

# Browning paints vision of rose-colored future

By MANIKA CASTERLINE  
Editor-in-Chief

In her Spring State of the College address on Jan. 20 President Gari Browning said, "The trend is upward from now on, and the chance of a double dip recession is behind us."

She said, "The downturn was much more dramatic and long lasting than the others, but the pattern is the same."

By 2017, Browning plans for Buildings 1 and 8 to be removed from the campus.

There will be a new science center and construction of a

replacement for Building 1 will be underway.

Browning said that the college will be restructuring administrative positions in order to shift workloads by streamlining.

Some personnel will take on extra responsibilities in addition to their daily tasks and not be compensated extra for doing so.

This will maintain the quality of services that need to be provided to the Ohlone students and faculty, she said.

The first set of these changes will be implemented on Feb. 15 and the changes to

academic divisions will occur on July 1.

The college plans to hire two deans to replace Mikelyn Stacey and Ron Quinta, who have retired in the past year.

Ohlone will hire a dean of language and communication as well as a dean of science, engineering and math.

Ohlone is still looking to hire a new executive director for the foundation and a vice president of administrative services to replace Mike Calegari, who retired last year.

"Stating a vision for the future is exciting, but it can be a risky business because

external forces can always thwart our efforts.

"But not having a vision is even riskier because without one we could become mired in the difficulties of the moment," she said.

Browning's vision of Ohlone at the time of its golden anniversary in 2017 is shaped by the rose-colored perception of what can be achieved through innovation and resourcefulness.

"Despite the continuing onslaught to our funding and our mission, Ohlone has sustained its optimism and its values. This college is special.

We value trust, respect and integrity; teamwork and open communication," she said.

Browning's plan is that by 2017 the budget will be balanced, services will revert to pre-crisis levels and Ohlone will continue to maintain a high quality of education standards.

"With this vision for the future, coupled with the support from the citizens of our district and an institutional spirit of community and collaboration, Ohlone will emerge from this current economic downturn stronger than ever," Browning said.

## Task force recommendations move to state Legislature

By MANIKA CASTERLINE  
Editor-in-Chief

Despite statewide objections regarding specific recommendations made by the California Community College Success Task Force or SSTF, the California Community College's Board of Governors unanimously voted in favor of sending all 22 recommendations to the state Legislature on Jan 9.

The board vote was disrupted by several students from City College of San Francisco with the key tag line of the Occupy movement "mike check" invoked and outcries that they will be back to continue the fight.

At least 60 comment cards were submitted to the board for public comment on the task force recommendations and discussion grew contentious during the four-hour-long meeting at the Capitol.

The majority of speakers spoke of their own personal success stories and said that the way the SSTF defines success would exclude students from within the system instead of broadening opportunities

for greater success.

Ohlone student Kevin Feliciano, who serves as the president of the California Community College Student Senate and as the student representative member of the SSTF, told the board that while the recommendations do not address everything necessary to student success, they are the beginning of a larger discussion.

The most vocal opposition regarding the SSTF came from City College of San Francisco faculty and students. Board of Governors President Scott Himelstein said that speakers would be allowed two minutes each so as to hear as many public comments as possible.

However, Himelstein warned the audience multiple times that the level of clapping was taking away from speakers' time and threatened to cut public comment if it continued.

Despite this, Himelstein was questioned by a CCSF student whose argument was that applause between speakers should be OK.

California Community College Chancellor Jack Scott

said, "I would prefer that we not use loaded terms like power grab," in relation to language that was brought up by critics of the SSTF and went on to assert that "there wasn't anything diabolical or demonic about the task force," as a reference to the SSTF being partially funded by the Lumina Foundation.

Board of Governors members Henry A.J. Ramos and Jurena Storm both addressed the passionate response of those who came out to Sacra-

mento to engage in the process of opposing the SSTF.

"This process is now going to go to an open public discussion where legislation and regulatory action will be in play," Ramos said.

Storm encouraged those in attendance to be present for the implementation process since that is where everything will take place.

"I think we all share a common interest of the importance of community college," Ramos said.

These sympathetic words were not adequate in quelling tensions when the board voted to move the full package of SSTF to the state Legislature, which will consider the recommendations in March.

Board member Natalie Berg abstained in the vote, saying that the issue pre-dates her tenure on the board.

Berg also is a trustee on City College of San Francisco's governing board, which has taken a stance against the SSTF.

## Women's basketball in top form

By THOMAS PHY  
Staff writer

The Ohlone Women's basketball team is off to a solid start on their road to a 2011-2012 state title. The Renegades currently sit atop the Coast-South Division with a 15-5 overall record, including a 4-0 record within their division.

Head Coach Julia Allender is confident going into her third season with the Renegades, a result of a strong belief in her team as well as the competition.

"The way the state is this year, we have a decent op-

portunity," Allender said.

"There's not one team that's completely dominating in the [Coast]-North [Division]. I think we're a little bit smarter and tougher than a majority of the teams."

That toughness is a credit to players such as starting guard Chereese Thomas, who has verbally committed to San Jose State.

"She's the heart and soul of what we do and how we play... I haven't met a tougher, more competitive kid," said Allender.

The Renegades are ranked 8th in the most recent CCC-WBCA State Poll, a result of

the work the team has put in throughout the season.

"Our work ethic reflects the rankings and where we're at... We need to continue to get better and expect everyone's best when we play them," said Allender.

The Renegades' solid start is just that, a start on their quest for a state title, the ultimate goal for Allender's team.

"Anyone without the state championship goal in mind is just coaching to lose in a sense. We'd love to get there."

The Renegades have eight games remaining until the CCCAA Regionals begin on Feb. 22.

## Garrett Yee reports

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Some of us helped out and served meals to our fellow military members at the dining facility and later in afternoon, we raised flags over our new building.

In preparation for holidays, Alma Chiesa's third grade class sent letters to soldiers that we used to decorate our building. Between Christmas and the New Year, we remained mostly at Camp Phoenix with short trips around the Greater Kabul Metropolitan Area.

Over the past week, we have been incredibly busy with activity all around the Southwest Asia area, more than I had imagined. Some day, I may be able to talk about it. Thank goodness for the technology of secure video

teleconferencing, I am able to remain plugged into key actions in Iraq and Kuwait.

At the same time, it is times like this that we all miss our families the most. For me, it's my wife Maria, and our children Gilbert, Michael, Alissa.

It's my parents Gilbert and Michi, my sister Grace and her family, my brother Brendan and his family and my extended family on my side and Maria's side.

While we huddle together as a family overseas, it does not replace the love and affection of those closest to us. I do miss my family but I am glad that I do have my comrades in arms to share the holidays.

As we close out 2011, we all look forward to 2012 when we will be returning home. Happy New Year!

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