

Office of
Multicultural Affairs

CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY OFFICE OF MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS

Newsletter

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 3

WINTER 2011

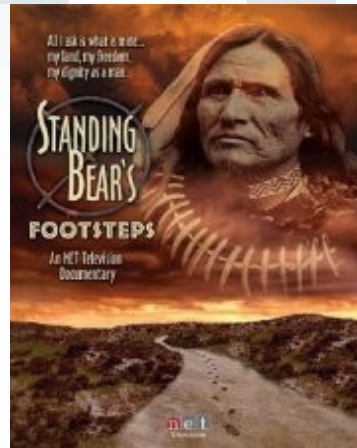
OUR MISSION

We are a department in the Division of Student Life at Creighton University, a Jesuit Catholic University. Our professional services are grounded in supporting the mission of Creighton with Jesuit and Ignatian traditions and values. Through our services and programs to students, staff and faculty we advance the educational, cultural, and social understanding of our diverse human family. We strive to foster growth, development, sensitivity, and compassion among our heterogeneous community.

To accomplish this mission, the office has four primary functions:

- Intercultural Education
- Academic Support and Mentoring
- Outreach
- Student Cultural Center

Standing Bear's Footsteps by Lauren Murphy-Moore



On November 1, 2011 Creighton had the great honor to host a public screening of the new documentary "Standing Bear's Footsteps" as part of the beginning of Native American History Month. This documentary gives a in-depth view of the struggles of Chief Standing Bear and the Ponca tribe. It is also the first documentary to tell the story of Standing Bear's life and activism work for Native American rights in America.

In 1877, the people belonging to the Ponca tribe were forcibly relocated to Indian Territory (the area is now present day Oklahoma). This journey to Indian Territory was a harsh and treacherous 600 mile walk, with only the items the Ponca could carry. They were not given much time to prepare which meant that there was limited food and water.

During the relocation, Standing Bear's son passed away and asked his father to bury him in his homeland. In honor of his son's

memory, Standing Bear and a few other Ponca families began the long walk back to Nebraska, where he was arrested before reaching his destination. This began a long legal battle, Standing Bear sued General Crook for his freedom and the right to be recognized as a person. There is much more to the story, but I encourage you to watch this amazing documentary when it is shown on PBS next Spring!

As part of the screening of the film we had the opportunity to meet two of Creighton's own alumni. The Associate Producer for the documentary Princella Parker '08 and Georgiana Lee '06 the Assistant Director of the nonprofit Native American Public Telecommunications in Lincoln, Nebraska who sponsored the film. The documentary's intention was to tell Chief Standing Bear's life story in an informative and intriguing way, and was very successful in doing so.

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GOT FOOD? THANK A FARMWORKER!

by The CMFN Collaborative



Catholic Migrant
Farmworker Network

As we celebrated Thanksgiving, a time of year when we thanked God for the abundance of the fruits of the earth, we should have been encouraged to bring awareness to the men, women and children who work in the fields to make it possible for us to have food on

our table. Often migrant farm workers and their families don't have enough food to nourish themselves. Behind every apple, every tomato, every cucumber, there is a human face. There are the sweat and tears, long, hard hours and poorly compensated labor. This is the daily reality of the migrant farm workers in our country. "I was eight years old when my parents took me and my brothers and sisters to work in the fields. I would sometimes hide so my dad could not find me and I could stay home and play with my friends. But we needed to help my parents, so we could eat that day" (Petra, Monterrey CA).

A group of 84 pastoral agents and farm workers in the U.S. met in Sacramento, California the weekend of October 28 to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Catholic Migrant Farm Worker Network (CMFN). Bishop Jaime Soto of the Sacramento Diocese and chair of the USCCB Committee on Cultural Diversity noted in his homily at the concluding Mass that CMFN's work is a great service to migrant farm workers and the Church.

A trip to a migrant camp in the Diocese of Stockton was one of the highlights of CMFN's 25th anniversary. Bishop Stephen Blaire offered words of encouragement and gave his blessings to the migrant camp farm workers and their families who hosted a festive dinner for guests. Bishop Rutilio del Riego, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Pastoral Care of Migrants, Refugees and Travelers (PCMRT) and Bishop John Manz, Episcopal liaison to the Migrant Farm worker Apostolate congratulated CMFN "for the good work accomplished by the organization, for the vision of its founders, for its leadership and for all those who collaborate, promote and support CMFN's mission."

