Accreditation Scare

MiraCosta College

MCC Military Friendly
Mackenzie Chernow
Online Editor

MiraCosta College was recognized by "G.I. Jobs" magazine as one of the top military-friendly schools in the country. "G.I. Jobs" magazine compiles extensive research and then determines final scores by particular weighted categories: Effort 1, Effort 2, Recruitment and Accreditations. This is the second consecutive year the campus has been recognized for its accommodations for service men and women.

Effort 1 makes up 45 percent of a school's ranking by looking at "non-financial efforts to recruit and retain military and veteran students," in addition to programs, policies and certifications. Effort 2 makes up 35 percent of a schools ranking by measuring financial commitment including tuition benefits, Yellow Ribbon programs and the budget proportion for recruiting military students. Successful military and veteran student recruitment makes up for 15 percent of the total score. The last five percent covers that particular school's academic accreditation.

The veteran population on campus has grown more than 40 percent since 2008 and there are over 600 veteran-dependent students enrolled. To accommodate this growing population, scholarships, intern experiences, and a Veteran’s Information Center have been made available to those in active duty as well as veterans.

Dr. Rodriguez, Superintendent and President of MiraCosta College, says that "at this time of worldwide unrest, our military personnel unsoldly place their lives on the line, and it is our college’s honor and privilege to serve them. We are now here to serve them as they adjust to the way of life they fought so bravely to preserve."

Dr. Rodriguez continued, "with a large number of military and veterans in North San Diego County, MiraCosta College is well-positioned to assist these men and women as they make the transition to life and work."

MCC offers multiple benefits for active duty and veterans, including: Montgomery GI Bill - Active Duty, Post 9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance, Montgomery GI Bill - Selected Reserve, Veterans Educational Assistance Program and Survivors’ and Dependents’ Educational Assistance Program.

The office for Veterans Services is located in building 3300 on the Oceanside campus and at 760-757-2121 x6285. Office hours are Monday through Thursday 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

MiraCosta College Educational Plan, Chapter Four: A Declaration of Institutional Excellence:

Institutional Goal I. MiraCosta Community College District will become a vanguard educational institution.

Institutional Goal II. MiraCosta Community College District will become the college where students have the highest likelihood of success.

Institutional Goal III. MiraCosta Community College District will institutionalize effective planning processes through the systematic use of data to make decisions.

Institutional Goal IV. MiraCosta Community College District will demonstrate high standards of stewardship and fiscal prudence.

Institutional Goal V. MiraCosta Community College District will be a conscientious community partner.

Following a peer evaluation assessed in July, MiraCosta College’s accreditation has been placed on probation for not meeting the standards of a June 2010 reaffirmation recommendation. The response to the recommendation, a comprehensive Master Plan expected to assess local demands and set institution-wide goals for addressing these demands, was deemed insufficient for meeting the standards set forth by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges Western Association of Schools and Colleges (ACCJC’s). Upon MiraCosta College’s presentation of a self-evaluation, the ACCJC’s follow-up address claimed that MiraCosta “did not provide sufficient evidence that the college has resolved the deficiencies noted in Recommendation One.”

Dr. Francisco C. Rodriguez, Superintendent and President of MiraCosta College, assures us that MCC will “still remain fully accredited during this period,” and that achieving the standards set forth by the accrediting commission is the top priority of the administration. In addition, Dr. Rodriguez emphasized that the student experience at the college will remain uninterrupted, and that the stress is on the administration, not the staff or students.

Dr. Rodriguez goes on to express that he strongly believes in peer regulation and self evaluation. In his Official Comments, Dr. Rodriguez states, with a high degree of confidence, that the actions by the ACCJC’s will ultimately allow MiraCosta College the opportunity to “refine institutional processes and educational outcomes of students.”

Dr. Rodriguez states that “we want to provide educational programs and facilities that offer students the best educational opportunity and improve their success.”

