

CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS

NEWSLETTER

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CREIGHTON ALUMNA LOUISA PALOMO IS THE 2012 NEBRASKA TEACHER OF THE YEAR!

BY AUDRI TALMADGE '12



It's easy to see why Ms. Louisa Palomo is the 2012 Nebraska Teacher of the Year. As soon as I walked into her Kindergarten classroom at Liberty Elementary School, the evidence of the dedication and enthusiasm she puts into making the classroom a fun and effective learning environment was clear; Valentine's hearts hanging from the ceiling, posters plastered on walls, and every student's desk had their name and pencil cups, ready to go.

Ms. Palomo graduated in 2004 from Creighton University's Elementary Education program, but says she always knew she wanted to teach. Before coming to Creighton in her hometown of Gering, Nebraska, she volunteered to help with summer school for children of Migrant Farmworkers. At Creighton, she spent a semester in the Dominican Republic and, "noticed how powerful a public education can be if it is done

correctly." Later, she was placed at Liberty Elementary School during her practicum and fell in love with it.

For Ms. Palomo, the best part of her school is the inclusiveness of Liberty Elementary. The school helps with food if students are hungry at home, coats if they don't have one, and helping families to pay for rent. Liberty Elementary follows a "Full Service Community School Model," assisting students and families to be ready to come to school prepared, learn effectively, and be ready at home.

(Continued on page 2)



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 the 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

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LOUISA PALOMO, 2012 NEBRASKA TEACHER OF THE YEAR...

(CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE)

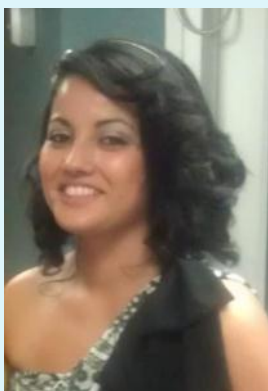
As the Nebraska Teacher of the Year, she will spend her first year as a year of recognition, traveling to conferences all across the country, spending a week at NASA Space Camp, and meeting President Obama in April. Ms. Palomo may be called on at the state or national level for advice on educational issues. She is a voice for children, and now she can be a voice for change also.

Her role models include Dr. Rodger Bergman and Dr. Ishii-Jordan, both Creighton faculty, and Nancy Oberst, former principal at Liberty Elementary. These three incredible teachers were inspirational in helping Ms. Palomo to become a passionate, dynamic advocate for students.

Ms. Palomo's family was also an exemplary model of what it means serve others. A daughter of Migrant Farmworkers, her family took care of their own large families and her father was a Boy Scout leader for 51 years.

Ms. Palomo's advice for others who want to be advocates in their professions is to balance theory with practice. She says, "To be credible and effective you have to be in the foxholes doing it; you have to be in the community. Now is an amazing time to be a public school teacher. Education gets such a bad reputation, but there is so much more good news. Amazing teachers do it because they love it, because this is what they're supposed to be doing."

STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS BY OZIOMA ALOZIEM '15



LUCIA RODRIGUEZ '15

HOMETOWN: Omaha, NE

MAJOR: Nursing **HOBBIES:** Zumba

INTERESTING FACT: I don't drink pop, I don't like the way it tastes.

WHY DID YOU COME TO CREIGHTON? It was the best school closest to home.

FAVORITE UNDERGRADUATE PROFESSOR: Professor Fitzgerald, she teaches on social issues and she's awesome.

SHAHD HAZIM '15

HOMETOWN: Omaha, NE

MAJOR: Pre-pharmacy **HOBBIES:** Tennis

INTERESTING FACT: I like perfumes.

WHY DID YOU COME TO CREIGHTON? I like the pharmacy program here and the environment.

FAVORITE UNDERGRADUATE PROFESSOR: Dr. Mary Longo, she's really helpful and supportive.



SENIOR REFLECTION BY MATTHEW KOR '12

Although a year and a half is a relatively short time in comparison to a 'lifetime' away in college, it is always nice to return home. It has been a while since I have been back to Hawaii. I missed the local cuisine, the inviting atmosphere, and the warm weather, but most of all I missed my family and friends. I wondered if everyone changed or if I would still recognize the places around me, but when I stepped off the plane, I knew I was home.



Over the Christmas Break, I had the opportunity to fish at Magic Island, drink real fruit smoothies, hike in the tropical forests, and hang out with my friends. Yet, another aspect of Hawaii that I appreciated was the ever-present cultural diversity. Looking at the different types of Christmas trees decorated by multicultural organizations in the city hall, I realized that Hawaii represented not so much a melting pot but more so a mixed lunch plate; a place where different cultures remained distinct, while still contributing to an overall unique flavor.

