



Christensen offers a look into simulation

By **SHELBY LACY**
Staff writer

Many people do not find flying in an airplane the least bit appealing, rather, they find it a scary experience to shy away from. However, there are always the others that find it very interesting.

Who wouldn't find sitting in a machine with only a spinning engine and a bunch of steel to keep you floating in the air 2,000 feet off the ground fun?

Kent Christensen has an alternative. He has the option of never leaving the ground to experience a flying experience.

Christensen is a certified private pilot and holds an AGI, advanced ground instruction, meaning he can teach ground school and he owns his own flight simulator. The simulator is fairly expensive, costing \$130,000 to \$140,000.

Christensen does not own his own plane but rents them instead. Christensen estimates that he has 800

to 900 hours of flight time under his belt, plus all the hours he has spent in the flight simulator. It has flown in renown planes such as the Cessna, Piper, Moonies, and Cirrus. These are some of the most well known names in the aviation world.

All of them were single engine planes. In the past he has worked on the B1 Bomber Program, and the B2 Stealth Program. His job descriptions for the B2 Stealth Program were getting the technology to work and making a plane invisible to radar.

Christensen must take time away from his simulator because he also has a day job with Lockheed Industries and holds a part time job with Ohlone teaching a computer class.

Christensen's flight simulator may run off windows, but it is definitely bigger than your average computer.

It contains 24,000 real life airports that can be landed on with real maps. It also gives one the choice

of five planes. A Cessna 172, 182, or a 182RG.

These three are single-engine planes and the other two are multi-engine, a Barron 58, and a Seneca.

The flight simulator has a full set of LED panel displays in both the left, pilot seat, and the right seat, which is the co-pilot's.

The flight simulator also can create real or fictional situations, "I can make it snow in Hayward if you want," said Christensen.

He can also make any type of failure or accident that could occur during a real flight such as a power failure.

Training in a flight simulator can help to prepare for in flight emergencies. It can teach you how to not panic in a crisis and instead, how to use your own knowledge rather than rely on a flight checklist.

Christensen says he stresses three things repeatedly when he is teaching. "1-How much fuel do you have? 2-Is there a place for you to land at any moment in case

of an emergency? 3-Are you on course?"

Safety is important for everyone. Christensen hopes that by the Fall Semester 2010, a ground school will be established at Ohlone College.

The difference between this ground school and other ground schools, is that this course will train you for your private pilot license as well as the next level up, your instrument rating.

Training for both of the testing experiences at one time is more time efficient and saves money.

This class can include the flight simulator, which can count for two and a half hours of your required 40 hours.

In a plane, everything happens at once and if you make a mistake, you can't really go back and fix it. You are then forced to change the mistake before your next flight.

In a flight simulator, you can practice any particular procedure like takeoffs and landings.

It is possible to accomplish 30-

40 landings in an hour on the flight simulator and have the ability to rewind and try again, in case you make a mistake.

By comparison, in a real plane you may be able to make only 10 in that same hour.

Unfortunately, Ohlone does not currently offer an aviation curriculum. Although, Christensen is offering a seminar Nov. 12 through the Ohlone Newark campus. The Pilot Safety Program will be a two hour session.

The first hour will feature a lecture on what to do in certain emergency situations. The second will be spent in the flight simulator as Christensen simulates these emergencies.

Although the course will focus on pilots already certified, all are welcome to come, and sign ups are still open, even if you are just mildly interested in flying.

For more information, call 510-742-2304, or email Kent Christensen at kmc1841@yahoo.com.



Photos by Jimmy Patten

Left, Christensen's flight simulator in his driveway. Right, Christensen and Lacy inside the craft ready to 'take flight.'

Extraordinary art in president's office

By **ZUNERA SYED**
Staff writer

Christian Fagerlund has always loved procuring art, "There was never this dilemma of what I was going to do."

Fagerlund recently started drawing because he feels that several of his drawings are strong enough to be independent pieces; until a year ago he only did paintings. Ohlone should be proud of the talent that lies within a member of its community.

Through his paintings he is able to capture the subtle, everyday moments of beauty that we take for granted. His artwork is inspired by objects that he is innately attracted to.

After drawing faces for quite some time, he has become interested in portraying landscapes in his drawings. Fagerlund particularly enjoys going out into nature and capturing its essence in order to reproduce it on a canvas.

Besides actively procuring paintings and drawings Fagerlund teaches classes here at Ohlone: Descriptive Drawing, as well as Anatomy for the Artist, Figure Drawing, Figure Painting, and Drawing Fundamentals at UC Berkeley Extension Program.

Although he doesn't have a private gallery, his art work has been exhibited in many locations. It is currently being displayed here at Ohlone College in President Gari Browning's office.

Mounted along the upper walls of Browning's office, Ohlone staff

and students can view his detailed renderings of people whom are apart of his life. The pieces of art are so profound that even a gallery

Spring in the Caribbeans, and while on the island he was able to share his work there.

