

# Alliance

an association to further the common interests of the members.

Spring 1993

## Speakers, Pow-Wow Enchant Celebrants

Marilyn Hetzel

Observers of K-state's fourth Native American Heritage Month no doubt noticed a natural escalation of the timeframe typically assigned to cultural celebration months. One needed only to glance at the beautifully designed black and white calendar to see that activities would span over two months rather than one--March and April.

The Native American Student Body (NASB), Multicultural Affairs, and the Kansas Arts Commission were the primary sponsors of the event, which included lectures, movies, and a Pow Wow. Faculty members from K-State used their talents and expertise to speak on a variety of Native American issues. On March 1, Dr. Marcial Riquelme,

director of the Latin American Studies Program, delivered the first lecture, speaking on the Guarani, a South American Indian people with unique cultural concerns. Harald Prins and Karren Baird-Olsen, both members of the sociology, anthropology, and social work department, ably brought home a gamut of problems facing Native Americans within the U.S. judicial system. Carl Fourstar, a Sioux medicine man from Montana, performed a peace pipe ceremony and prayed for the Native American students at K-State as well as the Manhattan community. Russell Means, co-founder of the American Indian Movement (AIM) and star of the movie *The Last of the Mohicans*, was the keynote speaker. During his three-day visit in Manhattan, Means lectured to various classes and spent

a good deal of time with NASB members.

The Pow-Wow on April 17 was the grand finale of the month's activities. Several hundred people filled Municipal Auditorium as dancers from Oklahoma and drummers from northern tribes made their entry. According to an NASB member, the symbolism and dancing surrounding the Pow Wow evoked a lot of emotions for students, particularly pride in being an American Indian. On April 22-25, NASB members traveled to Albuquerque, New Mexico to partake in the Gathering of Nations, the largest Pow-Wow in North America.

Right: Elana Nells, head woman dancer (foreground) and Courtney Freeman, KSU senior, lead out grand entry at Pow-Wow.



Photo by Lou Peukert ©

## Barron Boosts BSU Members

Damon Danielson

On April 13, words of wisdom, encouragement, and applicability rained on upon K-State as Charles Barron spoke to students and faculty during a Black Student Union (BSU) meeting. Barron was the featured guest of BSU and the Multicultural Affairs Office.

A long-time New York City activist/organizer, Barron is the president and founder of Dynamics of

Leadership, Inc. The corporation is responsible for providing a unique training model for individuals who want to develop their unique leadership skills for present and future roles. A former member of the Black Panther Party, Barron has worked on numerous accounts with Reverend Al Sharpton and other community leaders. Barron has authored two biographical sketches on the life of Marcus Mosiah Garvey, has been

featured in several news articles and the national media, and is the recipient of numerous leadership awards. As a guest lecturer, he has traveled throughout the U.S., Africa, and the Caribbean.

Barron's presentation entitled, "Organizing Around Issues," touched a spectrum of concerns shared by many Black students. Several timely issues which prompted the attention of the audience were diversity (multiculturalism) in the curriculum, interracial dating, positive speaking, the Rodney King trial, and the Tawana Brawley incident. Barron emphasized the importance of being informed of local and national is-

suues. "Knowing the facts and the relevance of specific issues," he said, "will develop our debate skills and teach us how to fight for power." After instilling his audience with a barrage of germane information about leadership, Barron went a step further by providing tactical details that would propel empowerment ideals into motion. He revealed four organizational strategies which can be used by students to turn issues into campaigns.

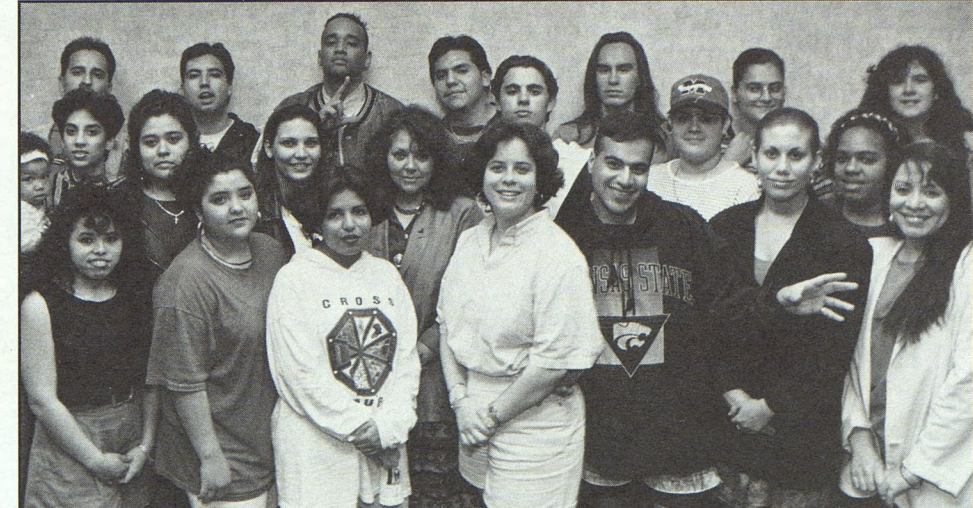
Barron left K-State with the following words of truth and reassurance: "The struggle may be long, but the victory is certain."

