

Welcome to the electronic version of

COLLEGE OF THE CANYONS
CELEBRATING
30 YEARS

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CELEBRATING
30 YEARS



ADOBE ACROBAT VERSION



The Class of 1999 participates in commencement exercises at College of the Canyons.

WELCOME

FROM DR. DIANNE G. VAN HOOK

COC SUPERINTENDENT - PRESIDENT

Scenes like the one at left, graduation time at College of the Canyons, are a yearly reminder to all of us of the importance of our college to the community.

They remind me of the guiding spirit that drives all

that we do: our passion for and commitment to excellence. Through leadership, innovation and a contagious spirit of optimism, we have become a student-centered community college whose focus is squarely on students and the

teaching-learning process. We inspire critical thinking, lifelong learning, a sense of social responsibility — the qualities that propel both students and staff members to be the best they can be. I'm proud to be here at this special time in our history, and I'm delighted to be able to say, Happy 30th Birthday, COC!



THEN & NOW

COC's main structures were just beginning to take shape in the early 1970s (top photo). A cluster of temporary classrooms can be seen at right in the distance. Today, the face of COC is much different, as seen in the bottom shot, which was photographed in December 1999 from roughly the same vantage point as the earlier photo, looking west. The structure in the foreground is COC's new Media & Fine Arts Building. Behind it and unseen from this vantage point is the college's original cluster of three core buildings.



This 30th-year commemorative book is a nostalgic look at College of the Canyons – what it was like 30 years ago, what it’s like today, what it was like all of the years in between.

Thirty years ago, the college was founded amid great hopes and expectations.

Today, the people who study and work here are proud to be a part of an institution that fully lives up to, and often exceeds, the high ideals on which it was founded.

So, come along as we take a little journey through the years and celebrate the creation of your community college, its formative years, and the spirit and passion for excellence that will carry us into the years ahead.

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Cover images: On the front, a night image of COC’s new library is merged with a 1960s aerial photo of where COC now rests. On the back, three photos from COC’s construction in the early 1970s rest atop a recent aerial photo looking west.



The College of the Canyons Class of 2000 (above) numbered 728 graduates, compared with 16 during the college's first commencement in 1970.

COC: THEN, NOW & TOMORROW

It all began in 1967, in a community that looked much different than the valley we see around us today. It was on election day in November that the voters of the Santa Clarita Valley overwhelmingly approved the creation of a junior college district and elected a five-member board of trustees.

It was a time of great optimism for what lay ahead for this once-sleepy whistle-stop along Southern Pacific Railroad's Los Angeles-to-San Francisco line. Just three months earlier the master-planned community of Valencia was born, luring "flatlanders" from over the hill with homes priced at about \$25,000. In what we today call Saugus and Canyon Country, an ever-growing assortment of tract homes was sprouting. The old Highway 99 was steadily being circumvented by a major north-south freeway, Interstate 5, that would cut a swath through the Santa Clarita Valley. Old Orchard Shopping Center on Lyons Avenue and The Newhall Land & Farming Co.'s new golf course (today's Valencia Country Club) were barely two years old. Development of



Construction of the core COC campus began in 1970, following voter approval of a bond measure. Students attended classes in temporary buildings located on what are now the college's athletic fields.

the Valencia Industrial Center was at hand. And, following California voters' approval seven years earlier to bring state water south, plans were moving forward for major new State Water Project lake in Castaic.

All of these developments helped set the stage for the transformation of a dusty domain of cowboys and sodbusters to a rapidly growing suburbia, one that would need a local institution of higher learning. Thus was born the Santa Clarita Community College District and its campus, College of the Canyons, which would go on to become the fastest-growing community college in California.

Things moved quickly once voters gave the go-ahead. By the summer of 1968, the trustees of the as-yet-nonexistent college chose Dr. Robert C. Rockwell to put the wheels in motion. With hundreds of prospective students eagerly awaiting their new college, temporary quarters were arranged at Hart High School. It was there that COC officially opened on Sept. 28, 1969.

continued on next page

The Hart High campus filled an urgent need, but it was ill-suited to accommodate college students for very long. College classes could only begin in the late afternoon, after high school students had departed. Soon voters approved a \$4 million construction-bond issue to create a permanent home for the college, and 153.4 acres of land bounded by Valencia Boulevard on the

north and Interstate 5 on the west was purchased. Within a year temporary classroom buildings were erected and construction of a permanent campus began. Over the years, additional construction bonds were approved to complete the core campus. The first permanent building was the Wm. G. Bonelli Instructional Resource Center, which opened in December 1973 and was officially dedicated by then-Gov. Ronald Reagan on April 22, 1974.

The adjoining Classroom Center and Laboratory Center opened in January 1975. The Student Center opened the next month, followed by the Vocational-Technical Building and Cougar Stadium in 1975, and the Physical Education Complex in 1976.



Dr. Dianne Gracia Van Hook (second from left) was chosen to serve as the college's superintendent-president in 1988 to replace the outgoing Dr. Ramon F. LaGrandeur (second from right). Under Van Hook the college embarked on a major expansion of facilities that began in the early 1990s and continues to this day.

faculty (compared to 297 in 1999), 12 administrators and 146 support staff members.

A \$47-million expansion program initiated in the early 1990s produced a new Library, Media & Fine Arts building and Family Studies & Early Childhood Education Center. Also introduced were a Remodel for Efficiency project, expanded science labs in the old library space and a host of new or expanded course offerings, among them biotechnology, fire technology, high-tech welding, advanced manufacturing, graphic arts, multimedia technology, broadcast technology, cinema, electronic music and computer networking.

