

EL CAMINO COLLEGE COMMUNITY NEWS

SUMMER 2008

VOLUME XIII NO. I



Inside this edition ...

**Honors Program # 1 in Admission Rate
Increases to UCLA**

**Campus Renovations: New Humanities
Building, Safety Upgrades**

Record Number of Scholarships Awarded

S E R V I N G T H E S O U T H B A Y S I N C E 1 9 4 7

EL CAMINO COLLEGE



Welcome to El Camino College!

At El Camino College, we are here to serve the needs of our community – our “common unity” is excellence in education. El Camino College offers wonderful educational opportunities for everyone. Our transfer rates to four-year universities are outstanding, our career and technical education programs lead to well-paying jobs, and our basic skills courses help people move ahead.

El Camino College also offers an array of other educational and enrichment opportunities. We have outstanding performing arts programs, athletic events, and lectures and seminars open to everyone. Our campus is a great place to visit any time of the year.

During the past few years, you may have noticed that we are in transition. We are updating our college with health and safety upgrades, and we are adding the latest in technology to classrooms to enhance the educational opportunities for students. Our renovations are thanks to you, our community, who supported our facilities bond in 2002. We are enhancing our campus, and we hope you are ready to enhance your life – let us help you determine “who you will be!”

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Fallo". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, sweeping arch over the first few letters.

Thomas M. Fallo
President

"I will be an attorney."



Lillian Cavalieri

ECC FORENSICS – # 1 in Nation First-Year Student Takes National Title

The El Camino College debate team swept the National Championship Season Sweepstakes this spring, bringing home its third national championship in four years. The National Parliamentary Debate Association-sponsored event drew 240 colleges and universities, with El Camino College placing ahead of elite institutions such as UC Berkeley, USC, and Point Loma University, to name a few.

The team also had a strong showing at the Phi Rho Pi Nationals in Chicago, with first-year competitor Lillian Cavalieri clinching fourth place among all community colleges. She also won a gold medal in Lincoln-Douglas debate, a gold in impromptu, a silver in extemporaneous, and a bronze in team debate.

El Camino College's forensics team boasts a long-standing tradition of excellence, with most students regularly transferring to the nation's top universities. Last year, every graduate was accepted to both UCLA and UC Berkeley; this year, one graduate was accepted into the prestigious film schools at UCLA, USC and New York University.

The team took the NPDA National Championship in 2001, 2003, 2005, 2007 and 2008; and won the Phi Rho Pi National Championship in 2001, 2005, and 2007.

Forensics 411

- NPDA National Champs: 2001, 2003, 2005, 2007 and 2008
- Phi Rho Pi National Champs 2001, 2005, 2007
- More than 95 percent of the team's graduates were accepted to top universities in the last eight years
- Last year, every grad was accepted to both UCLA and UC Berkeley
- This year, one grad was accepted into the prestigious film schools at UCLA, USC and NYU

"I will be an art dealer."



Dr. Fallo and Christopher Borgia

ECC # 1 TRANSFER INCREASE TO UCLA ECC Honors Students to Become Bruins!

We're # 1! Among large regional community colleges, only El Camino College increased the number of students who transferred to UCLA, while other area colleges saw rates drop.

Christopher Borgia is one of the record-breaking 84 outstanding El Camino College students to be admitted to the Westwood campus this fall.

"I am really thankful that people at ECC were there to suggest my career path, and offer different opportunities at the college," he said. "I really value my education at El Camino College – I have a feeling the caliber of teachers at ECC will rival any at UCLA."

Berkeley ~ UCLA ~ UC Irvine Where Do You Want to Go?

The Honors Transfer Program has transfer agreements with many top universities.
Where do you want to go?

Honors Transfer Program students participated in the state Honors Transfer Council of California Student Research Conference this Spring at UC Irvine. Fourteen ECC students participated in this conference - most gave oral presentations on their research topics. ECC students received four of the 20 awards given!

