

Negotiations' pace draws ire of OCC union

Oakland Community College capsules:

Oral report

"We do not diagnose. We do

not prescribe. We gather information for the dentist," said dental hygiene student Mary Barnes. The mother of four and a paraprofessional in special education

for Rochester public schools, Barnes outlined the dental hygiene curriculum for OCC trustees. The board schedules a report from a student each month.

"Classroom work, clinical experience, blended with high technology, form a total oral experience," she quipped. Barnes showed how lab reports, X-rays, visual exams and photographs showed a woman patient had a lump in her jaw, a clicking, and was a carrier of Hepatitis B.

Dyes are used to color plaque. With one 11-year-old boy who brushed badly, she said, rather than wagging her finger, she gave him photographs of his own stained teeth to remind him to brush properly.

Dental hygiene is taught at OCC's Highland Lakes Campus at Union Lake. It's called an extended program because it requires 73 credit hours rather than 60. Enrollment is limited to 30 by laboratory space. Graduates are accredited by the American Dental Association Commission on Accreditation.

Course requirements include dental office procedures, dental anatomy, dental embryology and histology, clinical techniques, radiography, periodontics, public health dentistry, and four courses in clinical dental hygiene.

Holiday parties will also be farewell parties for two top Oakland Community College administrators.

J.P. Adams, director of purchasing, will leave Jan. 23 for expanded responsibilities at Grand Blanc school district,

Chancellor Richard T. Thompson told the board Dec. 15. "He's the finest we've had," said Thompson, whose own tenure at OCC goes back 30 years.

Adams joined the college in 1969. He has degrees from the University of Michigan and Notre Dame and is a certified purchasing manager.

Ann Wohlfort, director of financial assistance and scholarships, will leave to return to state employment in Lansing after nearly two years at OCC. She will become director of the office of support services programs for the state Department of Education.

Wohlfort will oversee statewide campus-based financial aid programs. She has a master of public administration degree from Western Michigan University.

Trustee Jeanne Towar of Royal Oak bawled out the staff of the Recorder, the Orchard Ridge Campus student newspaper, for carrying an ad for snuff. She said it amounted to a violation of college policy discouraging use of tobacco. The staff promised to re-think its advertising policy.

Union complains

George Mergner, campus services director at the Orchard Ridge Campus, complained to the board about the slow pace of negotiations with Teamsters Local 214.

"We've had no bargaining sessions since Nov. 3. We have one scheduled for Jan. 8," Mergner said.

The Teamsters represent

about 120 administrative and managerial employees, including deans, professionals, enrollment and recruiting personnel. The union won a representation election early in 1996 and still has no contract.

"You the board meet with your (bargaining) leaders in closed session. You are also our board of trustees. Why not also meet with us?" Mergner asked.

The idea didn't set well with trustees. "I have never seen so many unions with so many problems," said board chair Judith Wisner of West Bloomfield, in her 12th year as a trustee. "I've never had as many union people ask to talk directly to the board."

"You're not asking to bargain directly with us?" asked a shocked trustee Jeanne Towar, herself a union bargainer in an earlier life. Mergner said no.

New faculty chief

Mary O. Ston, a business instructor, is the new president of OCCFA, the Faculty Association and bargaining agent for instructors. She was introduced to the board by retiring president Chuck Neumann, who served two years.

A business instructor, Ston has an associate degree from OCC (1976), bachelor's in accounting from Walsh College (1977) and a master's in finance from Walsh (1990). She is a certified public accountant and certified management accountant.

OCCFA is an affiliate of the Michigan Education Association. It has 300 instructors, counselors and librarians.

OU to offer instruction in autism treatment

Oakland University will offer Michigan's only teaching endorsement in autism, using distance education to teach students about this common neurological disability.

"The program is another example of OU's commitment to providing technology enriched, market-driven programs geared to real-world needs," said Mary Otto, dean, School of Education and Human Services (SEHS).

The state of Michigan requires the endorsement for classroom teachers of children with autism. The program is offered at OU and at Traverse City's Northwestern Michigan College University Center.

The program, which began in Fall 1997, is conducted with two-way video conferencing rooms at each site. Each site features two TV screens. Computer-controlled cameras can show the class, the instructor or a student posing a question on one screen while the instructor shows videos or broadcasts information written on a dry-erase board or laptop computer.

The same group of students goes through the program together to promote networking and teamwork, said Judy Hopkin, director, Professional Development and Education Outreach. A group is to start the program in the Winter 1998 term.

"The university meets a growing need by offering this endorsement — more children are being diagnosed as autistic," said Carol Swift, associate professor, Education and Human Development/Child Studies, SEHS, and faculty coordinator of the program.

Autism is a neurological disorder that interferes with normal brain development in reasoning, social interaction and communication skills. Children and adults with autism typically have deficiencies in verbal and nonverbal communication, social interactions and leisure or play activities, according to the Autism Society of America (ASA). The disability makes it hard to communicate with others and relate to the outside world.

The ASA says nearly 400,000 people in the United States have some form of autism. Although it's the third most common developmental disability, more common than Down's syndrome, the ASA says many educational professionals are still unaware of how to effectively work with individuals with autism.

Eligible applicants to the OU program must have a teaching certificate and at least one special education endorsement. The two-year, 24-credit program includes five courses and student teaching. Another benefit of the program is that students learn about distance education.

For more information, call (248) 370-3033.

Holocaust survivors can get help

Holocaust survivors who worked in the Lodz ghetto (Litzmanstadt) in Poland may be eligible for Social Security from the German government. Those who were denied before Dec. 31, 1990, are urged to reapply.

For assistance in processing a claim, contact Marianne Wildstrom at Jewish Family Service (248) 559-1500.

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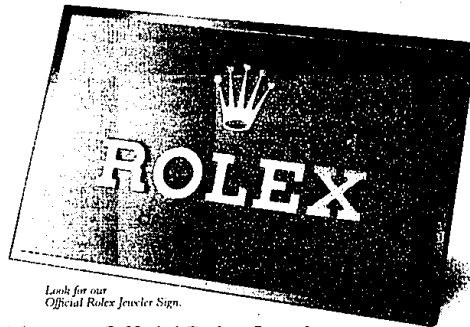
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