



45 YEARS

OF EXCELLENCE AND INNOVATION

The History of College of the Canyons

Driven by Innovation and Excellence

“Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future.”

– JOHN F. KENNEDY

Looking back over the college’s first 45 years, it is clear that change – and our response to it – helped to shape the growth and development of College of the Canyons.

We are privileged to be located in a thriving, dynamic community that is now the third largest city in Los Angeles County. Meeting its evolving needs has always been our priority.



As you flip through the pages of this book, you’ll see that our college embraces change, and seeks to make the most of it. We are never content with the status quo. Instead, we are always moving forward with a focus on continuous improvement. Driving innovation and striving for excellence is what we’re known for because it’s what we do.

What we have achieved throughout our years of service is more than being in the right place at the right time. Our accomplishments are tied to having the right attitude.

For us, embracing change means believing in possibilities, having the courage to try what has never been done, being resilient enough to try again if it doesn’t work the first time, and recognizing that collaboration often is the key to extraordinary results.

What the future holds for College of the Canyons is anyone’s guess. But I’m confident we’re ready for whatever changes come our way.

We know that if we can dream it, we can do it. That attitude has guided us through the past 45 years, and will inspire us to move forward with vision, confidence and determination as we shape the future of our college and our community.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dianne G. Van Hook". The signature is fluid and cursive.

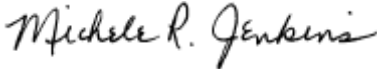
DR. DIANNE G. VAN HOOK
CHANCELLOR

Intentionally Blank

A Gateway to Opportunity

Since opening 45 years ago, College of the Canyons has served as a gateway to higher education, professional training and, by extension, opportunity for the Santa Clarita Valley. It has cultivated a reputation for unequaled access to higher education, unparalleled service, and a passionate pursuit of excellence that is respected by our colleagues, appreciated by our partners, supported by our students, and energized and fueled by our dedicated faculty and staff. The college’s commitment to excellence is a tradition reflected by its innovative, results-oriented leadership.

As the next chapters of the college’s history are written, we know the outstanding foundation that has been created will be further built upon and the institution will continue to uphold the ideals of education and contribute to the development of our vibrant, thriving community for generations to come.



MS. MICHELE R. JENKINS
PRESIDENT



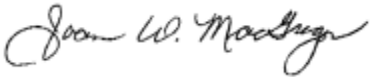
MR. BRUCE D. FORTINE
VICE PRESIDENT



MR. STEVEN D. ZIMMER
CLERK



MR. MICHAEL D. BERGER
MEMBER



MS. JOAN W. MACGREGOR
MEMBER

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SANTA CLARITA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT



DRIVEN TO INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE.....1
A Message from Chancellor Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook

A GATEWAY TO OPPORTUNITY2
A Message from the Board of Trustees

45 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE AND INNOVATION.....4
The History of College of the Canyons: 1969 to 2014

The Early Years4
The 1970s12
The 1980s31
The 1990s55
2000 & Beyond78

AT-A-GLANCE94
Year by Year: 1968 to 2014



The land that would become the Valencia campus of College of the Canyons is in the center of the photo above, looking south across the Santa Clarita Valley in the late 1960s. Interstate 5 is on the right, with Valencia Boulevard cutting across the freeway and the McBean Parkway overpass in the distance. The then-new Valencia Country Club is along the bottom. The top photo was taken from roughly the same vantage point in early 2015.

45 YEARS of EXCELLENCE and INNOVATION

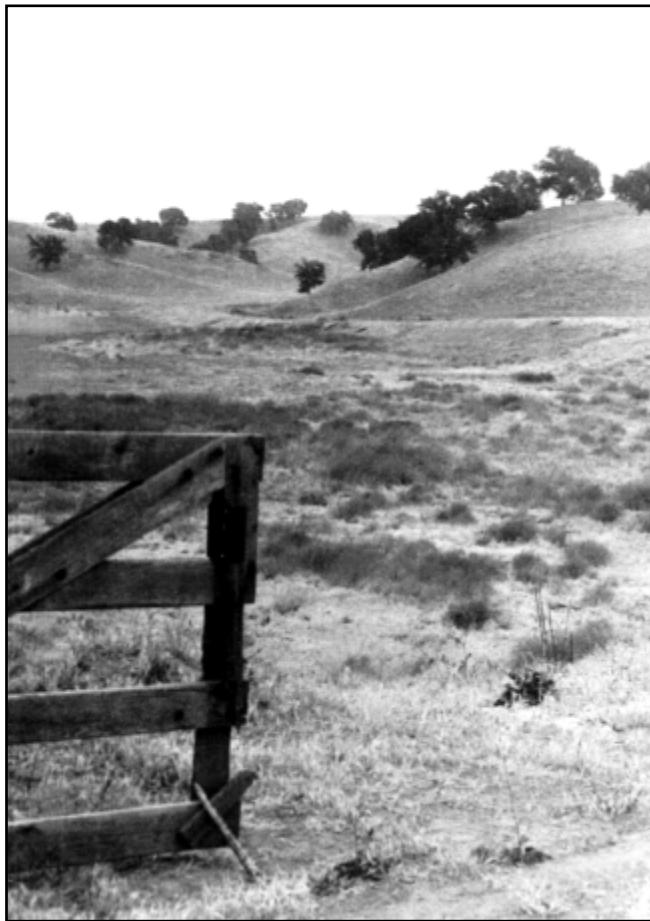
By **JOHN GREEN**

The first classes at College of the Canyons began in 1969, but this story actually begins two years earlier. That's when the citizens of the Santa Clarita Valley decided it was time they had a college to call their own. On Nov. 21, 1967, they voted overwhelmingly to transform the idea into reality. While they were at it, they also elected a five-member board of trustees to oversee the creation of their new junior college.

Optimism abounded for what lay ahead. This once-sleepy whistle-stop along Southern Pacific Railroad's Los Angeles-to-San Francisco line was growing like it never had before. In communities we now call Saugus and Canyon Country, a growing assortment of tract homes was sprouting – although vast expanses of vacant or agricultural land still separated the valley's distinct communities. Downtown Newhall was the established commercial center, featuring car dealerships, a supermarket, a bank and other merchants typical of a small town of fewer than 60,000 people.

But things were changing. And quickly.

During the summer of that pivotal year of 1967, the master-planned community of Valencia was born, luring young families from over the hill with



Clockwise from top: The first Board of Trustees, composed of (from left) Dr. William Bonelli Jr., Richard Muhl, Bruce Fortine, John Hackney and Peter Huntsinger; a view of the land where College of the Canyons would rise; and the college's first superintendent-president, Dr. Robert C. Rockwell.

homes priced at about \$25,000. Valencia Town Center did not exist, of course. Neither did the Valencia Auto Mall. Magic Mountain, Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Hospital and California Institute of the Arts were still several years from appearing on the local landscape. There was no Stevenson Ranch, just a vast unadulterated plain accented by rugged foothills, most of which have since been terraced and built upon. Old Orchard Shopping Center on Lyons Avenue and The Newhall Land & Farming Co.'s first golf course – Valencia Country Club – were barely two years old. The Valencia Industrial Center was just beginning to be developed. The single-screen Plaza Theater in Newhall and the Mustang Drive-In off Soledad Canyon Road were the lone cinematic venues.

The emergence of the Santa Clarita Valley as a viable place to live, work and play was precipitated by several key developments, chief among them the country's post-war westward migration and California's exploding growth. But the two greatest obstacles to the valley's growth – limited access and insufficient water supply – were in the process of being eliminated. The old Highway 99 was steadily being circumvented by a major north-south freeway, Interstate 5, that would cut a vital swath through the Santa Clarita Valley on its way to becoming California's most important roadway, connecting north with south, border to border. And, following California voters' approval seven years earlier to bring state water south, plans were moving forward for a major new State Water Project reservoir in Castaic. This project, part of what would become the biggest water-delivery system in the world, finally ensured a reliable source of water. 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 public institution of higher learning. Thus was born 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. The Board of Trustees – President William Bonelli Jr., Vice President Edward Muhl, and members Peter Huntsinger, Sheila Dyer and Bruce Fortine – began functioning as an official body on Dec. 5, 1967. They initiated a search for someone who could put the wheels in motion, eventually deciding upon Santa Barbara City College President Dr. Robert C. Rockwell. He became the first superintendent of the Santa Clarita Valley Junior College District, as it was then called, and the first president of its college, which would eventually adopt the now-familiar name of College of the Canyons.

Other names were considered for the new junior college district. Among them were North Valley, Upper Santa Clarita Valley, Bouquet, Canyon and Vasquez.

Asked why he would even consider leaving such a plush coastal climate for a dusty semi-desert outpost, Rockwell replied: “A college president has very few opportunities to create an entirely new college, and I’m still young enough to do it – and I want very much to do it.” The trustees liked his answer, as well as the fact he’d earlier overseen the construction of Cerritos Community College. Accompanying Rockwell from Santa Barbara was his loyal vice president, Gary Mouck, who would stay on at College of the Canyons long after his mentor retired. “College of the Canyons is what it is today because Bob Rockwell was the right man at the right place at the right time,” Mouck said. “There is simply no question about that. He brought invaluable experience and an innate leadership quality to the project.”

The Newhall Land & Farming Co., from whom the land that would become College of the Canyons was later purchased, presented the fledgling college with a \$140,000 gift. A chief executive of the company said the principal reason for the gift was “because Dr. Rockwell was there.”

Rockwell, Mouck and the trustees soon began the crucial task of finding the people who would give life and character to the new college. First to be built was an administrative staff, composed of Charles Rheinschmidt, assistant superintendent-student personnel; Carl McConnell, dean of admissions and records, and Joleen Block, director of library services.

Rockwell often boasted that he had personally “hand-picked” the college’s instructors. But they first had to get past Mouck, who interviewed every one of them. During the months leading up to opening day in the fall of 1969, he and fellow administrators turned their attention to hiring the first faculty. They sifted through the resumes of some 4,000 applicants. Thirty-one would be chosen.

Recruited were William Baker, communications; James Boykin, biological sciences; Louis Brown, police science; Steven Cerra, history; Theodore Collier, political science and history; Robert Downs, music; Alice Freeman (Betty Spilker), English; Kurt Freeman, psy-



Gary Mouck, who worked with Rockwell at Santa Barbara City College, followed his mentor to College of the Canyons to oversee the day-to-day operations.

chology; George Guernsey, technology; Mildred Guernsey, mathematics; Ann Heidt, art and English; Donald Heidt, English; Donald Hellrigel, foreign language; Elfi Hummel, foreign language and drama; Leonard Herendeen, police science; Iris Ingham, art; Jack Israel, physical education; Edward Jacoby, physical education; Jan Keller, librarian; Thomas Lawrence Jr., physics; Clifford Layton, business and mathematics; Betty Lid, English; J.J. O’Brien, police science; George Pederson, police science; Lynora Saunders, physical education; Lee Smelser, physical education; Dale Smith, sociology and anthropology;

Gretchen Thomson, history; Gary Valentine, chemistry and biology; Frances Wakefield, counseling, and Stanley Weikert, business.

The composition of the original Board of Trustees elected in 1967 changed, as John Hackney replaced Sheila Dyer in 1969.

The challenges facing the young district were formidable.



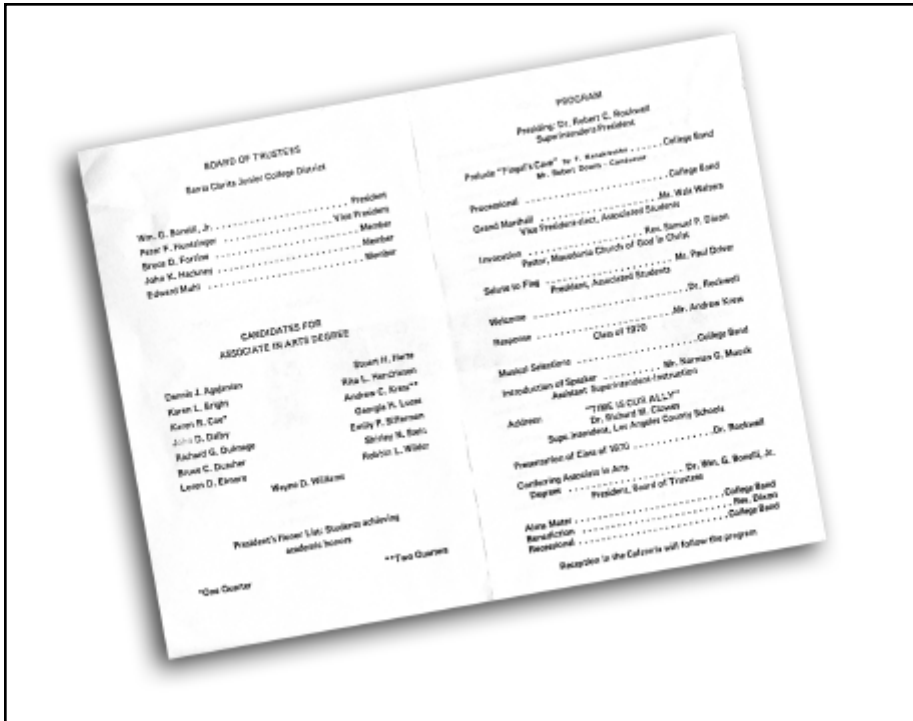
College of the Canyons opened in a bungalow at Hart High School on Sept. 22, 1969. Hours were limited because classes could start only in mid-afternoon, after high school students had left the campus.

Even with the key people in place, the college still existed in concept only. There was nothing yet tangible and very little money. By May 1969 the college’s first catalog was ready to go – minus an important detail. “There was no cover because the college didn’t have a name,” Mouck recalled years later. That issue would soon be resolved.

Mouck was in his office one day in early 1969, examining topographic maps of the Santa Clarita Valley, when he noticed the large number of canyons. “I counted over 50. So I yelled out, ‘How about College of the Canyons?’” There already was a College of the Desert and a College of the Redwoods, so College of the Canyons made sense, he reasoned. On May 15, 1969, the Board of Trustees agreed. “College of the Canyons” won out over several other suggestions that included Santa Clarita College and Valencia College.

The rationale behind the selection of the cougar as official mascot was far less complicated. “I came up with ‘cougar’ because I like cougars,” Mouck said matter-of-factly.

Attention soon turned to the reason Mouck was examining topographic



The program for the college's first graduation ceremony in June 1970 listed 15 of the 16 graduates. The ceremony was held at Hart High School, the new college's first but temporary home. A reception followed in the high school's cafeteria.

maps in the first place. The college needed a permanent home. Although much vacant land existed in 1969, a significant portion of it was owned by one company, Newhall Land. The college identified some 45 possible properties on which to build, including land that Newhall Land and Sea World planned to transform into a major theme park. That place would open on May 29, 1971 as Magic Mountain and quickly become a regional landmark, but only after Newhall Land made college leaders an offer they couldn't refuse.

Not wanting its land acquired through eminent-domain proceedings, Newhall Land made the college district a generous offer. The company would sell the district more than 150 acres along Interstate 5 near Valencia Boulevard for about \$10,000 an acre, then return 10 percent of the purchase price as a gift. Now, all the district needed was the money.

With hundreds of prospective students eagerly awaiting their new college, temporary



The first campus at the permanent site was composed of a collection of temporary modular buildings holding 99 classrooms. The buildings of the so-called "instant campus" sat roughly on the location of the present-day softball field.

quarters were arranged at Hart High School. It was there, in a Newhall Avenue bungalow, that College of the Canyons officially opened on Sept. 22, 1969, welcoming its first class of students. Rockwell expected about 600 people to sign up for the fall quarter. But, in a precursor to the years that would follow, demand was under-estimated as 735 students showed up.

Administrative offices were located several blocks away, at 24609 Arch Street, in a strip-mall storefront just over the railroad tracks at San Fernando Road (now known as Main Street). The college organized its first-year schedule around the quarter system, with the winter quarter starting Jan. 7, 1970 and the spring quarter commencing April 8, 1970. There was no summer quarter.

Courses of instruction were comprehensive for such a new institution. More than 150 classes were offered in anthropology, art, astronomy, automotive technology, biological sciences, business, chemistry, communications, economics, engineering, English, French, geography, geology, German, health education, history, home economics, library technology,



mathematics, meteorology, music, philosophy, physical education, physics, police science, political science, psychology, social science, sociology and Spanish.

The college fielded its first athletic teams in baseball, basketball, cross country and track under the auspices of the Desert Conference.

Student activities began immediately. The college's first student body president, Paul Driver, was elected. The first issue of the student newspaper, introduced as "The College Sound," rolled off the press in November. A steady succession of events with names such as Sweethearts Dance and Annual Awards Banquet followed, as did theatrical productions such as "The World of Ferlinghetti" and "Our Town."

The 1970s

Before long, the college's first commencement day arrived. Assembled in the Hart High cafeteria that June day in 1970 were Dennis Agajanian – the first to be handed his diploma – Karen Bright, Karen Coe, Penny Curtis, John Dalby, Richard Dalmage, Loren Elmore, Stuart Harte, Rita Hendrixson, Gregory Jenkins, Andrew Kress, Georgia Lucas, Emily Sifferman, Shirley Stein, Robert Wilder and Wayne Williams. These 16 people hold the distinction of being the very first graduates of College of the Canyons.

The view of the temporary modular campus looking west. The buildings were erected just south of the present day Cougar Stadium.



The college's first Associated Student Body was headed by Paul Driver (center).

"The first year of operation of any new college is never easy," Rockwell remarked during the ceremony. "The challenges are numerous. All of you have met these challenges and, in doing so, have achieved an enviable place in the history of this college."

The Hart High campus filled an urgent need, but it was ill-suited to accommodate a growing number of college students for very long. College hours were severely hampered because classes could begin only in the late afternoon, after high school students had left for the day. Sure enough, before the year was out, College of the Canyons would have a new home.

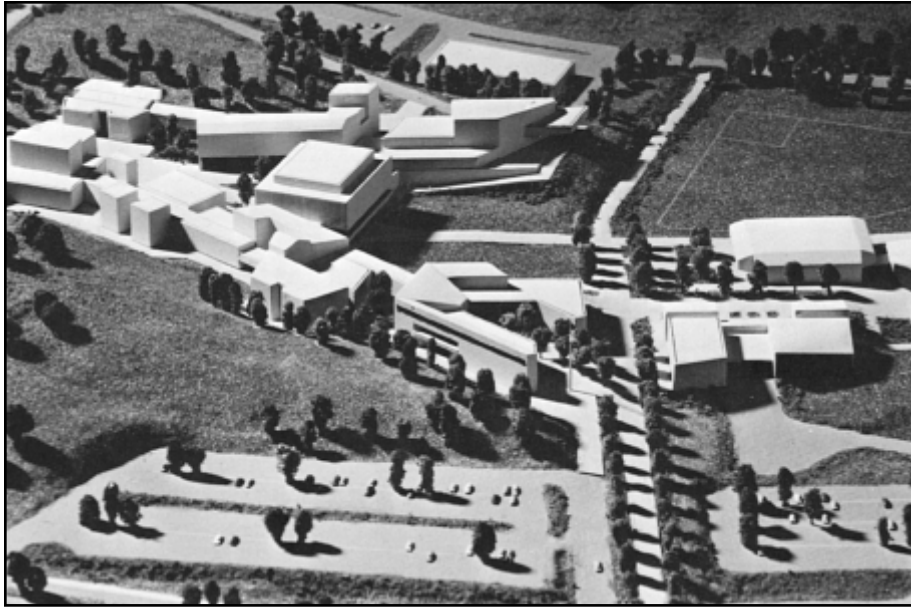
In January of 1970, voters gave their resounding approval to a \$4 million

construction-bond issue so that College of the Canyons could create a permanent campus. Soon thereafter, the district took Newhall Land up on its earlier offer and purchased 153.4 acres of land bounded by Valencia Boulevard on the north

and Interstate 5 on the west. "Ultimately we obtained the best site of all," Mouck said, referring to the gently rolling oak-studded hills along the east side of Interstate 5. Local pioneers had a more ominous moniker for this parcel of land. They called it "Rattlesnake Gulch."

College of the Canyons moved out of the Hart High campus in July, setting up a temporary admissions office in a garage on Pine Street until the new campus was ready.

Just 10 months after voters passed the bond issue, temporary buildings housing 99 classrooms were erected, although construction problems delayed the opening by two weeks. The college's first on-campus classes began on Oct. 5, 1970 in an assemblage of prefabricated buildings that faculty, staff and students would alternately call the "Instant Campus" or "Stalag 13," the latter a reference to the stark prison camp featured in the TV sitcom "Hogan's Heroes."

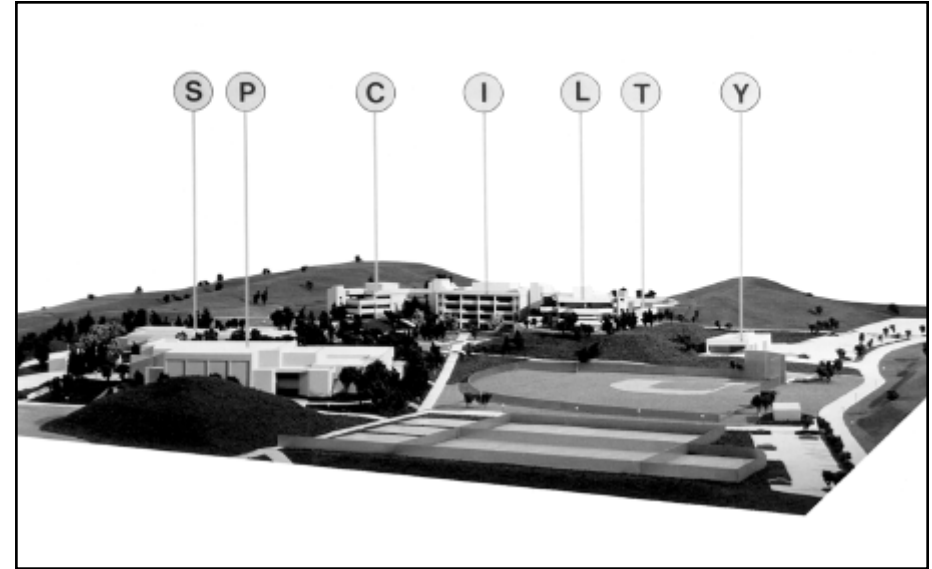


Once the village of modular buildings was in place, work commenced on the adjacent football field and surrounding all-weather “Tartan track.” The massive concrete stadium and lights would come later, after the visitors’ stands were built.

At the start of the second academic year, more than 1,200 people were attending classes. It was a strong indicator of community need and the growth yet to come.

The growing student body was now offered more than 225 courses taught by an ever-growing faculty team. New instructors included Roger Basham, anthropology; Marcia Boehm; Carl Buckel, management; Janice Burbank, nursing education; Dorothy Burtch; Doris Coy, business and economics; Barbara Hamm; Willard Kiesner; Roseann Krane; Chris Mathison; Robert McNutt; Stanley Newcomb; Ken Palmer; Anton Remenih, communication services; Robert Seippel; Carl Seltzer; William Solberg, and Winston Wutkee, geology. And, although the name was new, the face was familiar, as Alice Freeman rejoined the faculty ranks under her new, married name, Betty Spilker. Joining the administrative team in 1970 were Robert Berson, assistant superintendent-business services, and Alduino Adelini, dean of student activities.

The campus shares some of the design features from this early three-dimensional model of the proposed campus.



An early architectural drawing (top) shows the proposed placement of the college’s first permanent buildings, which is much closer to the actual campus that was built. The cover of a 1970 publication (above) that described the new college’s future plans.

The name of the district was shortened slightly, with the removal of “Valley” from the Santa Clarita Valley Junior College District. (In fact, the official district name would metamorphose once again when California decided to rename its junior colleges “community colleges.” The Santa Clarita Community College District became the district’s official name in 1972.)

