

The Bottom Line

NEWS & VIEWS FROM COLLEGE OF THE CANYONS SUMMER 2004

President's REPORT



Dr. Dianne Van Hook

With the 35th anniversary of College of the Canyons before us, we can look back at our accomplishments with great pride. This college, conceived by local visionaries in the late 1960s to fulfill the educational needs of an expected tidal wave of new residents, has done just that – save for the fact that it has consistently exceeded everyone’s expectations. This place truly has redefined “community college” by overcoming all obstacles, resolving all challenges through innovation and boldly practicing a philosophy that embraces new and inventive ideas with relentless energy, passion and commitment. College of the Canyons has

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State OKs Canyon Country Center

The California Community Colleges Board of Governors has given College of the Canyons a green light to move forward with plans to acquire land in Canyon Country for a permanent, full-service educational center.

The Board of Governors granted its approval during a meeting in Sacramento on July 12. The college is shooting for a 2006 opening of the cen-

RELATED STORY

College of the Canyons introduces classes at Golden Valley High School this fall / Page 8



ter, which will feature classrooms, laboratories and administrative space.

See CANYON COUNTRY on Page 8



The Performing Arts Center at College of the Canyons, built in partnership with the City of Santa Clarita, will feature a wide variety of college, community and commercial productions.

The Curtain Rises

State-of-the-Art Performing Arts Center Debuts this Fall

The Performing Arts Center at College of the Canyons will open its doors to the public in October, revealing a state-of-the-art, two-level proscenium theater capable of accommodating 926 people and a smaller black-box theater for more intimate productions. The

\$18.3 million complex was built in partnership with the City of Santa Clarita, whose \$2.5 million contribution allowed the college to double the center’s seating capacity.

“The opening of this stunning facility opens an exciting chapter for the college and the

community,” said Superintendent-President Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook. “This building will fulfill the dual role of meeting our educational needs and addressing the community’s need for a top-of-the-line performance space that can seat more

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Van Hook

FROM PAGE 1

become a bastion for people with imaginative minds and committed souls, all working together for a common cause, all doing their part to provide an unparalleled level of excellence in education.

This fall we will officially open the doors to our new performing arts center, a dazzling facility that will provide this community with a state-of-the-art performance venue. Although this center has long been in the college's master plan, it took some innovative thinking and planning to bring it to fruition. The City of Santa Clarita played a big part in bringing this center to our community, contributing \$2.5 million so that we could double the number of seats to more than 900. The center also holds a smaller "black box" theater for more intimate productions before audiences of up to 125 people, and the center can accommodate simultaneous productions in both performance halls. The main hall is truly stunning, with its seats arranged on two levels and its perfect sight lines to the proscenium stage. The acoustics will be superb, provided by a non-amplified acoustic-resonance system that's the first of its kind for a college in North America. In the weeks ahead you'll learn more about all of the college and community-based performances that are planned here, as well as some exciting commercial acts. And, of course, I hope you'll join us for our grand-opening festivities on Oct. 15.

Rising alongside the new performing arts center is our Music-Dance Instructional Building, which is on a fast-track construction schedule that should produce a completed building by December. This new facility will house the college's music

'College of the Canyons has become a bastion for people with imaginative minds and committed souls, all working together for a common cause, all doing their part to provide an unparalleled level of excellence in education.'

and dance programs, and feature a choir room, instrumental room, faculty offices, dance studio, electronic music room, music library and storage facilities.

Another exciting development is our gradual and deliberate move into the eastern portion of the Santa Clarita Valley. The California Community Colleges Board of Governors recently approved our plan to build a permanent educational center in Canyon Country, where a significant percentage of our students reside. In the months ahead we will conduct environmental impact reports for at least three potential sites and acquire one of them for the permanent center. We've been planning such a move for some time. Several years ago we opened the Canyon Country ACCESS Center in the Canyon Country Library in an effort to bring classes closer to our students. And, beginning this fall, we will bring even more classes to the area by holding them at the new Golden Valley High School off Golden Valley Road near Sierra Highway. These interim steps will ensure that convenient and relevant classes are available while the permanent center is developed.

But that's not all. Not by a long shot. We expect the state to soon approve working architectural drawings for two more academic facilities. Our new High-Tech Center will integrate into one building a host of high-tech programs ranging from

computer-aided drafting to telecommunications to an ever-growing number of academic disciplines. We expect construction to begin in late fall. The other facility is our planned Science Lecture Hall & Lab Expansion, which will add instructional space to support an increase in demand for science curriculum. Key to the new lab space will be areas devoted to biology and physical sciences. We expect to break ground on this building early next year.

Then there's the University Center, which will soon receive a new, permanent home on the south end of our campus. With more than \$7 million pledged so far, the University Center capital campaign will soon enter its final phase. Our goal is to complete this campaign by next June.