While the commissions decision gives the administration a sense of urgency, the situation is manageable and significant progress has been made. With nearly a 1,000 person faculty dedicated to completing the plan, Dr. Rodriguez is feeling positive about the status of the project and claims that it is a “priority to ensure the institution grows” during this time.

MiraCosta College's 10 year Master Plan consists of a two part self-evaluation. Part one reviews local conditions and trends, assessing demands and setting forth five broad institutional goals (right). Part two is geared towards outlining the facilities and permanent buildings that will be needed to meet the demands of part one. According to Dr. Rodriguez, all but 25 percent of part two have been completed. The final draft of the evaluation will be shared with the public at the October 18 board meeting. “I am feeling very good about the progress.”

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PA G E  4

PA G E  4
San Elijo campus opens honors lounge

Nima Assaad
Asst. Editor in Chief

Last Tuesday marked the opening of a new Honors lounge in room 201a of the San Elijo campus. While smaller than that of the Oceanside campus, the lounge, located directly across from the amphitheater, is dedicated towards forming a tightly-knit academic community for Honors and potential Honors students.

Christopher Sleeper, Director of the Honors Scholar Program, states that the San Elijo lounge seeks to establish "not only a great academic program, but a great community" on campus. "I want people to see a program that meets a lot of different needs," says Sleeper. The lounge, meant to be an invitation for student bonding, is the epitome of making students feel welcomed, connected and, ultimately, ensures student retention, an emphasis for the program.

The lounge, catering to some of the highest performing students on campus, offers another window for scholarships and serves as a pathway for transfer institutions. In addition to transfer benefits, the lounge offers a unique community college experience geared towards the pursuit of academic understanding. Through the community of higher education, the lounge yields an environment for students to become involved on campus outside of the classroom curriculum.

With the dedicated physical presence on the San Elijo campus, the lounge establishes a benchmark in the expansion of the Honors program. With a 100 percent transfer success rate last year, the administration has taken note of the program's success in providing for the transfer objective advocated by the Chancellor. The Honors Scholar Program, this semester offering seven Honors courses on the Oceanside campus and five at the San Elijo campus, is dedicated towards creating a curriculum more rigorous than traditional community college courses.

These Honors courses, while not necessarily "harder," offer a different environment with smaller class sizes and enriched courses. Honors Certification requires a 3.25 overall GPA with a minimum of 20 hours of verified Honors activities and the completion of five Honors courses.

UCSD is now offering four ways to transfer for fall 2012:

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<tr>
<th>Regular Admission</th>
<th>TAG CHANGED</th>
<th>TAG pipeline transition</th>
<th>ULink</th>
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<tr>
<td>Complete the ONLINE TAG application in September. <a href="http://uctag.universityofcalifornia.edu">http://uctag.universityofcalifornia.edu</a></td>
<td>Must give your name and requested information to Jane in the Transfer Center at MCC to be added to the master list UCSD has requested by Sept 30th</td>
<td>Complete the ONLINE pipeline transition application by Sept 30th <a href="http://GetMyULink.com">http://GetMyULink.com</a></td>
<td>Sign a ULink contract during your freshman year at MCC. The forms are located in the Transfer Center and no appointment is needed.</td>
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<td>Only one TAG per student is the new UC rule for fall 2011 so make sure UCSD is your first choice</td>
<td>Only for students who are in the 'TAG pipeline transition' and attending a Region X community college</td>
<td>All military may sign regardless of prior units at other schools</td>
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<td>Must have completed math and both English courses by the end of fall 2011</td>
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<td>All freshman are eligible</td>
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<td>Complete IGETC by the end of spring 2012 and apply for certification in May</td>
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<td>Completion of IGETC is advised</td>
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<td>Must have a min of 3.5 GPA at the time of application and maintain through spring 2012</td>
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<td>Maintain a min of 3.0 GPA</td>
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<td>International students may participate</td>
<td>International students may participate but they have to follow all TAG rules as well</td>
<td>International students are NOT eligible</td>
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<td>Must apply in November as usual, one year prior to transfer <a href="http://universityofcalifornia.edu/apply">http://universityofcalifornia.edu/apply</a></td>
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<td>Mark both the TAG and IGETC box on application. Also type in comment box that you are a TAG Transition applicant</td>
<td>Mark ULink box on application and IGETC if applicable</td>
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Please check NEW SEPTEMBER DEADLINES for some options

