



Office of Multicultural Affairs

OUR MISSION

We are a department in the Division of Student Life at Creighton University, a Jesuit Catholic University. Our professional services are grounded in supporting the mission of Creighton with Jesuit and Ignatian traditions and values. Through our services and programs to students, staff and faculty we advance the educational, cultural and social understanding of our diverse human family. We strive to foster growth, development, sensitivity, and compassion among our heterogeneous community.

To accomplish this mission, the office has four primary functions:

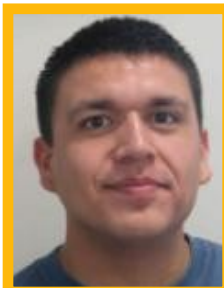
- Intercultural Education
- Academic Support and Mentoring
- Outreach
- Student Cultural Center

CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY OFFICE OF MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS NEWSLETTER

FALL 2011

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Building A Community of Academic Achievers by Paul High Horse, M.Ed



I am thankful and blessed for this amazing opportunity to serve as the Native American Student Community Coordinator in the Office of Multicultural Affairs. As a two-time graduate of Creighton

University, I am overjoyed at the chance to give back to a school community that has given me so much.

The goal of the Native American Student Community Coordinator position is to foster the self-sufficiency of Native American students in their academic pursuits at Creighton University with a focus on their social, cultural and community building needs.

This position is a part-time position with varying hours to include evenings and weekends in order to provide educational and social opportunities for Native American students.

Essential Functions of this position include:

- Plan and facilitates weekend social activities for Native American students per semester.
- Plan and facilitate monthly cultural/educational program for students.
- Attends Native American Association meetings and encourage leadership amongst the students.
- Assists in the planning and coordination of the All-Nations Pow Wow.

Since the start of the school year we have had a variety of events including study sessions and film viewings. We gathered students to volunteer at the Metropolitan Community College Inter-tribal Pow Wow and took a trip down to Lincoln for the 4th Biennial VisionMaker Film Festival hosted by Native American Telecommunications.



Volunteering together at M.C.C's Inter-tribal Pow Wow in the Arts & Crafts Tent (left to right) Victoria Tsosie, Dylan Fills Pipe, Margaret O'Connor, & Shaylene High Elk.

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Our Growth Throughout The Years... by Ricardo Ariza, M.S.W.

The Office of Multicultural Affairs has shown consistent growth over the years in programs, services and students served. The number of students utilizing the Office of Multicultural Affairs as a study space was at an all time high this year. We experienced a 103% increase over the number of

student visits from 2009-10 and a 357% increase over last year's 5-year average. We anticipate further growth this next year as we offer more programs and work to be integral to the success of our students.

OMA DATA COLLECTED 2005-2011

Student Assistance & Visits:	OVER-ALL Average	5 YEAR Ave.	2010-2011	2009-2010	2008-2009	2007-2008	2006-2007	2005-2006
Academic	213	230	248	312	202	230	158	127
Personal/Financial	187	198	205	169	177	182	255	133
Student org	263	292	436	288	265	294	176	121
Technology Usage	903	1031	1407	1543	1118	678	409	261
Study area	570	658	1635	806	435	248	168	131
Social visit	326	320	175	143	190	580	513	356
Students served (1 visit min.)	283	317	462	436	292	181	214	114
Total student visits	3857	3857	5485	4347	3035	2561	1679	1129

Award-winning journalist Sonia Nazario Visits CU by Luz Colon-Rodriguez, M.A.

Ms. Sonia Nazario, author of "Enrique's Journey" lectured and signed copies of her book at the Harper Center Auditorium on September 21, 2011. Nazario during her lecture recounts the unforgettable journey of a Honduran boy who braves unimaginable hardship and peril to reach his mother in the United States. She shared her own photos of her experience tracing the dangerous trip that Enrique and countless others have had to take

when traveling through lower Central American and Mexico to cross into the United States. While at Creighton, Nazario also met with a select group of students, sharing her personal story as a journalist. She shared with the students a strong message of "perseverance".



Photo Left to Right: Rocio Mujica, Carmen Chagolla, Luz Colon-Rodriguez, Lucia Rodriguez, Sonia Nazario, Felicia Ariza, and Amor Habbab.



