



EL CAMINO COLLEGE COMPTON CENTER



EL CAMINO COLLEGE COMPTON CENTER NEWS

June 2010

Vice President's Message

This is an exciting time of the year when we get to celebrate our student's many successes, and the ECC Compton Center faculty and staff can reflect on their part in helping these students with their achievements. Please join me in congratulating all of our scholars, including the 168 students who have met the requirements to graduate with an associate degree and an additional 74 students who have earned a certificate this semester, at our June 10 Commencement Ceremony.

We are extremely proud to have 12 students who will transfer to the University of California system this fall, and another 12 students who are graduating with honors this week by earning a 3.5 GPA or higher. This is a testament to not only the caliber of our students, but also to the great work happening in our Transfer Center.

This issue of *Center News* highlights some of the recent achievements by students and faculty alike, including a look at the lives of our three Presidential Scholars; an introduction to our student commencement speaker Luis Paredes; Scholar-Athletes of the Year Diana Franco and Glen Walker, plus 49 additional scholar-athletes recognized with a 2.5 GPA or higher; baseball's Alfredo Lopez being the first Tarter ever to be named All-American; student Kathleen Mai being named a Jet Propulsion Labs Undergraduate Scholar; and six faculty members receiving Title V Mini-Grants for their winning educational proposals.

I encourage you to take the time to review this issue of Center News, which has many great stories that serve as shining examples of the quality of individuals—students, faculty and staff alike—who are the lifeblood of our institution.

Exemplary Student to Speak at Commencement



Luis A. Paredes

Upon graduating from Narbonne High School in 2002, Luis Paredes' entrepreneurial spirit led him to forego college in pursuit of starting his own business. Paredes has always loved cars and began working at an auto dismantler to learn the business as a way to someday launch his own auto dismantler operation.

As the years passed, Paredes realized he did not have the means to raise the capital necessary to open his own business and decided to further his education. At first, he was hesitant to

enroll because he had been out of high school for six years, but he realized a strong educational foundation was required to pursue his career goals.

A long-time resident of Compton, Paredes enrolled at El Camino College Compton Center in spring 2008 and earned straight A's his first semester. This early academic success motivated Paredes, and he spent more time studying and focusing on school. Later that year, he joined the men's soccer team and says that being a part of the athletic program "is a joyous experience that has added to my student life at ECC Compton Center."

After graduating in June 2010 with a 3.89 GPA, Paredes plans to remain at ECC Compton Center for two additional semesters to complete the required lower division courses that will allow him to transfer to either the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) or University of California, Riverside to major in microbiology. He now plans to pursue a career in clinical laboratory science or public health.

As the oldest child in his family with two younger sisters, Paredes believes it is important to set a good example for his siblings. "When they see me go to college, hopefully they will feel motivated and confident enough to do the same."

Congratulations Class of 2010!

Commencement is truly a special occasion for our graduates and their families, as well as the faculty, staff and administration, faculty and staff. The day will mark a significant achievement in the lives of our students.

On June 10, we are extremely honored to hear the motivational words of our commencement speaker, Dolores Huerta, whose leadership and dedication to action are an inspiration to us all. She is a community organizer, political activist, public speaker, and co-founder with César Chávez of the United Farm Workers Union. She is president of the Dolores Huerta Foundation, established to inspire and motivate people to organize sustainable communities to attain social justice. Her complete bio may be viewed at http://dhuerta.hostcentric.com/dh_bio.htm.

We look forward to the future accomplishments of our graduates and wish them much success as they continue their education, embark on a new career or go to the next level in their chosen field.

