# Creighton Student Support Services

### Spring 2009

### **4.0 GPA**

**Jordane Choquette** Stephanie Christensen **Kathy Daotay** Chadi El-Khoury Cheree Hatfield **Harriet Mullin David Plutschack** Lori Schnepf MeLitta Wilson Dean's List

**Anthony Allee** Richard Ho Randell Haduca Emmanuel de Jesus Lan Uyen Tran Francis Waln Amy Xie Herman Ing Angela Schroeder Teresa Vu **Chester Ashong** 

Steele Valenzuela Tai Do Erin Dailey Song Zheng Gorden Pang **Braxton Black** Son Nam Nguyen **Amber Bennett** Maria Tran Jian Hao Cai Jordan Nelson Amy Lan Anh Dao Jonathan Nguyen Rocio Mujica Tiffanesha Williams Acenith Garvey Teela Allen Phuong Le Lizette Orihuela

Jordane Choquette



Ha Pham

## **Hoots and Salutes**



Congratulations to Samson Chik o n his acceptance into Pharmacy School.

to

Congratulations Sandoval for earning the Indian Health Services Scholarship pre-Dentistry.



Adrian

Congratulations tο Shelley Wounded Shield who received the Reaching Your Potential

Scholarship from EducationQuest.

Congratulations to **Becirovic** for receiving а scholarship and being featured in Omaha the



**Emina** 

World-Herald.



Congratulations Jamillah Hinson o f Central High School for winning the

Facebook give-away from COBA.

Congratulations to Michael

**Beverly** who has a new daughter M i I a Essynce Beverly born

March 23, 2009 at 8:56am. "Her name Michael says. "Miracle" stands for Portuguese Spanish. She is a very good baby, very active, and she loves to smile and laugh."

Congratulations Antownette Hobbs for being

featured in the Creighton University Magazine.

Jonathan Nguyen recently took a position with Sodexo as Manager Environmental



Services at the Nebraska Medical Center. He oversees 23 individuals from a variety of departments.

Congratulations to Kim Cragun who had a baby girl, Zoe, on July 29 2009.





Congratulations Crystal Huvnhcao who had a baby girl a m e d Madison.

Congratulations to Harriot Mullin her daughter Mary was recently married.

## **Alumnae Hoots and Salutes**

Congratulations MeLitta Wilson who will be teaching at Walnut Hill Elementary School this fall.



Congratulations Sarah

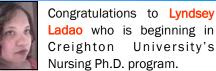


Cooke who is starting law school Creighton University this fall.

Congratulations Keshia Bradford who will begin her Masters in Public Administration Program at the University of

Nebraska at Omaha.

Congratulations to Joshuah Marshall who completed his tour in the Peace Corps and will begin his Master in Public Administration Program at Seattle University this fall.



Congratulations to Ladao who is beginning in the Masters in Information Technology Program Creighton.

Congratulations to Sandra Chee who will begin Pharmacy School Creighton this fall.

Joshua Phelps working hard at the team building event.



Always smiling, Joshua displays his Nebraska pride.



Mr. Phelps himself showing off his fun side.



Josh enjoying chatting on the phone with friends.

# Spotlight on Josh Phelps by Steven Buffalohead

Joshua Patrick Phelps is the next in the Spotlight. If you do not like his real name, you can always call him by his nickname, *J Pisimo*. Josh is majoring in business marketing and real estate. He was born and raised in Omaha, Nebraska.

Josh selected Creighton University because of its prestige, academics, and good internships. Josh says he joined SSS because, "Tami Buffalohead made me." Josh has benefited SSS from because received help with registration and all the confusing tasks an incoming freshman has to deal with. Josh has received the Jesuit High School Scholarship. Second Honors at Creighton Prep, and the Goodrich Scholarship to UNO-which he respectfully turned down to come to Creighton University.

Josh plans to join leadership programs at Creighton. He has volunteered at the Open Door Mission, and the Mount Clair Nursing home.

Josh's greatest achievement



so far is graduating from Creighton Prep and being accepted into Creighton University. Josh's perfect professor would be someone funny, helpful and, most importantly, bald.

Josh is an excellent magician and plays a mean clarinet. When Josh isn't working hard studying for tests, he can be found at his full-time job at the local Hy-Vee, or having a great time with his friends.

