

# CREIGHTON

FALL 2019 • Volume 35 Issue 3



PHARMACY • MEDICINE  
NURSING • OCCUPATIONAL  
THERAPY • PHYSICIAN  
ASSISTANT • PHYSICIAN  
THERAPY

## Digging In and Rising Up

Creighton Health Sciences Campus  
Taking Form in Phoenix





DAVE WEAVER

## Expanding Our Horizons

*Follow me:*

-  @CreightonPres
-  CreightonPresident

**I**n September, we celebrated a ceremonial groundbreaking for the new Creighton University Health Sciences – Phoenix Campus. A wonderful complement to our outstanding health sciences programs in Omaha, this campus, scheduled to open in fall 2021, will eventually serve as an educational hub for nearly 900 Creighton health professions students in Phoenix. Nearly 200 students are currently engaged in our established nursing and medical programs in the city.

National data shows a critical shortage of health care professionals in the Southwest, and in Arizona and Phoenix, particularly.

It is our hope and belief that a new generation of Creighton health professionals – educated in both Omaha and Phoenix – will help address this increasing demand, and do so in Creighton’s Jesuit, Catholic tradition of excellence in academics, clinical care, and service.

I join with our Phoenix health care partners, community and government leaders, and organizations and individuals who offer their philanthropic support in expressing my excitement for this new campus and its possibilities.

Closer to home, I am also pleased that our enrollment numbers remain robust, in light of an increasingly competitive national enrollment environment. We welcomed the third-largest freshman class this fall, with 1,076 students, to record our second-largest total enrollment of 8,821. Of note, our new physician assistant program is well subscribed, with 24 students.

This fall, we also hosted our inaugural Mission Week on campus. The celebration – titled “Imagine Our Magis” – provided an ideal opportunity to reflect upon our Jesuit, Catholic mission, and how each of us can participate in it.

I was delighted to welcome the Rev. Greg Boyle, SJ, HON’09, founder of Homeboy Industries and author of *Tattoos on the Heart* and *Barking to the Choir*; to talk about his work with gang members in Los Angeles and the importance of standing with those on society’s margins.

His keynote address was one of several significant lectures on campus this fall.

Nobel Peace Prize recipient Nadia Murad spoke on the plight of Iraq’s Yazidi minority as the inaugural Creighton Global Scholars Lecture Series speaker; Pulitzer Prize-winning author David Blight, PhD, shared insights from his new biography on Frederick Douglass at an event co-sponsored by our Kingfisher Institute; and Bob Kerrey, HON’93, a former U.S. senator, Nebraska governor, and university president, engaged a range of topics as the featured guest in our Presidential Lecture Series.

On Sept. 28, I stood in solidarity with campus colleagues, local government officials, community leaders, and a crowd of several hundred outside the Douglas County Courthouse in downtown Omaha, as we remembered the 100th anniversary of a mob lynching of a black man, Will Brown, at the site. The ceremony served as a powerful reminder of the evils of racial violence and its reality in our world, and an inspiration for racial dialogue, justice, and equality.

In closing, I wish you and your families a blessed holiday season, a merry Christmas, and a happy new year. May peace, love, and joy resound in our homes, our nation, and our world.

**Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD**  
*President*



© Former U.S. Sen. and Nebraska Gov. Bob Kerrey, HON’93, stressed the importance of democracy during a 90-minute conversation as part of the Presidential Lecture Series. “It’s not easy to make it work, especially in such a large and diverse country,” Kerrey said. “But if we give up on democracy, it’s a far worse world than what we’ve got now.”



# Contents



26

## TREASURE TALES

Rare finds — Creighton-related and not, such as a receipt signed by Abe Lincoln — make their way to the University, where they are treasured and protected.



32

## INNOVATING HEALTH CARE

Health care teamwork from a variety of disciplines — nursing, medicine, pharmacy, OT, PT, dentistry and more — improves health and lowers cost, and Creighton is at the forefront.



36

## DIVERSITY, VOICES, INCLUSION AND THE WORKFORCE

Businesses and organizations of all sizes are beginning to understand the great value that diversity and inclusion bring to the workplace, and Creighton experts are leading the conversation.



40

## THE 12 ANCHORS

A Creighton nursing graduate was one of the Navy nurse POWs captured in the Philippines during World War II. The women are the subject of a new book.



on the cover

## DIGGING IN AND RISING UP

The new health sciences campus in midtown Phoenix is taking shape, as Creighton plays a major role in addressing the need for more health care professionals in Arizona and the Southwest.

### 4 Creighton Connections

### 9 Jesuit Gardens

School of Dentistry associate professor emeritus James Howard, DDS, is spreading the word about the difference a Jesuit education makes, even long after graduation.

### 18 In the Classroom

A chemistry professor is making his subject matter more accessible to students and alumni alike through a class on the chemistry of beer.

### 44 Impact

The Heaney Pedestrian Bridge, connecting Creighton's campus and the neighborhoods across the North Freeway, honors two brothers whose lives were shaped by the University.

### 45 Alumni Notes

### 56 Creighton Conversations

A Creighton department dedicated to promoting diversity, especially in the health sciences, has been nationally cited for inspiring young people to consider careers in STEM.

#### PUBLISHER

Creighton magazine is published in the spring, summer and fall by Creighton University, 2500 California Plaza, Omaha, NE 68178-0001.

#### PRESIDENT

Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD

#### DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

Rick Davis

#### ASSOC. DIRECTORS OF COMMUNICATIONS

Cindy Murphy McMahon  
Sheila Swanson

#### WRITERS

Amanda Brandt  
Eugene Curtin  
Micah Mertes  
Emily Rust  
Blake Ursch

#### ILLUSTRATION

Stephanie Dalton Cowan  
Traci Daberko  
Gary Neill  
Jing Jing Tsong

#### CONTACT

Address all mail to University Communications and Marketing, Attn: Creighton Magazine, 780480 California Plaza, Omaha, NE 68178-0480. Postmaster: Send change of address to Creighton Magazine, P.O. Box 3266, Omaha, NE 68103-0078.

Send alumni news (births, weddings, promotions, etc.) to [alumninews@creighton.edu](mailto:alumninews@creighton.edu).

#### FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Twitter — @Creighton  
Facebook — Creighton University  
Instagram — @Creighton1878

#### 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.

#### NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

Creighton University is committed to providing a safe and nondiscriminatory educational and employment environment. To view the University's nondiscrimination statement, please visit [creighton.edu/nds](http://creighton.edu/nds).

Copyright © 2019 by Creighton University

[creighton.edu](http://creighton.edu)

# Voices

“You have to just come back to the fact that (Frederick) Douglass’ core beliefs, core values were essentially rooted in the natural rights tradition. This idea that the rights of humanity come if not from God, then nature, and that somehow, in the end, those rights for all people will get secured.”

Author and professor **DAVID BLIGHT, PhD**, whose latest biography *Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom* earned him a Pulitzer Prize for History, spoke at Creighton on Sept. 19.

“The measure of our compassion lies not in our service to those on the margins, but only in our willingness to see ourselves in kinship with them.”

**THE REV. GREG BOYLE, SJ, HON'09**, founder and executive director of Homeboy Industries and author of *Tattoos on the Heart* and *Barking to the Choir*, gave the keynote address during Creighton's inaugural Mission Week.

**@jfershee:** Guess who's ranked in the Tax Law Prof Twitter Top 25? **@CreightonLaw's @TaxLawProf** (aka Prof. Victoria Haneman), that's who. It's a list of some fine scholars and good people, so this makes a lot of sense. Congratulations!

**@larkscience:** **#MyProfessorOnceSaid** to go forth and set the world on fire 🔥 **@Creighton #StIgnatius #Jesuit #goJays**

**@erobinson08:** Everyone should get a flu shot and today I got mine courtesy of the pharmacy students within the Creighton University School of Pharmacy and Health Professions. **@CreightonSPAHP @Creighton**

“I am excited to move a fridge. My calves are going to be mooing for sure.”

Sophomore **JOE THIBODEAU** volunteered to help with freshman class move-in in August.

“I hope that we can mobilize good against evil.”

Nobel Peace Prize recipient **NADIA MURAD** addressed the plight of the Yazidi minority in Iraq, as the inaugural speaker in Creighton's Global Scholars Lecture Series.

“(This) is another opportunity for every member of this complex University to thoughtfully consider how we might more perfectly co-labor with God, as Ignatius imagines us doing, to enable every human and the whole created order to flourish as God intends it.”

**EILEEN BURKE-SULLIVAN, STD, MChrSp'84**, vice provost for Mission and Ministry and the Barbara Reardon Heaney Endowed Chair in Pastoral Liturgical Theology, in kicking off Creighton's inaugural Mission Week.



**@DrB\_CreightonU:** Friday afternoon fun building the new **@Creighton** wind turbines with my friends in the **@Creighton\_CCAS** Energy Tech program! Coming to a campus near you!! (...if you live in Omaha...) Thanks **@OPPDcares** for sponsoring this project!





# Reducing Opioid Use

BY EUGENE CURTIN

Creighton health care professionals are pioneering new hospital protocols that rely less on addictive opioid drugs

**W**hen the National Institute on Drug Abuse reports that more than 130 Americans die every day from opioid overdose, and more than 1,000 are rushed to emergency rooms after opioid misuse, it's easy to see the devastating impact these addictive painkillers can have.

For the anesthesiology group at CHI Health Creighton University Medical Center-Bergan Mercy, however, it's a relatively old story about a war on addiction that its member physicians have waged for seven years.

"Around 2012 to 2013, our anesthesiology group decided to start changing how we take care of patients and how we

manage their pain," says Mark Reisbig, PhD'03, MD'08, associate professor in the School of Medicine's Department of Anesthesiology.

"It used to be that we gave all these big-time opioid drugs that certainly took care of patient pain but also knocked them out and had a lot of bad side effects. We have now set up new protocols and are trying to move them out to other hospitals across the CHI system."

The protocols de-emphasize common opioid painkillers such as morphine, fentanyl, hydromorphone and oxycodone and replace them with non-opioid pain relievers such as

orthopedic surgery, abdominal cancers, colorectal surgery, hysterectomies, cardiothoracic and breast surgeries and even cesarean sections report satisfactory pain control from the application every few hours of non-opioid painkillers such as Tylenol and Advil. Other non-opioids used are gabapentin, lidocaine, ketorolac and ketamine, all prescription painkillers.

“We’re trying to treat acute pain better. We’re doing better medicine, and using fewer opioids is a result of that. We’re addressing pain on multiple modalities versus just one, and so we’re using fewer and fewer opioids. If we can avoid them altogether, then all the better.”

Reisbig refers to this mix of prescription and nonprescription painkillers, together with significantly reduced use of opioids such as morphine, as a “multimodal” approach under which a patient’s pain is monitored before, during and after surgery. Morphine is used during surgery, which grants about 24 hours of pain relief, followed thereafter by the application every few hours of non-opioids.

It began with Tom Connolly, MD'90, Reisbig says, a Creighton orthopedic surgeon who embraced the anesthesiologists’ desire to deploy alternative pain relief medications. The results, he says, were encouraging.



**WELCOME BACK**

According to this fall’s enrollment figures, 90% of last year’s freshmen returned to Creighton for their sophomore year. The national average retention rate for freshman to sophomore year for all four-year private schools is 75.3%, according to the ACT National Collegiate Retention data.



**NATIONALLY RANKED**

Creighton was recognized among the top third of national colleges and universities by *U.S. News & World Report* in its 2020 “Best Colleges” edition. After 16 consecutive years as No. 1 in the Midwest, the University was elevated this year to the prestigious National Universities category, ranking No. 104. Creighton also was listed among the top colleges and universities for 2019 and 2020 by the *Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education*, *Kiplinger*, *The Princeton Review*, the Center for World University Rankings and *Forbes*.

Patients reduced their pain estimates to two and three, down from seven and eight, on a scale of 1 to 10. Morphine consumption fell from 30 morphine equivalents to just one, and antiemetics used to control nausea fell from 67% to zero.

“Patients had less nausea, the pain was a lot better and we weren’t giving them a whole lot of intravenous opioids,” Reisbig says.

Thus encouraged, the anesthesiologists some two years later brought on board Brian Loggie, MD, chief of surgical oncology at the Bergan Mercy campus.

Loggie, Reisbig says, performs major surgeries on patients with advanced and even terminal abdominal cancers.

“Obviously, these are big surgeries that involve very large incisions and the insertion of tubes for hot chemotherapy after the abdomen is closed up,” Reisbig says. “So, there’s a lot of post-surgery pain management.”

The result, Reisbig says, was an almost 50% reduction in the number of patients receiving opioids and the application of just 250 micrograms of morphine down from the 30, 40 or 50 milligrams applied during a typical hospital stay.

Nevertheless, Reisbig says, opioids remain available and will be used if necessary.

“We’re giving what is indicated,” he says. “If people are experiencing a lot of pain, that’s what we’re going to use. But we’re not just giving it out.”

The gathering of data continues as the Creighton team continues to build the case that non-opioid pain management is effective. Data is the key to changing minds, Reisbig says, and the more non-opioid pain management is practiced, the more data there will be.

“It’s amazing to see these patients afterward,” he says. “They’re more alert, more awake, they don’t look like they’ve just had surgery where you had to wake them up. Now they’re sitting up, alert, eating. It’s exciting.”



## Campus Welcomes Nobel Peace Prize Winner

**Nadia Murad is not giving up.** The 2018 Nobel Peace Prize recipient spoke at Creighton in September during a campus visit sponsored by Creighton's Global Scholars Program.

It might seem sensible, she said, for the Yazidi people of northern Iraq to accept their fate as victims of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria who, beginning in 2014, visited genocidal violence against her people and their ancient faith.

People might say the best option, after seeing brothers and fathers murdered and mothers and sisters captured into slavery, would be to begin life anew elsewhere, she said.

But that, Murad said, would grant ISIS a victory.

"When ISIS came, they came to eradicate Yazidis from that region, they came to dehumanize us and to say that 'you will not be able to exist here,'" she said. "That's why we are fighting, because we

want to ensure that the ISIS goal does not get accomplished. We want to make sure that we are able to maintain our homeland, our culture, our religion."

Murad addressed the Creighton gathering as part of her ongoing effort to build global awareness about the plight of the Yazidis in the wake of ISIS terror and to encourage the world to assist those who wish to return home and rebuild their society.

Creighton President the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD, in introducing Murad, told part of her story, a story that has captured the attention of world leaders, including Pope Francis. Her creation of Nadia's Initiative, which advocates for victims of sexual violence and seeks to draw attention to the plight of the Yazidis, earned her the Nobel Prize.

