

## NEWS ITEMS & EVENTS

Today, 4-6 p.m., is the next All-University Reception. The event will be held in the University Dining Room. George Giehl, vice president for administration and finance, is the host.

Today through Sunday, Jan. 24, the Creighton University Retreat Center is hosting the second annual Alumni/Staff Men's Retreat. For more information or reservations, call the Center at (712) 778-2466.

Today through Friday, March 5, noon-4 p.m., an exhibition of new paintings by Jamaican artist Cecil Cooper will be on display in the Lied Art Gallery. The Creighton Lied Art Gallery is located on the Main Floor of the Lied Education Center for the Arts, 24th & Cass Streets. The paintings have been on display since Jan. 13.

Tuesday, Jan. 26, 3-4 p.m., the next meeting of the Sexual Orientation Task Force will be held in the University College Conference Room. The meetings are open to all interested staff, faculty, students and administrators. Call Cathy Pedersen at 280-2205 for more information.

Thursday, Jan. 28, Gregory Finch, a retirement counselor with Fidelity Investments, will be on campus for individual consultations. He will be discussing retirement options and strategies. To schedule an appointment, call Fidelity at (800) 642-7131.

Tickets are now on sale for Opera Omaha's production of Verdi's "Aida." Discounted prices range from \$9 to \$36. Performances are Feb. 3, 5 and 7. Call 280-1705 for more information.

Compiled by Kamahria Hopkins.

### The Creightonian

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## CollegeSide provides link to metro colleges Web site offers new e-mail access

By STEPHANIE KIDD  
NEWS EDITOR

What originated as a Web site for a Kiewit Residence Hall floor has transformed into a convenient way for Creighton students to check their e-mail accounts while away from campus.

Arts & Sciences sophomore YuChing Chiang brainstormed with University of Nebraska at Omaha sophomore Frank Mitchell last summer about a Web site that could establish a local community of college students.

Chiang adapted his old Web site to CollegeSide, a Web site he and Mitchell established as a way for college students to connect with other students.

The most popular link from the CollegeSide site, according to Chiang and Mitchell, is the Web e-mail page. This page provides a means for Creighton and UNO students to check their telnet e-mail on the Internet.

"Students want a way to check their e-mail over breaks, when they are away from their computers," Chiang said. "With CollegeSide, they can."

"We figured we would use something like this if someone else had created it, so we wanted to get it up for other students to use," Mitchell said.

Chiang and Mitchell estimate that more than 500 individuals use CollegeSide weekly, mostly for e-mail.

The site is maintained by Chiang and Mitchell, both graduates of Bellevue West High School, and a number of other Creighton University and Bellevue West High School students.

Chiang and Mitchell said Creighton's Web site managers took their suggestion and a new Webmail site linked to Creighton's homepage currently is being tested.

CollegeSide also provides other services for college students. Students can use CollegeSide to buy, sell and trade used books at the Book Exchange or buy new books online from a book warehouse to save time and money.

The site also features a professor evaluation page where students can post

comments to post a syllabus, assignments or practice quizzes. It also offers a calendar for campus organizations to inform their members of upcoming events. Mitchell said the Virtual Office is easy to manage and can be updated with or without help from him or Chiang.

Aside from new options for students, Mitchell said he also hopes to expand their numbers through involvement of other college campuses. He said he hopes to involve Omaha colleges like Bellevue University and Metropolitan Community College, as well as the University of Nebraska at Lincoln and University of Nebraska at Kearney.

With the increase in number of users, Chiang said he is excited about expanding the options on the site. Future ideas include:

- an art gallery for Creighton art students to show their work
- bulletin boards for campus organizations
- a Student Board of Governors page to advertise events and receive feedback for policy ideas
- posters for sale through the site

Presently, however, Mitchell and Chiang said they are content just to gain experience through the upkeep of the site.

"Right now it is just about us gaining the skills and experience," Mitchell said.

### Web sites:

<http://www.collegeside.com>  
<http://www.creighton.edu/webmail>

Contact this reporter at:  
skidd@creighton.edu

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Students want a way to  
check their e-mail over  
breaks... With CollegeSide  
they can.

YuChing Chiang  
Arts & Sciences Sophomore

””

comments about Creighton and UNO professors for other students to read before class schedules are chosen.

