

# The Bottom Line

NEWS & VIEWS FROM COLLEGE OF THE CANYONS SUMMER 2008

## President's REPORT



Dr. Dianne Van Hook

We recently hosted our 38th Commencement at College of the Canyons. This year, 1,255 students graduated from the college – more than ever before.

It is always an amazing thrill for me to stand on the stage and look out into the crowd of graduates. The sight of them in their navy blue gowns is an inspiring one. The pride of their family and friends sitting just behind them is evident too. The whole scene speaks of accomplishment, opportunity, commitment and promise.

Commencement is the crowning moment of the academic year at College of the Canyons. It embodies why we do what we do, and it is an opportunity to reflect on our own achievements as

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## Silver Spur Honors Crawford



Wayne and Diane Crawford celebrate after he received the 2008 Silver Spur Award for Community Service from the College of the Canyons Foundation at a spring gala held at Universal Studios.

With “Casablanca” flickering from three movie screens and College of the Canyons English professor Fred D’Astoli sitting at the piano playing “As Time Goes By,” the night was bound to be a classic one when the College of the Canyons Foundation honored its 2008 “Silver Spur” Community Service Award recipient, Wayne Crawford.

Held at the Universal Studios Globe Theater, more than 200 people attended the event, including Mayor Bob Kellar, State Assemblyman Cameron Smyth and his wife Lena, Ed Masterson from Smyth’s office and his wife Valerie, and Bob Haeuter from Congressman Buck McKeon’s field office.

Guests were treated to a three-course meal catered by renowned chef Wolfgang Puck, followed by a spirited live auction led by auctioneer Mark Drilling. A sampling of the items included two VIP passes to the 2008 Loose Goose Wine Festival and a selection of premium wines; lunch in the House of Representatives with Congressman Buck McKeon with a tour of the US Capitol; and dinner for eight at the Crawford residence. The final auction item was the opportunity to name the amphitheater at the College of the Canyons Canyon Country Campus. Larry Rasmussen won the bid at \$25,000 and plans to name it after his late father, Carl A. Rasmussen.

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## New PAC Season Offers Unique Series

The upcoming season for the Santa Clarita Performing Arts Center at College of the Canyons is sure to be a promising one, and it will also be an innovative one. Unlike past seasons, the 2008-2009 season performances will be “clustered” into different series that cater to specific tastes.

“This year our goal is to reach new audiences, while continuing with the outstanding world-class performances that Santa Clarita has come to expect,” said Adam Philipson, managing director of the Santa Clarita Performing Arts Center. “I am very excited about this fifth season.”

**New Season**  
to be announced June 12

Among the six series that comprise the season is the Great Performance Series, which features headlining performances, the Roots and Folk Series that will showcase the best in country and bluegrass music and the Almost Free Family Series that will offer affordable family-friendly entertainment.

Besides professional shows, student and community performances will also be included in the

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WE BELIEVE IN TEACHING, LEADING AND STAYING AT THE FOREFRONT OF CHANGE

## Van Hook

FROM PAGE 1

an institution. We are here to serve students, and thereby open doors for the future, and as I look back on the past year I can't help but marvel at all that we accomplished in our efforts to do so.

Our most significant achievement was the opening of the Canyon Country Campus in time for the fall semester, and the opportunities it will create for students. We've known for years that our community would need a campus on the eastern side of the Santa Clarita Valley. To meet the initial demand for access to education there, we began offering classes at local high schools, then established a presence at the Canyon Country Library.

That led to us purchasing land on Sierra Highway and planning in earnest for a separate, full-service, stand-alone campus. Initial projections done some years ago showed we would need room for about 1,500 students when we opened the Canyon Country site. But as we began laying out the campus, we updated our estimates and found we could expect twice as many students to attend the new campus.

We expanded the design accordingly, and proved that if you build it, they will come. I'll never forget standing on a freshly poured sidewalk at the new campus and watching hundreds of cars pour into the newly paved parking lot. Cheerful students walked to their classrooms and marveled at what we had assembled in the 13 months since we started grading the property. Nearly 3,500 students took classes at the Canyon Country Campus that first semester.

Time and again we heard from students who were so appreciative of the opportunities created by the debut of the new campus.

Whether they were high school students, working adults, or full-time students juggling class and work schedules, those

who took advantage of what was offered were impressed with the convenience, variety, and accessibility of the Canyon Country Campus.



*'We are here to serve students, and thereby open doors for the future, and as I look back on the past year I can't help but marvel at all that we accomplished in our efforts to do so.'*

– DR. DIANNE G. VAN HOOK

The debut of new facilities at the Valencia Campus also made this a significant year in the history of College of the Canyons. Two projects were completed in time for the fall semester, giving students access to more classes, and new state-of-the-art learning facilities.

Aliso Hall and Aliso Laboratory provided an influx of much-needed space for our science programs, including new labs, large lecture hall classrooms, and office space. With more rooms, we are able to offer more classes and accommodate more students who need science classes to move into high-demand fields like nursing, bio, nano, and autonomous technologies.