"On August 15 of 2014, at the age of 19, Nadia was captured by ISIS troops during a raid on her village," Fr. Hendrickson said.

"More than 600 Yazidi men were murdered, including six of Nadia's brothers and stepbrothers. Some



### WHITE COATS FOR PA STUDENTS

Surrounded by family and friends, the inaugural class in Creighton's new physician assistant master's degree program recited a student oath and received their white coats, a symbol of medical clinicians and researchers, during an induction ceremony in August. The 24 students enrolled in the program can complete their degrees in 28 months.

© 2018 Nobel Peace Prize recipient Nadia Murad's visit to Creighton was sponsored by the Global Scholars Program.

500 women were captured and condemned to slavery and sexual abuse. Three months later, Nadia escaped and made her way to a refugee camp and from there to Germany, where she now resides."

The Yazidi people of northern Iraq, an ethno-religious minority that practice a religion distinct from both Islam and Christianity, have been scattered around their region and the world in light of ISIS persecution, Murad said, and she urged the nations of the world to help them reclaim their rural, farming culture.

"I hope that we can mobilize good against evil," she said.

## Creighton, Union Pacific Partner to Build Diverse Workforce

Creighton University and Union Pacific Railroad are teaming up to enhance diversity and build Omaha's future workforce.

The Union Pacific Diversity Scholars Program at Creighton will create access to academic merit scholarships and professional development opportunities for minority students over a four-year period. Creighton and Union Pacific's Community Ties Giving Program will each invest more than \$1 million to fund the program.

"Creighton recruits diverse and high-performing students, and Union Pacific seeks the same in its workforce," said Creighton President the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD. "Together, we will reach out to students from minority groups, welcome them to Creighton and Omaha, invest in their strengths, and provide them with the tools to succeed and lead."

"At Union Pacific, we believe diverse perspectives drive stronger idea generation and spark creativity that, ultimately, fosters innovative solutions in today's rapidly changing world," said Union Pacific Chairman, President and CEO Lance Fritz. "This scholarship program

is a step toward strengthening our future workforce and creating a diverse, equitable and inclusive community."

To qualify for the Union Pacific Diversity Scholars Program, high school students must hold a 3.5 GPA or above in a college preparatory curriculum. Students must apply to Creighton's College of Arts and Sciences or Heider College of Business by Jan. 5, 2020.

The first eight members of the program will arrive on campus for the 2020-2021 academic year. During their freshman year, students will be paired with Union Pacific mentors. As the scholars advance, they will engage in peer-to-peer mentoring and connect with community partners to grow their networks. Junior and senior students will apply to Union Pacific's internship program for a chance to explore career opportunities at the railroad. Union Pacific employs more than 250 Creighton graduates.

Throughout their academic careers, scholars will enrich their education through inclusive excellence and cultural competency themes in their coursework, led by Christopher Whitt, PhD, Creighton's vice provost for Institutional Diversity and Inclusion.

"Creighton and Union Pacific have a shared vision for Omaha to be a more inclusive place," Whitt said. "Our Jesuit, Catholic mission — paired with Union Pacific's commitment to building a workforce that represents the communities it serves — offers a framework to help make this vision a reality."

The Union Pacific Diversity Scholars Program supports the high-priority initiatives identified in a recently published report by Blueprint Nebraska, a group of business and civic leaders working to enhance economic advantages for all Nebraskans.

"We are focused on promoting diversity and inclusion in Nebraska, not only to attract and retain top talent, but because it's the right thing to do," Fritz said. "Working together, we can help make Nebraska the most welcoming state in the Midwest."



## Averett Helps Lead Archaeological Project in Cyprus

On the island of Cyprus, tucked away near the eastern edge of the Mediterranean Sea, a Creighton University educator is guiding new generations of archaeologists as they unearth ancient treasures.

Erin Averett, PhD, associate professor of archaeology in the Department of Fine and Performing Arts at Creighton, serves as assistant director of the Athienou Archaeological Project (AAP), an archaeological field school that explores the rich history of the Mallaoua Valley in central Cyprus, with a recent focus on excavating an ancient religious sanctuary. At the school, Averett and her colleagues teach undergraduate students the basics of archaeological survey and excavation, training them in the field as they uncover artifacts that illuminate the island's long history.

"We work with undergraduate students rather than hired excavators, and it goes more slowly because our main mission is education rather than speed," Averett says.

Run by director Michael Toumazou, PhD, at Davidson College in North Carolina, AAP has been active on Cyprus since 1990. Averett joined the project in 1997 and has been assistant director since 2003.

Excavation takes place in a fertile agricultural plain in the center of the island. The project selected this site, Averett says, because it was far removed from the coastal urban centers where scholars had traditionally focused much of their attention.

The main focus of the excavation for the past 15 years has been a large religious sanctuary that was in use from about 800 B.C. to 400-500 A.D. The sanctuary, Averett says, was an open-air enclosure where, for centuries, worshippers performed animal sacrifices and other rituals and left offerings to various gods and goddesses. [▶](#)

# CREIGHTON

Creighton's freshman class topped 1,000 students for the sixth consecutive year, with this fall's enrollment of 1,076 making it the third-largest freshman class in the University's history. Here are eight interesting facts about the class.

- 1 66% ranked in the top 25% of their high school class; 35% ranked in the top 10%
- 2 25% had ACT scores of 30-36 — placing them among the top 7% of scorers nationally
- 3 80% were involved in service during high school
- 4 32 states are represented by the class — with Nebraska, Minnesota and Colorado being the top three (California, Hawaii, Arizona, Texas and Oregon also are among the top 15)
- 5 62% live more than 200 miles away; 40% more than 400 miles away; 18% more than 1,000 miles away
- 6 More than 560 high schools are represented: 40% attended Catholic high schools; 52% public schools
- 7 14% are the first in their family to attend college
- 8 25% had a relative graduate from Creighton



AJ O'LINE





© Creighton student Grace Bryant, an art history and cultural anthropology major, participated in the Athienou Archaeological Project's 2019 field school in Cyprus. Bryant plans to pursue a career in archaeology.

damaging ancient walls or artifacts, while also mastering modern techniques, such as digital imaging and other new technologies.

Though the project is open to students nationally, several of Averett's students at Creighton have been accepted over the years.

"It was the coolest thing ever. It's honestly exactly what you see in movies," says Grace Bryant, a junior art history and cultural anthropology major who spent last summer in Cyprus participating in AAP's field school. "There was so much going on all the time, and it was really cool to actually see how archaeologists do things."

### School of Pharmacy and Health Professions Beneficiary of Historic Gift



NELLY NIGRO ▶

Nelly Nigro, BSPha'45, bequeathed more than \$1 million to the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions.

The success of Nelly Nigro's life is best measured not in money nor influence but mileage.

Over her 92 years, the Omaha native traveled the world many times over, making it to all seven continents and scores of countries.

Nigro trekked across Soviet Russia; became a lifelong Bible scholar after a trip to the Holy Land; researched log houses in Finland; studied honey possums in Australia; and, in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, hunted for dinosaur bones.

But in all her travels and all her experiences, this restless and fiercely independent woman never cut the tether to the place she called home — Omaha. And she never forgot about Creighton.

Before she died in the summer of 2017, Nigro, BSPha'45, bequeathed an estate gift of more than \$1 million to Creighton's School of Pharmacy and Health Professions. It is the largest gift in the school's 114-year history.

The gift establishes a research fund to help patients get the most benefit from their medications. Research was always close to Nigro's heart. She ▶

"We've found the altar with the burnt animal bones on and around it," Averett says. "We've also excavated votives that depict the types of activities that happened in the sanctuary, the worshippers, and the deities venerated here. So archaeology really illuminates our image of the past."

As a field school, the program accepts 10-18 undergraduate students each summer from colleges and

universities nationwide. The students live in Cyprus for six weeks, gaining excavation and survey experience at the site, while also learning about the entire process of archaeology (from recording to processing to conservation at the lab). They also explore the history of Cyprus in lectures and weekly site tours all over the island.

Students study the basics, such as how to walk around the site without

### JESUIT GARDENS

# Finding God in All Things

After the caps are tossed, the degree is framed and the end of a college career is upon you, where do you take your Jesuit education? What are its lasting effects?

James Howard, DDS, associate professor emeritus of general dentistry in the School of Dentistry, who now serves as a contributed services faculty member, graduated from a Jesuit university five decades ago, but still uses the lessons learned in both his life and profession. He shared how to find God in everyone and a path for a life well-lived with fellow alumni of Wheeling University in West Virginia (a former Jesuit institution). He presented "Give and Take in Jesuit Education" during his 50-year class reunion this summer.

"When you look at Jesuit education, you learn to think critically," says Howard, who served as associate dean for clinical services and director of clinics for more than a decade. "You're continually immersed in the values that the Jesuits espouse in your education system."

Values such as finding God in all people, something Howard teaches students in the dental school.

It can be frustrating, Howard says, when you don't see eye-to-eye with someone with whom you interact. In that instance, "what you need to do is develop a time to ask God to give you the wisdom, the patience, the understanding, the insight to know how to work with this person," Howard says.

"When you get up in the morning, whoever your God is, whatever your personal introspection is, ask, 'Help me today,'" Howard says. "Continually try to bring that up in your



DAVE WEAVER

head and your heart. You'll be able to work with people a lot more effectively."

Howard stresses that as a dentist he uses this mindset to find the inherent dignity in every patient. To follow the words of St. Ignatius' Prayer for Generosity, "Lord Jesus, teach me to be generous, teach me to serve as you deserve, to give and not count the cost."

Howard says that as an educator he has the privilege not only to teach students but to mentor and counsel them. One thing he shares with them is the importance of serving others.

In a world in which many think it's paramount to be "better than" others, Howard encourages his students to think about how, through service, they can benefit their community and their profession, as well as themselves.

It's a philosophy that has served him well throughout his career, serving as a dentist in the Air Force and as a faculty member at Creighton.

"As you grow older and you're exposed to many different aspects of life, you realize how important the things that you learned really are," Howard says.

And, he adds, the difference a Jesuit education can make. — BY EMILY RUST

**"When you get up in the morning, whoever your God is, whatever your personal introspection is, ask, 'Help me today.' Continually try to bring that up in your head and your heart. You'll be able to work with people a lot more effectively."**

JAMES HOWARD, DDS



spent her final working years in hospital pharmacy practice, researching the impact of what she called, “social support interventions on patient health.”

The Nigro fund’s research will be faculty-driven but will also offer many great opportunities for students, said Michael S. Monaghan, PharmD’89, chair of the Department of Pharmacy Practice.

“Nelly had a passion for research throughout her career,” said Joe Nigro, Nelly’s nephew and estate executor. “But the gift also speaks to her fondness of growing up in Omaha and the exceptional education she got at Creighton. She never forgot the opportunities she got at pharmacy school.”

Creighton’s pharmacy school has changed a bit in the 74 years since Nigro graduated.

Today, the pharmacy school has more than 1,000 students enrolled. In 1944 — Nigro’s second year in her three-year accelerated program — the war had cut down enrollment to just 35 students.

Nigro was one of just five students (three of them women) to graduate from



**NEW CHAIRHOLDER IN CANCER RESEARCH**

Saying he is “humbled and tremendously honored,” Robin Farias-Eisner, MD, PhD, who joined the School of Medicine in July as director of the Hereditary Cancer Center and chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, has been named the new holder of the Charles F. and Mary C. Heider Endowed Chair in Cancer Research.

© Lexi Weisbeck, who is overcoming the effects of the rare condition acute flaccid myelitis, is a first-year law student at Creighton.

the pharmacy school in 1945. Before then, she earned the Creighton pharmaceutical society’s award for being the student with the highest scholastic rating. She was the first woman to do so.

Nigro entered the profession at a time when there were very few female pharmacists. After graduation, she worked at hospitals in Omaha and Lincoln, then Cleveland and Long Beach and, eventually, Los Angeles, where she helped open the UCLA Medical Center in 1955. She remained with UCLA for the better part of the next 40 years — though she rarely stayed still.

**Rare Illness Doesn’t Slow This First-Year Law Student’s Drive**

**Creighton law student** Lexi Weisbeck has always charged ahead — at every opportunity, over every obstacle, onward, upward, smile on her face, joke at the ready.

Weisbeck’s go-go-go isn’t strictly

figurative. She was a runner. Her track-and-field specialty was the 400- and 800-meter races — “the ones that everyone hates,” she says. Her speed won her a few state championships in high school, which scored her an athletic scholarship to South Dakota State University, where she studied construction management. Her post-college plan: take a job in Hawaii.

In all aspects of her life, Weisbeck couldn’t stop moving. Then she lost the ability to move at all.

It started in September 2018 with a head cold. No irregular symptoms at first. Then one morning Weisbeck couldn’t lift her book bag. She thought it was just a pinched nerve. Then her body really started to malfunction. She fell down the stairs. Twice. From there it got worse. Within a few days, she was in the hospital, unable to move anything but a few fingers and toes.

“It was kind of weird, obviously,” a deadpan Weisbeck says now.

She was soon diagnosed with acute flaccid myelitis, an extremely rare

condition that inflames the gray matter in the spinal cord and short-circuits the brain’s messaging to the body. The muscles forget how to move.

Hospital bed-bound for months, Weisbeck took off what was supposed to be her final semester at South Dakota State University. Her mother, Necole Weisbeck, came to live with her — first in the hospital, then back at Lexi’s home in Brookings.

Day by day, step by step, Lexi built up her body again.

“It was like teaching a baby how to do everything again,” she says. “My lowest point was when it took me 45 minutes to put on my shirt.”

By January 2019, Weisbeck could get around in a wheelchair. She decided to go back to school to finish and graduate. By May commencement, she was able to walk with a walker across the stage. It was the first time her friends and family had seen her walk in nearly nine months.

Weisbeck has made more progress since. She can drive again, and shortly before moving to Omaha this fall she walked 50 feet without holding on to anything.

Her career plans altered, Weisbeck decided to pursue a degree in construction law. She was already considering Creighton, but it was her physical and occupational therapy sessions that convinced her: Five of her six therapists were Creighton-educated, and they all had nothing but good things to say about the University. That (and scholarship aid) sealed the deal; she started at Creighton in August.

Studying construction law is an extension of what Weisbeck has wanted to do since she was a little kid playing around the sites of her father’s general contracting company. And Creighton, in a lot of ways, was an ideal fit, says Weisbeck’s mother.

“As a parent, you like to see that your daughter’s school cares about her. I feel like I’m leaving Lexi with family.”