HUMANITIES BUILDING OPENS

First New Institutional Building in 40 years

The newest building on the El Camino College campus opened this spring with a community celebration and a "thank you" to the supporters who helped make the Humanities Building a reality.

The new \$29 million facility replaces the last original "barracks-type" structures on campus, trucked up more than 60 years ago from the old Santa Ana Army Air Base in Orange County. The Humanities Building and numerous other facilities improvements on campus are being made possible with funds from Measure E, which El Camino Community College District voters supported in 2002.

Students have access to state-of-the-art services such as WiFi and computer labs and all classrooms have the latest technology for teaching. Sleek in a design of brick, concrete and glass, the building is designed to let in plenty of natural light.



A Work in Progress

Still grappling with the staggering increase in construction costs, El Camino College is moving ahead with the many upgrades planned for 2008 with Measure E funds.

► Facilities Projects Under Construction

Projects in Design Stage

- New Math and Business Building
- Modernization of Social Sciences Building

Projects in Construction

- Learning Resource Center
- Lot H Parking Structure and Athletic Facilities
- Physical Education Shower and Locker Room Brick Veneer Replacement

Future Projects

- Restroom Renovations
- Humanities Mall Landscaping
- Cafeteria Conversion to Offices

Campus Safety Upgrades*

- High resolution, video surveillance cameras
- Regular lighting maintenance program across campus
- Constant inspection of the 30 Code Blue Police Emergency phones
- Infrastructure for e-mail and text messages regarding emergencies
- New campuswide telephone system to offer greater communication opportunities, including "Broadcast Voice Call" which instantly turns every phone on campus into a loudspeaker to make emergency announcements

*Completed/In progress - Approved by the El Camino College Board of Trustees in April 2007.

SCHOLARSHIPS LIGHTEN THE FINANCIAL BURDEN

Taking a full load of challenging courses in El Camino College's engineering and industrial management program is hard work. Add to that a job and taking care of a young son, and the daily schedule gets really busy.

These are the realities for student Helen Hartman. Fortunately, she has a head start on reaching her academic goals, at least financially. Hartman is one of 181 outstanding students who received an award at the 2008 El Camino College Scholarship Awards Ceremony and Reception. More than \$210,000 in scholarships was distributed to deserving students in 2008. With these scholarships, students will receive financial assistance that will cover tuition, fees and textbooks.

"This takes a lot of worry away from me so I can concentrate on my studies," said Hartman, who plans to transfer to California State University, Long Beach this winter. "This scholarship program is so helpful to students – if you can get the financial obligations of college out of your mind, you study better.

"I think El Camino College scholarships make great students even greater."

Endowed Scholarships

Annie Kessler Scholarship
Carmen Perry Scholarship
Dr. Henry Mansfield Jr. Memorial Scholarship
Eric Smith Scholarship
Excellence in Physics Award
Frank Fowler Scholarship
Grace Elizabeth Karmen Brown Memorial Scholarship
James A. Campbell Scholarship
Joy Karr Memorial Scholarship
Julius Sumner Miller Scholarship
Lila North Scholarship
Marilyn T. Pore Scholarship
Narm Verry Athletic Scholarship
Robert Hesse Memorial Scholarship
Rudy Kroon Memorial Scholarship
Sgt. Kirk Johnston Memorial Scholarship
Waldo Ford Scholarship

Named Scholarships

Chuck Turner Scholarship
Dr. Nadine Ishitani Hoto Memorial Scholarship
Dr. Olive Hall Scholarship
Dr. Robert Haag Music Scholarship
Dr. Stuart and Audrey Marsee Scholarship
Foundation Board of Directors Award of Excellence
Hispanic Endowment Scholarship
International Student Scholarship
Joy Boyd Noble Memorial Scholarship
Kinecta Federal Credit Union Scholarship
Louis and Susan Garcia Memorial Scholarship
Margaret and Phillip Pelland Scholarship
Paula Carabelli Memorial Scholarship
Verizon Scholarship
Virginia and Thomas Riddle Scholarships
Warren E. Ford High School Chemistry Scholarship
Warren E. Ford High School Nursing Scholarship
White Family Scholarship for Fine Arts

"I will be an industrial management engineer."



