



## Math team places 9th in the nation

By **TONY C. YANG**  
Staff writer

If your mathematical skill extends beyond the Pythagorean Theorem or the multiplication table, the Ohlone math team wants you.

Beating the odds, Ohlone garnered a grand total of 252.5 points in the AMATYC (American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges) Math League test to win ninth place in the nation for 2004 to 2005.

The combined scores put Ohlone over the edge to become one of the top 10 math squads in the nation, beating out tough local competitors such as DeAnza, Chabot and Foothill College.

For 2004 to 2005, Ohlone was ranked No. 5 in the Western Region. The campus team consists of Jin

Cai, Daniel Dzoan, Merline Hidayat, Long Tai Lai, Hai Lin, Trang Nguyen, Nikita Shvachko, Ling Zheng and David Zimmermann. Zimmermann was the top student from Ohlone, being ranked No. 6 in the West and No. 20 nationally. "I am very happy," said Zimmermann. "It's terrific."

Shvachko added, "Even though I never went to any meetings, we all took eight or nine practice tests to prepare." Discussion and further quiz sessions rounded out the training for the math team, and went a long way in terms of getting students ready for the test.

The AMATYC website states: "Problems (are) selected at the college algebra/trigonometry level" but the student test-takers say it is much harder than it sounds. In addition, the contest is given through-

out the year in multiple rounds, at one hour each, in multiple choice format.

According to Hirsch, what accounts for Ohlone's success in the AMATYC SML exam is three key elements; location, teachers and practice.

The reasons for success are, "First and foremost, natural talent nurtured in a diverse location," said Hirsch. "Second, [the students] all had excellent math instructors at Ohlone. Third, most, if not all, took plenty of practice tests."

The students themselves are no strangers to hard work.

"It was hard at first," said Hidayat. "But I'm glad I did it." One of the females on the team, she will be returning in the fall to see if Ohlone can rise even higher in the rankings.

Hirsch is eager to see new mathematical talent in action. "I encourage all with mathematical talent to join us in our practice next fall," he said.

## Biotech fair



Photo by Daniel Kwan

Student Yani Chen, left, and Genentech employee Paige Lloyd talk at the Biotech Fair on Wednesday at the Smith Center. Elaine Johnson, national director of Bio-Link, was the keynote speaker.

## Ohlone sees off veteran teachers

By **TONY C. YANG**  
Staff writer

Retirement is never easy, but it can be softened when accompanied by strains of Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2, by Franz Liszt. That's exactly what happened at the Best House at Palmdale Estates on Tuesday, May 3, when longtime Ohlone instructors Howard DeWitt, Jim Klent, Dennis Roby and Gloria Reid were serenaded into retirement by pianists President Doug Treadway and Foundation Director Josephine Ong-Hawkins.

More than 70 guests affiliated with Ohlone crowded in and enjoyed refreshments and cake at a retirement celebration put on by the faculty senate and Ohlone Foundation.

At the Best House on Palmdale Estates, various speakers from Ohlone's past and present got a chance to laud the four departing luminaries, who, together have served a total of 112 years at the college.

Philosophy professor Dennis Roby, whose daughter, Sarah Roby, continues the family tradition teaching psychology, was very gracious and low-key in accepting the many congratulations; "I'm so happy to have been able to teach."

Several speakers gave their testi-

monials and praised Roby, before he took the stage. Speaking about Roby, the 34-year Ohlone veteran, and the other retirees, Biology instructor Jeffrey Watanabe said, "It's a wonderful thing to see how dedicated faculty members are."

One of Roby's students, Devina Deo, said, "He was really funny and eccentric. His lectures didn't put you to sleep."

Jim Klent, an "explosive" fixture in the chemistry department, ended his 38-year service at Ohlone by saying "I'll miss my five-minute commute." His distinguished career kept extending longer and longer, because: "Jim loved being a teacher, and he touched thousands of students' lives." If you walk by the chemistry labs, and carefully note the gouges in the stucco walls, you'll be able to see part of Dr. Klent's rocket experiments that caught so many students' (and teachers') attention.

