

Board Directors

Ann Wyckoff Carlos, President
Carlos Rico, Vice President,
Bonnie Gutierrez, Secretary
John Walker, Treasurer

Richard Allen,

Yesenia Cervantes

David Duran*

Rhea DeHart

Shirley Flores-Munoz

Alicia Jimenez

Janet Mayou

Marian Monto

Pete Moran

Shirley Flores Munoz

Maria Rocha-Ruiz

Faris Sabbah

Lorraine Sandoval

John Sargent

Ray Shurson

Graciela Vega-Carbajal*

Ana Ventura Phares*

*= Advisory Directors



President's Corner P.1

Web Expansion P.2

Watsonville Success Scholarships P.2

Increased Cost of Higher Education P.2

PVUSD Scholarship Advisory Board P.3

Scholarship Coordinator Report P.3

Extended Middle School Projects P.3

Underwater Robotics Contests P.4

DREAM Act P.4

President's Corner

Over the past few months two of MAIA's initiatives have been adopted by other organizations and expanded into full-blown programs. With the addition of support from Santa Cruz County Schools and the Pajaro Valley Unified School District (PVUSD), local teachers and counselors are receiving more encouragement to prepare PVUSD students for higher education. These new developments are in keeping with MAIA's tradition of "seeding" projects that have the potential of being leveraged into greater opportunities for these potentially college bound students.

The Science Fair Coordinator Project has grown exponentially since its beginning 5 years ago. We have watched more and more students participate in school science fairs, the Santa Cruz County Science Fair and the Regional Underwater Robotics Contest. The original handful of participants now includes 10 schools. This was accomplished under the leadership of GATE teacher Ted Altenberg and by MAIA's award of modest stipends to exceptional teachers from each of the schools. This year, by hiring Ted, Santa Cruz County Schools and PVUSD have adopted and will expand the project.

The second example of MAIA's leveraged good ideas started with a seed planted in the 1970s with our support of Michael Sullivan, counselor at Watsonville HS. Mike had a talent for recognizing the abilities of academically talented under-represented students and worked with MAIA to urge them to move on to higher education. The result has been the return of many talented and skilled college graduates to California and the Pajaro Valley, most of them from our nation's most prestigious universities.

In 2002 MAIA expanded these efforts to focus attention on college bound students by introducing a new counseling position to the PVUSD. Today, supported by PVUSD and MAIA, Rocio Cid-Castro is the District's College Pathways and Scholarship Coordinator (see article on her work.) Meanwhile, her predecessor MAIA board member, Dr. Lorraine Sandoval has begun an effort to increase scholarship assistance to the District's hard working, academically talented college bound seniors by organizing the PVUSD Scholarship Fund campaign. See our next MAIA Newsletter for an update on campaign progress.

Ann Wyckoff Carlos, President
MAIA Foundation

MAIA Web Presence

The MAIA Foundation is currently in the process of extending its web presence to social networks. Using popular social networking applications, such as Facebook and Twitter, MAIA aims to create a web community consisting of past scholarship recipients, those who have been associated with the foundation at any point in time, and the foundation's board members.

This web community will then have a forum to connect, share, and grow. Through selected social networking applications, community participants will have the ability to connect with other individuals faster and without difficulty. Active participants will be able to inform the community about ongoing projects, local events, success stories, etc. They will also be able to share their thoughts and questions with the community as a whole or directly to MAIA members. In a sense, this will be an extension of this newsletter in real time.

As time passes, the web community will grow in the number of participants from all over the country. A collaboration of many minds will be facilitated by up-to-date technology with one common goal; to improve the quality of education in the Pajaro Valley. MAIA will notify you in the near future to join us in this exciting endeavor.

Pete Moran, Board Member



Watsonville College Success Scholarships

The MAIA Foundation with UCSC's Educational Partnership Center has awarded \$107,500 in renewable college scholarships to seniors who graduated from PVUSD high schools in 2011. One of these outstanding young people, David Cruz (WHS '09) has successfully met our expectations by finishing two years at Cabrillo Community College and moving on to a 4-year-university. He says, "As a former Scholarship recipient, I would like to thank all the people who contributed moral and economic support toward my education. I am enrolled at in 15 units at UCSC."



The Increased Cost to Attend California State Institutions

Many of PVUSD's talented and academically prepared students find themselves abandoning their dreams of a higher education to look for work to help support their family. We are losing the potential these young people might contribute to our society because of the rising costs in tuition and fees. Most PVUSD students plan to attend a State University (CSU) or branch of the University of California (UC), since these institutions have been traditionally less expensive to attend than a private college or university. However with state budget cuts to the CSU and UC systems, the tuition and fees have made it unrealistic for any students dependent on state and federal grants as well as those students from middle income families, to attend.

Fall, 2011, students are paying 20% more than students paid last year to attend a CSU. CA approved a 12% tuition hike following a 10% increase in tuition approved earlier this year bring the total tuition and fees to \$5,472. The total cost to attend a CSU including housing, food, tuition, personal expenses, books and supplies is \$21,572.

The UC Regents recently approved a 9.6% tuition increase that together with a previously approved 8% tuition hike would put annual undergraduate tuition and fees at \$12,192, beginning August, 2011. The total cost to attend a UC including housing, food, tuition, personal expenses, books and supplies is \$29,292.

The increase to the state and federal grants available to students from low income families has not kept up with the increases in the costs of attending the 4-year state institutions, thereby forcing many of these students, as well as middle income families, who receive no state or federal grant support to opt for the community college programs. Unfortunately, the community colleges are also experiencing budget cuts. This translates into less community college classes and fewer students being served. The competition is fierce for class seats at the community college.