Presidential Scholars Begin Next Chapter

Three students who are graduating from ECC Compton Center have received the El Camino College Presidential Scholars Award in recognition of their outstanding academic performance. Congratulations to Blas Arreola, Danny Elizarraras and Dakota McMahan! Here are their stories:



Blas Arreola

Blas Arreola is a physical education and Spanish major who will be transferring to California State University, Dominguez Hills this fall. After graduating from high school with honors in 2007, Arreola attended the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB) his first quarter of college and did well, earning a 3.5 GPA. However, UCSB was too expensive so he returned home and enrolled at El Camino College Compton Center. He believes it was one of the best decisions he could have made, for a number of reasons. ECC Compton Center is affordable and close to home, which enabled him to support his parents and mentor his two younger siblings. The much smaller class-size allowed Arreola to meet and discuss

material with his professors. Arreola says ECC Compton Center is a more comfortable educational setting for him because most of the students here have similar backgrounds.

“El Camino College Compton Center influenced me to succeed in my education while saving money and feeling right at home at the same time,” he says. “I gained so much confidence, knowledge, and experience and couldn’t be any more grateful. ECC Compton Center had all the resources that I needed to succeed—and I did.”

Currently, Arreola works as a site coordinator for the afterschool program at Dominguez High School, where students receive tutoring, participate in extracurricular activities and recover credits by taking classes again. “I like my job because we are offering a resource for students who may have many or similar barriers like I faced during my education,” Arreola says.

Danny Elizarraras

ECC Compton Center has had such a profound influence on Danny Elizarraras that he aspires to one day return here as a professor. Elizarraras, who plans to major in sociology, says he connected with professors here in a way he had never experienced in high school. “I connected with a number of students, but the most significant influence was the professors,” he says. “Enrolling in Dr. Bunting’s political science class, I came across my mentor. This extremely well-read professor shared some of the same views as I do. He helped me develop into the exact person I wanted to be.” He also cites professors Cornelia Lyles, Billie Moore, and Jose Villalobos as great influences and instructors on his educational journey.

“At El Camino College Compton Center, I received the education I needed to move forward, but more importantly, I got an identity,” he said. “Growing up in a gang-infested area does not define me. What defines me is my hunger to have justice for those in need of it.”

Elizarraras said he was particularly impressed that many of his ECC Compton Center professors also teach at four-year universities such as the University of Southern California and California State University, Long Beach. “One day I hope to influence young students as they have influenced me. My academic goal in life is to become a professor at ECC Compton Center,” he said. “Not only has El Camino College Compton Center influenced me, it has made me the individual I am today.”



Dakota McMahan

As Lynwood resident Dakota McMahan prepares to transfer to Biola University in La Mirada (Calif.), she believes her education at El Camino College Compton Center has revealed the “Jonathan Livingston seagull” within by helping her find, as Richard Bach wrote in his acclaimed novel, “a reason to live—to learn, to discover, to be free.”

Her professors have helped her broaden her intellectual capabilities and inspired her to consider how she can share her newly acquired knowledge in the world, she says. “The professors have motivated me to remove the limitations that influence and hinder the thinking process and encouraged me to discover and pursue perfection,” McMahan says.

One particularly memorable experience occurred during an “Introduction to Logic” course she took with Professor Darwin Smith two years ago. Certain that she would do well in the class because she had taken philosophy in high school, McMahan was surprised at the level of difficulty and dismayed when she received a C+ on the first exam. “I realized that I needed to alter my reasoning process,” she said, adding that she met several times with the instructor to better understand the course material.

Attending ECC Compton Center has also helped with acceptance to the college of her choice— Biola University and has given her the opportunity to be the first person in her family to graduate from college. In addition to attending ECC Compton Center, McMahand works as a piano instructor at the Watts Towers Arts Center and studies at the Torrance Music Academy.

Summer/Fall Registration Dates

Registration for summer and fall 2010 is currently in progress for all students. The summer sessions begin June 28, and the fall semester begins August 28. Students can register online by visiting <http://www.compton.edu/> and clicking on *MyECC*.

To view the 2010 summer and fall class schedules, go to: <http://www.compton.edu/student-services/admission-and-records/ClassSchedule.aspx>.