Helen Hartman and Debbie Conry from Kinder Morgan

"I will be a financial advisor."



Abelardo Nery and Robert Amos, president of El Camino College Foundation Board. Abelardo won the Foundation Board of Directors' Award of Excellence.

Annual Scholarships

AGS Dave Schlesinger Scholarship
AGS Ed Martinez Scholarship
AGS Matt Cook Scholarship
Art Department Scholarship
Associated Students of El Camino College
Benz Musical Scholarship
CA Public Service Memorial Scholarship
Chief Mike D'Amico Memorial Scholarship
Clarence Brown Memorial Scholarship
Corona Del Camino Scholarship
Dean Hale Scholarship
Delmer Fox Memorial Scholarship
Dominico and Annine Dolessio Memorial Scholarship
Dr. Carl Meadows Memorial Scholarship
Dr. Elizabeth Oberstein Dance Scholarship
Dr. Elizabeth Oberstein Study Abroad Scholarship
Dr. John Medina Scholarship
ECC Alumni Scholarship (Academic)
ECC Alumni Scholarship (Vocational)
El Camino Bookstore Scholarship
Eva Murdock Scholarship
Frank Ego Memorial Scholarship

Freshman Aquatics Scholarship
Harry McCandless Scholarship
Henry and Rudolf Englebarts Memorial Scholarship
Jack Wolfe Scholarship
Jane Skinner Hardester Music Scholarship
Joy Bender Memorial Scholarship
Julius "Red" Murray Scholarship
Kinder Morgan Women in Industry and Technology Scholarship
L.A. West Council of Hospital Volunteers Scholarship
Lara Escobar Memorial Scholarship
Lillian Kahan Meert Memorial Scholarship
Manhattan Beach Rotary Scholarship
Margaret Brant Nursing Scholarship
Marjorie Finken Memorial Scholarship
Mary Ann Collins Art Scholarship
Maude Withers Nursing Scholarship
Merl Sloan Memorial Scholarship
Milton Rudee Memorial Scholarship
Music Faculty Scholarship
P.E.O. Chapter "H" Scholarship
Richard Anderson Scholarship
Mary Ann Collins Art Scholarship
Southern California Gas Company Scholarship
Stanley Wilson Scholarship
Stephen Fainsbert Real Estate Scholarship
The Jessie Steensma Scholarship
The Lyle Tassing International Student Scholarship
Vincent and Coteal Thomas Memorial Scholarship