Josh has a sister who is over 40 years old. Josh can name any car on the road and has owned eight cars in two years. Josh's most prized possession is not one of his eight cars, but his dad's class ring because his father passed

away.

Josh does not really have a favorite type of music. He will listen to anything except hardcore, screaming, headbanging rock. The most fun Josh ever had was at his 18th birthday party, "Because we played musical chairs and ate cake." Josh is annoyed by hippies and being flicked in the ear while driving. Josh's least favorite word is chalupa. so do not go to Taco Bell with him. Josh's favorite color is red, favorite car is a Cadillac Eldorado, and favorite food is a T-bone from Piccolo's. Josh could be an animal, he would be an eagle, so he could catch fish with his claws and be the U.S. mascot.

The most interesting place Josh has visited is Tombstone, Arizona. He liked it because it was cool to see a real old western town, and he likes the movie *Tombstone*.

I asked Josh about his roommate and he said, "His name is Steven Buffalohead, and he is a pretty cool guy." The last comment Josh had is, "I am looking forward to four years of mind-numbing bliss."



The Freshmen off SSS work diligently together in order to walk across the wooden path they laid out as a group.

Susan Tracy
SI Leader for THL100
Meetings every

Wed. at 6 p.m. and 7 p.m.

in the SSS Conference Rm

**Email:** 

susantracy@creighton.edu



Patrick Lam taking aim at laser tag.



Precious Sully, Marissa Begay, and Bijou Fidegnon at laser tag!



Alicia Amedee at laser tag!

## Susan Tracy Theology SI Leader by Sheila Field

This Fall Susan Tracy will be tutoring and providing Supplemental Instruction (SI) for Theology. Susan is a Graduate student working on her master's degree in Theology. With her degree she plans to continue her study of scripture.

Susan was born in Jackson, Mississippi but she has not lived there for a long time. Her husband is in the Air force, so she moved around often. Now, Susan and her family call Omaha home. Susan chose Creighton because the opportunity was here. She was encouraged to pursue her graduate degree Theology. She chose Creighton because it was near her home, and had all of the things she was interested in.

Susan has not had much contact with SSS yet, but she is looking forward to a creating a great relationship with SSS staff and students. In the community, Susan is involved with her church, St. Matthew's Parish Bellevue. Nebraska. She participates in many ways; including bible study. She loves her church and participating in bible study, and she wanted to help others be involved in scripture so she decided to get a master's degree.

Susan is a mother of three sons, and her biggest achievement by far is "having raised [her] sons to be successful citizens."

So far, Susan has enjoyed



everything about attending Creighton. One of the most exciting things that have happened to her was being asked to do SI. Susan said, "It was unexpected. A professor recommended me to do this." She didn't really know what she was selected to do at the time, but she is honored that her professors recommended her and is looking forward to doing SI.

Susan is a humble person; she feels that she and her family are ordinary. She says, "I feel like an ordinary person that had extraordinary things happen to me. I have just been in the right place at the right time to experience extraordinary things."

Outside of school. Susan loves to take care of her family, garden, read, study, listen to music, and travel, she also really enjoys being a student and just learning. Susan has been married for 31 years to her husband Jim, they have three sons: 27-year-old Jim who lives and works in Sarpy county, 24-year-old Brian who is a recent college graduate from St. John in Minnesota and who is planning to apply to law school, and 20-year-old Dan who is a Junior at Creighton. Dan is majoring in musical theatre and was in Creighton's production of Westside Story.

In 1993 Susan's husband got transferred to Offutt air force base and she and her family have stayed in the Omaha area ever since. Susan says, "We loved it here and this is the longest I have lived in one place in my whole life."

Besides her family, one of most Susan's prized possessions is her mother's baptismal gown that was handmade for her. The gown was not only used for Susan's mother's baptism, but also for her mother's brother, Susan's six brothers and herself, all of Susan's children, and some of her nieces and nephews' baptisms. Susan was very happy when her mother passed the gown down to her so that she could keep it in the family. Susan treasures it because of its long history.

Even though she has traveled extensively, Susan thinks Italy is the most exciting place she has been. She says, "I have been to Italy several times and I love it. I could go there anytime." Recently, Susan visited Alaska. She said, "Alaska is exciting and truly different."

