

EL CAMINO COLLEGE

Community News



Fall 2009
Volume XIV No. 1



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*Community News is a publication of the
El Camino Community College District,
Office of Public Relations & Marketing,
Ann M. Garten, Director. For more infor-
mation about El Camino College, visit
our Web site at www.elcamino.edu.*



Message From the President

Welcome to El Camino College!

At El Camino College, we are all about student success – helping students learn and succeed is our top priority. Three favorite days at our college are similarly student-oriented, beginning with the first day of the semester when our campus fills with students eager and excited to begin their adventures in college. Scholarship awards night follows; an evening where students are rewarded for their hard work through financial assistance and much-deserved accolades. Finally, commencement when we nudge students toward the rest of their future, whether it is transferring to a university or beginning or enhancing their career.

El Camino College also continues with our facilities plan, an effort funded by Measure E, the college's first-ever facilities bond measure. In this issue you will see many new improvements throughout campus, as buildings are remodeled and restructured to comply with updated safety requirements and to offer the latest in technological advances for students.

Our mission remains constant: to help students succeed. During these difficult fiscal times, we will work to continue providing academic quality; student support services; and a high-quality core of faculty, staff and managers who work with the more than 27,000 students attending ECC.

We invite you to read through this newsletter, and visit the campus, to learn about the great things happening at El Camino College – your community college.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Fallo".

Thomas M. Fallo
Superintendent/President



Measure E: Moving Ahead

*exciting changes
building on campus...*

A welcome addition to campus is our new parking structure, which opened this past summer. The new \$25.2 million, 1,230-space, five-level parking structure comes complete with a monitoring system that counts the spaces available and posts the information on electronic sign boards at the two entrances.

monitoring system



new parking structure



tennis courts

central plant



*upcoming projects
and price tags...*

- NEW! Math, Business & Allied Health Building, \$63.5 million
- Communications & Business buildings renovation, \$63.4 million
- Social Science Building renovation, \$12 million
- Bookstore & Conference Center renovation, \$12 million
- Restrooms (40) renovation, \$1.4 million
- Humanities Mall landscaping, \$2.4 million

High School Students Join Free ECC Summer Science/Math Program



Rohan Vohra, a Mira Costa High School sophomore, spent part of his summer at El Camino College, enrolled in a geometry program that took the mathematical concepts out of the classroom and into the real world.

Rohan attended the new Geometry Young Scholars (GYS) Program for high school students, participating in group and personalized tutoring/study sessions; presentations by inspiring speakers from math and science fields; college readiness and career workshops; and field trips to locations such as NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory, UCLA, and Northrop Grumman Space Park.

Funded by a U.S. Department of Education Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Grant, the project aims to increase the number of students pursuing and succeeding in STEM disciplines at El Camino College, transferring in STEM majors to four-year universities, or entering a related profession.

MESA Students Win Scholarships

Three El Camino College MESA (Math, Engineering, Science Achievement) students secured a total of \$33,500 through the prestigious National Science Foundation (NSF)-MESA S-STEM (Scholarship in Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics).

“Transfer Ready” scholarships, of \$10,500, were awarded to George Cendejas, an electrical engineering major who transferred to Cal Poly Pomona; and Alma Barrera, a civil engineering major who transferred to USC. In addition, a “Rising Sophomore” scholarship of \$12,500 was given to Johanna Zamora, a civil engineering major who plans to attend UCLA or the University of California at Berkeley.

*left to right: Alma Barrera,
George Cendejas and
Johanna Zamora*





Historic Fund-raising Effort *Nets Generous Southern California Edison Donation*

The El Camino College Foundation recently received a substantial donation from Southern California Edison at the launch of a new scholarship program.

Pedro Pizarro, SCE executive vice president of power operations, presented a \$200,000 check to El Camino College President Thomas Fallo at an event hosted by the ECC foundation and prominent South Bay philanthropists Melanie and Richard Lundquist, who likewise challenged others to support the cause. The money will be used to fund scholarships at El Camino College and a few additional community colleges in the SCE service area. Los Angeles

Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and dozens of other elected officials from throughout the South Bay communities participated in the event.