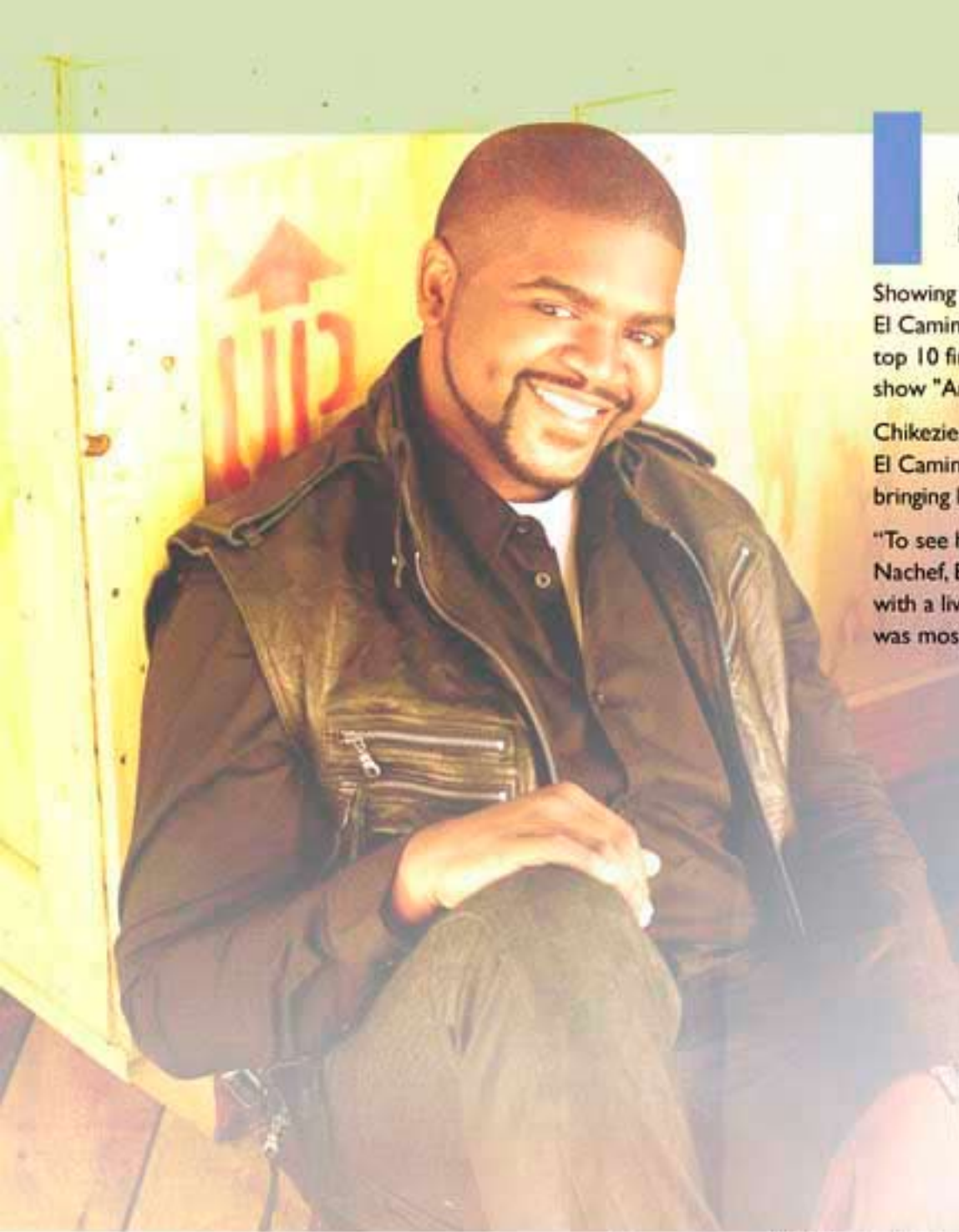
WANT TO HELP STUDENTS FULFILL THEIR DREAMS?

Contact the Foundation

www.elcamino.edu/administration/foundation/

or call:

310-660-3683



CHIKEZIE ECC's own American Idol!

Showing off his own brand of funk, rock, and pop, El Camino College student Chikezie was one of the top 10 finalists on the wildly popular television talent show "American Idol."

Chikezie, 22, an Inglewood resident and member of El Camino College's chorale, was an early favorite, bringing loads of talent, style, and charm to the airwaves.

"To see him steal the show was amazing," said Joanna Nachev, ECC chorale director. "His ability to connect with a live audience as well as a television audience was most evident."



Images courtesy of FOX/American Idol

Chikezie performing on American Idol

EL CAMINO COLLEGE – THE RIGHT CHOICE

It's true!

- **Cost Effective:** Save on tuition, room and board, fees at ECC are only \$20 per unit!
- **Career/Transfer:** Go straight to the workforce or to an elite four-year university. Community colleges educate 62 percent of the nation's allied health professionals and more than 80 percent of law enforcement officers and firefighters.
- **High Quality:** Small class size, in-depth curriculum and personalized attention from instructors.
- **Student Support:** Set your goals – we're here to help! Counseling, financial aid, tutoring ... all are available.

**Who will you be?
Let El Camino College
help you get there!
www.elcamino.edu**



Vincent Armstrong

"I will be an attorney."



"I will be a doctor."

Ugoeze Nwonkedi

BERKLEY BOUND!