# WAIT...WHAT?

Creighton is known for an extraordinary commitment to undergraduate research. Here’s a snapshot of one student’s research project, which was inspired by the most shameful event in Omaha’s history, the mob lynching of a black man, Will Brown, in 1919.



**TITLE OF RESEARCH**

## “Life Since Will Brown: Unearthing a Century of Nebraskan Hate Crimes”

**STUDENT RESEARCHER**

Saige Jager; junior, majoring in political science, with a minor in history; McHenry, Illinois

**FACULTY MENTOR**

Simon Appleford, PhD, assistant professor of history

**WHAT IT MEANS** The lynching of Will Brown is remembered as a shameful stain in Omaha’s history. Brown’s violent murder revealed the prejudice and racism that lurked beneath the city’s surface in the early 20th century. Yet its horrific nature has overshadowed the fact that this incident is just one of many hate crimes that have been committed over the last century against Nebraska’s marginalized populations. To better understand Nebraska’s continuing struggle with racial and social equality, this project uses Brown’s murder as a starting point for the creation of a database of hate crimes committed in the state of Nebraska between 1919 and 2019.

## Lest We Forget: Omaha, Creighton Remember Lynching of Will Brown

**Creighton President** the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD, joined other Creighton representatives, government officials, community leaders and a crowd of several hundred people outside the Douglas County Courthouse in Omaha on Sept. 28 to mark the 100th anniversary of the horrific lynching of William “Will” Brown in the courthouse square.

The murder of Brown occurred during nationwide race riots that swept across the United States in the spring, summer and fall of 1919 as white Americans attacked black citizens who sought employment and equal status in the wake of their participation in World War I.

The lynching of Brown, one of more than 150 that occurred across the United States in 1919, is considered among the most brutal.

“During the middle months of 1919, dozens of race riots shocked the United States,” Omaha Mayor Jean Stothert said. “Much to our shame, one of the worst was right here in Omaha.”

Fr. Hendrickson, in his invocation, asked for divine forgiveness and that society be freed of “the evil of racism and inequality.”

“Aid us, we pray, in overcoming the sin of racism, grant us your grace in eliminating this blight from our hearts, our communities, our social and civic institutions,” he prayed.

“Wake us up so that the evil of racism finds no home within us.”

At the end of the ceremony, soil from the Douglas County Courthouse was distributed into several jars, one of which will be displayed at The Legacy Museum, a project of the Equal Justice Initiative in Montgomery, Alabama. The others will be displayed at various historical locations throughout Omaha.

The event was sponsored by the City of Omaha, Douglas County and the



DAVE WEAVER



Omaha Community Council for Racial Justice and Reconciliation.

In addition to this community commemoration, Creighton's Kingfisher Institute for the Liberal Arts and Professions hosted events this fall related to its inaugural theme of Race in America: 1919-2019.

David Blight, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom*, delivered a public lecture on campus on Sept. 19. And on Sept. 5, Creighton alumnus and author Theodore Wheeler, MA'08, MFA'15, read from his historical novel *Kings of Broken Things*, followed by a panel discussion on the history of racial violence.

*Kings of Broken Things* is set in Omaha and takes place against the backdrop of the 1919 race riots and the lynching of Brown.

"Many people thought that things like this only happened in Alabama or Georgia, never Nebraska," Wheeler said. "This happened in Omaha, too, and we have to face that."

### Local Students Benefit from Haddix STEM Program

A recent \$10 million gift to Creighton University's College of Arts and Sciences, described by University officials as "transformational," helped transform the lives of two Omaha high school students this year.

Vincent Huerta and Sydney Westphal participated in the inaugural Haddix 24th Street STEM Corridor Program, completing award-winning research projects with Creighton STEM faculty over the summer. Both also enrolled as freshmen at Creighton this fall.

The Haddix 24th Street STEM Corridor Program is one of four initiatives funded by the gift from George Haddix, PhD, MA'66, and his wife, Susan, a member of Creighton's Board of Trustees.

The program introduces top high school students in Omaha to the advantages of pursuing undergraduate studies

# O'Keefe Named First Kingfisher Honoree

In accepting Creighton's inaugural Kingfisher Award at a campus town hall in September, theology professor and documentary filmmaker John O'Keefe, PhD, expressed his deep gratitude – not only for being selected for the award, but for having a job that's been so interesting and fulfilling.

"Where else does (a theologian) learn about the beauty of chemistry from a chemist ... in the back of a microbus ... in the Dominican Republic ... while sipping rum ... purchased on the streets of Dajabon just hours before?" O'Keefe said.

The Kingfisher Award recognizes outstanding faculty and staff who have demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to the enduring values, principles and practices of the humanities. This presidential award is given in partnership with the University's Kingfisher Institute for the Liberal Arts and Professions.

O'Keefe is a scholar of patristic theology whose commitment to environmental justice has inspired his research in the area of ecotheology. He has expanded the impact of his research through the medium of documentary film, in partnership with colleagues and students across departments.



in science, technology, engineering or math at Creighton.

Both Huerta and Westphal won honors for their completed projects at Omaha's 2019 Metropolitan Science and Engineering Fair.

Huerta, a graduate of Omaha South High School, studied qubits – the quantum version of the classical computer "bit." Westphal, a graduate of Omaha Central High School, focused her research on butterflies as important pollinators.

Westphal's advisor was Theodore Burk, DPhil, professor of animal behavior, entomology and behavioral ecology in the Department of Biology. Huerta was guided by Thomas Wong, PhD, assistant professor of physics in the Department of Physics.

Westphal said the Haddix STEM program was "eye-opening."

"It was such an amazing experience it made me want to come to Creighton," she said.

### Brown Contributes to Award-Winning Book on Parenting from Afar

Jill Brown, a young woman from small-town Nebraska, sat beneath a tree in the dusty heat of Owamboland, Namibia, and watched her future take shape.

Six-year-old Timo had just reclaimed his spot on the mat where he and Jill, then a 23-year-old Peace Corps volunteer, were reading with two other children. He had left to pay his respects to a woman Jill had not seen before, despite living almost two years in the same home as the boy.

Who was that? Jill asked.

Timo's mother, she was told.

Brown recounts her surprise in a new book to which she is a contributor and one of three co-editors.

"I had lived with this family for almost two years and had missed a crucial piece of information," she writes. "Timo was not their biological child."

That moment in 1996 gave Brown,



now an associate professor in the Department of Psychological Science, the life direction she had sought – setting her on a decades-long path of investigating various forms of parenting, in Africa and beyond.

Her latest contribution to understanding the evolving nature of parenting in light of an emerging global economy – parenting often conducted at great distance – is the book *Parenting From Afar and the Reconfiguration of Family Across Distance*.

Published by Oxford University Press, *Parenting From Afar* has been awarded the 2019 Ursula Gielen Global Psychology Book Award, which is conferred annually by the International Psychology Division of the American Psychological Association.

The book consists of 16 chapters, each written by different academics based on their experiences in the field. The chapters, taken as a whole, describe the yearning for the support, security, encouragement and friendship that can be found in family relationships. They recount the experiences of people separated from their spouses, children and

© Jill Brown, PhD, associate professor of psychological science, is a contributing writer and co-editor of the award-winning book *Parenting From Afar and the Reconfiguration of Family Across Distance*.

extended family by economic necessity, military duty, incarceration, migration or persecution.

From Filipino domestic workers making a lonely living in Singapore, to traditionalist Poles adjusting to the gender equalities of Scandinavia, to Brown's Namibian family for whom informal "child fostering" is a cultural norm, the book investigates the ways people across the globe maintain – and sometimes create – family ties in the face of lengthy separations.

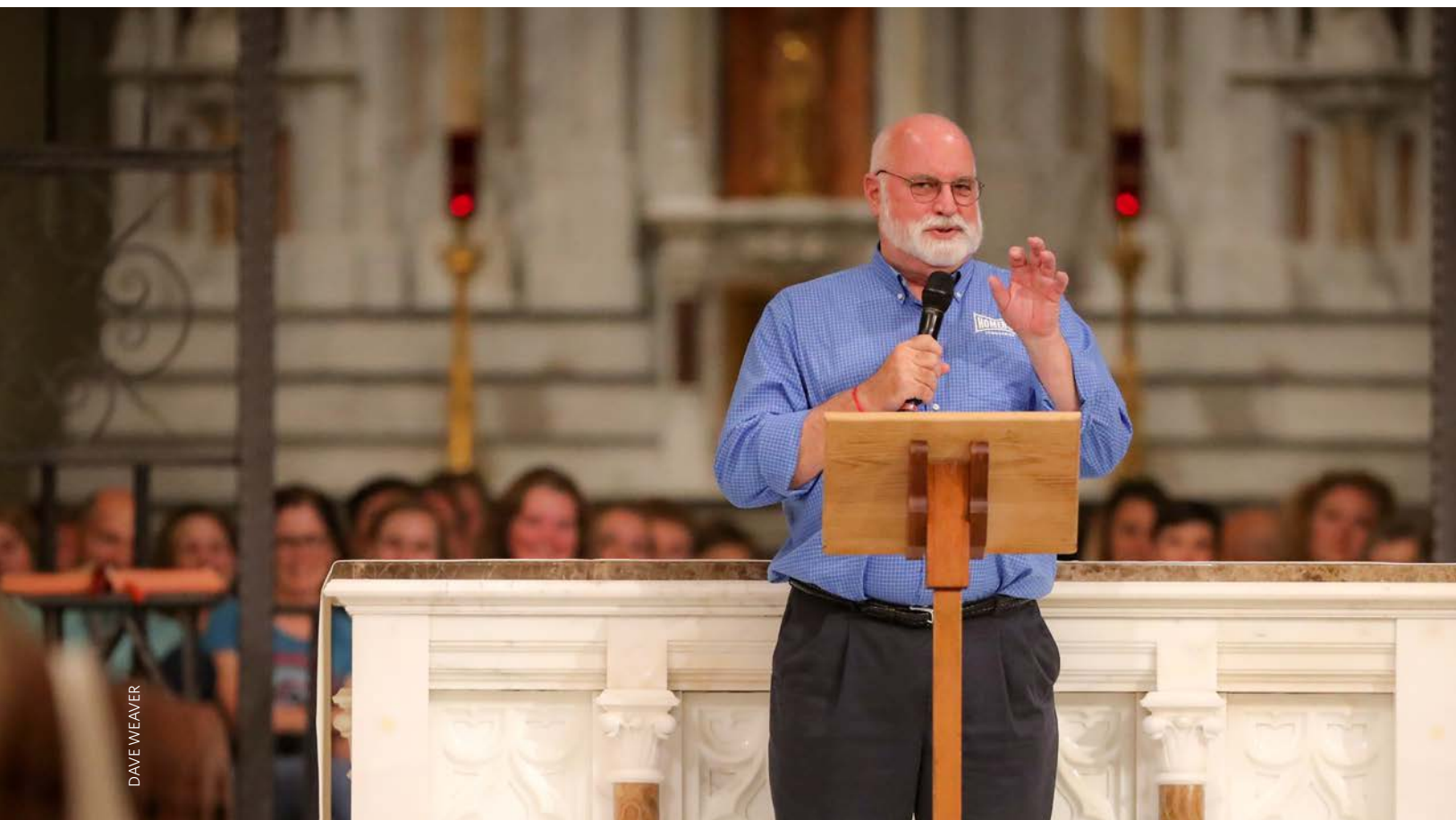
### Standing on the Margins

Fr. Boyle headlines inaugural Mission Week with a call for kinship

The Rev. Greg Boyle, SJ, HON'09, stood in front of a packed audience at St. John's Church and told the story of a young man who had faced unimaginable abuse.

As a child, the young man had worn three T-shirts to school; three, because two weren't enough to sop up the blood from the wounds inflicted by his mother. Kids made fun of him, and even when





DAVE WEAVER

he was grown, the man felt ashamed of his scars.

But years later, as he spoke in front of an audience of social workers at Fr. Boyle's behest, the man said he no longer felt ashamed: "I rub my fingers over my scars. My wounds are my friends. How can I help the wounded if I don't welcome my own wounds?"

The man, Fr. Boyle told the crowd at St. John's, spoke the key truth of spiritual mission work: "The measure of our compassion lies not in our service to those on the margins, but only in our willingness to see ourselves in kinship with them," Fr. Boyle said. "For the truth of the matter is this: If we don't welcome our own wounds, we may well be tempted to despise the wounded."

Fr. Boyle, founder and executive director of Los Angeles-based Homeboy Industries and author of *Tattoos on the*

© The Rev. Greg Boyle, SJ, HON'09, spoke at St. John's Church during Creighton's inaugural Mission Week in September. Fr. Boyle is founder and executive director of Homeboy Industries in Los Angeles.

*Heart and Barking to the Choir*, spoke Sept. 9 at St. John's to kick off Creighton's inaugural Mission Week.

Beginning this year, the University selects one week during the fall semester for the campus community to reflect on Creighton's Ignatian heritage and spirituality. During this year's Mission Week, Sept. 9-13, the University and Omaha community partners came together at several events to listen, learn, reflect and explore themes which emerge from Creighton's Jesuit, Catholic mission.

After opening remarks from Eileen Burke-Sullivan, STD, MChrSp'84, vice provost for Mission and Ministry, and Creighton President the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD, Fr. Boyle presented on his experiences working with former gang members at his nonprofit, Homeboy Industries.

Founded by Fr. Boyle in East Los Angeles in the late 1980s, Homeboy Industries offers job training and other services to former gang members and people who have been incarcerated. The organization employs its clients in social enterprises — including a bakery, catering service and diner — that teach essential career development skills while also offering an alternative to gang life.

Fr. Boyle told several stories — some tragic, some hilarious — about the people he's encountered in his work. One anecdote involved a parolee named Glenda, working as a waitress in one of Homeboy Industries' programs, who, upon meeting actress Diane Keaton, told the actress she recognized her from their time together in lockup.

But Fr. Boyle bookended his presentation with a challenge for the University community, one that rang

especially true during Mission Week: Stand with the people at the margins.

"You want to imagine a community of kinship such that God in fact might recognize it," Fr. Boyle said. "No kinship, no peace. No kinship, no justice. No kinship, no equality, no matter how singularly focused we may well be on those worthy goals."

Service, he said, is a start: "Service is the hallway that gets you to the ballroom. And the ballroom is a place of kinship and exquisite mutuality where there is no us, and there is no them."

Only then, he said, can we truly embrace the things Jesus himself took seriously: "Inclusion. Nonviolence. Unconditional loving kindness. And compassionate acceptance," Fr. Boyle said. "That's not so much what we do at the margins, that's who we are at the margins. And then we look under our feet, and we notice (the margins) are getting erased. Because we chose to stand there."

