



Mary Roy, Raelyn, and baby



Sandy on her birthday. Look at that smile!



Sheila showing off Sandy's cake.



Hoots and Salutes

Congratulations to **Cheree Hatfield** for receiving the Martin Luther King Jr. Student Leadership award.



Vice President for Asian Bound program, and he is Student Association.

Amanda Lindsay was offered a job as Administrative Assistant in the Social Work Department at the Monroe Myer Institute.



Congratulations to **Mary Roy** on her new baby, Ava born on January 9, 2010.



Adrian Sandoval was nominated for the Martin Luther King, Jr.



Steele Valenzuela was hired to be an RA over the summer for the Lincoln Upward



Congratulation to **Brenda Agüero** for becoming an associate coordinator for the Talent Search Program.



Leadership Award.

Michelle Wang has been promoted to



Fall 2009 Students Earning a 4.0 GPA

Samson Yat Ho Chik
Nhu Phung Thuy Le
Maria Dublin Sabio
Kathy Tram Daotay

Jessica Avery Bakhit
Emina Nmi Becirovic
David Joseph Plutschack
Chester N Ashong

Chadi El-Khoury
Ashley Lynn Hauger
Anthony Joseph Allee

Fall 2009 Dean's List

Feleshia S Henderson
Ming Ming Chen
Peter Anthony Massa
Herman Shinji Ing
Erica Denise Stewart
Yan Dan Chen
Mary Terese Roy
Gaoia Vang
Patrick Cy Lam
Lorena Zamarripa-Lovo
Eden Yat Hay Chik
Samuel Kor
Cheree Marie Hatfield

Kelsey Rhea Ham
Tai Quoc Do
Shannon Rene Docken
Jordan T Herman
Alejandro M Lopez
Teresa Quinn Vu
Saw Lot
Richard Vt Ho
Linh T Do
Francis Dale Waln
Erin Whitney Dailey
Randell Mangornong Haduca
Jimmy Bao Tran

Da'Quisha Granderson
Daniel G Higgins
Amy F Xie
Song Qing Zheng
Rachel Wang
Ryan Wong
Mary M Doan
Jian Lei Cai
Matthew Joshua Kor
Meredith Michelle Keith
Jordane B Choquette
Andrew Gerald Busch

Spotlight on Reverend Harmless, SJ *by Steven Buffalohead*



SSS kids at Canyon de Chelley in Arizona.



Tami Buffalohead-McGill and Angel Le



Liliana Valadez, Josh Phelps, and Marissa Begay in Albuquerque, NM in Olde Towne.(Family Portrait)

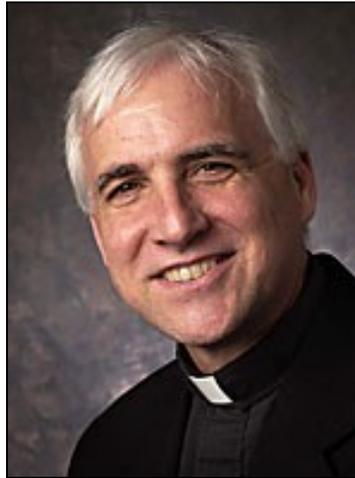


Mikhail and Jessica making copies.

William Harmless is a Jesuit. He was born in Kansas City, and there found his calling. He worked for thirteen years at Spring Hill College in Alabama. At Spring College, he was the chair of the department. Fr. Harmless has worked at Creighton for six years now. He lives by the Jesuit Principles. One is to find God in all things. another is to be contemplative in action. All that he does is for the greater glory of God.

Fr. Harmless loves music of all kinds, like rock and jazz. He even saw live concerts of his favorite band, Radiohead. He enjoys sports, too. He used to play soccer but now just watches. His greatest achievement so far is teaching his students. "Being a teacher is what I want to be," he says.

The most exciting and interesting places he has been are West Africa, Malay, and Florence. He has written four books and when



he writes, he loves to stay in the Bay Area of San Francisco.

Father Harmless gave me some important tips about how to be successful in his class and others. The first is just going to class. The second is to participate. Another important thing in his class is how students take notes; he wants students to be able to talk from their notes.

He asked me, "What is the relationship between your study patterns and your performance?" What I got out of that was that if I study more, I will perform better on the test. He said to use as many senses as I can when I

study and to be active when I study as well. He suggests that if students want to make connections with him or any other teacher, just look at the syllabus. Teachers put their number, e-mail, and office hours there. More students need to take advantage of it.

