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**Dave Smith goes to lobby president.**

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**This year's Grammys have variety.**

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# OHLONE COLLEGE MONITOR

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## Ohlone has 15 % enrollment increase over last spring

By **ESMERELDA LEON**  
Staff writer

Ohlone is witnessing a 15 percent increase in student enrollment compared to last spring. The total number of students is 10,315, according to Vice President of Student Services Ron Travenick.

Community colleges in California are going through a rapid growth in enrollment. Due to a lack of financial support, UC's and CSU's are lowering their admission rates. Those students denied entry into UC's and CSU's are enrolling into community colleges.

Still, many students are able to get the classes they want. "It is the kindness of the teachers," said Travenick. Many teachers allow students to join the class even though their class is already full, depending on the space available. Travenick listed the deteriorating economy as a major force behind the influx of students.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger wants to

slash state spending by \$17.4 billion, according to the California Budget Project. If this budget is passed, \$7 billion will be cut from public schools.

As California has a 9.3 percent unemployment rate, people will be looking towards higher education to secure their future during this economic crisis. Travenick

**'Our goal: we don't want to cut programs.'**

--Ron Travenick

said he has not seen such an increase in student enrollment at Ohlone in more than a decade and that enrollment is not over the cap.

Travenick said in an email "[The] cap refers to our annual figure that the state will pay for [...]." He said he will have a more precise number coming in from the census this week. Ohlone will not receive funding by the state for each student that is over the cap budget.

"Our goal: we don't want to cut programs," Travenick said. These cuts are still possible, though considering the instability of the budget.



Photo by Jorge Gomez

**This semester's increase in enrollment is evident when walking to classes or when trying to find parking.**

## Money little and late, but college will pull through

By **NAZIA MASTAN**  
Staff writer

The state of the California budget will mean a tight year for Ohlone, but the college has just enough cash reserves to get through the '08-09 school year, said President Gari Browning.

Browning pointed out that it is impossible to make complete budgetary plans for the coming year, as the California legislature has yet to pass a mid-year budget, but the \$42 billion budget deficit the state faces over the next 18 months is already taking its toll on Ohlone's pocketbook. Because of California's critical cash shortage—the state

began issuing IOUs in lieu of payment for many of its bills last Sunday—the apportionment payments that were due to community colleges in January and February are being deferred to July, and the July apportionment will be deferred to October.

Still, Browning remained optimistic about the college's finances this year. Ohlone's cash reserves currently stand at around \$45-48 million, 12 percent of which we can spend this year, said Browning. Furthermore, if the economic crunch brings us to it, there is additional money available that is currently set aside for special projects that we can dip into if absolutely necessary.

In addition to these revenue sources,

Browning outlined some of the options the college is weighing to cut costs. One such option is allowing faculty to take a semester off without pay, while still keeping their job benefits in order to provide a base salary for part-time faculty for that semester. Browning also plans to continue the current freeze on new hires, which does not allow Ohlone to hire a new faculty member to replace retirees. Another option would be to increase class sizes, thereby maximizing the number of students per professor.

Above all, Browning stressed the importance of three main principles Ohlone will adhere to in any decision-making process. First, she emphasized the college's com-

mitment to a balanced budget. Second, she stressed that students should remain affected as minimally as possible by the financial decisions administrators will be making. And lastly, the college is adamant about not laying off any faculty or staff.

Although many are looking at President Obama's proposed stimulus package to provide a major cash infusion into education, the package will probably have a minimal effect on community colleges. The highly-debated package, titled the "American Recovery and Reinvestment Act" was passed by the House of Representatives on Jan. 28 and is currently in the Senate. The funds that the college

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## Engeldinger leaves HR post

By **JAKE BENSON**  
News editor

Lyle Engeldinger has resigned as the Dean of Human Resources, leaving the position without a permanent replacement. The position is temporarily being filled by Vice President of Administrative Services, Mike Calegari. Calegari said he is actively pursuing a new Dean of Human Resources. He also said that he would possibly hire an interim dean to fill the position until a permanent replacement could be found.

Engeldinger resigned as Dean of Human Resources last December. Calegari declined to comment on why Engeldinger resigned, but Engeldinger spent the fall semester acting as interim dean for Pasadena City College, and Pasadena City College still lists Engeldinger as their Interim Dean of Human Resources. Calegari said interviews for the position will begin sometime in late February.

Engeldinger had been with Ohlone for 10 years.

## Black History Month events start next week

By **FARNOOSH VAHEDI**  
Staff writer

Ohlone College will be hosting "Kick-off in the Quad" on Wednesday, Feb. 11 from 11a.m-noon. This event will kick off Black History Awareness month. This black history awareness month is one that will not be easily forgotten, mainly because it is the first time in America's history that a black president is in office. Mark your calendar; this is a celebration you don't want to miss.

The event will include song and dance performances from special guests as well as recitations of famous speeches. For the shopa-

holics there will be vendors selling authentic African clothing and jewelry. At the end of the program, there will be the lighting of the unity candle, an important event to mark the unity of our college.

The event promises to be exciting, eventful and fun. The main aim is to inform and enlighten the students and staff of Ohlone College of the numerous accomplishments and contribution of African Americans, past and present. Furthermore, it is the desire of the planning committee that this event will present a venue to further our dreams of a united world. More information about this event is available online at the Ohlone website.