

## WELCOME!! DEAN, SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY



Dr. Friedrichsen assumed the deanship of the School of Dentistry on August 1, 2005. His previous position was at Idaho State University, where he was Chairman of the Department of Dental Sciences and Director of the Idaho Dental Education Program, which is affiliated with Creighton University.

He was also an Associate Professor of Dentistry at Idaho State University and was Director of the Idaho Advanced General Dentistry Residency AEGD program. Dr. Friedrichsen received his bachelor's degree from Seattle University and his DDS from Northwestern University Dental School. He completed a general practice residency at the University of Chicago Hospital and Clinics. Dr. Friedrichsen is a member of the American Dental Association, the American Academy of cosmetic Dentistry, and was a consultant and site visitor for the Commission of Dental Accreditation for General Practice Residency and Advanced Education in General Dentistry. He is also a Fellow in the International College of Dentists. He has authored publications on rural dentistry and restorative dentistry, and has been honored by Idaho State University for outstanding public service. Dr. Friedrichsen has been continuously active in the practice of general dentistry throughout his career.

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## DENTAL SCHOOL WELCOMES HS-MACA STUDENTS



Congratulations are in order for two students whose roots in Creighton University have included the Department of Health Science-Multicultural and Community Affairs. They will soon be attending the CU Dental School. Angelina

Moody-Parker (above) and Tony Gaspard are happily making plans for graduation as well as matriculation to Professional School next fall. Angelina and Tony have been active members in the Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP) throughout their college careers, and have not been strangers to HS-MACA. They have worked very hard to attain their dreams. Everyone in HS-MACA is very proud of their accomplishments.

In asking them their motivation for success in undergraduate school and excelling in their lives in general, they have advice to share. Angelina has used her resourcefulness by capitalizing on opportunities given her. She was a summer participant in the Creighton HCOP Program as well as the Summer Enrichment Preparation (SEP) Program at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, which challenged her and prepared her for Dental School. Angelina states that her parents have also helped her in her quest to become a dentist. Doing well in school was a priority. She remembers, "I also did well in school because of the discipline I received from my parents. My parents were very strict and always taught me that education was most important. My mother and father wanted me to make a better life for myself." Her dream career was one that revolved around impacting others. She states, "I knew that I wanted to become a dentist because I wanted to help others. Being that my mother is a nurse, she came home with many amazing stories about how intense and rewarding her job was, which also inspired me to obtain a health career."

## REFLECTIONS OF A DENTAL POST-BACCALAUREATE STUDENT

*John Ha, B.S.*



As children, we all have aspirations to become various assortments of occupations, ranging from astronauts, to the president, to healthcare practitioners. Sometimes those aspirations change, and we recognize that our skills are suited for another field, or that what we enjoy falls under another profession. For me, that was never the case. At a young age, I placed a strong value on helping others, and becoming a health care professional became my career goal. My interest in dentistry became strongly focused through the years, and I decided that I wanted to give back to my community through the dental profession. To this day, becoming a dentist is still a driving force in my life, and my interest in the field has never been stronger.

### **John Ha**

Last year, I thought my pursuit was to become derailed, and that my window to continue towards becoming a dental practitioner had already closed. That was when I had found out from Dr. Frank J. Ayers, Associate Dean of Admissions at Creighton University School of Dentistry, that the class matriculating in the fall of 2005 was already full, and my application had been placed under alternate status. Despite my usual optimist attitude, it seemed my childhood dream would not be realized. Little did I know that the upcoming year was to be one for maturing, and that my trek in the path of Dentistry would be revived.

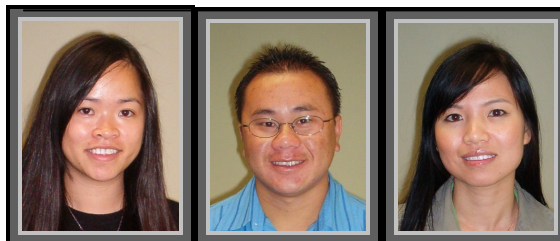
It was in the summer of 2005 that my year was to be determined. I was accepted into Creighton University's first ever Post-Baccalaureate Pre-Dental Program. Thus far the year has proved to be a productive one. The curriculum that the program has provided for us is intense and extensive, including classes in the natural sciences, cultural awareness, and perceptual ability broken up into four semesters. The emphasis of exceptional academic performance has forced me to mature, with my time management and study skills being the areas of greatest growth.

The program also provides the students with shadowing opportunities at the Creighton School of Dentistry. Through these weekly visits, the students not only become familiar with the clinical and dental school setting, they also get some hands-on experience when given opportunities to assist third and fourth year dental students.

Not only does the post-baccalaureate program stress diversity and multiculturalism, the entire Creighton campus does so also. As one of the 12 in the post-baccalaureate class, both Pre-Dental and Pre-Medical combined, we have a multitude of cultural backgrounds represented, including Hmong, Nigerian, Mexican, African American, Vietnamese, Dominican Republic, and Chinese. Along with our cultural awareness class, we engage in many interesting discussion with our peers, in an attempt to become more competent when it comes to cultures different from our own.

