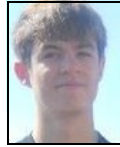


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Hoots and Salutes!

Congratulations to **Joshua Pieper** for receiving Best Soundtrack and Best Supporting Actor for his film "Cognitive Disorders: The Story of Ron Calli". He was also nominated for Best Director.



Congratulations to and **Michelle Wang** who played

the main role in "Cognitive Disorders: The Story of Ron Calli"



Congratulations to **Lin Lau** for receiving the Mo-Kan-Ne Scholarship.

Namarata Sapkota is the nursing representative for



CSU.

Jimmy Tran is the Arts and Sciences representative for CSU.



Congratulations to SSS alum **Perry J. Root** who has secured a position as a Purchasing Specialist at Agent Health.

China KING by Adrian Vega

History has been the witness to the peaceful attempts of many revolutionary leaders to defeat prejudice, injustices, and the corruption of civil rights. Revolutionary leaders of civil rights like Gandhi, Mother Teresa, and Martin Luther King indeed lived their lives with the purpose of spreading equality, peace, and harmony among the world by delivering their messages to the masses.

When we look specifically at Martin Luther King, we see a man who knew that color and race were not the standard by which we people should be characterized or judged. He understood that racism in America was tearing apart humanity. As a believer in the Gospel of the Lord, he marched in the streets to spread the

message of equality in a non-violent way.

King's message of non-violence indeed moved masses, and it rallied immense numbers, both black and white, against the prejudice that controlled the United States. Despite enduring torture and constant physiological mistreatment, Martin Luther King never lost hope.

The documentary "Bringing King to China: explains how an American teacher in China, Caitrin McKiernan, tried to bring King's message of hope and equality to those in China. With immense effort, she tried to create the first ever play about Martin Luther King and his ideology to share with the people of China, who in her opinion were oppressed for most of their lives.

McKiernan, with help of donors like Harvard University,

was able to pay a cast at the Chinese Theater, one of the largest in China, to begin working on a play about Martin Luther King's life. Making this project work took much patience and hard work. She wanted the Chinese to really understand King's message of non-violence and peace but was confronted by Chinese individuals who saw her as just another American telling the Chinese people what to do and how to run their lives.

The Chinese actors understood the struggles of Martin Luther King and African Americans, but the play began to be more proof of how evil Americans were, and how they harmed those who got in their way. The film undergoes but it starts in a slow pace since the producer of the play who is (CONT. on page 2).



Adrian Vega smiling.

"We can learn from each other without trying to change what we are if we try to first learning from our mistakes and make change possible in a peaceful way."



K'Tawna Nelson and Edward Parish.

CHINA KING Continued *by Adrian Vega*

Chinese had many different ideas about how to present the play in opposition to McKiernan. Their differences caused conflict, but at the end they found a neutral zone and make it work.

I agree that was hard for McKiernan to go into China and preach about non-violence when Americans are portrayed as always starting wars and meddling in people's lives. She had to do more than say, "This is the way to do this," and work more on saying, "We are accepting of your culture and of your ways of life, but how can we work together to increase the stability of human beings around the world?"

Non-violence is a message worthy of passing on to others, but it is more than just rallying and preaching for peace. It is about doing it locally and working in the areas that need the most help. Instead of trying to change all of China as a whole, it would be more effective and productive to change one small place at time..

Nevertheless, McKiernan has made an amazing effort trying to join two worlds, but the problem is that such a goal can be truncated in the future because the idea of ending racism in the United States is not an issue that is vibrantly present in China. China has bigger problems like making sure that poverty



McKiernan McKiernan

does not effect such high numbers of its citizenry and that they are granted freedom of expression and political freedom.

Martin Luther King fought for the equality of African Americans, but in the case of China, the fight should be more about the end of a dictatorial way of life that has been handed to the Chinese people. The film is touching because McKiernan goes above and beyond to put herself out of the mentality of an American to try and help the people of China. She put on an amazing production and tried to open life in China as well as opening the American public to China's reality.