With 35 years under our collective belts, we can look forward to a future characterized by the traits we've developed along the way: boundless optimism, innovative practices, and unbridled passion for the work that we do. They all combine to provide limitless opportunity and continued excellence in higher education at California's premier community college. We thank you, Santa Clarita Valley, for allowing us to be your stewards of this wonderful institution, and we vow to impress and inspire in the years ahead.

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

editor

John Green
Publications & Marketing Officer

contributors

John McElwain
Director, Public Relations

Bruce Battle
Sports & Arts Information Officer

contact us

(661) 362-3684
john.green@canyons.edu

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Sue Bozman

Dean, Communications
Santa Clarita
Community College District
26455 Rockwell Canyon Road
Santa Clarita, CA 91355
(661) 259-7800

Visit College of the Canyons at
<http://www.canyons.edu>



Measure C Update



Warehouse Expansion

This project expanded the college warehouse from 10,000 square feet to 18,500 square feet.

Status: Completed

Vocational Technology Building

This project includes an addition to the existing Vocational Technology Center and general-purpose classroom building.

Status: Completed

High-Tech Classroom Building

This complex will house classrooms and laboratory space for technology training, as well as faculty offices.

Construction Start: November 2004



Science Laboratory Building Addition

This structure (above) will expand the existing science and laboratory building.

Construction Start: March 2005

Canyon Country Education Center

This permanent education center will replace the current ACCESS center in the Canyon Country Library.

Site Development: August 2005

The University Center

Measure C funds will be used to pay a portion of the construction costs for a permanent University Center.

Construction Start: 2005 or 2006

Health/Cardiovascular/Physical Education Center

This new building will house health-related instructional and athletic programs.

Construction Start: August 2005

Library Addition

This project will significantly expand the existing Library.

Status: Construction in 2008 or 2009

Media Arts Technology Addition

This project will expand the Media & Fine Arts Building.

Construction Start: To be determined

Student Services/Counseling/Admin

This project will provide a larger building to house support services for students.

Construction Start: To be determined



The Music Dance Building (depicted in an artist's rendering at left) is now under construction right next to the Performing Arts Center (below).



MAKING PROGRESS

College Moves Ahead with Bond-Funded Expansion, Oversight Committee Verifies College in Compliance

The Measure C Citizens Oversight Committee determined May 28 that College of the Canyons is in compliance with the legal requirements set forth in Proposition 39, which mandates that an oversight committee composed of community members oversee the proper disbursement of bond revenues.

The oversight committee sent a letter affirming that compliance to the Santa Clarita Community College District Board of Trustees.

The committee was created following the passage of Measure C in 2001. It is responsible for ensuring that bond revenues are expended properly and that bond funds are not used for faculty or administrative salaries or other college expenses. The 11-member committee was appointed on Jan. 23, 2002, and has met seven times.

Measure C passed with 68 percent voter approval on Nov. 6, 2001, providing

\$82.1 million in bond revenue for much-needed construction of new facilities, renovation of the College of the Canyons campus and establishment of a permanent education center in the Canyon Country area.

Measure C funds have been used to renovate Cougar Stadium, reconfigure the entrance drive off Rockwell Canyon Road, expand the college warehouse, and begin construction of the new Music-Dance Building, immediately north of and adjacent to the new Performing Arts Center. The Music-Dance Building is on a fast-track schedule and expected to be completed by December.

The public is welcome to attend Measure C Citizens Oversight Committee meetings. Meeting dates, agendas, minutes and a variety of background material are posted on-line at <http://www.canyons.edu/info/news/mcoveright.html>.

College Graduates Largest Class

A record 997 students – a 27 percent increase over last year – graduated from College of the Canyons. Commencement was celebrated May 21 in the outdoor central-campus Honor Grove.

Also conferred was a record number of degrees – 1,013 of them, as some students earned more than one degree. The increase in graduates and degrees is a major achievement, as last year there was a 4 percent increase.

Some other interesting facts:

- ❖ The 2004 graduating class was composed of 610 women and 387 men, with 34 percent being ethnic minorities.

- ❖ The class received associate of arts or associate of science degrees reflecting accomplishments in 42 distinct courses of study.

- ❖ The average age of the class was 26, exactly the same as last year's. The youngest graduate was 17, and the eldest was 66.

- ❖ Nineteen international students received degrees this year, representing six countries: Japan, People's Republic of China, Taiwan, Argentina, Sweden and Jamaica.

- ❖ The popular Progressive Adult College Education (PACE)



The number of graduates increased an impressive 27 percent over last year, with 997 students earning associate degrees in 42 courses of study.

program graduated 95 students, a tremendous 132 percent increase over last year.

