

# El Camino College News



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## Honors Transfer Program Students Present Research at UC Irvine

Students in the prestigious El Camino College Honors Transfer Program (HTP) recently attended the Seventh Annual Student Research Conference at the University of California at Irvine.

The conference was sponsored by the Honors Transfer Council of California to give community college students an opportunity to present undergraduate research in a university setting and to have abstracts printed in a university publication.

An all-time record of 10 El Camino College

students presented their research in front of students and faculty from all over California.

The HTP is designed to prepare the highly motivated student to transfer to a university. Of last year's HTP graduates, more than half were accepted to UCLA; a record number of HTP students transferred to UC Berkeley; and about 90% of HTP students were accepted into their first-choice university. UCLA considers El Camino as one of the top three transfer colleges, with a historic transfer rate as high as any other college.

**More info? Call the HTP at 310-660-3815.**



## ECC Welcome Day

The welcome mat is out and we are ready for you! El Camino College's New Student Welcome Day is scheduled for **Aug. 22** – mark your calendar! The event runs from 8:30 a.m. through 2:30 p.m. and offers a great opportunity for new students to get familiar with El Camino College's campus as well as available resources. Students can participate in an El Camino College student panel, workshops about choosing a major, college career planning workshops, a resource fair, and a campus tour.

Welcome to ECC! **Need info? Call 310-660-6033.**

## UCI Student Research Conference HTP STUDENT PARTICIPANTS AND TOPICS

- **Ebram Abdelmalak and Michael Stone**  
"The Suitability of Aragoose for the Separation of Restriction Fragments of Gel Electrophoresis"
- **Christopher Borgia** "The Cross-Cultural Expression of Talavera Ceramics"
- **Kristina Freeman** "Modern Orientalism and the Science Fiction Drama Stargate: SG1"
- **Yevgeny Goryachev** "To Be Human: Graham Greene's The Quiet American"
- **Jennifer Hagihara** "Teaching to the Students' Strengths"
- **Jennifer Reinhart** "The Scarce Social Skills of Elementary School Children"
- **Aya Seto** "The Morality of Suicide"
- **Kanza Shaheen** "Racism: Africa, Iraq, the Middle East and 9/11"
- **Yi Zhang** "Contemporary Philosophical Arguments for the Existence of God"

## El Camino College – at High School!

Why not start your college education while still in high school? At El Camino College, you can, and it's free!

Many courses will be available this fall at a variety of South Bay campuses. With dual-enrollment classes, eligible high school students can earn high school and college credits at the same time. And, did we mention? It's free of charge!

This is a great way to get a head-start on college – and with the cost savings, it's almost like a scholarship! Check out the fall class schedule online for class offerings.

## ► Alumni Spotlight:

### Michael Fincke

Hundreds of young scientists-in-training came to El Camino College this spring for the 21st Annual Onizuka Space Science Day. It was all about the science of space all day long with plenty of hands-on science experiments and a visit from a NASA astronaut.



El Camino College graduate Lt. Col. E. Michael Fincke, the visiting astronaut a few years ago, was recently named by NASA as commander of one of three crews that will live and work aboard the International Space Station over the next two years.

Fincke will be in charge of Expedition 18, set to launch from Space Station in fall 2008, to return in spring 2009.

"The time I spent at El Camino College helped give me the competitive edge I needed to further my career in space exploration," he said while visiting the ECC campus.

## ► Meet the 2007 Athletes of the Year



The El Camino College Athletic Hall of Fame marked its 20<sup>th</sup> year this spring, celebrating 60 years of Warrior athletics. An estimated 250,000 athletes have participated in the program since the campus opened in 1947.

### Kacey Martinez – Softball/Volleyball

**Kacey** is a two-sport athlete, excelling in both softball and volleyball. An excellent student and an exemplary team player, she enjoyed working to bring the team together for success in both sports.

### Daniel Belay – Track and Cross Country

**Daniel** is among the top three in the state in the 1,500 meters, 3,000 steeplechase, and 5,000 meters. Over the course of his two-year career at El Camino College, Daniel has been an inspiration for the men's cross country and track & field teams.

## ► Financial Aid

El Camino College is a great place to start your college education! With small class sizes, transferable credits, and excellent teaching staff, ***El Camino College also offers the lowest fees in the state – just \$20 per unit.***

Students at four-year colleges and universities can also enroll in summer courses at El Camino College, taking care of an important class while saving educational dollars.

**Need cash for college? Financial aid can help!** There is a record amount of financial aid available this year – apply now! Just fill out the FAFSA ([www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)) a free application used by the federal government, states and most colleges to award financial aid. Grants, scholarships, loans - there are many ways to get cash for college.

**More info? Contact El Camino College Financial Aid at:**  
[www.elcamino.edu/studentservices/fao](http://www.elcamino.edu/studentservices/fao).

### Did you know ...

... 41 percent of all students nationwide attend two-year colleges. The average full-time student enrolled in a public two-year college student receives about \$2,200 in grants and tax benefits, which reduces the average tuition and fees paid from the national average price of \$2,272 to a net price of under \$100.

**Source: The College Board**

### EL CAMINO COLLEGE IS A GREAT VALUE – DO THE MATH!

#### Costs at a glance

Community college	<b>\$2,272</b>
Public, four-year university	<b>\$5,836</b>
Private, four-year university	<b>\$22,218</b>

*Average annual costs 2006-07 Source: The College Board*

**Reduced fees  
Only \$20  
per unit!**

### Next Stop: Harvard!

El Camino College student Deborah Dauda recently traveled to Harvard University's New England Science Symposium to present her research project.