Fr. Harmless noticed Creighton students are hardworking, brilliant, and energetic. But he said, "There isn't an ideal. There isn't an A+ student. The A+ student is the student who is his or her self. Everybody has to find their own way to how they're going to do it."

Fr. Harmless's stories about his travels and books were very interesting. I enjoyed learning more about a teacher I knew very little about. After interviewing Fr. Harmless, I gained a lot of knowledge about his past and information about what I need to do to succeed in his and other classes. In the end, the old saying is true you can't judge a book by its cover, or in this case a teacher.



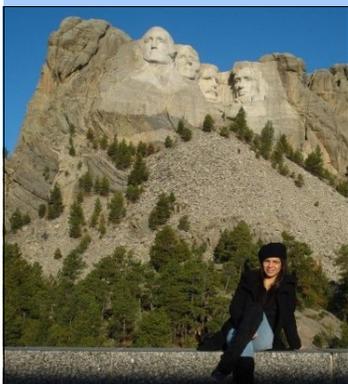
Spotlight on Rocio Mujica *by Sheila Field*



Rocio and her friends.



Rocio looking fancy!



Rocio in front of Mt. Rushmore during fall break.



Angel pretending to shovel.

Rocio Mujica, or Roci as she is known by her family, is a sophomore studying International Business. Rocio who was born in Michoacan, Mexico, but now lives in Omaha.

Rocio came to Creighton because she liked the campus and its welcoming environment. At first Rocio did not know anything about SSS until Carmen encouraged her to join. After talking to Tami, Rocio applied and was accepted into the program before she started as a freshman. Rocio likes SSS because the staff, the students and the people willing to help you whenever you need it. SSS has benefited her by giving her a place to study and do homework. The tutoring she receives helps with her classes. Some of her accomplishments include receiving the Diversity and Scholastic foundation scholarships.

Rocio's favorite professor is Dr. Dilly because "she embraces the Latino community and is passionate about her career and job." The most exciting thing that has happened to Rocio since being at Creighton is going on the Fall Break Service Trip to help with the Gates Scholarship applications in South Dakota.

Outside of school, Rocio hangs out with her best friends Carmen and Samantha. They are so close that they can even finish each other's text messages. Rocio also belongs to a dance club where she dances the Kerbradita.

Her most prized possession is her Sweet 15 photo album because, "it is full of memories and it's great importance in my culture." Her favorite childhood memory is when she and her sister would go with their grandpa to the fields in Mexico and swing in

their favorite tree. Rocio likes to listen to all types of music. However, the sound she likes the most is the birds singing in the morning when she wakes up.

She is most annoyed when people say they are someone's friend, but then go and talk about the person behind their back. Rocio is also annoyed when people call her dude. The most fun Rocio had was on her senior year high school trip to Worlds of Fun and when she went to Mexico. She was most embarrassed when she and her friend were at the Zoo and they accidentally walked into the men's bathroom.

Rocio would be a dolphin or a humming bird if she could be any animal because, "dolphins are my favorite animal, and they are cute and simple."

Rocio leaves us with this advice, **"always try and never give up."**

Winter Wonderland *By Angel Le*

I seriously had enough of the heavy snow! Can you believe it? I was stuck in my house for more than three days. I am pretty sure that happened to most people in our region.

My Christmas was not as exciting as last year. Last year I was partying with my friends, exchanging presents, and staying up all night playing games. Compared to last year, this Christmas was depressing. As much as I love SOME snow, it was too much when

Mother Nature hit us with her best shot and gave us over a foot of snow.

It is my family tradition to go to church, but this year because of the snow I couldn't even move my car out of the driveway. I failed in my attempt to take them to church. Lord, forgive me please! To lessen the boredom on Christmas day, my family decided to have "Lau"- Hot Pot. It consists of seafood in the soup pot. Your body turns vigorously warm instantly just by a spoonful of

soup. Our windows were fogged up from the steam of the soup. My cousins drew a snowman on the window. I joined in and scribbled over their drawings. After our hot pot, our bodies felt warm, so we decided to go outside and shovel the snow. It took us almost two hours to shovel our long drive way. After we finished our driveway we helped our neighbors. It was a blast because almost everyone was outside with their snow plows trying to dig their way out.

Winter Wonderland Continued *By Angel Le*



Angel laying in the snow.



SNOW! SNOW! SNOW! BRING IT ON!