Susan's best advice to students is to "never stop learning, be a life-long learner and never give up."

If you would like to contact Susan Tracy she checks her email daily, also watch for SI groups in the SSS office.

Sheila at laser tag looking fierce!



Sheila playing laser tag!



Jordan Herman, **Emily** Nguyen, and Jason Nguyen at laser tag.



Josh Phelps, Jimmy Tran, and Jason Nguyen at the Ropes Course.

## Spotlight on Sheila Field by Steven Buffalohead

Sheila Field has written service. several SSS articles herself. interviewed for one. She is a junior in nursing. She was Dr. Cooke born and raised in Omaha, Nebraska.

Sheila picked Creighton University because it was close to home and, most importantly, had everything she wanted. Sheila received a letter about SSS, filled it out, and became a member. Shelia likes SSS because of the awesome people, staff, and students; and how helpful they are. She also likes SSS because she can the computer for printing papers. Sheila has benefited from participating in SSS through financial aid, help from tutors, and support in being a college student.

Sheila is the helpful person sitting behind the front desk. Sheila has worked at

SSS for about three vears. She likes working here because of the people. Sheila said. like Tami because she is the person coolest ever." She especially likes Sandy's stories. and Rich's phone calls.

Sheila also has several leadership roles at Creighton. She is a Peer 2 Peer mentor and participates

Her greatest achievement so far is being in but she has never been school with good grades. Sheila's favorite professor is who makes philosophy easy to understand and enjoyable.

> Sheila has a great sense of humor, is easy-going, and intelligent. Sheila claims her family all act crazy, and gives her brother as an example because he drives a pinkishpurple truck. Another interesting thing about Sheila is that she secretly runs SSS.

Outside of school you can find her at home with her family or with her friends. One of her most prized possessions is the ring her aunt gave her that belonged to her grandmother, who she never really got to know.

Sheila likes all kinds of music from pop to country to the Beatles. A highlight for Sheila last year was attending the Jakob Dylan concert with a friend in Des Moines, IA, and getting to meet Jakob in person.

The most annoying thing you can do to Sheila is lie about something in order to get out of it. She does not really have a least favorite word because she loves all words equally. One of Sheila's embarrassing incidents happened when she was in fifth grade and was the flower girl at her cousin's wedding. She stood on the wrong step while on camera.

Sheila loves the sound of rain. One favorite childhood memory is of a summer when she was little and playing with her friends. If Shelia could be an animal, she would be a bird because she could fly anywhere she wanted. Shelia loves the zoo, one of the most exciting places she has ever been. Sheila offers advice: "Try your hardest at everything and don't give up."



Alpha Phi Omega Robert Walker, Sheila Field, Cheree Hatfield, Steven Buffalohead, Shelagh Hardrich, and Alicia Amedee on the Red Team!

More ropes fun!



Ken Cai and Malorey Chee trying not to fall off the log!



SSS and CU Graduate Jamie O'Brien.

## What is a Writing Specialist? by Sheila Field

Denise Le Clair is the SSS Writing Specialist. She describes her services as the SSS writing specialists:

"Every author has an editor-and so does every student in SSS. No matter what the subject-from business to theology-I help students develop ideas, structure and them organize into interesting prose, that is also carefully proofread. I enjoy every stage of developing a paper, including :answering grammar questions, helping students figure how to write a strong thesis statement, looking up the fine points of and, citation, most importantly, providing a reader's feedback."

Denise invites all SSS students to come see her. To make working with Denise more efficient, make an appointment with Denise before coming in, plan on at least 30 minutes to complete the session, and have a printed double spaced copy of your paper. Slots to see Denise fill up fast, so plan ahead and set appointments early and cancel if you can't come.

A key factor to academic success in Denise's opinion is "willingness to put in time, ask questions, and self quiz." Denise gives this advice to students: Pace yourself, check

your syllabus and figure it will take four times longer to complete the assignment or project than you think it will. In RSP 120, Denise counts participation as a student's readiness for class, how attentive a student is in class, and how willing the student is to participate in discussions. These factors help the class and students develop and exchange strategies and skills.



