



Tiffanesha and Crystal at the Ranch of Terror.



Students snacking on some food at the Ranch of Terror.



Sorry Jeny, no double dipping!

**TRiO**  
STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

## Hoots and Salutes

Congratulations to **Maria Sanchez** and her husband. They are the proud parents of a healthy baby girl named Jasmine.



Hoots and salutes to **Carlos Atencio** who recently was accepted into Bio 440, a study of the south western desert with Dr. Platts from May 17th–June 7th. Only five people were accepted into this course offered

through Creighton.

Hoots and salutes to the December Graduates: **Jesta Thomas, Tu Tran, Jenna Loeffler, and Jeny Acosta.**

Congratulations to the SSS pledges of Alpha Phi Omega (APO). APO is a co-ed professional fraternity based on leadership, friendship and service. Way to go **Carlos Atencio, Sheila Field and Randall Haduca.**

Hoots and salutes to **Erica Stewart, Xai Vang, David Plutschak, Kathy Daotay, and**

**Richard Ho** who recently went on the CCSJ Fall break services trips.

**Roy Mary** wants to wish her beautiful daughter a Happy 1<sup>st</sup> Birthday.



Her daughter Raelyn will turn 1 on December 18th. She is walking and is a very hyper little girl. She likes sesame street and baby Einstein books.

## Ranch of Terror *By Jeny Acosta*

After a few wrong turns and closed roads, all three vans finally arrived at the Ranch of Terror on October 30, 2008. There were about 34 students in attendance, ready to get their spook on.

We arrived at about 6:30 p.m. and got the bonfire started for roasting hotdogs and marshmallows for s'mores. A few hotdog buns and Hershey's bars later, everyone's stomachs were full and ready for a scare.

The screaming started during the hayrack ride through the Ranch of Terror. There were zombies and chainsaw-carrying murders lurking behind every tree and



haystack. After several minutes, we were all back safely at the front of the ranch ready to unload the hayracks to line up for the haunted house.

The haunted house looked like it was going to be a breeze to walk through, but once we got in, we were proved wrong. There were all

kinds of dead people in the different rooms ready to creep up on every person who passed through. We walked through in groups of four and six. As we all made it through, we stood outside to watch the faces of fear on the next few who walked out. By the time we all made it out, it was about 8:30 p.m. and we had all had our fair share of screams and scares. We loaded up the vans and headed back to campus.

Another successful SSS event—complete with lost vans. The night ended with many smiling (and spooked) faces to tell the stories.



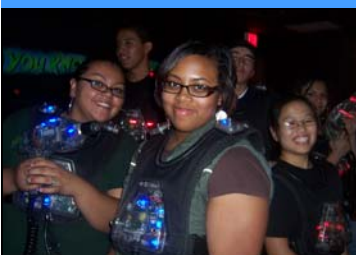
Frank Wain at the Peer2Peer pot-luck.



Danielle Hudspeth is terrified on the hay-rack ride as Frank Wain just laughs at her.



Look! Tami got scared at the Ranch of Terror and can't even smile in this picture.



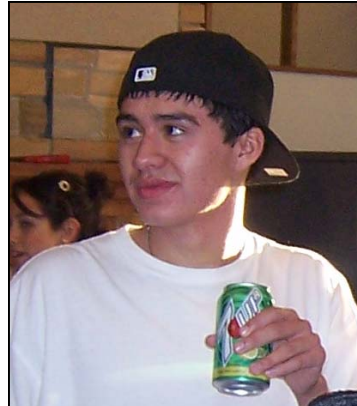
Maria, Tiffanesha, Crystal are ready to "fire it up."

## Spotlight on Francis Wain *by Khloe Keelar*

**Francis Wain**, more commonly known as Frank, is a new student at Creighton from He Dog, South Dakota, on the Rosebud reservation. He plans to major in Exercise Science with a minor in Biology. His long term plans are to study medicine. He chose to attend Creighton because it has a good science program and medical school.

