



Photo by Inez Black

David Patrick, left, adjunct instructor who teaches Linux, with Adam Peck, who retired from Ohlone last year.

Robotics program planned at Ohlone

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Adjunct faculty member David Patrick looks forward to the new program. Patrick will teach students how to program the robots to carry out simple to complex functions using programs such as Java, Lego Mindstorm, C, C++, and Basic.

Patrick, who currently teaches Linux at Ohlone, met with officials at NASA who are doing a nationwide science outreach program. The NASA AIMES Research Center, along with Carnegie Mellon University, developed the program to reach out to children from K-12 who has lost interest in science throughout the years. The program is designed to raise

the level of interest in technology, particularly in robotics by developing and distributing robots to varying institutions in order to teach students how they work. The robots replicate the Mars Pathfinder robots, which landed on Mars' surface nearly eight years ago. The first 20 robots built cost \$7,000 apiece. Another 30 robots will be built for \$4,000 apiece by a company in Japan.

Ohlone's robot, which is yet to be named, was given on loan by the institutes. Ohlone will go to various high schools to create interest and then teach students how to build and program the robots once they leave high school.

Ancient form featured in new Ohlone exhibit

By ALISHA FRANCISCO
Staff writer

An ancient art form is used to express the ideas of the contemporary world at the Edyna Sischo-Nownejad art exhibit on view at the Louie Art Gallery in the Gary Soren Smith Center for the Fine and Performing Arts.

A couple of years ago, Margaret Stainer, gallery director at the Smith Center, received a sample of Sischo-Nownejad's work on a postcard from an art exhibit she went to a couple of years ago. "I absolutely loved her work," said Stainer.

Stainer's first attempt to have Sischo-Nownejad's work displayed at the Smith Center was a failure. Sischo-Nownejad was in the hospital recovering from an injury and was unable to mount any of her pieces at the time. Later on, Stainer decided to have her try to come to display her work again, only to hear word that she passed away. Fortunately, the daughter of the artist was willing to place her mother's art work for display.

The art work that is being displayed at the Louie art gallery focuses on the use of the mandala. The mandala symbol features a circle in a square or rectangle or square in circle. It is an ancient art form used by the Hindu Buddhists. In fact, it is considered one of the oldest design forms in the world

today.

One of the most popular mandalas is the ying yang symbol. These symbols were used as a meditation tool to achieve to reach a higher consciousness.

Not only does the mandala express the new ideas in an ancient art form but it also uses it to show the history and universal symbols of femininity throughout the different religions around the world.

Her paintings depict famous women figures such as the angel Gabriel, Women of Willendorf and the Ancient Egyptian Goddess of Truth. The vibrant colors used in her art along with the symbols of a woman like trees, earth, mountains and the moon show the beauty of a woman in different cultures and times.

"All the colors of her work each mean something different," added Stainer.

The art gallery will feature a new piece by Sischo-Nownejad on display next week. The "Nude in Silhouette Mandala" shows the symbol of a moon along with a rainbow that features a vulva. This original painting was used in the backdrop of the famous Eve Enlser play, "The Vagina Monologues."

Many of Sischo-Nownejad's artwork is displayed in public and private collections. Her art work has toured the capitals of the Middle East. Other paintings include historical figures and symbols,

mandalas and colorful landscaping.

As she was growing up she had a deep appreciation for art. At home she believed that all individuals on the earth share a sort of connection and the world, with all its people, is one true extended family.

Sischo-Nownejad was born and raised in Merced. She attended San Jose State University where she was awarded with honors and great distinction when she graduated. She received her Bachelor of Art degree in Fine Arts, History and Education.

She then continued her education by doing her graduate work in Paris, France at the Academie Julian, La Grande Chaumiere, and the Sorbonne, studying language and art.

Later she taught in Lebanon at the American College of Beirut where she was chairman of the art department there. She's also taught in Iran for the Iran-American Society for the American embassy.

After her teaching career in Lebanon and Iran, she became an American delegate to the Cultures Conference at the University of Algiers.

She then went back to her teaching roots back in 1968 when she returned back to Merced where she taught a wide range of fine art courses at Merced College. After 27 years of teaching there, she retired and devoted her time to the

Got summer plan? See plays in London

By TONY C. YANG
Layout editor

"All that glitters is not gold," William Shakespeare cautions us in Act II of "The Merchant of Venice."

But Ohlone theater instructor Tom Blank is convinced that the shining promise of a trip to London, England, will appeal to students and faculty alike.

Twelve members of the Ohlone community have already signed up for this annual London/Stratford Study Program, and there are eight openings left. Even at \$3,249 for a 17-day tour of London and Elizabethan England, "It's worth every penny," said Shannon Schultz, a student who participated in the program last year.

"It sounds cheesy, but it's absolutely fantastic," added Schultz. She said she would do it again if given the chance. This year's summer abroad program runs from July 13 to 29, and is tied into a UC/CSU core transfer class. According to Tom Blank, the course requires viewing a minimum of four plays and writing reviews for them.

"It's so exciting that previous students have said 'I want to move to Stratford,' 'Can't wait to go back

and 'I never thought I'd say I loved a play more than the movie,'" said Blank. "Every year we have students and staff who take the trip a second time."

He said the price may seem steep at first, but the highlights and perks of the trip feature many things that other tours don't, including trips to: Tower of London, London Dungeon, Stonehenge, Madame Tussaud's, British Museum, Buckingham Palace, Edinburgh, Cambridge, York and more.

Chris Guptill, a faculty member in the theater department, took the opportunity to go to London last year with his family. "It was incredibly rewarding," Guptill said. "I would recommend it in a heartbeat."

Shakespeare's "Henry VIII" reads, "My endeavors have ever come too short of my desires." If touring England with fellow Ohlone students and getting academic credit for it sounds desirable, then make an endeavor to meet that desire by contacting Blank at: tblank@ohlone.edu or call (510) 659-6209.

Since there is a limited amount of openings, Blank needs a \$100 deposit by May to ensure a slot for prospective participants.

No school Friday, Monday

This is an announcement for Ohlone students who may have not been paying attention to the calendar recently: There will be no school on Friday or Monday. That makes four days in a row with no classes – not exactly Spring Break, but nothing to sneeze at, either. Classes resume Tuesday.



Photo by Lawrence Guerrero

A 20.5 x 20.5-inch acrylic and multimedia piece called "Sri Yantras, the Chakras & Goddess Mandala."

fine arts.

Sischo-Nownejad has done extensive traveling all over the world. She has toured the five of the seven continents. She spend many summers in Italy, Greece, Russia and India and led trips to Mexico, Guatemala, China and India.

Sischo-Nownejad also received a Masters degree in Graphics from the California College of Arts and Crafts and a Ph.D. in Educational

Psychology.

Her art works will be displayed until March 17.

On Wednesday, March 2, there will be a reception from 6:30 until 7:30 p.m. and an art lecture from 7:30 until 8:30 p.m.

Gita Marie Nownejad M.D., daughter of Edyna Sischo-Nownejad, will be discussing the pieces from her mother's artwork on her behalf.