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Enrollment reaches record highs

By **BARRY KEARNS**
Staff writer

The number of Ohlone College students has reached an all-time high, with a head count of 9,965 students, up 2.3 percent from last year, according to Vice President of Student Services Ron Travenick. Enrollment of new students had seen increases in 2006 as compared to the previous two years due to changes in tuition costs, but the amount of new students coming to Ohlone college is something never before seen.

“We’re really set to notch one of our highest enrollments,” said Travenick.

The most notable increase of enrollment is the number of Full Time Equivalent Students (or FTES), which rose 5.1 percent or an addition 177 students from the previous fall semester. To be counted as full-time, a student must enroll in 12 or more units for two semesters. This is in contrast with the college’s total head count, which includes those taking less than 12 units and also includes high school students attending Ohlone.

The growth or decline of enrolled students was compared to the fall semester of the previous year. There was a decline in the number of FTE students as the deadline to drop classes passed

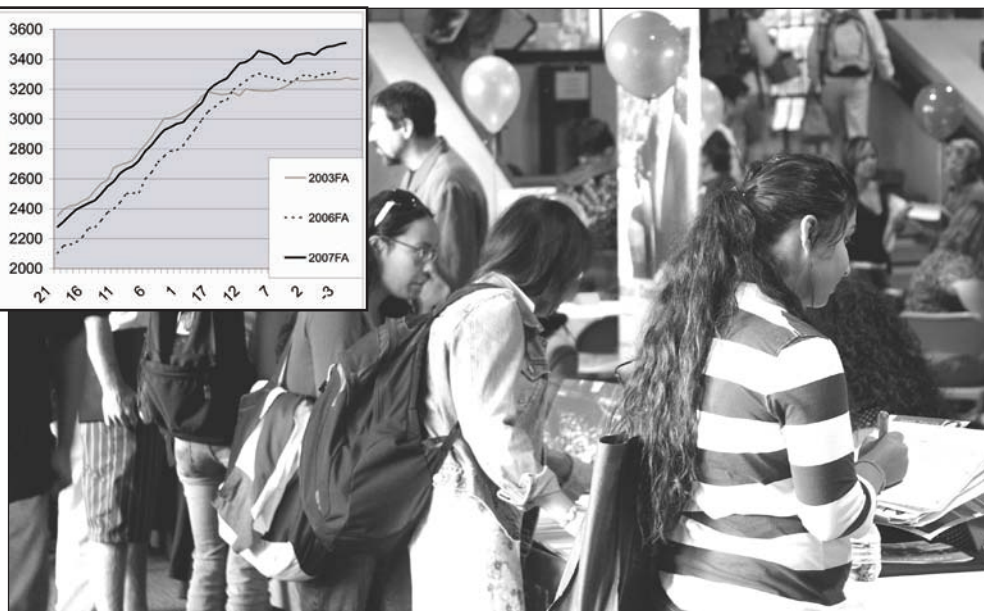
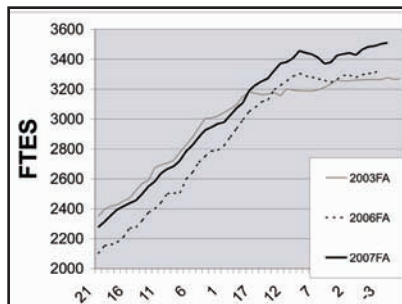


Photo by Daniel Yuan

Students line up for an event Tuesday. A graph, inset, shows the college’s spiking enrollments over the past several years.

16-week semester period in an effort to better accommodate students.

One of the biggest factors in the increase in enrollment is WebAdvisor’s waitlisting feature, which allows students to gain immediate entry to a class if another student has dropped it. While the convenience of this automated process is a factor of the growth in student numbers, another feature of the waitlisting system is that it lets the college know to add more classes when a large number of students desire it. This year more than 14 math and English classes were put together to meet the demand of waitlisted students. Students filled the 14 sections that were created by noon of the day they became available. There was also an increase in the number of students enrolled in online courses and the number of online courses available.

The high number of new students enrolling also presented some challenges to the college and the administrative staff. During the first three days of the fall term, over 500 new students came to

Ohlone to apply and enroll in classes. The influx of new students led to a lack of parking spots and taxed the shared database system to the point that new licenses for the software had to be purchased. The high number of new applicants also put a substantial load on the counseling and assessment offices that processed the students and determined their prerequisites. These difficulties were also exacerbated by the rolling blackouts that occurred during the first week of school. Despite these difficulties, the staff and faculty did their best to accommodate and lend assistance to students, said Travenick.