More than just trying to bring Martin Luther King's message to the people of China, McKiernan was also trying to expose the American public to the injustices going on in China so that more people like McKiernan would be encouraged to follow in her footsteps and see the good in others. China is a very hot topic in the news these days because of its potential to become one of the world's super powers. The

problem is that for this to happen, they must first improve the lives of their own people, so they can be financially strong, but if their citizens are starving to death and being constantly oppressed, it is difficult to call them a world super power. I am not saying that the United States is innocent and has always done the right thing, but the US does uphold is bettering the lifestyles of their own people and this is what China must start doing in order to progress socially and encourage their people to perform better and better to improve China economically, socially, and internationally. China cannot be seen anymore as the other guys across the world from us.

The world needs to understand that China is a rich society, not economically, but culturally. Their society and culture has been part of history for many centuries and for this reason, we must learn as an international community to begin peace talks and open up dialogue. We can learn from each other without trying to change what we are if we try to first learning from our mistakes and make change possible in a peaceful way.

The problem today is that we see only the negative in each other's societies, and we close our minds to change. With change comes much responsibility, and suspicion of others is not an easy problem to fix. But if we start now, little by little we can overcome the differences between us and become a world community of peace.



Nhu Le with SSS friends.



“Her favorite thing about SSS is that it is a tight knit family.”



Spotlight on Nhu Le *by Viet Do*

Nhu Le or “New New” was born in Vung Tau, Vietnam, and is a junior at Creighton University. Nhu Le is a Gates Scholar and a chemistry major planning to become a dentist. She chose Creighton University because it is the ideal place to achieve her goal in the health care field.

Nhu is a member of Student Support Services. She was interested in SSS because she saw SSS as a useful program that could help her academically and financially in college. Her favorite thing about SSS is that it is a tight knit family. She also appreciates the couch located in one of the study areas where she catches up on her sleep since she lives off campus. The benefits she received from SSS are being tutored in chemistry and math.

Nhu’s involvement at Creighton includes serving as a chemistry teaching assistant, Peer 2 Peer

mentor, and Gateway mentor. She is also an active member of the Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity, Pre-dental Club, and the Minority Association of Pre-health. She participated in the Gateway Immersions to New Mexico/Arizona, South Dakota, and served at Co-Coordinator for the Winnebago Immersion.

Nhu’s greatest achievement so far is successfully completing her second year of college. Nhu already completed 112 credit hours by taking a heavy course load during the academic year and in the summers. She did this while earning a place on the Dean’s List. This heavy course load would kill a lesser person!

One goal Nhu hopes to accomplish during her lifetime is traveling everywhere around the world. One of the most embarrassing moments that

occurred in the classroom at Creighton was when she got bleach on her sleeve when she was TA’ing.

Her favorite CU professors are **Father Harmless** and **Dr. Mattson** because they both inspire her to succeed and keep her interested in theology and chemistry.

Outside of school, Nhu enjoys going fishing with her family. If she won the lottery, she would save it and spend it on professional school even though she would love to spend it on a vacation in the palms. If she could be any superhero and have super powers, she would be Xavier from X-men and be able to read minds.

The best advice she has for others is **“You don’t just pass college; you should become a part of the education.”**





Adrian Vega and girlfriend.

"I wish all lovers out there a happy Valentines Day and much love for all. So remember wear red, think, red, be red because love is it in the atmosphere. XOXO!"



See Jessica Swisher if interested in the Gateway Program.

Share the Love *by Adrian Vega*

Believe it or not, the time for love is getting closer than you think. Yes I am talking about Valentine's Day. Finding the one that makes you feel those small butterflies in your stomach can be difficult, but when you do, it will be an amazing feeling.

For those of us who have a special someone in our lives, this is the time to pay attention. How do we know what love is? Love is indeed a very complex set of emotions that can drive us to see life in a completely different way.

Love is a pool of emotions that expresses nurture, passion, patience, and most importantly, a deep understanding for each another, in the sense of you and your partner. It is impossible to find a universal definition for what love is without leaving certain aspects out. The idea is to make your own personal definition of what love means and pursue it. Accomplishing this will allow you to have your expectations clear and to narrow the search by identifying what you want in a partner.

