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Silver Spur Award recipients announced. [PAGE 3](#)

College of the Canyons



Breaking News

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

Van Hook Marks 20th Year at College

• Canyons Chancellor is Longest-Serving Community College CEO in California

Looking back, it's probably fair to say that no one at College of the Canyons fully comprehended the scope of changes that were in store when Dr. Dianne Gracia Van Hook was selected to succeed retiring Superintendent-President Dr. Ramon F. LaGrandeur in 1988.

After 20 years of unprecedented growth, student achievement and significant college achievements, it's probably safe to say that no one on campus could imagine College of the Canyons without Dr. Van Hook's extraordinary leadership.

Celebrated as a new leader for a new era on July 1, 1988, Van Hook, a then-37-year-old college administrator from the Lake Tahoe

Community College District, was chosen from a field of 23 finalists to fill the position that would be left vacant by LaGrandeur.

When she accepted the position, Van Hook became the youngest-serving superintendent-president in California, and one of only five women to serve as a district-level CEO out of 69 community college districts statewide.

With 20 years on the job, she is the longest-serving CEO in the California Community College system – a feat unheard of in the community college world, and even more impressive considering those 20 years are all with the same college.

Since arriving at COC, Van Hook has utilized her energy, commitment, flexibility and

unique leadership style to hire and work with talented faculty and staff to develop plans to greatly expand instructional programs, secure a significant increase in funding for the college, add highly needed facilities and a second campus to the college, and develop creative partnerships with the community.

Under Van Hook's leadership, COC has experienced its most significant period of growth and advancement since the college opened in 1969. Since 1988, the college's budget has grown from \$8 million to \$169 million, and its physical space has gone from just under 200,000 square feet to more than 600,000 square feet – allowing the college to

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DR. DIANNE G. VAN HOOK

Garfunkel, Medley Highlight New PAC Season

With the skyrocketing prices at the gas pump, Santa Clarita Valley residents do not have to drive very far to enjoy performances by Bill Medley, Art Garfunkel, Los Lobos and Capitol Steps – because they will be performing at the Santa Clarita Performing Arts Center in 2008-09.

Unlike past seasons, the new season's performances will be "clustered" into six different series that cater to specific tastes: the President's Choice Series, which features headlining performances; the Roots and Folk Series, sponsored by Go Country 105.1 FM, will showcase the best in country and bluegrass music; Almost Free Family Series that will offer affordable family-friendly entertainment; the Cabaret Series will be a unique two-night performance where the audience sits on the main stage; the In Motion Series will fill the center with kinetic energy, and Great Performances will offer more musical and comedic entertainment.

"We're really excited about the new season we've put together, and we think the community will be thrilled with the variety of performances they can experience, individually or as an entertainment package," said Adam Philipson, managing director of the PAC.

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RECORD GRADUATION



Students wait to receive their diplomas during College of the Canyons' commencement ceremony on May 30. It was the college's largest number of graduates ever – 1,255, about twice the number of graduates in 2001. Minority students graduated in record numbers: 579, up from 246 in 2001. Also graduating were 34 International Studies Program students representing countries such as China, France, Germany, Russia, Japan, India, the UK, South Korea, Pakistan and Peru.

GO! Program Offers Accelerated Classes

College of the Canyons is set to unveil a new series of five-week, online classes this fall that will allow students to earn college units at an accelerated rate. The program will help to meet the needs of community members who prefer learning in a more compressed manner than the traditional 16-week college format.

Classes will be offered in back-to-back, five-week windows in which students can accomplish their goals in shorter, more intensive classes to move on to the next level faster. In addition, students will have the flexibility to start a class at the beginning of any five-week window throughout the year and pay for just one class – instead of taking on a full load of classes and paying the accompanying cost of textbooks and college fees, all at once.

"With the downturn in the economy, a generally faster pace

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College of the Canyons

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Instructor Teaches New Ideas to Old World

Located on the east side of the Black Sea, the Republic of Georgia has experienced significant political and economic change since the era of Soviet rule ended in 1991. Besides experiencing an economic boom, the fledgling country has also received a wave of unexpected but welcome visitors: tourists.

Invited by the Department of State and the International Research and Exchange Board, Kevin Anthony found himself miles from home – and his post as chair of Hotel and Restaurant Management at College of the Canyons – teaching a group of 25 Tbilisi Iliā Chavchavadze State University students about the value of customer service last May.

“They were very interested in learning how we approach customer service and wanted to see how we do it here in America,” Anthony said.

Because Georgia is “awakening” from the Communist way of doing things, in which “customer service did not have any value whatsoever,” the country must learn how to treat customers differently, Anthony said.

During a three-day workshop that led



Instructor Kevin Anthony visits with Georgian children during his visit to the formerly Communist country.

to “terrific dialogue,” Anthony taught students how the hotel management industry works, as well as how to develop and manage their skills. Anthony’s main lesson for the students was that “good customer service is at the core of every service industry.” “Georgian people have a very strong

culture,” Anthony said. “They have to take that culture and put it into their service.”

Anthony was invited to teach the workshops by one of his former students, Natalie Mchedlishvili, because she said COC professors are very motivating.

“It was really special to hear her say

that,” Anthony said.

Prior to teaching at COC for the past 10 years, Anthony taught at UCLA Extension for 20 years and has run several hotels in Southern California.

He was attracted to hotel management because of the people. “If you enjoy meeting amazing people, this is the place to be,” said Anthony.

“It was interesting to step into a country that wants to start a tourism economy,” he said. “Georgia is going to have terrific tourism. They have the resources.”

Hotel chains like Marriott and Radisson have already moved in as the country’s tourism industry grows.

On his last day, Anthony visited the ancient capital of Georgia, Mtskheta, and Signaghi, the easternmost city of Kakheti that has become a tourist hub.

“The food was great,” said Anthony. “I can’t remember the names, but it was all very delicious.”

Back home and in his classroom, he said he will never forget his trip to Georgia.

“You take a trip like that and it expands your horizons,” he added.

Van Hook

FROM PAGE 1

serve more than 21,000 students in the fall 2007 semester alone.

Within a year of her arrival, College of the Canyons earned the distinction of being the fastest-growing community college in California – prompting the new superintendent-president to initiate an ambitious facilities master plan and a strategic plan that would reshape not only the campus, but what the college would offer the community.

But there were many obstacles in her path, the most significant being the state funding formula for fast-growing community colleges like COC. It was then that Van Hook and fellow college leaders crafted a strategy to lobby legislators in Sacramento to correct the way the outdated funding system viewed the Santa Clarita Community College District – and set off on the college’s destiny.

Eventually, her leadership led to the passage of legislation to correct the funding formula, alter the state’s view of colleges’ growth, and boost revenues for growing and underfunded districts. State officials were persuaded to award millions of construction dollars needed to embark on a long-delayed expansion of facilities at the college.

By 1998, after only 10 years at College of the Canyons, Van Hook had emerged as a powerful, results-orientated advocate for every community college in the state. Aside from her success in persuading lawmakers to change the state funding criteria in the college’s favor, Van Hook generated \$56 million in additional revenue that the college would not have otherwise received from 1988 to 1998.

Years of hard work came to fruition in 1999 in an innovative partnership among COC, Cal State Bakersfield and the University of La Verne – a precursor to the college’s University Center project. This partnership allowed COC to house the first bachelor’s degree programs ever offered at the college. In fact, the University Center project became so popular that an interim facility opened to meet the community’s demands – and a \$10 million capital campaign was launched to build a permanent facility.

