVES \$ 1.3 MILLION TECH GRANT

Although Albert Fert and Peter Grünberg aren't exactly household names, thanks to their creation of technology used to read data on hard disks—a crucial component behind shrinking data storage systems—all of us are able to enjoy our MP3 players, iPods and laptops.

Both scientists were awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics last year for their discovery of giant magnetoresistance (GMR), which the Nobel citation lauded as "one of the first real applications of the promising field of nanotechnology."

On Jan. 4, 2008, College of the Canyons received a \$1.38 million dollar grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration that will go towards funding the college's new emerging technologies program, which will help train students, possibly future Fert and Grünbergs in-the-making, for high-skilled jobs such as nanotechnology technicians.

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(left to right) Congressman Howard P. "Buck" McKeon; Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development Sandy K. Baruah; Santa Clarita Community College District Board of Trustees President Ernest L. Tichenor; Assistant Superintendent/Vice President, Institutional Development, Technology and Online Services, Dr. Barry Gribbons; Santa Clarita City Councilmember, Marsha McLean; Mayor, City of Santa Clarita, Bob Kellar.

COC Names New Dean of Economic Development

Dr. Bruce Getzan has a full schedule. The new Dean of Economic Development at College of the Canyons hit the ground running since arriving from Sullivan County Community College in New York, filling his calendar with meetings and events to get a feel for Santa Clarita and what it needs.

But that's nothing new for Getzan. "This job combines what I've been doing for much of my professional life in terms of developing partnerships," he said.

As Dean of Workforce Development, Continuing Education and Lifelong Learning at Sullivan County Community College, he oversaw a variety of customized training, economic development, employee retention, tourist and corporate and community partnership initiatives. He was also active with chambers of commerce, local small business development centers, economic development agencies, departments

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COLLEGE AND FOOD PANTRY TEAM UP FOR STUDENTS

A college student needs many things, but the single most practical and overlooked necessity is food. It will come as a shock to many in the Santa Clarita Valley that often COC students have to make the choice between buying food or meeting other expenses. All too frequently, students are forced to pay other bills and go to class hungry.

To meet the needs of students like these, College of the Canyons has

teamed up with the Santa Clarita Valley Food Pantry. In exchange for the Food Pantry's expertise in collecting and distributing food to needy students, the college will conduct food drives periodically to help stock the Pantry's shelves.

The first food drive on the college's Valencia and Canyon Country campuses finished in mid-February. COC students and employees, a number which now well exceeds 20,000, donated canned goods and other non-perishable items.

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COC's Educational Travel Programs Take Students Across the Globe

Have you ever dreamed of learning French, while sipping a café au lait in Paris? Or studying art history by strolling through the Louvre Museum? Or practicing your photography skills while following the footsteps of Ansel Adams in Yosemite? With College of the Canyons' educational travel classes, your dreams can become reality.

By offering a wide range of destinations coupled with college classes, COC provides students and community members with opportunities to place their learning into a global context.

"Think of educational travel as an extended field trip," said James Glapa-Grossklag, co-chair of the educational travel advisory committee. "You register

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The Bottom Line is published by the College of the Canyons Public Information Office to inform the community of news and events of interest in the Santa Clarita Community College District.

Mailing Address
College of the Canyons
Santa Clarita Community College District
26455 Rockwell Canyon Road
Santa Clarita, CA 91355

Phone
(661) 259-7800
Internet
<http://www.canyons.edu>

Culinary Arts Program Dishes Up New Learning Opportunities

With a growing number of new courses and program options and a variety of burgeoning community partnerships that allow students to put their newly learned skills to work, the College of the Canyons culinary arts department is becoming a well-known entity both on campus and in the community.

"The department is really growing, and the community is really embracing us, which is exciting for our students," said Cindy Schwanke, noted pastry chef and COC culinary arts instructor. "Because of that support from the community, students are finding work right here in the Santa Clarita Valley and throughout southern California after leaving COC."

Though still relatively new on campus, having only been formed in 2006, the college's culinary arts department has already seen a number of its accomplished students go on to careers in various aspects of the industry.

"We've got some real superstars coming out of the program," said Schwanke in reference to former students who have gone on to work for SCV area restaurants and catering businesses.