### Recker Receives \$1.5 Million NIH Grant to Study Osteoporosis in Diabetic Women

**Longtime Creighton researcher** Robert Recker, MD'63, has received a \$1.5 million grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to investigate the relationship between diabetes and osteoporosis.

Diabetics experience osteoporosis at higher rates than the general population, says Recker, a principal investigator with Creighton's Osteoporosis Research Center. The five-year study will involve 40 diabetic women and 40 nondiabetic women.

Recker's approach reflects an earlier study in which 60 people suffering from low-trauma bone fractures were found to have abnormalities in the mechanical quality of their bone. Recker compares the difference to iron and steel.

"Iron, if you put enough load on it, breaks," he says. "Steel, if you put the same load, will bend a little, but it



#### TEN-HUT: ROTC NUMBERS UP

It's been a decade since the Creighton University Black Wolves saw more than a few good freshmen sign up for the Army ROTC program, but that changed this year when 25 cadets accepted the challenge. With the addition of four sophomores joining the ranks, the new class numbers 29 cadets. The number of cadets over all four years of the program now totals 69.

doesn't fail nearly as easily as iron."

Recker says this initial study will involve Caucasian women, who experience osteoporosis at much higher levels than other people.

"Other races — and men — will have different findings, which will confound the data," he says. "If we conclude a study on white women, then we can do a study on nonwhite women. One step at a time."

Diabetic women interested in participating should call 402.280.2663.

### Scott Foundation Gift to Assist Future Heider Business Students

*\$14.6 million scholarship program aims to recruit more future business leaders to Omaha and Nebraska*

**A \$14.6 million scholarship** program established this fall by the Suzanne & Walter Scott Foundation will recruit talented students to Creighton's Heider College of Business and, ultimately, benefit the Omaha and Nebraska business communities with outstanding future business leaders.

The gift reaffirms the Scott family's commitment to the Heider College of Business and its students, and will allow the college's most generous scholarship — the Scott Scholars program — to reach even more students.

The Scott Scholarship is a full-tuition, renewable award given to top candidates in the Heider College of Business. Five students from Nebraska and 10 from outside the state will be selected annually for the award, over a nine-year commitment.

"The Scott Foundation gift will assist us in continuing to attract the best and brightest from around the globe, adding to the diversity of our student body, as well as allowing us to showcase the outstanding Omaha business environment and opportunities that exist here in our own community," said Anthony Hendrickson, PhD, dean of the Heider College of Business.



◀ ROBERT RECKER

Robert Recker, MD'63, is the director of Creighton's Osteoporosis Research Center and is an internationally recognized expert in the field of metabolic bone disease.

Creighton President the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD, said the foundation's latest investment in the University will establish one of the nation's most respected business education scholarships.

"Like Walter, I believe in this program and the Heider College of Business' ability to deliver on our goals," Fr. Hendrickson said. "This complements Walter's long service to and vision for the University and expresses his confidence in the impact we have on Omaha."

Walter Scott Jr. served on Creighton's Board of Trustees from 1980 to 2001 and was named an emeritus trustee. Walter and his late wife, Suzanne, also received the Manresa Medal from Creighton in 1998. Creighton's Manresa Medal is presented to those individuals who, like St. Ignatius of Loyola, demonstrate inspirational leadership while overcoming obstacles to enduring achievement.

"My intention for this gift is to empower Creighton to keep bringing new young minds to the city and state. I trust them to do that," said Walter Scott, former chairman and CEO of Peter Kiewit Sons' Inc.

While nearly 80% of Heider College of Business students come from outside Nebraska, about 53% begin their full-time employment in the state directly after graduation.

Matt McNary, BSBA'15, is an example of how a Suzanne & Walter Scott Foundation scholarship adds to Omaha's brain gain. He came to Creighton from eastern Kansas as part of the program, passing up full-ride scholarships from two state schools.

Now a certified public accountant in Omaha, McNary is active in a host of nonprofit organizations. He's aware of the difference Walter Scott, whom he met while at Creighton, makes on recruiting students and retaining Creighton alumni.

"Omaha feels like home," McNary said. "I've invested my career here, and I don't plan to leave. I love it here."





JIM FACKLER

## OT Alumna Helps Develop Hydrotherapy for Premies

**Makenna Brown Tucker, BS'15, OTD'19,** wanted to be a pediatric occupational therapist when she graduated, but never imagined working with the tiniest of patients.

When she began the research portion of her doctorate in occupational therapy at CHI Health Creighton University Medical Center–Bergan Mercy, she “fell in love” with premature infants and “how occupational therapy (OT) can impact their lives.”

She focused her research on hydrotherapy – performing therapy in warm water – with preemies and, at the request of Lisa Bader, BSOT'96, Bergan's NICU occupational therapist, helped develop a program for the neonatal intensive care unit at the hospital. Bader had seen a presentation on neonatal hydrotherapy at a conference two years earlier and was keenly interested.

“But the time involved to start something like that is intensive,” Bader says.

“I knew Makenna would be with us for 16 weeks, and I knew she could get the project done. She did a literature review, wrote the protocol, passed it through the doctors and nurse practitioners, and implemented it.”

Bader says her NICU has been having excellent results giving hydrotherapy to two or three babies per week, sending them home sooner and stronger.

Tucker, now an occupational therapist at CHI Health St. Elizabeth in Lincoln, Nebraska, started OT in the NICU there and hopes to implement hydrotherapy as well.

© Makenna Brown Tucker, BS'15, OTD'19, gives hydrotherapy treatment to Eloise Beller at CHI Health Creighton University Medical Center–Bergan Mercy.

## Play Important for Children

Let children play. That was the message delivered by Peter Gray, PhD, a research professor of psychology at Boston College, at the inaugural Ware-Johnk Lecture this fall. The lecture series, established by a gift from former faculty member Mark Ware, PhD, and his wife, Connie Johnk, BA'82, is intended to promote interest in psychological scholarship and how it relates to everyday life.

“We are in the midst of an experiment in which we are in some ways for the first time in human history raising children without real free play,” says Gray, author of *Free to Learn: Why Unleashing the Instinct to Play Will Make Our Children Happier, More Self-Reliant, and Better Students for Life*.

Time spent playing, he says, serves a critical role in enabling children to develop reasoning skills, learn the art of compromise and hone problem-solving skills that can include mathematical and spatial awareness.



JING JING TSONG

## Diabetes Care in Rural Communities

Creighton has been awarded two grants to improve medical outcomes for families of children diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes in rural areas of Nebraska and Iowa, where access to pediatric endocrinologists is challenging.

“There are significant differences in the health outcomes for those who live closer to areas where specialized care is available,” says Vanessa Jewell, PhD, assistant professor of occupational therapy in the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions, who is leading the project to identify treatment barriers in rural communities and develop solutions to overcome service gaps.

## ‘Fitness Fingerprints’ and Cancer Growth

Scientists have a better understanding of the bully-like behavior of cancer cells that allows them to aggressively grow, overtake neighboring cells and spread in humans. According to Creighton cancer researcher Laura Hansen, PhD, key findings of a study published in the journal *Nature* provide new clues for how to intervene for therapy.

Hansen, a co-author of the paper “Fitness fingerprints of human cells promote competitive growth in cancer,” says the results are likely to promote intense study of the “fitness fingerprints” on the surface of cells that play a determining role in their life and death.

Hansen, associate dean for research in the School of Medicine, and her colleagues demonstrated for the first time in human cells that cell competition

is involved in the expansion of cancer cells at the expense of their less-fit neighbors. The findings show that a human protein (called Flower) plays a role in determining cell fitness, and the development and progression of cancer.

“These findings enhance our understanding of the factors that make some tumors more aggressive than others, and our understanding of the factors that allow tumors to metastasize to specific locations,” says Rajan Gogna, PhD, the lead investigator of the study, and a former Creighton faculty member now with the Champalimaud Centre for the Unknown in Lisbon, Portugal.

## Study Looks at Gum Disease

School of Dentistry associate professor D. Roselyn Cerutis, PhD, has received a grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to study a potential therapy that may reduce inflammation and bone loss in periodontal (gum) disease.

Cerutis is investigating the role of a receptor, LPA1, in regulating the production of lysophosphatidic acid (LPA), and whether blocking or reducing LPA production in the mouth helps control the inflammation and bone loss of periodontal disease. She says the LPA system has been extensively researched in cancer and heart disease, but not in periodontal disease.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, half of American adults age 30 and older have periodontal disease, which also has been linked to chronic illnesses such as heart disease, diabetes and rheumatoid arthritis.

Cerutis has been studying the role of LPA in periodontal disease with collaborators in the dental school for the past 20 years. “We are the only

researchers worldwide who have dedicated ourselves systematically to a long-term research program looking at LPA's actions in the mouth,” she says.

## Addressing Physician Burnout

A new Creighton study aimed at reducing physician burnout is looking at whether increasing time spent with patients and cultivating deeper connections with them can boost the well-being of health care professionals.

Creighton's study is one of 33 selected this year from among 200 proposals through an initiative of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education, the group that sets educational standards for preparing physicians.

The study is being led by Prasanna Tadi, MD, an assistant professor in the School of Medicine and neurologist with CHI Health, and includes a team of Creighton residents.

According to the National Academy of Medicine, more than half of U.S. physicians experience burnout, a syndrome characterized by a high degree of emotional exhaustion, depersonalization and a low sense of personal accomplishment at work.

A unique aspect of the Creighton study is its wide reach. In addition to residents and physicians, medical students, pharmacists, physical therapists, occupational therapists, dentists and nurses will participate in the study.

“Our hope is that with this study we will be able to show improvement in multiple areas of well-being and relieve the pressures physicians are facing,” Tadi says. “We are trying to change the culture of patient care locally, but it has the potential to make a big impact across multiple disciplines nationally.”



# On Tap at Creighton: Beer Chemistry

BY MICAH MERTES

**C**ome learn about chemistry. About the fundamental scientific principles underlying everyday life. About solubility, concentration, extraction, metabolism, biomolecules, ions and enzymes ... Come learn about beer. How to brew it. How to study it. How to, if you so choose, infuse the flavors of peanut butter and jelly into it. Class is 21 and older to enter. Please experiment responsibly.

Creighton's Chemistry of Brewing course, first offered through the Honors Program in 2018, picks up again this spring. The class' humble beginnings, says chemistry professor James Fletcher, PhD, first fermented in Creighton's Chemistry Club.

"We started brewing beer for fun," he says. "Then it evolved to the point where I felt there was enough material to teach a class on it. I had to teach myself quite a bit of homebrewing technique beforehand. I'm an organic chemist first and an amateur brewer second."

Chemistry of Brewing isn't just for science students. Fletcher designed the class to work for Honors Program science and nonscience majors alike.

"The class starts simple," Fletcher says. "But by the end of the semester, all the students feel like expert brewers."

In class, students learn about the history of brewing and the scientific principles of the craft. But the brewing itself starts right away. They partner up to conduct experiments in extract brewing, using brewing kits to turn water, barley, hops and yeast into beer.

For the first few experiments, the class tinkers with a specific variable. In the water experiment, for instance, each pair of students uses the same recipe but varies the type of water — using tap water, distilled water or different kinds of filtered water. The type of water alters the properties of the beer, which the class then measures for color, flavor, alcohol content, etc.

The class then alters the experiment for the next few batches, varying the barley, hops or yeast, each amended ingredient making or breaking the brew, the scientific method as applied to an especially sudsy diversion.

"I'd never had a class like this before," says chemistry major Colin Reedy, BS'19. "It was great because it was a new way of approaching concepts I was familiar with, but in a different, more practical way. Also, you know, I like beer."

Once each batch comes to fruition, students do a tasting and catalog their findings. Fletcher's class syllabus demands moderation: "No individual student will be permitted to consume greater than 12 ounces of beer per tasting session. Students who overindulge will be asked to leave the classroom for the day and

will receive a grade of zero for any activities missed as a result."

For the final project, students design their own beer and host an end-of-year open house, where guests vote on the best brew. For the past two years, a Russian imperial stout has emerged the victor.

Students get creative with it. Reedy and his partner brewed a grapefruit India pale ale. Dillon Nerland and Kaylee Schwasinger, both BS'19, made a vanilla bourbon porter. Ben Kruse and Hana O'Hagan, both BSChm'19, used ingredients with nutty and fruity tones to create a peanut butter and jelly ale.

"This class was great," O'Hagan says. "Chemistry majors learn a lot of theory, and I love theory, but it's exciting to be in a class where we're applying that theory to something like beer."

Given the novelty of the syllabus, it's surprising that none of the Chemistry of Brewing classes so far have reached capacity.

"That's because of that word 'chemistry' in the title," O'Hagan says. "As a chemistry major, that breaks my heart, but it's true. But that shouldn't scare people. The class is really accessible because Dr. Fletcher is such a good teacher."

Fletcher has since taken his course on the road, giving Science of Beer presentations to Creighton alumni and friends at breweries in Omaha, Kansas City, Missouri, and, just this fall, Chicago. Each event has sold out.

"The public talks have been a fun, approachable way to teach people science," Fletcher says. "I'm trying to do my small part to promote science for the general public, to show people how science works and how scientists think and how knowledge of science is important to being an informed citizen."

And how science curriculum, if properly brewed, has a nice, crisp aftertaste.



JIM FACKLER



## REFLECTIONS

# A Wide View

This expansive view to the east from I-480 shows the symbiotic relationship between Creighton, on the left side of the photo, and the surrounding city. Creighton has long been a partner in Omaha's growth and development, drawing students from other locales who stay after they graduate. The data shows 73% of Creighton students come from outside Nebraska and more than half of the students who find employment immediately after graduation stay in the Omaha area.







# DIGGING IN AND RISING UP

A new Creighton health sciences campus begins to take form in Phoenix

**AT THE CONTROLS OF AN EXCAVATOR,** Creighton University President the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD, smiled as he raised and lowered the machine's front shovel, helping to usher in a new era of health care education and delivery in Phoenix.

"Today marks a monumental development in Creighton's storied history of health sciences education," said Fr. Hendrickson at the Sept. 25 ceremonial groundbreaking for Creighton's new Health Sciences - Phoenix Campus.

He added that the \$100 million, 180,000-square-foot campus - scheduled to open in fall 2021 at Park Central in midtown Phoenix - represents a "shared step forward" for Creighton and its Phoenix health care partners in addressing the critical need for more health service providers in Phoenix, Maricopa County and all of Arizona.

"We are honored to be playing a major role in the dramatic transformation that is about to take place on Arizona's health care landscape, and to be doing so on one of Phoenix's most iconic properties," Fr. Hendrickson said.

