Christa Ruf is not only a star on the field, but in the classroom, too. She manages to maintain a 3.90 GPA while being on Creighton’s softball team. Christa is in her third year of a five-year nursing plan. Nursing students who play softball have to be on the five-year plan because their spring season interferes with their preceptorship.

Christa feels that nursing and softball are a lot alike. Softball is a team sport where everyone is working towards one common goal. In the health professions, a team of health care professionals are working towards one common goal: maintaining or restoring the health of an individual.

The hardest thing about playing softball and taking nursing classes, according to Christa, is missing class because of games and then having to make up what she missed. She said you have to be in constant communication with you professors, especially if you are going to be missing an exam.

“My professors at Creighton have been very helpful and understanding,” Christa said.

Her career goal is to become a nurse practitioner, and plans to go to graduate school right away after she graduates from Creighton.

Christa has always wanted to be a nurse and was told often she had a motherly instinct about her. She said there are many reasons why she loves nursing.

“I love nursing because I always feel so satisfied knowing that I have the ability and the knowledge to help someone. I love learning about the body and how it works. I think that the body is a very interesting concept. I love creating relationships with people and I feel I can use my kind heart and loving attitude in this career.”

The spring is the busiest time of year for Christa. In order to stay organized she keeps an agenda and marks down every game, every departure time, and every assignment. Christa said being organized is key because it helps her not become so overwhelmed.

In order to stay organized, Christa looks ahead to see if she can do anything to relieve any stress that might occur in the upcoming weeks. Although it may seem like she has no free time, Christa makes sure to relax by doing fun activities when her life becomes hectic. Some of those activities include watching *Law and Order: Special Victims Unit* and play WII Just Dance.

Written by Carly Russell, Creighton Journalism Intern