"Let me throw a word out here – empowerment. As faculty members, we are giving our students the power to not only change their own lives but also the lives of others around them."
– Ed Tywoniak, Communications professor

SMC professors are pushing the envelope (inside the classroom and out).

- **Professor Jyoti Bachani** (business) received a 2011 Fulbright Award to India to study how the practice of “jugaad” has contributed to the rise of India as a global economic power.


- **Professor Kathleen Taylor** (education) is an internationally quoted expert and researcher on adult learners and won a 2013 Fulbright award to study adult education in Greece.

- **Brenda Hillman**, Olivia Filippi Professor of Poetry, was awarded the 2009 Los Angeles Times Book Prize for poetry and named one of “50 of the Most Inspiring Authors in the World” by Poets & Writers magazine.

- **Professor Carla Bossard** (biology and environmental science) received the California Invasive Plant Council Award for exceptional contributions to invasive plant management and protection of California ecosystems.

- **Professor Joe Burley** (chemistry) recently worked with the National Park Service to measure ozone levels in and around Yosemite Park.

- **Professor Barbara A. McGraw** (business) a renowned scholar of social ethics, published *Rediscovering America’s Sacred Ground: Public Religion and Pursuit of the Good in a Pluralistic America*.
friends." That’s how I started teaching classes about Latin American women’s history.

If you asked my students about me, I think they’d say that I make them work really, really hard and push them to stretch themselves (maybe more than they like), but it’s because I care. I believe they have the capacity to do great things in the world. It’s as simple as that.

You can get a liberal arts education anywhere. What sets Saint Mary’s apart is that there’s a concern for the greater good – you end up caring about more than just yourself, and that makes for a spectacular experience. It’s part of the whole Catholic tradition that Saint Mary’s lives: a focus on community.

It’s an attitude.
Myrna Santiago, history professor, Director of Women’s Studies

When I began looking for teaching positions, I was lucky enough to get a number of offers. What was different, and exciting, about Saint Mary’s was that it had such a diverse student population, way more so than the other places I was considering.

At last count, there were maybe two dozen Chicanas with Ph.D.s in history in the whole country – and I’m one of them. And I think most of us who went into this profession wanted to be role models for Mexican, Latina and Chicana students. But most of my colleagues don’t have many students to work with, because the number of Latinas going to college is small. But here, it’s different. I have a ton of very diverse students and they’re all wonderful.

My own research has been focused primarily in the areas of labor and ecology and the oil industry, but I’m about to start some new projects that look at earthquakes. One very interesting thing about Saint Mary’s is that many classes come about because students want me to teach a particular topic. At some point my students started to say, “Why don’t you teach a class about this or that?” And I’d say, “That’s a good idea – if you promise to bring your friends.” That’s how I started teaching classes about Latin American women’s history.

If you asked my students about me, I think they’d say that I make them work really, really hard and push them to stretch themselves (maybe more than they like), but it’s because I care. I believe they have the capacity to do great things in the world. It’s as simple as that.

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“I believe they [our students] have the capacity to do great things in the world. It’s as simple as that.”