OMMA held its first Diversity Café of the year.

By Leon Preston
Staff Writer

OMMA held its first Diversity Café on Aug. 29 in the Multicultural Center titled “Crucial Conversations.” A short seminar on how people in different aspects of their lives can deal with arguments with coworkers, family members and loved ones.

It was facilitated by Kim Pevia, the regional coordinator for Southeastern Entrepreneurship Alliance.

Pevia spoke to the crowd about just about the book. Pevia titled “Crucial Conversations: Tools for Talking When Stakes Are High.”

“This book is great tool to help people change the way they enter into a conflict,” Pevia said.

The seminar was not just about the book, Pevia spoke to the crowd about engaging crucial conversations in a way to accomplish a common goal. Participants were encouraged to use some of the techniques mentioned in the seminar.

Margie Labadie, lecturer in the Art Department, said she thinks it’s good to address conflict.

Student Kyle Alcala, a sophomore, agreed.

“I learned a lot and helped me think of new ways to solve problems with my girlfriend when we argue,” he said.

Diversity Café is a series of seminars held during the school year and open to everyone on campus and community members. It is designed to bring awareness to diversity issues. Faculty or staff members who are experts in particular issues usually facilitate the seminars.

Students are encouraged to give their own seminar after talking with the committee.

The Diversity Committee is composed of faculty, staff and students and selects topics that deal with current issues that affect the campus and community.

Any interested people should contact Robert Canada, director of the Office of Multicultural and Minority Affairs, for more information.