Without this Post-Baccalaureate Program, I would not have been able to strengthen my application to its current level, and dental school admission would have been an arduous task. Instead, my motivation for success has never been higher, and I continue to hope that path in dentistry will not only provide me a career opportunity, but also an avenue of giving back to the community.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO OTHER PRE-DENTAL POST-BACCALAUREATE STUDENTS



Lydia Cam – California   Xieng Lee – California   Kalin Ngo - California

## COMMUNITY ORIENTED PRIMARY CARE (COPC)

by  
*Coletta Erwin*  
*Assistant Coordinator of Programs*

Creighton University Medical Center's Community Oriented Primary Care (COPC) Public Health Research Endowment is now in full swing. The endowment is funded by the National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NCMHD) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Cam E. Enarson, M.D., M.B.A, Dean of the School of Medicine and Vice President for Health Sciences at Creighton University Medical Center, is the principal investigator for the COPC program. The mission of COPC is to increase the number of health professionals who are committed to addressing health disparities through their research and service in medically underserved communities. We are currently in the middle of our second year—and what a year it has been!



**Joyce Bunger**



Common Ground, which is our weekly student/faculty forum for discussing health disparities research, has been a great tool this school year. The goal of this program is to increase students' knowledge of and expose them to health disparities issues and to increase students' cultural proficiency skills. Since we have

begun formalizing this program, we have averaged 18 students per week. Common Ground is currently coming to a close for this school year but what a fantastic year it has been. We have had a wide range of speakers and topics, which are listed below:

Date	Speaker	Topic
September 9, 2005	Dr. Sade Kosoko-Lasaki	Welcome/Kickoff
September 16, 2005	Frank Soto Leon & Margie Black	Glaucoma Screening
September 23, 2005	Dr. Michael Bradley	Importance of Research
September 30, 2005	Dr. Marlene Wilken	Community Research Opportunities
October 7, 2005	Siobhan Champ-Blackwell Jeanne Burke	HSL/LRC MHIRC
October 14, 2005	Dr. Eugene Barone	Community Activities in the COE Program
October 21, 2005	Dr. Devendra Agrawal	Integration of Scientific Knowledge from one Discipline to Another
October 28, 2005	Dr. Roberta Sonnino	Impact of Photography on Medicine
November 4, 2005	Dr. Joy Voltz	Native American Health Services
November 11, 2005	Dr. Sade Kosoko-Lasaki	Case Studies
November 18, 2005	Nancy Powolski	Project Welcome
December 2, 2005	Margarita Dubocq	Institute for Latin America Concerns (ILAC)
January 6, 2006	Dr. Roberta Sonnino	Impact of Photography on Medicine

Date	Speaker	Topic
January 13, 2006	Barbara Harris	Social Work
January 20, 2006	Dr. Michael Kavan	Careers in Medicine
January 27, 2006	Violet Iluebbey	Africa
February 3, 2006	Dr. Sade Kosoko-Lasaki	Case Studies
February 10, 2006	Dr. Magda Peck	Child Survival in Nebraska
February 17, 2006	Dr. Virginia Aguila	Why Choose a Residency in Primary Care
February 24, 2006	Dr. Roberta Sonnino	Professionalism
March 17, 2006	Dr. Sade Kosoko-Lasaki	Case Studies
March 24, 2006	Marilyn McGary	Urban League of Nebraska
March 31, 2006	Janet Bonet	Medical Interpretations
April 7, 2006	Joyce Bungler	Community Activities in Nursing
April 21, 2006	Dr. Stone	Focus Group

Common Ground is coming to a close for the year but we are in the midst of implementing our summer research assistantship. Our summer research program objective is to establish an endowed summer research program to support three preclinical medical students per year in an eight-week COPC public health research assistantship. This would occur during the summer following their first year of medical school and would increase the students' knowledge of and expose them to health disparities issues. We are also establishing an endowed community research elective that will support two fourth-year medical students per year in a longitudinal COPC public health research experience. We look forward to implementing our next steps in this wonderful endowment!



## EYE CARE MISSION TRIP TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, MARCH 2006



Vitamin A deficiency (VAD) is the leading cause of preventable blindness in children and raises the risk of disease and death from severe infections. Glaucoma is another prevalent cause of blindness in medically underserved areas. To address these issues, a team from Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska, visited the Dominican Republic (DR) in March 2006 to screen and treat children and adults for eye disease. The team was led by Sade Kosoko-Lasaki, MD, MSPH, an ophthalmologist and public health specialist who leads Creighton's Office of Health Sciences—Multicultural and Community Affairs (HS-MACA), and Teresa Lynch, BSN, Director of Creighton's Institute for Latin American Connection (ILAC). Other team members were Margie Black, an ophthalmic technician at Creighton Eye Associates, and Dominican citizens from the ILAC team in the DR.

