



Alpha Opese with his mom.



Bidong Tot in the fashion show.



Denise Le Clair



## Hoots and Salutes



Congratulations to **Audrianna Edmonds** for being nominated and selected as the NAACP Vice President.

Congratulations to **Ryan Wong** for being accepted into Creighton's School of Pharmacy!



Congratulations to **Adrian Sandoval** for being nominated and chosen to be the Vice President of the Native American Association.

Congratulations to **Chant**



**Knight** for his nomination and acceptance as the President of the Native American Association.

Way to go **Frank Waln** for your acceptance as the Treasurer for the Native American Association!



Congratulations **Liliana Jacinto** for your nomination and acceptance as the President of CULSA!

Congratulations **Monica Ibarra** on being chosen as Vice President for CULSA.



Congratulations to **Feleshia Henderson** for being selected as a Residence Advisor.



Congratulations to **Tiffanisha Williams** and **Amber Bennett** for being selected to the Arkansas Pre-Law Summer program.

Congratulations to new CUASA Historian **Amber Bennett!**



Congratulations to **Jamie O'Brien** for his new position as Financial Advisor at Renaissance Financial.

Congratulations to **Alex Wilkie** on receiving the Ciciulla scholarship.

## Using Our Strengths *by Denise Le Clair*

On March 22, seven Peer2Peer mentors met with Irene Birklund of the Gallup Organization to complete the second seminar funded by the JNEE Lumina Grant. With Birklund, the students reflected on their year of mentoring, how they used their Strengths, and how they would like to build their Strengths. In addition, Birklund explained four leadership styles: responsibility, influencing, relationship building, and strategic thinking. The mentors explored ways to use their leadership styles as mentors and in other situations, like campus

organizations or team projects. Afterwards, the mentors met in Harper for lunch and discussed how their Strengths connect to the Seven Pillars of Jesuit education. Here are some of their reflections:

**SERVICE** – *People are in need now, so we need to serve them.*

**Paul Tran:** **Restorative** strength allows me to self improve and to find ways to be more efficient and better to able to serve others. And if necessary, I can work with other people to more efficiently serve the needy or deliver justice. I can pick out

the talents of others and utilize them to help bring about positive change.

**Trang Hoang:** The Strength that relates to service value is **Input**. The type of person who has input wants to give and contribute. I want to be the type of person who not only inputs my thoughts but also I want to be there in person, that way I can connect in close relationship with those I am giving service to.

**SOLIDARITY** – *Men & Women For & With Others*

**Cheree Hatfield:** **Connection** means I believe that all people are



Song Zheng, MeLitta Wilson & Carolyn Kor at the recognition



Anthony Allee, Lan & Tri Tran



Emmanuel de Jesus & Cheryl Ligon



Precious Sully & Marissa Begay



Pat Al-Greene, Kathy Daotay, & Rich Jehlik at the recognition

## Using Our Strengths *Continued*

connected, and all people are equal. Therefore, people are with people to help and accompany them. The relationship of each person to other changes the way we view ourselves. **Consistency** requires that I live in an equal manner with others

**Trang Hoang:** As a **Realtor**, I have the ability to relate to others, especially those who are in great need of emotional support, like the less fortunate homeless people. The ability to relate is extremely important when it comes to detachment. If you cannot image yourself being in the shoes of homeless people and live the way that they live, you cannot voluntarily be detached to all the unnecessary things you have in life and devote a little bit of your life to helping others.

**JUSTICE** – Someone is hungry, so we need to feed them. And we need to ask why this person is hungry and work to change social system so that the direct service may no longer be needed

**Cheree Hatfield:** **Consistency** enables me to be aware of the need to promote treating people fairly and hold them as equal people for brothers and sisters under God. This is also a part of justice because we are all held to the same laws, with little to no exceptions. **Connection** is part of justice and the awareness that comes with

**Connection** promotes movement for social change. **Input** helps me see how the social system works and think of possible solutions.