Hasley Hall boasts new computer labs, and computer-equipped classrooms, putting up-to-the-minute technology in the hands of students in economics, business, computer information technology, computer science, and journalism classes.

While students take advantage of all that these new facilities have to offer, an innovative concept in access to education is taking shape at the south end of the Valencia campus. When completed, the University Center will make bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees available from leading four-year colleges and universities available on our campus. We anticipate having 10 partners offer more than 70 different degrees in the new Center, meaning students will not have to leave the Santa Clarita Valley to fulfill their educational goals.

So next year, as I watch our proud graduates receive their diplomas, I know I will still see many of them back on our campus in the fall semester, enrolled in a four-year degree program and working towards achieving their educational goals in the convenience of the Santa Clarita Valley. It's all part of our commitment at College of the Canyons to making education accessible, and opening the doors of the future.

*Dr. Dianne Van Hook is Superintendent-President of College of the Canyons.*



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.

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# New State Budget Supports Colleges

Governor Schwarzenegger released the May Revise of his 2008-09 budget on May 14, and the funding provisions for community colleges are better than expected.

Amidst speculation that the May Revise would suggest cuts more severe than those put forth in January's first draft of the budget, community college leaders were wary of what the latest proposal would contain when it was released. The news is good when viewed in light of the state's overall budget picture, however.

Legislators are wrestling with a deficit pegged at somewhere between \$20 and \$24 billion. Consequently, many state departments will face severe funding cuts in the 2008-09 budget year. With that in

mind, the community colleges fared well in the Governor's Budget. The following highlights the major provisions of the Governor's proposal:

- No increase in student fees. They will remain at \$20 per unit.
- Property tax backfill. When property tax revenues came in lower than expected for 2007-08, community colleges faced an unexpected \$92 million statewide shortfall. Our share of that at College of the Canyons was \$1.1 million. The Governor proposes a backfill of \$75 million to be made available in 2008-09.
- Growth funding. The Governor allocated \$95.5 million for enrollment growth (1.67 percent), enough to serve approximately 20,000 more students statewide. Growth

funding is critical in light of expected increases in enrollment due to growing unemployment, along with higher fees and enrollment caps at UC and CSU campuses that will funnel more students back to community colleges. Without additional funds for enrollment growth, we will not be able to add the classes needed to serve increasing numbers of students.

- No Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA). Like any business, College of the Canyons faces increasing costs for things like insurance, health benefits, fuel, and other goods and services. Without COLA to offset such increases, we may find more of our general fund spending going towards these fixed costs, rather than in the classroom.

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## Drivers' Ed & Traffic School Now Online

Young drivers learning the ways of the road and ticketed motorists fulfilling their court requirements can both look to College of the Canyons for help, as the Community Education department is now offering online drivers' education and traffic school.

Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, the self-paced, 30-hour, online drivers education training course is licensed by the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and is 100 percent guaranteed -- meaning if you don't pass, you don't pay. The cost is \$85.

Community Education also is offering online traffic school, as opposed to the traditional in-person courses available at both the COC Valencia and Canyon Country campuses.

At just \$39, the online traffic school is DMV-approved and 100 percent guaranteed. Users have unlimited retakes on the test. After passing, the results are forwarded to meet necessary court requirements -- with overnight delivery options available.

For more information about the College of the Canyons Community Education online drivers' education and traffic school courses, or to register for classes, please visit [www.canyons.edu/communityed](http://www.canyons.edu/communityed).

## Students Set to Explore Careers at Summer Institute

Offering more than just the typical summer camp experience, the new College of the Canyons Community Education Junior High Summer Institute provides parents with a reliable day care option, while presenting students with a series of stimulating hands-on activities dedicated to highlighting possible career paths.

Designed for incoming seventh and eighth-graders, the Junior High School Summer Institute allows students the option of selecting from a group of fun and innovative curriculum tracks — designed and taught primarily by COC faculty members — in the areas of film, fine arts and photography, science and theatre.

"We created the Summer Institute with

two things in mind," said Gina Bogna, director of community education at COC. "To expose young minds to possibilities that may encourage a career path, and to provide an alternative to the traditional day care summer camp."

With no homework and no grades, students will be free to focus on their daily experiences and decide what subject areas interest them most. "The curriculum offered here will contain very little theory and instead consist of primarily hands-on activities," Bogna said.

Parents and students interested in attending can plan on a three-week immersion experience in all things fun, during which instructors will expose students to a specific area of expertise in an exciting and age-appropriate manner. In addition, each curriculum track will include a specific



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# Amphitheater Officially Named

On May 14th the College of the Canyons board of trustees officially approved the naming of the recently completed amphitheater at the COC Canyon Country Campus (CCC) the Carl A. Rasmussen Amphitheater.