CMFN was founded by a group of eight pastoral leaders from different dioceses throughout the U.S. for the purpose of accompanying farm workers and responding to their needs as they travel following the crops. Today, CMFN has grown and expanded as it continues to seek to respond to the mission of bringing a pastoral presence to rural migrant farm workers, promoting the formation of welcoming communities within the Church and advocating for farm workers' dignity. CMFN also promotes the formation of leaders within the farm worker communities. CMFN and Creighton University's Office of Multicultural Affairs are unified in their commitment to promoting social justice in rural migrant communities. Ricardo Ariza, M.S.W. Director of OMA and CMFN Board member will be preparing the 5th Annual visit to migrant communities in rural areas in the United States.

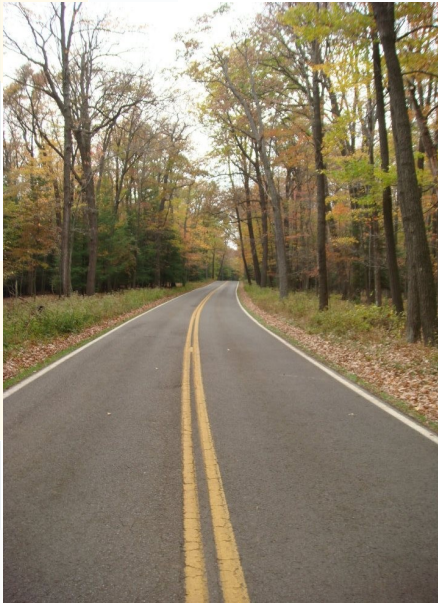
Typically students are paired with migrant workers to experience farm labor, serve meals and accompany spiritual outreach teams. The goals of the Migrant Journey Service Learning initiative are: learning to contemplate and reflect on how we find God in all things; teach students how to get involved on issues of social justice and human rights, and coalition building with grass roots organizations that serve the poor.



CMFN 25th Anniversary (Left to Right) Sr. Karen Bernhardt, HM, Alicia Castillo, Francisco Herrera, Lorena Zamarripa '10, and Jessica Rangel '13

FALL BREAK SERVICE TRIP REFLECTION

by Audriana Talmadge



*Country Roads,
take me home
To the place I
belong
West Virginia,
mountain mamma
Take me home,
country roads*

Photo of the trees and road in the West Virginia Mountains

We traveled nearly 20 hours to reach West Virginia, singing songs and laughing while forming a community. We were 12 Creighton sophomores and seniors who signed up with the Center for Service and Justice to dedicate our fall breaks to learning about important issues and serving the communities we visited.

West Virginia is a place of incredible beauty with its state parks full of bright gold, fire red, vivid orange, and sun-kissed yellow leaves on great hardwood trees. But West Virginia is also very poor, the disparities between those who have and those who have not exist side by side. When driving into the southern part of the state, you're driving straight to the heart of coal country – everyone knows someone who is or has worked in the mines if they themselves haven't.

Energy produced by coal produces all of the electricity in West Virginia and a huge majority of the nation's energy supplies. Our Fall Break Service Trip group was able to learn how energy is produced. Coal, unfortunately, is a dirty and difficult job to produce which can also be dangerous. In the past, miners would be in underground mines sometimes working on their knees scraping the mine walls without sufficient technology to tell them if

there was a potential gas leak or cave-in. The coal mining industry is now much more sophisticated with high-tech machinery and safety, but still is one of the worst fossil fuels we can burn because of the carbon dioxide and other environmental toxins it produces when used.

Coal companies are now using mountain-top removal mining to retrieve the coal from the mountains due to the difficulty of recovering it from under the earth. In this process, the top layer of a mountain is removed by using explosives and heavy machinery to scrape thin layers of coal from the tops. This process causes environmental problems that will take years to repair, from streams drying out to flooding in other areas as well as the erosion as trees and topsoil are removed. This type of mining on the surface has upset many West Virginia residents who live near to the mining sites.

On the trip, I also learned about natural gas and renewable energy sources. Natural gas drilling companies will drill deep down into the earth to the Marcellus shale layer to retrieve large amounts of gas from an area. We visited a drilling site and saw how tough of a job that it is.

We also witnessed the reality of the extreme poverty that West Virginia faces. Community members told us that the towns were built around the coal mines. Coal was the main money producer in the state and when the mines went bankrupt, so did the town. As a result of the poverty, towns are facing unemployment issues, health issues related to the proximity of the mines, and drug problems. Local students only aspire to work in the mines. Without a diversified economy, West Virginia will continue to struggle with poverty.

Although these problems exist, West Virginians are tough and resilient as they've proven time and time again. They value their land and many residents are standing up against mountain-top removal mining and calling legislative reform to help their state. We will continue to see what happens in West Virginia, but the culture is changing slowly, but hopefully for the better.