Today, the campus is still in flux, as the community continues to grow by leaps and bounds. With current projections of

Although growth was foreseen and inevitable, the contrast between then and now is striking. Enrollment has grown from 735 in the first year to more than 10,000 today. The first commencement in 1970 saw 16 students graduate. In 1990, graduates numbered 411. In May 2000, 728 students picked up associate degrees. The staff has grown to 125 full-time faculty (up from 97 just a year earlier), 313 adjunct



Members of the college administration (above) pose during a retreat in 1993. COC's Pride Flag (right).



20,000 students by 2013, the campus continues to expand to meet demand. Soon a remodel of the Student Center will be completed, and on the horizon is a Performing Arts Center that, in a cooperative agreement with the City of Santa Clarita, will boast a 950-seat venue for both college and community-wide productions. The current master plan also features provisions for a second physical education building, a business and applied-technology center, a warehouse, a new administration building and an additional campus.

The college's ever-expanding curriculum is now augmented by a unique partnership with Cal State Bakersfield and the University of La Verne that allows students to obtain bachelor's degrees in select fields without leaving the Valencia campus. It is hoped that this partnership will lead to the creation of University Center, a planned on-campus structure that will house similar degree programs from a wide-ranging collection of public and private four-year universities.

Peripheral entities that benefit the college while forging strong ties and beneficial relationships with the community and local industry also thrive. The College of the Canyons Foundation, for example, provides crucial funding to the college by advocating and practicing a philosophy that public educational institutions and private industry must work together to provide an affordable and accessible college education to all who have the desire to succeed. Similarly, the award-winning Center for Applied Competitive Technology and the Employee Training Institute at COC help local businesses become more efficient and train employees in the latest emerging fields.

College of the Canyons has come a long way in 30 years. It is a vital part of a dynamic community, a valued partner to industry and government, a place of learning, passion and excellence. It is a place that offers hope, encouragement and promise. It is a place where dreams do indeed come true.

SCRAPBOOK



Clockwise from above:
College officials and community members celebrate the 20th Anniversary Founders Picnic in 1989; graduation ceremonies in 1999; a COC football player reads to local youngsters as part of the Kougars for Kids program.



SCRAPBOOK



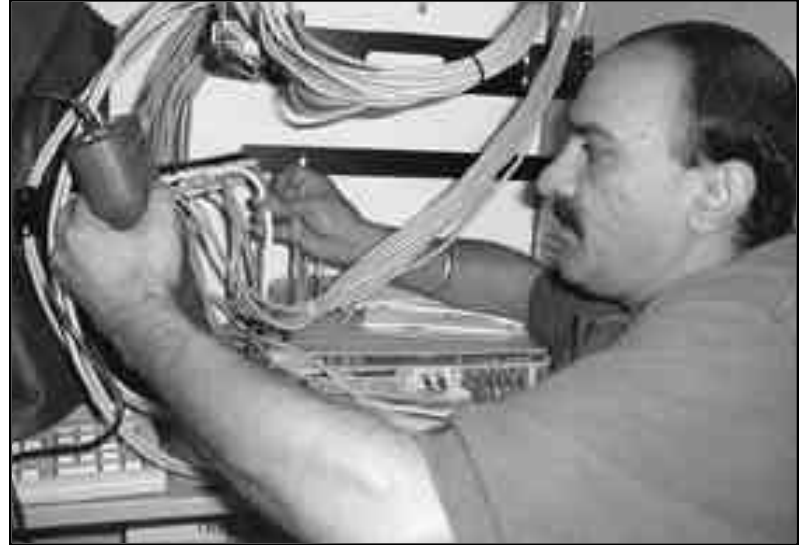
Clockwise from above left:
A college employee dons
“Cat in the Hat” gear to
read to local elementary
school students as part of
SCV Reads in 2000;
California First Lady
Sharon Davis chats with
children during a visit to
COC’s child development
center in 1999; COC admin-
istrators ham it up on their
first retreat in 1988.



Clockwise from above:
College administrators during 1999 commencement exercises; part of an exhibit on display in the new Media & Fine Arts Building Art Gallery; Helen Lusk (at right), longtime pioneer of COC's popular Nursing Program, during a get-together to bid her farewell on her retirement.



SCRAPBOOK



Clockwise from above left: Fans pack the stands for the return of intercollegiate football to COC in 1998; a student in the COC computer networking program donates his time to “wire” a local elementary school; community leader Roberta Veloz (second from right) is honored during COC’s Silver Spur Celebration in 1999

SCRAPBOOK



Clockwise from above:
Another view of the new
library; longtime adminis-
trator Al Adelini, who
retired this year; a dance
class at the college; a stu-
dent gets some guidance;
the college's new and relo-
cated Family and Child
Development Center.



SCRAPBOOK



Clockwise from above: Students stroll near the college's outdoor amphitheater; an art class in progress; Betty Lid and Jan Keller on campus in 1977; the newly enclosed courtyard of the Student Center building is nearing completion as part of an expansion and remodeling of the structure. The Dining Room also has been enlarged.



'I commend College of the Canyons for its ongoing commitment to providing educational opportunities to so many students in the Santa Clarita Valley area.'

