



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

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El Camino College Names Ed Martinez and Francine Vasilomanolakis 2013 Distinguished Faculty and Staff

El Camino College librarian Ed Martinez and trainer/instructional technology specialist Francine Vasilomanolakis were recently honored at a reception for their dedication to students, college, and colleagues.

Martinez and Vasilomanolakis, honorees for the 2013 El Camino College Distinguished Faculty and Staff Award, were recognized at the 16th Annual Faculty and Staff Appreciation Day, an event designed to thank all members of the campus community for their commitment to the college and its educational mission.

Ed Martinez has been a public access librarian at El Camino College since 1984. In his 34-year career as a librarian, he has taken the “public access” part of his title very seriously; making sure the El Camino College Schauerman Library is an efficient and user-friendly environment that is accessible to students and community members.

Martinez is widely known for supporting students, their academic pursuits, and a variety of library activities designed to help them succeed. He was a dedicated adviser to the Alpha Gamma Sigma Honor Society for many years, was a member of the Student Employee of the Year Committee, and has served on the Scholarship Committee and the Student Commencement Speaker Selection Committee since joining ECC 29 years ago.

As co-founder of the Friends of the El Camino College Library, Martinez led an influential movement of support and celebration of libraries. He organized many programs and events designed to raise awareness of the Library’s resources, as well as funds to maintain and expand these resources and programs. Also known as the college historian, Martinez has worked tirelessly to collect and catalog items for the extensive ECC Archives Collection, which he created to preserve artifacts, records and memorabilia of the campus. He is currently coordinating efforts to digitize the collection.

Martinez has a bachelor’s degree from Stanford University, and a master’s degree in library science from the University of California at Berkeley. He is a member of the American Library Association and was the editor of the now-defunct *Library Mosaics*, a publication for library staff distributed worldwide. Throughout his career, he has been a keynote speaker at numerous library staff conventions across the country, offering his insights on the role of libraries and librarians/media technicians in today’s world.

Francine Vasilomanolakis is a trainer/instructional technology specialist who is dedicated to helping faculty and staff work better and more efficiently, ultimately improving student learning and success. To Vasilomanolakis, technology and teaching go hand-in-hand, and finding ways to share this information and knowledge is one of her highest priorities.

She has a bachelor's degree in liberal studies and a K-12 teaching credential from California State University, Northridge, and a master's degree in educational technology from California State University, Fullerton. Vasilomanolakis has a background in teaching, and continues to teach courses at the university level.

She joined the El Camino College staff in October 2009, and conducts a variety of workshops for staff and faculty, with topics ranging from one-hour sessions that cover basic computer applications to a series of three-hour faculty workshops about online teaching. She is always looking for strategies to improve class offerings and communications tools, through emails and her periodic "Tech Blasts." By being a teacher, student, and staff member, she brings a unique perspective to her position that allows her to relate on many levels.

She also created an accessibility and certificate program for faculty, demonstrating how to make contents available to special needs students; led the development and launch of the college's first Distance Education Institute; and created new approaches to integrate technology in the classroom. Vasilomanolakis also serves on the college's Academic Technology Committee, where she promotes the importance of technology in an academic environment. She treats everyone with a high degree of respect and patience, regardless of the person's skill or experience with computers and technology, and will take the time to explain concepts in everyday language – without "tech speak."

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