Father John P. Markoe, S.J. Leadership Program by Becky Nickerson, M.S.

The Fr. John P. Markoe, S.J. Leadership Program is a unique 4-year leadership opportunity for students at Creighton University. Students benefit from academic and leadership coaching, community building activities and educational sessions aimed at students' overall success in college. Fr. John P. Markoe, S.J. Leadership students are selected based on academic achievement, leadership skills and a demonstrated commitment to diversity through extra-curricular activities and service. All students who are recipients of Creighton University's Diversity Scholarship are automatically enrolled in the Markoe Leadership Program.

During the Spring 2011 semester, 65 students were participants in the Markoe Leadership program. A terrific group of leaders – very involved on campus, in the community and in the classroom!

The average QPA for Markoe Leadership Program students for the Spring 2011 semester was 3.13 with a 3.22 Cumulative QPA, which is higher than last year's spring semester and cumulative QPAs.

The program had eight (8) graduates in the Spring of 2011. Those students received black and silver cords to signify their participation and role as a Markoe Leader in Creighton's

graduation ceremony. This year we anticipate the graduation of 20 students.

Twenty-two (22) freshmen have joined our program as new Creighton University Markoe Leaders. One student transferred to a different university, which brings the total number of Markoe Leadership program participants to 78 for the 2011-12 academic year.



Tiara Davis & Mallory McGinnis

Markoe Leadership Program QPA Breakdown, Spring 2011

	Spring Semester 2011 QPA		Cumulative QPA
		<i>Number of students</i>	
<2.75	20		11
2.75 – 2.99	3		9
3.0 – 3.49	16		25
3.5 - 4.0	26		20
TOTAL	65		65
		<i>Percentages</i>	
<2.75	30.8%		16.9%
2.75 – 2.99	4.6%		13.8%
3.0 – 3.49	24.6%		38.5%
3.5 – 4.0	40%		30.8%



Transformational Experience for Spiritual Leaders by Ricardo Ariza, M.S.W.



Catholic Migrant
Farmworker Network

Grand Junction, Colorado – Archbishop Fernando Isern, of the Pueblo Diocese, Sr. Myrna Tordillo, MSCS, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and Sr. Karen Bernhardt, HM, President of the Catholic Migrant Farmworker Network recently accompanied community and spiritual leaders on day visits to meet Shepherders from Chile, Peru, Mexico and Bolivia.

Last March 2011, Creighton University students who participated in the Office of Multicultural Affairs: Migrant Journey Service Learning project witnessed the human rights abuses suffered by these men who come

to the United States under a U.S. Government H2A Visa program. Through a process of “See, Judge, and Act” experiences of shepherd life were shared, in the light of faith the reality was assessed and through reflection and discernment where God called them to act, one strategy developed was to meet with the Archbishop Fernando Isern and extend the invitation for him to engage himself in this same process and experience.

Mariah Collins, Creighton Student expressed that “this is so cool to be the small pebble that caused a ripple in the pond of influence.” Much organizing and work needs to be done to bring dignity and respect to our

brothers on their journey. Creighton University is in dialogue with Regis University to possibly join forces to return in March 2012. For further information and to support the shepherders, contact Ricardo Perez at [ricardo@hapgj.org]. Students interested in the OMA Migrant Journey Service Learning Trip Spring of 2012, contact Ricardo Ariza at [ariza@creighton.edu].



CULTURAL DIVERSITY

"God does not reveal himself in the abstract, but by using languages, imagery and expressions that are bound to different cultures. This relationship has proved fruitful, as the history of the Church abundantly testifies. Today it is entering a new phase due to the spread of the Gospel and its taking root within different cultures, as well as more recent developments in the culture of the West. It calls in the first place for a recognition of the importance of culture as such for the life of every man and woman.

The phenomenon of culture is, in its various aspects, an essential datum of human experience." -- Pope Benedict XVI, *Verbum Domini*, 2010



UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF
CATHOLIC BISHOPS





Reflections on the Markoe Leadership Retreat by Ozy Aloziem '15



First Year Markoe Leaders

On Friday, September 16, 2011 twenty freshman, accompanied by the members of the Office of Multicultural Affairs staff, piled into a Creighton University shuttle van to attend their first group activity as new members of the Markoe Leadership Program- the annual retreat. After receiving supplies for the day and nametags, they were encouraged to introduce themselves and state one thing they expected to take out of the day. One student, Emily Dowdle stated "I hope to learn everyone's names and get to know the people I will be spending the next four years with." Many other students offered similar suggestions, but none of them knew what was

really in store for them. They arrived at the site slightly chilly but ready to go and were greeted by the cheerful campsite staff.

