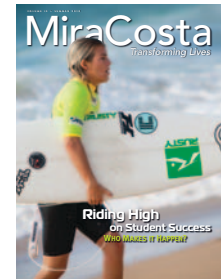


MiraCosta

Transforming Lives



Riding High
on Student Success
WHO MAKES IT HAPPEN?



Surfing for MiraCosta, Chloe Buckley was the women's division champion in the 2010 NSSA collegiate state finals.
Photo by PJ Rosenberger III

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EDITORIAL DIRECTOR
Linda Fogerson

MAGAZINE EDITOR
Betsy Leija

GRAPHIC DESIGN
Gabe Waite

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Cheryl Broom
Doug Green
Scott Herrin
Christian Lopez
Lorie Nolte

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS
Doug Green
Nick Morris
Rose Nunes
PJ Rosenberger III
Bill Wechter

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760-795-6777

DEAR FRIEND OF MIRACOSTA COLLEGE

IN THIS ISSUE of *MiraCosta, Transforming Lives*, I connect you to the most important outcome of your community college—student success. On these pages we illustrate how MiraCosta's unique strengths translate into a broad and impressive array of accomplishments and achievements—academic, professional and athletic—for our alumni and our students.

Our students achieve success through their persistence and in aiming high to reach their goals. Our college faculty and staff focus their collective efforts around student needs, and have implemented innovative and effective student retention programs. You will learn about one of these programs, the Tutoring and Academic Support Center, in this issue.



Francisco C. Rodriguez, Ph.D.
Superintendent/President
MiraCosta College

You'll also find a story about one of the most effective and immediate retention tools—student scholarships. Mort and Agatha Winski created their legacy when they set up a scholarship program in 1995 that has since benefitted more than 70 students. We call them Winski Scholars, and they are each a testament to the positive impact made by scholarship donors.

The Bernard Osher Foundation has pledged the largest-ever gift to a community college system—\$50 million to the California Community Colleges—and we now have a historic opportunity to build endowed scholarships. Half of this gift is already supporting about 1,250 student scholarships at community colleges across the state including MiraCosta. Another \$25 million will be given to the colleges on a two-to-one basis: for every \$2 a college raises for scholarships, the Osher Foundation will donate \$1.

When this initiative was launched, the amount of matching dollars available to each college was capped by their enrollments. For MiraCosta, that meant that the Osher Foundation would match up to \$365,000, and we

have since raised 80% of that goal. The cap has now been lifted! Until the matching funds are exhausted, or before June 2011, whichever comes first, the Osher Foundation will match any amount MiraCosta College raises for endowed scholarships that conform to the Osher criteria. More than \$18 million is available in matching funds.

This historic window opens up a wonderful opportunity to increase the impact of our donors' gifts by 50% and significantly expand the number of scholarships available to MiraCosta students. I invite you to join us in transforming lives through education.

Sincerely,

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Edwina Williams dropped out of high school when she became pregnant. When her son, Makhi, began school, Edwina realized that if she was to continue helping him with homework she would need to go back to school. Edwina completed her high school course work at MiraCosta's Community Learning Center, progressed to college courses, and recently graduated with an associate's degree. Now on her way to Cal State San Marcos, Edwina is proud of the example she is setting for her son. The support of scholarships enabled and encouraged Edwina to pursue a college education, for which she is very grateful.



"Without scholarship donors, many students would be unable to reach their educational goals. Thank you sincerely from the bottom of my heart."

You can be a part of a historic opportunity to build permanent scholarship support for MiraCosta Students! For every \$2 donated, the Osher Foundation will match your gift with \$1. Use the enclosed reply envelope to make your gift today!

For more information about setting up an endowment, indicate your interest in the reply envelope or call Linda Fogerson at 760-795-6775.



Playing His Way to Business Success

Oceanside resident and musician Chris Swann has toured the world as a bass player for champion surfer-turned rock musician Tom Curren and composed music that has been featured on Planet X and MTV.

In short, Chris has more than proven himself a success in the highly competitive music industry. But when he wanted to know more about the production end of the recording industry, he turned to MiraCosta's Music Technology Program.

That decision changed the course of Chris' career in music. Since enrolling, Chris opened his own company, Swann Concepts, an Oceanside-based business serving the entertainment industry. A prolific composer, Chris scores music for specific projects such as surf movies and television news programs and has also produced a library of original music from which clients can license use. Through Swann Concepts Publishing, he helps musicians copyright their music.

