



Bluejay Leadership News

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Student Activities Office
 Creighton University
 Skutt Student Center
 Room 110
 Omaha, NE 68178

Voice: (402) 280-1715
 Fax: (402) 280-5829
www.creighton.edu/studentactivities

Office Hours:
 M-W 8:00am-10:00pm
 Th-F 8:00am-4:30pm

Officer Transitions: Things to Know

By Katie Wadas, Assistant Director for Student Activities

For some student organizations, January marks a time of not only a new year, but also a new executive board. It is important to have smooth and informative officer transitions so that the new officers are set to be successful in the upcoming year. To prepare for officer transitions, here are a few recommendations.

- 1) Set a time for an officer transition retreat/meeting where all old and incoming officers can attend.
- 2) Each outgoing officer should take time to prepare a transition folder or binder with pertinent information, including a contact list of important people for the organization. It is also helpful if the outgoing officer can brainstorm things that went well, that did not go well, and things they would change. On page 5 is a sample worksheet that can be used for this preparation.
- 3) Implement the transition retreat. Allow time for general discussion where both incoming and outgoing officers can share ideas for the upcoming year. Then break into officer pairs so that each pair can have a transition conversation.
- 4) Remind the new officers to fill out the Annual Registration Form so that the Student Activities Office has accurate contact information for your organization. **This should be done as soon as the new officers take office.**

If your organization is a bit unsure about conducting an officer transition meeting on your own, you can request one of our staff members to help set an agenda or even attend your meeting to guide you through the process. Contact Katie Wadas with a request for help.

Scavenger Hunt on Wheels: A Success

By Katelyn Brady, Student Empowerment Network

Have you ever navigated your way through Creighton's campus in a wheel chair? On October 29, 2008, over 50 students had the opportunity to experience wheeling through campus rather than walking. The Student Empowerment Network (also known as SEN) is a student group on campus that advocates and promotes awareness of individuals with disabilities.

SEN organized an event open to campus students to increase this awareness. It was a scavenger hunt in which students in teams of four were given a wheel chair and asked to navigate to five locations and finish in the Harper Center. The goal was to complete the scavenger hunt the fastest. Each of the designated locations required either finding the wheel chair accessible entrance, locating a ramp, or even calling public safety to activate the wheel chair lift. As one could imagine, some of these tasks were difficult, and many of the students were not previously aware of these not so easily accessible areas.

This inaugural event was a huge success for SEN and disability advocacy. Katie Wadas, Student Activities assistant director, commented that *it was not about winning, or being able to go the fastest, but in the end it is being able to realize the difficulties*

that an individual in a wheel chair may experience each day. A few other comments included: explaining that in one building a wheel chair lift exists, however the key to use the lift is located at the bottom of the stairs! Simply getting to where you need to be day to day will take longer, as many of the wheel chair assessable entrances are not in the most convenient locations. The participants were able to leave with a new found awareness for individuals with disabilities, and were able to have some fun while doing it.

SEN is currently organized by five occupational therapy students, yet it is hoping to expand to other health professions and the undergraduates at Creighton. To get more information about SEN please visit our website at <http://www2.creighton.edu/studentempowerment/index.php>.



Student Leaders and Their Role in Promoting Safety

By Dr. Wayne Young, Jr., Assistant Vice President for Student Learning

You have probably seen a number of emails, updates, and Creightonian articles about safety and security. Creighton, like all college campuses, has its share of crime and behavior too—and student leaders can be an important part of helping all students be safe.

As a student leader, here are some recommendations for you to help your student organization be safe and secure throughout the year! The following is a list of both announcements and actions you can take with your student organization.

#10 Talk about Safety – Often making sure that your peers are thinking about safety can ultimately help folks be safe. Sharing dates for upcoming personal safety workshops, sharing tips about safety, or providing reminders about walking in groups, not leaving valuables in cars, etc. can be extremely helpful to your membership.

#9 Take advantage of Public Safety – Mr. Jim Dorsey, Crime Prevention Officer, is an important resource for your organization. Bring him in to speak to your organization.

#8 Mobile Phones – Encourage your membership to take a moment during their meeting, ask the members to pull out their phones, and ask them to add the following

phone numbers to their address books:

- 911 for Off-Campus Emergencies
- 402-280-2911 (Public Safety Emergency Number) for On-Campus Emergencies
- 402-280-2104 (Public Safety Non-Emergency Number) to request a health aide or RD on Duty when on campus or for other non-emergency requests

#7 CARS – Encourage your members to take their cars home over breaks OR if they are not taking their cars home, to park them on campus in a garage or in the Burt Street student parking lot. (Note: Encourage your members to think about parking on campus over breaks—especially during the winter season—as city streets often have to be clear for snow removal!)

#6 Apartments – It is always important to be extra vigilant during breaks. If you are leaving town, be sure everything is locked, window shades closed, and a light or two left on. If you are sticking around town, be sure to check in with family and friends and be aware of your surroundings.

#5 Host a Personal Safety Workshop for your Student Organization – Take a meeting off and host a safety workshop! Mr. Jim Dorsey, Crime Prevention Office, at Public

Safety can help arrange this for your organization.

#4 Be Careful with your PERSONAL INFORMATION – Do not leave a message on your house phone, voicemail, instant message system, or social networking website (facebook, myspace, etc.) that you will be gone. It advertises that your room or house is empty.

#3 If you THINK something is SUSPICIOUS please CALL – Often folks may see something or witness an event, and they don't call. Law enforcement personnel all agree—CALL and let them check out a situation or issue. Calling 911 for a suspicious car, event, or vandalism is OK!

