



Monica Ibarra, Chant Knight, Ryan Wong, and Angel Le at the Peer2Peer pot-luck.



Angel and Carlos present Vern Pino with a Peer2Peer t-shirt.



Rich, our beloved Science Specialist, in his new office.

TRiO
STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Swipes, Changes, and More! *By Jeny Acosta*

Have you ever wondered why you have to swipe your card every time you walk into the SSS office?

As many of you noticed, SSS changed locations from Markoe Hall to the new Harper Center. The staff—Tami, Wade, Karen, Denise—wondered for some time whether this change impacted the traffic of students coming through SSS each month. This is where the card swipe plays its role. We looked

at the records of the card swipes from August/September of 2007 and compared them to the recent records from August/September of 2008 to see if there was any significant change. This is what we found:

Although we have no evidence

that directly correlates the new location to the increase of students coming through SSS, we would like to believe that the students are really enjoying the convenience and comfort of the new facility.

If you have not stopped by the new location, come visit us at Harper Center 4008 (on the fourth floor) to see what's new at SSS!

	2007	2008	Difference
August	391 students	439 students	48 students
September	807 students	894 students	87 students

Twenty-nine years of experience! *By Angel Le*

SSS was created in the fall of 1979 and has 29 years of accomplishments and success working with Creighton students.

Rich Jehlik was there from the beginning! Rich is a great guy who has been working for SSS since the **fall of 1979**. For many years, SSS was the only retention program at Creighton. In fact, in the early years, SSS provided support for eligible Creighton Athletes until the Creighton Athletic department created their own retention program modeled on the Student Support Services program.

In the past **twenty-nine years**, Rich has seen the SSS program move to four different buildings. It was

first located in Creighton Hall, moved to the Performing Arts Building, then to Markoe Hall, and finally to the Harper Center. He has also seen many different directors throughout his time. Through all of this change, he continued to work tutoring students in science, which of course is his favorite subject.

Rich is very proud of all of his students. He watches them blossom and succeed while opening up and becoming their own person. Over the years, he has witnessed the great impact SSS has had on Creighton. He has noticed that it has truly changed lives, not only in terms of careers, but in the actual personal lives of students. He has noticed a boost of confidence the program gives the students, which makes them

much more goal oriented and inspired to excel. Since he sits in the classes he tutors, he continues to notice the many changes which occur and that there is always something new.

Through Supplemental Instruction (SI), he finds many students blossom into high performing students. Rich says there are many beneficial aspects of SI. Students can stay on top of class work, are more motivated to attend class, gain more confidence, and the ability to work on their own to solve their homework problems. Tutors are also able to act proactively. Through all of Rich's involvements, he finds the best part about his job is working with the students.



Jeny is enjoying sushi on a Friday night!



Awww! The cutest thing ever!



Peer2Peer Team work! Way to go Steele and Tiffanesha.



Carlos, Trang, Song, Michelle, Carmen, Angel & Emmanuel illustrating Peer2Peer love.

Spotlight on Jeny Acosta *by Ryan Wong*

Jeny Barbara Acosta is a senior from Miami, Florida, majoring in Communications and looking toward a career in law. Her family is Cuban with an Arab descent. Currently, Jeny is in the process of learning her fourth language: Arabic. She can communicate in Spanish, English, and Italian.

Jeny selected Creighton University because she wanted to experience something different from of a big city in a small campus environment. In SSS, Jeny has met new people and works in a family-like atmosphere. SSS assisted her through its friendly staff and support of financial aid. Jeny's favorite quote is "Dance like no one is watching, sing like no one is

listening, and love like you will never be hurt."

Jeny is a very accomplished woman. She was the National Communications Coordinator for Creighton and a recipient of the Creighton Academic Scholarship. She was also on the Dean's List for her academic achievement. Most recently, Jeny was one of the coordinators of the Multicultural Retreat held in collaboration with Campus Ministry and Student Support Services. Her volunteer work includes service with Girls, Inc. and Mason House. She also participated in the Catholic Migrant Farm Workers Conference. However among the many awards and achievements, Jeny claims that her greatest one so far is "surviving in Nebraska."

Her life at Creighton is full of excitement. Jeny's favorite instructor is Dr. Mary Longo, a professor who teaches World Literature. "Dr. Longo has a great personality and teaching methods." While at Creighton, she met the love of her life, Ahmed Leeri, the most exciting thing that has happened to her while in school.