SEN. BARBARA BOXER

SUPERINTENDENT PRESIDENTS



Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook

1988-Present



Dr. Robert C. Rockwell

College of the Canyons' first
Superintendent-President

1968-1978



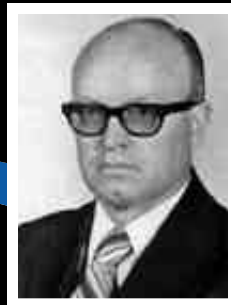
**Dr. Ramon F.
LaGrandeur**

1983-1988

**Dr. N. Gary
Mouck**

Interim Superintendent-President
1978-1979, 1982-1983

Assistant Superintendent of Instruction
1968-1982



Dr. Leland B. Newcomer

1979-1982



'Education is the key to opportunity and I applaud the college's efforts to raise the promise, performance and potential of all its students. By meeting students' diverse needs, College of the Canyons serves as a model of educational excellence.'

GOV. GRAY DAVIS

'Throughout its 30-year history, the Board of Trustees, staff, faculty and students at College of the Canyons have made major strides in providing the Santa Clarita Valley with educational excellence... On behalf of the United States Senate, and all who have benefited from the services offered at College of the Canyons, I thank and commend you for your commitment and enthusiasm to higher education.'

SEN. DIANNE FEINSTEIN

WELCOME

FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SANTA CLARITA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

Thirty years ago, the College of the Canyons campus began to rise from a patch of land off Valencia Boulevard.

Today, the campus is a welcome and familiar landmark to the thousands of people who have studied here, taught here and worked here. It's a place that has instilled in people the qualities that make good citizens and productive members of our community. We have witnessed 30 years of inspiration, challenges and rewards. It's time to both celebrate our achievements and look optimistically to the future. We are comfortable with the knowledge that a firm foundation has been built for future generations, a foundation built not only of mortar but of a spirit that will carry our college through the years ahead.



COC's new Cougar Den provides a comfortable oasis adjacent to Cougar Stadium.

HISTORICAL TIMELINE



COC's Pioneers: Most of them were there 30 years ago. From left: Don Hellrigel, Bill Baker, Jan Keller, Fran Wakefield, Lee Smelser, Mildred Guernsey, George Guernsey, Betty Spilker, Don Heidt and Dale Smith.

COC THROUGH THE YEARS

<u>PAGE</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>PAGE</u>	<u>YEAR</u>
18	1967-68	32	1988
19	1969-70	33	1989
20	1971-72	34	1990
21	1973-74	35	1991
22	1975-76	36	1992
23	1977-78	37	1993
24	1979-80	38	1994
25	1981	39	Earthquake
26	1982	40	1995
27	1983	41	1996
28	1984	42	1997
29	1985	43	1998
30	1986	44	1999
31	1987	45	2000

1967 & 68

- Voters in the growing SCV desire a local college and approve the **formation of a junior college district** on Nov. 21, 1967.
- The **Board of Trustees** for the new college district is elected and begins functioning in December. On the board: **Dr. William G. Bonelli Jr., Sheila Dyer, Bruce Fortine, John Hackney, Peter Huntsinger and Edward Muhl.**
- The district name, **Santa Clarita Junior College District**, is approved on Dec. 15, 1967. The name wins out over others such as North Valley, Upper Santa Clarita Valley, Vasquez (after the bandit who hid in the badlands bearing his name), Bouquet and Canyon.
- **Dr. Robert C. Rockwell** becomes the district's first superintendent-president in July 1968.
- COC's first teacher, **Elfi Hummel**, is hired in November 1968 to teach French and German. (1)
- The land on which COC would soon rise is photographed from the air. (2)



1969 & 70



- The campus is officially named **College of the Canyons** on May 21, 1969. A model of the as-yet-unbuilt campus is crafted. (1)
- **Classes begin** at Hart High School, COC's temporary campus, on Sept. 22, 1969. An eager 735 students enroll in classes that begin at 4 p.m., after high school students leave the campus. (2)
- The California Community Colleges Board of Governors approves a facilities master plan for the new college.
- Many milestones occur in the fall of '69: the first issue of **College Sound**, the campus newspaper; the first **basketball** game, with the Cougars hosting Cuesta Junior College; **Paul Driver** elected the first student body president.
- **Sixteen students** receive their AA degrees on June 26, 1970.
- Comedian **Bob Hope** speaks at the dedication of the campus on Oct. 26, 1970. (3)

1971 & 72

- There are no permanent COC structures for the 6.4-magnitude **Sylmar earthquake** to destroy or damage on Feb. 9, 1971, but all library books end up on the floor. The football team is recruited to reshelve them. Building plans are modified to make the buildings that exist today among the safest in the state.
- At the permanent campus' first commencement, **89 students** receive their AA degrees.
- Vickie Sinclair is crowned the first **COC Homecoming Queen** in November 1991, and the mighty Cougar football team goes on to become **Desert Conference champions**.
- Commencement figures jump to 143 grads.
- Construction begins on the **William G. Bonelli Instructional Resources Center** building. (1)
- The **Administration of Justice** curriculum is approved.



1973 & 74



- Nearly 80 percent of local voters approve a **bond issue** in February 1973, guaranteeing \$8 million for COC's building needs. (1, 2)
- The **Cougar football** team, under the direction of coach Larry Reisbig, becomes Western State champs in the fall of 1973.
- The **biggest snowfall in 25 years** hits the Santa Clarita Valley in January 1974. All activity comes to a virtual standstill for a couple of days.
- The **William G. Bonelli Instructional Resources Center** opens its doors on Jan. 2, 1974. Also opening this year are a **classroom building** and the **Student Center**.
- **Gov. Ronald Reagan** speaks at the official dedication of the William G. Bonelli Instructional Resources Center on April 22, 1974. (3)
- The Cougar football team plays its first home game in COC's **new million-dollar stadium** before a crowd of 3,000 on Sept. 21, 1974.
- **Vocational drafting** and **electronics** classes become part of COC's diversified curriculum.