**He decided to join SSS because he felt the high school he attended did not prepare him as well as he would have liked. He has greatly benefited from the SSS program, especially by the extra help from the Calculus and Chemistry tutors. He appreciates the free printing, too.**

At Creighton, when he is not studying, Frank is involved with the Native American Association and the



Frank Wain at the Native American Studies monthly pot-luck.

Peer2Peer program. He is a Gates Millennium and Diversity scholar. So far, the most interesting thing that has happened to him at Creighton classroom is when he spilled acid on his pants and burned a hole through them. His favorite teacher here is **Dr. Lauren Goldstein** because he feels she makes class fun and is not too strict about her papers.

Frank has many interests,

especially basketball. He was captain and a state champion. He also enjoys wearing his roommate Steele's ponchos, who he finds is the person who annoys him the most.

His least favorite word is "nay," and his most embarrassing moment was when he participated in fear factor at his high school pep rally. His favorite type of music is hip-hop and all of 2-Pac's songs, while his favorite sound is the moo of cows. He has been to the Marovo Lagoon in the Solomon Islands. He hopes to someday to become a panda bear because they are "chill."

Frank's favorite quote is "In youth we learn; in age we understand." by Ebner-Eschenbach. Overall, Frank is an amazing person who loves to work hard and have a good time!

## Interfaith Panel Discussion *by Jeny Acosta*

Recently, I was asked to be one of six panel members at conference to discuss different faiths and how our faith gives us a sense of comfort and security.

I represented Islam. Others represented Judaism, Protestant Christianity, Catholicism, Hinduism, and Buddhism. The conference started with each of the panel members giving a brief biography and short introduction about the basic tenets of their faith.

After going around the tables, we opened up for people to ask us questions about our faith and what we believe.

While I was afraid that people would ask offensive and ignorant questions that would cause tension or discomfort, it turned out great. People asked questions about things they were unsure about. The panel members asked each other questions as well. It turned into an interfaith discussion that was very

educational.

I feel very fortunate to have been asked to be a panel member, not only because it gave me the opportunity to teach people about Islam and clarify our beliefs and practices, but also because I was able to learn about other faiths and correct any misconceptions I had. I was invited to return and be a panel member at similar events, and I am looking forward to being a part of future discussions.



## DIJA Down, Public Enrollment Up by *by Jamie O'Brien*

Today's current market crisis is affecting the current Business undergrads everywhere and even more so, college bound high school students. With the cost of tuition rising, getting loans for college has become a necessity. It has been reported that the average college graduate finishes school with \$20,000 of debt; these numbers have been known to easily pass \$100,000. As the cost of earning a college education increases, the major companies that provide student's loans have become more and more crucial. The problem lies here.

In a nut shell, there are businesses that specialize solely in "bond insurance." What this means is that they are responsible for backing the investments, student loans in this case, that are provided students who need them. Along with insuring student loans they also insure sub-prime mortgage debt, a major factor in creating the financial crisis in the first place. Reports show that major student loan companies such as Sallie Mae, who "bundle" these student loans and trade them as investment securities claimed 1.6 Billion dollars in losses last quarter. With so many defaults these outstanding debts, no investors will buy and take



responsibility for these loan packages. In turn, this is creating major spikes in interest rates and leaving the sources of money that back student loans to "dry up."

Generation Y is going to suffer major complications due to the current financial problem. Student loan programs at major universities have already been canceled this year. Upcoming college students have begun to rethink their future plans. With little available funds and the cost of tuition, students are resorting to Public Institutions and Community colleges close to home. Travel expenses including gas and even the cost of groceries along with the high cost of tuition at Private Institutions have started this trend. The once shiny goal of

graduating high school students is to go to Private University or the "college of their dreams" has turned into a nightmare. Not too many options are left with such a squeeze on money. Crashing markets have devastated families who have created college savings plans for their children. Many people have been contributing to 529 plans for years. These plans are built upon mutual funds and stocks so when the value of them falls, so does the value of the savings plan.

