

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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### Staff

#### Dr. Sade Kosoko-Lasaki

##### Associate Vice President for Health Sciences, Multicultural and Community Affairs

Channing Bunch (402)  
Recruitment & Retention 280  
Coordinator 2981  
cbunch@creighton.edu

Heather Sciford (402)  
Administrative Assistant 280  
hsciford@creighton.edu 2124

Barb Slattery (402)  
HCOP Coordinator 280  
bslatter@creighton.edu 2174

Brenda Bell (402)  
HPPI Coordinator 280  
2bbell@creighton.edu 2188

M. Susan Orr Cameron (402)  
Premedical 280  
Post-baccalaureate 3925  
Coordinator  
orcama@creighton.edu

#### HS-MACA

##### Recruiting Schedule for October

- Week of 14th thru 18th  
Atlanta University Center  
Atlanta, Georgia
- Week of 21st thru 25th  
Tulane & Loyola Universities  
New Orleans, Louisiana
- November 1st thru 2nd  
University of Florida  
Gainesville, Florida

### A PROUD TRADITION

"Founded in 1892, Creighton University School of Medicine is the oldest private medical school west of the Mississippi River. Her first African-American physician graduate received his degree in 1900. Soon after, the Schools of Dentistry, Pharmacy, and Nursing were added to the University. In all of Creighton's Health Science Schools, the founding principle of quality, values-centered education has endured inviolate. We are proud of preparing graduates who are committed to the welfare of the individual and the overall improvement of their communities. We invite you to learn more about some of the unique features inculcated in our professional programs of study."

M. Roy Wilson, M.D., M.S.  
Vice President for Health Sciences  
Dean, School of Medicine



### Mentoring Group Up and Running

The "Big Brothers/Big Sisters" Mentoring Group under the guidance of Dr. Sade Kosoko-Lasaki is up and running for the new academic year. The first meeting took place on Monday, September 30, with a whopping turn out of over 50 people. The potential mentors consisted of CU faculty from the schools of Dental, Pharmacy, Medicine, Medical ethics, Physical Therapy, and Occupational Therapy. Other student mentor volunteers came forward from many professional schools and undergraduate school. The idea of the program is for faculty to mentor professional students who in turn mentor undergraduates. These undergraduate students will then mentor HCOP or HPPI high school students. After hearing about the philosophy and positive aspects of the mentoring process, testimonials were heard regarding what a great experience last year's

mentor/mentee pairs have had. After getting to hear stories, everyone got so excited we even had parents of high school students offer to mentor! The mentor match-ups will be selected this week, and those signing up will hear who their new mentor or mentee will be very soon.

The new faculty/staff mentors this year are: Dr. Alaba Ogunbadenyi, Pharmacy ; Dr. Francis Ndemo, Pharmacy; Dr. Millicent Palmer, Ophthalmology; Susan Orr Cameron, HS-MACA, and Mrs. Shirley Spain, VPHS Administration. We welcome you and invite any other faculty or staff to join us in mentoring our young people.

With the new year off to a good start, hopes are high for another successful year of mentoring. If you are interested in becoming a mentor or mentee, please call or email any member of the HS-MACA staff.



## Announcements

**October 18,** Latino Youth Conference: 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. Students from Dental, Pharmacy, OT, PT, and Medicine will be presenting to Latino students from area high schools.

**October 21,** Youth Science Enrichment at Jesuit Middle School 1:00- 2:00pm, presented by SNMA. 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders will participate in a one hour anatomy experience featuring sheep brains, cow eyes, sheep hearts and lots of scary bones!!

**October 21,** 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. HCOP/HPPI monthly meeting is featuring Crystal Simpson presenting a study skills and time management workshop. It will be held in Room 406A of the Criss Building. Halloween treats will be provided.

