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# MOHLONE COLLEGE MONITOR

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## Where do classes come from?

By **SHELBY LACY**  
Staff writer

Students travel from class to class at Ohlone and never think about where the classes come from. Who decides which classes to offer, and what should be taught in each class? And are Ohlone classes the same as similar classes offered at other colleges?

It all begins with a dedicated faculty member who would like a specific class added to the curriculum. They have the most say in the matter of changing the curriculum, according to Brenda Ahnholz, speech teacher and resident expert in the curriculum-creation process.

A teacher, when creating a class, can do nearly anything, as long as the class follows guidelines set by the district and the state chancellor's office, she said.

So the faculty controls much of the curriculum. "It's all faculty driven," said Rachel Sherman, a graduate with an M.F.A. in English and creative writing. Also, for the second year, she has been the Ohlone Curriculum Chair. To help make the courses better, there is a curriculum meeting each month, from 3 to 5 p.m. in Room 1407. Students are welcome. Teachers can volunteer to participate in this important piece of the education puzzle.

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## Trustees plan more class cuts

By **KYLE STEPHENS**  
Staff writer

Oct. 14 meeting of Ohlone College's Board of Trustees discussed the budget and its affect on course offerings, and the future of the school.

The two biggest savings in the budget were to be had through Supplemental Employee Retirement Plan (SERP), as it is cheaper to pay a retired employee's benefits than pay them as a staff member, and through the cutting of course offerings. About 10 percent of fall and spring courses were cut, and 20 percent of summer ones.

The state of Ohlone's science lab facilities was also discussed, how they primarily presented a safety hazard to students and staff, and secondarily how they were not

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Photo by Jillian Sanchez

## Big rain on campus

**Ohlone students scurry for cover during Tuesday's down-pour, which was part of the worst October storm in the Bay Area since 1962. Around the area, power was knocked out for nearly 200,000, and numerous tree limbs fell, including some that damaged cars. This weekend looks more promising, with a forecast of partly cloudy skies and highs in the upper 60s.**

## 'Rabbit Hole' featured in art project

By **NAJIA QADIR**  
Staff writer

"For all [my] students, I want them to see that the things they learn in each class are not isolated from one another," said Kenny Mencher, art instructor.

Mencher was explaining why he created "The Rabbit Hole" project for his class.

Mencher has asked his students to create a mural depicting scenes from David Lindsay-Abaire's Pulitzer Prize winning play, "The Rabbit Hole."

"I want them to learn that the arts are in a very real sense, interdisciplinary," said Mencher. "Sort of like how the Smith Center is in-

terdisciplinary in how it showcases, music, visual art, dramatic arts and that the students who participate in the activities are getting a complete and comprehensive education."

From Nov. 19 through Nov. 21 a talented group of students will perform the play in the Jackson Theater at the Smith Center.

"The Rabbit Hole" has a situation driven plot featuring a 5-year-old boy who is tragically killed in a car accident, leaving behind his parents and the guilty driver of the other car to sort out the aftermath of this heartbreaking event.

Mencher has asked his students to produce unique posters that capture specific scenes from the "The Rabbit Hole."

Mencher went to the rehearsals of the play and took candid photos of key scenes. From these pictures, Mencher's students will take apart the scene, literally square by square and each will draw their little piece of the bigger picture in their own way.

When his art students are finished, they will put the square pieces back together to form a full-sized poster of the particular scene from the play and will take the images of several different ideas all coming together to portray a single piece. The overall effect is quite unique and fascinating to behold.

There are several other classes that are collaborating in this "Rabbit Hole" project. The classes that

are included are the photo class, art history, drama, drawing, painting, as well as the gallery class.

Professor Mencher said he has done this project before in his previous 11 years as an art professor here at Ohlone, but this is the first time he is doing a project similar to "The Rabbit Hole" in association with the art gallery.

There are several scenes from the auditions that will be portrayed in this uniquely drawn posters. When they are completed they will be hung along the curved wall in front of the gallery. On the night of the play there will be a reception at the gallery to showcase photos and the posters. Professor Mencher and his students hope to see you there.

## ASOC new outreach program

By **EAN TAIJERON**  
Staff writer

This week, the ASOC approved the creation of a new committee, the ASOC Outreach Committee.

The newly appointed chairperson, Senator Jason Trinidad, is the officer who wanted to create this committee.

When discussing why the name "Outreach" was chosen, he said, "I imagine a hand, reaching out to help a student."

When asked what his goals were for Outreach, he said, "I want to

establish a lively and healthy communication between the students and the ASOC,"

He hopes to extend these goals to the students at the Newark Campus, who inspired the senator to think up this committee.

A study has shown that students feel a lack of ASOC presence at the Newark Campus and are not sure what the ASOC does for Ohlone.

So, with the opening of the Recreation Room there will also come the new ASOC Outreach committee. With the energy of

the senators, the Newark Campus community will know and establish a good relationship with the ASOC.

Senator Trinidad was not only appointed chairman of the Outreach committee, but also the newly appointed Parliamentarian, which means he will now uphold the laws of government.

Also, Dr. Gari Browning, the president of Ohlone College, and Vice President Ron Travenick, visited the ASOC meeting and had nothing but positive comments for the senators.

After President Browning and Vice President Travenick departed, business continued with the discussion of the Halloween Costume Contest.

The contest will be open to both teachers and students and will be held Oct. 28, From 11a.m.-2p.m.

The Grand prize will be an Ipod Shuffle plus a \$25 gift card to the iTunes Store. First through third prizes will receive Target gift cards: 1st: \$75, 2nd \$50, 3rd \$25.

The grand opening of the recreation room on the Newark Campus is today from noon to 1p.m.