Welcome

On behalf of the Health Sciences’ Multicultural and Community Affairs team, I welcome you to the start of a great experience at Creighton University. The HS-MACA staff is dedicated to helping you not only in the academic realm, but also in assisting you to adapting to the local climate at Creighton.

The HS-MACA team embraces Creighton University’s mission:

- **As comprehensive**, Creighton’s education embraces several colleges and professional schools and is directed to the intellectual, social, spiritual, physical and recreational aspects of students’ lives and to the promotion of justice.
- Creighton exists for **students** and **learning**. Members of the Creighton community are challenged to reflect on transcendent values, including their relationship with God, in an atmosphere of freedom of inquiry, belief and religious worship.
- Service to others, the importance of family life, the inalienable worth of each individual, and appreciation of ethnic and cultural diversity are core values of Creighton."

In addition, HS-MACA identifies with the mission statements of the schools of Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy & Health Professions and Nursing that we represent. HS-MACA mission further adds “to empower Creighton University’s Health Sciences schools in the training and development of future leaders in healthcare to serve the needs of an increasing multicultural community.” All the programs that we offer can be viewed at [www.creighton.edu/hsmaca/](http://www.creighton.edu/hsmaca/).

As you begin your education at Creighton University, I encourage you to actualize these ideals and contribute to the mission by joining student organizations, participating in the HS-MACA mentoring, tutoring, “pipeline” programs and community activities. The HS-MACA team is here to help you succeed. With your positive attitude, willing participation and hard work, we can make it happen.

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

Nelson Mandela
Introducing Class of 2009 Pre-Dental Students

Coletta Hollingsworth, BS
Please join us in welcoming the Post Bac class of 2009

Sharitha Anderson
Illinois

Adetowun Alimi
Illinois

Ryan Ino
Hawaii

Tamra Jones
New Mexico

Long Nguyen
Kansas

Tracy Charging Crow
Nebraska

Chelsea Wiggins
Washington
Class of 2008-2009 Pre-Medical Students

Kaliko Gouveia
Hawaii

Natasha Pyform
Nebraska

Jamil Neme
Michigan

Chris Okwuosa
California

Sandy Lieu
California

Hanna Tuong-Lengo
Florida

India Robinson
Georgia
My name is Tamra Jones and I am "Red-Running-Into-The-Water Clan" born for the "Water's Edge Clan". This is how I was taught to introduce myself in my native culture. I am from the Diné (Navajo) tribe.

I am a participant in the Creighton Dental Post-Baccalaureate Program and my experience thus far has been an eye opener. I came to Creighton with an idea of what to expect, to work hard and to achieve my ultimate goal of becoming a dentist: this program has exceeded all of my expectations.

It was a shock at first, the work-load and pace, but once a routine was established I found comfort with the other students in my program. The common passion to help people that we all share has connected us and brought us together as a group. I feel I have made vast improvements on my academics, and each week I see how this program is preparing me for the next four years in Dental School. I was truly honored when my classmates elected me the class leader for the pre-dental group.

The work load is intense. We have shadowing in the clinic on Fridays, tests each week, team-building, cultural awareness, and analytical reading; along with the basic science classes at an accelerated pace. We even have a Saturday morning perceptual ability class. I know that this experience is pushing me beyond my limits, and yet I am surprising myself with my level of improvement.

The most challenging obstacle so far has been being away from the familiar setting of home in New Mexico and establishing a new support system at Creighton, both of which I believe the Health Sciences-Multicultural and Community Affairs program has helped do for me.

I was speechless when I first heard about the Robert Wood Foundation and its purpose. It seemed like I was a perfect match for this program, and when Creighton took the lead and accepted me into this program, I knew this was my path to dental school. It is such an honor and blessing to have the support and investment of this grant, which seeks to address health disparities seen in the oral health of Native Americans. When times are difficult, I think about the investment that has been made in me, and knowing I have a tribe that is waiting for a dentist to call their own.

