

CREIGHTON

FALL 2022 • Volume 38 | Issue 2



Where All Streams Meet

The Jérôme Nadal, SJ, Jesuit Residence will stand at the heart of campus



Extending Creighton's Mission

In this season of giving, I am especially grateful for the many gifts that support and encourage our students, providing them with opportunities to explore and discover more about themselves and the unique gifts they bring to the world.

Our recently opened \$100 million health sciences campus in Phoenix welcomed a physical therapy program this fall to go along with our four-year medical school and existing programs in nursing, pharmacy, and occupational therapy.

We also welcomed our first class of Next Generation Leaders, thanks to \$5.4 million in scholarship support. I expect great things from these 32 freshmen who represent 13 states and a wonderfully diverse racial and ethnic makeup.

The gift of global and personal discovery – connecting decades of students so meaningfully with the people and culture of the Dominican Republic – celebrates a milestone this year, with the 50th anniversary of the Institute for Latin American Concern.

And, this fall, we announced that our new freshman residence hall will be named Graves Hall, in recognition of a \$12 million lead gift from Lee Graves, BSBA'80, JD'83, and his wife, Judy, and our new Jesuit residence would be named for early Jesuit Jérôme Nadal, SJ. Both facilities will open in fall 2023 and embrace and reflect our Jesuit mission.

In addition, our stunning new five-story, \$75 million CL Werner Center for Health Sciences Education continues to rise and take shape on the northwest side of campus. In dramatic fashion, a covered walkway, elevated over Burt Street, was installed this fall, connecting the new facility with our health sciences programs in the Criss Buildings and the Hixson-Lied Science Building. The CL Werner Center is also set to open in fall 2023.

These, and other gifts, add to our University's exciting momentum and support and extend our mission, directly impacting our students.

I am certainly deeply moved and inspired when, during my visits across the country, our alumni share personal stories of how Creighton has made a difference in their lives and they voice their desire to give back. I hear of the excitement of a young alumni couple making their first \$5,000 gift to the Creighton Fund, an alumna grateful to support a scholarship fund that was influential in her journey, or a heartfelt legacy gift in remembrance of a loved one or that special professor.

To be sure, of course, scholarships are critical to our students' success, and to making a Creighton education more accessible to outstanding prospective students. With 98% of our students receiving scholarships or financial aid, scholarship support is a priority for our Forward Blue campaign.

The generosity of our alumni extends across our schools and colleges, as well as class years. Of note, we had more than 18,000 first-time donors in fiscal year 2022, and, on the flip side, 43% of our donors have given at least three times. You can read more about the campaign in the insert inside this issue.

I am grateful for the many ways our Creighton community contributes to the success of our University. I wish all of you a wonderful holiday season, a blessed Christmas, and a Happy New Year.

Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD
President

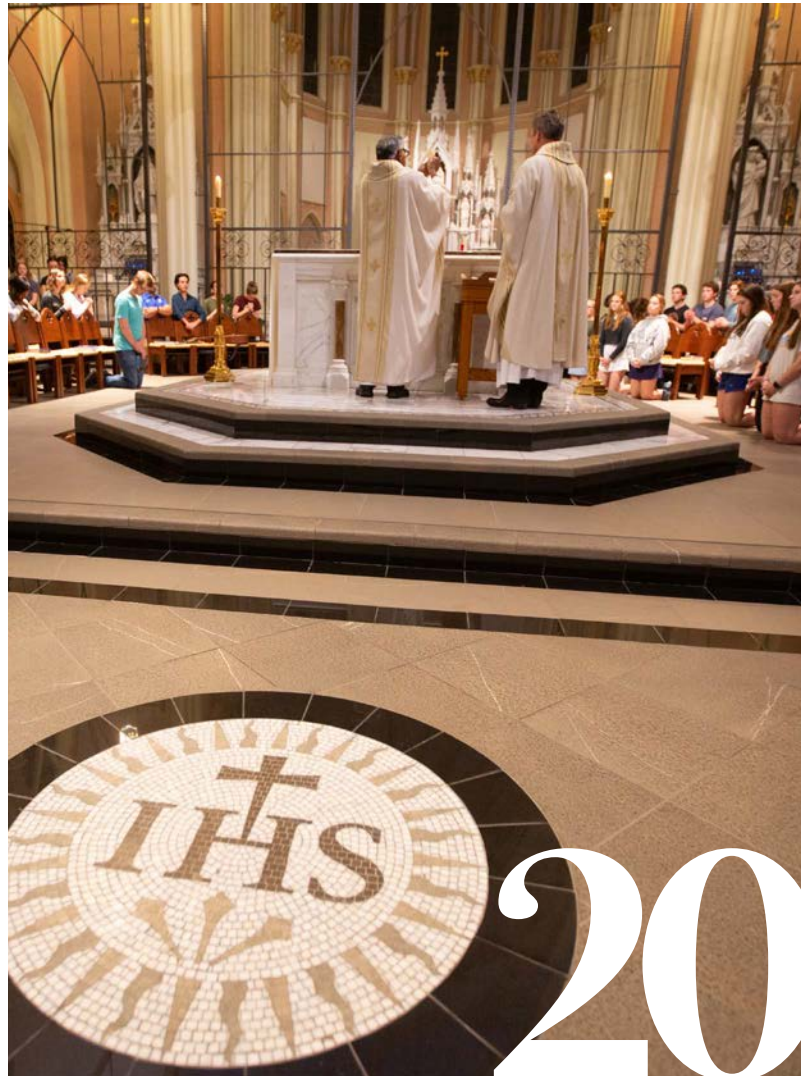


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© **ILAC at 50:** For 50 years, Creighton University has provided programming in the Dominican Republic that emphasizes the importance of global vision and understanding in educating well-rounded individuals. Pictured is the courtyard at the ILAC/ Centro de Educación para la Salud Integral (CESI) Center and the St. Omer Chapel.

Contents



on the cover
WHERE ALL STREAMS MEET

Creighton is investing in the Jesuit community, whose values and vision have guided the University's mission-driven approach to education. And with the construction of the Jérôme Nadal, SJ, Jesuit Residence, the Jesuit community will be more visible and available to students, faculty, staff and alumni.



26

AT HOME IN A GLOBAL HEALTH CAMPAIGN

Jason Beste, BS'03, MD'08, returns to his alma mater to lead the Arrupe Global Scholars and Partnerships Program, a unique and innovative global health training initiative.

4 Creighton Connections

18 The Big Question

Law professor Michael Kelly discusses whether or not Russian president Vladimir Putin could be charged with war crimes for the war in Ukraine and if precedent exists in international law.

38 Impact

To honor John, HON'97, and Maureen Mulhall, their sons, Jim, MD'83, Daniel and Sean, made a gift to the University's 24th Street Beautification Project.

39 Alumni Notes

48 Creighton Conversations

Marcus Blossom, the McCormick Endowed Athletic Director, reflects on his first year at Creighton.



28

PHOENIX BECAME HOME TO MEDICAL GRADUATES

Creighton celebrates its 10-year anniversary of educating medical students in Phoenix.



30

GETTING REAL: THE MILLENNIA-LONG QUEST FOR AUTHENTICITY

Six professors across the University speak about the meaning of authenticity, what it is and how we pursue it.



34

HEALING THROUGH THE HUMANITIES

After suffering burnout from the COVID-19 pandemic, Ingrid Berg, DO, has found a new calling in the medical humanities through Creighton's new degree program.



36

AN ENDURING MIRACLE

When he died before his special Make-a-Miracle event, 16-month-old Elliot Orion Shell was remembered by Creighton students in the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions.

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CREIGHTON MAGAZINE'S PURPOSE
 Creighton magazine, like the University itself, is committed to excellence and dedicated to the pursuit of truth in all its forms. The magazine will be comprehensive in nature. It will support the University's mission of education through thoughtful and compelling feature articles on a variety of topics. It will feature the brightest, the most stimulating, the most inspirational thinking that Creighton offers. The magazine also will promote Creighton, and its Jesuit, Catholic identity, to a broad public and serve as a vital link between the University and its constituents. The magazine will be guided by the core values of Creighton: the inalienable worth of each individual, respect for all of God's creation, a special concern for the poor and the promotion of justice.

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Researching Online ‘mobs’

BY EUGENE CURTIN

Creighton professors and their students to study the formation, growth and effectiveness of online ‘mobs’

The primary image evoked by the word “mob” probably involves hundreds of rioters storming government buildings or perhaps burning commercial districts.

How “mobs,” good or bad, form on social media, how the organizers accelerate their messages and the likelihood of mobs achieving their goals, is the subject of a \$585,000, three-year research contract recently awarded to a team that includes two Creighton professors.

Creighton undergraduate students will also be part of the ongoing research project, which aims to understand the genesis, growth and course of social media mob formation.

That undergraduate students will assist the team during the project’s three-year timeline will further

Creighton’s reputation for providing important research opportunities to undergraduates.

Undergraduates have long been a valued presence in his work, says Samer Al-khateeb, PhD, assistant professor of computer science in the College of Arts and Sciences.

“Since I joined Creighton, I have worked with five undergraduate students,” he says. “We even published a paper in an international conference with one of the students, which was about flash mobs, although the idea there was to look at how social bots affect the spread of a message.

“Undergraduates help a lot. A student who is working with me right now is doing a phenomenal job. For this study, I am planning to hire two

undergraduate students, one in computer science and hopefully one in social science.”

The study is funded by the U.S. Air Force Office of Scientific Research through the DEPSCoR program, or Department of Defense Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research.

The national security implications of understanding the process of mob formation could be profound, Al-khateeb says.

“If you understand how people coordinate a mob, then you might be able to understand how hackers will try to hack a government website, an electrical grid or make a hashtag trend,” he says.

“The idea is to understand how mobs of various types happen, what

strategies are used, and what factors contribute to mobs’ success or failure. So, if a deviant mob happens, you are prepared. Imagine, for example, that military exercises are scheduled, and some people opposed to that begin a Twitter campaign suggesting that NATO is trying to start World War III and invite people to go to the streets and attack these troops. Being able to understand how this mob is forming and the strategies used to amplify such a hashtag or to disseminate that message to a wide audience would be very useful.”

“

If you understand how people coordinate a mob, then you might be able to understand how hackers will try to hack a government website, an electrical grid or make a hashtag trend.

”

Understanding how and why cyber mobs succeed confers a better ability to respond, perhaps by creating a counter-messaging campaign, understanding better what kind of language to use, what kind of hashtag to use and even the sentiments that should be expressed.

“That is the proactive potential of understanding,” Al-khateeb says.

The research team will include Al-khateeb, Rebecca Murray, PhD, professor and associate dean of social sciences and professional programs, and Nitin Agarwal, PhD, distinguished professor and director of the Collaboratorium for Social Media and Online Behavioral Studies (COSMOS) at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

As demonstrated by the Department of Defense awarding this project to



ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2022

Carol Ketcham (administrator), Renae Sinkler-O’Gorman, BA’11, MS’20, (softball) and Megan Bober Varasteh, BS’13, (volleyball) were inducted into the Creighton Athletics Hall of Fame on Oct. 15. The all-female 2022 class continues Creighton’s celebration of the 50th anniversary of Title IX.



CYNTHIA SCHMERAL ▶

Cynthia Schmerral, EdD, MA’13, is Creighton’s new vice president of Mission and Ministry.

him, Al-khateeb has built a reputation as an expert in social networks analysis and social cyber forensics.

He arrived in the United States from Iraq in 2009 and joined the Creighton faculty in 2018 after serving 11 years at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, where he earned his PhD in computer and information sciences.

Flash mobs, online propaganda campaigns and the dissemination of misinformation across the internet by terrorist groups, trolls and cyberbots became his area of expertise after first participating in metadata investigations during his years as a PhD student.

“Back then, ISIS was very active in Iraq and Syria, and they were posting a lot of propaganda videos and pictures and recruitment messages,” he says. “At that time, I was working on a mob model based on the theory of collective action and applied the model to their network to understand how the campaign was going, how successful is it, and what are the strategies that can be used to counter their acts on social media.”

Schmerral Named VP of Mission and Ministry

Creighton University welcomed Cynthia Schmerral, EdD, MA’13, as its new vice president of Mission and Ministry on Sept. 30. Schmerral succeeds Eileen-Burke Sullivan, STD, MChrSp’84, who retired. Burke-Sullivan served as vice provost and then vice president of Mission and Ministry at Creighton since 2014.

“I am excited to welcome Dr. Schmerral to the Creighton and wider communities and to my leadership team,” said Creighton President the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD. “She is well-versed in Jesuit education and mission. For nearly 25 years, she has been a student, volunteer, employee, parishioner, and retreatant with various Jesuit apostolates.”

Schmerral was previously vice ▶

president for Mission and Ministry at Rockhurst University in Kansas City, Missouri. She was at Rockhurst for the last 15 years, and, prior to that, was an area director and then assistant director for the Jesuit Volunteer Corps: Midwest in Detroit.

She completed the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities (AJCU) Ignatian Colleagues Program in 2021. She serves on the executive committee of the board of trustees for the Ignatian Spirituality Center of Kansas City and on the board of Alpha Sigma Nu, the international Jesuit honor society.

Mission Week Looks to Hope-Filled Future

At the beginning of the academic year, Creighton hosted its third Mission Week, a series of campuswide events and opportunities to gather in community and reflect upon and celebrate the University's unique Jesuit, Catholic heritage and values. This year's theme was "Walking Toward a Hope-Filled Future," and focused on the third of four Universal Apostolic Preferences — Journeying with Youth. These

preferences serve as points of reference guiding the work of the Jesuits and lay colleagues worldwide through 2029.

Mission Week events included student speeches on hope, the Ignatian Awards luncheon, a keynote address by the Rev. Sam Sawyer, SJ, incoming editor-in-chief of *America Magazine*, and Mass of the Holy Spirit.

Another highlight was the annual Presidential Town Hall. Following the town hall, Creighton President the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD, presented the annual Kingfisher Award to Patrick Murray, PhD, professor of philosophy and the John C. Kenefick Faculty Chair in the Humanities.

The award encourages teaching humanist values across all academic disciplines and honors an outstanding person who has demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to the enduring values, principles and practices of the humanities. It is presented in partnership with the Kingfisher Institute for the Liberal Arts and Professions.

"Dr. Murray believes a leader in the humanities should engage disciplines outside the humanities. On our campus, and through his dedication and research, he has fostered interdisciplinary



TOP-RANKED UNIVERSITY

Creighton University is one of the nation's best institutions for undergraduates, according to the *Princeton Review's* "Best 388 Colleges for 2023." The *Princeton Review* cites Creighton as "a Jesuit institution that prides itself on shaping the whole person, which means that students find themselves extremely involved in academic and extracurricular activities."

© The Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD, left, and Patrick Murray, PhD, who was this year's recipient of the Kingfisher Award.

connections between the humanities and theology, natural sciences, sociology, economics, politics, environmentalism, and film," Fr. Hendrickson said.

Murray's engagement with Jesuit education goes back 56 years when he enrolled as a student at Marquette University. Following graduate work at Saint Louis University, he arrived at Creighton, where he has taught for more than 40 years.

He is among the nation's foremost authorities on the theory and philosophy of Karl Marx and has authored three books with a fourth and fifth in progress. His *Marx's Theory of Scientific Knowledge* (1988) is considered among the finest English-language contributions to the study of Marxian philosophy.

Murray has partnered with numerous local institutions and organizations, including the University of Nebraska Omaha, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Film Streams, the Omaha Public Library, the Joslyn Art Museum and the Nebraska Humanities Governor's Lecture, on topics ranging from immigration to African American history in Omaha, climate change and the social mission of Catholic universities, and the philosophy of law as it relates to race and racism.

Creighton Professor and Research Team Unearth Story of Ancient Humanity

The tooth belonged to a young girl — somewhere between 3½ and 8 years old. It was unerupted, still embedded deep within her jaw when she died in southeast Asia, in the modern country of Laos, roughly 150,000 years ago.

The girl's remains, alongside those of other ancient mammals, were washed into a cave by slow-moving water. Over the years, the remains deteriorated — even the bone — until only the tooth was left. The sediment around it hardened like concrete, and there it remained until 2018 when a team of paleontologists, bioanthropologists and archaeologists pulled it from the rock.

But from this one small tooth, scientists — including Creighton's Tyler Dunn, PhD — have been able to paint a more detailed portrait of the ancient human past. The girl belonged to a little-known group of ancient humans known as the Denisovans who, though extinct today, share DNA with modern peoples in Australia and the Pacific Islands.

"This group of human ancestors was only known previously from two other sites — one in Siberia and the other in Tibet," says Dunn, assistant professor in the Department of Medical Education and director of the anatomy lab in the School of Medicine in Omaha. "This discovery is sort of connecting the dots between where we know the fossils to be — in northern Siberia and Tibet — all the way down to islands in southeast Asia, where their modern descendants live."

Dunn, who participated in the excavation, is one of the co-authors of the study about the discovery published in the journal *Nature Communications*. News of the find has been reported in the *New York Times*, *National Geographic* and elsewhere.

The find, Dunn says, will likely result in a renewed scientific interest in southeast Asia, a region that's long been overlooked due to decades of war and conflict.

The Denisovans, Dunn says, remain a mystery in many ways. The only evidence they've left has been found in the form of scattered bone fragments — a jawbone, a finger bone and some long bone pieces — and teeth. So, creating a picture of what their faces looked like or how they behaved is difficult.

What experts do know has been drawn from studying ancient DNA and proteins left in the bones and teeth, which tell scientists that Denisovans were similar to the more well-known Neanderthals.

"Something that I think is super cool, is that a lot of this work wouldn't have been possible even five years ago," Dunn says. "To study ancient variation, especially when DNA is poorly preserved, we



© Tyler Dunn, PhD, holds the ancient tooth of a young girl who lived in southeast Asia some 150,000 years ago.

use something called proteomics. Some folks in the Department of Biomedical Sciences at Creighton are using this method, which examines protein signatures to understand modern biology. For this project, we're applying it to remains that are 100,000 or 150,000 years old. We're able to extract these ancient proteins and get an idea of who these people were."

Dunn's own research interests lie at the intersection of modern and ancient human anatomy. In the School of Medicine, he teaches anatomy to medical students, as well as courses on the social determinants of health, including the medical humanities elective "Is Race Real: Racialization in Science and Medicine."

The through line in his work, he says, is variation in human anatomy and how those differences have played out socially through different eras of the human experience.

It is perhaps a concept that becomes more relevant the deeper you go in human history, he says. During the time of the Laos tooth, there were as many as seven distinct human groups existing in southeast Asia.

"Variation and diversity are things that need to be appreciated in our modern context as different lived experiences are coming together," Dunn says. "That's directly applicable to the ancient past. There were multiple ways of living in the ancient world, as this tooth shows us."



Health Care in 3D

Knowledge Donor Program Accelerates Learning on Phoenix Campus

At Creighton, there is dignity among the dead.

“We use the term ‘cadaver’ very, very sparingly,” says Kayla Gray, director of the anatomy lab at the Creighton University Health Sciences Campus – Phoenix. “We refer to all of our decedents as ‘donors’ to really emphasize for our learners that these are human beings.”

For medical students and residents everywhere, working with deceased human remains is a part of the intense process of medical education. The bodies, usually preserved with formaldehyde, serve as a tool for physicians-in-training to learn human anatomy and practice new procedures.

But students and residents at Creighton’s School of Medicine in Phoenix are getting a different experience during their cadaveric training. They are working with bodies that have been preserved in a nonformaldehyde solution, which leaves the tissue in a more natural state.

The program, called the Knowledge Donor program on campus, allows students – and sometimes even experienced physicians – to train more effectively on deceased donors so that they are better prepared to treat living patients.

The contrast between traditionally preserved bodies and those on the Phoenix campus is stark, says Hahn Soe-Lin, MD, a trauma surgeon and clinical simulation director on the Phoenix campus.

When bodies are preserved in formaldehyde – a technique that has been common for more than a century at least – the skin yellows, the tissue dries and bodily joints stiffen.

