

Ohlone focuses on worldwide education

By ERIC DORMAN
Staff writer

Ohlone may be one small dot on the map, but it's doing its best to make that dot appeal to students internationally.

Evidenced by a recent speech made by President Doug Treadway entitled "Ohlone as a Global Community College" and the hiring of a new international relations director, the college has made expanding its global presence a top priority.

The main goal, said Gary Mishra, electronics professor and international student director, is to not only broaden the college's current study abroad program, but also attract students from colleges worldwide. In particular, the college is looking to expand relations with China, India and Mexico.

This goal, as well as several others, was outlined in Treadway's speech, which he delivered for the California Colleges for International Education third biennial conference on Oct. 6, co-hosted by

Ohlone. The speech summarized a paper written by Mishra and Treadway entitled "Ohlone as an Emerging Global College" which will be presented in the prestigious 2007 National Association of Foreign Student Advisers conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The speech emphasized the need for global action in a world made up of interacting countries. "The acid rain now falling on this city is coming from Southeast Asia, our golden eagles are dying from infection by migratory birds that eat toxic pesticides in Argentina, humans are dying of AIDS from Africa and we have bird flu from China," said Treadway. "We are gathered here because our students will decide whether or not our entire world is interconnected in the future."

Already, Ohlone has begun to connect with "sister colleges" worldwide. Just recently, students and faculty traveled to Taizhou community college in China, where an exchange of students and faculty with Ohlone could take place as

soon as fall of 2007. As yet, the exchange is still in the planning stages.

In the more immediate future, Ohlone has scheduled a semester in India for interested students this spring. The students will travel to the Birla Institute of Technology, which has expressed interest in sending students to Ohlone in the near future.

But the college's new global outreach program is not just about giving students a chance to see new cultures, it is also about allowing faculty to travel as well, said Eddie West, recently appointed director of international programs and services. For example, a teacher from China might come and teach a course here and an Ohlone professor might travel to China for a semester. Already, said Mishra, many faculty were eager to try the program.

But why is Ohlone putting so much time and effort into expanding their global presence in the first place, when they have an incredibly ethnically diverse campus

already?

Mishra has an answer. After the 9/11 terrorist attacks, international student enrollment dropped considerably because of the decrease in international travel to and from the U.S.. If more international students come to junior colleges such as Ohlone, they can then "feed into" the larger four-year universities.

Thus far, added West, the college's international student enrollment is substantially below that of other Bay Area community colleges. At De Anza College, 9 percent of the student population is made up of international students and at Foothill College it is 7.5 percent. The national average is 4 percent. Ohlone's average is less than 1 percent with around 70 students.

Recruiting has also been a big issue effecting Ohlone's past "semester abroad" programs, where the 10 to 15 student minimum often been quite hard to come by. West thinks the solution lies not in handing out more flyers, but in giving

students incentives for studying abroad as far as working toward their degree.

"I think one of the biggest hurdles students face when they consider studying abroad is that they will be 'behind the curve' as far as their degree," said West. "Our ultimate goal is to give students a chance not only to continue working toward their degree while studying abroad, but also advance more toward their degree than they could at Ohlone."

Besides all that, West said, traveling to another country, if only for a semester, can be an incredibly eye-opening experience. Furthermore, in a world made up of global interactions, international exposure has never been more imperative.

"If you look at some of the most pressing global issues today, you come up with things like crime, terror, and environmental degradation, which are all by nature global in scope," said West. "These are global problems, and we need to come up with global solutions."

ONTV and trustee meetings go online

By FRANKIE ADDIEGO
Staff writer

Ohlone TV news broadcasts will soon be available online, thanks to a streaming technology that the college has purchased. They will be joining the already available Board of Trustees meeting stream. This

will help Ohlone become a much more transparent campus and will help students and members of the community keep track of what the "powers that be" are up to.

The streaming video is currently limited. "The only streaming video we use, we use it for the Board videos," said Arnie Loleng, operations

technician for the ONTV Center. "Basically, we stream from one to ten." The amount of hits these videos can get online is also finite, but well suited for their purpose.

Gary Kauf, head of Ohlone's TV department said, "if you look at how many people hit the sight, you might have 200 people at one time." As

for the number of visitors a typical video might receive, he said that the on-demand video is rarely more than 20 at any given time.

Ohlone's streaming operations use a program known as V-Brain. It takes audio and video sources and puts them onto streaming video. The college spent about \$5,000

for V-Brain appliance and \$13,000 for lighting, cameras and other appliances.

The streaming of the board started earlier this semester. "I think the board really wanted to have their meetings available live," said Kauf. "The last couple of meetings have drawn a lot of interest."

Outsourcing torture not 'American way'

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House Intelligence Committee. He stated, "This is a highly classified area. All you need to know is that there was a 'before 9/11' and there was an 'after 9/11.' After 9/11, the gloves came off." Maher Arar wasn't the only person abducted and rendered to a foreign nation for the purpose of torture. In fact, Maher was only released because the Canadian government intervened on his behalf. The frightening truth is that there is no accurate approximation of the number of individuals who have been victims of extraordinary rendition.

So what argument does the Bush administration give to justify their actions? The individuals rendered are not part of the Geneva Accords. They are "illegal enemy combatants." The term has been driven home over and over again in President Bush's speeches but many are unfamiliar with the implications of this phrase. Former Deputy Attorney General John C. Yoo coined the phrase to exempt detainees from the protections provided by the Geneva Accords to civilians and POWs.

According to the current Administration, because terrorists are not members of a formal militia, they are not covered by the Geneva Accords' torture ban. Some contest this by citing the Accords' protection of civilians but Yoo and others refer to Afghanistan as a "failed state" which nullifies these protections.


Unfortunately, the practices of the government have led to a pool of detainees who cannot be reinstated into the judicial system because of the interrogation techniques used against them and cannot be killed because the public is now aware of their existence. Left outside the safety of due process, the fate of these detainees has not been determined.

Solar energy solution




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do to promote solar energy? We may not be able to afford solar panels on our houses, or hefty donations to solar research companies, but we do have one asset—our vote. If we can show clearly where our priorities lie, and back it up with our votes, maybe politicians will sit up and take notice.

We need to explore solar energy in much greater depth than we are today. Solar power remains the most valuable resource in our fight to break our addiction with oil, and we need to give it the time, money and attention it deserves.



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