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Diplomat speaks on India, global economy

By **ANDREW CAVETTE**
Staff writer

Ambassador B.S. Prakash, India's consul general in San Francisco, gave a presentation about the changing global profile of India on Tuesday at the first Ohlone College World Forum for the 2007-'08 academic year. After being introduced by President Treadway, Prakash addressed more than 250 students and faculty at the lunchtime event in the Epler Gymnasium (Building 9).

With a Masters in philosophy and international relations, Prakash was a fellow at the National Defense College in India and a senior fellow at the University of Maryland. As a diplomat, he has served in Indian embassies in Germany, Austria and Saudi Arabia. Prakash is also a regular columnist for the Indian Web site <http://rediff.com>.

Focusing on the current dynamics between India and the U.S., Prakash said, "India is not strange here in Fremont." He said the mood in India today could be captured in three words: confidence, complexity and challenge. According to Prakash, the confidence comes from being one of few developing countries of such a large size that still remains a vibrant democracy.

India has free press, a growing middle class, a growing economy and a military which remains subordinate to civil government. Complexity comes in the form of a wide range of different languages and religions. Prakash said that



Photos by Daniel Yuan

Students listen as India Consul General B.S. Prakash outlines the dynamics of India/Silicon Valley relations at the World Forum Tuesday.

doctors in India can perform a heart transplant and treat cancer on the same level as the U.S., but noted that people in many villages have no access to basic medical facilities. The challenge, Prakash concluded, "will be achieving a more inclusive growth."

Prakash said U.S./India relations have never been better. The

two countries have common values and common interests: democracy, diversity and globalization among them. During the Q&A one student asked if India's growing middle class was perhaps at the expense of America's shrinking middle class. Prakash said that globalization was inevitable and while such issues are a concern, India's growth is

creating American jobs in the high tech fields.

The Ohlone College World Forum series is free and open to the public. The next forum will concern "Deaf Culture: An International Perspective" on Nov. 14 from 12-1 p.m. For more information, go to <http://ohlone.edu/instr/world-forum>.

\$15/unit tuition possible

By **INSIYA GINWALA**
Staff writer

Proposition 92 would lower community college tuition to \$15 if voters approve it Feb. 5.

Last week, California Secretary of State Debra Bowen assigned No. 92 to the Community Colleges, Funding, Governance, Fees, Initiative Constitutional Amendment and Statute. In addition to lowering tuition from the current \$20 to \$15, the measure would:

- Allocate 10.46 percent of current Proposition 98 school funding to community colleges.
- Provide a formula for allocation by the legislature to community college districts that would not otherwise receive general fund revenues.
- Require minimum levels of state funding be calculated separately for community colleges and school districts.

The measure also assures that control of community colleges remains local by declaring that the colleges must be led by local governing boards, similar to Ohlone's Board of Trustees.

Associate Vice President of Student Services Ron Travenick said Ohlone would likely see an increase in enrollment if tuition dropped to \$15, especially since there was a "major decline" in the number of students when tuition went up to \$26 several years ago.

Student health 'on par with society's'

By **KATHY SUNG**
and **LILA SALINAS**
Staff writers

Ohlone students' mental health is "on par with society," said Student Health Center Director Sally Bratton, commenting on the results of last Wednesday's Depression Screening Day. Of the 56 students who attended, about half were referred to counseling with one of the college's counselors.

In addition to depression screening day, the Health Center has also conducted surveys of Ohlone students to find out the state of health at Ohlone. According to a survey of 699 people, about 19.4 percent of Ohlone students struggle with depression. Some other questions

on the same survey were targeted at different aspects of depression. When asked, "Have you been diagnosed with depression within the last school year?" 26.4 percent answered yes. According to the survey, 21.7 percent of Ohlone students are currently in therapy for depression, 27.4 percent are currently taking medication for depression and 8 percent of Ohlone students have seriously considered attempting suicide within the last month.

Some results from the American College Health Association-National College Health Assessment (ACHA-NCHA) indicate the "Top Five Impediments to Academic Performance." Nationally, the top five problems are stress, cold/flu/sore

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Team on new turf



Staff photo

David Luna of the baseball team practices his swing on a field in Milpitas, where the team has temporarily relocated because of the poor quality of Ohlone's home outfield. See story, Page 8.