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

**For Immediate Release**

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## **El Camino College to Celebrate 27th Athletic Hall of Fame**

El Camino College will celebrate the 27th Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Dinner Ceremony on Thursday, May 5 at the Ayres Hotel, 14400 Hindry Avenue, Hawthorne. Social hour will begin at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner and the presentation ceremony at 6 p.m.

Eight new Hall of Fame inductees – seven student-athletes and one coach – will be recognized at the event. Former ECC football coach John Featherstone, a South Bay native, will become the first two-time El Camino College Athletic Hall of Fame inductee, named as a player in 2005 and this year as a coach.

The event will honor players, coaches and those involved with the El Camino College athletic program through the years.

The 2016 inductees include: Tim Buzbee – football (1971-72); Jeff Cummins – football (1988-89), Richard De Armitt – football (1947-48); John Featherstone – football, coaching (1985-2015); Chloe Grimm – basketball (2004-05); Fritz Marohn – water polo (1992-94); Hal Simonek – wrestling (1957); and Harold Young – track and field (2003-04).

Membership in the Athletic Hall of Fame is a tribute to those athletes, coaches, and other distinguished individuals who deserve recognition for their outstanding accomplishments in athletics and for their support of the El Camino College athletic program.

El Camino College has enjoyed a tradition of athletic excellence since the campus opened in 1947. More than 200 outstanding athletes and supporters have been inducted into the El Camino College Athletic Hall of Fame since the inaugural event in 1988.

For tickets or more information about the El Camino College Athletic Hall of Fame, call 310-660-3545, or view <http://www.elcamino.edu/athletics/hallfame.asp>.

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## **El Camino College Athletic Hall of Fame 2016 Inductees**

In just his first football season at El Camino College in 1971, **Tim Buzbee** was part of something special: he helped the Warriors to a state championship with an 11-1 record and a No. 2 national finish. During his time on the field for the Warriors, he earned All-Conference honors at tackle before continuing his career at San Diego State University. Buzbee graduated from San Diego State in 1974 with a bachelor's degree in education. After graduation, he began working at

Valhalla High School in El Cajon, teaching adaptive physical education, while coaching football and wrestling and serving as a driver's education instructor. Buzbee currently serves as executive vice president at Benefit Coordinators Corporation in San Diego.

Defensive lineman and Harbor City native **Jeff Cummins** played for ECC in 1988 and 1989, earning First Team All-American status as a defensive end and was named to the California Football JC Grid-Wire All-Decade Team. He was the top junior college recruit for the University of Oregon, and played from 1990-92 before a decade of professional football. He played in the Canadian Football League for the Las Vegas Posse, Toronto Argonauts, Ottawa Rough Riders and the Hamilton Tiger-Cats from 1994-2000. From 2001-2003, he played in the Arena Football League with the Toronto Phantoms, Arizona Rattlers, and the Georgia Force. Cummins returned to Canada as the head coach for Acadia University in Nova Scotia for the past 13 seasons. He was named the Atlantic University Sport Coach of the Year in 2004, 2005, 2011 and 2012, along with being honored as the National Canadian Interuniversity Sport Coach of the Year in 2011.

**Richard "Dick" De Armitt** was born in 1926 in Watts and in 1944 graduated from Washington High School, where he was a standout halfback. After high school, he served as a volunteer paratrooper in the U.S. Army 11th Airborne Division in Japan during World War II and received an honorable discharge. De Armitt then returned home and played football for the Warriors during the 1947 and 1948 seasons. He became the first halfback in the history of the program to receive All-Metropolitan Conference selection. He also set a program record with a punt of 63 yards. His most important accomplishment was meeting his sweetheart, Loradelle Jean Almond, while at ECC. They married on Easter Sunday 1948. De Armitt went on to work in the Torrance Fire Department for 30 years, and retired in 1979 as battalion chief and captain. He and Loradelle moved to Utah where they started programs for youth. He passed away on April 22, 2014.