When we find love, the situation becomes very different. Instead of thinking for one, you will now be thinking for two. Sharing ideas, singing songs, dancing etc. The point here is that a relationship cannot function if the duo cannot interact.



Adrian, the Love GURU!

Because of this, I will reveal some of my secrets about how to keep a healthy relationship.

Step number one is to have constant communication. Talking can seem sometimes excessive, but studies have shown that conversations and being honest with each other allows partners to express their feelings and frustrations in a productive way and thus improving the relationship. What this means for guys is to be involved in the relationship. Ask your partner how her day was or what she feels like doing tonight. Allowing your partner to have the freedom to speak and decide on parts of your relationship will reaffirm the bond between you and your partner.

Step number two involves doing small nice things that show not only how much you

love your partner but also that you appreciate his or her hard work. My piece of advice is to offer to provide a good back or neck massage. After a long day at the office or school, your partner may feel stressed and rushed as well as tired. This simple gesture will offer comfort, calm rough emotions, and soothe their senses. If you get really lucky, your partner might return the favor and offer you a massage, too.

Step number three requires a good meal because a happy stomach means a happy person, as my grandma always said. The idea behind this is to treat you and your partner to a special meal. I am not talking your usual lobster and lasagna, but a meal that really represents you as a couple. No matter how goofy it is, this meal can represent the rekindling of your relationship. For example, if you met that special someone over a bowl of cereal in college, it would indeed be nice to try honoring that memory on Valentine's Day. Trying something like this could be fun, cheerful, and bringing a spice of newness to the relationship. I hope these tips serve you right on your relationship.

I wish all lovers out there a happy Valentine's Day and much love for all. So remember wear red, think, red, be red because love is in the atmosphere. XOXO!





“Never let anyone tell you that you cannot do something, because as long as you put all of your heart and soul into it, you can accomplish anything.”



Paul helping a student during the Fall Immersion.

Spotlight on Paul Nguyen *by Karen Rodriguez*

Paul Kiet Nguyen is a freshman at Creighton University. His friends refer to him as “Paul Wall.”

Born in Fountain Valley, California, he prefers the nice California weather. His family moved to Omaha a few years ago, and he decided to stay in Omaha for college because it was the best financial decision for him. He also wanted a place close to his family. He also liked the possibility of the Creighton preference for physical therapy (PT) professional school.

He joined SSS because he knew that the path to his future career would be very hard, and he knew he would need a lot of help to be successful. So far his experience with SSS has been very positive. He likes the workshops that he is able to attend along with the activities that they entail.

He really likes the environment in the SSS office and how he can see many of the people he gets

along with. His social life has increased tremendously without harming his grades thanks to the people he has met in SSS. In fact, his grades have improved thanks to his involvement in SSS. He studies with friends and studies with some of the tutors who are available to him and the rest of the SSS students.

Paul received the Diversity scholarship. He is involved in the Asian Student Association, Hawaii Club, and Physical Therapy Club. He also went on a Gateway Immersion service trip in the fall. He considers his immersion trip his greatest achievement so far.

The goal he would like to accomplish is to be able to attend PT school and work as a physical therapist, his dream job. The most interesting event that has happened to him at Creighton University was meeting Karen Rodriguez, a fellow SSS student.

His favorite professor at Creighton is **Dr. Mattson** because he is a very good professor.

Paul and his family is that they are Buddhist. Outside of school, Paul DJs for fun and makes time to eat his favorite Vietnamese dish, Pho, every chance he gets. The most fun he has ever had was in Hawaii with his family.

If he won the lottery, Paul would donate to charity, pay off his sister's loans, and support his parents. If he had access to a time machine, he would go back to see the dinosaurs.

If Paul were allowed to be any superhero, he would be Iron Man because he is very intellectual. The movie of his life would be titled “The Tiger’s Son” and Jackie Chan would play him in the movie.

His advice for others is **“Never let anyone tell you that you cannot do something, because as long as you put all of your heart and soul into it, you can accomplish anything.”**





Dean Obenauer

Assistant Director of
Financial Aid

Harper Center, Room 2040

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"Budgeting does not have to be a dirty word! It may be easier to manage your money when you have a plan."