**Paul Tran:** **Empathy** allows me to see injustice and read the mood of when something is wrong. **Empathy**, along with **Individualization**, helps me to understand the situation of others and to see that justice needs to be done for people who are in poverty and unfortunate situations. Being **Restorative**, I choose to work with others to bring about justice as I have done on my Spring Break Service Trips. In Lafayette, LA, my group and I repaired the home of a woman that was ruined by Hurricane Katrina. The state had failed to provide aid to help her fix her home. In Stroud, OK, my group and I helped Habitat for Humanity build a home for a single mother and her sons who lost their homes in a natural disaster. The federal government denied Stroud natural disaster aid. In St. Mary of Woods, IN, my group and I learned about Eco-justice and how organic foods are better for people and society. We also learned of injustices that plague the United States commerce and policies with other countries. Being a **Learner**, I am open to learning about injustices and how to correct them.

**COMMUNITY** –We are always individuals in community. Each individual is sacred, but so is the community.

**Emmanuel de Jesus:** Being a

**Relator** allows me to connect with other people and with friends in order to build a community that works together for the goodness of each of the members. It also requires being **Consistent** in treating each member of this community with equal fairness and importance. Once this foundation is built, I can use my other strengths such as being **Achiever**, **Focus**, and **Discipline** to work with everyone in this community to bring about change and promote Creighton values.

**Ryan Wong:** The Pillar of Community is a value that I greatly cherish. Community describes how we are all connected to each other. I can use my strength of **Positivity** to forge close relationships and help others. I enjoy having a smile on my face. It makes me even happier to pass that smile to someone else. I love seeing people happy and enthusiastic. I always do my best to build community and develop friendships through my positivity.

**SIMPLICITY** – Refrain from other “stuff” that gets in the way of hearing our true selves and God.

**Sheila Field:** **Harmony** is about avoiding conflict and avoiding wasting energy on conflict. So living simply would put my energy into the things that matter and then that way I could focus on how to fix the problems. Another Strength of mine, **Adaptability**, allows me to live simply because if needed, I could take a walk in nature and



## Using Our Strengths *Continued*



Tami & Tiff Williams at the recognition program



Sandy watching recognition and awards program



Steele Valenzuela with his award

adapt to the situation. Also with Adaptability, I am in the here and now so I can live simply by not wasting my time thinking about the past or worrying about the future.

**Trang Hoang:** My desire to learn a lot of things may get in the way of me living simply. That does not mean that I should stop being a **Learner**, what that means is to recognize what is the necessary knowledge I need to obtain to improve, but not too much information that I will shift my focus away from my connection with God.

**Ryan Wong:** The Pillar of Simplicity has been important in my life. Life can be very complex and sophisticate, and I need to remove distractions and reflect on my experiences through my Strengths such as **Harmony** and **Discipline**. With **Harmony**, I can encounter a problem and realize that it will help me succeed. Having an optimistic attitude allows me to easily connect with others and work together to solve all of our dilemmas. **Discipline** has helped me to manage and organize my time. I am able to ignore distractions in life and prioritize my schedules to meet my challenges.

**SUSTAINABILITY:** *By limiting our consumption, we actively participate in the protection of precious resources by decreasing the demand*



**Trang Hoang:** The strength of **Futuristic** may connect to Sustainability. I am the type of person who tries to live in the present moment as much as I can, however, that does not mean that I don't look to the future. Because if you only live in the present moment, you have a very narrow point of view toward the world you are living in. **Futuristic** strength will allow me to live in the present moment and thank God for everything that He is constantly giving to me, but also look to the future, so the next generation of God's children won't be devastated by the extreme lack of resources.

**Paul Tran:** In **Context**, I can see that over the past 20 years, the United States has consumed a great deal of resources and that its consumer society will lead to disaster. As a **Learner**, learning about sustaining the environment and the Earth has been an area of interest. I have learned that eating organic crops rather than commercial crops that have had pesticides and other miscellaneous chemicals used on them are healthier and more environmentally friendly. The way commercial farms run their operations with the incentives given by the federal government is often unfair

and degrades other countries such as Jamaica. Jamaica has many setbacks thanks to our loans that have placed them into huge debt and our crop markets ruin theirs.