The event drew dignitaries from throughout the Phoenix-metro area, including Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey, Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego and Phoenix Bishop Thomas Olmstead, who offered his prayers and blessings.

The campus will eventually serve nearly 900 students, invigorating Arizona's health infrastructure with physicians, nurses, pharmacists, physician assistants, physical therapists, occupational therapists and more - each educated in Creighton's

distinctive Jesuit, Catholic mission of service.

Creighton's infusion of health care professionals comes at a crucial time for Arizona, which faces a health care workforce shortage.

"We know in order to meet our growing demands - and the demands are great - Arizona needs to grow our supply of health care professionals," said Gov. Ducey, "and that's exactly what this new campus will help us do.

"From medicine and occupational therapy to nursing and so much more, the next generation of health sciences professionals will be trained right here. And Arizona couldn't be more excited for all that's yet to come."

Mayor Gallego praised the project for bringing "values-driven education" to the city in needed health care professions. "We have a lot of opportunity and need for your graduates," she said. "I am thrilled to be talking about values-driven education and building a healthier Phoenix."

Fr. Hendrickson acknowledged the philanthropic support for the new campus and its students, highlighting a \$10 million gift from the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust (for which the building will be named) and a \$5 million gift from Phoenix philanthropist Doris Norton.

Robert "Bo" Dunlay, MD'81, dean of the Creighton University School of Medicine, praised the collaborative nature of the project, including Creighton's long-standing relationship with its health care partners in Phoenix.

For more than a decade, Creighton has been sending medical students to Dignity Health St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center for rotations, and, in 2009, Creighton teamed with St. Joseph's to establish a School of Medicine in Phoenix. More recently, Creighton and St. Joseph's partnered with District Medical Group and Valleywise Health (formerly MIHS) to form the Creighton University Arizona Health Education Alliance.



Linda Hunt, chief executive officer for Dignity Health Arizona, which includes St. Joseph's and four other hospitals, said the new campus fulfills a longtime dream for Dignity Health leaders.

"We had a dream years ago to find a Catholic partner that could offer medical education training to students," she said. "Today, we are realizing that dream for Dignity Health and St. Joseph's Hospital. This creates a place where students can be educated, with a strong spiritual component."

Kote Chundu, president and CEO of District Medical Group; Michael White, BS'96, MD'01, MBA'19, Valleywise executive vice president and chief medical officer; and Steve Purves, president and CEO of Valleywise Health, also expressed their excitement with the partnership and the coming campus.

"Our innovative Creighton Alliance will ensure that this health sciences campus and medical school provides exceptional student clinical training experiences, which are second to none," Purves said.

Creighton alumna Sharon Harper, BA'69, who has played a pivotal role as chief executive officer of locally based Plaza Companies, which is working with another developer to redevelop Park Central, described the health sciences campus as "transformational."

In addition to addressing a demand for health care professionals, Creighton's expansion is projected to create more than 250 jobs; \$124.5 million in personal income; \$12 million in tax revenues and more than \$300 million in total economic output.

Randy Richardson, MD, dean of the Creighton University School of Medicine - Phoenix, said the new campus is the "culmination of so many people's efforts, from the program directors, clerkship directors, clinical professionals, faculty and, of course, students. I can't overemphasize the students."

One of those students, Jaclyn Lundberg, a fourth-year Creighton medical student completing her education in Phoenix, spoke at the ceremony.

"I chose Creighton University because I wanted a medical education that extended well beyond the medicine — to the whole person," Lundberg said. "And I have not been disappointed. To me, a Creighton physician cares for all aspects of patients' lives, with excellence, and most importantly, humility."

"We, as students, receive that same type of personal care. The support and mentorship we receive from our professors is unparalleled to other programs."

She cited a clerkship director, a mentor, who encouraged her and gave her "permission to be great." She said when she was struggling to decide on a medical specialty, he told her that even if you're reaching for a star, if you reach a little higher, you might discover a whole solar system.

"Today, I would like to pay that message forward," Lundberg said. "Creighton's growing presence in Phoenix is good. Let's give ourselves permission to be great. ... Let this be the first step in reaching for the stars, and maybe we will find an entire galaxy."

## Gift Illustrates Norton Family's Commitment to Health Education, Care in Phoenix

**A \$5 MILLION GIFT** from local philanthropist Doris Norton to Dignity Health St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center and Creighton University follows a long-standing family tradition of supporting health care and health sciences education benefiting the Phoenix community.

Norton's gift designates \$3 million to support construction of the new Creighton University Health Sciences - Phoenix Campus, and allocates \$2 million in a scholarship endowment for students entering the nursing field.

"I'm delighted to support this expanding partnership between St. Joseph's and Creighton University," Norton said. "We've always believed St. Joseph's is the leading hospital in the Valley. Knowing that Creighton mirrors the same commitment to educating outstanding health care professionals makes this the perfect union. We've always felt blessed to be able to support St. Joseph's and the education of those advancing in the health care profession, and I hope others will join us in this effort."

"This very generous gift will support deserving students who have a passion and desire for nursing, and allow them to fully pursue those dreams and earn a degree from Creighton University," said Catherine Todero, PhD, BSN'72, vice provost of Health Sciences Campuses and dean of the Creighton College of Nursing. "However, the ultimate beneficiaries are the patients and communities served by our graduates, many of whom will stay in Phoenix and the Southwest."

Doris and her husband, John, who died in 2016, generously funded campus renovations to support the initial partnership between St. Joseph's and Creighton's School of Medicine, and they established the Doris Norton Scholars program to endow scholarships for Creighton medical students. In 2014, a \$19 million gift by the Nortons established the John and Doris Norton Cardiothoracic and Transplantation Institute at St. Joseph's.

The most recent gift adds to the previously announced \$10 million investment from the Phoenix-based Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust, which is dedicated to construction of the building in midtown Phoenix that will bear its name.



## A TIMELINE OF CARE IN OMAHA, PHOENIX

**WHILE CREIGHTON IS GROWING ITS HEALTH SCIENCES** presence in Phoenix, the home campus programs are as strong as ever. The Omaha campus offers dentistry, emergency medical services, nursing, medicine, occupational therapy, physical therapy, pharmacy and physician assistant programs.

Competition is fierce for Creighton health programs, with applications far exceeding available spots in most cases. For example, the School of Medicine had 6,376 applicants for 167 openings this academic year. And students come from all over — students in the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions this year came from 46 states and 44 countries. Creighton is predicted to become the largest Catholic health professions educator in the country by 2025.

Clinical opportunities for students abound — through CHI Health, Creighton's primary clinical partner in Nebraska and western Iowa — and now in Arizona with partners in the Creighton University Arizona Health Education Alliance. Below are key dates in Creighton's health professions history.

### MILESTONES

- 1892** Tracing its roots to St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital, which opened in 1870, Creighton Memorial St. Joseph Hospital opens in Omaha, built by John Creighton in memory of his late wife, Sarah Emily. Creighton launched medical education the same year, with the hospital the site for clinical training
- 1905** School of Dentistry and School of Pharmacy is established. The pharmacy school would later become the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions and add programs in occupational therapy, physical therapy and emergency medical services
- 1909** John A. Creighton Medical College becomes the Creighton College of Medicine
- 1958** Students are accepted into the new four-year baccalaureate nursing program
- 1975** Accelerated nursing program launches, one of the first in the nation
- 1977** St. Joseph Hospital (which later becomes Creighton University Medical Center and then CHI Health Creighton University Medical Center) opens at 601 N. 30th St., the largest private construction project in Nebraska
- 1984** St. Joseph Hospital is purchased by American Medical International (AMI)
- 1995** AMI merges with another hospital operator to form Tenet Healthcare. At the same time, Creighton purchases 26% of the hospital and becomes part owner
- 2005** Creighton and Dignity Health St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center agree to medical students spending one-month rotations in Phoenix
- 2012** Campus in Phoenix at St. Joseph's opens, offering two full years of clinical medical training
- 2012** Alegant Health acquires Creighton University Medical Center, renames its Omaha-area health system Alegant Creighton Health; Alegant Creighton Health merges with CHI Nebraska, eventually renamed CHI Health (2014). The new system becomes Creighton's primary clinical teaching partner in Omaha
- 2017** CHI Health and Creighton open a novel new academic health center with two campuses — CHI Health Creighton University Medical Center-University Campus for ambulatory services and CHI Health Creighton University Medical Center-Bergan Mercy for inpatient services
- 2017** Creighton University Arizona Health Education Alliance is formed
- 2018** College of Nursing admits students to new accelerated nursing program in Phoenix
- 2019** Physician assistant program is established in Omaha, and construction begins on the new campus in Phoenix

© Fr. Hendrickson is joined by Phoenix community leaders, health care partners and students at the recent ceremonial groundbreaking for the new health sciences campus.





# Treasure Tales

As University archivist, David Crawford is responsible for cataloging, preserving and adding to Creighton's rich and varied historical collection. But, every once in a while, he also plays the roles of sleuth, discoverer and even finder of lost loves.

The latter came a couple of years ago as Creighton University Medical Center was preparing to close. Crawford, the University's archivist for 12 years, was tasked with going through the hospital in search of any items of historical significance he might add to the permanent collections of the University Archives.

In the hospital's mechanical room, Crawford discovered a painting of one of the most influential figures in the University's history — Sarah Emily Creighton, a member of the University's founding family and wife of early Omaha business leader and philanthropist John Creighton.

"It was sitting on a metal shelf and there was kind of a box with a cover over it protecting the top of it, then stuff piled on that," Crawford recalls. "It had been damaged and it had some holes poked through the back."

How it came to such a sorry state isn't clear.

"It was on the wall over there at some point and got taken down, and by that point, nobody knew," Crawford says. "I'm wondering how

many people, if they saw it, knew who she was."

Crawford had the painting restored, with generous support from an alumni couple, Katie Wadas-Thalken, BA'04, EdD'18, and Mark Thalken, BA'12. Now, it hangs in the Rare Books Room next to a similar painting of her husband that had been in storage — a lost love reunited.

"From the size and from the frames, I think they were done together," Crawford says. Most likely by the same artist.

John and Sarah now keep watch at one end of the Rare Books Room, not far from paintings of fellow University founders Edward and Mary Lucretia Creighton. Not so obvious are other historical treasures in the room — and elsewhere on campus.

The pieces speak through the ages of transformational times both epic and obscure. Some of the items are head-shakingly old. Like cuneiform tablets in Creighton's Klutznick Law Library that are from the Third Dynasty of Ur during the Neo-Sumerian Empire. They're essentially purchase receipts.

"If we're at Year 0, they're already 2,000 years old at that point," says Troy Johnson, interim director of the law library and an 18-year Creighton veteran. "It's just crazy to have a document that traveled around the world for 4,000 years and now is sitting here."

The collections grow with gifts from alumni and others. Yearbooks are most commonly offered. More recently, photos arrived of the

liberation of Manila during World War II, a gift from alumnus Kenneth Conry, MD'59, from his father's personal collection.

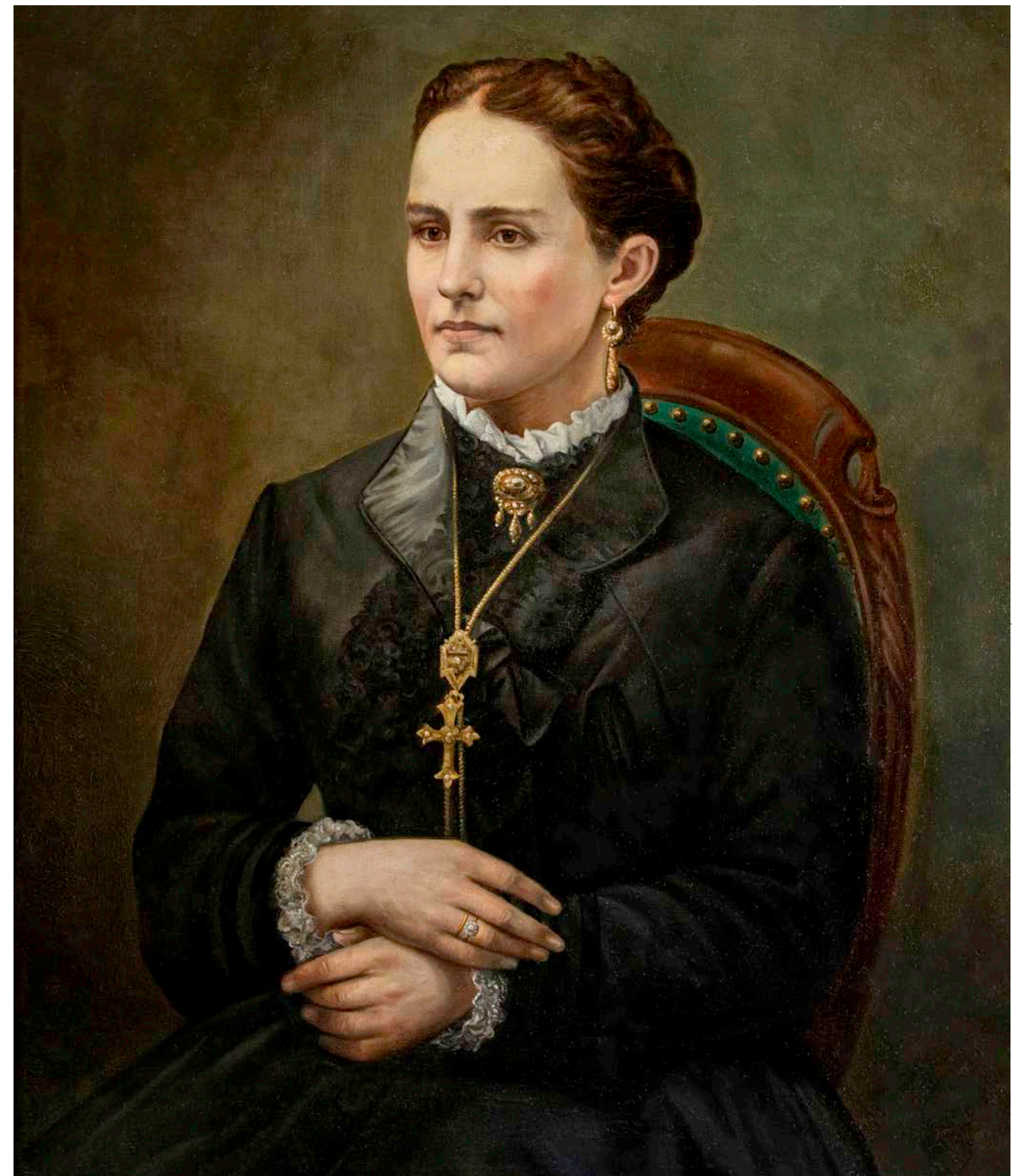
Other pieces come by chance finds. A silver serving set used by the Creightons was found in a staff member's closet, wrapped in paper towels and plastic shopping bags. Also found were photos of Bob Gibson, ARTS'57, visiting campus after his 1967 World Series triumph with the St. Louis Cardinals.

