By Ashley Cole
Asst. News Editor

The Office of Multicultural and Minority Affairs, also known as OMMA, is nestled on the first floor of Old Main. On most days, it is bustling with students. Some are there to work and others are there just to hang out. The director, Robert Canida, talks on the phone in his office, and a class is under way in the conference room. Bullard said OMMA has seen growth elsewhere, too.

Name changes
In her eight years at UNCP, Bullard has seen OMMA change a lot. When she first started, the office was known as International Programs/Multicultural Center and the Office of Multicultural and Minority Affairs.

In 2005, it was decided that International Programs would move under the direction of Academic Affairs, Bullard said. Also lost was a computer lab after the center underwent renovations to make room for both departments.

The artifacts are now displayed throughout the Multicultural Center and in the conference room. The artifacts are now displayed throughout the Multicultural Center and in the conference room.

Cultural diversity
“We have a large population of culturally different students affiliated with the Multicultural Center in which we serve, and [the] programs and events offered have broadened,” Bullard said.

Bullard credits Canida with effectively reaching out to students and the surrounding community to find out how OMMA can better serve them. She also acknowledges the support from other departments that have faculty and staff who are passionate about diversity and inclusion.

“Culture has a lot to do with how you act and treat others, and it is so important that we respect those boundaries of difference as we educate ourselves to be responsible citizens of a diverse, multiculturally rich, and empowered society,” Bullard said.

She also enjoys the statement that the office makes just by the colors on the wall.

“Different. That’s what we are. Good different,” Bullard said.

While no day is average for Bullard, her daily tasks include checking and answering emails, following up on contacts for events, managing the calendar and scheduling meeting spaces for student organizations.

A team
Being the administrative assistant means working side-by-side with Canida, whom Bullard has the utmost respect for. She also values his leadership and loyalty.

“He is very passionate about students and higher education and the mission of the university and OMMA. We have built a productive working relationship...and I think we make an amazing team,” Bullard said.

With all of the changes that Bullard has seen over the years, the one thing that remains constant is her passion and ability to serve students.

One of her favorite things about working in OMMA is “being in the capacity to help or serve one or many students and knowing that I have made a difference in their lives. Whether it is a simple smile or a word of encouragement, Bullard loves to serve from her heart.”

Passion to serve
The enjoyment that Bullard gets from working in OMMA comes through in her excitement in her voice and the smile on her face. Her passion to serve students is evident in the way she interacts with everyone who comes through the door.

OMA has enjoyed and continue to enjoy every minute serving this great university and the students without whom I would not have a job. The students are the reason why I am where I sit today,” Bullard said.

Lisa Bullard
The backbone of OMMA

Lisa Bullard welcomes students into the Office of Multicultural and Minority Affairs, located on the first floor of Old Main.