

Welcome !!!

We are almost in the middle of the 2007 fall semester and I trust that all our students have achieved success in their mid-term exams. On behalf of HS-MACA staff, I welcome the new and returning students to Creighton University and to Omaha. We wish you the very best as you settle into your professional schools. Please feel free to stop by HS-MACA to chat, share your dreams and network. Our doors are always open.

*Sade Kosoko-Lasaki, MD, MSPH, MBA
Associate Vice President*



*Striving for success without hard work is like trying to harvest where you haven't planted."
David Bly*

HS-MACA PROGRAMS

Health Sciences
Multicultural and Community Affairs



“One Way to the Top” ACT Preparation Class By Barb Slattery, MA

This summer the HS-MACA office offered its first *One Way to the Top* Summer ACT Preparation Enrichment class. The students who attended this free class were from area high schools and were juniors and seniors. The class convened six days, for two hours per day. Students were given tips and tricks for taking the American College Test which is used as an admission tool for colleges and universities across the U.S.

Most students attending the class had never taken the ACT exam before, while a few were preparing to take the exam for the second time. It is common for students to repeat the exam two or three times, and colleges take the best score for admission requirements and scholarships.

The ACT may be the ticket to big money discounts at colleges and may earn a student scholarship money from outside corporate sources also. Taking the ACT seriously and doing well is well worth the time, effort and energy. Most Midwest colleges and universities prefer applicants to take the ACT, instead of the SAT since the test was developed in the Midwest, at Iowa City, Iowa. East coast and West coast colleges tend to prefer the SAT, or Scholastic Aptitude Test, since it was developed in California. Many colleges do accept both tests for admission.

Another trend in admissions is to require the new writing test portion of the ACT. Although the students in the summer class researched their preferred colleges to see whether or not they required this portion, the findings were that most do not at this time. Many times college admission offices state that the writing subtest is optional.

The nine students enrolled in the first summer “One Way to the Top” were thankful for their experience, and stated that it met their needs and would definitely help them excel on the upcoming SAT exam in October. The proof is yet to be seen.

Summer Research Institute By Hanneka Brown, BA

Six Omaha area high school minority students interested in biomedical research were selected to participate in the Creighton University Biomedical Summer Research Program. This Institute, supported by National Institute of Health aims to introduce students to biomedical research related to cardiovascular, pulmonary, and hematological topics.

The students were paired one-on-one with a Creighton Faculty mentor and 8 weeks in the lab to learn more about biomedical research. Students participated in lab safety training, library research training, weekly roundtable discussions about science, training from the faculty in the Communications department on speaking, technology training

Students presented their scientific research at a research colloquium on August 2, 2007.

For Best Research Performance:

1st place— **Raul Varmon**-Creighton Prep, 2nd place— **Connor Frazier** – Northwest High, 3rd place- **Bromley Ijem** – Creighton Prep. Honorable Mention – **Catherine Tran** – Duchesne Academy, **Ann Marcum** – Bellevue East and **Zach Galles** – Papillion-LaVista.

The highlight of the program was the opportunity to travel to Washington D.C. to visit the National Institute of Health.



Summer Mentors



Seminar Series



Former Students

COPPC

Community Oriented Primary Care, (COPC)

By Becky Messenger, BS

In October 2004, it was announced that Creighton University Medical Center would receive \$1,875,000 over three years from the National Institute of Health (NIH) to increase Creighton's capacity to train students in public health research.

With this funding, Creighton University established a Community-Oriented Primary Care (COPC) Public Health Research Endowment to increase student involvement in public health research, strengthen mentoring and tutoring services and increase the number of medical students interested in conducting health disparity research.

Year One of the COPC Endowment entailed formalizing the Common Ground program and establishing it as an endowed forum for discussing issues related to health disparities and research.

During the 2006-2007 academic year, 19 sessions of Common Grounds were offered. The number of students attending these Common Ground sessions ranged from 14 to 36, with a mean of 21.6 attendees (median = 21.5). Most students (96.7%) reported that Common Grounds had a positive impact on their cultural proficiency skills, with one student giving a neutral response, and 90% of the students reported that Common Grounds had a positive impact on their interest in working in the health disparities field. Three students gave a neutral response. Hence, no student indicated the Common Grounds had a negative impact on his or her interest in working in the health disparities field.