Nursing Students Pinned

The El Camino College Compton Center Nursing Pinning Ceremony took place on June 8. We congratulate the 21 graduates who earned associate degrees, one student who completed the registered nursing 30-unit option, and the 24 students who have completed the nursing assistant/home health aide program.

Associate Degree Registered Nursing:

Anna Katrina Angeles
Brittany Ball
Brandi Cole
Monica Culpepper
Zolia Dancel
Krystle Delos Reyes
Daylan Faildo
Kim Gange
La'Nesha Green
Okja Lim
Mithona Loeung
Aileen Marshall
Ife Matthews
Sharon McMillion
Kimberly Medina
Jessica Gonzales Mendoza
Veronica Sanches
Lenor Sims
Elizabeth Ugwuude
Krystyl Veal_Benoit
Linda Ward

Registered Nursing 30-Unit Option Completer:

Star Brown

Nursing Assistant /Home Health Aide Completers:

Tenny Awosika
Nolvia Calix
Celestine Shondra
Lanita Copeland
Shaquanda Davis
Kara Dolliole
Sergio Espericueta
Catherine Fobi
Robbie Follings
Josefina Hernandez
Edmund Ike (Home Health Aide Completer)
Ashley Ingram
LaPorshe Jackson
Jaree Logan
Angela McKnight
Jennifer Martin
Daisy Meza
Nahesha Parker
Connie Puryear
Christine Rojas
Talaya Thompson
Alberto Viramontes
Ebony Watson
Winifred Najeeullah

ECC Compton Center Student Receives Prestigious Honor From JPL

ECC Compton Center student Kathleen Mai was recently named a Jet Propulsion Laboratory Undergraduate Scholar (JPLUS). The honor is bestowed upon students who have attained stellar academic achievement and have demonstrated the capacity to make original contributions in their field of study.

Nominated by Professor Donald Roach, Mai was honored in May along with 20 other students from California higher education institutions. As an official Undergraduate Scholar, she will be given the opportunity to visit both JPL and Caltech and apply to different internship programs at each location.

Started in May 1997, with funds provided by Caltech, the JPLUS Program was developed to recognize achievement and high potential in the students attending the 30 institutions of higher education closest to JPL in Pasa-

dena, majoring in engineering, mathematics, computer sciences or the physical sciences. Faculty representatives at each institution nominate students for the program each year.

Student-Athletes Recognized for Academic Achievements

Student-athletes at El Camino College Compton Center were celebrated for their accomplishments off the field and in the classroom at the Second Annual Athletic Academic Awards Ceremony, held on May 27.

Started last year, this awards ceremony recognizes ECC Compton Center student-athletes with a 2.5 GPA or higher for their academic achievements. Student-athletes with a 3.0 GPA or higher were recognized as “wall-of-fame” athletes. There were also special honors for the male and female scholar-athletes of the year.

The purpose of the annual awards ceremony is to put academics first, where it should be, says Albert “Lefty” Olguin, ECC Compton Center athletic director. “This yearly event is designed to keep the focus on the academic accomplishments of our program—and not the athletic merits of our teams.”

This emphasis on academic achievement, Olguin says, reflects the motto of ECC Compton Center’s coaching staff—recruit, educate, matriculate and graduate.

Scholar-Athletes of the Year

Diana Franco, Soccer
Glen Walker, Baseball

“Wall of Fame” Scholar-Athletes (3.0 GPA or higher)

Erin Adams, Football
Maricruz Arias, Soccer
Ana Baltazar, Soccer
Terry Bender, Football
Robert Brown, Football
David Brunson, Football
Victor Carreon, Soccer
Ramel Davis, Football
Laura Duran, Soccer
Diana Franco, Soccer
Jose Garibay, Soccer/Kamron
Garner, Baseball
Diana Gonzalez, Soccer
Jeremiah Hotchner, Baseball
Michael Jenks, Baseball
Erik Konop, Football
Albert Lazaro, Soccer
Emily Leon, Soccer
Mario Madera, Baseball
Shawn McKinght, Football
Keith Murakami, Baseball
Luis Paredes, Soccer
Valeeta Perry, Basketball, Badminton