Nayely Padilla.

Dean Obenauer *by John Khong*

Dean Obenauer, preferably called "The Dean" or just "Dean," was born and raised in Pierre, South Dakota. He has been working at Creighton University for eight years. He decided to work at Creighton University due to its reputation and mission values.

Dean's priority is to educate students about financial matters such as credit cards, budgets, and money.

His favorite and most interesting time of day is when he is able to work with students. One of the best ways he connects with student is through his seminars. Through his seminars, Dean explains, students can gain insight about the financial world. He suggests that an important way for students to achieve in their academics is to seek help and work with their instructors.

Dean urges students to have a focus mentality. He says, "It is very easy for students, especially freshmen, to become distracted. By having a focus mentality, school will be fun and insightful..."

His greatest achievement professionally is helping students. The Student Support Service Program for him is an excellent program for students who need tutors and help. He praises SSS for the excellent services and support. It provides

Work becomes interesting for him when students gain knowledge about money and spending.

Dean is an extremely down-to-earth type of guy. He considered himself to be very simple and average. His wife is a marathon runner, who just ran in San Francisco. He enjoys the great outdoors. He personally loves to hike and goes fishing. He said, "The most fun I had ever had was

spending my summers by the river. I never needed to travel anywhere, fun was at home. I love the great outdoors."

As a down-to-earth guy, he tends to have embarrassing moments. One of these was when he attended a conference, and he accidentally tripped over the cord of the microphone and created a loud noise that shocked everybody. If Dean was to win the lottery, he said he would first pay off his personal debt and family matters. With the remaining money, he would use it to enjoy and to help people. He doesn't want to build a whole building but to assist and help people hand-to-hand. If Dean were to travel back in time, the wild-wild west would be his destination of choice. He loves the sense of adventure and the life in the great outdoors of the west.

His best advice for others, especially students, is **"seek for advice and don't be afraid to ask."**

"The Good and Bad of Using Credit Cards: Responsible use of credit cards can help build a good credit history. They are convenient to use, but are not a source of additional income."

DEAN QUOTES

"Be ready for student loan repayment after you graduate. There have been many changes in Federal regulations and repayment plans."



Loc Hoang at the MCC Vietnamese New Year Celebration.

“The Dragon sign is an abbreviated way of characterizing that individual's personality.”



Sandy Cervený with Hello Kitty.

TET: THE YEAR OF THE DRAGON *by John Khong*

Chuc Mung Nam Moi! Happy New Year! This the typically greeting of the Vietnamese people during Tet. The New Year is a celebration of happiness, longevity, and family-bonding.

The Vietnamese New Year follows the tradition of the Chinese New Year. The celebration starts with the remembrances of past ancestor and deceased loved ones. Rice, flowers, and incense are offered to them as a sign of respect. The traditional red envelope, called *Li Xi*, is passed.. Then a giant celebration with friends, neighbors, and family follows. In addition, today the Vietnamese people usually invite celebrities, like pop-stars, to sing and entertain at special concerts.

The Vietnamese culture is heavily influenced by the Chinese. Each year corresponds to one of the twelve zodiac signs. This year the animal is a legendary Dragon.

The Dragon personality is the free spirit of the 12 zodiac signs. Being conventional is the Dragon's downside. Rules and regulations are made for other people. For a Dragon, restrictions blow out the creative spark that is ready to flame into life. Dragons must be free and uninhibited. The Dragon is a



beautiful creature, colorful and flamboyant. An extroverted bundle of energy, gifted and uncontrollable, everything Dragons do is on a grand scale—big ideas, ornate gestures, and extreme ambitions. However, this behavior is natural and isn't meant for show. Because they are confident and fearless in the face of challenge, they are almost inevitably successful.

Dragons usually make it to the top. However, Dragon people are aware of their natures. Too much enthusiasm can leave them tired and unfulfilled. Even though they are willing to offer aid when necessary, their pride can often impede them from accepting the same kind of

help from others. Dragons' generous personalities give them the ability to attract friends, but they can be rather solitary people at heart. A Dragon's self-sufficiency can mean that he or she has no need for close bonds with other people.