1975 & 76

- Non-credit **community services classes** become a reality in the spring of 1975, with an offering of 11 courses.
- **Canyon Carvings**, COC's annual literary magazine, debuts in May 1975.
- The new \$1.16-million **Vocational-Technical Building** opens for classes in the fall of 1975.
- The **Cougar football** team wins the Western State championship in 1975.
- The **cross-country** team wins its first California State Championship title in late 1975.
- COC is declared a **bicentennial campus** by the American Revolutionary Bicentennial Committee of California in April 1976.
- The **tri-level Gymnasium** opens its doors in April 1976. The \$4.97-million complex provides facilities for swimming, gymnastics, water sports, basketball and dance classes.



1977 & 78



- The **Cougar track & field** team wins the Western State Conference relays for the first time in its history, at Ventura Community College in March 1977.
- COC's **first outdoor drama**, Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream," is staged in the Bonelli Amphitheater before a crowd of 240 in May 1977. (1)
- COC converts from the quarter to **semester system** in the fall of 1977.
- **Accounting, secretarial science** and **office administration** are new vocational programs offered in the fall of 1977.
- The **Cougar baseball** team is led to another league championship (five of the last six years) by coach **Mike Gillespie** in May 1978. COC is ranked No. 1 among Southern California's community colleges.
- The infamous **Proposition 13** is approved by voters in November 1978, resulting in significant program cutbacks throughout the campus.

1979 & 80

- The first **high school student** to attend COC is 15-year-old Kathleen Rasmussen, who enrolls in a conversational French class in 1979.
- **Dr. Leland B. Newcomer** takes over as COC's new superintendent-president in July 1979, replacing **Dr. Robert C. Rockwell** who retired in late 1978.
- The **Canyon Call** student newspaper goes to an 11x17 tabloid size in October 1979, accepting advertisements for the first time in its history.
- Elfi Hummel's first **World Culture Festival** takes place on campus in March 1980. The event would go on to become a yearly tradition.
- The fall 1980 semester marks the beginning of two new vocational programs: the **vocational to registered nurse career-training program** and **mechanical technology**.
- The High Intensity Transfer & Enrichment program debuts, easing transfers to UCLA.
- The **Instruction Center** opens, providing tutoring in mathematics and English.



1981



- The **Cougar baseball** team wins its first state championship under the guidance of coach Mike Gillespie (now at USC), ending the season with a 32-13 record. On its way to the top, the team wins both the Western State Conference (its sixth title in nine years) and the WSC Shaughnessey Playoff.

- ASB president **Joseph Heath** is the first COC student to be awarded the prestigious **Harry S. Truman scholarship**, offered to community college and university students nationwide.



1982

● The **Peter F. Huntsinger College Services Building** opens its doors. Housed inside is the new **Child Development Center**, which serves 49 families that first year. Today, hundreds of families bring their children to a new facility that's been relocated to the western edge of the campus.

● Despite a storm of protest, **COC football** is sacked when the Board of Trustees in March cuts its funding. Intercollegiate football wouldn't reappear at the college for another 16 years.

● **Dr. Leland B. Newcomer** resigns as superintendent-president of the college, and **Gary Mouck** takes over until a replacement can be found.



1983



- The **Cougar baseball** team captures its second state title with a 30-10 record, also winning the newly formed Mountain Valley Conference.
- **Dr. Ramon F. LaGrandeur** takes office as COC's superintendent-president.
- The **Canyon Call** student newspaper receives its first All American award from the Associated College Press at the University of Minnesota School of Journalism, then goes on to win one each semester through June 1989.

1984

- COC is one of the first schools in the state to try (and later adopt) a **FLEX calendar**. This means that classes start earlier in August and end in December, leaving January free for staff development programs.
- Free higher education, begun in 1911, comes to a screeching halt in September. Full-time students are now required to pay **\$50 a semester for tuition**.
- The Board of Trustees votes in December to institute **professional rank** for full-time, certified faculty by bestowing titles of “assistant,” “associate” and full professor.
- In a statewide competition, the **Canyon Call** student newspaper staff garners two first-place prizes for general excellence and front-page layout from the Journalism Association of Community Colleges. Also on the paper’s newsroom wall: first-place awards for general excellence for the years 1986-89 and front-page layout for 1986 and 1988.

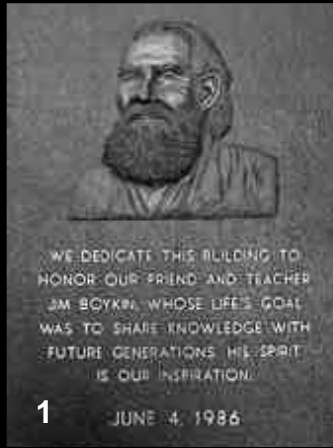




- In a 1-plus-1 free throw with 7 seconds remaining on the clock, the **Cougar basketball** team wins a 72-71 victory over L.A. Valley College on Feb. 21, earning the squad a **first-ever league championship**, much to the elation of long-time coach Lee Smelser.
- The **2.0 GPA ruling** goes into effect in July, meaning students must maintain a cumulative grade-point average of 2.0 or better to participate in COC sports and student activities.
- For the first time, students are required to take **English and math placement tests** before enrolling.
- After a 16-year wait, the \$50,000 **Physical Sciences Lab** opens its doors.
- Popular biology professor **Jim Boykin** dies after a brief illness at the age of 59. He had taught at COC for 16 years. (1)
- Hollywood movie studios continue to use COC's campus as a convenient shooting locale. (2)

