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MOHLONE COLLEGE MONITOR

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Building 7 reborn as 'green' model

By **JEFF WEISINGER**
Editor-in-chief
and **FARNOOSH VAHEDI**
Staff writer

After two-years of construction, and almost 15 years of planning, the new Student Services Building, which replaced the old Building 7 on the Quad level, is open for business, continuing Ohlone's drive for trend-setting environmental structures.

The "new" Building 7 was designed to bring all the student service programs under one roof, according to Ron Travenick, vice president of Student Services.

With the addition of this new building, Ohlone College has taken yet another step toward improved services for present and future students.

The consolidation of the various programs gives students a more accessible and convenient method to seek assistance.

Construction started on May 2007, and was completed on schedule for fall of 2009. The building

is located on the south side of the Fremont campus and occupies 45,000 square feet of land.

There are three levels to the building with an atrium located in the center. Architecturally, this building attempts to harmonize and complement the already existing buildings, Travenick said. The interior maximizes natural lighting, and also to achieve LEED certification, like the Newark campus. It also creates a more formal north entrance to the college.

Various departments that have been moved to the new building are: Administration, Admissions & Records, Assessment Center, Associated Students of Ohlone College (ASOC), Campus Activities, Career Services, Counseling, Disabled Students Programs and Services (DSPS), Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS), Financial Aid, International Programs & Services, Student Health Center, Transfer Center and Workability III.

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Photo by Jeff Weisinger

The new Student Services Building, which replaced the old Building 7, is open for business. Admissions and Records and other departments moved in during the summer.

Browning: 'tough times don't last forever'

By **JEFF WEISINGER**
Editor-in-chief

President Gari Browning told teachers and staff members Friday morning that the financial picture for Ohlone and other community colleges is "downright depressing," but this is also a time to plan for the inevitable recovery, because "tough

times don't last forever."

In her State of the College address to a nearly-full Jackson Theater, Browning said Ohlone is in better shape than many community colleges in the Bay Area due to prudent fiscal planning, but still summer school was reduced by about 20 percent, more than 170 sections were cut from the fall schedule,

more cuts are planned for spring semester, and for the first time, and closed classes are turning away large numbers of students. This is because of the enrollment "cap," which sets the number of students that Ohlone will receive state funding for. If the school accepts more students, it will lose money because the state will not fund them.

Because of the worldwide economic downturn and a dramatic reduction in state revenue from sales, property and other taxes, Ohlone will receive about \$3 million less from the state than last year.

Among bright spots in the picture, Browning listed Ohlone's emergence from warning status in the state accreditation process, the

successful tour of China by music students this summer, new programs involving Egypt, India and Vietnam, plus the upcoming semester abroad program in Australia, led by English instructor Mark Brosamer.

"Education continues to be the cornerstone of democratic society," Browning said. "We have lots to be hopeful about."



Photo by Manal Bejaoui

These new students were among about 190 who got their first exposure to Ohlone College on Wednesday during Welcome Day, which is an all-day, half-unit Personal Development class.

New students get the Ohlone welcome

By **ANNA BIARTZ ROLDAN**
Staff writer

One hundred ninety students turned out for Ohlone's annual Welcome Day on Wednesday. Participants included College Connection Students from both Kennedy and Newark Memorial high schools, along with many international students, including some Egyptian students. This event was a half unit PD class open to all new students to the college.

The Peer Mentors, with the help of the ASOC, set up the event. According to ASOC board member Lauren Baca, she and the other student government officers enjoyed volunteering in this yearly event. They started by preparing food and snacks at 7 a.m. and setting everything up for a campus tour and

several workshops.

This is the seventh year for the event, according to Allison Bly, Transition and Learning Community programs director. The budget was covered by the ASOC and by participant fees. Students formed groups of 30 to 40, each led by an ASOC member. They went through the True Colors, Time Management, and Classroom Behavior workshops and also had a question-and-answer forum with faculty.

Bly said this event was a success. After five months of planning, they were able to meet their goal of getting new students familiar with Ohlone's faculty, counselors, structure, and most of all, one another. "It's important for new students to meet other students and be comfortable in Ohlone before school starts," Bly said.