

Summer Research Institute

Creighton
UNIVERSITY



CENTER FOR PROMOTING HEALTH AND HEALTH EQUALITY (CPHHE)

The Summer Research Institute SRI provides research opportunities to undergraduate and high-school students. These students come from different backgrounds and locations. The Center for Promoting Health and Health Equality, through Creighton University researchers, provides guidance and mentorship to these students. Featured is a brief biography of Dr. Catherine Opere and interviews with two of our participants: Alek Rehan and Deysy Reyes.

Undergraduate Student of the Week

ALEK REHAN

Mentor: Dr. Catherine Opere

"People forget what you said, forget what you did, but they remember how you make them feel"- Dr. Maya Angelou.

True to her aspiration to become a doctor, Alek Rehan, who is a sophomore at Creighton University majoring in Medical Anthropology, is taking part in the Summer Research Institute at Creighton University. To develop her research skills, she is working with Dr. Catherine Opere at the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions for eight weeks this summer. Alek's research focuses on investigating the ability of a test drug to reduce the degradation of lens' protein due to oxidative stress.

What are your strengths?

One of my strengths is my ability to be steadfast in reaching my aspirations, while juggling multiple roles. My ability to communicate and interact well with people of different backgrounds is also a strength that has landed me in advantageous positions.

What do you do to relax?

In my spare time, I enjoy reading books to relax.

What is your favorite book and why?

My favorite book is Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe, because it provides a narrative of the African experience of colonialism.

What is your favorite school subject and why?

I really enjoy studying philosophy because it allows us to evaluate the process of thought that guides our everyday choices, something often taken for granted.

What are the four more important things in life you cannot survive without?

I am a very humble person and the things I cannot live without are simple: food, my family and friends, education, and freedom.

Ten years from now you will be....

Ten years from now, I hope to be practicing medicine and starting a family.

What motto/advice do you live by?

A motto I try to live by is a quote by Dr. Maya Angelou, "I have learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you make them feel."

What is something that amazes you?

What amazes me most about our world is that there are so many complex systems, from the galaxies we live in, to the atoms that constitute our bodies, and they are all interdependent on one another.

What is your favorite place to dine-out?

I really like to eat at 3 Happiness over on Leavenworth, a family-owned business.

How and where do you prefer to study?

I prefer to study in my room where I can limit distractions.

What is your all-time favorite town or city? Why?

Paris is my favorite city because it is so diverse; there is lots to do, and there are plenty of restaurants to try.

What motivated you to participate in the program?

What motivated me to participate in this program is my desire to pursue a degree in medicine. The Summer Research Program is an opportunity to develop skills necessary for any future scientist.



Alek Rehan is a sophomore at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska.



Catherine Opere, PhD., is a Professor of Pharmacy Science at Creighton University School of Pharmacy and Health Professions. Her research interest is in ocular pharmacology and she teaches pharmacology. Dr. Opere joined Creighton University in 1990 for graduate school. She obtained an MBA in 1992 and a PhD in ocular pharmacology in 1997 from Creighton. After returning to Kenya, she volunteered as a lecturer at the University of Nairobi, School of Pharmacy. Dr. Opere returned to the U.S. in 2001 and joined Creighton University as an Assistant Professor in 2002. She is mentoring Alek Rehan, a sophomore at Creighton University.



DEYSY REYES is a junior at Benson High. In her desire to experience lab research while still in high school, Deysy Reyes accepted an opportunity to do research at Creighton University School of Medicine with Dr. Yaping Tu. She is working on an eight-week research project in a program sponsored by the American Chemical Society (Project SEED). Deysy's research focuses on comparing the expression level of P-Rex1 and proliferation between healthy and asthmatic-airway smooth muscle. After

high school, she plans to attend the University of Nebraska at Lincoln.

What are your strengths? And how have they helped you in your life?

One of my strength is I do not like giving up. It has helped me achieve my goals.

What do you do to relax?

I like to watch Netflix in my free time.

What is your favorite school subject and why?

My favorite subject is science because it is interesting.

What is your favorite book and why?

My favorite book is The Notebook because it is romantic.

What are the four more important things in life you cannot survive without?

Family, phone, money, and car.

Ten years from now you will be... I hope to have a good job, be married and have kids.

What advice do you live by?

"Things happen for a reason."

What is something that amazes you?

The background of how science works.

What is your favorite place to dine out?

My favorite place to go eat is Buffalo wild Wings.

How and where do you prefer to study?

I enjoy taking notes. I would like to go to Nebraska University of Lincoln. I enjoy taking notes.

What is your all-time favorite town or city? Why?

My favorite place to visit is Chicago.

What motivated you to participate in the program?

I wanted to experience having research in my background.

TIMELINE ACTIVITIES FOR SUMMER RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Friday, July 22

Draft of Poster

Friday, July 29

Final Posters for presentation

Thursday, August 4

Mock Presentations

Friday August 5

SRI Colloquium

Skutt Student Center Rm 105

11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

UPDATES ON HS-MACA ACTIVITIES FOR JULY 2016

Monday, June 6 to Friday July 29

Post-Bac Summer Diagnostic Session

Tuesday, May 31 to Friday July 15

Pre-Med Pre-Matric

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HS-MACA <http://healthsciences.creighton.edu/hsmaca>