Greetings from MCAN!

Four new members have joined the MCAN Executive Board. They are scheduled to serve three-year terms.

Sandra Herrera graduated from Carleton in 1994. Originally from Chicago, Ill., she received her BA in Psychology, with a concentration in Educational Studies.

Sandra received a Masters of Public Policy degree from the Univ. of Michigan and her law degree from Stanford University. She currently works as an attorney in the L.A. area focusing on real estate transactions, and has a four-year-old daughter.

David Wallace-Jackson is a 1987 graduate of Carleton from Ypsilanti, Mich., who majored in political science. David received a law degree from the University of Minnesota Law School. He practices with the Minneapolis law firm Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi in the firm’s business litigation practice, where he handles a wide variety of cases.

Before getting his law degree, David worked at a local investment bank, initially as a research analyst and ultimately as a marketer for the company’s mergers and acquisitions group. He and fellow alum Emily Wallace-Jackson ’87 are the parents of 3 children.

Marcus D. Campbell is a graduate of the class of 1994. Originally from Houston, TX, Marcus was a political science major at Carleton. In 1997, he received his law degree from the University of Minnesota. He is an attorney with Bowman & Brooke in the Twin Cities.

Lynch Travis, class of 1977, is a professional actor in the Detroit area who got his start in acting through the Black Dramatic Arts Group (BDAG) at Carleton. In addition to acting, he works as director of provider relations for Gateway Community Heath, Inc., a company that provides a network of services for people with severe, persistent mental illnesses.

Lynch is a native of Chicago and graduated from Carleton with a degree in economics. For many years, he worked in the insurance business. He has two children and has attended all of the MCAN Gatherings.

We welcome these four new members to the MCAN Executive Board. We also wish to thank all of the other alumni who expressed interest in serving on the board. Special thanks to outgoing board members Luke Lara, Erich Brooks, and Richelle Reyes for their years of service to MCAN!

New Director of Intercultural Life

“Always understand before you want to be understood.” Growing up in an Indian family in Singapore, Raj Sethuraju heard this phrase constantly from his father. Now, as Carleton’s new Director of Intercultural Life, Sethuraju has brought his interest in creating dialogues and enhancing diversity.

“The mission of the office is to strengthen the presence of minority students on campus,” says Sethuraju, who has lived in the U.S. for 16 years and has a master’s in counseling and a Ph.D. in sociology. “We need to create a campus climate that works toward building bridges that will help us learn from one another.” A community built on understanding will be a stronger place for students of color, says Sethuraju. “What we need for this community is not to transcend different cultures. We don’t want people to lose their own identities,” he explains. “We want people to be proud of their own cultural heritage and have the faith that other people will understand it.”

To increase this kind of cross-cultural understanding, Sethuraju has begun to collaborate with the Office of International Student Programs, the Gender and Sexuality Center and the Career Center. “In the end,” says Sethuraju, “a community built upon understanding will benefit us all.”

written by Ruoyang Yin ’07
Beginning with this academic year, the College is recognizing the significant benefits of the MCAN-sponsored Fly-Back Program with a long-term commitment to financially support visits to campus by qualified prospective students.

This is tremendous acknowledgement of the contributions and leadership provided by multicultural alumni and the broader Carleton community to promote a rich, diverse educational experience.

This fall, the Admissions Office flew in 42 prospective students of color who had already begun the application process, and brought additional students in from the Twin Cities area.

What's next on the MCAN fundraising agenda? Based on results from a survey conducted by the MCAN board earlier in the year, input from current multicultural students, and consultation with College administrators, the board has identified the following fundraising priority: grants to allow students to take low-paying or unpaid internships or research opportunities during summer or December break periods.

The board decided this project will most successfully promote MCAN’s mission to enrich the college experience of current and future students of color. Stay tuned for more information.

If you would like to volunteer to support MCAN’s fundraising efforts or other MCAN initiatives, please do not hesitate to contact Lan Thanh Hoang, MCAN Chairperson, at lhoang1069@yahoo.com.

The Class of 2010

The Class of 2010 hit campus with tremendous energy in September. A total of 509 students entered as first year students at Carleton. The class has representatives from 44 states and 12 countries.

This new class has 19.8% (101) students of color with 49 Asian, 24 African-American, 24 Latino, and 4 Native American. An additional 5% of the class are international students.