In January, Jeny will venture to Africa and the Middle East in a study abroad program. Jeny will continue to study Arabic. She is very excited to have this unique and possibly life-changing experience.

If you happen to see Jeny working the front desk at the SSS office, please wish her the best of luck before she embarks on Africa and the Middle East.

Peer2Peer: Just Getting Started! *By Emmanuel de Jesus*

One of my goals as President of Peer-2-Peer this academic year is to strengthen the bonds between mentors and protégés as well as among all members of the group. Last year, we noticed that few people within Peer-2-Peer knew each other at the end of the program. Thus the Peer-2-Peer officers decided to have a potluck in the Opus Community Room during the first week of October. We had 29 participants!

It was not a typical potluck because each pair of mentor and protégé had to come up

with a cultural and/or creative dish that they worked on together. It could be something that they both enjoy or just about anything creative! We thought that this was a good start for mentors and protégés to get to know each other and build teamwork. I was delighted by the creativity of those who participated. For example, Cheree Hatfield and Tiffanesha Williams brought their "Eco-friendly Chocolate Mousse Dirt" dessert because they both are nature friendly.

However, the program was not just about creativity. The

event was meant to build teamwork within the entire Peer-2-Peer. We played different games that focused on different team building strategies. First, "Move It Buddy" was meant for everyone to get to know each other's names. The "Group Charades" helped members of Peer-2-Peer to find similarities among themselves and act it out for other groups to guess.

We also played "60 second Speeches" in which groups were given a one word or phrase which they all had to talk about within the 60 second timeframe.

Peer2Peer: just getting started! *By Emmanuel de Jesus*

Finally, we also played "Minefield" where communication between mentors and protégés was tested as one guided his or her blindfolded partner to across a "minefield."

Finally, we had a very informal welcoming ceremony for 2008-2009 protégés and mentors. We welcomed new members by awarding our Peer-2-Peer T-shirts.

It was a fun night of activities, making new friendships, and strengthening bonds. During planning with the officers, I used the analogy that as mentors, we are like a parent who is helping a child who is learning how to walk—you hold their hands at the beginning, but once they feel comfortable and become stronger, they will walk on their own discovering new

paths. They probably thought I was a dork, but that is OK! That is my vision for this Peer-2-Peer activity—to initially assist the protégés and mentors to build friendships among themselves. Then, they can strengthen their newly found friendships as they progress throughout this year and years ahead.



We are one big Peer2Peer family.



Ha! Ha! you can't get me. Yes, I can! Just wait.....

Dia de los Muertos *By Carlos Atencio*

Dia de los muertos is a national holiday celebrated by the people of Mexico and many people across the world. The main focus of this holiday is a gathering of family and friends to pray for and remember the people who have died. The holiday is celebrated on November 1st and 2nd. It is believed that the souls of those who have passed rise up again and walk the earth on this day. We remember them, therefore they are present with us.

Typical celebration of this holiday includes adorning grave sites of deceased loved ones with flowers, altars, and other *recuerdos* of the person. Many give alms to the church or to poor families. Attending a Catholic mass is common for many families since this holiday parallels All Saints Day and All Souls Day. The three holidays are celebrated for similar reasons.



It is believed that *Dia de los Muertos* originated with the native peoples living in the area at the time. Many Aztec and Purhepecha peoples had similar holidays of remembering the dead, and it appears that this tradition has been passed on from generation to generation.

One of the best parts of *Dia de los Muertos* is the delicious food that is served. Many people like to make delicious meals for the deceased and for themselves. Typical foods include tamales and *pan de los muertos* (sugar bread). People also have

sugar skulls.

In general *Dia de los Muertos* is a beautiful way to remember the deceased and to let them know that we miss them and are thinking of them.

Not only does Mexico celebrate this unique holiday, in fact many other Latin American countries including Guatemala, Haiti, Brazil, and Bolivia, celebrate in the same way. Similar holidays are also celebrated in Asia and Africa.

Many people in the United States enjoy celebrating both Halloween and *Dia de Los Muertos*. Both traditions are ways to think about the afterlife and to remember deceased loved ones. If you get a chance, perhaps you can go to the grave yard with beautiful flowers or a sugar skull on November 1st and bring joy to an old spirit.



Big smiles!

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.