“What we find is that, when students who have worked with formaldehyde-preserved bodies in the anatomy lab get to their clinical rotations, stepping into the operating room or trauma

What if you could see your diagnosis in three dimensions? What if you could hold it in your hand and examine it carefully? How much more in control would you feel?

At Creighton University Health Sciences Campus – Phoenix, medical students in the on-campus 3D Printing Club are exploring how to make this a reality for both patients and physicians. Using the latest imaging and printing techniques, students in the club are creating 3D models of individual patients’ anatomy that physicians can use to plan and prepare treatment.

“For a lot of patients, it’s hard to understand what’s going on when they get a new diagnosis,” says Eugene Moon (*pictured below*), a medical student at the Phoenix campus and founding president of the 3D printing club. “Although we sometimes have general models to explain it, showing them a 3D model of their specific anatomy, I think, does a lot more to illustrate for them what’s happening inside the body.”



ADRIAN BAIRD

bays, they have to pretty much relearn all of anatomy,” Gray says. “They’re looking at unfamiliar body structures, because what they’ve learned does not translate into clinical relevance.”

The program involves medical students in the anatomy lab, and also surgical residents with Creighton’s School of Medicine in Phoenix. The idea, Soe-Lin says, is that residents working with the Knowledge Donor bodies will be able to learn certain procedures faster and better before working on live patients.

“If you take a learner, and you give them multiple repetitions in a high-fidelity simulated environment, they’re going to become better and pass that learning curve a lot sooner than they were before,” he says.

“

You now have medical students that are capable of performing a life-saving maneuver. That’s the power of this type of training.

”

Working with medical students with no prior training, program administrators have found that, after six iterations of practicing a procedure with the Knowledge Donor bodies, the students were able to perform the procedure as fast as the trauma faculty with no mistakes, says Keith Paley, MD, program director of the surgery residency program.

“You now have medical students who are capable of performing a life-saving maneuver,” Paley says. “That’s the power of this type of training.”

Experienced physicians on campus have also benefitted from the program. Last year, Thomas Gillespie, MD,

professor in the School of Medicine at the Phoenix campus, was able to practice a rarely performed abdominal nerve procedure on one of the Knowledge Donor bodies before repeating it on a live patient.

Guided by Creighton’s Jesuit mission, the program operates in an environment that recognizes the humanity of the donor bodies. Students in the anatomy lab debrief after working with the bodies, and are invited to reflect on how the experience made them feel, Soe-Lin says.

“We are very cognizant that we are starting to bring trainees early on in their medical education, perhaps earlier than before, to interface with a program that involves lifelike dissection and models and trauma scenarios,” he says. “We certainly want to be sensitive to making that transition easy, while also helping these students recognize the depth of what they’re doing and how they’re learning.”

Fr. Foro New Holder of Waite Chair in Jesuit Education

The Rev. Emmanuel Foro, SJ, a Jesuit from the West Africa Province, joined Creighton this fall as the new holder of the Anna and Donald Waite Chair in Jesuit Education. He is from Burkina Faso in West Africa, and his research focuses on contemporary issues pertaining to reconciliation.

Fr. Foro previously served as the dean at Hekima College in Nairobi, Kenya, where he also taught systematic theology. From January 2019 to September 2021, Fr. Foro was the *socius* (assistant) to the provincial of the West Africa Province, and until he came to Creighton, he was giving retreats at the Jesuit Retreat Centre in Burkina Faso, as well as teaching systematic theology at the ITCJ (Institut de Théologie de la Compagnie de Jésus) in Abidjan, teaching mainly ecclesiology, Christian anthropology and Trinity.



AMY FRIEDMAN WILSON
Amy Friedman Wilson, PharmD'95, was named dean of the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions in July.

Wilson Named Pharmacy and Health Professions Dean

Amy Friedman Wilson, PharmD'95, was named dean of the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions and began her role as dean in July. Wilson, who had been serving as interim dean since January 2022, also was senior associate dean for operations and associate dean for the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions Phoenix campus.

Wilson has served as a faculty member and administrator in the school for the last 22 years. Beginning in 2005, she served for 10 years as director of Creighton’s Center for Drug Information and Evidence-Based Practice, providing leadership and guidance on health care policy and formulary development for a number of institutions, as well as oversight of the medication information consultation service.

In 2015, Wilson was appointed assistant dean, and later associate dean, for Academic Affairs. She has served as interim dean twice. Throughout her administrative tenure, she has been involved in numerous initiatives, including accreditation, academic planning and operational activities. She has been instrumental in the development and operations of the Creighton University Health Sciences Campus – Phoenix, participating in the leadership and planning of the site.



EMMANUEL FORO, SJ
The Rev. Emmanuel Foro, SJ, is the holder of the Anna and Donald Waite Chair in Jesuit Education.

Creighton Awarded NEH Grant to Digitize American Expedition Collection

A team led by Creighton faculty has received a \$350,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to digitize a collection of priceless artwork and documents chronicling a landmark 19th century expedition into the American interior.

The project, *The Natural Face of North America: A Public Portal to* [▶](#)

the Maximilian-Bodmer Collection at Joslyn Art Museum, is the result of a collaboration between Creighton, Omaha's Joslyn Art Museum and the Nebraska Indian Community College.

Spearheaded by two Creighton College of Arts and Sciences faculty members — Simon Appleford, PhD, and Adam Sundberg, PhD, both associate professors of history and digital humanities — the project aims to create a free, publicly accessible digital portal of material from the Maximilian-Bodmer collection, held by the Joslyn.

The collection includes the most complete archive of material from the expedition of German nobleman Maximilian von Wied and Swiss painter Karl Bodmer across North America between 1832 and 1834. In their travels, the pair encountered more than 20 Indigenous Nations, including the Mandan people, who would later be devastated by a smallpox epidemic in 1837.

The pair meticulously documented the people, plants, animals and

landscapes they encountered on the more than 7,000-mile journey from New England to present-day Montana and back. The Joslyn collection includes more than 1,000 objects, including von Wied's handwritten, three-volume journal and more than 400 original watercolors and drawings by Bodmer.

"All the while, they're creating a visual record, while gathering ethnographic, linguistic and environmental data on this trip," Sundberg says. "The collection that Joslyn holds is the most detailed, visual and textual European record of the American interior during this moment of profound demographic and environmental transition."

With the newly awarded grant funds, project staff, including students from a wide variety of disciplines at Creighton and Nebraska Indian Community College, will begin digitizing and encoding von Wied's journal entries and Bodmer's artwork, with the aim of building a digital portal in which users will be able to browse pieces from the

collection and follow the expedition on a historic map.

"This project will expose students in a really explicit way to some of the methods that we have in the digital humanities," Sundberg says. "It's not just professional scholarship they'll be doing. They're going to be learning these practical skills and employing them on a potentially very impactful project."

Ann Mausbach, PhD, associate professor of educational leadership in the College of Arts and Sciences, will also lead efforts to create a custom K-12 curriculum, developed in coordination with Native American communities, based on the material.

"A major component of this project is working with these communities that Maximilian and Bodmer encountered — the Omaha Tribe in northern Nebraska, the Mandan people and others," Appleford says. "We want to work with them to make sure that what we're doing — how we're framing the project, how we're talking about the project and contextualizing the expedition — reflects their perspectives."

The grant award was one of 245 announced by the NEH this funding cycle for projects that "expand the horizons of our knowledge of culture and history ... and bring high-quality public programs and resources directly to the American public," according to the NEH.

\$3 Million Grant to See Creighton Train Community Health Advocates

Access to health care services, routine for so many Americans, can be shrouded in mystery for some, beckoning elusively across a chasm of generational unfamiliarity and unaffordability.

To help bridge that gap, a three-year, \$3 million grant has been awarded to Creighton through its Department of Health Sciences-Multicultural and Community Affairs. The Health Resources and Services Administration, an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, has

© Below is one of the paintings that is part of the collection being digitized by a Creighton team. Karl Bodmer (Swiss, 1809–1893), *Sioux Camp, 1833, watercolor and graphite on paper, 7 7/16 x 10 7/16 in., Joslyn Art Museum, Omaha, Nebraska, Gift of the Enron Art Foundation, 1986.49.375, Photograph © Bruce M. White, 2019*



STUDENT RESEARCH

COLIN CONGES

Hands-on Research

Emma Goldsmith, BSEVS'22, trod the marshy grasslands of the Heron Haven Nature Center in Omaha last spring searching for grass samples. Her research is just one example of the many opportunities Bluejays have to work alongside expert faculty-mentors, making important discoveries with a real-world impact.

© Emma Goldsmith, BSEVS'22, left, and John Schalles, PhD, professor emeritus of biology, conducting field research last spring.

What were you researching?

We measured biomass levels in marshes. We took samples of the grasses and then dried them and weighed them. We combined this with satellite imagery to assess the health of a particular marsh or wetland. It's really important, especially as the climate is changing, to be able to assess changes with the biomass, or with water quality.

What was the most important aspect of your research?

For me, it was water quality analysis. If I could develop an algorithm that I overlay onto satellite imagery, it might be applicable all over the world. So, places off the coast of Africa, or other places that are hard to reach, would be able to assess water quality even if they don't have the tools they need to do it themselves. That could be very important.

Should students interested in research consider Creighton?

Yes. The great thing about Creighton is that the class sizes are so small, and the professors are always engaged. I had one-on-one interaction with an expert in the field, all the time. It was great.

How did you assess your time at Creighton?

I feel I've developed as a friend, as an intellectual and a person. The pandemic threw things off a little bit, but overall, my time at Creighton set me up well to go into the world as a competent and confident person. Research opportunities at Creighton changed my whole experience.



authorized Creighton's Center for Promoting Health and Health Equity to train 240 volunteer community health workers during the next three years.

The grant will use Creighton's existing Community Health Advocate program to train the new health advocates. The primary function of these "community health workers," as they are termed by the federal government, will be to connect health services to minority communities such as African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans and Sudanese, Somali and Karen immigrants, as well as people who are experiencing homelessness or unemployment, are living in public housing, or who suffer socioeconomic disadvantages.

As the first certifying agency of community health workers approved by the Nebraska Department of Labor, Creighton will reach beyond the Greater Omaha area into rural areas of the state where health advocates are rare, says Sade Kosoko-Lasaki, MD, MBA'05, associate vice provost and director of Health

© Sade Kosoko-Lasaki, MD, MBA'05, associate vice provost and director of the Department of Health Sciences-Multicultural and Community Affairs, will lead the effort to recruit and train community health workers throughout Nebraska.

Sciences-Multicultural and Community Affairs.

"We will recruit candidates throughout Nebraska," Kosoko-Lasaki says. "The major medical institutions here in the Omaha area have branches and offices and operations throughout the state. We will train people to serve in the communities where they are needed, the communities in which they already live."

Certainly, she says, native and immigrant communities in North Omaha and South Omaha, as well as the homeless population, constitute the primary need.

"Many people have questions about health care, about where to go and whom to see," Kosoko-Lasaki says. "These community health advocates live right there in the neighborhoods. They are trusted neighbors who can answer questions about accessing health care services, who understand health care needs, and can promote individual wellness from chronic diseases that are highly prevalent in minority communities."

Creighton's expertise in training

community health advocates reaches back 12 years, according to John Stone, MD, PhD, co-director of the Center for Promoting Health and Health Equity and professor emeritus at Creighton. Back then, Creighton received mini grants from CHI Health and the Omaha Housing Authority to train lay people to promote health care in underserved communities.

Ten people were trained. Following that modest beginning, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention provided a four-year, \$3.2 million grant to promote physical activity in low-income communities aimed at reducing cardiovascular disease. Spanning from 2015 to 2019, that grant funded the training of 50 people, and cemented Creighton's reputation as a provider of community health workers.

Although the community health workers emerging from Creighton's programs are considered volunteers, Kosoko-Lasaki says she hopes that medical institutions will see their value and develop apprenticeship programs leading to full-time, paid employment, at least for some of them.

"The idea of community health workers is still fairly new here in Omaha and Nebraska, but across the nation they have been around for more than 20 years," Kosoko-Lasaki says. "In the Dominican Republic, where Creighton does a lot of work, we call them 'cooperadores,' and they are respected community people who do it for the health and welfare of their fellow community members."

The collaborating partners on this initiative are the Douglas County Health Department, OneWorld Community Health Centers, CyncHealth, Inc., Charles Drew Community Health Centers, Nebraska Urban Indian Health Coalition, Catholic Health Initiative (CHI), Nebraska Center for Health Families, Lee Brown and Associates, and Heartland Workforce Solutions.

Evaluation will be performed by International Advanced Development and Research Corporation.

Breland Named Vice Provost and Dean

A. Barron Breland, DM, was named vice provost for Faculty and Academic Affairs and dean of the Graduate School.

Breland, who holds a Doctor of Music in Choral Conducting from the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, has been on the faculty at Creighton for 14 years, starting as an assistant professor in 2008. He was promoted to associate professor in 2014 and professor in 2020. Breland was named department chair in 2016.

He currently serves as president of the Nebraska Choral Directors Association (a state affiliate of the American Choral Directors Association), is a governing member of the Omaha Symphony, and is on the board of advisors for Opera Omaha.

Breland serves on the Faculty and Academic Councils for the University, and for the past two years has been the Arts and Sciences representative on the Executive Committee. He also serves on the University Athletic Board and the Committee on Committees, and was a member of the University's National Target Market Strategy Working Group and the Strategic Planning Steering Committee. In the College of Arts and Sciences, he has served on the Magis Core Curriculum Committee and serves on the Steering Committee for the Faculty Senate and on the Council of Chairs.

In this new position, Breland will help with the planning, directing, evaluating and developing of undergraduate and graduate programs; collaborating with other divisions of the University to analyze and develop recommendations in response to evolving issues; and providing leadership for achieving select strategic initiatives.



◀ **A. BARRON BRELAND**
A. Barron Breland, DM, is the new vice provost for Faculty and Academic Affairs and dean of the Graduate School.

New Residence Hall Named

Creighton's new residence hall will be called Graves Hall.

The hall's namesake is Lee Graves, BSBA'80, JD'83, who, along with his wife, Judy Graves, recently made the lead gift of \$12 million to the residence hall now under construction at 23rd Street, south of Burt Street.

The 400-student Graves Hall, opening in fall 2023, will be the first residence hall built exclusively for first-year students since the 1960s, and the first residence hall of any kind built since 2006. The \$37 million project broke ground in the fall of 2021.

"Creighton needs to have the tools for campus to continue to grow and for the schools to continue to thrive," says Lee Graves, chairman, founder and CEO of ELM Companies, which provides utility and energy management services. "This new freshman residence hall is going to be a great asset in attracting students to Creighton."

The residence hall will be divided

mostly into four-person suites. Each will have two bedrooms, two living spaces and a shared bathroom. Each floor will have kitchenettes and space for student development programs. The building will also have a larger kitchen on the second floor for all students.

The residence hall's programming will include dedicated interfaith spaces and amenities supporting student development, wellness and academics.

"We are deeply grateful for the Graves gift and the ways it will transform how our students live and learn on campus," said Creighton President the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD. "Graves Hall will represent a philosophical shift in how we house our freshman students, with accommodations that allow for both privacy and community."

"The residence hall will allow us to enhance our commitment to creating a sense of belonging for our first-year students, including providing meaningful programming that fosters growth, learning and formation in the tradition of a Jesuit, Catholic education."

© An architectural rendering of Graves Hall, which will open in fall of 2023 and will house first-year students.



Establishing a Clinic for End-of-Life Care

If you ask Mandy Boesch Kirkpatrick, PhD, BSN'05, conversations about end-of-life care need to begin far earlier than they often do. For both patients and health care providers.

"We're so focused on saving lives that, often, talking about death is sort of taboo, and we're still struggling to get comfortable with those conversations," Kirkpatrick says.

Kirkpatrick, associate professor of nursing, has spent much of her career contemplating death and dying. Now, Kirkpatrick has been named a Brooks Scholar, with funding provided thanks to a donation from donor Ella Stradinger Brooks, PhD, BSN'81. The funding comes as part of the College of Nursing's Center for Faculty, Innovation, Research and Education (FIRE), a virtual center for clinical nursing research improvement.

The Brooks gift will fund a portion of Kirkpatrick's time as she works on her latest

project. Alongside co-principal investigator Meghan Walker Potthoff, PhD, BSN'01, associate professor and holder of the Keough Family Endowed Chair in Nursing, Kirkpatrick is working to establish an interprofessional clinic at Creighton in which students and expert faculty from across disciplines will work with Nebraska patients on planning for the end of their lives.

Initially funded through the Dr. George F. Haddix President's Faculty Research Fund, the project, called INTERACT, looks to bring together Creighton experts in law, dentistry, business and other disciplines to establish a clinic where students work with aging Nebraskans on advance care planning (ACP), in which patients make treatment decisions prior to a serious diagnosis.

In addition to Kirkpatrick and Potthoff, the team includes: Jennifer Jessen, EdD, BSN'04, assistant professor in the College of Nursing; Laurie Baedke, instructor in the Heider College of Business and director of Healthcare Leadership Programs; Cathy Fox, BSW'09, assistant professor of social work in the College of Arts and Sciences; Victoria Haneman, Frank J. Kellegher Professor of Trusts and Estates

in the School of Law; and Beatriz Rodriguez, BSN'16, MPH'22, and current student Sydney Langlois, who serve as research assistants.

"When you envision your death, you probably aren't thinking, 'I would like to die in a hospital on a ventilator after rounds and rounds of CPR,'" Kirkpatrick says. "You'd want to die in a place that's comfortable to you, surrounded by loved ones. And you'd want the people that you love to understand what your wishes are."

The problem, Kirkpatrick says, is that most people don't want to discuss scenarios like this until it's too late. Kirkpatrick and her colleagues on the project have found that though 92% of Nebraskans want their treatment wishes to be known when they die, only 1-in-3 have documented what they want their end-of-life care to look like. Nebraskans, she says, are far more likely to engage in estate planning than advance health care planning.

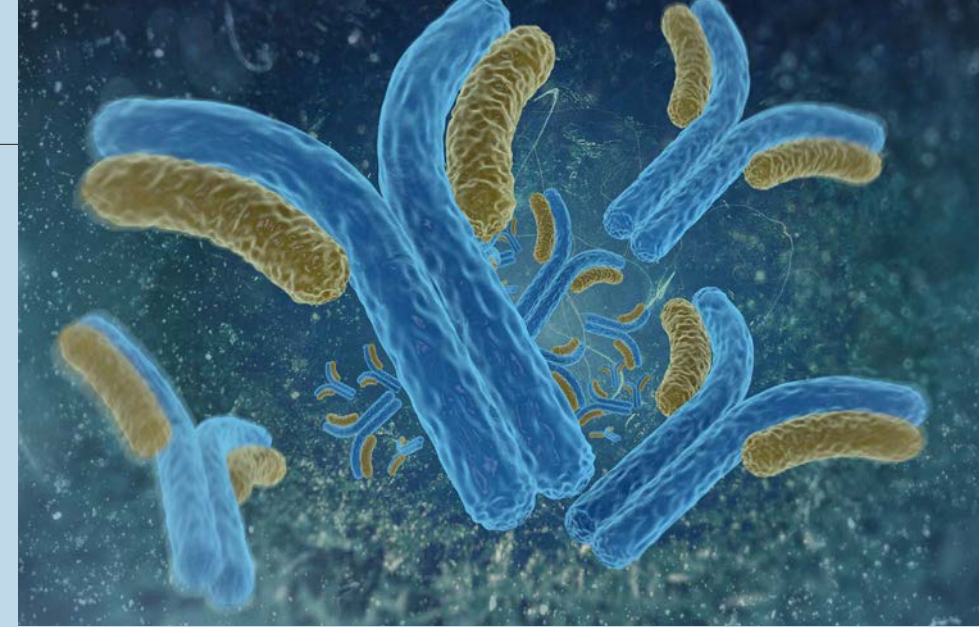
Without that documentation, Kirkpatrick says, distraught loved ones are likely to tell health care providers to do whatever it takes to keep the patient alive, regardless of how it will impact the patient's final moments.