**Our economy's financial crisis doesn't just affect upcoming college students. Currently enrolled Business students are feeling the pressure of finding a job in the finance industry after graduation. Large companies have halted recruiting for the upcoming spring class. A trend is starting to show of current business undergrads dropping out of 4 year Universities to attend cheaper community colleges. Major downfalls to this decision are not having a prestigious degree and missing out on earning a well paying job. Also, accumulated debt over the years still needs to be paid off and more defaults leads to higher interest rates.**



Ryan said, "I'm the hottest boy ever."



Rocio and Carmen

### Office Hours

Monday—Friday:

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Evening hours

Monday, Tuesday,  
Wednesday and Thursday  
5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

### Staff Hours

Tami Buffalohead-McGill

M-F 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Karen Thurber

M-F 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Denise Le Clair

M-F 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Rich Jehlik

M-F 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Pat Al-Greene

M-TH 9:00 a.m. – Noon  
5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Sandy Cerveny

M-F 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

## The Wishing Corner *by Angel Le*

OMG! The smallest column ever. I must say something very short and sweet to fill up these three short columns. Well, I know it's getting near Christmas so I just want to say, "Merry Christmas

everyone!" I hope you will have an awesome holiday over the break. I also want to remind you guys that please donate lots of canned food for the food drive. Helping others and bringing happiness to

unfortunate ones brightens our days. I also wish the students who are going home during break a safe, pleasant trip. Eat a lot and gain a lot of weight — ok!



Cheree Hatfield happily smiles as she lends a hand carrying boxes.



Cheree helping out one of the SSS students.



Go ,Carmen! She was hiding in a corner and ready to shoot one of the victims she has kept an eye on.

## Becoming a Hermit? Get involved *by Cheree Hatfield*

As a Welcome Week leader this year, I was charged with pushing the activities for my group. I noticed that students were not always enthusiastic, but most of the events weren't the sort you expect someone to get super hyped about (though some of them were certainly awesome). I just assumed that students were busy and not really interested in attending lectures when they could be unpacking. However, I must admit that I've been shocked by the nearly blank sign-up sheets in the SSS office. Last year it was hard to get a spot for any event because the sheets filled up so fast. This semester, the sheets may as well be sign-ups for root canals. I don't want to revert to the buzzed (some would say crazy) person I was during Welcome Week, but I have to stress the importance of participation. There are so many excuses not to, but there are three good reasons to get out and participate.

**First**, it's required. To me, it is the weakest reason. Yes, we're required to attend two workshops a semester, and we all know that involvement is important for our résumés. However, workshop attendance isn't required to benefit anyone at the office. Workshops are required because none of the staff wants to see the students degenerate into hermits who only emerge from their dorms long

enough to go to class and eat. They want us to get out a n d experience new things and meet and interact with new people (or old people!). It's important for a person's wellbeing to socialize. (Anyone who has seen *Cast Away* knows what can happen if they're alone too long). Further, this social experience is a marketable skill. When someone socializes, they learn to interact with others better, a skill graduate schools and employers look for in applicants. Hermits probably do great work, but they don't know how to network.

**Second**, people need to talk to people. I know you're thinking, "Yeah, so I don't do much, but I talk to people all the time on Facebook." Facebook is a good way to communicate, but there are parts of social interaction that can only be gotten face-to-face. The very invention of emoticons proves that there is only so much IM and Facebook can convey. Like sarcasm, for example. Haven't you ever gotten an email/IM/PM and wondered if the sender was being genuine or just kidding? If you were to have that conversation in person, you would be able to rely on physical cues to come to a conclusion. Don't discount the importance of body language, and remember that your professors and employers probably will expect you to actually speak to them,



not just send an IM.