For the past two Christmas Breaks, I spent Christmas in Minnesota and Nebraska, and so I thoroughly enjoyed my 'Green' Christmas. Being home for Christmas, I am reminded of the importance of family. If I, as a senior, were to impart words of wisdom, I would say to spend more time with your family because, as graduation approaches, you will find yourself reminiscing about your youthful days and college years.

SCHOLARSHIP FYI...

BY SHAYLENE HIGH ELK '15

The Shop Smart Scholarship

Amount: \$2000

Deadline: June 1, 2012

Link: <http://www.braddeals.com/scholarship>

Proof-reading.com Scholarship Program

Amount: \$1500

Deadline: June 1, 2012

Link: http://www.proof-reading.com/proof-reading_scholarship_program.asp

Media Fellows Scholarship Program

Amount: up to \$5000

Deadline: July 30, 2012

Link: <http://mediascholars.org/media-fellows-program/>

DID YOU KNOW...

BY SARAH NAZARIE '13

- * The First National Bank of Omaha is the largest privately held bank in the United States?
- * The Henry Doorly Zoo is home to the world's largest nocturnal swamp, the world's largest indoor rainforest, the world's largest indoor desert, and the world's largest geodesic dome.
- * The Bob Kerrey Bridge is the first pedestrian bridge to link two states.
- * Creighton was the first university in the country to notify students of acceptance by text message.

MIGRANT JOURNEY SERVICE LEARNING 2012

BY RICARDO ARIZA

The Blue Mountains of North Carolina served as the site for Creighton University students to learn about the migrant reality. The goals include: Contemplate and reflect on how we find God in all things, teach students to get involved in issues of social justice and human rights, learn basic methods of coalition building, develop and expand the project in partnership with other institutions of higher education and act in solidarity with immigrant community.

In North Carolina, the strenuous labor in the fields was beyond belief. Shearing tree's for just three hours with a machete evoked muscle spasm for the students while the migrant workers put in a 12 hour day/ 6 days per week during the slow season. The evenings were spent building community and sharing stories with workers and families.

Migrant Journey Service Learning represents a strong community partnership with the Catholic Migrant Farmworker Network (CMFN). Our elders, Cuauhtémoc Gonzalez Herrejon, Diocese of Charlotte and Sr. Karen Bernhardt, HM, National Coordinator of CMFN provided guidance, consultation and fellowship throughout our journey. We are most grateful for all who supported us.



REFLECTION BY VANESSA RODRIGUEZ '12

Act in solidarity with immigrant community – gathering the human family and creating spaces of inclusiveness....

“We humans tend to live in ignorance. We go about our days living in our own little worlds, never stepping outside the walls we’ve constructed for ourselves. We worry about insignificant little things, never realizing the suffering that permeates our world. I’ve been very fortunate. I’m one of those lucky people that received certain opportunities to educate and better myself. For this, I have to thank my parents and the sacrifices they made. I know I’m not alone in my gratitude, for there are millions of other individuals like my parents who have done the same for the sake of their children. This is why taking part of the migrant farmworkers journey is such a privilege. Both of the trips I’ve been on have been eye opening experiences that I’ll never forget. Sometimes, I forget about the back-breaking work and hardships others undergo in order to produce the products we all love. While having a Christmas tree during the holidays is a longstanding tradition full of great symbolism, it’s unlikely that the thought or face of the person who spent 7 years growing it will ever cross our minds. And in the end, that tree will only end up on the side of the curb as trash. As conscientious individuals who have seen and experienced first-hand the difficulties that come with being a migrant farmworker, it is our duty to spread awareness on the issue. Only by educating others can we ever hope to address the plight of the modern day indentured servant and other issues of social injustice. While I am a huge advocate for social action and change amongst my fellow Latinos and their communities, I confess that I am actually a pretty big pessimist. Having gone on this trip with a great group of students and meeting the amazingly generous and beautiful people of Jefferson and the surrounding areas has however given me hope and reignited my faith in the future of humanity”.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF ARCHBISHOP LEO ARKFELD S.V.D., "THE FLYING BISHOP"

BY LUZ COLON-RODRIGUEZ

The Archbishop Leo Arkfeld, SVD Exhibit and Lecture on March 22, 2012 commemorated the spiritual life and work of a native of Butte, Nebraska who served the people of Papua New Guinea (PNG) for over 50 years. The legacy of the "Flying Bishop" is internationally known. The Exhibit began with the generous contribution of Mrs. Mildred Arkfeld of Panama, Iowa who donated 50+ pieces of artwork, jewelry, and other cultural objects once owned by the Archbishop. Originally these pieces were gifts from indigenous tribal leaders to Archbishop Leo Arkfeld, which he bequeathed to his family upon his death.