## Latino Students Unite Under Greek System

Lisa Tamayo

The motto "Opportunity for Wisdom; Wisdom for Culture" will resound at K-State as Latino students effect a positive change. Twelve students of various Latino cultures assembled at the K-State Union on March 11 to lay the groundwork for the establishment of a chapter of Sigma Lambda Beta Fraternity, Inc.

Interest in developing a Latino fraternity unfolded in the fall of 1991. Seeking an avenue for Latino students, particularly Mexican American and Puerto Rican, two students played an integral role in the early stages of the organization. Ian Bautista, senior in modern languages, and Tony Calderon, senior



Students band together to form K-State's newest Latino(a) organizations.

in arts and science, researched several Greek organizations which focus on the Latino community including Alpha Psi Lambda, Inc. and Hermanos Macehual Fellowship. At-

tendees of the March meeting selected Sigma Lambda Beta, Inc. as the organization of "choice."

According to Bautista, the purpose of the Latino fraternity is to

"foster brotherhood among Latino students at K-State and to serve the community." Founding members also view the presence of such a group as a recruiting tool, since potential students have already intimated an interest in coming to K-State because they have heard of the new group. "The Latino fraternity is a good way for freshmen and transfer students to make friends more quickly, said Juan Vera, Sigma Lambda Beta co-president. "At the same time, they can get involved with campus activities."

As a means of encompassing the entire latino community, Sigma Lambda Gamma Sorority, Inc., a Latina sorority has been organized (Latino Fraternity, cont. on pg 4)

**Student Profile****Marquinez A. Savala***Eunbok Kristina Kim*

Marquinez A. Savala, known to her friends as "Nez," is a senior in humanities and ethnic studies. While a student at K-State, Nez has

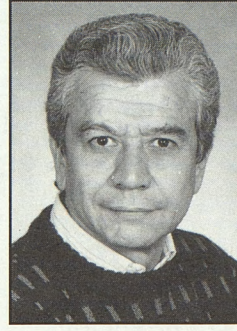
used her talents broadly.

Incredibly, in the past year, Nez has balanced her roles in a number of key leadership positions, such as the secretary of Black Student Union (BSU), an ambassador within the Arts and Sciences College, and recitation leader in American Ethnic Studies, with employment at a local grocery store [Food 4 Less] and has still maintained a high academic standing. She admonishes students however to get involved in campus activities for the "right" reasons. "It is important to be involved in a lot of activities, but don't just do it for your resume. Do it for yourself."

As an ambassador of Arts and Science, Nez worked hard to promote the College of Arts and Sciences during K-State's annual Open

House. She has also had the opportunity to visit with area high school students, giving advice or simply listening to them. She stated that the position facilitated her own personal growth as she worked with a variety of people and aided those who needed assistance. As co-chair of the 1992 Black History Month committee, Nez was instrumental in the development of a culturally rich program highlighting African American achievements. While she enjoys being involved in a lot of organizations and activities, Nez admits she likes to spend some time alone. "I can often think better and do a better job with no interruptions if I'm by myself."

Growing up in Manhattan and graduating from Manhattan High School (class of 1989) offered Nez the advantage of attending K-State. When asked what she would change if she had to do it all over again, she said: "I would manage my time a little differently and study harder." Nez hopes to gain employment immediately and later attend graduate school.

**Faculty Profile****Marcial Riquelme***Eunbok Kristina Kim*

Dr. Marcial Antonio Riquelme, associate professor in the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work brings a "world of culture" to K-State along with a diverse academic background.