Once I finish at Creighton, I plan to return to the Navajo Nation and serve my native people. I have always known my ultimate goal was to serve my people. When I shadowed at Indian Health Service clinics and saw how much encouragement and enthusiasm I received from the patients, assistants, and dentists, I knew that this was my path. I was also blessed to have a wonderful dentist to mentor me, a female Navajo dentist.

I am so blessed to be at Creighton and supported by the Robert Wood Foundation. I cannot give enough thanks to those who have made this dream come true for me.

Ahéhee’ (Thank you)
It is already November and the Post-Baccalaureate pre-meds have spent a seemingly short five months together. Our rigorous schedule has kept us on the grind as we contend with our beloved science, reading, and Kaplan courses. And now a new fiend, old man winter, looms on the horizon, which does not fare well with our California, Florida, and Georgia natives.

These past few months, however, have offered the opportunity for a unique experience, and a glimpse of great things to come. The seven of us come from various backgrounds and reach from all corners of the US and it has been quite rewarding working with such a diverse and bright group, all centered on a common goal. When we actually managed to get out of our abode in the HS-MACA office, we have toured numerous restaurants and had several outings. Perhaps a highlight thus far has been the bowling out west and the salsa dancing at Espana, wallflowers and left feet were exposed. We are working out a good balance of academics, stress relief, and personalities and the rest of the program looks very promising.

On a final note, our modelesque, marathon-running, power-lifting crew is ready to challenge anyone on the track, in the gym, and most importantly in the books. Also...GO BLUE!!!
A Conversation with God

by

Hannah Tongo-Longo

Pre-Medical Postbac
Class of 2009

What am I lacking? I lack in so much, but I’m okay with it.
Because if I search for truth and wisdom
God will grant them.
I ask you God what is my purpose?
What would you have me do?
Direct me and I will follow.
I will go where you take me.
I will bear whatever yolk you will have me carry.
For I know with you I am most content.
I am most alive.
I am most within the deep blue peace that is you.

I want to love more.
I want to know more.
I want to experience more.
I want to help more.
I just want to be who I really am more.
I have a dream, a vision to help my people.
Is that my path?
Health is love.

You created us from this earth, from this dirt.
And that is what we are.
Nothing more nothing less.
Life sustaining dirt.
Yet, you gave your breath to us.
All of us from the same breath.
I am from you and I am a part of we.
My soul, our soul, one breath.

I just really want Lord, to contribute, to give, to enhance this breath that we have
before I finish my sojourn and return home.
I am here to do something.
So I will listen and watch for your direction.
I will strive, using your breath, to move this dirt towards excellence.
I cannot stifle myself anymore.
I cannot return to discontent.
I will change Lord.
I want to transcend towards you Father.
And exhale your breath of love, wisdom and truth.
I will be a doctor Father.
I will build my healing center.
I will grow Father.

So I pray Lord for blessings.
I pray that I see the fruits of my efforts.
As the rain washes away the top layer of soil
and reveals fresh, rich soil
so I pray, that here at Creighton, I am bathed by your light
so that I am revealed as your breath,
wise, truthful, and loving.
Creighton University School of Dentistry Class of 2010

To say that my time in dental school has been a great experience would be an understatement. In my time at Creighton School of Dentistry, I have found many ways to further myself by learning career skills, giving back to the community, and forging lifetime relationships.

In my time as a dental student, I have truly learned to appreciate all the knowledge and skills needed to become a competent and caring dentist. The term “Molar Mechanic”, dubbed by individuals who are on the outside of the dental world looking in, does not describe, in any way, the type of dentists that a Creighton education produces. From dental anatomy to oral pathology to emergency patient care, Creighton leaves no topic unturned and makes sure that their student dentists are ready and meticulous in their care of patients. Learning to take into consideration all the variables makes me believe that Creighton is, undoubtedly, readying me for the real world as much as possible.

Creighton also offers many opportunities to give back to the community. Creighton has made service a tradition that has been upheld for more than 100 years. Whether it is helping the underserved or less fortunate or informing elementary school kids of the importance of good oral hygiene, Creighton makes sure that every student has the opportunity to give back to their community.

