

HS-MACA NEWSLETTER

Creighton
UNIVERSITY
Medical Center

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CHANNING BUNCH AND DR. SADE KOSOKO-LASAKI

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HS-MACA Welcomes New Students



Having been created in the year 2000, HS-MACA is pleased to welcome its readers to our fifth academic year. We welcome especially our dental, medical, nursing and pharmacy and health professions students. For those of you that may be new in Nebraska, we invite you to visit with the recruitment and retention officer who will provide you with information that could help you to find your way around the city. The programs that HS-MACA support are

well described on our web page at www.creighton.edu/hsmaca. These programs will provide you with the opportunity for mentoring and community service.

I invite you to visit with me every Friday from 1:45 pm – 3:45 pm during my open door hours. Our job is to serve you and I encourage you to interact with my staff and me.

Welcome to Creighton University!!

"MACA IS MECCA FOR DIVERSITY"

-Sade Kosoko-Lasaki, MD, MSPH
Associate Vice President, Health Sciences -
Multicultural and Community Affairs
Associate Professor of Ophthalmology,
Preventive Medicine and Public Health

Fourth-year Medical Center of Excellence Students to be Inducted into the Chapter of the Gold Humanism Honor Society in October.

Lowell Amiotte
Corey Booker

Zulma Barrios
Bethwel Raore

Diversity Scholars at CU through HS-MACA "Pipeline Programs"

Three Creighton University Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP) students were recognized for their academic and well rounded abilities by receiving the Diversity Scholarship at Creighton University the upcoming year.

TeAnna Strickland, daughter of Deb Strickland attended Benson High School. She was senior class president among numerous other awards she received in high school. TeAnna has been a member of the HCOP for three years and Creighton University's Upward Bound Program she has been accepted to Creighton University's School of Nursing for the fall of 2004.

Blake Tyler, son of Lisa and Anthony Wilson graduated with honors from North High School despite having to overcome many obstacles. He was the senior class president at his high and an avid volunteer in the community. Blake says that earning the Diversity Scholarship will help him achieve his academic goal of becoming a Doctor of Physical Therapy.

Louis Jackson, son of Abraham and Marie Jackson, graduated from Benson High School. He participated in the HCOP Summer Academy in 2004, and has been active in the Bio-Medical Summer Research Institute in HS-MACA in the past years. Louis was ranked 13th in his graduating class at Benson, and will matriculate to Creighton's Pre-Medical program.

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

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School of Medicine Center of Excellence (COE)

As the Center of Excellence grant is nearing the end of its first year, it is time to look at the progress that has been made over the last 11 months.

The goal of the Center of Excellence is to support and expand on the School of Medicine's efforts to ensure that a diverse student body is being trained to provide quality, culturally sensitive health care to the nation.

The Center of Excellence office space has been completed! It is located in Criss III Room 258B. The office currently houses **Becky Messenger**, Center of Excellence Coordinator, **Cassandra Bailey**, Faculty Development/Student Research Coordinator, **Kipp McKenzie**, Saturday Academy Coordinator, and **Kojo Allen**, Glaucoma Outreach Coordinator. There will soon be office spaces for **Linda Pappas**, Academic Success Counselor, and **Libin Pan**, Technical Specialist.

The COE website is up and running. New items will be added periodically. Please visit <http://medicine.creighton.edu/coe>

The Health Sciences Library/Learning Resource Center also has a website that includes resources that address minority health issues at <http://www.hsl.creighton.edu/hsl/mhirc>.

The Center of Excellence Saturday Academy completed its first program year serving 50 high school students. Overall, the students showed remarkable improvement in their ACT scores. Recruitment and enrollment has taken place for the 2004-05 school year.

Three COE medical students participated in the Center of Excellence Summer Research program. Corinthian Booker (M3), Mariam Garuba (M3), and Bethwel Raore (M3) are receiving financial support from the Center of Excellence while conducting research this summer. These participants presented their work at the Summer Research Institute Colloquium in August.

The Center of Excellence also funded 9 Family Medicine clerkships for M1 students under the direction of Dr. Barone in the summer. In addition a COE supported Cultural Awareness Seminar for Medical Students was conducted as a part of the Clinical Dimensions series for 3rd year medical students. In addition, Cultural Proficiency Seminar was conducted for Creighton School of Medicine faculty members.

Changes have taken place in some of the Medical School curriculum to include more information on minority health issues and health disparities. Included in these changes is the addition of a two-week M4 elective entitled Minority Health Disparities: Issues and Strategies directed by Dr. Kosoko-Lasaki and assisted by Mrs. Becky Messenger.

The Challenge

by Lynden McGriff – 2nd year PharmD

The definition of minority is “having less than 50%”. Often this is seen as something that is on the left of the normal curve which has the connotation of being minimized and not seen as something beneficial. This conception is truly the opposite, when comparing certain ideas and thoughts. In the event that a person is apply for medical school and takes the MCAT, many strive for the 90th percentile, which correlates to achieving higher than 90% of the participants who took the examination. The people in this bracket are only 10% of the entire population. This can be viewed as a minority of the overall population.

A young man by the name of WEB Dubois coined the phrase “Talented Tenth” which focused on the upper echelon of the scale. This group will propel the coming generation to excellence which had been seen previously as inconceivable.

