

This Issue honors HS-MACA's African American students

Student Sight Savers Coordinator Matches in Ophthalmology



Carola Okogbaa a 4th year medical student at Creighton University has been accepted to an ophthalmology residency program at Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana. Carola has had a great interest in ophthalmology since her first year in medical school. From the very beginning, she began participating in glaucoma screenings in the Omaha community.

Carola, a co-investigator on the *Preventing Glaucoma Blindness in Nebraska: A Creighton University Initiative* grant helped to establish a Student Sight Savers Program at Creighton University. This program is funded by Friends of the Congressional Glaucoma Caucus Foundation. Along with performing screenings in helping to identify individuals at risk for glaucoma, an integral part of Carola's mission through this program was to recruit other medical students and get them involved. This was an important focus for her, because examining the eye can be an intimidating task for many medical students and by giving them the opportunity to participate in these screenings, they learn how to use the ophthalmoscope appropriately and perform a proper examination of the eye.

SNMA President (2002-2003) Matches in Neuro-Surgery



Bethwel Raore, the chapter president of the Student National Medical Association (SNMA), 2002-2003 has recently matched in a competitive neuro-surgery program at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. During his term, as president, the Creighton University Chapter was recognized at the SNMA national meeting as the most improved chapter. He led and empowered the chapter members, his colleagues, to achieve the following: (1) reach out to the underserved local communities of Omaha by organizing the Omaha Community Health fair where the students serviced over 300 people; (2) volunteer as student teachers at middle and high schools teaching an introductory course to anatomy through the Youth Science Enrichment Program; (3) mentor high school students to expose them to health related careers; (4) counsel and assist minority undergraduates at Creighton with their medical school applications. Bethwel also arranged for other professionals to speak to the chapter members to share their health care experiences among the underserved communities. Bethwel continues to demonstrate leadership skills and his fairness in dealing with his colleagues through his professional memberships in the Student National Medical Association, American Medical Students Association, Christian Medical and Dental Society and Association of Accounting Technicians (UK).

Bethwel has overcome the challenges presented to many underrepresented students in medical school. He has shown that, with determination, focus and hard work, he can rise above those challenges to achieve excellence. Above and beyond these accomplishments, he has become very resolute in his vision and has set a goal to contribute to bridging the gap of healthcare disparities in the nation.

Bethwel a 4th year medical student was a recipient of Creighton University Martin Luther King Award in January 2005.

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**2005
School of Medicine
Match Results**

CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY OBSERVES THE MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

Barbara Slattery, MA

Creighton University's annual celebration for Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday took a new turn this year. The legacy of Dr. King was celebrated with a ceremony entitled, "Living the Vision" with 200-300 audience members at the Lied Center for the Performing Arts. Students from area adopt-a-school partners were honored with prizes for their artwork and essay contest entries. Guest speaker, Dr. Joseph White in his speech encompassed the history of civil rights from Rosa Parks and the Birmingham bus boycott of 1955 to King's assassination in 1968. One compelling quote from his speech is, "Change begins from within and works out. Change doesn't begin in the mayor's office." Mayor Fahey answered later in the program, "We shouldn't be looking for ways to find differences; we should be finding ways to be similar."

Fr. Schlegel, who was present at the celebration, stated that "there are 17% minorities in the freshman class at CU this year, and that the goal is 20 to 21%. However, the number is not as important as learning and growing as a community while celebrating one another's differences.

Every year students are honored for practicing the ideals of Dr. King and are awarded the coveted MLK Student Leadership Award. Winners must be involved in activities that promote social justice, peace, and religious, racial, and cultural harmony. They are involved in service to the poor, oppressed, and marginalized. They inspire and lead others to work with them. This year three students received the award. They are Sean Burke and Becky Chabot who are Creighton undergraduate students, and Bethwel Raore who is a fourth year medical student.

