

Your Dollars at Work

Cuesta donors 'have big hearts.' Their gifts provide funds that are making a difference in student instruction by assuring that facilities and equipment at Cuesta remain top notch. In addition, Cuesta College Foundation awards nearly 200 student scholarships each year. These financial awards help students with expenses and school supplies, as well as provide recognition and encouragement that someone cares enough to invest in the student as a person. Here are just some of the success stories from students, faculty and staff that your gifts are providing.

Anthony Logan: A Cougar for life

Anthony Logan received a surprise in his final weeks at Cuesta College: a \$1,000 scholarship from Southern California Gas Company.

The cash helped the business administration major transition to Azusa Pacific University.

"I had to give a short speech," Logan recalled. "I remember I cracked a joke: 'Normally, I'm the one giving money to The Gas Company, and now they're writing a check to me.' "

Logan earned the "Energizing Our Future" Scholarship in June of 2007 because of his grades, community involvement and field of study, said The Gas Company's Timothy Mahoney.

Logan, admits being "thrown off-guard" when Cuesta's Foundation informed him of the honor.



Anthony Logan

He started college as a Cougar and track athlete at Cuesta. Coincidentally, as an Azusa Pacific student, he remains a Cougar and a track athlete.

Whether clad in Cuesta green and black or Azusa Pacific brick and black, Anthony Logan remains a Cougar.



Alysha Nye

Alysha Nye: A pat on the back keeps her going

Cuesta College is helping **Alysha Nye** achieve her career goal as a social worker and part-time Cuesta instructor. Meanwhile, this single mom is enhancing her computer skills to improve her earning potential until she can begin her dream job.

Nye is grateful for the atmosphere on campus and the financial support from various scholarships. She received \$975 in 2008 – enough to pay her basic bills for a month. "So it's one more month that I can keep going to school," she said.

But she also gets "a mental boost" from the recognition. "Scholarships are really important because they offer encouragement to keep me going," she said. "It is so challenging being a single mom and a full-time student and working. That pat on the back says, good job. Keep on going."

Genesis Newsom: Cuesta provides a caring interest

Cuesta College is helping **Genesis Newsom** achieve her dream of a college education.

She obtained her associate arts degree from Cuesta and is attending Columbia College, Cuesta's university partner, to get her bachelor's degree in business.

Cuesta just made sense to her.

"I thought it was smart to start at a community college to save some money and really get a grasp about what college life was all about because I wasn't 100 percent sure I knew what I wanted to do," she said.

Scholarships are helping financially and emotionally.

"There are some days when school and homework are overwhelming. On those long days and long nights, it's nice to know that someone cares enough to invest not only in my education but in me as a person.



Genesis Newsom

Karsten Huehn: Achieving his dream career through Web Development Technologies Program

Karsten Huehn completed the Web Development Technologies Certificate Program, which led to a career as a programmer at Level Studio, an independent digital agency in San Luis Obispo with a client list that includes Apple, Hewlett-Packard, and Cisco Systems.

He came to Cuesta in 1998 and completed two internships, including one for Advancement. He earned his associate arts degree in 2005.

Today, he works as a user interface developer responsible for making sure that the interactive features work on a client's new Web site. His career is challenging and, he adds, "It's extremely fun."

Hard work and Cuesta made his dream career possible.

"I definitely was able to achieve my educational goals there," said Huehn. "Because of the certificate and also some of the contacts I made at Cuesta, I was able to achieve a number of jobs in the IT and the Web development field, including the one I'm at now."



Karsten Huehn



Kelly Whitten

Grant helps prepare textbook materials for Cuesta's visually impaired students

A \$5,000 Foundation grant is helping Disabled Students Programs and Services expand services to visually impaired students.

"The grant allows the department to more quickly reproduce material through its new interpoint Braille printer," said **Kelly Whitten**, DSPS's alternate media facilitator.

Whitten uses a software program to translate electronic versions of a text into Braille, and then prints the characters using a Brailler, which embosses both sides of the paper.

Our 15-year-old Brailler had difficulty interfacing with today's high-speed computers, he said, adding "the quality and speed of the new Brailler will allow me more time to meet the needs of other disabled students."

Lynda Snyder: Cuesta College is changing her life

Re-entry student **Lynda Snyder** has become one of Cuesta College's biggest boosters.

That started even before she was named an Ambassador, a student outreach program launched by the Foundation and partially funded through a Pacific Gas and Electric Co. grant. She convinced two 30-something women to return to college.

Snyder, who is pursuing a psychology degree, has distinguished herself academically.

She has also benefited from three Foundation scholarships. The money helps, but the recognition provides an even bigger bang for the buck.

"I have my scholarship award framed at home," Snyder said. "It's a reminder that people believe in me. And that helps me believe in myself."



Lynda Snyder

Reinventing the classroom from 'Sage on the Stage' to 'Guide on the Side'

Dennis Baeyen, Cuesta's division chairman of English, studied the history of teaching.

In ancient Greece, students learned by strolling in the marketplace with their teacher. In Shakespeare's day, desks faced a wall so instructors could see their work.

"And during the industrial revolution, a teacher stood on a raised dais so he could look out and lecture, and students sat in rows," said Baeyen, who received a \$3,000 Foundation grant to design an experimental classroom.

"We don't want 'Sage on the Stage,' " he said of teachers who lecture at the front of the class. "We want 'Guide on the Side.' " The grant will help create a place where students feel encouraged to collaborate – or a room without rows.



Dennis Baeyen

New scoreboards benefit Cuesta athletes and fans

Burned-out light bulbs in Cuesta's scoreboard made it difficult to follow the game.

The low point came in early 2007 when Athletics Director **Bob Mariucci** worried about forfeiting because visitors could not see how much time remained or what the score was.

A \$25,000 Foundation grant replaced the old boards with two new displays for the main court and single boards for the two adjacent side courts. The new equipment features wireless controls and LED digital displays – virtually eliminating the need to change expensive outdated bulbs.

"The scoreboards certainly benefit the many spectators who watch our home sporting contests in basketball, volleyball and wrestling," he said.

In addition, they are also a plus for those who compete in weekend and summer leagues.



Bob Mariucci

Big hearts benefit Cuesta guitar students

Jennifer Martin's beginning guitar students were sounding some sour notes.

Fifty students with acoustic guitars were straining to see Martin's fingers on the fretboard of her six-string guitar as they struggled to play the same chord.

Thanks to a \$1,400 Foundation grant, Martin obtained a video camera and an amplifier in October of 2006.

The grant filled a critical need and also made it more efficient for Martin to conduct her class.

"People in this area have big hearts," she said. "They have an expectation of excellence, and they help us to achieve that by donating to the Foundation. We literally couldn't do what we do without the Foundation – we just consider them our wonderful angels."



Jennifer Martin

\$15,000 Foundation grant helps revamp audio-visual system in science forum

The Marantz amplifier in the science forum was typical of the equipment found in most living rooms in the 1970s.

Much has changed in the way films are presented in the digital age. The Marantz amp made showing DVDs a challenge to instructors, said **Ron Ruppert**, biology division chair.

A \$15,000 Foundation grant will help upgrade the sound system in the forum that is home to such classes as human anatomy and general biology. It will augment funds to relocate a pair of data projectors and install two larger screens at the front of the 126-seat classroom.

"We're excited to be able to move forward and modernize this 30-year-old equipment, Ruppert said. "And we're thankful to the community and to the Foundation."



Ron Ruppert