Crawford has more than 1,500 volumes in the Rare Books Room and the Archives collection. On one table is a book from the Rev. Greg Carlson's massive collection of fables; on another, also from Fr. Carlson's collection, a hand-carved Russian toy depicting the tale of the fox and the crow; and near that, a marble piece from the Creighton Observatory, which once linked the observatory via telegraph to other observatories nationwide, including the U.S. Naval Observatory.

These pieces matter.

"I think that it's important for us to be able to look back and see our heritage, but also see how we got to the point where we are," Crawford says. "And sometimes, that can provide us some good insights about how we should move forward. Sometimes, it's a good reminder so that we don't stray away from our values."

Following is a look at some of the oldest, most unusual or least known items to be discovered on Creighton's campus.

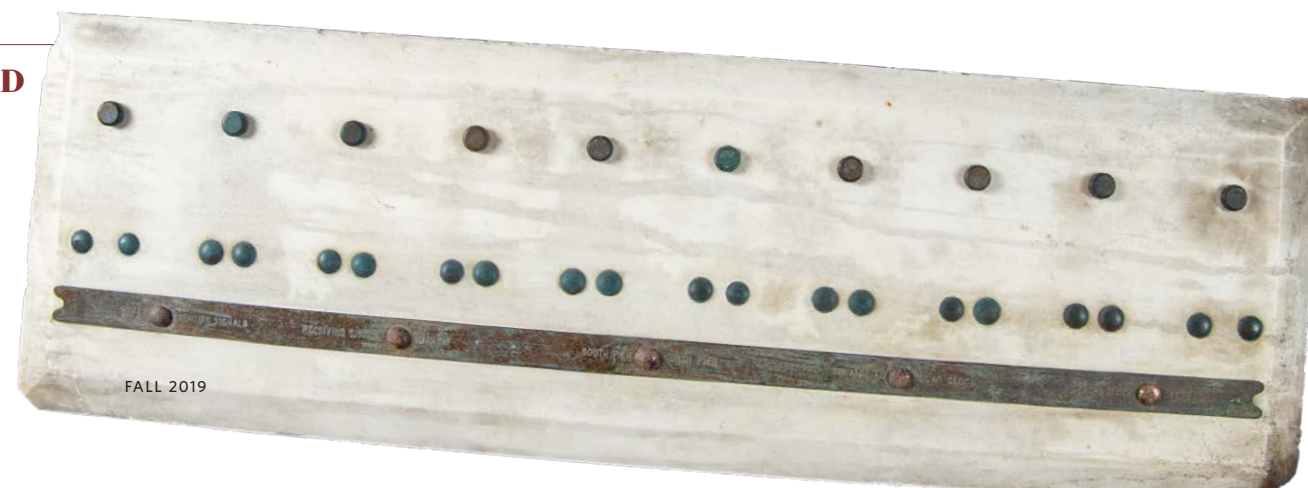


## SARAH EMILY CREIGHTON

Found in the mechanical room at the former Creighton University Medical Center, the portrait of Sarah Emily Creighton was restored and now hangs in the Rare Books Room in the Reinert-Alumni Memorial Library.

## SWITCHBOARD

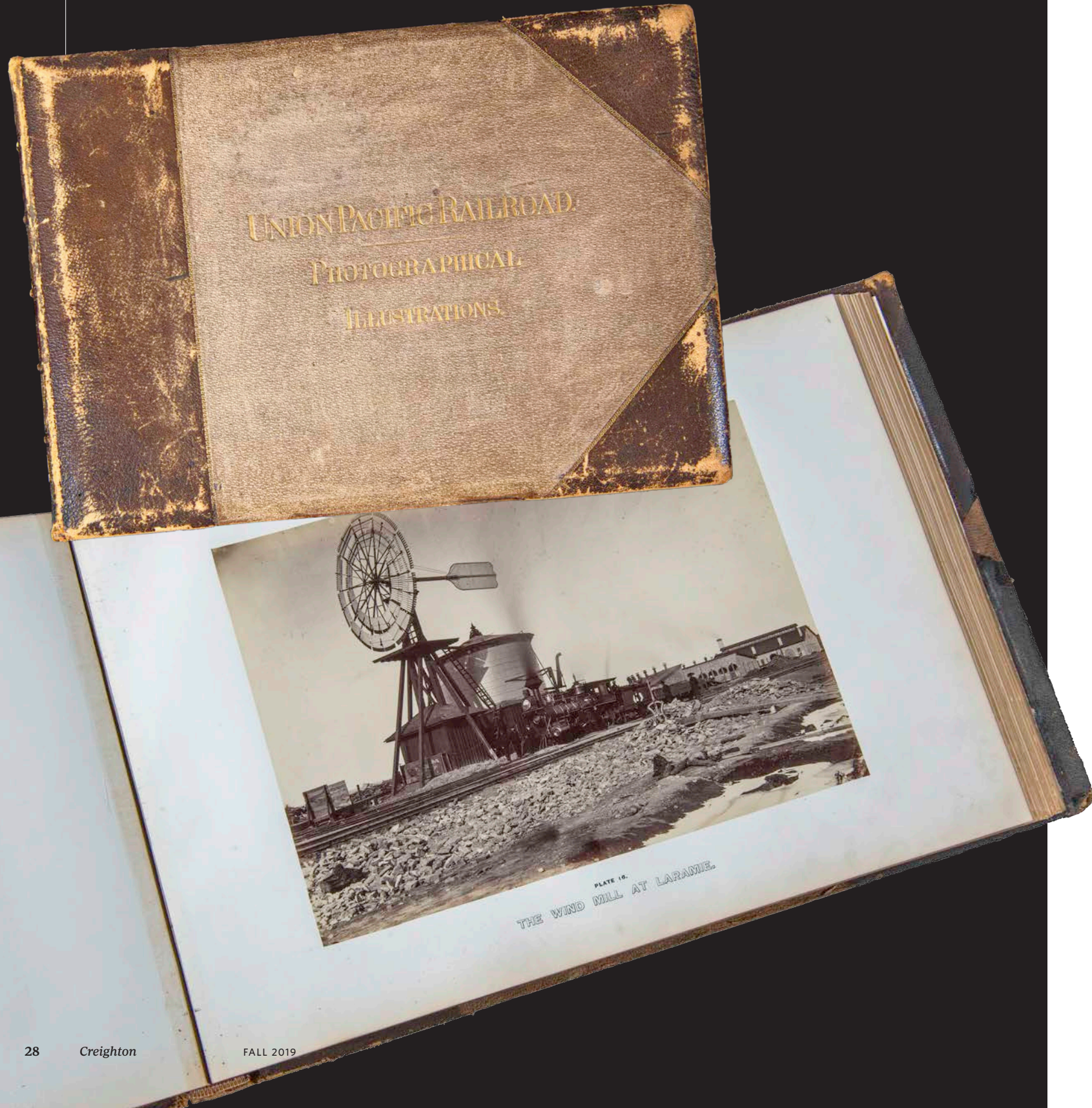
This marble switchboard from the Creighton Observatory was used to transmit and receive telegraph messages for synchronizing the observatory's clocks with clocks elsewhere.





## SPIKED PUNCH

Construction of the Transcontinental Railroad was such a monumental task for the time that you had to see it to believe it. Fortunately, visitors to Creighton can do just that, thanks to a book of photos taken by Andrew Russell that documents the ribbon of steel built through what then was seen as wilderness. Few such books remain — they were given as gifts to congressional representatives and others of influence. Edward Creighton likely received a copy because of his role building the telegraph line alongside the railroad. When Edward died, it went to his brother, John, who gave it to the University. “Just an amazing piece,” David Crawford says. “This is one of the earliest photo albums of the American West.”



## THE BLACKSTONE COMMENTARIES

Imagine a time when everything one needed to know about the law could fit into a single four-volume set. That was the Blackstone Commentaries, several sets of which are in the law library.

Troy Johnson calls them the most important pieces in his care.

“That was what you would read to get up to speed if you were going to be a lawyer,” Johnson says.

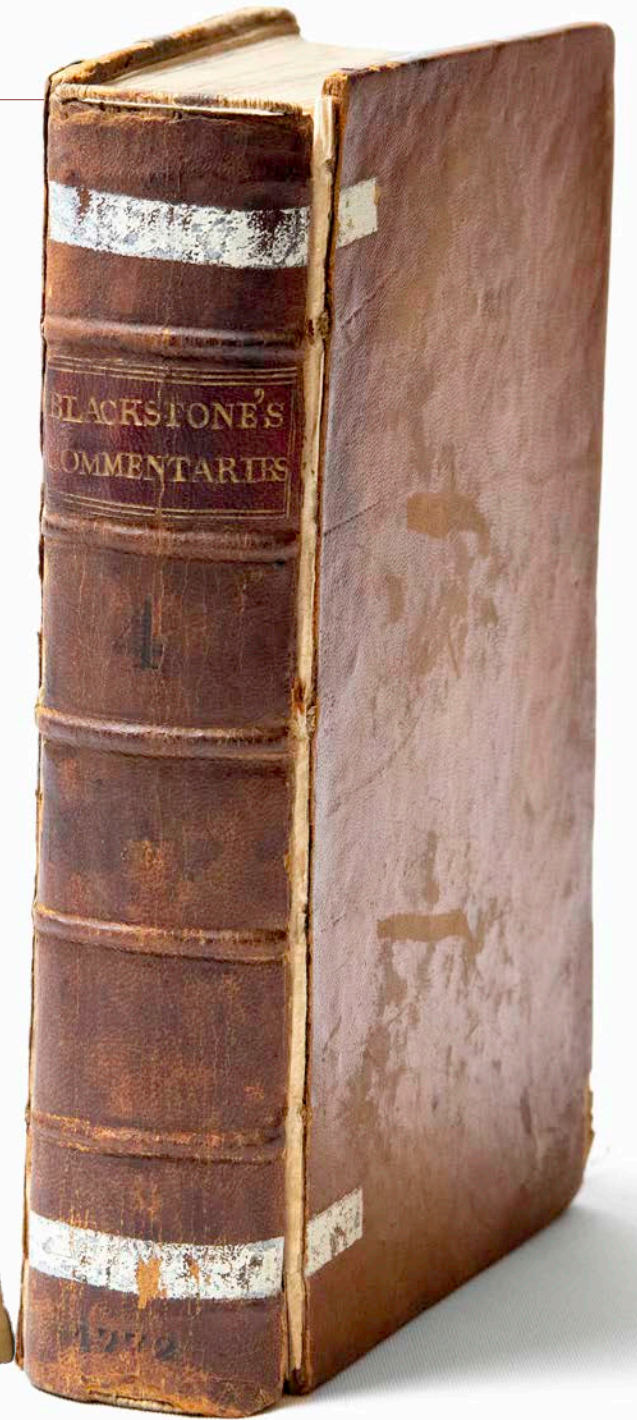
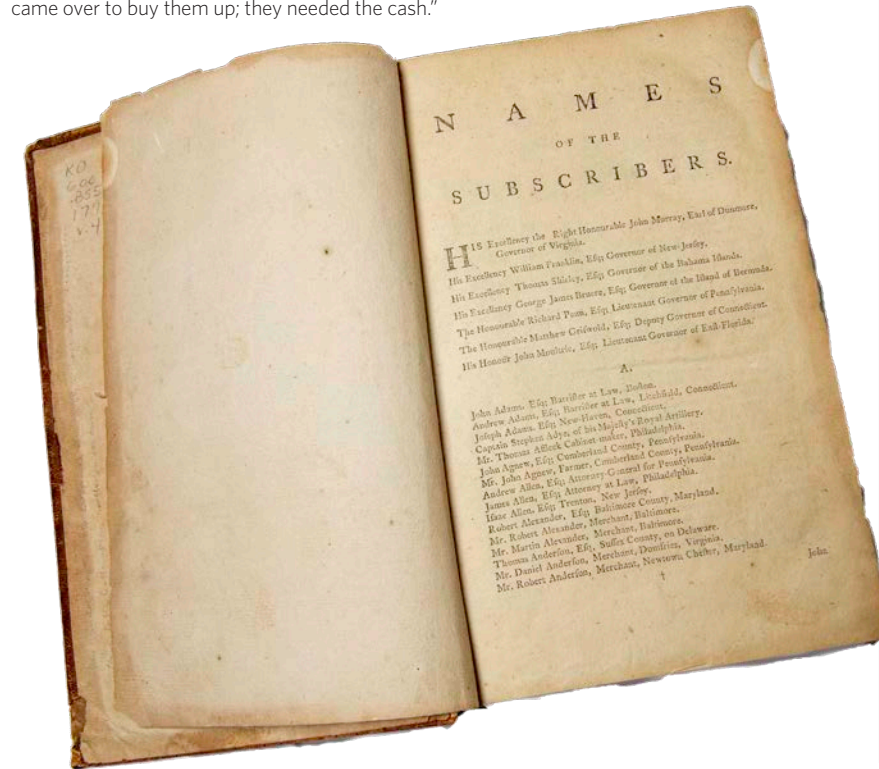
Daniel Boorstin, the late American historian and librarian of Congress, in his book *The Mysterious Science of the Law*, writes, “No other book except the Bible played a greater role in the history of American institutions.”

The Blackstone Commentaries at Creighton include several printed in England, and an American edition that predates the Revolutionary War. The latter was sold to subscribers, listed inside the book.

“It’s like a ‘who’s who’ of all the major people in the American colonies at the time,” Johnson says. “You had to be someone to subscribe to Blackstone, not just some Joe Blow. The first name is John Adams, barrister of law, Boston. Half the signers of the declaration are in the subscribers’ list.”