Jeffrey Robertson, Basketball
Johnathan Rodriguez, Soccer
Cynthia Salas, Soccer
Tylor Showe, Football
Jasmyne Thurmond, T.A.S.C./Cross Country
Julian Thurmond, Basketball
Glen Walker, Baseball
Eric Washington, Football
Samuel Woods, Football

Certificates of Merit (2.5 GPA or higher)

Hazel Aranda, Soccer
Donovan Baker, Basketball
Ivan Duenas, Baseball
James Gonzalez, Baseball
Nelson Guevara, Soccer
Mark Jacobs, Basketball
Alfredo Lopez, Baseball
Timothy McKenzie, Football
LaVon Myers, Basketball
Juve Reyes, Baseball
Alexander Rodriguez, Soccer
Juan Soto, Football
Marcus Taylor, Baseball
Marcial Villa, Soccer
Carlos Violante, Baseball
Manoah Wesson, Football
Ronald Woods, Football

Baseball’s Alfredo Lopez First Tartar Named All-American



After making the California Community College Athletic Association (CCCAA), South Coast Conference (SCC) baseball playoffs for the first time in our institution’s 83-year history—the awards keep rolling in! Tartar sophomore shortstop Alfredo Lopez was recently selected as ECC Compton Center’s first All-American in baseball. He was also selected as first team All Southern California and named Rawlings Big Stick Southern California player of the year. Lopez, who batted .414 with 31 stolen bases, was also named to the first team South Coast Conference 2010 and second team in 2009. His stats over the last two seasons include: .387 batting average (137 for 354), 77 stolen bases, 85 runs scored, and 54 RBI’s as the Tartar’s lead-off hitter.

ECC Compton Center “Idol” Competition Winners Crowned

Congratulations to the El Camino College Compton Center “Idol” singing competition winners, pictured (left to right): First place winner, Alisa Ennis, along with the 2nd place winner Zianee, and the third place winner, Glynndon Owens.

Message from the CEO Dr. Lawrence M. Cox

Many exciting things are happening at the Compton Community College District! We are making strides across the board to better serve our local communities. Recently, the Board of Trustees and I established our overarching priorities for 2010-2011 and beyond:

- 1) manage enrollment and improve retention and persistence
- 2) strengthen community awareness about our programs and services
- 3) expand institutional capacity
- 4) improve institutional effectiveness.

During the past several years, we have made measurable improvements at the district, and now continue our work focusing on the specific priorities listed above.

We have a locally elected Board of Trustees; all management positions are filled with regular, permanent employees; we are hiring six new faculty members; our facilities continue to be repaired and updated including the infrastructure upgrades that will commence this summer; we have a balanced budget including reserves; and we have near-term plans to repay the state loan.

In July we will receive our fifth visit by the Fiscal Crises and Management Assistance Team (FCMAT), as required by Assembly Bill 318 to assess the District’s progress every six months. This will help us further gauge our progress toward required improvements.

The Board members, Special Trustee, staff and I have recently engaged in a number of training sessions and workshops designed to enhance communications, partnerships and community collaboratives. We want the communities we serve to know that we have the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to improve and sustain a higher education institution, and we will continue to communicate our progress.

Retiring Faculty and Staff

We wish all the best to our retiring faculty, staff and administrators who have served ECC Compton Center and our students through their dedication and commitment to education.

Faculty retirees and their departments:

Carroll Fisher, Reading

Robert Stephen Morgan, Business

Hung Wu, Chemistry

Faculty Profile: Michael J. Odanaka



Ask Michael Odanaka what he enjoys most about working at El Camino College Compton Center and he doesn't hesitate to answer.

"That's easy. I love teaching and counseling our students. It is a privilege to work in higher education," says Odanaka, a professor of Counseling/Human Development. He's worked in the EOP&S Program since he first came to El Camino College Compton Center in 1987.