The reception acted as the official launch of a fund-raising drive in support of the statewide Osher Scholarship Endowment Program. The effort includes plans to raise \$1 million in matching funds to offer scholarships to El Camino College students.

To support the Osher Scholarship Endowment Program, contact Katie Gleason at the El Camino College Foundation, 310-660-6040 or kgleason@elcamino.edu.

Scholarship Watch: \$290,000 Awarded

About 290 outstanding ECC students were honored at the annual Scholarship Awards Ceremony and Reception this past spring. Nearly \$300,000 in scholarships was distributed.

The awards included 20 scholarships for \$1,000 each provided by the Osher Foundation, part of a \$25 million private gift to the California Community Colleges from the Bernard Osher Foundation.

Additional scholarships this year include Southern California Edison Women In Technology scholarships, Kaiser scholarships for nursing, and funding for high school scholarships. Many of these scholarships fully cover tuition, fees and textbooks.

Want to help students reach their goals? Contact the El Camino College Foundation:
www.elcamino.edu/administration/foundation or call 310-660-3683.



A Tribute to Raymond Southstone

The 22nd Annual El Camino College Athletic Hall of Fame celebration was dedicated to co-founder Ray Southstone, who coordinated the event since its inception. He announced his retirement last year.

Ray was one of the first students to enroll at El Camino College and went on to experience a number of “firsts” – he was an officer of the college’s first student council, a player on the first football and track team, and was a member of the first graduating class. After earning bachelor’s and master’s degrees at Pepperdine College and USC, he became the first student of the college’s first graduating class to return as a faculty member. Ray retired after 27 years as a professor of health science and athletics. By 1987, he had returned to El Camino College to help establish the Athletic Hall of Fame.

In recognition of his many years of service, the Raymond Southstone Athletic Hall of Fame Scholarship was named for outstanding cross country and track athletes.



2009 Athletic Hall of Fame Highlights

Norm Verry Scholarship – Recognizing Scholar Athletes



Ashley Hardy

A two-time state champion for El Camino College, Ashley is a strong, quick, agile, and smart middle blocker. Her volleyball accomplishments over the past two years include First Team South Coast Conference 2008, Second Team South Coast Conference 2007 and Scholar Baller 2007-2008. Ashley also maintained the highest GPA on the 2007-2008 team. She transferred to Seattle Pacific University this fall.



Stephen Peres

Stephen was captain and MVP of the 2009 men's basketball team and made the All-State Honorable Mention Team, which has not been done in 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. Stephen was in the El Camino College Honors Transfer Program and maintained a 3.8 GPA. He transferred this fall to the College of Idaho on a full athletic scholarship.

James F. Schwartz Athlete of the Year Scholarship

Stephen Peres

Stephen also won this scholarship which is awarded to the ECC Athlete of the Year. As a starter in his sophomore year, Stephen worked very hard in the off season. His dedication paid off as Stephen shot 58% from the field and 53% from the 3-point line which earned him an El Camino College record. Stephen led the team in scoring at 16 points per game, rebounding at 6.1 and free throw shooting at 78%.

Faalelea "Na'i" Leni

As one of the top collegiate track & field throwers in the country, Na'i started her freshman year by breaking a 21-year-old college record in the shot put. She went on to win South Coast Conference, Southern California, and State Community College titles while remaining undefeated all year. As a sophomore, she had the #2 junior college shot performance in the nation in 2009. She also claimed the #2 spot in El Camino College history in the discus, and set a college record in the hammer throw. Na'i plans to transfer to USC, LSU, or Arizona State and is training to make the 2012 U.S. Olympic Track & Field Team in the shot put category.



Faalelea "Na'i" Leni
(Photo by Dean Lofgren)

just the facts

Journalism Program Wins Prestigious “Pacesetter” Award

For the first time in nine years, the El Camino College journalism program won a Pacesetter Award at the recent Journalism Association of Community Colleges (JACC) annual convention in Sacramento.

The prestigious Pacesetter is given to colleges that “set the pace” for the rest. ECC was one of five of the 55 California colleges at the convention to win the award. Participating colleges brought more than 600 students and faculty to the convention which included workshops covering all aspects of journalism as well as on-the-spot competitions.

