

Astronomy students witness eclipse up close

At right, Danielle Racey of Eric Wegryn's Astronomy 102A class takes a closer look at Wednesday's lunar eclipse, while her classmates view the phenomenon from farther off.

Though cloud cover in the east obscured much of the event, the class was still able to put the telescope to good use, focusing on Mars and its moons. "It's a little disappointing because of the clouds, but it's not a total washout," remarked Wegryn.

The telescope is one of two the college owns, but Wegryn hopes to add more to the college's collection by stationing several on the Newark Campus, where there are fewer hills to block the view of the sky. Wednesday's eclipse, which lasted from 7:01 to 7:51 p.m., was the last total lunar eclipse for three years.

Photos by Eric Dorman



Quinta to receive award for leadership

By **BARRY KEARNS**
Staff writer

Science, Engineering and Technology Dean Ron Quinta will receive the 2008 Excellence in Leadership Award from the California Community College Association for Occupational Education (CCCAOE).

Quinta said that the award is a "great feeling of acknowledgment." The award noted in particular his work in leading education and training in the fields of bioscience and biotechnology. One of the main reasons for his nomination was for a program he created called LAB, which stands for

Learning Alliance for Bioscience. The program helps high school students in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics; many of these students may not have had exposure to such disciplines without the program.

Quinta, who has been dean for 11 years now, said he still enjoys his job. Of his many accomplishments, he said that the grants his department has secured over the past three years—one federal and five state—are a special source of pride.

One of Quinta's latest achievements is in bringing awareness of the biotech sciences to middle school students. He said that he had a great amount of help in this endeavor from Vivian

Larson, who helped write the grant. He is also pleased about working with other institutions including high schools, other colleges and creating partnerships within the industry.

Quinta started his college career as an art major but, during his freshman year, took many science courses and ultimately went into the field of biology. He also remembers a dynamic science teacher who inspired in him an interest in science during his senior year in high school.

The organization providing the award, CCCAOE, an association for community college career and technical education, will present Quinta his award in Sacramento during their conference March 12-14.

Forensics team talks its way to victory

By **JEROME NEPACENA**
Staff writer

If anyone has seen the movie "The Great Debaters," you may have heard the line, "Debate is Combat." If that's true, then Ohlone has some of the best fighters in the state.

The Ohlone Forensics team has seen plenty of success recently, due to the work of team members Emily Burkett, David Taube, Chen Lin, Natale Seybold, Scott Holcom and Manika Casterline and Advisors Kay Harrison and Matt Freeman. At the recent Northern California Forensics Association (NCFA) tournament, which Ohlone hosted, the above-mentioned team members all placed highly and earned several awards.

Burkett was ranked number 5 for the entire tournament and made it to the open division finals, and Taube ranked number 9 and was also a finalist.

"I'm very pleased when any of them win," said Harrison when asked how she felt about her team and the nice run they've had this

semester. The success of the team also carried over into the Diablo Valley College Tournament, which ran from Feb. 8-10.

Harrison explained the significance of Burkett's success at DVC. "Emily won first place in Open Extemporaneous Speaking, which was a real achievement because every single person in that round was from the University of Pacific, which is a four year school, except Emily." Sammy Obeid also did well, placing first in After Dinner Speaking.

Other highlights from the NCFA tournament include Lin's reaching the finals in Open Extemp, Holcom becoming a finalist in Novice Impromptu speaking and Casterline first place in Novice Extemporaneous speaking.

"Our students are doing a great job," said a proud Harrison.

Students interested in joining the debate team may come to the Argumentation and Debate workshop on Tuesdays and Thursdays and speak with either Harrison or Freeman. The workshop usually lasts from 1:45 to 3:20 p.m. in room 3204. "The teams are usually really

big; we usually get about 12 to 13 participants," said Harrison.

If you're feeling jittery about getting in front of a crowd and

speaking your mind, joining the debate team can be very helpful.

"A lot of people don't feel good at it in the beginning," said Harrison,

"but when they join the team they can learn to improve as well as get support and feedback from the other members of the team."

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