A legend in community college football, **John Featherstone** retired in 2015 after more than 30 years coaching at ECC. He retired with the highest winning percentage of any active coach in the Southern Section of California. A South Bay native, Featherstone's affiliation with ECC football began as a student-athlete (1967-1968). As a coach, he continued the Warriors football tradition of producing scholar-athletes who have continued on at universities; with some making their way into the pro ranks. Featherstone coached the Warriors to a National Championship in 1987, in addition to three national championship game appearances. The Warriors also won two state championships, 11 conference championships, and appeared in 19 bowl games. Five consecutive Southern California playoff appearances were made from 2004-08 and the Warriors have 21 nationally ranked finishes, including seven straight from 2003-09. Featherstone won the Mission Conference Coach of the Year Award and the National Coach of the Year Award twice; he is an eight-time California State Coach of the Year Award recipient; and was inducted into the ECC Athletic Hall of Fame in 2005 as a player. Featherstone's influence as a community leader is far reaching, with countless athletes, students, alumni, colleagues and friends all over the country who support his work and dedication to football and ECC.

**Chloe Grimm's** successful athletic career began at Redondo Union High School, where she was an outstanding basketball player. In 2004-2005, Grimm led the Warriors to their first conference championship in school history. She led in scoring (14.5), rebounding (9.0), field goal percentage (56.1) and free throw percentage (72.4). And she anchored a defense that ranked fourth in the state, allowing only 52.7 points per game. Among other awards, she was the ECC Female Athlete

of the Year in 2005. Her single-season performance ranks her in the ECC women's basketball top 10 in three categories: first in field goal percentage, fourth in scoring, and sixth in rebounding. She was actively recruited and turned down opportunities to play NCAA Division I basketball in order to study fashion merchandising at San Francisco State University, where she continued her excellence on the court, earning two tournament MVP honors and All-Conference honors. After graduating, she worked for Michael Kors for five years; she is now in management for Crossroads Trading Company.

**Fritz Marohn** graduated from Peninsula High School in 1992. He then enrolled at ECC, where he played on the water polo team and set the standard of protecting the cage for all future goalkeepers. Marohn was the team's MVP in 1992 and 1993. As a sophomore, he was the primary reason the Warriors earned a spot at the state championship. Marohn was named All-American and All-Tournament Second Team at the 1993 state championships, where he also scored from his goalie position. At ECC, he broke a number of records, some of which still stand today: single game saves (21), single season saves (376), career saves (665), career blocked penalty shots (6) and blocked penalty shots in a single game (2). After his successful athletic career, Marohn went on to become founder and CEO of Fritz Construction, Inc. in the South Bay, building high-end homes and projects.

In 1948 **Harold "Hal" Simonek** became the third Inglewood wrestler to capture the Southern Section Championship, doing so at 98 pounds. He enrolled in ECC in 1957 and joined the program led by Dave Hengsteler. Simonek achieved an overall 90 winning percentage and became team co-captain. Simonek continued at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo where he took third in the Pacific Coast Intercollegiate Championships, first place at the Far Western Championships, and first at the Regional Olympic Trials in California. In 1958, he joined five other Cal Poly wrestlers to become the first to qualify for NCAA Nationals, where he went 1-2. After college, Simonek became the head wrestling coach at Cerritos College, serving through 1978. He led the Falcons to the first wrestling state championship in school history in 1971, while also coaching swimming, water polo, and women's cross country. Simonek completed his tenure at Cerritos College as athletic director in 1978 and now manages two successful sports bars in Arizona.

During his senior year of high school in Oklahoma City, **Harold Young** won the 5A track & field state championships in discus with a throw of 191 feet, ranking him No. 14 in the country. He also placed second in the shot put with a throw of 58-8. Young came to ECC in 2003 and became the most accomplished thrower in school history. During his freshman and sophomore years, he set school records and won the conference, Southern California, and state titles in both shot put and discus. As a freshman, he competed in the USA Track and Field Junior Nationals where he placed second in the discus and qualified for the Pan American Games in Barbados. There he placed sixth in the discus. In his sophomore year, he was named ECC Student-Athlete of the Year and was No. 22 overall in the U.S. After ECC, Young competed for the Chico Track Club while earning a spot on USA's Visa-sponsored track and field team at the Olympic Training Center in Chula Vista and improved his personal best in the discus to 192-0 in 2006.

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