Additional Awards

- General Excellence Award: *Union* newspaper & *Warrior Life Magazine*.
- On-the-spot *Union* awards: 1st place Broadcast News Writing, Aaron Dobruck; honorable mention Copy Editing, Megan Taros; 1st place Feature Story, Suzy Brown; 4th place Sports Photo, Filip Jerzycke; 1st place Sports Story, Nick Ingram.
- Mail-in awards *Warrior Life*: 1st place Magazine Feature, Pearl Sheets; 2nd place Magazine Opinion Story, Miyu Kataoka; honorable mention Magazine Opinion, Monique Long.
- Mail-in awards *Union*: honorable mention Column Writing, Megan Taros; 3rd place Critical Review, Aaron Dobruck; 4th place Editorial Cartoon and 3rd place Illustration, Fred Kim; 4th place Inside Page Layout, *Union* staff; honorable mention Profile Feature Story, Jose Benito Garcia.

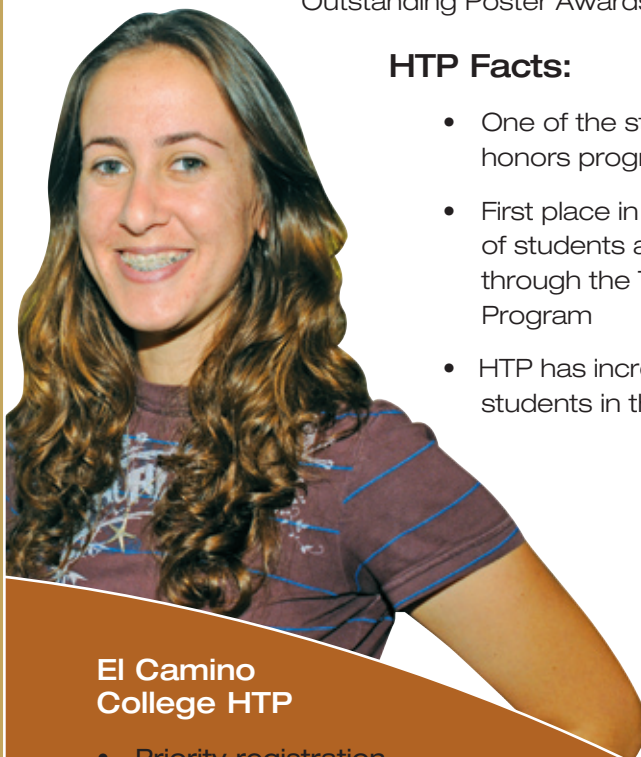
Honors Students Excel At State Conference

El Camino College honor students continue to win awards and scholarships for their academic excellence! The ECC Honors Transfer Program (HTP) sent the largest group of presenters to the statewide Honors Transfer Council of California Student Research Conference at the University of California at Irvine this past spring, and managed to bring home several awards.

HTP students Ann Nguyen and Elyse Yerelian received two of the 20 Outstanding Student Scholarships. Yerelian and Jennifer Gerrits also won two of the four Outstanding Poster Awards.

HTP Facts:

- One of the state's largest honors programs
- First place in the percentage of students admitted to UCLA through the Transfer Alliance Program
- HTP has increased by 200 students in the past three years



Elyse
Yerelian

El Camino College HTP

- Priority registration
- Academic/social opportunities
- Honors courses/smaller class sizes
- HTP designation on transcripts/degrees
- HTP counselor
- Enrichment seminars
- Scholarship opportunities

For more info about the HTP, call 310-660-3815

who will you be?

Commencement Class of 2009



Johnny Torres

When Johnny Torres talks about his academic history, he quickly admits that he didn't start out as the best student. He is embarrassed, but tells his story anyway, hoping it will inspire others.

Johnny entered El Camino College five years ago, as a high school dropout, barely able to read or write. This fall he transferred to the university of his dreams.