Now the term minority is one which has risen above the past connotations and given the focused groups an empowerment and realization of unharvested potential which lies within everyone.

A parable which depicts this misconception because of the lack of knowledge of what actually is underlying is adopted from Dennis Kimbro, author How the Great Got Great.

There was once a gentleman who retired and brought some property in Africa. The man envisioned fields and plantations of crops which would continue to prosper for future generations. The man left his home country and went to Africa to cultivate the land and began the process of farming. After a couple of years of failing to produce any crops because of the rocky and unarable soil, he sold the property to another individual. The next owner first decided to do some research and studies to analyze which crops would be the most profitable commodity. After a couple of weeks reports came back and revealed that the terrain was unarable because of surface diamonds.” This was a blessing in disguise for this gentleman.

In today's society many of the minority groups feel that their life is unarable and with little potential. No matter how much time and effort are invested there will never be any substantial growth. But I send the challenge to be steadfast and begin to utilize all the resources to look at yourself from different perspectives and outside sources to uncover unexpected wealth.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

COMMON GROUND
EVERY FRIDAY 11:30 A.M. – 1:30 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM G 31

MINORITY SCHOLARS LUNCHEON
SEPTEMBER 16
12:00 – 1:30 P.M.
Hixson-Lied Science Building G04

HS-MACA & COE OPEN HOUSE
SEPTEMBER 16
1:45 – 3:45 P.M.
Hixson-Lied Science Building G13
&
Criss III 258B

Successful Summer Research Institute

Five students from Omaha area high schools and six college students from throughout the United States participated in an 8 to 10 week summer research program sponsored by the HS-MACA office. It was also supported by the National Institute of Health and EPSCOR. 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, weekly seminar series, and Friday afternoon enrichment activities.

The program culminated with a Research Colloquium on August 5th. Each student presented a poster outlining their research.

For Best Research Performance in the College level:
1st place— **Oludara Amole** – University of Miami, 2nd place—
Jackie Nneji – North Carolina Central, and 3rd place (tied)—
Arthur Stallworth - Creighton University and **Max Theis** -
Middlebury College.

For Best Research Performance High School:
1st place— **Jacob Weasel** – Papio-LaVista South, 2nd place—
Jasmine Opere – Central and— **Carmen Evans** – North, 3rd
place.

Dr. Lawrence Agado, Director of the Office of Minority Health Research Coordination for the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases was the keynote speaker for the awards banquet. His topic for the young researchers was “Your Future Is Bright - Embrace the Challenge”.

Academic Success Coordinator & Counselor

Linda Pappas, Academic Success Coordinator, reports that the Center of Excellence academic retention and success program is off to a great start. She worked with a number of M2 COE students to prepare for the USMLE Step One exam given in May and June. Individual sessions were provided to explore best possible approaches to studying the vast amounts of material, managing board study along with regular coursework study, effective test taking strategies and preventing any test anxiety issues. She has also recently had the opportunity to work with some M3 COE students on shelf exams issues.

The neuroscience study group sessions facilitated by Linda, a MD/PHD student and the M1 curriculum coordinator went well. Both facilitators and students learned a lot. This coming academic year the sessions will be provided not only in Neuroscience but in Anatomy as well.

This summer Linda was busy teaching in the HCOP Program College One, and in the PostBac Diagnostic Sessions and in the COE Prematriculation Program. She thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity for working with a variety of students, all with a common goal: academic excellence.

Linda is looking forward to beginning her work with a new group of students by administering and interpreting the Myers Briggs Type Indicator to all of the M1 class in September.

Out with the Old, In with the New Post-Baccalaureate Update

Congratulations to our Premedical Post-Bac students'03 - '04 who successfully matriculated into the Creighton School of Medicine on August 11, 2004. The Medical Schools “White Coat Ceremony” was held on Friday, August 13th at Joslyn Art Museum and the HS-MACA staff was on hand to give their best wishes to these new M1's.

On June 7, 2004, seven new students were accepted into the HS-MACA Premedical Post-Baccalaureate Program'04 -'05. **Jessie Barnum** (Minnesota), **Maritza Calonga** (California), **Zita Cox Larry** (Texas), **Starlette Dossou** (Nebraska), **Nnenna Igbo** (Texas), **Naly Vang** (Texas) and **Mee Yang** (California). The students completed the eight-week Summer Diagnostic Session on July 30th and will begin the Fall Academic Session on August 25th.

The Premedical Post-Baccalaureate Program is a one year course. The Office of the Vice President for Health Sciences, in collaboration with the School of Medicine, administers the Post-Baccalaureate Program while Creighton University College of Arts and Sciences' professors teach the classes.

-Mary Susan Orr
Post-Baccalaureate Coordinator

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MINORITY SCHOLARS LUNCHEON

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2004
12:00 – 1:30 p.m.
Hixson-Lied Science Building G04

*Health Sciences
Multicultural and Community Affairs
&
Center of Excellence*

Cordially invites you to OUR

OPEN HOUSE

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2004

1:45 – 3:45 p.m.

**Hixson-Lied Science Building G13
&
Criss III 258B**