Recently, Schwanke and a number of her students visited the Hyatt Valencia kitchen facilities on a fieldtrip and had the opportunity to meet with the hotel's general manager, executive chef and catering general manager. That meeting subsequently led to a partnership between the Hyatt and COC in which a small number of students were selected to work alongside the Hyatt staff at a recent wine tasting event.

"Experience-wise, that kind of an opportunity is huge," Schwanke said.

New students looking to enter the program or simply explore the vast culinary arts industry are encouraged to take Culinary Arts 121: Culinary Fundamentals I, which provides students with a basic introduction to the industry. The class includes principles of food selection, preparation and evaluation, and incorporates studies in meal management, various cuisines and food presentation.

"If you've ever thought there might be an inner chef in you, this is the class to take," Schwanke said. "There's a lot of cooking time and lots of time spent in the kitchen gaining useful, hands-on experience."

For more information about the culinary arts department, please contact Cindy Schwanke at (661) 362-3816 or cindy.schwanke@canyons.edu.



COC Nursing Program Receives Funding For Nurse Training

The College of the Canyons Nursing program has been awarded \$200,000 in additional funding by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger through the state's Song-Brown program — aid that will allow the college to hire additional nursing instructors and provide more lab space for students.

In all, the Governor awarded more than \$2.7 million to registered nurse training programs throughout the California, with COC's \$200,000 award ranking as the fifth-highest amount received by any school in the state.

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College Honored For Service Learning

College of the Canyons was recently named to the 2007 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll with Distinction as one of just 127 higher education institutions in the nation, and one of only 18 in the state, to receive the award.

In being commended for the amount of wide-ranging community service-learning courses and programs made available to students, COC was the only California Community College to earn "Distinction" honors, placing the college in the top tier of honored institutions.

"Martin Luther King said that the function of education is to teach one to think inten-

sively and to think critically...intelligence plus character, that is the goal of education," commented Jennifer Hauss, director of the colleges service-learning program.

"By building on the effective use of experience as an integral part of education, we are empowering our students and building stronger communities. Service-learning helps create wise and compassionate students," said Hauss.

Service-learning is a teaching and learning strategy that integrates meaningful community service with instruction and reflection to teach civic responsibility, strengthen communities and enrich the learning experience.

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Small Business Center Named The Best

The College of the Canyons Small Business Development Center won top honors at the 2007 Annual Los Angeles Regional SBDC Network meeting, winning three of the four awards that were presented, including "Top Overall Performing SBDC" and "Highest Overall Long-Term Clients."

The college's SBDC team member, Gil Murphy, was also awarded the "Top Consultant Award" at the awards ceremony held at the Crown Plaza in Los Angeles.

"Our organization's hardworking and professional staff has allowed our center to grow and make a difference in the local economy by helping over 2,000 businesses in its first two years," said Paul De La Cerda, director of the Small Business Development Center. "We are grateful for the support we receive from College of the Canyons and our corporate and government sponsors which allows us to continue to serve business owners in the Antelope, San Fernando, and Santa Clarita Valleys."

Since January 2006, the SBDC has served more than 3,000 people and has conducted more than 160 business and training seminars. The SBDC has assisted with \$1.5 million in capital investment into the local economy and has helped create 51 new jobs.

"The work done by the Santa Clarita SBDC, hosted by College of the Canyons, has in a very short period of time been noteworthy," said SBA District Director, Alberto G. Alvarado. "All small business owners and those aspiring thereto should be pleased with the services that are available through the SBDC. The recent

recognition that was given to College of the Canyons and its entrepreneurial staff underscores their commitment to the community in support of our growing small business sector. We salute director Paul De La Cerda and the entire staff for their work and this well deserved honor."

Funded by the U.S. Small Business Administration, the California Economic Workforce Development Program, community business sponsors and host institutions, the Small Business Development Centers offer free one-on-one business counseling and low-cost training workshops in English and Spanish providing special programs for minority, women, disabled and veteran owned businesses. Determined to help the local economy remain vibrant and strong, the COC SBDC fosters small business growth, offers one-stop assistance and a wealth of information, expertise and guidance to business owners and budding entrepreneurs in North Los Angeles County.