"This past June I earned two degrees from El Camino College and I was admitted to every university where I applied," he said. "The hardest decision for me was choosing between UC Berkeley and UCLA – now I am officially a Bruin. I am truly blessed for being given a second chance and most proud to say that in the spirit of El Camino College, I will always be a 'Warrior'."



Shaminna Mingon Jones

Shaminna Mingon Jones shared her success story at the 2009 ECC commencement – a story full of challenges, and ultimately, triumph. She transferred this fall to California State University, Los Angeles to major in nursing.

When she was 16 Shaminna's mother passed away. By the time she was 17, she enrolled at El Camino College – her first choice.

"When I first came to El Camino College, I noticed the diversity of the students here. I love that," she said. "After getting more involved in my studies, I found the courses were challenging, the teachers and counselors were outstanding, and so many people were ready to help me."

**"I will be ...
an engineer."**

Tim Linehan

*Plans to transfer to UCLA
to study electrical engineering*



**"I will be ...
a surgeon."**

Kelsi Muaina

*High school student
taking ECC courses*

**"I will be ...
a lawyer."**

Chris Pham

*HTP political science
major, president of
Alpha Gamma Sigma
honor society, ASO
commissioner of fund-
raising, vice president of
InterClub Council, 2008
ECC Homecoming King*



**"I will be ...
a marine biologist."**

Andrea Danihel

*Plans to transfer to
UCLA or California
State University,
Long Beach*





Alumni Spotlight

ECC Astronaut Headed to Space Station

Air Force Col. Michael Fincke was recently named by NASA as a crew member for an upcoming space shuttle mission to the International Space Station. Fincke is an El Camino College alumnus and one of three mission specialists for the flight, which will include three spacewalks.

Fincke, a veteran of two long-duration missions aboard the space station, has an Associate of Science degree from El Camino College, two bachelor's degrees from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), and master's

degrees from Stanford University and the University of Houston, Clear Lake.

He was the featured speaker at an El Camino College Space Science Day, an event designed to inform and inspire area youngsters about the science of space. Space Science Day is organized by the Astronaut Ellison S. Onizuka Memorial Committee, a group that works to honor Onizuka, a NASA astronaut who died along with six others in the Space Shuttle Challenger in 1986.

photo courtesy
of NASA



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We're here to help! Call the Financial Aid Office:
310-660-3493 or go to www.elcamino.edu/5350

Types of Financial Aid

Board of Governors BOGW Enrollment Fee Waiver:
waives annual enrollment fees for qualified students

Grants do not have to be paid back:

- Pell Grants, awarded to low-income students
- Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, for low-income students with exceptional financial need
- Cal Grants, funded by the state

Scholarships are awards that are based upon specific qualifications, talents, or merit – often without regard to financial need.

Work-study students earn money toward their education through part-time jobs.

Students Visit ECC ARM Center



The STEM Geometry
Young Scholars toured
El Camino College's
Automated Robotics

Manufacturing (ARM) Center during
their summer session. El Camino
College Professor Eric Carlson gave
the tour of the center and demon-
strated functions of the new robotic
arm equipment, as well as introduced
students to materials of manufac-
turing, their
properties,
character-
istics and
treatment.



Students gained knowledge in vari-
ous processes involved in modern
manufacturing and learned about
manufacturing technology courses
and certificates that provide
an opportunity for exciting
careers in robotics and
manufacturing.



Fullbright Students from Egypt Attend ECC

El Camino College recently welcomed five students from Egypt who are attending El Camino College this academic year as part of a special pilot program designed by the U.S. State Department in cooperation with the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, the California Community College Foundation, and the Fulbright Scholarship Organization.

El Camino College is one of several California Community Colleges hosting these students. This

outstanding new program provides educational opportunities for "non-elite" students from Egypt.

If successful, this program will be expanded by the State Department to include students from other countries in the future. The college has made a commitment to provide a quality education for the visiting students; engage them in public forums and presentations; and guide them through the many aspects of college and community life.

ECC Receives More than \$2.6 Million in New Grants



El Camino College recently announced a list of new grants totaling more than \$2.6 million awarded to a variety of Business Training Center (BTC) programs. The El Camino College Business Training Center provides businesses of all sizes assistance with on-site manufacturing technology, business development, international trade, and workforce training.

