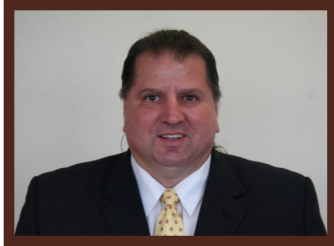


OFFICE OF MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS (OMA) NEWSLETTER

FALL 2010— SPRING 2011

INAUGURAL EDITION—VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

Ricardo Ariza, Director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs receives the Otto Swanson Spirit of Service Award from Inclusive Communities



Ricardo Ariza, Director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs, will be honored at the 2011 Inclusive Communities Humanitarian Dinner on June 2, 2011. Inclusive Communities is a human relations organization confronting prejudice, bigotry and discrimination through educational programs that

raise awareness, foster leadership and encourage advocacy for a just and inclusive society.

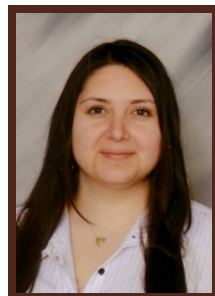
Ricardo is this year's recipient of the Otto Swanson Spirit of Service Award. This award was named for one of the early founders of the organization and is given to an individual or organization whose life or chosen field of work exemplifies the mission of Inclusive Communities. Ricardo's dedication and commitment to the Omaha community, education, and the pursuit of peace and justice for everyone makes him more than worthy of this award.

Ricardo was very humbled and honored upon receiving word that he would be the recipient of the 2011 Otto Swanson Spirit of Service Award. He joins a prestigious list of people who have received this honor including Senator Brenda Council (1999), Councilman Ben Gray (2001), and our own Father John P. Schlegel, S.J. (2003).

Please join us in congratulating Ricardo on this esteemed award – an extremely appropriate recognition of a man whose mantra is, "we are all one human family."

Markoe Leadership Program Keynote Speaker:

Elizabeth Marquez '03 & '11 By Luz Colon-Rodriguez, Assistant Director OMA



Elizabeth Marquez '03 & '11, a former Diversity Scholar will be the keynote speaker for the Closing Ceremony for the 2010-2011 Markoe Leadership Program on April 30, 2011. In her keynote address Elizabeth will be focusing on the importance of leadership formation and her own experience at Creighton University as an undergraduate and as a pharmacy student.

When asked to describe her path to pharmacy school, Elizabeth reflects on the impact that working in Walgreen's had on her. She describes starting as a cashier at Walgreen's in high school and being asked to assist the pharmacist by translating for Spanish speaking customers. She states "when I would translate for the pharmacist I felt this

need to be the one with the knowledge rather than just the intermediary". It was this passion and dedication to that enabled her to receive the Gates Millennial Scholarship and attend Creighton.

Elizabeth talks about her undergraduate years as being a time that she was able to begin her leadership journey and form the values that best reflected who she was and where she was going to be able to go next. This philosophy has encouraged her to continue to work at Walgreen's Pharmacy while still being involved in on campus groups like CULSA (Creighton University Latino Student Association). Her graduate experience at Creighton University's School of Pharmacy and Health Professions was a continuation of academic excellence and serving the community through participation in such programs as the ILAC Summer program for Pharmacy students.

Currently Elizabeth is patiently awaiting graduation, she will be receiving her pharmacy doctorate on May 14, 2011 from Creighton University's School of Pharmacy and Health Professions.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Markoe Freshman Leadership Retreat	2
Intercultural Expo Highlights	2
Migrant Service Journey Petition and Reflection	3
AFSA's MAMA AFRICA Banquet wins Outstanding	4
Reflections on the 7th Annual All Nation's Pow-wow	4
2010-2011 OMA	5
Thank You to Community Mentors & Announcements	6



Thoughts on the Freshman Markoe Leadership Retreat by Jordan Carrera '14

My experience at the Markoe Leadership Retreat was one that I will always remember. The students and faculty came with welcoming arms and this allowed us to feel comfortable in a setting we were not familiar with. Upon arriving to our gathering spot in the lower level of the Harper Center, I had asked myself, "What could I possibly have in common with all of these people?"

As that night's journey continued, it had become evident that I have much in common with my fellow Diversity Scholars. They are as much of a person as I am and share many cultural backgrounds with me. It is how we have all overcome adversity in some way that shapes the individual who

we are and bonds us all together.