Local developer and President of Spirit Properties, Ltd. Larry Rasmussen secured the naming rights of the amphitheater in exchange for a \$25,000 donation to the college — during the live-auction portion of the College of the Canyons Foundation's 2008 Silver Spur Celebration.

Serving as a memorial to Larry's father, longtime community member Carl A. Rasmussen, the amphitheater features a plaque with his name and years of birth and death with the accompanying quote "don't confuse where you're going with who you're going with."

"My dad was full of great quotes," said Rasmussen. "He'd tell you something and then a week later you'd finally figure out what he had said."

"But it's a quote about young people getting in the wrong crowd and going off in the wrong direction," said Rasmussen. "There are too many people, not just young people, but people who get in with a certain group and then go off in some direction."

Adding that the donation was not intended to draw attention to his father or the family, Rasmussen said he hopes visitors to the amphitheater will "think about where they're going at this stage in their life, and where they might be going."

"I'm thrilled and proud that Larry chose the College of the Canyons Canyon Country Campus as a place to honor his father," said Dena Maloney, CCC founding dean. "By naming the amphitheater and supporting the new campus Larry has created a wonderful legacy which our students will enjoy for many years to come."

Designed for the use of students, staff and community members alike, the Carl A. Rasmussen Amphitheater is envisioned as a venue capable of hosting live performances and concerts, community gatherings, campus activities and other special events.

Completed on December 31, 2007, the amphitheater features a flat seating area and elevated stage — as opposed to the bowl format and tiered rows of seating used in the Valencia campus' amphitheater — and will be surrounded by concentric grass and a series of concrete rings which will both provide disabled access and serve as a convenient seating alternative for visitors without blankets or chairs.

Located near the center of the CCC next to a large green space, The Carl A. Rasmussen Amphitheater will eventually be surrounded by the campus' soon-to-be-built permanent buildings — thus representing one of the first truly permanent aspects of the new campus.

## Donors Building Legacy at New Campus

Members of the community wishing to memorialize a loved one, or pay dedication to a special graduate, professor, or family member can now have their names etched in stone with the College of the Canyons Canyon Country Campus' "Help Create a Legacy Campaign."

### Decorative Stones

The decorative sand-blasted Arizona stones will be engraved with the name of a person or business and set in the amphitheater's beautiful walkway. Donation: \$300.

### Benches

The name of a person or business will be inscribed on one of the campus' seven-foot cast-concrete benches. Situated throughout the scenic campus, these commemorative benches will serve as a lasting tribute while providing beautiful seating for the entire campus community. Donation: \$500.

### Tables

Have your name or company featured on an inscribed plate placed on a commemorative picnic table located in one of the many quad areas. Donation: \$1,000.

All donations will support the Canyon Country Campus Innovation Fund, which enhances academic programs, provides for campus improvements and promotes innovation at the Canyon Country Campus (CCC).

For more information, please contact Sharon Platz of the COC Foundation at (661) 362-3434.

## Silver Spur

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Co-chaired by Gary and Myrna Condie and Jeff and Kiki Hacker, the event honored Crawford's long-standing commitment to the Santa Clarita Valley.

His record of community service includes helping organize the Crawford-Fleming Invitational Golf Tournament benefitting the Sheila R. Veloz Breast Imaging Center, co-chairing the Boys and Girls Club Festival of Trees, and serving as chair of Carousel Ranch's capital campaign to raise \$1.5 million. Recently, Crawford also donated much-needed supplies to complete the city's memorial garden dedicated to local youth who have lost their lives in car accidents.

Crawford's support for College of the Canyons has involved numerous major projects, including the Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook University Center capital campaign, the College of the Canyons

Foundation President's Circle, and past Silver Spur events. He was also a major supporter of the 2001 Measure C and 2006 Measure M bond campaigns. Crawford also serves on countless boards, including Carousel Ranch, the Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Hospital, the Boys and Girls Club, and the Child and Family Center Advisory board.

The Silver Spur Award for Community service has been presented by the Foundation annually since 1989 and was created to reflect the western heritage of the Santa Clarita Valley. Previous recipients of the award include Aggie Agajanian, Scott and Ruth Newhall, Tom Dierckman, John Hoskinson, Robert Ormsby, Dick Luechtefeld, Roberta Veloz, Michael Berger, Lou Garasi, Tom Lee, Jay and Joyce Rodgers, Gary Cusumano, Charlotte and Frank Kleeman, Tom Veloz, and Rita Garasi.

## Getting Acquainted with Canyon Country



Clockwise from top left. The COC Canyon Country Campus hosted a business mixer with the Santa Clarita Valley Chamber of Commerce. Local restaurants presented a "Taste of Canyon Country." COC President Dianne Van Hook is joined by Jill Harper, a member of the Canyon Country Campus Advisory Committee. Local beauty pageant winners were on hand. COC Culinary Arts students helped serve food at the event. Terry Amrhein of Jo's Country Baskets and COC's Pete Bellas enjoy the event. A special cake depicts the beauty of the campus.