During the 6-day visit, the team distributed megadose vitamin A capsules and screened over 200 children in Santiago and La Penda, a rural village near the Haitian border. The team also screened 178 adults for glaucoma, referred 94 of those for eye exams, and diagnosed and treated new and existing cases of glaucoma. Dr. Kosoko-Lasaki performed surgery on six of these adults. Glaucoma seton valves were contributed by New World Medical, Inc. (California), and the Vitamin A capsules were donated by Sight for Life (Geneva, Switzerland). Dr. Sebastian Guzman, a Santiago ophthalmologist, partnered with the team and will provide follow-up post-operative care for the surgery patients.

Dr. Kosoko-Lasaki trained Dominican primary health care workers (*Cooperadores*) on the clinical signs and symptoms of Vitamin A deficiency, the effects on childhood morbidity and mortality, and preventative strategies, emphasizing the benefits of breast feeding and encouraging the consumption of foods rich in Vitamin A. Additional vitamin A capsules were left for the *Cooperadores* and ILAC family physician practitioners to distribute in the future. Dr. Kosoko-Lasaki addressed the importance of screening adults for glaucoma, and the *Cooperadores* received eye exams and screening. She also delivered a lecture to the Ophthalmology Society on the importance of screening for glaucoma.

The children, adults, and health care personnel in the DR benefited from the efforts of the Eye Care team and its collaborative approach with the local ophthalmologist and ILAC family practice physicians. The ILAC *Cooperadores* use the “teach-the-teacher” strategy. This grass-roots approach reaches the poor and marginalized residents in the remote, underserved areas of the Dominican Republic.





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**

Eddie Cordova  
Aniika Jackson  
Karen Lovato  
Katrina Lueras-Collins  
Timothy Smith

**School Medicine**

Arshad M. Bachelani  
Nicholas M. Brewer  
Kim Corral  
Meshann S. Fitzgerald  
Bertina Hooks  
Jessica Jones  
Anouki Karu  
Mobin M. Khan  
Minh H. Luu  
Placida Martinez  
Michael J. Nguyen  
Olufunke O. Oshunleti  
Brandon K. Shirari  
Melissa Summerfield  
Paul D. Vu  
Narreinar P. Williams  
Steven M. Zahn

**School of Nursing**

Jessie Hover  
Blanca Howard  
Amber Le  
Eileen Mendoza  
Riley Stamper  
Jennifer Tambio  
Traci Vander Molen  
Sacon Cross-Pakieser

**School of Pharmacy & Health Professions**

Hind Ahmed  
Carla Hardy  
Kelley Johnson  
Thomas Johnson  
Alia McConnell  
Karen Nelson  
Kassaye Sabir  
Kristina Tatay  
Jennifer Velez  
Marie Zaiger

**Physical Therapy**

Rodger Gilreath

**Occupational Therapy**

Maria Medel  
Michelle Sierra  
Mary Worthy

**FIRST NON-MINORITY STUDENT NATIONAL MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (SNMA) PRESIDENT**



**Ryan McCracken**

Ryan McCracken, a fourth-year Medical student at Creighton, was the first non-minority Student National Medical Association (SNMA) President, for 2004–2005. Ryan graduates from Creighton University School of Medicine this May. Mr. McCracken matched in Emergency Medicine and will do his residency at Michigan State University in Kalamazoo, Michigan. HS-MACA would like to thank Ryan for his commitment to HS-MACA and SNMA.

2006 School of Medicine Match Results  
of HS-MACA Diversity Students

**Arshad Bachelani** – Mercy Hospital – Surgery

**Nicholas Brewer** – University of Kansas – Radiology

**Kimberly Corral** – Alaska Family Medicine Residency – Family Practice

**Meshann Fitzgerald** – Mercer University – Internal Medicine

**Bertina Hooks** – Oakwood Hospital – Obstetrics-Gynecology

**Jessica Fernandes** – Case Western – Internal Medicine

**Anouki Karu** – Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital – Surgery

**Mobin M. Khan** – Advocate Lutheran General Hospital – Internal Medicine

**Minh Luu** – Creighton University – Radiology

**Placida Martinez** – Maricopa Medical Center – Pediatrics

**Michael Nguyen** – Creighton University – Radiology

**Katie Omiyi** – University of Pittsburg – Internal Medicine

**Olufunke Oshunletì** – St. Louis University – Obstetrics-Gynecology

**Brandon Shirai** – University of Missouri –KC- Emergency Medicine

**Melissa Summerfield** – Eastern Virginia Medical Center – Ophthalmology

**Paul Vu** – Kaiser Permanente – Family Practice

**Narreinar Williams** – Michigan State University – Obstetrics-Gynecology

**Steven Zahn** – Northwestern McGaw/NMH/VA – Emergency Medicine

**Congratulations!**

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