1986

- **Walk-in registration** begins, resulting in long registration lines for the first time.
- COC becomes the **northern training site** for the L.A. County Sheriff's Department. The first 70 students to enroll begin a now-traditional 18-week course in classroom and physical training.
- The Board of Trustees ends a long-time squabble by voting to allow the **cliff swallows** to forever nest in peace on the campus. Each spring, the birds migrate from Argentina.
- In Mike Gillespie's 16th and final season as head coach, the Cougars baseball team wins its **third state championship** in six years with a remarkable 41-6 record, racking up the most wins ever for a California community college.
- The **James D. Boykin Laboratory Center Building** is dedicated in memory of the late COC biology professor. (1)
- Political science professor Dr. **Ted Collier**, 58, one of the college's original instructors, dies of a heart attack. (2)





- The Los Angeles County **Sheriff's Academy** at COC graduates its first class of cadets, six women and 57 men. On hand Feb. 27 are Sheriff Sherman Block and state Sen. Ed Davis, former chief of the L.A. Police Department. (2)

- KNBC anchorwoman Kelly Lange is the keynote speaker at COC's **first women's conference** March 7. Some 350 women attend the event co-sponsored by the American Association of University Women. (1)

- A **cogeneration unit** is installed on campus to provide hot water for the swimming pool and showers at a greatly reduced rate. Cogeneration generates hot water and electricity in a single system.

- Sixty-nine percent of the voters make it official: the **City of Santa Clarita** is born, forever changing the nature of the valley and everything in it, including COC, its only community college.



1988

- The Cougars **baseball team** wins the Western State Conference crown in May. The championship season follows a home-game streak of 35 wins.
- Performers with a multitude of cultural backgrounds take to the stage once again during the popular **World Culture Festival**, a much-anticipated annual event at COC. (1)
- **Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook** assumes the role of superintendent-president of College of the Canyons. She replaces Dr. Ramon F. LaGrandeur, who resigned in June. (2)
- The **COC Foundation**, the fund-raising arm of the college district, tops the half-million-dollar mark, raising \$522,828 for college development.





- Enrollment continues to rise at COC, which has the notable distinction of being the fastest-growing community college in California.
- Continuing with the trend of partnering with business to help train workers, COC and industry leaders form an **advisory council**.
- **COC's 20th anniversary** is celebrated with the Day of the Child, as well as a Business/Industry Reception.
- The college's **Nursing Program** celebrates two decades of success.
- In a significant decision that will eventually change the face of COC, the state revises the college's **growth projections**, allowing new building construction to accommodate an ever-growing population of students. COC embarks on a new facilities master plan.
- The gymnasium floor is decorated with **original artwork**; track refurbishing is completed. (1)
- A **rare snowstorm** blankets the campus. (2)



1990

- COC's commitment to forming educational partnerships with local businesses is put on display as employees of Valencia-based Pharmaseal become students in a training program established by the **Employee Training Institute**.
- As growth projections are revised, so is COC's **five-year construction plan**, paving the way for significant expansion projects. The Master Plan is revised to serve an estimated 20,000 students.
- A **community survey** reveals that 40% of SCV residents have attended COC.
- As the migratory **cliff swallows return** to COC, students and the community celebrate their beauty. (1)
- **Graduates** hear an address from U.S. Dept. of Education Western Region Director John Tsu. (2)
- **The Youth Orchestra** begins its first year in residence at COC.
- **Two new nursing programs** begin: A two-year RN program and a VN program.

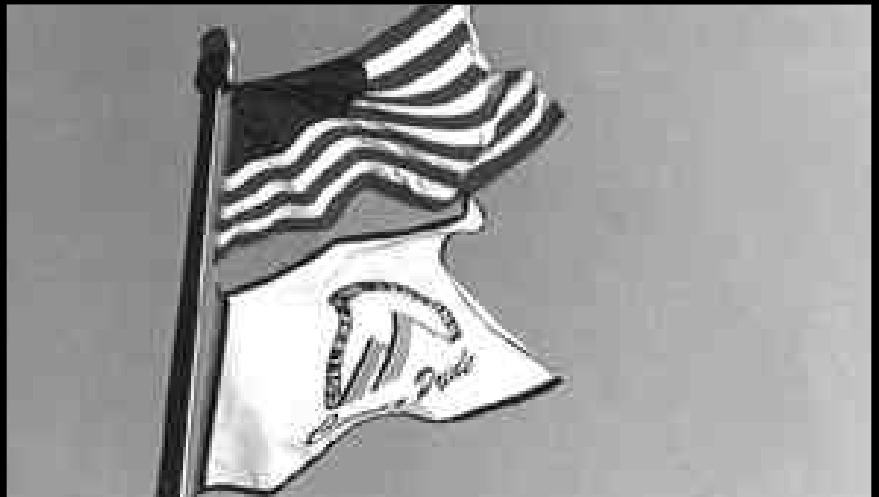




- COC and five organizations announce the creation of the **Small Business Center**.
- Physics students observe a solar eclipse. (1)
- The third **Silver Spur gala** honors Scott and Ruth Newhall, the former owners of The Newhall Signal, at the Autrey Museum.
- March rains fail to dampen the **first scholarship golf tournament** established by the college's fund-raising arm, the COC Foundation.
- COC becomes the Los Angeles area's **authorized AutoCAD training center**.
- Santa Clarita moves forward with plans to establish an **emergency operating center** for the community at COC.
- A **Cinco de Mayo Festival** is held at COC. (2)
- Jazz musician Steve Elliott shares the stage with students at the **COC Jazz Invitational**.
- **COC transfers** to University of California schools increase 22 percent.