#2 Be Careful with your Valuables – Whether studying in the library, parking your car after shopping, or leaving your door unlocked for “just a few minutes,” be cautious and vigilant and do NOT leave your valuables unguarded.

#1 Take Care of Each Other – This is a good message at any university or college setting—but especially Creighton. We talk about the Jesuit values of becoming Women and Men For and With Others. Whether it is walking home from a party, attending an event off campus, driving someone home, or going jogging with someone, we have to look out for each other. Safety is a culture—a culture that starts with students taking care of students, and thus why student leaders can lead the charge to greater student safety!

Liz's Tips

Our administrative assistant, Liz Ferguson, offers some tips for student organizations to stay connected to Student Activities and be successful on campus.

- Check your mailbox on a weekly basis
- Remember, you cannot store t-shirts, signs, or other materials in our office! We'd love to help, but we do not have the space and cannot take responsibility for lost or stolen items.
- Register for the Winter Involvement Fair and be sure to attend! (check your inbox for information)

Winter Involvement Fair
 Wednesday, January 28, 2009
 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM
 Skutt Student Center Ballroom

Come learn about the newest student organizations on campus and become involved with other organizations and university departments too!

Get Involved!

Student Organization Updates

To submit an update for your student organization, please send an email to Katie Wadas at sao@creighton.edu. Updates are due for the February edition on **Wednesday, January 28th**.

Academic/Interest

Creighton Student Organization of Social Workers
Creighton University Student Organization of Social Workers (S.O.S.W.) collected between 250 and 350 canned good items that were donated to Precious Memories day-care on 24th Street and Leavenworth. The donated food is to be used to make meals for the children there and to make up bags to be sent home with their families for the holidays.

We also raised \$1120 for Bead for Life, a nonprofit organization dedicated to eradicating poverty in Uganda. The women who will benefit are members of Bead for Life. The program provides the women of Kampala, Uganda the necessary skills to create beads out of recycled paper and sell them to help them support their families. The Ugandan women range in age, but they all have one thing in common: They are living on fewer than \$2 a day. Many of them are raising children, have been widowed by war, and are struggling with HIV/AIDS.

EXSEL

The EXSEL students are currently involved in the Family to Family Christmas project at Creighton University. Students are raising funds to purchase Christmas gifts for their "adopted family". Students are also "teaming up" with the University Wellness Committee to support a tennis shoe drive the first week in December. Creighton employees and students are encouraged to donate tennis shoes to be given to various organizations that support disadvantaged individuals in the Omaha area.

Government

Inter Residence Hall Government

Inter Residence Hall Government has been quite busy all semester. We have organized more than fifteen campus-wide events and have been tremendously successful. The year began with the spectacular Movie on the Mall Event where more than 500 students sat on the mall and enjoyed the blockbuster *Iron Man*. The success helped us jumpstart the year that would be followed by two Getting Blue BBQ's, Election Info Nights, Go Light Your World Mass, Movies That Make You Go Hmm... Series, and our biggest event so far: the Price is Right. We have increased our attendance to these events from last year. In addition, IRHG also won the Midwest regional Student Award for

Leadership Training at the MACURH 2008 Conference.

We are looking forward to another successful semester. The Residence Halls will up their programming endeavor and students in Residence Halls can expect more events and activities organized by the individual residence halls. We're hoping to bring families closer with the Lil Jays Weekend on March 27-29. Be sure to check out our applications at the beginning of next semester for this weekend full of fun and entertainment (including the McGloin Block Party and Carnival) for Creighton students and their siblings or cousins.

Blankets from the Pediatric Interest Group

If you or someone you know is having a baby, the Pediatric Interest Group has made double weight fleece baby blankets. They are very soft, cuddly, and would make the perfect baby gift! We are trying to sell enough that we can give some away to the million dollar babies in the NICU and other babies in need. Please help us support our cause and enjoy a beautiful baby blanket. This is the link to our webpage where you can view and order them. We have two different baby blue blanket designs and two baby pink designs, all are embroidered. We will be selling them year round.

[Http://medicine.creighton.edu/pig](http://medicine.creighton.edu/pig)



The Student Activities Office is currently taking applications for the 2009 Graduation Brunch internship position!

To apply for this position, you must:

- Be a full-time student (12 credits or more) at Creighton University and have a QPA of 2.5 or above.
- Have previous experience with word processing and graphic design programs (ex—Word, Access, & InDesign,).
- Complete a minimum of 7 office hours per week between the hours of 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.
- Coordinate the implementation, execution, and evaluation of the brunch which will be held on Friday, May 15, 2009.
- Meet weekly with Katelyn Whitty, Assistant Director of Student Activities.

Monetary compensation, great professional experience, and a lot of fun!

To apply, pick up an application in the Student Activities Office and return it to the Student Activities Office no later than Friday Dec. 19th by 4:30 pm.

Questions? Contact Katelyn Whitty, Assistant Director of Student Activities, at 280-1715, or via email at katelynwhitty@creighton.edu.

Request a Leadership Workshop!

Visit our homepage and click on the Leadership Workshops button on the left. Find out about the great workshops the SAO staff can present to your organizations!

Fraternity and Sorority Recruitment

Recruitment begins after Christmas break!
Be sure to check out the Greek Life website with more information about recruitment, registration, and dates and times.

www.creighton.edu/fraternitiessorities

Click on 2009 Recruitment Information on the left

Transition Preparation

My position _____ Name _____

Contact info (email, phone, and/or IM) _____

3 things that went well:

1.

2.

3.

3 things that did not go well:

1.

2.

3.

Some ideas for next year are:

Going into this position I wish I would have known:

What is your *best* advice for the next person in this position?