Aug. 29, 2011
MiraCosta College

Thomas Jefferson

“To preserve the freedom of the human mind then and freedom of the press, every spirit should be ready to devote itself to martyrdom; for as long as we may think as we will, and seek as we think, the condition of man will proceed in improvement.”

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The Chariot is the official student publication of MiraCosta College and is published on a weekly basis. Articles, opinions, cartoons, letters to the editor, and advertising do not reflect the ideas or opinions of The Chariot staff, MCC faculty, staff, or administration. The first copy is free.

Letters may be sent to: the editor by emailing The Chariot at mccchariot@yahoo.com. All letters must be signed. Anything submitted to The Chariot becomes property of The Chariot. The Chariot reserves the right to cut letters for space or edit for clarity.

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The United States' government is broken down into three separate branches. The judicial branch, the executive branch, and the legislative branch exist to keep each other in check. The President of the United States is very limited in the power he wields. The power he wields is often not going to focus on what President Barack Obama has or hasn't done for the country during his presidency. Every time you see the promises he has made to the nation, and whether or not he has kept those promises. During the campaign, President Obama promised to implement universal healthcare. This socialist agenda was promised, but ultimately wasn't kept. The actual healthcare bill has been passed through the halls of Congress, getting revised and edited for about two and a half years now, and nothing has been implemented. The people of the United States should have voted on whether or not they wanted universal healthcare because it will be paid for by them. Consider this: most countries in Europe have universal healthcare, and yes it seems to be working, but the fact is most of the hard working citizens pay 60 percent in taxes in order to be able to afford these kinds of big government programs. Do you really want to pay over half of your income going back to the government in taxes?

As discussed last week, the Bush tax cuts caused a lot of controversy between the two parties. The Bush tax cuts were a huge promise that President Bush ran on during his campaign. The Bush tax cuts remain in place even though initially he was backed by a Democratic Congress. Getting rid of the Bush tax cuts, President Obama had to follow through on this promise. ThisBush tax cuts remain in place even though initially he was backed by a Democratic Congress. Getting rid of the Bush tax cuts, President Obama had to follow through on this promise. This wouldn't be that big of a deal, except for the fact that the people in charge of the tax promises that he ran on during his campaign was that he would get rid of the Bush tax cuts on the wealthy. He did follow through on this promise. The Bush tax cuts remain in place even though initially he was backed by a Democratic Congress. Getting rid of the Bush tax cuts, President Obama had to follow through on this promise. This wouldn't be that big of a deal, except for the fact that the people in charge of the tax levies, but despite these facts, Ivy League tax and spend Marxist liberal Obama promised to implement universal healthcare. This socialist agenda was promised, but ultimately wasn't kept. The actual healthcare bill has been passed through the halls of Congress, getting revised and edited for about two and a half years now, and nothing has been implemented. The people of the United States should have voted on whether or not they wanted universal healthcare because it will be paid for by them. Consider this: most countries in Europe have universal healthcare, and yes it seems to be working, but the fact is most of the hard working citizens pay 60 percent in taxes in order to be able to afford these kinds of big government programs. Do you really want to pay over half of your income going back to the government in taxes?

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Books are awesome, shows are fun but there is something about stopping for popcorn for a movie that really gets to you. My favorite movie of all time is “Love Actually”. This movie is the most adorable love story to ever exist. Fair warning, however, do not watch this with your parents or children. There is a reason this movie is rated R, there is no need to find out why with your parents sitting next to you saying, “I can’t believe this isn’t X.” and “are they really allowed to say that on television?” Now some boys are thinking, why would I want to see a chick flick? Every girl falls a little in love with whoever she’s seeing it with.

