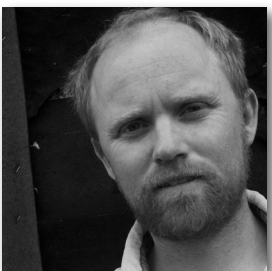




MIRA COSTA HIGH SCHOOL DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI HALL OF FAME

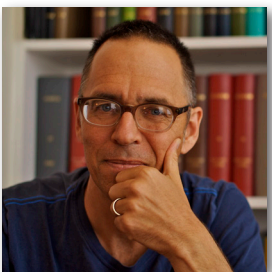
Seeing life from a different angle distinguishes **Mark Sundeen** (1988). His books, *Car Camping* (2000) and *The Making of Toro* (2003), drew critical attention. In 2010, he co-authored *North by Northwestern*, a *New York Times* bestseller. His latest book, *The Man Who Quit Money*, established him as one of America's most innovative writers of literary non-fiction. Recently receiving the Innovative Artist's Award for his genre-bending approach, his works have appeared in the *New York Times* magazine, *Outsider*, *National Geographic*, and other publications. He has taught in creative writing programs at the University of New Mexico and Western Connecticut State University.



Some of our distinguished graduates are familiar faces in the media. **Michele Tafoya** (1983) is a nationally known sportscaster for NBC. She made history at CBS in 1996 when she became the first woman to ever call the television play-by-play of an NCAA tournament game. She is a highly visible sideline reporter for a number of sports including Monday Night Football. In 2006 *The Davie-Brown* index ranked Michele among the most likeable TV sports personalities, including *Biggest Trend-Setter*. She recently won the first-ever Emmy for Sports Personality—Sports Reporter. She just finished covering her third Olympics in London.



Mira Costa graduates have long distinguished themselves in the ocean. **Matt Warshaw** (1978) is a surfing writer and historian who has published eight books on surfing. A former editor of *Surfer Magazine*, Matt's writing has appeared in *The New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Esquire*, *Outside* and *Surfer*. His *Encyclopedia of Surfing* was described as "A living, breathing masterpiece," on *Salon.com*. The *Honolulu Star-Bulletin* wrote that "Warshaw has written more cogent words about surfing than any other human," Matt appeared in the 2004 film *Riding Giants*, a documentary detailing the origins and history of surf culture.



One of the most familiar names in surfing, **Dewey Weber** (1956) was a California surfing pioneer who became legend at his untimely death in 1993 at age 55. In the 1950's, Weber surfed Hawaii and features prominently in surfing films of the period. By the 1960's he had returned to California where he took over a surfboard company and turned it into an international success. A new biography, *Little Man On Wheels*, details Weber's life story from his childhood, through his rise to surfing stardom, the creation of Dewey Weber Surfboards, his impact on the sport and his enduring legacy.



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Last spring, *Time Magazine* named **Cami Anderson** (1989) one of the "100 Most Influential People in the World" in recognition of her efforts to improve American education. With a bachelor's degree from Cal and a master's from Harvard, she is a recognized innovator. She received both the Sallie Mae National Teacher of the Year Award and Teach For America's Peter Jennings Award for Civic Leadership. Having served as executive director of Teach For America as well as chief program officer for the New Leaders for New Schools project in New York, she is now the superintendent in Newark, New Jersey.



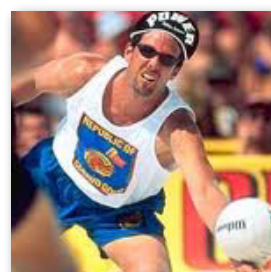
Gil Archuletta (1957), was the first Mira Costa graduate to become mayor of Manhattan Beach, a milestone event for both school and city. He is a prominent practicing attorney and a recognized community leader. Among other honors, Gil was commended by the president of the L.A. City Council for outstanding community service. Supporting our young people, Gil has volunteered many hours as President of the South Bay Junior Football Association, and as a Little League and Youth Basketball coach. Of all of his accomplishments, he says that he's most proud of being the father of four—all of them Mustangs.



The power of his music is what distinguishes **David Benoit** (1971). David is a world-renowned jazz pianist, conductor and composer. Transcending politics, David has performed at the White House for three U.S. Presidents: Bill Clinton, Ronald Reagan and George Bush Sr. Nominated for five Grammy awards, he has released more than 25 solo recordings. He is the principal conductor for the Asia America Symphony Orchestra, but has also led eminent orchestras around the world, including the L.A. Philharmonic. His extensive discography includes several Charlie Brown related projects, notable film scores and collaborations with many leading pop, jazz and classical artists.



Mike Dodd (1975) helped change the face of beach volleyball around the world. With his partner Mike Whitmarsh, he won the silver medal in the men's inaugural beach volleyball tournament at the 1996 Summer Olympics. Closer to home, he was one of the dominant players in beach volleyball for years, winning the Manhattan Beach Open title five times. Now retired from competition, Mike continues serving the sport as an internationally known analyst for NBC and as a coach for both men's and women's teams, including the American doubles team of Gibb and Rosenthal in this year's London Olympics.