1992

- The passage of **Proposition 153** means construction of new buildings can begin on a campus hard-pressed to accommodate a burgeoning student population.
- COC's **AutoCAD** training program receives international acclaim.
- **The 22nd commencement** on May 22 is the largest to date, with 531 students graduating. (1)
- The first **nurses graduate** from the new part-time VN program; a classmate who died is honored.
- COC Foundation establishes its **President's Circle**.
- The college's ambitious **building program** expected to aid the Santa Clarita Valley economy.
- The COC music department announces plans to establish a **symphony orchestra**.
- The **Transfer Center**, designed to help students transfer to four-year schools, opens.
- David Viscott is the keynote speaker at the **1992 Women's Conference**.





- State Treasurer Kathleen Brown and Lockheed Skunk Works President Sherman Mullin speak at COC's **Vision 2000 Business Conference**.
- A reception at the Piru Mansion, home of former Newhall Signal Editor Ruth Newhall, officially kicks off the start of a **support group** for a new, as-yet-unbuilt library.
- COC offers **classes in Canyon Country**.
- Ground is broken for a **new child development center** on the western edge of the campus. (1)
- COC's **Transfer Center** wraps up its first year as transfers increase faster than enrollment.
- The COC Board of Trustees commends Superintendent-President Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook for her **leadership and progress** in moving the college forward.
- Revenues from the state finally increase.

1994

- The **Northridge Quake** jolts COC, delaying the start of the spring semester by a week and forcing students into hastily erected **tent classrooms**. (1)
- Superintendent-President Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook testifies at **state hearings** regarding the quake response.
- All told, the college suffers an estimated **\$3.2 million in damage**.
- **The Small Business Center** expands its services to help with the quake recovery.
- **COC donors** meet President Clinton during a trip to Washington.
- **Leadership '93** training program concludes.
- Jan Keller hosts the first **Dean's Luncheon** to recognize library donors.



COPING WITH THE QUAKE



On Jan. 17, 1994, the Northridge Earthquake struck with such force that many classrooms were rendered uninhabitable, leading to the erection of a “tent city” (1) to accommodate classes (4). Although it appeared that the I Building “cracked” (2), the separation at an intended expansion joint is exactly what the structure was designed to do when subjected to the forces of a powerful quake. Across the campus, anything that wasn’t bolted down tumbled, including outdoor light posts and trash receptacles, and most of the volumes of books stacked on shelves in the library (3). The vast COC parking lots served as emergency command posts for the greater Santa Clarita Valley area.

1995

- The state chancellor joins Superintendent-President Dr. Dianne Van Hook and Ruth Newhall for a convocation marking the **25th year of COC**.
- The COC Foundation holds its fifth-annual **Cougar Softball Challenge**.
- COC **journalism students** receive 29 awards at a statewide competition on Oct. 22.
- Ground is broken for the new **Library and Media & Fine Arts buildings**. Construction begins shortly thereafter. (2)
- Skydivers “drop in” to COC to help celebrate COC’s **25th anniversary commencement**.
- British music students attend the first **International Summer Music Institute** at COC.
- Dignitaries and children cut the ribbon for the **new child development center** on April 22. (1)
- The **Special Olympics** becomes a partner in the COC Foundation’s celebrity golf tournament.



1996



- ITT and COC sign a **training contract** in which hundreds of employees will benefit.
- The COC Foundation launches a **community partnership for at-risk youth**.
- The college's energy-efficient central plant debuts.
- COC enters cyberspace with its own **web site**.
- Construction of the new **Library (2)** and the **Media & Fine Arts (1)** buildings are on track. The Library opens its doors to students on Dec. 4.
- **Weekend College** begins for working adults.
- The state budget slates COC for **new funding**.
- The **26th class** graduates COC. (3)
- The **Youth Orchestra** goes to England for the '96 International Summer Music Institute.
- COC hosts the first Santa Clarita **forum on the future of education**.
- The community celebrates the **10th anniversary of the Women's Conference** on March 2.



1997

- The ribbon is officially cut for the new **Library and Media & Fine Arts buildings** on Jan. 17. Grand-openings occur three months later. (3)
- The Employee Training Institute opens its **Valencia Learning Center** for SCV businesses.
- An infusion of growth funds translates into **139 new classes**, as well as a doubling of summer school offerings.
- In a novel cost-saving measure, COC and neighboring CalArts split the cost of an **online library automation system**.
- COC Superintendent-President **Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook** is inducted into the Long Beach City College Hall of Fame.
- The Silver Spur celebration is held at the Petersen Automotive Museum, and Dianne Van Hook gets into the spirit of the venue (1).
- Longtime COC employee John Drislane dies in January. He served as dean of personnel and taught English. (Photo is from 1977). (2)



1998



- Athletic expansion arrives: **Women's soccer** begins Sept. 11, followed by a resurrected **men's football** program on Sept. 26 (1).
- **Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook** celebrates her 10th year as superintendent-president of COC.
- The Sheriff's Academy and the Administration of Justice, Fire Technology and EMT programs now fall under the auspices of COC's **Public Safety Program**.
- The Summer Institute for Technological Advancement (**SITE**) training program is implemented.
- Construction is under way on **six laboratories, 13 new classrooms, 18 offices, a conference room, and an audio/video/computer technology area**.
- A **Job fair** draws hundreds of job-seekers. (2)
- COC's **PACE** (Program for Accelerated College Education) program is so popular that two new tracks are created.

