



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

For Immediate Release

March 16, 2010

El Camino College to Present Space Science Day 2010

South Bay youngsters are invited to attend El Camino College's Space Science Day 2010, scheduled from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 3 at the college's planetarium and science classrooms, 16007 Crenshaw Boulevard, near Torrance.

The daylong event is sponsored by El Camino College and American Honda Motor Co., Inc., and coordinated by the El Camino College Astronaut Ellison Onizuka Memorial Committee. It is free and open to serious-minded science students in grades five through 12. As a new addition this year, students will be able to see a demonstration of Honda's ASIMO, the world's most advanced humanoid robot.

The event is dedicated to Ellison Onizuka, a Space Shuttle *Challenger* astronaut who perished along with the six other crew members during the tragic events of 1986.

"This is a proud tradition at El Camino College – we welcome all future scientists to this annual event that honors an outstanding astronaut and scientist," said El Camino College President Thomas M. Fallo. "We hope young people enjoy this opportunity to learn about science in an inspiring college environment."

The event's keynote speaker will be NASA Astronaut Daniel M. Tani, whose spaceflight experience includes a mission on the Space Shuttle *Endeavour* in December 2001, the 12th shuttle flight to visit the International Space Station. Tani and the *Endeavour* crew unloaded more than 3 tons of supplies, logistics and science experiments from the Raffaello Multi-Purpose Logistics Module. He also performed a space walk to wrap thermal blankets around solar equipment on the Space Station.

On his second spaceflight, Astronaut Tani served as *Expedition-16* flight engineer and spent 120 days living and working aboard the International Space Station. He launched to the Station aboard STS-120 on October 23, 2007, and returned aboard STS-122, landing at the Kennedy Space Center, Florida, on February 20, 2008.

Selected as an astronaut candidate by NASA in April 1996, Astronaut Tani reported to the Johnson Space Center in August 1996. After a training period, he performed technical duties in the Astronaut Office Computer Support Branch, and EVA Branch and has served as a Crew Support Astronaut (CSA) for *Expedition-4*. Astronaut Tani has logged more than 131 days in space, and 39 hours and 11 minutes in six spacewalks.

Astronaut Dan Tani received his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineers from MIT in 1984; he returned to MIT in 1988 and received his master's degree in mechanical engineering, specializing in human factors and group decision making. After he earned his bachelor's degree, he worked at Hughes Aircraft Corporation in El Segundo as a design engineer in the Space and Communications group.

After the astronaut presentation, Space Science Day students will enjoy classroom presentations and demonstrations led by El Camino College professors, students, and guests from JPL and other institutions.

Students will participate in a variety of hands-on science activities and experiments, including the traditional Egg Drop Competition, where students attempt to build the perfect apparatus that will let an egg drop from a rooftop without breaking when it lands.

Reservations are required for the free science event. For more information, call 310-660-3487 or contact SpaceDay@elcamino.edu.

#