



# NEWS

---

El Camino College | Public Relations & Marketing Department  
16007 Crenshaw Blvd., Torrance, CA 90506  
Contact: Ann M. Garten, Director, Community Relations  
Telephone: (310) 660-3406 | E-Mail: [agarten@elcamino.edu](mailto:agarten@elcamino.edu)

**For Immediate Release**

**May 11, 2009**

## **El Camino College Celebrates Athletic Hall of Fame**

El Camino College recently celebrated its 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Athletic Hall of Fame Banquet at Los Verdes Golf Course. The event honored players, coaches and those involved with the El Camino College athletic program through the years.

This year's celebration paid tribute to Raymond Southstone, who co-founded the El Camino College Athletic Hall of Fame and has coordinated the event for the past 22 years. He announced his retirement last year. In recognition of his many years of service, the Raymond Southstone Athletic Hall of Fame Scholarship has been established for outstanding athletes competing in cross country and track.

El Camino College students Ashley Hardy and Stephen Peres were honored with the annual Norm Verry Scholarship.

A two-time state champion for El Camino College, Hardy is a strong, quick, agile, and smart middle blocker. Her volleyball accomplishments over the last two years include career wins of 63-4, 397 kills and 115 blocks, 1<sup>st</sup> Team South Coast Conference 2008, 2<sup>nd</sup> Team South Coast Conference 2007 and Scholar Baller 2007-2008. In addition to excelling in athletics, Hardy maintained the highest GPA on the 2007-2008 team. After earning her Associate of Arts degree, she plans to transfer to a four-year university to become a neurologist specializing in translational research.

Peres was captain and MVP of this year's men's basketball team and made the All-State Honorable Mention Team, which has not been done in the last 20 years. He was also named First Team All Conference for the South Coast Conference and MVP for the Warriors in the Glendale College Tournament. Peres is in the El Camino College Honors Transfer Program and has maintained a 3.8 GPA with challenging courses such as calculus, chemistry, biology and physics. He plans to transfer in the fall to the College of Idaho on a full athletic scholarship to major in physical therapy with a goal of becoming a sports orthopedist.

Peres is also the 2009 James F. Schwartz Athlete of the Year Scholarship recipient, along with track & field standout Faalelea "Na'i" Leni.

As one of the top collegiate track & field throwers in the country, Leni started strong in her freshman year at El Camino College, breaking a 21-year-old college school record in the shot put with a throw of 48'0" and went on to win South Coast Conference, Southern California, and State Community College titles while remaining undefeated during the year. During her sophomore year, she continued to excel with an early season shot mark of 52'3," which currently leads the western United States in all collegiate ranks, and broke her own record from 2008. She has also claimed the No. 2 spot in El Camino College history in the discus, with her throw of 149-8 and set a college record in the hammer throw of 143-11. Leni plans to transfer to a four-year university and is training to make the 2012 U.S. Olympic Track & Field Team in the shot put.

###