OMAHA ASIAN TEEN SUMMIT by Matthew Kor

This year's Omaha Asian Teen Summit held at Bellevue University and sponsored by ConAgra Foods and other local companies, proved to be an enormous success with a three-fold increase in the number participants from last year. There were over 200 students in attendance from all over the Omaha metropolitan area gathered as early as 7:30 AM to learn about the Asian culture and college awareness. When asked how they heard about the event, many students responded by saying, "My teacher told me about this opportunity." The fact that the summit was so well publicized despite only being its second time goes to show how much time and effort was spent to empower future Asian-American leaders.

High school students from all over Omaha enjoyed Dr. Roderick Hewlett, the Dean of Bellevue University's College of Business, as the keynote speaker. His speech on human capitalism emphasized the importance of cherishing cultural heritages and learning about the importance of balancing morals and expectations. The students also appreciated having their questions about college answered by a panel of students from Creighton University, Metro Community College, Bellevue University, and University of Nebraska, Omaha. Some questions that the students posed to the college panel ranged from simple questions like "What is the typical day of a college student like?" to questions that required more in-depth explanations like "What kind of scholarships are out there to pay for college?" The students' enthusiasm for college was obvious as they eagerly asked more and more

complicated questions.

One of the differences this year's summit had from last year was the lunch. Instead of sandwiches, the students had the option to have a variety of curries, fried rice, and samosas. Having one's cultural food at a cultural summit furthers the notion of integration of cultural diffusion and cultural change. Even simple improvements to the catering go a long way to make the students feel more comfortable about the notion of transitioning to college.

A reoccurring tradition to the Omaha Asian Teen Summit is the cultural entertainment during lunch. The Karen community once again sang "We are the World" to celebrate the unity of the Asian people. Many other ethnic groups shared their culture as well. There were Chinese folk dances, Indian bell dances, a Southeast Asian fashion show, and a martial art demonstration.



Students from Tiger-Rock Martial Arts demonstrated different forms of martial arts.



At Creighton's Information Table, Left to Right – Dilasha Neupane '14, Elaine Phan '13, and Xuchyll Roman '13

After the career sessions and communication/trust activities, the summit closed with raffle prizes from the participating companies and reflections from the students. One student remarked, "I'm glad my counselor told me about this event. I got to learn a lot about college from the panel. I hope that next year will be good too." All in all, the Omaha Asian Teen Summit successfully introduced higher education as a means to achieve goals and brought the Omaha Asian community closer together.

Student Spotlights by Ravan Charles

Sarah Nazarie '14

Major Finance and maybe Accounting

Hometown Omaha, NE

Hobbies Reading, shopping, and baking ooey gooey butter cookies.

Career Title Sephora Beauty Advisor

Interesting Fact "Born with a nub on my pinkie... not ashamed of it."

Why did you come to Creighton? Lives close to Creighton and "loves her some Jesuits" (She has an appreciation for the Jesuit education system).

Favorite Undergraduate Professor Dr. Vanderboegh; French Professor. He knows everything there is to know about French Culture and Language. They also have a mutual love for Krispy Kreme Doughnuts.



Shaylene Shayenne High Elk '15

Major: Undeclared- Business Law

Hometown Chamberlain, SD

Hobbies: Hanging out with friends; Spending time with people in OMA, studying...sometimes.

Interesting Fact: She can ride her bike with no handlebars...no handlebars...no handle bars. (Well she's not so sure she can, she's never tried. But she is willing!)

Why did you come to Creighton? Financially it was the best decision and liked what Creighton stood for (Jesuit Values, service and giving back).

Favorite Undergraduate Professor: Dr. Maorong Jiang; Political Science Professor. He's really interesting and has lots of information on international politics.

CUASA'S AFRICAN AMERICAN YOUTH CONFERENCE

by Lela Coleman

On November 3, 2011 a number of high school students from the Omaha area slowly filed in to the Harper Center for the fourth annual African-American Youth Conference hosted by Creighton University's African American Student Association (CUASA). After the duties of check-in and registration were done, the students and their parents were treated to a small welcome reception at Billy Blue's Bar and Grill. Afterwards the young men and women were split up into groups to attend men/women only sessions consisting of an entirely male or female panel of people from different backgrounds. I had the privilege of sitting in on the women's session and I can honestly say that I learned so much from that panel discussion. It really hammered in the idea that learning is a life time process and no matter how smart or wise you think you are, there is still a lot you don't know and can learn.



On the left is Alexandra Killings '13 and sitting next to her is Deanna Blount '12.