I remember vividly how the night played out; jumping through holes in a web without being hit, being blind-folded and led by a stranger, and going on a hay rack ride at Gifford Farm. One of the most memorable events of the night was the stories shared by some of the Native American students shared around the campfire. This opened my eyes in the sense that our culture really does have an impact on us and that it in essence, can make us unique.

It became clear to me that our gathering was not only joyous, but had a goal behind it. The games were to show us how

we, as Diversity Scholars, are students who can be led and those who can also lead. We are versatile students who strive for success through determination, all while showing the world our diverse backgrounds. But at the end of the day realizing that we are very much the same.

The Annual Freshman Markoe Retreat welcoming our new Markoe Scholars will take place in September 2011!



In Other Diversity Scholar News....



Louis Jackson '08 writes: The diversity scholar program and my education from Creighton gave me the tools to succeed in advancing rapidly within my company over a short period of time after graduating in 2008. After three years at West Corporation I've received my fourth promotion to become a technical writer. This opportunity begins a career that will coincide well with my degree from Creighton in journalism and mass communications. The new position will involve maintaining all telecommunication-related documents for one of West's largest clients.



Asian Student Association (ASA) members demonstrate to the crowd how to fold a giant origami crane.

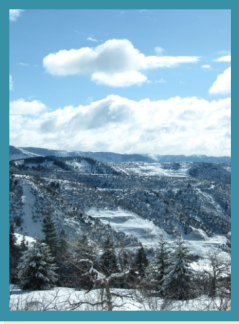


Intercultural Expo Highlights! by Matthew Kor '12

This year's **Annual Intercultural Expo** was a large success, once again thanks to the contributions of many of Creighton University's cultural organizations, the Multicultural Advisory Council (MAC) and the **Office of Multicultural Affairs**. The Intercultural Expo promoted both the diversity and fellowship of our Creighton community. At the event there were a variety of ethnic **cuisines** and **entertainment**. This year the organizations that participated were:

- African Student Association (AFSA) , Asian Student Association (ASA),
- CU African American Student Association (CUASA), CU Latin American Student Association (CULSA), Gender and Sexuality Alliance (GSA) , Hui 'O Hawaii, Indian Cultural Society (ICS),
- Muslim Student Association (MSA), CU's Chapter of the National Association Advancement of Colored People (CUNAACP), Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA), OPPD

They provided a cornucopia of traditional dishes: Samosa, Tostadas, Kalua Pig, Tabouleh, Hummus, Mac & Cheese, and Chili to name a few. Entertainment consisted of poetry readings, dancing, music from all over the world, and fashion tips. I encourage you all to save the date November 2011 for an even greater time!



*The Pilgrim Church,
a photo of the mountain
in where Shepherders in
Colorado live and
worship...*

Creighton University students and staff from the Office of Multicultural Affairs have set up an online petition to gather support against the gross violation of human rights of the Shepherders in Colorado.

Creighton University Office of Multicultural Affairs in partnership with several national and local community based organizations such as the Catholic Migrant Farmworker Network, Hispanic Affairs Project, Legal Aid of Nebraska and Colorado, Child and Migrant Services, Valley-Wide Health Systems, Inc. and others collaborated to educate 11 student volunteers about the reality of shepherd industry, health issues of migrant field workers and the human rights abuses suffered by workers from Chile, Bolivia, Peru and Mexico.

U.S. Government/Shepherd Industry policies and practices openly promote inhumane treatment on the western slope of Colorado. A special teach-in and dialogue with Spanish Professor Tom Acker, Mesa State University, Ignacio Alvarado, Chilean Shepherd and

Migrant Journey Service Learning Petition for Shepherders of Colorado!

Ricardo Perez, Hispanic Affairs Project provided incredible insight into a system of exploitation, abusive threats by employers, both living and working conditions that restrict the rights of the workers beyond the point that their human dignity is compromised.

During the Migrant Journey Service Learning trip, students were guided into the high country of Colorado and they were able to have contact with eight shepherders living in "campitos". Workers shared stories of incredible maltreatment to include: working 365 days straight with no days off, monthly pay of \$650.00, poor access to nutritious foods, limited supply of water, no refrigeration to store food, no bathing accommodations, no toilet, threats from employers that they would lose their contract if they talked to people about their plight, and the special H2A work permit for shepherders that exempts the workers from minimal protections established by the U.S. Government.