- ❖ Of the students who participated in the college's Disabled Student Programs & Services, 35 of them graduated, representing a 106 percent increase over last year.

- ❖ Thirty-three students who participated in the Extended Opportunities Program & Services (EOPS) graduated, a slight decrease in number.

- ❖ The graduating class grade-point average (GPA) was 3.05, slightly higher than last year's average GPA of 3.03.

- ❖ Twelve students graduated as valedictorians, having posted perfect 4.0 GPAs (straight As) during their studies at the college. This is a 171 percent increase, as last year there were five students.

- ❖ Representing the valedictorians as featured speakers were Tiffany Tatevossian, Danila Coppola and Erin Tisovic. The number of honors graduates – those graduating with a GPA of 3.5 or better – was 214, a 39 percent increase.

- ❖ The academic major with the highest number of graduates was social science, with 111 graduates.

Partnership Helps Produce Additional 64 Nursing Grads



The HMNH-COC Clinical Education Center, which provides hands-on nurse training, has helped increase the number of nursing grads.

College of the Canyons graduated a record 64 nursing students May 22. Many of the graduates are the result of an innovative partnership with Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Hospital to attract nurses to the field and help alleviate a critical nursing shortage.

It's a dramatic increase in nursing graduates from the previous year, when 30 students completed the program. College officials attribute the growth in graduates to the opening of the Clinical Education Center at the hospital in 2002.

"This would not have been possible without the collaboration and vision of Henry Mayo, which provided the instructor and the space," said Sue Albert, dean of allied health at the college. "The hospital made it possible for us to increase the number of nursing students and have this many graduates."

The Clinical Education Center is a 1,400-square-foot facility on the hospital campus dedicated to the education and training of nurses. The program is unique in that students receive real-world training, education and employment at their community hospital.

"As a result of our partnership, we have more graduates who through their passion and desire have entered the nursing profession and will remain in our community to improve health care in the Santa Clarita Valley," said Diane Lynch, the hospital's chief nursing officer.

Theater

FROM PAGE 1

than 900 people. This is a community asset that everyone will enjoy.”

The center's inaugural performance season, to be announced on Aug. 25, will feature a variety of college, community and commercial productions. The COC Foundation plans to present a series of distinguished speakers during the upcoming season, as well.

The center will officially open on Oct. 15. A ribbon-cutting ceremony is planned at 7 p.m., to be followed by a Theatre Department production of "Big River," based on Mark Twain's "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn."

A variety of college and community productions are scheduled in the new center, ranging from a performance by the Santa Clarita Symphony in the main hall on Nov. 6 to a "Works in Progress" dance concert in the Black Box Theatre on Nov. 20.

The Black Box, a smaller, more intimate performance area covering 2,035 square feet, can accommodate up to 125 people.

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

The center has been designed so that every seat offers ideal sight lines and acoustics. Sound is provided by a non-amplified acoustic-resonance system that electronically adapts the house to a particular



The Performing Arts Center's main hall has two seating levels.

performance, whether small theater, light opera or full orchestra. The high-tech sound system is the first for a college in North America.

The performance schedule is available by logging on to www.canyons.edu and clicking the "News" button, then "Event Calendar." Tickets will be available for purchase by calling the box office at (661) 362-3304.

Animation Students Draw Raves

Two College of the Canyons animation students received awards at the **California Community College Education & Workforce Development Media Arts Awards**, which accepted nearly 550 entries from 40 colleges in 11 categories. **Lejon Douroux** and **Kristina Swanger** were Merit Award winners in the "Traditional Animation" category. Douroux picked up an award for his piece entitled "An Afternoon Drive," while Swanger won with her "Status Epilpticus." The awards mark the first time College of the Canyons animation students have won in this competition. "These films represent months of hard work and dedication," said Sheila Sofian, chair of the college's Animation Department. "I am very excited for them both, and I am glad they are receiving the acknowledgement they deserve." Douroux and Swanger were presented their awards during the Media Arts Showcase in Pasadena on March 25.

Students Present '12 Angry Jurors'

"12 Angry Jurors" convened at the **Santa Clarita Repertory Theatre** for three days in April as the **Theatre Department** hosted its version of the classic courtroom drama "12 Angry Men." Both men and women were cast in the starring roles, so the name was changed slightly, but the story remained the same as it followed the deliberations of a split jury and the efforts of one juror to sway the minds of the other 11. The cast was also diverse in its level of acting expertise. **Jeffery Rollins**, who played Juror #3, has a nationally syndicated radio show, is an instructor for the **Columbia School of Broadcasting** and personally

tutored **Jim Carrey** for his role as a broadcaster in "Bruce Almighty." **Marcus Briscoe**, who played varsity golf for **Valencia High School**, entered the cast in just his second production.