Putting the new football field to good use was the college’s first gridiron squad, which announced its arrival by winning the season opener against the Cal Lutheran junior varsity team by a score of 49-6. The 1970 Cougars, coached by Don Kloppenburg, finished the season with a 7-2 record, second in the Desert Conference and fifth in the state. The first-year team also produced an All-American in tailback Clint McKinney, who gained the most yardage – 413 in 41 carries – in a single game in the history of American college football. By comparison, O.J. Simpson ran a record 304 yards at San Francisco City College in 1965. McKinney was named MVP of the Desert Conference and was presented with a special trophy from Sports Illustrated magazine.

The cross-country team, headed by coach Ed Jacoby, won the



conference championship. The harriers' captain and star was Mike Martinez.

The college's Alma Mater, authored by music instructor Robert Downs, appeared for the first time in the 1970-71 Cougars Handbook: "All hail to Thee with melody, our voices strong and clear. We pledge to Thee our loyalty in terms for all to hear. And when we go our way, we will say we have known you, Alma Mater, strong and true. Our College of the Canyons and a Cougars' victory! All hail to Thee."

Students held their first welcome dance of the new academic year at Hart High, whose multi-purpose room was still larger than anything at the new campus. Performing on stage was an oddly titled band called "Shmoogi," whose roster included a young Curtis Stone. Stone, son of the late music legend and Saugus resident Cliffie Stone, would later find stardom as a founding member of the band "Highway 101."

Meanwhile, the once-virgin hills of Rattlesnake Gulch were being remolded by



The athletic field, minus the stadium (top), and the modular buildings (above) being erected to create the temporary campus.



The baseball field (top) was one of the first amenities to be built on the new campus. The hills behind it are being graded and prepared for construction. The Cougar cheer squad (above) strikes a pose.

dozens of clattering steel behemoths that kicked up an endless supply of dirt and dust in their quest to create a habitable college campus. The street address for this new college was 25000 Valencia Boulevard, as Rockwell Canyon Road did not yet exist.

Unlike the present-day campus, the new college had a serious parking shortage. Consequently, during class hours hundreds of cars were parked bumper to bumper along both sides of Valencia Boulevard.

Improvisation was the order of the day. Students could occasionally be seen hosing down the inevitable layer of

dust that accumulated on just about everything, while instructors often abandoned the confines of the prefabs to teach outdoors. Basketball coach Lee Smelser once conducted a class while perched atop the back of a truck, and English instructor Betty Lid transformed a trash can into a speaking lectern.

On Oct. 26, 1970, during a twilight ceremony under a mammoth green-and-white tent, College of the Canyons was officially dedicated. More than 700 people showed up to witness the hour-long event in the center of the campus. Special guest speakers were comedian Bob Hope and U.S. Sen. George Murphy.



A couple gaze out over the temporary modular campus from a hill on the western edge of the campus. The buildings on the left sit at the location of the present-day Cougar Den picnic area.

“The pioneer spirit of the West is still here,” said Murphy, whose previous career as an actor featured roles on Broadway and in some 55 movies. “Nowhere have I witnessed a modern-day demonstration of our great pioneer spirit that surpasses the one taking place right here on this campus.”

When it was his turn to speak, Hope, the legend of standup comedy and the silver screen, took a serious swipe at campus radicals, reflecting the university unrest typical of the day. “I can’t understand how people can burn down college buildings,” he said. “For fine young students to be denied an education by a lousy fringe group is the biggest crime in our history.”

He also added his lighthearted take on the event. Referring to the tent in which everyone was assembled, Hope quipped: “I haven’t worked anything like this since Ringling Bros.” After taking in a deep breath, he added: “I’m in shock. This fresh air grabbed me. I’m not used to it. I’m from Burbank.”

Other distinguished guests that day were California Assemblyman Newton Russell, Sen. John Harmer, Los Angeles County Supervisor Warren Dorn and the Rev. Robert



Two members of the Cougar cheer squad collect autographs from U.S. Sen. George Murphy (left) and comedian Bob Hope (right), who spoke during the campus dedication ceremony in 1970.

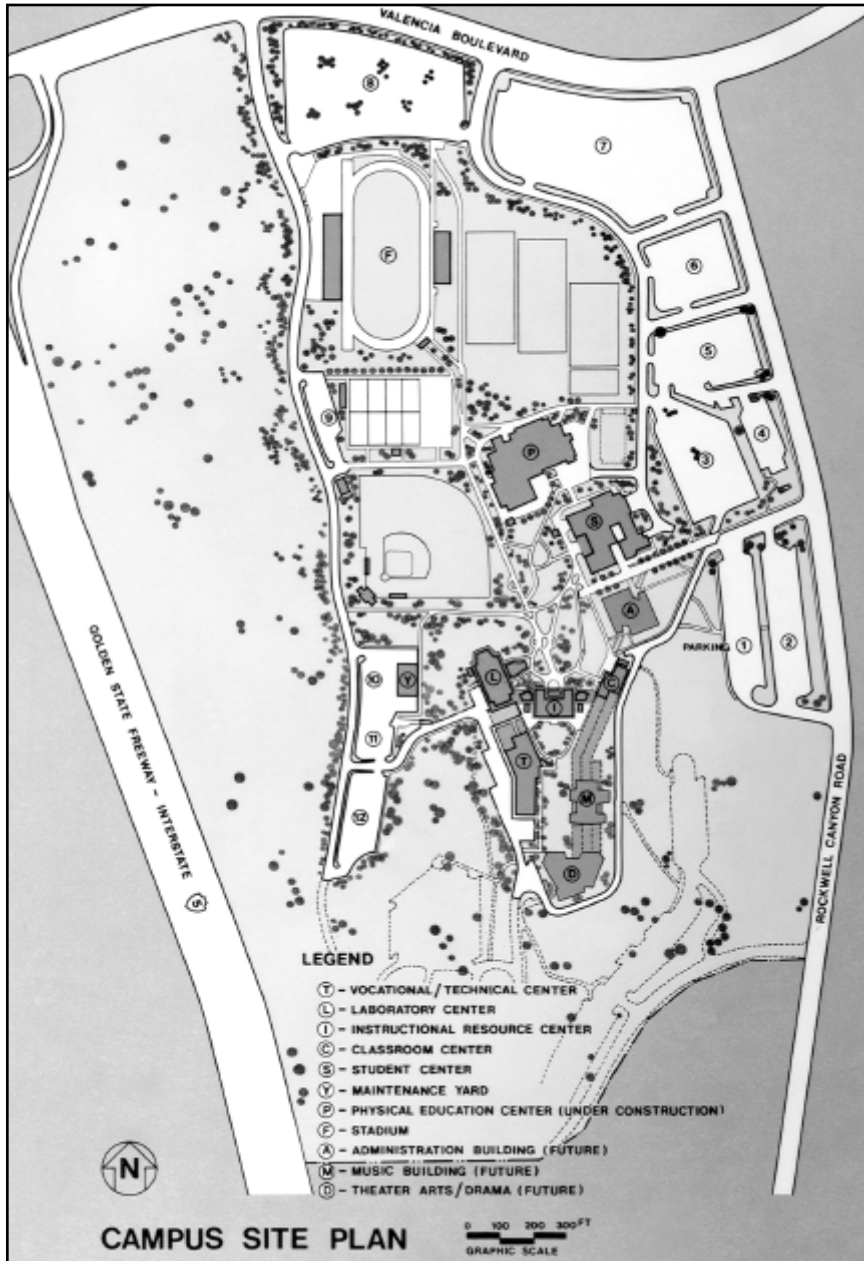
Bingham, who delivered the invocation and benediction.

“Our goal is not to provide just a college for the community, but a college of quality, one that will be admired and used as a model throughout the state,” Rockwell said to the assembled guests and dignitaries. “With our staff and administration, this goal is within our grasp.”

The timing of the 6.4-magnitude Sylmar earthquake on Feb. 9, 1971 was fortuitous for College of the Canyons. No permanent campus structures yet existed, but the architectural plans for the buildings on the drawing board were beefed up significantly to make the college’s first structures among the safest in California.

“The Student Center was supposed to be two stories, but everything changed the day of the Sylmar earthquake,” said Al Adelini, who served as dean of student activities. “That was a very fateful day for the college, and we became the most earthquake-ready facility in the whole valley.”

Hardest hit during the quake – which was strong enough to topple the lofty Interstate 5-Highway 14 connectors that were then under construction – was the Instructional Resource Center, where librarian Jan Keller estimated that some 10,000 volumes lay buried under displaced steel shelves. It took



College planners followed fairly closely the guidelines set forth by the architect's original site plan (above) over the years, except for the southernmost campus buildings.



The hills south of Valencia Boulevard are graded to prepare for the construction of permanent campus buildings. The clattering steel behemoths kicked up an endless supply of dirt and dust at the nearby temporary campus.

two days to sort through the mess and re-shelve the books.

Eighty-nine students graduated during the college's second commencement ceremony – the first to occur on the permanent campus – in 1971. The figure was more than five times greater than the 16 graduates a year earlier and a portent of things to come.

By the fall of 1971, enrollment continued to experience dramatic growth, reaching 1,700 students – more than twice the number of students enrolled in classes during the first year. The number of college personnel also continued to grow to meet the increased enrollment demands. Hired to serve as dean of vocational-technical education in 1971 was Robert Pollock, and new faculty members included Hazel Carter, nursing education; Henry Endler, transportation; Robert Freeman, music; Helen Lusk, nursing education, and Larry Reisbig, physical education.

The college's new vocational nursing program awarded 11 students with nursing caps in April 1971. The mid-year "capping" ceremony marked the halfway point for the students, who were enrolled in an intensive training program that included more than 1,000 hours of clinical training at Inter-Valley Community Hospital in Saugus and Golden State



Memorial Hospital in Newhall. “You are preparing yourselves for a noble calling,” Assistant Superintendent Mouck told the students. The class later graduated in August.

Meanwhile, a wayfaring pair of geology and anthropology instructors began conducting field trips that would become institutional traditions – and wildly popular among students. Geology instructor Winston Wutkee, a strong believer in hands-on rock hunting, led several field trips to places such as Acton, Tick Canyon, Death Valley and Gold Rush country, where students could find and inspect actual specimens on their own. Likewise, anthropology instructor Roger Basham led several expeditions in which students participated in archeological digs. Among the destinations was a site near the then-new Castaic Dam to unearth evidence of a Chumash tribe that once inhabited the area. Another focused on a dry lake bed near Taft, where students dug up arrowheads, beads and other artifacts left behind by the Yokuts, who occupied the San Joaquin Valley for some 7,000 years.

The community was apparently satisfied with the college’s progress, deciding to maintain the status quo on the college’s Board of Trustees. Three members – Peter Huntsinger, William Bonelli and Edward Muhl –

Some of the 89 students who graduated in 1971 line up near the college’s modular buildings. It was the college’s second graduation ceremony – and the first to actually be held on the permanent campus.



College life amid the temporary modular structures was typical, with students painting a promotional banner (top) and gathering around a table between classes to socialize (above).

won re-election in April.

And, events in Southeast Asia continued to polarize public opinion. The case of Army Lt. William Calley, accused of massacring innocent civilians at Mai Lai, was the subject of a heated April 29 student forum organized by communications instructor William Baker.

The college debuted its new marching band and crowned its first homecoming queen – Vicki Sinclair – during half-time ceremonies in November. The mighty Cougar football squad dispensed the College of the Desert Roadrunners by the score of 49-0. The 25-piece band was assembled by music instructor Robert Downs.

As 1972 began, it was impossible to ignore the small mechanized army of bulldozers and graders that was reshaping the property south of the temporary campus. The \$1 million project was preparing the land for the buildings that would eventually rise from the site, including the first permanent building, the Instructional Resource Center (now called Bonelli Hall), as well as the Classroom Center (Seco Hall), Laboratory



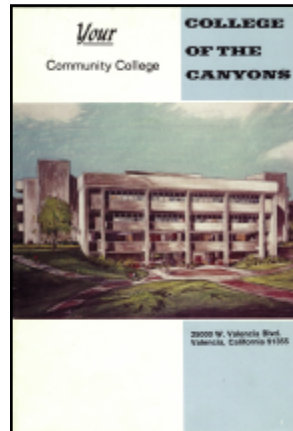
Geology instructor Winston Wutkee (left, in white jumpsuit) and anthropology instructor Roger Basham (to the right, waving) lead students on an early archaeological excavation.

Center (Boykin Hall), Student Center, Vocational-Technical Building (Towsley Hall) and portions of the Physical Education Center.

Sadly, Dr. William Bonelli, the recently re-elected first president of the Board of Trustees, did not live to see the college's first permanent building. He died suddenly on Feb. 22, 1972 at the age of 49. The college's first permanent structure, the Instructional Resource Center, would be renamed in his honor. Newhall's postmaster, Francis Claffey, was appointed to fill the vacant board seat.

The second commencement ceremony on the permanent campus produced 143 graduates – up from 89 the previous year. The college was experiencing solid growth, but even that was dwarfed by bigger news: Construction of the Dr. William G. Bonelli Instructional Resource Center was authorized to move forward.

In November 1972, voters statewide authorized the \$160



The cover of an early college marketing brochure depicts an artist's rendering of the Instructional Resource Center (Bonelli Hall).



Better known as the Cougars winningest baseball coach, Mike Gillespie (above left) also pitched in as an assistant coach for the football team. He would go on to become the head coach for USC's baseball team.

million Community College Construction Act, which was worth about \$11.2 million for College of the Canyons – provided that local citizens came up with at least \$2.5 million in matching funds.

The challenge galvanized the community. Elisha Agajanian, board chairman of Santa Clarita National Bank, and Blake V. Blakey, manager of Anawalt Lumber & Materials Co. in Newhall, headed a group of some 40 community leaders who organized the Citizens' Committee to Complete College of the Canyons. The outcome was extraordinary. On Feb. 6, 1973, local voters threw their enthusiastic support behind an \$8 million bond issue to meet the matching-funds requirement of the earlier statewide measure. In fact, nearly 80 percent of the local electorate voted to support the measure, far surpassing the required two-thirds majority.

Construction of the Instructional Resource Center (Bonelli Hall) and an auto shop building was already under way. With the funding now in place, the core campus – most of it, anyway – could now be completed. Buildings began opening in rapid succession, with the monikers “Instant Campus,” “Rattlesnake Gulch” and “Stalag 13” fading into history.

The new bond funding paved the way for five major building projects: the



Construction workers build the forms that will encase the massive poured-concrete foundation of the Instructional Resource Center (Bonelli Hall).



The foundation of the IRC (Bonelli Hall) begins to take shape on the College of the Canyons campus.

Laboratory Center (Boykin Hall), Classroom Center (Seco Hall), Student Center, Vocational-Technical Building (Towsley Hall) and Physical Education Center. The original master plan also called for a Theatre Arts Building, Music Building, Business Education Building and Classroom-Administration Building, all of which were scheduled to be built later in the decade.

Ultimately, the college envisioned under the first master plan would be able to accommodate 5,000 students – a capacity that would be met and surpassed far sooner than anyone realized.

The first permanent building to be completed was the IRC (Bonelli Hall). More than half a million cubic yards of earth were moved to make way for this first building, which cost \$3.25 million to build and housed 26 classrooms and faculty offices. As the IRC (Bonelli Hall) was completed and its classroom space made



**College of the Canyons
1971 Football**

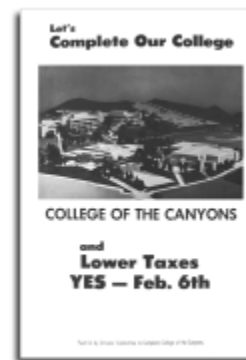
Porterville & Santa Barbara – Shrineage

9-9	Porterville	Home	4-00
9-11	Santa Barbara	SBCC	7-00
9-18	Glendale	Glen	8-00
10-2	Calif. Lutheran	Home	7-30
10-9	*Mt. San Jacinto	San J.	7-30
10-16	*Imperial Valley	IVC	7-30
10-23	*Bakersfield	Home	7-30
10-30	*Mira Costa	Home	7-30
11-6	*Palo Verde	Home	7-30
11-13	*Victor Valley	VVille	7-30
11-20	*College of the Desert	Home	7-30

*Desert Conf. League Games - All games p.m.
Head Coach - Don Kloppenburg
Asst. L. Resberg, M. Gonzalez, G. Rath

COMPLIMENTS
SECURITY PACIFIC
NATIONAL BANK

The 1971 Cougar football squad is pictured on a trading card that featured the team's schedule on the back.



A campaign sign for the 1973 bond measure that asked voters for \$8 million to help build the campus. Nearly 80 percent of voters responded positively at the ballot box.

available in early 1974, the modular structures that had served as the college campus were abandoned and removed. At the same time, five other buildings were in various stages of construction.

The IRC (Bonelli Hall) was officially dedicated by Gov. Ronald Reagan on April 22, 1974. The dedication ceremony was a proud and lavish affair, with a large stage erected on the football field to accommodate the governor and other luminaries. Reagan arrived by limousine and met privately with college officials in the old board room, which was located inside a modular building behind where the present-day stadium scoreboard sits. Hundreds gathered in the field's visitor's stands as armed, mounted police officers patrolled the hillside above.

As the fall of 1974 approached, it was becoming abundantly clear that College of the Canyons had a vital purpose and an ever-expanding following. As the college entered its sixth academic year, enrollment rose to 2,542 students – an all-time high.

It was a time when many young people were returning from com-

bat in Vietnam. The student population reflected this trend, with a full 30 percent of students being veterans. The conflict in Vietnam would officially cease the following year.

The 6,000-seat Cougar Stadium officially opened for the football team's first home game of the 1974 season on Sept. 21 of that year. Unfortunately, the Cougars fell to Los Angeles Harbor Community College by a score of 26-21.

The Classroom Center (Seco Hall) and Laboratory Center (Boykin Hall), two separate structures that were built on either end of the IRC (Bonelli Hall), opened in January 1975. To the casual observer, the combined structures appear to be one large building, but they are actually three separate structures. At the points at which the buildings appear to touch, they are in fact a few inches apart, the gaps along the outdoor walkways covered with steel expansion plates.

The scaled-back Student Center, now relegated to a single story in the interest of earthquake safety, opened in February 1975. The first on-campus dining facility opened here in September, offering a hamburger for 60 cents, a grilled-cheese sandwich for 40 cents and a large Coke for 35 cents. The Student Center was used for the first graduation ceremony of the Licensed Vocational Nurse Program. Sixteen students graduated.

The \$1.2 million Vocational-Technical Building (Towsley Hall), housing programs in



The Instructional Resource Center (Bonelli Hall) begins to take shape, having risen two of its eventual four stories.



California Governor Ronald Reagan speaks during the April 22, 1974 dedication ceremony for the college's first permanent building, the William G. Bonelli Instructional Resource Center (Bonelli Hall). Superintendent-Dr. Robert C. Rockwell is seated on the left.

welding, automotive repair and home economics, opened to some 500 students in the fall of 1975. And, the nearly \$5 million Physical Education Complex, housing an indoor swimming and diving pool, basketball court, gymnastics room and weight-training room, opened in March 1976. It signaled the end of construction of the original core campus. The Santa Clarita Valley now boasted a stunning college campus that was the envy of many a community.

"The modern architecture utilizes the natural landscape, reflecting in its design the spaciousness and simplicity of the terrain," noted a college brochure from 1975, explaining the design philosophy of the new campus. "While certain changes in the hillsides must be made to complete the program, every effort has been made to ensure ecological protection."

The sturdy, massive poured-concrete structures were designed to withstand 100-year earthquakes and went well beyond state safety laws. "I doubt that we could afford to build like that today," Rockwell commented some years later. "I guess what the founding Board of Trustees and I are proudest of is the fact that we planned well for the future. It's paying off handsomely now and will for decades to come."

Rockwell served College of the Canyons for more than a decade,



With most of the IRC (Bonelli Hall) completed, workers turn their attention to construction of the L Building (Boykin Hall). At right, Superintendent-President Rockwell stands in front of the IRC as it is being built.



retiring in late 1978 and accomplishing what the first Board of Trustees asked him to do: Build not just a college, but a foundation on which to build. “I am proud of College of the Canyons,” he said. “I consider it the culmination of a career.” Mouck was tapped to serve as interim superintendent-president, a position he held until midway through the following year.

The year 1978 was a transitional one for the college, if not the entire state. In November, California voters approved Proposition 13, a far-reaching measure that would have a profound impact on state finances and prompt cutbacks in educational programs. The dawn of this new era at College of the Canyons would be overseen by Dr. Leland B. Newcomer, the former president of La Verne College and superintendent of the Grossmont Union High School District, who was brought on board to replace the retiring Rockwell. Newcomer began his new job on July 1, 1979.



The 1980s

The financial challenges of the new decade would require innovative solutions. Faced with a 10 percent increase in enrollment and a \$500,000 deficit at the start of the 1980-81 academic year, the college embarked on a new course of action. It created the College of the



The Student Center (top) and, beyond that, Cougar Stadium are under construction. Most of the Instructional Resource Center (Boykin Hall, above) has been completed. This view is from the south. Just beyond the trailer is the present-day Bonelli Amphitheater.

Canyons Foundation, a private, non-profit corporation that would generate new funding from within the community to help fund educational programs and provide scholarships, fellowships and grants for students.

A welcome diversion would come from the sports world. Cougar pitching standout Bob Walk broke into the big leagues and began playing for the Philadelphia Phillies on May 26, 1980. Although not the first Cougar to make it to the pros, Walk was the first to make a significant impact in professional sports. The fierce competitor’s 1980 rookie season at Philadelphia included 11 regular-season wins and a victory in Game One of the World Series. His phenomenal Major League Baseball career would stretch through the ’80s, coming to a close on Sept. 29, 1993 with the Pittsburgh Pirates.



The Student Center is under construction in this view looking north.

Despite a poor economic climate, construction began in January 1981 on a new Child Development Center and Administration Building, financed through the sale of bonds that were approved years earlier. Elsewhere on campus, college officials were struggling with the economic realities of the post-Proposition 13 climate.

A second-straight deficit, this one in the \$600,000 range, resulted in a variety of cut-backs in the 1981-82 academic year. Scaled back or eliminated were music and theater programs, counseling services and speech classes. Although the situation appeared dire, Newcomer remained optimistic, commenting: “This college will survive. We can and will grow.”

The College Services Building, housing the Child Development Center (CDC) and administrative offices, opened its doors in February 1982. The CDC served the dual role of training students and providing preschool services to the community. The exceptional quality of care quickly became evident to local families, with lengthy waiting lists becoming the norm.

The year 1982 was a pivotal one for college athletics. Although the football program was successful on the field, it failed to capture the hearts and minds of the community. Mired in controversy over its recruitment of out-of-state players, the football program was dismantled at the order of the Board of Trustees, which rationalized its decision by point-



A crane hoists a bank of lights into place at Cougar Stadium, which itself is under construction (top). An earlier photo (above) shows the field, running track and a mound of dirt that was used as the foundation for the stadium.

ing to the program’s high costs and the community’s apparent lack of interest. Last anyone think it singled out football, the board cut additional costs by eliminating one-third of the physical education classes and a host of academic programs.

Mouck recounted how Rockwell Canyon Road

came into existence. For years, there was a small road that extended from Valencia Boulevard to the college’s staff parking lots. Newhall Land had plans to punch through the hills and extend the road to McBean Parkway, making it a natural extension of the existing Tournament Road near CalArts. College leaders, however, wanted a name that would honor the college’s recently retired first superintendent-president, Dr. Robert C. Rockwell.



“The county would not dedicate it as Rockwell Road because he was still living,” Mouck recalled. He eventually convinced Newhall Land and Los Angeles County planners that the road should be called Rockwell Canyon Road – despite the glaring absence of a canyon named Rockwell. Mouck had found a way to honor his old boss – with a road that not only utilized the Rockwell name, but shared the same initials: RCR.