John Featherstone (1967) exemplifies graduates who gain national recognition in service to our local communities. Educator and mentor, John has influenced the lives of many South Bay young people. He is the most successful head football coach in El Camino College history, and has the highest winning percentage (69.2%) of any active coach in the Southern Section of California. Voted National Coach of the Year for the second time earlier this year, he also picked up his eighth California State Coach of the Year award. More than three dozen of his players have gone on to successful professional football careers.





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Each year the Mira Costa Boys Volleyball team gives out the **Eric Fonoimoana** (1987) Commitment Award to recognize one player's outstanding character, achievement, and dedication to the sport. Few things exemplify achievement and dedication more than an Olympic gold medal, which Eric won at the 2000 games in Sydney. A dominant and consistent force on the AVP Tour for years, Eric has also had an impact in his community. He continues to donate winnings and devote much of his time off the beach to his foundation "Dig 4 Kids" helping inner city youngsters excel in volleyball, school, and life.



Serving the communities that nurtured them is a characteristic many of our distinguished graduates share. **Josh Fredricks** (1967) started his career as a Manhattan Beach police officer, worked his way through law school, taught law and police science classes at El Camino, practiced criminal law and had a distinguished career as both a Municipal and Superior Court judge. His service on the South Bay Union High School Board of Trustees (1977-1982) came at a crucial time for local education. His legal expertise, calm demeanor and ability to find consensus helped guide the district through one of its most difficult periods.



Russ Lesser (1958) still lives about 100 feet from the Manhattan Beach house his grandparents purchased in 1917. After a successful CPA career, he became president of Body Glove International in 1990, which sponsors Costa's Scholar Quiz program. A dedicated runner himself (he has run more than 50,000 miles), he established the Hometown Fair's MB 10k run, which boasts one of the country's highest local participation rates. In addition to other work for which he was honored by Manhattan Beach with its Rose & Scroll Award, Russ served 8 years on the City Council and two terms as Mayor.



Don Long (1957) has been called "the Michelangelo of race car builders." After beginning his drag racing career with a Fiat altered coupe in the early 1960's, he built other altered, gasser chassis and later, Funny Cars. But his fame and recognition principally rest on the more than 130 superbly designed and fabricated dragsters turned out by his Southern California shop in the 1960's and 1970's. 2001 saw him inducted into the International Drag Racing Hall of Fame. In 2010 he received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Hot Rod Association, the largest of all motorsport organizations.



Recent Olympic gold medalist Misty May-Treanor said that: "As a beach volleyball player, it doesn't get much better than having played with Holly [McPeak]. I want to thank her for laying the foundation not only for me, but for all the young women that will come after." **Holly McPeak** (1987) helped revolutionize women's volleyball. One of just five women worldwide to compete in the first three Olympics in beach volleyball, and having won multiple tournament titles, she was inducted into Volleyball's Hall of Fame in 2009. In 2002, she became the first woman to surpass \$1 million in career earnings.



Few people are more curious about the world than **Nancy Muleady-Mecham** (1973). The sheer breadth of her career distinguishes her story. Nancy achieved distinction as a U.S. National Park Ranger, professional naturalist, National Park Service consultant, biology professor, author of four books and numerous articles, emergency room registered nurse, paramedic, astronomy lecturer, medical trainer, Civil Air Patrol instructor, national emergency response team member, researcher and explorer. A Fulbright Scholar at the Gorno-Altai State University in the Russian Federation, Nancy credits her Mira Costa biology teacher, Betty Estill, for encouraging her far-ranging interests and sparking a lifelong passion for her subject.



Richard Parker (1964) has earned distinction worldwide. An Oxford-trained economist, he is a Lecturer in Public Policy at Harvard. Earlier, he was a journalist and co-founder of Mother Jones magazine. A philanthropist, he has directed various foundations to donate more than \$40 million to social change groups. He is also a social entrepreneur who grew Greenpeace from 2,000 to 600,000 supporters and a political consultant advising, among others, Senators Kennedy, Glenn, Cranston, McGovern and former Greek Prime Minister George Papandreou. His book on economist John Kenneth Galbraith was described by William F Buckley as "the best biography of the century."



An early graduate of a then new high school, **Beverly Rohrer** (1955) went on to have an immense impact on education in the South Bay. Beginning as a teacher at Mira Costa, she rose in administrative ranks until, in typically unprecedented fashion, she had served as school superintendent not just in Manhattan, but also in Redondo and Hermosa. Under her leadership fine arts programs flourished, technology expanded, and test scores continued to rise. More than instrumental in making Mira Costa the outstanding school that it is today, she earned local, state and national recognition for educational innovation and inspiring leadership.