"My instructor, Christy Coobatis, showed me the fundamentals of the industry. He encouraged everyone to get into the studio; it was a great experience that opened a lot of doors for me," says Chris.

"Through MiraCosta's program, students learn how the business of making music works, and how

it's not just the music that matters, it's also knowledge of the recording technology, equipment application, and sound system skills that make the music perfect," says Professor Coobatis.

The college's music instruction facilities include two recording studios, utilizing top-of-the-line equipment. Through practical, hands-on experience Chris gained the tools he needed to start his own business.

MiraCosta's Music Program provides instruction to more than 1,900 students each year helping them either land their first job in the music industry, or transfer to a university. The program boasts

For Chris Swann, it was a chance encounter in an East Coast bar that derailed him from a career as an electrical engineer and led him to solid success as a music industry professional. Fifteen years ago, newly degreed and employed in his chosen field, Chris was out listening to music as a distraction from job stress. "That day I had tried to talk to my boss about a raise, but it didn't work out. My friends were trying to cheer me up and kept telling me to get up on stage and play with the band. Finally I did; the bass player took a break, handed me his guitar, and I tore it up. After the show I was asked to join the band, 'The Noahs,' for the rest of the East Coast tour." Chris says he has no regrets about making the split-second decision to quit his job and leave with the band.

"MiraCosta College really helped with my business today. I still have notes from one of the classes and I use them regularly in my day-to-day business."—former student and professional musician Chris Swann

nine separate certificate programs—everything from songwriting to the business of music; associates degrees in digital audio production and recording arts/record production; as well as courses in traditional and commercial music for students who plan on transferring as music majors to four-year institutions. ■

WISDOM OF THE WINSKIS

Looking for an investment with the greatest return, Agatha and Mort Winski chose to help students who had the odds stacked against them.



Mort and Agatha met in Florida in 1941, while she was on vacation from her job in Chicago, and married seven weeks later. They made their home in Michigan City, Indiana, where they raised four children: Susan, Debbie, Mark and Randy, and where Mort, with his brothers, built a prosperous business, Northern Indiana Steel Supply. Although professionally successful, Mort regretted that a college degree was not among his achievements. As a young man, he attended Purdue University and the University of Illinois, but each attempt to earn a degree was eclipsed by the need to earn money—a decision he wanted to prevent MiraCosta students from facing.

The Winskis' relationship with MiraCosta College began in 1994 when Agatha and Mort first explored the campus and inquired about the scholarship office. They wanted to make a lasting contribution to benefit the community at large and had decided to back their faith in education's importance by funding scholarships for college students. Having retired to Encinitas from the Midwest, they were unfamiliar with the California Community College system and assumed MiraCosta was a four-year university.

"Their intention was to establish scholarships for 'university students,'" recalls Dick Robertson, vice president of student affairs. "Once I explained to them the community college role of serving students from all backgrounds, ethnicities and ages—many of whom are first-generation college students—they were intrigued with the opportunity to support those who need it the most."

"My parents had a passion for helping others—especially students who were academically diligent but economically disadvantaged," says son Randy Winski. The Winskis started by writing a check for \$1,500 and, over the course of the next nine years, their annual contributions to fund \$500 scholarships for MiraCosta students totaled \$65,000.

"They made such an impact on so many lives," says Kathy Perkins, scholarship coordinator at the time. "Their concern was genuine. Mort told us to be on the lookout for students who didn't know about scholarships or see themselves as high achievers, so we could encourage them to apply."

"And the Winskis didn't just mail checks; they wanted to meet the students chosen and enjoyed following their progress.

"After the memorial for Mort, his son Mark brought out a box to show us. It was full of letters saved by the Winskis from their scholarship students."

Kathy Perkins



Today, Willie Cruz is the cultural programs administrator for Housing and Food Services at Purdue University, where he provides diversity training to more than 850 employees.

WINSKI SCHOLAR WILLIE CRUZ

The son of a field worker, Willie Cruz struggled with English in high school, and didn't think a university education was in his future. His family didn't have the money to send him to college, and he didn't know about scholarships or financial aid. So when he graduated from El Camino High School in 1994, he drifted off into summer vacation, feeling lost and left out.