La casa del Huarache 8/30/08



Cheree Hatfield, Steele Valenzuela, and Frank Wain at the St. Ignatius house enjoying the monthly Native American Studies Pot-luck.



Three beautiful ladies, Monica Ibarra, Brenda Aguero and Feleshia Henderson, smiling in front of the camera.



Look at Linh Do trying to fly like a bird.

Estrofia! *By Sheila Field*

In mid July, Guillermo Guzman along with four other people started a band called Estrofia. The band plays rock music in Spanish and songs from Mexicsn, Latin American, and Spanish bands such as Maná, El Tri, Enanitos Verdes, Hombres G, and Santana. They also play popular songs in English from United States bands. They hope to write and play their own music in the future.

The members of the band are Guillermo (guitar/vocals), Fernando (guitar/lead vocals), Ines (drums/vocals), Karel (bass guitar), and Eduardo (keyboards). All of the members are from different parts of Mexico.

Estrofia plays regularly in local restaurants and bars. They have also been invited to play in community events such as *Fiestas Patrias*, Queen Coronation of the Mexican Independence Day celebrations in South Omaha. Recently they played at a night club in Council Bluffs. Some of the upcoming shows include two fundraisers in Kansas City, Missouri, and Omaha to benefit the victims of hurricanes in the Caribbean and the United States. Estrofia is also playing a Halloween night party at an Omaha restaurant and in the future there is a possibility of shows at Creighton.

Guillermo said he was surprised at the response and support the band has received from people beginning with the first



Look for upcoming shows and events on the Estrofia myspace page:

<http://www.myspace.com/estrofia>

show. He said, "I guess is because our main followers and those who come to our shows are mostly from the Hispanic/Latino community, and since our band is the only one that plays this genre of music in Spanish around here, they don't have a choice."

Guillermo sometimes finds it difficult to be a college student and in a band at the same time, especially since he also has a part time job and other responsibilities. Guillermo tries to balance everything by prioritizing. He says, "School and studying definitely come first. Then I can worry about work, music,



Estrofia at Club Mex on 8/16/08

and the rest. The hardest part, though, is time management. Taking six classes per semester, plus all the rest of things I have to take care of, there is never enough hours in the day to do everything, and sometimes I have to put something aside to do what at the moment is most important which is usually homework."

What makes things easier with balance is that the other band members face similar situations. All of the men have jobs and responsibilities other than the band. The members go to school and have jobs during the week.

Guillermo says that many people tell him that he has too many things going on, especially with school. However, Guillermo feels that he does not have a choices. He has to work in order to have enough money to pay his bills and help out the family. The only choice he has is with school, and he feels that is not even a choice.

When it comes to music he says, "Everyone in this world needs time for themselves, and time to meditate, to rest, to think about life, to satisfy the strange human need of doing something that makes us relax, that takes us away from reality for a little and liberates us from feeling overwhelmed. I satisfy those needs when playing my guitar." Another way to put it is that Guillermo is "addicted to his guitars, it is his drug." Guillermo would be playing his guitar even if he was not in a band, so being a part of Estrofia allows him to do what he loves but in a different setting.

A Different Taste of Turkey! *By Angel Le*

Growing up in Vietnam, I was used to our simple life, which means we do not celebrate all the holidays. Our most important holidays are Christmas and New Year's Day. When I came to America, I was introduced to numerous holidays that I did not know existed, like President's Day, Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, Easter, the Fourth of July, and Thanksgiving. All of these holidays have become visible in my simple life.

The up-coming holiday is Thanksgiving and, unfortunately, my family does not celebrate with a traditional Thanksgiving. Therefore, I do not get to eat turkey. I do not know how the fresh meat of a turkey tastes or smells. However, my friends tell me that every meat tastes like chicken, so I am assuming that turkey tastes just like chicken. So far, that is how much I know about turkey.

Even though we do not celebrate Thanksgiving, we do not neglect the holiday and still have a fantastic family dinner. We so not

have stuffing, mashed potatoes with gravy, pumpkin pie, or turkey on our dinner plates. Instead we cook something that has a similar look to turkey. No! It is not a chicken. Last year, for our family dinner, my uncle cooked a duck stuffed with portabella mushrooms, sliced seaweed, and all kinds of spices. When we carved the duck, the smell of the spices invigorated the inside and outside of my house. The duck was cooked perfectly, as I could tell by the shiny, golden skin color.