As a counselor, he helps students identify their natural skills as they navigate their educational paths. "Every individual has strengths and part of my job is to help students identify their strengths and build on that foundation," says Odanaka. "It is amazing how much we can accomplish when we feel good about ourselves. To be quite honest, rather than inspiring our students, I am the one who is inspired by the students and their remarkable stories."

Odanaka holds a bachelor's degree in philosophy from Dartmouth College, a master's degree in theology from Fuller Theological Seminary and a master's degree in psychology California State University, Los Angeles. Prior to joining El Camino College Compton Center, he worked at the University of California, Los Angeles for eight years in the Academic Advancement program.

At ECC Compton Center, Odanaka has taken on many special assignments over the years. He currently is serving as coordinator of the California Nisei Diploma Project, a statewide effort to find Japanese American students whose studies were interrupted when they were sent to relocation camps during World War II. In 1942, an estimated 95 Japanese Americans were studying at what was then Compton Junior College. Thanks to Odanaka's efforts, we have already located three former students who have agreed to be honored this fall. They are Ms. Mitsue Kikawa Shimizu, Mr. Tomomi (Tom) Murakami, and Mr. Lawson Sakai.

For Odanaka, who is a Sansei, or a third-generation Japanese American, this assignment is special. "I think that the California Nisei Project is important for all college students. For myself, there are a number of very personal connections," says Odanaka. His father was a Nisei (second-generation Japanese American) and graduated from the former Compton Junior College in 1932. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1941 and served in the Pacific with the Military Intelligence Service—along with hundreds of other Japanese Americans. "At the same time that my father was serving in the Army, his wife and parents were in the relocation camps," Odanaka says.

To learn more about the California Nisei Diploma Project, visit <http://www.compton.edu/nisei/>, or contact Michael Odanaka at 310-900-1600, Ext. 2916.

Board of Trustees Meeting

The next meeting of the Compton Community College District Board of Trustees is scheduled for Tuesday, July 20, at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room at Compton Center. Closed session begins at 5:00 p.m. for anyone wishing to address the Board on closed session agenda items. The Board Agendas are posted 72 hours in advance of the meeting at www.district.compton.edu and www.compton.edu.

Congratulations to Faculty Recipients of Title V Mini Grant!

El Camino College Compton Center recently announced the winners of the 2010 mini-grant competition. The awardees are:

- Patricia L. Bonacic
- Essie French-Preston and David Simmons
- Lloyd Noonan

- Ruth Roach
- Sylvia Arroyo and Ruth Roach

The winning proposals met the criteria to merit funding from outside sources, and highlight projects that enhance the educational process by focusing on improving student success, retention and/or graduation rates. A panel of readers comprised of ECC Compton Center faculty and administration reviewed the proposals to select the winners, and the Title V grants range from \$500-\$2,000.

You will hear more about these exciting projects as the mini-grant recipients move forward with implementation of their proposals this summer.

Faculty/Staff Team Building Proved “Mission: Possible”

“Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to build the tallest, free-standing structure using the contents of your team’s Mission Possible supply box. Good luck!” Those were the instructions conveyed to the faculty and staff members as they arrived for the Team Building Extravaganza on May 21 at the El Camino College Student Activities Center.

The participants were assigned teams and each team received a supply box, containing: newspaper, file folders, Styrofoam cups, straws, pipe cleaners, rubber bands, tongue depressors, Popsicle sticks, and one roll of masking tape.

Oufitted in their special “I survived Mission Possible” t-shirts, the teams quickly got to work on their mission, injecting innovation, creativity, fun. . . and teamwork!