Born in Paraguay, Riquelme was forced to leave his country in 1962 for political reasons. He was a "man without a country" for nearly three decades, unable to return to Paraguay during the "anti-communist" and "anti-human rights" reign of General Stroessner, who was supported militarily by the U.S. government. Armed with a law degree, Riquelme left his beloved homeland.

Determined to make the most of his political exile, Riquelme obtained a master's degree in political science from the University of Minnesota in 1965 and a doctorate degree in sociology from the University of California in 1975. Prior to coming to K-State in 1990, Riquelme taught

at Cornell University, the University of San Diego, and abroad, including Mexico, Columbia, and Brazil.

As the director of K-State's Latin American Studies Program, Riquelme is responsible for providing a broad range of courses which fall under that genre. In addition, he is in the unique position of assisting in a partnership program [American Study Program] which brings 25-30 students from Paraguay to study at K-State and allows K-State faculty to teach in Paraguay. Riquelme will be part of a fifteen-member team traveling to Paraguay to observe a freely contested presidential election between an all-civilian slate of candidates.

Currently teaching a race and ethnic relations course and a seminar in Latin American political science, Riquelme also advises the Latin American Student Organization (LASO). He explained that LASO's agenda is distinguished from other Hispanic organizations at K-State in that its members generally return to their native countries after the completion of their studies.

**Speak Out****Racism Not A Genetic Problem***Ray Mullenau, Jr.*

I can still remember the words that figuratively ripped through my heart and slapped me across the face. "Hey, you slant-eyed chink!" What in God's name had I done to deserve such hateful words? I was just eleven years old and all of ninety pounds, standing in the middle of the playground with all the other kids laughing at me. That was the day racism entered my life and meted a pain so piercing that its sting can still be felt on "cold" days.

Questions still come to mind, even though I'm older and much bigger (twenty-four and nearly two hundred, respectively). Who teaches little

kids such ugly words of bigotry? I know for a fact that they are not born with hatred imprinted in their little minds. So that leaves only one answer, parents.

I do not believe parents actually teach their kids to say things that will hurt other people. Kids pick "stuff" up by listening to their parents' conversations. After hearing defamatory conversations about different ethnic groups day after day, kids fall into their parent's malicious footsteps. And racism is passed from parent to kid.

Racism can be detrimental even in its most subtle forms, i.e., racial jokes and making fun of someone because of his/her color. Racism

fuels the fire burning in all of us so-called "minorities." The word "minority" is such a subservient title. It makes me and others feel like an inferior group of people, even though some of us were blessed to be have been born in multicultural [multi-racial] families.

We are on this planet together. How hard is it to realize that we are all God's children, no matter what color or nationality we happen to be. Maybe we look a little different on the outside, but peel off our colorful costumes and we are alike. Who can be a racist now?

Racism lives because people keep it alive and nurture it by passing it on from generation to generation. As I

see it, we have but three remedies for this festering enigma. Number one, we kill each other off in one huge, world-wide shootout. Number two, we stay the way we are, dying a long, drawn-out death. Or number three, we wake-up, "HELLO," and stop this ignorance in its tracks. Racism breeds in the petri dish of ignorance.

All we have to do is take the time to learn about other cultures and realize that we are all blessed to live in a world of diversity. Then we can all live happier lives knowing that tomorrow's kids will get a head start on multiculturalism and not racism.

**\* Mullenau is a freshman in the College of Business.**

**Cotton Selected To Present At Psychology Conference***Alliance Staff*

Making a name for oneself on a campus as large as K-State can be a feat for the most astute student. Often one's fame only occurs in small, intimate circles. Such is the case with Cynthia Cotton.

Cotton was selected to present at the Ninth Annual Undergraduate Research Convocation held on April 13

at the K-State Union. Endorsed by the Department of Psychology, the conference is designed to develop the research capabilities of students who want to pursue psychology as a future career, according to Dr. Thaddeus Cowan, Cotton's faculty sponsor. Students select a topic of psychological interest and are expected to conduct either an experi-

ment or a literature review of that particular topic.

Cotton's research dealt with the two types of pain insensitivity, congenital insensitivity and congenital indifference. The former malady prevents sufferers from distinguishing between hot and cold and dull and sharp. The latter causes pain to be detected as an itch, tingle, or tickle.

Both conditions are believed to be a result of damage to the spine or peripheral nerve.