## **Update on SSS Alum Jamie O'Brien**

Jamie O'Brien graduated Summer 2009. finishing classes in June with a degree in finance. He recently started a job at Renaissance Financial. He has earned his Series 7, 66 and Life/Health & Annuities Licenses and works as a Financial Advisor. He works with clients to assess their financial condition and goals and then he helps create a plan if the client wants one. The plans consist of a variety of services/products ranging from life/health insurance, 401(k)s, portfolio management to estate planning, and much more.

In the future Jaime hopes to build his business in Omaha and the surrounding areas.

During college his best memory was earning Dean's honor roll for social responsibility, Academic integrity, Student Ambassador and nominee for student employee of the year all in one semester!

Jamie is very happy with his life so far, he loves his job and is "satisfied with the decisions I have made to get me this far." He was surprised at himself that he could Graduate from Creighton in 3 years after high school.

Also, he earned his series 7, 66 and insurance licenses while graduating from Creighton in the span of 3 months. Originally, Jaime came to Creighton to become a doctor. He says, "I have made a drastic change, but not far from my core passion to work with and help people."

Jaime got to where he is now through "hard work, determination to be successful and a stubborn mindset that never allows me to settle for anything less!!"

Ken Cai at the Freshman ropes course.

# Freshmen Team Building Event by Sheila Field

This year's Freshmen Team to do more than just keep the Building Event was a complete success. It was held on throughout the day. They Sunday, August 30th at Calvin were designed to teach them Crest Camp in Freemont, Nebraska. The entire day was together to accomplish a full of fun and interactive activities like The Spider Web, The Canyon and The Trust Fall. The games were meant

SSS Freshmen entertained leadership skills, how to work common goal, and to trust their classmates.

"We HAD to work together to succeed" said Mariah Skradski.

It was also a great chance for everyone to make new friends and to get to know each other on a more personal level.

The experience the Freshmen got will help them succeed in SSS and at Creighton.



Nhu Le going through the tire.



Back Row: Denise Le Clair, Karen Thurber, Rudi Mitchell, Mariah Skradski, Yan Dan Chen, Dr. Mary Longo, Erica Erixon, Josh Phelps, Nhu Le, Mikhail Abad, Samuel Phan, Peter Khong, Tai Hoang, Ken Cai, Jimmy Tran, and Kim Mooney. Front Row: Lindsay Bohaty, Cheree Hatfield, Jason Nguyen, Saw Lot, Ashely Hauger, Malorey Chee and Jessica Rangel.



Freshman team event.

## A leading the way for his fellow classmates at the building



Chee Malorey at Freshman ropes course.

## **Supplemental Instruction, Study Groups & Tutors**

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Resource	Subject	Day	Time	E-mail
Rich Jehlik	BIO 211	Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday	11:00am-12:00pm 3:00pm-4:00pm 2:30pm-3:30pm	rbj11023@creighto.edu
Rich Jehlik	CHM 203	Monday, Wednesday, Friday	1:00pm-2:00pm 2:00pm-3:00pm 1:00pm-2:00pm	rjb11023@creighton.edu
Kathy Daotay	BMS 111 MIC 141	Friday Thursday	1:00p.m3:00p.m. 1:00p.m3:00p.m.	kdt55329@creighton.edu
Susan Tracy	THL100	Wednesday	5:30p.m6:30p.m. 6:30p.m7:30p.m.	susantracy@creighton.ed
Josh Phelps	THL100 SPN	TBA	TBA	joshuaphelps@creighton.ed
Tri Tran	PHY 211	Monday—Friday	3:30p.m5:00p.m.	tdt38005@creighton.edu
Denise Le Clair	ENG	Monday—Friday	8:00am-4:30pm Prefers Appointments	
Pat Al-Greene	MTH	Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday	Noon-6:00pm noon-5:00pm noon-6:00pm noon-5:00pm	LeClair@creighton.edu (402)280-2165

Mariah Skradski going through the tire!



Lindsay Bohaty climbing the ladder.



Jessica Rangel climbing the ladder.



Mikhail Abad and Ashley Hauger working together.

## Who is Denise Le Clair? by Sheila Field

Denise Le Clair is the writing specialist for SSS. She has been working at Creighton for 15 years. She decided to work here because the job she was offered was interesting, and it was in line with what she had already been doing. As a teacher for OPS and a composition and study skills teacher for Metro. Denise undergraduate an degree in English with a minor in humanities, a Master's degree in library science, and is endorsed to teach secondary English.

