



Photos by Manal Bijoui and Amy Kent

Classes ranging from beginner to advanced all participated and even choreographed some of the dance numbers.

‘Whether the Weather’: Colors of summer arrive

By SARAH HASHEMI
Staff writer

Not many people realize how difficult dancing can be, especially performing.

If a dancer messes up in front of an audience, the audience automatically pulls all their attention to that mistake and it outshines the rest of the show—a show that could have been an overall good performance.

Despite the possibility of defacing oneself, performing is still an opportunity to showcase all of the hard work a dancer has put into their number.

This week, Ohlone will be letting a variety of dancers to put all of their hard work, sweat and

tears into a showcase of dances called “Whether the Weather” The 14 dances encompass the seasons—starting at the beginning of the summer and making their way through the remainder seasons.

The songs and dances directly reflect each other and the seasons. In the summer season, the audience should expect three different dances, with songs such as “Disco Inferno” and “Summertime”

In autumn, there are four dances, one being an all male performance. The winter section holds five dances, which includes a tap number and a “holiday spirit” dance—taking Christmas music by the Trans Siberian Orchestra to honor the holiday season.

The final dances are spring in-

fluenced and are heavily decorated with bright colors and flowers. The very last dance has all the dancers coming on stage to give their farewell to the audience.

The spring showcase is an annual event that collaborates the students from the dance, costume construction, interior lighting design and stagecraft classes.

It also integrates several types of dance styles, such as: jazz, hip-hop, ballet, modern, and tap. The dancers are from beginning, intermediate and advanced classes.

As the show progresses, it runs through that order and the dances gradually become more and more advanced.

The coordinator of this event is Janel Tomblin-Brown, who is a

Professor and Director of Dance Theater and Dance at Ohlone. Brown is a graduate of San Jose State University and holds degrees in Dance and Theatre Arts. She started teaching part time at Ohlone in 1995 and came on as Director of Dance in 2001.

All of the dances in the showcase were either choreographed by Brown, student choreographed or a collaboration between the two.

On Wednesday, “Whether the Weather” went through a final dress rehearsal that was open to Ohlone staff and students. Brown said that it was a simply a practice run-through.

One of the dancers, who participates in practically every other dance in the showcase, Vanessa

Loera, expressed her excitement for the performance. She started taking dance lessons when she was five, when she entered high school she took a break before starting up again at Ohlone last semester.

Loera was also in the winter showcase and said her motivation to participate is because she “love[s] performing.” This is the case for the majority of the dancers taking part in the showcase.

“Whether the Weather” will be open to the public starting today at 8 pm and continue through Saturday in Jackson Theater in the Smith Center.

Ticket prices will be \$15 for the general public and \$10 for student and youth. Tickets can be purchased online at Ohlone.edu.

Nine Ohlone faculty to teach in China

By SARAH HASHEMI
Staff writer

As China is slowly but surely becoming the world’s next superpower, it has become vital to maintain a strong relationship and understanding of the Chinese culture.

Ohlone has been doing this by expanding its International Education program, which now encompasses study abroad, student exchange and international faculty exchange programs.

This summer, Ohlone will send nine faculty members to teach in China. This is the first year of the established program but had its informal start back in 2004.

The teachers attending will be sent to three of Ohlone’s sister-schools to teach for a two to three week period.

Currently, Ohlone has sister-schools established in China, Vietnam, Korea and Sweden. Ed-

die West, director of International Programs and Services, defines a sister-school as having, “established some formal memorandum of understanding and cooperation, which is a formal document signed by, generally speaking, the president of each school.”

West said, “It outlines the areas we are seeking cooperation on, be it faculty exchange or student exchange.”

The process of selecting the faculty members who would participate in the program was based on the desires of the sister schools.

For example, the school in Hangzhou is a music-based school that has requested music professors to come and teach.

Every school has expressed interest in ESL (English as a Second Language) and one school in Suzhou, a business-based school, has requested computer science faculty.

From there, an announcement went out to faculty in those desired areas and depending on those who expressed interest, followed a hierarchy; full time, part time, etc.

In Suzhou, there will be Xisheng Fang, Yong Gao, Adam Peck, who are all professors of computer science, Richard Grotgut, computer networking professor, and Joyce PODEVYN, an ESL professor.

In Hangzhou, Dennis Keller, Jim McManus, both music professors, and Leslie Payne, an ESL professor.

While in China, these professors will be teaching their disciplines to Chinese students for a short duration.

Keller said while in China he will, “be teaching for two weeks at the Zhejiang Vocational Academy of the Arts (in Hangzhou), and also at universities or conservatories in; Dalian, Guangzhou, and Chengdu. At each of these institutions I give vocal master classes and work with

the choirs.”

The sister-schools will be covering the cost of airfare and accommodations for the faculty.

Fang, one of the attending professors, made this possible. He has been negotiating with the schools in China to make sure the cost for the professors is as low as possible.

Ohlone will be offering a very modest compensation of \$250 per week, that is in reality simply pocket money.

This program considers the largest compensation to be the cultural experience.

West said this program is, “more about professional development and the opportunity for students to benefit from that.”

Fang said he believes the purpose of this program is to essentially establish a strong relationship with China because, “with very close economic and political tie between America and China and with global economical system, our

world becomes smaller and people at the two sides of Pacific Ocean want to know each other more than any time before.”

The program would like to maintain and possibly expand in the future and hopes to give every faculty member with interest in teaching abroad an opportunity to do so and would like to extend sister-school relationships with more schools in a larger range of countries.

Ultimately, Ohlone would like to have faculty from other countries come and teach classes.

The only obstacle in lieu of this is a lack of funding for this program—the cost of accommodating professors is too high.

For now, Ohlone will continue its faculty and student exchange programs with China until it can expand to other countries.