But the University Center wasn’t the only educational partnership Van Hook had in mind for COC. The college and the William S. Hart Union High School District together took a bold step forward as Van Hook pursued state funding to add the Academy of the Canyons “middle college” high school to the COC campus.

Generating the most excitement at the college in 1999 were plans to build the Performing Arts Center (PAC). Though included in the college’s original master plan, funding for the facility never materialized. Nevertheless, Van Hook kept the dream alive by identifying the Performing Arts Center as an essential part of the campus, while continuing to lobby for more than 15 years for state funding to build it. Finally, state officials agreed to help fund the \$18.3 million facility, which opened in 2004.

In November 2001, Van Hook and the college presented local voters with Measure C, an \$82.1 million bond measure that would address the college’s limitations in the face of unprecedented enrollment growth by providing funds for a variety of new buildings, expansion projects and facility improvements. An overwhelming 68 percent of voters approved Measure C, allowing the college to begin another round of major improvements that continues today.



Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook and her husband Roger (left) pose near the Air Force One exhibit at the Reagan Library, site of a recent Silver Spur Award celebration. In 1988, Van Hook was introduced during a press conference (above) as the college’s new superintendent-president. With her again is her husband Roger.

As an encore to the completion of the PAC and success of Measure C, Van Hook and the college took another major step forward in 2004 when the California Community Colleges Board of Governors and California Postsecondary Education Commission gave COC the go-ahead to build its Canyon Country campus.

As the decade progressed, COC continued to experience rapid growth and a surge in the student population, prompting Van Hook to appeal to voters yet again by placing Measure M on the ballot in 2006. The \$160 million general-obligation bond would fund badly needed classroom space, lab areas and other campus facility needs. Voters approved the bond, placing COC in a position to leverage an additional \$80 million in state matching funds to contribute to the future of the college.

Later that year Community College Week revealed that between the fall 2004 and fall 2005 semesters, COC had emerged as the nation’s fastest-growing community college among those with enrollments of 10,000 or more.

Cited by Van Hook as the college’s solution to the lack of upper-division, graduate school and continuing education programs in the valley, the \$36 million University Center project broke ground in March 2007. College officials were joined by a sizeable collection of community leaders during the groundbreaking ceremony.

Later that year the COC Board of Trustees honored Van Hook’s efforts in leading the move toward establishing the University Center by voting unanimously to name the yet-to-be-completed facility the Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook University Center.

During the summer of 2007, the college opened two

new buildings on the Valencia campus: Aliso Lab and the accompanying Aliso Hall – providing a combined 43,000 square feet of additional instructional space. Later that year, the college opened a third new building, the 49,000-square-foot Hasley Hall.

The college was soon to become “one college on two campuses” with the opening of the Canyon Country campus on the first day of the fall 2007 semester.

Now operating on two campuses, serving an ever-increasing and diverse population numbering more than 250,000 people, College of the Canyons ranks as the 10th fastest-growing community college in the nation – due largely in part to Van Hook’s creation of a campus atmosphere filled with innovation, positive change and a passionate willingness to blaze new trails. The college’s unflinching staff is a testament to her “can-do” attitude and marks COC as a community college unlike any other.

Herself a graduate of a community college (Long Beach City College), Van Hook – who lives by the phrase “If you can dream it, you can do it” – is committed to creating outstanding educational and workforce opportunities for the benefit of everyone served by the college.

“I came to the Santa Clarita Valley because the city was in its infancy, and to be a part of building something in conjunction with the entities around us was very exciting to me because of the importance that I place on colleges providing training for the workforce,” Van Hook said. “The economic development effort was something that I particularly put a lot of effort into because the community’s business ultimately supports the college.”

Van Hook said it has been a privilege to work in a community that is so supportive of the college and its mission. The community’s support of innovative, out-of-the-box ideas, she said, “helped turn our dreams into reality.”

“It has been an extreme pleasure, an honor and a privilege for me to work with such incredible faculty, staff, administrators and members of the Board of Trustees over the years,” she added. “I have had the great fortune of enjoying such a wonderful work environment where people are entrepreneurial, risk takers and confident that they can do it, and who work together in an incredible way to be a team that actually gets the job done to the benefit of the students and the community we serve. It has been an honor indeed to have been able to hire close to 90 percent of the full-time faculty and staff and to bring such talent to College of the Canyons. The community is blessed indeed because of these incredible people.”

ABOUT BREAKING NEWS



Breaking News is published by the College of the Canyons Public Information Office. Its purpose is to inform the community about programs, events, issues and accomplishments of the Santa Clarita Valley’s community college. It is distributed to residences, post office boxes and businesses in the 367-square-mile Santa Clarita Community College District. Advertising is not accepted.

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Silver Spur Honorees for 2009 Announced

Since relocating to the Santa Clarita Valley in 2001, Harold and Jacquelyn Petersen have developed a reputation for enthusiasm, dedication and generosity toward many of the community's most benevolent non-profit organizations and causes. As a result, the College of the Canyons Foundation Board of Directors has named them recipients of the Silver Spur Community Service Award for 2009.

The Petersens' record of community service spans their nearly 60 years of marriage and time spent in Brentwood; Omaha, Neb.; Pottawattamie County, Iowa; and here at home in Santa Clarita.

Harold, president of Petersen International Underwriters, has maintained an active role in the community throughout the years. He supports the Boys and Girls Club of Santa Clarita Valley, the Santa Clarita Child and Family Center, the UCLA Alumni Association, and the Mary and Joseph League of Los Angeles.

In addition to her involvement with the Boys and Girls Club and the Child and Family Center alongside Harold, Jacquie has given her time and generosity to causes associated with the American Red Cross; John Tracey Clinic, which provides free medical services for children with hearing loss; Junior League; American Heart Fund and American Cancer Society. She has also served as president of the Mary and Joseph League, and as a volunteer for the Catholic Church.

Most recently the Petersens were honored for their work in the community at the Valentine's Day Have a Heart Sweethearts event benefiting the Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Health Foundation's ongoing work in funding the Roberta G. Veloz

Cardiac Catheter Lab.

The couple's generous, wide-ranging support for the college has revolved around key projects such as the Dianne G. Van Hook University Center capital campaign and the Silver Spur celebration.

"As members of the President's Circle, the Petersens have also contributed their time and resources to a group dedicated to striving for the highest levels of excellence in teaching, vocational training, student scholarships and overall campus innovation," said Cathy Ritz, the foundation's chief operational officer.

"We consider ourselves lucky at College of the Canyons to count the Petersens among our closest friends and strongest supporters," said COC Chancellor-President Dr. Dianne Van Hook. "We owe them an immeasurable debt of gratitude for all they have done for the college and its students over the years.

"Honoring them with the Silver Spur award is our way of thanking them publicly for their generosity, their kindness, and their commitment to community service," Van Hook added. "Thanks to Harold and Jacquie, all of us in Santa Clarita enjoy a community that wouldn't be the same without them."

The Silver Spur Celebration – one of the community's most popular and elegant evening events – is traditionally held at a historic museum, club or well-known Los Angeles landmark every spring.

The very first Silver Spur celebration gala was held at the Gene Autry Museum in 1989, with Cliffie Stone as the recipient. At the time, the foundation's board wanted to create a signature event for the foundation that would also reflect the Santa



The 2009 Silver Spur Community Service Award will honor Jacquelyn and Harold Petersen.