Deborah joined top-performing students countrywide and discussed her work: "Myostatin Effect on Body Composition and Muscle Physical Performance in Genetically Modified Mice." She studied Myostatin (MST), a negative regulator of skeletal muscle mass that affects muscle function, fiber number and size.

Deborah is active in the El Camino College MESA (Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement) program. Since she began in MESA as a biology major, she has participated in many activities, such as the Spring 2006 MESA Leadership Retreat in Santa Cruz; the Fall 2006 PG&E Student Leadership Development Training in San Ramon; the 2007 Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers National Technical Career Conference in Denver; and several academic workshops in math and chemistry.

MESA provides support to community college students who are majoring in math or science so they excel academically and transfer to four-year institutions. **Need info on MESA? Call 310-660-3887.**



## Foundation Scholarships

More than 100 outstanding students received an award from the El Camino College Foundation Scholarship Program at a reception this spring. The highlight of this first-ever event was the distribution of 140 scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$2,000.

Numerous donors made the inaugural El Camino College Foundation Scholarship Program a success. With a commitment to establish 80 new scholarships and distribute \$100,000 per year for the next 10 years, the scholarships will not only assist with, but in many cases, fully cover tuition, fees and textbooks. This year, these goals have been surpassed, truly setting the Foundation Scholarship Program apart from all others.

## ECC Alumni

Are you an ECC grad? Know someone who is? Give us a call – the El Camino College Alumni Association is looking for you – join the fun!

**Contact the El Camino College**

**Foundation/Alumni Office at**

**310-660-3683 or [kgleason@elcamino.edu](mailto:kgleason@elcamino.edu).**

## Forensics Brings Home Two National Titles

There's nothing to debate – the El Camino College forensics team had its best season ever – with two national championships!

The most recent award came from the Phi Rho Pi National Championships, staged in Houston. ECC advanced four of its five teams to elimination rounds (no other community college advanced more than two teams to elimination rounds), and won the national championship in debate. The following students won debate awards and contributed to the national championship:



- Gold Team Debate: David Nordel and Johnny Sheridan (also state champions)
- Gold Team Debate: Alyse Thompson and Emma Steiner
- Silver Team: Jose Crespo and Juan Victorio (state champions)
- Bronze Team: Derrick Rubiano and Vivian Amezcua (state champions)

Contributing team members also include Elysia Galindo Ramirez and Amanda Gibson.

This year, El Camino College won the National Parliamentary Debate Association National Sweepstakes for community colleges and placed third (behind Point Loma and Western Kentucky) among all 257 ranked universities.

## SSTARS On Campus

Student services – all wrapped up and ready to go! The El Camino College SSTARS Program brings it all together – 26 different service programs designed to help students complete their educational goals. Need a certificate or an AA/AS degree? Maybe you want to transfer to a four-year institution, or enhance skills? SSTARS can help.

Students can find out how to get books; how to apply for graduation; how to pay for various special needs like bus tokens, application fees for athletic programs, and other necessities. The SSTARS Program also coordinates fund-raising efforts to benefit projects such as the Library Book Depot where student can borrow textbooks for use in the library. This year a \$2,000 donation was made, with a goal for \$4,000 next year. A Scholarship Fund was also created this year, with three \$500 scholarships going to deserving students.

Word about the accomplishments of the SSTARS Program has made the rounds. The program is considered a model of success and other colleges have requested information so they can create a similar program.

## ECC Numbers to Know

Admissions	310-660-3414
Athletics	310-660-3545
Career Center	310-660-6137
Counseling	310-660-3442
Financial Aid	310-660-3493
Honors Program	310-660-3815
Registration	310-516-9339
Study Abroad	310-660-3824
Testing Office	310-660-6536
Transfer Center	310-660-3408

[www.elcamino.edu](http://www.elcamino.edu)

## EL CAMINO COLLEGE

16007 Crenshaw Boulevard  
Torrance, CA 90506

1-866-EL CAMINO  
[www.elcamino.edu](http://www.elcamino.edu)

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### El Camino College Administration

**Dr. Thomas M. Fallo**  
Superintendent /President

**Dr. Francisco Arce**  
Vice President  
Academic Affairs

**Dr. Jeff Marsee**  
Vice President  
Administrative Services

**Dr. Jeanie Nishime**  
Vice President  
Student Services

Want more info on ECC? We want to hear from you!

Go online and fill out a form at:

[www.elcamino.edu/future/prospective\\_student.asp](http://www.elcamino.edu/future/prospective_student.asp)

Produced by El Camino College Office of Public Relations & Marketing  
Ann M. Garten, Director, Community Relations



Connect with your future...  
at El Camino College

**I will be a doctor**

*Leselle Norville, El Camino College  
student plans to transfer to the UC  
of her choice for medical school.*

**Who will you be?**



**El Camino College  
Get Connected!**

**1-866-ELCAMINO**  
[www.elcamino.edu](http://www.elcamino.edu)  
*MyECC*

**Registration for summer and fall classes begins June 4, 2007**

**Summer Session begins June 11**

**Fall Semester starts August 25**

*The policy of the El Camino Community College District is to provide an educational and employment environment in which no person shall be unlawfully denied full and equal access to, the benefits of, or be unlawfully 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 in any program or activity that is administered by, funded directly by, or that receives any financial assistance from the State Chancellor or Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges.*