## Philipson: Arts Professional Leading the PAC

A new era is being ushered in at the Santa Clarita Performing Arts Center (PAC) at College of the Canyons in 2008, as new managing director Adam Philipson brings his theatrical experience and expertise to the PAC.

Philipson, who holds a master of arts in organizational management with a special customization in arts management from Antioch University, replaces outgoing theater manager Karen Schmidt, who relocated to Nevada.

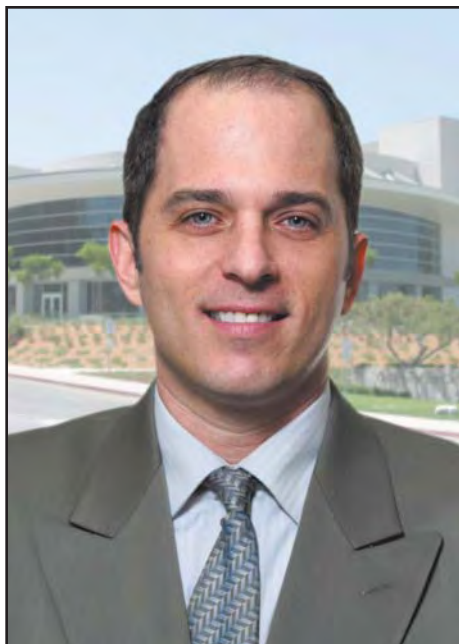
Having had the opportunity to see some performances in the PAC and witness firsthand the way it has served the community before coming to the college, Philipson now plans to take the PAC's tradition of industry excellence, as established by his predecessors, a step further.

"What I was really drawn to about College of the Canyons and the Performing Arts Center is that the facility is being used by professional groups, by the college and by the community, and that blend is really attractive," Philipson said. "I see this as a great opportunity to help take the PAC to the next level, and that's really exciting to me."

Before coming to COC, Philipson worked at Santa Monica College (SMC) beginning in 1999. However, his resume also includes an extensive 16-year professional acting background, including roles in several off-Broadway performances, two national tour theatrical productions, and one Broadway role with more than 400 performances as Eugene Morris Jerome in Neil Simon's "Broadway Bound." In addition, Philipson has appeared in more than 100 national and local television and radio commercials, and more than 25 episodic television programs and feature films.

During his tenure at SMC, Philipson held a number of different positions, but most recently served as both the assistant director of the Madison Project at SMC, the non-profit operating entity of the college's \$45 million performance and visual arts center, and managing director of the Madison Performance Series and accompanying youth arts education programs.

"One of the things I tried to do at Santa Monica College was to find new and interesting ways to work with students and



Adam Philipson brings a wide range of entertainment experience to his new role as managing director of the Santa Clarita Performing Arts Center at College of the Canyons.

partner with faculty, so I'm really excited about developing that type of synergy with the students, faculty, staff and surrounding community here at COC," Philipson said.

While at SMC, Philipson was involved in a number of community outreach and

arts education programs, including collaborations with the Los Angeles Opera Company and The Museum of Tolerance, to offer an after-school Opera Camp and the development of various K-12 arts education programs and performances in the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District — while also coordinating a series of educational arts performances for students of all ages to attend throughout the school year.

As another part of his duties at SMC, Philipson was responsible for producing all of the Madison Project's performance-related and fundraising activities, providing oversight of the theater's \$2.4 million annual operational budget and accompanying district departmental and foundation budgets, as well as the coordination and booking of all artists for the SMC Performance Series.

"There are many statistics showing what happens to students when they are versed in the arts and educated in the visual and performing arts standards," he said. "As arts education funding continues to be cut in local schools, performing arts centers have increasingly been stepping in to fill that role, so working with the local school districts here in the Santa Clarita Valley is something that I'm absolutely excited about."

### Season

FROM PAGE 1

upcoming performing arts season, as well as a number of special events.

"In addition to the wonderful public events, College of the Canyons dance, music, and theatre students will have several opportunities to work directly with national and international stars," said Floyd Moos, dean of fine and performing arts at the college. "Students who participate in master classes and interact closely with the professionals receive a real 'value-added' education."

Details of the lineup are still being finalized, and will be announced at a special press conference scheduled for June 12. Santa Clarita residents can expect to receive their season brochure in the mail

by mid-July. Subscription tickets go on sale July 17 and single purchase tickets go on sale August 15.

For more information about the season and how to purchase tickets, visit the Santa Clarita Performing Art Center's Web site at [www.canyonspac.com](http://www.canyonspac.com).



# Scholarships Unlock the Future

This year the College of the Canyons Institutional Scholarship Program will award approximately \$92,000 in the form of roughly 100 scholarships designed to assist students on their educational paths, while honoring their academic achievements and special talents and interests.

Created solely for COC students, funding for the annual scholarship program comes from two major partners, the Associated Student Government and COC Foundation, which raise funds and accept donated gifts and endowments from private individuals, community organizations, corporations and other foundations in order to fund and create a multitude of student scholarships.