So far, Kirkpatrick and the team have been holding focus groups, involving faculty and students on campus and aging Nebraskans affiliated with partner Omaha-area agencies, to uncover what advance care planning resources are already available to the aging population and identify programming needs at Creighton so that the University is equipped to handle the problem.

"These sessions have provided our team with rich qualitative data, which we are currently analyzing for themes and will use to guide the development of our INTERACT clinic intervention," Kirkpatrick says. "In the proposed clinic, we hope students from across the University will have the chance to engage with faculty who are already experts in the areas of law, business and health care, and give them the opportunity to provide a community service, working with aging Nebraskans who will benefit from making these decisions early on."

Research Gives Insights into Antibodies

We often think of antibodies — Y-shaped proteins used by the immune system to identify and neutralize foreign objects — as defenders against infection, but we also know sometimes people develop self-reactive antibodies that cause autoimmune disease. However, there are also some types of "natural" antibodies that normally do a little of both: They possess some self-reactivity that enables them to bind



and help clear dead and damaged cells as a form of bodily "housekeeping," and also react with common types of infectious microbes to prevent illness.

How does the body balance the need to support the protective and housekeeping functions of these antibodies while limiting the potential risk of autoimmunity? This is a question that Patrick Swanson, PhD, and student-researchers have been investigating in their laboratory. Swanson is director of the graduate program in the Department of Medical Microbiology and Immunology in the School of Medicine.

Swanson and his team have been studying B cells from mice engineered to express the larger of two polypeptide chains frequently found in a type of natural antibody that binds a common membrane lipid molecule called phosphatidylcholine (PtC).

In a paper recently published in *Cell Reports*, Swanson's team provides evidence that generating a healthy PtC-reactive B cell population occurs through a three-step process.

The first two steps remove a large majority of potential light chain combinations, leaving most B cells to express predominantly one type of light chain.

A third step then works to "edit" the specificity of the selected cells, which reduces the frequency of PtC-reactive B cells.

"We suspect the third step may help protect the host and reduce the overall risk of autoimmunity," Swanson says. "In this way, the immune system works to strike the right balance between the beneficial and potentially damaging roles of natural antibodies. Determining whether defects in this process underlie some types of autoimmune disease is an area of interest for future research."

The research team included Alexandra "Sasha" Worth, a current MD/PhD student and lead author; Max Schabla, BS'13, PhD'18, who has since joined Shoreline Biosciences in San Diego, working to develop novel cellular

immunotherapy treatments; and PhD student Anna Fraser-Philbin.

Swanson's research has drawn support from intramural and extramural grants, including two recent grants from the National Institutes of Health, one of which helped fund this project.

Physicians Explore New Frontier in Treating Emphysema, COPD

A team of Creighton University and CHI Health physicians are the first in the state of Nebraska to offer new hope to people suffering breathing difficulties related to severe emphysema or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

A new procedure involving inserting tiny valves into the airways of diseased lungs enables the healthy portions to expand, thereby lifting pressure on the diaphragm and making breathing easier. Dubbed "Zephyr Endobronchial Valve Treatment" after the implanted "Zephyr" valves, the procedure was approved in Europe before gaining FDA sanction.

In 2019, Zachary Depew, MD'07, division chief for pulmonary and critical care at CHI Health Creighton University Medical Center-Bergan Mercy and associate professor of medicine at the School of Medicine, began the process of bringing the procedure to CHI Health and therefore to Nebraska.

"But that takes time," Depew says. "It's a new device, and you have to go through the bureaucracy of medicine and then, unfortunately, just about the time we were making headway, COVID hit, and that stymied us for a while."

With those hurdles cleared, Depew and his team, which includes Suchitra Pilli, MD, pulmonologist and assistant professor at the School of Medicine, inserted their first Zephyr valves in March. Another seven patients have been treated since, for a total of eight implantations.

The noninvasive procedure uses a thin, camera-equipped tube known as a bronchoscope

to insert the valves. The bronchoscope, which is inserted into the lungs through the mouth while the patient is sedated, compares well, Depew says, with established procedures that involve surgical removal of diseased portions of the lung.

"In most classic smoking-related emphysema the predominance of disease is in the upper lobes because smoke rises," he says. "So surgeons went into the chest and surgically removed the upper parts of the lungs — in essence removing the most diseased parts, which then reduces the total volume in the chest and allows the healthier, lower lobes more room to work."

While the procedure worked well for patients who met strict inclusion criteria, its complexity restricted it to a few large medical institutions around the nation, Depew says, which in turn raised problems of access in addition to risks of mortality and post-surgery complications.

So, medical device companies began to ponder whether similar benefits could be obtained without the trauma of surgery. Consequently, there appeared on the market various devices that never really won acceptance until the advent of the Zephyr valves, which, Depew says, seemed the safest and most effective of the new options.

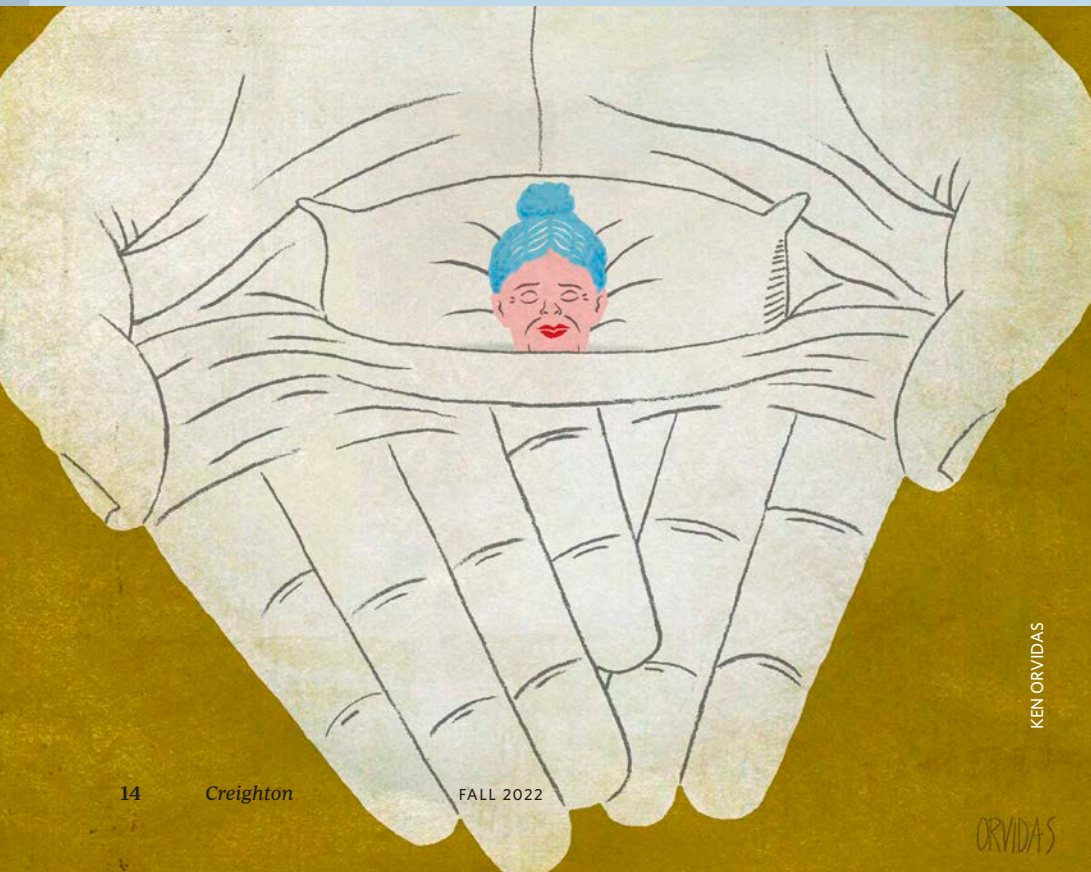
As with the surgical approach, candidates for Zephyr valve implantation must meet certain criteria, although those criteria are not as rigorous. They must have significant emphysema, an "air trapping" condition in which inhaled oxygen cannot escape the lungs and a functional impairment stemming from that air trapping. Their conditions, however, while they must be significant, cannot be so severe as to place them at high risk.

Depew says Creighton University and CHI Health are the first medical institutions to offer the procedure in Nebraska and, as far as he is aware, the only one. The closest alternative locations, he says, are in Kansas City, Missouri, and Rochester, Minnesota.

With eight procedures completed, and with outcomes ranging from transformed lives to others who gained little benefit, Depew says his team is learning fast.

That Creighton-trained pulmonologists are being introduced to this new procedure is good for Creighton and good for the nation, Depew says.

"One of the best things that we can do for people around the country is to train pulmonologists who learn how to take good care of patients through procedures like this," he says. "We send a lot of our trainees into the wider world, which means we can help provide more access to novel and effective care from Creighton-trained physicians."





Meet the Freshman Class

Creighton welcomed **1,028** freshmen to campus this fall. Here are some facts about the class.



56% female
44% male



29%
are students
of color



26%
are Creighton
legacy students



54%
report as Roman Catholic
with many other faiths
represented as well



32
Next Generation Leaders
focused on equity, diversity and
inclusion efforts



50%
attended a public
high school

First Cohort of Next Generation Leaders Launches

Creighton took a major step toward living out its equity, diversity and inclusion goals this fall with the establishment of the Next Generation Leaders program.

“We wanted to recruit students who are passionate about leading diversity and inclusion efforts, who have the desire to impact the next generation of students,” says Sarah Walker, PhD, vice president of the Division of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion.

The program is dedicated to identifying and empowering students from underrepresented racial and ethnic backgrounds and offers leadership opportunities in addition to a full, four-year scholarship. A minimum 3.8 high school GPA on a 4.0 scale is required, and students can pursue any major at the University.

The freshmen enrolled in the inaugural cohort represent 13 states — stretching from New York to Hawaii — and were selected based upon a written application, essay, video submission, interview and more. Out of the 107 students selected for an interview, 32 were chosen.

The racial/ethnic makeup of the first cohort is Black, Hispanic, Native American and Native Hawaiian, but there’s a lot more to the program than simple representation. The goal is to help students develop into leaders who are dedicated to equity, diversity and inclusion.

During their time at Creighton, the Next Generation Leaders will receive leadership development and coaching, make purposeful connections within Creighton and throughout the Omaha area, and participate in group service projects.

“We celebrate these students and the opportunity they have to be the next generation of culturally diverse leaders who will bring awareness and help us to carry out our mission,” says Mary Chase, EdD’14, vice provost for Enrollment Management.

“I am delighted the University and our donors have stepped up to create a scholarship and programming that enable students to live and create a more diverse and inclusive community.

“The Next Generation Leaders clearly benefit from the full-tuition scholarship, but they get more than just funding. They are asked to lead and are provided mentoring and an opportunity to help our community appreciate our diversity.”

Ultimately, Walker and Chase say, the students will bring awareness and help Creighton fulfill its mission in action.

“We celebrate these students and the opportunity they have to be the next generation of culturally diverse leaders who will bring awareness and help us to carry out our mission.”

MARY CHASE, EDD’14
Vice Provost for Enrollment Management

Could Vladimir Putin Be Charged With War Crimes?

BY EUGENE CURTIN

THE BIG QUESTION

Creighton law professor Michael Kelly has published two articles arguing the case for holding Vladimir Putin personally responsible for war crimes

Vladimir Putin might learn something from Omar al-Bashir, according to Creighton law professor Michael Kelly, JD, LL.M. Al-Bashir, who in 2009 became the subject of an International Criminal Court (ICC) arrest warrant for war crimes allegedly committed during the Second Sudanese Civil War, sits under house arrest in the northern Sudan city of Khartoum. For most of the 13 years that passed since the ICC's action, al-Bashir avoided arrest even while traveling internationally. Today, however, the government of Sudan is negotiating the surrender of its 75-year-old former head of state.

In two recent articles published by the Lieber Institute for Law & Warfare at West Point, Kelly argues that Ukraine's legal response to Russia's military invasion is potent and something that Putin, like al-Bashir before him, should add to his list of worries.

"If the ICC issues an arrest warrant against Vladimir Putin for war crimes, it will be a legal thunderbolt," wrote Kelly, who holds the Senator Allen A. Sekt Chair in Law and specializes in international law. "It is a rare thing for sitting heads of state to come under the jurisdiction of international law, but a decade ago this is exactly what happened to President Omar al-Bashir of Sudan for his role in the Darfur genocide.

"The ICC's arrest warrant weakened al-Bashir both at home and abroad to the point that he was eventually overthrown, leading to negotiations for his transfer to The Hague to stand trial."

There is no doubt that Putin could be prosecuted, Kelly says, even though Russia has not signed on to ICC jurisdiction. Ukraine, which is also not a party to ICC jurisdiction, has nonetheless accepted its authority to investigate crimes committed on its territory since 2014.

Ukraine has lodged a host of legal complaints since Russia's 2014 annexation of the Ukrainian region of Crimea. These include illegally annexing Ukraine's sovereign territorial waters and seizure of Ukrainian assets and investments in Crimea. All these cases are advancing in various international forums.

"Ukraine's legal counterattack has put Russia back on its heels," Kelly wrote. "Not only did Moscow not show up to challenge Ukraine at the ICJ (International Court of Justice), nor respond to the ICC prosecutor's announcement opening a war crimes investigation in Ukraine, Russia has withdrawn from the Council of Europe — a precursor to denouncing the European Convention on Human Rights — and is on the verge of being suspended from the World Trade Organization."

But what are the chances that a head of state of a major, nuclear-armed



power would be tried before an international tribunal, especially one whose jurisdiction is not acknowledged by that power?

Kelly acknowledges the difficulty. It's one thing to issue an arrest warrant. It's quite another to get a nation to respect that document, especially when the accused heads a great power that possesses critical energy resources. It would be unlikely to happen while Putin holds power, Kelly says.

"From a *realpolitik* perspective, it would require his overthrow where he's not killed in the process," Kelly says. "If it's the Libya model, when the leader is killed during the overthrow, then that's the end of the story."

The key, he says, is that the offending power wishes to regain the international good standing lost because of its leader's war crimes. If the cost is handing over the alleged war criminal, then nations have been willing to pay that price.

It is a hard-nosed approach to securing justice, but, Kelly says, that's how the world works.

"That's the nature of *realpolitik*," he says. "And it applies to despots. Once they are out of power, they become pawns in a much grander game."

About Michael Kelly: Michael Kelly, JD, LL.M, coordinates the International and Comparative Law Program at the Creighton School of Law. He is past president of the U.S. National Chapter and currently a member of the board of directors of L'Association International du Droit Pénal, a Paris-based society of international criminal law scholars, judges and attorneys founded in 1924 that enjoys consultative status with the United Nations. Kelly recently discussed the role of international law in the Russia-Ukraine conflict at West Point's Lieber Institute, at the American University of Paris' Schaefer Center, at Friedrich Alexander University-Erlangen, Germany, and at Case Western Reserve Law School's Cox Center annual symposium.

Where All Streams Meet

BY Micah Mertes



DAVE WEAVER

Amid bold moves and historic change, Creighton is investing in the Jesuit community, whose values and vision have guided the University's mission-driven approach to education for nearly 150 years

"Students and campus visitors often tell me that Creighton University 'feels like home.' One of the main reasons they feel at home here is the Jesuit community at the heart of our campus and our mission."

THE REV. DANIEL S. HENDRICKSON, SJ, PHD
Creighton University President

This is a story about a building. But more than that, it's about what the building represents to Creighton's past and its future.

"If you want to get symbolic," says the Rev. Larry Gillick, SJ, director of the Deglman Center for Ignatian Spirituality and a member of Creighton's Jesuit community for more than 40 years, "the new Jérôme Nadal, SJ, Jesuit Residence will face out and face in. It faces out toward 24th Street, toward the busy world of trucks and buses and cars. It faces in toward the peace and serenity of the new Jesuit Gardens."

What's true of the building is true of the Creighton Jesuits themselves. Jesuits live between action and reflection. Their spirituality charges head first into the everyday of a messy world ... then reboots in the quiet contemplation of home.

"My definition of 'home' is a place that receives you, then sends you back out into the world, over and over, again and again," Fr. Gillick says.

What's true of Creighton's Jesuits is true of the whole Creighton community.

More than 30 Jesuits are now assigned to the campus community, yet they've touched the lives of tens of thousands. (Who have, in turn, touched the lives of many more.)

If you want to get symbolic in a different way ... imagine Creighton University as a river. If the Jesuits themselves are the main stream, then every graduate, student, professor and staff member is a potential tributary, feeding Creighton's values to all corners of the world.

Where does the new Jesuit Residence fit in to the metaphor?

It's the place where all streams meet.

CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY HAS SEEN A HANDFUL of key moments in its history. This is one of them, says Creighton President the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD.

"As it did in the 1960s, a lot has happened at Creighton in a very quick timeframe," he says. "Creighton continues evolving and extending its mission creatively and concisely."

He mentioned the 24th Street beautification, the reimagining of the Harper Center and Heider College of Business, the Heaney Bridge connecting campus to Omaha, as well as the in-development residence hall, CL Werner Center for Health Sciences Education, renovated laboratories and the Jesuit Residence.

These buildings and improvements are, of course, necessary (in addition to being aesthetically pleasing). But, along with non-facility advances, such as an impressive 11 new endowed faculty chairs, they also represent and showcase some of the core strengths Creighton is investing in. Such as the Jesuit presence on campus.

"The new residence will be a venue that will celebrate and support Creighton's Jesuit legacy and presence, inviting colleagues and guests to share in our lives in myriad ways," Fr. Hendrickson says. "It is a symbol of our deep commitment to sustaining and enhancing the Jesuit, Catholic character of Creighton for future generations of students, faculty and staff."

"We should think of this moment as the second founding of the Creighton Jesuits."

“The Jesuits teach in the classroom and encourage on campus. For students, they encourage growth, liveliness, interaction, involvement and a personal sense of mission. The Jesuits at Creighton are much more available and involved with the students than at most Jesuit universities. It’s just the spirit here.”

THE REV. LARRY GILLICK, SJ
Director of the Deglman Center for Ignatian Spirituality



DAVE WEAVER



DAVE WEAVER

When planning the new Jesuit Residence, Creighton identified three key themes for the building that embody the campus Jesuits themselves: visibility, access and hospitality.

While you can find the Jesuits in all corners of campus, their current living quarters — tucked into Creighton Hall and barred by a golden elevator — are anything but visible or accessible.

Most of the Jesuits we spoke with called their living situation in Creighton Hall “a fortress.”

“That changes with the new residence,” says the Rev. Nicholas Santos, SJ, PhD, a Creighton professor and rector of the Jesuit community in Omaha. “Every student, faculty and staff member will be welcome to access our chapel and gathering spaces. And we will be out there, facing 24th Street, for all of Omaha to see.”

The residence, he says, will be a true front door to Creighton.

AS POPE FRANCIS, A JESUIT HIMSELF, says of the religious order: “The world is our home.”

Jesuits commit their lives to going where they’re asked to. Many don’t stay in the same place for long. One of the things that makes Creighton’s Jesuit community so unique is its many major exceptions to that rule.

The Revs. Gillick, Don Doll and Greg Carlson have lived and taught here for decades. Other Jesuits saw equally long tenures, like the recently retired Rev. Tom Shanahan or the Rev. Dick Hauser, who died in 2018 and more than lived up to his desired epitaph: “He helped us recognize God’s presence in our lives.”

“Creighton,” Fr. Hendrickson says, “has been truly blessed to have a group of Jesuits who have been building relationships and making inroads with our students, faculty and staff for many years.

“They were very prescient in the need to share Ignatian spirituality and formation with their colleagues. Due in large part to their efforts, our faculty and staff are fully engaged and empowered as owners of our collective mission.”

When Fr. Gillick arrived at Creighton, he says, the Jesuits and lay faculty and staff respected each other and worked together, but there was a bit of a divide.

He and other Jesuits chipped away at that wall for decades, through faith-sharing groups, Christian Life Communities and Ignatian Spiritual Exercises courses with their lay colleagues.

“More and more,” Fr. Gillick says, “the faculty and staff have come to realize that they carry the mission of the University as much as the Jesuits do.”