Denise likes working at Creighton because of the people, from the librarians to the staff in the Brew Jay. She also greatly enjoys the students and faculty because of the intellectually rich environment at Creighton. Denise likes the SSS program because she gets to combine working reading and writing. She likes helping students develop as writers without having to grade their work. Denise admires the students' energy in SSS and their desire to grow academically and intellectually.

Denise is originally from Youngstown, Ohio, but she has lived in Nebraska for more than 30 years. Outside of work Denise loves to go to live theater productions and attend as many lectures as she can. At home, she watches movies, reads, and knits hats for Creighton's crochet/knit club to donate to various charities.



Her greatest achievement so far is "getting three terrific kids college degrees, all from Creighton." Last year, Denise received the St. Ignatius Award, an honor that was humbling and moving.

An interesting thing about Denise's family is that every person including her mother works in math and engineering. Denise says, "I am the only word person! I did not get the math gene!" Denise lived in Korea for a year, where she was able to be immersed in a different culture rather than just "play tourist." Her most prized possession is the amethyst ring she received as a gift from her parents. She has worn that ring for over 20 years now.



When thinking about her childhood, her favorite memory is when she would stop for frozen custard with her parents on her way to grandfather in visit her Michigan. This memory stands out because it was rare for her parents to be able to afford any extra treats. Denise had the most fun when she took her kids to amusement parks. especially remembers the amusement park in Texas at Sea World when they rode the Thunder Ride five times in a row and got soaked!

If she could be an animal, Denise would be an otter because "they seem to know how to have fun, and they are playful." Denise has an eclectic taste in music, but right now she is listening to East Village Opera Company, duets sung by non-opera singers accompanied music. Denise loves the sound of "the absolute silence o f total concentration."

Her least favorite words are obscenities, because she is a visual person and she sees the object in her head, which is "disruptive to [her] inner calm." She is annoyed when she is driving, and she can hear the loud bass of the car next to her, even when the windows are rolled up.

Denise's best advice to others': "Now is the only moment you have. Make the best of it and live it to its fullest."

# CHEIGH

Shelagh Hardrich and Alicia Amedee riding on the shuttle.



Tai Hoang, Britney Buder and Ashley Hauger.



Kenneth Vela at laser tag.



Caitlin Bordeaux at laser tag!

# **Special Cultural Events: Sign up Now!**

Here are some upcoming Cultural events to mark your calendars for. They are FREE and we can take up to 20 people so sign up soon!

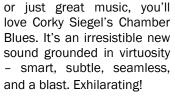
Passport to Russia Friday, September 25, 2009 8:00 p.m.

This all-Russian concert will leave you breathless. The joy of

feisty Russian folk music is soon replaced by wide-eyed wonder, as you watch our soloist's fingers dancing wildly over the piano's keys. Showcased in the movie Shine, Rachmaninoff's Third Piano Concerto is a musical obstacle course that's been the downfall of many. Be there to witness this feat of talent, and expect to leave in awe.

Corky Siegel's Chamber Blues with special guest Randy Sabien Friday, October 23, 2009 8:00 PM

If you're a fan of B.B. K i n g , Beethoven,



Symphony Spooktacular Sunday, October 25, 2009 2:00 p.m

Join us for an afternoon of thrills, chills, and creepy classics. Kids young and old will be

spellbound by the spooky sounds of the Omaha Symphony. It's an interactive, affordable Halloween concert event for the whole family, complete with a costume contest and trick-or-treating in the lobby. Don't forget to wear your costume for a spooktacular time!

Spanish Harlem Orchestra Thursday, October 29, 2009 7:30 PM

This slinky salsa group brings the urgent tempos of

New York, Puerto Rico, and Cuba to the Holland stage. The Orchestra's blistering hot swing is tight, sassy – and has been known to turn a staid concert "hall into a perpetual-motion dance machine" (Sacramento Bee).

Shaolin Warriors
Sunday, November 15, 2009
7:00 PM

With sharp spears and elegant ferocity, you'll love

this spectacular glimpse into the meditative and dangerous

arts of the monks who invented kung fu.