After the panels, everyone headed over to the Opus Community room for a dinner sponsored by Time Out Foods. Students then got the chance to listen to Self Xpression, a local poet who expressed how necessary it is to know who you are, what you want, and where you are going. Last but not least, the students split up

to go to their respective locations for their slumber party styled sleeping arrangements.



Left to right in this photo is Self Xpression, Audri Edmonds '12 and AAYC Keynote Speaker Basheer Jones at the AAYC Annual Stroll Off.

The following day began with breakfast at Brandies and continued on with several workshops led by various community members. After a lunch sponsored by Chipotle, the students filed into the Harper Auditorium for the keynote conference speaker Basheer Jones, a nationally known radio host who has spoken and worked with many prominent figures, one of those being Barack Obama. Mr. Jones performed two poems and discussed with the audience how important it is to have passion. He drove home the point that we have to have something we believe in, something we are fighting for. One of the high school students, JaMia Andrews, stated "his talk opened up my eyes and moved me so much. He made me want to get up and go make a difference in this world and he made me believe that I could." The students were then taken off campus to the Malcolm X Foundation and then brought back to Creighton for more panel discussions. The conference was concluded with the Annual AAYC Stroll Off Competition which was not only fun and exciting for the community and the kids but also a major success.

ALUMNI UPDATE: AMBER BENNETT

by Audri Edmonds



Amber Bennett '11 smiling at her Spring Commencement Ceremony

Amber Bennett is a Creighton University May 2011 graduate. A former Markoe Diversity Scholar, she was a Sociology major. Amber currently resides in Omaha, Nebraska working for the National Organization of 100 Black Men. Amber works as an Administrative and Program Assistant for the local chapter of 100 Black Men. For those who do not know, 100 Black Men Omaha Inc. is a non-profit organization geared to helping African American boys reach their potential through intellectual development of youth and the economic empowerment of the African American Community. Currently there are "Four for the Future Initiatives": Education, Mentoring, Health & Wellness and Economic Empowerment. In Omaha, the 100BMO has chosen to focus its programmatic efforts on education and mentoring for North Omaha's at-risk youth.

Amber operates as the glue between different parties, responding to emails and phone calls, coordinating calendars, catering meals for meetings, going to various training workshops in the area as well as

networking with other non-profits in the area. She has been working with 100 Black Men Omaha for only a month, but already appreciates the exposure to business in the non-profit sector. In addition to all that Amber currently does with 100 Black Men Omaha Inc., she also is responsible for following up with several grant applications submitted. Amber looks forward to becoming more familiar with the art of grant writing as she becomes further acquainted with the non-profit field.

In the relatively near future, Amber hopes to pursue a dual degree program where she can earn her Master's in Public Policy and Juris Doctorate degree at the same time. Amber is waiting to hear back from one particular program, but is considering attending American University in Washington D.C. We wish her luck as she continues to attain her goals.

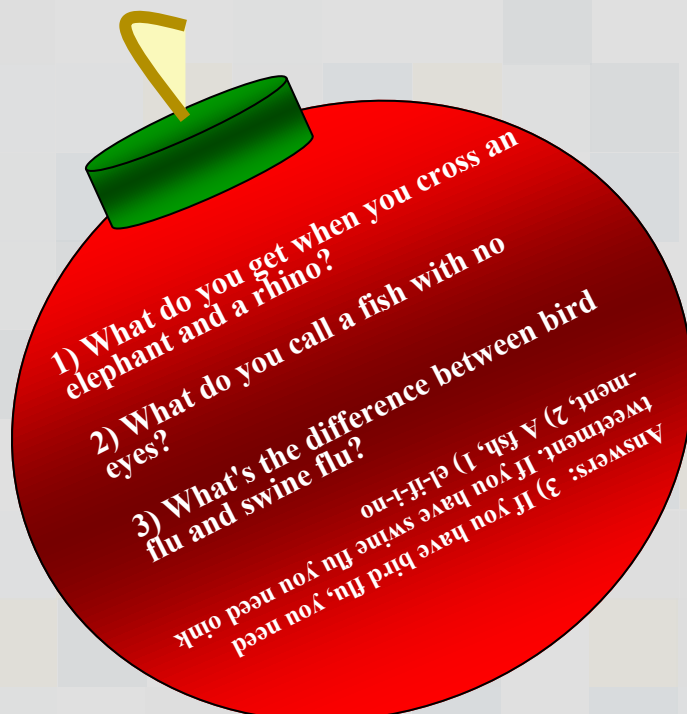
So how is life post-graduation?