Jeanne Schuler, PhD, a philosophy professor with Creighton since 1981 and a product of a Jesuit education herself, says many faculty were part of the same faith-sharing groups for decades. It’s something that has not only enriched the professors’ lives but, downstream, the students they teach, as well.

“The Creighton Jesuits have done a remarkable job of making the mission exciting and intellectually stimulating to all faculty and staff,” she says. “There is never a sense that this is something that’s being imposed on me and that I have to accept to keep my job.”

© **Top:** The Rev. Nicholas Santos, SJ, PhD, at Tuesday night Mass at St. John’s Church. **Bottom:** The Rev. Larry Gillick, SJ, left, and the Rev. Gregory Carlson, SJ, PhD, during the Creighton Pathway in 2021.

The Jérôme Nadal, SJ, Jesuit Residence

The Jérôme Nadal, SJ, Jesuit Residence, expected to open next fall, will stand along 24th Street at the east edge of the Jesuit Gardens, behind Creighton Hall and St. John’s Church.

The residence will be home to Jesuits who live, serve and work on campus as instructors, pastors, chaplains and University administrators and staff. The 37,779-square-foot building will be accessible to students, faculty, staff, alumni and Omaha partners for Mass, spiritual counseling and other mission-based programs. The residence will include 28 bedrooms for Creighton Jesuits, as well as a 1,015-square-foot chapel, a dining hall, library and several spaces for spiritual activities.

The new residence will also support the Creighton Jesuits’ work in Omaha and the broader global Jesuit community, hosting meetings and fellowship for those from Creighton Prep, Jesuit Academy middle school in North Omaha, Cloisters on the Platte and the Creighton Retreat Center in Griswold, Iowa. Jesuit scholars visiting from around the world will stay in the facility’s guestrooms.

It will feature a chapel named for Our Lady of Montserrat, with its connection to the life and spiritual journey of St. Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Jesuit order. In 1522, a knightly Ignatius, injured in battle and seeking a new life, traveled to the abbey at Montserrat in northern Spain, where, after spending a night praying before the statue of the Virgin Mary and Christ Child, laid down his sword and vowed to live as a humble pilgrim.

The construction of the Jesuit Residence, demolition of existing structures and renovations to the Jesuit Gardens are supported through donor investments. The facility was initiated with lead gifts from Teri and Ron Quinn, BSBA’70, MBA’76; Mary Pat and Dick McCormick, BS’62, and HON’88, respectively; Physicians Mutual and the Reed Family; Ann and Ken Stinson; and Nancy and Mike McCarthy.

“We are humbled and forever grateful to the donors who have made this possible,” says the Rev. Nicholas Santos, SJ, PhD, rector of the Jesuit community in Omaha and associate professor of marketing at Creighton. “They felt called to make sure that our vibrant Jesuit community continues to thrive, serve others and guide our students.”

The project is part of the **Forward Blue** campaign, which embraces Creighton’s Jesuit identity and emphasizes support for scholarships, programs, services and spaces across the University’s campuses in Omaha and Phoenix. To learn more, visit creighton.edu/forwardblue.



NADAL AN EARLY COMPANION

“The ultimate and even most preferable of [Jesuits’] dwellings are not ... houses but the highways. We identify the Society’s final and ultimate dwelling ... with a journey” | “the whole world becomes our house”

Jérôme Nadal, SJ, 1507-1580

The above quotations from Jérôme Nadal, SJ, one of the early companions of St. Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Jesuit religious order, is affixed prominently, in raised letters, on the wall outside the Creighton Hall office of University President the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD.

These words also animate Creighton’s work at the Health Sciences Campus – Phoenix, inscribed on a plaque affixed to the sculpture of St. Ignatius at the entryway to campus.

In the book *Jérôme Nadal, S.J., 1507-1580: Tracking the First Generation of Jesuits*, author the Rev. William Bangert, SJ, and editor the Rev. Thomas McCoog, SJ, describe Nadal as one of Ignatius’ closest confidants, recognized as an “authentic interpreter of the Ignatian vision and spirituality.”

According to Jesuit scholar, historian and author the Rev. John O’Malley, SJ, St. Ignatius entrusted Nadal with promulgating and interpreting the Society’s new *Constitutions* to a nascent, but growing, Jesuit community across western Europe.

In addition, Nadal was involved in the Society’s early work in education. Along with nine other Jesuits selected by Ignatius, and with approval from the pope, Nadal helped open the first Jesuit school in Messina, Italy, in 1548, and gave lectures in scholastic moral theology.

Nadal is believed to have coined the phrase “contemplatives in action” to describe Ignatian spirituality, wherein prayer, reflection and discernment compel one to act in service to God in society, distinctive from monastic orders prevalent at the time. Jesuits today often describe this approach as engaging the nitty-gritty of the world.

“Nadal himself preferred the image of a circle: a Jesuit’s prayer flows into his work and his work into his prayer,” conclude Frs. Bangert and McCoog in their biography. “In Nadal, theory and practice emerge.”

And so, too, in the new residence hall named in his honor.



MONTSERRAT

Our Lady of Montserrat — also known as the Black Madonna — in front of which Ignatius laid down his sword and vowed to live as a humble pilgrim.



DAVE WEAVER

The Tradition Continues

Creighton opened its doors in 1878 with a faculty of one Jesuit priest, three scholastic Jesuits in formation and two lay professors. The first group of Jesuits met at the Union Pacific Transfer Station depot in Council Bluffs, Iowa — as far west as the track’s eastern trains came those days.

The only bridge across the river into Omaha was also owned by U.P. It cost each Jesuit 25 cents to cross the bridge into the city. As Omaha roads were still unpaved at this point, their carriage ride to Creighton was a bumpy, dirty and difficult one.

When they finally arrived, they brought to campus and Omaha a Jesuit presence that still endures today.

Nearly 150 years since the first Jesuits arrived on campus, Patrick Saint-Jean, SJ, PsyD, (pictured above at St. John’s Church) lives and works here today.

Saint-Jean — a psychology professor and a psychotherapist in the University’s counseling center — recently began his third and final year as a Jesuit regent assigned to Creighton. Saint-Jean has seen much of the world. He was born in Haiti, studied in Paris, and has worked and lived in such places as Italy, the Congo, Brazil and Mexico.

Of all the places he’s lived, he says, Creighton and Omaha stand out as among the most welcoming. It’s a matter of interlocking communities supporting a larger, collective purpose. The city supports the University, which supports the campus community (Jesuit and otherwise), which in turn gives back to Creighton, Omaha and far beyond.

It’s quite the opposite, Schuler says. It’s a call to renew intellectual life. She likes to tell her philosophy students that 500 years ago, a Basque Spaniard priest started a tradition of education committed to the mind — “to reflect, to examine, even sometimes to criticize” — that remains just as relevant and useful today.

“What an achievement,” she says, “to be so rooted in tradition yet so fully open to the world.”

THE REV. JAMES CLIFTON, SJ, ASSOCIATE DEAN of Mission and Identity in the School of Medicine, started his journey nearly 50 years ago, as a Creighton business freshman.

By this time, he already had a job he loved, working in the legal department of a phone company. He thought he’d be there forever. But his plans were soon spoiled.

“And I thank God for that,” Fr. Clifton says now. “My plans changed as I met Jesuits and members of Campus Ministry. Through them, I discovered a faith that was a lot more grounded in making a difference in real life. As an alumnus and now a Jesuit, I believe that Creighton does as remarkable a job as any Jesuit university in the nation at inviting everyone into our world.”

Now, when he sees others’ plans “ruined” in the best way, it sparks a particular kind of joy in Fr. Clifton.

So many students come to Creighton for one reason and leave with a different purpose, he says. Some of this stems from the University’s curriculum being rooted in the humanities, with a breadth of programs encouraging students in all fields to explore areas and discover passions they might not have otherwise.

“Creighton students don’t often follow a linear, undisturbed path,” Fr. Clifton says. “They come here to discover who they are, their very best selves, their best way to serve God in the world.”

TALES OF PLANS BOTCHED AND PATHS disturbed are common at Creighton. Hayden Hubbs, BS’22, was born and raised Episcopalian, but she’d gone to a Jesuit high school and already fallen in love with Ignatian spirituality by the time she arrived at Creighton.

She was pre-med, a biology major. She loved it, yet over the years she felt called to pursue a minor in theology, too.



© From left, Creighton student Julia Staniszewski, Josef Rodriguez, SJ, and Creighton student Maddox Larson.

COLIN CONCES

Her last semester at Creighton, she was prepared to take the next steps toward medical school. Then she ran into Fr. Gillick on campus one day. He encouraged her to take the Spiritual Exercises class. That same semester, Hubbs also took a liberation theology course from professor Tom Kelly, PhD.

Those two classes in particular helped Hubbs realize she wanted to take a more ministerial path into health care. She now hopes to become a hospital chaplain.

In the meantime, she’s found the perfect place to serve. This fall, Hubbs moved to Tacoma, Washington, to work for L’Arche Tahoma Hope, a community that cares for people with intellectual disabilities.

She thanks Jesuits such as Fr. Gillick, who “kept me walking down the right road. Which ended up being a different road.”

Having the Jesuits so woven into the daily life of campus, Hubbs says, “helps you remember Creighton’s original mission and makes you feel like you’re a part of it and this community. And if you’re grappling with the path of discernment, there’s always a Jesuit nearby.”

Hunter Allen, BSBA’14, MD’22, had an inverse journey to Hubbs’. His detour led him to medicine.

Allen was a Heider College of Business accounting graduate who decided to become a physician. The reason for the switch, as much as anything, was his time working as a bus driver.

Though he loved his business school experience, he’d decided this maybe wasn’t for him. Nonetheless, he was committed to earning his accounting degree. To support himself his junior and senior years of business school, he drove a school bus for Omaha Public Schools.

Allen would pick up and drop off elementary and high school students from class, park the school bus by Creighton Public Safety, run to the Harper Center for his classes, then head back to the bus to finish his day.

“That experience changed everything,” Allen says. “Every day, 30 sets of parents trusted me to keep their children safe. I realized that I thrived in the responsibility of caring for the well-being of others. I realized that this ... this is when I like me best. And that realization led me to medicine.”

© The new Jesuit Residence will stand along 24th Street at the east edge of the Jesuit Gardens, behind Creighton Hall and St. John’s Church. At left: (1) Jesuit Residence, (2) Jesuit Gardens, (3) Creighton Hall, (4) St. John’s Church, (5) Vinardi Center, (6) Graves Hall.

Allen, who comes from a rural area near Dallas, is doing his residency in rural family medicine at the Lincoln Medical Education Partnership in Nebraska. His hope is to stay in the state and treat families in the North Platte region.

Allen’s bus-driving epiphany aside, it was the Creighton Jesuits who played a key role in his career pivot.

“One of the reasons the Jesuit mission at Creighton is so effective at helping people figure out where they fit into the world,” he says, “is just how clearly the Jesuits fit into Creighton.”

The Jesuits are mentors but also models for living, Hunter says. “They project that presence and positive outlook to everyone they meet. They instill confidence, and in doing so, allow others to become the greatest versions of themselves. Though I may not be a Jesuit, that is how I wish to live my life.”

Some Creighton students are so influenced by the Jesuits they choose to become Jesuits themselves.

Patrick Fenner, SJ, BA’20, is a Jesuit scholastic in Chicago who recently returned from living in a Jesuit community in Peru.

Fenner doesn’t recall a *eureka!* moment when he knew he wanted to join the Society of Jesus. It was a slow realization.

“It was a build-up of simple interactions with Creighton Jesuits,” Fenner says. “Sometimes in the classroom, sometimes at Mass, sometimes just walking along the Mall. It was just seeing the Jesuits. Being with them. Learning all the different things you can do as a Jesuit.”

Those experiences added up for Fenner, steered him in a new direction. They also solidified something he’d been mulling over for years: “Whatever you decide to become, when you walk out Creighton’s doors, you’re not done with the Jesuit mission. You’re just getting started.”

Fenner himself is studying to become a professor and plans to one day teach at a Jesuit high school or university.

If he ever does end up returning to Creighton University — some streams flow back into the main river — he’ll have a beautiful building to call home.

THE JESUIT INFLUENCE

We asked alumni to tell us about the Creighton Jesuits who touched their lives. Read some of their responses at creighton.edu/creightonmagazine.





© Sara Franzen Beste, MD'09, left, and Jason Beste, BS'03, MD'08, at the Creighton University Health Sciences Campus - Phoenix with the statue of St. Ignatius of Loyola in the background.

ADRIAN BAIRD

At Home in a Global Health Campaign

BY RICK DAVIS, BA'88

Jason Beste, BS'03, MD'08, returns to his alma mater to lead the Arrupe Global Scholars and Partnerships Program, a unique and innovative global health training initiative

Jason Beste, BS'03, MD'08, and his wife, Sara Franzen Beste, MD'09, had spent the last decade working with populations who are socially, economically and otherwise marginalized — in places ranging from the South Bronx to sub-Saharan Africa — when they finally found a home in Seattle.

Figuratively and literally.

"It took us a year to find a house in Seattle; the housing market was just so wild," says Jason Beste, who had settled into his position as an infectious disease physician, researcher and director of multiple global health programs at the University of Washington School of Medicine.

The Bestes loved Seattle. Their work. Their community — a culturally diverse place to raise their 4-year-old son, who was born in Liberia. They were comfortable, content.

But, a month after closing on the house, the door to an intriguing new opportunity opened, at a place that also felt very much like home — Creighton University.

While the Bestes were setting roots in Seattle, a gift was giving rise to a new global health program for Creighton medical students in Phoenix and Omaha. And the program was in need of an executive director.

"Sara said, 'You know what, Jason, you should just start the discernment process with this opportunity. Let's be open-minded.'"

So, Jason began the interview process, and the Bestes began the very Jesuit process of discernment — a deliberate and thoughtful exercise to determine God's call.

"It was one of the most challenging discernments Sara and I have had," Beste says.

But it was also beautiful, enriching, he says. While uprooting their family and moving, yet again, would not be easy, they felt the Holy Spirit not only leading but gently nudging them.

Some six months later, in April 2022, Jason Beste was announced as the inaugural director of Creighton's Arrupe Global Scholars and Partnerships Program — a \$25 million initiative funded by an anonymous foundation gift to build a new, visionary global health training program for medical students grounded in health equity, global health decolonization, liberation medicine and Ignatian values. The program expands the traditional four-year medical school curriculum to a new five-year curriculum. It will enroll incoming medical students from Creighton's Phoenix and Omaha campuses annually over the next 10 years, and graduates will earn both a medical degree and a Master of Public Health. The program is named for the Rev. Pedro Arrupe, SJ, founder of the Jesuit Refugee Service, who was deeply committed to justice and caring for people living in poverty.

Beste began his new role in July, welcoming the inaugural cohort of 12 first-year Arrupe scholars — six from Omaha, six from Phoenix — at an orientation in the Dominican Republic that same month.

While his new responsibilities will take him to points around the globe, he shares an office with his wife, Sara, at Creighton's Phoenix health sciences campus, where she joined the School of Medicine faculty and supports the Arrupe Global Scholars program through curriculum development and student mentorship. The two form a unique combination of global health experience and passion — having both collaborated on projects in Malawi, Mozambique and Liberia.

"This is where our gifts and passions were being called," Jason Beste says. "It just made sense. This is the most unique and innovative global health training program in medical education right now. To build a global health program from the ground up with amazing partners and collaborators is the greatest honor — to create a program with all the lessons Sara and I have learned."

That includes lessons from their undergraduate Jesuit educations — Jason at Creighton, Sara at Boston College — where both took part in spiritual formation and service opportunities.

"My undergraduate experience was transformative," Jason says. "It really opened my eyes to the structural injustices that exist in the world."

"My undergraduate experience was transformative. It really opened my eyes to the structural injustices that exist in the world."

JASON BESTE, BS'03, MD'08

A native of Minneapolis, who knew he wanted to be a physician since the age of 5, the undergraduate biology major and theology co-major was drawn by the Jesuit ideals of service and a faith that does justice — participating in service and justice trips to Pascagoula, Mississippi, and Chinle, Arizona, and other volunteer work locally.

He got involved with Campus Ministry. And, with several classmates, formed an intentional living community near campus, which they named Spirit of Peace, renting a University-owned house and sharing in service work, communal meals and reflections.

Also influential were classes on Catholic social teaching by theology professor Tom Kelly, PhD.

"Those classes were really eye-opening for me," Beste says. "I still remember sitting in Dr. Kelly's classes and seeing my calling in medicine unfold more clearly, combining social justice, Catholic social teaching and medicine into one entity. I just didn't know how to do it."

The "how-to" came into greater focus after graduation, when Beste did a year of postgraduate volunteer work on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota, at the Jesuit-run Red Cloud Indian School. He describes living among the Lakota people as transformative.

"I was exposed to the personal and generational harm that can result from racism, cultural insensitivity and power imbalances," he says. "It really heightened my desire to weave justice, equity and dignity into my future medical career."

Between teaching, coordinating student events and driving a school bus on the reservation, he was introduced to a book by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Tracy Kidder, titled *Mountains Beyond Mountains*, which chronicles the life of Paul Farmer, MD, HON'17, a renowned infectious-disease specialist, and his work to bring care and equitable health systems to those who live in poverty.

"I read the book and couldn't put it down. I remember thinking, 'Wow, that's it. This is what I want to do,'" Beste says.

He enrolled in Creighton's medical school, where he met a kindred spirit in Sara. She also dreamed of using her medical degree to work with populations on the margins and was equally interested in global health. The two married in 2009. After medical school, the couple, individually and together, pursued further study and global medicine opportunities in Malawi, Uganda, Haiti, Mozambique, Liberia, Ukraine, New York City, Boston and Seattle. One of Jason's greatest memories was working directly with Farmer — as medical director for Partners in Health in Malawi and Liberia and as an infectious disease physician in the Division of Global Health Equity at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School in Boston.

Farmer's unexpected death in Rwanda in early 2022 sent shockwaves through the global health community, and — for those who knew him personally, such as Beste — the loss of a mentor and colleague was deeply palpable.

"Paul was not only my boss but became my close mentor and North Star, guiding me to see the structural injustices and health inequities that people who live in poverty face every day," Beste says.

Beste now gets an opportunity to pass on that knowledge, experience and passion for global medicine to a new generation of Creighton medical students through the Arrupe Global Scholars and Partnerships Program.

This new approach to global health delivery is less about charity and more about justice. The program's core is to learn how to accompany people and develop more just and equitable health care systems. "We just can't go into a country or community and fix things," he says. "Our role is to be present, to listen and to accompany."

And for the Bestes, this move just feels right. "It's so great being back at Creighton. I feel like I'm back at home."

10-Year Anniversary

Phoenix Became Home to Medical Grads

BY CINDY MURPHY MCMAHON, BA'74

Corinne Lieu Schmidt, MD'14, and Nick Matthees, MD'14, were just happy to be enrolled in the School of Medicine 10 years ago. They weren't looking to also make history.

In 2012, Creighton officially took the first step in creating a health sciences campus in Phoenix, after many years of establishing relationships with area health care facilities for medical rotations. More than 40 medical students began serving their third and fourth years at the University's new regional campus of the School of Medicine.

Today, the Creighton University Health Sciences Campus – Phoenix features nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy and pharmacy programs and a four-year medical school. A physician assistant program will open next year.

Corinne Lieu Schmidt, MD'14



And today, Schmidt and Matthees, who were not originally from Arizona or the Southwest, have made new homes for themselves in the Phoenix area and are physicians with busy practices that they love.

Schmidt was originally from the East San Francisco Bay area in northern California. When she first began medical school at Creighton in Omaha, she says she “definitely had an interest in going to Phoenix for the third- and fourth-year track” and she attended a tour in Phoenix prior to starting in Omaha.

“Initially, a lot of my decision to go to Phoenix was location-based. It is closer to the West Coast and a short drive from where I have family. Ultimately though, the opportunities for clinical experiences solidified my choice to go down to Phoenix.

“We had some very inspirational lectures from Dr. Sanjay Singh (professor and chair of the Neurology Department in the School of Medicine) in Omaha and I couldn't pass up the opportunity to be in close proximity to the Barrow Neurological Institute at St. Joseph's Hospital in Phoenix.”

