In-state MiraCosta College students will pay $46 per unit in enrollment fees beginning summer term 2012. The $10 per unit raise in enrollment fees is a decision of the California State Legislature. The Legislature’s decision follows a $102 million in budget cuts to fund California community colleges by Governor Jerry Brown. The fee hike applies to all 112 California community colleges. Proposition 13, passed in 1978, requires all community colleges to charge the same enrollment fees.

Student responses to the fee hikes are mixed, “I’m not shocked, I’m still grateful for $46,” stated Amber Bennet, Kinesiology major. “It makes me sad, makes me angry, that’s just more money for me to spend,” said Courtney, a nursing student at the college.

According to MCC Vice President of Student Services Dr. Dick Robertson, there are no other student fees increasing at MCC. “No plan to increase health fee, no plan to increase parking fee at the moment, there is pressure to do so,” stated Robertson. MCC is one of three California community colleges in a locally funded Basic Aid District. A Basic Aid district receives its primary funding through local property tax revenues. According to Robertson, 69 of the 72 California community colleges Proposition 13, passed in 1978, requires all community colleges to charge the same enrollment fees.

According to Robertson, 69 of the 72 California community colleges send their enrollment revenues to Sacramento. The State re-distributes the revenues back to those districts through an apportionment process based on the number of full-time students attending each college and its local property tax revenues. Local property tax revenues at MCC exceed what the State’s formula for what its apportionment funding would be. The college does not receive its primary funding from the State. MCC keeps its enrollment revenues and does not send them back to the State. Enrollment fee revenues at the college go into an unrestricted general fund. “It is money that operates the college offset by lower income tax revenues,” stated Jim Austin, Vice President of Business and Administrative services at the college. Spring and Fall course offerings at MCC have not been reduced. “We’re fortunate at MCC because we have not had to layoff permanent staff as so many other colleges have,” stated Robertson. The college has been able to “make reductions in areas other than reducing the schedule,” Austin said. According to both Robertson and Austin, local property tax revenues to MCC vary in respect to the strength of the economy. “In good economic times it’s beneficial to be basic aid, as revenue from property taxes is strong, in tough economic times property tax revenue declines, and so does our budget,” stated Robertson. According to Austin, stronger economic times in the past allowed MCC to build up a reserve fund. The college is able to maintain categorical programs such as DSPS, CalWorks and Matriculation by “using reserves to augment what the state allocates to the district,” stated Austin. Categorical programs at MCC are State-funded and budget cuts have reduced that funding.

According to Austin, administration has been told by the MCC Board of Directors it may no longer draw from reserve funds. There has been a total of $769 million in cuts to California community colleges since 2009-10. The recent fee hikes by the state legislature raise concerns among school administrators, as MCC students financially absorb the effects of State budget issues. “I’m saddened by the fact of the fee increase and unhappy that the students are carrying this much of the burden,” stated Robertson.

California community college students pay the lowest enrollment fees in the State and Nation for higher education.
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.

The Chariot reserves the right to edit for clarity and items for space, and the right to refuse to print articles or items that contain libel.

Letters may be sent to the editor by emailing The Chariot at mch incarcerability@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 libel. Every effort is made to print all letters in their entirety.

The Chariot is a First Amendment publication.

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MCC President Francisco Rodriguez believes the process has offered the college to “strengthen our accreditation processes.”

Commission’s Decisions on accreditation issues to come next month

Brandon Arnold Staff Writer

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges ACCJC will return to MiraCosta College this spring to decide either to reaffirm or further sanction the college’s accreditation after placing the college on warning for failure to adequately implement their recommendations last March.

According to the ACCJC website, the accreditation process is a review of the quality of higher education institutions and programs. It is a peer review conducted through regional accrediting organizations that are legally recognized by the federal government and are given exclusive power for accreditation within their regions. There are six of these geographically divided regions in the U.S. system. The college is accredited by the ACCJC which is part of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges region.

The accreditation process is intended to set educational standards and to improve the educational quality of higher learning institutions. It is also a way for students, the U.S. government and other educational institutions to decide whether the education people are receiving from the institution or program in question is of good quality and meets the standards set by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, or it does not.

