

# MOHLONE COLLEGE MONITOR

Vol. XXXVIX No. 15

Fremont, California

February 1, 2010

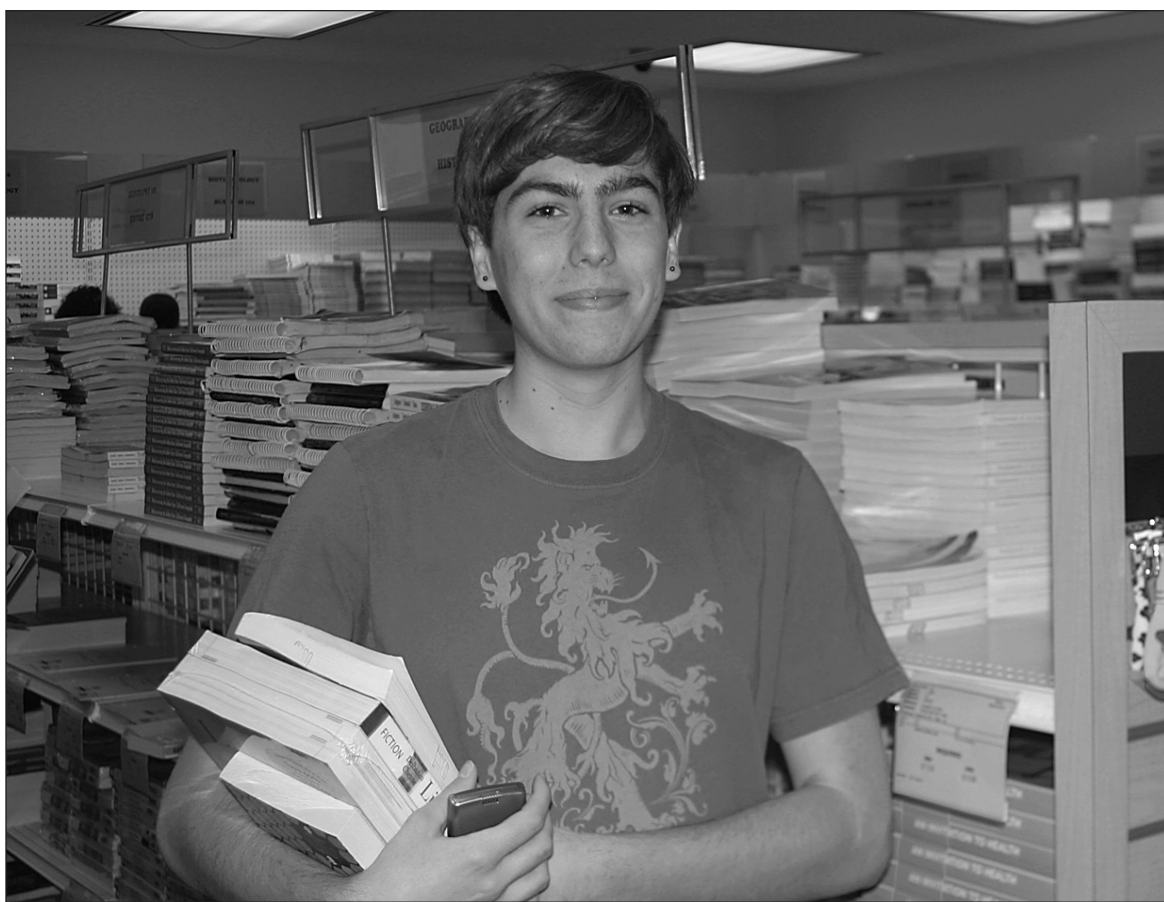


Photo by Ean Tajeron

**Ohlone student Brad Ward purchases textbooks in the bookstore for his classes prior to first week of school.**

## Kindle the fire against expensive textbooks

By **KATHRYN DIXON**  
Staff writer

In today's economic crunch, students are looking for alternatives in purchasing bargain textbooks.

Students trying to save money can go online and buy textbooks from online stores such as Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

The Ohlone bookstore is where most students wait in long lines to get their textbooks on the first days of classes.