"College of the Canyons is proud of the role it plays in the ongoing development of Santa Clarita's dynamic economy. Fostering the growth of small businesses is an important aspect of our mission, and something we take seriously," said Dr. Dianne Van Hook, College of the Canyons Superintendent-President. "Being recognized for the excellent job we are doing is extremely gratifying."

For more information about the Small Business Development Center at College of the Canyons, please visit www.canyonsecondev.org or call (661) 294-9375.

Donated

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berries, small game and other available food sources.

"I think it must have been a daily task for them," said Tom, "and this just happened as a result of several generations using it every day. The more they used it, the more it took form, until finally the item was abandoned. Obviously it's so big they weren't going to put it on the back of a horse and take it with them."

The accompanying pestle, which was not discovered with the mortar and is not believed to be the original, measures 16 inches long, and is roughly 8 inches around at its thickest point.

"We are very appreciative of Mr. Asher's extraordinarily kind donation to the college," said Cathy Ritz, the COC Foundation's Chief Operational Officer. "It will serve as a precious learning tool for faculty members to provide students with some insight about the Native American culture that called this valley home so long ago."

According to COC anthropology professor Laurie Solis, who specializes in Great Basin archaeology and California prehisto-

ry, the Tataviam tribe — whose name means "people who face the sun" — settled near the upper Santa Clara River drainage in the Santa Clarita, Antelope and San Fernando Valleys some time before A.D. 450. Eventually Tataviam settlements spread throughout areas of present day Newhall, Saugus, Agua Dulce, Piru and Lake Elizabeth — with the Vasquez Rocks area most likely serving as a major "village complex" used for dwelling, food processing, tool making and other ceremonial and religious practices.

"Generally most large mortars were used until they were broken, so often archaeologists just find fragments, albeit large fragments," said Solis who is currently writing a book on the Tataviam. "This is exciting because it provides us with a complete mortar, and will allow instructors to be able to show students something that the original inhabitants used for survival, and transmit ideas about culture with something tangible that students can see first hand in the classroom."

But despite the mortar's obvious signs of use, determining the actual age of the

artifact may be difficult. "There's no real way to determine how old it is," explained COC anthropology professor Mike Mauer. "Artifacts like this may have been used for thousands of years, so if they aren't found in a context, and are just picked up on the surface without anything else around it that's dateable, there's really no way of saying."

The mortar and pestle are currently being housed in the College of the Canyons anthropology department, and are available for students to study and observe in a classroom setting.

However there has been talk of eventually displaying the artifact in one of the soon-to-be-built permanent buildings at the college's new Canyon Country Campus.

"This donation has certainly caused us to start thinking about a lot of different things we could do to display the artifact," said Richard Martinez, COC anthropology department chair, "but quite frankly, this is a first for us. "We haven't ever had anything of this significance donated before. The college and the department are very grateful for this one-of-a-kind donation."



Hurst Named COC Art Gallery Director

After years of wearing many different hats at the College of the Canyons Art Gallery, Larry Hurst thinks that his new hat, as gallery director, is the “perfect fit.”

“I’m having a great time,” said Hurst who joined the college in 1997, when the gallery first opened. Alongside former gallery director Joanne Julian, Hurst served as the gallery’s preparatory, instructional lab technician and as an adjunct instructor for the art department. With Julian’s retirement last year, Hurst took on more responsibility when both their duties were combined into his current position. “It’s a big job but it’s wonderful and challenging on every level,” said Hurst. “One such challenge is working on grants, which is something I have never done before, but offers terrific funding opportunities for the gallery.”

A Chouinard (now Cal Arts) graduate and sought-after art consultant for hospitals such as UCLA Medical Center and Cedars Sinai, Hurst is determined to do new things as gallery director, including reaching out to the community with community-based art exhibits. One of the gallery’s last shows, “Budding Artists: Selections from The Children’s Center,” displayed artwork made by children, which Hurst described as a “touching” and “rewarding” experience. “It was fun to watch them,” said Hurst. “Kids are so excited to see what they did and see it respected on a wall in a gallery. It’s encouraging to them because when you’re

CATCH A SHOW AT THE COC ART GALLERY		
Date	Exhibition	Opening Reception
March 17- April 2	Santa Clarita High School Exhibition	March 20, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.
April 19-30	The Great COC Birdhouse Extravaganza	April 22, 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.
May 13-27	COC Annual Student Exhibition	May 13, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
June 17-July 5	Hot Rods: The Influence of the Car Culture	June 21

The COC Gallery is located in Mentry Hall in the center of the Valencia campus. It is open to the public 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday. Visitors unable to attend during these hours are welcome to call the gallery at (661) 362-3612 to schedule an appointment.

a kid, someone always says, ‘That doesn’t look like a horse,’ so you just quit. You think, ‘I can’t draw.’ We are told what things are supposed to look like.”

