

Prof. emeritus creates smoke, fire, foam with chemistry demonstrations

By **BARRY KEARNS**
Staff writer

Amid purple vapors and Tesla coils, Professor Emeritus James Klent entertained and informed students with last Friday's Brown Bag event. Using a variety of chemicals in a Petri dish on a projector, Klent created a growing fractal of silver.

Klent demonstrated some practical effects of chemistry with performances that displayed burning magnesium while discussing the now-obsolete theory of phlogiston. Phlogiston was believed to be an additional element that resided in combustible entities. Klent was able

to disprove the theory by showing that the ash left behind after burning magnesium actually weighed more than the magnesium in its original precombusted state.

Klent performed a demonstration with red phosphorous burning in pure oxygen, which gave off a bright light. He also used white phosphorous to burn initials into paper. In a glass container, Klent once again used pure oxygen when burning charcoal to show how conditions like pure oxygen can increase the brightness of burning compounds. While explaining that pure calcium was discovered in the year 1808, Klent demonstrated how it can burn up when placed in water. Klent used

pure iodine and powdered zinc with water to create a violet vapor. During the experiments, the professor was careful to explain the cause of all the reactions.

In one demonstration, Klent had three volunteers from the audience assist him in a demonstration. After donning white lab coats, the students were handed two tubes of liquid, one of which was clear while the other was of a violet hue. On his mark, the three students poured the tube of clear liquid into the colored one and in doing so, came up with three different results. The results varied from the tube in which the contents had been poured into producing colorless liquid to the violet

color appearing on top of the clear liquid and, in one case, the violet liquid appearing suspended in amid the clear.

Klent said that this is one of his favorite demonstrations, not necessarily for the scientific application, but more for the human element that presents itself as each of the participants think that they have done something wrong.

Klent arranged for a penultimate presentation by creating vanilla ice cream using the ordinary ingredients, but cooling it with liquid nitrogen. The ice cream took minutes to make and all who attended were offered a small cup of the confection.



Photo by Eric Dorman

Retired professor Jim Klent performed demonstrations at the Brown Bag Friday.

West makes connections in trip through Asia

By **MARGARITA KITOVA**
Staff writer

Director of International Programs and Services Eddie West came back from his two-week trip to China, Vietnam and Taiwan with filled applications for enrollment at Ohlone.

He represented Ohlone in local educational events, organized by the Institute of International education.

West met with students who wish to study in the U.S. and their parents as well as his foreign colleagues and representatives of local educational organizations.

West explained that Washington

state community colleges have been very active in going to foreign educational events for years and that is one of the reasons why the people who went to the meetings were well informed.

The first event was held in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam on Oct. 9 and the attendance of 3,200 people was the largest it's ever been.

U.S. representatives were assigned booths in a hotel ballroom where, with the help of translators, they answered questions about the application and enrollment process as well as the student non-immigrant status.

Ohlone's information was translated in Vietnamese to prospective

students from Vietnam, who were most interested in attending community colleges because of the low cost and the ability to transfer.

Ohlone also advertised in a local educational calendar with photos of the Fremont campus.

Hong Kong's U.S. higher education fair on Oct. 14 was different in the fact that there was no need for a translator as most of the students spoke English fluently.

Two of them even filled out Ohlone's enrollment application on the spot after counseling with Eddie West.

He explained that the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) exam might be waived for

some of the Chinese students who are bilingual.

West explained that he got many questions regarding foreign students' visa applications since Vietnam and China both have high visa denial rate.

He also explained to students and their parents Ohlone's partnership with home stay organizations that provide international students with housing in local families.

However, the majority of the international students at Ohlone will be staying with relatives in the Fremont.

The last stop of the trip was Taipei, Taiwan from Oct. 16 to 18 where West met with his foreign

colleagues whom he already knew from Cal State in Northridge where he used to work before coming to Ohlone.

He encouraged them to promote Ohlone and he has already started receiving e-mails from prospective students.

Another trip is planned for next year to mainland China, Vietnam, Japan and possibly India and Korea.

The decision about in which countries to promote Ohlone comes from the information of official statistics about leading places of origin for the international students studying in the United States.

Nursing student selection method to change

By **KATHY SUNG**
Staff writer

On Oct. 14, Gov. Schwarzenegger signed Assembly Bill 1559. This bill affects all community colleges in California. Tom Berryhill originally proposed the bill as a way to allow some of the best students to progress in the field of nursing.

Ohlone's current situation in the nursing department is an overload of students contesting to be placed. Before the bill was passed, Ohlone would take the core classes: anatomy/physiology, microbiology, English 101A and math and plug the overall GPA into a given formula, called the Chancellor's Formula.

This formula has statistically proven that students with a score over 75 would succeed. From those who passed with a 75 or higher, students would be randomly selected

to be put into the program.

This bill was currently aimed at schools like Ohlone to alleviate the problem of too many students. Berryhill hoped that the bill he proposed would bring a smoother and fairer process to those applying for a nursing job. In addition, the bill will change the process allowing students into the nursing program at Ohlone. This program will judge students based on random selection and an additional test.

What does this mean for prospective Ohlone nurses? According to Gale Carli, director of Registered Nursing, the bill will "require [Ohlone] to do another layer of admission testing."

In addition to the original Chancellor's Formula, now there will be an additional Test for Essential Academic Skills (TEAS) test in order for students to get into the

nursing program.

There are 157 students applying for the nursing program and only 30 spaces available. Carli says the bill will allow a "better prepared student who has a better chance for success into the nursing program." There is a 98 percent pass rate for Ohlone nursing students on the NCLEX-RN test and a 95 percent retention rate. This additional bill will simply enhance the success that has occurred before.

In the current age, according to the Assembly Republican Caucus Web site "currently 27 percent of [the] students never graduate". Ohlone has a higher success rate than average.

The bill is decidedly important in trying to decide which students are allowed into the nursing program. At the same time, the bill will help the current nursing situation in California overall. Since there is a shortage of nurses, eliminating

the 27 percent who never graduate allows the 27 percent not getting into the program a chance to finish their education. After more nurses are educated and graduate, there will be an increase in the dwindling ranks of nurses in California.

The bill allows the Ohlone testing system to further prepare and choose worthier candidates for the already highly competitive program. The bill will go into effect for the fall 2008 semester.



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