If **Vincent Armstrong** were to run across some of his old buddies from Torrance High School, he's pretty sure they would never believe that he is a top El Camino College graduate and headed to UC Berkeley. He's not entirely sure he believes it himself.

"In high school I was definitely not the best student – I would not have been able to attend a four-year school at that time," said Armstrong, an honor student who will study history with a goal of pursuing further degrees. Armstrong was the Associated Students Organization director of academic affairs, a member of the Alpha Gamma Sigma honors society and a Student Ambassador for El Camino College.

"The truly great thing is that El Camino College provided me with amazing and supportive professors who are all very knowledgeable in their disciplines. ECC also offers many great programs that encourage student success."

Ugoeze Nwonkedi is an El Camino College biology major who will transfer to UC Berkeley this fall – she has been awarded the UC Regents' and Chancellor's Office Scholarship which covers most of her financial needs for her undergraduate studies.

"I have been privileged to have had some of the finest professors at ECC," said Nwonkedi, who graduated from Leuzinger High School and also attended high school in her native Nigeria.

"The professors are very knowledgeable and present the material in a way that is relatable to students and enables them to succeed in their studies. At El Camino College, I felt I really had to grow up and be mature and responsible with my academic life, and I feel that really advanced me to the level I am at now."

APPLY ONLINE TODAY IN ENGLISH OR SPANISH

Go to www.elcamino.edu and click on MyECC.

**El Camino College is a leader statewide
in online applications – now you can apply
online in English or Spanish!**

**Applying online is the fastest and most
convenient way to El Camino College's excellent
offerings of academic courses and student services.**

APPLY NOW!

www.elcamino.edu and click on MyECC.



Randy Williams.

X-RAY IMAGING – A NEW CAREER

For Randy Williams, it all came down to a leap of faith. With only nine years to retirement from a stable, well-paying job, he decided to quit. Just like that.

Five years ago, Randy left his 25-year career as a meat cutter and enrolled at El Camino College, looking for something new – an intellectual challenge. He checked out the college's highly acclaimed allied health programs and decided on x-ray technology. Randy achieved his goals and is now an x-ray technician at Marina Hospital.

"The two jobs are so different – like night and day," said Randy, 49, who was a regular on the Dean's List and winner of the 2007 Dr. Nadine Ishitani Hata Memorial Scholarship honoring outstanding ECC Allied Health students.

"It was really hard for me to quit, but the real leap of faith was leaving a good job. My wife was there for me the whole time, while I went to school full time. It was one of the best decisions I ever made.

"A new job is never what you think it will be, and in my case it turned out so much better than I imagined, there are so many opportunities for advancement and every day is different."

The hard work paid off, and his salary is well over his wages at the grocery store.

"I didn't do it for the money, I did it for intellectual stimulation," he said. "I did it because I enjoy being a student; I did it so I could enjoy my career every day."

FINANCIAL AID

Yes, college costs continue to rise – but here's the good news! El Camino College fees are just \$20 per unit!

Recent reports estimate that you can spend up to \$22,000 per year for a private four-year university and nearly \$6,000 per year for a public university. Stacked up next to El Camino College's price of \$2,200 per year – the educational value is easy to see.

It gets better. There is more financial aid available than ever before – **apply now!**

Fill out the FAFSA (www.fafsa.ed.gov)!

More info? Contact El Camino College Financial Aid Office at www.elcamino.edu/studentservices/fao or call: 310-660-3493.

MESA Scholarship Winners

Cody Gonzalez, San Pedro, Mechanical Engineering

Mario Gregory, Gardena, Mechanical Engineering

Jose Guardado, Hawthorne, Mechanical Engineering

Mintoh Konlani, Hawthorne, Construction Engineering

Motunrayo Onafalujo, Inglewood, Applied Mathematics

Efrain Plascencia, Los Angeles, Mechanical Engineering

Hadasa Reyes, Los Angeles, Mechanical Engineering

Jose Torres, Lawndale, Mechanical Engineering

Tizita Zewdie, Inglewood, Mechanical Engineering

"I will be a business owner"

ATHLETICS

Top Scholars Named Athletes of the Year

They excel in the classroom and they are top in the field and on the courts. Meet the 2007 - 2008 El Camino College Warrior Student Athletes of the Year.