This year Common Ground will continue with a full line-up of speakers on various topics and, of course, lunch for those in attendance. The "kick-off" session was held on October 5, 2007 from noon – 12:45pm. Upcoming topics include:

"Working with Legal Counsel", "STDs", "Senior Health", "Culturally Sensitive Nutrition Education" and "Photography and Medicine."

Year Two of the COPC Endowment incorporated a summer research program, an endowed community research M4 elective and additional support for the medical student tutor training program. Below is a list of students involved in COPC research this summer under the guidance of Dr. Guck:

This year begins the offering of the Health Disparity Research Scholarship supporting students who show an interest in public health research with a focus in the areas of health disparities. Those recipients will be announced in the next HS-MACA newsletter.

Student	Research Project
Courtney Dobleman M3	"Relationship between Acceptance of Illness and Pain and Functional Outcomes in Patients with HIV/AIDS"
Helen Fasanya M4	"Relationship between Acceptance of Illness and Pain and Functional Outcomes in Patients with HIV/AIDS"
Mary Tadros M4	"Relationship between Acceptance of Illness and Pain and Functional Outcomes in Patients with HIV/AIDS"
Andrew Stevens M4	"Acceptance of Diabetes Across Psychosocial Subgroups From a Rural Primary Care Setting"
April Singleton M2	"Mental Illness Profiles in the Homeless Population"



Glaucoma Screening Initiative

By Brett Briggs

Creighton University Glaucoma Outreach screens individuals in the community for glaucoma. We test using state of the art equipment and individuals who are screened are given their results immediately. The effort is funded by a grant from The Friends of the Congressional Glaucoma Caucus Foundation. Members of the team include Brett Briggs, Jamil Neme, and Becky Messenger.

From August 2006 to August 2007, over 2400 people were screened by the Creighton University Glaucoma Screening team. During this past year, over 70 screenings were held in Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, and Missouri and 10 counties.

The 2007-2008 grant year is off to a great start, with well over 300 individuals screened in the month of September. Expansion into South Dakota and Colorado is a goal for this year.

Health Science professions students are encouraged to attend and assist with the local screenings. Through its Student Sight Savers Program, the Friends of the Congressional Glaucoma Foundation accomplish two critical objectives. First, we utilize the enthusiasm and energy of the medical students to conduct glaucoma screenings. Second, we expose these future physicians to the science of ophthalmology. Through its Student Sight Savers Program, the Friends of the Congressional Glaucoma Caucus Foundation help many talented men and women make treating eye diseases their life's work. Interested students may contact Brett Briggs at 402-280-3964 or email: brettbriggs@creighton.edu. Also, if you know of an agency or organization interested in hosting a free Glaucoma Screening event, please contact the same number listed above.

Some upcoming screenings are:

For more information on upcoming screenings in the area visit www.glaucomacongress.org.

By Coletta Hollingsworth, BS

We have gotten off to a wonderful start this year with the Post- Baccalaureate class of 2007-2008. We had a total of 107 candidates of which 31 were chosen to interview and 12 were accepted into the program. I would like to thank the wonderful instructor's who are working with us in the Post-Baccalaureate program.

Instructor	Class	Program
Dr. Bob Whipple	English	Pre-medical & Pre-dental
Dr. James Carlson	Math	Pre-medical & Pre-dental
Dr. Mike Anderson	Chemistry	Pre-medical & Pre-dental
Ann Constantino	Academic Excellence	Pre-dental
Linda Pappas	Academic Excellence	Pre-medical
Dr. Chuck Austerberry	Biology	Pre-medical & Pre-dental
Sheryl Mac Bean	Analytical Reading Part I	Pre-medical & Pre-dental
Dr. Ngwarsungo Chiwengo	Cultural Awareness Literature & Analytical Reading Part II	Pre-medical & Pre-dental
Dr. Gbolahan Lasaki	Perceptual Ability	Pre-dental
Dave Kriegler	Physics	Pre-medical