When my uncle took the duck out of the oven, I was ready to chomp the whole thing down, but I could not because it was extremely hot. He gave me a small slice of meat, and all I could say was "Amazingly scrumptious and delicious." The taste of the crunchy skin combined with the freshness of the juicy, soft meat slowly traveled down into my stomach. This is how our family celebrates every Thanksgiving, and I am thankful for the foods we have on our plates.

Even though our family does not celebrate Thanksgiving in the traditional American style, we do not neglect this holiday. Instead we celebrate this holiday with exotic cooking by each family member. Our family was very lucky to immigrate to the United States, also known as the land of opportunity; therefore, we feel it is right and honorable for us to be a part of the American tradition. This land gave us better living, job opportunities, and education. Before eating our dinner, we pray and thank the Lord for giving us the opportunity to come to America and make a living.

Thanksgiving is also a time of generosity. People contribute food to food drives and donate to charities to help those who are unfortunate. I also contribute instant noodles to the food drives. I hope everybody will have a great dinner on Thanksgiving. This holiday it is just not all about the delicious food on the table. It is also about the kindness of people reaching out to their community.



A trip to Vietnam! Angel was climbing on top a mango tree when this picture was taken.



Michelle, Angel, and Emmanuel having a Saturday night of "sushi"! Emmanuel's face is "priceless."



Feleshia Henderson is posing in front of Canyon De Chelly, AZ.

Did you Know? *By Angel Le*

- ⇒ There are three places in the United States named after the holiday's traditional main course—Turkey, Texas; Turkey Creek, Louisiana; and Turkey, North Carolina. There are also nine townships around the country named "Turkey. Three are in Kansas.
- ⇒ Cranberry is a symbol and a modern staple of

- Thanksgiving feasts. Originally called crane berry, its name is derived from its pink blossoms and dropping head, which reminded the Pilgrims of a crane.
- ⇒ Turkeys were one of the first animals in the Americas to be domesticated. A male turkey is a tom. A female is a hen. Babies are called poults.

- ⇒ A turkey has 157 bones and 3,500 feathers.
- ⇒ A turkey can drown if they look up when it's raining.
- ⇒ The average person consumes 4,500 calories on Thanksgiving Day.

*Sources: coolest Thanksgiving facts, bellaonline.com and flowers.com



Brenda and Monica with all the cereal they boxed.



A group photo with Carlos' parents and grandparents during the Gates Fall Break Immersion trip.



Side by side, we will smile until the sunset goes down.



Some group photos from Chinle.

Gates Immersion Service Trip *by Monica Ibarra*

What did you do for fall break? Some of yours truly—**Brenda Aguero, Marissa Begay, Feleshia Henderson, Linh "Son" Do, Cheree Hatfield, Monica Ibarra** along with Tami — went on a Cardoner sponsored Gates Immersion trip to Chinle, Arizona, and Gallup, New Mexico. **We helped one-hundred and nineteen high school seniors and juniors complete the application for the Gates Millennium Scholarship.** Every student had a different story to tell. At first the students were shy, but then we played icebreakers like "I Got Mail" and "Red Rover." Soon we connected with the students and really helped them with their Gates application and the juniors with their résumés.

We were fortunate to connect with **Sister Kathleen Driscoll of the Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Gallup.** Sister Kathleen helped arrange for our housing during the service trip. Sunday through Tuesday we stayed in Chinle at a trailer owned by the Our Lady of Fatima Church. At Chinle we met amazing people like Bob Gillroy. Bob was kind enough to show us around the reservation and talk to us about the Navajo culture. We spent two days

at the high school working with juniors and seniors. We also visited the Church's thrift store and the beautiful Canyon de Chelly National Monument.

More about Gallup Catholic Charities:

<http://www.catholiccharitiesgallup.com/gallup.html>



Learn more about the Retreat House:

<http://www.gallupindependent.com/2008/07july/072608sp.html>

On Wednesday we were generously hosted by **Sister Mary Matthias Ward at the Sacred Heart Retreat Center.** The Retreat Center consists of Drexel Hall, which has 12 rooms with twin beds and private bathrooms. There are five hogans. We stayed in the largest hogan, named after St. Joseph, with seven bedrooms with twin beds and private bathrooms. It also houses a spacious lounge in the center. The main building, Tekakwitha Hall consists of a dining room, which also serves as a lounge and a conference room.