A native of St. Croix U.S.V.I., Cotton is married and the mother of two children. She hopes to become an education counselor, advising young children about opportunities available to them.

# Community Bedazzled by African Food, Dance, and Dress

**Gennet Fantu**

The African Student Union (ASU), affiliated jointly with the International Coordinating Council (ICC) and Multicultural Student Council (MSC), celebrated its seventh annual African Night on April 3 at the Manhattan Middle School.

Close to 300 people, including K-Staters and members of the surrounding communities, were in attendance. The evening's bill of fare opened with a dinner, coordinating a variety of dishes from different African countries: chicken curry from the Seychelles Island, chapatti and matoka (a mixture of bananas and potatoes) from Kenya, sigawatt (beef sauce) with enjera (thin bread) from Ethiopia, morogo (spinach stew) from Botswana, and of others. "I liked the foods, but some of them were spicy and hot," commented Sharmeen Ireni, sophomore in food science.

An elaborate cultural show followed the extraordinary culinary

journey. Six women adorned in the traditional dress of their native countries opened the show with a "welcome" in their native languages. "Nkosiskeleli Africa" (God Bless Africa) was sung in Zulu and

Setswana as part of the opening ceremony. "We always open our program with the song 'Nkosiskeleli Africa' because it is good to start with the blessings of Africa," said Yemi Ogunrinola, graduate student

in animal sciences and coordinator of the African Student Union drumming group.

The ensuing fashion show, featuring children, college students, and parents, helped the audience understand the diverse cultures found in Africa. "It was neat to see all the different kinds of clothing. It was colorful and I liked it," said Michelle Redmond, sophomore in pre-medicine. The musical components of the affair provided additional learning opportunities for the audience. "It is not easy to learn the steps and songs, because most countries in African have their own languages and dance styles. That makes it harder for us to learn the songs in languages different from our own," said Othusikse Seokamo, junior in chemical engineering, who is from Botswana and is a member of the drumming group. African Night '93 ended with an invitation for everyone to come on stage and warm their hearts in dance.



*African students perform traditional dance at African Night '93.*

## New Alliance Forms Around Political Party

**Lisa Tamayo**

Two weeks remained before the student body at Kansas State University would make their choices for the 1993-1994 student body president and vice-president, as well as for the student senators in their respective colleges. As the final pair of candidates declared their nomination, a new political party announced its existence in a Tuesday afternoon press conference. On March 30, the Alliance for Change Party publically declared their platform. The primary foci of the Alliance for Change are to foster multiculturalism throughout the campus and to improve communication among students and senators who are elected from various colleges.

Composed of a multicultural band of student representatives from almost every college, the Party won widespread support from its multicultural constituency. Several individuals played key roles in the forefront, while others worked diligently behind the scenes, each devoting an enormous amount of time and effort. Dan Lewerenz and Thurman Williams, members of the Native American Student Body (NASB), combined their talents to lay the foundation for the Party. Paul Bridges, president of Asian-American Students for Inter-cultural Awareness (ASIA), drew upon the leadership skills he acquired in the military to garner support for the movement.

Elsa Diaz, Tony Ramirez, and

and Juan Vera of the Hispanic American Leadership Organization (HALO) mobilized their energies to strategize ways of reaching students. Paul Davidson, former president of Southwind, an educational and environmental organization, shored up the ranks with tactical ideas. When those involved were asked what benefits they received as members of the Party, most responded by saying they "gained a lot of experience in the politics of the race and learned more about what goes on in Senate at K-State." Tony Ramirez, sophomore in architecture, stated: "It was important to become active in Senate meetings on Thursdays because it helped you understand what specific issues the students felt were important and how the

Senate addresses these issues." He also felt that becoming a part of the political party helped him become more involved during his first semester at K-State.

With the recent election of Elsa Diaz and Paul Bridges as student senators, Alliance for Change Party members feel confident that their voices and concerns will be heard louder than ever before.

## Students in the Business of Helping Themselves

**Joyce Savage**

Minority Business Students In Action (MSBIA) is an organization whose primary goal is to help minority students at K-State excel in the College of Business as well as in their professions. MBSIA is an offspring of the National Association of Black Accountants (NABA), which folded last year when most of its membership graduated.

