



*Division of Natural Sciences  
and  
Division of Mathematical Sciences*

# *Academic Awards Ceremony*

*Friday, May 8, 2015  
12:00 - 2:00 p.m.  
Student Activities Center*

# *Program*

Social and Refreshments

Welcome by Amy Grant

Academic Awards Presentations

*Special thanks to the faculty and staff who donated  
time, money, and refreshments to make this  
Academic Awards Ceremony possible.*

## **DIVISION AWARDS COMMITTEE**

Thanks and appreciation goes to the Division Awards Committee members who made this ceremony possible with their hard work and devoted energy. Without their efforts, the Division Academic Awards Ceremony would not be possible.

Priscilla Baldwin	Clerical Assistant, Natural Sciences
Greg Fry	Professor, Mathematics
Amy Grant	Professor, Chemistry
Arturo Hernandez	Director, MESA
Marta Maaza	Administrative Assistant, Mathematical Sciences
Zachary Marks	Assistant Professor, Mathematics
Benjamin Mitchell	Assistant Professor, Mathematics
Kaysa Laureano Moreno	Professor, Mathematics
Kristine Numrich	Professor, Mathematics
Jessica Padilla	Associate Professor, Anatomy, Biology, Physiology
Allen Sampson	Professor Emeritus, Mathematics
Mariam Santiago	Administrative Assistant, Natural Sciences
Jean Shankweiler	Vice President, Academic Affairs
Jacquelyn Sims	Dean, Mathematical Sciences
Satish Singhal	Assistant Professor, Computer Science

*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.*

## **CHEMISTRY AWARDS**

### **GENERAL CHEMISTRY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

The Chemistry Department honors students who have earned or are in the process of earning a second "A" in the sequence of Chemistry 1A/1B at El Camino College. The recipients are:

JASSIM AL-OBOUDI	SEAN LAMB
TYLER CARACOZA	ADRIAN MENENDEZ
ANDREW CHOI	KEVIN NGUYEN
ROD COLUMBRES	THANH NGUYEN
HUY HO	NGUYEN PHAM
JOHN HYLAK	MISBAH RASHAD
TONY V. LAM	MIN ZHONG

Presented by Mohamad Abbani

### **FRESHMAN CHEMISTRY AWARD**

The Chemistry Department honors one of the top chemistry students who has earned or is in the process of earning a second "A" in the sequence of Chemistry 1A/1B at El Camino College. The recipient is:

JOHN HYLAK

Presented by Mohamad Abbani

**McQUERRY AWARD FOR  
GENERAL CHEMISTRY**

The Chemistry Department presents this award honoring the late John McQuerry, professor emeritus, to the top Chemistry 1A/1B students.

The recipients are:

NGUYEN PHAM

MIN ZHONG

Presented by Mohamad Abbani

**GENERAL AND ORGANIC  
CHEMISTRY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

The Chemistry Department honors students who have earned or are in the process of earning a fourth "A" in the sequence of Chemistry 1A/1B and 7A/7B at El Camino College. The recipients are:

JIN ZHI GOH

JUNE PARK

MARYAM MIRZAEI

NGUYEN PHAM

Presented by Peter Doucette

**CAMPBELL FAMILY AWARD IN  
ORGANIC CHEMISTRY**

The Chemistry Department presents this award donated by the family of James Campbell, who passed away in 2005, to an outstanding student who has completed or is in the process of completing the sequence of Chemistry 1A/1B and 7A/7B at El Camino College. The selected student must have a science-related major, which requires at least four semesters of college-level chemistry. The recipient is:

JIN ZHI GOH

Presented by Peter Doucette

**PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS AWARD**

One student from each academic division is selected to receive a Presidential Scholars Award, which includes a \$1,000 scholarship. To qualify for consideration, a student must have completed 60 units at El Camino College with a minimum grade point average of 3.7 (4.00 = A) and be eligible to graduate this year with a declared major. Nominees were asked to complete a supplemental questionnaire and submit an essay on the topic of "How has El Camino College influenced your life?" to assist the committee in the selection process.

The Mathematical Sciences Division Presidential Scholar for 2015 is:

LANGSTON CHANDLER

The Natural Sciences Division Presidential Scholar for 2015 is:

ABEL RICANO

The selected students were honored at a separate Academic Awards Presentation sponsored by the Associated Students of El Camino College on April 15, 2015.

