

Ohlone joins Aztec New Year's celebration

By FRANK ADDIEGO
Staff writer

On March 12 and 13, the Indigenous Peoples Council will hold a celebration of Aztec New Year's in San José. The event will feature Native American dancing, lectures and more.

"The term Native American is a very broad term in and of itself," said Ohlone Chicano Studies instructor Ralph DeUnamuno, who will be co-coordinating the event.

The first day will focus on the

dancing of indigenous people, beginning at 10 a.m. and continuing on until 7 p.m. The event will be filled with spectacles of Native American and Chicano dance, according to DeUnamuno. Tribes from all over the U.S. and Latin America will be represented. This will include dancers from the Apache, Lakota, Zuni and Ohlone nations.

DeUnamuno promised a "day of dancing ceremonies... there'll be different dancing tribes."

The second day of the festivities

will take a more scholarly look at indigenous culture. The program for March 13 will center on lectures. Willie Underbagage of the Lakota-Mexika Culture Exchange will be one of the most prominent speakers at the event. He's known as a tireless activist for Native American rights.

Another speaker will be Maestro Ocelocoatl Ramirez from Mexico City.

This event is being held not only to observe Aztec New Year, but to explore the differences in different

tribes of indigenous people.

"We've outreached to people from all over the Bay Area," said DeUnamuno. "They're going to be introduced to the diversity of Native Americans."

Some, including DeUnamuno, feel that many people have a very specific and stereotypical view of indigenous people.

"The important thing is to have all these Indian groups come together," said DeUnamuno. "The message isn't 'get it straight,' it's so people can see the differences."



Photo by Shari Wargo
Ralph DeUnamuno

Math teacher wins award

By AMAN MEHRZAI
News editor

Imagine that you have achieved success in your life. What one person in your past would you give credit to? Perhaps a former teacher would come to mind.

The Who's Who Among America's Teachers award gives teachers a chance to recognize the difference they made in reaching their students.

Ohlone's Math Instructor Linda Messia received this award for the second time in a row. Only students with high recognition for academic excellence in the Who's Who Among American High School Students and The National Dean's List can nominate a teacher who has had the most impact on their academic success.

Last year Messia taught for the Newark/Ohlone Math Outreach Program that allows high school students receive college credit for math classes taken in the program. One of her students, Murcil Makhani, an honor role math student who may attend Harvard University, nominated Messia for the award.

Only 5 percent of the nation's top teachers are given the award with less than 2 percent making it in more than once.

Messia has taught at Ohlone for two part time years and three and a half years as a full time instructor. She started teaching after leaving Lockheed Martin Space Systems



Photo by Charlie Hebison

Linda Messia with her 'Who's Who' award.

Division in Sunnyvale as a staff engineer after Lockheed Martin layed off more than 18,000 employees. Although her job was secure at the time, Messia said she decided to leave to do something she always wanted to do, teach. "Here's a real cause that's worthy," thought Messia, "I wanted to give

something back, to make a difference."

Messia, along with varying responsibilities in the math department, currently teaches a self-paced math class designed to help students achieve success in math despite difficulties or shortcomings they may have with the subject.

Avoid all cliches like the plague

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trucking. Then hopefully, the ends will justify the means.

Just imagine, Ohlone staff and instructors must be doing something right when students go marching one by one up those steep steps, listen to the echoing calls of fake birds and attend classes.

Not only that, but Ohlone manages to provide any student a cornucopia of subjects of which they might find some interest to pursue; allowing them to think outside the box. When all is said and done, Ohlone prevails as an institution of learning, open to everyone.

Literally, "a world of cultures, united in learning." And when life gives you lemons, make lemonade and if that doesn't work, just remember: if at first you don't succeed, try, try again.

And if all else fails, if you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen.

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