Creighton UNIVERSITY Medical Center

HS - MACA NEWSLETTER

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WELCOME BACK!!

Dr. Sade Kosoko-Lasaki

The office of Health Sciences, Multicultural and Community Affairs (HS-MACA) welcomes all of Creighton's current and prospective students. We are proud of our mission: "To recruit and retain underrepresented minority students and provide diversity awareness to the entire Creighton University community."

The staff of HS-MACA will provide you with continuous academic support and enrichment activities, community and volunteering activities to fulfill the University's mission of "service to others," in addition to mentoring opportunities. We invite you to meet other students in our "pipeline" programs from the 4th grade to the health sciences' graduate level and encourage you to join the student organizations like the Student National Medical Association (SNMA), the Minority Health Science Student's Association (MHSSA) the Vietnamese Student Organization (VSO) and the Asian Pacific American Medical Student Association. In addition, HS-MACA has its own mentoring program where you will be paired one-on-one with an upper class person. The program has been in place for the past five years and many students have expressed sincere interest in continuing to participate in it. We hope that you will join us soon.

According to the words of Norman Vincent Peale, "Believe in yourself! Have faith in your abilities! Without a humble but reasonable confidence in your own powers you cannot be successful or happy."

Once again, welcome back to Creighton University.

Sade Kosoko-Lasaki, MD, MSPH, MBA
Associate Vice President HS-MACA

COPC
COMMON GROUND
SEPTEMBER 9TH

INSIDE ISSUE

1 Welcome Back from Associate Vice President – HS-MACA
2 Creighton University Receives More Than 1.8 Million for Health Careers Program
3 SNMA's National Leadership Institute Comes to Omaha
3 Diversity Scholars at Creighton University Recruited through HS-MACA's "Pipeline Programs"
4 Successful Summer Research Institute
4 CU/Jesuit School's Discovery Research Institute: A New HS-MACA Program
5 Creighton University Sponsors 50 Area Students to Explore Health Careers
6 HS-MACA Staff
6 Calendar of Events

COMMUNITY-ORIENTED PRIMARY CARE (COPC)

CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY RECEIVES MORE THAN $1.8 MILLION FOR

HEALTH CAREERS PROGRAM

In October 2004, it was announced that Creighton University Medical Center will 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. Creighton will receive $625,000 for each of the three years to address health disparities among medically underserved populations in Nebraska and Iowa.

With this funding, Creighton University has 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. Cam E. Enarson, M.D., MBA, 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 current COPC activities are being coordinated under the direction of Sade Kosoko-Lasaki, MD, MSPH, MBA and the staff of HS-MACA.

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

During the fall semester of 2004,, students completed an initial needs assessment, which resulted in the selected topics for the tweleve Common Ground sessions offered during the Spring semester of 2005. The presentation topics included the research areas of glaucoma and cancer, cultural information regarding the Native American, Sudanese and Vietnamese populations, interprofessional ethics, business and medicine, information on research grants, and group discussions on cultural case studies.

Evaluations were completed at the end of each session and the results were compiled by the COPC Evaluation Specialist, Nancy Stone, PhD. Of the 128 students who completed an evaluation of the Common Grounds speakers and topics, 99% of the students considered the speakers to be effective, 98% of the students found the topics important, and 96% of the students thought the program/topic would impact learning or their career.

An initial focus group also was conducted at one of the last Common Ground sessions of the semester. The students identified several benefits of Common Grounds: support, mentoring, scientific knowledge; had heard of health disparities research and could define it; and had been exposed to the concept of "cultural competence" and could describe it, using some stories of interactions.

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 first session will be held on September 9, 2005 from 11:45 – 1:00pm in the HS-MACA conference room.

Other activities incorporated in the COPC endowment over the next few years include: an endowed summer research program, an endowed community research M4 elective, a medical student tutor training program, and eventually an endowed scholarship program for disadvantaged students in the medical school.

SNMA'S NATIONAL LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE COMES TO OMAHA

On the weekend of September 23 – 25, 2005, Creighton University's office of HS-MACA along with University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Medicine will host the National Leadership Institute (NLI) and Board of Directors meeting of the Student National Medical Association. (SNMA) In its effort to promote leadership development, the SNMA is expanding the NLI as a continuous leadership development series over the course of the year. The NLI is an excellent opportunity for national, regional, and local SNMA officers and members to acquire leadership training as they prepare to become physician leaders. Approximately 100-150 attendees are expected. This year, a pre-medical component has been added to promote the pipeline of minority and disadvantaged students entering the field of medicine and to expose them to the medical career experience. Speakers from various local institutions are to present enrichment workshops to the participating medical and pre-medical students.

DIVERSITY SCHOLARS AT CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY RECRUITED FROM

HS-MACA'S "PIPELINE PROGRAMS"

Three Creighton University Summer Research Institute and an additional three Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP) students were recognized for their academic and well rounded abilities by receiving the Diversity Scholarship at Creighton University in the 2005/2006 academic year: The students include:

Carmen Evans, daughter of Tara Evans, attended North High School. She was Senior class President in addition to other positions in her high school. Carmen has been a member of HS-MACA's HPPI for three years and the Bio-Medical Summer Research Institute in HS-MACA.