Clarita Valley's western heritage.

The Silver Spur Award committee is co-chaired by Gary and Myrna Condie and Jeff and Kiki Hacker. Previous award recipients include Aggie Agajanian, Scott and Ruth Newhall, Tom Dierkman, 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, Rita Garasi, and Wayne Crawford.

Trustees Honor Van Hook with New Title

Dr. Dianne Van Hook has a new title: Chancellor, Santa Clarita Community College District, and President, College of the Canyons. The new title was unveiled to an appreciative and admiring crowd during a joint meeting of the Santa Clarita Community College District Board of Trustees and COC Foundation Board on May 28.

This year marks the completion of Dr. Van Hook's 20th year as superintendent-president of College of the Canyons, a period that has seen incredible prosperity at the college and in the Santa Clarita Valley as a whole.

"Developing new programs, new partnerships, new facilities and new ideas doesn't just happen," said Board of Trustees member Joan MacGregor. "It must be done intelligently, with vision, with cost-effective and innovative plans, and with a fair amount of tenacity," MacGregor said. "In Dr. Dianne Van Hook, we have all of those attributes, and more. I know I speak for the rest of the board when I say we are very happy to confer these new titles on this most deserving leader."

Board member Michele Jenkins, who was on Van Hook's original hiring committee in 1988, recalls the decision that brought the then-37-year-old to College of the Canyons. "The moment we met Dianne on a site visit to Lake Tahoe Community College, we knew we were looking at a high-impact executive with boundless energy, strength and a sense of vision who would set a new course for College of the Canyons," Jenkins said. "I am proud and so glad that our board had the courage to hire Dianne and am thrilled about the leadership she has provided over the years. Her many strengths in fundraising, creating and maintaining partnerships, her clear vision of the future, as well as her uncanny ability to hire outstanding people have helped make COC what it is today."

See NEW TITLE on Page 6

College of the Canyons

Building For The Future

FALL 2008

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University Center Nears Completion

With the completion of major steelwork – a building's backbone – in June, the Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook University Center is expected to be finished by April 2009 – with the first classes expected to be held mid-year.

The 110,000-square-foot building – featuring a high-end corporate design, marble and granite floors, tiled corridors and special ceiling lighting – will be the district's biggest single building project.

"It will be better than any construction project we've undertaken in a long time," said Jim Schrage, vice president of facilities planning, operations and construction. "It's a spectacular building."

Schrage, who oversees more than 120 construction personnel working tirelessly to finish the building, is responsible for adhering to the schedule and budget.

"It's a really exciting and neat project," said Schrage. "I enjoy building an out-of-the-ordinary building instead of just building classroom space."

"You put so much into it," said Schrage who admits he becomes attached to the college's construction projects. "I have a real attachment to the PAC and suspect the University Center will be the same way."

The University Center concept was Van Hook's brainchild, an idea that she nurtured for several years. She became convinced of the need for a way to provide advanced degrees to local residents after hearing story after story from frustrated students who, for a variety of reasons, couldn't gain access to four-year universities because of freeway issues, child-care issues, unavailability of needed programs, work schedules and other roadblocks.

She also heard from business owners who expressed frustrations about the Santa Clarita Valley not having enough appropriately trained employees to hire. Three separate surveys of the community revealed that businesses wanted and needed skilled graduates. Van Hook listened carefully, and the University Center concept was born.

To prove a point, Van Hook arranged for an Interim University Center to operate on the College of the Canyons campus in 2000. First to sign on to the idea was California State University, Bakersfield which brought degree programs in communications and liberal studies as well as a credential program in school administration and a multi-subject teaching credential. These programs were wildly popular and, over the years, hundreds of graduates attest to the value of being able to earn advanced degrees locally.

The Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook University Center will give students in the Santa Clarita Valley access to bachelor's, master's and doctorate degrees.

Located on the southern boundary of COC's Valencia campus and positioned to command a spectacular view of the Santa Clarita Valley, the building will house up to 10 partner universities and offer more than 70 degree and credential programs with schools such as UCLA, California Lutheran University and CSU Fresno.

In the meantime, 991 students have attained their degrees from the college's Interim University Center since it opened in 2002 through partnerships with California State University, Bakersfield, CSU Northridge, University of La Verne, Chapman University and National University.

The \$38 million building will also house the William S. Hart Union High School District's middle-college high school, Academy of the Canyons, as well as the college's Economic Development Division, including the Employee Training Institute, Center for Applied Technologies, Small Business Development Center and Business Incubator.

"I thought nothing could top the college's Performing Arts Center," said Schrage. "But this will."

Fund-Raising Pro Joins COC Staff

Securing major gifts and donations for institutions of higher education is nothing new to Murray Wood, the recently appointed chief development officer for 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 has more than 30 years of experience as a non-profit organization 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 Chancellor Dr. Dianne Van Hook, the COC Foundation Board of Directors and staff to coordinate and lead the college's ongoing fundraising endeavors, identify potential donors, and develop and maintain collaborative relationships with community leaders to meet identified development goals and objectives.

"We are thrilled to have Murray join our fundraising team," said Cathy Ritz, the foundation's chief operational officer. "His extensive experience and high level of expertise will certainly help take the foundation to the next level."

As a highly skilled and successful development officer, Wood has considerable experience in raising funds for health care, human services and, most notably, institutions of higher education – a group he said he is passionate about serving. "I understand the value that higher education has in society, in the lives of students and the lives of their families, so to be able to make a difference and help in that area is very important to me."

In his new role with the college, Wood has begun familiarizing himself with the campus and community, hoping to form friendships and partnerships that will help serve the college.

"I see part of my job as making friends and helping friends," said Wood. "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 who care most about COC."

"Endowments are just one way of contributing, but it's the gift that keeps on giving," said Wood 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. "One of our goals will be to have our endowment fund increase many-fold."

Wood's history of work for institutions of higher education began in 1996 at Ben-Gurion University of Negrev in Israel, where he served as southwest regional director. He was responsible for the university's regional fundraising and public relations programs.

Beginning in 1999, Wood served as associate vice president



The new chief development officer for the College of the Canyons Foundation is Murray Wood, seen here at a college function with his wife.

for university development at California State University, Northridge (CSUN), where he was responsible for the overall direction and management of its fund development program.

While at CSUN, Wood achieved an outstanding record in fundraising, including securing several major gifts of more than \$1 million, while also successfully soliciting an individual major gift valued at \$35 million to \$38 million – the largest gift ever donated to a CSU campus. In addition, Wood led the effort to increase CSUN's level of private support from \$5 million in 1998-99 to a record \$23.4 million raised in 2003-04.

"Fundraising and development are long processes, and they don't happen overnight," he added. "It's a process of relationship building, and that's why we call it development, because you are developing lasting relationships with the donors."

COC Named Statewide Coordinator of Economic Workforce Development

As a result of its longstanding reputation of excellence in the field of employee training and economic development, College of the Canyons has received a \$400,000 grant from the Chancellor's Office to become the statewide coordinator for the California Community College System's annual economic and workforce development conferences and meetings.

"Our economic development program is one of the best in the state, and the awarding of this grant is recognition of that," said Dr. Bruce Getzan, the college's dean of economic development.

Named the Economic and Workforce Development Program Coordination Services Grant, the additional funding – renewable annually for five years – will allow for the creation of three new positions in the college's economic development division, including a project director and conference services coordinator.