Students can use CollegeSide to calculate their GPA, read jokes and funny stories, search the Internet or find links to sites Mitchell and Chiang believe are of interest to college students.

They recently added a virtual office, which Mitchell said they hope will encourage more faculty members to use the site as well as help students organize their schedules. It features a way for fac-

## Online registration aims for convenience

By MONICA KINGERY  
COPY EDITOR

University Registrar John A. Kreczek panicked when late last September he received a notification that Voice FX, Creighton's telephone registration service provider, was quitting the telephone registration business.

Kreczek said Voice FX indicated it would stop servicing Creighton's registration as of Dec. 31, 1998. At that point, Kreczek was worried that there was not sufficient time to develop a new program before spring registration. He convinced Voice FX to stay on through the drop/add period, which ended Jan. 19.

The Creightonian first brought the story to students last October. At that time, a Web registration system was predicted to be ready to go in the spring of 1999. It arrived a bit early.

Some students already have tried out the new system which was up and running this past week on the Internet.

An announcement was put on Jaynet

on the Web site and print it out. News Jan. 8, and in just over a week the registration site had over 1,600 hits. Students using the new system were able to go through the drop/add procedure by simply following a few simple steps.

Kreczek said that the registrar's office had not received much feedback as to how the system worked for those students, which he takes as a good sign.

"If something is bad," he said, "you hear about it." A few minor kinks found have already been worked out.

Arts & Sciences sophomore Andrew Brooks called the new system wonderful. "I just jumped on the computer and was able to add a class without the hassle of going all the way to the registrar's office and then to my teacher to get permission. And it was very easy to follow," he said.

Kreczek said that saving time was a major goal of the new system.

"The key is to have a system that is convenient so students can use it right when they need it," he said. If you ever need a copy of your semester schedule, it is no longer necessary to trek all the way to the Registrar's office. Simply pull it up

on the Web site and print it out. Some students did not need to use the system this past week, but are looking forward to using it this spring.

Business Administration sophomore Jay Langhurst said he is excited to check it out in April. He said it appears to be "an effective tool to streamline the registration process."

That is exactly what the University was going for. Students can quickly go back and forth from the registration menu to the schedule of courses. Also, when the student's desired section is full, alternate sections automatically appear.

There is one change that seems to make students happy. "We won't have to listen to credit card announcements," Langhurst said.

Entry into the registration menu will remain the same. Timed registration appointments as well as personal identification numbers for each student still are necessary.

For now, Voice FX will continue providing grade reports to Creighton students. However, Kreczek said it is a long term goal for the Web site to provide this service.

Another longterm goal Kreczek hopes to implement is providing a complete course history for students.

When registering to take aptitude tests such as the MCAT and LSAT, stu-

## CU experts s

By KIM ROBERTS  
REPORTER

A world without Down's Syndrome. A world where babies born without a kidney could simply grow another one. A world where no one would discover their limbs and minds slowly degenerating from Parkinson's disease.

It sounds like utopia for the millions of Americans affected by these and other genetic diseases, but some, like theologian and Grace University president Dr. James Eckman, are afraid a world without genetic diseases could end up more like Nazi Germany.

Hope and concern arise from the Human Genome Project.

In 1990 the federal government began a project to map humanity's most basic units - the 3 billion chemical bases that form DNA. The DNA then forms genes - humans have about 80,000 - that are information logs that determine, among many other things, personality, appearance and health.

Once completed, the project may give scientists that ability to identify, treat and prevent genetic diseases.

In an effort to prepare Nebraska for the impact of such life-changing technology, governor Ben Nelson formed the Nebraska Commission on Human Genetic Technologies. The commission, headed by medical ethicist Dr. Ruth Purtilo of Creighton University, is made up of about 25 people who include geneticists, theologians, lawyers and insurance agents.

"Their mission is to form a set of principles that will guide lawmakers to make ethical decisions concerning genetics. The commission's report says, "[Our] central purpose is to encourage uses of human genetic technologies that contribute to the improvement of the human condition while assuring the protection of fundamental human rights."

It is those rights that have committee members like Eckman worried.

"Once the Human Genome Project is done, the knowledge we will have can be used for the manipulation and control of genes to a level we've never known," Eckman said.

Eckman and others acknowledge that many benefits will come from the findings, but they are worried that once scientists understand the genome code, it will

be theorized that superior race hands or edge code.

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