While the education aspect of dental school is, without a question, an important part of the Creighton experience, I also believe that the bonds that one forges during our four years are just as important. The bonds that are made with classmates, faculty and patients are what make Creighton a unique experience. Years from now, I am confident that I will still be in contact with many of the individuals I have befriended throughout my four years at Creighton. Friendships with fellow students make the ride toward graduation easier, as one knows that you can talk to someone who is going or has gone through the same thing. To a certain extent, faculty members also know what students are going through as well and are most times sympathetic to our plight. After all, they have been through what we have and have many times offered great advice on areas that we struggle with. The bonds with patients might be one of the most satisfying relationships that one can create during the clinic experience. While it was quite daunting to know that you are responsible for all of your patients’ dental needs, it is, at the same time, satisfying to know that you are helping your patients and that your work is making a difference in their lives. That feeling drives me to push harder than I did the day before to produce high quality work for each and every patient.

Being a Creightonian for over 7 years including my undergraduate years, I can say that the most exciting times of my life have been within the last few years as I have learned and experienced so much of what the dental profession has to offer. While my past experiences have been my inspiration to strive to be the best dentist I can, I believe that I will learn and experience even more as I go on through the next one year, 209 days, four hours, and 38 seconds of my dental education and career. It is safe to say that Creighton School of Dentistry is where I am meant to be as well as where I want to be.
TaSheitha Anazia, MHA  
Creighton SNMA President  
Creighton University Medical School Class of 2011

This school year, Creighton’s chapter of the Student National Medical Association (SNMA) has been off to a great start. We started with a renewed focus on carrying out the mission of SNMA. In addition, we sought to operate within a vision for taking the organization to the next level. The tenets of our vision for the organization and corresponding progress are outlined below.

Cohesive, mission-driven leadership
This school year, we desire a group of officers that are a team – cohesive, driven, and committed to our common cause, which is to support the mission of SNMA. After electing a full slate of officers, our chapter held a leadership retreat, where officers were able to get to know each other as well as assess what each could bring to the table in SNMA. In addition, we discussed officer responsibilities and brainstormed projects for the school year.

Continued service excellence
Creighton SNMA seeks to continue its excellent service record. This year, we want to narrow the scope of our service work to have the greatest impact as well as refocus on the national service protocols for guidance. To realign our service work with the national protocols, all officers are educated on the national service protocols and are committed to presenting related services opportunities to our members. At the core of SNMA’s service work is our mentoring program, which is organized in collaboration with HS-MACA. This year we hope to build on the previous success and provide an enhanced experience for pre-medical students being mentored.

Improved local, regional, and national involvement
We would like to collaborate more with the UNMC chapter. This could mean joint service projects or meetings in the future. Thus far, we have attended a mixer at UNMC and invited several of their SNMA members to attend a workshop that was offered by Creighton SNMA. In terms of regional involvement, our chapter has supported a representative to attend both the chapter leadership workshop and regional conference. We will also have representation at the national conference in New Orleans next spring. Reconnecting our chapter with the larger SNMA network is an excellent way to see what other chapters around the nation are doing.

Enhanced professional development of members
SNMA also wants to enhance the professional development of our members. We are doing this by having special topics workshops with guest speakers as well as seek to establish a connection with local, practicing physicians, who are already working and might have insight and wisdom to share with our members in an informal setting. Our first special topics workshop was in October, and our members were able to learn about financial planning from a professional financial advisor. In the future, we plan to continue providing opportunities for members’ professional development.

In the spirit of continuous improvement, Creighton SNMA seeks to live out our vision for this school year. In doing so, we have over 50 active members devoted to ensuring the highest quality of service is performed and the best programming is made available. Moreover, there is an incredible amount of energy and excitement within our organization. With that energy, we will take Creighton SNMA to the next level!
The Vietnamese Student Organization, (V.S.O.) as it is commonly referred, is an organization with the purpose of exploring and understanding the Vietnamese culture. The diversity of our members has pushed this exploration into various other cultures as well. This is accomplished through a series of meetings, social gatherings, and the planning of the Tet, also known as the Vietnamese New Year festival.