'New Works' Returns for 2nd Season

The **Theatre Department** once again eliminated the stages, scenes and costumes for its groundbreaking **New Works Festival**, which returned in May following a successful debut the previous year. The festival highlighted 10 student-actors in nine student-written plays in May. "This really is a unique experience that allows us to get into the heads of young people," director **Nancy Kissam** said. Held in the college's Fine Art Gallery, the performances did away with the traditional trappings of live theater. Actors dressed in minimal wardrobes composed

entirely of black, while additional actors behind the scenes provided sound effects. The genres ranged from the comedy of "Girl Analyzes," a how-to on successfully breaking up with a boyfriend, to the serious "Surprise Party," which examined one family's problems.

Festival Showcases Original Art

College of the Canyons animation students presented their new and original works of art during the annual **Student Animation Festival** on May 22. The works included short animated films and exercises, traditional hand-drawn animation, and both 2D and 3D computer-generated animation. The popular festival is held at the end of each academic year to present students' work to both the public and the college community.

The Arts
IN BRIEF

University Center Adds BA, MPA

The University Center at College of the Canyons will offer two new degree programs: a bachelor of arts program in sociology and a master's program in public administration. Both programs are slated to begin in early 2005.

The two-year programs are being launched by California State University, Northridge, and the Roland Tseng College of Extended Learning. Classes are presented one at a time in an accelerated mode and augmented by on-line instruction.

The sociology program is designed for students who want to extend their education in the liberal arts with an emphasis in sociology, prepare for graduate work or enter a career in which a substantial background in sociology is essential. The dead-

line for applications is Oct. 5, with classes scheduled to begin in February.

The public administration program is designed for practitioners in the public sector who have a need for professional development in order to carry out their current or desired responsibilities, as well as those who seek to enter the field. The application deadline is Nov. 1, with classes slated to begin in January.

Class schedules are already set, and enrollment is guaranteed in every class. Classes will meet evenings and weekends to accommodate student work schedules.

The University Center offers a wide variety of degree programs from a collection of public and private universities in an interim facility on the College of the

Canyons campus, allowing residents to earn advanced degrees without leaving the Santa Clarita Valley. Plans are under way to build a permanent University Center.

To learn more about the sociology program and to attend an upcoming information session, contact Simin Bahmanyar at (818) 677-2465 or simin.bahmanyar@csun.edu. For information about the public administration program and an upcoming information session, contact Dr. Henrik Minassians at (818) 677-4618 or henrik.minassians@csun.edu.

To learn more about these or other programs being offered at the Interim University Center, call (661) 362-5474. Additional information is available on-line at <http://www.canyons.edu/offices/UnivCtr/>.

Job Fair to Feature 100-Plus Employers

College of the Canyons' popular Job & Career Fair will return this fall, giving job seekers an opportunity to meet with more than 100 prospective employers seeking candidates for a wide variety of entry- to upper-level positions.

The next job fair is scheduled 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 6, in the central-campus Honor Grove. During the last fair on April 28, 102 employers attracted more than 1,000 job seekers. The fair is held twice a year – every spring and fall.

Sponsoring the fall job fair with the college is The Signal newspaper. Other sponsors include the Santa Clarita Valley Chamber of Commerce, A-1 Party, Star 98.7 and the Castaic Lake Water Agency.

The job fair is free and open to all. Parking will be free in any student lot the day of the event. For more information contact Lonnie Davis at (661) 362-3286 or lonnie.davis@canyons.edu.



A Simi Valley police officer (left) speaks with an attendee during the Spring Job & Career Fair.

College Named Official I-CAR Welding Site

College of the Canyons has been designated as an official welding skills-qualification test site for I-CAR, a non-profit organization that provides uniform training and certification for workers in the automotive collision-repair industry.

The college's Welding Technology Department launched the testing program in April. A related prep class for those needing additional training began in June.

Those being tested will be directed to the college by I-CAR, the Inter-Industry Conference on Auto Collision Repair. The

organization provides the industry with up-to-date technical information and the latest training in repair skills.

"Most of the big insurance companies now require this certification of automotive collision-repair facilities," said Tim Baber, associate welding professor and chair of the Welding Technology Department. "The insurance companies developed this welding-qualification test in partnership with the American Welding Society. It tests candidates in the gas metal arc welding process on electro-galvanized

sheet metal, which is used on many of today's automobiles."

Overseeing the testing is Burt Callender, an I-CAR-qualified test administrator at College of the Canyons. The nearest I-CAR testing site is Orange Coast College, which has a six- to eight-month backlog for testing.

Collision-repair companies and technicians interested in becoming I-CAR certified should call I-CAR (not the college) at (800) 422-7872. Additional information is available online at <http://www.i-car.com>.