By June of 1982, Mouck found himself once again filling in as the interim superintendent, following the resignation of Dr. Newcomer. He soon announced that his retirement was not long off. The one administrator who had been with the college since its inception set a departure date of Dec. 15, describing his 14 years at the college as a “labor of love.”

Economic difficulties persisted at the start of the fall 1982 semester, with the college cutting 50 classes and experiencing an enrollment dip from 4,000 to 3,600 students.

Major League Baseball had its sights on the college’s baseball program, which cap-



The Physical Education Center (top) is under construction in this view looking north. Already built and visible in the background is Cougar Stadium. Lee Smelser (above) was the college’s first men’s basketball coach.



The Cougars baseball team (top) plays on its field at the college’s permanent campus, and the women’s basketball team (above) competes in the new Physical Education Center.

tured its first state title in 1981. This time, a trio of players was called up to the big leagues. Pitcher Jeff Perry was summoned by the St. Louis Cardinals, and shortstop Jeff Hughes and outfielder Bill Gordon suited up as San Francisco Giants. Cougar baseball coach Mike Gillespie led the team to its second state title in May 1983 and was named coach of the year in both the state and nation.

On May 1, 1983, Dr. Ramon F. LaGrandeur became the third person to step into the role of superintendent-president of College of the Canyons. The former Spokane Community College president faced a daunting budget deficit of more than \$473,000.

The deficit was more than a local problem. With California bleeding red ink, the state’s grand concept of providing a free college education to all citizens came to an end after 73 years. The state introduced a new requirement in 1984 that community college students pay enrollment fees of \$5 per unit, up to a maximum of \$50 per semester.

Within a year, finances improved and the college



began to return to normal. In 1985, work was completed on the college's long-awaited Physical Sciences Lab, and the chorus and jazz band regrouped after an absence of four years.

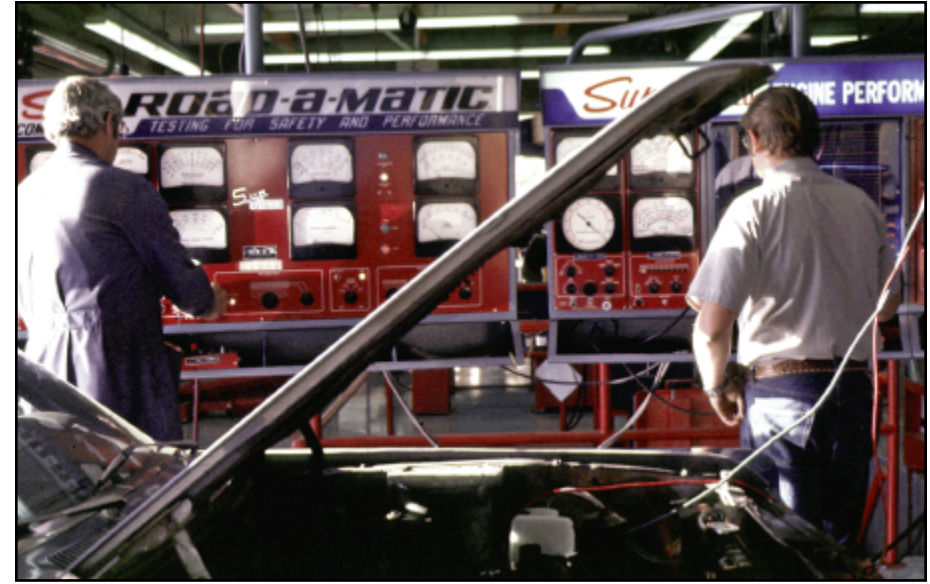
The year closed on a somber note, however, with the Nov. 9 death of biology professor Jim Boykin at the age of 59. A member of the college's first faculty, he taught at the college for 16 years. The science building was later renamed the James D. Boykin Lab Center (now, simply, Boykin Hall) in his honor.

Some 70 recruits enrolled in the new Los Angeles County Sheriff's Training Academy at the college in March 1986.

In May, baseball coach Mike Gillespie wrapped up his 16th and final season, but not before the Cougars won their third state championship in six years with a remarkable 41-6 record – the most wins ever for a California community college. Gillespie's next stop would be USC.



Gary Mouck (top, left) speaks with instructor Cheri Choate (second from left) as Tom Lawrence (far right) looks on at the temporary campus. A nearly completed IRC (Bonelli Hall) can be seen in the background. Members of one of the first cheerleading squads (above).



One of the first vocational programs on the new campus was automotive repair and technology.

Enrollment began to climb once again – if ever so slightly. Fall 1986 classes began with an increase of 50 students, indicating that perhaps the economy was improving, growth was at hand and better days were ahead.

Like the previous year, however, the college lost another beloved faculty member. Political science professor Dr. Ted Collier, one of the original team of instructors hired 17 years earlier, died Sept. 21 at the age of 58.

The year 1987 was an important one for both the college and the community. Enrollment grew again, with some 3,700 students signing up for spring classes. The on-campus Sheriff's Department Training Academy graduated its first class of recruits – 57 men and six women – during a commencement ceremony attended by Sheriff Sherman Block and California Senator Ed Davis, the former chief of the Los Angeles Police Department. And, the college's first Women's Conference, featuring KNBC News anchorwoman Kelly Lange as its keynote speaker, debuted to a sell-out crowd.

Perhaps most importantly for the burgeoning Santa Clarita Valley, 1987 was the year that signaled independence. When they went to the polls on Nov. 3, 69 percent of local voters supported the idea of creating the City of Santa Clarita, wresting control of much of the populated areas of the valley from Los Angeles County. The new city was the largest area to be incorporated in



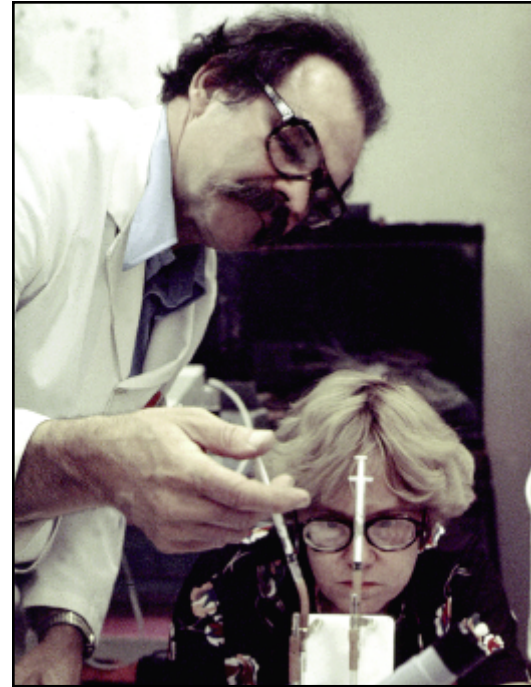
Students participate in an experiment in one of the new L Building (Boykin Hall) science labs.

California history, and it became the second-largest city in size and the sixth-largest in population (130,000) within the county. Among the fledgling city's first City Council was Carl Boyer, a former member of the Santa Clarita Community College District Board of Trustees, the elected governing body of College of the Canyons.

Coinciding with the birth of this new city was a changing of the guard at the community's only public institution of higher learning. With five years under his belt as the college's top administrator, Dr. LaGrandeur retired in 1988, setting off a search for his successor.

Stepping into the college's top spot was a new leader for a new era, a 37-year-old college administrator from the Lake Tahoe Community College District who was chosen from a field of 23 finalists. When Dr. Dianne Gracia Van Hook accepted the position, she became one of California's youngest superintendent-presidents.

The progress that followed at College of the Canyons was nothing short of remarkable. Van Hook, herself a community college graduate from Long Beach, initiated the longest period of forward momentum in the college's history, extracting dollars from Sacramento and overseeing an expansion of educational facilities and programs that would stretch well into the next century.



Biology instructor James Boykin (top) passed away Nov. 9, 1985, after teaching at the college for 16 years. Political science instructor Ted Collier (right), also one of the college's original instructors, died Sept. 21, 1986.



Within a year, College of the Canyons held the distinction of being the fastest-growing community college in California, and Van Hook initiated an ambitious facilities master plan that would reshape the campus.

The 1990s

By 1990, with some 6,500 students attending classes on a campus designed for 5,000, the college was beginning to experience the effects of overcrowding. It would be up to Van Hook to meet the challenge of accommodating the needs of a student population that was growing faster than anyone had imagined.

As the new decade began, College of the Canyons entered a period of its most significant growth and advancement since the original campus was built. Van Hook was given the mandate to take the college to the next level, with the ultimate goal of meeting the demands of a projected 20,000 students by the year 2010.

Dozens of new instructional and training programs were introduced. New instructors and staff members were brought on board. A helping, cooperative hand was extended to local government, business and industry. The college's master plan was updated to meet the current and projected demands of a community ranked as one of the nation's fastest growing.

Under a new brand of leadership characterized by optimism, persistence and flexibility, the atmosphere on campus was transformed into one of innovation, positive change



Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook (second from left) is announced as the new superintendent-president in 1988, replacing the retiring Dr. Ramon F. LaGrandeur (second from right). Van Hook's husband Roger is seated at the far left, and Board of Trustees member Michelle Jenkins is at the far right.

and passionate willingness to blaze new trails – to pursue the dream of a community college that knows no boundaries or limitations or obstacles that couldn't be overcome.

But there were obstacles, the most significant being the state funding formula for fast-growing community colleges like College of the Canyons. The college's lifeblood was coming in at a comparative trickle considering the high rate of enrollment growth. In fact, the state's funding system penalized all of California's fast-growing community colleges. It was a state issue, and any changes to correct the funding system would have to be argued to legislators in Sacramento. It was with these realizations in mind that Van Hook and fellow college leaders crafted their strategy and, ultimately, the college's destiny.

What followed was a frantic lobbying schedule that put Van Hook, trustees and other college officials in Santa Clarita, Sacramento and points in between – often all in the same day to lobby for the cause. Valuable relationships were forged. Trust was developed. Skeptics and foes became allies. Eventually, with the help of state Sen. Ed Davis, legislation to correct the funding formula and boost revenue was enacted. State officials were persuaded to award millions of construction dollars the college needed to embark on a long-delayed expansion of facilities.

New facilities helped clear the way to boost the number of instructional and training courses by



The college's 1989 leadership team included, from left, Jan Keller, Ken Stevens, Burdett "Bud" Shearer, Kathleen Maloney, Sue Bozman, Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook, James Walker, Gary Olmstead, Helen Lusk, Nancy Mattice and Cal Alsop.

more than 50 percent – from 46 to 75 in a decade's time. The events that followed are best summed up as the biggest facilities expansion at College of the Canyons in a quarter century. Following the success of Proposition 153, a statewide school construction bond issue that earmarked \$15 million to the college in 1992, the college embarked on a much-needed and long-overdue \$56-million construction effort that produced a string of new buildings and expanded facilities.

First out of the gate was the new 5,960-square-foot Family Studies & Early Childhood Education Center, whose groundbreaking was held in late 1993. Previously housed in the A Building, the working preschool and child development program had moved temporarily to Bowman High School in Canyon Country to make way for the relocation of the Admissions & Records Office.

Nineteen-ninety-three also was the year that the college began offering classes in Canyon Country, reflecting the emerging fact that most students resided in the eastern portion of the Santa Clarita Valley.

Mother Nature interrupted everyone's plans in the early morning hours of Jan. 17, 1994. At 4:31 a.m., the 6.7-magnitude Northridge Earthquake hit, striking with such force that many of the college's classrooms were rendered



A mid-1980s graduation ceremony in Cougar Stadium.

uninhabitable. It was the first earthquake to strike directly under a major urban area of the United States since the 1933 Long Beach quake, and it rudely awakened most residents of the greater Los Angeles area. Damage was widespread, and 51 people across the region lost their lives. Sections of steel-reinforced concrete freeways and parking garages collapsed. Numerous office and apartment buildings suffered irreparable damage. Many homes were damaged beyond repair, with jittery, aftershock-weary residents camped out in their driveways and front yards for days after the calamity.

At College of the Canyons, local emergency-response teams gathered. The City of Santa Clarita had designated the college as an emergency operating and command center just a few years earlier. Although the college suffered major damage and was occupied by a veritable army of emergency services personnel, the start of the spring semester was delayed only one week. Many quake-damaged classrooms and buildings were not usable, so Van Hook enlisted Steve Myers, a foundation board member, to call President Bill Clinton's press secretary, his daughter DeeDee Myers (a graduate of Hart High School), for help with FEMA. Within days, a village of tent classrooms was hastily erected on some of the athletic fields. In all, the college suffered some \$3.4 million in damage.

Although the initial earthquake lasted just 15 seconds, its impact endured throughout

the year. The California Conservation Corps sent a contingent of workers to the campus that summer to paint, plaster and secure furnishings as part of the overall quake cleanup. Students returning to the campus that fall found most of the repairs and reconstruction completed. Cougar Stadium and its running track reopened in September.

The campus was almost back to pre-earthquake condition when, on Sept. 22, the college kicked off its 25th anniversary with an academic convocation, complete with a processional of faculty, staff, administrators and invited dignitaries such as California Community Colleges Chancellor David Mertes, former Signal Editor Ruth Newhall and Santa Clarita Mayor

George Pederson, who cut the birthday cake following the program.

The following year was one of remarkably quick recovery and institutional advancement. While earthquake repairs continued throughout the year, the college's focus was



The college's leadership team visits one of famed artist Christo's "Umbrella Project" sites near Tejon Pass in October 1991.

clearly on the future and moving the college forward. Evidence of this optimistic spirit could be seen during the groundbreaking ceremony for two new facilities: the Library and Media & Fine Arts Building (now known as Mentry Hall). It was no accident that the ceremony was held on Jan. 17, the one-year anniversary of the devastating Northridge Earthquake. Even if only psychological in nature, holding the event on this date sent a reassuring message that nothing – Mother Nature included – would stand in the college's way.

Even more tangible was the brand-new Family Studies & Early Childhood Education Center, built on a secluded southwest portion of the campus. The April opening ceremony was held in conjunction with the community-wide "Day of the Child" celebration on campus.

With enrollment beginning to climb again, attention turned to expand-



Tents were hastily erected and used as classrooms following the Northridge earthquake, which damaged much of the campus on Jan. 17, 1994.

ing student services. Among the new offerings were walk-in advisement in the Counseling Department, a crisis team and psychologist in the Student Health Center, and beefed-up occupational search services in the Career Center. Plans also were put in motion to develop the STAR telephone-registration system that would be operational the following year.

In July of 1995, the college made its presence known on the World Wide Web by launching its first website. By year's end, 90 percent of the earthquake-recovery projects were completed.

The college continued its forward momentum in 1996. State funding – while still not commensurate with the college's growth – began to stabilize, allowing the college to expand its programs and open its doors to more students. The most visible sign of progress and new opportunity was construction activity on the new Library and the Media & Fine Arts Building, both of which were nearing completion.

In the L Building (Boykin Hall), the Lecture Hall was renovated and transformed into a state-of-the-art teaching station, thanks to approximately \$50,000 in donations to the College of the Canyons Foundation. Behind the rising Media & Fine Arts Building, an energy-efficient Central Plant went online, providing heating and air conditioning to both the Library and the Media & Fine Arts Building.

With campus recovery complete just two years after the Northridge quake, attention turned toward mitigating quake hazards in the future. More than \$1.5 million in projects

were identified to minimize future dangers, and the first \$73,576 project began in December after being approved by FEMA and the Office of Emergency Services.

The college's gains were due in large part to long-range planning. With that in mind, a number of planning efforts culminated with new visions for the future.

Among them were an updated Strategic Master Plan, a new Educational Master Plan, Foundation Master Plan, Technology Plan and Three-Year Staffing Plan – areas of emphasis the board had asked Van Hook to put into place.

Nineteen-ninety-seven began triumphantly in terms of college progress, as two important new buildings were nearing completion, but it also was a time of sorrow for the campus community. Longtime employee John Drislane, who successfully transcended the college's faculty and administrative realms, died in January. He wore many hats, including those of English instructor, dean of personnel and, more informally, a technology tutor when



This expansion joint where the IRC (Bonelli Hall) and C Building (Seco Hall) meet was widened from the force of the 1994 quake.

it came to anything related to computers. With that in mind, the Technology Center was renamed the John Drislane Technology Center in October 2001.

The college gained more than 50,000 square feet of educational space when the Library and Media & Fine Arts Building opened. The ribbons for both buildings were cut simultaneously on the symbolic date of Jan. 17, exactly three years after the Northridge quake. After eight years of tireless planning and persuasive lobbying, the two new buildings that represented a revitalized campus were unveiled.



Covering 27,222 square feet on two levels, the architecturally stunning Library – its curved walls of glass revealing a commanding view of the Santa Clarita Valley – opened its doors. The first floor held shelving for nearly 70,000 books, as well as reference material, casual seating and study space. The second floor contained audio-visual materials and listening stations, group-study rooms, a public gallery, an acquisitions/cataloging mall, periodicals, office space and more student seating. The building also boasted computer access to not just the library’s holdings, but national and international databases.

Connected to the Library by a pedestrian bridge was the new Media & Fine Arts Building, designed to blend in with the architectural style of the original structures. Spanning 26,255 square feet on three floors, the building consolidated media and fine arts programs, including all visual arts, computer-assisted drafting, journalism and photography, and radio, television and cinema. The structure featured labs and support spaces, production and editing stu-



The Family Studies and Early Childhood Education Center (top) opened in April 1995. Dean of Personnel John Drislane (front, center), surrounded by the college’s leadership team during a retreat in the redwoods, died in early 1997.



The Central Plant (above) was built to provide heating and air conditioning to two new buildings: the Media & Fine Arts Building (now called Mentry Hall) and the Library. Its efficiency resulted in a 25 percent savings in energy costs.

dios, a screening room, a lecture hall and an art gallery for public displays. Each level connected with the three main floors of the Instructional Resource Center. The buildings officially opened for business three months later.

“If you build it, they will come,” a popular line from the film “Field of Dreams” suggested. Come they did. Student enrollment climbed once again, and the new buildings did more than alleviate campus crowding; they and a corresponding expansion of programs and classes beckoned even more to attend the college in 1997.

A greater infusion of long-sought growth funds translated into 139 new classes and a doubling of courses offered during the summer session. More than 2,700 students took summer classes, making it the highest-attended summer session at the time.

Campus expansion continued throughout 1997. Plans moved forward to remodel portions of Bonelli, Towsley and Boykin halls, and the Technology Center underwent a redesign to accommodate additional faculty and staff. In fact, enrollment growth and curriculum expansion throughout the college led to the hiring of more than 30 new employees. At that time, it was the largest number of people hired at the college in a single year.



Expansion of other services occurred in unique ways. The college and neighboring California Institute of the Arts agreed to split the cost of an online library automation system, and the Employee Training Institute opened its Valencia Learning Center to augment its educational contracts with local businesses.



Most of the steel framework (top) has been erected for the new library (above).

It was a year of high performance, too. A comparison with California's 107 other community colleges revealed that College of the Canyons ranked fourth highest in associate degrees awarded, fourth highest in occupational certificates awarded and 12th highest in terms of the number of students who transferred to Cal State University or University of California campuses.

Students were sticking around longer, as well. The college's student-retention rate improved from 74.8 percent in the fall of 1989 to 81.4 percent in the fall of 1996.



The steel framework (top) is pieced together to create the Media & Fine Arts Building (Mentry Hall, above).

With two of the most extensive facilities expansion projects – the Library and Media & Fine Arts Building – completed, one might think construction would have abated by 1998. Not so. In fact, construction activity continued throughout the decade in an effort to meet the demands of ever more students and the new faculty and staff members who were needed to serve them. Construction was under way on six laboratories, 13 new classrooms, 18 offices, a conference room and an audio-video-computer technology area in 1998 alone. A state-of-the-art fitness center overlooking the basketball court was added inside the Physical Education Building.

Expansion was occurring outside the classroom, as well. A new soccer field and practice fields were completed – and for good reason. This was the year athletic expansion arrived. The COC Foundation played a key role in this expansion, having financed the initial costs of operation at the request of Van Hook and Board of Trustees Member John Hoskinson. The football program was revived after an absence of 17 years, and women's golf and soccer were introduced. The teams – football under the guidance of coach Chuck Lyon,

soccer under Phil Marcellin and golf under Gary Peterson – enjoyed phenomenal success. Also created and filled was the position of strength and conditioning coach, making College of the Canyons the only community college in the state to have one at the time.

Significant strides were made in expanding educational offerings, too. Multimedia and fire-technology programs were introduced to the curriculum – in accordance with the college’s Education Master Plan – and the college won approval to expand the curriculum in the areas of theater, physical education, library, media, photography and radio-television.

High school students, meanwhile, recognized a good deal when they saw one. The college’s waiver of enrollment fees for concurrently enrolled William S. Hart Union High School District students generated a dramatic 217 percent increase in numbers over fall 1997. The number of students rose from 173 to 549.

The Summer Institute for Technical Advancement was implemented, and the new PACE (Program for Accelerated College Education) program proved so popular among busy working adults that two new tracks were created.

Perhaps one of the most significant accomplishments of the ‘90s was the positive shift in state funding for FTES (Full-Time Equivalent Students). A crucial factor in the financial woes of the 1980s and much of the 1990s was the state’s withholding of FTES funding when it rose above a preset cap. By the 1997-98 year, the issue was largely moot, as unfunded FTES fell to zero.

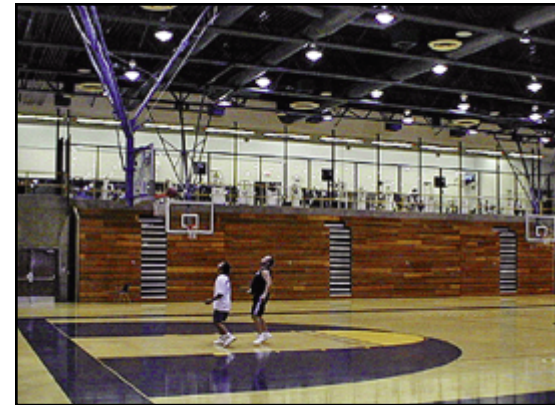
“The upcoming years present an opportunity to do things at College of the Canyons that many colleges just dream about,” Van Hook said at the start of the fall 1998 semester. “Will it be easy? Probably not. But to maximize our legacy to the future, meet the



The hilltop Library’s two-story curved wall of glass provides visitors with a dramatic panoramic view of the Santa Clarita Valley.

demands of our students and return value to our community, we must face challenges with optimism and action. And, we must all be accountable for what we do.”

With Van Hook now having served College of the Canyons for 10 years, she had emerged as a powerful, results-oriented advocate for every community college in the state. Recognizing the inequities of a state funding system that penalized all of California’s rapidly growing community colleges, Van Hook was instrumental in persuading lawmakers to change the funding criteria in the colleges’ favor. Her success in altering College of the Canyons’ annual growth factor translated into a nearly \$31 million net gain for the district



A state-of-the-art fitness center was built on the second level of the Physical Education Center, behind a wall of glass overlooking the basketball court.

over 10 years. From 1988 to 1998 she generated \$56 million in additional revenue – money that College of the Canyons would not have received if not for her lobbying efforts. She secured a \$75 million commitment from the Chancellor’s Office for campus expansion over a 10-year period. And, in the 1992-93 state budget she won reinstatement of construction projects valued at \$70 million for 13 community college districts across California.

Van Hook’s accomplishments at College of the Canyons were already numerous. She boosted grant revenue to \$1.75 million a year, representing a 96 percent success rate in grant submissions. She restructured the college’s fund-raising foundation, increasing its annual income by 600 percent. She initiated the college’s Employee Training Institute, which provides contract training programs for business and industry, and formed the Business Advisory Council. She began the High School-College Articulation Council, a host of cooperative vocational programs, and an at-risk youth program with the local Boys & Girls Club, among others.