In a way, Hurst’s open-minded approach to art is reflected in the exhibits he selects. Another of the gallery’s recent exhibitions, “Father and Son,” showcased the amateur home photography of Melvin Nelson next to the work of his fine-artist son, Michael Nelson. An upcoming exhibit at the gallery will display the work of Mr. Jalopy, who interestingly enough, does not consider himself an artist. “He’s quite the character, he’s an inventor,” said Hurst. Jalopy, who is a COC alumnus, is “very mechanical and brilliant,” added Hurst. Among one of Jalopy’s pieces that will be on display is a bike that can operate as a film projector.

But Hurst also wants to redefine the art gallery’s role at the college by thinking

big. In a perfect world, Hurst would like to have three galleries, a fine art gallery, a gallery operating in the library exclusively for community shows, and a gallery for student work. Another possibility would be to revive the college’s museum studies class, that would allow students to run a student gallery, curate, mount and present their own shows.

“I’ve been given a great opportunity,” said Hurst. “I’m really appreciative of the support I have received from my dean, Floyd Moos, Vice President of Instruction Mitjl Capet, and of course Superintendent-President Dr. Dianne Van Hook.” Hurst admits that he may have too many ideas, but he can’t hide his excitement. “Perhaps I need to slow down a bit because there’s always a limit in terms of resources,” he says. “But there’s no reason you can’t dream.”

Performing Arts Center Wins Architectural Design Award

The Santa Clarita Performing Arts Center at College of the Canyons has received a statewide award for its design. Architect Jim Spencer of NTD Architecture was awarded a 2007 Community College Facility Coalition (CCFC) Professional Design Award for his work on the center.

Spencer and his design team were presented the growth category Award of Merit for the 47,000-square-foot, \$18.3 million PAC facility for its design concept, planning and construction processes, relationship between the facility and surrounding campus environment, including pre-existing buildings and facilities, and its large community use and partnership potential.

Spencer, who served as the lead designer on the project from 1999 until its completion in 2004, was on hand to accept the prestigious award during the Community College Facility Coalition’s 14th Annual Conference in Sacramento.

“To win this award is a real thrill,” Spencer said. “It’s my first CCFC award, and I consider it especially important because this facility was judged against community college projects from across the state. Theaters in general are especially difficult to design and even harder to get funded, so it’s extremely meaningful for the PAC to have received this award.”

College of the Canyons built the center with \$15.9 million in state funds and an additional \$2.4 million from the City of Santa Clarita to increase the seating capacity.

“Both College of the Canyons and the city of Santa Clarita should take pride in receiving this honor,” said Spencer.

Spencer noted that he worked closely with college staff during both the design and construction stages of the Performing Arts Center. And he emphasized that Superintendent-President Dr. Dianne Van Hook, who fought for many years to get the funding for the center, provided critical design input to both exterior and interior features of the building. Importantly, she selected the final colors and materials for the public spaces: lobby carpeting, restroom tile and countertops, main hall walls and final stain selection of the acoustic louvers, making sure that the finishes accentuated the over-



World Class Events Close To Home

Date	Event	Event Description	Admission
March 29	Shidara	With thunderous speed and a driving purity, the power of Shidara comes from deep within the mountains of Japan with the masterful skill and blinding energy of one of the Far East’s most renowned taiko drum companies.	\$25-\$50
March 30	The Armed Man	“The Armed Man: a Mass for Peace” is the haunting and stirring work headlining the Santa Clarita Master Chorale’s spring concert, in honor and memory of our war veterans.	General: \$19-26 Seniors/Students: \$14-\$21
April 5	Visual Concert Series: The Soldier’s Tale	Igor Stravinsky’s “The Soldier’s Tale” is meant to be read, played and danced. The Santa Clarita Symphony, actors, a narrator and ballerina help tell the story of a soldier coming home to see his bride to be, only to be persuaded by the devil to sell his beautiful violin to him -- a devastating act that changes the soldier’s dreams forever.	For ticket sales please call (661) 284-6044.
April 6	An Elegant Evening of Jazz	The Russ Group’s “An Elegant Evening of Jazz,” features “Smooth Jazz” recording artists Keiko Matsui, Eric Darius and Nadia Darius, plus a special guest, the West Ranch High School Jazz Band.	\$45-\$125