Soon they were participating in big group activities that centered on themes of trust, team work and concentration. Afterwards, they were split into two smaller groups and led to the ropes course. From rope swings, to walking on stilts, to rope climbing, the students and staff (who knew Becky Nickerson could climb a rope hammock 10 feet in the air!), the students tested their critical thinking skills, agility and ability to work together.



Learning to lift safely for a game of Light-As-A-Board.

After the ropes course the students had the chance to wash up and come together as a big group over a casual dinner. Following dinner was a large bonfire where the students had the chance to make smores and bond over things like childhood memories.



Hanging out by the bonfire.

Lauren Murphy-Moore fondly stated "It was really cool being able to talk with everyone over the campfire. I learned that we have a lot of things in common despite our various, different backgrounds." After the campfire, the students received treats and piled back onto the Creighton shuttle, this time much dirtier and more tired than when they first entered, but decidedly more bonded and content.



Left Photo: (Me!) Ozy Aloziem, climbing Jacob's Ladder.

Right Photo (Standing): Lucia Rodriguez, Liz England, Fang Zheng, Andres Rodriguez-Burns, Flat Billy, Jennifer Schorgl, Shaylene High Elk & Lauren Murphy-Moore. (Kneeling): Paul Nguyen & Kevin Cortes





Working Together: OMA and the S.A.V.E Program by Luz Colon-Rodriguez, M.A.

OMA has teamed up with the S.A.V.E. (Students, Athletes, Values, Education) Program this semester to provide tutoring and mentoring opportunities for the elementary and middle school students on campus. S.A.V.E strives to enable underserved youth to compete and excel academically and athletically at the highest personal and competitive levels through financial and educational support while striving to make competitive youth sports in Omaha and Council Bluffs an inclusive community.

Every other Monday from 4:30 pm to 6:00pm the students from S.A.V.E. come to OMA and meet with Creighton students. We have a variety of volunteers

to help, different multicultural student organizations, OMA work study students, the Markoe Leaders, and CU athletes. Already S.A.V.E participants have come to campus three times.



S.A.V.E participants pose with Billy at Morrison Stadium.

Kevin Melcher, director of the S.A.V.E. Program writes "We are extremely excited to be partnering

with Creighton University and the Office of Multicultural Affairs. The mentoring and academic assistance our students receive at CU has already had a lasting impact on how they view the importance of academics and sports. We thank the OMA staff and students of Creighton University for making this great experience possible for our young student athletes."



Alexis Jones (OMA Work Study) assists S.A.V.E participants with homework.

Victory Boxing Club Service Initiative by Len Gordy

The Office of Multicultural Affairs is developing a partnership with the Victory Boxing Club located in South Omaha. The Victory Boxing Club is a Christian-based boxing organization founded and directed by Rev. Servondo Perales. Many of the young boxers in training would love to attend college. In addition to boxing, the club has an after-school Teen Center that is open to the children of the neighborhood. The best part of the Teen Center is that you do not have to be a teenager to participate. Students from the

elementary level and up are welcome to come to the club.

Rev. Pareles and others from Victory Boxing reached out to Creighton University with an invitation for us to visit and learn more about their organization and to see how they can get Creighton students involved with their organization. Currently OMA's and Victory Boxing's goal is to eventually have some of our students go to the Club to mentor and tutor their athletes and students. These relationships will provide encouragement for Victory Boxing students, by demonstrating

that attending college is an attainable goal.

We are currently recruiting Creighton students who are interested in helping mentor and tutor. If you are interested in learning more about the Victory Boxing Club or volunteering please email Len Gordy at Lengordy@creighton.edu.



OFFICE OF MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS EVENTS**October 26, 2011****“Pastoring a Multi-Cultural Church” by Archbishop Michael J. Sheehan**

7pm Harper Center Ballroom

The Archdiocese of Santa Fe is one of the most culturally diverse in the country and includes Native American, Immigrant, Anglo, and long-established Hispanic communities. The Archbishop will reflect on how this diversity impacts pastoral leadership. This event is sponsored by the Center for Catholic Thought and OMA.