As stated in the grant, COC will now be responsible for assisting in the planning of the annual Economic Workforce Development (EWD) conference, which brings together economic development

professionals from throughout the community college, government and private sector ranks. Next year's conference – currently scheduled for April 2009 in Monterey – will be held in cooperation with the California Association for Local Economic Development (CALED).

"We're always looking for partnerships with business and industry groups, professional organizations and associations and community groups in our region and across the state, to see how we can improve the economic climate, how we can enhance employability and how we can promote retention and growth of business," said Getzan. "These types of issues are discussed each year at the conference, and then delivered through the various community colleges in a variety of different ways."

In addition, COC will now be responsible for the coordination of three future sessions of the Economic and Workforce Development Program Advisory Committee (EDPAC) – the policy-making wing of the Chancellor's Office EWD program.

"This was an important opportunity for

us to pursue because it so closely relates to our mission statement at the college – to provide relevant academic education at the lower-division level and workforce opportunities for all who seek those kinds of opportunities," said Getzan. "That's why, with Chancellor Dr. Van Hook's leadership, we moved forward with this application. It's an extension of the great work that she has been doing, and encouraging us to do."

In 1996, economic development became one of the primary missions of the California community college system. The purpose of the EWD program is to advance the state's economic growth and global competitiveness through education, training and services that contribute to continuous workforce improvement.

The role of the community colleges in this effort is to fulfill the vocational education and instructional needs of California business and industry through leadership, communication and liaisons with the private sector, as well as with public sector education and training providers.

Colleges work with employers, advisory committees and agency partners to identify, on a region-by-region basis, workforce education and training needs, including the needs of small business. As a result, colleges throughout the system have created a network of regional centers that meet identified needs in a most cost-effective and timely manner.

Collectively, the more than 100 regional centers throughout the state provide the long-term delivery structure of the EWD program by providing a foundation for long-term, sustained relationships with businesses, labor and colleges in the region.

This past spring, the College of the Canyons Center for Applied and Competitive Technologies was named winner of the 2007-08 Exemplary Innovation Award for its implementation of the FastTrack Manufacturing Boot Camp, which works to prepare at-risk youth, ages 18 to 21, for high-paying, upwardly ladder careers in manufacturing.



The new high-tech board room allows for digital recordings of all conversations.

High-Tech Board Room Opens for Trustees in Hasley Hall

Bruce Fortine remembers his first board meeting as a member of the College of the Canyons Board of Trustees held in the Hart High School District board room in 1967. Over the years, the faces that made up the board changed, and so did the surroundings.

"During the next 41 years, we have had nice board rooms and some not so nice," said Fortine. The board once had a permanent home in the college's administration building but moved out when the meeting space was needed for classrooms or offices.

The board held its meetings elsewhere, in classrooms or in the staff dining room, as it did for the last five years. But last April, the board's days of playing musical chairs were over with the inauguration of a new board room in the lower level of Hasley Hall, the newest and currently largest building on the Valencia campus.

"It is the most high-tech and animated room in the building," said Jim Schrage, vice president of facilities planning, operations and construction. "Once you enter the room, you feel like you are in a very professional setting."

The board room is equipped with technology that allows Lynne Mayer,

the administrative assistant to the chancellor and Board of Trustees, to control the room's audio, laptops, LCD projectors and screens, window shades, and sound and microphone levels – from a single touch-screen panel.

"In the past I had to turn over cassette tapes when recording board meetings," said Mayer. "The panel allows us to digitally record everything."

The board's first meeting there was "incredible," said Schrage, who was impressed by the acoustics of the room.

"Our new room is the nicest ever," said Fortine.

There is also a private, outdoor quad that serves as a great place for pre-meeting receptions and campus get-togethers. The quad is formed by the exterior walls of Hasley Hall and the existing West P.E. building.

The board formerly met in the dining room of the S Building, which did not provide enough space. The new room can seat up to 100 people.

The board room also has an adjacent conference room with the same technology, and a service area located in the back to accommodate catering services.

"It is the best conference room in the valley," said Schrage.

\$3.9 Million Captioning Grant Lands at COC, Will Assist Entire State

College of the Canyons has been awarded a five-year, roughly \$3.9 million Distance Education Captioning and Transcription for California Community Colleges grant – designating COC as the statewide clearinghouse for the funding of all captioning activities within the 110-member California Community College (CCC) system.

The grant funds – which will come in five annual \$780,000 disbursements – will be used to contract outside captioning vendors to assist community colleges that are in need of captioning and transcription services for their distance-education programs. Funds may also be used to reimburse community colleges that have contracted such services directly themselves.

"This grant will allow College of the Canyons to be of great service to the entire California Community College system," said James Glapa-Grossklag, dean of distance learning programs and training. "The other 109 community colleges, as well as our own faculty and staff, will be looking to COC to support their efforts, and that's very exciting."

"It's an opportunity to work on a statewide scale to promote the values we believe so strongly in here at COC."

The grant's main objective is to expand student access to distance-education courses and programs throughout the CCC system. Though such programs are developed for the use of all students, the ability to provide captioning capabilities to educational materials – including instructional DVDs, Webcasts, PowerPoint presentations, podcasts and other audio-visual materials – is especially beneficial to a college's disabled and English as Second Language student populations.

"Often times, material is covered in the classroom in a quick and furious manner. Sometimes material is presented only in a visual way. Sometimes material is presented only in an oral way," Glapa-Grossklag said. "But one of the most important ways to ensure that material is available to, and understood by, all types of students is to

provide captioning."

Glapa-Grossklag went on to highlight some of the ways captioning could be utilized by students, likening the service to the captioning option featured on most TV sets and included on home DVDs. "Essentially, those captions are then accessible to somebody who is hearing-impaired, or a student with a learning disability who can now review those written words as many times as they need before moving on," he said.

"The same would apply to an ESL student," said Glapa-Grossklag, adding that with the use of "screen reader" computer software that reads written text aloud to users, even blind students could reap the benefits of such captioning services. "So it gives a large number of students more access to educational content."

According to Glapa-Grossklag, distance education comprises the fastest-growing educational delivery mode within the CCC system. In order to provide access to all students and comply with federal and state law, some components of distance-education classes are required to provide captioning or transcription services. That high-cost obligation is sometimes perceived to be a challenge in the development and delivery of high-quality, media-rich distance-learning courses.

"Most colleges don't have the financial ability to pay for captioning services; it's a somewhat costly proposition," he said. "As a result, many faculty members and instructors aren't able to engage their creativity the way they like to. They're not able to offer their students as rich an educational pallet as they'd like."

A second goal will be to promote and encourage faculty innovation that will give instructors the ability to introduce more and more captioned multimedia educational materials into the classroom.

"Hopefully, this grant will help support that spark of creativity, that spark of innovation, which would allow faculty members who want to integrate more of these types of materials into their classroom the ability to do so," he added.

\$300k Grant Puts Spark Back in Welding

The California Community College's Economic and Workforce Development (EWD) program has awarded the College of the Canyons Welding Technology Department approximately \$300,000 in Industry Driven Regional Collaborative (IDRC) grant funds to help develop a series of metal-fabrication courses at the college.

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

"We've been training great welders for several years now, but oftentimes our graduating students lack the metal-fabrication skills that give them that one-two punch needed for working in several different welding industries," said Tim Baber, chair of the Welding Technology Department. "This grant expands the opportunities for students to learn the whole package – welding and metal fabrication – and puts them in a position to earn more money as entry-level technicians."