Veronica Hernandez, daughter of Jorge and Guadalupe graduated from William Jennings Bryan High School in May of 2005. She was 9th in her class with a 4.406 GPA. Veronica attended HS-MACA's Summer HCOP Academy and excelled in all her classes. She will attend Creighton in the Pre-Medicine program and desires to become a pediatrician.

Alexander Ingram, daughter of Peggy Ingram graduated from Central High School in the spring with a 4.448 GPA and 19th in her class. Alex has been a part of HS-MACA's HCOP program for four years. She hopes to pursue a degree in Medicine or Nursing at Creighton.

Skirell Jones, son of Gwendolyn Jones, is a graduate of North High School with a Class Rank of 15 and a 4.089 GPA**.** Skirell has been a part of HS-MACA's HCOP Program for three years and wishes to pursue a career in health at Creighton.

Jacob Weasel, son of Dobie and Jamie Weasel, graduated from Papillon-LaVista South High School. He participated in HS-MACA's Summer Research Institute in 2004, and was one of twelve winning trainees accepted to Temple University Minority Trainee Research Forum for the high school educational level. Jacob received a full travel fellowship to Temple University's Minority Trainee Research Forum in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Melitta Wilson, daughter of Nettie Ardis, graduated from North High School. She participated in HS-MACA's Summer Research Institute in 2003, Melitta tutors and mentors elementary and junior high students. She was ranked in the top 10% of her graduating class at North, and will matriculate to Creighton's Education program.

We are very proud of all the wonderful incoming freshmen to Creighton's Pre-Health Programs. Let us all make them feel welcome and a part of the Creighton Family.

HS-MACA WELCOMES!!

COLLETTA ERWIN
Assistant Coordinator of COPC and
Post-baccalaureate Programs

SUCCESSFUL SUMMER RESEARCH INSTITUTE (SRI)

Five students from Omaha area high schools and six college students from through out the United States participated in an 8 to 10 week summer research program sponsored by the office of HS-MACA through a grant from the National Institute of Health. The students were each paired with a faculty-mentor and participated in biomedical research in their mentors' lab. In addition, these students participated in roundtable discussions, and weekly seminar series.

The climax of the program was the Research Colloquium on August 4th. Dr. Barbara McLaughlin, Associate Dean for Research, was the keynote speaker for the awards banquet. Her topic for the young researchers was "Biomedical Research in the 21st Century". Finally, the high school students visited the National Institute of Health in Bethesda Maryland and the National Medicine of Science in Washington DC as part of their exposure to science research. Each SRI student participant gave an oral presentation and a poster outlining their research. The presentations were judged by biomedical graduate students and other researchers at Creighton University. The results were as following:

For Best Research Performance in the Medical level:
1st place— Kristy Morales – M2 Creighton University, 2nd place— **Tanya Tajouri** – M2 Creighton University, and 3rd place **Fernando Yepes** – M2 Creighton University.

For Best Research Performance in the College level:
1st place— **Veronica Wylie** – Loyola Marymount, 2nd place— **Josalyn Funches** – Creighton University, and 3rd place **Carolyn Kor** - Creighton University. Honorable Mention – **Giana Igwike** – Dillard University, **Patrice King**, Dillard University and **William Ramos** – University of South Florida.

For Best Research Performance High School:
1st place— **Caitlyn Gomez** – Duchesne Academy, 2nd place— **Greg Ramirez** – Creighton Prepatory and— **Alvin Samuels** – Central, 3rd place. Honorable Mention – **Andrea Rice** – Millard West and **Youlawn Williams** – Benson High

CU/ JESUIT MIDDLE SCHOOL'S DISCOVERY RESEARCH INSTITUTE: A NEW HS-MACA PROGRAM

Discovery Research Institute (DRI) an EPSCOR funded program began on June 27 and ended on July 9, 2005. The program exposed 17 middle and high school students to research experience at Jesuit Middle School where the classes ran from 8:00am – 4:00pm, Monday - Friday.

On the first day of the program students were given a schedule of fieldtrips and projects. Each student was given a notebook to be used throughout the program. The students took notes during field trips and during presentations, wrote questions to be asked during field trips and for speakers. In addition, the students kept a journal about the day's experiences. The Instructor spent time in the science lab going over rules and safety procedures with the boys. Another instructor spent time in the computer lab going over research topics and project expectations.