## **DIVISION ACADEMIC AWARDS**

### **ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

Students have been selected by the faculty for exceptional achievement in the advanced courses. To qualify for consideration, a student must have taken 60 units by the end of the spring semester at El Camino College with a minimum grade point average of 3.5 (4.00 = A). The top students are selected from among those who qualified.

The selected students were honored at a separate Academic Awards Presentation sponsored by the Associated Students of El Camino College on April 15, 2015.

The DIVISION OF MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES has selected the following six recipients:

YOSHIHITO ADACHI  
HYOUNGJIN CHO  
JUNE PARK

MAI SALEH  
GEORGE SALLOUN SANOJA  
MATTHEW YUN

The DIVISION OF NATURAL SCIENCES has selected the following five recipients:

GUILLERMO CHACALTANA  
JIN ZHI GOH

HUY QUOC MINH HO  
ADRIAN MENENDEZ

MARYAM MIRZAEI

### **EXCELLENCE IN GENERAL, ORGANIC AND BIOCHEMISTRY AWARD**

The Chemistry Department honors students who have earned or are in the process of earning a second "A" in the sequence of Chemistry 21A/21B at El Camino College. The recipients are:

BRUNNY SMITH-PRADO  
FAVOUR STEVEN

Presented by Ana Tontcheva

### **JACK WOLF CHEMISTRY 21A/21B AWARD**

The Chemistry Department, in honor of the memory of Jack L. Wolf, presents one or more awards to students for outstanding performance in Chemistry 21A/21B. The recipient is:

BRUNNY SMITH-PRADO

Presented by Ana Tontcheva

#### Members of the chemistry faculty:

Mohamad Abbani	Helen Motokane
Robert Altermatt	Laura Neurauter
Premilla Arasasingham	Soshanna Potter
Andrey Balakin	Vineeta Sachdev
Nicholas Bonness	Robert Shibao
Peter Doucette	Donna Speckman
Irv Drew	Gary Sterling
Amy Grant	Tom Stewart
Miguel Jimenez	Rosmery Tajiboy
Melvin Kantz	Ana Tontcheva
Lida Latifzadeh	Ryan Turner
Janina Moretti	Mario Vargas

# ASTRONOMY AWARDS

## COMMENDATION FOR EXCELLENCE IN ASTRONOMY

The Astronomy Department honors those students who have earned an "A" in two lecture and one laboratory astronomy course and have a 3.0 GPA. The recipients are:

ALEXANDRA AGNONE  
LIZETTE ESQUIVEL  
EMILY HUFF  
JISOO KIM

CORRINE KOSIDLAK  
ZACHARY OWENS  
DWIGHT RICHARDSON  
BRIAN WILLIAMS

Presented by Vincent Lloyd

The Astronomy Awards are sponsored by the South Bay Astronomical Society.

Members of the astronomy faculty:

Perry Hacking  
Shimonee Kadakia  
Vincent Lloyd  
Leon Palmer  
Asma Said  
Razmic Shirvanian  
Susan Stolovy

## MESA/ASEM/SSS-STEM AWARDS

Tier 3 - Transfer Ready - (\$7,000)

JACQUELINE CELY	Biology
LANGSTON CHANDLER	Computer Science
HECTOR FLORES	Computer Science
GABRIELA LOPEZ	Mechanical Engineering
JUNE PARK	Chemical Engineering
RICARDO PARRA	Civil Engineering

Tier 3 - Transfer Ready - (\$4,000)

YOSHIHITO ADACHI	Chemical Engineering
ANDREW CHOI	Chemical Engineering
EDLIN GONZALEZ	Environmental Science
FRANKIE MARTINEZ	Physics
THANH NGUYEN	Civil Engineering
DEISY PRECIADO	Civil Engineering
DANIEL REYES	Civil Engineering

Presented by Arturo Hernandez, MESA/SSS-STEM Director

## MESA/ASEM/SSS-STEM AWARDS

Tier 2 - One year away from transferring - (\$4,000)

DEYANIRA CARDENAS-HERRERA	Chemical Engineering
EDUARDO CHAVEZ	Computer Science
EDGAR DIAZ	Aerospace Engineering
WENDY GUERRA	Biomedical Engineering
LEONARDO HERNANDEZ	Electrical Engineering
HUY HO	Physics
EDWARD KIM	Electrical Engineering
SAMUEL LIDZBARSKI	Mechanical Engineering
DIANICA MANZANO	Electrical Engineering
LONG-GIANG NGUYEN	Bioengineering
NGA NGUYEN	Chemistry
ERICK QUINTANILLA	Computer Science
CHRISTIAN RAMIREZ	Mathematics
TAIKI TANAKA	Computer Science
LEONARDO ZAMBRANO	Biophysics

