World-renowned Neurosurgeon and Sancta Alumna
Dr Wirginia Maixner

A very special event

Sancta Sophia College
walk in wisdom
Join us for afternoon tea on August 22, 2010

Principal, Dr Marie Leech, invites the Sancta community and friends of Sancta to join her in the very rare opportunity of welcoming Alumna Dr Wirginia Maixner back to the College to speak of her extraordinary life.

When: 2-3.30pm, August 22
Venue: Sancta Sophia College
Cost: $20 (to cover cost of afternoon tea)

RSVP
Numbers are strictly limited. RSVP before August 16 by returning this form and payment to the Alumni Office:
email - marketing@sancta.usyd.edu.au, fax - (02) 9577 2388, mail - 8 Missenden Rd Camperdown 2050

Name: ___________________________ Phone number: ___________________________
Number of tickets: ___________________________ Payment by (please circle): Visa Mastercard Cheque
Card Number: ___________________________ Exp: ____________/
Name on card: ___________________________ Signature: ___________________________
Total charge: $____ ______

All of Australia knew the name Dr Wirginia Maixner in November 2009. On November 16 and 17, she led a team of 16 neurosurgeons, plastic surgeons, and other specialist medical staff at the Royal Children’s Hospital in a 32-hour operation to successfully separate three-year-old Bangladeshi conjoined twins, Trishna and Krishna. The twins were conjoined at the skull in a condition occurring in only one in 2 million live births. Successful separations are rare. The successful operation means the girls will go on to lead healthy lives. It also means Wirginia has achieved what only a handful of doctors in the world have managed to do.

Dr Wirginia Maixner
Wirginia grew up in Sydney’s Northern Beaches and, while living at Sancta Sophia College, studied at the University of Sydney’s School of Medicine and in 1986 graduated with a Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery. Encouraged by a supportive family which includes Australia’s first female flying Doctor, Wirginia became only the third woman to be accepted into the Royal College of Surgeons’ Neurosurgery Training Program in the early 1990s.

She became the first person to fight for and be granted maternity leave by the Royal College of Surgeons and the extremely focused and determined Wirginia completed her studies as a single mother.

Wirginia went on to study and gain experience in Paris and Canada, and became one of Australia’s youngest heads of neurosurgery and the first woman to run the department at the Royal Children’s Hospital in Melbourne. She has performed many surgeries that have saved children’s lives. In 2006 the incredible Doctor performed ground-breaking surgery on a three-year-old girl to successfully stop seizures caused by a rare genetic condition. In 2007 Wirginia was a crucial part of a surgery where a young girl became the first child in Australasia to receive an auditory brainstem implant, a surgery hailed for paving the way for revolutionary advances in medicine.