Multicultural rally connects students

By Everett Meyers

Dozens of colorfully decorated tables lined the perimeter of the room Feb. 10 for the first Multicultural Affairs Council (MAC) rally, representing various multicultural organizations on campus, reminiscent of the Disneyland ride, “It’s a small world.”

Each booth was garnished with the flags, banners, trophies, and photos of its cultural organization.

The MAC rally was scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. in Bell Memorial Union 210, but students eagerly poured in looking for a front row seat well before it started.

As participants entered the room, they were handed a numbered sticker that would later place them into a group that would rotate tables every few minutes, similar to speed dating.

This rally was the first event of its kind at Chico State, and the enormous turnout speaks for itself.

Originally MAC wanted to do something big on campus, Guzman said. With the help of CC Carter, director of the Cross-Cultural Leadership Center, they brainstormed the idea of having a rally.

“My personal opinion is it was a huge success,” Guzman said.

Guest speakers who spoke throughout the night about getting outside comfort zones and getting involved included Carter, Jesse Eller, Associated Students president, and Christian Garcia, lieutenant commissioner of multicultural affairs.

“By the end of the night, everyone in the room was motivated,” Garcia said.
Hispanic Chamber aids new business

By Lindsay Casale

The Hispanic community has a new vehicle for advancing its businesses and its opportunities. The Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Northern California (HCCNC) is encouraging people to embrace diversity in the community of Chico and surrounding areas. The organization was established in October 2008 to create a greater appreciation and understanding of Hispanic businesses, while promoting their growth in the community.

Maria Shahid, founder and president of the organization, is extremely dedicated to aiding the Hispanic community.

“The HCCNC is a nonprofit organization that helps the community by offering assistance opening their business, growing their business, and assisting in their business by bringing employees to them,” Shahid said.

Communities and businesses in both Butte and Glenn counties—including Chico, Oroville, Orland, and Hamilton City—are aided by the HCCNC.

One of the businesses the chamber has helped is Galeria Mexicana. This local business, established in 2006, specializes in selling hand-crafted imports, such as ceramic pottery and wrought iron wall décor, made by families and skilled craftspeople in central Mexico.

The HCCNC has hosted a couple of tequila tasting fundraising events at the store in Oroville, owner Celina Casimiro said.

“Being that the commerce is based in Chico, it brought in...”

Some Days I Think

By Walter A. Torrence III

Some days I think
I think of what I am
I think of who I am
I think of why I am who I am
I am a Black Man
I am a Black Man named Walter
And I am a Black Man named Walter because...
I was DESTINED to be...
A Black Man named Walter

Some days I think
I think of my purpose
I think of how I can make a change
I think of how I can help advance my people

My purpose is to Educate
I can make change by Educating
I can help advance my people by Educating

Some days I think
I think of Frederick Douglass
I think of W.E.B. DuBois
I think of the wisdom and knowledge they left us
But it’s the same wisdom and knowledge we take for granted

The key to Black People having better lives...
Is through Education
Frederick Douglass said this
And after learning this...

Some days I think
I think that I am becoming a vessel
I think that I am becoming a vessel for my people
I think that I am becoming a vessel for my people to have better lives
After 34 years of dedicated service and wise counsel, Herman Ellis, associate vice president for Student Life and director of Student Activities, will be retiring this fall. In his time at Chico State, Ellis witnessed campus history, inspired many and had a great impact on the way we experience Chico State today.

When Ellis arrived at Chico State in 1975, he served as a counselor in the counseling center. He later went on to the Educational Opportunity Program, served as the director of Student Activities, assistant vice president for Student Life, and will retire as associate vice president for Student Life and director of Student Activities.

“He is one of our last remaining campus historians,” said Chela Patterson, Educational Opportunity Program director.

“He was here back when there was a different version of the BMU, no Yolo, no Tehama, no O’Connell, no Student Services Center; back when the Cross-Cultural Leadership Center (CCLC) was the Multicultural Center, and before that, the 3rd Street Houses. I’m sure he has many, many memories of the changes that have occurred on this campus,” Patterson said.

The majority of Ellis’ role on campus was dedicated to the success of Chico State programs and students, and he had an especially profound effect on campus diversity.

“When it comes to developing the Latino, African, Asian, and Native American communities and working with women’s programs... it doesn’t matter what it was, Herman’s always been sort of behind the scenes and had a seat at the table,” CC Carter, CCLC director, said.

“He would always empower others to work there, but guide them and direct them and help them to understand what the dynamics are,” Carter said.