Through MBSIA, students are exposed to information and resources regarding internship opportunities. Guest speakers from local areas also present motivational speeches that encourage students to stick with their programs of study. Hosting campus workshops on resume and cover-let-

ter writing, interview skills, and co-op opportunities has proved to be the group's mainstay. Members have also attended field trips to regional job fairs such as the Career Marketplace at Kansas City's luxurious Allis Plaza Hotel.

The organization has been blessed with two outstanding university staff members who co-advise the group. Alonza White, director of Human Resource Services at K-State, has been a vital role model for the organization, which is composed primarily of African American students. Jim Akin, director of the Career Planning and Placement Center, has raised the group's job-seeking techniques to a "fine art." Corporate

companies including Southwestern Bell Telephone, Inc., and Amoco Production Company have put their "stamp of approval" on the group by providing excellent presentations. On April 13, Wayne Franklin, Southwestern Bell executive, favored the group with a video and commentary on minorities in corporate America.

As a measure to retain students of color in the College of Business, the Multicultural Student Council (MSC) has obtained funding next year from the Student Governing Association (SGA) for a minority student seminar which will feature a prominent minority role model from the business world.

### Book Review

**Sherwin Strickland**

"From the Browder File" is a collection of twenty-two essays on the African American experience. Anthony T. Browder is the brilliant author, whose book has helped African Americans question the education they receive about themselves and others, and embrace the undistorted truth of their past and present. This exciting and enlightening book touches on significant subjects such as the media's influence on African American children, the origin of all races, the importance of educating our youth, and how African Americans can recapture their African heritage. The book is by no means passive, but clearly presents the facts as they were researched. People of all races should read this book to enhance their understanding of themselves and African Americans.

## Conference Provides Double 'Bennies'

**Paul Bridges**

Members of K-State's Asian-American Students for Inter-cultural Awareness (ASIA) garnered two-fold benefits upon their recent travel to Columbus. Seven students attended the 1993 Midwest Asian American Students Union (MAASU) conference on April 9-11 at Ohio State University. While the conference's infrastructure was unstable for a period due to the resignation of the chair and several key officers, Christina Chen and former members of MAASU stepped in, salvaging the conference at the last minute. Because of the communication breakdown, several of the colleges associated with MAASU were not in attendance. Consequently, the level of participation was reduced by half, from 500 last year to 250. The conference theme, "Discovering Our Past...Creating Our Future" seemed apropos to MAASU's year.

A multitude of influential Asian Americans expounded on their areas of expertise. During the afternoon keynote address, Avelino "Abba" Ramos spoke of building commu-

nity and activism. Evening keynoter Helen Zia, founding member of the Anti-Asian Violence Movement and noted journalist, raised the consciousness of conference participants in regard to social justice and womens' issues and rights. Considered by many to be the evening's highlight was a performance by actor Lane Nishikawa, who is also a director and writer for San Francisco's Asian American Theater Company. Nishikawa's one-act play "Buddha" broached stereotypes held by Asian Americans and others. A fun-filled dance ended the evening's activities.

An additional benefits of attending a conference that exposed students to new ideas was an opportunity to renew old relationships. Alvin "Al" Burzynski, a 1990 K-State graduate and a founding member of ASIA, was on hand to welcome members to the city. ASIA members later expressed satisfaction with the conference offerings, citing renewed enthusiasm within the organization. Amando Aseneta, a new ASIA member, stated: "I had a real good time and met a lot of nice people."

## Conference Details Strategies for Hispanic Students

**Patty Armendariz**

Wichita State University was the host site for the fourth annual Hispanics of Today (H.O.T.) conference March 5-7. Ten students from K-State's Hispanic American Leadership Organization (HALO) added to the profusion of high school and college students who gathered to learn and discuss strategies for their collective future.

The three-day event opened on Friday, March 5, as Wichita fire chief Larry Garcia expressed his unabashed delight at seeing so many young, motivated Hispanic males and females at the conference. Garcia ended by admonishing students to help each other and to become leaders for younger Hispanics.

Saturday's workshops dealing with AIDS awareness, the graduate school process, diversity among Hispanics, and corporate careers jarred students to consider strategies

for their futures. During the luncheon, Tom Sayer, Kansas' sole Hispanic state senator, recounted his experience in the capitol and fielded questions from the audience.

Kansas Representative Carlos Mayans forewarned students to be leery of "token" jobs offered to them because of their Hispanic heritage. Instead, he cautioned students to be prepared so they can proclaim without doubt, "I am more than qualified for it." The evening concluded with a presentation by an area high school dance troupe and a dance.