Now a pediatrician in Phoenix, Schmidt says being the first class in Arizona was exciting. “The energy was there from both the students and the staff, and it was contagious.

“We definitely had a good sense of humor. The running joke was, ‘OK, are we pioneers or guinea pigs?’ But, at the same time, we were very intentional with our feedback of our educational experiences because we knew we were laying the foundation for future classes.”

After graduation, she completed her residency at Phoenix Children's Hospital, followed by a year of chief residency, and then became a pediatric hospitalist at Honor Health Scottsdale Shea and joined Pediatrix Medical Group, positions she holds today.

Matthees says before he arrived in Phoenix to complete medical school, “I told all of my family in North Dakota and Minnesota that Phoenix would only be a two-year adventure.”

Instead, after graduation in 2014, he stayed in Phoenix at St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center for a year in general surgery, then four years of diagnostic radiology, and a one-year neuroradiology fellowship.

“Taking the risk to move to Phoenix to be part of a brand new program was intimidating and nerve-wracking,” he says, “but from the very first moment we interacted with St. Joseph's Hospital, Dignity Health and the Creighton Phoenix Regional Campus staff, we could see the Creighton values reflected.

“They invited us to Phoenix to tour the hospital and meet the staff and took us to a Diamondbacks game. They even had a Creighton alumnus drive us around the city so we could evaluate potential apartments. It was clear they wanted us to be successful from day one.”

Following his residency and fellowship years, Matthees returned to his home state and was a neuroradiologist at Methodist Hospital in



Nick Matthees, MD'14

St. Louis Park, Minnesota, for two years. He came back to Phoenix recently to be a staff neuroradiologist at Barrow Neurological Institute.

“Leaving the beautiful Midwest summers and the lakes was difficult, but ever since coming to the desert in medical school, I have felt a pull to the desert landscape, the diverse experiences in the Southwest and, of course, the weather. Leaving family was emotional, but I was excited to make new memories and reconnect with old friends in Phoenix.”

Now, looking back, both physicians are very happy with their decisions to attend Creighton and its budding Phoenix campus.

“Attending Creighton in Phoenix really shaped the foundation of my entire self as a doctor,” Matthees says, “from the specialty I chose to the place I practice. I did medical school rotations with world-class neuroradiologists at Barrow. Without that opportunity I might have specialized in a different field.

“The excellent teachers I had in every field during medical school strengthened my passion for teaching and made me want to work in academic medicine. I now feel like I'm giving back to all those who taught me.”

Schmidt says she chose Creighton because “the students seemed the happiest of all the places I interviewed. It was a very supportive environment to learn in, and I had an excellent clinical experience in my third and fourth years. I feel deeply privileged to be in the position to help people and their children and truly love what I do.”

Matthees adds that when their class first came to Arizona, “there were very few opportunities for people to complete health care training in the city of Phoenix, despite Phoenix being one of the most populous cities in the U.S.

“Creighton has played a huge role in helping ensure that this city can train and keep health care providers. With the number of new high-quality opportunities in Arizona now, I can't wait to see Phoenix become a hub that draws and retains great talent in the health professions.”



PT Students Join Phoenix Campus

The School of Pharmacy and Health Professions launched its first physical therapy cohort on the Phoenix health sciences campus this fall, enrolling 40 students. The PT program joins medicine, nursing, pharmacy and occupational therapy programs on the campus.

The three-year Doctor of Physical Therapy program is geared to helping the Southwest address the looming shortage of health care providers. Nearly 18% of Arizona's 7.2 million population consists of people 65 and older, according to the 2019 U.S. Census, and physical therapy is a key component of healthy aging.

The new PT students hail from 13 states. The class profile includes 19% first-generation students; 38% students of color; and a gender make up of 55% female, 45% male.

Nursing Gets Boost in Phoenix

The College of Nursing's Accelerated BSN program at the Phoenix campus received good news this summer when Arizona lawmakers allocated \$6 million in the state's budget to build out the health sciences campus to add more nursing students.

The investment from the state will add classroom space for a third cohort so Creighton can graduate another 60 nursing students a year. Creighton currently graduates about 100 accelerated nursing students a year on the Phoenix campus.

“Creighton is committed to Arizona and plans to continue to graduate nurses for the state for years,” says Catherine Toderò, PhD, BSN'72, vice provost of Health Sciences Campuses and dean of the College of Nursing.

Arizona legislators also allocated another \$44 million in grant funds for public and private universities and community colleges to grow their accelerated nursing programs. Creighton will be among the institutions competing for the grant funding.

Arizona is facing a nursing shortage due to the state's increasing older population and the fact that more nurses are reaching retirement age or quit during the pandemic.

Toderò was quoted in the *Arizona Republic*, saying the investments are “huge for the state, and I think Arizona was wise in their consideration of how they were going to ensure an adequate health care workforce for the future.”



Six professors across the Creighton campus speak about the meaning of authenticity, what it is and how we pursue it

Getting Real

The millennia-long quest for authenticity

BY Eugene Curtin

It's been a long time since Plato sat beneath a grove of trees holding forth on the authentic human goodness of Socrates, but the discussion of authenticity — what it is, what it means and how we should pursue it — has never slowed.

Aristotle, sitting at Plato's feet, developed his own ideas until some 350 years later Christianity began stressing the importance to an authentic life of a contemplative, inner spirituality. And so the centuries passed, as various understandings of authenticity were advanced — all parts of a parade colored by names that echo through the history of Western thought: Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Heidegger, Sartre, de Beauvoir, Camus, to name but a few.

So, was anything resolved after all this contemplation? Do we at last have a decent grasp on what it means to live an authentic life? We decided to set sail across Creighton's campus in search of an answer.

An important port of call, as is usually the case, was the office of the Rev. Larry Gillick, SJ.

Fr. Gillick, director of Creighton's Deglman Center for Ignatian Spirituality, works in a modest though comfortable office atop a flight of stairs in one of the oldest buildings on campus, squeezed between St. John's Church and Creighton Hall. Physically blind since a childhood accident, he has during his more than 40 years on campus built a reputation for spiritual insight.

So, we asked him the big question: What does it mean to be authentic?

A long silence ensued. Then, words — a stream of them, slowly enunciated.

"Let me talk about some words," he says. "I'm going to talk about receptivity. Generosity. True humility. Awareness. Reflection. Dependency. Adventure. Mystery. And honesty."

And so he does, his thoughts on those various qualities resolving eventually into a single admonition: Don't hide.

"Hiding is inauthentic," he says. "As is not being adventurous, not allowing mystery."

People often think that God is a mystery, Fr. Gillick says, but this is

not so. God is simple. God is One. People, on the other hand, many and diverse even within their individual beings, are the real mystery, and the discovery of who anybody authentically is requires a willingness to emerge from hiding and to embrace adventure.

"The authentic person allows mystery and darkness and invitation," Fr. Gillick says. "Not hiding. The inauthentic person hides from being authentic. I hide because I want to be who you think I am, or what you think I ought to be able to do, and I don't accept my limitations."

"I don't want you to see them, and I don't want me to see them. So, I will live only the life that has no experience of my limitations. It's pretty island centered. I know all the trees on my little island, so there is no adventure, and I can hide. I might say, 'I'm not hiding, I'm right here,' but I'm not knowing myself. The authentic person experiences awareness, acceptance, donation."

The authentic person, Fr. Gillick says, understands that he or she has purpose and is not afraid to discover what that purpose may be.

"The authentic person knows he or she is an agent of creation," he says, "meaning that I allow you to create me, and I allow myself to be an agent of God's creation of you. That is a central Jesuit thing. I'm open to your helping me know who I am. But the more I accept that, the more I am not mine — I become more for you. And if I am hiding, I am not going to be for you. If I am hiding, I cannot be a creational entity for you or an agent of God's grace."

Notebook entry: *Don't hide. Be open to adventure and to the unraveling of your personal mystery. Be open to the idea that others can help you discover who you are, even as you, as an agent of God's grace, do the same for them. Authenticity is a voyage of discovery. Don't be afraid to set sail.*

SO, WE SET SAIL. OUR NEXT PORT OF CALL is the oldest campus building — Creighton Hall, the original college structure from 1877 where the ghosts of Creighton Past mingle with the students and administrators of Creighton Present. Here presides the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD, president of Creighton University, whose latest book, *Jesuit Higher Education in a*

Secular Age: A Response to Charles Taylor and the Crisis of Fullness, we hope will have something to say about the journey toward authenticity.

We do not travel alone in our conversation. Having swapped his clerical collar for civilian garb, Fr. Hendrickson looks every bit the college professor whose doctorate in the philosophy of education allows him to welcome to the discussion such clashing existentialists as the 19th century Protestant philosopher Søren Kierkegaard and the 20th century atheist Jean Paul Sartre; and then, evidently his favorite — Canadian philosopher and social theorist Charles Taylor, who, at the age of 90, is still with us.

Fr. Hendrickson finds Taylor's idea of "fullness" closely related to authenticity.

"For Charles Taylor, 'fullness' is about myriad relationships with ourselves and with others, and with God," Fr. Hendrickson says. "The God part is the most important for him because it is the biggest aspect, but he thinks we are all connected, and I think he's right.

"In my book, I speak about the three pedagogies of fullness in Jesuit higher education, the ways we teach and work with students to form more self-awareness, stronger relationships with others, solidarity with those who don't live like we do, and then connect somehow to God.

"Those are my three pedagogies — the pedagogy of self and study, the pedagogy of solidarity or connecting with others, and the pedagogy of grace, which is openness to an experience beyond us."

It is that pedagogy of grace — an openness to a higher power and to the mystery and the beauty of higher things — that Fr. Hendrickson says leads to an authentic human experience.

"Taylor says that Western secularism — which is the U.S., Canada, Scandinavia and Western Europe — is shutting down our ability to be in relationship with God, and therefore we are less authentic," Fr. Hendrickson says.

"He says that we in the West need to be re-enchanted, even haunted, by the presence of God. He won't say you should go to church and pray, because he's an impractical philosopher in the sense that he doesn't tell us what to do — which is true of all philosophers — but he does kind of want us to do that. He wants us to be in relationship with a higher power, or with a God. That, for him, is the best expression of fullness and human authenticity."

Notebook entry: *Exercise your unique human ability to perceive a beauty and a power beyond the mundane. Experience "fullness" by developing awareness, building relationships with others and embracing a relationship with a higher power.*

FR. HENDRICKSON SUGGESTS VISITING WITH Patrick Murray, PhD, and David McPherson, PhD. Both are philosophy professors in the venerable Dowling Humanities Center, which is barely a stone's throw from Creighton Hall. So, there we go.

Murray is splendidly ruffled, in the professorial way, having stashed the crisp suit he wore the previous day when receiving Creighton's Kingfisher Award for contributions to the humanities. An internationally known authority on the theory and philosophy of Karl Marx, and the holder of Creighton's John C. Kenefick Faculty Chair in the Humanities, Murray has taught philosophy for 51 years, more than 40 of them at Creighton.

He cheerfully rescues from a pile of papers and books copies of Martin Heidegger's *Being and Time* and Soren Kierkegaard's *The Sickness Unto Death*. There are many views about authenticity, Murray says, mostly

addressed within the branch of philosophy known as existentialism, but given limitations of time and space we focus on Kierkegaard and Heidegger.

"Kierkegaard says that despair is sin," Murray says. "So, what is despair? Despair is not wanting to be yourself. That is the short answer. That is inauthenticity. Authenticity is affirming yourself or being yourself."

But who are we?

"For Kierkegaard," Murray says, "the only real authenticity is as a Christian believer, because, he says, Christianity delivers the truth about who we are.

"Now, he railed against what we call Christendom — the institutional, official Christianity where you go to church because everybody goes to church because that's the way it is done in a Christian country — but his idea is that authenticity is being yourself, and that to know what you are requires understanding what it means to be a human being.

"If you don't have the right answer to what it means to be a human being, then you are condemned to inauthenticity."

A turbulent relationship with Christianity and Catholicism led Heidegger to different conclusions, Murray says, to assertions that an authentic life requires being a social being and coming to grips with the world we inhabit. The key to such human growth is using foresight to gain an authentic perspective as we move toward the inevitability of death, Heidegger's famous concept of "being-toward-death."

Notebook entry: *Do not despair. Affirm yourself. Understand what it means to be human. Embrace the world. Be a social being.*

ON TO DAVID MCPHERSON, WHOSE THOUGHTS are given via the miracle of Zoom. He's at home, apparently in a book-lined attic, but engaging and cheerful. An authentic life, he says, requires a lodestar, a goal, a purpose in life, something to work toward and aim for — otherwise the search for "authenticity" can lapse into just so much navel-gazing.

"Authenticity properly understood, and that which we should be concerned with promoting, involves a kind of looking inward to what we resonate with that is also looking outward to something of value beyond ourselves," he says. "What is most important in human life? What goods should I orient my life toward?"

"I think it connects in certain ways with the Ignatian practice of discernment, of coming to discern what God's will is for my life. For Ignatius, clearly, doing the will of God was his lodestar, but what it means to do God's will, will be different for each individual."

There are ways to consider the issue that need not employ the language of religion.

"Another way to think of it is, what is my calling?" McPherson says. "What is my vocation? Authenticity has an important role in that it asks us to look within ourselves to see what is most important. We must engage in that process of understanding."

Crucially, he says, authenticity cannot be — as might be lightly assumed — doing whatever you feel like doing.

"That can lead to a really problematic situation where if we recognize no objective values, no objective goodness, then why care about anything?"

Notebook entry: *Establish goals, internal and external, and be true to them. Resist destructive instincts, pursue things of value that lie beyond the self.*

Discovering Personal Authenticity

The discovery of personal authenticity, an undercurrent of a Jesuit education, occurs quietly and almost invisibly as learning mounts and viewpoints evolve.

Understanding and guiding that process falls to frontline educators, among whom are Colette O'Meara-McKinney, EdD'20, assistant professor of dentistry and associate dean for student affairs, and Corey Guenther, PhD, associate professor in Creighton's Department of Psychological Science.

O'Meara-McKinney runs the Program for Ignatian Mindfulness at the School of Dentistry, which helps students develop resilience by applying Ignatian principles of gratitude and self-awareness.

She is very helpful — indeed, mindful — and has prepared notes in which she says authenticity is "the alignment of our words, thoughts, actions and emotions" and "being honest about what's in my heart and in my head in a way that is respectful and compassionate."

Her demeanor, as befits an associate dean of student affairs, is patient and warm.

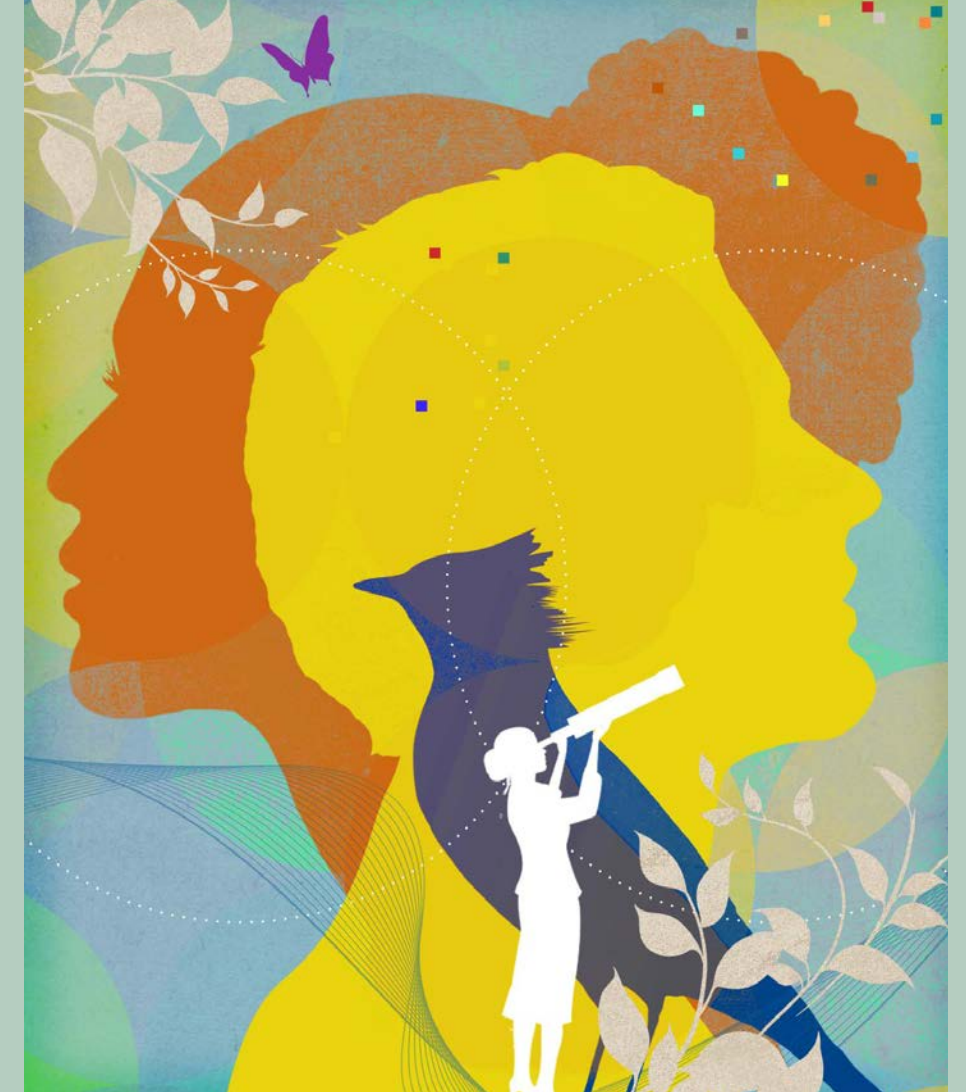
"Sometimes, life is just challenging, and we're sad or upset or frustrated or disappointed," she says. "And all those emotions are real and legitimate. Sometimes, I have students in — and there's a box of Kleenex here for a reason— because something has happened. It can be anything from, 'I didn't do well on a test' to 'I just broke up with my girlfriend.'"

People are at their most vulnerable at such moments, she says, but vulnerability is a big part of authenticity because it leads to honesty.

"I think if we are truly being our authentic selves there is an alignment with who we are, who we aspire to be, our emotions, our words — all those things are in sync. I don't think you can be authentic if you don't have some vulnerability," she says.

"You are not trying to fit in, you are not going with the group, you are not answering in a way that you think will be well received, you are being honest. It is that alignment with personality, sense of self, values, priorities — when those things are aligned, I think it gets you through the good, the bad and the ugly still intact."

Notebook entry: *Don't fear vulnerability. Embrace honesty. Develop gratitude.*



OVER AT THE SKUTT STUDENT CENTER,

in the commons area down by the coffee shop, awaits Guenther. As it happens, he has studied "authenticity" and is eager to share what he and other researchers have found. Engaging, brimming with data and highly conversant with the latest psychological research into authenticity (which he says picked up serious speed in the mid 1990s), Guenther has some surprises.

"The research I have been doing recently gets into the question, what does it mean to be authentic, what does it mean to feel authentic," he says. "It's quite clear. We feel more authentic when we feel good about ourselves.

"Historically, we have thought about authenticity as being something that reflects genuinely accepting strengths and weaknesses, truly knowing yourself well, whereas a lot of recent research says that may not be the case."

The fact is, Guenther says, that human beings are authentically biased toward thinking well of themselves, that their overall well-being improves when they focus on their good traits, and, conversely, can decline by dwelling on failings.

"We might say that we aspire to accuracy, that

we want to truly know ourselves, but in practice we want to truly know our good selves," he says.

While this challenges reigning assumptions that authenticity demands awareness of strengths and weaknesses and a clear-eyed assessment of "who we are," the body of research, Guenther says, shows that a profoundly authentic trait among people, across cultures, is that they do better when they think well of themselves.

"In fact," he says, "people who aren't positively biased tend to exhibit symptoms of mild depression. Having slightly biased positive self-views predicts so many measures of mental well-being.