**REFLECTION** – *Placing our experiences in dialogue with where we make meaning, such as our faith traditions and family backgrounds.*

**Paul Tran:** Through **Context**, I look at what has transpired and am able to reflect on them. I look at my history, my background, and facts which give me experiences to reflect on and learn from. As a **Learner**, I gain new knowledge through my reflection and that of others. I am able to mature and see different points of views that would not have been possible without strengths helping me to reflect.

**Emmanuel de Jesus:** I can only reflect on my experiences with others. Through dialogue, I am able to relate these experiences to others and make meaning out of them. Being a **Relator** helps me achieve this.

**Trang Hoang:** Reflection is the desire to connect closely with God through looking back at the people you meet and the events that happened to you throughout the day. Even though it is not a strength, one who has great desire to reflect and commit to reflection every day, will gain the Strengths needed to walk a fruitful journey.



**Blue Team**-Cheree Hatfield, Lan Uyen Tran, Marissa Begay, Carmen Chagolla, Dylan Fills Pipe, Antwonette Hobbs posing at Laser Tag.



**AWESOME RED TEAM**-Precious Sully , Lily Jacinto, Ryan Wong, Vern Pino, Monica Ibarra, and Krystal Huynhcao ready to play Laser tag.



**Semir Demirovic, Paul Tran, Emily Nguyen, Kyle Simon, Tri Tran**—Green Team posing before a game of Laser Tag.



**Dean's List recipients.**

## Tips for Finals *by Ely Ramos*

1. Make a schedule of what you're going to study, when you're going to study it, and for how long you're going to study it for.
2. Prioritize your time! Know what is most important and what you're going to struggle with the most.
3. Eat fresh fruits and vegetables - they're stress reducers!
4. Don't panic or make too much of the final! But don't be too relaxed (make too little of the final).
5. Talk to your professors - they are there to help you do well.
6. Determine what type of final you will be taking! It could make a huge difference in the time you'll need to commit to studying for a particular final.
7. Start studying early - you'll remember it better if you're not cramming. The night before should be to review the material.
8. Stop cramming five minutes before the test - relax, catch your breath, and get focused.
9. Once you have taken an exam, forget about it - you can't change anything now. Move on and focus on your next exam.
10. Don't pull all nighters! You'll do better on the exam if you get some SLEEP.



## Finals Schedule

Hour	Monday, May 4	Tuesday, May 5	Wednesday, May 6	Thursday, May 7	Friday, May 8
8:00-9:40	MWF Classes at 7:30	MWF Classes at 8:30	MWF Classes at 12:30	TR Classes at 2:00	MWF Classes at 10:30
10:00-11:40	MWF Classes at 9:30	MWF Classes at 3:30	MWF Classes at 11:30	TR Classes at 12:30	MWF Classes at 1:30
1:00-2:40	TR Classes at 9:30	TR Classes at 11:00	MWF Classes at 2:30	TR Classes at 3:30	
3:00-4:40	TR Classes at 8:00	CHM 205 (4-6 pm)	MTH 103,105, 135, 141, 201, 245, 246, 310, 347	PHY 211, PHY 212 (3-6 pm)	*Night classes have finals during the first class of the week





Khloe Keeler with her lab dog



Khloe Keeler playing in the snow!



Dean's List recipients.



Mary Roy presents Dr. Malleby with her faculty award.

## Spotlight on Khloe *by Jamie O'Brien*

As a native of Newport Beach, California, Khloe Keeler has added even more excitement to Student Support Services. Khloe was a former cheerleader at Newport Harbor High School and friend of famous television stars.

Khloe was attracted to Creighton University by its proximity to the Northern Ponca Tribe, the Native American Scholarship, and the opportunity to be close to her family in Omaha. Khloe's uncle, Donnel Keeler, is a well known Native American artist in the Midwest.