Willie's outlook changed when a letter arrived from MiraCosta College inviting him to come to campus—just the positive sign he was looking for. After meeting with a counselor and learning about financial aid, he enrolled and began taking the course work required to transfer to a university. His diligence as a student was recognized and rewarded with a Winski Scholarship, which further broadened Willie's horizons.

"That scholarship was instrumental for me," explains Willie. "Not only was the scholarship itself important because it helped me pay for college, but the fact that people believed in me gave me the confidence to continue with my studies."

After graduating from MiraCosta, Willie earned a bachelor's degree from UC Santa Cruz and a master's degree in higher education from University of Vermont, Burlington. "My experience at MiraCosta played a

The success of Willie Cruz and hundreds of other MiraCosta students is made possible by donors who set up scholarships.

critical role in where I am now. Had it not been for the encouragement and support, I probably wouldn't have continued with college. That helped me believe in myself and find my own passion, and this played a huge role in leading me to what I wanted to do with my life."

Students who kept up their grades and studies received the scholarship for four successive semesters."

Agatha and Mort's generous legacy lives on at MiraCosta College in the successes of all 72 Winski scholars, who to date have earned or are progressing toward college degrees.

"We are incredibly proud of the legacy they have created," says Randy who, upon his parents' passing, facilitated the creation of the endowed Mort and Agatha Winski Scholarship Fund, one of MiraCosta's largest scholarship endowments. "We receive letters from the scholarship recipients every year, and they are indeed appreciative of their education and motivated to work hard for their grades. We know that the money is being used for a very worthwhile purpose and is having a big payoff now and in the future for many people." ■



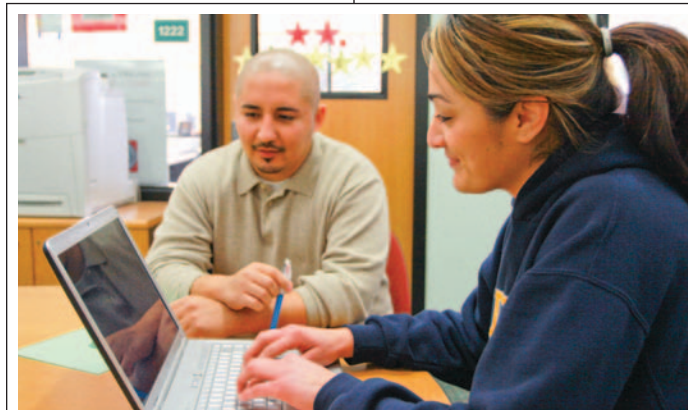
Winski scholars of the past several years include (from left) Ashley Luke, Anayeli Soto, Scott Castillo, Diana Dabbous, Sierra Cook Lovelace, Hannah Hinton and Rita Naranjo.

From STRUGGLING. to Achieving: TUTORING BRIDGES THE GAP

“I struggled through my classes the first couple of semesters at MiraCosta. I didn’t have any confidence and I really considered giving up,” says Flora Seawood, reflecting on the challenges shared by many college freshmen. “I went to the tutoring center for help. Now I have a 3.76 GPA, and plan on earning a graduate degree.”

Each semester, nearly one quarter of MiraCosta’s student body, roughly 4,000 students, makes use of the college’s Tutoring and Academic Support Center services. Collectively, these students make more than 12,400 tutoring appointments. More than 1,000 students join one of approximately 60 learning communities, where they study with students who have the same class or major.

“These academic support services are making a difference,” explains Edward Pohlert, faculty director of the center. “Learning from peers in a positive environment enhances students’ academic identity and reaffirms their decision to be here.” According to Edward, 74% of the students who take advantage of these services persist in their studies. For students who forego the center’s services, only 66% persist.



Irma Arizmendi receives help from Jonathan Perez in the tutoring center.

Like Flora, many new college students often find themselves overwhelmed by the demands of college. Some come to MiraCosta under-prepared from high school, struggle with a learning disability, or have job and family responsibilities. The Tutoring and Academic Support Center helps with all these issues.

Jonathan Perez feared he would fall behind if he didn’t get help with his math class. Tutoring is what got him through his tougher assignments. He credits the interactive learning with making him a stronger student. “Tutoring showed me that there are different approaches to solving a problem, and helped reassure me that I was on the right track.”

