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Sonia Gutierrez, Michael Edwards Named SCC Don MacKenzie Scholarship Award Winners

The South Coast Conference has announced that Cerritos College women's tennis player Sonia Gutierrez and Mt. San Antonio College men's water polo player Michael Edwards are recipients of the 2008-2009 annual Don MacKenzie Memorial Scholarship awards.

These \$500 awards go to SCC athletes who exhibit strong academics and high performance on the field of play. In some cases, the student-athletes chosen are ones who also have overcome obstacles and involve themselves in community service. The awards honor the memory of MacKenzie, a long-time SCC commissioner from 1979-2004.

Gutierrez is an anthropology major with a 3.95 GPA. She finished her two years of tennis at Cerritos last year, and captured the 2007 conference singles title as a freshman with an 18-4 playing record. The sophomore will transfer to University of California-Berkeley this fall after receiving her A.A. degree from Cerritos this month. Recently, Gutierrez was named the CCCAA Pepsi Scholar-Athlete of the Year for 2008.

Edwards, a philosophy major, earned a 3.75 GPA and was a two-time, All-SCC First Team selection for Mt. SAC in men's water polo. He helped the Mounties win the '08 SCC Tournament and was named twice an All-American. Edwards intends on transferring to Pomona Pitzer. Edwards also competed on Mt. SAC's swim team.

Special Achievement Award

Easter Faafiti, a member of Pasadena City College's 2009 state champion women's basketball team, received the Special Achievement Award by the conference ADs. Despite being legally deaf in both ears, the sophomore forward went on to become a two-time, All-State selection as well as being picked to the All-CCCAA Tournament team. She was a two-year, All-SCC First Team choice and averaged a double-double this season in points-rebounds. The Special Achievement Award is a \$250 scholarship.

Founded in 1967, the South Coast Conference is currently made up of the following colleges: Cerritos, East Los Angeles, El Camino, El Camino College Compton Center (formerly Compton College), LA City, LA Harbor, LA Southwest, LA Trade Tech, Long Beach City, Mt. San Antonio, and Pasadena City. Chaffey and Rio Hondo Colleges are hosted by the SCC for aquatic sports. Marymount has rejoined the SCC for soccer in 2009.

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