Meetings are held roughly once a month, usually over the lunch hour period, with food being provided. It is then that we gather to speak about upcoming social gatherings. These social gatherings consist of movie nights in which a Vietnamese film may be shown, dinner at a Vietnamese restaurant, or even a day to kick back and play some games. This allows the students to get better acquainted with one another.

The meetings also provide time to plan the events at the Vietnamese New Year festival. The Vietnamese New Year operates off of the lunar calendar cycle which usually lands at the end of January to the beginning of February. Don’t let the name fool you, the festival is rather eclectic, drawing on various talents and strengths from the diverse members of the V.S.O. This allows anyone who joins the chance to contribute regardless of cultural differences. For example, last year’s Tet festival showcased two lovely V.S.O. members singing songs of a French and Ukraine descent.

To conclude, the V.S.O. has evolved into a more culturally diverse group with a desire to embrace not only the Vietnamese culture, but to embrace other cultures as well.
The recruiting season has begun for most of the schools. In October 2008 the Office of Health Sciences - Multicultural and Community Affairs partner with the School of Dentistry and Medicine to begin the season in the Florida region, connecting with health profession advisors and students interested in a health career. The Recruitment and Retention Manager, Garland Jarmon, Director of Admissions and Dr. Greg Davis, Professor of Dentistry visited four schools in Florida. Florida State University in Tallahassee, where Robert Borger, Academic Advisor and 13 students came out to engage with us. Four students applied to the School of Dentistry and one applicant for Medicine. On Monday evening, October 6th at Florida A&M University also located in Tallahassee the team presented to a group of 75 students organized by Professor Letina Banks, Health Profession Advisor. The team drove two hours to conduct an Information Session at the request of Robert Kang, Academic Advisor from the University of Florida in Gainesville on Tuesday, October 7th where 20 students and 3 advisors attended. The final leg of the trip the team headed to Miami, Florida to speak with Alpha Epsilon Delta,a honors student organization interested in health profession at the University of Miami. The team was met by the Vice President of the organization and spent 2 hours with 43 students presenting all health sciences schools.

The following week October 13 – 17 the Recruitment Manager traveled to the Virginia area to host an Information Session for Virginia Commonwealth University Dental Society where 21 students were introduced to Creighton University School of Dentistry. The Manager participated in two Graduate Professional fairs at Virginia Union University in Richmond and Hampton University in Hampton, Virginia. Virginia Union University fair was disappointing but an opportunity to meet with Dr. Anthony C. Madu, Associate Professor and Director of Minority Access to Research Careers Undergraduate Student Training in Academic Research MARC U*Star Program and Phillip Wesley Archer, Associate Professor in the Department of Natural Sciences who will start some new inroads to health profession students at Virginia Union. We participated in the Hampton University Graduate and Professional Fair where 19 students showed interest in our programs. Presented and conducted mock interviews to 29 students in the medical science program. Hampton’s program is a two-year post-baccalaureate, degree-granting program where upon completion students receive a Master of Science degree.

**HEALTH SCIENCES**

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*Adapted from Vice President Health Science School report (July 2008)*
Since October 2004, Creighton University Medical Center has been the recipient of $1,875,000 from the National Institute of Health (NIH) to increase Creighton’s capacity to train students in public health research. With this funding, Creighton University established a Community-Oriented Primary Care (COPC) Public Health Research Endowment. This endowment financially supports HS-MACA’s Common Ground program, a summer and longitudinal research component, tutoring services for medical students, and medical student scholarships.

Common Ground has been underway every Friday afternoon during the academic year and the attendance has been fantastic! Sixty-three individuals attended at least one Common Ground session in 2007-08 with an average of 17 attendees per session. So far this year, attendance is up with an average of 21 attendees per session. Topics have ranged from Working with Legal Counsel, Public Health Military Style, Health Disparities Research projects, Recruitment for Diversity in the Health Sciences, and cultural case studies.