Another first this year was the Dr. Martin Luther King Legacy Award presented by President Schlegel. The award recipients were Dr. John Langan for his service on the Omaha School Board for 14 years, eight of which he was president. The Magis Medical Clinic Student Founders were honored as well with this award for their institution of a free clinic at the Siena Francis House in North Omaha for homeless men, women and children. The celebration was well received on campus and in the community. Many positive words were spoken, encouraging everyone in attendance to live the vision of Dr. King

From "Letter from Birmingham Jail," April 16, 1963

Sandra Chavez – 2005 MLK Award Recipient

This particular quote of Dr. King's has an inspiring effect on my conscience because it forces me to analyze whether I consider myself to be a good person or not. What is the determining factor- silence? Silence is the tiny pebble that could mean the difference between good or bad when my character is on the balance. Why? It is evident from this quote and many others that Dr. King was horrified by the lack of voice in the African-American community during the Civil Rights Movement. The African-American community suffered many injustices and Dr. King was determined to give a voice to the voiceless in order to inspire them to fight for their equal rights and that of future generations with non-violent demonstrations. Dr. King serves to this day as an inspiration among Americans because he fought with love in order to bring about justice in society. He was not one to mince words and in my selected quote he recognized that while hateful words and actions deserve to be acknowledged as unnecessary evils that must generate regret on part of the "bad people" he considered the silence of the "good people" to be the worst of sins. The silence of the good people is the crippling factor which prevents an unjust society from becoming a just society.

I believe Dr. King himself in this short quote gives us the answer to this year's theme- we must speak out! Words have a powerful effect in society and especially when inspired by love in the quest for peace to achieve the goal of living in a just society. Words motivated by the non-violent masses of good people and spoken by these good people will have a significant affect on society whether it is in subtle or obvious ways in the short term but without a doubt will have long-term effects. As a people, we must speak out and break the bonds of silence that imprison us in order to achieve our goal. A just society will take much time and dedication to bring about, but the first step is to break the silence. Dr. King made this very clear in the majority of his speeches and inspiring quotes.

Today we must take up the torch that Dr. King first lit and lead the way to a just society by following the road of peace that Dr. King paved. We must use the power of speech to give voice to society's most important need- justice. Justice for all peoples regardless of skin color is needed desperately if society is to achieve the dream of a just society. This dream can and must become reality but the hardest thing to realize is that it must start with me. I must have the courage to speak out against any injustice committed against myself or another human being regardless of who it is that is committing the injustice. Prejudice is not to be tolerated and I must summon the valor hidden within my heart to break the silence. I must do this in order to one day come up with the answer to the question regarding if I am a good person or not. I must ask myself- did I speak out when I should have? Or did I succumb to cowardice and hold my tongue? Silence can make you or break you. Will it break me? Will it break us all? If Dr. King could do it- why can't others in society follow his example and do the same to make the dream of living in a just society a reality? Break the silence.



The Associate Vice President of HS-MACA and staff would like to congratulate all of our Health Sciences' graduates for a job well done. We hope that your career will be very successful. We are very proud of your success and believe you will be life changers in your new career.

School of Dentistry

Ensy A. Atarod
Ramon Perez

School Medicine

Lowell Amiotte
Zulma Barrios
Corenthian Booker
Mariam Garuba
Joann Gierbolini
Harry Lazarte, Sr.
Kalaki Marks
Paul Montoya
Adeline Nukuna-Bierce
Carola Okogbaa
Justus Peters
Sonya Tran
Lisa Vigue

School of Pharmacy & Health Professions

Oluwamayokun (Emmanuel) Adeyemi Lorraine Vanega
Ikemefuna Ezedi
Adam Garvan
Cheryl James
Victor Melgoza
Yoimbi Meyeuno

School of Nursing

Jayson Abe
Garrett Calizar
Elizabeth Le Corgne
Michela Peak
Al Ramos
Louella Garnette
Accelerated Nursing
Ugonna Joyce Akwani
Alice Asanaenyi
Martin Awah
Jeffrey Bedoya
Funmilayo Fayomi-Holmes
Roland Guieb
Divonica Harrel
Heather Lau
Julie Lindamood
Chengdai Liu
Sifisosethu Nkomo
Jennifer Peterson
Veronica Rojas