A New Exploration
By Rachel Austin



The Click
By Qi Wang

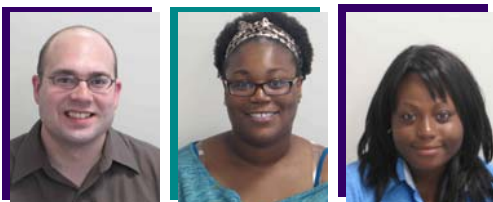
Omaha has more than meets the eye. As the new Post baccalaureate Pre-medical class has adjusted to Omaha we have learned there is a lot more to this city than cornfields and football. There are many things for students to do besides studying on campus. Students have experienced all types of extra-curricular activities. **Junior Univer**s, from Florida quickly learned about riding a horse on the trails at Mahoney State Park near Ashland, Nebraska. The horseback riding tours take place in a beautiful area on the Platte River valley. Another attraction in Omaha that has captured interest is the Omaha Zoo. It is certainly one of the best zoos in the country and has many varieties of animals, not to mention the IMAX Theater which runs movies like "Deep Sea", "Dinosaurs Alive!" and "Mummies: Secrets of the Pharaohs." The Pre-medical students have also visited other Omaha sites, like the authentic Mexican restaurants Guacamaya. We thoroughly enjoyed the tasty cuisine and live mariachi band. Another interesting thing about Guacamaya is the open tortilla station where they are made from scratch and customers can view the process. For a relaxing evening, several students enjoyed a night of jazz and art at the beautiful Joslyn Art Museum. Most recently was a trip to the West Lanes Bowling Alley. It was a contest of girl vs. boys (and although the girls outnumbered the boys), the boys won the contest. *The competition continues.....*



What do Wyoming, Minnesota, Texas, Florida, and New Mexico have in common? The answer is simple; they harbored five strong women that meet in Omaha, Nebraska. {The United States have many very beautiful states such as Wyoming known as the Cowboy State, Minnesota known as the North Star State, Texas known as Lone Star State, Florida known as the Sunshine State, and New Mexico known as the Land of Enchantment. What do these states have in common? Well, these states each produced beautiful ladies who all somehow managed to congregate in Omaha, Nebraska}. **Juliana Coletto** from Texas, **Toni-Ann Hylton** from Florida, **Omobola Olufeko** from Minnesota, **Kaiyra Salcido** from New Mexico, and **Qi Wang from Wyoming** are this year's Pre-Dental Post-Bac program students. And yes, we are all girls known as the "Super-pentafemme" group.

When we first met during the summer, our group did not exactly "click" instantly. We had our differences and our own preferences about our future friends and study buddies. However, we soon realized that we are a group of women who are in the same program with the same professional interest and we quickly decided to help and support each other. We gritted our teeth and wiped our brows and determined that we will be a strong and inseparable group. And guess what? After we got a chance to know each other, it is really good to be friends. And since we are all girls, we had a lot more in common than we thought; for example everybody had a great time at our pedicure party, bowling contest, and birthday parties (Kaiyra made great birthday cakes in tooth shapes). We were able to reach past our cultural differences and embraced these differences to make us a stronger group. Now we study, play, laugh, and sometimes even whine together. It is amazing how something as simple as friendships can really help and encourage you. The cis-pentafemme (or super-pentafemme) has great plans for the future!!! *Stay tuned for our next adventure....*

**PRE MEDICAL
POSTBACCALAUREATE STUDENTS
(2007-2008)**



**PRE DENTAL
POSTBACCALAUREATE
STUDENTS (2007-2008)**



SAVE THE DATE

Mission Statement

“To empower Creighton University’s Health Sciences schools in the training and development of future leaders in healthcare to serve the needs of an increasing multicultural community.”

SAVE THE DATE APRIL 26, 2008!

Plans are underway for the Second Annual Health Disparities Seminar. The topic of the 2008 seminar will be Addressing Health Disparities: Focus on HIV/AIDS.

The seminar is designed for: primary care physicians, pharmacists, dentists, nurses/nurse practitioners, physician assistants, physical and occupational therapists, social workers, mental health professionals, residents, medical students and other interested healthcare personnel.

Continuing Medical Education (CME) credits will be offered and is free to all participants. Pre-registration may be made through the CME Division (<http://.cme.creighton.edu>). A block of rooms have been reserved at the Hilton Hotel (mention seminar) 402-2998-3400 or Hilton Reservations Worldwide – 800-445-8667. The seminar is sponsored by: Health Sciences’ Multicultural and Community Affairs (HS-MACA), Preventive Medicine Department, Center for Health Policy and Ethics, and the Continuing Medical Education Division from Creighton University and the Nebraska Aids Project. For information, call 402-280-2124 or email rebadonahue@creighton.edu.