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

"To work as a welder, you're basically an operator with a torch in your hand welding. But if you're in a metal fabrication position and somebody gives you a blueprint and says, 'Build this thing,'

you're going to be cutting the metal, shaping it, rolling it and doing just about anything else you can imagine to create or build the finished product," Baber said.

Debuting this fall is Welding 092: Intro to Metal Fabrication, the first of three new metal-fabrication courses approved by the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office and offered at COC.

Designed to include basic metal-fabrication skills training, the course will involve measuring, layout, drilling, bending, shaping, cutting and machining alloys of all different types into various shapes and sizes, with additional focus on the cutting and fitting of metal pipe.

In subsequent semesters, Welding 093: Intermediate Metal Fabrication and Welding 094: Advanced Metal Fabrication will further develop students' fabrication skills, with exposure to the industry's sophisticated metal cutting/machining equipment, before challenging students with a complex semester-long collaborative project involving design, layout, machining, fabrication and other specific welding technology skills and operations.

"The overarching idea is to provide training to build skill sets so students can work in several different metal-fabrication industries," Baber said.

The college's welding technology metal-fabrication option was developed in direct response to the projected growth in the metal-fabrication and welding segment of Southern California's economy and the growing need for technicians with advanced metal-fabrication skills, as expressed by regional industries.

In a 2001 survey of more than 220 key manufacturers and metal fabricators, their top concern was the lack of trained metal-fabrication technicians and welding opera-

tors. Since then, the shortage of such technicians has become more severe, prompting the American Welding Society to predict a possible shortage of 200,000 skilled welders and metal fabricators by 2010.

According to California Labor Market industry projections, every major industry that uses or relies on advanced metal-fabrication techniques will grow, most by double digits, through 2014. As a result of California's impressive industry growth, occupations as fabrication technicians and jobs that require metal-fabrication skills are also projected to grow at double-digit rates, outpacing the rates of growth of those occupations nationally.

"This grant was really necessary to help put our metal-fabrication program on the map," said Baber. "We have a great reputation within the industry, but we can always raise the bar higher, and that's what this grant does. So it's a very exciting and rewarding project to be a part of."

For more information about welding technology and the new metal-fabrication program, contact Baber at (661) 362-3062 or visit www.canyons.edu/weld.



Paralegal Jobs, Program Skyrocketing

When 22-year-old Matthew Morris attains his dream of representing athletes and actors as an entertainment and sports lawyer, instead of crediting a prestigious Ivy League institution with his big start – it will be the paralegal program at College of the Canyons.

Morris was among the first students who joined the paralegal studies program – which began in the fall of 2005 – that allows students to earn an associate in arts degree in paralegal studies in two years.

Encouraged by paralegal professor Deborah Orlik, Morris decided to become a paralegal because the legal profession has always been a childhood dream of his.

“I was always interested in law,” said Morris. “I was working at a law firm at the time but I wanted to get more information.”

As the need for legal services grows, so has the need for trained paralegals nationwide. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, paralegal jobs will grow an average of 27 percent by 2012 – which is higher than the

expected growth rate for attorneys.

Morris said his paralegal training at COC was very “hands-on” and immediately applied to his job at the time.

Paralegals work side-by-side with attorneys and other legal professionals and under the direct supervision of an attorney. They draft various documents, assist the attorney with trial preparation and work directly with clients. Some experienced paralegals can also work as independent contractors and work for different attorneys on specific projects on a contract basis.

The more than 60 students currently working toward paralegal studies degrees at COC must take 10 required courses and three electives.

The college’s paralegal program is currently awaiting approval from the American Bar Association (ABA), which approves both law schools and paralegal programs that are dedicated to offering the best instruction to students. Considered a lengthy process, the approval includes a comprehensive application with exhibits and a visit by ABA representatives to the college.

“We anticipate that should everything go as planned, the college’s Paralegal Studies Program will be formally approved by the ABA in spring 2009,” said Nicole Lucy, the paralegal studies department chair at the college.

Lucy described the average paralegal studies student as a female between the ages of 30 and 40, working full-time, with some college education and children.

Morris said he felt compelled to apply what he had learned in the classroom to the real world, so he confidently walked into courtrooms and asked about available positions or internships. His persistence paid off when he landed an internship with the Los Angeles District Attorney’s Office, where he helped summarize child support cases for jury instruction.

“We helped the jury understand the trial,” said Morris, who plans to apply to a law school such as UCLA, UC Irvine or Pepperdine. After graduating from COC in June 2007, Morris was well prepared to study sociology law and society at UC Riverside.

“It put me ahead in many of my classes,” Morris said.

PAL Helps Students Succeed

A new program has been created by College of the Canyons to improve the speed at which students whose assessment test results reveal below college-level skills, can complete courses to improve those skills and put them on the path to succeeding in college and transfer-level courses.

The Personalized Accelerated Learning (PAL) program’s format is based on a five-week model in which students participate in intensive classes in either an English or math track, as well as a class that focuses on goal-setting, learning styles, time management, and accessing resources that will help them be suc-

cessful. The program will be offered for the first time this fall on both the Valencia and Canyon Country campuses in the morning, afternoon and evening. The fall semester begins Aug. 25.

“We have offered classes like these to help students succeed for several years in our winter and summer sessions,” said Diane Fiero, the college vice president responsible for the program, “but research shows that students who attend our spring and fall semesters would like to be able to complete these classes at a faster pace than the traditional 16 weeks. This way they can progress through three five-week math or English classes in one semester instead of three separate semesters.”

The format of the PAL program includes a couple of very attractive pedagogical advantages. First, as a student successfully completes one five-week class, he or she can move immediately on to the next level in the next five weeks. Secondly, the college has arranged for the same instructor to teach the same group of students as they make their way through the progression of classes. That

PAL PROGRAM FALL 2008 CLASSES

VALENCIA CAMPUS

1st session 8/25/08 to 9/26/08		2nd session 9/29/08 to 10/31/08		3rd session 11/3/08 to 12/5/08	
English 081	Staff	English 091	Staff	English 101	Staff
Counseling 111	Staff	Counseling 150	Staff		
Math 058	A Grigoryan	Math 060	A Grigoryan	Math 070	A Grigoryan
Math 060	M Teachout	Math 070	M Teachout	Math 140	M Teachout
Math 070	R Tolar	Math 103 (8 wks)	R Tolar		

CANYON COUNTRY CAMPUS

1st session 8/25/08 to 9/26/08		2nd session 9/29/08 to 10/31/08		3rd session 11/3/08 to 12/5/08	
English 081	Staff	English 091	Staff	English 101	Staff
Counseling 111	Staff	Counseling 150	Staff	Math 070	C Gibson
Math 058	C Gibson	Math 060	C Gibson		

way, instructors are more familiar with individual student needs and students can benefit from the consistency of instruction that a single instructor provides. Finally, students will progress together – in a group known as a cohort – through the classes. This way they get to know their classmates, and they can help and support each other when needed.

Information sessions are being planned for prospective PAL students who would like to know more about the program. In addition, students who enroll in PAL classes will receive a specialized group orientation, dedicated counseling and tutoring opportunities.

For more information, visit the college’s Web site at www.canyons.edu.

