

By jove . . .

BBC film crew targets OCC students

By Pat Murphy
staff writer

A British television crew is scheduled to come to the Auburn Hills campus of Oakland Community College next week to film part of a documentary on mature students. Two representatives of the British Broadcasting Company are scheduled to arrive Sunday and a camera crew is expected Wednesday, according to OCC spokesman George Cartsonis.

Also scheduled to visit the Auburn Hills campus are two officials of the Golluh College of Technology.

Solihull, located northwest of London, and OCC have an informal partnership, said Christine E. Gram, president of the Auburn Hills campus.

Faculty members from the British school came to Auburn Hills last spring, and a handful of OCC teachers are scheduled to visit Solihull next spring.

"We're hoping to build on that relationship," said Gram. "It could eventually lead to an exchange program involving students."

Gram said OCC got involved in the British television documentary when the BBC contacted Solihull about a special on educating older

students.

Officials at Solihull advised the television network that much of their work with mature students is patterned after OCC, Gram said. "So BBC decided to come here."

BBC PRODUCER Tony Matthews and his assistant, Christine Gurns, are scheduled to arrive Sunday. The film crew is expected to begin shooting Wednesday.

Gram said the BBC documentary will focus on the facilities and programs available for mature students. "I expect the crew will interview students as well as teachers and administrators."

OCC board elects Yono to vacant trustee post

By Pat Murphy
staff writer

A Chaldean businessman from Northville has been appointed to the Board of Trustees of Oakland Community College, becoming the first person from that ethnic minority to hold that position in the school's 25-year history.

"I am really honored," said Sam Yono, 41, who was voted into office by other trustees Monday.

Yono, who owns five convenience stores in Wayne County, was selected from six candidates to fill the unexpired term of Norma L. Ross of Madison Heights who resigned in September.

His term expires in June, but he has already indicated he will seek a full six-year term.

That was during public interviews on Nov. 5, when Yono said his background as a minority businessman would help OCC recruit more students from ethnic communities.

He is chairman of the Chaldean Federation of America. Ethnic communities are sometimes shy about voicing their needs

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and concerns, Yono told interviewers at that time. Having a minority on the board would make communications easier, he said.

ENROLLMENT FIGURES show that less than 4 percent of the almost 28,000 students currently attending OCC are Hispanic, Asian, Indian or Arab.

Ethnic background was only one of many considerations taken into account when trustees evaluated candidates, according to David W. Hackett, vice chairman of the board. "We wanted a qualified person first," said Hackett. Ethnic background was a secondary consideration.

The only other person believed to belong to a minority group to serve on the OCC board was Edith Gon-

zalez of Troy who was elected in 1988, but resigned the next year when her family moved from the area.

Yono was tied with two other candidates — Janice Simmons of Rochester Hills, who is a vice president at Pontiac General Hospital, and Richard T. Lindgren of Bloomfield Hills, the former chief executive officer of the Cross & Trecker Corp. — in initial balloting.

He won on the fourth ballot by a 4-2 vote.

The other candidates were Rutanne Okun, a lawyer from Huntington Woods; Jay B. Shah, vice president of corporate development at Spalding, DeDecker & Associates in Madison Heights; and Marcia Van-Creveld, a Realtor from Farmington Hills.

Judson Center wins \$25,000 award

The Judson Center, a private, non-profit, human service agency based in Oakland County, recently received the first Peter F. Drucker Award for Nonprofit Innovation.

The award, which includes a check for \$25,000, recognized the center for its "Living in Family Environments" program. The program was judged the most innovative of 800 submitted because of its beneficial effect on two different populations:

- developmentally disabled children

- families on public assistance

And, the cost of administering the program is less than the cost of supporting a family on welfare and

maintaining a child in an institution.

The award, granted by the Peter F. Drucker Foundation for Nonprofit Management, of which Drucker is honorary chairman, is unique because it recognizes and encourages the development of innovative non-profit programs, projects and initiatives.

"Innovation is change which creates a new dimension of performance," Drucker said at a dinner in Washington D.C. attended by leaders from government, corporate and non-profit sectors.

"The Living in Family Environments" program makes a positive difference in the lives of disabled children and families on public as-

sistance, all while using public funds more efficiently."

The Judson Center program places developmentally-disabled children into the homes of mothers on public assistance. Each mother, after receiving training and with the continuing aid of a case worker, gives up the public assistance and receives a salary for the care she provides.



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