Students were given a "send-off" on Sunday by Steven Ramirez, Human Rights Commission representative, encouraging them to broaden their support of each other through networking. The conference closed with the announcement that Kansas University will be the host of the 1994 H.O.T. Conference in Lawrence.

## Latino Fraternity

(continued from page 1)

to meet the needs of female students. According to Jeanette Torres, co-president of Sigma Lambda Gamma, "The Latina sorority will help females develop the kind of leadership skills they must have in today's society." Potential chapter members have plans for summer fundraising activities.

The excitement surrounding the new organizations has spread throughout the university community. Barb Robel, Greek Affairs advisor,

stated: "I think its great! We're excited about the students interest in starting new groups; Greek Affairs will offer our total support." Anita Cortez, Sigma Lambda Beta advisor, said, "I am excited to see students taking the initiative to bring the Latin community together and to strengthen the leadership opportunities for Hispanics."

The goal of both groups is to reach colony and chapter status during the fall semester.

## Students Explore Leadership Ideals

**Dan Lewerenz**

On Saturday, February 13, the Kansas State Union played host to the third annual Multicultural Student Leadership Conference (MSLC). The conference was co-sponsored by the Multicultural Student Council (MSC) and the Blue Key Honorary Society. Focusing on the theme "Leadership in a Changing World," workshop presenters and the keynote speaker explored the concepts of leadership and communication for a diverse audience.

Dr. Larry Dixon, assistant superintendent of Geary County School District 475, spoke on the topic "Looking Within Ourselves." Dr. Aruna Michie, associate professor of political science at K-State, tackled the question "Are All Minorities the Same?" Marlene Howell, an instructor with the Women's Studies Program, noted the accomplishments

of "Lesbian and Gay Leaders: Out, Proud, and Free." Dr. Harald Prins, assistant professor of anthropology, expounded on the importance of "Learning About Other Cultures." Bernard Franklin, Assistant Dean of Student Life, addressed the issues of "Leadership and Diversity." Franklin graciously filled in for scheduled speaker Anita Cortez, who had fallen ill.

The keynote address was delivered by Reverend Emanuel Cleaver II, the 51st mayor of Kansas City, Missouri. Mayor Cleaver spoke before an audience of more than 250. He emphasized the need to recognize and respect what others had to offer our society, without regard to their skin color. The keynote was followed by a buffet-style luncheon, featuring the Puerto Rican Folkloric Dancers and the United Black Voices Choir.

## Black History Speaks for Itself

**Michelle Redmond**

February 1993 was no exception to the rule as K-State's student body and faculty members participated in a prolific Black History Month celebration. The theme, "African American Scholars, Leaders, Activists, and Writers," allowed committee organizers to showcase the contributions of African Americans over a broad continuum of time and professions.

On February 1, Dr. Eric Abercrombie, director of the African American Cultural and Research Center and Ethnic Programs at the University of Cincinnati, broached

the insidiousness of racism through a disturbing examination of past unfulfilled promises such as the forty acres and a mule promised to freed slaves. Throughout the month, a Black film festival which featured "The Dutchman", "The Question of Color," and four parts of the acclaimed documentary "Eyes on the Prize" provided a contemporary backdrop for further discussions on race relations.

Ranging from 75 to 93 years old, Buffalo Soldiers of the all-Black Ninth and Tenth Calvaries mesmerized their youthful audience with a detailed account of a segregated military lifestyle during a panel discussion on February 9. Cpt. Allen West, Army ROTC instructor and history buff, stated: "I feel it's necessary for young Blacks today to see the dedication of Black men throughout history."

On February 16, Dr. Jawanza Kunjufu, noted educational consultant tagged a number of practical strategies for spiritual, social, educational, and economic uplift. Kunjufu advocated a frugal strategy of living off two-thirds of one's income and banking the other third in the event that philosophical differences impeded one's career goals.

### Alliance

**Supervising Editor**  
Diana Caldwell

**Staff Writers**  
Eunbok Kristina Kim  
Sherwin Strickland  
Ray Mullenaux

**Graphic Artist**  
Kerri Ryan

**Special Thanks to**  
Anita Cortez  
Kathy Greene  
Charlotte Olsen

Multicultural Student Organizations  
201 Holton Hall  
Manhattan, Kansas 66506-1309

Nonprofit Organization  
U. S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT #525  
Manhattan, Kansas 66502