This year, 2012, the dragon element is water. Water allows the Dragon to re-direct its enthusiasm and makes him or her more perceptive of others. These Dragons are better equipped to take a step back to re-evaluate a situation because they understand the art of patience and do not desire the spotlight like other Dragons. Therefore, they make smart decisions and are able to see eye-to-eye with other people. However, their actions can go wrong if they do not see the “bigger picture”.

People born in the Year of the Dragon share certain characteristics. The Dragon sign is an abbreviated way of characterizing that individual's personality. Following are features associated with the sign of the Dragon:

- Innovative
- Enterprising
- Flexible
- Self-assured
- Brave
- Passionate
- Conceited
- Tactless
- Scrutinizing
- Quick-tempered





Angel Le and Viet Do in the SSS Office posing for resident photographer, Willie White.



Karen Thurber

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Cultural Events and Workshops

Wed, Feb. 8th, Thurs., Feb. 9th
and Mon., Feb. 13th

Financial Literacy

Time: 3:30 pm

Location: Financial Aid office
Dean Obenauer, Financial Aid
office

Wed., Feb. 9th

Gateway Workshop

Time: 6:00 pm

Location: SSS office
Help high school students
apply for scholarships

Fri., Feb 10th

Lunar New Year—free food

Time: 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Location: SSS office

Fri., Feb. 10th

Hot! Hot! Hot!

Time: 8:00 pm

Omaha Symphony and Latin
music and dancers.

Sunday, February 12, 2012

**Expect the Impossible
with MARK NIZER'S 3D
Live Show**

Time: 7:30 pm

Original comedy, world-class
juggling, movement, music,
technology and 3D glasses.
Imagine 4 lasers being
juggled at 1000 RPM with
the spinning laser beams
dancing just above the
audience's heads or 5 ping
pong balls being thrown 20
feet in the air using his
mouth or juggling a burning
propane tank, a running
electric carving knife, and a
16-pound bowling ball.

Wed Feb 15th i

**Sarah Trausch—
Financial Aid**

Time: 3:30– 4:30

Location: SSS computer Lab

Wed., Feb. 22nd

Mock Interviews

Time: 4:00 pm

Location: Harper Center
Room, 3023

Friday, March 30, 2012

Luna Negra Dance Theater

Time: 8:00 pm

Cuban-born Eduardo Vilaro,
celebrates the richness and
diversity of Latino culture,
focusing on the creation of
works by contemporary Latino
choreographers. **Luna Negra**
performs contemporary works
with an energy, power, and
passion that communicates
the immense cultural shift
that is shaping America in the
21st century.

Counselor's Corner with Karen Thurber

Seniors, remember to apply to
graduate on the NEST
system. Two surveys are also
required of you. We need to
do an exit survey before May.

ALL STUDENTS:

If you did not complete the
FAFSA, it needs to be done.
Copies of yours and your
parents' W-2s and 1040s
need to be in the financial aid
office. If you did not do the IRS
pre-fill on the FAFSA, they will
not process your award.
Remember to do the Financial
Aid Office verification form
which is available on their web
page.

Please schedule your
midterm meeting to take
place after spring break.

Registration dates for next
fall are:

Mon. & Tues. March 26-27

Seniors, Pharmacy,
Graduate

**Wed., Thu., & Fri. March 28,
29, 30** Juniors

**Mon., Tues., & Wed. April 2,
3, 4** Sophomores

Tues. & Wed. 10 & 11
Freshmen and Special

Arts and Sciences **freshmen**
remember you can select

Karen Thurber, Denise LeClair,
Tami Buffalohead-McGill,
Jessica Swisher, or Wade
Pearson as your pre-major
sophomore advisor.

If you need help with pre-
registration, please see Karen
or Tami.

If you need to complete a 4
year plan, see: Karen, Tami or
Jessica.

If you need help with
Scholarships, see Tami.

If you need tutor, please see
Rich.

See Denise for help with your
papers.

Student Support Services

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Website:

<http://www2.creighton.edu/ssb>

**“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.

Student Support Services