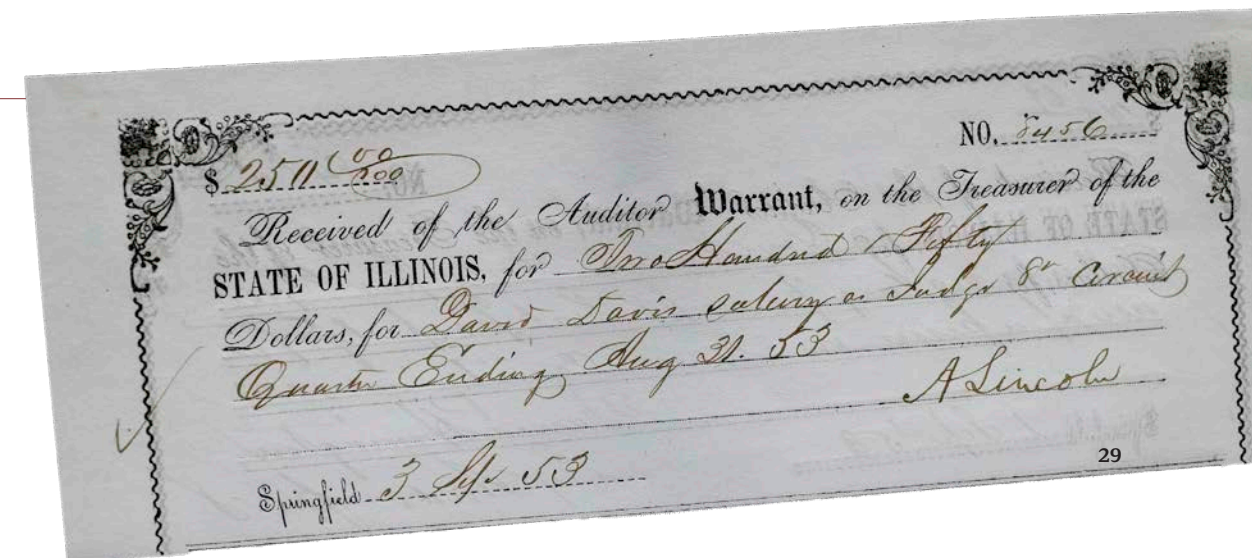
It’s not clear how the American set came to Creighton. Johnson suspects the English Blackstones came when a Creighton librarian traveled to England in the early 1900s to buy books at estate sales. The library has about 600 pre-1900 British books among the 1,500 volumes in its rare books room.

“A lot of the big estates in England were breaking up because of the (failing) economic model of those big houses,” Johnson says. “Those big houses had libraries in them. Americans came over to buy them up; they needed the cash.”



## SIGNED, ABE ... HONEST

One graduate passed on to Creighton a keepsake that had been in his family for years — a receipt signed by a gentleman who would become the 16th president of the United States, Abraham Lincoln. The receipt is for a paycheck Lincoln, just an attorney at the time, was asked to retrieve for an Illinois judge. The judge’s descendants kept it until the 1980s, when it made its way to Creighton.







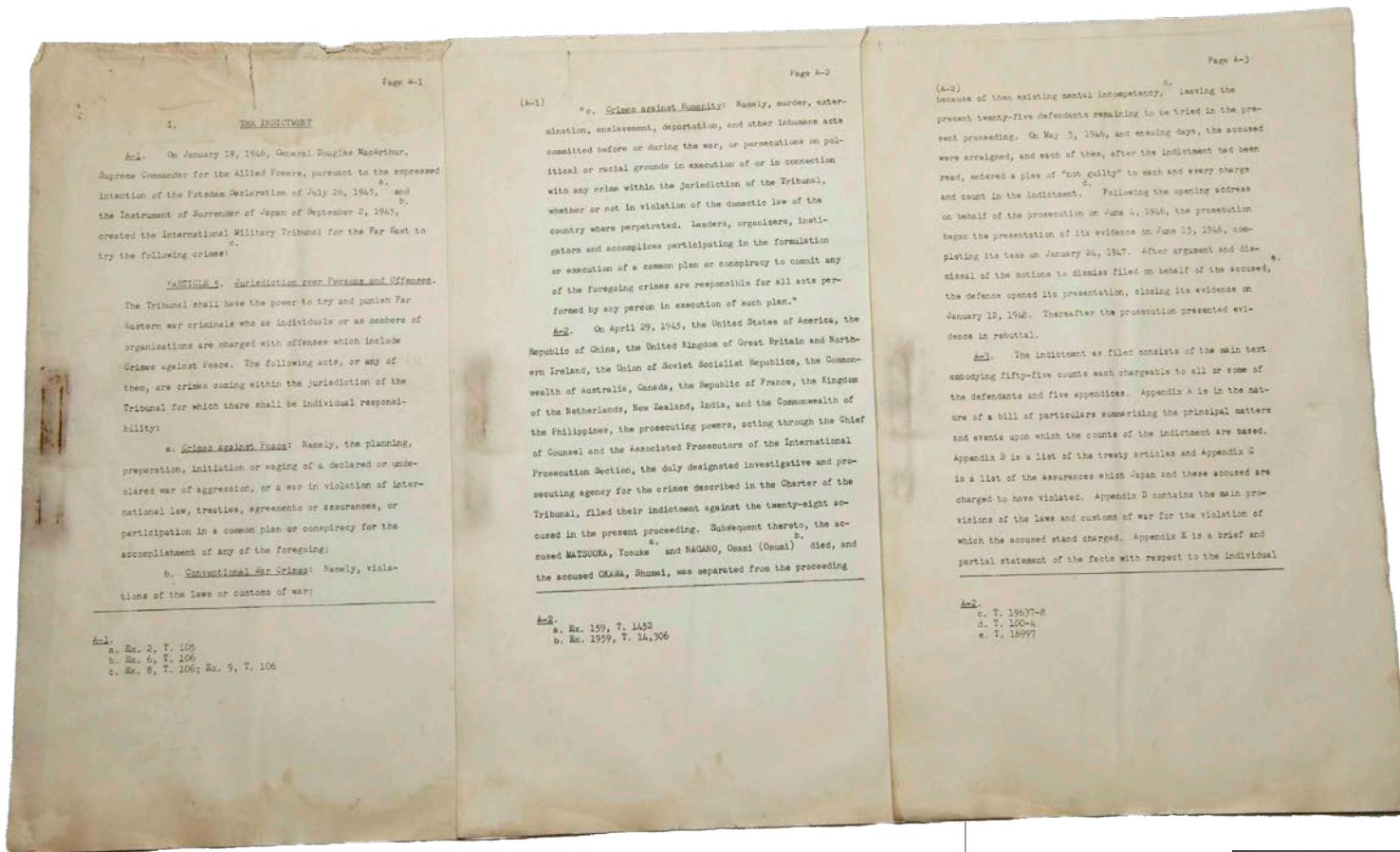
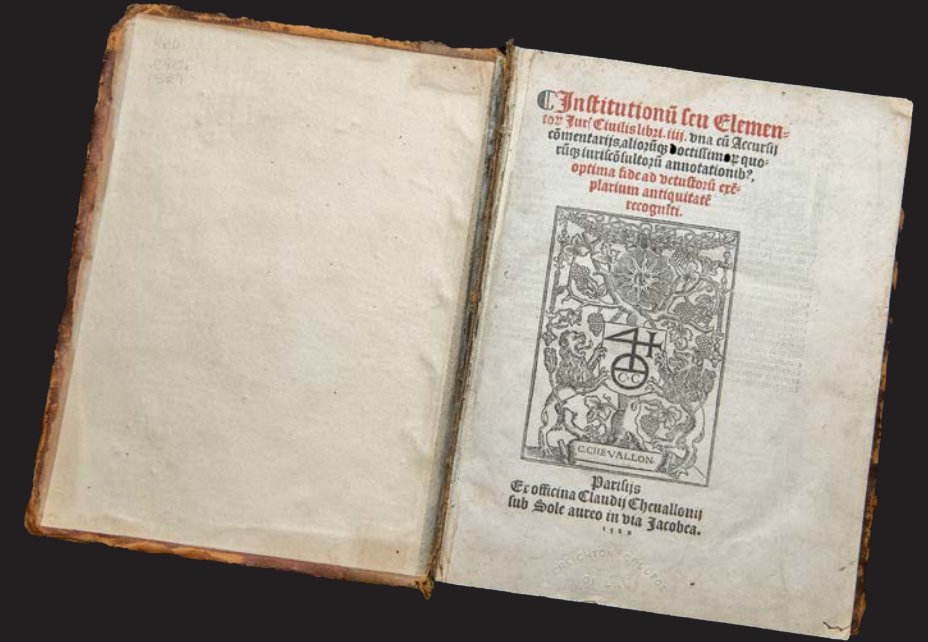
**UR CUNEIFORM TABLETS**

The oldest piece tablet, a receipt for barley, dates to 2,350 B.C. A scholar in Germany heard of them and made translations for Creighton, which made them available online.



**MAP QUEST**

What did the world look like 250-plus years ago? Take a gander at the world atlas Creighton has. Documentation authenticates it was created for a friend of George Washington. And it was done well. It's amazing, Troy Johnson says, "to actually see these world maps made in 1760 at a time when you know they didn't have satellites and didn't have that top-down view. But the details of the United States are largely there, and quite a few of the rivers are already accurately on there."



**TOKYO TRIALS**

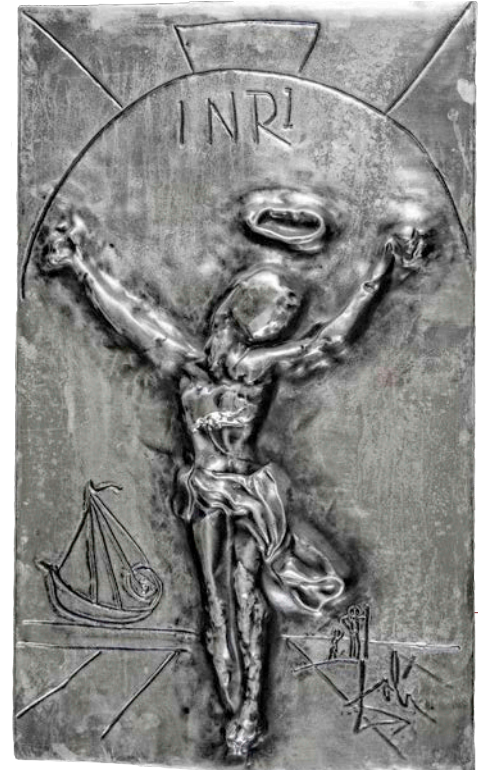
Among the more recent donations from a graduate are papers related to the International Military Tribunal for the Far East of 1947-1948. They were owned by alumnus Thomas Ronald Delaney, JD'30, an attorney and part of the Tojo prosecution team.



**THE LAW ... 500+ YEARS AGO**

The Blackstones aren't the oldest books of law in Creighton's law library. That honor goes to the 1529 edition of *Justinian's Institutes*.

Although unique from the civil law systems of other European countries, England's common law system has a Roman influence. Roman law was taught and studied in the 12th century by English lawmakers of the day. *Justinian's Institutes*, written in the year 533 A.D. during the reign of Emperor Flavius Anicius Justinian, is a text that would have been part of that study.



**IT'S SURREAL**

In Creighton's Health Sciences Library are three pieces by Salvador Dali. One is a silver sculpture depicting Christ on the cross; the other two are lithographs, one of the Last Supper, the other of Abraham Lincoln.



Creighton is leading the way in a new collaborative approach that has been shown to improve patient health and lower costs

BY Micah Mertes

# Innovating Health Care

**Austin Nider, OTD'19, remembers the *aha!* moment.** It happened on his student rotation at the University Campus family practice clinic, when a woman came in with hand pain.

The physician ordered an X-ray, which showed a tendon fracture, something an earlier trip to the emergency room had missed. During her X-ray, the patient said her injury was the result of domestic violence. The clinic called in the behavioral health team to meet with her about her options. The patient then needed a recovery timeline. Physical and occupational therapists were on hand to help.

“In the span of about 30 minutes and one patient visit, we had three or four different disciplines in the room taking care of this person,” says Nider, who is now an inpatient occupational therapist at CHI Health Creighton University Medical Center–Bergan Mercy. “We asked our colleagues for help, and there they were.”

Nider says he saw such teamwork play out on a daily basis at Creighton. But *that* moment was the first time he really understood the power of collaborative care — the health care model used at CHI Health Creighton University Medical Center–University Campus.

Also called interprofessional collaborative practice, it operates on a few core principles: Health care is a team effort; and clinicians working together (closely, honestly, efficiently) leads to better patient care — lowering costs, improving outcomes, saving lives. The underlying idea is this: *No. More. Silos.*

Not in the clinic and not in the classroom. Collaborative care brings together the whole team of health care professionals, drawing on all disciplines to treat the patient from every angle. It represents, its advocates say, the future of clinical care.



Collaborative care is a team effort. Clockwise, from left, with occupational therapists (Austin Nider, OTD'19); physical therapists; pharmacists and dentists; nurses; and physicians all working together for the good of the patient.





“It’s everyone under the same roof, everyone truly integrated,” says Thomas Guck, PhD, psychologist and professor in family medicine at Creighton. “We’re bringing all our resources to bear to serve the patient in a seamless way. In the end, it improves health outcomes and saves money for the patient.”

He’s got proof.

Guck was the lead author of a study published this summer in *The Annals of Family Medicine*. The study — conducted at the University Campus outpatient clinic and led by the College of Nursing, the School of Medicine and the Center for Interprofessional Practice, Education and Research (CIPER) — looked at patients receiving high-volume care and how their outcomes and costs changed during the first year they were treated with the team-based, collaborative approach.

The results were striking: More than 16% fewer emergency room visits; nearly 18% fewer hospitalizations; a near-50% reduction in patient charges; and more than \$4 million in annual savings at the clinic.

The study used a three-tiered plan to build the model: staff and clinician training, patient care preparation and care conference planning (i.e., different disciplines meeting to talk about patients). Staff also trained in conflict resolution.

Research on the efficacy of collaborative care dates back decades. More than 80 trials have shown collaborative care to be more effective than ordinary care, according to the University of Washington’s AIMS Center. Many of the studies centered on mental health. One paper found that patients with depression who received collaborative care were much less likely to have a cardiovascular event. In 2016, the American

**“We’re lucky to have a University and clinic partners who support this work and vision. It takes faith and courage to do something this different.”**

AMY MCGAHA, MD

## THE ORIGINS OF COLLABORATIVE CARE AT CREIGHTON

Creighton College of Nursing and CIPER were awarded a \$50,000 grant for the collaborative care project from the National Center for Interprofessional Practice and Education, in collaboration with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, The John A. Hartford Foundation, the Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation and the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation. Creighton and CHI Health also each contributed \$25,000 for the project.



## A YEAR OF COLLABORATIVE CARE AT THE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS CLINIC SHOWED:

**More than 16%**  
fewer emergency room visits

**Nearly 18%**  
fewer hospitalizations

**A near-50% reduction**  
in patient charges

**More than \$4 million**  
in annual savings

Psychiatric Association and the Academy of Psychosomatic Medicine released a report calling for the advancement of the collaborative care model.