New BTC funding includes:

- Four grants totaling more than \$1.25 million to the El Camino College Center for Applied Competitive Technologies (CACT)
- Two grants for \$140,522 to the El Camino College Center for International Trade Development (CITD)
- A \$225,000 grant to the Career Technical Education (CTE) Teacher Preparation Pipeline
- A \$935,796 grant involving the El Camino College Workplace Learning Resource Center (WpLRC)
- A \$72,797 U.S. Department of Education Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad grant

For more information, visit www.businessassist.org or call 310-973-3178.

news & notes

2009 Distinguished Faculty and Staff



Professor Joan Ingrid Thureson and Josie Cheung were honored as recipients of the 2009 Distinguished Faculty & Staff Awards. Joan is an exemplary philosophy professor, recognized as a master classroom teacher; Josie is an accounting officer with Fiscal Services who has made significant contributions to the efficiency of the college's accounting office.

Forensics Team – Victory!



El Camino College's highly ranked forensics team recently had its most successful tournament in the program's more than 25-year history. Competing against 37 colleges and universities including UCLA, University of Texas, ASU, University of the Pacific, California State University, Long Beach and the U.S. Air Force Academy, El Camino College was the top school in overall sweeps and debate. Additionally, the team finished third overall in individual events. On the first day of competition at Concordia University, ECC "closed out" the semifinal bracket of Novice Parliamentary Debate – all four remaining teams in the tournament were El Camino College teams!



Nursing Sim Lab Gets Special Delivery

The Nursing Department recently welcomed new high-fidelity wireless mother/baby simulators in the new Ella Rose Madden Simulation Center. "Noelle" is a high-tech, wireless mannequin that can simulate the process of giving birth to a baby (Ella Rose) that breathes, has a heartbeat and cries. The new sim lab is part of the college's highly successful nursing program.

Public Relations Department Honored

The ECC Public Relations & Marketing Department recently won a writing award in a statewide competition. The Community College Public Relations Organization gave the award to ECC for a story about Lisa Youngworth, who was proud when her identical twin sons Nicolas and Andrew Lippa graduated from El Camino College last year. The brothers were also proud of their mother – she graduated with them!

Computer Science Honors



Two outstanding computer science students won first place in a recent computer programming contest at California State University, Los Angeles. Austin Cathey and Timothy Johnson won the awards in the contest's junior college division. Both students were recognized with certificates and a plaque that will be mounted on the wall in the ECC CompSci Lab.

ECC Police Honored

The ECC Police Department was honored by Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) for its efforts in enforcing the law and educating the campus and the community about the dangers of driving under the influence. The police department runs an annual awareness fair that demonstrates the dangers of drinking and driving, and coordinates various safety check programs throughout the year.

Photography Professor Honored



Photography professor Darilyn Rowan was recently honored on an international level when one of her photographs was selected as a finalist in the Photographer's Forum Best of Photography Competition 2009. The top 5% of entries from around the world are selected as finalists and will be published in the "Photographer's Forum Best of Photography Annual: 2009."

Puente Club News

The ECC Puente Club was named "Most Active Club 2008-2009" at the Inter Club Council Banquet. The mission of the Puente Program is to increase the number of students transferring to four-year universities. Puente is open to all students, providing English instruction in a supportive and stimulating environment and access to counseling and mentors.

ECC Student & "Star" Dancer



Congratulations to El Camino College student Anna Trebunskaya, a professional dancer who regularly performs on the ABC hit television show "Dancing with the Stars." She is a dedicated, hard-working student, and of course, an outstanding dancer. This season, she was paired with UFC heavyweight champion Chuck Liddell.

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.





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El Camino College Honors Transfer Program Ranked No. 1 among area colleges in percentage of students who are in honors programs. Number of HTP students at ECC has doubled in the past four years!

ECC is ranked... in the top 10 in the state in sending students to the UC and CSU systems; **highest admittance rate** to UCLA; **third** in students transferring to Cal State Long Beach; **first** in students transferring to Cal State Dominguez Hills.

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