Conference Highlights China Trade

More than 130 people received an insider's view of how to do business with China during College of the Canyons' first "Exploring Business with China: Opportunities & Challenges," an all-day conference held at the Hyatt Valencia's Santa Clarita Conference Center on April 21.

The conference brought together a variety of noted speakers from the worlds of business, government and academia, all of whom agreed that opportunities abound in China, a country that boasts the highest foreign direct investment in the world. The People's Republic of China is fast becoming a focal point for businesses and industries seeking to expand their markets and bolster their bottom lines. The country's GDP (gross domestic product) was estimated to be close to \$6 trillion in 2002.

Heading the list of speakers was Consul General Zhong Jianhua, who has served as director general of China's Department of Consular Affairs in Los Angeles since 1999. He noted that although European countries are further along in developing business relationships with China, the United States still ranks as the country's third largest trading partner. Hitting on a theme that consistently arose during the conference, Zhong noted that the single most significant obstacle to trade growth is the cultural difference between the two countries.

Other speakers included Pacific Rim Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Holmes Stoner Jr.; Los Angeles County Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, who served as honorary conference chairman; Zhiming Xu, director and chief representative of the Shanghai Foreign Investment Development Board; Lounai Shu, commercial and economic attache for the Department of Consular Affairs in L.A.; Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook, superintendent-president of the Santa Clarita Community College District/College of the Canyons; Vance Baugham, regional manager of the L.A. Economic Development Corp.; Rob Guthrie, business development officer of US Export Import Bank; Julianne Hennessey, director of the U.S. Export Assistance Center, U.S. Department of Commerce; John Hoskinson, president of Gruber Systems; Dr. Archie Kleingartner, director of the Global Window Project, UCLA Anderson School of Management; Tim Norris, a partner in Pan



John Hoskinson (right), president of Gruber Systems, makes a point as attorney Adam Schorr looks on during the panel discussion

Pacific Sourcing; Martin Selander, an international trade specialist from the U.S. Small Business Administration, and Greg Whitney, vice president of business development for the L.A. Economic Development Corp. The event's major sponsor was Vital Express.

Following on the heels of the successful conference, College of the Canyons is considering entering into a partnership with a Chinese university to establish an educational program that would provide joint associate of arts degrees for Chinese students, a semester-abroad program for U.S. students and a professional development program for executives of U.S. businesses.

Internships Boost Job Prospects, Earnings

Community college students who participate in work-based learning such as internships graduate sooner, find jobs faster and earn more than fellow students, according to a study conducted for the California Community College Chancellor's Office.

The study, prepared by Hatchuel Tabernik & Associates of Berkeley, found that students who participate in such programs find work two weeks sooner after graduation, earn 22 percent more in their first year and have higher average annual earnings for four years after graduation.

"The study confirms that work-based learning programs provide students with a quicker route to steady, meaningful employment and significantly higher earnings," said Stan Wright, director of Coop-

erative Work Experience Education (CWEE) at College of the Canyons.

"I encourage any student who finds this prospect appealing to apply for one of the hundreds of paid or unpaid internships available through College of the Canyons," Wright said. The college has approximately 300 internship positions available at any given time.

The college has placed 117 interns since early 2003. It has nearly 200 internship partners, including the L.A. County District Attorney's Office, Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Hospital, City of Santa Clarita, HBO, Sony Music Entertainment and Warner Brothers Animation.

Those interested in exploring internship opportunities should call CWEE at (661) 362-3309 or 362-3681.

Program Earns Statewide Honor

The California Cooperative Experience Education and Internship Association honored Cooperative Work Experience Education (CWEE) at College of the Canyons for its exemplary work in experiential learning.

The statewide organization gave CWEE its Two-Year College Award on April 22. The organization noted that College of the Canyons' CWEE program developed nearly 800 internships within 22 months.

Additional Courses Offered in Canyon Country

College of the Canyons will begin offering classes this fall at a second site in the eastern Santa Clarita Valley. Ten sections of in-demand, core classes will be offered at the new Golden Valley High School starting Sept. 20.

Classes will be offered Monday through Thursday at the Golden Valley site. "College of the Canyons is moving quickly to acquire its own property in the eastern Santa Clarita Valley," said Sue Bozman, dean of communications, marketing and external relations at the college. "But the demand for classes now by community members is significant, so we've decided to begin offering classes right away."

The college already offers a variety of classes at its Canyon Country ACCESS site at the Canyon Country Library, but those classes usually fill quickly. "It makes good sense to do what we can to offer the classes that people want and need," said Bozman. "The Golden Valley site will allow us to meet those needs until we complete our own facility in the eastern part of our community."

English, history, anthropology and dance classes will be offered between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m., while communications, Spanish, math and real estate offerings will be held from 4 to 9 p.m. The classes are listed in the on-line schedule of classes at www.canyons.edu. The classes run from Sept. 20 to Dec. 10.

