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Swine flu secrets revealed

By **THERESA GUTIEREZ**
Staff writer

Most people are familiar with the 2009 flu pandemic that was caused by the strain of A (H1N1), otherwise known as the Swine Flu. But do people know how this or other "new" viruses arise?

Jim Baxter is a Biotechnology and General Biology professor at Ohlone who also teaches General Biology classes at UC Berkeley in the summer.

Professor Baxter will conduct a seminar next Friday, Sept. 25 in Room 3201. This 50-minute seminar is called "Viruses, Influenza, and A (H1N1)." He will explain what viruses are and concentrate on the genetic structures of influenzas.

According to Baxter, Influenza A (H1N1) virus is a subtype of influenza virus A and the most common cause of influenza (flu) in humans which does not appear any worse than the seasonal flu. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, H1N1 strains caused roughly half of all human flu infections in 2006.

Some strains of H1N1 are endemic in humans and cause a small fraction of all influenza-like illness and a large fraction of all seasonal influenza.

Other strains of H1N1 are endemic in pigs (swine influenza) and in birds (avian influenza).

In June 2009, World Health Organization declared that flu due to a new strain of swine-origin H1N1 was responsible for the 2009 flu pandemic (swine flu).

So how and why do these pandemics commence, what does it do to the immune system, and how does the immune system deal with these viruses?

More information about H1N1 flu is available through the Student Health Center at the Ohlone College website.

Flu shots will be available on campus starting Sept. 28.



Photo by Manal Bejaoui

Now that many of the workers have moved out of Building One, above, and into the new Student Services Building, administrators are busy trying to decide what to do with the vacant space.

What will become of Building I?

By **LESLEY HERNANDEZ**
Staff writer

All Student Services, such as Financial Aid, Counselors offices, and Administration and records were located in Building One, making it one of the most utilized spaces on the Ohlone campus. Then over the summer, all those functions moved to the new Student Services Building, Building 7.

So big parts of Building One are sitting vacant, while the administration decides what to do with the space, and how to pay for any necessary renovations.

For many years most, if not all Ohlone students found themselves making frequent stops in Building One. Many even referred to it as "The Main Building." The function

of this building has dramatically changed over the past few months. About 95 percent of all Student Services have been relocated to the much more modern Building Seven.

This is where you will now find long lines of students taking I.D. pictures, waiting on counselors, and getting their Financial Aid Requirements in.

Although some offices remain in Building One, it is empty for the most part. As for the main floor, all offices have been closed.

The only remaining one is the Administrative Services Office, where you will find Vice President Mike Calegari and his assistant, Kelly Abad. The library and the cashier's window also remain in this building.

This building seems to no longer attract students to its facilities. It seems that students no longer make stops in Building One. On the contrary, they seem to just walk by as if it were not there. Other students seem to just hang out outside of it and drink some coffee with their friends but never really go inside. According to Calegari, the future of this building is still a pending matter.

"There are ideas that have been voiced," he said. Although there are many ideas for what to do with the abandoned space, it has not yet been decided. Calegari also commented that they have been working with an architect to try and figure out the best use for the space.

Although the Facilities Committee is making recommendations

of what can be done, the College President and the Board of Trustees have the ultimate decision.

Calegari said it is hard to estimate how long it would take but, he thinks it will be up to 12 months before the decision is final, since they do not know how much of it will have to be remodeled.

The ultimate cost is also up in the air.

"It is hard to say, it all depends on how much remodeling is needed," Calegari said.

As for now, the college is closing all offices that are not being used, saving money in both lighting and cleaning.

Since all future plans for this building are pending, it is still a mystery as to what the future of Building One will be.

Internationals find home in Ohlone program

By **HYDER ALIKHAN**
Staff writer

Ohlone presents itself as "a world of cultures united in learning." And it's more than a slogan; Ohlone really does have representatives from a wide range of cultures, all here learning. Look around you. Ohlone could be "National Geographic

Community College."

A big part of Ohlone's international outlook comes from International Program and Services (IPS), which began in fall, 2006, now headed by Eddie West.

IPS is responsible for the international study program for students from all around the globe.

"It takes lots of time and attention

and mostly helps students with F-1 visas," said West.

F-1 visas are for students who are permitted to study in the United States. IPS is responsible for the admission, cultural adjustments and helping students with California's regulations.

"The IPS also helps with the cost of attending Ohlone, the programs

of study, university transfer, health insurance and housing information for students who are attending Ohlone from abroad. F-1 visa holders have a more challenging time at Ohlone since they are required to get 12 or more units," said West.

"The international students are only allowed to work on campus and they have restrictions to the online

courses. International students also pay a lot more than a local Ohlone student. Each unit will probably cost more than \$100," said West.

This fall 2009, Ohlone has about 270 international students from approximately 35 countries including from China, India and Egypt. When IPS first started, there were about

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