Lauren Kimmel  
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Staff Writer

Michelle Maher  
Assignment Editor

Mackenzie Chernow  
Online Editor

Christopher Neufeld was allowed the introduction to captivate me on an incline to this rollercoaster ride of a motion picture. From the beginning, it feels like the ride of a lifetime, from one minute of laughter, to one minute of tears. Sometimes it’s hard to pick out a good movie when most movies these days have a romantic story where the “two end up together” undertake slightly beats at your poor, broken heart. I cannot suggest “Pineapple Express” enough. Who doesn’t want to see two potheads with a mission? No romantic story to speak of. It’s full of violence, jokes and pot. For you ladies out there, James Franco is in it.

Since moment one, “One Day” gave chills. Fast forward to moment one and allowed the introduction to capitate me on an incline to this rollercoaster ride of a motion picture. From the beginning, it feels like the ride of a lifetime, from one minute of laughter, to one minute of tears. Sometimes it’s hard to pick out a good movie when most movies these days have a romantic story where the “two end up together” undertake slightly beats at your poor, broken heart. I cannot suggest “Pineapple Express” enough. Who doesn’t want to see two potheads with a mission? No romantic story to speak of. It’s full of violence, jokes and pot. For you ladies out there, James Franco is in it.

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Lauren Kimmel

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The Five D’s of Dodgeball

Chris Neufeld
Staff Writer

At eleven years old, I didn’t know what I was getting myself into. I tightened my laces, adjusted my sweatbands, and stepped onto the gym floor. With 10 kids on one side of the gym, and 10 on the other side, I knew that all out war was about to begin. The gym was so quiet you could hear a cat meow. Then the voice broke the silence from the side of the gym, “dodge ball!”

Don’t you miss these glory days? The days when throwing objects at other kids’ faces made you the happiest kid on Earth? On Sept 10, you will be able to relive all of your fondest memories of gym class.

Life with Autism

Jeremy Sicile-Kira
Staff Writer

Having autism has deterred me from communicating with neurotypicals. Neurotypicals are people not like me; people who have what are considered normal behaviors. Their sensory processing is functional so they can see, hear and feel normally. Because I have sensory processing challenges, I can’t feel or see the physical space I am in. I can’t see and hear at the same time so I don’t look at people when I am listening to them. People may assume because of this that I am not listening or not interested, but that is not the case. As well, I can get overwhelmed in noisy environments because of my sensitive auditory processing challenges. For me, calling a person on the phone is no easy matter because the ability to talk is not a strong ability I have. This is due to motor challenges. It takes great muscle control to speak. While autism affects my ability to speak it has not hindered my ability to think.

Being nonverbal has its advantages. For example people will stop talking if you don’t respond which is great when you don’t feel like listening. At least I have a good excuse. Kidding aside, I have great technology and support staff to help me communicate. But by the time my poor finger has typed a response, often the conversation in a group setting has moved on.

Sometimes I dread being in public places. While many people understand, some frankly act weird. Like those that treat me like a train wreck: they dreadfully watch but are frankly happy it’s not happening to them. This life of having a disability. Getting a lot of attention can be awesome for the autistic community in general, but sadly if you ask autism advocates, most will tell you that not all press is good press. The reality is that most of us would rather be unnoticed than be noticed just for our autism.

Although I have challenges that make it difficult to communicate, I am very interested in getting to know my fellow students. Bravely feel free to talk to me when you see me, just be patient while waiting for a response.

Rotaract gives people a chance

Lauren Kimmel
Photo Editor

The MiraCosta Rotaract Club is a college sect of rotary. Rotary is the largest service organization in the world with a club in almost every city with the motto of “Fellowship of Service.” Programs begin in high school with “Interact,” develop into “Rotaract” during college, and finally “Rotary” after college.