The college reached a milestone in 1999 that came sooner than the state predicted. It came as no surprise to anyone at College of the Canyons. This was the year that student enrollment crested the 10,000 mark – 10,260, to be precise. It was the second consecutive year of quadruple-digit growth, with both years representing the greatest single-year

increases in the number of enrolled students. Although it was unlikely that all 10,260 students would be on campus at any one time, elbow room was definitely at a premium. The signs of growth were everywhere – more students, crowded classrooms and even more crowded parking lots, piles of earth and equipment to mark various construction sites on campus. Despite all of the impressive new facilities that had opened, the campus was literally bursting at the seams. To meet this increase of 1,231 more students – not to mention the 1,599 who were added to the rolls in 1998 – 50 new full-time faculty members were hired. Also brought on board were 26 new classified staff members and six new members of the management team.

Facilities expansion continued unabated in 1999. The most visible was the activity at the Student Center, one of the college’s original buildings. Work continued throughout the year to remodel 15,000 square feet of classroom and office space, as well as add an extra 9,000 square feet to create an enclosed lounge area, increase the size of the student dining room and bookstore, and build additional classroom space and offices.

Another 10,000 square feet of new classroom space arrived in the form of seven modular buildings – collectively called the Modular Classroom Village and located at the southern end of the existing campus. This complex housed 14 much-needed new classrooms for college instruction, as well as the first bachelor’s degree programs offered on campus, made possible through an innovative partnership with Cal State Bakersfield and the University of La Verne. It was, in fact, the precursor to an even more ambitious project known as the University Center, for which planning had begun. The idea behind this educational center on College of the Canyons property was for other colleges and universities to offer upper-division programs here, eliminating the need for Santa Clarita Valley residents to travel elsewhere to earn degrees. The vast distances to four-year universities – as well as the excessive driving time it took to get there and back – had been identified as major obstacles to higher education. The University Center would change that for the better. Its popularity grew to the point where an interim facility to house University Center programs opened in early 2002 to meet the community’s demands.



Football returned to the college in 1998 after a 17-year absence. The team’s head coach was Chuck Lyon (above), a former Cougar who played in the college’s very first game.



The football program returned with a vengeance, making up for its lost years by consistently fielding winning teams and collecting scholarships for the team’s student-athletes.

Enlisted to head the \$10-million fundraising campaign to build a permanent facility for this major endeavor were Tom Lee, who had recently retired from his position as CEO of The Newhall Land & Farming Co., and Lou Garasi, chairman and CEO of Gruber Systems.

The University Center wasn’t the only educational partnership on campus. 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 a high school campus on college property. To be called Academy of the Canyons, this “middle college” concept would allow high-potential high school students to attend both high school and college courses concurrently, giving them a significant jump on their future academic or work careers.

Also opening in 1999 was the Cougar Den, a lush, tree-shaded spot with picnic tables, barbecues and room to roam. Located next door to Cougar Stadium, the project was conceived by football coach Chuck Lyon, COC Foundation board member and alumnus B.J. Atkins, and contractor Jim Keltner. The facility was built entirely with private donations. In all, some 200 people contributed money or services to build it.



An expansion of the Student Center that began in 1999 produced a new glass-enclosed student lounge area where the former courtyard once stood.

Grant money surpassed the million-dollar mark, coming in at just more than \$1.2 million. The money would be used to help establish Academy of the Canyons; launch the MESA (Math Engineering Science Advancement) program to encourage more students to consider majors and careers in science, engineering and other math-based fields; and to continue developing programs in manufacturing, engineering and computer networking.

The Performing Arts Center also moved forward. Identified in the college's original master plan in 1969, the Performing Arts Center was supposed to have been built toward the end of the college's first full decade, but funding failed to materialize because the state insisted that such facilities were neither necessary nor essential. Nevertheless, the college kept the dream alive by identifying a performing arts center as an essential part of the campus, and Van Hook continued to lobby the state for funding. The college was poised for any opportunity that might arise to build the center. Such an opportunity presented itself in 1999, when state officials called to say that if the college could separate plans for the theater from the music-dance instruction areas, the performing arts center could indeed be built. But this window of opportunity would close in just 36 hours. The state agreed to fund the center after Facilities Director Jim Schrage, college staff members and the center's architects feverishly completed the redesign by the deadline.



The Modular Classroom Village opened in 2000, providing about 10,000 additional square feet of much-needed classroom space for the crowded campus.

The 2000s

Finally, construction of the center was just around the corner – and it would be even more grand than originally envisioned. The state disbursed money to begin the planning process, and the City of Santa Clarita committed \$2.4 million in March 2000 to dramatically expand the center's capacity – from 400 to about 900 seats. The partnership with the city would transform the center into one that could be enjoyed by the entire community.

Also introduced were many new or expanded course offerings that reflected the needs and demands of a growing community. Indeed, enrollment nearly doubled during the 1990s, rising to 10,260 in 1999. Among the subject areas added were biotechnology, fire technology, laser and orbital welding, advanced manufacturing, hotel & restaurant management, graphic arts, multimedia technology, broadcast technology, cinema, radio-television-film, electronic music and computer networking.

As the new millennium dawned, College of the Canyons experienced some pivotal events. Indeed, the pace of progress actually quickened and gained added significance through the first half of the new decade.

The Modular Classroom Village of seven buildings opened for its first classes in 2000, relieving some of the pressure caused by crowding more than 10,000 students into



The Cougar Den, located adjacent to Cougar Stadium, opened in 1999. The lushly landscaped, tree-shaded picnic area was built entirely with donated supplies and labor.

a campus originally designed for half that number. The first Summer Intensive Spanish Institute was held, developing a loyal following. The remodeled and expanded Student Center opened that summer, featuring a dramatic new entry, a larger dining room and more space for programs such as health services and student development. The very first classes began at Academy of the Canyons, a collection of modular buildings on the south side of the campus that represented an ambitious partnership between College of the Canyons and the Hart District. The academy opened with 138 students who opted to attend both high school and college classes concurrently. And, the men's golf team captured its second state championship, the first being seven years earlier.

The college had now existed for some 30 years, so it was inevitable that some of its original or longtime faculty members would retire. Such was the case in May, when the college community bid farewell to 11 retiring faculty members – six of them part of the original faculty – during a celebration in their honor at the Cougar Den. Heading off into retirement were Al Adelini, Carl Buckel, Don Heidt, Mary Heidt, Don Hellrigel, Betty Lid, Lee Smelser, Dale Smith, Sylvia Sullivan, Marilyn Van Aken and Stan Weikert.

On a more somber note, Helen Lusk, the retired longtime head of the college's nursing program, died June 6 at the age of 72. The college's nursing lab would later be

renamed in her honor. And, Dr. Robert Rockwell, the college's visionary first superintendent-president, the man who is credited with building the Santa Clarita Valley's first public institution of higher learning, died Oct. 5 at the age of 87.

As enrollment soared, the student parking lots revealed their limitations. The decision was made to build the South Parking Lot, a project outlined in the college's first master

plan but deemed unnecessary until this point. Construction began in early 2001, with most of the \$8 million project completed in time for the start of the fall semester. Students found 1,000 additional parking spaces, most of them closer to the buildings that housed their classes; another 600 were made available later in the year.

The year also began with a mixture of melancholy and sadness, as colleagues continued to retire and others left us. Anton "Tony" Remenih, the college's first journalism instructor and creator of the student-run campus newspaper, died at the age of 87. Burdett "Bud" Shearer, the college's former dean of student services, passed away. And, Gary Olmstead, the college's dean of business services, retired after 16 years of service.

A historic day arrived at Academy of the Canyons on June 10, 2001, when the very first class of 55 students graduated. History was made in the college's board room as well, when the trustees supported Van Hook's request to present an \$82.1 million bond measure to voters that would address the col-

lege's limitations in the face of unprecedented enrollment growth. The bond measure, to be called Measure C on that November's ballot, would help finance a variety of new buildings, expansion projects and facility improvements.

During the traditional opening-day luncheon in August, geology instructor Winston



Superintendent-President Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook shows the first symbolic dirt during the official ground-breaking ceremony for the highly anticipated Performing Arts Center. Surrounding her are members of the Santa Clarita City Council.



Wutkee was honored for his 30 years of teaching. The college's first and only geology instructor, Wutkee was the lead faculty member in geology and geography sciences, having been hired in 1970. He not only built the college's first geology and geography departments, he instilled a vigor and excitement that made them popular and highly attended programs.



Helen Lusk (top), who became synonymous with nursing at College of the Canyons, died in 2000. Academy of the Canyons' first principal, Dave Lebaron (above), speaks to one of the first classes at the new Hart District school on the College of the Canyons campus.

Student enrollment that fall of 2001 grew yet again, rising 18 percent over the previous year, as 12,851 students registered for classes.

Excitement continued to build for the planned University Center, which would need a permanent facility to house the university degree programs. College faculty and staff, as well as community leaders, came together in late August to launch the project's capital campaign. Not surprisingly, 99 percent of the college's personnel pledged financial contributions to get the campaign rolling.

The college also created a more significant presence in the eastern Santa Clarita Valley, opening its ACCESS learning center – featuring sev-



Some of those who retired in 2000 (top) gather for a photo with Superintendent-President Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook (center, in hat). From left: Lee Smelser, Carl Buckel, Mary Heidt, Don Heidt, Stan Weikert, Sylvia Sullivan, Al Adelini, Marilyn Van Aken and Don Hellrigel. Six were original faculty members. Anton "Tony" Remenih (above), the college's first journalism instructor, died in early 2001.

eral classrooms and a computer lab – inside the new Jo Anne Darcy Canyon Country Library complex. The move was one of the first tangible inroads into an area of the valley that was home to some 32 percent of the college's students. College leaders understood that this area would require even more attention in the future. It was here that the college was laying the groundwork to acquire property and build a full-service educational center.

Sept. 11, 2001 was an ominous and shocking day for the nation. The terrorist attacks of that morning stunned the world. Hundreds of students, faculty and staff members converged around a half-risen American flag during a Sept. 14 vigil to honor the victims. Many in the hushed, somber crowd wept openly.

With the pall of 911 still very much a part of the public psyche, local voters decided that College of the Canyons should move forward in a bold and dramatic way. On Nov. 6, an overwhelming 68 percent of local voters approved Measure C, the \$82.1 million general-obligation bond measure to renovate facilities and build new ones. As if that resounding message from the populace was-

n't optimistic enough, the year came to a close with the December groundbreaking ceremony for a most-anticipated and high-profile building designed for both the college and the community: the Performing Arts Center.

Continuing the practice of meeting the community's needs in a quick, responsive manner, the college built the Interim University Center on the south side of campus. When it opened on Jan. 22, 2002, seven educational institutions were already signed up to offer a variety of programs leading to bachelor's and master's degrees.

A week later, The Signal newspaper honored Van Hook as Newsmaker of the Year for 2001. The award recognized her efforts to move the college forward in significant and dramatic ways, culminating with the community's overwhelming approval of the \$82.1 million bond measure in November 2001 that would allow that momentum to continue.

Facilities expansion continued in 2002. Work began in the fall on the Vocational Technology Center to add 3,500 square feet of space to accommodate new manufacturing technology classes and nearly \$200,000 worth of new equipment.

In a state experiencing an acute shortage of nurses, College of the Canyons also was emerging as an educational leader in nursing education. In September, the Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Hospital / College of the Canyons Clinical Education Center opened its doors on the hospital campus. The center represented a unique cooperative effort between the college and the hospital to help alleviate the nurse shortage. Then, in early 2003, the college took the lead with the new Associate Degree Nursing Regional Collaborative, an innovative partnership among the region's hospitals and



Hundreds of people gather around the flag on Sept. 14, 2001 to honor the victims of the 911 terrorist attacks.



Measure C campaign volunteers pose for a photo at campaign headquarters with Superintendent-President Dianne G. Van Hook (bottom, center) in late 2001.

community colleges to produce even more qualified nurses.

The Western Association of Schools and Colleges was so impressed with College of the Canyons that it granted unconditional reaccreditation for the maximum-allowable six-year term in early 2003. The University Center capital campaign made strides as well, reaching a pledge total of \$4.1 million in February. The contributions put the campaign nearly halfway to its goal of \$10 million to build a permanent home on the southern edge of the campus.

Longtime faculty and staff members were honored during the opening-day luncheon in August. Recognized for their 30 years of service were Cherie Choate, Lee Corbin and Joan Jacobson.

Athletic accomplishments figured prominently in 2003. In May, the men's golf team won its third state championship. In June, a \$1 million renovation of Cougar Stadium was unveiled to the public, revealing a state-of-the-art synthetic-grass playing field, a new running track and remodeled restrooms. Also that summer, men's soccer was added to the college's roster of intercollegiate sports. Perhaps most impressive of all, the football team recorded its first perfect regular season with 10 straight victories, as well as a victory in the WSC Bowl.



For most students, it just wouldn't be College of the Canyons without the constant clatter of construction activity. Sure enough, 2004 was punctuated by more of it. A lot more. Construction began on the 20,000-square-foot Music-Dance Building (later renamed Pico Canyon Hall), a \$7 million Measure C-funded project adjacent to the Performing Arts Center, which itself was under construction. The college warehouse was expanded from 10,000 square feet to 18,500 square feet. The road that serves as the main entrance off Rockwell Canyon

Road was reconfigured to incorporate a circular pattern for pick-ups and drop-offs. Three lighted map kiosks were erected at strategic locations to help people find their way on the 153-acre campus. Three lighted electronic message boards were installed along Rockwell and Valencia Boulevard. In a portent to the inevitable construction to come, the University Center capital campaign hit the \$7 million fundraising mark, and the state gave the college the green light to move forward with plans to acquire land in Canyon Country on which to build a permanent, full-service educational center.

The big news of 2004 was the opening of the magnificent \$18.3 million Performing Arts Center, representing many years of persistent effort by college officials. The community welcomed the long-



When the Interim University Center (top) opened on campus in early 2002, seven educational institutions were already signed up to offer a variety of bachelor's and master's degree programs. The Clinical Education Center (above), a joint venture between the college and Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Hospital, opened in 2002 to provide training for nurses and help alleviate a severe nursing shortage.



Los Angeles County's emergency command center at College of the Canyons dealt with a series of fierce wildfires in the summer of 2004. A smoke plume from one of those fires can be seen rising in the distance (above).

awaited center, which would now fulfill the dual role of serving as both a performance venue for the college's arts programs and the valley's independent arts groups. The gleaming, glass-encircled lobby bustled with activity as a grand-opening ceremony marked the occasion on Oct. 15. Patrons packed the two-level 926-seat proscenium theater to experience a sold-out production of "Big River," which showcased the combined talents of the college's theatre, music and dance departments. The inaugural season at the center, which also houses the smaller and more intimate Black

Box Theatre, featured a variety of college, community and professional productions, including Paul Anka, Melissa Manchester and the Vienna Boys Choir.

The commencement ceremony on May 21, 2004 was notable not just for the nearly 1,000 students – 997, to be precise – who graduated, but because the number of graduates rose a whopping 27 percent over 2003.

Shortly thereafter, retirement arrived for Betty Spilker, one of the college's last original faculty members. She retired after 35 years of service. Also retiring were Lee Corbin (31 years), Pam Beauer (25 years), Susan Cornner (24 years), Erik Eriksson (24 years) and Dean Leao (13 years). Executive Vice President and Assistant Superintendent Phil



Hartley left in early August to become president of West Valley College in Saratoga.

A series of fierce, devastating wildfires struck the region in the summer of 2004. Although the college was not directly threatened by the out-of-control blazes, it played a crucial role. Los Angeles County set up its Emergency Command Center at the college in mid-July. Buildings, parking lots and playing fields were inundated with firefighting vehicles and equipment, as well as tents and facilities for firefighting personnel, from throughout California and several western states. The American Red Cross also utilized the campus, housing and feeding those who were evacuated.

The college took a major step forward in 2004 with ambitious plans to expand its presence in the eastern Santa Clarita Valley. Most significantly, the California Community Colleges Board of Governors and California Postsecondary Education Commission gave the go-ahead to build the Canyon Country Education Center, a 50,000-square-foot facility that eventually would accommodate 7,000 to 10,000 students. And, Michele R. Jenkins, a College of the Canyons graduate and member of its Board of Trustees, was elected president of the California Community College Trustees Board of Directors. The statewide organization reviews and takes action on education pol-



College officials and community dignitaries (above) gather to witness the official opening of the Performing Arts Center (top) in 2004.

icy issues before the California Community Colleges Board of Governors and the Legislature.

The year was notable for other events as well. Music instructor Daniel Catan's newest opera, "Salsapuedes," premiered to rave reviews at the Houston Grand Opera. U.S. Secretary of Education Rod Paige, chief architect of the "No Child Left Behind Act," took to the stage at the Performing Arts Center to speak about the federal legislation to about 350 local educators. And, 30 students from the nursing program partnership between



College officials and dignitaries participate in a ceremonial groundbreaking (left) for Hasley Hall on May 5, 2005. Construction was slated for a narrow, odd-shaped site between the Physical Education Center and Student Center.

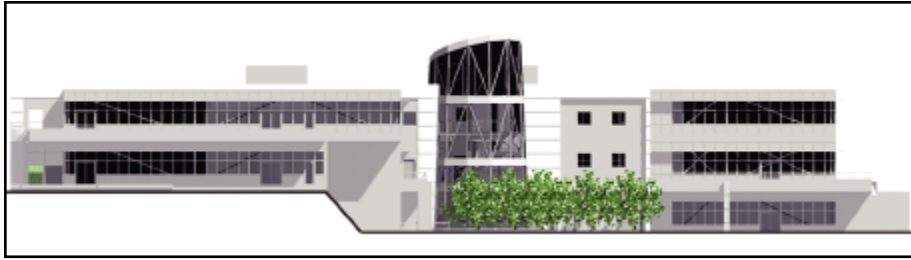
College of the Canyons and Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Hospital graduated during an afternoon ceremony in the Performing Arts Center.

Once again, the college's athletic achievements were impressive. The college's fledgling club hockey team won the state title during the 2004 Pacific Collegiate

Hockey Association State Championship, beating teams from big universities such as UC Davis, Fresno State, San Diego State, UC San Diego and UC Irvine. Three Cougar pitchers were chosen in the 2004 Major League Baseball Draft to play for the Kansas City Royals, Pittsburgh Pirates and San Francisco Giants. Baltimore Ravens quarterback Kyle Boller, a graduate of Hart High, served as assistant coach during the College of the Canyons Quarterback &

Wide Receiver Summer Camp. The NFL came calling for three former Cougars, signing them to play for the San Francisco 49ers, Jacksonville Jaguars and Cincinnati Bengals. In October, the Carolina Panthers signed former Cougar wide receiver Jamall Broussard. And, the football team eclipsed its astounding 2003 season by racking up a perfect 14-0 season and beating top-rated City College of San Francisco to capture the state championship. The team also was named the top community college football team in the nation.

The college and its leadership continued blazing new trails in 2005. The year began on a promising note, as the first class of 103 nursing students began instruction Jan. 4



An artist's rendering of Hasley Hall (previously known as the High-Tech Classroom Building, above), depicts the facility that would be built beginning in 2005. The building nears completion in August 2007 (left).

under the auspices of the Southern California Associate Degree Nursing Regional Collaborative, a college-hospital partnership designed to help alleviate the nursing shortage.

The college community was saddened once again, however, by the passing of several beloved colleagues. Lee Corbin, who had retired only months earlier after 31 years of teaching and athletic coaching, died in January at the age of 62. And, Carter Doran, the college's executive vice president and assistant superintendent from 1992 until his 1998 retirement, died on March 31.

Construction continued its hectic pace. Ground was broken May 5, 2005 for the new High Technology Building (later renamed Hasley Hall), a 34,000-square-foot complex of classrooms, labs and offices that would be nestled between the Student Center and Physical Education Center.

The college graduated its largest class yet – 1,153 students – during the commencement ceremony on May 20, 2005. The size of the graduating class was nearly 16 percent larger than the previous year.

Solidifying its position as one of the top feeder schools to California's public universities, research results released in May 2005 revealed that College of the Canyons had the highest transfer rates to the University of California and California State University sys-

tems among all community colleges in Los Angeles County. A report by The National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education showed the rate of transfers at College of the Canyons was the highest of the 21 colleges in the county, and was in the top 14.5 percent of California's 109 community colleges.

Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca paid the college a visit to tour the new campus's new Sheriff's North Academy, which began training new recruits in September 2005. It was just the latest development in the college's long history of taking a lead role in the training of first responders.



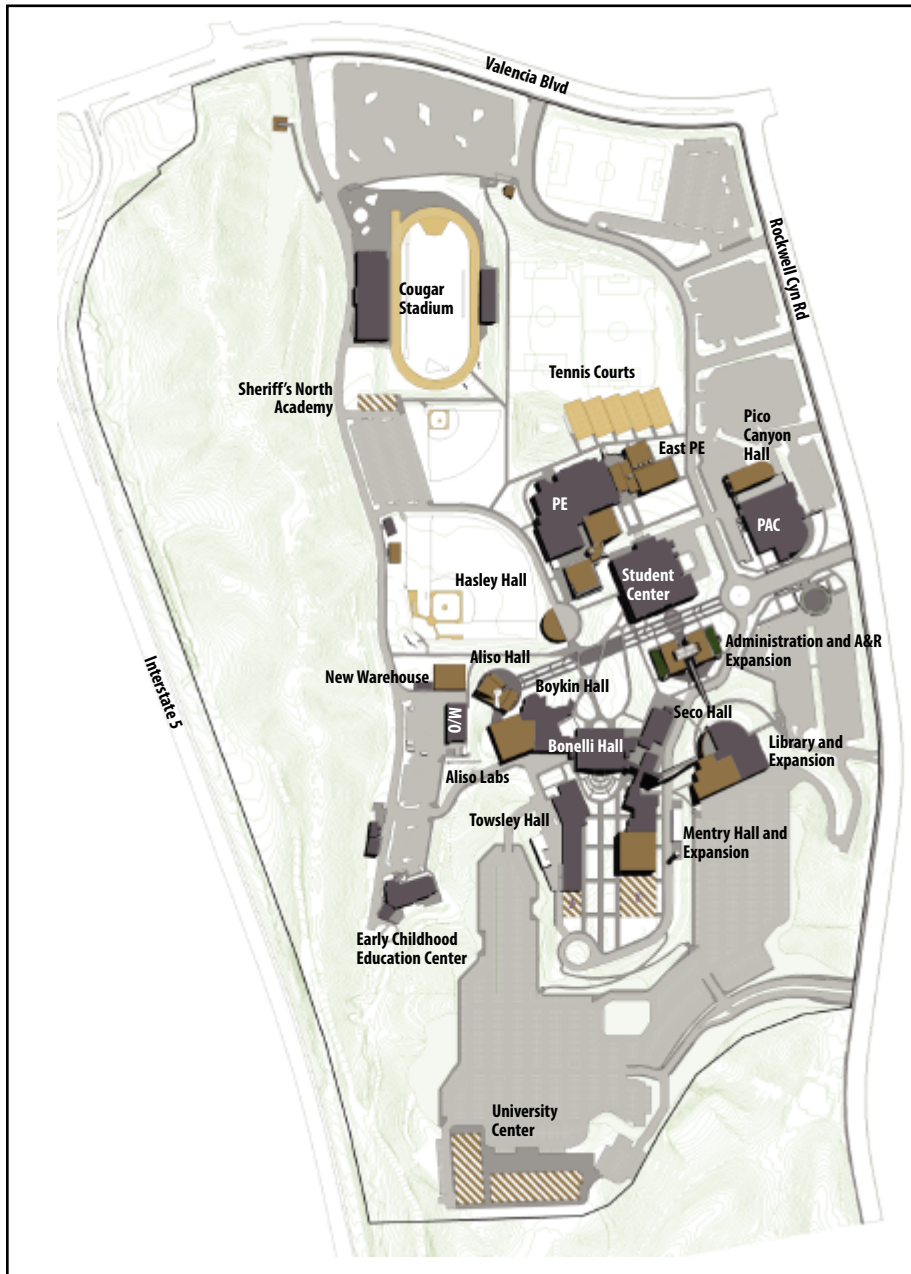
It was a festive occasion as Superintendent-President Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook (top, center) and the Board of Trustees – (from left) Bruce Fortine, Ernie Tichenor, Joan MacGregor and Michele Jenkins – sunk ceremonial shovels into the ground during the groundbreaking for the Canyon Country campus in late 2005.