Ellis has played a key role in the creation and implementation of many campus programs, including the Campus Alcohol & Drug Education Center grant, the development and concept of the CCLC, creating and getting the position of Greek life advisors on campus, and the organization of the professional development committee in its current structure and programming.

As a campus leader, Ellis applied his sound reasoning and teamwork skills to each project he worked on.

“He’s the type of individual that would be able to look at the landscape out there... and be able to negotiate and navigate the most effective and efficient way of getting things resolved and getting things to move forward,” Carter said.

Ellis is respected by his staff and colleagues and always maintains an enjoyable sense of humor.

“As a supervisor, Herman speaks softly but carries a big stick of respect,” Patterson said. “You don’t ever want to disappoint him.”

“In the upcoming years, with such a gloomy financial picture, we will all miss Herman’s wisdom more than we can even imagine.”

-Chela Patterson
Chamber provides recognition of Hispanic businesses

Continued from page 2

people from Chico to Oroville,” Casimiro said. “Getting that kind of exposure from the chamber is very helpful.”

The organization puts on events like the tequila tastings to raise money, while generating exposure for its members. Other events include celebrations of independence and various ribbon-cutting ceremonies.

Even though these events are put on to raise money for the organization, they are not always successful in obtaining that goal, said Fawn Mendoza, secretary of the HCCNC.

“It depends on a lot of variables because there is a lot of preparation,” Mendoza said. “There is a lot of turnout at some and not so much at others, but the recent tequila tasting in February was a success.”

Although events are the main source of profit for the organization, it is not the only way the HCCNC raises money. Funds are also generated from chamber memberships, which allows members to put an ad in the local Spanish newspaper, Sabias Que, advertising their business, Mendoza said.

There are big plans for the HCCNC in the future, including a new location. Its members are planning to move into a new office and are looking for grants to offer English and Spanish classes.

You don’t have to be Hispanic to get involved with the organization, Shahid said.

“Any person who wants to be part of the HCCNC can be a member or on the board of directors,” Shahid said.

Getting involved and receiving more information about the HCCNC is simple. Anyone can call the HCCNC or visit its Web site at www.hispanicccc.org. The organization also has open meetings on the first Tuesday of every month for anyone who is interested in joining.

Rally encourages collaboration among student groups

Continued from page 1

After the speeches, students got into small groups designated by their sticker and spent 30 seconds visiting each organization’s table before rotating to the next. Certain clubs had food that was representative of their culture.

A constant clamor echoed throughout the room as eager bodies moved from table to table. After everyone had a brief chance to examine the booths, the rally came to a close.

Senior Fausto Guillermo, president of the Gamma Zeta Alpha Fraternity Inc., attended the event and thought it was a huge success.

The event gave a chance for organizations to meet other similar organizations, and all the guest speakers did a great job of encouraging people to get involved, Guillermo said.

Participants were encouraged to stay and follow up with the organizations that interested them.

Garcia and the MAC chose to put on this event to create an opportunity for these diverse groups to get to know one another, and to hopefully someday work together.

“We wanted them to see other organizations that are out there and network,” Garcia said.

Garcia hopes that one day the rally gets so big they can hold it in the gym. He even wants students in the dorms to hear about this and look forward to it.

“I would be really happy leaving my term knowing that the rally would be another program held up to the expectations of the International Festival and Multicultural Night,” Garcia said.
Exhibit unites campus and community through art

By Emilie Johnson

The inaugural Diversity Art Exhibit in March gave Chico State students, faculty, staff, and community members the opportunity to showcase their diverse cultures through artwork. Each of the 14 participants brought their own talent, style, and inspiration to the show through paintings, photography, and sculptures.

Diversity Art Exhibit curator, organizer and Chico State advisor Josh Whittinghill said an art show that focused on diversity rather than a single artist’s theme was a profound experience.

“The art itself was fun, energizing, and inspiring,” said Whittinghill. “Experiencing different cultures, emotions, philosophies, and perspectives of the artists and the artwork was excellent.”

Personal life experiences inspire many of the show’s participants, both through their artwork and the way they live their lives each day.

“As I have matured and found peace in my own skin, I have learned the challenging but beautiful craft of building bridges amongst people,” said Erica Flores, program coordinator of the Cross-Cultural Leadership Center at Chico State. “I pride myself in my life’s work within diversity and building community.”

Flores submitted an acrylic painting with chalk layered on top titled “The Kiss,” which was inspired by a picture taken of President and Mrs. Obama during the New Hampshire primaries.

