

Forensics' trophy case gets three new additions

By ERIC DORMAN
Staff writer

The Ohlone forensics team completed another successful competition last weekend, reaching the semifinals in impromptu speaking and taking third in persuasive speaking at the "Pacific Meets the Delta Swing" Speech and Debate tournament, said Speech Professor Kay Harrison.

The tournament, held in Stockton, pitted Ohlone against colleges from all over the nation, some as far away as Kentucky and Maryland, said Emily Burkett, a member of the team. Furthermore, she said, a number of the colleges in the tournament were ranked among the nation's top 15 schools for forensics, also known

as speech and debate.

"We went up there and had a really great time," said Burkett. "And I think we did pretty well, all things considered."

Interestingly enough, this is the first semester Harrison has directed the Ohlone forensics team despite the fact that she was hired to the position 30 years ago. Soon after being hired, she said, the forensics budget was cut. It was not until about eight years ago that a debate team was started at Ohlone and, while Harrison still worked closely with the forensics team, she did not get a chance to direct until this year.

Still, she said she enjoys it and plans to stay as director in the coming years.

The forensics team has been fairly successful in the past, said Harrison, pointing out the selection of trophies they have collected over the years showcased in front of the library. She said she was expecting modest success with this year's "very young" team, but was pleasantly surprised when the debate team, including Burkett and David Taube, won three of six parliamentary debates.

The event took place over Friday, Saturday and Sunday of last weekend, at San Joaquin Delta College on Friday and University of the Pacific on the remaining days.

The tournament is only the second Ohlone has participated in this semester. At the first, an event at University of California at Berkeley

about a month ago, Ohlone contender Hassanean Al-Baker took first place in informative speaking. He surprised everyone, including himself, said Harrison.

"That was quite a coup for us," she said.

There were many types of speech and debate forms showcased in the tournament. One such debate was Parliamentary, modeled after the British system, where a team receives a proposition, such as "The U.S. government should provide free internet use for all", and that team has 20 minutes to prepare a defense for that position, said Burkett. Following their speech, the opposition must give a rebuttal and the teams go back and forth for several rounds.

Ohlone also participated in impromptu speaking where a contestant is given three topics, has two minutes to choose one and prepare a five-minute speech on it, and persuasive speaking where a contestant gives a ten-minute persuasive speech from memory.

All forms of speech and debate are shown before judges, who award prizes and provide feedback, said Harrison. She said that the judges gave the college mainly positive feedback.

Harrison said she would personally be working with the students to keep up their knowledge of current events, which she said are essential in many of the debates.

The team's next tournament will be on Jan. 26 and 27.

Shanghai dancers at Ohlone

By CHEN LIN
Online editor

Dancers from the Shanghai Theatre Academy in China will perform in the Smith Center tonight and Friday.

The dancers, who arrived in the United States on Wednesday, many for the first time, were invited to perform at Ohlone last summer during an exchange tour. They will be performing "Dances with Brilliant Purple and Red Flowers from Splendid China."

The Shanghai Theatre Academy is renowned in China as "one of the most prestigious dance colleges," according to a press release provided by Ohlone.

Preparations for the performance have been ongoing for several months. "They [didn't] have one day to take a break," said coach Zhou Bei.

Freedman films Darfur

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If men leave, said Freedman, they are often killed. He calls the process "genocide by attrition."

Freedman's career began in the advertising industry, directing ads for companies like Nissan, Nike, Coca-Cola and Pennzoil. He then helped direct "The Tears of Peleliu," a documentary about the Battle of Peleliu during World War II that claimed about 24,000 American and Japanese lives. It was the first of many documentaries he would make, including "Rwanda: Do Scars Ever Fade," which won a Peabody Award and two Emmy nominations in 2004.

After his speech, Freedman screened a portion of his latest film, "Sand and Sorrow," describing the frustrations of African Union troops, who lack the robust mandate necessary to intervene as the Janjaweed set fire to a village.

Also featured was a woman who had, she claimed, two of her children tossed into a burning house and the rest shot.

The United Nations, said Freedman, cannot intervene with the "genocide" in Darfur because China has too vested an oil interest to allow the Security Council, whose resolutions can be vetoed

by any of its members, to enter Sudanese borders. About 10 percent of the nation's oil imports come from Sudan. In addition, Sudan's leaders have threatened to "make Sudan a graveyard" for U.N. peacekeepers, should they enter the country.