Patriotic Celebration Friday, November 20, 2009 8:00 p.m

Celebrate America—and the best of Broadway—at this patriotic program directed by Erich Kunzel, conductor of the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra. The "Prince of Pops" will lead the symphony and vocalists Max Quinlan, Zachary Price, and Mark Willett through favorites from 1776, Of Thee I Sing, Strike Up the Band, and many more. Join us as we salute the Stars and Stripes with these sensational Broadway classics!

## Christmas with the Symphony Sunday, December 20, 2009 7:00 p.m

Looking for the perfect gift? Celebrate the season with this beloved Christmas tradition. Broadway entertainers team up with local talent to create a spectacular production, featuring classic holiday hits, amazing vocalists, and the popular dancing Santas! Create a Christmas memory that the whole family will treasure.



Dr. Rudi Mitchell demonstrates his faith and trust in the SSS students by falling into their arms.

### **Extended Hours**

Monday, Tuesday Wednesday

8:00 a.m.- 8:00 p.m.

**Sunday** 

1:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.

Remember to sign in at the front desk when you come for the extended hours and please continue to record how many pages you print by the printer.



Precious Sully and Ashleen Marr blowing up balloons.

# **The Freshmen Ropes Course Trust Fall**



Dr. Rudi Mitchell falls into the strong arms of the SSS students.



Kim Mooney, Josh Phelps, Jimmy Tran, Jason Nguyen, Ken Cai, Malorey Chee, Jessica Rangel, Lindsay Bohaty and Cheree Hatfield show off their balancing skills by working together to swing back and forth at the Freshman Ropes Course on August 30th.

## **Karen Thurber**

Is so awesome she was the first person to fall.

She is not only courageous but she has absolute faith in the SSS students.

She was certain they would not drop her. They did not let her down!

Dr. Mary Longo was there adding her support to the team.

While Tami Buffalohead-McGill had faith in the SSS students she did not possess the courage of Karen Thurber and Dr. Rudi Mitchell.

Tami was the last to fall but the SSS students came through as usual!

We are very excited for the new SSS students. With their determination and dedication we are confident they will realize their academic and career goals!

We look forward to a great new year together!

## **The Freshmen Ropes Course Trust Fall**



Creighton University 2500 California Plaza Mike and Josie Harper Center Suite 4008 Omaha, Nebraska 68178

Phone: 402-280-2749 Fax: 402-280-5579

E-mail: tamib@creighton.edu

Website:

http://www2.creighton.edu/eop/studentsupportservices/

"Education is a companion which no future can depress, no crime can destroy, no enemy can alienate it and no nepotism can enslave."

Ropo Oguntimehin

SSS is one of the five federally funded TRIO programs at Creighton University under the of Educational Department Opportunity Programs. SSS is grant funded through the of Education Department provide comprehensive services to help students achieve a successful college experience by increasing performance, retention, academic graduation rates. SSS also works to foster an institutional climate supportive of the success of economically disadvantaged students. generation students, and students with disabilities. The strength of the SSS program is providing comprehensive support to eligible students at Creighton University who have the ability and desire to succeed at Creighton University but would benefit from additional advocacy, academic, personal, financial, and career support. SSS is a resource that provides comprehensive personalized and services for eligible participants to help them achieve their full potential.

# Counselor's Corner with Karen Thurber

Welcome back! I'm glad you are back.

Requirements are the same with the addition of one new requirement for Money Management/Financial Planning, but you can use your Counselor meeting. However, you will need to Pat for this Financial meeting.

Schedule your orientation with Karen as soon as possible.

First year students will be doing assessments the second week of school with Denise. During the third week, there will be a review of assessments and information on school.

Over the summer, we had a few focus groups and staff retreat to serve you better. Tami will be implementing a few changes.

If you have a suggestion to improve the program, please let me know.

The workshop calendar is ready. Laser tag and zoo will take place this fall. Tami has lined up many cultural events that are provided to you and the program for free.

You might notice a change in the computer lab. This year we will try to email you surveys or have them available on the web page.

Come see me as soon as you can. Good luck!

## Karen Thurber



SSS Assistant Director and RSP200 Advisor Harper Room 4017 Phone: 402-280-3007 Email: karenthurber@creighton.edu

