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Feliciano gains presidency

By **DEVERY SHEFFER**
Staff writer

Kevin Feliciano was elected ASOC President and Ngan Vu was elected Vice President at the ASOC elections Wednesday.

Additionally, students voted in Tina Sayadi as secretary, Akash Patel as treasurer, Nayyara Shaik as representative at large and Lauren Baca as student member for the Board of Trustees.

Two-hundred seventeen students voted in the election, in which every position was uncontested. One-hundred eighty-four students voted for Feliciano with 14 voting against him, and 182 voted for Vu with 17 opposed.

Elections took place on this past Tuesday and Wednesday. Voting booths were set up both at the Fremont and Newark campus so students could take part. Coffee and doughnuts were handed out in the morning, and pizza was handed out in the afternoon and evening. Voting procedures were sent to students via email prior to the election days, ASOC President Jackie McCulley, said that this helped the process to run more smoothly.

As former ASOC Vice President and with experience in several committees such as the Newark Room Furnishing committee and College Council, ASOC President-elect Kevin Feliciano is already highly involved with Ohlone. "My main goal is to get the ASOC out there more and better represent the students," he said of his plans as president.

"I wish to see a more dynamic student life on campus," said Vu, a former ASOC senator. I wish to see more recreational/social space for students to interact. I want to promote student awareness and connection," she said of what she would like to see changed on campus while she is in office.

Tina Sayadi will again be the ASOC secretary this upcoming fall semester. "Being a part of this council in general is a rewarding experience because of all the people you meet, [and] learn from," she said, "[as well as] all the things you learn about yourself." She would like to see the ASOC improve on campus safety, wireless internet, and the vibe of the cafeteria.

Tuesday's meeting was the last full meeting that McCulley would be in charge of. "This year turned out very well," she said, but reminded the ASOC executives and senators that there is still work to be done and that everyone needs to stay focused.

Forensics Team Coach Kay Harrison was at this week's meeting to request \$1,000 from the ASOC to reimburse the trip a student took this past weekend to Mississippi to compete



Photo by Eric Dorman

Current ASOC President Jackie McCulley votes in the ASOC election.

in the National Oratorical Contest. The International Club, the Anime Club and the Engineering Club all requested money as well. Whether or not the money will be granted will be determined at next week's meeting.

During the Adviser's Report, Director of Campus Activities and EOPS, Debbie Trigg, told ASOC members that they need to prepare for summer meetings in order to get things ready for the fall. She said that if officers and senators could not make the commitment, then they should rethink being a part of the ASOC. She also asked the students to be more reliable. There have been problems with people signing up to help with an event, and then never showing or calling. She said, "It's not okay, don't say you're going to [participate] if you can't."

The ASOC officers-elect will take office this fall. All the ASOC positions are filled, with the exception of that of Legislative Representative.

Graduation to be held May 21

By **NAZIA MASTAN**
Staff writer

Ohlone will hold its 42nd Graduation Commencement Ceremony on Thursday, May 21 in Epler Gymnasium. The ceremony will begin at 7 p.m.

Rumiko Nozaki Olson, who attended Ohlone from 1981 through 1983, will be receiving the Outstanding Alumni Award at the ceremony. She will be receiving the award because of her dedication to advancing the outreach of the Deaf Culture through her work in creating the Japanese ASL Singers Society, or JASS. The society is a non-profit organization that is dedicated to introducing American Sign Language and Deaf Culture to Japan, thus helping it spread throughout the Asian continent.

The Ohlone Spring 2009 Valedictorian will be Eric Dorman, who currently serves as the Editor-in-chief of the *Monitor*. Though he declined to be interviewed for this story, citing fears of being misquoted, sources close to Dorman revealed that he has been at Ohlone for four years, and a member of the

Monitor for three. Last year, he was named Spanish Student of the Year at the ASOC Awards Ceremony, and this year he received awards for Journalism and Computer Science.

"The Hill's been good to me," said Dorman. "I've had a lot of great teachers, and I've met a lot of great friends."

Dorman, a journalism major, will be transferring to UCSD this fall, where he will be majoring in Interdisciplinary Computing and the Arts, a program unique to the school offering a mix of computer science and art.

The Commencement Ceremony will begin promptly at 7 p.m. and since there are no tickets for this event, guests will be filling out seats starting at 6 p.m. so it is important that everyone who wants to attend arrive soon after 6 p.m. If there are overflow guests, they will be directed to a separate "overflow" room where they can view the ceremony on television monitors; or, they can stand through the ceremony.

After the Graduation Ceremony has been completed, there will be a reception in the Palm Bosque where guests can mingle and take pictures. The ceremony and reception will be shown on local Channel 28.

Ohlone stays aware of swine flu threat

By **ALEX LYKINS**
Staff writer

As the swine flu virus continues to spread in the country and across the world, health officials, such as Director of Student Health Sally Bratton, are urging people to be aware of their surroundings and to take necessary precautions in order to fight the pandemic, recently elevated to level five by the World Health Organization (WHO), meaning that the disease is nearing widespread human infection.

"We don't want to over-react, [but] we don't want to under-react," said Vice President of Student Services Ron Travenick.

The worries about swine flu are apparent even here at Ohlone. Two students were sent home from a class Tuesday night after exhibiting flu-like symptoms; however, both received clean bills of health from their doctors Wednesday.

Though both cases turned out to be false alarms, Travenick emphasized that the important element of the two cases was that students and faculty were aware of the threat posed by swine flu. "This is a great example of people taking the swine flu seriously."

On a state and worldwide level, the flu has given reason to be taken seriously. At press time, Mexico, where the outbreak is severe, had reported 159 suspected swine flu-related deaths, with about 2,500 suspected cases. The outbreak has spread to the United States, as well, with 91 confirmed cases from 10 states (including a suspected case as close as Sacramento) by Wednesday. So far, the U.S. has seen only one swine-flu-related death.

"The administration is keeping a close watch on the development of the flu epidemic, and as things change we will update the college community," said Patrice Birkedahl, Ohlone public information officer. "We are directing all information to Bratton...who is in contact with health officials on the state and national levels."

Although there are no significant cases of swine flu on campus at the moment, Bratton is urging students to stay home if they exhibit flu-like symptoms, and for those not sick to stay clean by washing their hands, eating well, and getting enough rest to prevent vulnerability to infection. She also recommends avoiding large crowds in order to reduce the risk of infection.

"As mobile as we are, we are not beyond becoming exposed," said Bratton.

Though several students have reported flu-like symptoms to her, Bratton said that none appeared to have contracted swine flu. "At this point I have talked to students who have been ill. None have any recent travel history or [a] remote chance of exposure... I have had no reason to believe that anyone connected to the school has been affected," she said.

Though there are no plans to close the campus for the time being, there are two scenarios that would trigger that action, said Travenick. The first would be if an Ohlone student both exhibited symptoms of the swine flu and had been to an area where the flu was prevalent, such as Mexico, he said. The second cause for closure would be if a local person were confirmed as having the swine flu by the Alameda County Health Department. In the latter case, he said, the closure would not be a voluntary measure taken by Ohlone but rather an action mandated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The first major outbreak is believed to have originated in Mexico, but there are reports of swine flu infections in countries across the world.

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