

Semester draws to close; *Monitor* will be back in January.

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OHLONE COLLEGE MONITOR

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Dances of all kinds



Photo by Japneet Kaur

Students performed a variety of dances - from tango to hip-hop-themed - at the Winter Dance Showcase performances last weekend. See story, Page 6.

Board swears in members

By ZUHAL BAHADURI
Staff writer

New Board Members Teresa Cox and Greg Bonaccorsi were sworn in at Wednesday's College Board of Trustees meeting. Incumbent Nick Nardillilo, who ran unopposed, was also sworn in.

After the new members were sworn in, each had time to say a few words. "If we work together, anything is possible," declared Bonaccorsi, stressing his commitment to the college's mission and values.

Cox, up next, thanked everyone for their support, and said, "Dynamic citizens voted for voice of change. Change became present even at the local level this election by [the election of the Board's] first African American."

Lastly, Nardillilo said, "It will be my 12th year on the Board and an amazing 12 years. [I'm] blessed and honored to do another four years. It's the first time I haven't been challenged, so thank you for the thousands of people who didn't challenge me." He ended his speech stating that, "the backbone of

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College goals: keep out water, let in fire trucks

By NICOLE JOHNSON
Opinion editor

Ohlone's measures to improve fire department access to campus, as well as its efforts to curtail water seepage under the college, will mean more construction on campus over the coming months.

Construction on the projects, both state funded, should begin within a month or two, said Build-

ings and Grounds Director Lucky Lofton. Ohlone has from July 1, 2009 until June 30, 2011 to complete these projects. The state of California is giving Ohlone \$9.6 million toward the renovations.

In order to support 75,000-pound fire trucks driving onto the plaza by the pond, the water-damaged plaza will be removed. The stairwell and the plaza have sunk in relation to the building by a couple of inches.

The stairway by the pond has sunk and tipped because of water damage below the ground.

The damaged slab will be removed and fixed. The benches and tables will remain unaffected. There is no contract for the renovation yet, but contracts should be awarded by the end of June.

Lofton and contractors are looking into other sustainable solutions that are environmentally respon-

sible, and making sure they know how to work around the trees in an environmentally safe way.

Lofton said "student disruption may occur, but [this project] has been reviewed by the Fremont Fire Dept. to ensure safety provisions made for all access to areas affected."

Ohlone has had a water intrusion problem since the campus was first built. Because Ohlone is

on a hill, water runs down from the hills above the campus, causing damage to buildings as well as the ground.

The planning and design for the water intrusion is 90 percent done, said Lofton.

A total of three extraction wells will be installed on the upper campus, at the height of the pond area, but not much broader. The

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Newark green, but not green enough

By JACQUE ORVIS
Staff writer

Almost a decade after Ohlone College hand-picked the former Sun Microsystems land to be the future satellite campus, the Newark Center has risen and achieved LEED Platinum status, making it the greenest learning center in the state.

But it's not quite green enough. The campus "currently lacks much vegetation and organisms," said Jeff Watanabe, Professor of Biology and Environmental Science at Ohlone College's Newark Center. Under Watanabe's instruction, Ohlone's Environmental Biology students spent their fall semester planting or-

ganisms native to the region around their LEED certified campus.

The goal is to help the campus become more diverse, flowing with native plants and wildlife. Inspiration comes from the restoration of the Tule Ponds at Tyson Lagoon, an area near the Fremont Bart station. The Tule Ponds at Tyson Lagoon, managed by Math Science Nucleus and owned by Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, harbor native and non-native trees, shrubs, bushes, herbaceous plants, aquatic plants and wetland grasses. The ponds are also home to vertebrates and invertebrate life as well as micro

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Photo courtesy of Jeff Watanabe

Environmental biology students aim to increase the biodiversity of the land surrounding the Newark Campus by planting native plants.