"What I am saying is probably contrary to most people's definition of what authenticity is. But data suggest that authenticity for our species is not necessarily self-accuracy but that we thrive and do our best psychologically and even physically when we are slightly self-biased in a positive direction. That might be the right framework to construe authenticity."

Notebook entry: *Accentuate the positive, eliminate (or at least sideline) the negative. Your good self is your authentic self. Lift it up.*

Healing Through the Humanities

After pandemic burnout, physician finds new calling in medical humanities

BY Blake Ursch



CASEY BUCKMAN

The COVID-19 pandemic had ripped the soul out of medicine for Ingrid Berg, DO.

A family practice hospitalist in rural Wisconsin, Berg had worked tirelessly to treat a deluge of patients with the virus, only to watch many of them die within days, or worse, linger for weeks and slowly suffocate.

She had defended herself against conspiracy theorists and denialists who screamed at her in the halls of her hospital.

And her favorite part of the job — connecting personally with her patients — had been made difficult by layers and layers of PPE.

She needed something to remind her of the why of medicine. And, after a quick Google search, she found it.

Berg is now a member of the inaugural class of the Master of Arts in Medical Humanities, a new degree program in the Creighton University School of Medicine. As part of the online graduate program, students explore how health care is shaped by the cultural, spiritual, political and economic environment that informs daily life. Led by expert faculty across disciplines, they study literature, history, philosophy, psychology, ethics and more, all with an emphasis on personal development and professional discernment.

“My entire life has changed because of this program,” says Berg, now a year into her course of study. “The most challenging and most tender moments in practicing medicine are those steeped in discomfort and ambiguity and suffering, and a purely biomedical curriculum often doesn’t teach physicians how to address those.”

Guided by the Jesuit charism of *cura personalis*, or “care for the whole person,” Creighton has long endeavored to incorporate the humanities into the curricula of all its schools and colleges.

But there is, perhaps, a greater urgency for it in the medical field, which is facing a looming burnout crisis in the wake of the pandemic. In 2022, U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy issued an advisory on health care worker burnout. With physician demand outpacing supply, the country could experience a shortage of between 54,000 and 139,000 physicians by 2033.

Exploring the humanities helps physicians reframe their profession in terms of helping their patients work through the narrative of their lives — which benefits both parties, says Kate McKillip, MD, BA’09, assistant professor in

the School of Medicine and a physician on the palliative care team at CHI Health Creighton University Medical Center – Bergan Mercy.

“I think the medical humanities helps clinicians connect with the why of what we do,” she says. “Immersing ourselves in story, in narrative, in poetry, can help us rekindle the sense of wonder.”

It’s been a goal for the program from the very beginning, says the Rev. Kevin FitzGerald, SJ, PhD, PhD, chair of the Department of Medical Humanities.

“Helping health care professionals and others find increased fulfillment and meaning in their work that will enhance their ability to care for patients and colleagues is both what we hoped to achieve with this program and what is so urgently needed in health care today,” he says. “We were so fortunate to attract such

“My entire life has changed because of this program.”

INGRID BERG, DO

amazing students in our inaugural class, and we hope that our initial success will foster a steady stream of students who will grace us with their desire to become the best health care professionals they can be.”

The master’s program specifically was designed to be “transformational,” says Nicole Piemonte, PhD, the Peekie Nash Carpenter Endowed Chair in Medicine and program director for the Master of Arts in Medical Humanities.

“Our purpose in the medical humanities, whether we are educating health care students, graduate students or practicing clinicians, is not only to educate one’s mind, but also one’s heart,” she says.

The experience, Berg says, has deeply influenced her approach to medicine, opening her mind to the practice of healing beyond the physical. Once, when she learned one of her very sick

patients loved the poet Mary Oliver, Berg called her husband and asked him to bring over books by Oliver from Berg’s personal library.

Doctor and patient later read a poem together.

“It was really special,” Berg says. “Often, nothing needles you or encourages you to ask anything beyond the standard questions. We ask about bowel movements and breathing and all sorts of things, but it wouldn’t hurt if we asked things like ‘What was the highlight of your day?’ only to find out it’s a poem. And it’s so easy to bring someone a poem.”

Berg was particularly moved by her experience learning more about end-of-life care through the medical humanities program. During their course of study, students engage in a two-week-long palliative care or hospice experience, working alongside physicians in a clinical setting. Last year, Berg traveled to Omaha to shadow the palliative care team at Bergan.

Working with McKillip, Berg discovered a previously unknown passion for end-of-life care.

“Areas like palliative care and hospice often get labeled as a ‘death squad,’ but it’s so much more than that,” Berg says. “I learned from Dr. McKillip that, in palliative care, we do things like conducting a ‘life review’ with our patients, helping them answer the tough questions and serving as extra support when things are complicated.”

The experience affirmed a passion for end-of-life care, reinforcing a decision she made to change careers. Berg recently moved from Wisconsin to begin a palliative care fellowship at the University of Missouri. Her dream job, she says, is working at the intersection of her two newfound passions — teaching medical humanities in an academic space and working in palliative care in a clinical setting.

“I didn’t realize that in mid-life, I could make a change like this. The mentors and professors in this program have been so generous and enthusiastic and supportive,” she says, adding, “I would just plea that more medical schools embrace the humanities. We demand so much from our learners in health care, it may seem at first glance unfair to ask them to do more. But a nose-to-the-grindstone approach to our science courses isn’t enough.

“A curriculum like this helps to expand our sense of what it means to heal through exploring what it means to be human.”

An Enduring Miracle

When he died before his special Make-a-Miracle event, Creighton students stepped in to remember 16-month-old Elliot Orion Shell
BY Blake Ursch



Elliot Orion Shell was learning how to roar. Standing on a couch, the 16-month-old would often point at the animal stickers decorating the window of his hospital room, mimicking the sounds of the creatures he saw. A lion. A monkey. A fish.

He loved stickers, his mom says. When visitors came, Elliot would peel off the COVID-19 screening stickers they were given at the front desk and slap them on his own belly.

He threw left-handed — his grandpa called him “Southpaw.” He loved music. He was fascinated by lights.

And he had a look, his parents remember, in his bright blue eyes full of heart and verve. A look that brought joy to those who met him and showed the world just how much love he had to give.

“People would always talk to me about how special he was, and he’s the only kid we had, so we really didn’t know any better,” says Elliot’s mom, Dana Freeman. “But I get it now. He had some quality, an energy that touched people’s lives.”

Elliot died on April 4, 2022, after living with a rare genetic immune system disorder called NEMO Deficiency Syndrome. A week later, Creighton’s Jays for Pediatrics student group held a small dedication ceremony in his memory.

Before he died, Elliot spent many mornings receiving occupational therapy treatment at Omaha’s Creighton Pediatric Therapy. There, under the care of Lisa Jordan, BSOT’96, an occupational therapist at the clinic and instructor in the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions, he learned to self-feed, eat and swallow, tasks that proved difficult for him throughout his life.

“Elliot was a beam of sunlight with those beautiful eyes,” Jordan says. “What a joy and gift it was for me to work with Elliot and his family. It truly made me a better human and clinician. It has been an honor and blessing to walk this journey with them.”

In March, Elliot was admitted to the C.L. Werner Cancer Hospital to receive a bone marrow transplant, which doctors hoped could help improve his immune function.

Jordan nominated Elliot for consideration for Jays for Peds, a student group in the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions that produces fun experiences or donates adaptive equipment to children receiving treatment at Creighton Pediatric Therapy.

Composed of on-campus and distance students in physical therapy, occupational therapy and pharmacy, Jays for Peds uses funds provided by the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions Student Government to host Make-a-Wish-like events, called Make-a-Miracle events, for nominated children each semester.

The Make-a-Miracle event, which has been around for about two years, has hosted car parades and painting parties. Once, they organized an at-home wildlife experience, arranging for different animals to be brought to the child’s home.

“People would always talk to me about how special he was, and he’s the only kid we had, so we really didn’t know any better. But I get it now. He had some quality, an energy that touched people’s lives.”

DANA FREEMAN



© Elliot with his parents, Stuart Shell and Dana Freeman. Elliot received occupational therapy treatment at Creighton Pediatric Therapy in Omaha.

alternative: Jays for Peds would bring him toys to play with in his room, and in the street below his seventh-floor hospital room, they would produce a dazzling flashlight show that Elliot could watch from his window.

But 12 days after receiving his bone marrow transplant, Elliot contracted an infection. Just a few days before the scheduled light show, he died, surrounded by his family.

“I let (Jays for Peds) know when it happened, and I wasn’t sure what they wanted to do. I figured if they already had gifts, they could give them to someone else,” Freeman says. “But they decided to still give Elliot his miracle.”

After Elliot died, Jays for Peds donated several items in his memory to organizations throughout the Omaha area. Board books, baby swings and a lullaby sound machine to Children’s Hospital and Medical Center. A rocking chair to the pediatric intensive care unit at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. A memorial brick at Lauritzen Gardens.

About a week after he died, Jays for Peds and Jordan held a small ceremony at Creighton Pediatric Therapy with Elliot’s family. They dedicated a bird bath, marked with Elliot’s name and released balloons in his memory.

“The clinic was a familiar place for Dana and Elliot, but not for me. It was always something those two did together. So it was nice for me to have a chance to see a place where Elliot spent a lot of his time,” Stuart says. “To be able to imagine him there, it was a comfort.”

For members of his extended family, some of whom had rarely been able to meet Elliot in person because of his condition, the ceremony provided one more precious opportunity to get to know him — and to grieve for him — together, Freeman says.

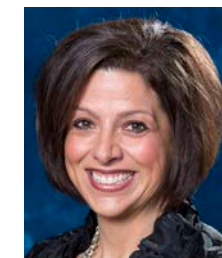
“That was such a gift to our family,” she says. “Especially since it came from all these people who had never met Elliot, but went to such great lengths to do all these things for him ... In his life, and in his death, he touched so many people. And that really was the most meaningful part for us.”

“Seeing the kids’ smiles on the days of their Make-a-Miracle events — they’re always excited to be the center of attention,” says Erin Miskell, an occupational therapy student and president of Jays for Peds. “Usually, the families are very grateful for the opportunity. Sometimes they have ideas in mind for what they think their kids would enjoy, sometimes we work together on them. We usually end up with some pretty great ideas.”

In Elliot’s case, it was a light show.

At home with his parents, Elliot would be transfixed by the glowing geometric shapes of a glass chandelier and floor lamp, says his father, Stuart Shell. Toys also held wonder, and he would turn them over and over again, watching their movement.

Because of his condition, which made him susceptible to infection, Elliot’s hospital visitors were highly limited. So Miskell and his parents came up with a safe



© Lisa Jordan, BSOT’96, provided care for Elliot at Creighton Pediatric Therapy.



DAVE WEAVER

ALUMNI NOTES

Send Us Your News

Penned your long-awaited novel? Traveled around the world? Received that awesome promotion? Earned a prestigious honor? If so, we want to hear about it. Share your memories and milestones by emailing us at alumninews@creighton.edu.

60 Charles F. Gotch, JD, Omaha, received the Nebraska State Bar Foundation Award in March 2022. This is the most prestigious award given by the foundation. It honors exemplary service to the foundation and is presented to lawyers or judges who have made and continue to make a strong commitment to the goals of the foundation.

72 Allan R. Vorda, BA, Sugar Land, Texas, had his book *Talk Talk: Interviews With Writers* published by TCU Press in August. Vorda's book is a collection of interviews he has done with major writers over the last 35 years — 27 writers total — including Emily St. John Mandel, Jennifer Egan, Richard Powers, **Ron Hansen, BA'70**, and the late Robert Stone.

74 Dr. Robert E. Mathiasen, BA, Lincoln, Nebraska, has retired from the University of Nebraska system after 40 years of service. Formerly a student affairs specialist at the University of Nebraska Omaha and a psychiatry research assistant at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, Mathiasen began his career at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus in 1987 as an academic adviser in the former Division of Continuing Studies. Later, he was the assistant director of undergraduate programs and academic adviser for Extended Education and Outreach (serving as interim director on three occasions), recruitment specialist for Online and Distance Education, program

coordinator of Advanced Scholars (Nebraska Now), and, most recently, the distance education program specialist for the Office of Graduate Studies.

76 Daniel E. Monnat, JD, Wichita, Kansas, of Monnat & Spurrier, Chartered, was ranked among the Top 10 of Missouri and Kansas Super Lawyers for the fourth consecutive year. He has been among the overall Top 100 of Missouri and Kansas Super Lawyers for more than 15 years. Monnat also was honored by *Best Lawyers in America 2023* for the 35th consecutive year. Additionally, Monnat was again ranked among Kansas' top litigators by Chambers USA 2022 in the areas of white-collar crime and government investigations, and he was named to the 2022 edition of *Who's Who Legal: Business Crime Defense*.

78 Stephen W. Kay, JD, North Platte, Nebraska, and his wife, **Jean Lawse Kay, BSN**, were featured in a story in the *Nebraska Examiner* (Feb. 2022) about closing the gap in Medicare coverage for the disabled in the state of Nebraska and the introduction of LB 1190 to the Nebraska Legislature during the 2022 session. Nebraska State Senator **Steven M. Lathrop, BSBA'79, JD'81**, of Omaha introduced the legislation.

79 Michael J. Madden, BA'70, JD, Birmingham, Alabama, was recently recognized by Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey at a recognition ceremony for National

Senior Games gold medalists from Alabama. Madden has played/coached the Birmingham, Alabama, basketball (70+) team to three consecutive gold medals at the National Senior Olympics.

80 Maura McCarthy Taylor, BS, Springfield, Missouri, executive director/CEO of Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri, is retiring in December 2022. Taylor has led the nonprofit organization for the last 11 years, working with her team to expand needed services to the vulnerable of all faiths in the 39 southernmost counties in Missouri.

82 Dr. Rebecca Feight Morris, BS'78, MBA, Hartford, Connecticut, was promoted to associate dean, School of Business, Mathematics, Computing and Sustainability at Westfield State University in Westfield, Massachusetts.

85 Brien M. Welch, BA'82, JD, Omaha, of Cassem, Tierney, Adams, Gotch and Douglas in Omaha, became a member of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers in 2022.

88 Lynn F. Chandler, JD, Johns Island, South Carolina, has been recognized by the *Best Lawyers in America 2023* in trusts and estates. She is a partner in the Charlotte, North Carolina, office of Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick, LLP.

93 Edward J. Stein, BA'87, BSPha'92, PharmD, Peoria, Arizona, was recognized with the Arizona Pharmacy Association

(AzPA) Elias Schlossberg Award in June 2022. This award is the highest level of recognition for an Arizona pharmacist who has made significant contributions to health system pharmacy in the form of sustained exemplary lifetime service that reflects positively on the profession of pharmacy. Stein served more than 27 years as a pharmacy officer in the U.S. Public Health Service, spending his entire career in the Indian Health Service at a variety of duty stations in Arizona and retired in November 2021. Now as a consulting pharmacist, he continues to deliver presentations to health care and pharmacy organizations and schools of pharmacy and is turning his attention to the prevention of chronic disease, pharmacy practice in lifestyle medicine, public health and patient advocacy for access to quality health care.

96 Cliftron L. Brunt II, BA, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, was selected to participate in the Associated Press' inaugural LEAD class. The LEAD program is designed to help participants better understand how the Associated Press (AP) operates across departments and to build skills needed to inspire change, lead teams and propel innovation. Brunt is an AP sportswriter in Oklahoma City and covers the NBA's Oklahoma City Thunder and the University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University athletics. **Dr. Isabelle Schindler Cherny, BA**, Deerfield, Illinois, is the president of Mount Mary

IMPACT

Gift Celebrates 24th Street Beautification

More than six decades ago, an Irish emigrant arrived at Creighton with an enduring vision: to create a campus in a concrete world.

From 1955-1959, the late John Mulhall, HON'97, developed and meticulously cared for the grounds of the University. He brought to campus life-affirming, natural elements and in his hand, plant-life flourished.

Creighton graduate Mike Leighton, BA'70, met John when Leighton joined the Creighton staff in 1972. The two became friends during what Leighton calls "John's second era at Creighton."

"Long after he left the University as the official groundskeeper, John continued to give his time, talent and gifts to the University, and he was on campus often," Leighton says. "I suspect Maureen supported his undertakings and shared John's love for Creighton."

To honor John and Maureen Mulhall, their



John, HON'97, and Maureen Mulhall

sons, Creighton graduate Jim, MD'83, Daniel and Sean, made a gift to the University's 24th Street Beautification Project.

"The Jesuit Gardens was our father's favorite place at Creighton. He hoped that one day the rest of the campus would rival its beauty and function — and now it does," Jim says. "Our family is honored to support the beautification of 24th Street as a fitting tribute to the legacy of John and Maureen Mulhall."

The reimagining of the 24th Street corridor between Cass and Cuming streets is significant for its revitalization of the door to North Omaha, for the beauty it's brought to Creighton's core and for the greater safety it's created for the thousands of pedestrians and drivers using the street and crosswalk daily.

"Prior to the renovations, 24th Street felt like a line separating campus," says Creighton student Jaliya Nagahawatte. "Now, it feels like a part of campus, and that we are all connected — no divide. I genuinely believe that the beautification of physical space is what turns college from a learning environment to a living-learning atmosphere."

In 1957, while John was working full-time at the University, he and Maureen launched their landscaping business out of their garage, hiring college students and firefighters to mow lawns. Maureen worked behind the scenes as the bookkeeper, custodian and inventory clerk. Together, they grew their business into one of Omaha's most iconic landscaping and gardening companies.

Today, Sean and Dan are second-generation owners and managers of Mulhall's Nursery. The Mulhalls' sons were among 11 other donors who led the way for the nondescript stretch of 24th Street running through campus to be transformed into an elegant boulevard.

"The splendor of Creighton's campus and its design are a result of John's care and his big heart," Leighton says. "Some of my fondest memories of John are his stories, of Ireland and Creighton, and his love for Maureen and their boys. I'm so happy to hear their name is tied to the 24th Street project. It's very fitting."

— **BY NICHOLE JELINEK, MA'15**

University in Milwaukee. Cherney was previously vice provost for graduate education at Merrimack College near Boston, and prior to that held positions at Creighton University. **The Hon. John J. Sullivan, JD**, Oelwein, Iowa, was named district court judge in Judicial Election District 1B. Prior to his judgeship, Sullivan operated Sullivan Law Office in Oelwein and was the magistrate of Fayette County.

98 Tricia O'Hare Jedele, JD, Coventry, Rhode Island, is the Atlantic Coast Offshore Wind Policy Manager for the Nature Conservancy. Before her current position, Jedele was special assistant attorney general and chief of the Environmental Unit at the Rhode Island Attorney General's Office. She has worked on environmental law and energy policy issues for more than 20 years.

99 Dr. James A. Mello, MBA, Steubenville, Ohio, executive director of Institutional Effectiveness, Innovation and Extension at Franciscan University of Steubenville, has been elected as chair of the executive board of the Catholic Campus Ministry Association (CCMA) for 2022-2023. The mission of CCMA is to promote the mission of the Church by empowering Catholic campus ministers through formation, networking and resources.

00 David J. Wenthold, BSBA, Minneapolis, recently passed the Series 7, Series 63 and Series 65 and is now a financial planner with Prudential Advisors in Minneapolis.

01 Michael A. Serrania, BSBA, Morgan Hill, California, has been named principal of Sacred Heart Nativity Schools in San Jose, California, after serving 15 years as a Spanish instructor at Bellarmine College Prep. He began his role as principal in July 2022.

03 Melissa Danz Best, BA, Winston Salem, North Carolina, was promoted to vice president, global onboarding, at SAP. In this role, she will lead a team to create an onboarding experience for the global IT company, onboarding more than 10,000 employees annually. Her

organizational communications degree from Creighton has been instrumental in helping her understand how the blend of people experience and organizational needs are required to create scalable and impactful global programs.

04 Andrea Baalman Taylor, BA'99, DDS, Denver, was recently appointed as president of the international dental academy AES: Leaders in Occlusion, TMD and Comprehensive Care. AES is the leading organization of dental professionals advancing the science and clinical application of knowledge in occlusion, TMD and comprehensive oral care for the well-being of patients. Taylor is the first female president of the organization.

