In the morning, Krista gets time to relax and draw. Drawing is something that Krist has been passionate about for many years.

Working to Find a Balance
Creighton student learns to manage her time

9:30 am, biology. 10:30, life drawing. 11:30, break for lunch. 12:30, time to ride at the barn. 4:30, work begins. 10:00 pm, homework begins. 3:00 am, time for bed. And in the morning it all starts over again. The life of a college student is complicated. With school taking priority over all other obligations sometimes students get lost in the pressure of things. For Krista Forti, school is still her top priority but only one of her many obligations that fills her everyday life.

Krista was born and raised in Crystal Lake, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago, so the idea of constant hustle and bustle is no new thing to her. Being Pre-Med as a Biology/Studio Art co-major Krista often finds herself drawn back by the pressure of not only balancing a hectic school schedule, but also a rigorous work schedule. “Two jobs and school is not easy. Everyone expects themselves to be first and I just have to remind myself that school has to take priority” she said when talking about her work time schedules.

Krista works at Famous Dave’s as a waitress and also at Quail Run farm in Elkhorn maintaining the barn. Along with working nights at the restaurant and two days a week at the farm she is also enrolled in 17 credit hours and still maintains a vibrant social life. With classes that are so time consuming and a work schedule occupying over thirty hours a week, Krista says that it is hard to find time to kick back her feet and relax. “Sometimes I just need to turn my brain off, but I have become so used to the schedule, it is not easy, but I almost always have to be doing something. I guess I am a good multi-tasker” said Krista.

From playing the guitar to relaxing at the bar Krista also knows how to keep a little bit of sanity in between all her hectic obligations. “As soon as Friday hits I am no longer a student, but once Sunday rolls back around I have to get back into the swing of things” she says.

For Krista, balancing school, work, hobbies and friends has become easier as the year has progressed on. For Krista it is not so much about the stress of classes, but rather the reward that will come in the end.

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In her free time Krista enjoys playing the guitar and taking time for herself.

Photographs & Story by Courtney Wittmann