According to Daniel Ho, who works at the bookstore, "We can arrange for some purchases online."

Ohlone student, Brad Ward said, "The reason I bought my books

at the bookstore is the convenience and the 50 percent buyback."

Students can also arrange to sell and buy their books online using such outlets as eBay.

However, the future of textbooks may involve rentals. The Barnes & Noble College Bookstore is now running a pilot rental program for books at more than 600 college campuses including Fresno State University.

A student can save up to 75 percent off the cover price in this program. Ohlone is not yet a part of this program.

The growing trend in publishing is the ebook. The Ohlone bookstore does not currently offer any

ebooks.

However, some ebooks can be accessed through the Ohlone library, the Fremont public library and through other web sites.

Most ebooks can be read by logging into a website and looking at the book its PDF version, web, or word format.

For those who want to hold an ebook in their hand, there are devices such as the Kindle.

Amazon is supplying some textbooks via ebooks. However, it requires that they be downloaded on a Kindle ebook reader, which costs at least \$259.

Amazon sells general fiction and nonfiction books on Kindle for

## President sees bright spots amid cutbacks

By **KYLE STEPHENS**  
Co-editor-in-chief

Addressing staff and faculty during Friday's back-to-school, state-of-the-college address, Ohlone President Dr. Gari Browning highlighted the many budgetary hurdles the school is facing, while focusing on some improvements and plans for the next five years.

For instance, she pointed to:

- A doubling of the value of Pell Grants awarded, from, \$500,000 to \$1 million.

- Ohlone's sports teams have won six conference championships in the last year, an unprecedented number

- New facilities and retrofits, including new physics and engineering labs in Building 8.

- Diversity outreach to international students and sister schools in Korea, Japan, Vietnam and China.

- ASOC has the largest number of senators ever, 29.

ASOC President Kevin Feliciano has been elected Chair of the Student Senate for California Community Colleges, Region IV.

Also, ASOC's Andie Morhous has been serving as Ohlone Legislative Representative to the State of California.

On the downside, the state funding outlook for community colleges remains precarious, even though Ohlone has balanced its current budget through a combination of class reductions, furloughs for all workers, an increase in non-state funding and use of the \$1 million

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## Waste spending gets trimmed

By **KATHRYN DIXON**  
Staff writer

Downsizing is one way to save money, considering that Ohlone College is facing a \$1.2 million budget deficit in 2010. Ohlone has previously cut some programs and eliminated the courses offered by 22 percent during summer 2009 and by 10 percent for fall '09 and spring '10 terms.

Salaries and wages have been voluntarily slashed about 4 percent across the board. Another way to reduce the expenses is to cut back without depleting the quality or

quantity of goods and services that Ohlone provides.

According to Joanne Schultz, Business dean, Ohlone has cut overall expenditures by \$257,000 throughout the college's departments last year.

But, can even more money be saved in the long term? Mark Robbins, the director of Purchasing and Contracts, said, "With an operating budget of \$50 million, my department negotiated over 75 major contracts in '09, cut costs and intend to do so in the new year.

One way that Robbins hopes to achieve this goal is through

e-commerce and e-procurement. These methods will require faculty, administration and students to sacrifice by assessing what supplies they really need in order to fulfill their academic goals.

Robbins has replaced a failed online requisition system with a new user-friendly online system created in Datatel's Colleague User Interface. The system reduces the amount of data entry, allows departments to track status of orders, and looks up vendor information. It improves turn-around time.

Cynthia Banuelos, the buyer who

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## Hands-on learning

By **ARMILENE C. ABUCAY**  
Contributing writer

Students in the last semester's "Math & Science Teachers Seminar" got some realistic teaching experience. While they presented their practice lessons to the class, the "students" threw paper airplanes, talked on their cell phones, and took naps.

It was a lesson in student engagement, appropriate consequences for misbehavior and the importance of exercising patience in the face of challenges.

Limited to 10 students, the class was part of the California Teach/Science & Mathematics Initiative taught by Tania Manning.

Education 105, provided prospective secondary math/science teachers with history, materials, assessments, and hands-on experience.

For information, contact Dean Mikelyn Stacey at mstacey@ohlone.edu.