*"Campitos" visited by the Creighton Migrant
Journey Service Group*

According to Ricardo Ariza, Director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs a meeting was scheduled with Bishop Fernando Isern, Diocese of Pueblo Colorado. CU Students prepared testimonies and shared their experiences encouraging the bishop to join them in their stand for justice.

The national petition will be submitted to the 28 Jesuit Colleges and Universities nation-wide, the Catholic Migrant Farmworker Network and other concerned organizations and individuals. We respectfully request that all forms of social networking be utilized, that our political leaders, our faith community and stakeholders in shepherd industry be contacted and asked to end this practice of slavery, human trafficking and total disregard for there human dignity. We are one family and we belong to one another!

Click [here](#) to sign our petition.



Audri Talmadge '11 (left) and
Jessica Rangel '13 (right) in Colorado

Reflections on Migrant Journey Service by Jessica Rangel '13

God gave the opportunity and blessing to become part of my second Migrant Service Learning Trip this year in Grand Junction, Colorado. This journey has given me the opportunity to live in solidarity with the most vulnerable, has opened my eyes and has expanded my knowledge on the injustices that our brothers and sisters have to go through. What I witnessed along with my classmates is hard to put into words. One of the valuable lessons I have learned is to appreciate the blessings we receive in life, most importantly this journey had given me more strength and motivation to become a leader and make a difference. My hope with the help of God is to one day advocate for those who are voiceless and make a difference in the community. If you have not experience a service trip, I invite YOU to open your heart and take the step to learn more about the injustices that are occurring in our country.

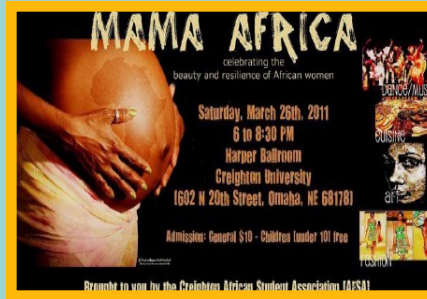


African Student Association (AFSA) wins Outstanding Event Award for Mama African Banquet!

This year AFSA was the recipient of this years "Outstanding Event of the Year" awarded by the Student Activities Office (SAO) for their Mama Africa banquet. The Outstanding Event Award recognizes student organizations for conceiving, planning, and implementing an outstanding event for the Creighton community that fulfills the mission of the organization. We would like to congratulate them on their achievement!

Katelyn Whitty, Director of SAO presented AFSA with the award saying "AFSA used the banquet to recognize the accomplishments of African women and celebrate their beauty and resilience. This event was designed to be accessible, affordable and enjoyable for all Creighton Students as well as our Omaha community. It was a huge success with full tables and delicious African cuisine by Sholiz African Restaurant. Congratulations to the African

Students Association the winner of the Outstanding Event of the Year for showing Creighton University the superheroes of Africa!"



Nema Philip '11, President of AFSA writes:

We had many Creighton students, as well as members from the Omaha community attend. During an amazing African theme dinner by Sholiz African Restaurant, we had a musical PowerPoint presentation

that featured nearly 50 African women that inspired us. We featured queens, heads of state, models, mothers, doctors, musicians, authors, and actresses. Lastly, we wrote a play called "FREMA." "Frema" is a small play about a young African girls coming of age.

In this play, our guests saw Frema endure a life of pain and loss, but also witnessed her decision to overcome her obstacles, which ultimately led to the unification of two opposing groups of people. Frema is a perfect example of how African women have played a variety of roles and instilled hope in their people despite all obstacles. Throughout the evening, our guests enjoyed the music of the West African band, Exotik Republik. The event's costumes and props were provided by Teley Foley (from Togo) owner of El Roi House of Design. Thank you to all who attended and made our event a success!

Reflection on the 7th Annual All Nations Pow Wow by Dylan Fillspipe '12

On Saturday April, 16th 2011 Creighton University's Native American Association (NAA) and the Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA) held its 7th Annual All-Nations Pow Wow. The event began on the evening of Friday April 15th as NAA students along with OMA work study students and volunteers from Alpha Phi Omega Service Fraternity set up the Kiewit Fitness Center. The next morning NAA students and OMA staff came together for the arena blessing done by Dr. Rudi Mitchell. After the arena was blessed, students and staff got to work right away for what was to be a long but exciting day.