For more information on the program contact Xisheng Fang at xfang@ohlone.edu.

Study Abroad returning to Sydney, Australia

By ANIKA DOKES
Staff writer

Have you ever wanted to adventure out of your own comfort zone and see the world from a different perspective?

Ohlone’s Study Abroad Program offers students a great amount of information regarding study abroad programs.

Most of us educate ourselves about life outside by reading books, surfing the Internet and watching the travel and history channels. This program allows students to dream outside the box.

Students have the opportunity to learn and experience different cultures than the one they already know.

In the 2010 Fall semester, the study abroad program will be traveling to Sydney, Australia.

Students will be given the chance to study and experience the culture and the environment of Australia.

The requirements for students to be involved in the study abroad program is that they need to enroll in at least 12 credits, be 18 years old and must submit a short application with reference letters

from teachers.

Students will be heading to Sydney Sept. 6 and will return Nov. 24.

Jeff Watanabe, who teaches Marine Biology, will lead the Study Abroad program.

Watanabe said, “The semester will last 12 weeks compared to 16 weeks at home. However, I encourage students to leave early and stay longer.”

Watanabe went on to say, “I will arrive in Sydney in July and stay through late December.”

“I plan on going to the Great Barrier Reef and New Zealand.

How many times in your life are you going to get to travel in the Southern Hemisphere?” said Watanabe.

Besides exploring the country, students will be having a daily schedule of classes that they will be taking while living in Sydney.

Students are allowed to choose from five different courses that are being offered, four of which are UC/CSU transferable.

The courses being offered are Marine Biology, Human Ecology, Survey of World Art History, Cultural Anthropology and Travel Journaling.

Watanabe will teach Marine

Biology and Human Ecology while two Australian professors will teach Cultural Anthropology and Art History. The cost for this trip is \$7,600.

The courses will be held at Australia Catholic University and students will have opportunities to interact and socialize with other Australian college students while on campus.

This is an opportunity to experience the beauty and culture of Australia, Watanabe said.

For more information about the program, contact Jeff Watanabe at jwatanabe@ohlone.edu

Student travels to China, lives the dream

By ANIKA DOKES
Staff writer

Have you ever wondered when a big opportunity would come your way? Sometimes it is better to start believing and dreaming at any age.

One student at Ohlone has had the biggest dream of his life come true. Tyler Wiest, who is a Broadcast major, is in China this week living a dream.

Wiest, who has done a great amount of backstage work, has done more than five-hundred shows at Ohlone. He has participated in

numerous magic shows with Ed Alonzo.

Wiest is in China this entire week as a stage manager and has been performing in magic shows that have been allowing him to demonstrate some of his talent.

The magic show will be bringing magicians of all magnitudes together to perform.

Wiest has participated in numerous magic show acts with Ed Alonzo's Misfit of Magic at Great America, the Psycho Circus of Magic and Mayhem at Great American and the World Magic Awards in 2008 with Neil Patrick

Harris.

In addition, Wiest has also participated in other magic acts. He teamed up with Craig Wilson in the Annual Fire Fighter Charity Event in San Jose for the performing arts and with Chipper Lowell.

The magic shows Wiest is performing are not far South of Beijing. There are a total of 10 shows and Wiest steals the spotlight for 25 minutes of that two hour show.

Wiest has been in China since last Thursday and will return May 6th. Wiest is an example to all of us. Do what you love and accomplish the impossible.



Wiest, right and Alonzo goof around on stage.

'Sleep Dealer': A world different from our own

By DAVE SHEFFER
Staff writer

Last Thursday MEChA showed the film 'Sleep Dealer' a science fiction movie about an imagined progression between Mexico and United States relationships' in the future.

MEChA, which stands for Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan which translates to Chicano Student Movement of Aztlan.

Aztlan refers to a portion of land annexed from Mexico by the United States during the Mexican-American War.

MEChA has been around since the 1960s with over 400 chapters

across the United States.

Around 20 students showed up at the Newark campus to watch the film that depicts life as a Mexican living in America during the 1960s.

According to the club's co-advisor, Ralph de Unamuno, MEChA hopes "to help create student life on campus, while mixing fun and entertainment with education."

In the film, rather than having immigrants doing menial labor in America, they plug into machines in their own countries and are plugged into machines in America doing menial labor.

Despite the film's premise, it feels more like a William Gibson

story; the godfather of cyberpunk, than say a Hernandez brothers story about Mexican culture.

Cyberpunk is a view of the future where high tech has become cheap junk that even the poorest can afford and modify.

The movie's feel is heavily influenced by its low budget, which in fact makes it ultimately seem more relatable.

Minus the glamour and makeup of Hollywood 'Sleep Dealer' covers a more gruesome and realistic background.

The tech has a feel of something modern yet advanced compared to something far off in the future like in "Blade Runner"

The movie starts with a privatized water company that has dammed the local river in Mexico, forcing the residents to buy water from the company.

It is the first sign that this world is different from the one we know.

There are TV commercials of drone planes piloted by people with face masks and bars offering Live Node Girls.

The node is the plugs that humans have to jack into the computer.

The drone pilots have nodes on their arm to jack into the computer akin to the Matrix.

Unlike that film, Sleep Dealer presents people nodes as a volun-

tary add-on for people.

The main female lead uses her nodes to upload her memories into the form of a blog for her website.

According to de Unamuno, "Chicano/MEChA movie night will hopefully be made into a monthly event to view films on campus that speak to social, cultural, and political issues of the day in a relaxed atmosphere."

In May, MEChA will be showing Smoke Signals a film by the Native American writer Sherman Alexie.

More info about MEChA can be found at <http://www.ohlone.edu/org/lrrc/mechamyths.html>




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