MCC’s Rotaract participates in projects ranging from regular bench clean-ups to converting orphanage’s water systems into solar-powered water heaters. This year’s “rough” theme for the MCC Rotaract club is “Giving People a Chance” to feel good about themselves, to be successful and to promote general human dignity.

Elliot Cole, Club Secretary, stated that joining the Rotaract Club is entering into a “close knit group of really great people and wonderful contacts” and believes from experience that “any Rotaract member is a good contact to have.”

“As an organization, we value face to face service over impersonal services such as sending goods or cash. It is just easier to empathize and understand your fellow man when you are serving him directly. Most students walk away feeling like they had gained more than they put in after they see firsthand the impact of their work on someone else,” stated Keyrolos Ibrahim, Club President.

The Rotaract Club is looking for board members and officers who have a passion for helping people, are open minded, are willing to give up their time to give back to society and are willing to work well with others. To become a member, attend the first meeting in Aztlán A, from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. on Friday. Aspiring board members and officers will go through an interview process. It would be a plus to have community service background. Leadership skills and organizational skills and an “everyone helps everybody” attitude are requirements written in pencil.

Intramural Sports Schedule

Tournaments Date Time Location
Ping Pong Sept. 8 6-8 p.m. Gym
Dodgeball Sept. 10 noon-2 p.m. Gym
Soccer Sept. 16 1-3 p.m. Fields
Softball Oct. 7 noon-2 p.m. Softball field
Kickball Oct. 14 noon-2 p.m. Softball field
Soccer Oct. 21 Fields

Open Play
Volleyball Sept. 13 5:30-8 p.m. Gym
Sept. 20 5:30-8 p.m.
Sept. 27 5:30-8 p.m.
Oct. 4 5:30-8 p.m.
Oct. 11 5:30-8 p.m.
Basketball Oct. 17 6-8 p.m.
Oct. 24 6-8 p.m.
Oct. 31 6-8 p.m.
Did you know?  There are four way to transfer to UCSD for FALL 2011.  Here are the dates to be aware of in September:......
For more information visit the transfer center in person or check the transfer center online or stop by the transfer center. (See page 2)

Attending an Introduction to Transfer workshop is very helpful to students who are wanting to learn about TAG’s to UC’s, the complete transfer process and how to transfer in two years.

Stop by and pick up a schedule in BLDG 3700 or go online to view dates and times at www.miracosta.edu/transfer. Bring a friend. No registration is required.

Questions and answers

Question: When I called the transfer center for an appointment, they said I would have to wait a couple of weeks to get an appointment. I have a quick question for a counselor, what should I do?

Answer: First off, sorry for the inconvenience and please schedule an appointment for a counselor to help you with your transfer needs. Counselors are reserved for quick questions; a full educational plan can NOT be completed in a drop in session. Please stop by the Transfer Center for dates and times.

Question: What is the Transfer Admission Guarantee (TAG) program?

Answer: The Transfer Admission Guarantee Program (TAG) offers guaranteed admission to select University of California schools for students who complete a core set of courses at a California Community College (CCC) a full term prior to transfer. For more information please visit the website www.miracosta.edu/transfer.

Dear Fuzz,

While walking to my car the other day, I saw a man getting out of his car. When he opened the door I saw it hit another car. There was a dent and scrape marks left in the paint. What is the owner of the unattended car supposed to do?

-Curious

Dear Curious,

This type of situation happens frequently in parking lots, not just here but all over. The person, who drive's the other person's car should leave a note with their contact information. If there is a witness, such as yourself, you should contact law enforcement so the parties can be identified and it can be determined if an act of vandalism occurred. If the act was an accident, a simple exchange of information between both parties, can resolve it.