A history instructor, prolific author known as "King Author" by his friends and sometime Beatles poet, Howard DeWitt spent more than three decades teaching in or around the vicinity of Ohlone, un-

less he was traipsing around the world.

Retired biology instructor Walt Halland said of DeWitt, "He is one of the most extraordinary teachers, who helped students." There were always crowds of students by his office, Halland said, and DeWitt would always be giving advice or writing letters to help students. A published author 20 times over, DeWitt also wrote inspiration on the minds of many of his students.

One of DeWitt's former students, an accomplished college jockey-turned-successful businessman, gave a moving tribute to his abilities to motivate and teach: "I truly believe that the best measure of [a person's] success is the quality of the product of their labor. I am the product of [DeWitt]."

Reid announced her retirement from her position in Reading and Developmental English in a March 9 agreement with the college.

"We'll miss them," said speech instructor Kay Harrison, who was in charge of the ceremony. Administration of Justice head professor Rich Cominos said, "They were all great -- great mentors."

## Mohammed wins

By **CLIFTON M. DER BING**  
Staff writer

Sarfraz "Raz" Mohammed has been elected president of Associated Students of Ohlone College by 14 votes.

Mohammed received 264 votes, compared to 250 for Angie Hazeri.

A total of 561 votes were cast, up from 334 cast in May, 2004.

Wendy Lao was elected vice president, receiving 277 votes. Sara Mirza finished second with 153 votes. Tristan Tilma was third, with 107.

Karina Laiwalla was elected representative at large, with 426 yes votes and 60 no votes. She was unopposed.

Ekta Patel was elected legislative representative with 60 write-in votes.

Heta Desai was elected treasurer with 47 write-in votes.

No one ran for student board member, so the position will be appointed by the new president.

The final results were not determined until 1:30 a.m. Thursday.

In other ASOC business, the proposed new student activity center in the Building 1 lobby was discussed at the Tuesday afternoon meeting.

The purpose of the center is to have a central, established place on campus that will serve as a bridge connecting all students to campus organizations and events. Both the student government and the InterClub Council will utilize this area in order to promote upcoming activities and even recruit members.

Committee Chairperson Wendy Lao and her team members have drawn a tentative design of what the future area will look like. The plan sketches several uses for different parts of the center: areas for club brochures and flyers, an event calendar, main welcome table, ASOC suggestion box, photo ID window kiosk, as well as a *Monitor* newsstand and a "Letter to the Editor" box.



**YOUR BEST TRANSFER CHOICE**

Finish what you started and complete your degree at USF's San Ramon Regional Campus

**DEGREE COMPLETION PROGRAMS**  
Full-time Day (minimum 30 units required)  
Part-time Evening (minimum 50 Units required)

**CLASSES BEGIN SEPTEMBER 2005**  
Call today for a schedule of our Degree Planning Information Meetings




**BACHELOR'S DEGREES**

- Public Administration
- Non-Profit Administration
- Law Enforcement
- Information Systems
- Organizational Behavior
- Applied Economics

**San Ramon Regional Campus**  
[www.usfca.edu/regions](http://www.usfca.edu/regions)  
**(925) 867-2711**

**Educating minds and hearts to change the world**



**OHLONE COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT  
ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION  
(EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2004)**

**POLICY:** OHLONE COLLEGE IS A DESIGNATED SMOKE FREE COLLEGE.  
**REGULATION:** SMOKING IS PROHIBITED IN ALL COLLEGE VEHICLES, BUILDINGS, INDOOR AND OUTDOOR FACILITIES, HANDICAPPED PARKING AND ALL OPEN AREAS EXCEPT FOR GENERAL USE PARKING LOTS. THIS REGULATION APPLIES TO ALL PROPERTIES AND FACILITIES OWNED OR LEASED BY THE OHLONE COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT.  
**SMOKING CESSATION**  
For those interested in smoking cessation, please visit the Student Health Center. We are available to help you formulate a plan of action. You may also call the California Smoker's Helpline at 1800 NO BUTTS.