Later that morning vendors arrived for the Pow Wow. It was amazing to see all the arts, crafts, and educational vendors. Around noon the arena filled with people; dancers, drummers, and members of the community were all in attendance. An hour later the Grand Entry procession began. The participants in the Grand Entry include dancers, Pow Wow princesses, color guard, veterans, NAA members, and for the first time our own Eagle Staff. Mr. Dennis Locke, from the

Pine Ridge Reservation, provided a blessing and presented an Eagle Staff to our organization. It was a great honor for NAA.

People enjoyed themselves by viewing the entertainment provided by the dancers, socializing, and purchasing goods from the concession stand and vendors. Later that evening, NAA ushered the crowd to Becker dining hall for a traditional feed. Volunteers served up homemade beef stew, fry bread, wojapi (Native American pudding), and fried chicken. There was also potato salad, and beans; all prepared by Mr. Dennis Filmore and Ms. Mona Richards.

After the meal, Pow Wow participants returned to the arena for more dancing and singing. The year's Pow Wow princess, Ms. Waciwinyan Edwards was awarded with a fully beaded crown and sash. She is charged with representing NAA throughout the country for the year. As the evening drew to a close, the crowd and dancing began to wind down. By ten o'clock, the dancers were paid and cleanup was underway.

By midnight it was as if the event had not occurred and thousands of visitors had not been there. NAA members and OMA staff left the Kiewit Fitness Center with a sense of pride and accomplishment. I am very excited and cannot wait until next year!





Congratulations to the Office of Multicultural Affairs Award Winners of 2010- 2011

by Becky Nickerson, Assistant Director OMA

On April 17, 2011 the Creighton University Division of Student Services held its annual awards reception. At this banquet, the Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA) honored 5 students for their outstanding achievements for the 2010-11 academic year

The **OMA Academic Award** honors an OMA work-study student, of upper-classman standing, who has a 3.5 QPA and demonstrates continuing academic excellence. This award went to **Emily Rice-Baltzell '12**. Emily is a junior psychology major, holding herself to high standards academically while balancing her service and involvement in several activities on campus. She is a member of Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity and Psi Chi psychology honor's fraternity. She is also an integral part of the OMA Rosary project. She spent the fall 2010 semester studying abroad in Korea and has been on the Dean's list each semester.

The **Rising Star Award** recognizes a well-rounded OMA work-study student who demonstrates leadership, dedication, and service to Creighton University. Additionally, the student exhibits potential for greater leadership excellence, has a 3.0 QPA, is continuing to excel academically, and has attended 3 semesters or less at Creighton University.



Mariah Collins '13 is a sophomore nursing major who has been on the Dean's List each semester. As a Diversity Scholar, she is a part of the Markoe

Leadership Program and a member of the Delta Zeta sorority. Along with working in the OMA, Mariah also works as a desk receptionist in Deglman Hall. She also participates in the monthly Women's Journey group and is integral to the sisterhood shared amongst that group. Mariah went on the Migrant Journey Service Learning trip this spring and took on a leadership role in preparation for the trip by organizing the first aid supplies.

The **Community Service Award** honors a work-study student in OMA who altruistically volunteers, gives public service or significantly contributes to their family.



Audri Edmonds '12 has given selflessly of herself in so many ways. Recently she developed the idea of offering a

foot-washing station for the Project Homeless Connect which exemplified her commitment to our Jesuit values. She is a member of the Native American Association and also gives of her time to both CCSJ and OMA promoting diversity and justice on our campus, our community and globally. Audri is very proud of her heritage and her family. Recently her grandmother has taken on the care of a foster child with some unique and rare health care needs—1 year old Tatum whom Audri proudly calls her brother. Audri beams when she talks about Tatum and is essential in providing care for him. She is also gracious enough to bring him into OMA to share his beautiful spirit with the rest of us. Her compassion for others will serve her well as she continues on her journey of social justice.

The **OMA Volunteer of the Year Award** recognizes a non-work study student who goes above and beyond in volunteering time in the OMA and lives out the OMA mission of advancing the educational, cultural and social understanding of our diverse human family.