Pursuing a degree in Journalism & Mass Communication with a career interest in Pre-Pharmacy, Khloe has found that joining Student Support Services was the best choice. "They are always there to help you, it helps keep my grades up, and free printing is the best." With slightly less than a year of college under her belt, Khloe has already become a



Khloe Keeler with her cousin, Jesse.

member of CU Red Cross and a mentor for a girl from Girls and Boys Town. She is also a member of Theta Phi Alpha and a writer for the *Creightonian*.

Khloe admitted that so far at Creighton, her favorite professor is **Dr. Goldstein** who teaches English. "Her class is fun, and she involves our own live experiences in the class work." The most exciting thing that has happened to Khloe in a classroom was recently when the tornado sirens sounded to alert everyone. Khloe had never been in such

a situation said it was an exciting first experience. Outside of the classroom, Khloe's most fun experience at college has been interviewing bands and attending events for the school newspaper.

Getting to know a little bit more about Khloe, aside from school, reveals that she has a great passion for cheerleading and tumbling. Her most prized possessions are her cheerleading awards.

Khloe's biggest pet peeve is "people who sit behind you in class, put their foot on your chair and shake it."

Reflecting on her childhood, she recalls her favorite memory of going to Disneyland and Sea World. One of the most exciting places she has been is Hawaii, and the most fun ever had was in Alaska on vacation. When asked what type of animal she could Khloe said a hummingbird.

Khloe's favorite color is fusia Her best advice for others is, **"Do not Procrastinate."**

## FACULTY AWARD

Congratulations to Dr. Micheal Malleby, this year's recipient of the Faculty Award. This award recognizes and honors the outstanding achievements and contributions by a faculty member who has made a significant impact upon the students and mission of the Student Support Services program.



Front row: Sandy Ciriaco, Mary Higgins, Dr. Longo, Dr. Wendling, Dr. Malleby. Back Row: Dr. Graham, Dr. Pisarri

## S.S.S. Annual Recognition Banquet



Danielle, Marissa, & Precious



Amber Bennett and Jessica White.



Mary Roy and her family



Karen Thurber, Chandi El-Khoury and Cheree Hatfield.

**The SPIRIT OF SAINT IGNATIUS AWARD** is given to the student who consistently demonstrates integrity, courage, justice, compassion, and selfless dedication to others.



**Emmanuel de Jesus** is a compassionate person who mentors others with respect, integrity and patience. He exemplifies *cura personalis*.

Emmanuel is the President of Peer2Peer. He helped organize the Peer2Peer and Strength Quest training program at the Gallup Organization on how to use strengths to be a better mentor and develop leadership. He has great team building skills and was a key player in the organization of many of the Peer2Peer events, like getting mentors and protégés together to make eggrolls to sell to raise funds for Hunger Clean-up. He presented at the NE Trio Day Conference.

Emmanuel shows insight about the needs of others, stays focused, and offers thoughtful suggestions that improved the structure and goals of Peer2Peer. Emmanuel is the person that you ask to do something and with confidence, you know it will get done. He is also a member of the Biology and Pre-med clubs and volunteers at CUMC and for the Red Cross. He was accepted to the Teach Across America program.

**The PACESETTER** award is

given to the student who exhibits superior leadership and outstanding service to school and community.



**Tiffanesh Williams** is on the Creighton debate team and participated in debate in high school. She was nominated for the Father Thomas Schloemer award. She is pursuing Political Science as a major.

**The DEDICATION** award is given to the student who most demonstrates great dedication and persistence in academic studies, shows significant improvement. In recognition of his consistent dedication to achieve his best.



**Perry Root** is an active member for S.S.S. He greatly improved his GPA this semester. He focused on understanding how he learns and how to study, and in the process, discovered more to explore and several possible careers. We are waiting to see where his new knowledge takes him. He is also a Floor Representative for Heider Hall.

**The ACHIEVER** award is given to the student who most demonstrates exceptional academic achievement, superior character, service to others, leadership and commitment to the mission of Student Support Services.