While empty seats in classes and parking spaces are becoming scarce, development of the Newark Ohlone Campus and the new student services building will add more space. When the new student services center is completed it will also open up 213 parking spots previously unavailable. Between 500 to 700 students are projected to attend the Newark campus when completed in the spring of 2008.

**Foreign student
enrollment up
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on Sept. 4 but the number of FTE students rose after that to 3,465. These figures signify that while there is a higher number of students at Ohlone, there is also an increase in the number of classes they are taking.

The increase in student enrollment appears to be based on several variables, the first being the reduced tuition costs, which slashed the per-unit price from \$26 to \$20. Ohlone also pushed the start date of classes to Aug. 27 and moved to a

Students, college reps mingle at Transfer Day

By **KATHY SUNG**
Staff writer

Students and representatives from about 40 colleges flooded the Building 1 lobby for Transfer Day from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Tuesday. A wide range of colleges were represented, from big-name universities such as U.C. Berkeley, U.C. San Diego and San Jose State to the private schools, including the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising and the Academy of Art.

The Associated Students of Ohlone College (ASOC), student body, several ambassadors and counselors mingled with the rep-

resentatives of the schools. Ohlone had its own Transfer Center booth run by ambassadors and assorted volunteers.

According to Transfer Center Director Diane Berkland, Transfer Day is a great way for students to “shop different schools.” Although the Ohlone Transfer Center and counselors provide an abundance of information, it’s still a good idea to meet directly with representatives from the school to gather more detailed information. The school representatives can give a better idea of specific requirements like GPAs, or major classes required for transfer.

Although websites such as assist.

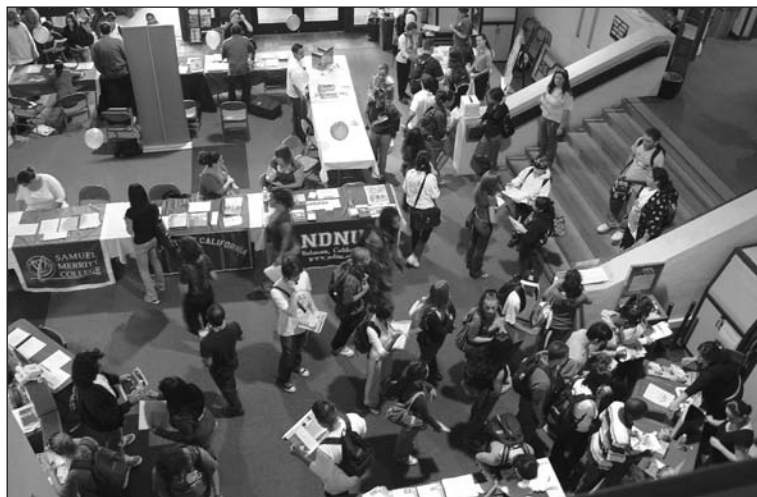


Photo by Daniel Yuan

Students stroll through the booths of more than 40 colleges during Transfer Day Tuesday.

org help students figure out which classes to take, representatives from the school can recommend additional activities the schools are looking for.

For example, an admissions officer from UCSD explained that high school transcripts and essays

for transfer students are not taken into consideration. Instead, transfer students are admitted mostly based on GPA and outside activities.

Informational tidbits like these will ultimately help students decide where to apply for school in the

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Photo courtesy of NASA

**Astronaut Janice
Voss will speak of her
space travels at the
college Oct. 3.**

From space to Ohlone

By **ANDREW CAVETTE**
Staff writer

In space, no one can hear you scream. If you make it back to Earth, however, you might speak at Ohlone. Dr. Janice Voss, who has traveled into space on multiple Space Shuttle missions, will be speaking Wednesday, Oct. 3, from 7 to 8 p.m. in the Jackson Theater as part of one of this semester’s ongoing NASA Science Night lecture series.

According to the Science, Engineering and Technology coordinator Yvette Niccolls, the success of NASANights has grown during the six years since its inception. “At first we were so happy because we got Jackson Theater half full,” Niccolls recalled, “And then last year there were 200 people too many.”

Voss is currently the science director for the Kepler Spacecraft, a single-instrument space observatory being developed by NASA. The craft will search about 100,000 stars over the course of four years with the hopes of finding Earth-like planets outside of our solar system. Voss coordinates the operational abilities of the spacecraft with the scientific requirements of the mission.

When she was in 6th grade, Voss was inspired to become an astronaut while reading her favorite childhood book, *A Wrinkle in Time*, by Madeleine L’Engle. Later she went on to receive a bachelor’s degree in engineering science from Purdue University in 1975, before earning both a master’s degree in electrical engineering and a doctorate in aeronautics/astronautics from M.I.T. Voss fulfilled her childhood

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