In Gallup we helped fifty-five seniors with their Gates application. Since the school did not have a large computer lab, we had to use a tiny room with fifteen computers and rotate the students in four groups of fifteen. Later that day we spent an hour volunteering at the Gallup Food bank. The highlight of our night was a spaghetti dinner with the Daughters of Charity, Sisters Kathleen, Janet, and Mary.

But it wasn't just all work. We had a free day on Thursday. We went to the Catholic Charities thrift store, Native Hands Co-op, the Sandia Mountains, and the mall while visiting **Carlos Atencio** in his hometown, Albuquerque. We had dinner at Carlos' home with his family. His mother is an excellent cook!

The most important lesson I learned from this trip is that there are people still out there who are willing to help complete strangers for nothing in return. We were often thanked by the students and community members, but we felt like we were the ones receiving all the benefits.

The Native Hands Co-op

The Native Hands Co-op is a project under the Catholic Charities of Gallup. The Cooperative provides innovative services designed to change a systemic problem of economic

exploitation of Native American artisans living in New Mexico and Arizona. The program is structured to serve local Native Americans who desire to increase their independence by developing

their artistic, educational and entrepreneurial capabilities. If you are looking for unique and beautiful Christmas gift please check out the co-op website: <http://www.nativehandscoop.com/>

Spotlight on Marissa Begay *By Le Bree Perry*

A first generation freshman **Marissa Begay** is excited to attend Creighton University. She was inspired to attend college because she doesn't see many of people from her culture attend college. Marissa's mother was the most helpful in assisting her with her decision to attend college. Her mother helped her apply for all the schools she wanted to go to and helped her fill out all the paperwork. Marissa is thankful she had her mother present during her college search and transition from high school to college.

Marissa's greatest obstacle to attend college was money. Marissa says, **"Finding scholarships was really hard until I got the Gates Millennium scholarship"**. Marissa found out about different scholarships because Tami Buffalohead-McGill came to her high school on the Navajo reservation and told her about the scholarships she should apply for. Marissa says the information was really helpful for getting her into college.

Marissa says she chose Creighton because the Gates scholarship paid for her total cost of attendance and because Creighton is a great school, and she likes the classes and areas of study offered.

Marissa researched the programs prior to attending Creighton. Marissa's major is biology because it will fulfill



Marissa enjoying her home town view .

pre-requisite courses for optometry school.

Marissa adjusted to the campus environment because the people at Creighton are very nice, and they made it easy to get to know them and helped her feel at home. Marissa says, **"SSS is like my home! I get to just talk to people and joke around after classes are out of the way. And that's always good!"**

Marissa describes the classroom experience at CU, as very different from her high school. It is harder to keep up and the classes are larger.

Her most exciting experience at Creighton so far has been "meeting other Natives (non-Navajos) and learning how we are so alike. It's SCARY."

Marissa is very involved at Creighton. She plays intramural flag football and volley ball. She is also involved in Red Cross, Gates Mentoring, and Peer2Peer. She recently had the opportunity to participate in the Cardoner sponsored Gates Immersion trip to her reservation. Marissa says 'the

Gates Immersion trip was awesome. To see my younger friends at my high school was great. They greeted me, and it just felt good to be able to reach out to them. I think for them to see one of their fellow classmates going to college and helping with their application made them realize their own dreams. I loved every minute of it! Oh, and I spent some valuable time with my mom!"

Marissa's experience is unique in that as a junior and senior in high school, she was one of the students the CU Pharmacy and undergraduate students worked with during the Gates Immersion. As a high school student, Marissa wondered, "Why are the Creighton people at my high school?" According to Marissa, "At I first thought 'Oh, they're just trying to get some hours in for community service, but they're not even from our community'. But after I went on the trip, I realized it was because they cared and wanted us to be aware of this great scholarship that saved me from settling for a bigger University. Now, as a Creightonian, it just makes sense!! We like to help others out."

The advice Marissa would give to other first generation students would be to apply for as many scholarships as possible. Marissa plans to perform her best in college and maintain all her scholarships so she can become an eye surgeon.



Marissa volunteering at the Gallup, New Mexico food bank by sorting frozen chicken parts.



Marissa and Linh Do enjoying the view at the top of Canyon de Chelly.