A greater array of courses will be offered in the spring 2005 semester.



Artist's rendering of Golden Valley High School, the newest school in the William S. Hart Union High School District and site of fall classes from College of the Canyons.

Golden Valley ACCESS Classes 2004

ANTHRO 215

Indians of the Southwestern U.S.

COMS 105

Speech Fundamentals

DANCE 100

Dance Appreciation

ENGL 091

Intro. to College Reading & Writing

ENGL 101

English Composition & Literature

HIST 111

United States History I

HIST 112

United States History II

MATH 103

College Algebra

REAL 100

Real Estate Principles

SPAN 150

Conversational Spanish

Canyon Country

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The Canyon Country Educational Center would create additional educational opportunities in the eastern Santa Clarita Valley, an area where 32 percent of College of the Canyons students already live.

Research conducted for the college's recent strategic plan shows more than 18 percent of students reside in Canyon Country and nearly 14 percent live in Saugus.

"With so many of our students living in the eastern valley, it's critical that we make it as convenient as possible for everyone who might benefit from higher education," said Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook, superintendent-president of the district and college.

The new educational center will be temporarily housed in more than 30,000 square feet of modular structures acquired at a significant discount from Vandenberg Air Force

Base. The 34 structures were purchased for \$17,000, less than half the cost of purchasing or building new structures. The educational center will replace the district's existing ACCESS centers in the Canyon Country library and at Golden Valley High School.

A college facility in the eastern portion of the Santa Clarita Valley has been part of the college's master plan for several years. Rapid growth in the Santa Clarita Valley has made development of a convenient site in the Canyon Country area a priority.

Funds to purchase a site in the area were made available through passage of the \$82.1 million Measure C bond measure, which is also funding new buildings and renovation on the main campus.

"Demand for classes in this part of our valley is significant," said Sue Bozman, dean of district communications, marketing and external relations. "We consistently fill up classes that we offer in the Canyon Country ACCESS site at the Canyon Country

Library, and we'll be offering additional classes at a second temporary site – to be called Golden Valley ACCESS – by the middle of the college's fall 2004 semester.

In addition to the fact that a significant percentage of students live in the eastern valley, enrollment trends suggest that the main Valencia campus will near its capacity by the end of the decade.

College of the Canyons has experienced phenomenal growth, with current enrollment surpassing 15,000 students, more than double that of a decade ago. The new center is projected to enroll 4,648 students when it opens, exceeding the threshold requirements for new centers.

More than 30 potential sites for the educational center were reviewed by the Canyon Country Educational Center Site Selection Committee, an ad-hoc group composed of Canyon Country residents and community leaders. Several sites are currently under consideration.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Fiero Named New VP of Human Resources

The College of the Canyons Board of Trustees on July 14 approved **Diane Fiero** as the college's new vice president for human resources. A Santa Clarita Valley resident, Fiero was employed at **Glendale Community College** as employee services manager and human resources analyst for the last five



years. She reported for work at College of the Canyons on Aug. 13. Fiero's husband is a science teacher at **Rio Norte Junior High School**. She is a California native, born in Oakland and raised in Huntington Beach. She holds a master's degree in human resources design from **Claremont Graduate University** and a bachelor's degree in psychology from the **University of Houston-Clear Lake**. "I am very excited to be joining the College of the Canyons leadership team," said Fiero. "Things are happening here. There is a natural excitement on this campus, and I look forward to the challenges ahead."

'Junetoberfest' Event Attracts Thousands

About 5,000 people attended the college's first **Galpin Motors Junetoberfest**, which featured a variety of activities on June 26. Spread across the Cougar Den and football, baseball and softball fields, the event's activities included a 5K and children's runs, an **International Chili Society** regional chili cookoff, a micro-brew beer garden, a home-run derby, a custom car show, and a kid's play area featuring a mini-Michelangelo's gallery, which allowed young artists to express themselves through chalk on pavement. Proceeds benefited the college's foundation and educational program. Proceeds from the home-run derby benefited the baseball program.



Attending a retirement luncheon in their honor this summer were (from left) Lee Corbin, Betty Spilker, Erik Eriksson and Pam Beauer. Not pictured: Susan Cornner and Dean Leao.

Longtime Faculty and Staff Members Retire

The end of the academic year marked the end of an era for six longtime faculty and staff members who retired in May and June. The retirees are:

Betty Spilker

Spilker served as a faculty member for 35 years, having been part of the first group of instructors hired in 1969, coming straight from graduate school at UCLA. At one time she taught every course at least once.

Lee Corbin

A faculty member for 31 years, Corbin also held several athletic coaching positions. He was assistant football coach, head wrestling coach and head golf coach. He also served as chair of the Math & Sciences Division.

