



# President's NEWS

Volume 27 Number 7  
April 21, 2015

*The mission of El Camino College is to meet the educational needs of our diverse community and ensure student success by offering quality, comprehensive educational opportunities.*



## Distinguished Faculty and Staff

Congratulations to **Joanna Medawar Nacheff** and **Sidney O. Smith**, two outstanding members of the El Camino College community who will be honored for their work on behalf of the college at the 18th Annual Faculty and Staff Appreciation and Recognition Reception. The event is scheduled from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. April 28 in the Alondra Room. Everyone is invited to the reception – a wonderful tradition that provides an opportunity to thank the campus community for serving the students of El Camino College.



**Joanna Medawar Nacheff** is an internationally acclaimed choral conductor and ECC professor dedicated to the arts and arts education. The director of choral activities at ECC, Joanna also directs the Peninsula Community Church Choir and the Los Cancioneros Master

Chorale (LCMC). Her work with LCMC was recently recognized by the Torrance Performing Arts Consortium's 2014 Mercury Stage and Theatre Award.

In the classroom, Joanna is known as an "inspired and energetic instructor who is very committed to her students." She tells her students "education is the wealth that no one can take away from you" and believes that everyone is entitled to a solid education. She genuinely cares for her students and is dedicated to their success. Students well know her teaching motto, "Life is a performance, not a rehearsal!"

Joanna made her conducting debut at Carnegie Hall in 2005 and returned in 2007 with the Ambassadors of Harmony. In May 2010 she conducted a historic performance at Carnegie Hall with choirs from Lebanon and Los Angeles. She is a speaker and citizen diplomat for the U.S. State Department with the Global Education Through Technology project, a charter board member and president of the LA/Beirut Sister City Organization, and an alumna of the U.S. Institute of Peace, Washington, D.C. She recently returned from Lebanon, where she was an invited guest conductor for the Lebanese Philharmonic Orchestra.

After earning a bachelor's degree in piano performance from Cal State Dominguez Hills, Joanna continued her education at USC where she earned a doctorate of musical arts and a master's in choral music. She also directed guest appearances in motion pictures and received the 2008 "Daily Breeze" Director's Award for Making a Difference, among other honors.



**Sidney O. Smith** is known for maintaining his good humor and professional customer service, even in busy times and stressful situations. As the production coordinator for the Copy Center, Sidney oversees daily operations, which include operating all equipment, creating high-volume duplicates, training staff, managing supplies, maintaining machines, and interacting with the college community, all while ensuring timely delivery of projects.

Since he came to the El Camino College Copy Center in 2008, Sidney has helped coordinate a major move to a new location in the Bookstore building and played an important role in implementing the new online ordering system "Copy Center Direct," which is used by faculty and staff. He is a unifying force among Copy Center staff, which is recognized campuswide for its teamwork. He is also a team player when it comes to participating in professional development activities, such as the Team Building Extravaganza.

Before El Camino College, Sidney worked at FedEx/Kinko's for 10 years. He started as a copy clerk, was promoted to shift leader and then assistant manager, where he managed a team of eight employees. In the community, Sidney is a longtime member of Traveler's Rest Missionary Baptist Church, where he joined the deacon board as a trainee in 2004. He attended the Los Angeles Bible Training School, became a licensed minister in 2014 and is now a senior pastor. Sidney recently became the staff adviser for ECC's Engage Christian Club.

A movie fan with a large DVD collection – Sidney is also an annual supporter of ECC's ASB sticker, which enables him to take advantage of discount movie tickets. Sidney recently celebrated his seven-year anniversary with his wife Yavon. They have two sons Caleb, 13 and Nicolas, 6.

## South Bay Adult Education Consortium

The South Bay Adult Education Consortium includes Centinela Valley Adult School, El Camino Community College District, Inglewood Community Adult School, South Bay Adult School, and Torrance Adult School and is designed to build pathways that streamline academic and career programs for adults. The consortium is a result of AB86, which provides funds to establish 70 regional groups of kindergarten-adult school districts and community college districts.

The goal of the consortium is to create a seamless route between adult education, college and careers. Students will have access to ECC programs, have an opportunity to earn an associate degree or certificate and be prepared to pursue a career or transfer to a four-year university or college. A variety of student services, such as counseling, advising and tutoring will also be available to help students succeed.

## READ Poster “Celebrities” 2015

The new READ poster “celebrities” for 2015 were recently revealed at a celebration of reading and libraries in the Schauerman Library Lobby. This year’s celebrities are Tom Lew, dean of the Humanities Division, and Kristie Daniel-DiGregorio, professor of human development in the Behavioral and Social Sciences Division. They were selected for their longstanding dedicated support of the Library and for fostering student information literacy skills and the use of Library resources. Since 2005, the El Camino College Schauerman Library has celebrated reading in the month of April by creating posters featuring college personalities posing with their favorite books. The event is part of the Library’s annual celebration of National Library Week/Month, and is designed to remind everyone on campus, especially students, of the importance of reading and libraries.



## Summer Programs for Youth

ECC will offer several free summer education and enrichment opportunities for area youngsters this summer. The STEM Young Scholars Summer Program is a free four-week summer program designed for high school students who are interested in learning more about STEM careers and majors. Presentations, field trips, activities, workshops, and guest speakers from science, technology, engineering, and math are part of the program.

The START (STEM Training and Robotics Technology) Program is a four-week program designed to develop critical, creative and innovative reasoning skills through hands-on projects. Students will build a VEX robot for classroom competition, participate in three electric building projects, and join college and industry tours, in addition to other activities. The Summer Math Academy is geared toward current or incoming ECC students, offering an opportunity to study math for three weeks in a friendly, stress-free environment. Students will learn how to study efficiently and become prepared for college placement testing. Math courses cover basic skills, algebra and precalculus. Students must be enrolled in a math course for fall 2015.

## Campus Calendar

### April

- 24 Fine Arts Division  
Open House  
Planetarium Show
- 24-26 “Bye Bye Birdie”
- 25 Polli Chambers-Salazar &  
Christopher Brennan,  
Piano
- 26 ECC Concert Band
- 28 FYE Year-end Event  
Faculty & Staff  
Appreciation Day
- 30 Project Success  
Awards Luncheon  
Students vs. Coaches,  
Speech

### May

- 1 EOPS/CalWORKs/CARE  
Recognition Awards  
Ceremony
- 1-3 “Bye Bye Birdie”
- 5 Women’s Wall of Fame  
Reception  
Honors Transfer  
Program Awards
- 7 MESA/SSS-STEM  
Awards Ceremony  
Puente End of Year  
Celebration
- 8 Mathematics & Natural  
Science Division Awards  
28<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Classic  
ECC Fashion Show
- 15 Last Day of Spring  
Semester  
Commencement  
Nursing Pinning Ceremony
- 18 Board of Trustees Meeting
- 19 UC/CSU Admit Reception
- 25 Memorial Day –  
Campus Closed
- 26 First Six-Week Summer  
Session Begins

Click [here](#) for more info about these and other events at El Camino College.