**Third**, it's fun. This is probably the one where you're thinking that I'm still buzzed on the Welcome Week Spirit Juice, but it's true. Getting out and doing things with new people is fun — who'd have thought? Most people think that things like Gates workshops and musicals are boring compared to Lazer Tag, but they can actually be the best fun you have without a game console (or with one). I recently, went on the Gates immersion trip to Chinle, Arizona, and Gallup, New Mexico; and I'm not joking when I say it was tons of fun. Our group had the chance to hang out with each other (and, as a result, we have some of the funniest stories to tell) and meet high school students. I don't think I've ever laughed as much during a road trip as I did that week. Ask any of the students who've attended SSS events in the last few years, and they'll probably tell you that whatever they did and whoever they were with, they had fun.

Now we can talk about excuses. It's been a busy year, and I'm not sure why, but it doesn't seem like anyone has a lot of time to spare (not even me). Therefore, some people are thinking and saying that they just don't have the time to attend events. I say that if people have enough time to attend a workshop. Several events have been cancelled this year simply because there weren't enough students signed up. Anyone can tell you



## Becoming a Hermit? Get involved *by Cheree Hatfield*

that I'm usually the person who signs up for everything, but I wasn't always like this. My freshman year I was an academic hermit (a special breed of hermit that only leaves their dwelling to study in the library and go to class), but my sophomore year, I realized that the ways of the academic hermit left me burnt out before Christmas break. It's essential to balance studying for school and doing something fun once in a while. Otherwise you'll feel like all you ever do is study or do homework (or work).

That's why instead of staying home and working over fall break, I went on the immersion trip.

Another issue is the distance of the Harper Center from main campus. I cannot seriously believe that this is what is stopping people from signing up because email sign up is also an option. Everyone usually gets an email from Karen about upcoming events and while walking all the way down campus takes at least ten minutes (including time spent waiting for the walk signal), hitting the reply button only takes a few seconds.

The staff at SSS work very hard planning and deciding on events for the students, and all of the events are great in their own way. Even if you don't think you'll like an event, try it. Who knows, the next self-defense workshop could inspire you to take up kickboxing or one of the films could become number three on your top ten "greatest movies of all time" list. So get out of your dorm room, emerge from the mountain of textbooks, and sign up for events. Plan to do something other than homework before you forget how!



Emmanuel and Angel happily enjoying their time at the Ranch.



SSS students jumping in terror on the hayrack ride.



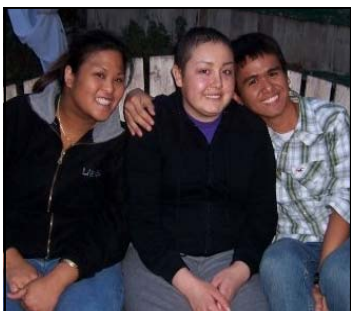
Frank offers Angel a bite of his marshmallows.



SSS students pose for a quick and fun picture after going through the haunted house.

## Students Completing All Five Requirements

Jeny Acosta	Emmanuel De Jesus	Juan Jaimes
James Agbayani	Linh Do	Khloe Keeler
Brenda Aguero	Audrianna Edmonds	Joanne Kim
Chester Ashong	Atwatif Elias	Chant Knight
Chanel Ayano	Chadi El-Khoury	Vincent Ko
Marissa Begay	Akpeyedje Fidegnon	Phuong Le
Michael Beverly	Sheila Field	Cheryl Ligon
Braxton Black	Dylan Fills Pipe	Amanda Lindsay
Jasmine Cadiz	Acenth Garvey	Ashley Marohl
Jian Hao Cai	Da'Quisha Granderson	Marcela Morales
Anthony Carravo	Guillermo Guzman	Rocio Mujica
Maria Chagolla	Cheree Hatfield	Harriet Mullin
Sandra Chee	Feleshia Henderson	Lily Ng
Samson Chik	Jordan Herman	Cindy Nguyen
Melissa Choi	Sammi Herman	Son Nam Nguyen
Stephanie Christensen	Leland Hill Jr.	Emily Nguyen
Danine Cohen	Richard Ho	James O'Brien
Kim Cragun	Trang Hoang	Alpha Opese
Krystal Curry	Danielle Hudspeth	Darshil Parikh
Erin Dailey	Crystal Huynhcao	Lebree Perry
Kathy Daotay	Monica Ibarra	Chinh (Tony) Pham



The cutest picture ever! Seeing this picture don't we just want to say "awww?"