Both Flora and Jonathan now work for the tutoring program, finding it gratifying to contribute where they benefited so greatly.

“No matter where you’re from or what your skill level,” says Jonathan, “MiraCosta provides the environment in which you can succeed.” ■

Thank you Textbook Endowment Donors

This year the Associated Student Government and the MiraCosta College Foundation took on the bold challenge of building a **\$250,000 textbook assistance endowment** to benefit students. The endowment will provide a predictable and steady stream of income, about **\$15,000 per year** in perpetuity, to the college’s Textbook Assistance Program.

During the past school year, the program assisted more than 275 students defray the cost of textbooks.

With your support, we have reached our initial goal and will continue to raise money for this important endeavor.

We would like to thank everyone who responded to the challenge and recognize our major contributors.

Individuals

- Jonathan Cole
- Gigi Gleason
- Cathie & Larry Hatter
- Mildred Hill
- Janet Kellogg
- Betty Kitchin
- Karen Kohl & Steve Ott
- Gail Prentiss
- Melinda Riccitelli
- Joyce & Fred Snedeker

Organizations

- Alliance Engineering of California, Inc.
- Carlsbad Hi-Noon Rotary Club
- Douglas E. Barnhart, Inc.
- Follett Higher Education Group
- Genentech
- Leichtag Family Foundation
- MiraCosta Academic Associate Faculty
- MiraCosta Associated Student Government
- Mission Federal Credit Union
- North County Times
- Oceanside College of Beauty
- Rotary Club of San Luis Rey

Laid-Back Coach Inspires a Winning Record

By all accounts MiraCosta's surf coach Rich Langen has done an exceptional job of honing his athletes' competitive skills, but just try getting him to describe his coaching style. Instead, he'll talk about his students' talents and accomplishments.

Just maybe we have uncovered his style—he believes in his students and trusts that they will succeed. And they have. During Rich's 11 years as coach, MiraCosta surf teams have dominated the National Scholastic Surfing Association awards stands, placing below third in the state's intercollegiate finals just once.

A local teaching and surfing celebrity, Rich is beyond modest about his effect on the team, saying he just shows up and gets his surfers in the right colored jerseys for their heats.

"I encourage them to talk among themselves...the next guy can tell the kids how to do it just as well," he says. His approach to coaching is seemingly laid back, but his steadfast focus on being his students' biggest fan effectively builds their confidence and competence.

"He's awesome," says team member Christiane Gozashti. "Coach Langen has perfected the best-friends technique of coaching."

MiraCosta surfers benefit from Rich's winning manner as well as his solid knowledge of competitive surfing. During a contest, judges reward surfers for the most controlled maneuvers completed with speed

in the most powerful part of the wave. According to student Dan House, Coach Langen can place his surfers to get the best waves at any break. "He can tell you where the waves are, and that's not as easy as it sounds."

An abundance of local talent feeds MiraCosta's team, and Rich notes that surf students embrace the program quickly and with enthusiasm. During the year, they gain from competing, cooperative learning, and achieving under pressure. "There's a big maturity factor from the beginning of the season to the end of the season," he says. "They take pride in being on a team, which helps later in life in getting along and working with others."

And of their successes, "later in life," Rich is often a first-hand witness. Because community and four-year colleges compete in the same division, he has the pleasure of keeping tabs on former students' progress after they've transferred to the universities that are MiraCosta's major competitors. The contest results, for Rich, can be mixed emotions. "It's great to see my former surfers do well, but not great when they beat us."