Life is very different from school and with the current status of the economic environment, Amber admitted that she had applied for at least 30 positions. During the interview process she heard many times that she was "overqualified" for a particular position. This left Amber unemployed for about a month. With one particular company, Amber recalled that having a Bachelor's degree made her eligible for only a \$0.25 increase. This reality made many of the jobs she was offered not feasible for her to take. Nonetheless, Amber remains optimistic. When asked if she had any advice for current seniors and those getting ready to graduate Amber said, "Don't be afraid to take risks and listen to your heart, especially if you don't have any dependents."

DID YOU KNOW? by Emily Rice-Batzell

- ☺ The name Voldemort from Harry Potter means *"flight of death"* in French!
- ☺ In the U.S. alone, 18 billion diapers are thrown out a year.
- ☺ The dolphin's most dangerous enemy is humans.
- ☺ Harvard receives the largest financial endowments of any institution in the world at \$26 billion.
- ☺ Worcestershire sauce is made from dissolved anchovies (including the bones) that have been soaked in vinegar.
- ☺ Syria, China, Vietnam, and Iran have banned Facebook.
- ☺ French fries are the single most popular fast food in America. In 1970, French fries surpassed regular potato sales in the United States. In 2004, Americans ate 7.5 billion pounds of frozen French fries.
- ☺ It is against Michigan state law to tie a crocodile to a fire hydrant.

FUN CORNER by Sarah Nazarie



4) What did the fisherman say to the card magician?

5) What does a wicked chicken lay?

6) Why was Tigger looking down the toilet??

4) Pick a cod, any cod! 5) Devil eggs. 6) Because he was trying to find Pooh!!

FUN CORNER WORD SEARCH!

by Sarah Nazarie



BILLY
BLUE
BRANDEIS
DIVERSITY
HARPER
HITCHCOCK
JESUIT
LANNON
MULTICULTURAL
OMAHA
OPUS
REINERT

L	B	K	T	I	U	S	E	J	G	L	E	A	U	R
A	O	R	C	F	C	K	P	Y	S	A	Q	C	D	E
A	G	W	A	J	E	K	R	D	N	R	P	M	R	I
F	B	Z	A	N	W	J	M	J	P	U	S	Y	T	N
K	U	P	Q	O	D	I	J	E	I	T	O	X	Z	E
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M	L	N	O	Y	M	X	O	S	L	C	X	Q	B	S
H	S	Q	O	H	H	C	Q	G	L	I	I	U	Y	N
M	P	S	K	N	H	D	T	A	I	T	Q	O	O	H
N	N	Z	K	C	N	A	H	A	B	L	K	W	A	A
M	J	P	T	S	Q	A	I	B	L	U	E	R	H	O
N	L	I	O	A	Q	X	L	C	W	M	P	A	J	H
G	H	Q	M	V	M	Y	Y	U	V	E	M	K	F	B
D	I	V	E	R	S	I	T	Y	R	O	T	L	U	R

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SPRING 2012

January 19, 2011

DiversiTea!

Skutt Center Drawing Room and Fireplace

Save the date and join IRHG and others in sampling teas from all over the world. Details to be announced!

January 19, 2011

Bringing King to China Documentary Screening (85 minutes)

7:00pm – 9:00 pm Harper Auditorium

Bringing King to China is a father's "love letter" to his adult daughter, a young American woman struggling to bring Martin Luther King, Jr.'s dream of nonviolence to China, and then back to the United States. Her life is thrown into turmoil when she learns, mistakenly, that her father, a journalist covering the war in Iraq, has been killed by a suicide bomber. There will be a post-screening dialogue with film director Kevin McKiernan. This screening is sponsored by the Werner Institute, Asian World Center, Kenefick Chair in the Humanities, Jacobsen Chair in Communications, Graff Chair in Catholic Theology, Center for the Study of Religion & Society, the ML King Commemoration Committee, the Center for Service & Justice, the IRHG, Justice & Peace Studies, and Office of Multicultural Affairs.

February 12, 2012

Soul Food Dinner

Harper Center

Save the date for CU's African American Student Association's annual celebration. Details to be announced!

February 23, 2012

Day of Remembrance

7pm-8:30pm Harper 3028

Day of Remembrance (DOR) is an annual commemoration of the incarceration of over 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry in the United States during World War II. More details to be announced.

March 31, 2012

Annual Lu'au

Kiewit Fitness Center

Save the date for Hui O Hawaii's annual celebration. Details to be announced!

April 14, 2012

8th Annual All Nations Pow Wow

Kiewit Fitness Center

Save the date for Native American Association's annual celebration. Details to be announced!

More events to come, Join us on [Facebook!](#)