1999

- Fourteen new classrooms are unveiled as the **Modular Classroom Village** opens. The complex also houses bachelor's degree programs offered in a joint venture with **Cal State Bakersfield**. (3)
- The expansion of the **Student Center** begins, with completion set for summer 2000. The updated building will feature a larger dining area and an enclosed lounge in the structure's former courtyard-like entrance.
- The **Cougar Den** is completed, offering a relaxing oasis near Cougar Stadium. (2)
- COC **theater students** stage a holiday play at the new Santa Clarita Repertory Theatre. (1)
- Lisa Mosier leads the **women's volleyball** squad to a championship and is named coach of year, and Phil Marcellin leads **men's soccer** to the regional finals. He also is named coach of the year.
- **Sharon Davis**, the wife of Gov. Gray Davis, visits and tours the campus.



2000



- Plans for a **Performing Arts Center** on campus move forward. Funded in part by the City of Santa Clarita, the complex will provide not only a venue for COC's performing arts' students but a place for the community's myriad arts groups to perform.

- A newly remodeled and expanded **Student Center** nears completion as students take advantage of the larger dining area. (2)

- Thousands gather to witness the **graduation** of 728 people from COC in May. Although they represent COC's 30th graduating class, it is the 31st graduation ceremony for the college.

- **Helen Lusk**, longtime head of COC's Nursing Program, dies in June. (Photo is from her retirement party several years prior). (1)

SCRAPBOOK



SCRAPBOOK



Facing page, clockwise from upper left: Journalism instructor Tony Remenih in 1978; an aerial view of the campus from 1975; a student in COC's welding program practices his craft.

This page, clockwise from left: Students learn how to operate a sailboat in COC's pool in 1978; longtime music instructor Robert Downs directs students in 1975; John Drislane leads an English class in 1975. He would later serve as dean of personnel. Drislane passed away in 1997.

SCRAPBOOK



Clockwise from above: The Student Center nears completion in 1974 (it opened in February 1975); baseball coach Mike Gillespie (now a coach at USC) gives direction to players in 1974; Carl Buckel, one of the 11 faculty members who retired in 2000.



SCRAPBOOK



Clockwise from left: instructor Winston Wutkee during class in 1977; the COC Community Services staff, under the direction of Bruce Fortine (now a COC board member) included Jaque Kampschroer, June Mattias, Pam Beauer, Mary Tighe, Marilyn Metters and Alice Muller (the year was 1978); actor Cliff Robertson (at right) chats with students while filming on campus in 1977.

SCRAPBOOK



Clockwise from above: Chang Hong Ying, Dorothy Keil and political science instructor Ted Collier head for “emergency” refreshments in the Student Lounge during a snowstorm in January 1974; LVN instructor Helen Lusk (at right) “caps” a student nurse in 1978 (Lusk passed away in June 2000); biology instructor James Boykin in 1975 (he passed away in 1985 after 16 years with the college).



SCRAPBOOK



Clockwise from left: The COC Jazz Band performs on campus in the early 1980s; the play area of COC's Family & Child Development Center; founding faculty member Dale Smith, who retired in 2000; speech and theater arts instructor Bill Baker in 1978.

SCRAPBOOK



From above left: Art instructor Joanne Julian in 1975; founding faculty member and basketball coach Lee Smelser demonstrates how not to do a layup in 1975 (he eventually perfected his technique and was named coach of the year several times); a view of COC's new library.



SCRAPBOOK



Clockwise from above left: The president's table at the Silver Spur celebration in 1999; former Cougar football player Misi Tei (center) is flanked by teammates following a beach accident in which he was paralyzed; COC's "tent city," erected following the 1994 earthquake; Dianne Van Hook with graduates in 1999.



Among those who retired in 2000 and attended a special going-away event at the Cougar Den in May were (from left) Lee Smelser, Carl Buckel, Mary Heidt, Sylvia Sullivan, Don Heidt, Stan Weikert, Marilyn Van Aken, Don Hellrigel and Alduino Adelini.

A CHAPTER COMES TO A CLOSE

It was a night of both celebration and sadness at the Cougar Den in May, when 11 of COC's retiring faculty members were honored for their years of service, commitment and passion.

Hundreds of people descended on the parklike grounds to bid farewell to Dr. Alduino Adelini, Dr. Carl Buckel, Don Heidt, Mary Heidt, Don Hellrigel, Betty Lid, Lee Smelser, Dale Smith, Sylvia Sullivan, Marilyn Van Aken and Stan Weikert. Six of them were part of the original faculty when COC first began.

► **Dr. Alduino Adelini**

As the first dean of student activities throughout the 1970s and early '80s, Adelini has indelibly and positively changed the lives of countless students.

► **Dr. Carl Buckel**

As business instructor and CWEE coordinator, Buckel has contributed heartily to COC by fulfilling both teaching and management roles. He initiated a cooperative work-experience program (CWEE) that grew substantially under his direction.

► **Don Heidt**

A founding faculty member, Heidt helped lay the groundwork for today's English Department, taught German and served as a philosophy instructor. He has received numerous teaching awards.

► **Mary Heidt**

A nursing instructor, Heidt made considerable contributions to the process that secured accreditation for the college's nursing program.



Coach Lee Smelser gets a farewell hug from Dianne Van Hook during a special retirement party at COC's Cougar Den in May 2000.