The last time the college’s accreditation was reaffirmed with no contingencies was in 2004. The midterm report following that was written in March 2007 which was sent to the college and accepted in June 2007. The commission then decided that a special visit of commission representatives was required to take place within two months. After that special visit, the college was sanctioned by being placed on a warning status during the commission meeting in Jan. 2008, and the commission decided that there would have to be two more progress reports and visits by commission representatives. The first progress report was completed in April 2008 and the second progress report on Feb. 2009. The college’s self-evaluation visit in April 2009, they removed the college’s warning status at the commission meeting in June 2009.

There are four phases to the accreditation process, and the college is currently in its final phase. The first phase is the internal evaluation which took place in Nov. 2009. The administrators, faculty and staff completed a 300 page self-evaluation addressing areas where they felt needed improvement to meet the standards and was then mailed to the commission Dec. 2009. Phase two took place on March 1, 2010, the college hosted the commission’s evaluation team of professional peers for four days. In this evaluation, the team defined four recommendations and five commendations.

The third phase happened when commission evaluated the visiting team’s report, and in June 2010, the ACCJC fully reaffirmed the college’s accreditation.

The fourth phase involves the college using the recommendations given to improve the quality of education they provide. Therefore, part of the reaffirmation for the college was based on the agreement to two follow up reports to ensure the implementation of the recommendations. One was scheduled in March 2011 and one in March 2012. After the March 2011 report and commission follow up visit, the college was once again placed on probation. The college will do the final follow up report with a commission visit in March 2012.

“When they came back to check on our progress last June, they were not happy with what we had done. So, they gave us a sanction of probation. We had to complete the comprehensive master plan by December 1 and we did. Now, we have to provide evidence that we have our student learning outcomes in place and have assessed them. We have prepared a report for the accreditation commission which is due March 1, 2012. We are hopeful that when they come to check on us in April they will recommend removing the sanction,” stated Dick Robertson, Vice President of Student Services.

The college remains fully accredited during this process. The Official Comments in Response to the Commission’s Public Disclosure Notice states, “MiraCosta College is fully accredited and our courses are transferable to other colleges and universities, and are recognized and accepted by various vocational industries and licensing boards. Furthermore, our students remain eligible for state and federal financial aid, and veteran’s benefits.”

“It was a fair recommendation that has allowed us to strengthen our planning process,” stated Dr. Francisco Rodriguez, Superintendent and President of MiraCosta College.

The college’s board approved hiring a new dean for institutional planning and grants, and Dr. Robert Pacheco was then hired for the position. He starts Feb 9.

“The board approved Dr. Robert Pacheco to help with research efforts which we feel will more than satisfy the commission’s recommendations,” and that, “he knows a lot about the accreditation process.” stated Dr. Rodriguez.

“If the commission’s evaluation after the March 2012 follow up report and team visit will look at both reports and then decide if the college is in compliance with the recommendations.

“In spring, I believe the commission will visit the campus that has allowed us to strengthen our planning process,” stated Dr. Francisco Rodriguez, Superintendent and President of MiraCosta College.

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Valentine’s Day the holiday of love, but not everyone is really in love with the holiday. For some it is a rollercoaster ride filled with obstacles and disasters. It can quickly turn from being such a loving holiday to a holiday of horror. Imagine you have spent hours picking out the perfect sweet for your valentine. They put that delicious almond crunch in their mouth and just as they are about to say how amazing you are, their face blows up and they start to have an allergic reaction. Hospitals just are not as romantic as they used to be. What about those moments when you spend hours working on the perfect gift for your valentine and upon opening it they mentioned those famous words “this isn’t what I wanted.” I’d start running if I were you. On the other hand, what about the awkward moment when you receive a terrible Valentine’s Day gift? Nothing quite says I love you more than a grandma-knitted sweater, a scale, or even a glow-in-the-dark bra. What do you say to your lover when the chocolates they bought you turn out to be stale? Well Dear, there is always next year.