So how did many of these cultural artifacts end up in Multicultural Affairs? Mrs. Arkfeld is the sister of the late Archbishop Leo Arkfeld and mother of Ed Arkfeld an alum of the Class of 1969. One interesting fact that has come about from this event is the fact that approximately eleven of Arkfeld's descendants are Creighton University Alumni. This connection was instrumental in being able to accurately recount Archbishop Arkfeld's story.

The immense participation of the Arkfeld and Ohlinger families as well as members of the Society

of the Divine Word brought over one hundred and fifty guests from all over the Midwest to the Archbishop Leo Arkfeld, S.V.D. Exhibit and Lecture. Special guest lecturers Fathers Vince Ohlinger, S.V.D. and Adam MacDonald, S.V.D. provided insight into the life and work of Archbishop Arkfeld and the mission of the Society of the Divine Word. At the end of the lecture a few members of the Arkfeld and Ohlinger family shared their favorite memories of the late Archbishop.

After the lecture, participants were invited to go see the full display of the exhibit in the Office of Multicultural Affairs. In addition to the artifacts we were able to create a photo montage and narrative from the Archives of the Society of the Divine Word (S.V.D) in Chicago, Illinois. This portion of the Exhibit as well as some artifacts are still on display in the Office of Multicultural Affairs. We encourage you to stop by the office to view the exhibit in Harper 3006!

The Arkfeld Lecture can be seen online at

<http://youtu.be/IK-e1HhJKOs>



ARCHBISHOP ARKFELD FLYING. PHOTO FROM THE ARCHIVES OF S.V.D.



ARTIFACTS FROM THE EXHIBIT ON DISPLAY IN THE OFFICE OF MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS

PHOTOS OF A FEW SPRING CULTURAL EVENTS @ CU!



**DiversiTEA Event hosted by
MAC & IRHG Feb. 23, 2012**

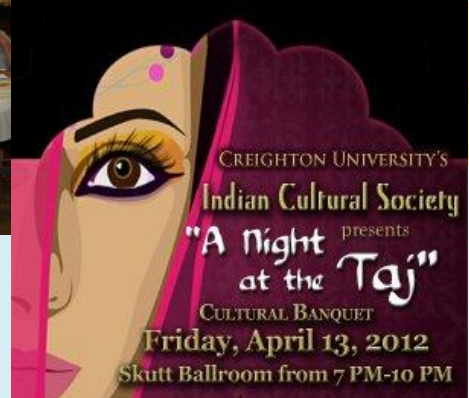
**CULSA Members at USHLI
Conference in Chicago!
February 2012**



Hawaiian Luau – March 31, 2012



**CMFN 25th Anniversary– CA
CU Alum: Lorena Zamirripa-
Lovo
CU Student: Jessica Rangel**



**All Nations Pow Wow April 14, 2012
Princess– Ms. Little Hoop**



**All Nations Pow Wow 2012-
Grand Entry**



**Ubuntu—AFSA Banquet
April 21, 2012**



CU Grad!



**Division of Student Life Awards Ceremony
OMA Awardees April 22, 2012**



**CUASA setting up for
Step Correct VI April 28, 2012**

MARKOE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM CELEBRATION!

BY BECKY NICKERSON

On Friday, April 20, 2012, members of the Father John P. Markoe, S.J. Leadership Program gathered in the Morrison Stadium suite to celebrate the end of another successful and productive year and to honor the program's seniors. The program included great food and fellowship coupled with words of wisdom, encouragement and hugs.

The keynote speaker for the event was Jamal Jackson, a Markoe Leadership Program alum. Jamal is graduating this spring from Creighton University's School of Law. Jamal addressed the group imparting his three pieces of advice:

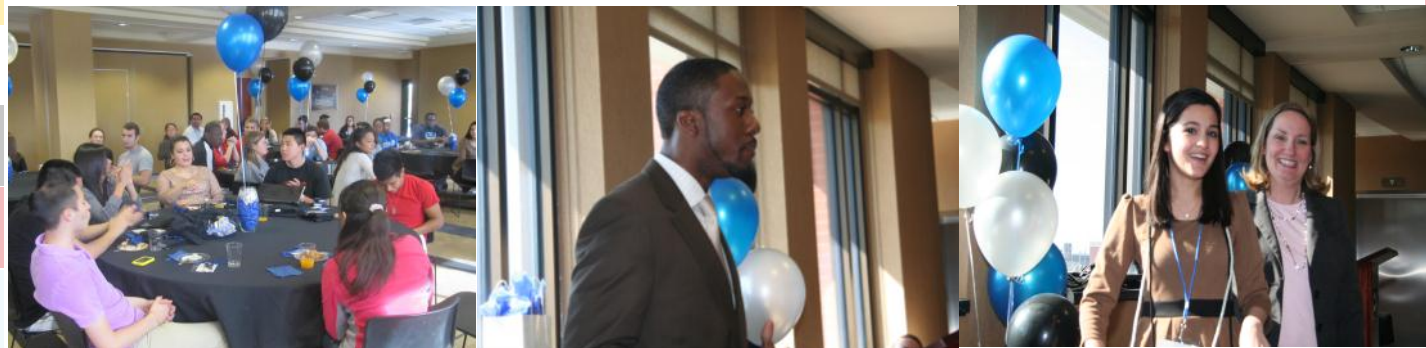
- 1) Be willing to take risks and become OK with failure,
- 2) Manage relationships both with others as well as yourself,
- 3) Readily identify and articulate your reason for achieving. He concluded his presentation with encouraging everyone to fight for what they want in life in order to achieve success.

This year the Father John P. Markoe, S.J. Leadership Program is graduating 19 students. Graduates were presented with a certificate along with black and silver cords to be worn at the graduation ceremony.

This year's Markoe Scholar graduates include:

- * Carli Culjat
- * Brittany Edmonds
- * Awatif "Ruth" Elias
- * Paul Frank
- * Ana Gaspar
- * Valyn Gipson
- * Rosangela Godinez
- * Carl Hill
- * Felicia Hoefker
- * Kim Huynh
- * Monica Ibarra
- * Juan Jaimes
- * Khloe Keeler
- * Matthew Kor
- * Kathleen McGlynn
- * Katherine Moore
- * Rocio Mujica
- * Kristina Roselle
- * Carissa Smith

The Office of Multicultural Affairs is extremely proud of these graduates and we wish them well in their future endeavors! We are confident that they are each well equipped with leadership skills and a multitude of talents that will assist them in achieving great success.



Markoe Leadership Program Graduation Celebration April 20, 2012– (left photo) everyone enjoying food, (center photo) Keynote Speaker Diversity Alum Jamal Jackson, and (right photo) Fouzia Berdi after receiving her Markoe Cords from Becky Nickerson

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ANNOUNCEMENTS!

JULY 21, 2012—THE 3RD ANNUAL DIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL EXPO

The Creighton University School of Law will host the 3rd Annual Diversity Law School Expo on Saturday, July 21, 2012, from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. in the Mike and Josie Harper Center at 602 N. 20th St. The 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 multicultural high school students, college students and graduates who are interested in attending law school. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn about the application and financial aid processes while networking with practicing attorneys and current law students. This event is 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. To register please contact Luz Colon-Rodriguez at Lrodriguez@creighton.edu

AUGUST 25, 2012— 4TH ANNUAL MULTICULTURAL ENRICHMENT INSTITUTE

The Multicultural Enrichment Institute is a joint partnership between the Office of Student Success, Welcome Week, and the Office of Multicultural Affairs. The Institute is an educational workshop dedicated to new, first-year students of color attending Creighton University. It covers topics such as cultural activities, how to join a cultural student organization, strategies on how to be successful at Creighton, and resources available to students via the Office of Multicultural Affairs.

SEPTEMBER 8, 2012—THE OMA WELCOME BACK SOCIAL **1PM-4PM AT ANDERSON PLAZA**

The 14th 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 2012— MARKOE-DEPORRES SOCIAL JUSTICE LECTURE

This lecture series was inaugurated in 1994 in honor of Fr. John Markoe, of the Society of Jesus, and the Omaha De Porres Club he founded on November 3, 1947, in what is now the Schleich Room on the 4th floor of Creighton Hall. Named after Saint Martin De Porres, the patron of social justice, the objective of the club was the realization of racial justice in Omaha. Fr. Markoe and the De Porres Club stirred consciences and challenged racist attitudes and segregationist practices in Omaha. More details to come.

NOVEMBER 14, 2012—INTERCULTURAL EXPO 11AM-3PM

Come and sample dishes from all over the world! Creighton's own Multicultural Student Organizations showcase their culture, food, and talents. Tickets are purchased at the door with cash or Jay Bucks. This annual event is hosted by the Multicultural Advisory Council (MAC) and the Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA).

MORE EVENTS TO COME, JOIN US ON [FACEBOOK!](#)