The Asian sensation!



Who is READY? We are ready "lets do it!"



Dylan and Marissa are READY to team up and dominate at this game.

## Students Completing All Five Requirements Cont.

Vern Pino, Jr.	Michelle Therkildsen	Xai Vang
Elizabeth Ramos	Bidong Tot	Gaoia Vang
PJ Root	Lan Uyen Tran	Maria Vega-Escamilla
Maria Sabio	Lynn Tran	Francis Waln
Adrian Sandoval	Maria Tran	Jessica White
Kyle Simon	Paul Tran	William White
Michaela Spencer	Tri Tran	Tiffanesha Williams
Kenneth Stable	Tu Tran	Ryan Wong
Erica Stewart	Steele Valenzuela	Amy Xie
Precious Sully	Marissa Ulep	Lorena Zamarripa
		Song Zheng

## Final Exam Tips *by Sheila Field*

It is that time again. Final exams are coming up. Here are some tips to make it though without feeling too stressed out.

**Start preparing at least a week ahead of time.** This means start looking at your class notes, doing the assignments and reading the material, so you can slowly take in the information and remember it for the test.

**Make a schedule of when you are going to study what subject and stick to the schedule.** This will keep you from staying up all night before the test because you did not make time to study. Look on your class syllabus or the Registrar's office page to get the final exam schedule and plan out your week. If your final is over all of the material covered in class so far, in the weeks before your test, go over past exams, class notes, and study guides. This will help you know the layout of the



Sheila Fields — work-study extraordinaire.

final and what types of questions to expect. When studying, quiz yourself or have someone quiz you over the material. This will help you figure out what you know and what you need to spend more time on.

**Take breaks.** It is important to take time to let your mind rest and process all of the information you have been taking in. So every hour or so, take a five or ten minute break to watch TV, get on the internet, or make a phone call.

**Get enough sleep!** Don't stay up all night studying — that will not do you any good. Go to bed and get a good amount of sleep in. This will help you be more focused the next day for your test and you will not risk sleeping though your test.

**Eat right to keep your body healthy.** Remember to eat breakfast the day of your test. This will keep you from being hungry and getting distracted during the test. Don't eat junk food and avoid eating too much so you are not tired. Eat things that give you energy and help you stay alert.

**When the test is over, let it be over.** Don't stress yourself out by thinking about the test you just took. Say to yourself, "It is over now, I tried my best, and hopefully, I will do well." If you keep thinking about your previous test this will make you unfocused for upcoming tests and will bring your whole mood down.

**Good Luck on Final Exams!!**

## Final Exam Schedule

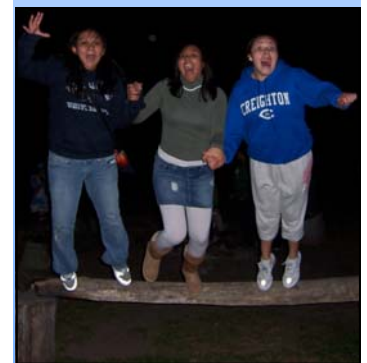
Hour	Monday, Dec. 15	Tuesday, Dec. 16	Wednesday, Dec. 17	Thursday, Dec. 18	Friday, Dec. 19	Saturday, Dec. 20
8:00-9:40	MWF Classes Meeting at 7:30	MWF Classes Meeting at 8:30	MWF Classes Meeting at 12:30	TuTh Classes Meeting at 2:00	MWF Classes Meeting at 10:30	
10:00-11:40	MWF Classes Meeting at 9:30	MWF Classes Meeting at 3:30	MWF Classes Meeting at 11:30	TuTh Classes Meeting at 12:30	MWF Classes Meeting at 1:30	<i>Saturday classes will be exam- ined at regu- lar Saturday sessions</i>
1:00-2:40	TuTh Classes Meeting at 9:30	TuTh Classes Meeting at 11:00	MWF Classes Meeting at 2:30	TuTh Classes Meeting at 3:30		
3:00-4:40	TuTh Classes Meeting at 8:00	CHM 203 (3:30-6 p.m.)	MTH 103, 135, 137, 141, 201, 245, 246, 347	PHY 211, PHY 212 (3- 6 p.m.)		