Congratulations to all the teams for accomplishing their overt missions, and to the winning teams for taking team building to new heights:

First Place – “The Fab Five”: Iris Fernandez, Sumino Otsuji, Laurie Linka, Tom Connolly, Julieta Ortiz

Second Place – “The Wizards”: Veronica Cooper, Araceli Broadhead, Travis Martin, Kim Legier, Omar Brenes

Third Place – “5 Heart Beats”: Wendy Johnson, Celia Kang, Babs Atane, Martha Burgess, Karen Lam

2010 Year-End Activities Calendar

Commencement Ceremony

Thursday, June 10, 2010 @ 5:30 p.m.
Tartar Quadrangle

High School Reception

Tuesday, June 15, 2010 @ 5:00 p.m.
Compton Center Student Lounge

Student Support Services

Graduation/Transfer Banquet

Wednesday, June 16, 2010 @ 6:00 p.m.
Double Tree Hotel (Carson, CA)

ASB Awards Banquet

Thursday, June 24, 2010 @ 6:00 p.m.
Compton Center Student Lounge

Flex Day - August 26 and 27

Save the Date! Flex Day 2010 is set for Thursday, August 26 at El Camino College. This is a great way to begin the fall semester, while greeting old friends and welcoming new employees to ECC Compton Center.

The day begins with refreshments at 8:00 a.m. and continues through the morning with informative sessions before breaking for lunch. Afternoon sessions include division/department meetings. On Friday, August 27, at ECC Compton Center, our faculty and staff will participate in a visionary exercise. See you there!

ARCC Report Recently Released

The results of 2010 Accountability Report for the Community Colleges (ARCC) were recently released. This report is one indicator of where we need to be in terms of overall student success.

The best news is that ECC Compton Center's Persistence Rate is nearing the peer group average. The rate during our transition year was the peer group low. Two years later, persistence increased by 21 points, and this year we have moved closer to the peer group average.

The 2010 ARCC report for ECC Compton Center captures recent institutional improvements, as well as other measures of accountability that we believe are affected by the accreditation revocation and the years that immediately followed. There is no benchmark for the unique situation we find ourselves facing, and no other peer college has experienced the accreditation revocation and curriculum changes ECC Compton Center has undergone. To review the full report, go to <http://www.cccco.edu/> and type "ARCC 2010" in the search box.

Nearly all longitudinal rates in the 2010 report are influenced by this history. The most recent year shows increases in three measures and declines in three measures, with one remaining stable when compared to similar institutions. ECC Compton Center's rates represent the peer group low on four of the seven ratings, however it is important to note that two of the ratings still span the years before and after the partnership began.

Low course success rates still challenge ECC Compton Center, with no major increases in these rates over the past three years. Improving these rates is now a chief institutional priority. We have expanded our research into successful interventions that enhance student success among basic skills students.

The ESL improvement rate has varied dramatically due to curriculum changes and a unique population of ESL students who are predominantly non-credit students (and are thus excluded from the rate). Therefore, the rate may not be a valid measure of institutional quality at this time. However, ECC Compton Center acknowledges the need to expand the credit ESL program to better serve community needs, and will explore approaches and resources directed specifically at ESL recruitment and counseling to increase enrollment in the credit ESL program.

In recent surveys conducted by ECC Compton Center, 85 percent of students and 71 percent of community members believe an education received at ECC Compton Center was as good as or better than at other institutions. Several recent initiatives should continue to enhance the success of our students, such as the First Year Experience program and learning communities.

Social Networking at Compton Center

Did you know that ECC Compton Center's Facebook page gets about 30 new "fans" a month? Check out Compton Center's home page on our website to become a "fan" on Facebook or follow the latest "tweets" on Twitter. To

be in the know, add these sites to your “favorites” list on your computer. You may send your ideas for postings to Ann Garten, director of community relations, El Camino College, at agarten@elcamino.edu.

Share Your News

We want to keep you informed of the news in our campus community. We also want to hear from you. We know there is no shortage of good news at ECC Compton Center—so keep us in the loop.

Know a student who won a scholarship? a professor who just published an article or a book or received an award? a staff member honored by a professional organization? someone on our campus who has been recognized for work in the community? Help us spread the good news!

Please e-mail your news items and postings for Facebook and Twitter to Ann Garten, community relations director, at agarten@elcamino.edu.