Pam Beauer

Beauer was hired as a clerk-typist in the Community Services Department in 1979. She served as director of Community Services (now Community Extension) for 10 years, and in 1999 she set up the Curriculum Office.

Susan Cornner

Cornner was a faculty member for 24 years. In addition to teaching English, she spent many years advising the student-run weekly newspaper, *The Canyon Call*, and garnering numerous journalism awards.

Erik Eriksson

Eriksson served as a faculty member at College of the Canyons for 24 years, having earned his bachelor's degree in chemistry from the University of Sweden and a master of science in chemistry from UCLA.

Dean Leao

Leao served College of the Canyons for 13 years, having been hired as custodial supervisor in 1991. Before going to work for the college, he managed the custodial department at California State University, Northridge.

Leadership Program to Begin in October



Leadership SCV, a joint college-chamber program to give students the tools and resources to be effective local leaders, is accepting applications. Deadline is Aug. 30. For more information and to request a brochure (left) and application, contact the **SCV Chamber of Commerce** at (661) 259-4787. Additional

information is available at www.leadershpscvc.com.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hartley Accepts Top Post at West Valley College

College of the Canyons Executive Vice President **Phil Hartley** accepted an offer to become president of **West Valley College**, a community college in the Northern California city of Saratoga. Hartley began his new job Aug. 9. Hartley said he credits the leadership and mentoring of College of the Canyons President **Dianne G. Van Hook** as a major factor in preparing



him for his new responsibility. "My position at College of the Canyons has been the best of my life," he said. "College of the Canyons is one of the five top California community colleges due to the dynamic leadership of President Van Hook and an outstanding faculty, staff and administration. The college's Board of Trustees and numerous community leaders also have a shared vision and commitment to creating an outstanding place to live and work. They work together and support the college to make that happen." Hartley was named assistant superintendent and vice president of instruction and student services at College of the Canyons in 1998.

Employees Honored for Years of Service

Seventeen faculty and staff members were honored for their years of service during the college's opening-day luncheon on Aug. 13. Honored for 35 years of service were **Thomas Lawrence** and **Betty Spilker**, faculty members who began teaching at the college in 1969. Also honored were: **Regina Hall**, **Kathleen Clements Knapp** and **Joanne Julian** (30 years); **Pam Beauer** (25 years); **Jess Kerns**, **Gary Peterson** and **Stephanie Paglia** (20 years); **Robert Welch**, **Diane Stewart**, **Bernardo Feldman**, **Antonio Acevedo**, **Sue Bozman**, **Kathleen Maloney**, **Dennis**



A winery representative pours a sample for a patron during the SCV Wine Classic, which raised thousands of dollars on June 5 to support the SCV Youth Orchestra.

Lettau, **Cindy Grandgeorge**, **Shirley Storlie** and **Don Gulczynski** (15 years); **Lenore Marta**, **Gary Dickinson**, **Fred Escalante** and **Rey Briones** (10 years).

Youth Orchestra Event a Hit at New Location

The **Santa Clarita Valley Wine Classic**, the region's premier wine-tasting event and fundraiser for young musicians, attracted hundreds of wine lovers and raised thousands of dollars for young musicians on June 5. After 15 years at **California Institute of the Arts**, the event was held for the first time at College of the Canyons. "The Wine Classic has become so popular and well-attended that we had no choice but to find a larger facility," said **Sue Bozman**, executive co-director of the Wine Classic Committee. The 16th-annual event offered a huge variety of wines, gourmet food and live orchestral music. In addition to the latest releases poured by wineries, more than 50 library wines were uncorked. The event is a major fundraiser for the **SCV Youth Orchestra** and **Santa Clarita Symphony**.

Additional information about the annual event also may be found on-line at www.scvwineclassic.org.

Bush, Kerry Debate at College. Well, Sort Of.

Sen. **John F. Kerry** squared off with President **George W. Bush** during a presidential debate at College of the Canyons on April 26. Even **Ralph Nader** got into the act. OK, the real politicians didn't actually show up; the presidential contenders were represented by students from the college's **Political Science Department**, which sponsored the mock debate as a class exercise. Student debaters included **Tristan Molina** as Bush, **Melissa Galang** as Kerry and **Andrew Krake** as Nader. The format was patterned after actual debates during the last presidential election, with the order of opening statements determined by coin tosses, questions posed by a panel of news reporters, questions posed by audience members and time limits imposed for answers. **Dr. Russell Richardson**, chair of the Political Science Department, moderated the event.



COUGAR SPORTS ROUNDUP

Baseball

❖ Former Cougar quarterback and starting pitcher **Will Savage** has verbally committed to play baseball for the Sooners at the **University of Oklahoma**. Savage also split time at quarterback with **Jason Beck** during the 2003 football season, throwing for 643 yards and four touchdowns, and finishing with a 58.1 percent pass-completion ratio.