What about the people who don’t get anything for their valentine on Valentine’s Day? Well maybe that’s just not the way they express their affections. One of my biggest problems with Valentine’s Day is that it commercializes feelings. Love should be about intimate relationships, sacrifice, caring, and compassion. It shouldn’t be about teddy bears, heart shaped candies or fake roses. I’m not against lovers getting gifts for each other as an act of compassion, but such acts lose their sentiments when they are forced. People express their love in many ways, and Valentine’s Day creates the standard that the only way to celebrate your love for someone is by buying them a box of chocolates or a teddy bear. Hallmark makes a real killing by convincing you that this is true. If you are in a relationship that requires you to buy something to prove your affections, now may be a good time to end that relationship.

What about those who don’t have a valentine on Valentine’s Day, or even worse have had a horrible break up just the day before? That’s where the real horror story beings. Valentine’s Day can be a haunting memory of what was or what has never been. How can we call it the holiday of love when it creates such pandemonium in many individuals? Valentine’s Day will not even let you participate in it if you are single. I can’t think of a better way to make someone feel more alone. Valentine’s Day splits people up into those with a valentine and those without. Holiday’s should be about bringing people together not separating us. This is why Valentine’s Day can be such a terror. Relationships form just to avoid the horrible feeling of being alone on a Valentine’s Day. Such things should never be done for something as simple as a Hallmark holiday.

Valentine’s Day causes more heart ache and stress then it is worth. Relationships and love are a great thing to celebrate, but why not keep that between the two individuals. Isn’t it also something worth celebrating more than once a year? I also realize that there are some people who enjoy Valentine’s Day a lot. I don’t want to discourage you from enjoying it just remember to not take it so seriously. Keep in mind that Valentine’s Day is not just about gifts and candy shaped hearts. It is supposed to be about love and romance, so instead of worrying about having the perfect Valentine’s Day, worry about what is really important. Reminding the person you care about how much the mean to you. For those who hate Valentine’s Day know that you are not alone and that many people have experienced its horrors just like you. It doesn’t have to be just a day to celebrate life itself. It doesn’t matter if you are single or taken, life is beautiful and we should enjoy and celebrate it every chance we get.
Olena Senchuk  
Staff Writer  

The Wavve’s first studio recorded full length album “King of the Beach” was released in 2010. Since then, it has created all kinds of buzz and for good reason. This traditionally lo-fi punk band, founded by San Diego local singer-songwriter Nathan Williams (22), has bought in for a more hi-fi sound which may disappoint some of his original fans. However, if his intentions were to make himself more commercially marketable, then he has certainly succeeded in this regard, and to his credit. Williams has done this in a way that stayed true to his unique surf punk/noise pop style that draws people to his music. By doing so, he has definitely gained more fans than he lost in the process. 

This album is very impressive and equally unique. The lyrics are simple yet clearly convey Williams’s feelings on life and growing up in San Diego. With notable songs such as “Green Eyes,” “Baseball Cards,” and “Post Acid,” a song made famous by an animation made for the movie “Scott Pilgrim vs. the World,” “King of the Beach” will not disappoint and is definitely worth checking out.

“King of the Beach” has landed the Wavves onto multiple music charts such as Pitchfork Media’s “The Top 50 Albums of 2010” chart where it came in 50, and 3 on Billboard’s “Top Heatseekers” chart, and 10 on Billboard’s “Tastemakers” chart where Williams is rightfully recognized for being the music innovator that he is. The Wavves are making some exciting music, and after listening to this album, I cannot wait to see what this guy does next.
Life Changing Trip to India: Emily’s Story

Emily Lewis
Staff Photographer

In November 2010, I walked out of the airport in New Delhi, India. I choked on the heavy atmosphere and blinked hard as my team and I threw our luggage into the trunk of a taxi cab. India was going to be my home for the next three months!

Now let me back up real quick; I'll give you some background. Straight out of high school I decided to postpone college in order to follow my dreams and travel!

Wait, you might be asking, "your parents just let you go all by yourself?" Well it actually turns out that there is an organization that facilitates six month international schools all around the world! This was my ticket anywhere. I was ready for an adventure.