► **Don Hellrigel**

A founding faculty member, Hellrigel led COC's Spanish program and holds the distinction of having traveled to nearly every Spanish-speaking country.

► **Betty Lid**

A founding faculty member, Lid produced "Writing Across the Disciplines" and the literary magazine "Canyon Carvings." She also devised a concept for enhancing English instruction via computers.

► **Lee Smelser**

A founding faculty member, Smelser has parlayed his love for everything related to basketball into a remarkable career as a coach, having been named Coach of the Year several times.

► **Dale Smith**

A founding faculty member, Smith is a published author who taught sociology and marriage & the family, and established the SCV Community Hotline.

► **Sylvia Sullivan**

A computer-assisted drawing & drafting instructor, Sullivan advanced the drafting program from the days of pencil and board to the computer age.

► **Marilyn Van Aken**

Van Aken established and directed the Student Health and Wellness Center, bringing an array of health services to COC.

► **Stan Weikert**

A founding faculty member, Weikert taught business and accounting and was the lead instructor for the Accounting Department.

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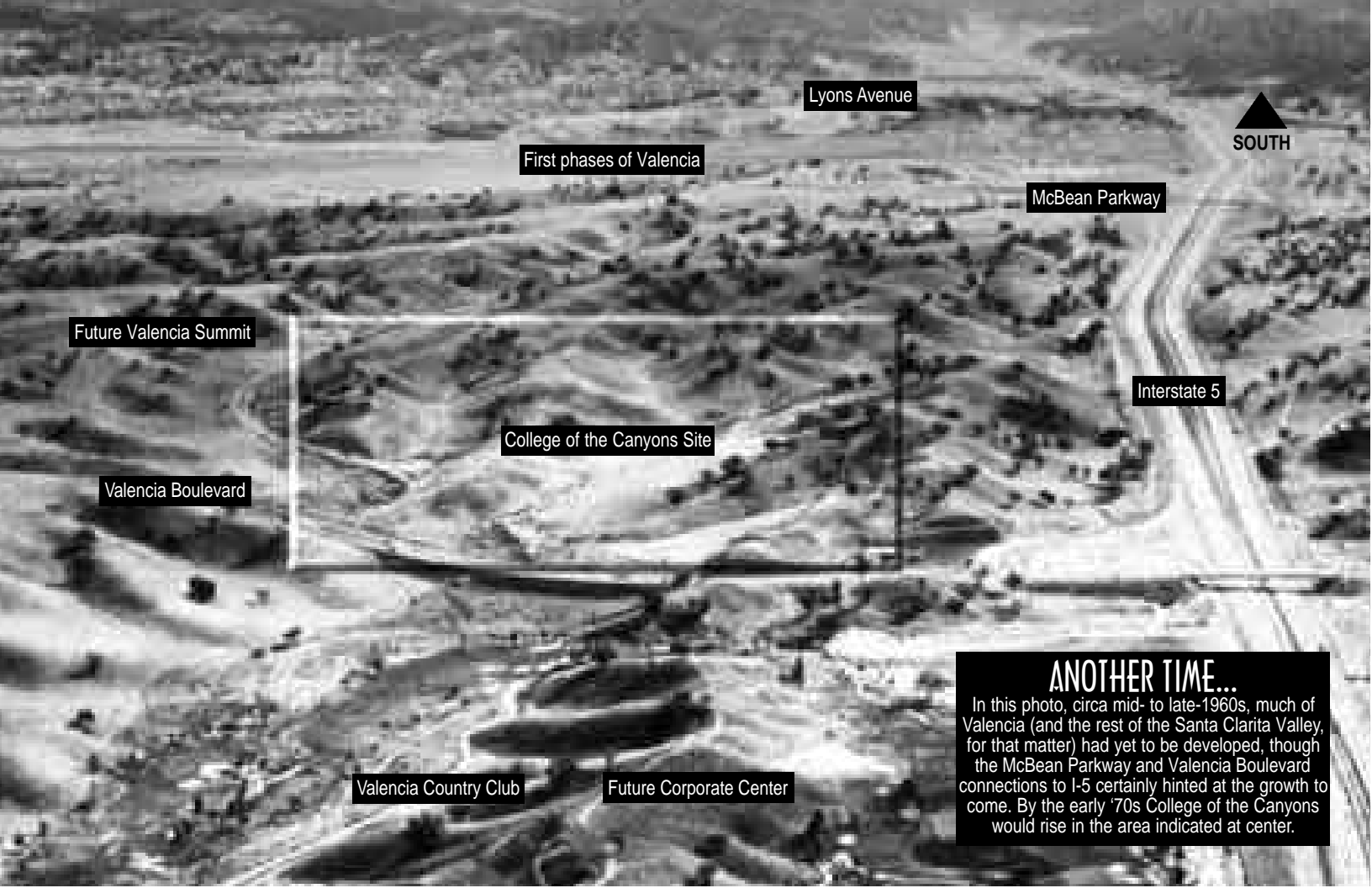
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Lyons Avenue

First phases of Valencia



McBean Parkway

Future Valencia Summit

Interstate 5

College of the Canyons Site

Valencia Boulevard

Valencia Country Club

Future Corporate Center

ANOTHER TIME...

In this photo, circa mid- to late-1960s, much of Valencia (and the rest of the Santa Clarita Valley, for that matter) had yet to be developed, though the McBean Parkway and Valencia Boulevard connections to I-5 certainly hinted at the growth to come. By the early '70s College of the Canyons would rise in the area indicated at center.