October 27, 2011**Courageous Voices: “Viva La Causa” Film & Discussion**

7-8:30 pm Harper 3006 OMA Suite

“Viva La Causa” is 39 minute documentary that focuses on one of the seminal events in the march for human rights - the grape strike and boycott led by César Chávez and Dolores Huerta in the 1960s. This film will show how thousands of people from across the nation joined in a struggle for justice for the most exploited people in our country - the workers who put food on our tables. After the film we will dialogue on how economic injustice impacts us all and what it means to be an ally for justice. Sponsored by CU’s Latino Student Association (CULSA) and OMA. Participants are limited to 20, please RSVP to Luz Colon-Rodriguez at lrodriguez@creighton.edu.

November 1, 2011**“Standing Bear's Footsteps” Documentary Screening with presentation by Princella Parker and Georgiana Lee**

6:00 pm-7:30pm Harper 3023

“In Standing Bear's Footsteps” is a 60 minute high definition documentary that weaves interviews, re-creations and present-day scenes to tell a story about human rights--one that resonates powerfully in the present. The documentary will be presented by Princella Parker, Associate Producer of the film and Georgiana Lee, Assistant Director of Native American Telecommunications both Creighton University alums who worked on the documentary. Sponsored by OMA, Native American Studies Program, & Native American Association.

November 2, 2011**Omaha Table Talk @ CU**

6:30– 9:30 pm Location to be determined

CU chapter of the NAACP and OMA will be hosting an Omaha Table Talk on campus. Omaha Table Talk is an event to promote understanding and harmony by bringing together people of different races and ethnic backgrounds in a social setting where they can share their thoughts, experiences and questions about culture and race through a meal and dialogue. CU students, staff, and faculty are invited to participate, seating is limited. Please contact Luz Colon-Rodriguez at lrodriguez@creighton.edu for more information.

November 3 & 4, 2011**African American Youth Conference**

Harper Center & Skutt Student Center

CUASA hosts a two day leadership and college preparedness conference for local African American high school students. If you are interested in volunteering or for more information please contact Symone Sanders at symonesanders@creighton.edu.

Office of Multicultural Affairs ~ Creighton University

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OFFICE OF MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS EVENTS

(continued from previous page)

November 16, 2011

Intercultural Expo

11 am - 3pm Skutt Student Center Ballroom

Join CU's Multicultural Student Organizations as they share and present ethnic cuisines, entertainment and much more! Stop by for a great lunch. Cash and Jay Bucks will be accepted. Cost per food ticket is 50 cents. This event is sponsored by OMA and the Multicultural Advisory Council.

November 16, 2011

Solidarity Lecture Series "Hope in Haiti: A Personal Report."

5:30 - 6:30 pm Skutt 105

Professor Roger Bergman is an Assistant Professor in the Dept. of Sociology and Anthropology and Director of Justice & Peace Studies Program. He will be sharing an overview of Haitian history and the highlights of his trip to Haiti with Fonkoze, Haiti's Bank of the Poor, during the last week of September, 20 months after the earthquake.

January 19, 2012

Bringing King to China Documentary Screening (85 minutes)

7:00pm – 9:00 pm Harper Auditorium

Bringing King to China is a father's "love letter" to his adult daughter, a young American woman struggling to bring Martin Luther King, Jr.'s dream of nonviolence to China, and then back to the United States. Her life is thrown into turmoil when she learns, mistakenly, that her father, a journalist covering the war in Iraq, has been killed by a suicide bomber. There will be a post-screening dialogue with film director Kevin McKiernan. This screening is sponsored by the Werner Institute, Asian World Center, Kenefick Chair in the Humanities, Jacobsen Chair in Communications, Graff Chair in Catholic Theology, Center for the Study of Religion & Society, the ML King Commemoration Committee, the Center for Service & Justice, the IRHG, Justice & Peace Studies, and Office of Multicultural Affairs.

SAVE THE DATE...
8th Annual All Nations Pow Wow
April 14, 2012

More Events to come, Join us on [Facebook!](#)