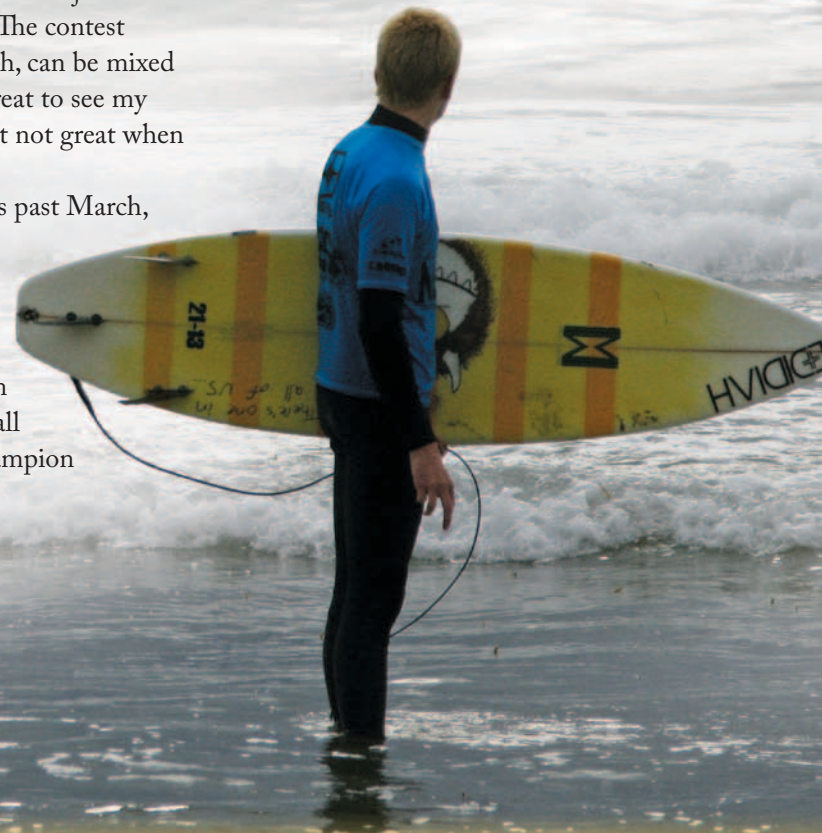
At the state finals this past March, Rich watched former student and San Diego State team captain Tyler Smith lead the effort to put MiraCosta in fifth place. It was an overall outcome alleviated by champion



Rich Langen coaches students Dan House and Nick Suhadolnick at a Black's Beach contest.

representation in the women's finals as MiraCosta took the top two spots; Chloe Buckley placed first and Heather Jordan, second. "They did fantastic; they're both excellent surfers," says Rich. "I'm looking forward to nationals."

Rich's career at MiraCosta began when his daughter Kyla enrolled at the college. At the time there was no surf team, so Rich approached the administration about forming a team that would compete in the college division of the National Scholastic Surfing Association. Kyla is now 28 years old and a top surfer in World Qualifying Series events. ■





1 Barnard Drive
Oceanside, CA 92056

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Photo and inset by Bill Wechter, courtesy North County Times

Voices, Melodies & Aspirations Rise with New Concert Hall

With the completion of MiraCosta's new Concert Hall this past spring, there is now a local venue worthy of our musically talented students, faculty and community members. Designed for traditional and classical orchestral and choral performances, every aspect of the building is acoustically engineered to enhance the sound for performers and the audience.

"We love working in the space," enthuses choral and vocal instructor Arlie Langager. "The Concert Hall isn't reserved just for performances; the students rehearse and learn in it, and they've improved dramatically already. They are singing at a higher level because of the quality of the space. This is a sensitive, resonant environment that complements a specific art form."

Since the hall's opening, attendance at all of the college's music concerts has increased notably. Arlie and the rest of the music faculty are planning next year's schedule of events, which, based on input from San Diego area music conductors and directors, will include collaborative and guest performances.

"There's been tremendous interest in the Concert Hall from outside groups," says Arlie. "It's going to be a major part of music making in the region."

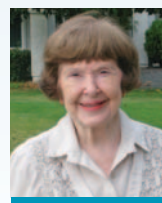
As regional creative arts hub, MiraCosta is receiving favorable fan feedback on the hall's modern expanse and pristine sound. Chamber choir members Kendra Bailey, Emily Bullard, Devin Welsh and Matthias Villwock wait for their turn on stage.



A Gift that Brings a Lifetime of Benefits

A Gift Annuity is a gift you make to MiraCosta College and in return receive fixed income for life. The effective rate (total benefit) of your payout is actually higher than most other types of payouts. Best of all, you receive additional benefits for making a gift to charity.

To learn how you can increase your income and secure your future, visit our Web site www.miracostalegacy.org or call 760-795-6775 to speak with Linda Fogerson, Foundation Executive Director and Certified Specialist in Planned Giving.



The first Charitable Gift Annuity worked so well for Maria Grant of Oceanside that she decided to set up another one. She is receiving an effective payout of 8.3% from her gift over her lifetime.