“Through my own interpretation I wanted to capture this beautiful moment of intimacy, vulnerability, and tenderness between two very strong individuals,” Flores said.

Community member and artist Sandora Nishio submitted four pieces to the show, two acrylic paintings and two stoneware.

Student brings new meaning to diversity on campus

By Everett Meyers

At just over 4 feet tall, senior Joe Carlino’s big heart and ambitions have helped him rise to the challenge in the face of adversity.

Carlino grew up an only child and was raised around both little and average-sized people.

“I am really lucky in the fact that my family are little people,” Carlino said. “They have already been through all the challenges and struggles that little people face.”

Though Carlino has not met other little people in Chico, it does not bother him, he said. Carlino is comfortable around everyone, and even sees himself marrying an average-sized woman someday.

Growing up in San Lorenzo, Carlino came to Chico State to get away from home, but not too far. Undeclared at first, he always knew he wanted to do something with communication. Finishing up his fourth year, Carlino will be graduating this May as a communication design major with an option in Internet.
Pedro Douglas: student mentor, diversity advocate

By Lindsay Casale

Being a minority in college can be a challenge, but with the right support and role model, any student can have the opportunity to achieve what they want in life.

The driving force that motivates many minority students at Chico State is Pedro Douglas. He is dedicated to helping students pursue careers in higher education, promoting diversity on campus, and is also active in the Chico community as a choir director.

Douglas came to Chico State from Florida International University in 2001 for the position of director of Student Health Services. Now he is the associate vice president of Student Affairs and uses his position to advocate the importance of diversity.

Promoting diversity is important so we can understand each other, he said.

“When I think of the word ‘diversity,’ I think of it in all of its dimensions,” Douglas said. “We serve as role models, not just for students of color or students with disabilities. I think we also serve as role models to students who never find themselves in that category.”

In 2002, Douglas brought the National Undergraduate Fellow Program (NUFP) to Chico State. The NUFP aims to encourage underrepresented students to pursue careers in higher education.

Douglas job is to give students a good definition of higher education, he said. Since the NUFP has been at Chico State, it has been very successful because it has so many opportunities for students.

Students are given the chance to intern at numerous institutions as well as interview directors on campus to learn about their position and how they can achieve that job after college.

Paula Selvester, associate professor of education in the Department of Education at Chico State, strongly thinks Douglas dedication is beneficial for minority students.

“Pedro Douglas is dedicated to promoting diversity and supporting students of color on campus in all their endeavors,” Selvester said. “For as long as I have known him, as [director of Student Health Services] to now in his position, he has made diversity support and development his mission.”

In addition to helping students and promoting diversity at Chico State, Douglas also has another passion. Singing has always been very important to him, since he comes from a very musical family. After joining a gospel choir when he first came to Chico, Douglas was quickly recruited as the director of the Chico Community Acappella Choir.

Made up of singers from different faiths and churches, the ensemble of nine performs in many places throughout the community, including Chico State, various churches, and Bidwell Mansion.

Aside from his presence in the community, Douglas promotes diversity by being an example of success as a minority himself.

Douglas wants students to see that being of color and becoming an associate vice president, or even a president, is a reality for them, he said.

“Surely, I hope when students see me that they say, ‘Hey that’s something I can do,’” he said.
ceramic sculptures, all of which reflected her life experiences as a Japanese-American woman.

“In my recent paintings, I present my interpretation of the internal strength, vitality, and beauty of multicultural women,” Nishio said.

Her appreciation for the human spectrum and diversity influences her personal lens and artistic voice.

Nishio’s sculptures, both created using the Japanese coil building technique, were also influenced by her cultural background.

“The shape and flared top of ‘Jomon Inspired Vessel’ pays tribute to the pottery created by the women of the ancient Jomon culture of Japan,” Nishio said.

Another artist who contributed to the Diversity Art Exhibit was Chico State freshman Steven Garcia. He submitted a painting of Ice Cube, who has inspired Garcia through his unpublicized contributions to low-income neighborhoods in Southern California.

Community member Frank Smith showcased his still photos of birds, landscapes, and flowers, surprising viewers with a level of professionalism no one would expect from a person with only one year of experience.

Each of the artists had their own story to share through their artwork and their stories have not gone unheard.

“My art has always been about what it does for me; however, my experience of showing my art has allowed me to also realize what art can do for others,” Flores said.