I applied to join Youth With A Mission and flew to New Zealand in August of 2010.

After an amazing three months in the wonderful country of New Zealand, I entered my second phase with a ministry that has a compound in Varanasi, India.

Varanasi is stricken with severe poverty and little clean water. It feels like you’re stepping ten thousand years back in time: thousands of beggars, pilgrims, holy men, and don’t forget the salesmen!

The Slums provide accommodations for thousands; my primary focus in Varanasi was working with the “Railway kids” that live in the slums and on the exposed railway platforms.

There are three types of kids that I worked with: First, the orphaned. Second, the runaways. Third, the families actually live in the slums.

As you can imagine, it was intimidating to just walk into a third world country and try to “help” people, and I was frustrated at the beginning. There are thousands of beggars, and I wanted to help every single one, but I couldn’t. I felt powerless against the injustice of the entire situation.

The center is the safe haven where the kids can live out their childhood. I fell in love with these kids; I'll be honest with you. Yet society sees animals as more valuable. This injustice broke my heart. Here I am, an American girl traveling the world at eighteen, and free to achieve and pursue my dreams. These kids around me will never get that chance.

This type of environment is rare in India, and it is one of the only places that these “untouchable” kids will ever experience any type of childhood. These kids live their entire lives in the few miles of slum that they were born in: begging and stealing merely to survive. Each child lives a life of struggle, even in the few years of life since birth. Parents care little for them, and society despises them. They learn to fend for themselves, or they get taken advantage of. The majority of them end up trafficked by either the sex trade, or into child labor camps.

We spent two whole months working with these kids, day in and day out: from seven am to three in the afternoon. It was a safe environment for them to open up to us, and we could openly love them. I have never realized how easy it is to display love until I was forced to communicate without using a language to express it. It blew me away how much mental understanding I was able to establish with each child.

When the kids come to the Care Center they receive free breakfast and lunch. The staff provides games and education for the kids who wish to learn. The center is the safe haven where the kids can live out their childhood. I fell in love with these kids; I’ll be honest with you. Yet society sees animals as more valuable. This injustice broke my heart. Here I am, an American girl traveling the world at eighteen, and free to achieve and pursue my dreams. These kids around me will never get that chance.

My worldview was officially going up in flames. Before going to India, I was naive, but with raw truth all around me there was a realization of how valuable my freedoms are! It is easy to say, “yeah, life isn’t fair…” when chatting with a friend over a Starbucks, but it’s a little bit harder to say that when you’re sitting in the slums, with people literally living in a dump site, and babies crying because they’re hungry. The luxuries I’ve experienced in America aren’t the worldwide norm and neither are the liberties.

I struggled with the injustices I witnessed; in fact, I questioned my right to happiness as my train pulled away from Varanasi. I accused myself of being selfish for leaving when I was actually impacting lives in the slums. “Who is going to take care of the kids, when I’m gone?” The answer: no one.

It has been a year this week since I got back from India. People still continue to ask me, “how has this trip changed your life?” and, “what are you going to do with what you experienced?” When I first got home, I had no answer for their questions. Today I do. I am so blessed. Not based on my “value.” I’ve been blessed, in order to be a blessing.

I have a family who loves me, A country that respects me, I have endless opportunity.

A country that respects me, Not based on my “value.”

I live with a clear conscience, I live with a clear conscience, with the goal of radically giving back.

My blessing are not given back.

My blessing are not given back.

I've been blessed, in order to be a blessing.

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Behind the Lenses: Meet the Chariot Staff

Emily Lewis
Staff Photographer

It all started with the first edition of the Chariot, dated back to 1935, printed as a simple four-page newsletter serving the Oceanside-Carlsbad College. For many years, the Chariot was published by students enrolled in MiraCosta College journalism classes. Starting around 1995, student volunteers, under the guidance of a staff-appointed advisor, gathered to create a college newspaper for the campus. Since then, we have transformed a simple newsletter into a full newspaper. The more keen eye would observe the purpose and deliberation behind the prospective journalists’ and editor’s movements, rhythmic but hardly monotonous. If this same observer stuck around for the weekly Chariot meetings, he or she would perceive a similar tenor of aspiration but composed of diversity, a collage of ideas and suggestions in impending materialization. Perhaps our staff is discussing the pressing front-page news article, or perhaps just conjecturing about a satirical opinion piece. Perhaps the aptness of an article illustration is being fine-tuned. Perhaps… perhaps this environment is appealing to you? Consider this your personal invitation.