Auditors Find COC's Finances 'In Full Compliance'

The financial state of the Santa Clarita Community College District, the College of the Canyons Foundation and the college's two local bond measures are all in full compliance with state, local and federal law, a series of independent audits has confirmed.

COC Superintendent-President Dianne Van Hook, the COC board of trustees, the Measure C Citizens' Oversight Committee and Measure M Citizens' Oversight Committee were presented with audit findings in January for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007. Audits were performed by Vavrinek, Trine, Day and Co. of Rancho Cucamonga.

Once again confirming the college district's long history of fiscal stability, the results of the series of six audits — one each for the district and COC foundation, and two for each bond measure — noted no exceptions, meaning no adjustments were found and that funds had been handled and spent properly.

In addition, College of the Canyons was issued an unqualified report, the best rating possible, for the district's financial statements and federal- and state-awarded funds — while also receiving high praise from the firm, which complimented the college's staff for operating with such great financial responsibility.

"I have reviewed the district's audit, and once again it confirms and reaffirms the highest level of fiscal stability in the Santa Clarita Community College District and

attests to our compliance with appropriate accounting procedures and controls," Van Hook said.

Findings of the audit showed the value of the district's net assets increasing almost 48 percent to roughly \$55.7 million in the last fiscal year — growth attributed to recently completed and ongoing capital projects including the COC Canyon Country Campus, and new Hasley Hall, Aliso Lab, Aliso Hall and Physical Education buildings on the Valencia campus.

The district also ended the fiscal year with a fund balance of more than \$7.8 million, roughly 12 percent of the general fund's unrestricted expenses. The California Community College Chancellor's office sets a minimum prudent fund balance of five percent of general fund unrestricted expenses.

The independent audit of the COC Foundation also showed no findings of concern, but did highlight some of the organization's financial growth over the last year. In total, the COC Foundation provided the district and its students with more than \$882,000 in total contributions — including instructional support to academic programs, student programs and clubs and the awarding of student scholarships — while also holding reserve fund balances of more than \$3.9 million for future use by the district, and roughly \$971,000 in restricted endowment and scholarship accounts, which benefit the district and its students through the use of interest earnings.

Budget Cuts

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enrollment growth at community colleges statewide. Since not all colleges have growing enrollments, these funds are distributed based on a college's individual rate. Santa Clarita continues to attract new residents, so College of the Canyons routinely grows 10 percent or more each year, and relies on the funds ear-marked at the state level for enrollment growth to add additional classes, hire new faculty, and accommodate greater numbers of students.

This year, Governor Schwarzenegger proposed only a one percent increase to fund enrollment growth — a third of what is normally funded. This means there will be less money to divide among community colleges in California whose enrollments are on the rise.

For example, if College of the Canyons

would be eligible to grow by 10 percent, it would most likely be funded to grow three percent or less under the Governor's plan.

A 10 percent growth rate for 2008-09 would yield an additional \$6,377,678 in funding over what College of the Canyons received in the current budget year. If that were funded at the three percent rate, the College would receive only \$1,913,303, meaning it would forego \$4,464,375.

"This type of dramatic reduction," said Bozman, "affects how much new revenue the College has available to expand access for students, work with businesses to meet labor market demands for employees, and move forward with district plans and priorities to increase services to the community."

According to Van Hook, the Governor's

The college's two voter-approved general obligation bonds — Measure C and Measure M — each underwent separate performance and financial audits to ensure that the college's expenditures are appropriate and disbursements are made in accordance with all laws and regulations. In each case, no exceptions were noted, meaning no adjustments were found and bond funds were spent appropriately.

For Measure C — the \$82.1 million bond measure approved by Santa Clarita Valley voters in 2001 — auditors tested 52 percent of all bond transactions and found no exceptions, with all documents supporting transactions in order.