"Often students need to work full-time jobs and support families while attending college, and the cost of books, transportation, computers and child care can put a real strain on their ability to succeed," said Michele Edmonson, College of the Canyons Foundation Assistant Director of Development. "The College of the Canyons Foundation Board of Directors understands this and has launched these scholarship programs to promote student success."

That student success can be seen in the lives and careers of COC students who have realized their dreams thanks to the support of scholarship funds.

COC student Nicole Franklin, 34, is a single mother to her son Isaiah, and guardian to her teenage cousin Victoria. In 2000, Franklin was forced to take a leave of absence from school to support and care for her family.

After five years out of the classroom spent working three jobs and often operating each day on just a few hours sleep, Franklin decided she needed to go back and finish her degree requirements.



Scholarships awarded by the College of the Canyons Foundation enabled Nicole Franklin (middle) to pursue her educational goals while raising her son Isaiah (left) and cousin Victoria (right).

Doing so meant quitting her main job as a tenured staff member at a juvenile residential treatment facility.

"I was really at the end of my rope," said Franklin about the reasoning behind her decision to go back to school. "Every performance evaluation I would do extremely well on, but they would always say 'Nicole you need that paper. You need that diploma.' I couldn't accept (not being promoted because of) that, so I said 'I don't care what it takes, I need to go back to school,' and I gave my two weeks' notice."

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## SBDC Program Helps Local Companies Access Lucrative Government Contracts

Small business owners across the region are encouraged to take full advantage of the free training and construction management counseling currently being offered by the College of the Canyons Small Business Development Center.

The California Construction Contracting Program — a partnership between the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), the California Community College's Economic and Workforce Development Program and the California Small Business Development Center (SBDC) program — provides free training and business counseling designed to enhance the ability of small business owners to bid for, and win, lucrative government and state highway construction contracts.

"Doing business with the government is really just selling to a customer. The same rules of business generally apply," said Paul De La Cerda, College of the Canyons SBDC director. "But with our counseling and training services we can help small business

owners minimize problems and clear up misconceptions about doing business with the government."

With the recent passage of statewide infrastructure bonds, the reconstruction of California's roads and highways is already underway. Between October 1, 2007 and September 30, 2008, Caltrans anticipates receiving in excess of \$3 billion of federal transportation funding and \$3.5 billion in state funding.

As such, small businesses offering hundreds of common services, from asphalt to porta-potties, from backhoes to fencing, and from catering to architectural and engineering services, are all eligible to receive the free SBDC training and counseling the program provides.

"Each year government contracts worth over \$1 trillion are issued to small businesses in the United States. However, of the roughly 22 million small businesses in the country, only one percent of them participate in any type of government contract bid-

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# HITE Sparks Increased Achievement

Clean up a local beach. Study for a calculus final. Meet with the college president. Register for classes. Help rebuild burned down homes. That is what the calendar of a High Intensity Transfer Enrichment (HITE) student at College of the Canyons often reads like.

“The program makes a well-rounded student,” said HITE and Honors Specialist Irene Bradbury, because “students understand that it’s not just about making the good grades, but about giving back to the community.”

The HITE program at COC is designed to challenge students to achieve their highest academic potential and transfer to four-year colleges and universities.

Because students must complete 18 units of academic projects in classes with a grade of “B” or better in addition to 15 hours of community service every fall and spring semester, the program often gives students an edge when it comes to transferring to a four-year university, said Bradbury. In order to become a HITE-certified graduate, students must have a cumulative 3.25 GPA upon graduating.

Many students join HITE because of the program’s transfer alliance agreements with UCLA, UC Riverside, UC Santa Cruz, UC Irvine, Chapman University and Pomona College that give COC students priority when it comes to admission.

But as soon as students join HITE, they realize how much fun it is and become more active, said Bradbury. The 665 active members partake in community service projects that bring them closer together while making a difference. Ten HITE members recently teamed up with Habitat for Humanity and helped rebuild three houses that burned down in the recent fires that ravaged Santa Clarita in fall of 2007.

“It creates a sense of unity amongst the students,” said Bradbury, “which is why we are always looking for new community projects and volunteering opportunities.”

But there are also students who surpass the program’s mini-

num requirements and are eligible to join HITE’s next tier of honor societies, Alpha Gamma Sigma (AGS) and Phi Theta Kappa (PTK). Students in AGS and PTK need to maintain a 3.0 GPA and 3.5 GPA, respectively, while also completing 15 hours of community service per semester.

PTK President Pietro Rosetti works as a manager at a local accounting office and as a student assistant at HITE, all while maintaining a high GPA and being very involved with the program.

“HITE has increased my confidence,” said Rosetti, who joined the program because he wanted to get more involved with the community.

Rosetti, along with HITE member Casey Craig, won 2008 All-California Academic Team at the California Community Competition held in Sacramento in March. The two students were given a tour of the Capitol building, met state Senator George Runner and watched a budgeting meeting in order to understand how the state government operates. The dynamic duo also had a personal meeting with COC Superintendent-President, Dianne Van Hook.

