Addition of Music Degree Expands Creighton's Arts Department

Ann Griner
Entertainment Editor

Damian Espinoza started his career at Creighton as a pre-med student. During the fall semester of his junior year, he decided science wasn’t quite his bag, and switched to a music major.

Last May, Espinoza became Creighton’s first graduate in the Bachelor of Arts in Music program.

“The addition of a music degree has been a big step for the arts here at Creighton,” said Dr. Marilyn Kielnjarz, choir director. “Along with the new Lied Center, there has been an increasing interest in the arts. We are starting to sway Creighton’s ‘science-only’ image.”

The Bachelor of Arts in Music degree was added in May of 1994, when the first students were accepted into the music major program.

Kielnjarz said the program was added because of a high demand from both incoming and present students.

Espinoza, who is currently serving as assistant chamber choir director while applying to graduate schools, called Creighton’s faculty “top-notch.”

“I’m very glad I went through the program here,” said Espinoza. “The program is so small, the teachers get to know you very well. It’s a better education because you can’t just slip by as a number; you really have to know your stuff.”

Kielnjarz explained that the Bachelor of Arts in Music degree is a liberal arts degree, as opposed to the Bachelor of Music degree that many schools offer. The liberal arts degree involves more supporting and general studies classes.

Kielnjarz also said she was confident in the future addition of more specialized programs such as music education.

“Our goal is to make Creighton known for arts as well as sciences,” said Kielnjarz. “[The music major] broadens what students can do whether music majors or not.”