Marissa helping one of the juniors at her high school with her resumé.



Marissa drinking lemon juice at the Peer 2 Peer pot luck.



Cheree Hatfield, Feleshia, Henderson, Marissa Begay, and Linh Do enjoying the view at Canyon de Chelly.



Cheree, Linh, and Marissa selecting winter hats. Don't they look marvelous!



Linh hard at work at the Gallup Food Bank.



Linh, Cheree, Bob, Monica, Brenda, and Feleshia.

Reflections on the Gates Immersion *By Linh Do*

Tami Buffalohead McGill and six other students traveled to Chinle, Arizona for an immersion trip during Creighton fall break. Most of the students, including me, had often assumed that immersion trips mostly volunteering in the community, like lending hands in rebuilding houses or cleaning up a neighborhood after a natural disaster. However, this immersion trip was one of the most enjoyable and memorable trip I have participated in. It does not required any manual labor, although the outcomes of our assistance were more rewarding than cleaning up a neighborhood or rebuilding a whole city. This immersion trip attributed to my personal growth through my community service and helped me distinguish important personal values, while being able to have fun and enjoy the beautiful scenery the city had to offer.

During the immersion trip, we conducted three Gate Millennium Scholarship workshops at Chinle High School in Arizona and Gallup High School in New Mexico. Our purpose was to assist high school students with the Gates Scholarship application.

During the interaction with the high schoolers, I realized that is it very difficult to be an outsider and try to interact with the students. It required an extra effort by the Creighton students to

overcome our insecurity and approach the student with a helpful attitude. A technique We used icebreakers before the workshop to build rapport and trust while increasing the interaction among us and the high school student. After the ice breaker, the high school students were more open to ask questions and socializing with us. During our interaction with the students, I was amazed by the talents and scholarship the students from Chinle and Gallup possesses. In the process of assisting the students identifying their honors and awards for the application, I realized how much dedication they had placed into their extracurricular activities and their academic studies. This truly expressed the efforts and concerns they had for their future education and the good of their community.

One of my most memorable interactions was a conversation I had with a senior at Chinle High School. We were discussing languages and learning about the Navajo language, and I noticed she had a book that I had used during grade school while learning English. She was amazed after I told her my mother and I used that same book.. She was even more astonished by the fact that my original country, Viet Nam, was located on the other side of the globe. After that, we exchanged our culture and backgrounds with each other. The interaction with the high school student made my immersion trip more enjoyable

and made me felt as if I have given back to the community by participating in their academic success and journey toward higher education.

Aside from the hard work at the Gates workshop, we have a chance to volunteer at the Gallup City Pantry and help organize food and clothing for the city. Through this, we met the nuns who were in charge of the Catholic services offered in that city. They were the greatest and the funniest nuns who made the best spaghetti I have ever eaten.

From conversing with these wonderful nuns, I noticed their values are similar to the Jesuit values at Creighton. These nuns illustrated how important it is to serve others and how assisting others can benefit our lives as well. This was another event that made my experience more enjoyable because I was able to learned from these nuns about how to incorporate the Jesuit values into my future vocation.

While on this trip, I had the opportunity to spend time with the CU students and participate in some fun. We visited the Window Mountains, Canyon de Chelly, Sandia Mountain in Albuquerque and ate at delicious Native American restaurants along the way.

Through the trip, I truly got to know the students for who they are and learned about their backgrounds through our late night reflections and

Reflections on the Gates Immersion *By Linh Do*

daily interactions. When I reflect back on the trip, I especially remember the late night conversations with Tami and the CU students. Maybe it would be more appropriate to call it a "late night comedy show" than a reflection because the other students and I never laughed so hard in our life!

These events truly brought the CU students, including me, closer and created a bond between us. At the beginning of the trip, we were strangers being stuffed in a seven-seat van. However, after 36 hours of driving

across the Midwest and a week of seeing each other, we got to know each very well. This experience made me realize how many people I have come across and made me regret that I did not take the initiative to know them better as a person, as I did with these CU students.

The trip was a success because I had the opportunity to get out of Nebraska and visit beautiful places while developing some interpersonal skills. From assisting the high school student in Arizona and interacting with the CU

students, I developed my communication skills that will be incorporated into my future career as a healthcare provider so that I can effectively educate my clients and interact with my co-workers.