The state-of-the-art Music-Dance Building (later renamed Pico Canyon Hall) opened in the fall of 2005 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house that showcased the \$8.5 million facility's dance and music spaces and capabilities. Later that year, the much-anticipated groundbreaking for the ambitious science expansion project occurred. The Oct. 20, 2005 ceremony marked the official start of construction on 32,404 square feet of class-

rooms, labs and lecture halls that would ultimately create two stunning new facilities: Aliso Hall and Aliso Labs. The buildings would provide additional laboratory and classroom space for biology, chemistry, engineering, physics, astronomy and nursing programs. The \$18.7 million project was partially funded by bond proceeds from Measure C, which voters approved in 2001.

The college ended the year on a typically positive note, holding yet another groundbreaking ceremony, this time for one of the college's most significant projects to date: a second campus in Canyon

Country. Years of determined planning had produced a centrally located 70-acre parcel along Sierra Highway that would provide convenient access to students in the eastern Santa Clarita Valley. The Dec. 6, 2005 event marked the official start of construction of



The 2002 Facilities Master Plan depicts planned structures (in brown) with the then-existing campus buildings (in gray). Note: Building names have been updated.



The \$8.5 million Music-Dance Building (Pico Canyon Hall) opened in the fall of 2005, boasting state-of-the-art practice and rehearsal spaces and a convenient location directly adjacent to the Performing Arts Center.

the Canyon Country campus and the opening of a new chapter that would significantly enhance access to higher education.

The introduction of new, in-demand degree and training programs continued. First was the culinary arts program that debuted in early 2006, offering students its first class in fundamental techniques for commercial kitchen operations. Then there was the introduction of the automotive technology program, a result of the college's strategic partnership with the Santa Clarita Valley Auto Dealers Association and the William S. Hart Union High School District. Funded in part by a state grant, the program was launched at Saugus High School to address a critical shortage of highly qualified automotive technicians, with the first classes leading to an associate degree or certificate. And, the college launched new programs in construction management and land surveying to meet increasing demands for trained workers in the construction and surveying industries, which requested the new training programs and assisted the college with their implementation.

The college's athletic programs earned several key distinctions in 2006. The club hockey team continued to impress with its stellar play. The 2004 state champions earned a berth at the national championship games in Fort Myers, Fla., once again becoming the only community college team to receive such an invitation. Then, Howard Fisher, the college's head men's basketball coach, was chosen to serve as head coach of Team USA for the Maccabi Australia International Games in Sydney, Australia. He and his team returned home after earning a bronze medal with a victory over Australia. And, Robert Dos Remedios, the college's strength and conditioning coach, became the first



community college coach to be nominated for the College Strength and Conditioning Professional of the Year by the National Strength and Conditioning Association – and the first to win the honor.

The 2006 commencement ceremony saw 1,182 students graduate, a 2.5 percent increase over the previous year. With the student population increasing with every passing year, demand for educational programs – and the facilities to house them – continued its rapid pace. Construction began yet again on a new,

much-needed facility, this one a 21,543-square-foot structure housing another gymnasium, locker rooms and an assortment of classrooms and faculty offices. The project also included another first for the college in the form of six outdoor tennis courts. The \$6.4 million project was funded by a combination of state dollars and proceeds from the voter-approved Measure C bond measure.

Five years after the passage of Measure C, the \$82.1 million bond measure that was used to provide a wide variety of new facilities and campus upgrades, the need for further expansion – and additional funds to pay for that expansion – became abundantly clear. The Board of Trustees once again turned to the community for support and placed a new, \$160 million bond measure on the Nov. 7, 2006 ballot. Voters responded to the Measure M proposal with a resounding level of support, signaling the start of another round of expansion and modernization projects, as well as construction of



The Music-Dance Building (renamed Pico Canyon Hall) opened in the fall of 2005 with a ribbon-cutting and open house to demonstrate its dance (top) and music (above) spaces.



Construction of Aliso Hall (above, right) and Aliso Labs (above, center) moves forward adjacent to Boykin Hall (above, left) in mid-2006.

facilities at the district's soon-to-open Canyon Country campus. Measure M was the second bond measure of the decade and the fourth in the college's history.

The college's administrative team added Dr. Mitjl Capet to its roster. Capet began serving in his new capacity as assistant superintendent/vice president of instruction on Aug. 1, 2006.

The year 2007 was one that saw numerous, significant and tangible results of the college's planning for the future. First up was the March 16 groundbreaking ceremony for the permanent University Center, a \$36 million, 110,000-square-foot facility that would house bachelor's, master's, doctoral, credential and certificate programs offered by a wide variety of public and private universities. Shortly afterward, on May 3, the Board of Trustees voted unanimously to name the building after Superintendent-President Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook because of her "tireless commitment to enhancing access to education, her belief in the power of dreaming big and never giving up, and her premise that we, as individuals and institutions, become what we give ourselves the power to be." Next was the July 11 ribbon-cutting ceremony that marked the opening of two new science buildings: Aliso Hall and Aliso Labs, located adjacent to the existing science building, Boykin Hall. With a combined 32,404 square feet, the new buildings provided a significant expansion of academic and training programs in the sciences. Just weeks later, on Aug. 28, a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held at the district's brand-new 70-acre campus in Canyon Country. Featuring 23 classrooms and five laboratories in approximately 24,000 square feet of instructional space, the new campus officially opened its doors on Aug. 27, 2007 to more than 3,000 enrolled students, surpassing all projections. Thousands of curious community members descended on the new campus for an opening celebration on Oct. 6, 2007. As if this wasn't enough, one final ribbon-cutting ceremony of the year took



Hasley Hall (above and right) was completed in late 2007.

place toward year's end, this one for Hasley Hall. The high-tech classroom building officially opened on Nov. 28, 2007.

The U.S. Department of Education held hearings at College of the Canyons on March 5, 2007 as part of a congressionally requested study to make college textbooks more affordable. This was followed shortly afterward by a visit from U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings and U.S. Rep. Howard "Buck" McKeon to get a closer look at the University Center concept. Specifically, they gathered some "best practices" ideas that had the potential of being replicated across the country.

Shortly before the new Canyon Country campus was set to open, Dr. Dena Maloney, longtime head of the college's Economic Development Division, was appointed founding dean of the new campus.

The Performing Arts Center's name was modified in mid-2007 to help establish it as a destination venue and better reflect its key role in support of the performing arts in the City of Santa Clarita. The Santa Clarita City Council, which provided the funding in 1999 to boost the center's capacity to more than 900 seats, requested the name modification. The newly named Santa Clarita Performing Arts Center at College of the Canyons has indeed emerged as a focal point for both city



Newly built Aliso Hall (top, right) is clustered with the existing science building, Boykin Hall (top, left), and Aliso Labs (above).

and college arts and entertainment. The commencement ceremony on June 1, 2007 saw another huge turnout, as 1,147 students graduated. New or expanded educational programs continued to be introduced. The college moved closer to launching its planned medical lab technician (MLT) training program following a \$100,000 federal appropriation proposed by U.S. Rep. Howard "Buck" McKeon. The MLT program would address a critical workforce shortage in this needed medical services specialty, with the appropriation used to purchase the initial equipment necessary to begin the program. Plans called for the new program to prepare a minimum of 100 technicians per year for medical testing laboratories and health care facilities.

Following the early success of the land surveying and construction management programs the previous year, the college added another related program, this one in building inspection. And, the Foreign Language Department added Mandarin Chinese for the first time.

The college's pivotal role in providing cutting-edge workforce training throughout the community and region was recognized by the federal government when, on Jan. 4, 2008, Sandy Baruah, assistant secretary of commerce for economic development, joined local officials to present the col-



lege a \$1.3 million grant to develop an emerging technologies training program, the only such program in Southern California to train workers for the biotechnology, nanotechnology and autonomous technology fields. The college received another substantial grant in 2008, this one from the National Science Foundation. The \$437,000 grant would help fund the Transitions

Program, which will support the recruitment, mentoring and support of promising, financially needy students studying biology, chemistry, engineering and mathematics. The welding technology program also received a significant boost when the state awarded approximately \$300,000 in grant funds to help develop a series of metal fabrication courses. The grant funds would allow the college to expand its welding program to include both an associate in science degree and certificate in metal fabrication.

As mid-2008 approached, Superintendent-President Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook could look back at 20 successful years at the college's helm. Considering her many accomplishments, the Board of Trustees marked her 20th anniversary by giving her a new title: Chancellor, Santa Clarita Community College District, and President, College of the Canyons. "I am proud and so glad that our board had the courage to hire Dianne, and I am thrilled about the leadership she has provided over the years," said Board of



The first-year enrollment of more than 3,000 students at the Canyon Country campus (top) surpassed all expectations. Students (above) head to class on opening day, Aug. 27, 2007.



Board Member Michele Jenkins and Superintendent-President Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook (front, center) share ribbon-cutting duties signifying the opening of the Canyon Country campus. Joining them for the Aug. 28, 2007 ceremony was a crowd of college officials and community dignitaries.

Trustees member Michele Jenkins, who was on the board that hired Van Hook in 1988. "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."

Commencement 2008 saw the largest graduating class yet at 1,255 students, a 9.4 percent increase over the number of graduates just a year earlier.

Continuing down the road of campus expansion, yet another ribbon-cutting ceremony occurred. The Sept. 11, 2008 event marked the official opening of the new physical education building and six tennis courts designed for intercollegiate play. The \$10 million, 21,543-square-foot facility was highly anticipated because it would be able to accommodate new athletic curriculum and intercollegiate sports programs. When the original physical education facility opened in the 1970s, it was part of a campus originally designed to serve 5,000 students. By late 2008, enrollment had more than quadrupled that figure, surpassing 22,000.

In early 2009, the college received the highest possible accreditation rating from the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges. The commission reaffirmed the college's highest accreditation status, completing a nearly two-year accreditation process. The commission commended the college for its strong commitment to: stu-



The University Center takes shape in this low-aerial view looking northeast in February 2009.

dent success, collaborative governance, the fostering of numerous community partnerships, the use of data-driven planning and evaluation processes, technology use including student and faculty training and support, the provision of a wide array of student support services, and the presence of professional development opportunities for faculty and staff.

Chancellor Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook was named Woman of the Year by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and Commission for Women on March 16, 2009. Aside from serving as role models, Women of the Year nominees must have worked on behalf of women's issues and made significant contributions to women's equality. "I'm passionate about California community colleges and the opportunities they afford people to become whomever they want to be," Van Hook said. "I have been blessed to be able to work in this amazing system of education and to build bridges for people so they can open doors and realize that they can succeed. What an honor it is to be recognized for my decades of commitment to enhancing opportunities for women – one person at a time."

The college continued to introduce new, in-demand educational and training programs. One such program was the Fast-Track Paramedic-to-RN program, providing a potential solution to California's statewide nursing shortage by fast-tracking qualified students through the process needed to obtain licensing as a registered nurse in as little as 15 months. And, the state awarded the college a \$400,000 grant to help fund the medical lab technician (MLT) program.

It was another big year for facility expansion. Construction officially began on Sept. 10, 2009 on a \$10.7 million, 32,040-square-foot expansion of Mentry Hall. Funded by proceeds from the voter-approved Measure M bond measure, the project will add 16 classrooms, 12 offices and two



The Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook University Center (top) officially opened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Oct. 17, 2009. Chancellor Van Hook (above, right, in red) embraces board member Michele Jenkins at the lectern, as fellow board member Joan MacGregor looks on.

conference rooms, with completion expected in the fall of 2010.

The Canyon Country campus got in on the expansion fever, holding a ribbon-cutting ceremony for its new 2,150-square-foot Center for Early Childhood Education on Sept. 17, 2009. The facility included two fully furnished classrooms, age-appropriate restrooms, a kitchen and observation areas to be utilized by parents and students majoring in early childhood education. And, a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held for the Emerging Technologies

Instrumentation Laboratory and Cleanroom on Nov. 18, 2009. The facilities were equipped with state-of-the-art equipment provided by federal and state grants designed to prepare students for the nanoscience and nanotechnology fields.

But the year's biggest opening, by far, was for the Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook University Center, whose ceremonial ribbon was cut Oct. 17, 2009. Hailed as a solution to the lack of upper-division, graduate-school and continuing education programs in the area, the University Center was created to increase student access to advanced degrees by forging partnerships with four-year universities, which offer their programs locally. In all, the



The Oct. 17, 2009 University Center ribbon-cutting ceremony included the unveiling of a plaque recognizing those responsible for leading the capital campaign: U.S. Rep. Howard P. "Buck" McKeon (third from right), Lou Garasi and Tom Lee (far right), and Chancellor Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook (center). Also on hand were (from left, front) Board Member Joan MacGregor, former Board Member Ernie Tichenor, and Board Members Bruce Fortine, Scott Wilk and Michele Jenkins.

University Center was designed to house up to 10 partner institutions and offer more than 50 bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree programs, as well as a variety of credential and certificate programs. The facility also became the location of the William S. Hart Union High School District's award-winning Academy of the Canyons, the City of Santa Clarita's WorkSource Center and the college's Economic Development Division, among others.

2010 & Beyond

The college received an important endorsement in early 2010 when the American Bar Association granted its full approval to the paralegal studies degree program, which became the only ABA-approved paralegal program in northern Los Angeles County and one of only 30 statewide. And, just two years after unveiling its K-12 Arts Education Outreach Program, the Performing Arts Center and its educational partners – the Newhall, Saugus and Sulphur Springs elementary school districts – were invited by the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts to participate in the prestigious Partners In Education Institute in Washington, D.C. in early May 2010.

With California still mired in a lingering recession, College of the Canyons continued to play a pivotal role in jump-starting the region's economy and getting people back to work. The economic-recovery efforts focused on providing support for entrepreneurs and technology startups, providing fast-track training for in-demand fields, and providing educational and training programs in the most-promising emerging fields.

The college's i3 Advanced Technology Incubator, a victim of state budget cuts a year earlier, was



Joining Chancellor Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook (far left) at a dedication event for the University Center were (from left, starting at second from left) former Napa Valley College Superintendent-President and California Community Colleges Interim Chancellor Dr. Diane Woodruff, U.S. Under Secretary of Education Dr. Martha Kanter, former Mendocino-Lake Community College District Superintendent-President Dr. Marilyn Brock, former Kern Community College District Chancellor Dr. Jim Young and former Cuesta College Superintendent-President Dr. Grace Mitchell-Berg.

resurrected in 2010, reopening in the University Center with renewed grant funding. The program resumed its mission of integrating education with entrepreneurship by fostering fledgling technology startups.

The college's Economic

Development Division launched a significant new initiative to help the unemployed train and launch new careers. The Fast Track Institute began offering 18 fast-paced, intensive job-preparation programs in four general industry areas – manufacturing, green technology, medical/general office, and managerial/professional – allowing participants to quickly begin working in industries needing skilled workers.

The college received a four-year, \$3 million grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to establish the California Regional Consortium for Engineering Advances in Technical Education (CREATE) Renewable Energy Regional Center, and to lead 13 colleges and universities in creating and expanding courses and workforce training programs in California.

Also introduced in 2010 was the medical lab technician training program, which was created specifically to address the shortage of trained personnel needed by companies working in the Santa Clarita Valley's growing biotechnology industry.

Another academic milestone was achieved with the introduction



The college's six new tennis courts opened in conjunction with the new East Physical Education building.

of the revamped Honors Program, featuring an enriched curriculum for academically strong students to increase their chances for transfer to competitive four-year institutions. Through interactive learning, special projects and community activities, the program provided extended opportunities for critical thinking, extensive writing and in-depth learning in a variety of transferable general-education courses. In addition, Honors graduates hoping to transfer to UCLA through the Transfer Alliance Program received priority admission consideration to UCLA's College of Letters and Science.

Students returning to the Valencia campus for the start of the fall 2010 semester were welcomed by a dramatically expanded Mentry Hall, which grew by 32,040 square feet. Funded by Measure M and completed over the summer, the \$10.7 million expansion project added two computer labs, a large lecture room, 11 classrooms, a 2-D drawing classroom, a life/drawing classroom, two conference rooms and 12 offices to the original building, increasing the building's overall size to 76,339 square feet.

The year also saw the college's popular culinary arts program relocate yet again, this time from its temporary Town Center Drive location to a 3,850-square-foot former restaurant in Castaic. Without adequate culinary facilities at either campus, the seemingly vagabond program settled into its new home, removed yet again from the campus environment and underscoring the need for a permanent facility.

Before the year was out, the college embarked on yet another ambitious expansion project, this one focused on the now-outdated Valencia campus library. A groundbreaking was held on Nov. 16, 2010 for a \$16 million expansion project that would add some 51,000 square feet of space to the



The Mentry Hall expansion project dramatically increased the building's teaching areas, and provided expansive common areas where students can study or relax (top).

facility, and usher in a thoroughly revamped and expanded TLC (The Learning Center), which would share some of the library's new square footage.

The Gardens of the Canyons project also debuted in 2010, with 14 unique gardens located at the Valencia campus, and seven at the Canyon Country campus. Each collection

of campus gardens was interconnected to form a meandering fitness walk, with signs, maps and trail markers posted along the route. The gardens also served as outdoor classrooms and laboratories for students and community members, helping to foster innovation and interdisciplinary approaches to the study of conservation and sustainability.

The start of 2011 marked the end of a significant chapter in the college's history. The books were officially closed on Measure C less than 10 years after it was approved by voters. By any standard, the \$82.1 million general obligation bond measure was a success in all respects. It was responsible for more than doubling the square footage of educational facilities on the Valencia campus, and it funded the purchase of land on which an entirely new campus was built in Canyon Country. Beyond the amount approved by voters, an additional \$7.8 million came from interest and refunding of bond proceeds, which enabled the college to acquire \$40.5 million in matching funds from the state.

The college continued to demonstrate its commitment to innovation



Construction begins to expand the library and create a new home for the TLC.

and preparing students for careers in emerging fields. The first-of-its-kind Skills for Healthy Aging Resources and Programs (SHARP) certificate program was launched to prepare students for careers in the fields of aging services and gerontology.

The Student Art Collection was established to honor the creativity and excellence of young artists. The juried competition chooses among entries submitted in a variety of media for purchase from the student artists and inclusion in the college's permanent collection, which is displayed in public spaces around the college.

Four years after opening, the Canyon Country campus continued to expand, this time with its first permanent building, the Applied Technology Education Center. The center officially opened on Aug. 25, 2011, featuring 15,600 square feet of classrooms and labs for instruction in automotive technology, plumbing, water systems technology, solar technology and renewable energy.

It was also another big year for college athletics. The Athletic Hall of Fame boosted its ranks with the induction of the Class of 2011. Among the honorees were the 1993 state championship men's golf team, former women's basketball player Kyetra Brown, former football player Mike Herrington, former women's soccer player Kristine Marbach, and former football player Isaac Sopoaga. And, although not recognized as an intercollegiate sport in California's community colleges, the college's ice hockey team demonstrated it was a force to be reckoned with. The "hockey club" team came from behind to beat Hope College on March 12, 2011, winning the American Collegiate Hockey Association Division III National Championship.

The college's commitment to community partnerships reached new heights in 2012. And, one



The Applied Technology Education Center, the first permanent building at the Canyon Country campus.

of them – an event supporting the Performing Arts Center's K-12 Arts Education Outreach Program – almost landed the college a spot in Guinness World Records. It was called "Rock the Rhythm, Beat the Odds," a project that saw every sixth- and seventh-grader in the Santa Clarita Valley receive music and rhythm instruction designed to maximize their creative expression, build social and emotional skills, and emphasize the process of learning over performance. The training culminated on the morning of Friday, May 18, 2012, when students and many parents gathered in Cougar Stadium to form a massive drum circle led by legendary drummers Mickey Hart (Grateful Dead), John Densmore (The Doors), and Rikki Rockett (Poison), along with Remo Belli, founder of internationally acclaimed drum manufacturer Remo Inc. Although 10,000 people participated, Guinness ruled that the event came up short in its attempt to break the standing record for largest percussion ensemble. Nevertheless, the event succeeded in generating vigorous interest in the K-12 Arts Education Outreach Program – not to mention bringing thousands of students together for a collective

The college also continued to do its part to help stimulate the economy by forging new relationships and strengthening existing ones by offering new or expanded training programs and utilizing its resources to best serve business and industry. The California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office approved a plan that allowed the college to establish a Center for International Trade Development (CITD). Operated in collaboration with the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) hosted by College of the Canyons, the new venture provided resources, training, and expert business advice and consulting in the area of international trade.

A dramatically expanded Library opened, as did the impressive new home for the TLC, whose



The new TLC opened, providing students with vastly increased learning spaces and resources.

space soared from 5,000 to 41,000 square feet. A ribbon-cutting ceremony on Oct. 24, 2012 officially unveiled the new Library and TLC, which together provided students with more than 52,000 square feet of new classrooms, study spaces and tutoring facilities.

The Canyon Country campus celebrated a milestone by marking its fifth anniversary with a community open house. Enrollment at the college's second campus continued to climb at an unprecedented rate, topping 5,000 students within its first five years.

As 2012 drew to a close, it was time to bid farewell to the "A Building," the outdated facility housing student services and administrative offices. It marked the first time in college history that an original building would be leveled to make way for a new one. Demolition of the 30-year-old building began the morning of Dec. 26, 2012, clearing the site for construction of a two-story, 46,000-square-foot replacement that would expand student services and enhance community engagement.

The college began 2013 on a promising note, adding 25 percent more classes than the previous year to a winter session that wouldn't have happened without the passage of Proposition 30 two months earlier. Voters' approval of the measure provided the state's community colleges with \$210 million in additional funding for the 2012-13 academic year, eliminating roughly \$4.6 million in funding cuts at College of the Canyons.



One of the new study areas created during the expansion of the Library.

The Board of Trustees' composition changed with board member Scott Wilk's election to the California Assembly. Wilk resigned his college post, and the remaining board members appointed former College of the Canyons Foundation Board Chairman Steve Zimmer to fill the void.

The college inducted new members to its Athletic Hall of Fame on Jan. 24, 2013. The honorees included the 1975 State Championship Men's Cross Country Team, former softball coach Ray Whitten, former men's basketball player Nick Sanderson, former swimmer Christine (Castellano) Worby, former softball player Chantal Pershing and the late former baseball player Robert Corrales.

On the now-barren site where the old A Building once stood, a groundbreaking ceremony was held in March to signal the start of construction of the new, dramatically expanded student services and administration building, which would soon adopt the moniker of Canyons Hall.

The college hosted its first-ever TEDx Conference. The independently organized offshoot of the popular TED (Technology, Entertainment, Design) series of thought-leading presentations from the worlds of business, government and science was held at the Valencia campus on April 18, 2013.

The college's continued growth was reflected once again at graduation time. The Class of 2013 was the largest ever, with 1,317 graduates, a 9.1 percent increase over the previous year. As commencement transitioned into summer, Chancellor Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook was not only honored by her alma mater, she celebrated a local milestone. The California State University Long Beach Alumni Association honored her dedication to the field of education by selecting her as its 2013 Distinguished Alumna for the College of Liberal Arts. Then, on July 1, 2013, the college celebrated the 25th anniversary of her arrival at College of the Canyons, noting the college's tremendous



The college presented its first TEDx conference.

progress under her leadership since 1988.

The wandering culinary arts program, now housed in a former restaurant in Castaic, received some welcome news, the result of a fortuitous turn of events led by the college's cost savings from the recent Library/TLC expansion. Combined with a capital campaign that raised about \$1 million – representing more than 700 community members and 96 percent of the college's full-time employees – the college embarked on a plan to build a permanent facility devoted to the culinary arts. A groundbreaking ceremony in August made it official, signaling the start of construction on a state-of-the-art facility at the Valencia campus that would be known as the College of the Canyons Institute for Culinary Education (iCuE).