### STUDENT'S ORGANIZATION

#### Minority Health Science Student Association, MHSSA

##### PRESIDENT

CARLA R. HARDY  
crhardy@creighton.edu

##### VICE PRESIDENT

DAWN WILLIAMS  
dkd@creighton.edu  
OLUFUNKE OSHUNLETI  
ooshun1@creighton.edu

#### Student National Medical Association, SNMA

##### PRESIDENT

BETHWEL RAORE  
raore@creighton.edu

##### VICE PRESIDENT

LOWELL AMIOTTE  
lamiotte@creighton.edu

#### Vietnamese Student Organization, VSO

##### PRESIDENT

VIET NGO  
canboy71@hotmail.com

## Uncommon Journey

### Creighton University School of Medicine by Kim Corral M1

Each day begins the same for me as a first-year medical student at Creighton University. I roll out of bed with six hours of sleep, check e-mail, then get ready for school. In morning traffic, I envision my 12-year-old son making his frosty morning walk to the school bus. I think about last night's long phone call with my husband of nearly 20 years, and how strange it will be to spend our upcoming wedding anniversary apart while he willingly shoulders family responsibilities with me far away at school. And I remember my daughter, now 19, who first put me on the southbound plane to attend CU's Premedical Post-Baccalaureate Program last year. "Mom," she said through her tears, "this should be the other way around."

As a nontraditional student, my return to school at age 40 would not be easy, especially while my family remains 3,000 miles away. As a Mexican-American student, I knew about the medical school statistics—sadly, there would likely be only a few of us enrolled here. Yet, every one at CU's office for Health Sci-

ences Multicultural and Community Affairs provided the program support to help me and other minority students attain recent matriculation into the CUSM Class of 2006. While no substitute exists for doing the hard work required for school success, opportunities provided by HS-MACA have allowed me to balance my studies with new friendships, minority student networks, and community service projects for the medically underserved.

The diverse lifetime experiences for most minority medical students are by definition nontraditional against most admission standards. In my case, for example, how does one go from being a high school dropout at age 16 to a medical student later in life? My journey began with no road map, no designated path, no signposts. Desire served as my navigator, but the knowledge base and confidence were lacking. Somewhere between raising a family, completing college and gathering some professional experiences as both a teacher and writer, I managed to gain academic ground toward fulfilling admission require-

ments. My experiences with the staff and students at HS-MACA helped to reframe my entire applicant profile into a competitive package worthy for review by any medical school.

Now that I am "in," I can concentrate exclusively on succeeding in school and developing my vision for practicing medicine. You can bet that vision will continue to guide me along the road less traveled, though by no means unpopulated, to serve those whose access to health care is limited by proximity, perception, price, and other perpetually blocking circumstances.

Medicine is about making real differences for people. With the support of my family, and friends at HS-MACA, I now have that chance.



## Minority Health Science Student Association, (MHSSA)

Congratulation to the new officers of MHSSA ( Minority Health Science Student Association) for the 2002-2003 academic year.

**President,** Carla R. Hardy, Pharmacy

**Vice President,** Dawn Williams, Occupational Therapy

**Vice President,** Olufunke Oshunleti, Medicine

**Secretary,** Mariam Garuba, Medicine

**Treasurer,** Katie Omiyi, Medicine

**Public Relations,** Cheng (Oliver) Lee—Medical Post-bac

**Community Service,** Harriet

Banda—Medical Post-bac

MHSSA is an organization dedicated to building and maintaining a supportive community among diverse groups of the students, faculty and administration of the Health Sciences division at Creighton University. This organization is dedicated to promoting the needs and interests of students representing different ethnic and cultural groups in the schools of Pharmacy and Health Professions, Nursing, Medicine, and Dentistry.

Come out and be a part of this growing organization. Our meetings are scheduled the first Wednesday of every month. Look for our postings in the Criss and Boyne buildings for exact location of meetings.

### MHSSA FOOD SALE

**THURSDAY**  
**NOVEMBER 7th**  
**CRISS II BASEMENT**  
**11:00—1:00PM**