Peer-2-Peer Officers of 2008  
outing night.



Everybody smile for the  
camera!



Marissa, Precious and Ash-  
leen jumping on a log by the  
campfire light. Don't fall!



Danielle and Tiffanisha  
enjoying the campfire.

## Holidays! *by LeBree Perry*

For many people, the holiday season is the happiest time of the year. As a child, it sure was for me. I loved the smell of sweet potato pie fresh out the oven and the Cajun turkey my mother makes every Thanksgiving. I would stay up for hours helping my mother and grandmother prepare Thanksgiving and Christmas meals.

The holidays are the time of the year for families to get together laugh, eat, and have a good ole time, and I'm sure many of us our looking forward to the same traditions this year. A Thanksgiving tradition in my family has always been for all

the girls on Thanksgiving eve to put on your cooking clothes and prepare to help Grandma, Mom, and Auntie with the cooking. We would put on some music and jam out while we picked the bunches of collard greens or prepared the stuffing or (my favorite) make the cheesecake and to help my mother cook her famous Cajun turkey. We would stay up all night cooking and getting everything ready and then on Thanksgiving, we would all sit down for a good old-fashioned soul food dinner. When everyone was feed and full, we would pick a few movies to watch and have a great time.

Christmas is every kid's favorite holiday and still my favorite because it is the time of the year for sharing and spreading love. My family's biggest Christmas tradition is that every year we decide on a gift theme. Last year it was mirrors. We have a \$15 limit on the gift and then we have a gift exchange. Another big tradition is playing Pokeno, a card game.

Just thinking about all my family traditions makes me excited for the up and coming holidays. I hope you're looking forward to your family traditions as well. Happy Holidays!!!



## Student Support Services

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Website:  
<http://www2.creighton.edu/eop/studentsupportservices/>

**“Education is a companion which no future can depress, no crime can destroy, no enemy can alienate it and no nepotism can enslave.”**

**Ropo Oguntimehin**

SSS is one of the five federally funded TRIO programs at Creighton University under the Department of Educational Opportunity Programs. SSS is grant funded through the Department of Education to provide comprehensive services to help students achieve a successful college experience by increasing academic performance, retention, and graduation rates. SSS also works to foster an institutional climate supportive of the success of economically disadvantaged students, first generation students, and students with disabilities. The strength of the SSS program is providing comprehensive support to eligible students at Creighton University who have the ability and desire to succeed at Creighton University but would benefit from additional advocacy, academic, personal, financial, and career support. SSS is a resource that provides personalized and comprehensive support services for eligible participants to help them achieve their full potential.

## Counselor's Corner *with Karen Thurber*

Go to the workshops and complete your requirements!

110 students have all five requirements completed.

To those who haven't, letters have gone out to let you know what you are missing. Students need counselor meetings and to get workshops done. Email Karen if you have questions.

Please utilize the Peer Tutors, Specialists and workshops in the office.

I hope everyone has registered and holds are taken care of by now.

Seniors — Have everything done for graduation!

Congratulations to Jeny Acosta, Jenna Loeffler, Jesta Thomas and Tu Tran!

I am proud of all of you. I am always!!

Remember at home or when you come back, to complete the FASFA in January for classes in the Fall 2008.

Have a wonderful Christmas Break!



**Harper Room 4017**

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**Email:**

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