HCOP/HPPI

Teela Allen – North
Markell Brewer – Burke
Brittany Burleson – Northwest
Christopher Desangles – Millard North
Carmen Evans – North High
Jamarr Holiday – Blackburn
Whitney Ijem – Duchesne
Alex Ingram – Central
Chazaray Jones – Central
Skirell Jones – North
Paul Keita – South High
Crystal Knight – Northwest
Ashlynn Lewis – Central
Violette Owens – Northwest
Kendra Zardetto-Smith – Marian
Samantha Tapio – Red Cloud
Joahnea Turner – Northwest
JaQuala Yarbro – Duchesne

COE Saturday Academy

Stevie Blair - Central
Angelow Butler - North
Carmen Evans – North
Jacquai Griffin - Central
Chris Gruber - Bryan
Taneshia Hobbs – Benson
Abiola Kosoko – Mt. Michael
Jacqueline Lewis - North
Edward Lopez - Bryan
Cassandra Marisett - Central
Dara Newson - Central
Jasmine Opere - Central
David Richardson - Westside
Isaiah Sayles - North
Samara Smith - Northwest
Awach Theodor - Bryan
Candice Tillery - Central
An Vu - Central
Robert Wesley - Central
Mallorie White – Bellevue West
Alyssa Williams – Northwest
LaShyria Williams - Papillon
Melitta Wilson - North

HS-MACA PROVIDES CULTURAL PROFICIENCY SEMINARS

With an increase in the diversity of the population in the United States, cultural proficiency has acquired attention as an important emerging strategy in health care with the potentiality toward eliminating racial/ethnic disparities. In relation to health care, cultural competence is a set of behaviors and attitudes that respect and take into account a person's cultural background, cultural beliefs and values, while incorporating those aspects into the healthcare that an individual receives.

The department of HS-MACA has organized and hosted cultural proficiency seminars within the School of Medicine in the past couple of years. The Center of Excellence grant allows the department to extend these seminars to faculty and staff in the School of Medicine. The objective of the cultural proficiency seminar is to provide information and tools so that physicians and medical students are able to interact sensitively, effectively, and professionally with persons from diverse cultural, socioeconomic, educational, racial and ethnic backgrounds.

A Cultural Proficiency seminar is held for 3rd year medical students as part of the Dimensions of Clinical Medicine course. This seminar includes focus groups with physicians and community members of different cultural backgrounds who engage the participants in a dialogue. The cultural proficiency team leaders share their experiences with regards to race/ethnicity and the health care system. During the student seminar, time is spent discussing case studies that relate to cultural issues.

A speaker from the Center for Cross-Cultural Health, Loudi Rivamonte is contracted to speak with the faculty members on the topic of "continuing the journey of cultural awareness." In addition, the faculty engage in a dialogue on cultural differences and its impact on addressing Health disparities.

Center of Excellence Coordinator Receives Rookie of the Year Award



Becky Messenger, Center of Excellence Coordinator wins Creighton University's 2005 Rookie of the Year Award presented by the Staff Advisory Council. Becky embodies the mission of HS-MACA by embracing it with a passion. Becky sees good in everyone and exudes enthusiasm as she pursues the goals of the department. She takes this mission into the community by giving up her free Saturdays to pique interest in health science careers and empower underrepresented high school students to pursue their hopes for the future. Becky is the true epitome of the Creighton credo. She works selflessly in her Council Bluffs community, serving on various boards and caring for the sick and needy. Becky Messenger is always giving!

HS-MACA Welcomes Ms. Hanneka Brown



HS-MACA would like to welcome new employee Ms. Hanneka Brown. Ms. Brown comes to us as the new Assistant Coordinator of Programs lending her services to the coordination of the Community Oriented Primary Care Common Ground program, Summer Research Institute and Center of Excellence Saturday Academy. Hanneka has her undergraduate degree in Criminal Justice and is currently pursuing her graduate degree in Public Administration. Her professional experience includes work in the areas of social work, service coordination and research. Working with grant funded programs is not new to her. Ms. Brown is the proud mother of a 15-year old daughter and enjoys hobbies such as traveling, watching classic movies, and learning new languages.