Dr. Lorraine Sandoval-Vigil

PVUSD Scholarship Advisory Board

To insure that scholarships would be available to graduating senior in PVUSD schools, the MAIA foundation, together with PVUSD's high schools raised the money to provide the Scholarship and College Pathway Coordinator position. The Coordinator is Rosie Cid-Castro. She has been working to align the scholarship process for the three high schools.

Members of the MAIA foundation are working with administrators from PVUSD to form a Scholarship Advisory Board. The function of this Board will be to raise money for scholarships and to help seniors with their college and scholarship application essays and interviews.

The mission of the new Advisory Board is the creation of a community of well-educated young people who have committed to sharing their talents, knowledge and resources to improve the quality of life in the Pajaro Valley, our nation and the world. It is the goal of the PVUSD Scholarship Advisory Board to create opportunities for academically talented students graduating from PVUSD high schools to attend college by providing scholarships and guidance as they work toward discovering and gaining admission to the colleges or universities of their choice.

Dr. Lorraine Sandoval-Vigil, Board Member

Report from Scholarship/College Pathway Coordinator

Last November I joined PVUSD and began laying a strong foundation. This month, September, I'm doing presentations to seniors at the 3 high schools during their advisory periods, to get the students thinking about college and scholarships. Last year I experienced the scholarship process at all 3 schools, and recommend the schools have a common application for scholarships as well as a district deadline. I hope to meet with scholarship coordinators to establish some common scholarship goals.

It is important to build strong relationships with students and the Pajaro Valley community. As the saying goes, "It takes a village to raise a child."

Rocio Cid-Castro, Coordinator



Extended Middle School Plus Project (EMSP)

During the 2010-11 school year, MAIA introduced its EMSP. The goal was to promote the success of middle school students who have the potential for high academic achievement by providing several afterschool enrichment activities.

MAIA members, Bonne Gutierrez and John Walker presented several possible activities to the PVUSD Extended Middle School program at their meeting with director, Joe Trautwein. Included activities were:

- Chess Circle—10 sessions with Chess Master, Gjon Feinstein
- Middle School Mock Trial—Students argue cases in a trial-like setting
- MATE/Underwater Robotics—Take part in MATE underwater robotics contests.
- College Visits—Transportation to local colleges
- Brainology—Take part in Brainology program to learn about brain function

MAIA offered various forms of funding for these activities and funded 5 projects at 3 middle schools.

- Brainology at Pajaro
- College visits at Cesar Chavez and Lakeview
- MATE/Robotics support at Cesar Chavez
- Additional funds from EMSP supported science fair projects at Cesar Chavez

Each of these activities provided unique learning opportunities not available without MAIA's EMSP. For the 2011-12 school year, MAIA plans to focus its middle school activities on college visits for PVUSD's middle schools.

John Walker, Board Member

PVUSD Schools Compete and Win Regional and International Underwater Robotics Competitions!

On June 25th exciting news from NASA's Neutral Buoyancy Lab in Houston, Texas reached the members of the Underwater Robotics Team at Ohlone School. Their mentors from the AHS Underwater ROV (Remotely Operated Vehicle) team had just won the 2011 International ROV competition!

AHS coach Joe Manildi expressed great pride in team members Connor Munger and Isaac Cassar who worked with Ohlone's younger ROV Scout Team hopefuls. Joe reported that these two student mentors "were proud sponsors of the 10 Ohlone students who participated in the regional ROV contest! Great Job Ohlone!"

Ohlone teacher, Jennifer Higgins, was also praised for having made a huge difference at Ohlone by PVUSD's GATE Coordinator, Lyn Olson; "Did you see how many of her students placed at the Santa Cruz County Science fair? The MAIA stipend has gone a long way toward bringing science into our schools. Congratulations to all!"



ROV Interest Expanding

Ohlone was joined in May by 2 other teams from H A Hyde and Radcliff schools at the WHS swimming pool where they drove their ROVs and saw a demonstration of the "soon to be" International Champion Underwater Robot from AHS. Each of PVUSD's six school teams had prepared the four components needed to compete in the regional competition held at Monterey Peninsula College.

The components are: (1) Develop an underwater robot that would cap an oil well. To do this they had to (2) design and build a working robot that would (3) gather biological samples from the bottom of the MPC pool and (4) explain how they did it in a poster presentation. Team members were also interviewed individually by a panel of judges.

California Dream Act News

The State of California has taken bold steps to provide undocumented students access to higher education. A significant number of the high school students in our schools are undocumented. Even for our brightest and academically successful undocumented students, the possibility of a college education is nearly impossible due to the cost. Known as the California Dream Act, two bills, AB130 and AB131, aim at providing undocumented students with financial aid for college. The first of these bills, AB130 was signed into law in July, granting undocumented students access to privately-funded financial aid for college.

The other half of the California Dream Act, AB131, is currently awaiting Governor Jerry Brown's signature. The bill provides state financial aid in the form of community college district fee waivers, institutional aid from CSU and UC schools, and access to Cal Grants (which students do not need to pay back) for eligible undocumented residents.

In the bills' text, AB130 and AB 131 refer to AB 540, signed into law in 2001, which allows undocumented residents to pay resident tuition, or be exempt from paying nonresident tuition. To qualify as "AB540 students," students need to attend a California High School for at least three years.

This new legislation will assert our State as a pioneer in supporting students regardless of their immigration status. Though the bills do not help students with access to federal financial aid or a pathway to citizenship, they offer undocumented students with the opportunity to fulfill their higher education goals to achieve their dreams of a college education.

Faris Sabbah, Board Member