



# The Olive Branch

## Cañada College International Student Newsletter

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Contribute to *The Olive Branch*, by emailing the Ambassadors.

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## Scholarships from the SMCCC Foundation

By Noor Razali

Scholarships are grants or payments made to support a student's education, awarded on the basis of academic or other achievement. Having a scholarship helps students with the high cost of education in the U.S. However, being awarded a scholarship is also a recognition of your high academic achievement and engagement in the campus community that you can put in your transfer applications. The San Mateo Community College (SMCCC) Foundation offers many scholarships to students. However, keep in mind that international students are only eligible for scholarships from private donors and foundations and not federally funded scholarship by the U.S. government.

Luckily, the SMCCC Foundation has one application for several scholarship opportunities. The application will request information to verify that you meet the qualifications for different scholarships including your grade point average (GPA), the SAT or TOEFL scores, your major, whether you are the first in your family to attend college and other information.

The scholarship application also requires you to write an essay where it is usually about our educational and professional goals and any

challenges we have overcome to achieve those goals.

Scholarships also ask for letters of recommendation, usually from your professors or employers. So it's important to build good relationships with faculty and staff on campus. The deadline to apply for the SMCCC Foundation scholarships is March 2 and the Financial Aid Office offers workshops in Bldg 9-123 to help you understand the scholarship application process: <http://canadacollege.edu/financialaid/scholarship.php>

Friday	January 6	11:00am-12:00pm
Thursday	January 12	1:00pm-2:00pm
Wednesday	January 18	5:00pm-6:00pm
Tuesday	January 24	5:00pm-6:00pm
Thursday	February 2	1:00pm-2:00pm
Thursday	February 9	11:00am-12:00pm
Friday	February 14	5:00pm-6:00pm
Friday	February 24	10:00am-12:00pm
Wednesday	March 1	1:00pm-2:00pm

## Important Dates

Nov 1, 2016-Mar 2, 2017

### SMCCC Foundation Scholarship Application

The application for SMCCC Foundation scholarships are open. Instructions and personal essay workshops listed here: <http://canadacollege.edu/financialaid/scholarship.php>.

Saturday, December 17, 2016

### LAST DAY OF THE FALL SEMESTER

Tue, January 17, 2017

### FIRST DAY OF THE SPRING SEMESTER



# Goodbye 2016, Hello 2017!

The International Student Center (ISC) team hope you had a wonderful 2016 and are looking forward to accomplishing great things in 2017. Here why we're grateful and hopeful.

## **Kathy Kohut, International Program Coordinator**

*What are you most proud of in 2016?*

I am very proud to join the Cañada International ISC team. It was great to meet all of the new and current students and I look forward to getting to know you better in 2017.

*What was your most memorable moments of 2016?*

I really enjoyed International Education Week and helping students learn about traditional outfits from many countries, the students enjoyed it and we got some great pictures!

*What are your goals for 2017?*

I am expecting a baby in May 2017, so my goal is to stay healthy and deliver a healthy and happy baby next year!

## **Yuri Goda, SVIEP Program Coordinator**

*What are you most proud of in 2016?*

Being part of a brand new program, SVIEP, and doing my first summer camp with students from Japan. Also, swimming one mile in Swim Across America to raise \$1,000 to for cancer.

*What was your most memorable moments of 2016?*

Hosting Thanksgiving dinner with international students.

*What are your goals for 2017?*

Stay healthy and have more students in SVIEP, maybe take tai chi at [SMCCD Community, Continuing & Corporate Education](#).

## **Gil Perez, International Counselor**

*What are you most proud of in 2016?*

Earning my master's degree. Joining Cañada's ISC team and Counseling Center, as well at CSM's Personal Counseling and Wellness Center team. It's been a pleasure working with and getting to know the students and staff at both campuses.

*What was your most memorable moments of 2016?*

The birth of my niece and the International Thanksgiving feast and reading the thankful leaves on the Thankful Wreath.

*What are your goals for 2017?*

Incorporating more self-care into my busy schedule. Getting back to my running routine. Start traveling and vacationing now that I am finished with graduate school. Move closer to my hometown of Daly City/San Francisco. Explore doctorate programs.

## **Hongcen "Catherine" Tu, International Ambassador**

*What are you most proud of in 2016?*

I'm proud to be part of ISC and being an Ambassador gave me opportunities to participate and organize many campus events.

*What was your most memorable moments of 2016?*

I really enjoyed the Thanksgiving dinner, I felt like being in a home with everyone. :)

*What are your goals for 2017?*

Hope I will be accepted to UC Berkeley or UCLA and get my driver's license as soon as possible.

## **Supinda Sirihekaphong, International Program Manager**

*What are you most proud of in 2016?*

Completing my doctorate degree from SFSU and participating in International Education Week and putting together the Cañada College calendar and photo contest. Get your calendar at ISC, funds go to a scholarship for student assistants!

*What was your most memorable moments of 2016?*

Attending my graduation ceremony at AT&T baseball stadium and going to Jamaica for the Calabash Literary Festival and volunteering at a children's home.

*What are your goals for 2017?*

Stay healthy by trail running, yoga and completing 5K races in under 25 minutes. I also registered for a creative writing class at Cañada and want to write a collection of new poetry.

## **Noor Razali, International Student Ambassador**

*What are you most proud of in 2016?*

I'm most proud that I pushed myself to succeed this year. I took baby steps but I realized there's no limit to your ability.

*What was your most memorable moments of 2016?*

Celebrating Thanksgiving at Yuri's house, since I'm away from my family, I'm glad that I could celebrate with friends instead.

*What are your goals for 2017?*

My goals for 2017 is to be a better person faithfully.

## **Nisa Nik, International Student Ambassador**

*What are you most proud of in 2016?*

I'm honored to be a part of Malaysian's Little Organization (MYLO), where we had the chance to be ambassadors to our country. It was an amazing experience chairing ASCC's International Education Week event and to see international and local students come together to celebrate diversity.

*What was your most memorable moments of 2016?*

Going back to Malaysia over the summer. Even though the journey back home was long and exhausting, my parents' reaction to my surprise visit made it all worth it.

*What are your goals for 2017?*

My biggest goal is to learn how to prioritize and mentally and physically prepare myself to transfer to a 4-year university.

