



Creative changes in creative writing

By **MICHAEL ABURAS**
Staff writer

Ohlone's creative writing curriculum may be getting an overhaul in the coming semesters with new classes and new programs as English instructor, Carmen Madden, is currently working on plans to expand upon her existing curriculum.

Next semester, Madden will establish a creative writing certificate as she was not able to submit it on time to the Curriculum Committee this semester. Additionally, Madden intends to offer an advanced creative writing course during the winter semester of 2007.

Currently, there are two main creative writing classes: 111A (beginning) and 111B (intermediate). "After that they [the students]

don't have anywhere to go. I'm hoping that we can eventually offer a creative writing certificate," said Madden.

For example, Taras Tymoshenko 14, who is working on a novel titled "The Divine Error," has taken creative writing three times and now must sign up for the class under special projects. Additionally, Creative Writing classes are full at many major universities said Madden. "They're turning people away."

Madden expects that attendance will be higher than her current creative writing class. The class would discuss publishing, focus on how to prepare manuscripts and teach students how to become professional writers.

In addition, if she can get the funding, Madden will have professional writers come and speak to her

class about the industry and give clinics on how to write.

Another class that is in development by Madden is a Hip-Hop or Slam poetry class. "Every time I go to a conference that's the biggest thing going," said Madden. The class would work on developing poems in a Hip-Hop style. "I like to think of it as free form," added Madden.

Creative writing has a wide range of writers from the novices to advanced. Students have been as young as 13 and up to around 80 said Madden. One of the requirements in Madden's writing class is that her students read their work in class.

"It's not intimidating," said Susan Mountain, post-neo renaissance artist and student. "Carmen Madden encourages all types of writing- novels, short stories, po-

etry and memoirs in a constructive and friendly classroom situation," added Mountain. The class gives positive feedback and students critique their peers work in a positive fashion. "Writers need to become comfortable speaking and reading in public because, if they become professionals, they will have to," said Madden.

Mountain is developing a creative writing web site to post the work of students who take creative writing. "Everyone has a story to tell and utilizing digital tools is a great way to share," said Mountain. The site will have student stories and informative links for writers. Mountain said that the site will be available in the winter of 2007.

In addition to the up and coming site, Madden's class has made it a tradition to do a public reading

of stories they worked on during the semester. Around a year ago, Madden's class started at the Ohlone library but, because of a lack of attendance, have moved it to the local Barnes & Noble bookstore.

There is more to getting published than just submitting stories. "Going to coffee houses is a great way to develop a following and advertise," said Madden.

Madden's class on Dec. 5 at 6:30 p.m. will meet at Barnes & Noble on Fremont Boulevard and Mowry next to Starbucks for a public reading. "You can get your latte, saunter on over and listen to excerpts from their works," said Madden.

Mountain plans to read a short story called "Women's Movement" about a woman who grows a penis. "It's far more humorous than shocking," said Mountain.

'My Water Broke' illustrates pregnancy

By **NOAH LEVIN**
Staff writer

Fascinating, slightly bewildering, beautiful, yet bizarre. These words describe both the wonders of pregnancy and the finesse of the Bliss Dance Company's "My Water Broke!" Bold movements coupled with fluid dance illustrate the travails of pregnancy. Director Cassie Begley found inspiration for the piece in her own pregnancy.

The piece had several dances

consisting of various styles, ranging from interpretive to ballet to jazz.

The first section, entitled "Getting Pregnant: The Anticipation", began with bold, almost awkward movements.

Choreographer Madeleine Hoang's use of Phillip Glass's famous piano work and stark, jagged colors in the background gave the first part a sense of drama.

Part two, "1st/2nd Trimesters: In the Beginning", was choreographed by Jana Morris and Jennifer

Scaringe, using music by Franz Schubert. Highlights included a dance examining morning sickness. Especially notable and eerie was the "dance" depicting a sonogram.

Upstage, lying on small platform, one dancer was in a tight, black body suit, face covered - the others moved slowly, depicting the sonogram's view of the child.

Further downstage, a dancer covered in a flesh colored sheet showed the baby as it was in its mother's womb. As the piece began, this

dancer moved and writhed, pushing their face against the sheet.

The third act, "3rd Trimester: Getting Ready", was punctuated by surreal moments and a dream sequence. Cassie Begley's choreography really shone through in these parts, making it one of the more telling and interesting sections.

The piece closed with part four: "My Water Broke: Finally!" Using inflatable pools and water onstage, the pain and anxiety of labor are shown with poignancy and style.

The whole piece came to an end with the central dancer giving birth to a healthy baby, losing the weight, as well as the self-consciousness and uncertainty of the pregnancy.

Though the varied dance style and music may not have been accessible to those unfamiliar with performance dance, the piece aptly illustrated the trials of pregnancy and seemed to reflect many of Begley's own experiences. "My Water Broke!" opened on Friday, Nov 10.



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