Lauren Simmons was a leader on the volleyball team, and a two-year starter for the Warriors. After graduating from North Torrance High School, she helped the ECC team win its conference her freshman year. As a sophomore, she led the Warriors to victory.

Ramon Marquez was a member of the ECC baseball team and a two-year starter, leading the Warriors to the 2007 conference title – the first for the team in 20 years. In 2007, Marquez won First Team All Conference honors. In 2008, Marquez showed top defense (only one error in the field), and an incredible batting average.



Athletes of the Year Lauren Simmons and Ramon Marquez with Dr. James F. Schwartz.



Women's Volleyball Team.

El Camino College Women's Volleyball Team – State Champs

The 2008 State championship honors went to El Camino College Women's Volleyball Team! The Warriors defeated Golden West College in the finals – the first state El Camino College volleyball title since 1983.

Sam Taylor was named tournament MVP and fellow teammates Lauren Simmons, Marcella Hernandez, and Karina Worhstien were named to the All Tournament Team.

ECC is the first college outside the Orange Empire Conference to win the state tournament in 15 years. The South Coast Conference champs for seven straight seasons.

ECC NEWS AND NOTES

French professor Evelyne Charvier-Berman was recently named "**Outstanding Teacher of the Year**" by the California Language Teacher Association (CTLA). Berman has been a member of the ECC Foreign Language Department since 1985. Before ECC, she taught at Lycée Pasteur in Besançon France, Jefferson High School in Los Angeles, and UCLA. She has published numerous articles and co-authored a French text.



El Camino College was connected to seven championship robots at this spring's **Los Angeles Regional FIRST Competition**. ECC students, faculty and staff from machine tool technology supported area high school teams – all ECC-supported teams made the playoffs. Teams included: Hawthorne High School, Mira Costa and Redondo Union high schools, Hope Chapel Academy, CAMS, Culver City High School, City Honors High School, and PV Peninsula High School.



Reading specialist Inna Newbury was recently honored with a **Townsend Developmental College Teaching Award**. The award honors teachers who consistently provide "patient, sensitive, and respectful support - honoring the dignity and humanity of those in their classes." Newbury was recognized for her tireless work inside and outside the classroom, helping all students succeed.



ECC's Teacher Education Program (TEP) sponsored a successful first-ever Guest Speakers' Symposium this past spring, featuring more than 25 sessions on a variety of topics of interest for future educators. The symposium was geared toward college students who are interested in a career in education and featured a variety of guest speakers from many disciplines.



ECC history professor Florence Baker was selected to join the prestigious **National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Summer Institute for College and University Faculty** in India this summer. The title of the institute is "Past and Present in the Study of India's History and Culture." Baker will spend the first two weeks at Shimla and the second two weeks at New Delhi, with a short trip to Agra.

Congratulations to our **El Camino College 2008 Distinguished Faculty and Staff members**, professor Mercedes Thompson and staff member Patricia Witherall. Thompson, a professor of Spanish and Chicano/Latino literature, is widely known as a dedicated student advocate; Witherall, the college's lead PBX operator, is known by many as the "voice of El Camino College," and as a dedicated friend and colleague.



Choral director Dr. Joanna Medawar Nacheff was recently selected to attend the **U.S. Institute of Peace 2008 Community College Faculty and Administrators Seminar** in Washington, D.C. this spring. Nacheff is an award-winning professor who has twice conducted in Carnegie Hall and has toured the world, conducting performing groups.



Art professor Joyce Dallal was recently honored with a prestigious **City of Los Angeles (C.O.L.A.) Fellowship**. The \$10,000 grant will support new work that will be exhibited at the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery. Dallal worked on a large scale installation titled "Descent," which involves hundreds of paper airplanes made from Japanese paper.