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You can be part of The Chariot too! Stop by the newsroom, room 3441 at the Oceanside campus. Minimum qualifications are:
- at least a 2.0 GPA
- enrolled in 5 units or more
- free of all official college academic and disciplinary restrictions
- free to attend meetings and training on Fridays from 9-noon.

Telephone: (760) 757-2121
E-mail: mccchariot@yahoo.com
Newsroom: Room 3441 on the Oceanside campus.
Internship Opportunities

Marketing Intern, Wabisabi Green, Encinitas
Intern will design and implement social media campaigns, assist with event planning and shows; the development of marketing collateral, contribute to the Wabisabi Green Eco Blog; and help develop YouTube video series. Must demonstrate creativity, have clear written and verbal communication skills, and have basic knowledge of design. Good time management and organizational skills a must. Should be MS Office proficient and prefer experience with Adobe Creative Suite.

Accounting Intern, Pacific Gas and Electric, San Diego
Assist with all aspects of bookkeeping, invoicing, payroll under guidance of owner and CPA. Must have knowledge of Microsoft computers and software, QuickBooks, and basic accounting. Intern will learn all aspects of small business operations and bookkeeping.

Internships Available, Interfaith Community Services, Oceanside
Dance Services, Internship and Employment Services Internships are available. Interfaith Community Services offers programs throughout North San Diego County. With more than 5,000 volunteers in direct service, more than 400 member faith centers, and 5,000 volunteers in direct service, the cultural diversity of each community where we offer programs.

Job Opportunities

Retail Office Clerk, Armstrong Garden Centers, Oceanside
Hourly wage: Based on experience. Part time
Receive inventory and assist with inventory discrepancies, train to do your job?

Four year university admission requirements will be sent over the next couple of months. Make sure to check all emails and portals for important information you’ll need for your transfer. Checking your potential school’s website is also helpful. Please be sure to meet all deadlines.

The Transfer Center will be hosting various workshops and will have admission representatives visit from UCSD, SDSU and CSUSM. Please check our website for updates or call (760) 795-6880 for more information and to schedule an appointment.

Come hear about the Transfer Admission Guarantee programs, Honors Scholar programs and much more. Introduction to Transfer Nights. Check our website for upcoming dates.

Questions and Answers

Question: Can my parents call and get personal information about my transfer pattern?
Answer: FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act) is a law that protects the privacy of student education records. If you give us permission to share information with your parent we can do so.

Question: I attended an out of state college my freshman year and have recently moved home, can I still have guaranteed admission to a UC?
Answer: Yes!

Question: What is the best way to know if the university you are interested in has your major.
Answer: There are several ways to find out if the university you are interested in has your major.

• Visit the Transfer Center in BLDG 3700 is a good way to become familiar with our resources.
• There are 2 books located in our reference library that will be able to put your concerns at ease. “Book of Majors” and “UC Answers for Transfers.”
• Research on www.assist.org and search under “find major.”

Another option is directly visiting the website of the university you are interested in.

Submit your law enforcement related questions to “The Fuzz”, Officer Rebecca Mahan 760-757-2121 x 6519 or via email rmahan@miracosta.edu.

Workshops this week:

Job Search Workshop: Tues., 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Job Search Boot Camp: Thurs., 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. OCE 105
Resume Review: Thurs., 12:15 p.m.-1:15 p.m. during College Hour.

For complete information on career resources, stop by the Career Center, Bldg. 3700 on the Oceanside Campus, or call 760-757-6772. Staff will be at San Elijo Campus, Student Center RM 924 most Mondays and Wednesdays from 9-12 p.m. Walk-ins welcome or call to schedule.