New Title

FROM PAGE 3

The term “chancellor” dates back to Roman times and evolved through the middle ages. In the 13th century, few people besides priests, clerks and monks were literate, and the chancellor was an ecclesiastic. As keeper of the great seal used to authenticate royal documents, the chancellor became, in most medieval kingdoms, the most powerful official. The term has evolved further and today is widely used for the person who is the functional chief executive officer of a college or university.

The board praised Van Hook for two decades of accomplishments and a legacy of leadership, noting specifically her many accomplishments over the last year, which includes overseeing the major tasks of developing and opening a new campus on Sierra Highway in Canyon Country and overseeing the construction and opening of several new buildings on the Valencia campus.

Currently there is a significant amount of construction activity on the Valencia campus. These current projects signify the highest level of construction and preparation for the future since the original campus was built in the early 1970s. Most of the college’s square footage has been added during the tenure of Van Hook, who has served as superintendent-president since 1988. “She has radically changed this campus not only to keep up with the community’s demands, but to anticipate the educational and training programs that will be in demand in the future,” said Sue Bozman, vice president of district communication, marketing and external relations.

When Van Hook arrived in 1988, she spearheaded the development of a strategic plan, a vision for the future and the creation of the college’s facilities master plan. The result was a seemingly non-stop series of new initiatives, comprehensive programs and construction projects that continue today – and that has dramatically changed the college’s face and character. The college was housed in eight major buildings in 1988, including Cougar Stadium; by 2008, another 10 major structures had been built or were nearing completion, among them the 926-seat Performing Arts Center, the Library, Mentry Hall, the Family Studies & Early Childhood Education Center, Aliso Hall, Aliso Lab, Pico Canyon Hall, Hasley Hall, and an entirely new campus in Canyon Country.

During this period, academic and occupational offerings also have been vastly expanded. The college offers associate in arts and science degrees in 61 academic programs, as well as credentials in 69 certificate programs. Academic programs range from animation to television, film and video production, from audio/radio production to video game animation, from biotechnology to theatre arts, from child development to paralegal studies, and from dance to industrial manufacturing. And the college continues to create innovative partnerships with business and



A beaming Chancellor Dianne G. Van Hook (center) poses with senior college administrators the evening she was given her new title.

industry to meet current and future workforce training initiatives.

Construction of the addition to the Physical Education Building and the Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook University Center on the Valencia campus are well under way, as are plans to expand Mentry Hall, the Library, and the Student Services and Administration Building.

The University Center allows students to earn bachelor, master or doctoral degrees from a collection of public and private universities that offer their programs here. The idea is to improve access to education by eliminating the need to commute long distances for advanced degrees.

The College of the Canyons Canyon Country campus opened in August 2007 with nearly 3,400 students in new, modular facilities. When permanent buildings, funded by a combination of Measure M and state funds, are completed, the campus will accommodate up to 10,000 students.

Academy of the Canyons, operated by the William S. Hart Union High School District, opened at College of the Canyons in 2002 and allows promising high school students to attend high school and college concurrently. In addition, an Early College High School funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and operated by the William S. Hart Union High School District, opened on the Canyon Country campus in August 2007.

Also operating at the college are the Center for Applied Competitive Technologies and Employee Training Institute, both of which have helped local businesses become more efficient and train employees in the

latest emerging fields. In partnership with Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Hospital, the college operates the Clinical Education Center at the hospital. And, the College of the Canyons Biotechnology Center provides a 2,000-square-foot clean room in partnership with the Mann Biomedical Park.

To Van Hook, the energy and strategy involved in obtaining funds, turning program ideas into reality, designing buildings with capabilities to accommodate current and future technologies, and following each detail of construction through to completion is important but not her ultimate goal. She pointed out that her sights are always set on making sure the college has the physical and financial resources to meet the training and educational needs of the community, from businesses that require state-of-the-art training to individual students who rely on the college to achieve their educational goals.

Van Hook is noted for her philosophy, “If you can dream it, you can do it.” She said she wants the college to always be ready to help all students to realize their futures and fulfill their dreams.

“I had always wanted to be an architect and design things and help people’s dreams be built and take shape,” said Van Hook. “Being an architect was not something that was open to me in the ’60s, but that’s what I do now. Imagine it, envision it, design it and build it. And that’s what we do at COC. We design programs, opportunities, places and partnerships.

“I guess I’m an architect after all.”

Community, Continuing Education is Booming

By continually increasing its course and program offerings in a wide range of subjects and activities, the College of the Canyons Community and Continuing Education department has experienced significant enrollment increases while developing a reputation for providing fun and unique learning opportunities for all community members to enjoy.

Whether wanting to explore a new activity for the first time or looking to upgrade an existing skill, the Community and Continuing Education department offers free and low-cost, non-credit courses in a variety of formats and locations.

"We're always striving to meet the community's many needs and interests," said Jennifer Brezina, interim dean, non-credit division and community education. "So we have classes for everyone – children, seniors and everyone in between."

The Community Education division features a large number of classes in career and professional development, art, dance, cooking and computer technology as well as courses designed specifically for kids.

Continuing Education classes are financially supported by the state. As a

result, they are offered tuition-free. Current course offerings include English as a Second Language (ESL), citizenship for naturalization, health and safety classes such as the food handlers certification, high school enrichment courses, day-long home computer hardware and networking classes, and Emeritus College courses designed for older adults.

Though Community Education courses have always existed at the college in some form, COC's Continuing Education non-credit course format began in the summer of 2005 and has experienced rapid growth.

In all, the college's Continuing Education division served more than 3,300 students during the 2008 summer session – up from roughly 2,200 students during the spring 2008 semester.

The Community Education division will expand with the introduction of a new pharmacy technician program set to debut during the fall 2008 semester.

Over the next year, Continuing Education also has plans to unveil a new "success skills" subject area of non-credit education, offering classes for GED preparation, reading and writing, basic math and job-search skills.

Summer Institute Success



Dozens of students enrolled in the three-week Junior High School Summer Institute were immersed in their choice of film, fine arts, photography, science and theatre programs.

PAC Season

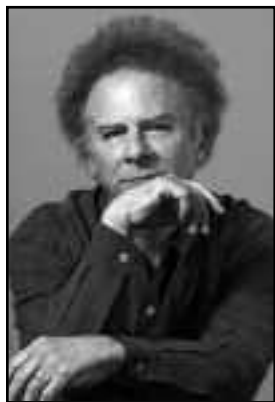
FROM PAGE 1

The season will kick off on Sept. 12 with Bill Medley, better known as half of the classic 1960s pop duo, "The Righteous Brothers." A member of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, Medley will perform some of his most well-known songs such as "You've Lost that Lovin' Feeling" and the Oscar-winning theme song from Dirty Dancing, "(I've Had) The Time of My Life."

Five-time Grammy award winner Art Garfunkel will usher in the new year accompanied by the Santa Clarita Symphony on Jan. 11. Garfunkel is a world-class performer in his own right with 12 solo albums to his name and a place in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

What do you do after a staff job in Congress? Turn to comedy, and that's exactly what Capitol Steps, a group of former congressional staffers, did. With a hilarious take on sometimes-serious issues, such as the upcoming presidential election, their performance on Sept. 27 should not be missed.

On May 29, Los Lobos will perform a wide-ranging music set of blues, rockabil-



ART GARFUNKEL

ly, jazz and Latin. The Mexican-American group caught the music scene's attention with their rendition of Richie Valens' "La Bamba."