From this trip, I also learned the significance of serving the people in my community. The experiences during my immersion will enable me to incorporate the Jesuit values into my health care practice so that I will serve my clients holistically and perceive all of my daily difficulties through God.



Mary Roy is proud to carry her beautiful daughter Raelyn.



Angel Le and Rocio Mujica at the Peer 2 Peer Pot Luck.



Tiffany Ramelb and Emmanuel de Jesus enjoying the swing.

Cirque de la Symphonie *By Sheila Field*

The "Cirque de la Symphonie" was conducted by Ernest Richardson on Saturday, October 25, 2008, at the Holland Performing Arts Center.

A group of 20 SSS students attended the show thanks to complimentary tickets provided by the Omaha Symphony with the assistance of Lex Poppen. Eight different acrobatic performances were choreographed to the music performed by the orchestra. The performers included Alexander Streltsov an aerial and cube artist; Jarek and Darek, strong men; Sergey Ignatov, a juggler; Christine Van Loo, an aerialist; and Maria Malachikhin, a contortionist. All of the performers are veterans of Cirque de Soleil.

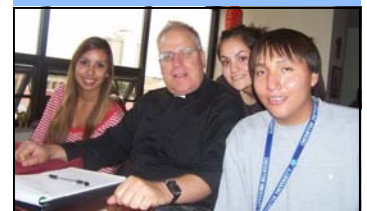
The music performed by the

Orchestra had a Halloween theme and included music from popular movies, such as "The Terminator," "The Lost World," and "Batman"

Angel Le was one students who went to the Holland performance. She said, "I thought the symphony was amazing, how they incorporated the orchestra and the whole band, and in the front of the band was like a circus, and how talented the performers are. At one point I thought that the guy who did the cube would cut off somebody's head if he messed up." **Michelle Wang** said, "I thought the two strong men were the best part, and I also liked the Batman theme the orchestra played, but the strong men were awesome. I also liked the Halloween theme with the songs." **Lan Uyen Tran** said, "It was cool!

My mouth was open the whole time. The performers were very high in the air." **Carmen Chagolla** said, "I enjoyed the whole show, but my favorite part was the ending when the strongmen came out. My jaw dropped to see all the amazing things they could do! I am waiting for the next opportunity to attend another show like this. Thanks to SSS for that wonderful experience!" **Rocio Mujica** said, "I liked the entire show. My favorite part was when the guy flew and looked like an angel. It was awesome! If I had the opportunity to attend another show like this, I would definitely go without hesitating."

The "Cirque de la Symphonie" was a big hit with all of the students who went. The orchestra and the performers were amazing.



Khloe Keeler, Meredith Keith and Dylan Fills Pipe with Father Bucko. They are enjoying a nice meal at Bucko's place.



Precious Sully and Marissa Begay at the Campus Ministry Multicultural Retreat at Niobrara State Park.

Student Support Services

Creighton University
2500 California Plaza
Mike and Josie Harper Center
Omaha, Nebraska 68178

Phone: 402-280-2749

Fax: 402-280-5579

E-mail: tamib@creighton.edu

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*

Milton Miller, speaker on Native American dance, song and clothing — Nov. 19th 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Skutt Student Center, Ballroom Fri., Nov. 21st

Christmas Carol — Cultural Event 7:30 p.m. Playhouse

Gates Workshop — assist high schoolers with applications. Sat., Nov. 22nd 9:00 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. Harper Center.

Personality Styles — Wed., Nov. 26th 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Harper Center, 4008

We are doing great on midterm meetings. Please completed your meeting

before Thanksgiving. If you have not emailed workshop summaries, please email Karen soon. Counseling meetings need to be completed, too.

We will be sending out letters to inform you if you have completed the requirements or what still needs to be completed. Many have all five requirements done.

If you are applying to Pharmacy School, have Denise and Karen review your personal statements. Karen can complete mock interviews with you too.

Think about internships over

Christmas break and contact employers while you are at home in December. Karen can review your résumé and this can count as a workshop.

Sophomores and First year students see Karen or Tami to complete a two year plan. Seniors, complete a senior check with Karen and remember to apply for graduation next semester.

December graduates, please stop by Karen's office for senior gifts and complete a exit survey.

We know there are many demands on you. Let me know if you need any assistance!



Harper Room 4017
Phone: 402-280-3007

Email:
karenthurber@creighton.edu