

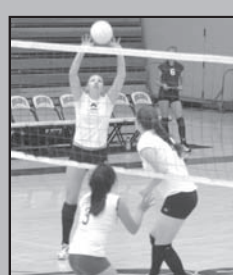


'Meager retrospective' opens in gallery.

– Page 5

Ohlone hires new international services director.

– Page 3



Women's volleyball loses to San Jose.

– Page 8

Has America become a safer place since 9/11?

– Page 2

MONITOR

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Newark campus is 'right on schedule'

By **MORGAN BRINLEE**
Features editor

With construction hats securely in place, the Ohlone College Council set off for a tour of the Newark campus Monday to check the progress of construction.

"It's exciting to see the progress," said Academic Administrator Leta Stagnaro. "How often do you get to build a new college campus?"

Green and yellow plastic decorates the framework of the main wing of the Newark Health and Sciences building. Stacks of concrete, steel beams and piles of dirt dot the 80 acres of land around the construction site. Inside the building numerous steel hangers hung from the ceilings waiting to be used to secure air ducts in place.

"The bottom floor is pretty much framed out and they're working on the second floor now," explained Stagnaro. "We're right on schedule if not a little bit ahead."

The new Ohlone College Newark Center for Health Sciences

and Technology is designed to be three stories high and have four wings. Currently, however, only two stories have been framed. The elevator shaft stood empty, wires and steel beams marking its place in the future lobby of the Newark Center. Makeshift stairs serve as the only way to climb from one floor to the other.

On the first floor, construction crews have already begun to frame out rooms and hallways. The library has been framed out along with a few classrooms and the lobby of Building One. Upon completion, the Newark Center will have 13 general education classrooms as well as 2 health and science classrooms. There will also be a library, a nursing wing, a locker room, counseling offices, as well as an amphitheater.

Roughly 3,000 students will be able to attend classes at the Newark Center with about 1,500 students being able to be on campus at one time explained Ohlone College

Continued on Page 4



Photo by Morgan Brinlee

Leta Stagnaro, Ohlone's Newark center dean, climbing up the stairs of the under-construction campus during a tour on Monday.

Ohlone allies with Alliant University

By **NOAH LEVIN**
Staff writer

Ohlone College has entered into an agreement with Alliant International University to work together to offer Ohlone students a bachelor's degree completion program. Offering business administration, international business administration and psychology bachelor's degree programs, students can transfer to Alliant by completing the same general education requirements as those of the CSU system.

Alliant International University

is an upper-division, independent, nonprofit university that offers an innovative approach to undergraduate study. Geared toward making students ready to work in their chosen professions immediately after graduation, their programs in liberal arts, education, business and the behavioral and social sciences use a professional school model, meaning that Alliant combines classroom learning with hands-on real world experience. Alliant has graduate programs located in seven different locations, with undergraduate programs in San Diego,

Mexico City and now Fremont through Ohlone.

Alliant and Ohlone also have two orientation sessions coming up on Oct. 26 at noon and 5 p.m. and have invited, via e-mail, business and psychology students who have completed 15 or more units here at Ohlone. Students who are eligible for transfer can become Alliant Bound Scholars. Becoming an Alliant Bound Scholar gives students the opportunity to receive a bachelor's degree without having to actually leave Ohlone campus and be instructed by established

scholars to receive a unique, top-quality education.

Transfer Coordinator Angela Jemmott is Alliant's liaison to Ohlone. "I actually represent an entire team of folks at the Center for Undergraduate Education at Alliant International University, such as financial aid, academic advisory, business services and the like," said Jemmott. "The great aspect of this transfer partnership for the students is the one-stop shop aspect my position offers. It's simple - just remember my name and contact number and I'll direct you to the

information that you need."

Jemmott started working on campus in early March and, though not actually employed by Ohlone College, works closely with students to help them transfer to Alliant's bachelor programs.

Jemmott began her career with Alliant as a graduate recruiter. "I just recently accepted the full time position as the undergraduate transfer coordinator and I love every minute of it," exclaimed Jemmott. "I am excited about building the first cohort of Alliant Bound Scholars this spring."

Former student recounts meth use at seminar

By **MICHAEL ABURA**
Staff writer

A turbulent battle with an addiction to methamphetamine and the road to recovery was the topic of last Friday's emotional Brown Bag science seminar titled "Flight Without Wings: The Story of a Meth User: A Journey of Despair, Acceptance, Healing and Hope" by former Ohlone student Brittany Touitou. "I go through every one of those emotions every day of my life" said Touitou to begin her presentation.

Touitou described addiction as "Any compulsive habitual behavior that limits the freedom of human desire." When someone does meth, it becomes the dominant force in their

life. "You have to chase your next hit, you have to chase your next high - that becomes your life," she said. She expanded on her definition of addiction by illustrating the concept of soullessness, which goes along with meth addiction. The soul, the fundamental part of what makes a person, ceases to exist. "The drug does you, you no longer do it. The obsession/compulsion becomes so strong, the user can think of nothing else," said explained.

Methamphetamine is a synthetic amphetamine or stimulant produced and sold illegally in pill form, capsules, powder and chunks. Amphetamines are stimulants, or uppers, and have properties similar to adrenaline. The effects are longer lasting and the withdrawal symp-

toms or "come downs" are more intense.

Methamphetamines are known by the names meth, crank, glass, speed, crystal, ice, batu, chalk, shabu, or zip, with the most common being crystal, speed and crank. The drug can be ingested with a beverage, in Touitou's case snorted, injected or smoked.

Currently there is a trend for addicts to smoke it. Smokers will often use a piece of tin foil and a straw as depicted in Touitou's presentation, or more commonly use a glass pipe, which can be made out of a light bulb, glass air freshener or glass tube in all cases altered with a torch.

Touitou began using meth at the age of 19. A light user in the begin-

ning, she gradually increased her usage. Eventually, she became a dealer to support her habit, selling some to snort some, and providing meth for a house full of addicts. "People don't respect you, they respect what you have," said Touitou about dealing.

Touitou was the product of a legacy of addiction coming from a divorced family with an abusive father. She was at least a fourth generation on her mother's side and second generation addict on her father's side. She was pressured to be successful in school because most of her family had never attended college.

After she started dealing to support her addiction, she stopped going to school and eventually

stopped coming home, "I stopped being me," said Touitou.

On June 29, 2003 at 2:15 p.m. Touitou was arrested on four felony counts of 11379: transportation of methamphetamine. Touitou hit rock bottom when bail was set at \$150 and she had to call her mother. Touitou's mother did not bail her out.

Touitou's mom did pay for a lawyer to help with her defense. Her mom also lost 40 pounds and came close to kidney failure from the stress. Touitou, who is heavier now, entered jail at 145 pounds and spent 90 days locked up. "I had tormented myself by not asking for help," said Touitou.

While in jail, she completed

Continued on Page 6