“She gave us advice on how to be successful and to always know where you are going,” said Rosetti, who plans to apply to USC in the fall as an accounting major.

Bradbury credits the program’s success to the administrators and counselors who “really believe in the program.”

The HITE and Honors program was started by COC history professor Brad Reynolds in 1983 in order to promote and reward scholarships and encourage students to transfer to four-year colleges and universities. The ASG and PTK honor societies were established in 1987.

“They don’t forget about us,” said Bradbury, who is working alongside the program’s two new faculty advisors, Miriam Golbert and Tammy Mahan.

“You meet HITE students and they are inspiring,” said Bradbury. “They all work so hard.”

## Summer

FROM PAGE 3

career component, allowing students to learn how the class or project may lead to a future job or career path.

For parents and students wishing to extend the day, a free bonus hour from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. is also available. Featuring concepts from “The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens” and other career related material — as facilitated by Junior Achievement, the world’s largest organization dedicated to educating students about workforce readiness, entrepreneurship and financial literacy — the bonus hour is sure to be a hit with both parents and students.

“We are set up to serve 100 students each week, so parents wanting their kids to participate should register now to secure a spot,” Bogna said.

### Junior High Summer Institute

Runs Monday thru Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., June 16, 2008 to July 3, 2008. Choose from three one-week sessions:

- Session One: June 16 – July 3, at a cost of \$225.
- Session Two: June 23 – June 27, at a cost of \$225.
- Session Three: June 30 — July 3, at a cost of \$180.

Sign up for one curriculum track for the entire three-week period, or a different track for each weekly session. Students in Theatre track must sign up for all three weeks.

For registration information, or to view a complete schedule for each week and track, visit [www.canyons.edu/communityed](http://www.canyons.edu/communityed), or call (661) 362-3300.

Online registration is not available for the Junior High Summer Institute sessions due to the necessary registration forms and required parent signatures.

## Theatre Degrees Help Students Transfer

Like most actors, College of the Canyons theatre students Alyssa Brown and Jay Potter needed direction — not on the stage, but in their academic futures.

Both fell in love with acting after taking a theatre class with Susan Hinshaw, chair of the college's theatre department, but were unable to parlay their passion into a degree.

With the introduction of two new theatre degree programs at COC that allow students to earn an associate in arts degree in general theatre or performance theatre, Potter and Brown will no longer be undeclared majors.

"These programs provide a track for students to follow and attain the units and classes they need to transfer to a four-year institution as theatre majors," said Hinshaw. "Many of our students love to take acting classes only, but in order to transfer, they also need to take Understanding Theatre, History of Theatre and tech classes as well." Brown is planning to major in general theatre, but plans to do a little bit of both. "Maybe I'll do stage make-up, but the stage is definitely more interesting," said Brown.

The general theatre degree addresses all aspects of theatre including performance, costume, lighting, sound and scenic design, stagecraft and directing. The theatre performance degree has an emphasis on performance, particularly in the electives such as Acting Shakespeare, Improvisational Performance, Musical Theatre and Solo Performance.

Besides transferring, an A.A. degree in theatre also prepares students vocationally. "Skilled people are needed in all aspects of production," said Hinshaw. Stitchers, cutters and wardrobe crew are needed in costume shops and painters, carpenters and crew are needed in scene shops.



Jay Potter, 23, sits down in a corner at the Black Box Theatre and acts tired during an acting exercise. Potter plans on declaring as a theatre major.

But for Potter, it's all about being on stage.

"A lot of actors tend to feel more passion than other people, they blow it all up for people to see and I love that," said Potter, who had acting roles in last season's "Mother Courage and Her Children" and "Tartuffe" at the Santa Clarita Performing Arts Center. "I don't want to be an actor to be famous. It's a thrill."

Brown considers the new theatre programs at COC an "incentive."

"I'm happy that there is organization," said the 20-year old. "The program is making us grow and continuing to push us."

## SBDC

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ding," De La Cerda said. "We want to help that number increase by educating local small business owners on how to better compete for government contracts."

The California Construction Contracting Program's counseling and training sessions are led by expert SBDC training consultants, including current and former contractors and business owners in the transportation contracting and management fields, who possess an intimate understanding of the bidding and award processes of Caltrans and other local agencies, including school districts and municipalities.

Counseling is offered in both construction management and business management, with all small business owners who enroll in the program receiving complimentary personalized advice and counseling in a confidential one-on-one setting.

Areas of instruction include construction contracting, business, wage and employment law, accounting and cash flow management, sales and marketing, management and planning and business connections.

"A successful bid or proposal depends upon a thorough under-

standing of terms and conditions of the government contract and the process by which the government evaluates proposals," De La Cerda said. "Our staff is experienced in helping local business owners understand contract terms and conditions, multiple award schedules, commercial products issues, subcontracting uses and teaming arrangements, and required certifications and disclosures. SBDC is here to help make it as easy as possible for owners to learn how to grow their businesses and prosper."