08 Lt. Cmdr. Joanne M. Gonzales, BA, Arlington, Virginia, was recently a panelist at the National Museum of the United States Navy. The panel's theme was "Unidos: Inclusivity for a Stronger Nation." Gonzales is a U.S. Navy lawyer in the Office of General Counsel on Intelligence. The panelists talked about why they joined the Navy and how they became leaders in their respective Navy communities.

10 Catherine Warner Musulin, BSEVS, Lakewood, Colorado, was named one of the top 100 female leaders in sustainability by *Sustainability* magazine (March 2022). Musulin is director of sustainability & B Corp at Danone in Broomfield, Colorado.

13 Dr. Mary E. Homan, MS, Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, was appointed vice president of ethics for the Southwest Division of CommonSpirit Health in May 2022. Homan maintains an adjunct assistant professor position in the Center for Bioethics and Medical Humanities, Institute for Health & Equity, at the Medical College of Wisconsin (Milwaukee).

14 Evan H. Holland, BA, Haddon Township, New Jersey, joined the law firm Gibbons PC in the products liability group as an associate in the Philadelphia office.

18 Claire S. Knutson, BS, Minneapolis, received her Master of Health Administration from the University of Minnesota

ALUMNI PROFILE

Alumnus Pens Book About Growing Up in South Sudan

BIDONG TOT'S journey to Creighton began the day his father told him they were going for a walk.

It was 1995, and Tot and his father, Yien Tot, walked beneath the hot African sun for a week, journeying from their native village of Akobo in southern Sudan, through countryside beset by civil war, to neighboring Gambela, Ethiopia. The United Nations maintained a refugee camp there, where Tot's uncle worked, and where the father knew his 7-year-old son would get a first taste of education.

"One day my father said, 'Oh, you need to get ready, put a couple of clothes on, we are going somewhere tomorrow,'" Tot recalls. "My mother made me a good meal, and that was it. Just like that we walked to Ethiopia. I was really young, so sometimes my dad carried me. You will see at the end of the book that I am waving to my mom."

The book is, *A Boy in Akobo, South Sudan*, a children's book of 30 pages written by Tot and illustrated by Jaqueline Lopez-Rogel. It tells Tot's story of growing up in the small, straw-hut village of Akobo. The book describes a simple rural life, of children rising before dawn to clean the animal barn, of meals of cornmeal, fish and milk, of herding cows and goats, of fending off prowling lions and playing in the river while watching out for crocodiles, attending the village church on Sunday and drifting off to sleep amidst Bible stories and tales of ancestors.

And no school. The village, Tot says, consisting of a few dozen huts and a straw-hut church, had no education system at all, and so, upon arriving at the UN refugee camp, Tot was illiterate.

Today, after securing a Bachelor of Arts in history and a teaching certificate from Creighton University, Tot teaches social studies at Omaha Bryan High School.

That transformation began in 1999, when the UN helped Tot and four of his siblings fly to Manchester, New Hampshire, where they stayed a few months before permanently relocating to Omaha. Tot attended Omaha South High School, where he played soccer and won a full-ride Gates Millennium Scholarship, which, together with a



© Bidong Tot, BA'11, with wife, Victoria Shelton Tot, MS'14, reads his autobiographical and recently published children's book to his children, from left, Michael, Josephine and James.

Creighton Diversity Scholarship that helped cover miscellaneous expenses, opened the door to the world of higher education. Since Creighton faculty and staff played a significant role in helping him apply for the scholarship, and since he had grown comfortable in Omaha, Tot opted for Creighton.

"I thought, 'Well, I know there's support there,' so really it was a no-brainer," Tot says. "Creighton had to be the one, because if I went there, I knew that I would work hard, and I knew I would have a great support system, especially with the professors, some of whom I knew from high school."

Tot's life has been full of remarkable moments, but none more so, he says, than the bus journey to the refugee camp after arriving in Ethiopia.

"That was the first time I encountered the modern world," he says. "I remember seeing Ethiopians and being amazed that they were a different color to me. I sat next to an Ethiopian and wondered if the color of my skin was going to change to look like these Ethiopians. All of a sudden there were different people, and all these machines. It was like flying to a different planet and realizing that there are different

“Creighton had to be the one, because if I went there, I knew that I would work hard, and I knew I would have a great support system, especially with the professors, some of whom I knew from high school.”

BIDONG TOT, BA'11

people in this world, people who speak a different language than my language."

That language is Nuer, and when Tot joined the faculty at Omaha Bryan High School he became the first Nuer-speaking teacher in Omaha Public Schools — no small matter since Nebraska and Iowa have become national centers of Sudanese immigration. Today, he is a recipient of Bryan High School's Gold Award, granted to outstanding teachers. He is also married with three children after meeting his wife, Victoria Shelton Tot, MS'14, at Creighton; she graduated with a Master of Science in school counseling.

His book, Tot says, is a gift to his young children.

"My kids motivated me to write this book because they would cry that they didn't want to go to bed without being read to, which is the culture here in the United States, but back home I could have cried all I wanted to, but there were no books.

"And then I thought, 'Wow, what a great opportunity this is for me to write a book that will mean so much to them. This is not just a story I am reading to you, it is the story of this person sitting right in front of you.'"

— BY EUGENE CURTIN

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College of Public Health. She will begin a two-year fellowship at Michigan Medicine in Ann Arbor, Michigan. **Dr. Christopher J. Meehan, BS**, Douglas, Michigan, graduated from Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine in May 2022, and he has joined a small-animal practice in Aiken, South Carolina. **Dexter B. Turner, BS'14, MS**, Omaha, joined Broadview Talent Partners as vice president, senior associate.

19 Matthew E. Gotfryd, PharmD, Scottsdale, Arizona, was recognized with the Arizona Pharmacy Association's Distinguished Young Pharmacist of the Year Award in June 2022. This award is presented to an Arizona pharmacist who has demonstrated significant leadership in Arizona pharmacy in the previous year. Gotfryd is an ambulatory clinical pharmacist at Banner Health in Phoenix. **Brett St. John, MIMFA**, West Hartford, Connecticut, joined Coastal Bridge Advisors as an investment strategy associate.

22 Gavin S. Hayashi, BS'16, MD, Wichita, Kansas, has entered residency at the University of Kansas School of Medicine - Wichita Family Medicine Residency Program at Wesley Medical Center in Wichita.

WEDDINGS

77 Anne M. Jenkins, BSN, and **Gerard V. Centioli**, April 23, 2022, living in Edmonds, Washington, and Chicago.

02 Linnea Weeks and Johnny L. Nantz Jr., DDS, May 14, 2022, living in Austin, Texas.

15 Grace M. Meehan, BSN, and **Joseph C. Winter, BSBA'16**, Oct. 1, 2021, living in Minneapolis.

17 Amanda Croy, DPT, and **Adrian C. Schenk, PharmD'18**, Oct. 9, 2020, living in Denver.

18 Kaitlin Collins, BSN, and **Mark Kallweit, BSBA**, Aug. 28, 2022, living in Portland, Oregon.

20 Katie M. Peterson, JD, and **Austin Davis, JD**, Oct. 2, 2021, living in Lone Tree, Colorado.

BIRTHS

10 Nathan T. Wurtz, BA, and **Catherine Howe Wurtz, BSBA'07, MBA'11**, St. Louis, a daughter, Anna Catherine, Nov. 11, 2021.

13 Brendyn R. Kaintz, BS, and **Kelsey Holmes Kaintz, BSN'12**, St. Louis, a son, August Paul, June 22, 2022.

18 Adrian C. Schenk, PharmD, and **Amanda Croy Schenk, DPT'17**, Denver, a son, Mackinley, Dec. 16, 2021.

DEATHS

42 Martha Brudney Jones, SJN, Bellevue, Nebraska, March 23, 2022.

46 Clement F. Knobbe, BS'45, MD, Denver, Aug. 1, 2022.

47 Annette Forbes Merlis, BSChm, Commack, New York, May 20, 2020.

48 Jean Marley Pannuto, SCN, Bakersfield, California, Aug. 20, 2022. **Helen Eakin Zech, SCN**, Enumclaw, Washington, Feb. 27, 2022.

49 Cloyd J. Conroy, BS, Yankton, South Dakota, Feb. 24, 2022. **Dr. Byron B. Oberst, ARTS**, Omaha, June 7, 2022. **Mary Heffernan Wachter, SJN'48, BSN**, Mesa, Arizona, Feb. 11, 2022.

50 J. Paul Fritton, BS, Lexington, Nebraska, Feb. 9, 2022.

Joseph C. Nemeec, DDS, Omaha, July 10, 2022. **Donald W. Spielman, BS**, Omaha, June 28, 2022.

51 Robert C. Bolsinger, BS, St. Paul, Minnesota, Dec. 24, 2021.

52 George A. Chamblin Jr., BS, Overland Park, Kansas, July 19, 2022. **William D. Gaffney, BS**, Sac City, Iowa, Aug. 8, 2022. **Betty Feist Holloway, SJN'51, BSN**, Madison, Alabama, Aug. 13, 2021. **James V. Huerter, DDS**, Omaha, July 25, 2022. **Bernice Hayes Lanspa, BSPha**, Omaha, March 26, 2022. **Marion Feist Rainbolt, BS**, San Diego, Nov. 10, 2021. **Maynard S. Telpner, JD**, Medford, Oregon, June 23, 2022.

53 Genitha Farrell Clark, SJN, Topeka, Kansas, March 22, 2022. **Joseph F. Fiala, BS**, Papillion, Nebraska, March 23, 2022. **Jack McGraw, BS**, Rancho Mirage, California, Aug. 1, 2022.

HONORING OUR ALUMNI



The Creighton University Alumni Achievement Citation is the highest all-University award presented to Creighton alumni. This year's recipient, **James Silhasek, BA'69, JD'72**, is an accomplished Arizona business leader and retired lawyer who served as vice chair and general counsel at Discount Tire until his retirement in 2021.

2022 ALUMNI MERIT AWARD RECIPIENTS

The Alumni Merit Award recognizes outstanding alumni from the schools and colleges. The following were honored at this year's Evening of Honors event held in August.



Col. Steven Mahon, BA'83, MA'08
College of Arts and Sciences



Robert Kathol, BSBA'63
Heider College of Business



James Bongers, DDS'80
School of Dentistry



Mike Miller, BSEMS'07, MS'10, EdD'14
College of Professional Studies/Graduate School



M. Jane Huerter, BA'72, JD'76
School of Law



Peter DeMarco, MD'62
School of Medicine



Anne Jenkins, BSN'77
College of Nursing



Judy Gale, DPT'02
School of Pharmacy and Health Professions

2022 RECENT ALUMNI AWARD



Steve Hogan II, BA'08, MS'16, JD'16
College of Arts and Sciences School of Law

The Recent Alumni Award recognizes significant professional achievement, personal responsibility, and service to Creighton and community by an alumna or alumnus during their first 10 years following graduation.

Read more: Visit alumni.creighton.edu/ama-2022 to read more about each recipient.

Stepping Outside the Box

As much as Creighton journalism alumnus **SHUN LEE FONG, BA'95**, liked being a lawyer, he could see that something was missing.

His parents had brought him and his siblings up in a household that encouraged music, writing, theater, fine arts, painting, whatever artistic endeavor they chose to pursue. He'd been ingrained with a need to make things, things meaningful to himself and (ideally) to others.

But a few years into his legal career, Fong felt he'd lost all creative outlets. Though he enjoyed his job — an intellectual property attorney with Lamson, Dugan & Murray LLP — he wanted to dip his toe into a different career. He got an agent and started going to acting auditions in Omaha.

“There's a short leap between being a trial attorney and being an actor,” Fong says with a laugh. “In both cases, you stand up in front of people and try to convince them the story you're telling is true, on an emotional and logical level.”

In 2003, Fong left his law practice and moved to Los Angeles to start his career as a creative professional in the entertainment industry. Nearly 20 years later, he's still there, not only acting but writing, directing and producing, too.

Fong has several projects in the works. A family-friendly fantasy film about a sketch book come to life starring Tony Hale (*Arrested Development*, *Veep*). A time travel murder

“I think sometimes we create boxes for ourselves that we choose to never step outside. In doing that, we miss out on the opportunity to explore new ideas and experiences.”

SHUN LEE FONG, BA'95



© Shun Lee Fong, BA'95, left, interviews actor and director Lou Diamond Phillips at The Greenhouse Arts & Media, located near Los Angeles.

mystery film set in Pennsylvania. A romantic comedy shot in Nashville and Taiwan over the last year, to be released by Sony this fall.

He's also co-producing an animated series called *The Dead Sea Squirrels* alongside his business partners Mike Nawrocki (co-creator of *VeggieTales* and voice of Larry the Cucumber) and Steve Taylor (former Christian rock singer and song producer turned filmmaker).

But along with all Fong's creative endeavors, he's equally proud of his opportunities to support and mentor his fellow creatives.

In 2007, Fong founded the international creative arts nonprofit The Greenhouse Arts & Media. It began as a group of individuals who

wanted to collaborate creatively in a variety of artistic disciplines, to explore the intersection of their own talents with the broader world, to serve one another and their community in a spirit of faith and fellowship.

If that sounds a bit like the vibe of a certain Jesuit university, it's no accident.

“At Creighton,” Fong says, “I could always find people who cared enough about me to say, ‘Here are the mistakes I've made, and here's how to not make them yourself.’”

Like so many graduates of the journalism program over the past 30 years, Fong found a mentor in professor emeritus Eileen Wirth, PhD. She remains one of his biggest advocates today, inspiring him to pursue the creative art of mentorship himself. When he supports others, he thinks of the times she and others at Creighton supported him.

He says Creighton's foundation in the liberal arts also proved a boon in his career. He discovered that he didn't need to limit himself to any one lane or label. Careers, like knowledge itself, are porous, flexible, ever evolving.

“I think sometimes we create boxes for ourselves that we choose to never step outside,” Fong says. “In doing that, we miss out on the opportunity to explore new ideas and

experiences. This is a big and vibrant world. Why put yourself in a box?”

Over two decades in Hollywood, Fong has spent as much time thinking about creativity as he has on creating things himself. He started writing these thoughts down, and they eventually became *The Saints & the Poets*, a collection of essays reflecting on the arts, entertainment and the spiritual side of creativity.

He's also spoken about these topics at conferences, colleges and churches across the country.

The essays and presentations showcase an artist wrestling with himself and two different ideas of success. On the one hand, the success of fame, fortune, “making it big.” On the other, the success of creative satisfaction and a fulfilling life. Those two can be reconciled, of course. But the latter doesn't depend on the former, and the former doesn't necessarily lead to the latter.

“I like to say, ‘Don't chase success; chase excellence, and success will follow,’” Fong says. “It might not be the exact success you were looking for, but it could be something more fulfilling than you ever imagined.”

Along the way, you might just find the thing you were created to do. — **BY MICAH MERTES**

54 Dr. Robert L. Augustine, BSChm, Livingston, New Jersey, Aug. 6, 2022. **Edward J. Benak, BUSADM**, Dothan, Alabama, June 23, 2022. **Joan Kennedy Cooney, BS**, Omaha, July 21, 2022. **Willa Hawe McCormick, SCN'48, BSN**, Omaha, Sept. 9, 2022. **James F. Miriovsky, BS**, Omaha, May 21, 2022. **John A. Pazderka, BSPha**, Kalamazoo, Michigan, May 4, 2022.

Samuel L. Di Raimondo, BSPha, Rockford, Illinois, March 3, 2022. **Robert C. Reynolds, BSPha**, West Sacramento, California, March 24, 2021.

55 James E. Ouillette, ARTS, Manson, Washington, Aug. 13, 2020. **Arnold E. Pieri, DDS**, Larkspur, California, May 12, 2022. **William T. Powers, MD**, Grand Forks, North Dakota, May 27, 2022.

56 Gary F. Farris, ARTS, Pensacola, Florida, Aug. 28, 2022. **Keith P. Schroeder, BS**, Wisner, Nebraska, April 6, 2022. **Dr. John A. Tracy, BS**, Broomfield, Colorado, May 13, 2022. **Edith Sauser Trawicke, SJN'53, BSN**, Omaha, July 3, 2022. **Patricia Hawe Wagner, BS**, Omaha, Nov. 4, 2021.

57 Alice Ramaekers Cline, ARTS, Gainesville, Florida, March 4, 2022. **Richard F. Gdowski, BS**, Columbus, Nebraska, July 23, 2022. **Gerald P. Gray, BSBA**, Broomfield, Colorado, April 22, 2020. **Bernard J. Hazuka, DDS**, Littleton, Colorado, April 7, 2022. **Gerald P. Mancuso, DDS**, Leawood, Kansas, June 23, 2022. **Mary Hart McGrath, SJN**, Omaha, July 9, 2022. **Dr. Roger D. Peterson, BS**, Omaha, June 8, 2022. **Dr. Paul R. Schifano, BS**, Campbell, California, June 24, 2022. **William E. Seidler Sr., JD**, Omaha, July 16, 2022. **Patricia Buckley Tischhauser, BS**, Arlington, Virginia, June 11, 2022.

58 Yachie Doi Abarbanell, BSBA, Flower Mound, Texas, Jan. 28, 2022. **Vernon W. Blue, BS**, Mount Vernon, Washington, June 5, 2022. **Charles J. Drexler, MD**, Duluth, Minnesota, Jan. 18, 2022. **Donald D. Graham, BSBA**, Omaha, July 4, 2022. **Gail S. Hartung, BS**, Stillwater, Minnesota, March 2, 2022. **Rev. Gerald A. Hartz, MSEdu**, Bakersfield, California, March 6, 2022. **Raymond N. McDermott Jr., BSBA**, Omaha, July 5, 2022. **Thomas J. Murphy, BSPha**, Gillette, Wyoming, April 4, 2022. **Charles E. Pickett, DDS**, Carson City, Nevada, May 19, 2021.

59 Neil W. Becker, BS, Omaha, March 16, 2022. **William T. Caniglia, BS'56, JD**, Denver, June 15, 2022. **Jean Abraham Eimers, BSMT**, Valley Park, Missouri, July 14, 2022. **Jackson E. Fairley, BSBA**, Norwalk, Iowa, May 29, 2022. **Susanne McGrath Laughrey, BUSADM**, Maple Grove, Minnesota, July 23, 2021. **Janice Neumann Lovely, SJN**, Omaha, July 19, 2022.

60 Joseph R. Beuttas, BA, Bartlett, Illinois, March 6, 2022. **Virginia Kuzelka Budka, BA**, Omaha, Sept. 11, 2022. **Robert J. Duffy, DDS**, Mill Creek, Washington, April 26, 2022. **Margie Smith Flemming, BACLS**, Las Vegas, Sept. 7, 2022. **Jarold L. Kohll, Pharm**, Omaha, Aug. 1, 2022. **Donald J. Livingston, ARTS**, Omaha, March 27, 2022. **Richard L. O'Brien, MS'58, MD**, Elkhorn, Nebraska, May 26, 2022. **William L. Ruf, BSBA**, Omaha, May 30, 2022. **Judith Ronayne Sholy, BS**, Lincoln, Nebraska, Aug. 1, 2022.

61 Michael P. Fangman, BS, Lincoln, Nebraska, Aug. 9, 2022. **Kenneth L. Kalkowski, BA**, Omaha, May 26, 2022. **Dr. Thomas G. Pesek, BACLS**, Carmel, Indiana, June 25, 2022. **Victor C. Robisch, DDS**, Pasco, Washington, July 2, 2022. **Thomas F. Samson, BSBA**, Coppell, Texas, April 4, 2022. **Thomas J. Schall, BS**, Riva, Maryland, Aug. 9, 2022. **John W. Schmit Jr., BA**, Ashland, Nebraska, July 3, 2022. **Janet Mulvihill Swotek, ARTS**, Olympia, Washington, May 19, 2022.