He is planning on going back to the Caribbeans this Spring to host a gallery show. Fagerlund has been a part of many group shows but does not have an independent gallery representing him.

His favorite piece is a painting he did of his girlfriend because it captures her inner feelings, something that is not apparent to the everyday person.

Fagerlund's artwork is primarily figurative, meaning that it focuses on people. Having an emotional connection with his models is one of Fagerlund's priorities, which is why he mainly uses people that he is close to.

Having such an admiration for fellow painters like British painters Jenny Saville and Euan Uglow, Fagerlund ponders aloud, "There are certain artists, that when I see their work, it makes me want to paint."

His advice to aspiring artists is to talk to as many people as they possibly can about what it truly means to be an artist.

Furthermore, get a high-quality core education of the foundation(s) of drawing and painting in order to gain the knowledge and skills you need to become a good artist. "It takes a lot of discipline to make your own art."

For more information about Fagerlund's work; visit www.christianfagerlund.com



Left, 'Safaa' from the president's office and right is 'Rebecca' both are charcoal pieces.

on a Caribbean island is featuring several of his works. Fagerlund has done a five week residency this past



Staff photo

The cast of the film *Hair Biz* came together for a *Monitor* interview, it is apparent in this photo that their chemistry permeated the atmosphere.

Hair Biz: a culmination of characters

By NAZIA MASTAN
Features Editor

"After falling down, we can get up. No matter what you're going through, it's not the end." A message that the warm cast of *Hair Biz* gives us. I hope that the chemistry the cast and crew had between them during the interview with the *Monitor* manifests itself in their production *Hair Biz*.

The movie *Hair Biz* is directed and produced by Keefe. It's underlying theme and series of scenes is based on Keefe and a confidant's experiences in cosmetology school. The characters in the movie act out a story about Donnell, played by Michael Gammach, who is struggling to get through cosmetology school

and become a renown hairstylist. *Hair Biz* is about Donnell's trials and tribulations and how the rest of the characters help him get through them, and thus grow as a person. Keefe further explains the story line as "about what profits a man to gain the world and lose his sole." An interesting theme considering the fact that the real character and soul of the cast seems quiet strong.

Ohlone's own EOPS and CARE Coordinator Sandy Bennet stars as Mrs. Davis—the "stoic cosmetology instructor who believes in her students, but gets frustrated with them because they are not taking it [cosmetology school] seriously. Which is contrary to how I feel about my students," said Sandy Bennet. The movie proves to be

a family affair, Bennet's daughter Alexis plays Nikki in the film. She is Donnell's girlfriend who has to deal with much of his flirtatious mischief, given his obvious charm and swagger.

Interestingly, Michael, who is Donnell in the the movie, feels that the role is similar to who he is in reality because "Donnell's chasing a dream like I am, I'm just living it acting."

Hair Biz's cast came to the *Monitor* looking great and explicated their chemistry through finishing each others' sentences as well as allowing each cast member's talent to shine. The movie features new and experienced actors, who are "loosely based on characters from my experience in cosmetol-

ogy school," said Keefe. Some cast members, such as Reverend Richardson, who in actuality is Sandy Bennett's husband Reverend Ivory Bennet, were cast through their chance encounters with Keefe

Miss Monika is the Casting Director of *Hair Biz* and Owner/Director of MTM Models and brought in many of the actors. Keefe explains that Miss Monika cast people that didn't come off as "actors" but as people with morals, honesty and trustworthiness. She helped Keefe build a foundation for the movie and assisted in creating a "nurturing environment where people can learn about this [film] industry." Her expertise in selecting the cast members is apparent because of the familial atmosphere that is felt when the cast is together.

Hair Biz proves to be a highly collaborative effort in that Keefe and cast members were open to changes and suggestions by other members of the cast and crew. A pivotal player in the *Hair Biz* production is another Ohlone staff member, Shawna Luce. She has a Masters in Communication from San Jose State University, which has aided her in her job as script

supervisor. Luce dictated which scenes needed to be shot, in which locations, and what to change in ones that were weak.

The collaboration even went as far as meeting off-set to work on relationships with one another, so as to perform fluid scenes. Dorothy Green, who is Donnell's mother in the movie, is played by Ramonda Cutrer. His father, Donald Green is acted by Bernard Naidu, who met with Ramonda off set so they could get to know one another.

This initial meeting helped to create a more realistic scene that portrayed chemistry between the two actors. The rest of the cast seems to contribute a lot to the movie too, which does not yet have a shooting-end date.

The cast seems to genuinely get along, their laughs and shared experiences made me want to sit with them and ponder the makings of a great movie, which I feel *Hair Biz* will be if the cast portrays their sense of kinship within the movie. After shooting, *Hair Biz's* next step is to be submitted to film festivals.

It is also important that the film be picked up by a distributor so we can all enjoy it.



Staff photos

Back right, Keefe, Reverend Ivory Bennet, Ramonda Cutrer, Alexis Bennett, Miss Monika, Bernard Naidu, Michael Gammach. Front right, Brittnei Washington



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