Khloe Keeler enjoying her time in the snow.

Once done helping the neighbors we had a huge snow fight. My hands are small, so I could not win. I got mad, so I went inside my house and took out better equipment to dominate my cousins. I took a box and stuffed snow inside and threw the box at them. It's not fair for them to have a competitive cousin like me. Overall, my snow days were not as depressing as I would have thought. I had the chance to bond with my cousins who just came from Vietnam and to experience firsthand a real snow fall. They loved it for the first couple of days.

Let's move on to what other students from SSS did on their snow days:

Nhu Le said what else could she be doing? Three hours of rolling in the snow killed her phone. Nhu celebrated Christmas for two days and had four extra family members sleep over at her house. The house was a disaster and looked like an immigrant camp. The rest of the snow days all she did was curl up in her blanket and watch tons of movies all day long. It seemed like she really enjoyed the snow days despite the fact her phone is ruined.

Michelle Wang, being such a good student, decided to study a lot over the snow days. Besides that, she helped SSS by reviewing Gate applications for high school seniors. She exercised a lot and ran errands for her parents. For Christmas, her family wanted to thank her two friends for helping her boost their GPA.s Michelle's



SNOW ANGEL!!

friends were over to enjoy a warm hot pot of loving family dinner. Michelle, you could of invite me over for some Korean hot pot "wink, wink," and in return I could of share my Vietnamese hot pot.

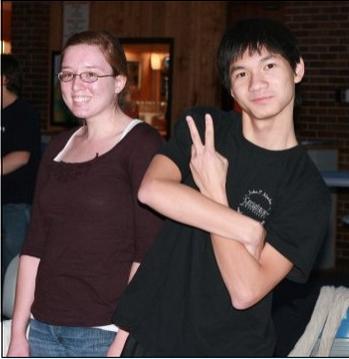
Sheila Field said she did not do much over break during Christmas. She stayed home with her family and put much effort in thinking about how much she dislike the snow that was falling. Come on Sheila! That was it? I could have invited you over my house, so you could shovel the snow for me and put some muscle on those arms. (Just kidding.) Sheila also helped review Gates applications.

Jason Nguyen said he shoveled the snow for endless hours and hated the thought that he would have to shovel more tomorrow and the next day because the snow kept on falling. Yes, I have to agree with you. The thought of shoveling the next day and the next day and next was terrible.

Samantha Riley had the most eventful and disastrous winter break. She was stuck in her house for four days. Because of the weight from all of the snow, her roof started to collapse. Her whole family had to go on the roof and

shovel as much snow off as possible since another foot of snow was expected. She spent most of her time watching movies, cleaning the house,. She cleaned her room four times. On the fourth day, she woke up to a freezing house. It was 40 degrees inside because they had run out of propane and had no heat along with no oven or stove. They called the county, and they told them that they weren't plowing the back gravel roads for another 2-3 days (Sam lives in the country). The propane company wouldn't come unless their roads were clear. They cranked up the sauna and left the door open to keep some heat in the house. Then their whole family went out to shovel as much as they could while her dad was on the bobcat helping them shovel. After six hours of shoveling, they made it to the railroad tracks! But that still left Kermit, which had a flat bed stuck blocking the road. The driver said he had a plow coming to rescue him which meant the rest of their road would be plowed ,so they could get propane! They were very excited. But to their surprise, when the plow finally came he followed the flat bed's tracks and drove right into the ditch. They called another plow, and they sent a road grader. Finally they got their propane and an open road, so they could leave the house. Wow, what a winter break Sam had! I was stuck home for only three days with the heat in, but I was bored to death. All I did was eat and watch movies. It's a good thing that all of us managed to survive in this bad to the bone winter to tell our interesting stories. So cheers to that!

Peer-2-Peer Bowling *By Sheila Field*



Sheila and Jason Bowling!



Peter, Tai and Angel looking fly!

Peer-2-Peer is a group within SSS that pairs a freshman protégé with a sophomore, junior, or senior mentor.

Peer-2-Peer is student run with the support of SSS staff. It is designed as a way for a

sure they are doing well in college and to see if their protégé needs any assistance or advice.

about twelve members went bowling. We had two lanes and bowled about three games. Everyone had a lot of fun bowling, watching the TVs, and taking pictures.