During the summer of 2008, three students participated in the stipend supported COPC Summer Research program. These students finalized their participation by submitting a write-up of their experience and presenting at Common Ground. Nnamdi Otuwa’s project was conducted with Dr. Perez-Tamayo, a cardio-thoracic surgeon at John H. Stoger Jr. Hospital in Cook County. Gregg Anazia did his research entitled “Relationship between Acceptance of Illness and Functional Outcomes Following Cardiac Rehabilitation” with Dr. Thomas Guck. TaSheitha Anazia conducted her research project “The Impact of Ethnicity with Respect to the Quality Measures for Diabetes Mellitus” with Dr. Anna Maio.

For the first time in September 2008, seven COPC scholarships were awarded in a total
In my position as an Air Force Reservist, I and many members of the 934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron (based out of Minneapolis MN) deployed to Suriname, South America July 25-Aug 11th. This was in support of the United States Southern Command’s mission known as Beyond the Horizon. Beyond the Horizon is a joint partnership between the U.S. and several Central and South American countries whose aim is to provide humanitarian assistance to the people of those regions. Our role was to work alongside the Surinamese military to provide dental, eye, veterinarian, pharmaceutical and general health care to the people (and animals) of Suriname. Suriname is a small nation that lies just above the equator and shares a border with Brazil. It’s a nation full of thick rain forests, exotic animals and one of the most richly diverse cultures in the western hemisphere. The people were friendly, generous and gracious, making it a true pleasure to team up with their military and provide the healthcare they needed.

For two weeks we provided care to over 4,100 patients. There were no speed limits or stop lights anywhere we traveled. Typically it took us about an hour to go 15 miles. Many of the people we saw walked miles and miles and waited all night to receive treatment. An average day consisted of early morning bus rides along extremely war torn roads to a vacant school building, which each day was converted into a field clinic. Supplies were offloaded at each location as the group worked frantically every morning to turn classrooms into dental offices, pharmacies, physician offices, and administrative offices. Once the site was set up, the doors opened and the patients came in droves. In the midst of hot, tropical days, we worked tirelessly to give care to as many patients as possible. Our dental team, which consisted of two dentists and two techs, saw over 350 patients and extracted over 700 teeth.

We relied heavily on the Surinamese military for translation as well as to guide us in interacting with the local population. The Surinamese medics were a valuable resource when it came to patient flow, force protection and cultural barriers. At the end of each day, we packed up the hospital supplies and left the site for our home base. The evenings were spent discussing the day’s events and reporting to higher headquarters needed information. Our days typically began at 4:00 a.m. and lasted until 10:30 p.m. We traveled to five different locations in the eastern part of Suriname to include the villages of Siparipabo, Moengo, Moengo Tapu, and Albina.

During our short time there, some of the Surinamese medics fell ill with Shigellosis, a food and water-borne illness usually caused by poor hygiene. Realizing they had the opportunity to possibly educate and prevent another outbreak, our public health team inspected the Surinamese living quarters and found such discrepancies as thawed and refrozen foods, shared water bottles, lack of soap, use of contaminated river water and generally poor hygiene practices, especially when it came to hand washing. Our providers gave several impromptu classes on field hygiene in response.

Following are the details of our mission:

- Total Patients seen in 10 days=4,180
- General Medicine Adults=1,635
- General Medicine Peds (13 and under)=960
- Optometry Adults=978
- Optometry Peds (13 and under)=180
- Glasses Dispensed=576
- Dental Adults=358
- Dental Peds (13 and under)= 69
- Teeth Extracted=871
Good fortune has befallen Creighton’s office of Health Sciences’ Multicultural and Community Affairs (HS-MACA) in the receipt of $1.05 million in Health Resources Service Administration (HRSA) funding. The Health Career Opportunities Programs funded by HRSA are sometimes referred to as “pipeline” programs. Their intent is to increase minority student interest in, and academic preparation for, health professions training and programs in the educational “pipeline” (education prior to health professions training).