Other artists and performances that will be part of the new season include Tom Rush

with The Lovell Sisters, a holiday performance by "American Idol" contestants Phil Stacey and Josh Gracin, the Hunt Family Fiddlers and Grammy-award winners Riders in the Sky.

Other shows include performances by the Spencers: Theatre of Illusion; the visual spectacle of Diavolo; Giordano Jazz Dance Chicago and a special free chamber recital by the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra.

Besides professional shows, student and community performances will also be included in the upcoming performing arts season, as well as a number of special events such as two intimate and audience-engaging cabaret performances and college theatre department productions of "South Pacific" and Henrik Ibsen's "A Doll's House."

For more information about the season and to purchase tickets, visit the Santa Clarita Performing Art Center's Web site at www.canyonspac.com.

Season 2008/09

 <p>September 2008 The Righteous Brothers' Bill Medley in Concert Fri, Sep 12, 2008 at 8:00 pm Capitol Steps Sat, Sep 27, 2008 at 8:00 pm</p>	 <p>October 2008 The Tweaksters Sat, Oct 4, 2008 at 2:00 pm An Evening with Susan Egan Thu, Oct 9, 2008, Lite Fare starts at 7 pm and show time is 7:30 pm COC Theatre - South Pacific Oct 17, 18, 24, 25, 2008 at 8:00 pm Oct 19, 26, 2008 at 2:00 pm</p>	 <p>November 2008 Diavolo Sat, Nov 1, 2008 at 8:00 pm COC Music - Fall Concert Fri, Nov 14, 2008 at 7:30 pm COC Theatre - Some Girls Nov 20-22, 2008 at 8:00 pm, Nov 23, 2008 at 2:00 pm I Love A Piano Sat, Nov 29, 2008 at 8:00 pm</p>	 <p>December 2008 COC Dance - Fall 2008 Dance Concert Dec 4-6, 2008 at 8:00 pm Go Country 105 Acoustic Holiday Concert Sun, Dec 7, 2008 at 7:00 pm COC Music - Holiday Concert Fri, Dec 12, 2008 at 7:30 pm COC Music - Coffee, Cookies and Choir Dec 12-13, 2008 at 7:30 pm (Cougat Café)</p>	 <p>January 2009 Art Garfunkel with the Santa Clarita Symphony Sun, Jan 11, 2009 at 7:00 pm Hunt Family Fiddlers Sun, Jan 25, 2009 at 7:00 pm LA Opera's Figaro's American Adventure Sat, Jan 31, 2009 at 2:00 pm</p>	 <p>February 2009 Giordano Jazz Dance Chicago Sat, Feb 7, 2009 at 8:00 pm An Enchanted Evening Broadway Music with Lee Lessack and Joanne O'Brien Sat, Feb 14, 2009, Lite Fare starts at 7 pm and show time is 7:30 pm COC Music - R.K. Downes Jazz Festival Sat, Feb 21, 2009 from 10-6 pm Literature to Life - The Kite Runner Sun, Feb 22, 2009 at 4:00 pm</p>	 <p>March 2009 Junie B. Jones Sat, Mar 7, 2009 at 2:00 pm and 4:00 pm Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra Sun, Mar 8, 2009 at 4:00 pm COC Music - Spring Concert Fri, Mar 27, 2009 at 7:30 pm</p>	 <p>April 2009 COC Theatre - A Doll's House Apr 2-4, 2009 at 8:00 pm Apr 5, 2009 at 2:00 pm The Spencers: Theatre of Illusion Sat, Apr 4, 2009 at 8:00 pm Riders in the Sky Wed, Apr 22, 2009 at 7:30 pm COC Music - Spring 2009 Dance Concert Apr 24-25, 2009 at 8:00 pm</p>	 <p>May 2009 COC Theatre - Noises Off May 7-9, 2009 at 8:00 pm May 10, 2009 at 2:00 pm Tom Rush with The Lovell Sisters Sat, May 16, 2009 at 2:00 pm COC Theatre - New Works Festival May 10-16, 2009 at 8:00 pm May 17, 2009 at 2:00 pm COC Music - Pops Concert Fri, May 15, 2009 at 7:30 pm COC Music - Choir presents Sunday Serenade Sun, May 17, 2009 at 7:00 pm Los Lobos Fri, May 29, 2009 at 8:00 pm</p>
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Santa Clarita Performing Arts Center at College of the Canyons
28455 Rockwell Canyon Road
Santa Clarita, CA 91355

www.canyonspac.com
Box Office: 661.362.5304

Football Named Nation's Preseason No. 1

• Highest Preseason Ranking Ever for Team

The College of the Canyons football team was tabbed by Street & Smith's Sporting News College Football 2008 Yearbook with the No. 1 ranking among community college football programs across the nation. The annual preseason publication includes division I, II and III, and NAIA rankings and has a national circulation of 160,000. Other California teams included in the top-10 were No. 2 City College of San Francisco, No. 8 Bakersfield College, No. 9 El Camino College and No. 10 Mt. San Antonio College.

College of the Canyons is in its second season under head coach Garrett Tujague, who led the team to a 9-3 record in his first season. With Tujague at the helm of the

program, the Cougars reached the second round of the playoffs after missing the post season in 2006. Tujague was also honored with a Co-Western State Conference Coach of the Year award, and 20 players were named to the all-conference team.

The Cougars return 36 members of the 2007 squad, including 16 starters. This year's group is led by a pair of sophomores – 2007 Co-WSC Player of the Year running back Fred Winborn and First-Team All-WSC wide receiver Hayo Carpenter – who both topped the conference in their respective categories.

Last season, Winborn broke numerous Canyons records when he ran for 1,524 yards and 21 touchdowns. He has the chance to break the remaining top statistics

this year. Carpenter led the team in receiving yards per game (117.0), total receiving yards (1,404) and reception touchdowns (14), and will share the offensive load with Winborn.

For the defense, second-leading tackler in 2007 defensive back Anthony Luna will highlight the secondary. Last year, Luna had 68 tackles (46 solo) with two interceptions and three pass breakups. The Cougars also will look for linebacker Joey Juarascio to make contributions. Last season he had 20 tackles (9 solo) and one interception.

Canyons begins the 2008 football campaign in early September as part of a new conference.

In November, the Southern California Football Association (SCFA) approved a realignment and created the National and

American Divisions – with three regional conferences in the National Division and two in the American Division – in an effort to create a more competitive balance among the Southern California football teams.

The National Division will consist of historically stronger teams. With the Western State Conference gone, Canyons will join the National Division, Northern Conference, which includes Allan Hancock, Bakersfield, Glendale, Moorpark, Pasadena and Ventura.

The Cougar football season begins on Sept. 6 against Antelope Valley and ends on Nov. 15 at Bakersfield College.

Bakersfield College beat the Cougars twice last season, including a double-overtime Renegade win in the second round of the Southern California Playoffs.

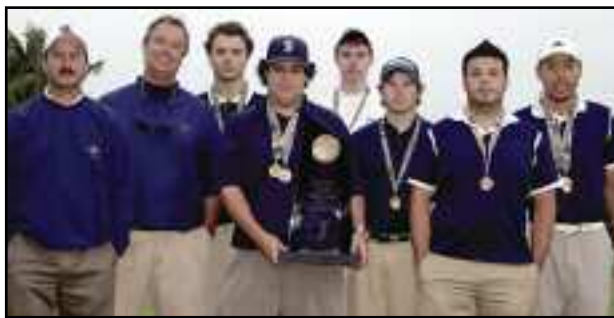
Men's Golf Team Joins Women's as State Champions

The College of the Canyons men's golf team powered through the second round of the 2008 California Community College State Championships on May 12, turning in a tournament low 361 for a 7-over-par 727 36-hole score that captured the state title. The California Community College top honor is the second golf state title during the 2007-08 season, as the women's golf team also won the same tournament in November of 2007.