Students turned in some spectacular performances of note. Among them were the college's speech team, which won a college-record seven medals – two golds, four silvers and one bronze – at the 2013 California Community College Forensics Association State Tournament. The college's Future Business Leaders of America chapter won first place at the California State Fall Business Leadership Conference, besting teams from big universities such as UC Berkeley and USC. And, freshman track and field athlete Tim White capped an amazing season by winning the national championship in the triple jump at the U.S. Junior Outdoor Track and Field Championship.

As 2014 began, it was clear that it would be a year noteworthy on many fronts, especially since it would mark the 45th anniversary of College of the Canyons and the 10th anniversary of the Performing Arts Center.

But before any of those celebrations could get under way, the college planted its first vineyard,



Chancellor Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook (top) speaks during the groundbreaking ceremony for the culinary arts facility, which was soon under construction (above).



tucked away among the western hills of the Valencia campus. And, the college presented its second TEDx conference, whose theme of “perspectives” offered just that, and on a variety of topics. The commencement ceremony broke records yet again, becoming the biggest in college history with 1,343 graduates.

At the Performing Arts Center, country superstar Willie Nelson performed to a sold-out house, followed by a 10th anniversary season lineup that included Grammy-winning artists LeAnn Rimes and Bobby McFerrin, comedian Paula Poundstone, Rock ‘n’ Roll Hall of Fame inductees Dave Mason and Mavis Staples, folk singer Arlo Guthrie, wildlife expert Jack Hanna and rising stars 2Cellos.

The college's 45th anniversary was officially noted during a ceremony at the Valencia campus flag pole. On hand were Chancellor Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook, as well as Board of Trustees members Bruce Fortine and Michele Jenkins, both with strong ties to the college's formative years. Fortine served on the college's first Board of Trustees, having been elected in 1968, the same year voters decided to create College of the Canyons. Jenkins, whose 30 years of service made her



The college planted a vineyard among the western slopes of the Valencia campus.

the longest continually serving board member, was also one of the college's first students, having attended classes during the college's inaugural year. She also holds the distinction of leading the Board of Trustees in 1988 when it offered the position to Van Hook, a decision that profoundly changed the college's direction. "She had the courage to lead the board in hiring a woman to head the college when there were just a handful of female community college presidents in California," Van Hook said. "But that speaks to Michele's courage as a leader, and her belief in the potential of people."

Over the summer of 2014, a collection of unique welded-steel sculptures started to quietly pop up on both campuses. Part of a 45th anniversary campus-beautification project, the sculptures were the work of Southern California artist Simi Dabah, who donated them to the college for permanent installation. Welded from pieces of industrial scrap metal, the sculptures were praised for being both friendly to the environment and inspirational to the viewer. The collection, which at the time was expected to include as many as 25 pieces, was officially unveiled as the largest permanently installed Dabah collection during a dedication ceremony at the Performing Arts Center on Nov. 6, 2014.

The college's Upward Bound partnership with the William S. Hart Union High School District put 16 students on the path to collegiate success. Launched in 2012, the Upward Bound program focused on Golden Valley High School students with academic potential, but in need of enrichment, encouragement and preparation. The graduates transitioned not only to College of the Canyons, but universities such as UC Santa Barbara, Loyola Marymount, and Cal Poly Pomona and San Luis Obispo.



A Simi Dabah sculpture provides a striking perspective at the Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook University Center (top). Dabah receives recognition from Dr. Van Hook and Board of Trustees Member Michele Jenkins during the dedication ceremony (above).

The College of the Canyons Athletics Department achieved something it had never before accomplished. It won the Western State Conference Supremacy Award for the collective performance of its 16 intercollegiate athletic teams, wresting the recognition from longtime powerhouse and 14-time defending champion Ventura College. The

Cougars absolutely dominated the 2013-14 season, winning WSC championships in women's volleyball, men's cross country, women's soccer, men's track and field, and men's golf, as well as a co-championship in softball.

As 2014 drew to a close, College of the Canyons was named the second fastest-growing community college in America by Community College Week magazine.

After 45 years of excellence, innovation and service to the community, College of the Canyons put the crowning touches on its first campus by completing all of the projects – and then some – outlined in the Valencia campus master plan in early 2015.

First to be unveiled was Canyons Hall, the Center for Student Services and Community Engagement, which replaced the old A



Canyons Hall, sitting at the main point of entry to the Valencia campus, is completed in early 2015.

Building and stands prominently at College Circle, the main entrance to the Valencia campus. Community members and college employees converged inside the new building's lobby for a ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house on March 25, 2015. Guests were treated to a variety of presentations and remarks, followed by hors d'oeuvres and tours of the building that now houses Admissions & Records, Financial Aid, Counseling, the Transfer Center, the Job & Career Center, administrative offices and others.

Then came the College of the Canyons Institute for Culinary Education (iCuE), which was officially revealed during a ribbon-cutting and open house on April 15, 2015. The gleaming new building presented a veritable feast of state-of-the-art teaching kitchens and educational facilities to train the next generation of culinary arts professionals. The 12,200-square-foot building, anchored by a central glass-enclosed dining room where students can demonstrate their newly honed culinary skills, includes a Show Kitchen, Savory Kitchen, Sweets Kitchen, Wine Studies Room and Culinary Lab. Most importantly, the facility expands a premier culinary arts program whose quality is comparable to those offered by private culinary arts institutions, but at considerably less expense. While not listed in the master plan, a culinary education facility emerged as a high priority as the program gained prominence and grew.

The college was recognized in April during the Open Education Global Conference for its leadership in promoting the use of Open Educational Resources (OER) to reduce student costs and increase access to higher education. As a free alternative to traditional textbooks and course manuals, OERs offer community college students a no-cost alternative to costly commercial textbooks



The College of the Canyons Institute for Culinary Education is completed, marking the completion of the Valencia campus master plan.

while helping to make the price of college more affordable to all. It's estimated that College of the Canyons students saved approximately \$750,000 over the past year by using openly licensed materials rather than commercial textbooks.

As the 45th anniversary year drew to a close, the 2015 commencement ceremony

saw 1,462 students graduate, a nearly 9 percent increase over the previous record-setting year. And, as if that wasn't quite enough to impress, the June 5 ceremony also featured the college's oldest-ever graduate, 99-year-old Doreetha Daniels, who picked up her diploma and accomplished her goal of earning a college degree before her 100th birthday.

College of the Canyons has come a long way since its formative years. It has become an important part of the community it serves, educating, training and enlightening tens of thousands of its residents. The numbers merely hint at this institution's growing significance and relevance, but they are revealing. Over the course of 45 years, enrollment increased from the 735 students of 1969 to the more than 20,000 at the start of the fall 2014 semester. The first commencement ceremony in 1970 saw 16 students graduate. That figure rose to more than 1,462 grad-



uates in 2015. The original core of 32 faculty members grew to 176 full-time faculty members and 587 adjunct instructors in the fall of 2014.

Under Van Hook's leadership and the Board of Trustees' stewardship, the college has developed key partnerships that train thousands of nurses, firefighters and law enforcement personnel, as well as skilled workers in a variety of specialized fields such as biotechnology and digital manufacturing. If there is a specific educational or training need in the community, it's a good bet that College of the Canyons has addressed it. The college has consistently placed within the fastest-growing community college districts in the state since 1989, and was named the second fastest-growing community college of its size in the nation in 2014. The college's 2014-15 budget was \$183.6 million, more than three times the figure of just five years earlier. By comparison, the budget of 1988-89 was just \$8 million, revealing the college's profound momentum in just over two decades.

The Valencia campus spanned 993,393 square feet in 2015, up from 721,694 just five years earlier. The Canyon Country campus grew from approximately 24,000 square feet of instructional space to nearly 60,000 within the same time period.



The 2015 commencement ceremony (top) saw 1,462 students graduate, the biggest class yet. Among them was 99-year-old Doreetha Daniels (above), who achieved her goal of earning a college degree before her 100th birthday.



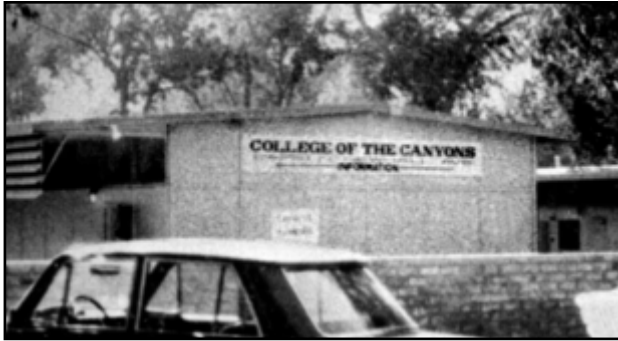
An architectural rendering of potential permanent buildings at the Canyon Country campus.

Peripheral entities that benefit the college while forging strong ties and beneficial relationships with the community and local industry also have thrived. The College of the Canyons Foundation, for example, has provided crucial funding 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 Employee Training Institute have helped local businesses become more efficient and train employees in the latest emerging fields. And, the i3 Advanced Technology Incubator has served technology-based startups, and the college-hosted Small Business Development Center embarked on a wider, more regional approach to helping small businesses.

College of the Canyons is well on its way to meeting the future demands of a dynamic, diverse and fast-growing community. The expansion of facilities and programs has done more than meet current educational needs. It has laid the groundwork for the future. Indeed, projections based on the college's historical growth indicate that it must be ready to accommodate more than 25,000 students by 2023. If history is any indication, College of the Canyons will meet that challenge and exceed expectations, offering hope, encouragement and promise to those students – and many more who will undoubtedly follow.

College of the Canyons is Born

Although 1969 is the year that classes began, 1967 actually marks the beginning of time for College of the Canyons, which was conceived when voters went to the polls on Nov. 21 of that year. Voters also elected a five-member board of trustees to govern the newly created "junior college," as it was then called. Elected were Dr. William G. Bonelli Jr., Bruce Fortine (still on the board in 2015!), Sheila Dyer, Peter Huntsinger and Edward Muhl.



The first classes met at Hart High School.

Several weeks later, on Dec. 15, the newly elected governing body met and chose an official name, Santa Clarita Valley Junior College District. The label won out over others such as North Valley Junior College District, Upper Santa Clarita Valley, Bouquet, Canyon and Vasquez (after the bandit Tiburcio Vasquez who hid out in the rugged badlands bearing his name).

A Leader is Chosen

Dr. Robert C. Rockwell, a graduate of Harvard University who received his master's and doctoral degrees from USC, became superintendent of the new college district and president of newly named College of the Canyons in July 1968. Prior to this, he was president of Santa Barbara City College for six years. He also served as an Air Force captain during World War II.

Student Government Formed

The first Associated Student Body (ASB) constitution was ratified on Oct. 15, 1969. The first ASB president was Paul Driver; the first vice president was Liz Swanson.

Student Newspaper Published

The first issue of the *College Sound*, the college's first student newspaper, was published in September 1969. The name was later changed to the *Canyon Call*.

First Basketball Game

The college's first basketball game was played in the fall of 1969, with the Cougars hosting Cuesta Junior College.

Peace Officer Training

Administration of Justice was one of the largest programs on campus in the fall of 1969, providing training to 150 employed peace officers.

MAY 21, 1968

The college adopts its name, College of the Canyons. Among the rejected names were Santa Clarita College and Valencia College.

SEPT. 22, 1969

Instruction begins in temporary quarters at Hart High School. Most classes start at 4 p.m., after high school students had left.

DEC. 2, 1969

The college hosts its first student dance, which is held at Hart High School. The band is paid \$40 for its services.

College Gets a Permanent Home



The first graduation at the Valencia campus.

College of the Canyons moved out of Hart High School in July 1970. The new campus at Valencia Boulevard and Interstate 5 was not yet ready for occupancy, so a temporary admissions office was set up in a garage on Pine Street. Preparation of the newly purchased and otherwise barren 153.4-acre campus property began the previous month. By mid-August, workers began erecting temporary structures on the permanent campus, whose address was 25000 Valencia Blvd. (Rockwell Canyon Road, which would later become the college's address, had not yet been built.) The first day and evening classes began Oct. 5, 1970 in temporary structures on present campus grounds (where the college's athletic fields are now located). The college's temporary "instant campus" was so called because instruction began only 10 months after voters passed a \$4 million construction bond issue.

Classes started two weeks late on the new campus because of construction problems. Nevertheless, in 14 days 99 portable classrooms were erected for the 1,200 students enrolled. It didn't take long for students to start calling the encampment's motif "early Stalag 13."

First Awards Banquet

The first Awards Banquet was held in the Hart High School cafeteria on June 12, 1970. Meals sold for \$3.

Football Dominance

The Cougars, under coach Don Kloppenburg, in their first game trounced California Lutheran College's junior varsity team 49-6 on Oct. 17, 1970. The team became Desert Conference champions in 1971.

Star-Studded Dedication

Comedian Bob Hope and Sen. George Murphy spoke during the Oct. 26, 1970 dedication ceremony for the new permanent campus.

Quake Shakes Campus

There were no permanent buildings for the 6.4-magnitude Sylmar earthquake to damage on Feb. 9, 1971, but all library books ended up on the floor. The football team re-shelved them.

JAN. 20, 1970

Seventy-five percent of voters vote "yes" for a \$4 million construction bond to construct the college's first buildings.

JUNE 26, 1970

Sixteen students graduate during the first commencement ceremony, which is held in the Hart High School cafeteria.

JUNE 24, 1971

Eighty-nine students graduate during the first commencement to be held at the college's new, permanent campus.

Campus Construction Begins

After delays caused by budget constraints, the state announced in February 1972 that College of the Canyons' first building, the Instructional Resource Center (now Bonelli Hall), would be funded. Soon thereafter, a half-million yards of earth were moved to make a pad for it and other facilities.



The Instructional Resources Center (IRC) under construction.

Board President Dies

Dr. William G. Bonelli Jr., a member of the COC Board of Trustees and its first president, died at the age of 49 on Feb. 22, 1972. Newhall's postmaster, Francis Claffey, was appointed to fill the seat.

Construction Begins

Construction began in June 1972 on the IRC, which was renamed the Dr. William G. Bonelli Instructional Resources Center (now, simply, Bonelli Hall) to honor the former trustee.

Statewide Infusion of Funds

In November 1972, voters statewide authorized the Community College Construction Act of \$160 million, including \$11.2 million for COC if the district could match \$2.5 million in funds. The Board of Trustees authorized an \$8 million bond issue to meet the

matching funds and pay for other construction not funded by the state. Said Superintendent-President Dr. Robert C. Rockwell: "It's a tremendous bargain."

SCV Voters Step Up

On Feb. 6, 1973, local voters exceeded the required two-thirds threshold and overwhelmingly approved COC's \$8 million bond measure. In fact, 80 percent of the electorate voted "yes." The final tally: 3,618 to 922, with all 28 precincts reporting.

First Building Completed

The first permanent building, the William G. Bonelli Instructional Resource Center, was completed in December 1973. The \$2.56 million building featured 13 classrooms, testing rooms, and faculty offices.

FEBRUARY 1972

The Western Association of Schools and Colleges grants full accreditation after examining the college's academic and training programs.

JUNE 1972

Commencement figures reveal the college's early growth, jumping to 143 graduates (up from 89 in 1971), then rising again to 175 in June 1973.

FALL 1973

The Cougar football team, under the direction of head coach Larry Reisbig, becomes the Western State Conference champion.

Campus Starts Taking Shape



Gov. Ronald Reagan dedicates the IRC building (now Bonelli Hall).

College of the Canyons finally started to resemble a real college, as an assortment of permanent buildings was completed in 1974 and '75. On Jan. 2, 1974, the \$2.56 million William G. Bonelli Instructional Resources Center (now Bonelli Hall) officially opened its doors. Later that year, on Sept. 21, the \$1 million, 6,000-seat Cougar Stadium officially opened, with the Cougar football team playing its first home game in the facility before a crowd of 3,000. The Cougars lost to Harbor College 26-21. Then, in January 1975, two more buildings, the Classroom Center (Seco Hall) and Laboratory Center (Boykin Hall), opened. They adjoined the William G. Bonelli Instructional Resource Center, appearing as extensions of that building but built entirely separately. The next month, February, saw the opening of the Student Center (S Building),

housing the book store, cafeteria, music department, student activities and student lounge. And, in the fall of 1975, the \$1.16 million Vocational Technical Building, housing programs in electronics, drafting, home economics and auto mechanics, opened.

Swallows Begin a Ritual

The first Argentine cliff swallows arrived to nest in the concrete "cliffs" of College of the Canyons in

early 1974. The visit turned into an annual ritual – and a hazard for students or staff who dared to walk below the high nests. Over the years there were abundant unscheduled shampoos and cleaning bills for clothing.

Reagan Dedicates Bonelli Hall

California Gov. Ronald Reagan visited the campus to dedicate the William G. Bonelli Instructional Resources Center (Bonelli Hall) on April 22, 1974. Also on hand were Judge Adrian Adams, who delivered a tribute to Dr. William G. Bonelli, and Ray Ziegler, architect of the building.

Vocational Courses Added

Drafting and electronics were introduced as vocational courses in the fall of 1974.

JANUARY 1974

The biggest snowfall in 25 years hits the Santa Clarita Valley. The campus is coated in white, and virtually all activity comes to a standstill for several days.

SPRING 1975

Non-credit Community Services (now known as Community Extension) classes are introduced. The offerings total 11 courses.

FALL 1975

The football team captures the WSC championship, and the cross-country team wins its first California State Championship.

Physical Education Complex Opens

The Physical Education Complex, housing a swimming and diving pool, basketball court, gymnastics room and weight-training room, opened in March 1976, completing the first set of instructional buildings. The \$4.97 million tri-level center provided facilities for swimming, water sports, basketball, gymnastics, volleyball and dance classes.



An aerial view of the Valencia campus in 1976.

A Bicentennial Campus

College of the Canyons was declared an official Bicentennial Campus by the American Revolutionary Bicentennial Committee of California in April 1976. Bicentennial Week was celebrated the weekend of April 19.

Campus Access Enhanced

Rockwell Canyon Road was extended to McBean Parkway. The one-third-mile road on the college's east flank provided a new southern entrance to the college and required the movement of more than 100,000 yards of earth.

Computer Center Opens

A \$160,000 computer center opened in the C Building (Seco Hall), providing practical experience for students taking classes in computer science.

Nursing Program Graduates 29

Twenty-eight women and one man completed the vocational nursing program.

Football Acclaim & Controversy

Quarterback Reggie Ogburn led the Cougars to a first-place standing in 1977. But the WSC player of the year led 16 players off the field during a game, complaining about profane language by coaches, racial discrimination and housing problems. Coach Larry Reisbig countered that Ogburn was angered by his coaching philosophy and length of practice sessions. Ogburn never returned.

Track & Field Victorious

The track and field team won the Western State Conference Relays for the first time in March 1977.

OCTOBER 1976

The women's basketball team plays its very first game, losing 55-36.

FALL 1976

Enrollment falls from approximately 3,500 students to 2,800.

FALL 1977

The college converts from the quarter to semester system.

Proposition 13 Causes Cutbacks



The No. 1-ranked Cougar baseball team.

The statewide passage of Proposition 13 was a victory for voters, but its effect on California's finances was far-reaching. The measure resulted in significant program cutbacks at the state's community colleges, including College of the Canyons.

Cougars Head for the Pros

The first College of the Canyons football player was picked by the pros. Aaron Mitchell, an all-league performer at cornerback for the Cougars during the 1976-77 season, was drafted by the Dallas Cowboys. In baseball, Mark Nocciolo, a catcher during the 1977-78 season, was drafted by the California Angels.

Baseball Champs Again

The Cougar baseball team was led to another league championship (five of the last six years) by coach

Mike Gillespie in May 1978. The Cougars were ranked No. 1 in Southern California.

Rockwell Retires

Dr. Robert C. Rockwell retired as the college's first superintendent-president in late 1978. Gary Mouck served as interim superintendent-president through June 30, 1979.

Newcomer Takes Over

Dr. Leland B. Newcomer took over as College of the Canyons' new superintendent-president on July 1, 1979, assuming the job vacated by the retired Robert Rockwell. Newcomer previously served as president of La Verne College.

Major Administrative Changes

Superintendent-President Dr. Leland Newcomer made major changes to the college's administrative ranks. The position of vice president and assistant superintendent, held by Gary Mouck since the college's inception, was eliminated. Mouck began teaching mathematics. The position of assistant superintendent, student personnel, held by Dr. Charles Rheinschmidt since the college's inception, also was eliminated. Rheinschmidt became dean of personnel and director of athletics.

FALL 1978

The Cougars win the Homecoming Game against West L.A. 63-0, the largest margin of victory in COC history.

JAN. 23, 1979

The first high school student to attend the college is Kathleen Rasmussen, 15, who enrolls in a conversational French class.

OCT. 2, 1979

The Canyon Call student newspaper transforms to a tabloid size, accepting advertisements for the first time in its history.

Progress Despite Tough Times

The 1980s began ominously for College of the Canyons. Nineteen-eighty began with a \$500,000 deficit and a 10 percent increase in enrollment. The 1981-82 academic year experienced the second straight deficit, this one \$600,000, resulting in a variety of cutbacks that affected music and theater programs, counseling services and speech classes. California Governor Jerry Brown's post-Proposition 13 budget axe was not kind at all to community college funding. Superintendent-President Leland Newcomer remained optimistic through it all. "This college will survive," he said. "We can and will grow." The Board of Trustees authorized a program to solicit and receive funds for the financially strapped college. The College of the Canyons Foundation was created as a private, non-profit corporation to generate new funding.



An L.A. Dodger gives local youth some pointers.

Standout Breaks into Big Leagues

Former Cougar pitching standout Bob Walk broke into the big leagues, beginning play for the Philadelphia Phillies on May 26, 1980. Walk's phenomenal MLB career stretched through the '80s, coming to a close on Sept. 29, 1993 as a Pittsburgh Pirate.

CDC Construction Begins

Construction of the Child Development Center began in January 1981.

Baseball Takes State Crown

The Cougar baseball team won its first state championship in May 1981 under the guidance of coach Mike Gillespie (who would later accept a coaching position at USC), ending the season with a 32-13 record.

Media Scrutiny of Football

News reports questioned whether the college violated Western State Conference athletic recruiting regulations. Director of Athletics Charles Rheinschmidt and head football coach Larry Reisbig defended the college's recruiting policy.

MARCH 1980

Elfi Hummel's first annual World Culture Festival takes place on campus.

APRIL 1980

Admissions & Records introduces its registration-by-mail program for the fall semester.

FALL 1981

ASB President Joseph Heath is the first COC student to be awarded the \$20,000 Harry S. Truman scholarship.

Child Development Center Opens



Campus clubs recruit prospective members.

The College Services Building (Administration Building), dedicated to Peter Huntsinger, opened its doors in February 1982. Housed here were administrative offices and, more importantly, the new Child Development Center, which served 49 families during its first year. The preschool program became so popular that a lengthy waiting list was formed.

Football is Sacked

Despite a storm of protest, Cougar football was sacked when the Board of Trustees cut its funding in March 1982.

Other Programs Cut

The board made additional cuts as well: a third of physical education classes, the Economy 150 class, cooperative work experience, continuing education –

fire control, consumer homemaking, ornamental horticulture and real estate.

Newcomer Resigns

Dr. Leland B. Newcomer resigned in June 1982 from his post as superintendent-president.

Financial Problems

Financial problems plagued the district. Fifty classes were canceled in August 1982, and enrollment dipped to 3,600 students.

Baseball Players Called Up

A trio of college baseball players was called up by the majors. Pitcher Jeff Perry went to the St. Louis Cardinals, and shortstop Jeff Hughes and outfielder Bill Gordon joined the San Francisco Giants.