Dylan Fills Pipe '12 spends more time in OMA than anyone. He is a vital member of the Native American Association (NAA), operating in the

demanding role of treasurer while assisting with every other task that comes up. He has gone above and beyond that by helping out in the office with any event

that we are preparing for, moving furniture, carrying supplies, and most importantly with welcoming students and guests who come in. Because of his generous donation of time and his commitment to fostering growth and understanding in relation to culture and service, Dylan is very deserving of this award.

The **Outstanding Leadership in Multicultural Communities Award** is presented to any undergraduate student who distinguishes themselves as a campus leader with strong leadership skills, is an ambassador of the Creighton University mission, serves as a catalyst for positive change, significantly contributes to the quality of life on campus, or works to improve intergroup relations and/or coordinates exemplary programming efforts to bridge student organizations. This award is chosen based upon nominations from members of the Creighton community.



This year's award winner, **Irsa Shoiab '12**, was nominated by Dr. Al-Sharif, moderator of Creighton's Muslim Student Association (MSA). He says, "As

a member and VP of MSA, Irsa has shown her commitment and resourcefulness over the last three years. She has been active in all the programs we have put together. She has taken the lead on several of these programs including fundraisers for the People of Haiti and Pakistan who suffered from natural disasters, serving as emcee on several events when we hosted national speakers and coordinating many of the logistics for these activities." Her leadership skills and commitment helped to motivate several students to join in many of the above efforts. For many of these activities, she was also instrumental in reaching out to other organizations on campus and obtaining support. Many of the activities helped to build bridges of understanding among religious and cultural divides.



Office of Multicultural Affairs

OUR MISSION

The Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA) is a department in the Division of Student Services at Creighton University, a Jesuit Catholic University. Our professional services are grounded in supporting the mission of Creighton University 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

A Thank You to Our Community Mentors *by Audri Edmonds '12*

Mrs. Rita Murphy was a Godsend. She was more than helpful in providing me with ideas and checking over assignments. This is my second year working with her and she is just fabulous. We have grown to have more than an academic relationship she is definitely family to me. There is no doubt she will be front row and center on graduation.

Mr. Kieran Conroy is such a personable, authentic and kind spirit. I find it so rare that you have someone that is so educated, yet is grounded heavily in normality. Kieran is a sweetheart and I am so fortunate that he comes to help me out every week.

Announcements!

July 16, 2011 The 2nd Annual Diversity Law School Expo

The Creighton University School of Law will host the **2nd Annual Diversity Law School Expo** on **Saturday, July 16, 2011**, from **8 a.m.-1 p.m.** in the Mike and Josie Harper Center at 602 N. 20th St. The Expo will give multicultural students interested in attending law school the opportunity to learn about the application and financial aid processes while networking with practicing attorneys and current law students.

Sponsored by Creighton's Black Law Student Association and co-sponsored by Creighton's Office of Multicultural Affairs, DiscoverLaw.com and the Diversity Retention and Recruitment Task Force, this Expo encourages diversity in the legal profession by providing multicultural students with the resources needed to start the application process. This event is open to high school students, college students and graduates.

To register please contact Karen Hicks at karenhicks@creighton.edu

September 10, 2011 The OMA Welcome Back Social 1pm

The 13th Annual Welcome Back Social sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Affairs. Invitations will be sent out the first week of school to attendees. Come meet OMA staff!!

November 16, 2011- Intercultural Expo- hosted by Multicultural Advisory Council (MAC) and the Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA)

November 17, 2011- 25th Annual Prejudice Elimination Workshop (PEW)

The Anti-Defamation League, in partnership with Creighton University's Office Of Multicultural Affairs, will host the 25th Annual Prejudice Elimination Workshop (PEW) on Thursday, Nov. 17th, 2011 at the Harper Center. The Prejudice Elimination Workshop brings together high school juniors of different school districts, backgrounds, religions, ethnicities, races and cultures in a one-day, interactive workshop designed to heighten students' awareness of stereotyping in their own environment and enable them to recognize biases in themselves and their peer group. It is our hope that the students who participate in this conference will return to their schools as advocates for a world in which differences can be appreciated and respected.

Other Events TBD....

Fall 2011- 4th Annual Nebraska Student Organizing Conference-hosted by University of Nebraska-Lincoln Progressive Student Coalition (PSC) and Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA). For more information on the event or to help with planning contact Rachel Gehringer-Wiar at rgw91@cox.com