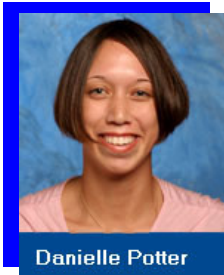
NEBRASKA

Omaha – **AIDS** Cases (2004 Census) – 924 cases
(5.8% per 100,000)
Total living with **HIV** (not AIDS) 604

U.S. HIV/AIDS Statistics

People living with HIV/AIDS, U.S., 2005	1.2 million
People newly infected with HIV, U.S., 2005	40,000
African Americans as a proportion of new AIDS diagnoses in the U.S. (and their percentage of the U.S. population), 2005	50% (12%)
Latinos as a proportion of new AIDS diagnoses in the U.S. (and their percentage of the U.S. population), 2005	19% (14%)
Whites as a proportion of new AIDS diagnoses in the U.S. (and their percentage of the U.S. population), 2005	29% (67%)

Announcements



Danielle Potter

AAMC AWARDS NICKENS FACULTY FELLOWSHIP STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

The American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC) has awarded five \$5,000 scholarships to outstanding third-year medical students who demonstrate leadership in addressing the educational, societal, and health care needs of minorities. The 2007 Herbert W. Nickens Medical Student Scholars are: Christian A. Corbitt, University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio; Cherie C. Cross, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA; Maria-Esteli Garcia, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine; Marlana M. Li, Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine; and **Danielle K. Potter, Creighton University Medical Center**. These students will receive their awards on November 5 in Washington, D.C. at the AAMC annual meeting.

HS-MACA MENTORING

The purpose of the HS-MACA Mentoring program is to provide participants in the HS-MACA programs formal and informal opportunities for counseling, mentoring and group support. The goal of the mentoring program is to improve in academic performance of the mentee, enhance their interpersonal relationships, discussion and sharing of mutual feelings of honesty and respect, and be a rewarding and enriching experience for all involved. If you are interested in serving as a mentor to a student, please contact; Hanneka Brown at (402)280-2936 or email hbrown@creighton.edu.

HS-MACA TUTORING

HS-MACA has a tutoring program to serve as a medium to area Omaha high school youth to improve their academics and increase their understanding of course materials, particularly in the subject of math and science as well as those students who will be preparing to take the upcoming ACT exam(s), in addition to increasing the students ability to learn and enhance strategies for studying and test taking skills. Tutoring is held here on the CU campus on Saturday mornings.

If you are interested in serving as a tutor and can give one to two hours of your time on a Saturday morning, please contact: Hanneka Brown at (402)280-2936 or email hbrown@creighton.edu for more information.

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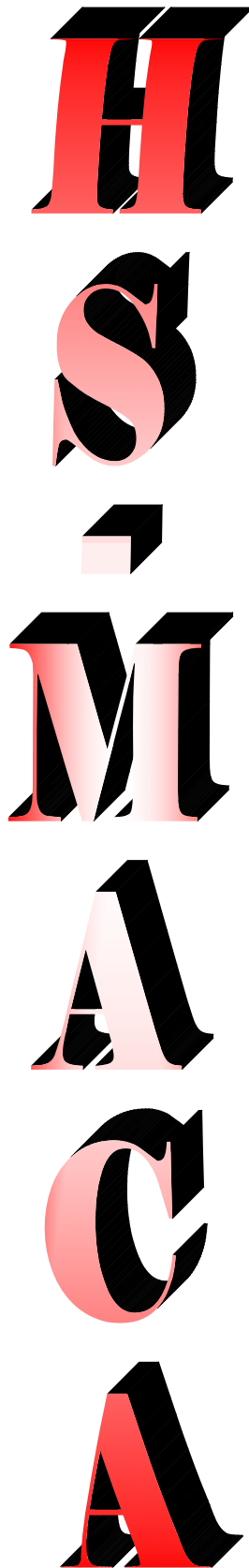
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

COMMON GROUND

FRIDAYS
12:00 -1:00 P.M.
CRISS L 58

TUTORING
SATURDAYS
10:00 A.M. -1:00 P.M.

OPEN DOOR WITH DR. KOSOKO-LASAKI

FRIDAYS
1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.

UPCOMING GLAUCOMA SCREENINGS

- **OCTOBER 18TH - 9:30AM @**
SENIOR HEALTH PROMOTION
CENTER, 1005 O ST, LINCOLN, NE
68508
- **OCTOBER 22ND - 8:30AM @ THE**
CENTER, 714 S MAIN ST COUNCIL
BLUFFS, IA 51503
- **NOVEMBER 4TH - 8AM @ ST.**
JOHN VIANNEY, 5801 OAK HILLS
DR OMAHA, NE 68137
- **NOVEMBER 10TH - 8:30AM @**
THE DIABETES CENTER, 2974 S
84TH ST OMAHA, NE