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## Candice Kirk wins ASOC presidency

By MANIKA CASTERLINE  
Staff writer

Candice Kirk is the new president of Associated Students of Ohlone College, as a result of votes counted Wednesday night.

Kirk won the presidency with a total of 188 votes while opponent Aisha Wahab had 107 votes and Terry Thomas had 68.

Tatyana Hamady had no challenger for the vice presidential seat, so she prevailed by 221 yes votes against a measly 29 no votes.

Representative at large candidate Carlos Vejar attained 293 yes votes and 43 no votes. Sahar Yousef, candidate for student representative for the Board of Trustees, beat Yao Li Yuan. She got 178 votes and he got 175.

However, Kirk's campaign may

have been in violation of the ASOC constitution. Elections Commissioner Alexa Corrales said, "It was a violation of the rules because the Constitution states that she is allowed to campaign in Building 1 except in the actual days of the election...She had one flyer in the library...We had that flyer removed and we gave her a written notice... We don't feel that one flyer, that minor violation swayed the vote by a big number."

The positions of secretary, treasurer and legislative representative will be appointed by the Executive Board and voted on by the ASOC council. No one ran for these offices.

The first ASOC meeting of the academic year will be held Oct. 10 from 4 to 6 p.m. It will take place in Room 5301.



Photo by Janelle Feliciano

Student Affairs Volunteer Renee Gonzalez, left, helps set up an Associated Students of Ohlone election desk in front of Building 5. Helping the process along are Myles Bowrd, Justin Hamaday and Alex Hilke. The election was held on Oct. 3 and 4.

## Gallaudet professor explains 'Deaf Space'

By MICHAEL ABURAS  
Staff writer

As part of Deaf Awareness week, on Thursday Oct. 28 at the Jackson Theater, chair/assistant professor of American Sign Language (ASL) and Deaf Studies at Gallaudet University, Dr. M.J. Bienvenu, gave a presentation titled "Deaf Space".

Gallaudet, established in 1864, was the first deaf university. The purpose of the presentation was to create awareness about how the deaf community experiences space and what their needs are. Bienvenu's lecture also covered how the physical world affects the deaf community differently than it affects the audible community. Deaf space is a

new concept that has never had a comprehensive scientific approach applied to it before.

"Space defines us and we have to define our own space," said Bienvenu to start her presentation. She explained how different cultures interpret and experience space, as each culture has its own definition of space. Comparing the

Japanese and American cultures to illustrate her point, Bienvenu told the audience about a trip she took to Japan and how the people in public treated personal space in each country. Bienvenu said that in the United States, people will excuse themselves if they walk between two people conversing due to a respect for individuals'

personal space. She described Japan as a very tightly paced nation with little regard for personal space. At the subway terminal for example, people would nudge and push each other until the last person that could fit was aboard. She explained that the local perception of personal space was preferable for ASL users,

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Photo provided by Juliette Villafuente

Ohlone students stand with a giant stuffed koala at Taronga Zoo. Standing at the top from left are: Marissa Cowen, Adam Hix, Courtney Buchanan, Jeff Ackeret, Melissa Billington, Jason Chen, Ian Long, Paul Zenaty and Alex Alvarez. Sitting at the bottom, from left: Tricia Dennis, Corie Howell and Juliette Villafuente.

## Students say 'g'day mate' from Sydney

By ERIC DORMAN  
Staff writer

When Corie Howell turned 22 here at Ohlone, she never dreamed she'd be spending her next birthday 7,500 miles away.

But that's where she is now, along with 11 other Ohlone students, participating in the college's first semester abroad trip to Sydney, Australia.

And Howell is loving it. "I'm having a great time and enjoying every minute of my temporary new life," she wrote in her online LiveJournal, "and for the most part, I couldn't ask for more."

Though Ohlone has been offering semester abroad programs to England since about 1990, this is

the first semester the college has ever taken a group of students to Australia.

According to the students involved in the program, the choice of destination has been a resounding success.

"I have done little traveling in my life, but thus far, the time I have spent in Australia makes me want to explore the world all over," wrote Jason Chan.

"This trip has been the best decision I could have ever made in my life," wrote Tricia Dennis. "It has given me perspective on my own life and my culture."

"It has been a great experience and I am learning so much," wrote Jeff Ackeret.

English Professor Cynthia Ka-

tona, who accompanied the students to Sydney, was just as enthusiastic about the location.

"[The Aussies are] incredibly open, friendly, smart and kind. Every time we have needed anything, someone has been right there to help!" Katona said.

The group of Ohlone students arrived in Sydney on Sept. 8. They were each boarded with Homestay families, along with other international students. Each homestay house had its own attributes. For example, two of the students were boarded together in a guesthouse that had its own billiard table and Dennis was boarded with an Indonesian, two Germans and a deaf student.

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