Baseball Snares 2nd Championship

The Cougar baseball team captured its second state title with a 30-10 record in May 1983, also winning the newly formed Mountain Valley Conference.

A New Leader Takes Office

Dr. Ramon F. LaGrandeur took office as the third superintendent-president on May 1, 1983, facing a budget deficit of more than \$473,000.

JUNE 1982

Dr. Leland B. Newcomer resigns as superintendent-president of College of the Canyons.

1983

Baseball coach Mike Gillespie is named California State and National Coach of the Year.

FALL 1983

Dr. Marijane Axtell-Paulsen is hired as the college's dean of instruction.

Swallow Controversy Takes Flight

Controversy arrived at the college from a most unlikely source: the sky. For several years the college had been dealing with the mess and headaches associated with the annual migration of Argentine cliff swallows and their ritual of constructing mud nests on campus buildings – to the peril of anyone walking below. In the spring of 1985, 12 of the birds died and 35 others were crippled when a substance meant to repel them from the side of Bonelli Hall stuck to their feathers and prevented them from flying. The birds were protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued the college a \$500 citation.



An event is held in the college's amphitheater.

Student Journalists Awarded

The Canyon Call staff collected two first-place prizes for general excellence and front-page layout from the Journalism Association of Community Colleges.

Hoopsters Snag Championship

In a 1-plus-1 free throw with 7 seconds on the clock, the Cougar basketball team won a 72-71 contest over L.A. Valley College on Feb. 21, 1985, earning the squad a first-ever league championship – much to the elation of long-time coach Lee Smelser.

Sheriff's Dept. Selects COC

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department selected College of the Canyons as the site of its Training Academy. Within weeks, 70 recruits enrolled.

MLB Drafts Four Cougars

Four Cougars were picked by Major League Baseball's amateur draft: Frank Halcovich to the Kansas City Royals, Orlando Cepeda to the Montreal Expos, and Chris Cota and Pete Kuld to the Chicago White Sox.

Jim Boykin Passes Away

Popular biology teacher Jim Boykin died after a brief illness on Nov. 9, 1985 at 59. He taught at the college for 16 years. The science building was later renamed the James D. Boykin Lab Center (now Boykin Hall).

SEPTEMBER 1984

California's free higher education, begun in 1911, ends when a \$5-per-unit enrollment fee is instituted for full-time students.

JULY 1985

A ruling goes into effect requiring students to maintain a minimum 2.0 GPA to participate in athletic or student activities.

SEPTEMBER 1985

After a 16-year wait, the \$50,000 Physical Sciences Lab opens its doors at the college.

Sheriff's Training Academy Opens



Students stroll past the C Building (Seco Hall).

College of the Canyons became the northern training site for the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department on March 24, 1986. Seventy students enrolled in the new Training Academy for the first 18-week program.

Swallows Get a Reprieve

The Board of Trustees ended a longtime squabble by voting on April 23, 1986 to allow the Argentine cliff swallows to forever nest in peace on the campus.

A Third Baseball Championship

In baseball coach Mike Gillespie's 16th and final season, the Cougars won their third state championship in six years in May 1986. With a remarkable 41-6 record, the team posted the most wins ever for a California community college.

Ted Collier Passes Away

Political science professor Dr. Ted Collier, one of the college's original instructors, died at the age of 58 on Sept. 21, 1986.

Enrollment Growth

Although modest, enrollment growth returned in the fall of 1986. Enrollment hit 3,550, an increase of 50. The spring 1987 enrollment rose to 3,700 students.

First Cadets Graduates

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Academy at the college graduated its first class of cadets, composed of 57 men and six women, on Feb. 27, 1987. On hand for the commencement ceremony were Sheriff Sherman Block and state Sen. Ed Davis, a Valencia resident and former chief of the L.A. Police Department.

Sold-Out Women's Conference

KNBC anchorwoman Kelly Lange was the keynote speaker at the college's first Women's Conference on March 7, 1987. Some 350 women attended the sold-out event co-sponsored by the American Association of University Women.

JUNE 4, 1986

The James D. Boykin Laboratory Center is dedicated in memory of the late biology professor.

SPRING 1987

Susan Cornner is named Outstanding Journalism Teacher of the Year by the California Newspaper Publishers Association.

FALL 1987

The HITE (High Intensity Transfer and Enrichment) Honors Program debuts, along with the Phi Theta Kappa honor society.

A New Era of Leadership Begins

It's fair to say that no one fully comprehended the scope of changes that were in store for College of the Canyons beginning midway through 1988. No one, that is, except Dr. Dianne Gracia Van Hook, who was chosen over 22 other candidates to replace the retiring Dr. Ramon F. LaGrandeur as superintendent-president. The 37-year-old Van Hook became the college's fourth superintendent-president on July 1, 1988. College of the



Dr. Van Hook (center) meets with her Executive Cabinet.

Canyons has never been the same, undergoing a period of its most significant growth and advancement since being built. It became the fastest-growing community college in California under her leadership, and the atmosphere on campus was transformed into one of innovation, positive change and passionate willingness to blaze new trails.

Baseball Wins Conference Crown

The Cougars baseball team captured the Western State Conference crown in May 1988, following a home-game streak of 35 wins.

Enrollment Hits Capacity

Enrollment surpassed 5,000, a 9 percent increase and an all-time high for the college, in August 1988.

Snow Blankets Campus

One of the coldest winter storms in 40 years dumped nearly 6 inches of snow on Feb. 8, 1989, forcing the college to close for the day.

Expansion Untethered

The state revised the college's growth projections in August 1989, allowing new building construction to proceed to accommodate enrollment growth.

Fastest-Growing Community College

Fall 1989 enrollment hit 5,668 – 20 percent above capacity.

First Silver Spur Celebration

The Foundation held the first Silver Spur celebration at the Gene Autry Museum in November 1989.

SEPTEMBER 1988

The COC Foundation tops the half-million-dollar mark – \$522,828 – in funds raised for college development.

APRIL 1989

Cliffie Stone is named the recipient of the college's Silver Spur Community Service Award.

MAY 1989

Local business and industry leaders form an advisory council in partnership with the college.

Major Expansion Plan Unveiled



An aerial view of the Honor Grove.

As growth projections were revised, so was the five-year construction plan, paving the way for significant expansion projects. The Master Plan was revised in March 1990 to accommodate a projected 20,000 students, and the college announced a \$47-million building program to renovate and expand facilities, including classrooms, a computer center, fine arts building, performing arts center, administration building, library and small gymnasium.

Youth Orchestra Moves to COC

The Santa Clarita Valley Youth Orchestra began its first year of residency at College of the Canyons in January 1990, having moved from neighboring CalArts.

Graduation Records

The May 1990 commencement ceremony saw 441 students graduate. The following year, the largest class yet – 489 students – graduated.

Basketball Wins Division

The men's basketball team won the Western State Conference Southern Division in February 1991.

Summer School Cuts

More than half of the summer school classes were canceled in a move designed to prevent the college from cutting its fall semester schedule. Only 19 of the original 42 classes were offered.

Small Business Center Created

College of the Canyons and five organizations announced the creation of the Small Business Center in April 1991.

Schwarzenegger Visits Campus

Bodybuilder-turned-actor Arnold Schwarzenegger visited Cougar Stadium in October 1991 to lead 7,000 fourth- through sixth-grade students in exercises to encourage them to be physically fit.

MARCH 13, 1990

Elisha "Aggie" Agajanian is named the recipient of the college's Silver Spur Community Service Award.

APRIL 1991

Scott and Ruth Newhall are named the recipients of the college's Silver Spur Community Service Award.

JANUARY 1991

The Chancellor's Office recommends a second site for the college district in its long-range capital outlay growth plan.

Voters Pave Way for Expansion

Voter approval in June 1992 of Proposition 152, a state school construction bond, gave the college \$15 million to build a new library, fine arts building and child development center. The new buildings were welcomed on a campus hard-pressed to accommodate growing enrollment. Black History Celebrated Black History Month was celebrated at the college for the first time in February 1992 with a series of art, entertainment, films, lectures and displays.



Graduates numbered 531 during the 1992 commencement ceremony.

square-foot center was expected to be completed by late 1994.

President's Circle Launched

The COC Foundation in April 1992 kicked off another tradition, the President's Circle giving program.

Record Graduation Numbers

The number of graduates continued to grow; 531 students graduated on May 22, 1992. The following year, 590 graduated.

Plans for New CDC Under Way

The Child Development Center (CDC) moved out the Administration Building in November 1992 to make way for a relocated Admissions & Records Office. In November 1993, ground was broken for a brand-new child development center on campus. The new 5,960-

Transfer Center Opens

The Transfer Center, helping students transfer to four-year schools, opened.

Golfers Win Championship

The men's golf team captured its second straight Western State Conference title in April 1993. Then, in May, the team captured its first state championship, winning by one stroke.

Bonelli, TLC Undergo Remodeling

Bonelli Hall and TLC (Tutoring, Learning & Computing) Lab underwent extensive remodeling in November 1993.

JANUARY 1992

Superintendent-President Dr. Dianne Van Hook is appointed to chair the statewide facilities task force, part of the Commission on Innovation.

MAY 1992

The Employee Training Institute partners with the Santa Clarita Valley Chamber of Commerce to sponsor the first Leadership Training Program.

MAY 1993

Tom Dierckman of The Newhall Land & Farming Co. is named the recipient of the college's Silver Spur Community Service Award.

Quake Causes Major Damage



A student studies in a tent classroom erected after the 1994 quake.

The 6.7-magnitude Northridge Earthquake jolted the college early on Jan. 17, 1994, striking with such force that many classrooms were rendered uninhabitable. The college suffered \$3.2 million in damage. The start of the college's spring semester was delayed by one week as tent classrooms were erected and other preparations were made to accommodate students. Thanks to plans put in place several years earlier, the college became an emergency command post for the greater Santa Clarita Valley. After the recovery effort, Superintendent-President Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook testified at state hearings regarding the quake response. In February, the Small Business Center received a \$30,000 grant from the Chancellor's Office to expand its services to help businesses recover from the quake. An additional \$25,000 in grant funding in July extended the program through December.

Commencement

A total of 560 students petitioned to graduate in May 1994, with 78 percent indicating they planned to transfer to four-year institutions.

Conservation Corps Helps

A crew from the California Conservation Corps visited the campus in the summer of 1994 to paint, plaster and secure furnishings as quake cleanup continued.

New Horizons Debuts

New Horizons was launched in August 1994 to help single parents, pregnant teens, displaced homemakers and students entering non-traditional careers.

Miraculous Quake Recovery

Students returning to the college for the start of the fall semester on Aug. 18, 1994 found it in pre-earthquake condition after about \$2 million in repairs.

25th Anniversary Convocation

The 25th anniversary featured an academic convocation on Sept. 22, 1994, with a procession that included Chancellor David Mertes. Ruth Newhall was guest speaker, and Mayor George Pederson cut the birthday cake.

JANUARY 1994

A Chicano studies course is offered at the college for the first time.

APRIL 1994

The Board of Trustees passes a policy prohibiting smoking in all indoor and outdoor facilities.

MAY 1994

John Hoskinson is named the recipient of the college's Silver Spur Community Service Award.

New Buildings Reflect Progress

In a symbolic gesture aimed at overcoming the destruction of the Northridge Earthquake a year earlier, ground was broken Jan. 17, 1995 and construction began on two exciting new buildings: the Library and the Media & Fine Arts Building (Mentry Hall). Three months later, the new, equally impressive Family Studies & Early Childhood Education Center opened (see below).



Jan Keller and colleagues survey the site of the new library.

A Library of Innovation

The Library was designed to replace the original library in Bonelli Hall, which had become obsolete as the college grew. The Library was designed to be noticed, featuring a two-story curved wall of glass and perched atop a hillside with a sweeping view of the Santa Clarita Valley. It was designed to cover 27,222 square feet and include an online computer-based catalog, multimedia stations, group-study rooms and a community gallery.

Media & Fine Arts

The Media & Fine Arts Building (now Mentry Hall) was designed to house a wide variety of art and media programs, as well as a Fine Art Gallery. The building also was to incorporate extensive computer

and photography labs, and house the operations of the student newspaper, the Canyon Call.

Family Studies Center Unveiled

Dignitaries and children cut the ribbon signaling completion of the college's new Family Studies & Early Childhood Education Center on April 22, 1995. The opening ceremony was held in conjunction with the community-wide "Day of the Child" celebration.

Most Quake Repairs Completed

By the end of the year, 90 percent of the Northridge earthquake-recovery projects – representing about \$3 million in FEMA funds – was completed.

Efficient Central Plant Opens



Employees check on the library's progress.

The energy-efficient Central Plant, which was designed to provide heating and air conditioning to both the new Library and Media & Fine Arts Building (Mentry Hall) became operational. The centralized plant resulted in a 25-percent savings in energy costs.

Construction on Schedule

Construction continued on the Library and the Media & Fine Arts Building. On Dec. 4, 1996, the Library opened for a preview.

Youth Orchestra Travels Abroad

The SCV Youth Orchestra traveled to England for the 1996 International Summer Music Institute.

Women's Conference

The community celebrated the 10th anniversary of

the college's annual Women's Conference on March 2, 1996.

First Job Fair Held

The first job fair hosted by the college's Career Center was held on Oct. 24, 1996, attracting 35 employers.

12th Highest in Transfers

The college ranked 12th highest among California's 71 community college districts in terms of the

number of students who transferred to the California State University or University of California systems.

Student-Retention Rate Improves

The college's student-retention rate improved from 74.8 percent in the fall of 1989 to 81.4 percent in the fall of 1996.

Foundation Revenue Grows

The College of the Canyons Foundation increased its revenue by 348 percent over 1989 levels.

College Enters Cyberspace

The college created and launched its first Web site.

JAN. 8, 1995

Retired Superintendent-President Dr. Ramon F. LaGrandeur passes away at 68, having devoted more than 30 years to education.

SUMMER 1995

British music students attend the first International Summer Music Institute at the college.

NOV. 14, 1995

The college's first annual Business & Industry Breakfast is held at HR Textron in the Valencia Industrial Center.

SPRING 1996

Weekend College is introduced for busy working adults.

SPRING 1996

The college hosts the first Santa Clarita forum on the future of education.

MAY 1996

LaVerne Harris is named the recipient of the college's Silver Spur Community Service Award.

Two Major Buildings Completed

The ribbons were cut simultaneously, signaling the completion of the college's new Library and Media & Fine Arts Building (Mentry Hall). Once again, the date – Jan. 17, 1997 – was chosen for symbolic reasons. The grand-opening events for the new buildings occurred three months later.

Valencia Learning Center Opens
The college's Employee Training Institute opened its Valencia Learning Center, a training facility for local businesses located in the Valencia Industrial Center.



A music class in progress.

Growth Funds Get a Boost

New growth funds translated into 139 new classes, as well as a doubling of summer school classes.

Library System Shared with CalArts

In a cost-saving measure, College of the Canyons and its neighbor, California Institute of the Arts, partnered and split the cost of an online library automation system that both institutions were able to utilize.

Van Hook Enters Hall of Fame

Superintendent-President Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook was inducted into the Long Beach City College Hall of Fame. Van Hook had graduated from the college.

John Drislane Passes Away

Longtime employee John Drislane, who served as dean of personnel and taught English courses, died.

Technology Center Expands

The Technology Center was expanded to accommodate more faculty and staff.

Accreditation Reaffirmed

The Accrediting Commission gave the college a "full unqualified reaffirmation" of accreditation. And, the Nursing Program received accreditation from the National League of Nursing.

Degrees and Certificates

The college ranked fourth in the state for associate degrees and occupational certificates awarded.

MAY 1997

Robert Ormsby is named the recipient of the college's Silver Spur Community Service Award.

MARCH 28, 1997

The college's new Art Gallery holds its first exhibit, a showing entitled "Against the Wall."

FALL 1997

The college introduces its International Students Program.

Academic and Athletic Expansion



An aerial view of the Valencia campus, looking west.

It was clear in 1998 that enrollment growth would continue, and that the college would need to implement innovative ideas to meet the educational and training demands of the community – not to mention physically accommodate more and more students. College leaders found new ways to use existing space, carving out new classrooms and laboratories where none existed before, and redesigning instructional space to be more efficient. New technology was embraced. New academic and training programs were introduced. And new athletic programs found a home at the college. Leading the list of expanded athletic programs was football, the victim of dwindling public and financial support 17 years earlier, but which now made a comeback due to renewed public interest and support. The vast banks

of lights would once again illuminate Cougar Stadium, the Santa Clarita Valley's largest athletic venue.

Football Returns

The first football game in 17 years was played on Sept. 26, a result of athletic expansion. The football team was resurrected following a groundswell of public support. Coached by former Cougar Chuck Lyon, the football program would

develop into a powerhouse.

New Instructional Space

As enrollment continued its frenzied growth, construction was under way on six new laboratories, 13 new classrooms, 18 new offices, a conference room and an audio/video/computer technology area.

New Programs Added

Multimedia and fire technology programs were added to the curriculum. The college also won approval to expand class offerings in the areas of theater, physical education, library, media, photography, radio and television.

MAY 1998

Dick Luechtefeld is named the recipient of the college's Silver Spur Community Service Award.

SUMMER 1998

The college introduces its state-of-the-art fitness center overlooking the basketball court.

SEPT. 11, 1998

The first women's soccer game is held, a result of the college's athletic expansion program.

College Celebrates 30th Year

This was the year that college enrollment surpassed 10,000 students, a noteworthy achievement considering the fact that the college was designed to accommodate no more than 5,000 students. College leaders addressed the overcrowding issue as best they could during the institution's 30th anniversary year. Fourteen much-needed new classrooms were being prepared, an exciting new program that would offer bachelor degree programs on campus was in the works, and plans were afoot to build a middle college on campus for high school students.



A view of the Media & Fine Arts Building (Mentry Hall).

Classroom Village Built

Fourteen new classrooms covering 10,000 square feet were unveiled as the Modular Classroom Village opened. The complex of modular buildings also housed bachelor degree programs offered in joint ventures with Cal State Bakersfield and University of La Verne – a precursor to the University Center.

Student Center Remodel

Expansion of the Student Center began. Plans for the building called for a larger dining area and an enclosed lounge in the former courtyard-like entrance.

Cougar Den Completed

The privately funded Cougar Den was completed adjacent to Cougar Stadium.

Middle College Consensus

The Hart High School District agreed to build a high school at the college. Academy of the Canyons would allow students to attend high school and college simultaneously.

PAC Plan Moves Forward

The long-awaited Performing Arts Center moved forward, with the state disbursing money to begin the planning process and the City of Santa Clarita committing \$2.4 million to expand its capacity.

MAY 22, 1999

Roberta Veloz, chairwoman of Aquafine Corp., receives the college's Silver Spur Award for community service.

SUMMER 1999

The summer program grows to some 6,000 students, the program's highest enrollment yet.

FALL 1999

Sharon Davis, wife of California Governor Gray Davis, visits and tours the campus.

Campus Grapples with Growth



The Student Center is expanded.

The college hit a milestone in 1999 that carried over into the new year, enrolling more than 10,000 students in the spring semester. The enrollment figure was especially noteworthy because the campus was designed for no more than half that number. By the fall, that figure approached 11,000. College leaders had been implementing a series of solutions to ease the overcrowding. One of those was the Modular Classroom Village, seven temporary instructional buildings that opened for classes in January. The year saw the completion of the remodeled Student Center, which received an expansive new entry, a larger dining room and more office space. And, classes began Aug. 24 for 138 students at Academy of the Canyons, a middle college formed as part of a partnership with the William S. Hart Union High School District.

Volleyball Champs

The women's volleyball team won the Western State Conference title, ending the season with a 17-5 record.

Golf Championship

The men's golf team won its second state championship in May. 11 Faculty Members Retire
The college bid farewell in May to 11 retiring faculty members – six of them part of the college's original faculty – during a celebration in the Cougar Den.

Nursing Leader Dies

Helen Lusk, longtime head of the college's nursing program, died June 6 at the age of 72. She had retired from the college in 1995.

A New Basketball Coach

Assistant Men's Basketball Coach Howard Fisher was named head coach, assuming the post of longtime coach Lee Smelser, who retired earlier in the year.

Robert Rockwell Passes Away

Dr. Robert C. Rockwell, the first superintendent-president, died Oct. 5 at 87.

APRIL 2000

The college presents its Silver Spur Award for community service to longtime college supporter Michael Berger.

MAY 26, 2000

The commencement ceremony sees 719 students graduate, a nearly 15 percent increase compared to 1999 figures.

OCT. 4-7, 2000

The Women's International Symposium, a revamped and expanded offshoot of the annual women's conference, is held.

Voters Support Expansion

Santa Clarita Valley voters approved Measure C by a 67.65 percent majority on Election Day on Nov. 6, paving the way for \$82.1 million in much-needed new facilities, improvements and renovations, and new educational and training programs. The overwhelming majority of voters agreed the college must be able to raise funds to offset erratic, unpredictable state construction funding. The campus as envisioned by the original master plan more than 30 years earlier was designed for a maximum of 5,000 students. The college surpassed that mark many years earlier and had an enrollment of nearly 13,000 in late 2001. Rita Garasi and John Hoskinson headed the Measure C Campaign Committee.



The ACCESS Center at the Canyon Country Library.

Campus Supports University Center
College personnel, as well as community leaders, came together to launch the capital fundraising campaign for the University Center on Aug. 24. Ninety-nine percent of the college community pledged financial support.

ACCESS for Canyon Country
The ACCESS learning center opened in August in the Canyon Country Library complex, providing needed classroom space in the eastern Santa Clarita Valley.

A Silent Vigil
Hundreds of students and college personnel gathered around a half-risen American flag on Sept. 14 to conduct a silent vigil to honor the victims of the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

Academy Graduates First Class
The very first class of 55 students graduated Academy of the Canyons on June 10.

Parking Woes Solved
Most of the new \$8 million South Parking Lot opened in time for the start of the fall semester, providing an additional 1,000 student parking spaces. Another 600 spaces opened later.

APRIL 28, 2001

The college presents its Silver Spur Award for community service to Lou Garasi, CEO of Gruber Systems.

MAY 15, 2001

The Helen C. Lusk Nursing/Allied Health Lab is dedicated in memory of one of the college's original pioneers.

DEC. 10, 2001

The official groundbreaking is held for the much-anticipated Performing Arts Center.

Performing Arts Center Construction



Construction of the Performing Arts Center begins.

Actual construction began in early 2002 on one of College of the Canyons' most ambitious structures, the long-awaited Performing Arts Center. The site of the project was a student parking lot, which was bulldozed and graded during the spring of 2002. Excavation was completed in May, and the very first concrete and steel appeared in June. By the end of the year, much of the building's steel frame was erected, including its signature curved front.

Interim University Center
The Interim University Center opened to meet strong community demand on Jan. 22, with seven educational institutions already signed up to provide advanced degrees.

Newsmaker of the Year
Superintendent-President Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook was named Newsmaker of the Year at The Signal's annual Newsmaker Awards Dinner on Feb. 1.

Grad Numbers Grow
The May 24 commencement saw 757 graduates.

Silver Spur Award
The college honored former Newhall Land CEO Tom Lee with its Silver Spur Award Community Service Award.

Vocational Expansion
The Vocational Technology Center added 3,500 square feet of space to accommodate new manufacturing technology classes and \$200,000 worth of new equipment.

911 Victims Remembered
The campus participated in a flag vigil to honor the victims of the 9/11 terrorist attacks one year earlier.

Nursing Education Center Opens
The ribbon was cut for the Clinical Education Center, a nurse-training facility at Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Hospital, on Sept. 19.

MAY 13, 2002

The men's golf team, headed by coach Gary Peterson, wins the California state championship.