If the act was intentional, it would be considered vandalism. In this case, it is not considered a hit and run because the vehicle was parked and not operating at the time of the incident. Vandalism is a crime and a person can be arrested for committing that offense. The charge for the offense can be either a misdemeanor or felony depending on the circumstances. When exchanging information, both parties should get the following information: name, telephone number, home, work, vehicle license plate number and who the car is registered to, and insurance information. Both parties can then give the information to their insurance provider and let the insurance companies sort out who is at fault and how the matter will be handled. Submit your law enforcement related questions to “The Fuzz”, Officer Rebecca Arnold 760-757-2121 or via email ramel@miracosta.edu
Hey! I’ve got a question

My question to you is: Will vampires take over the world? Love, scared under the bed

Dear Scared, vampires are going to take over the world; it’s inevitable. The only real question here is how do you prepare for them? The first thing you need is some money. While it may seem that spending money for a vampire takeover is a little overboard but you are about to invest in your future and ensure live for you and those you love. This next part is important and a bit complicated: don’t, whatever you do, read “Twilight.” All this will do for you is make you believe that vampires are sexy, tall, emotionally weak boys that only need your love for them to change their evil ways. This is the myth that will get you killed. Vampires are prone to having six packs, if it’s true. But do you want to know why they are prone to six-pack heaven? They need to be sexy so they can lure you into the darkness and they need to be able bodies so they can overpower you and suck your blood. One minute you think you’re on a super awesome date with the sexiest person alive and the next you are like “wha... where’s my blood?”

So now for the long list of what to buy in order to get a “kill the vampire”, patent pending, kit. Get a bunch of garlic and eat it everyday. I’m not saying eat straight up garlic, which would be disgusting, learn how to make garlic bread, garlic spaghetti, and garlic fries. It’s time to get a really bright UV flashlight it has to be a UV light or it won’t work because, you see, vampires hate sunlight. If you didn’t hate sunlight, the common theme I noticed that people like to see most is others being themselves and having fun with it—thus girl with pink streaks in her hair, that boy wearing what appears to be a fox tail on his belt, crazy hats, colorful shoes and sunglasses shaped like hearts or stars.

There are trends we love, and then the others that we don’t quite understand. So I asked a bunch of students what trends they do and don’t like to see on campus. Starting off with the trends we love, students alerted me to what is new now, such as old school cartoon T’s. They remind us of our favorite shows growing up like Thundercups, Power Rangers, Pound Puppies and instantly establishes a commonality between students. A few girls told me that they love seeing asymmetrical haircuts, the one feather carring trend and nervously ¿even if you’re lacking the prescription.

So when I asked the guys what trends they love, I was surprised to hear that the first thing they love to see is girls smiling. The second was minions. The third was shoes that don’t look too dangerous.

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Through along with what we like, there are also the trends that we don’t understand and really don’t like or appreciate. Sometimes depend on the person, so the first rule is to wear clothes that fit your body type. So many students complained about the oversized clothes trend, and even more complained about people who wear clothes three times too small for them. If it doesn’t fit, don’t wear it. Which leads to the butt cleavage phenomenon, you know, the plumber’s crack thing that happens when someone leans over too far, or sits down, or even just when he or she is walking and the pants sag down a little farther then we wish they would. Who decided that butt cleavage was a good thing? It isn’t. It’s distracting and I have a list of at least 23 students who wish it would stop. So please, be kind and buy a belt.

More than one guy stated that he hates seeing “I love my boyfriend” tee shirts, or any variation of that. To them it sends the message that you’re insecure in your relationship and actually had to buy a t-shirt to emote your feelings. Who are you trying to convince? Other students? Or yourself?

Another rant I overheard from some girls on campus was guys who match everything. Girls like guys to be clean cut, but when they are color coordinating their shirt, shoes, hat, watch, and even shoe laces the same shade of green, that worries girls that this guy might own more clothes than they do and that’s a scary notion. Just remember a smile is always in fashion, be yourself, and have fun with what you’re wearing! The more fun you are the more friends you’ll have and the happier you’ll be.