The only solution, suggested Freedman, is not only for a better funded African Union force with a more robust mandate, but also for greater awareness in the west.

"The amount of news time Martha Stewart got versus Darfur," said Freedman, was about "500 to 1." He encouraged students to get involved by sending letters to their representatives and congressmen.

"Call them, email them, do it again," said Freedman. "That is the best thing you can do."

As of yet, Sand and Sorrow still has no distributor, according to Freedman. The film is near completion and will be available "soon." If he cannot find any distributor, said Freedman, he will still present his film through seminars similar to the World Forums at Ohlone.

More information about Darfur can be found online at www2.ohlone.edu/org/library/worldforumnov13.html

New class illuminates philosophy

By FRANKIE ADDIEGO
Staff writer

Students who have taken Philosophy 101 or 102 only to find the subject matter overwhelming might be interested in considering Wayne Yuen's new Philosophy 100 course beginning next semester. Philosophy 100 will be an introductory course to the great thinkers already covered in the current classes, but without requiring students to read the primary documents which some may find difficult to comprehend.

Yuen said he realized that reading ancient philosophers such as Plato and Socrates "can be kind of daunting," after observing a generally weak performance among students in the Ancient and Modern Philosophy courses he taught. "It's hard stuff," he said, "I won't make any bones about it." To that end, Yuen decided to create a new course that would simplify the material and get students to receive a broad introduction to the kind of material the class would study.

"The course is really designed," he said, "to peak the interest" of students. As a result, this course will cover a broad range of subjects from Socrates to Nietzsche and will give students the knowledge they need to better understand the more focused philosophy courses currently offered.

Don't expect Philosophy 100 to be a throwaway class. While the homework may be limited to, "a paper, a few exams [and] not a lot [besides] reading," Yuen is "going to expect a lot." He said that all of his classes are taught as if they were a four-year university course, as they are transferable to the U.C. and C.S.U. systems.

This course is designed to encourage student debate. "It's gonna be a lot of discussion and as little lecture as possible," he said, and, while he'll still be "introducing concepts," he said, "if students like to talk, then that is the class for them."

The class will start in the spring semester and will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays on the main campus at 12:15 p.m., and on Mondays and Wednesdays at Kennedy High School at 1:10 p.m.

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ASOC budget done

By ERIC DORMAN
Staff writer

The Associated Students of Ohlone College have released their budget for the '06-'07 year and are expecting to spend slightly more than last year.

"We're about where we should be," said Director of Campus Activities Debbie Trigg. "We're good, fiscally."

The ASOC expects to spend \$155,900 this year. Last year they spent \$133,000; however, this year's expected revenue is \$3,000 less than what was expected last year, said Dean of Business Services Joanne Schultz.

ASOC funds are different from the college's general fund, which works with millions, or, in the case of the under-construction Newark center, hundreds of millions of dollars. The ASOC, on the other hand, funds everything from support programs to speakers on campus to scholarships.

"Anyone who requested funds was not turned away," said Trigg.

The ASOC also puts money into more tangible things, such as the tables that were recently installed around campus. The \$14,978 that

the tables cost has been promised to the manufacturer but not yet paid.

ASOC's revenue comes from vending machines, the café, student enrollment fees and the bookstore, said Schultz. The revenue does not come in all at once. For example, about \$45,000 comes at the beginning of every semester from student enrollment fees and the money from the bookstore will not come in until the end of the school year. So far, she said, only \$58,380 of the expected \$155,900 has come in.

Rarely does the amount of actual revenue reach the amount that is expected, said Schultz. In last year's budget, for example, the ASOC expected to receive \$158,400 in revenue but only received \$136,118. Luckily, said Schultz, the ASOC usually ends up spending less than it had planned to. Last year they expected to spend \$174,699 and only spent \$133,269.

Even if expenditures did exceed the revenue, said Schultz, there still wouldn't be too much cause for worry. She calculates that the ASOC has \$332,000 in reserves, the result of putting away about \$8,000 a year for the past 40 years.

"The ASOC budget is sound," said Trigg. "No worries."

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