62 John F. Hogan, ARTS, Omaha, Aug. 10, 2022. **Wenzel J. Kovarik, BS'58, MD**, South Lake Tahoe, California, April 5, 2022. **Robert J. Lampe, BA**, Omaha, April 6, 2022. **Joseph L. Leahy Jr., BACLS'60, JD**, Omaha, April 7, 2022. **Richard E. Mueting, BSBA'60, JD**, Norfolk, Nebraska, June 28, 2022. **William G. O'Brien, ARTS**, Omaha, June 13, 2022. **Dr. Carol A. Ulsafer, BS**, Missoula, Montana, July 16, 2021.

63 Msgr. Walter L. Brunkan, MSEdu, Greene, Iowa, Sept. 15, 2022. **Richard J. Geyer, DDS**, Yuma, Arizona, Aug. 8, 2022. **Dr. Patrick E. Hanna, BSPha**, Andover, Minnesota, May 4, 2022. **The Hon. Michael J. McCormack, JD**, Aurora, Colorado, May 9, 2022. **Robert A. Quarles, BA**, Pasadena, California, June 27, 2022. **Dr. Michael W. Sundermeier, BS'58, MA**, Omaha, April 11, 2022.



ALUMNI PROFILE

Living the Stream

There are countless ways students have forged connections on campus. One unsung method – at least for alumni of the '90s and '00s like celebrity gamer **BEN LUPO, BSCS'09** – was JayNet.

JayNet was the first iteration of an entirely wired Creighton. When it launched in the early '90s, JayNet was deemed “the superhighway of campus computers.” Eventually every residence hall room had a port connecting it to the rest of campus through JayNet.

Fast-forward to 2005, Lupo's freshman year. His room in Kiewit Hall, like every room of every hall, had two network jacks – one for the Internet and one for JayNet, which by that point served mainly as a LAN (local area network) connection between dorm rooms.

“That JayNet port is the reason I met so many of my best friends,” Lupo says now. “We would hook up our Xboxes and play *Halo 2* games. For me, it was just one of the best examples of Creighton being a warm and welcoming place. It helped make me feel like I was part of a community, like I belonged here.”

Lupo's belief in the power of gaming with (and sometimes for) others is strong. So much so he's made a wildly successful career out of it, his network expanding from Creighton's dorms to millions of fans all over the world.

Born and raised (and current) Omahan Ben Lupo is one of the most popular professional gaming streamers in the world.

Known as DrLupo, he has 1.87 million followers on his YouTube channel, nearly 2 million on Twitter and more than 4 million on Instagram. Before leaving the streaming platform Twitch and joining YouTube Gaming exclusively, he had 4.6 million followers. Across all platforms, his

videos have been viewed more than 300 million times.

Lupo has been featured in the *New York Times*. He's been named by *TIME* as one of the 25 most influential people on the Internet. He's scored several sponsorships. In fact, if you walked into a Best Buy today, you'd likely find his face on the packaging of various Logitech products.

Of all Lupo's impressive stats, the one he's most proud of is the amount of money he's raised for a good cause. Through multiple 24-hour charity streams, he and his community have raised more than \$10.5 million for cancer treatment and research at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. He once raised more than \$2 million in a single all-day stream.

This is the gaming community at its best, he says. Making meaningful connections. Coming together. Working toward a larger purpose.

“More than anything,” Lupo says, “it's important to me to do something good with the platform I've been given.”

Lupo, who double-majored in computer science and web development at Creighton, got a job at PayPal almost immediately after graduation. After that, he jumped between a few different jobs, eventually coming to work for Mutual of Omaha. He actually started his Twitch stream to help out a friend. But soon his community of viewers began to grow. Then he jumped to the phenomenon of *Fortnite* and became a gaming celebrity almost overnight.

“So much of this has been luck,” Lupo says. “It's like making it anywhere in the entertainment industry. Opportunities don't usually arise in a predictable way. You've got to be prepared to put in the time or you're never even going to have a chance of getting that shot.”

He credits Creighton for preparing him for a career he never could have anticipated. The quality of education was certainly a factor. But it's more than that, he says.

“Creighton helped me become the kind of person who can keep a level head and remember where I come from. It can be easy to get too strong a sense of ego in this industry. I try to stay grounded.”

However far his reach extends, DrLupo's connection to home stays strong. — **BY MICAH MERTES**

64 **Mary Lucinio Bakos, BA**, Kalamazoo, Michigan, May 31, 2022. **Mary McCollum Brenny, BSN**, Mound, Minnesota, May 8, 2022. **Connie Sherman Catron, BSN**, Pleasanton, Texas, Dec. 22, 2021. **Kathleen M. Dempsey, BA**, Stamford, Connecticut, May 19, 2022. **Lumir J. Drahota, DDS**, Fremont, Nebraska, Aug. 6, 2022. **JoElla Haynes Julien, BA**, Oakland, California, July 26, 2022. **T. Michael Koning, DDS**, Upland, California, June 7, 2022. **Peter J. McManamon, BA**, Chicago, Nov. 13, 2021. **Steven B. Vecchio, BUSADM**, Overland Park, Kansas, March 25, 2022.

65 **William B. Brelsford, MA**, San Diego, Aug. 19, 2020. **Dr. David L. Bolam, BS**, Valley, Nebraska, July 13, 2022. **Sr. Dorothy Hoover, BSPha**, Concordia, Kansas, Jan. 30, 2022. **Linda J. Siener, ARTS**, Denver, Jan. 27, 2022. **Richard E. Wieseler, BA**, Larkspur, Colorado, Feb. 2, 2022.

66 **Sigrid Larson Festersen, LAW**, Omaha, Sept. 1, 2022. **Thomas A. Kaluzynski, BA**, Muncie, Indiana, May 16, 2022. **Carolyn Johnston Kelly, ARTS**, Omaha, Sept. 2, 2022. **Gail Winkley Podhaisky, BSBA**, Kerrville, Texas, June 9, 2022. **John T. Tarrell, JD**, Kearney, Nebraska, Aug. 16, 2022.

67 **John P. Kanouff, BA'65, JD**, Denver, July 14, 2022. **Sr. M. Regis Leahy, RSM, MSEdu**, Omaha, Aug. 13, 2022. **Kevin M. Morrissey, BSBA**, Shawnee, Kansas, Aug. 24, 2022. **Jerry D. Oxenford, BUSADM**, Platteville, Wisconsin, July 29, 2022. **Patricia M. Perkins, MSEdu**, Ormond Beach, Florida, May 25, 2022.

68 **Anita Sebus Donaldson, BS**, Leawood, Kansas, Aug. 19, 2022. **Frank D. Farrell, BSPha**, West Allis, Wisconsin, April 27, 2022.

69 **Mary Kay Mokrohisky Henningsen, BSN**, Omaha, July 19, 2022. **Sharon Dubas Turley, BACLS**, Des Moines, Iowa, Jan. 24, 2021.

70 **Joseph M. Chase Sr., BSBA**, Lenexa, Kansas, Aug. 28, 2022. **Daniel J. Dagerman, BA'62, MSEdu**, Omaha, Sept. 18, 2022. **Sr. M. Dominica Doyle, OSF, MSEdu**, Brookville, Indiana, July 30, 2022. **John P. Herold, BA**, San Antonio, March 18, 2022. **Rev. James F. Hoover, MA**, Wilson, Kansas, April

5, 2022. **Mary Lou Golwitzer Lancour, SJN**, Green Bay, Wisconsin, Aug. 21, 2022. **Allen C. Lenz, BS**, Rye, Colorado, Feb. 14, 2022. **William E. Nelson, JD**, Dublin, Ohio, Aug. 30, 2022. **John M. Rosenthal, BS'62, MSEdu**, Council Bluffs, Iowa, June 14, 2022. **John K. Sandell, BSBA**, Burlington, Iowa, Aug. 25, 2022. **Sr. Jolene Wingert, OSF, MA**, Dubuque, Iowa, Jan. 31, 2022.

71 **Paul H. Hanson, JD**, Waterford, Wisconsin, June 22, 2021. **Thomas Ingold, BA**, McLean, Virginia, July 12, 2022. **Kathleen Zents Northam, BA**, Elkhorn, Nebraska, May 24, 2022. **Anne Ondracek Rech, BS**, Greeley, Nebraska, April 10, 2022. **Rita A. Ryan, BACLS**, Omaha, Sept. 12, 2022. **Paula J. Scott, BA**, Kansas City, Missouri, Feb. 18, 2022.

72 **Larry E. Howard, DDS**, Spokane, Washington, Aug. 28, 2020. **Colin J. McCullough, BSBA'70, JD**, St. Louis, June 12, 2022. **John F. Steiner, BSBA**, Omaha, Aug. 17, 2022.

73 **Walter W. Christiansen, BA**, Granite City, Illinois, Aug. 16, 2022.

74 **Edward W. Hasenjager, BA'70, JD**, Omaha, June 19, 2022. **Donald E. Hayes, MD**, Prescott Valley, Arizona, May 16, 2022. **Rev. James F. McCluskey, MSGuid**, Wayne, Nebraska, June 22, 2022. **Ronald J. Palagi, JD**, Omaha, April 3, 2022.

75 **John P. Ireland-Connolly, BA**, Council Bluffs, Iowa, June 25, 2022.

77 **Patrick K. Mulroney, BA**, Berryville, Virginia, July 25, 2022. **Carmen Turner Parks, BSBA**, Kansas City, Kansas, May 12, 2022. **Nancy Jones Rose, JD**, East Ridge, Tennessee, July 25, 2021. **Janet Holzapfel Staley, BA**, Omaha, May 25, 2022.

78 **Nicholas L. Birkel, BSPha**, Lincoln, Nebraska, May 7, 2022. **Sr. Dorothea Micek, BSN**, Lemont, Illinois, June 18, 2021. **Joyce M. Willenborg, BA'74, MA**, Oak Park, Illinois, May 27, 2022.

79 **Delmar W. Gray, DDS**, Boise, Idaho, March 28, 2022. **Michael C. Herber, MD**, Cheyenne, Wyoming, April 23, 2022. **Sr. Jane McConnell, OSF, MChrSp**, Oldenburg, Indiana, May 23, 2022.

Vicki R. Michel, DDS, Devils Lake, North Dakota, Jan. 11, 2022. **Sr. Judith A. Werner, OSM, MSEdu**, Oldenburg, Indiana, March 5, 2022.

81 **Bryan J. Humphrey, BSBA'78, JD**, Fort Madison, Iowa, Feb. 19, 2021.

82 **Sr. Anna Marie Kane, SSS, MChrSp**, Worcester, Massachusetts, April 29, 2022. **Louis F. Ladson Jr., BSPha**, Tampa, Florida, Jan. 26, 2022. **Jeffrey P. Maks, BA**, Rapid City, South Dakota, June 16, 2021.

83 **Matthew J. Gambee, BA'78, MD**, Portland, Oregon, Sept. 4, 2022. **Kirk L. Works, BS'79, MD**, Hermitage, Pennsylvania, June 14, 2022.

84 **Sr. Joan A. Koliss, OSF, MChrSp**, Nashua, New Hampshire, July 12, 2022.

85 **Kevin B. Galvin, BSBA**, Lake Orion, Michigan, Feb. 15, 2022. **Brett L. Hart, BA**, Norfolk, Nebraska, April 21, 2022.

87 **Jeanette Carlson Krebs, BA**, Bellevue, Nebraska, June 3, 2022.

88 **Nora E. Galvin, BA**, St. Paul, Minnesota, May 28, 2022.

89 **Mary Anne Kuk, BSRT**, Council Bluffs, Iowa, Aug. 15, 2022. **Daniel P. McQuillan, ARTS**, Omaha, June 1, 2022.

90 **Jeffrey F. DeLuna, DDS**, McCall, Idaho, Dec. 30, 2021. **Matthew G. Roggenburk Sr., BSBA**, Avon Lake, Ohio, May 15, 2022. **Vicki Riggs Young, MBA**, Fort Calhoun, Nebraska, July 14, 2022.

91 **Sung-Il Ahn, DDS**, Tempe, Arizona, Aug. 29, 2022. **Rev. Joseph Markalonis, MA**, Loretto, Pennsylvania, April 5, 2022.

Rhonda Ellerbusch Schoemaker, MS, Lincoln, Nebraska, Aug. 26, 2022. **Gregory B. Stanley, BSATS**, Overland Park, Kansas, June 28, 2022.

93 **Dr. Marilyn Kelson, MBA**, Miami Beach, Florida, May 16, 2022. **Bobbie Shirley Marley, BA**, Omaha, Jan. 26, 2021.

96 **Debra M. Weathers, PharmD**, Galesburg, Illinois, Sept. 14, 2022.

97 **Jessica Harnisch Masin, BSOT**, Lincoln, Nebraska, Sept. 19, 2022.

98 **Kerry M. Hultquist, JD**, Fort Wayne, Indiana, March 28, 2022.

00 **Michael G. Gordie, BS**, Bellevue, Washington, July 7, 2022.

03 **Joyce Blair Wilson, BSN'71, MS**, Sandpoint, Idaho, March 7, 2022.

04 **Dorothy A. Horstmann, MA**, Burlington, North Carolina, Feb. 27, 2022.

08 **Daniel S. Shaub, DDS**, Billings, Montana, May 22, 2022. **Mary T. Wolf, PharmD**, Hideaway, Texas, May 18, 2021.

09 **Kelsey A. Huyck, ARTS**, Omaha, April 9, 2022.

13 **Dr. Kenneth E. Kissell, ARTS**, Omaha, March 12, 2022.

18 **Tyler D. Lindstrom, MBA**, Chicago, June 14, 2022.

20 **Marcus Staerkel, ARTS**, Denver, July 5, 2022.

21 **Evan L. Dishion, MD**, Phoenix, Sept. 5, 2022.

22 **Jennifer L. Kennedy, DNP**, Iowa City, Iowa, May 28, 2022.

IN REMEMBRANCE

We remember Creighton University faculty and Jesuits who have recently passed.*

Paul Hartnett, EdD, former professor, Department of Education, College of Arts and Sciences, June 26, 2022

William Cunningham Jr., PhD, former professor of English and former dean, College of Arts and Sciences, Aug. 16, 2022

Thomas Kuhlman, PhD, associate professor emeritus, Department of English, College of Arts and Sciences, Sept. 16, 2022

*Faculty and Jesuits who are Creighton alumni are listed in the Alumni Deaths section of the magazine.



© Marcus Blossom and his daughter Mora congratulate Creighton volleyball player Kendra Wait after the Bluejays defeated Marquette on Oct. 14.

national norm. I thought, “Hmm, the fans here are pretty passionate. This is going to be different than what I’ve experienced in the past.”

What have you learned about other Creighton sports?

We’ve had success in some sports that may not receive the same attention that others get. For example, the rowing team finished second in the West Coast Conference, the highest finish they’ve ever had. Coach Daniel Chipps won Coach of the Year.

How have you engaged with student-athletes?

Student-athletes are busy. They don’t have a lot of time. But I have met with almost every team. I’ve asked them questions, learned about how we can better their experience, learned what has been working well, learned what we need to improve. This is the fun part — I’ve been there cheering them on at their events, watching them compete, watching them have success and watching them really enjoy the moment and the experience that they have at Creighton.

What have you learned about Creighton’s student-athletes?

It’s difficult to balance Division I athletics and the rigors of a Creighton education. But I’m impressed by how our student-athletes accept the challenge. In 2021-2022, our student-athletes carried a 3.42 cumulative GPA, nine of our teams were recognized for having perfect multiyear APR (Academic Performance Rates) scores, and a BIG EAST-high four teams earned conference Team Academic Excellence Awards. That speaks not only to the individual dedication of our student-athletes, but it’s a testament to our culture that so highly values and supports their academic success.

What’s ahead?

The future’s bright. The landscape of college athletics is changing. There are a lot of dominoes that will fall into place in the next year or so, but Creighton is positioned very well to have tremendous success. One, we attract quality student-athletes. Two, we’ve been able to recruit and retain quality coaches and staff members. And three, we have great support in the community and from the University.

Blossom Reflects on Year One

Marcus Blossom is beginning his second year as the McCormick Endowed Athletic Director at Creighton after taking the helm on Sept. 27, 2021. To mark the occasion, *Creighton* magazine asked him to reflect on his first year as Creighton’s athletic director.

How would you describe year one?

Fun is a good way to describe it. Moving to a new place, getting to learn about a new community, understanding our student-athletes and coaches and how everything works. It’s been fun.

It seems like each program had a milestone moment last year. How did you enjoy those moments?

It feels good that the student-athletes and the coaches are having success. That’s what brings me joy. A lot of people had the opportunity to learn about Creighton, whether through the men’s basketball tournament, the women’s basketball tournament or the success of volleyball. It all enhances the profile of the University.

One of the great moments had to be the women’s basketball team’s win at Iowa, to get to the Sweet 16. What was that experience like for you?

First of all, it was a great environment — a great day for women’s basketball. There were over 14,000 people there, and it was broadcast on ABC. Iowa was the No. 2 seed (in the NCAA Tournament), so it was a great, great win for those young women, a great win for Coach Jim Flanery. (The Bluejays then beat Iowa State to advance to the program’s first Elite 8.)

What kind of spectator are you?

I go back and forth. Sometimes I’m reserved. But then sometimes in key moments I get excited and then I look around, like, maybe I need to sit down a little bit — maybe I’m a little too excited. Just like any person, it depends on the moment.

Did the CHI Health Center Omaha experience meet your expectations for men’s basketball?

I knew I was at a special place for fan support during last year’s men’s basketball exhibition game. I watched a few highlights from exhibition games across the country, and the 8,000 fans we had against Upper Iowa was not the



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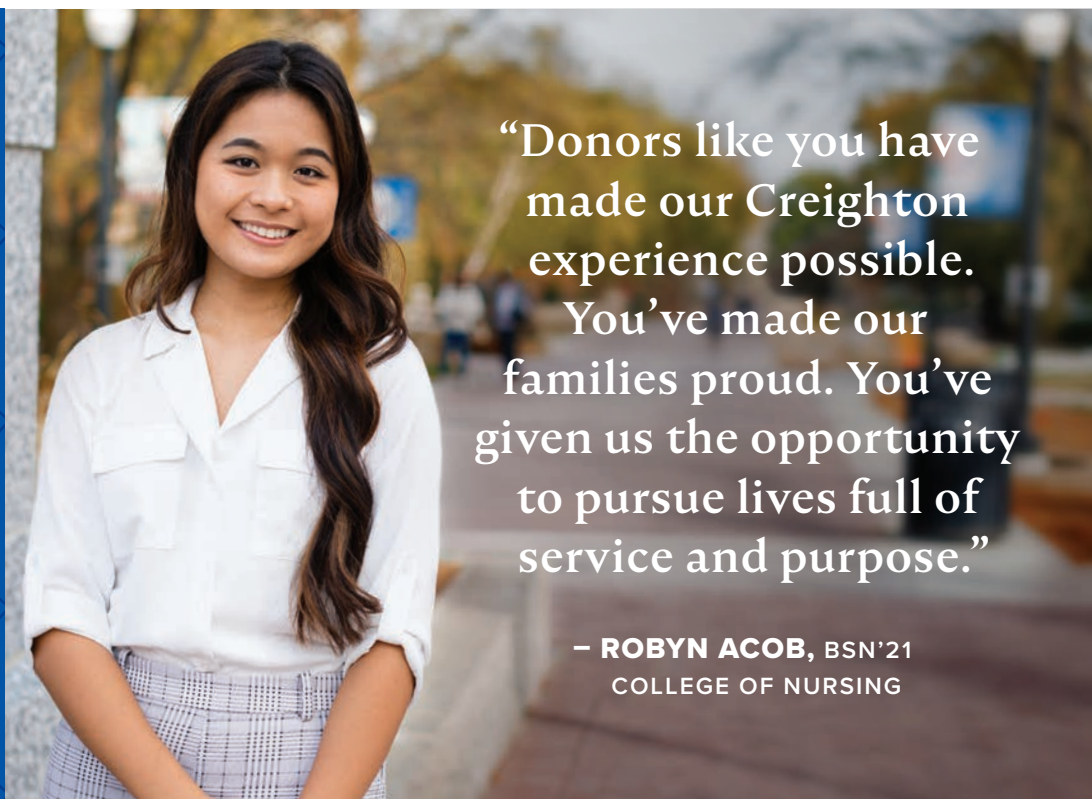


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