For Measure M — the \$160 million bond measure approved in 2006, auditors examined 100 percent of the bond transactions, at the request of the college, and again found no exceptions, with all supporting documentation in proper order. Typically auditors only examine a randomly selected portion of the bond transactions.

Funds generated by both bonds have been used to build a variety of new facilities, make much-needed campus upgrades and improvements, and help open the new Canyon Country Campus. Present and future projects that will benefit from bond proceeds include the permanent University Center, currently under construction on the southern edge of the Valencia campus, and an expanded library and student services buildings.

January budget is a starting point for the state budgeting process, and it will be revised again in May. The Legislature will also discuss it in their committees, and further negotiations will take place between the Governor and leaders in the Senate and Assembly before it is finalized.

In the meantime, College of the Canyons faculty, staff, administrators, students, and Board of Trustees members will be working in the coming months to ensure the Legislature understands the impact of the proposed cuts to College of the Canyons, and how they might affect the college's services to the community.

If you would like to learn more about the college's advocacy efforts with regard to the state budget, please contact Eric Harnish at (661) 362-3400.

Tech Grant

FROM PAGE 3

Presented by the U.S. Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development Sandy Baruah and Congressman Howard P. Buck McKeon, the federal grant will help the college purchase the high-tech equipment needed to train students as laboratory technicians in the growing fields of biotechnology, nano-technology and autonomous technology.

"America's competitiveness and innovation flourish in vibrant, economically growing communities that are creating jobs and opportunities," said Baruah. "The Santa Clarita Community College District's Emerging Technologies Program will help boost the manufacturing sector, creating high-skill, high-wage jobs for the region's citizens."

Between 1990 and 2003, California lost 372,000 manufacturing jobs, while Los Angeles saw a decline of more than

300,000 factory workers. Manufacturing creates 2.5 additional secondary jobs for every new manufacturing job. In addition, the United States Department of Labor estimates that biological technicians, a key biotechnology occupation, are expected to grow significantly by 2012, outpacing the growth of biological scientists.

The college's emerging technologies program, a joint effort between the college's Engineering and Biology Departments and the Economic Development Division, will help prepare workers for new, high-wage jobs in advanced manufacturing and biomed/biotech companies.

"The grant will multiply and will grow over \$6 million in economic growth to the community," said McKeon. "It's nice to get taxpayers' money back to the community."

The college's program is expected to

create 300 jobs and generate \$6 million in private investment.

"We are unique in being able to bring this level of a program to the community, it is certainly unique in the state," said Dena Maloney, the college's founding dean of Canyon Country Campus and former dean of economic development.

Receiving federal funds from the U.S. Department of Commerce is very competitive.

"To get EDA funds, you have to demonstrate the ability to develop economic impact and to create jobs," said Maloney. "The EDA believed we had the ability to do that, based on our track record. It's been a long process."

The grant is the first received by the college from the Department of Commerce.

"It will create many opportunities for students," added Maloney. "It's an exciting day."

Dean

FROM PAGE 3

of labor and other colleges and universities in the state and region helping to identify, develop, administer and evaluate grants and programs which enhance business and community development.

Getzan looks forward to being equally involved in Santa Clarita, but first he wants to hear what others have to say. "One of the first things you do is come in the door and listen," he said. "That's my goal here in the first weeks."

He wants to learn the needs of the local business community, hear their ideas about what College of the Canyons can do to help bolster the continued growth of local companies, and then move quickly to implement them. "That's one of the challenges in this field, delivering things that are needed yesterday," he said. "I've always been the entrepreneur on campus."

And that too is nothing new for Getzan. His previous experience includes serving as vice president for Lifelong Learning and CEO of the regional Police Academy at Gloucester County College in New Jersey and developing a broad range of customized training programs for business and community groups. He also was a liaison for business and community development at Delaware Technical & Community College, serving as chair of the New Castle County Chamber's Training and Educa-



New College of the Canyons Dean of Economic Development Dr. Bruce Getzan has maintained a busy schedule since arriving on campus, as he looks to learn the needs of the local business community and discuss new ideas about how the college can help bolster the continued economic growth in the area

tion Committee in Delaware and a facilitator at the White House Conference on Small Business, and he has been a consultant on economic development in Delaware, metropolitan Philadelphia and the Mid-Atlantic regions.

