Student actors qualify for competitive scholarships

By ISABELLA OHLYMEYER
Staff writer

Ohlone acting majors Steven Vogel, 20, and Chris Joseph 19, have been nominated to compete in the Irene Ryan Scholarship Auditions at the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival.

The auditions will be held this year in Fort Collins, Colo., hosted by Colorado State University from Feb. 13 to 17.

Vogel previously attended the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival last spring with actors and production staff of the Ohlone Fall 2010 play, "Time Machine: Love Among the Elks.

This is the first year that Vogel has been nominated to compete in the Irene Ryan Auditioning.

"It means so much to me, this is my future and I feel like I'm one step closer to achieving my goal, which is to act professionally. I am honestly humbled to have been nominated. I think competing in this competition is an honor," said Vogel.

Joseph is deaf and he is the first person in the Ohlone Deaf Community to be nominated and represented in the festival.

According to the American College Theatre Festival website, "The main focus of the Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship Auditions is to celebrate the nation's finest student actors and the craft that enables them to create compelling and truthful characterizations.

Beginning in 2005, the Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship Auditions will heighten the focus on craft in auditions by showcasing actors in two, two-person scenes and a monologue or song for candidates who advance to the final round of competition at the regional and national levels.

According to the American College Theatre Festival website, Vogel or Joseph could win a $500 scholarship to "pay for fees for further education, not necessarily limited to theatre arts" if they are selected as the two national finalists in Colorado.

If they were to go on to win the national competition at the Kennedy Center, they could win one of the $2,500 scholarships, which can be used at the school of their choice.

Elise Scarlett was selected to be Vogel's scene partner and Danny Carpenter to be Joseph's partner.

Joe Maglione will also be working with Chris's team as Chris's American Sign Language (ASL) interpreter, a capacity he has been in before for the fall play Joseph participated in, "Servant of Two Masters."

On the festival website, it states that the partners may also win various awards such as "Best Irene Ryan Partner" and even an even more profound recognition if they help the person nominated reach the national level of the competition.

Not only will both actors be representing Ohlone College at the festival, but they will also be representing themselves and their passion for acting wholeheartedly.

Vogel has taken his passion for his craft seriously in his educational goals. He is currently studying to be an acting major at Ohlone with his mentor.

Joseph is also following Vogel's theatre footsteps as he too majors in acting and is working towards getting his associate of arts degree in fall 2012.

Ohlone's Biology and Chemistry Learning Center now offers tutoring for all students

By MARRA MAGSAKAY
Staff writer

For students who are taking science classes and need extra time that teachers do not offer, Ohlone College's Biology and Chemistry Learning Center (BCLC) is a free center where students can walk in and get immediate help from tutors.

The Biology and Chemistry Learning Center is conveniently located on both campuses. On the Fremont campus, it is in Room 5318 and on the Newark campus in Room NC-2306.

Kevin McCue, who is the instructional aide and the coordinator of Biology and Chemistry Learning Center. Along with his fellow three tutors are what make the Biology and Chemistry Learning Center a welcoming and helpful environment to students. McCue has taken biology 101A/B, chemistry 101A/B, and is an associate degree in natural science.

He has been a teacher's aide since 2006. Once he became a part-time staff member, the Biology and Chemistry Learning Center, "has become busier," said McCue.

Two of the tutors, Farnoosh Vahedi and Leah Dorman, have firsthand experience with chemistry and biology classes at Ohlone College and are ready to give others a hand.

Dorman has been a tutor since Fall 2010. Yogita Kurnar, another tutor, is an international student who holds a degree in biology and chemistry from Fiji but is attending Ohlone College to study biomecchnology. Kurnar has been a tutor since Spring 2010.

Helen Harrison, majoring in biology, and Daniel Wong majoring in ecological management, are regulars at the center.

Harrison said she comes in three days throughout the week and it's a good place for students to meet.

Wong said he comes in often, "like everyday," and the two students both agreed that "science classes would be much harder if this center wasn’t opened.

Since the budget cuts, the Center has felt a little financial nick. "They have been pretty good with the budget," McCue said.

However Dorman said, “if Kevin was hired full time, then the lab would be able to have longer hours.”

The Fremont center is opened on Mondays, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesdays to Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Fridays, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The Newark center is opened on Mondays and Wednesdays, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. and Fridays, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information about the Biology and Chemistry Center to or become a tutor, visit www.ohlone.edu/instr/biology/bclc.html. Ohlone College also offers other tutoring centers for speech, math and English. Information for those programs is at www.ohlone.edu.