The Small Business Development Center, hosted by College of the Canyons, was launched in January 2006. Serving the Antelope Valley, San Fernando Valley, and Santa Clarita Valley, the SBDC helps prospective and existing small business owners in northern Los Angeles County, start, retain or expand their businesses by providing workshops, one-on-one consulting, and many other resources to the business community.

Last year the College of the Canyons SBDC was awarded the Top Overall Performance Award, out of the network of nine Small Business Development Centers serving businesses in the Santa Barbara, Ventura and Los Angeles Counties.

## Foundation Welcomes Murray Wood

The Santa Clarita Community College District recently announced the appointment of Murray Wood to the post of chief development officer.

Responsible for securing major gifts and donations to the college in order to provide greater access and increased opportunity to COC students, Wood is charged with advancing the efforts of the College of the Canyons Foundation.

"Fundraising and development are a lot like rocket science, we move from stage to stage, and at some point in the life cycle of an institution you are ready to move on to the next stage," said Wood, who comes to COC with more than 30 years of experience as a non-profit executive. "And that's why I'm here, to help move our program up to the next level."

In his new position, Wood will work closely with Superintendent-President Dr. Dianne Van Hook, the Board of Trustees and the Foundation Board of Directors to lead the college's fundraising endeavors.

The College of the Canyons Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)(3) auxiliary organization supporting the District by generating funds to support programs for student success and innovation. With over 10,000 donors, the Foundation provides financial resources for scholarship endowment, educational programs, and capital improvements.

"We are thrilled to have Murray join our fundraising team," COC Foundation Chief Operational Officer Cathy Ritz said. "His extensive experience and high level of expertise will certainly help take the foundation to the next level."

In striving to help make that difference at COC, Wood said he is eager to familiarize himself with the campus and surrounding Santa Clarita Valley community.

"I see part of my job as making friends and helping friends. So

I envision that I'm not going to have too many free weekends or evenings in the next couple of months," Wood said, referring to the many community events he has already been invited to attend. "But I'm excited to get out and around so that people can identify me with the college, and so I can become familiar with the folks that care most about COC."

Wood said he was impressed with the campus and the many programs and opportunities already available to students, and he looks forward to building on the college's outstanding foundation of community support.

"It would be advantageous for us to recognize people that have a philanthropic impulse and want to help the college by offering them the opportunity to name these facilities in perpetuity so that they and their families will have a lasting legacy with College of the Canyons."

Another immediate need recognized by Wood is to enhance the college's endowment fund, by helping donors wanting to leave enduring gifts that will play a vital role in the future of both the college and surrounding community.

"Endowments are just one way of contributing, but it's the gift that keeps on giving," Wood said in reference to the fact that only the interest earnings of endowment gifts are used, leaving the principle to continually generate income for the college. "So one of our goals will be to have our endowment fund increase many fold."

As a highly skilled and successful development officer, Wood has considerable experience in raising funds for institutions of higher education. "I understand the value that higher education has in society, in the lives of students and the lives of their families," Wood said. "So to be able to make a difference and help in that area is very important to me."



Murray Wood plans to help the College of the Canyons Foundation achieve its strategic goals.

## NFL

FROM PAGE 12

"COC helped me a lot," Tryon said. "They told me to be patient and never give up. ... They taught me to keep fighting."

LaRocque played on the 2004 and 2005 Cougar squads. He led the team in 2005 with 103 tackles (68 unassisted), 2 fumble recoveries, and 11.5 sacks for a loss of 87 yards in one of the most dominant seasons at the linebacker position.

He was named second-team All-WSC as a freshman, and first-team all-WSC, first-team All-State and a JC All-American his sophomore year. As a Beaver, he tallied 184 tackles and was a second-team All-Pac-10 selection after his senior year.

Tryon, a Taft High School graduate, played for COC in 2004 and 2005 and accumulated 58 tackles, (53 unassisted), 7 intercep-

tions and 6 pass break-ups while garnering first-team All-Western State Conference honors in 2005 and second-team honors in 2004.

He transferred to Arizona State where he was named honorable mention All-Pac-10 his junior year and second-team All-Pac-10 his final season with the Sun Devils. He started all 26 games for the team during his two-year span, and collected 108 tackles, 80 solo.

College of the Canyons currently has four former players that are on active rosters in the NFL – Domata Peko (Cincinnati Bengals, COC 2002-2003), JJ Arrington (Arizona Cardinals, COC 2001-2002), Jonathan Fanene (Cincinnati Bengals, COC 2000-2001), and Isaac Sopoaga (San Francisco 49ers, COC 2000-2001).

## Budget

FROM PAGE 3

- Flexibility. Provisional language was included in the May Revise that would enable colleges to transfer funds between categorical programs in areas related to part-time faculty and student services.

## Scholarships

FROM PAGE 7

Despite the financial implications, Franklin moved forward with her plan, cashing in her 401k, moving to the Santa Clarita Valley and enrolling at COC as a sociology major in 2005.