The women's team shot a record 35-over-par 619 (315-304) to win the California Community College Women's Golf State Championship by 14 strokes in November. Freshman and La Canada graduate Jenny Lee led the team, finishing at even par with a 143 (70-73), and took home individual medalist honors for her first-place finish.

The COC men's squad (366-361--727) overcame a two-stroke deficit after the first 18 holes on the par-72, 7,026-yard SCGA Golf Course to take an eight-stroke lead against second-place Saddleback (364-371--735).

The men's win marks the Cougars' fourth state title and the women's second, and with the women's title in the fall of 2007, it is the second time in school history that head coach Gary Peterson has led both golf teams to state



2008 STATE CHAMPION MEN'S GOLF TEAM

titles in the same academic year.

"After the first round, we were only down two shots," Peterson said. "I told the guys that we were in this as much as anyone else. It was a real team effort."

Andrew Ok had the best individual finish for the Cougars, placing second. Ok, who earned All-State honors, combined four birdies to finish at even par after the first 18 holes. In the second round, he posted an eagle on the par-5, 551-yard No. 8 and mixed in three more birdies

to finish the tournament with a 2-under 142.

Sophomore leader Casey Piper had a tough first round that included two double bogeys on Nos. 13 and 15, finishing with a 6-over-par 78. The second round was a different story for the All-State golfer when he birdied three holes each on the front and back nine to score the lowest round in the field of 60 golfers, a 6-under-par 66. He finished the tourney at even par and in a tie for sixth place.

"After the first round I jokingly told him to go out there and shoot a course record, which he did," Peterson said. "Casey was the only two-year player I had on this team, so it was special to see him play so confidently and be successful."

In the first round, COC was led by Justin Renaux who turned in the lowest score of the morning, a 3-under-par 69. He had a 76 in the afternoon round for a 1-over-par 145 tournament total and ended in a tie for eighth place.

Davis Kirkland completed the 36 holes with a 5-over-par 149 (74-75--149) and in a tie for 20th place. Lucas Allensworth fell one stroke behind Kirkland with a 6-over-par 150 (76-74--150). Allensworth tied for 25th place. Ryan Perez carded a 10-over-par 154 (75-79--154) and ended in a tie for 39th place.

New PE Building, Tennis Courts Expected to be Ready this Fall

Forty years ago, College of the Canyons hosted its first basketball game against Cuesta College. Since then, the college has been committed to providing a forum for healthy living and a chance for the community to participate in intercollegiate athletics. That pledge continues with a physical education expansion that has added a new gym and tennis courts.

"College of the Canyons understands the importance of providing a place where the community members can come and participate in healthy competition or to learn a new sport," said Len Mohny, dean of physical education and athletics. "The new gym and tennis courts will provide curriculum that we have not been able to provide in the past, creating a more diverse group of activities on the campus."

Funded by Measure C, the project includes an auxiliary gym, three classrooms, staff offices, locker and team

rooms, athletic training room and six lighted tennis courts.

The new facility joins an existing PE building on the Valencia campus that has a gym, a swim and dive pool, basketball court and staff offices. The growing student population led to the creation of new programs such as football and women's soccer in 1998, which quickly outgrew the existing facilities. It's the first time since 1976 that new college facilities have been built for physical education programs.

"This community is not only a huge supporter of sports, but a lot of people participate in physical activity at different levels," Mohny said. "It just made sense to grow with the demands of the area."

With the auxiliary gym and tennis courts, men's volleyball, women's badminton and men's and women's tennis are being considered as additions to the 16 competitive sports currently offered.

Tennis and badminton classes will be



College of the Canyons' new tennis courts have Davis Cup dimensions and will be open this fall.

offered, as well as classes in surfing, ice hockey and rock climbing. The tennis courts will be available for public use through Community Extension and in the future will host local tournaments.

"I am excited to create new classes that have never been offered on this campus,"

Mohny said. "There are some great tennis programs in Santa Clarita, and I hope that our courts will be another venue to showcase the local tennis talent. Though badminton is not as widely known out here, I am proud to be able to introduce a new sport to the area."

GO! Program

FROM PAGE 1

of life for everyone, fuel prices at all-time highs and a new generation of students who prefer to learn at their convenience," said Diane Fiero, the college vice president responsible for the program's implementation, "we think this program, which allows students to take classes online in the comfort of their own homes or wherever they have access to a computer, will be extremely popular."

Administrators are excited about the potential of the program, called the GO! Program, to play a key role in making college classes accessible to community members who, for a variety of reasons, are not able to enroll in traditional classes.

"The basic premise of the program," said Fiero, "is to make it easier for students to 'get in, get out and get going' with their lives."

Classes being made available in this accelerated format will include a host of general education classes such as art, anthropology, English, history, political science, psychology and many more.

Research has shown that many students prefer the short-term class options

since they generally provide more schedule flexibility for students and provide alternatives to courses that are traditionally based on the standard academic calendar. Since many courses are offered every five weeks, students have additional opportunities to pick up classes they might have missed at an earlier time and, with classes being repeated every two to three sessions, students will have to wait only weeks, not months, to try the course again

if something prevents them from completing a class.

Students will also benefit from the ability to pay for a single class and accompanying costs from fees and texts as they go, as opposed to having to fund a semester's worth of classes up front.

The college will closely examine the results of this fall's program rollout and determine whether any changes need to be made based on those observations.

"We think this format will be attractive to both students currently enrolled at the college and those who haven't taken college classes before," said Fiero. "At \$20 per unit, students should know that they are receiving an outstanding value. We are constantly looking at what barriers people need to overcome in order to enroll and be successful in college, and we firmly believe this program will remove a significant barrier for many potential students."

GO! Program Fall 2008 Schedule of Classes

Fall 2008 1st session 8/25/08 to 9/26/08			Fall 2nd session 9/29/08 to 10/31/08			Fall 3rd session 11/3/08 to 12/5/08		
Classes	Format	Professor	Classes	Format	Professor	Classes	Format	Professor
Art 205	OL	R Walker	Anthro 103	OL	L Malley	Anthro 101	OL	R Martinez
Counseling 070	OL	Staff	Comm. Stud. 105	HY	T. Stokes-Rice	Comm. Stud. 105	HY	T. Stokes-Rice
English 101	OL	Staff	Counseling 111	OL	Staff	Counseling 070	OL	Staff
Health 100	OL	Staff	Geology 109	OL	Staff	English 101	OL	Staff
History 111	OL	K. Addison	Health 100	OL	Staff	Health 100	OL	Staff
Philosophy 106	OL	A Jones-Cathcart	History 112	OL	K Addison	Philosophy 101	OL	M O'Malley
Poli Sci 150	OL	G Nguyen	Music 105	OL	B Feldman	Psychology 230	OL	R Howe
Psychology 101	OL	M Huff	Poli Sci 150	OL	G Nguyen	Theater 110	OL	T Layne
Sociology 101	OL	D Little	Sociology 103	OL	A Marengo	Photo 150	OL	W Brill-Wynkoop

OL refers to Online Courses; HY refers to Hybrid Courses