4,456 applications were received this past year. While it was a slight decline from the year before, Carleton is still receiving high-quality applications. Some of the drop from the Midwest may be attributed to price sensitivity since the cost of attending Carleton exceeds $40,000 per year.

Carleton continues to meet full demonstrated need for all students throughout their time at Carleton, and maintains committed to socioeconomic diversity in the student body.

We need you! Volunteer to be an Alumni Admission Representative (AAR) and help out in any way you can. A volunteer form is available at http://apps.carleton.edu/admissions/aar/ or you can call 1-800-995-2275 and contact Sandy Saari.

We focus on continued goals and efforts to increase the student diversity on campus. One way is to expose high school students to Carleton through pre-college programs.

The Carleton Liberal Arts Experience selects 50 sophomores and brings them to campus, expenses paid, for a one-week summer program. Students of African-American descent or students interested in African-American culture are encouraged to apply. http://apps.carleton.edu/summer/clae/.

The Summer Writing Program emphasizes a writing approach that teaches students how to compose papers similar to those required in college. Students completing their junior year may apply. Some scholarships are available. Scholarships apply to overall tuition, room, and board. Information is available at: http://apps.carleton.edu/campus/SAP/writing/.

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New Diversity Statement at Carleton, a milestone . . .

After nearly a year of gathering input from the College community, Carleton’s Diversity Initiative Group (DIG) has recommended, and the College has approved, Carleton’s first ever Diversity Statement. This statement is intended to affirm the College’s commitment to recruiting and retaining students, faculty, and staff of diverse backgrounds. The purpose of this statement is to provide guidance to the practice of all departments and offices.

MCAN Executive Board members reviewed an earlier draft of the statement and gave extensive comments. The statement has been reviewed by multiple groups of students, faculty and alumni. We would like to express our appreciation to DIG, as well as to several members of the Class of 1978 who took the initiative to urge the College to take concrete steps to improve its diversity-related practices and strategies.

Carleton College’s Statement on Diversity

Carleton College aspires to provide a liberal arts education that equips students with the skills to lead a fully realized life in a diverse and changing world. A Carleton education recognizes that the world's people differ in their race and ethnicity, culture, political and social worldviews, religious and spiritual understandings, language and geographic characteristics, gender, gender identities and sexual orientations, learning and physical abilities, age, and social and economic classes.

It is essential to our high academic standards that we be committed to creating a diverse campus community because:

- Carleton has a responsibility to educate talented and diverse students, and we have a strong commitment to underrepresented groups.
- Carleton students must meaningfully encounter difference in order to grow personally and live fruitfully in society and contribute to its work.

Approved by the DIG, the Faculty and the College Council

Careers Mentoring Program Update

One of the points on MCAN’s “Circle of Mentorship” involves careers and the desire of MCAN members to convey to current Carleton students that they belong to a larger network that can support them in areas of life beyond Carleton.

In the spirit of mentorship, MCAN is working on developing an online career mentoring program to connect alumni and students. Alumni mentors will utilize their experience and expertise to help current students with challenges and decisions related to their lives at Carleton and their future pathways. We are grateful to the many MCAN alumni who took the time to respond to our survey about this project. Your feedback has been invaluable as we work with Intercultural Life, the Career Center and our Web Services team to develop this program.

Many of you indicated an interest in volunteering through our survey, and the program should be ready to launch this spring — look for a mailing once everything is ready. If you volunteer, you will be able to sign up online, fill out an online profile, and indicate how many students you’re interested in mentoring. We anticipate most contacts will take place through email, with occasional phone calls and in-person visits where possible. Alumni volunteers will receive a guidebook with information about anticipated types of questions, on-campus resources and more.

If you have any questions or would like to participate in the pre-launch testing phase, please contact Becky Zrimsek in the Alumni Affairs Office, at rzrimsek@acs.carleton.edu, or Monica Lin ’95, monicahlin@yahoo.com
Los Angeles-area MCAN alumni, prospective students and friends met for a mid-summer gathering. If you’re interested in hosting an event in your area, contact the Alumni Affairs Office at alumni-office@acs.carleton.edu or 800-729-2586.

**Block Party - October 16, 2006**

MCAN board members joined current students in a fall block party in front of the cultural houses.