Health Professions Partnership Initiative (HPPI) Funding ends April 2005



Health Professions Partnership Initiative (HPPI) is the Creighton Collaborative Health Professions Pipeline (CCHPP, the HPPI program) which is a collaborative effort that includes Creighton University's four health science schools (Medicine, Dentistry, Nursing, and Pharmacy and Health Professions), and its undergraduate college, including its Department of Education. Other partners include Metropolitan Community College, Omaha Public Schools, and the Banneker Partnership (one high school and two feeder schools), the Jesuit Middle School and Boys and Girls Clubs of Omaha. The goal of this partnership is to increase the communication, coordination, and effectiveness of the partners in implementing initiatives and programs that increase the academic achievement and health career preparation of African American and Hispanic students in targeted Omaha schools, leading towards increased enrollment in health professions programs.

HPPI has served as a gateway for students and parents to receive information which otherwise they previously would not have. The program developed a strategic plan to increase the academic and health career information preparedness for student, beginning in the fourth grade and continuing through the college years. HPPI has strengthened the relationship between the community and Creighton University by providing 104 activities to 4,621 students since October 2000. Partner schools receive yearly school supply money to purchase science materials for their science departments. Schools feel they have a direct connection with Creighton University through HPPI. Since 2001 HPPI has supplied partner schools with 111 vans for transporting teachers and students to fieldtrips. King Science and Technology Magnet School stated, "without the Creighton vans our fieldtrips would not be possible. The van service is amazing."

HPPI has impacted the community by providing 38 college presentations to 372 students and giving them a direct connection to the health science professions. The parents' organization was created to assist in supporting the students' academic success. HPPI has also exposed over 100 parents to various careers in the health science professions while providing assistance with the financial aid information and the college application process. At the elementary and middle school level programs are offered on science enrichment, teacher development and parental involvement. At the secondary and college level activities were focused on study skills and time management training, tutoring, mentoring and science enrichment activities. HPPI took students out of the community and allowed them to experience the real world of a college campus and made college laboratories available to them. Funding for HPPI will be ending April 29, 2005. Ms. Brenda Bell is HPPI Coordinator. Thanks for a job well done!

2005 School of Medicine Match Results

Lowell Amiotte - Creighton University - Medicine-Preliminary	Adeline Nukuna - Martin Luther King Jr/Drew-California - Obstetrics-Gynecology
Zulma Barrios - Yale-New Haven Hospital Center - Internal Medicine	Justus Peters - Texas Tech University-El Paso- Transitional Surgery
Corenthian Booker - Penn State - Hershey Medical Center - Obstetrics-Gynecology	Sonya Tran - Medical College Wisconsin - Obstetrics-Gynecology
Mariam Garuba - Creighton/Nebraska Medical Center - Psychiatry	Lisa Vigue - Penn State - Hershey Medical Center - Obstetrics-Gynecology
Joann Gierbolini - University of South Florida Center of Medicine-Tampa - Radiology-Diagnostic	
Harry Lazarte - Creighton University - Internal Medicine	
Kalaki Marks - Olive View Medical Center - California - Internal Medicine	
Paul Montoya - Lincoln Medical Center - Nebraska - Family Practice	

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Assistant Coordinator of Programs
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Kojo Allen
Glaucoma Outreach Coordinator
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

COMMON GROUND
EVERY FRIDAY 11:30 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM G31

11TH GRADE
FOCUS ON HEALTH PROFESSIONS
CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY
BIO-INFORMATION CENTER
APRIL 14TH
11:30 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

CULTURAL COMPETENCY
3RD YEAR MEDICAL STUDENTS
APRIL 21ST
SHRINE CENTER - 84TH & CENTER
1:00 P.M. - 8:00PM

HS-MACA AWARDS BANQUET
APRIL 28TH
SKUTT STUDENT CENTER
EAST BALLROOM
5:00 P.M.

FACULTY CULTURAL COMPETENCY
MAY 19TH
UNION PACIFIC ROOM
8:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

SUMMER RESEARCH INSTITUTE
MAY 31ST - AUGUST 6TH

HCOP SUMMER ACADEMY
JUNE 6TH - JULY 15TH