❖ Three pitchers from the Western State Conference Champion College of the Canyons baseball team were chosen in the **2004 Major League Baseball Draft** in June. The **Kansas City Royals** selected right-handed pitcher **Kris Krise** in the 30th round with the 895th pick. The **Pittsburgh Pirates** used their 32nd round pick and 952nd overall to select freshman pitcher **Chris Palma**. And, the **San Francisco Giants** used their 34th round pick and 1,030th overall to take left-handed pitcher **Jake Coash**.

Basketball

❖ Former Lady Cougar standout **Nikki Turner**, who helped the Cougars under coach **Greg Herrick** achieve a state runner-up finish in 1997, was recently hired as head coach for the UC Santa Cruz women's basketball team. Turner finished up her playing days at **Chico State**.

Football

❖ Dozens of young football players gained a unique opportunity to train with a starting NFL quarterback at the **College of the Canyons Quarterback & Wide Receiver Summer Camp**. Baltimore Ravens' quarterback **Kyle Boller**, a Hart High grad, served as assistant coach for the camp June 21 to 23. Boller threw for 1,260 yards and seven touchdowns for the Ravens before a torn quadricep ended his season. Boller joined his former high school coach and current College of the Canyons Offensive Coordinator **Dean Herrington**, who runs the camp. Herrington joined the Canyons football staff as offensive coordinator in 2002, helping the Cougars attain back-to-back WSC championships and a 10-0 regular-season final record in 2003.

❖ Three former players from the Cougar football program have joined the **NFL**: the **San Francisco 49ers** used their fourth-round pick in the NFL draft to pick former Cougar defensive lineman **Isaac Sopoaga** (1999-'00); the **Jacksonville Jaguars** signed former Cougar tight end **Mike Gomez** (1999-'00) as a rookie free agent; and the **Cincinnati Bengals** signed former Cougar wide receiver **Jamal Broussard** (2001) as a rookie free agent. Sopoaga,

Broussard and Gomez are the first former College of the Canyons players to join the NFL since the college reinstated football in 1998 after a 17-year hiatus.

Hockey

❖ Following a successful 2003-04 season that saw an invitation to the Nationals, the **College of the Canyons hockey team** claimed the state title during the Pacific Collegiate Hockey Association's State Championships March 26-28 in a thrilling 2-1 overtime victory over **University of California, Davis**. The Cougars dominated the competition, vanquishing **Fresno State**, **San Diego State**, **UC San Diego** and **UC Irvine** before conquering Davis. The Cougars finished the season with a 22-7-2 record. Goalie **Shaun Denes** was named Tournament MVP by the Cougars. Defenseman **Jason Diamond** accepted an offer to play for **Plattsburgh State College** in New York.



Baltimore Ravens quarterback Kyle Boller (upper right) helped coach the football camp at College of the Canyons.

Softball

❖ The **Lady Cougar Softball Team** finished the season with a fantastic 30-9 record and captured the Western State Conference South title, their second straight and fifth in the past six years. The Lady Cougars lost to Palomar in the first round of the championship playoffs on May 5.

❖ Pitcher **Jessica Bailey** received a trio of honors for the season. She was named Western State Conference MVP, received All-State recognition, and, along with **Cassie Shires**, was voted Co-MVP of the Cougars. Sharing state and WSC honors with Bailey was **Nicole Delfino**. Also named to First Team WSC were **Danyale Peterson**, **Meaghan Flaherty**, **Erica Duhart** and **Ashlee Nava**. Second Team WSC awards went to **Megan Allen**, **Aimee Nava** and **Samantha Johnson**, while **Brittany Benike** was given honorable mention.

Track & Field

❖ The women's track team set two school records at the Mt. Sac Invitational in April. The team of **Catheryn Asaiji**, **Danielle Stinnette**, **Tihynna De Bose** and **Shellie Scott** set a record in the 4x100 relay in 48.35, good for fourth place. And, the team of **Sara Soltani**, Asaiji, Scott and Stinnette took second place in the 4x400 relay in a school best time of 4:03.49.

❖ The **women's team** finished third in a field of 15 at the WSC Finals on April 24, while the **men's team** came in fifth.



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

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Fire City
L.A. County set up its Emergency Command Center at College of the Canyons to battle area wildfires for a week in mid-July. The campus also was the American Red Cross Evacuation Center. Clockwise from top left: L.A. city firefighters take a well-deserved break; smoke rises in the distance from Placerita Canyon; tents dot the campus, including the tree-shaded Cougar Den; the parking lots are filled with dozens of mobile structures, hundreds of vehicles and thousands of fire personnel.