HS-MACA will use HRSA funding to continue its focus on students in the sixth grade and proceeding through the high school and college years. The Pipeline to Success program has two components. The pre-professional program targets students from the 6th grade to college while the Saturday Academy component focuses on 11th grade students.

Pipeline to Success at Creighton University is poised to effectively impact the Healthy People 2010 objectives by increasing the number of well trained diverse health professionals who will provide culturally proficient care to the nation’s underserved.

The Association of American Medical Colleges has noted that while racial and ethnic minorities make up 25 percent of the U.S. population, only 12 percent of students graduating from our nation’s medical schools are from these groups. This program is a step toward remediying some of this disparity.

The program supports the mission and core values of Creighton University – “service to others, the importance of family life, the inalienable worth of each individual, and appreciation of ethnic and cultural diversity.” The long term goals address bridging the gap in local and national disparities in healthcare and delivery.

For more information about the program, please contact HS-MACA at 402 280 2332.

**HEALTH CAREERS CLUB FOR STUDENTS IN GRADES 6-8**

In July 2008, HS-MACA was awarded a $62,000 (over 2 years) grant through the College Access Challenge Grant Program: State Grants Program, the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education (CCPE) of Nebraska. The CCPE is an agency whose mission is to promote sound policies for Nebraska’s institutions of higher learning and they are committed to an educational environment that exemplifies equality and fairness to all people.

These funds will be used to implement a Health Careers Club for 200 middle school students to increase awareness of health and wellness issues and to increase the exposure of and interest in health careers. At a time when funding for important programs like this is scarce, these monies represent a triumph for promising youngsters and those who would otherwise have limited opportunities to explore careers in medicine and science.

For more information about the program, please contact HS-MACA at 402 280 2332.
Jimmy Kamau is originally from Kenya. He is married and has three children. Mr. Kamau attended Hesston College in Kansas, Goshen College in Indiana, and Indiana University, where he earned his Masters degree in Public Administration with a concentration in Health System Administration in 1986. Recently, Jimmy received a Masters Degree in Public Health from George Washington University in Washington, DC.

Prior to joining Creighton University, Mr. Kamau worked at Howard University College of Medicine, Department of Community Health and Family Practice from 1989-1997, George Washington University School of Public Health from 1998-2007, and Fairfax County Health Department in Virginia, 2007-2008.

Mr. Kamau has over fifteen years of management experience. He will provide operational management to the Department and its programs. He will also assist with research activities when and where needed.

Mark E. Patten, Sr. is a native of Omaha and a single father of three teenagers. He is also a graduate of Central High School “Class of 79”. Mark graduated from UNO with a BS in Communication and a Master's Degree in Public Administration. Mark is a volunteer track coach for the North Omaha Boys & Girls Club and a certified HIV/AIDS & STD prevention counselor. His hobbies include reading, sports and astronomy.

Arthur Lee Stallworth III oldest of two, graduate from Omaha North in 02', graduate of Creighton with BA in Psychology in 06', will receive Masters in biomedical sciences in 12/08. Member of Phi Beta Sigma fraternity, self-proclaimed "cool" nerd, loves video games, basketball, and football.
Congratulations to Dr. Kosoko-Lasaki on the publication of her latest book, “Cultural Proficiency in Addressing Health Disparities” by Jones and Bartlett Publishers. You may find information about the book on the website http://www.jbpub.com/catalog/9780763751746/ Co-authors are Richard L. O’Brien, MD from the Center for Health Policy and Ethics and Cynthia T. Cook, PhD, an ex-Creighton faculty member in the College of Arts and Science. In addition you may recognize many Creighton University and Nebraska contributors including Father John Schlegel, the President of Creighton University who wrote the book’s forward.

Sade Kosoko-Lasaki
Cynthia T. Cook
Richard L. O’Brien
"To empower Creighton University’s Health Sciences schools in the training and development of future leaders in healthcare to serve the needs of an increasing multicultural community."

HS-MACA will be recognized and respected for excellence in underrepresented student recruitment, retention and educational outreach opportunities that promote cultural proficiency and address health disparities.
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