Download applications: www.miracostacollege.edu. Applications accepted and encouraged.
Students can also find tips on how to complete a Personal Statement, ask for Letter of Recommendation, and how to complete a scholarship application on our website.

MCCF Fall 2012 Scholarships Awards range $500 to $1,000 for continuing MiraCosta students, a students transferring to a 4-year institution in the fall, and graduating high school seniors planning to attend MiraCosta for the fall semester. Apply early by completing a Personal Statement and Application. Scholarship winners will be notified by mail and invited to attend the MiraCosta Scholars Awards Celebration on May 18. Deadline: 12 noon, March 8, 2012

MCCF Spring 2012 Friends of Dance Scholarship: Eligibility: must be currently enrolled at MiraCosta, have completed six units in Dance at MiraCosta, dance major, 2.0 GPA. Application, personal statement, and a letter of recommendation from a dance instructor required. Deadline: noon, Friday, April 6, 2012

MCCF 2012-13 Emerson Network Power $6,000 Transfer Scholarship for students who have completed 12- units at MiraCosta, are currently enrolled fall-time, 3.0 GPA; transferring to a 4-year institution Fall 2012 majoring in Industrial Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Computer Science, Marketing, Business Administration or Finance/Accounting, demonstrate leadership abilities, be involved in student activities and/or volunteer opportunities. Deadline: 12:00 noon, March 8, 2012

MCCF 2012-13 Roosevelt Mc Coy Study ABROAD Fall Scholarships. $1,000 scholarship for students currently enrolled at MiraCosta College, currently enrolled fall-time, 3.0 GPA, continuing at MiraCosta Fall 2012 with the future intent of transferring; majoring in Industrial Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Computer Science, Marketing, Business Administration, or Finance/Accounting, demonstrate leadership abilities, be involved in student activities and/or volunteer opportunities. Deadline: 12:00 noon, March 8, 2012

MCCF 2012-13 HOSPITALITY Management $1,000 Scholarship for hospitality Management majors who completed 6 units in Hospitality Management at MiraCosta with a 3.0 GPA, overall 2.0 GPA, completed or working towards completing 20 hrs volunteer work at the CA Welcome Center Oceanside, plan to continue at MiraCosta next academic year. Deadline: March 8, 2012

MCCF Dorothy Pat Mc Coy Study ABROAD Fall Scholarships. $1,000 scholarships for students currently enrolled at MiraCosta College, currently enrolled fall-time, 3.0 GPA, continuing at MiraCosta Fall 2012 with the future intent of transferring; majoring in Industrial Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Computer Science, Marketing, Business Administration, or Finance/Accounting, demonstrate leadership abilities, be involved in student activities and/or volunteer opportunities. Deadline: 12:00 noon, March 8, 2012

MCCF 2012-13 Hispanic Heritage $2,500 Scholarship for students who are residents of San Diego County, a minor in Chicano/Latino Studies, a 3.0 GPA, completed 12- units at MiraCosta, currently enrolled fall-time, 3.0 GPA, transferring to a 4-year institution, or become a recipient of an email advertisement even though you were careful not to fill out any order forms or requests for information by companies that may bombard your email box? There are a couple of things to think about when ordering items from the initial page, but also to their privacy policy. Not long ago, I read a “terms of service” agreement and then went to the “privacy policy” section. It basically stated that by accepting the terms and privacy policy you agree to allow them to retrieve your [social network site] contacts. A lot of folks have no idea this method is being used to access information most people would not give out. Stay alert and take the extra 5-10 minutes to read the fine print!

“The Fuzz” is looking for questions that relate law enforcement to the current class you are taking. If your class provides four or more questions, the questions will run consecutively for four weeks and indicate what type of questions the questions come from and who the instructor is!
Complete Your Bachelor’s Degree at Azusa Pacific University

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TRANSFERRING? FINISH SCHOOL YOUR WAY!

• Streamlined admissions
• No enrollment fee
• Flexible scheduling
• A unique one-course-per-month format
• Scholarship programs

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