**Chester Ashong** was accepted to Creighton Pharmacy School this fall. He is an Inter-Resident Hall Senator, tutors

athletes at Central High School, and is an active member of Jays 4 Christ, Mac Users Society, and Pre-Pharmacy Club. He volunteered for Habitat for Humanity, Boys and Girls Club of America, CUMC, and participated in a Spring Break service trip to Louisiana. Chester is also a Gates Scholar and a dedicated student who consistently strives to perform his best.

**The PROMISE** award is given to a First Year Student for active involvement in Student Support Services activities, dedication to academic success, initiative, and responsibility.



**Steele Valenzuela** is a Math major who excels academically. Currently, he has taken up permanent residence the SSS office. He is a member of Peer2Peer, Native American Association, and Creighton University Latino Student Association. He is a Gates Scholar and a Gates Mentor. He is one of the students who recently help implement "The College Is Possible" workshop for Latino high school students in Omaha. Steele has a wonderful sense of humor, and he brightens the day of the staff members and fellow students. He also has hidden talent for cartooning.





Kathy Daotay, Richard Ho, and Song Zheng at the Recognition Banquet.



Monica Ibarra and Kathy Daotay with their recognitions.



Chandi El-Koury holding up his recognition.

## S.S.S. Annual Recognition Banquet Cont.

The **Student Support Services Ambassador Award** recognizes those students who have gone above and beyond to promote and advance the mission of the SSS program.

**Kathy Daotay** excels academically but is also committed to helping others. Kathy is a Supplemental Instructor for anatomy and physiology for SSS students and fellow class mates. She was a Beadle for RSP 101. She volunteers at the Queen Medical Hospital Center in Hawaii and the Humane Society. She is a member of the Hui-O Hawaii Club, Art Club, and participated in a Fall Break Service trip. She is very out-going and makes everyone's day and tries to assist other SSS participants whenever

possible.

**Monica Ibarra** is extremely dedicated to the mission, staff, and students in Student Support Services. She is a frequent volunteer and the first to volunteer. She is successful in recruiting others to help because of her charming personality and passion. She is a strong advocate of higher education and S.S.S. She often helps greet and host visiting high school students. She attends every weekend, evening, and Immersion trips for our Gates outreach initiative. In addition to her involvement with S.S.S., she is an officer for CULSA and Lambda Theta Nu, a member of the Knitting Club, and a mentor in Peer2Peer. She and Lilianna Jacinto planned and implemented the "College is Possible" Day for Latino High School Students.

The **Rev. John P. Markoe, S.J. Award** a leadership award is designed to recognize an outstanding student leader who has made a significant contribution to the promotion of justice and unity.

**Chadi El-Khoury** received the Martin Luther King award this spring. He has also received the Father Schloemer award. He coordinates weekly volunteer sites for the Center of Service and Justice. He is completing a research internship with Professor Ault. His new job is at the Mason Network Center where he will be a part time program coordinator for Sudanese refugees. This summer, he will be in Washington DC to be part of a Jesuit social justice think tank, working on the Global Women's Project. He is dedicated to service and justice.

## Peer-2-Peer Awards

It was difficult to choose a "mentor of the year" because Peer-2-Peer is fortunate to have many exceptional mentors this year who all live up to the objectives of this program. However, two mentors stand out for their contribution not only to their protégé's success and experience at Creighton but also for their exceptional contribution and participation in the activities of this program such as our eggroll fundraising and Creighton Clean-Up where we raised \$225 for the Ollie Webb Center.

These two mentors are always looking for more ways to help their protégés and the group without expecting any return and for this, it is an honor to present the Peer-2-Peer Mentor of the Year award to **Paul Tran** and **Cheree Hatfield**.

These two mentors embody the Jesuit values through their mentoring and participation. Here are few words from each one's protégé:

"Paul has been a very encouraging mentor since the beginning of the year. He's understanding and willing to help in any way he can."

"Cheree Hatfield is a caring and fun-loving individual. She is willing to go beyond the minimum to help other individuals. She has pushed me this year to reach my goals and also to be more social. Because she is outgoing, she is inspiring me to step out of my shell and embrace who I am socially. She has taught me how to have fun and learn at the same time. Cheree is a woman of integrity and has great faith. Most importantly, she puts herself wholeheartedly into everything that she does. Cheree is truly exemplary of what a great mentor should be."