Getzan earned his B.A. and M.A. in history from the University of Michigan and his doctoral degree in Higher Education Leadership is from the University of

Delaware. His dissertation focused on Collegiate Auxiliary Income-Producing Activities: Conflicts and Cooperation with Business, and he has lectured throughout the country on establishing successful guidelines for college/business relationships. He also served as vice president and a member of the Board of Directors of the Association of Conference and Events Directors-International.

Learning

FROM PAGE 4

With the belief that students can make valuable contributions to the world as they gain educational experience, COC strives to both increase community involvement and strengthen student leadership skills through direct service and the building of meaningful community relationships.

Last semester, service-learning projects at COC included the participation of roughly 40 faculty members from across the college's various disciplines, 75 non-profit community-based organizations and more than 350 students.

Projects included a collaboration with the County of Los Angeles Department of Children and Family Services Tutoring and Mentoring Project, and the partnership that resulted in the Santa Clarita Valley free, drive-thru flu clinic — jointly sponsored by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, the city of Santa Clarita, the L.A. County Sheriff's Department and College of the Canyons — in which COC nursing and EMT students gained valuable experience working with patients and dispensing flu vaccinations.

Launched in 2006, the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll annually recognizes institutions of higher education that support innovative, effective and exemplary community service programs — and is jointly sponsored by the Corporation for National and Community Service, Department of Education, Department of Housing and Urban Development, USA Freedom Corps, Campus Compact and the President's Council on Service and Civic participation.

Selection criteria is based on a number of factors including the institution's scope and effectiveness of service projects, the percentage of student enrollment engaged in community service activities and the presence of community service and service-learning goals in the institution's strategic plan.

"There is no question that the universities and colleges that have made an effort to participate and win the Honor Roll Award are themselves being rewarded today," said David Ward, President of the American Council on Education. "Earning this distinction is not easy. But now each of these schools will be able to wear this award like a badge of honor."

Food Pantry

FROM PAGE 3

"We are thrilled to partner with COC to distribute supplemental food to low-income students," said Belinda Crawford, executive director of the SCV Food Pantry. "Studies have shown the link between nutrition and learning and we all know how difficult it is to concentrate when you've skipped even one meal. The SCV Food Pantry wants to do our part to see that COC students have the opportunity to excel," said Crawford.

According to hunger facts from www.freedomfromhunger.org, hunger leads to slow thinking and a lack of energy, both of which will hinder a college student's performance. To survive a long day of classes, work and everyday activities, the human body requires proper sustenance and col-

lege students, in particular, need to have suitable nutrition during such a high-pressure time of life.

"I am one of many employees at COC who embraces our students as family and I don't know of anyone who would let a family member go hungry," said Fashia Skjelstad, scholarship specialist at the college. "This partnership," stressed Skjelstad, "will help students who are struggling with transportation by bringing the Food Pantry to them."

Once collected, food will be available on campus for Board of Governors Fee Waiver (BOGW) students. The BOGW waives enrollment fees for qualified California residents. COC has 3,897 students that are BOGW students. To qualify for BOGW the

student or student's family must be 150% below the poverty line. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the poverty line is measured by the minimum essentials required for an acceptable standard of living. Poverty lines differ in relation to the size of a family unit.

The SCV Food Pantry, established in 1986, provides qualified local residents with supplemental food. As local residents of Santa Clarita, the students of COC will now be able to benefit from this volunteer-operated program.

Anyone wishing to volunteer for the food drive and distribution should contact Belinda Crawford, www.scvfoodpantry.org, or call at (661) 255-9078, cell (661) 755-3190.

Nursing

FROM PAGE 4

"These programs help nursing students by providing them more opportunities to pursue careers in nursing and help communities by directing more services to medically under-served areas across the state," Schwarzenegger said. "This is also part of my long-term commitment to address California's nursing shortages by helping to expand nursing programs and improve the supply of qualified nurses in our state."

