



A plea for continued employment services at Ohlone

EDITOR:

My name is Corinne McCourt and I am the Director of Transfer & Career Services, at least will be until July 6, 2005, at which point I am being "retired" after 9+ years of service. I would like to take this opportunity to say goodbye to all of my friends; students past and present, faculty with whom I have worked, and the staff members with whom I have developed warm and wonderful relationships. I will truly miss each and every one of you. When I look at the calendar and see how little time is left, I do feel sad. I used to think it was the job itself that I was upset about, but I can find another job at another institution. What I can't find, and will miss, are my true friends.

And, now that I have your attention, I have two other topics I'd like to address. First, the loss of the position of Director of Transfer & Career Services (which will not be opened and re-filled after I leave) is

going to impact the students and faculty. Only one full-time staff member will remain. Students and faculty will need to become involved and voice their concern if they want to see the Center continue to function as it has for the past five years or so. One person simply cannot provide comprehensive services in Transfer, Career, Student Employment, Work Experience Education and Volunteer & Internship Programs. I encourage all of you to become involved and support TCS!

Lastly, I'd like to speak to my colleagues who may have a disability, whether it is physical, mental or emotional, all of these are covered under State and Federal laws. For Ohlone staff members it has been very difficult to find information about the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or how to get a Reasonable Accommodation on our campus for a long time and before I leave I would like to offer some great resources for my colleagues

to check out. First of all, right here on our own campus we have a fabulous wealth of information in Martha Brown, Dean of Counseling. She has a broad knowledge of ADA and is a former Department of Rehabilitation Counselor, so she is very familiar with working with people with disabilities, the laws that impact the agencies that we deal with, and how to get appropriate services. I'm sure she would answer a quick question or refer you to the right place. She is NOT the staff's Disability Coordinator, but is a good source for information, plus she has a great sense of humor. Look for Martha in the Counseling Office.

If you don't feel comfortable in talking to staff on our campus, or would prefer to have internet information, here are some GREAT links: <http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/adahom1.htm> that will take you directly to the U. S. Dept. of Justice ADA Home page which is filled with so many different links, it is

powerful! It is one of the best sites to visit and you may find your answer right there. Another wonderful source, if you need a reasonable accommodation on the job, can be found at 'JAN' (the Job Accommodation Network), <http://www.jan.wvu.edu/>.

I encourage you to pursue what you need to work, or to continue working here at Ohlone no matter what your disability may be. The Office of Civil Rights investigation team made it clear that Ohlone needs to make the Reasonable Accommodation process a much more 'friendly' and inviting process to people with disabilities on this campus and I couldn't agree more strongly. I hope that those of you out there that have been hanging back waiting to ask to have your office relocated due to your physical limitations, or to have your office evaluated by an Occupational Therapist due to your physical disability, or... ? The list could go on and on, but now is the time to step

forward and file a written request for a reasonable accommodation.

Perhaps you need an advocate for yourself? There are groups in the community that can help you, such as the Community Resources for Independent Living, which has its main office in Berkeley (510-881-5743), and has a satellite office in the Tri-Cities area (925-371-1531). Community Resources for Independent Living supports, empowers and teaches skills to persons with disabilities so that they may more effectively participate in daily community and life activities. CRIL teaches and advocates for change to remove barriers to access for persons with disabilities.

With this said, get out there and do what you need to do to live your life to the fullest! I wish you all a swell ride and a great trip. You never know when we might run into each other again. Goodbye and Peace!

Corinne McCourt, Director
Transfer & Career Services

Suggestion for improving our counseling services

By **JESSICA LOSEE**
Staff writer

The management of students is certainly a hard job, but one major improvement could be made which would aid both students and faculty here at Ohlone.

The system right now stands that students go and make an appointment at the counseling window, usually with whomever they can speak to first about semester schedules, class problems, basic information for transferring and general advice in getting through this life-experience of college.

The only consistency in this system is that if students wish, they can return to the same counselor every time they need to speak to someone, and their file is on record for the counseling staff to access in the event that another staff member takes the student in for an appointment.

What I would propose is a simple, alphabetically organized system, which would assign each counselor a number of students by name. By assigning specific counselors to students, students would have stability in who they see for advice and counselors would be able to automatically tell which students are theirs.

For example, one counselor could have approximately 200 students to advise, all with names starting with A through part of the students with names beginning with B; the next

counselor would have the rest of the B group and through the C group, and so on. This would allow students to make appointments with only one person, instead of switching between available counselors when students need them, usually towards the end of a semester when students want to know what classes to take next.

Of course, in the event that a student fails to agree with their assigned counselor or vice-versa, the system would work only to a certain degree. In this case, the counseling department would be presented with the task of switching a student of one counselor to another; one which they could not only agree with, but also relate to.

It is tantamount that students are able to get the information to succeed and move on in their education, as the staff of the counseling department very well knows. This system appears to be more efficient, aside from actually implementing a plan to follow suit.

This is just a suggestion, I feel that improvements can be made and both students and staff would benefit if put into effect.

I appreciate the counseling department for all of their hard work, as I cannot comprehend what it would be like to advise a campus full of befuddled students looking to those few who have the wisdom, intelligence and drive necessary to keep us going on to bigger and better things.

Heroes of math contest

EDITOR:

Thank you for the May 5 article, "Math team places 9th in the nation." As Ohlone's Student Mathematics League (SML) College Moderator, most of the data from the national SML came through me.

I failed to mention to your reporter the most impressive fact: of the million-plus students eligible to take the most recent exam, Ohlone's David Zimmermann was Number 2 in all of the western United States, behind only someone from powerhouse Los Angeles City College!

And speaking of Los Angeles City College, our five-person team edged past theirs. I would like to highlight performances by Trang Nguyen, Merline Hidayat and Nick Shvachko, each of whom attended all or almost all of our practices and saw their scores jump.

Geoffrey Hirsch,
Associate Professor of Mathematics

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