Spare for Tai!



first year students to form relationships and connections with upper-class students. The mentors are responsible for checking in with their protégé to make



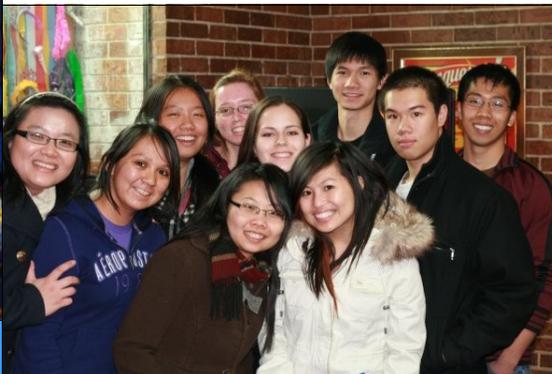
Some of the students made it a requirement to get your picture taken when you made your first strike and spare, and, of course, Angel was the first to get a strike.



One of our first group events was cosmic bowling at Mocking Bird Lanes. The group event was meant for the members of Peer-2-Peer to meet and get to know one another better. In December,



Strike for Trang!



Fall reflections *By Josh Phelps*



After dinner at Marissa Begay's House.



Josh Phelps helping students.



The Group on Sandia Peak.



Outside the New Mexico Museum of Natural History .



At the Canyon de Chelly.

Now that Christmas break is over, I'm going to take us all back in time to Fall break when a group of selfless individuals lead by Tami Buffalohead-McGill went on a service trip to the Navajo Indian Reservation. This trip was not only helpful for the high school students but also for the Creighton students who had a first-hand experience with an ancient and exciting culture.

Our mission was to help high school students in Gallup, NM, and Chinle, AZ, gain access to higher education through the Gates Millennium Scholarship that would otherwise be unattainable for them. The Gates Scholarship is a four year, full cost scholarship to the college of the student's choice initiated in 2000 by Bill Gates to help minorities gain access to college education. Applicants must fill out an online application listing accomplishments, experiences as a leader, volunteer work, and paid employment. In addition, the applicant must answer eight questions about life experiences. Since this is a very competitive scholarship, only the best written applications are chosen.

This is where the group from Creighton comes in. Throughout the week on the reservation, we spent each day working one-on-one with the students of several high schools by editing and helping them brainstorm ideas for their compositions. The students were very bright and just needed some guidance and grammatical help with what they had written. It was very rewarding working with the students and making so much progress in so little time. Many of the students finished most of their application with our help.

We didn't limit our time to just Gates related service but also worked an afternoon in the food bank and helped at the local church. At the food bank, we sorted potatoes into sacks and put together bags of essentials to give to the needy. The regular volunteers told us that we did what would have taken them months to do. It was awesome that ten people could have made such an impact. We stained the beautiful Hogan shaped church. Since the church provided us lodging, it was the least we could do in return.



A group photo with the Chinle High School seniors.

When we had down time, we

also took time to see the sights and learn about the culture of the area. On the first full day there, we went to Sandia Peak in Albuquerque, NM, and traveled to the top on the world's longest tramway. Along the way we saw some breathtaking views of the surrounding mountains and the city. We also went to the New Mexico Natural History Museum and learned about the history of the state and, of course, Tami was there to take dozens of pictures to document it.

Once we were in Chinle, AZ, we met the family of Marissa Begay and had an excellent dinner with many Native American specialties including fry bread, mutton stew and Navajo tea. On the last day of our trip, we visited the Canyon de Chelly which is like a mini Grand Canyon. This was my favorite site. You could walk right up to the edge and look over and hike around the mountainous terrain.

Overall this was a very well-rounded trip with a good balance of service, education and fun. All the students who learned about Native culture and how life is on the reservation. This has definitely made me want to continue helping the Native people gain access to higher education and also do service on the reservation where it is needed most in the United States.

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<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*

I hope everyone is settling in and doing well. We had 34 orientations completed the first week of school. Please do orientation meetings and your FAFSA online. If you need to complete 1040 or easy forms, the Pittman Building will have free income tax filling on Feb. 1st and Feb. 24th.

Remember to do two workshops.

**John Tesh concert is Feb. 10th.

**Lunar New Year and free Chinese Food is Feb. 10th.

**Feb. 20th is Bela Fleck, The Africa Project Practice Mock

**Interviews will be Feb. 20th.

**Every Wed., at 3:30pm, I will present the Financial Literacy workshop that everyone has to do. Fifty- five students have done the workshop.

Have a great semester.

Karen Thurber



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and RSP200 Advisor

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