## Spotlight on Chant Knight *by Ely Ramos*

Chant Fox Knight, from Thunder Valley, South Dakota, is a freshman at Creighton University. He is pursuing a career in Health Administration and Policy, with a minor in Spanish. Chant is very in tune with his culture, he is Shakopee and Oglala Lakota. Recently at the Creighton Pow Wow he was Head Man dancer and is a grass dancer. He is involved in the Native American Student Association (NAA) and was recently selected as President of NAA for next year.

While at Creighton he has become very fond of two of his professors, **Dr. Rudi Mitchell and Mr. Joe Ecklund**, because they are very understanding, easy to talk to, and helpful.

Even though Chant claims to be no fun and all business, he and his good friend Frank always find a way to amuse themselves and others. Every week Chant and Frank have bets that they have to



Chant dressed in traditional regalia, performing at the 2009 Pow Wow

complete. And if they fail, like Chant did, you end up wearing an extra small shirt and ninja pants, with some stunner shades to the Creighton Basket Ball game. All business, I don't think so! Especially if his favorite quote is **"only the good die young"**. Or more like dying of embarrassment, Chant's most embarrassing moment happened only a couple of days ago, as he was playing baseball with some of his friends and he was hit in the face with a bat. Can we say dangerous? But boys will be boys, and everything is fun

and games, until someone gets hurt, because then it is hilarious!

Chant Knight is a very diverse young man. He is athletic, artistic, and academic. Chant is a Gates Millennium Scholarship winner, and he considers it to be his most prized possession because it pays for a wonderful college career and it

helps his future grow. This summer he is participating in a pre-Dental program this summer at the Creighton Dental School, as well as taking summer classes. Chant is also going to be a "beadle", which is a teacher's assistant for **Dr. Mitchell's RSP 101** course this upcoming fall semester. It sounds like Chant is going to be a very busy young man and his "all business and no fun" is going to come true. On behalf of Student Support Services we applauded you for all your determination.

## Thank you to the Creighton Community

Thank you Creighton faculty and staff members! Your support and dedication to SSS and our students is invaluable.

We are thankful for all your hard work and commitment.

You make a genuine difference in the life of our

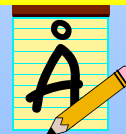
students. Thank you for your involvement in SSS.



David Plutschack, Rose Hill, Betty Bahr

### MAGIS

*means "the seeking of the 'more,' the striving for excellence in all that one does. It is the conscious act of not being satisfied with the status quo or just doing the minimum." The Magis award recognizes those students who challenge themselves academically to pursue excellence in their studies. These seven students exemplified this in their achievement of a 4.0 grade point average for the fall or spring semester.*



### MAGIS Award Winners

#### Fall 2008

Anthony Allee  
Emmanuel de Jesus  
Chadi El-Khoury  
Lori Schnepf  
Lan Uyen Tran

#### Spring 2008

Jeny Acosta  
Erin Blaha  
Richard Ho  
Michael Klug  
Mary Roy  
David Plutschack  
Katherine Shaffer  
Tiffanesha Williams

#### 4.0 Two Semesters

Jordane Choquette  
Kathy Daotay  
Harriet Mullin



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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*

Congrats to the 25 seniors who will be graduating this May. We had 67 attendees at the recognition ceremony. We had 33 students at the Potluck in April.

We still need 33 students to do orientation, midterm meeting, counselor meeting and/or workshops.

I have tried to email everyone. 39 students still need to do the FAFSA or paperwork that is required.

Please sign the notebook. 57 students need to sign the

notebook. 13 students may lose SEEDS funding unless they complete the last of their requirements.

If you have not received a letter that states that you have completed all requirements, contact me. If you have concerns, let me know.

This summer, we will be looking at grades and registrations. If we have concerns about grades or fall classes, we will contact you this summer.

Tami, Denise and Karen will be working this summer if you have any questions or concerns.

Good luck on Finals. Have a safe and fun summer.



**Karen Thurber**

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