OCTOBER 2002

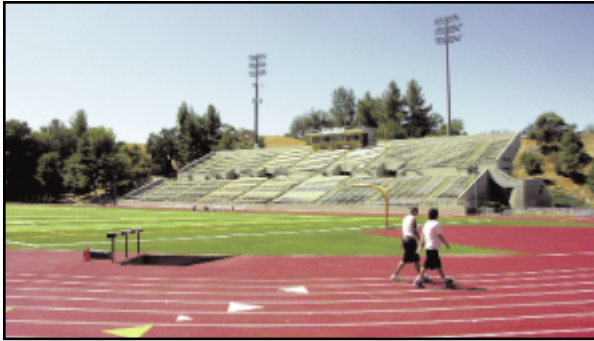
U.S. Rep. Howard P. "Buck" McKeon announces that the University Center has received an \$800,000 federal grant.

NOV. 5, 2002

Voters approve Proposition 47, which earmarks about \$22 million in construction funds to the college.

Stadium Undergoes Renovation

Measure C funds were utilized to help renovate Cougar Stadium, a college landmark along Valencia Boulevard and home to numerous athletic and community events. The improvements were unveiled during a ribbon-cutting ceremony held in conjunction with the Santa Clarita Valley Chamber of Commerce on June 12. The most noteworthy improvement was the installation of FieldTurf synthetic grass, featuring a virtually maintenance-free playing surface. Other improvements included a resurfaced running track and remodeled restrooms. The project cost approximately \$1 million.



Cougar Stadium is renovated.

Nurse Training Leadership

College of the Canyons took the lead in the new Associate Degree Nursing Regional Collaborative, a partnership among the region's hospitals and community colleges to help overcome a critical statewide nursing shortage.

University Center Progress

The University Center Capital Campaign reported commitments totaling \$4.1 million to build a permanent home for the center, putting it nearly halfway to its \$10 million goal. The University Center allows residents to earn advanced degrees from a collection of

public and private universities without having to commute to distant campuses outside the area.

Athletic Excellence

The women's softball team won the conference championship on April 22, and the men's basketball team won its first conference title in 10 years in December.

Athletic Expansion Continues

The college added men's soccer to its roster of inter-collegiate sports in August.

College Hosts Business Expo

The college played host to the SCV Chamber of Commerce Business Expo, which lost its previous location to a new retail center.

JANUARY 2003

The college is granted unconditional reaccreditation by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges for the maximum allowable six-year term.

APRIL 26, 2003

Longtime college supporters Jay and Joyce Rodgers are honored for their community service during the annual Silver Spur Awards Dinner.

DECEMBER 2003

The football team records its first perfect season (10-0) and its fourth consecutive victory in the Western State Conference Bowl.

Performing Arts Center Debuts



Opening night at the Performing Arts Center.

The crowning achievement for 2004 was completion of the Performing Arts Center, a spectacular two-venue complex that opened Oct. 15. Built in partnership with the City of Santa Clarita, the \$18.3 million center opened with a sold-out performance of "Big River," which combined the talents of the theatre, music and dance departments. Although visually one structure, the center was built as two separate buildings – one housing the 926-seat main performance hall, the other housing the 125-seat Black Box Theater. During its inaugural season the center hosted such acts as Paul Anka, Melissa Manchester, the Vienna Choir Boys, the Three Irish Tenors and Forbidden Hollywood, as well as a variety of both college and community-based theatre, music and dance performances.

University Center

Momentum continued toward construction of a permanent University Center. A luncheon was held at the Hyatt Valencia on Jan. 6 to announce a \$250,000 pledge from Lennar Corp. to the construction capital campaign. This and other donations brought the total pledged to more than \$7 million.

State Champions

The football team conquered top-rated City College of San Francisco to win the state championship, before being named national champs.

Emergency Command Center

L.A. County set up its Emergency Command Center at the college to battle fierce July wildfires, and the Red Cross utilized the campus as its evacuation center.

Music-Dance Building

The 20,000-square-foot Music-Dance Building, (Pico Canyon Hall) a Measure C-funded project, neared completion in December.

Expansion Approved

The state on Dec. 14 approved plans to build the Canyon Country campus to serve the eastern valley.

MARCH 13, 2004

Gary Cusumano, chief executive officer of The Newhall Land & Farming Co., receives the college's Silver Spur Community Service Award.

MARCH 26-28, 2004

The college's club hockey team wins the state title, beating teams from Fresno State, San Diego State, UC San Diego and UC Irvine along the way.

MAY 21, 2004

The college graduates 997 students, a 27 percent increase over 2003. The commencement ceremony is held in the central-campus Honor Grove.

Music & Dance Facility Opens

The much-anticipated Music-Dance Building, later renamed Pico Canyon Hall, opened next door to the Performing Arts Center in the fall of 2005. Accompanying the ribbon-cutting ceremony was an open house that demonstrated the \$8.5 million building's educational spaces with live music and dance performances.



The Music-Dance Building (Pico Canyon Hall) is completed.

Science Expansion Begins

A groundbreaking ceremony was held Oct. 20 for Aliso Hall and Aliso Labs, the \$18.7 million science expansion project that would create two new buildings providing 32,404 square feet of classrooms, labs and lecture halls. The project was partially funded by Measure C.

Coaching Legend Pays a Visit

Legendary UCLA basketball coach John Wooden was the keynote speaker during the college's Athletic Hall of Fame inaugural induction ceremony on Jan. 20.

University Center Validation

The University Center concept proved its viability when it was reported that 485 students had completed their degree or credential programs at the interim facility since it opened in 2002. Most students earned degrees or credentials at the graduate level.

Kleemans Honored for Service

Longtime supporters Frank and Charlotte Kleeman received the Silver Spur Community Service Award.

Retired Instructor, Executive V.P. Die

Lee Corbin, a longtime faculty member and athletic coach, died in January, just seven months after retiring. He was 62. And, Carter Doran, executive vice president and assistant superintendent from 1992 until his 1998 retirement, died on March 31.

Fire Truck Donated to College

The L.A. Fire Department donated a 1982 Van Pelt fire engine to the fire technology program May 6. Superintendent-President Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook was there to accept delivery of the fully operational vehicle, which would be used for training purposes.

MAY 5, 2005

A groundbreaking ceremony is held for the High-Technology Classroom Building, later renamed Hasley Hall.

MAY 20, 2005

The 2005 commencement is celebrated, with 1,153 students graduating, representing a 15.6 percent increase over 2004.

OCT. 20, 2005

A groundbreaking ceremony is held for two state-of-the-art science and math buildings: Aliso Hall and Aliso Labs.

Work Begins on Second Campus



MESA students volunteer at Measure M headquarters.

Although the official groundbreaking occurred in December 2005, work began in earnest – and at warp speed – on the new Canyon Country campus in 2006. Many tons of earth would have to be moved around before a college campus could be built on the rugged 70-acre property off Sierra Highway. Earthmovers quickly got down to business, neither removing nor adding any dirt to the site, to prepare it for modular buildings and infrastructure for approximately 24,000 square feet of instructional space.

Nursing Program Reaccredited

The nursing program earned reaccreditation from the California Board of Registered Nursing. The associate degree program in nursing was found to be in compliance with the rules and regulations set forth by the board, which accredits the program every eight years.

APRIL 22, 2006

Businessman Tom Veloz receives the college's Silver Spur Community Service Award.

JUNE 9, 2006

The 2006 commencement features 1,182 graduates, a 2.5 percent increase over the number of graduates in 2005.

AUG. 25, 2006

A groundbreaking ceremony is held for the 21,543-square-foot, \$6.4 million physical education expansion project.

New Face on Board

The Board of Trustees selected Scott Wilk, spokesman and district director for U.S. Rep. Howard P. "Buck" McKeon, to fill the seat vacated by Ron Gillis. Wilk was one of 20 candidates interviewed during open session on Aug. 23.

Hockey in the Nationals

For the second time in its brief history, the college's club hockey team demonstrated its uncanny ability

to defeat teams from large universities by earning an invitation to the national championships.

Student Journalists Awarded

Student journalists from the The Canyon Call won 22 awards at a conference Nov. 3 and 4.

Voters Approve Measure M

Five years after approving Measure C, local voters once again supported a bond measure for the college. Voters approved Measure M on Election Day, Nov. 7, earmarking \$160 million in bond proceeds to fund campus improvements.

Welding Earns Accreditation

The welding technology program earned accreditation from the American Welding Society.

Canyon Country Campus Opens

It was a huge year for facility expansion at College of the Canyons, as several major new buildings opened, construction began on the permanent University Center, and an entirely new campus in Canyon Country was created. Located on a 70-acre site along Sierra Highway, the Canyon Country campus opened for classes on Aug. 27. The campus opened with 23 classrooms and five labs covering 24,000 square feet. More than 3,000 students enrolled for classes during this first semester, surpassing projections significantly. A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held the following day, Aug. 28, and an opening celebration featuring tours, food, entertainment and activities followed on Oct. 6.



The Canyon Country campus opens.

Aliso Hall and Aliso Labs Open

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held July 11 for the 32,000-square-foot Aliso Hall and Aliso Labs. The \$18.7 million project, funded by the state and Measure C funds, created two new buildings to house the programs in the sciences.

High-Tech Hasley Hall Opens

A ribbon-cutting ceremony took place for Hasley Hall, the 34,000-square-foot high-technology classroom building, on Nov. 28.

University Center Renamed

The Board of Trustees, citing Chancellor Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook's "tireless commitment to enhancing access to education," voted to name the new building the Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook University Center.

University Center Construction

A groundbreaking ceremony was held March 16 for the permanent University Center, a 110,000-square-foot, \$36-million facility funded via a combination of private donors, state and federal resources, and local bond measures.

Former College President Dies

Dr. Leland B. Newcomer, superintendent-president from 1979 to 1982, died April 9, 2007 at 86.

APRIL 21, 2007

Longtime community volunteer Rita Garasi receives the college's Silver Spur Community Service Award.

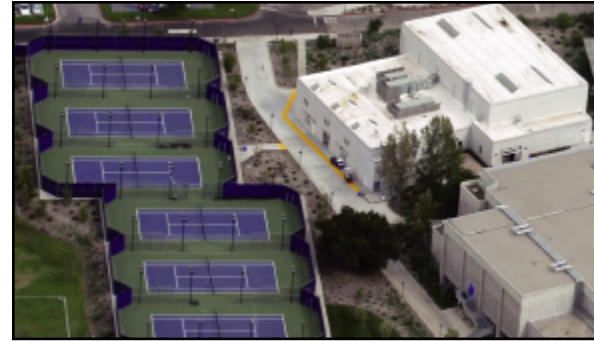
JUNE 1, 2007

The June 1 commencement ceremony sees 1,147 graduates earn their associate degrees.

NOV. 16, 2007

Based on the success of 2006's first drive-through flu-shot clinic, the college holds its second clinic in collaboration with local government agencies.

New PE Building and Tennis Courts



The East PE Building and tennis courts are completed.

More than 30 years after the college's original Physical Education Center was built as part of a campus designed for no more than 5,000 students, the college opened a new physical education building and six tennis courts. The college's 2009 enrollment was more than 22,000 students. A ribbon-cutting ceremony marking the opening of the new facilities was held Sept. 11. The new complex included badly needed offices for instructors, locker rooms and storage space. Most importantly, it created more instructional space in the form of sports courts to create opportunities for new curriculum and the potential for new intercollegiate sports such as tennis and men's volleyball.

Science Expansion Begins

Sandy Baruah, assistant secretary of commerce for

economic development, and U.S. Rep. Howard P. "Buck" McKeon presented a \$1.3 million check to the college on Jan. 4 to enable the college to develop an emerging technologies training program, the only such program in Southern California to train workers.

Chancellor Van Hook

Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook, superintendent-president of the college for 20 years, received a new title

May 27: Chancellor, Santa Clarita Community College District, and President, College of the Canyons.

College Given Captioning Duties

The college was awarded a five-year, \$3.9 million grant to serve as the statewide clearinghouse for the funding of captioning and transcription activities for all 110 California community colleges. Such services are typically used in distance education programs.

K-12 Arts Outreach Launched

The Performing Arts Center launched a new K-12 arts education outreach program to expose students to the visual and performing arts. The college partnered with the Saugus Union School District to host a special performance by the comedic acrobatic duo, The Tweaksters, for more than 600 students on Oct. 3.

MARCH 1, 2008

Businessman Wayne Crawford receives the college's Silver Spur Community Service Award.

MAY 30, 2008

The graduating class of 1,255 students is the largest in college history.

NOV. 7, 2008

For the third year in a row, the college hosts a multi-agency drive-through flu-shot clinic.

The University Center Arrives

The biggest development of the year was the opening of the highly anticipated Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook University Center, a permanent, expansive and state-of-the-art facility that replaced an interim facility open since 2002. College officials and employees, elected representatives, local dignitaries and community members converged on the 110,000-square-foot center for the official ribbon-cutting on Oct. 17. The center, housing a wide variety of bachelor's, master's, doctoral, credential and certificate programs from a collection of public and private universities, significantly enhances access to higher education. It also houses the Hart District's Academy of the Canyons, the City of Santa Clarita's WorkSource Center, the college's Economic Development Division, and COC Foundation and a number of college support departments.



The Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook University Center opens.

Teaching Strategies Recognized

The Hewlett Leaders in Student Success program recognized the college as one of three California community colleges using innovative and proven teaching strategies in foundational math and English.

Early Childhood Education Expands

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held Sept. 17 for the 2,150-square-foot Center for Early Childhood Education at the Canyon Country campus.

Drive-Through Flu Shots Offered

For the fourth consecutive year, a drive-through flu shot clinic was set up at the college. The Oct. 30 event allowed residents to receive free flu vaccinations from the comfort of their vehicles.

MARCH 6, 2009

Philanthropists Harold and Jacquelyn Petersen receive the college's Silver Spur Community Service Award.

JUNE 5, 2009

The 2009 commencement is held, with another huge class of students – 1,096 in all – graduating.

SEPT. 19, 2009

The Betty Ferguson Foundation honors Chancellor Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook with its Woman of Honor recognition.

Media Arts Building Expanded



The expanded Mentry Hall officially opens.

A 32,040-square-foot expansion to Mentry Hall was officially opened Sept. 8 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony that showcased the new facilities, including two computer labs, a large lecture room, 11 classrooms, a 2-D drawing class room, life/drawing classroom, two conference rooms and 12 offices.

Major Science Grant

The National Science Foundation awarded the college \$3 million to establish the California Regional Consortium for Engineering Advances in Technical Education (CREATE) Renewable Energy Regional Center and create and expand courses and workforce training programs to help address the high demand for renewable energy technicians throughout the state.

JAN. 30, 2010

The University Center is a model of higher education access, says Department of Education Under Secretary Dr. Martha Kanter.

MARCH 6, 2010

Gary and Myrna Condie receive the Silver Spur Community Service Award.

NOV. 16, 2010

A groundbreaking ceremony is held for the 51,000-square-foot, \$16 million College of the Canyons library expansion.

MLT Program Debuts

The Medical Lab Technician training program debuted, with the first classes offered in the fall semester.

Fast-Track Institute

The Fast Track Institute launched in the fall, offering fast-paced, intensive job preparation courses that allow participants to quickly begin working in local businesses and industries where applicants with up-to-date training are in high demand.

Culinary on the Move

The college's Institute for Culinary Education moved from its temporary Valencia Town Center Drive location to a 3,850-square-foot former restaurant in Castaic, underscoring the need for a permanent location on campus.

Basketball Honors

In a first for COC, women's basketball player Ashley Wakefield was named California Community College Women's Basketball Coaches Association (CCCWBCA) Co-Player of the Year.

Permanent Building at New Campus

The Applied Technology Education Center (ATEC) opened at Canyon Country Campus (August 25), featuring 15,600 square feet of classrooms and labs for instruction in automotive technology, plumbing, water systems technology, and solar technology and renewable energy.



The Canyon Country campus gets its first permanent building.

Composer Catan Dies

Internationally renowned composer, librettist and esteemed music faculty member Daniel Catán, who produced four operas in the United States including 2010's highly acclaimed "Il Postino" starring Plácido Domingo, died suddenly in Austin, Texas on April 9. He was 62. At the time of his death, Catán was an artist-in-residence at the Butler School of Music at the University of Texas at Austin, in addition to his teaching responsibilities at College of the Canyons. The university had commissioned him to write a new opera based on Frank Capra's film "Meet John Doe," scheduled to premiere in 2012.

Hockey National Championship

The college's ice hockey team – a club sport since hockey is not an intercollegiate sport in California community colleges – won the American Collegiate Hockey Association (ACHA) Men's Division III National

Championship, coming from behind to beat Hope College, 5-3 on March 12.

Kenny Loggins Opens PAC Season

Grammy Award-winning singer-songwriter Kenny Loggins performed at the Santa Clarita Performing Arts Center at College of the Canyons to kick off the 2011-12 season. The season also features performances by Dionne Warwick, Martin Short and Anthony Bourdain.

Major League Baseball Drafts

Three baseball players were drafted by Major League Baseball. The Cincinnati Reds drafted shortstop Juan Perez. The Los Angeles Angels drafted second baseman Brian Hernandez. And, the Houston Astros drafted pitcher David Haerle.

MARCH 11, 2011

Diana Cusumano is presented with the Foundation's Silver Spur Award for Community Service.

JULY 26, 2011

The Skills for Healthy Aging Resources and Programs (SHARP) certificate program is established to train students in careers that serve older adults.

NOV. 10, 2011

A permanent Veterans Garden is dedicated at the Canyon Country campus to recognize students who served in the Armed Forces.

Expanded Library, TLC Open



The TLC grew dramatically during the expansion.

A ribbon cutting ceremony was held Oct. 24 to celebrate the opening of the expanded Library and The Learning Center (TLC), which together brought more than 52,000 square feet of additional classrooms, study spaces, and tutoring facilities to students.

Early Childhood Education Turns 30

The Center for Early Childhood Education (ECE) celebrated its 30th anniversary, having served nearly 4,000 children since opening in 1982.

Mass Drum Circle

The Performing Arts Center's K-12 Education Outreach Program culminates its yearlong hybrid music education program, "Rock the Rhythm, Beat the Odds," with a historic drum circle at Cougar Stadium on May 18. Nearly 12,000 people participate, including some

7,600 sixth- and seventh-graders from all five local school districts. Also participating are drummers Mickey Hart (Grateful Dead), John Densmore (The Doors), Rikki Rocket (Poison), Poncho Sanchez, Gordon Campbell (Jessica Simpson), Eric "E-Panda" Hernandez (Bruno Mars), and Mike Philips (Janelle Monae). The event received significant support from Remo Belli, owner of drumhead manufacturer REMO Inc.

Fifth Anniversary

The Canyon Country Campus marked its fifth anniversary by hosting a community Open House on Sept. 8.

Upward Bound Launched

The Upward Bound project targeting first-generation college students is launched at Golden Valley High School with funding from a \$1.25 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

Academic Honors

Student Maral Sakayan was one of just 20 community college students from across the nation honored as one of USA Today's 2012 All-USA Community College Academic Team.

MARCH 3, 2012

Richard and Marian Sandnes receive the Foundation's Silver Spur Award for Community Service.

JUNE 1, 2012

The graduating class of 1,198 students represents a 6 percent increase over the previous year.

DEC. 26, 2012

Demolition of the A Building begins, making way for an expanded Student Services & Administration facility.

Two Big Projects Break Ground

Two significant groundbreaking ceremonies were held this year. The first, in March, officially launched construction of the new Student Services & Administration Building, which would later be renamed Canyons Hall. The second, on Aug. 19, signaled the start of construction on the much-anticipated permanent home for the culinary arts program.



The college breaks ground on Canyons Hall.

TEDx Conference

The college hosted its first-ever TEDx Conference on April 18. The independently organized event was affiliated with the popular TED (Technology, Entertainment, Design) series that brings together thought-leaders from business, government, and science.

Chancellor Honored

The California State University Long Beach Alumni Association selected Chancellor Van Hook as its 2013 Distinguished Alumna for the College of Liberal Arts, in honor of her dedication to the field of education. She was honored on May 9.

Athletic Accomplishment

College of the Canyons freshman track and field ath-

lete Tim White finished his amazing season by winning the national championship in triple jump with a school record leap of 53 feet, 1 inch at the U.S. Junior Outdoor Track and Field Championship on June 18.

Stadium Renovation

Cougar Stadium underwent a comprehensive renovation, with new synthetic turf installed and the track resurfaced.

Student Achievement

The college's Future Business Leaders of America chapter won first place at the California State Fall Business Leadership Conference on Nov. 10, beating teams from big universities such as the University of California Berkeley and USC.

MARCH 2, 2013

Barry and Pati Gump are honored with the Foundation's Silver Spur Award Community Service Award.

MAY 31, 2013

The Class of 2013 sees 1,317 graduates, a 9.1 percent increase over the previous year.

JULY 1, 2013

College of the Canyons Chancellor Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook celebrates 25 years of service to the college.

Simi Dabah Sculptures Installed



One of the first sculptures installed at College Circle.

The Board of Trustees and Chancellor Van Hook hosted a special dedication ceremony at the Valencia campus to unveil the Simi Dabah Sculpture Collection, the largest public collection of Dabah sculptures. Dabah, who donated the works, attended the Nov. 6 event.

Athletic Supremacy Achieved

The Athletics Department won its first-ever Western State Conference Supremacy Award for the collective performance of its 16 intercollegiate athletic teams.

Cross Country Champions

The Men's Cross Country team won its first state championship since 1975, and Coach Lindie Kane became the first female coach to lead a men's team to the state title.

MARCH 1, 2014

Remo and Ami Belli are honored with the Foundation's Silver Spur Award Community Service Award.

JUNE 6, 2014

The 45th annual commencement ceremony is the largest ever with 1,343 students.

DEC. 12, 2014

Women's Basketball Coach Greg Herrick wins his 500th career game.

Fast-Growing College

Community College Week ranked College of the Canyons the second fastest-growing community college of its size in the nation.

Diverse College

With Hispanic students comprising 43 percent of the student body, the college was named a Hispanic-serving institution by the federal government and awarded a \$2.6 million Title V grant to serve its

increasingly diverse student population.

First Battle of the Bands

The Canyon Country campus hosted its first "Battle of the Bands," a soon-to-be annual event in which bands compete for cash and prizes.

Vineyard Planted

Using grapes donated by Remo Belli Vineyards, the college planted its first vineyard on campus, later adding vines from Agua Dulce's Reyes Winery.

Willie Visits the PAC

Country-western superstar Willie Nelson played to a packed Performing Arts Center as part of the venue's 10th anniversary season.

45 YEARS OF LEADERSHIP



**DR. ROBERT C.
ROCKWELL**

First
Superintendent-
President
1968-1978



**MR. GARY
MOUCK**

Interim
Superintendent-
President
1978-1979
1982-1983



**DR. LELAND B.
NEWCOMER**

Superintendent-
President
1979-1982



**DR. RAMON F.
LAGRANDEUR**

Superintendent-
President
1983-1988



**DR. DIANNE G.
VAN HOOK**

Superintendent-
President
1988-2008

Chancellor-President
2008-Present

Intentionally Blank

This publication was produced by the College of the Canyons Public Information Office.

Written, edited and designed by

JOHN GREEN

Managing Director, District Communications

This publication owes much to some helpful and resourceful people who provided valuable assistance, resources and, in some cases, indelible and detailed memories of years past. They include Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook, chancellor of College of the Canyons; Eric Hamish, vice president of public information, advocacy and external relations; Bruce Fortine, Board of Trustees member; Sue Bozman, retired vice president of district communications, marketing and external relations; John McElwain, retired vice president of communications; Leslie Bretall, librarian; Gary Mouck, retired assistant superintendent; Al Adelini, retired dean of student activities; and Winston Wutkee, retired professor of geology and geography. And, many thanks to the College of the Canyons Reprographic Department, especially Roy Kramer and Jeff Coart, for their superb skills and above-and-beyond efforts to produce publications like this at blazing speed!

© 2015 by College of the Canyons



SANTA CLARITA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
Michael D. Berger • Bruce D. Fortine • Michele R. Jenkins • Joan W. MacGregor • Steven D. Zimmer