The Diversity Art Exhibit was organized by the Chico State Office of Diversity, Tray Robinson, Josh Whittinghill, and Lindsay Bartlett. For information regarding participation and other details of future shows, please contact Bartlett in Kendall Hall 110 or by phone 530-898-4764.

Colleagues will miss Ellis’ wisdom and activism

Continued from page 3

Not because he yells at you—because he doesn’t—but because he is so nice about it even when he is ‘yanking your chain.’”

Looking forward, there is no doubt that the Chico State community will miss Ellis after his well-deserved retirement.

“Even though I have risen through the administrative ranks and I have less need for Herman’s advice than I did earlier in my career, I still find myself making my way back to his office during times of crisis,” Patterson said.

“In the upcoming years, with such a gloomy financial picture, we will all miss Herman’s wisdom more than we can even imagine.”
The Conversations on Diversity series focuses on the complexities of group and individual identities and how they influence one another. This year’s Conversations on Diversity series explored sources and responses to the hate and fear around and within us. These campus and community members exemplified the power of diversity in our community.

From left to right: Elizabeth Renfro, Spencer Blair, Stephanie Jimenez, Pedro Douglas, LoriBeth Way, Nandi Crosby, Molly Heck, Dawn Frank, Thia Wolf, Bill Loker, Maria del Rocio Guido, Liz Colson, Nan Timmons

Pulling us Together Award:
Book in Common Group

Teaching Back Award:
Spencer Blair

Behind the Scenes Award:
Pedro Douglas

Walk the Line Award:
Molly Heck

The After Chico Award:
Maria del Rocio Guido

Promising Newcomer Award:
Collaborative Response to Violence Project

Taking it to the Classroom Award:
Dr. Nandi Crosby

Taking it to the Streets Award:
Cesar Chavez Day Planning Committee

Lifetime Achievement Award:
Elizabeth Renfro

Enhancement of Multicultural Understanding Award

This university award is granted to an individual student or recognized student organization that has significantly contributed to the development of a positive multicultural environment at Chico State. This year’s recipient, Maribel DeLaCerda, has worked toward furthering the education of others ever since she entered Chico State in 2005 as an Educational Opportunity Program student. Admissions Counselor Bertha Alicia Curiel said, “It is very apparent Ms. DeLaCerda is one of the most driven and focused students that I have ever encountered in terms of educating others about the importance of self-acceptance, self-enhancement, and cultural tolerance and understanding.”

Maribel DeLaCerda
Carlino would like to move back to the Bay Area when he graduates and work in advertising or marketing. Just like everyone else, he wants to be rich and successful.

“I am graduating with a 3.0, so that will get me somewhere,” Carlino said.

Some of Carlino’s best memories at Chico State have been going to concerts, floating down the river, and every aspect of his fraternity, Sigma Chi.

Carlino joined Sigma Chi his sophomore year, and it has been one of the best experiences of his life. He knows his brothers will always support him.

Carlino lived in the fraternity house for two years, and served on its judicial board. Originally he joined for the networking opportunities, but the brotherhood and leadership experiences he has gained have been a huge benefit as well.

Unfortunately, times haven’t always been good for Carlino.

“I was hurt back in 2004. I had an accident that put me through a 21-day coma,” he said. “I had serious head trauma.”

Carlino’s brain had shifted to the left side of his head during the accident, and they had to put him in a medically-induced coma. He had to take a year and a half off from college to recover and has been doing rehabilitation for the past two years.

“The doctors call me a walking miracle,” Carlino said.

The incident was the most memorable experience of his life. Carlino’s best friend, Robert Martinez, also lives in Chico and supported him through this ordeal.

“He has been there for the rough times, and been there for the good times,” Carlino said.

Carlino has grown a lot from the experience, and not being able to walk and dress himself really gives a different perspective on life, he said. He does not look at his cane as a disability, just something he will get past someday.

“‘Disabled’ is an overused word,” Carlino said.

Fortunately, Chico State has been very accommodating of Carlino, especially the office of Disabled Support Services (DSS). He has been using the cart services during his entire time at Chico State.

“The doctors call me a walking miracle.”

-Joe Carlino

“If it wasn’t for the DSS office it would have been a lot harder,” he said.

Carlino began a job at DSS in January working the front desk and answering the phone, helping him develop customer service skills.

Working at DSS, Carlino sees all kinds of diverse people, and DSS promotes learning about different disabilities.

Carlino thinks Chico State has a diverse campus, and it is diversity that brings people here. People with disabilities need to feel welcomed and accepted, and Chico State offers this.

“The old saying, ‘don’t judge a book by its cover’ is really true,” he said.