In familiarizing herself with all the services offered to students, Franklin became aware of the college's scholarship program and subsequently applied for aid. In the three years since re-entering school she has been awarded a combined \$2,500 from the Betty Ferguson Foundation, Soroptimists International of Santa Clarita Valley and the ASG Applied Arts scholarship fund.

"All the scholarships were all unexpected, but they all meant so much to me," said Franklin, who is now a human services aide for the Los Angeles County Department of Child and Family Services and was recently accepted to California State University, Northridge (CSUN). "These organizations weren't just saying they wanted to empower the community, they backed it up."

Daniel Luthi, born and raised in the SCV, started at COC in 2004 while still a junior in high school. The oldest of six siblings, and a member of the college's High Intensity Transfer Enrichment (HITE) and Honors program, Luthi, now 21, is a nursing major planning to transfer to CSUN in 2009.

Without the financial support of scholarships, his educational plans might have been derailed. Tragedy struck the Luthi family in 2005, when Daniel's father passed away from cancer — leaving the family with limited financial resources.

"There was a time when things were particularly tight around the house, when I began to think 'OK, now what am I going to do?'" said Luthi, who before his father's passing had never applied for any form of financial aid.

But after being encouraged to apply for aid and discovering the college's scholar-

Details of exactly how this would work are not yet available.

As state legislators debate the budget over the summer, College of the Canyons will continue to advocate for the provi-

ship program, Daniel was soon able to concentrate more on his education instead of his finances — receiving the Harry Howard Memorial, ASG Allied Health and Hite and Honors Outstanding Student scholarships totalling about \$1,100.

In keeping with its mission to help facilitate the college's ability to provide an equally affordable and accessible education for all interested students, the College of the Canyons Foundation has worked to increase both the number of available scholarships and award amounts of scholarships. The \$92,000 that will be awarded to students in 2008 is up from the roughly \$42,000 handed out in 2007.

However, the number of COC students who find themselves in need of financial assistance continues to surge, as evidenced by the estimated 720 student-scholarship applications filed this year — compared to last year's total of about 420 applicants.

"With the current economy, many students are making difficult sacrifices in order to stay in school. Providing scholarship opportunities helps bridge the financial gap by providing students with assistance to educationally related expenses," said Fashia Skjelstad, the program's scholarship specialist, who works to match students with appropriate scholarship awards, while providing guidance to current and former scholarship students.

Also a donor to the program, Skjelstad went on to say, "knowing that I'm instrumental in helping students achieve their educational goals is a priceless investment."

In expressing gratitude for how the college's scholarship program has assisted them, both Franklin and Luthi highlighted how empowering and beneficial their awards had been to their academic success.

"Having these scholarships allowed me to complete my schooling without having to worry about where the money was going

sions contained in the May Revise. To get the latest information on the state budget, its impact on College of the Canyons, and details on how you can advocate for us, please visit <http://advocacy.canyons.edu/>.

to come from," said Luthi, adding that his books for the first semester of the nursing program cost more than \$1,200 alone. "Awarding these scholarships benefits the community in ways that people probably don't even realize."

"It's about so much more than just the money," said Franklin. "You never know what you're pouring into someone's dream. By giving to someone, you help keep that person's dream alive, so just to have those resources gave me hope. It empowered me to continue to strive."



After his father's death, Daniel Luthi doubted he could afford to continue his studies. Scholarships from the College of the Canyons Foundation allowed him to continue working toward his goal of becoming a nurse.



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## Two More Cougars Make Leap to NFL

Former College of the Canyons football players Justin Tryon and Joey LaRocque recently became the fifth and sixth Cougars to be drafted by NFL teams since the program was reinstated at COC in 1998.

Tryon was selected in the fourth round by the Washington Redskins in April's 2008 NFL Draft and LaRocque was picked up in the seventh round by the Chicago Bears.

"It's an amazing feeling," LaRocque said afterwards. "When you start playing football you wish that your name is called in the draft and Justin (Tryon) and myself were lucky enough to hear our names called."

"It feels like a blessing," Tryon said. "It is something I always wanted and dreamed about."

Former Cougar Head Football Coach Chuck Lyon said both players were willing to put in the intensive effort necessary to continue their careers.

"Joey and Justin are two of the hardest working student-athletes that I have



Justin Tryon

ever coached," Lyon said. "Joey is a self-made athlete and willed himself into a great football player. He was a great athlete and person at College of the Canyons and went on to do the same at Oregon State. He will now take his talent to the NFL. Justin is a gifted athlete and has all the tools to succeed in the NFL. ... He has a very good chance of spending a long



Joey LaRocque

time in the league."

LaRocque and Tryon both credit their success to COC. "Without COC, I would not be anywhere" LaRocque said. "Playing at College of the Canyons took my game to the next level and I played at (Oregon State University). From there, I hope the rest was destiny."

See NFL on Page 10