The big kickoff event was finally here and sounds of serenades filled the air of the Old Market as the newly formed mentor groups roamed the streets. Mentor groups, which consist of two sophomore mentors and six freshmen, were set off on a digital dash throughout the streets of downtown Omaha. The big-ticket item on this year’s dash, worth fifty points each, was having the entire group serenade someone; so as one could imagine, the streets were erupting with voices singing a wide range of songs. Besides having to serenade people the groups were asked to find a duck, street performers, and the infamous Omaha slides just to name a few. The winning mentor group (pictured below) won with eleven serenades and definitely looked like they were having a good time doing it! Kickoff was successful and the mentor groups absolutely bonded over having to do some pretty ridiculous tasks!

Every Tuesday evening, members of the Freshman Leadership Program attend seminar. Seminar consists of a mixture of workshops and speakers from the Creighton and Omaha community. The Freshman Leadership Program focuses seminar around leadership theories and tangible skills that will help members grow as leaders.

Throughout the first semester of seminar, members will hear many speakers from the Creighton community. This past month Father Lannon, President of Creighton University attended seminar and spoke about Creighton and the Jesuit values. Also Lucas Novotny, Resident Director of Kenefick Hall, and Scott Maas, Director of Harper and Skutt at Creighton, lead a workshop about successful programming and reservations. Later this semester, we have an exciting new seminar called FLP Lives On. During the seminar, members will get the opportunity to listen to former FLP members discuss their own experience in the program and their time at Creighton.

On September 14, the FLP community got to spend a day on the high ropes course in Ashland, NE. Throughout the day, the members were able to gain trust in each other and build friendships while suspended around 50 feet in the air. Many of the students were pushed past fears to accomplish such a task but ended up conquering and growing from their accomplishment. The students returned with stronger friendships and trust in their peers abilities.
One of the main ways the FLP plans on becoming active in the community this semester is by hosting a Thanksgiving Dinner to benefit Precious Memories Daycare. Precious Memories is a local daycare who's goal is to provide a loving and safe childcare environment for as many children from low income families as possible. Precious Memories has made it a goal to not turn away any child and therefore is able to help many families who are experiencing financial hardship or who are turned away by other daycare providers.

Every year since the Freshman Leadership Program has raised enough money to help keep Precious Memories running. The FLPers this year will be making this dinner happen from start to finish. In order to accomplish all the aspects of hosting a successful benefit, we will be organized into committees each handling different aspects of the dinner including: Advertising, Ticket Sales, Cooking the meal, Set up/ Clean up, and Serving. Each and every one of the FLPers will play an important role in making this dinner a success.

At the beginning of this semester we requested donations from over 100 local businesses in an effort to raise awareness and involve the greater Omaha community in the benefit for Precious Memories. The dinner will be held at Creighton University on Saturday November 16, 2013 at 6:00pm with the doors opening at 5:30pm. I will be sending out formal invitations to each of you (the FLPers's family) the beginning of October with more details of the dinner. We would love to have you join us in making this event a success and supporting a great organization.

Freshman Leadership Program's weekly trips to service sites have begun! Freshmen in FLP attend one of eight service sites weekly around the Omaha-Metro area with their mentor group of five other freshmen, two sophomore mentors, and an FLP executive. Students predominately work with children in after/before-school or extended-care programs. These programs are located in ethnically and socio-economically diverse areas around the Omaha Metro area. Many children that FLP students work with at the their service sites live below the poverty line. Oftentimes, the after-school, daycare, or extended-care programs that these children attend are safe, nurturing environments that are vital to a child’s growth and development along with going to school. When FLP students attend service, many have the opportunity to tutor and help students with homework. Other students lead group activities and play sports and other gym activities with the students; still other students do activities with mentally and physically handicapped students. Students have now attended service for four weeks, and are getting to know and develop relationships with the people at their site. The service sites that FLP students attend are: Precious Memories Daycare, Kids Can Community Center, South Omaha Boys & Girls Club, Completely Kids at Liberty Elementary, Jesuit Academy, Holy Name Elementary School S.T.A.R.S. Program, Children's Respite Care Center and Hope Center for Kids.
Dear Parents,

Whether it seems like a matter of merely minutes, or the equivalent of a complete lifetime, we are already six weeks into the school year, and with that, six weeks into the Freshman Leadership Program. I would like to take this opportunity to first and foremost congratulate you as parents: your sons and daughters have consistently demonstrated an utmost level of character, benevolence, discernment, initiative, humility, and virtue. In my four years of being associated with this program, I have yet to see a group of freshmen leave an impact equivalent to that of this year’s group. I am not only proud of where they are now, and where they have come, but I am eager to see the greatness that each continues to uncover on daily basis.

When it comes to fulfilling and capitalizing one's time in college, it seems that the driving factor always lies in some sort of pool of dreams and desires: albeit getting into medical school, finding a passion and making it a major, finding a fantastic internship, making sound friends, and the list goes on and on. Don’t get me wrong, such works pretty well in the scheme of things. But the major fallacy I have seen and experienced (and believe me, I’m as guilty as it gets!) comes from those who spend every ounce of time and effort doing nothing but chasing dream after dream after dream. Odd as it may sound, what matters most is not the achievement of dreams. What matters most is how you live your life. Live your life the right way, and destiny will take care of itself; the dreams will come to you.

And though this is not Disneyland by any means, I can say in my most genuine honesty that in FLP dreams really do come true. Given the high moral your sons and daughters continue to cherish and exhibit, life is being well-lived. Dreams are coming—and will continue to come—true. This world’s newest, and most elite leaders are metamorphosing into nothing but agents of change, citizen-scholars eager to make the most out of this precious life.

It’s an honor to be a part of this most magnificent journey. I cannot be more thankful to a group of wonderful parents. Thank you for trusting us with your child’s vision and we strive to reciprocate the honor that you have bestowed on us.

Most Sincerely,

Hunter C. Allen
Student Coordinator