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'Tis the season



Photo by Japneet Kaur

Music Professor Tim Roberts plucks up some holiday spirit at the Newark Campus Tuesday behind a decorated eco-friendly Christmas tree.

Campuses trim for the holidays

By ANNA BIARITZ ROLDAN
Staff writer

Faculty and staff put up a sustainable Christmas tree at the Newark Center Tuesday, while Music Professor Tim Roberts accompanied the trimmers on his guitar.

The reclaimed artificial tree was donated by Dean of Language Arts and Social Sciences Mikelyn Stacey. It has been saved from landfill and now is decorated with all sustainable ornaments and hardware to hold everything together.

Roberts, who has a new album out on iTunes, played different pieces of his own at the tree-trimming. He also performed soothing holiday melodies, which set the mood for the tree's setup

and decorating.

Not to be outdone, the ASOC furnished the Fremont Campus with its own tree, erected Wednesday in the lobby of Building 1.

Next Tuesday Dec. 9 there will be another event going on. Biology Professor Jeff Watanabe will teach a beginners' class on swing dancing along with his friend Heather Seifer. According to Librarian Barbara Duggal, this should be a "de-stresser" for students as the final exams come closer.

Watanabe started dancing 10 years ago and has been dancing ever since. He said that he learned from some of the best swing dancers like Erik, Sylvia and Frankie Manning.

Watanabe has traveled all over the country participating in dance com-

petitions. Among the places he visited were St. Louis, New York, Hawaii, Oregon, Boston and Florida, where he won a local competition. He said that he used to dance with a partner, but his partner stayed in Florida and he heard that she's been winning competitions since. Currently, Watanabe still dances occasionally—less than he used to, but still at least twice a week.

Watanabe mentioned how fortunate we are to be in the Bay Area, a region known to be a center of swing dancing.

"It's a lot of fun and you get to meet a lot of new people," added Watanabe.

The Dec. 9 event is open to students, faculty and staff. In this event no partner will be needed and a lot of Lindy Hop will be taught.

Security not an absolute

By KYLE STEPHENS
News editor

Recently, an Ohlone student, after returning to his vehicle late at night, found his tires slashed, the second time inside of two weeks. Upon calling for police assistance, he was referred to campus security, only to discover that at that hour of the night, the only campus security was a janitor.

The campus security services do their best to protect and serve, but situations like these illustrate gaps in the availability of campus security. Due to budget limitations, no campus security officers are on duty for six hours of the night.

A network of security camera covers most of the campus. Feeds from the cameras, which number more than 40 and run 24 hours a day, are viewable live, though to save tape space, the cameras are designed to be motion activated; they still record, albeit slowly in absence of motion, and pick up pace when something catches their attention.

Oftentimes in reported crimes, there is discrepancy between what is truly against the law, and what an individual may simply not like. And with the former, there are instances where enforcement may be more or less substantial. A repeat offense on someone's behalf, for example, would not be liable to be dismissed, such as repeated parking violations, one of the most frequent infractions on campus. Osawa said it is often overlooked that parking permits do not apply to lots M, N, O and P.

Osawa described Ohlone College as a community of sorts, a microcosm of a larger town proper complete with its share of inevitable problems. The effective on-campus student population is about 5,000. Many potential issues are avoided by no one spending the night on campus, or there being alcohol available.

One of the most common crimes, theft, occurs when items are set down and not paid attention to, Osawa said. The perpetrators are far more often merely opportunistic than malicious, so as such this is avoidable simply by keeping belongings locked up or within eyesight.

There has been no vandalism of note at the Fremont Campus as of late, though Newark recently has had its share. Teachers there have also complained of students smoking in non-designated areas.

Safety during nighttime hours can be of concern to students who leave campus late. Campus security is not available during six of the nighttime hours, though the Fremont police can respond to emergencies on campus via a 911 call.

Nonetheless, Osawa said "Ohlone is extremely safe."

ASOC sets sights on room furnishings, foosball

By ANNA BIARITZ ROLDAN
Staff writer

The Associated Students of Ohlone College (ASOC) discussed money requests and continued their pursuit of furnishings for the Newark Campus ASOC room at their meetings on Tuesday Nov. 25 and Dec. 2.

As one of their immediate concerns, ASOC hopes that the ASOC room at the Ohlone Newark Center will be furnished and ready by the first day of the spring semester. ASOC Vice President Kevin Feliciano said that it is do-able but will require a lot of effort by members of the ASOC executives and senators. He encouraged everyone to help out this winter break to see to it that all will be done by the beginning of the next semester.

Feliciano and Legislative Representative

Dan Zhou said that they have already found a sustainable foosball table for the room and added that it will be somewhat costly and will be coming from out of the state. Feliciano said that a pool table had not been found yet.

They are in the process of looking to find a used table, to reuse it and live up to the sustainability mission of the campus. It has been quoted that \$7,200 will be used to pay for 12 chairs and two tables and a microwave for the room.

Also as part of the meeting, a representative from the Muslim Student Association (MSA) submitted a money request for funding for new books and other resources such as CD's and DVD's for and about the Islam religion. The group, as stated by their representative, disapproves of the content of books we have at the library. They mentioned

that the books we have now on the subject of God and worship show ignorance.

The appeal was considered by the ASOC but no action was taken because according to Feliciano, the Inter-Club Council (ICC) must take care of the matter before ASOC can vote on the money request for it.

In addition, Director of Campus Activities & EOPS and ASOC adviser Debbie Trigg talked about the 2009 Cal Leadership Symposium, which will be held Jan. 21. This is an interschool event that will cater to many.

According to Trigg, last year around 500 students attended the 28-workshop symposium, to which the ASOC has been invited.

ASOC President Jackie McCulley said that the registration fee would amount to \$20, and the event will take place from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on the first Saturday after the next semester

begins. Participants of this event will have to get to the location on their own, but Ohlone will shoulder all expenses from registration fee to gas for transportation, which will be reimbursed.

McCulley mentioned the need to appoint an Election Commissioner next semester, and encouraged the senators to try it out for experience. She said that she personally was once an elections commissioner.

Feliciano updated the ASOC of the ICC's latest accomplishment this week of putting up the Christmas tree and decorating it.

Student Member, Board of Trustees Lauren Baca announced the bins for the food drive have been located and placed. They are currently placed on the balcony in front of the cafeteria and will be available for the next two weeks.