MTV President Brian Graden visited ECC recently, as a judge at the **American Readers Theater Association's national conference and championship**. Other celebrity judges included: Sharon Lawrence, an Emmy-nominated actress/producer/singer known for her role on *NYPD Blue* and Doug Spearman, television/stage/film actor, and star of *Noah's Arc* on Logo. The event was sponsored by the college's Speech Communication Department.



ECC journalism students won 15 awards from the **Journalism Association of Community Colleges (JACC)** during its annual convention in Los Angeles, including the General Excellence Award for both the Union and the literary magazine *Warrior Life*. In addition to other awards, journalism instructor Jolene Combs was honored upon her retirement during the convention's opening night ceremonies.

The El Camino Community College District is committed to providing equal opportunity in which no person is subjected to discrimination on the basis of ethnic group identification, national origin, religion, age, sex, race, color, ancestry, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability or retaliation.

MEET EL CAMINO COLLEGE ALUMNI

Alex Smith



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Name: Alex Smith

Hometown: Redondo Beach

Education/Career: Graduated from Redondo Union High and then ECC in 2005. Transferred to UC Berkeley, where he graduated in May 2008 with a bachelor's degree in sociology. Currently pursuing a career in photography and photojournalism.

Campus Involvement: Member of the Honors Transfer Program; played water polo and was awarded the Norm Verry and the Academic/Athletic scholarships.

Quote: "El Camino College's Honors Transfer Program provided me with access to UC Berkeley. Given that high school students with six Advanced Placement (AP) classes have trouble getting into Cal, I was very thankful for the chance to get into the most discriminating school in the UC system."

Danny Ching



"I will be an Olympic paddler."

I am proud to have been a student at El Camino College. The classes are great and there are also award-winning programs and athletics.

- Danny Ching, ECC alumnus, champion flatwater paddler

Who will you be?



Dan Wozniak

FROM LA TO SOUTH BAY Alumnus Produces New Film

Growing up surfing in the South Bay, producer Dan Wozniak got his start in film making by filming his buddies while they were surfing the curl.

His latest production is a ride through the streets of Los Angeles and the South Bay. "Crenshaw Boulevard" is a series of stories showcasing the people and communities that reside along the 24 miles of this venerable road.

Featured prominently in the film is El Camino College – Wozniak's alma mater.

"El Camino College really gave me a solid foundation across the board," he said. "I think that's because the teachers at El Camino really cared. It was an awesome time, and it prepared me well."



Graduation 2008: graduates celebrated their success at El Camino College's 61st Annual Commencement on June 6, 2008 in Murdock Stadium.

ECC ALUMNI

Are you a former ECC student? Know someone who is? Be a part of the El Camino College Alumni Association! It's fun, it's free, it's a great way to stay in touch with your friends from ECC.

Contact the El Camino College Foundation/Alumni Office at 310-660-3683 or kgleason@elcamino.edu.



MESA scholarship winners celebrate win.

MESA STUDENTS WIN NINE AWARDS

More Than Twice as Many as Any Other College in U.S.

A record-breaking number of El Camino College students recently won nine out of this year's

45 National Science Foundation-MESA S-STEM Scholarships in Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics.

Totaling \$102,500 and ranging from \$10,500 to \$12,500, the awards given to El Camino College students were more than twice as many as any other college in the 2008 national Math, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) consortium.

"Nine out of our 10 student applicants received this award, and I am proud to see so many students receive a recognition that merits their hard work and participation with MESA," said Arturo Hernandez, El Camino College MESA director.

The MESA Community College Program at El Camino College provides mathematics, engineering and science academic enrichment to community college students to help them excel academically and prepare them to transfer to four-year universities in mathematics-based majors.

For a list of award winners, see page 8.

www.elcamino.edu

EL CAMINO COLLEGE ADMINISTRATION

Thomas M. Fallo

Superintendent/President

Francisco M. Arce

Vice President, Academic Affairs

Jeanie Nishime

Vice President, Student and Community Advancement

Barbara Perez

Vice President, Human Resources

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Fall Semester begins August 23

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