## **LIFE SCIENCES AWARDS**

### COMMENDATION FOR DISTINCTIVE PERFORMANCE

The Life Sciences Department honors students who have earned an "A" in each of the three courses Anatomy 30 or 32, Microbiology 33, and Physiology 31 or Anatomy and Physiology 34A and 34B, and Microbiology 33. The recipients are:

SALMA AHAMED	SIMRAT KAUR
SADAF ALESAFAR	JANET LEE
CHAD BAKER	YONG LEE
MOLLY BUN	JIHWA SOHN
JOHN BURTON	FRANK VICKORY
JENNIFER CHANG	NASIIM WARSAME
DANIELLE CHAVES	JI YOO
LESLEY DIKE	MARIA YUMAN
BRYANNA DUCA	JIANING ZHANG
LISA IWASAKI	

Presented by Jessica Padilla, Mike Stupy, and Simon Trench

### EXCELLENCE IN BIOLOGICAL FIELD STUDIES

The Life Sciences Department honors students who have earned an "A" in two of the biological field studies classes: field entomology, field zoology or marine biology with the marine biology laboratory. The recipient is:

STEPHANIE NORRIS

Presented by Jeanne Bellemin and Bryan Carey

**DISTINGUISHED BIOLOGY**  
**ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

The Biology Department honors students who have earned or are in the process of earning a third "A" in the sequence Biology 101/102/103. The recipient is:

NGUYEN PHAM

Presented by Teresa Palos

**GENERAL BIOLOGY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

The Biology Department honors students who have earned or are in the process of earning a second "A" in the sequence Biology 101/102. The recipients are:

JASSIM AL-BOUDI  
RAHMA ARAFA  
KA NENG CHEONG  
ROD COLUMBRES  
TRISTAN DARVIN  
JIN ZHI GOH  
SEAN LAMB

CAMMIE LIU  
ADRIAN MENENDEZ  
MARYAM MIRZAEI  
NGUYEN PHAM  
FRANCIS RONKOWSKI  
DIANA SALAMA  
MIN ZHONG

Presented by Steve Leonelli

Members of the life sciences faculty:

Cheryl Abbani	Stephen Leonelli	Peter Reonisto
Jeanne Bellemin	Chih Lew	Margaret Steinberg
Michael Brennan	Anthony Lopez	Michael Stupy
Thanh-Thuy Bui	Adam Majewski	Jia Sun
Bryan Carey	Marie Nagaya	Simon Trench
Nancy Freeman	Sanda Oswald	Anne Valle
Julie Janicki	Jessica Padilla	Karla Villatoro
Octavian Le	Teresa Palos	Adam Welday
Samuel Lee	Ansha Qian	Todd White
Laurie Len		

**MESA/ASEM/SSS-STEM AWARDS**

**NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION**  
**ACHIEVEMENT SCHOLARSHIP IN**  
**ENGINEERING, MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE**

The National Science Foundation Achievement Scholarship in Engineering, Mathematics and Science (NSF ASEMS) supports scholarships for academically talented, financially needy students, enabling them to enter the workforce following completion of a baccalaureate or graduate degree in fields of science, technology, engineering, or mathematics. This program emphasizes the importance of recruiting students to science and engineering disciplines, while mentoring and supporting students through degree completion.

The following students will be awarded a total of \$150,000 as follows:

Tier 1 - Two years away from transferring - (\$4,000)

NANEA DOMINGUEZ	Neurobiology
CASEY LUNA	Chemical Engineering
FRANCISCO MURILLO	Mechanical Engineering
CHRISTINA NGUYEN	Chemical Biology
TIMOTHY WILSON	Astrophysics



## EXEMPLARY PERFORMANCE AWARD

For recognition in this category, no less than three A's and a B are required in the same four courses of physics. The recipients are:

ALEXIS GARDNER                  GABRIELA LOPEZ  
JUNE PARK

Presented by John Coroneus and Eyal Goldmann

## TOM WILSON PHYSICS – HUMANITIES SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship rewards students that have demonstrated ability and interest in both the sciences, particularly Physics and Astronomy, and the Humanities. The recipients are:

YOSHIHITO ADACHI                  ALEXIS GARDNER  
JUNE PARK

Presented by John Coroneus and Eyal Goldmann

Members of the physics faculty:

John Coroneus  
Eyal Goldmann  
Perry Hacking  
Norm Kadomoto  
Natalia Lev  
Adam Murdock  
Susana Prieto  
Susan Stolovy  
Kyle Strohmaier  
Michel Van Biezen  
Mathew Werber

## **EARTH SCIENCE AWARDS**

### WALLY E. FORD EARTH SCIENCE SCHOLARSHIP

Professor Ford established the Earth Science Department in 1947 and taught at El Camino College until his retirement in 1977. Each year, Professor Ford joined the Earth Science faculty in recognizing outstanding academic performance in Earth Science, which includes geology, meteorology, and oceanography. Professor Ford passed away in the spring of 2007, but with the support of the South Bay Lapidary Society, the faculty continue to honor his commitment to education and excellence. The recipients are:

EDLIN GONZALEZ                  NANCI TORRES  
JESSE VILLALOBOS

Presented by Sara DiFiori, Chuck Herzig, Joe Holliday, and Jim Noyes

### GARRISON GEOGRAPHY AWARD

The Geography Department presents this scholarship to the top geography major at El Camino College. The recipients are:

MEGAN MOZENA                  ZACHARY OWENS

Presented by Matt Ebiner

Members of the earth science faculty:

Robin Bouse	Julienne Gard	Patricia Neumann
Sara DiFiori	Chuck Herzig	Ilya Neyman
Rebecca Donegan	Joe Holliday	Jim Noyes
Changming Dong	Bryan Murray	Carla Weaver
Matt Ebiner		

## COMPUTER SCIENCE AWARDS

### COMMENDATION FOR DISTINCTIVE PERFORMANCE

The Computer Science Department honors those students who have completed and earned four or more A's in the computer science curriculum. The recipients are:

LANGSTON CHANDLER – 4 A's  
AARON GONZALEZ – 4 A's  
CHOL PARK – 4 A's

Presented by Greg Fry

Members of the computer science faculty:

Carl Broderick  
Greg Fry  
Massoud Ghyam  
Joseph Hyman  
Juan Leon  
Matthew Mata  
Esmaail Nikjeh  
Gregory Scott  
Satish Singhal  
Ralph Taylor

## PHYSICS AWARDS

The Physics Department recognizes students in three groups. The recipients and requirements are given below.

### EXCELLENCE IN PHYSICS AWARD

This award from the Physics Department will be given to two students who demonstrate excellence in physics. Students need to have completed at least two courses in the Physics 1 series and be majoring in a physical science. Extra consideration will be given to students who are continuing at El Camino College and are majoring in physics. The recipients are:

KRISTINA KOHARCHIK      SANG TRAN

Presented by John Coroneus and Eyal Goldmann

### COMMENDATION FOR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE

For recognition in this category, an "A" in each of the four physics courses, 1ABCD, is required. Such a feat has been achieved, this year, by only seven of the approximately 280 students who begin the two-year sequence each year. The recipients are:

YOSHIHITO ADACHI      ETHAN LIANG  
ANDREW CHOI      THANH NGUYEN  
ELEN KALDS      SANG TRAN  
ZHIXIAN ZHANG

Presented by John Coroneus and Eyal Goldmann

Members of the mathematics faculty:

Dave Akins	Linda Ho	Aida Ovanessian
Vage Avakyan	Antony Hoang	Delores Owens
Adalinda Avila	Thu-Hang Hoang	Ann Pham
Eduardo Barajas	Anna Hockman	David Ramirez
Michael Bateman	Robert Horvath	Russell Reece
Bob Bauman	Carrie Huang	Matthew Robertson
Beyene Bayssa	Joe Hyman	Malinni Roeun
Lynn Beckett-Lemus	Judy Kasabian	Tatiana Roque
Susan Bickford	Avid Khorram	Lernik Saakian
Allen Bollinger	Lars Kjeseth	Allen Sampson
Carl Broderick	Matin Lackpour	Gregory Scott
Susanne Bucher	Michael Lee	Aban Seyedin
Robert Caldwell	Juan Leon	Arkadiy Sheynshteyn
Wei-Feng Chen	Robert Lewis	Azzam Shihabi
Jeffrey Cohen	Terri Malouf	Richard Sibner
Marilyn Cortez	Thri Manikandan	Ambika Silva
Dimetros Dammerna	Zachary Marks	Shane Smith
Zekarias Dammerna	Alice Martinez	James Stein
Christopher Dean	Arturo Martinez	Alan Stillson
Bruce Dovner	J. Juan Martinez	Daniel Strivewell
Nathan Dunlap	Jose M. Martinez	Gizaw Tadele
Abdelwahab El-Abyad	Steve Martinez	Rick Taketomo
Diaa Eldanaf	Matthew Mata	Ralph Taylor
Jacob Epstein	Perry McDonnell	Susan Taylor
Farrah Esmaeili	Trudy Meyer	Mokonen Tesfom
Jill Evensizer	Ashod Minasian	Susan Tummers
Dominic Fanelli	Reza Mirbeik	Gerson Valle
Henri Feiner	Benjamin Mitchell	Jose Villalobos
Timothy Ferguson	Eduardo Morales	James Wan
Charles Fogel	Kaysa Moreno	Eric Wang
Junko Forbes	Yarlmoli Murugiah	Lijun Wang
Manolita Formanes	Emmanuel Ndoumna	Leonard Wapner
Greg Fry	Jasmine Ng	Christina Watson
Marguerite George	Cuong Nguyen	Rich Wong
Milan Georgevich	Diem Nguyen	May Xu
Jack Gill	Hang Nguyen	Christie Yan
Astatke Gizaw	Esmaail Nikjeh	David Yee
Megan Granich	Kristine Numrich	Eric Yip
Hamza Hamza	Alice O'Leary	Paul Yun
William Hemmer	Miguel Ornelas	Ruth Zambrano
Ramy Heng	Juan Ortiz	Michael Zeitzew
Laura Hinckley		

# MATHEMATICS AWARDS

## AMATYC Math Contest

Twice a year El Camino College students take part in the math contest sponsored by the American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges. Mathematics faculty members are happy to donate \$1,000 to the top scoring students.

MINWOO YOO achieved the highest combined score.

### FALL CONTEST

ANNA O'CONNOR

SURIN KIM

WOOBIN KIM

DANIEL BASMAYOR

JINGNA JIANG

### SPRING CONTEST

MIN CHOI

MINWOO YOO

JUNJIAN JIANG

JIAYI CHEN

LIN CHENG

Presented by Greg Fry

THE MATHEMATICAL AWARDS ARE MADE POSSIBLE BY  
GENEROUS SUPPORT OF MANY EL CAMINO COLLEGE  
MATHEMATICS FACULTY AND THE VEDDER FAMILY.

## CALCULUS AWARDS

The Mathematics Department honors students who are earning or who have earned a third "A" in the calculus sequence. The recipients are:

HAN ALHASSAN	POH-YEE A. LIM
ASTRA ANGGADA	DEHAO LIU
SALOMON ARAGON	XIAO MA
THACHCAM BUI	RICARDO MELCHOR
MARCOS CELIS	GIACOMO PESCECETTI
LIN CHENG	NGUYEN PHAM
ANDREW CHOI	YIYU PU
LONG N. DOAN	ERICK B. QUINTANILLA
MOHAMAD FDAWI	KHALID QURESHI
JIN ZHI GOH	MOIZ QURESHI
LEONARDO HERNANDEZ	DANIEL REYES
JOHN G. HYLAK	SPENCER WYMAN
MARKO JERKOVIC	LEMEI XIAO
MOJAN KAMALVAND	DANIEL YELDELL
ETHAN LIANG	

Presented by Benjamin Mitchell

The Mathematics Department honors students who are earning or who have earned a fourth "A" in the calculus sequence. The recipients are:

GHAITH M. AKBIK	JUNE PARK
HYOUNGJIN CHO	ABEL RICANO
ELEN KALDS	GEORGE SALLOUN SANOJA
EDWARD KIM	SANG H. TRAN
MOHAMMADREZA MOTTAGHI	MATTHEW YUN
NICHOLAS PAINE	

Presented by Matthew Mata

The Mathematics Department honors students who are earning or who have earned a fifth "A" in the calculus sequence. The recipients are:

LANGSTON CHANDLER  
CHANG GWOUN  
ZACK OMAR-AMRANI  
TAIKI TANAKA

Presented by Robert Horvath

## MATHEMATICS FACULTY AWARDS

The mathematics faculty gives awards annually to outstanding students for their achievement in advanced mathematics courses. The 2015 awards are given in memory of Jack Vedder, who taught mathematics at El Camino College from 1976 to 2006. Jack loved teaching and was respected by both his students and colleagues. The recipients are:

LANGSTON CHANDLER  
CHANG GWOUN  
ZACK OMAR-AMRANI

Presented by Robert Horvath