At College of the Canyons those funds will help pay for the hiring of additional skills lab coordinators to staff skills labs at various hospitals throughout the region — including Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Hospital, Providence Holy Cross Medical Center, Sherman Oaks Hospital and Glendale Memorial Hospital. "This additional funding will allow us to hire more skills lab coordinators and make more skills labs available to students, meaning

there will be fewer students in each lab and more time to spend practicing their skills," said Sue Albert, Dean of Allied Health at COC. "Our goal is to have these students successfully complete the program and be employed by our local hospitals. We appreciate that the Governor still recognizes the tremendous need to train more nurses despite the current budget shortfalls."

The Song-Brown program — which is administered by the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development — was established in 1973 to increase the number of family practice physicians, physician assistants and registered nurses being trained in the state to provide needed medical services to Californians. Since Schwarzenegger took office in 2003 the Song-Brown program has awarded nearly \$29 million to health professions education and training programs throughout California.

Travel

FROM PAGE 3

for a class, attend initial class meetings on-campus or online, do some of the reading and homework, and then you head to the airport and begin your learning adventure. You will broaden your knowledge of a subject area, increase your global perspective, develop your ability to apply what you learn in the classroom to the world around you, and travel with people who are as interested in expanding their horizons as you are."

Since educational travel classes are regular, for-credit classes, participants can earn academic credit. Naturally, there is homework, but that homework is integrated into the location. For example, participants taking the French class in Paris might plan an outing for their classmates using the Paris Metro, or take their fellow classmates to a restaurant and order everything in French. Those taking the photography class in Yosemite might take a sunrise photo walk and try to replicate some of Ansel Adam's iconic images.



"Can there be many better places to study the history of art than in Paris?" asked Glapa-Grossklag. "Even the most meticulous note-taking done from the lecture of a passionate instructor in a traditional classroom setting, won't beat seeing some of the world's greatest artworks firsthand."

In years past, classes and destinations have included biology and Spanish in Central America, humanities and history in China, interior design and architecture in Italy, and history in Mexico. During Summer 2008, classes and destinations include French and art history in Paris; Spanish in Salamanca, Spain with visits to Madrid, Segovia and Avila; photography and history in Yosemite; biology in the Galapagos Islands; and theatre and history in Great Britain. With the college's educational travel opportunities, you can begin making your dreams of travel

and learning come true. For more information, please see www.canyons.edu/educationaltravel.

Art Center

FROM PAGE 7

all architectural statement and features of the building, bringing all the elements together for a stunning visual impact.

Also credited during Spencer's acceptance were Jim Schrage, COC vice president of facilities; Brodie Steele, PAC technical director; Susan Hinshaw, chair of the COC theatre department; Bernardo Feldman, chair of the COC music department; Yuan Chen, Reuben Wooton and Mark Major of NTD Architecture, and Tim Phillips and the entire construction management team at Klassen Corp.

"The Performing Arts Center is a beautifully designed facility for College of the Canyons students and the larger Santa Clarita Valley community to use and enjoy," Schrage said. "With its unique design concept, impeccable construction quality and capacity to serve as a venue for both small and large scale theater and musical performances, academic presentations and a wide variety of community events, the PAC is and will continue to be one of the college's most significant community contributions for decades to come."

The Community College Facility Coalition (CCFC) is a statewide coalition composed of community college districts, facility planners, architects, developers, financial institutions, attorneys and consultants dedicated to advocacy for community college facilities issues and the provision of critical information and services associated with facility matters to community college districts and their business partners.

To be considered for an award, projects must be designed for a CCFC member community college and may include: campus academic and administration buildings, theaters, stadiums, bookstores, dormitories, parking facilities and other architectural projects related to a community college's facilities.

"The project design was intended to create a gateway statement for the college and reach out to the community as a kind of lantern or welcoming gesture which could be lit up at night," Spencer said. "That was the primary reasoning for the large circular glass-windowed lobby that faces outward toward Rockwell Canyon Road. The curve of the PAC lobby also compliments the opposite curve of the library, allowing the two buildings to work together visually."

The Santa Clarita Performing Arts Center features a 7,500-square-foot proscenium stage with accompanying 886 to 926-seat theater depending on performance configurations, an experimental "black box" theater and seating area, a green room, scene shops, costume and prop storage, an orchestra pit, make-up and dressing room areas, lockers, showers, restrooms and both a ticket booth and lobby snack bar.

As the premiere performance destination of the Santa Clarita Valley, the Center serves as an integral part of the college's performing arts curriculum and community partnership plans as a facility designed for both campus and community use.