

## **Enter HIS Courts with Praise**

On Saturday February 12, more than 100 people, including Biola University faculty, staff and students along with many community members, gathered at the new tennis courts for opening day and dedication. During the ceremony Head Coach Dee Henry, who is now serving Biola for her 34th season, acknowledged the previous intercollegiate athletes who never had the opportunity to compete on campus.

Special Olympics Global Ambassador Lizzy Lejsek, paid tribute to varsity tennis players who have graciously assisted in our community outreach programs. Every one of the Community outreach programs was a direct out growth of one of a collegiate player's class assignment. The intercollegiate alumni tennis players who attended had ALL participated in at least of the one of the community outreach programs.

The new courts now bring the total number of tennis courts on campus to six. Coach acknowledged, "I'm very grateful to the special friends of Biola Tennis who funded these courts. March 1, the Tennis Task Force returns to the fundraising trail to complete the state of the art eight-court complex, which includes a sunken stadium court and clubhouse.

Having six courts allows Biola to hold intercollegiate matches on campus and will allow students to experience singles points during their tennis activities classes. Coach Henry also stated "I'd love to see men's tennis reinstated as an intercollegiate team". When the additional courts are added, Biola will be able to host, regional championships as well as national collegiate wheelchair championship, Special Olympics events and other possibilities.

After the celebration, the Biola University women's tennis team held their first match on the new courts defeating The Master's College 9-0. The clean-sweep was a wonderful opening for Biola's newly constructed tennis courts. "Overall, I think the team morale was really pumped up because of all the excitement and fans," junior Rebecca Nations told The Chimes. "It was nice to have a clean-sweep victory."