For each of the days, when not on a field trip or attending a speaker's presentation, half of the participants were in the lab with an instructor conducting experiments. The following indicate some of the research done in the lab:

Project	Concept
Growing seeds	Growth
Swinging Cereal & Bending Water	Static Electricity
Split Light into a Spectrum, Sky in a Jar, Mixing Colors	Light Spectrum
Homemade Slime	Polymers
Growing Germs	Effects of Temperature on Bacteria Growth
Cleaning Sand	Magnetism
Egg Magic	Reflections
Biodegradable Solar Balloon	Solar Energy
Growing and Shrinking Eggs	Hydration
Do the Dew	Effects of Caffeine on Blood Pressure
Coffee Can Wave Maker	Sound Waves

A NEW HS-MACA PROGRAM continues on page 5

The students also conducted literature searches on these topics; Sickle Cell Anemia, Stem Cell Research, Juvenile Cancers, Juvenile Onset Diabetes, Autism, Aids, Childhood Obesity, Vaccinations, Eradicated Diseases and Technology in Medicine and Medical Research.

Creighton University's Lynden McGriff, 3rd year Pharmacy student, demonstrated a soap experiment to the students. Three first year COE medical students, Kristy Morales, Tanya Tajouri and Fernando Yepes presented their research to the participants. The DRI students also visited two researchers' labs at CU. Finally, the participants had field trips experiences by visiting Gallop University, Henry Doorly Zoo, Offutt Air Command, Omaha Crime Lab and Creighton University. During the program's closing ceremony, the students presented their posters to parents and faculty. Dr. Richard Murphy, Endowed Carpenter Chairman of Biomedical Sciences at Creighton University was the keynote speaker.

CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY SPONSORS 50 AREA STUDENTS TO EXPLORE HEALTH CAREERS by Barbara Slattery, MA

Omaha—Students from area high schools and colleges were exposed to health occupations and math and science enrichment in a program sponsored by Creighton University the Health Careers Opportunity Program has been in existence at Creighton for six years in its current form. HCOP is a grant which focuses on reaching students from grade 6 through post-baccalaureate. Students are screened for specific qualifying factors that include academic skills above grade level in math and science. The high school and college students are offered an intense summer academy focused on shepherding them into a health career. Students are recruited from urban school settings and Native American reservations. Fifty students each summer are given health career exposure activities, as well as cultural competence experience. The HCOP at Creighton University prides itself in making an impressive impact on the community at large in Omaha, Nebraska.

The program can boast touching approximately 635 individual students through the years in the area schools. The HCOP grant can directly trace the impact on many students who are now successfully enrolled professional schools

This summer, in the HCOP academy, the high school students were given classes in math, science, reading, English, and ACT Preparation, while college level students were offered Organic Chemistry, Microbiology, Anatomy, Calculus, and Physics. Internships and volunteer activities were included. Field trips to local health care facilities concluded each week's activities. The program lasted six weeks, and ended on July 15, with an award Ceremony featuring keynote speaker Saul Onyeuku, President and CEO of Medeq Medical & Surgical Supply, Inc. Miss Nebraska 2005, Jana Murrell, an HCOP alumnus, spoke to the students and encouraged them to continue in their quest for a medical career. Miss Murrell is currently a Physical Therapy doctorate student at Creighton University.

Students recognized at the award ceremony were as follows:
HIGH SCHOOL:
Top Student Honors: Shazale Ramsey (Central)
Most Improved Students: Colby Arndt (Omaha Christian Academy) and Cheyenne Fox (Westside)
COLLEGE I:
Top Student Honors: Alex Ingram (Central/Creighton)
Most Improved Student: Chazaray Jones (Central/UNO)

COLLEGE II:
Top Student Honors: Peter Mai and Lan Anh Tran, (both Creighton)
Most Improved Student: Kalia Xiong (UNO) and TeAnna Strickland (Creighton)

Teachers' Individual Awards were given to the following deserving students as well:
In the High School group, Tri Tran, Gabe Jasso, Cheyenne Fox, Amanda Nelson, Tri tran, Jessica White, Marica Holland, Monica Theodor, Martaya Byrd, Princeton O'Neal, Minica Theodor, Andre McIntyre, Lonzale Ramsey, and Allison Dorrell.
In the College Groups; Lan Uyen Tran, Veronica Hernandez, Ashlynn Lewis, Caramel Velez, TeAnna Strickland, Raquel Jasso, Vi Vu, and Shabazz Ramsey.

Four students were recognized for their Leadership Representative Skills, and they were: Alex Bell (Roncalli), Shazale Ramsey (Central), Peter Mai (Creighton), and Ashlynn Lewis (Central/Iowa State).The HCOP program is supported by the Health Resource Service Administration as part or Title 7 funds.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Schedule of Speakers for September

September 9th
Sade Kosoko-Lasaki, MD, MSPH, MBA
Associate Vice President HS-MACA

September 16th
Frank Soto Leon, M2
Margie Black, Cot.

September 23rd
Michael Bradley, PhD
COE Student Research Program Director

September 30th
TBA

STUDENT NATIONAL MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (SNMA)
3rd Annual National Leadership Institute
&
Regional Board Meeting
SEPTEMBER 23 – 25, 2005
Hosted by:
Creighton University School of Medicine
&
University of Nebraska Medical Center
For more information contact
Channing Bunch

COE
SATURDAY ACADEMY ORIENTATION
September 17th
10:00AM
G04

HS-MACA MENTORING MEETING
October 10th
Criss II L60