There are more studies to come, Guck says. He and his partners will soon publish the findings of four years and multiple cohorts worth of data. They hope to show that the first study’s results can be replicated and sustained.

The results, Guck says, address the triple aim associated with U.S. health care reform, as outlined by the Institute for Healthcare Improvement: 1) Improve the patient experience; 2) Improve the health of populations; and 3) Reduce the per capita cost of health care.

To better achieve these aims at the University Campus clinic, Guck says, staff regularly repeat a few mantras: “We are all learners. We are all teachers. We all assume positive intent.”

**T**he way it used to be, a patient might see a physician here and a physical therapist there, and they often never talked or even knew about each other, let alone the specifics of their shared patient’s care.

Collaborative care rejects that way of doing things because it’s no longer feasible.

“As a country, we’re spending more money for poorer patient outcomes,” Guck says. “Something’s got to give here.”

Health care costs continue to grow, with insurance fees rising at a faster rate than wages or inflation. Life expectancy, meanwhile, has declined in the U.S. for the past three years in a row, a trend not seen since the influenza pandemic of 1918.

To face these crises, Guck says, health care must shift its pay system to a value-based

model, in which providers are reimbursed not for individual visits or services but a patient’s overall health outcomes. The model incentivizes providers: The healthier the patient, the more a provider earns.

There are examples of this already underway.

North Carolina is moving away from the fee-for-service model to a system in which providers are paid based on outcomes — managing a heart patient’s cholesterol, for instance, or a diabetes patient’s blood sugar. The effort is supported by the state’s Department of Health and Human Services, which oversees payments for Medicaid and Blue Cross Blue Shield, which together account for about two-thirds of the state’s insured population, reports *The New York Times*.

Health insurers such as UnitedHealth Group, Cigna and Aetna, meanwhile, are shifting more than half of their reimbursement to value-based models.

Advocates say the move to outcomes-based pay will, in turn, save patients money and make them healthier, something that aligns ideally with the whole person-focused practice of collaborative care.

The idea for savings is simple — collaborative care offers a one-stop shop for all of your health care needs, reduces the number of visits and procedures, improves your overall health and, ultimately, relieves the burden on your wallet.

Cost savings, as much as anything, are driving the need for new health care models, says Joy Doll, OTD’03, an occupational therapist, director of Creighton’s Center for Interprofessional Practice, Education and Research (CIPER), and one of the study’s authors.

“We know we have to do something about the cost of care,” she says. “We know we have to look at new models. We love the collaborative care model because it helps us be more efficient. It gives patients access to the right care at the right time.”

**T**he first step in all of this, of course, is giving students access to the right education at the right time.

When it comes to training students in the collaborative care model, “Creighton is leading the way,” says Amy McGaha, MD, professor and chair of family medicine at Creighton, and director of the Interprofessional Clinical Learning Environment in CIPER.

“Creighton and its health partners are leaders in blending interprofessional collaborative practice with interprofessional education,” says McGaha, who also holds the Dr. Roland L. Kleeberger Endowed Chair in the School of Medicine. “You’ll find a lot of institutions doing one but not the other. We’re lucky to have a University and clinic partners who support this work and vision. It takes faith and courage to do something this different.”

And to be sure, the collaborative care model is quite different. At one point, health sciences education was just as siloed as clinical practice used to be. Students were secluded to their own specialties, says Catherine Todero, PhD, BSN’72, vice provost of Health Sciences Campuses and dean of the College of Nursing.

“We taught students how to be nurses and doctors and pharmacists,” she says. “But we didn’t teach them how to work together in teams for the good of the patient.”

That’s changed at Creighton, she says. Now

the different professions are talking. Sometimes disagreeing. Sometimes having different, even competing goals for a patient. Figuring out how to reconcile those goals and work through those disagreements, Todero says, *that’s* what a collaborative care education is all about — learning how to talk to each other productively.

In this age of efficiency, optimized modes of work and communication are of course sought after in every corner of the economy. But at a clinic, the stakes are higher. When health care professionals aren’t effectively communicating, the patient suffers.

“The quality of communication improves the quality of care,” says School of Medicine Dean Robert “Bo” Dunlay, MD’81. “Our students learn this over the full course of their training. It’s not just something taught here or there. It’s part of who they become.”

That’s true for Meredith Chaput, DPT’18. She worked a rotation at the University Campus clinic as the collaborative care model was being implemented. Now she’s doing a physical therapy athletics residency at Vanderbilt University. Fittingly enough, she uses a sports metaphor to describe collaborative care. The model is, she says, a group of solo athletes learning how to be team players.

“Traditional medicine can get stuck in a hierarchy,” she says. “But in collaborative care, everyone’s on a more equal footing.”

That requires humility and selflessness, she says. And that starts in the classroom.

One example of collaborative care in the classroom is Creighton’s head and neck clinic for dental and medical students. Taught by ear, nose and throat/head and neck cancer surgeon Thomas Dobleman, MD, the clinic

focuses on identifying cancers.

“I tell dentists that they’re on the front lines of discovering head and neck cancers,” Dobleman says. “In the clinic, I show the students that by adding 15 seconds to their exams (and knowing all the causes of head and neck cancer), they can save lives.”

He tells the students not only to look for cavities and cracked teeth but also check for thyroid masses, melanomas and throat cancer (the fastest-rising cancer in the U.S.). If a dentist, or any health care professional, is too focused on their own specialty, they might just miss something vital.

“Sometimes it’s as simple as noticing something and calling someone,” Dobleman says. “Hey, I’ve got this patient, and I want to hear what you think ...”

This might seem obvious, but these barriers are just now breaking down, he says. It’s not how he was trained. It’s not how most clinicians were trained. Everyone’s catching up, and Creighton is catching up faster than most.

It makes sense that the University is taking the lead in this health care model, Dobleman says. Collaborative care speaks to one of Creighton’s core values.

“The University prides itself on treating the whole person,” he says. “But we’re seeing that it often takes a team of people to treat a whole person. We have to do this together.”

**O**n the surface, collaborative care isn’t always as dramatic a shift as some patients might expect.

“Patients will wonder, ‘Am I going into this clinic where 20 people are waiting to take care of me?’” says Meghan Walker Potthoff, PhD, BSN’01, an associate professor in the College of Nursing who co-wrote and helped secure funding for the study. “No. The difference is taking place behind the scenes, where the team is working together and looking at your health goals from every angle.”

And there’s another thing going on behind the scenes at a collaborative care clinic, a happy side effect, if you will: Clinicians are feeling better, too.

Out of 151 CHI Health clinics, the University Campus clinic’s staff used to rank in the bottom third for employee engagement and job satisfaction. Since collaborative care was adopted, the clinic ranks as one of the happiest to work at.

Boosted morale means higher retention means stronger bonds, stronger teamwork, better care for all.

All the pieces, working together.



An illustration on the left side of the page features a group of diverse human silhouettes. The silhouettes are rendered in various colors including black, grey, brown, green, yellow, orange, and blue. They are arranged in a way that suggests a group of people standing together, with some appearing to be in conversation or looking towards a common point. The background is a textured, light-colored surface.

# Diversity, Voices, Inclusion and the Workforce

BY Ann Freestone, BA'89

**T**he famous author of *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*, Stephen Covey, said, "Strength lies in differences, not in similarities." The educator and businessman wrote his wildly popular book 30 years ago. Today, companies are using strategies and starting to understand the value of this idea in the workplace by focusing on diversity — and inclusion — to bring forward the cross-pollination of ideas, richness to teams and more.

Creighton's Heider College of Business and Graduate School and the Greater Omaha Chamber developed a four-part lecture series for young professionals to explore emerging topics in the fields of diversity, inclusion and equity in the workplace. Two professors were featured speakers: Regina Taylor, PhD, assistant professor of management, who specializes in factors that support or inhibit ethical behavior from leaders and employees, and Sarah Walker, PhD, associate professor of management, who specializes in diversity, recruitment, selection, training, testing and measurement. Creighton's vice provost for Institutional Diversity and Inclusion, Christopher Whitt, PhD, also spoke as part of the series.

The lecture series is an important part of Creighton's ongoing efforts to encourage diversity and inclusion, which included collaborating with the chamber, the Urban League of Nebraska, Assistology and the

Latino Center of the Midlands this fall on the inaugural Conference on Opportunity, Diversity and Equity.

Taylor likes an analogy to explain diversity and inclusion. "Diversity is about being invited to the party and then inclusion is about being invited to dance," she says. "In the work environment, once you get hired, are you accepted as a member of that organization and fully integrated into the operation? You're not just a number fitting where needed. Are you fully integrated into the operations and allowed to be your professional self?"

Walker adds that diversity is about differences — each person's status — and today goes beyond race to include gender, sexual orientation, pregnancy, age, disability and even hairstyles and weight in certain states. Walker provides an example: "I'm a woman and a person of color. Am I allowed to be my full authentic self as a woman of color?"

Companies are now taking a closer look at inclusion. "You can have diversity, but if you don't have inclusion, people will not dance and stay. There is a bigger focus on inclusion than just diversity," Walker says. She explains that companies need to engage leadership in efforts to create an inclusive organization and retain top talent with structural and social support efforts such as creating affinity groups to increase engagement.

The same holds true for nonprofit organizations and institutions of higher education, such as Creighton, says Whitt.

**"Diversity is about being invited to the party and then inclusion is about being invited to dance."**

REGINA TAYLOR, PHD

"Diversity and inclusion must be rooted in aiming to continually push for cultural growth across the institution with a focus on inclusivity that will ultimately lead to progress in diversity," Whitt says.

Walker says social media has an impact on diversity and inclusion. "Hashtags have popped up that have led to conversations within organizations, so there's more of an awareness of differences," Walker says. "People have more of a voice because of social media and can make organizations move in ways they were not able to in the past." She says companies are afraid of the backlash and provides an example of a video posted online of an Old Navy employee who falsely accused an African American of shoplifting. Old Navy then fired the employee.



Other emerging topics include academic journals framing diversity as an ethical issue, which stresses its importance within organizations; states such as California mandating gender diversity on public company boards; and companies looking at diversity and inclusion as broader than human resources to include all leaders and employees.

## ALL EARS

**THE WALT DISNEY COMPANY** is all ears on the emerging issues and earned the 20th spot on the DiversityInc Top 50 Hall of Fame list out of 1,800 submissions. DiversityInc looks at the talent pipeline, talent development, leadership accountability and supplier diversity.

Disney's website clearly states its values: "Inclusion is a critical part of telling the best stories, being relevant, and expanding audiences." Audiences see this vision in shows such as the animated film *Coco*, which has an all-Latino cast, to Marvel Studios' *Black Panther*, to *The Good Doctor*, which shows people with autism can do great things.

Having worked for Disney in human resources, Taylor knows firsthand that the company culture supports the idea that each employee has her or his own story — and that makes for a better work environment as well as products and customer experiences. "They were good at making sure you felt welcome to dance by fully integrating new employees into the organization," Taylor says. Disney is all about the customer experience and making the customer feel welcome, she says, so to do that the company first makes employees feel welcome. "From a diversity standpoint, there's diversity at the theme parks, diversity at the studios and diversity at the networks," Taylor says.

Diversity starts with a talent pipeline. "If you want a diverse organization, you have to be able to attract people. You do the work on the front end," Walker says. She says companies need to broaden their sourcing and recruitment efforts by, for instance, making sure that the technology used during the application process is mobile compatible. To attract a diverse pool, the company has to send the message that your differences do not matter and that people of all characteristics can work here, Walker explains.

"It's important to create a pipeline of talent overall and that you pick the best candidate for the job. If you promote people on merit and if the best candidate happens to be diverse, make

“Some people think you got the job or the promotion because of diversity to check off a box. If you care about talent and you develop your talent, some will be diverse.”

SARAH WALKER, PHD

that person a manager," Walker says. "Some people think you got the job or the promotion because of diversity to check off a box. If you care about talent and you develop your talent, some will be diverse."

That pipeline expanded locally, Whitt says, with the recent establishment of the UP Diversity Scholars Program at Creighton, which will provide academic merit scholarships and professional development opportunities for minority students. (Read more on Page 6.)

Taylor adds that a lot of systems and processes aren't fair, so companies need to have the right systems and processes so the cream rises. According to Taylor, research shows the following components create a fair organization and if applied to promotions looks like this: Employees get to provide input into the process and can put in an appeal through an in-place mechanism. Processes must be consistent, neutral, unbiased, based on accurate information and consider the needs of all groups.

"After these components are in place, organizations should make sure that they incorporate and adhere to fair and just ways of interacting with and communicating with employees about promotions — and anything else really," Taylor says. "Specifically, organizations should ask themselves if they are treating their employees with respect and refrain from using improper remarks."

**CREATING A SAFE ENVIRONMENT TO FOSTER INCLUSION**, companies like Disney create work environments where employees feel they can thrive. Taylor specializes in

how leaders create a psychologically safe environment where employees can ask questions, make and admit mistakes and appear imperfect. Taylor points to Harvard professor Amy Edmondson's research published in 2003 that analyzed 16 operating teams learning to use a new technology for cardiac surgery and focused on how comfortable team members were with speaking up. "She found that teams that reported the most errors had better rates of successful outcomes than those teams who reported the least. They were having conversations and felt safe to say, 'How is this right? Should we be doing something else? What should we do?' This was better for the patient in the long run."

Creating a psychologically safe environment applies to all types of organizations. "Take this to a marketing meeting where outcomes are not life and death, but it's still important for the organization," Taylor says. "Do these professionals feel safe to say, 'This number doesn't look right?'" To build this environment, Taylor explains that leaders must focus on trust, justice, engagement and motivation.

## CHALLENGES

**LEADERS ADMIT IT'S CHALLENGING** to foster a dialogue on diversity. DiversityInc rated AT&T No. 1. At an AT&T diversity event, AT&T Chairman and CEO Randall Stephens talked about his closest friend, Chris, an African American physician, and how he only recently learned what formed his closest friend's worldview about race.

Stephens said the dialogue at AT&T had to begin with him. "When we talk about race, let's begin with why. Why does my colleague feel



JIM FACKLER

this way? If we could understand why, then it's so much more likely we can agree on what needs to be done."

"I'm not asking you to be tolerant of each other. Tolerance is for cowards. Being tolerant requires nothing from you but to be quiet and to not make waves, holding tightly to your views and judgment without being challenged. Do not tolerate each other. Work hard, move into uncomfortable territory and understand each other."

If a company creates a psychologically safe environment, dialogue will result. Walker says, "You can create a culture where if a person makes a mistake or says the wrong thing, it can be corrected and not problematic."

Beyond these challenges, certain industries (such as technology) lack diversity. When looking at the tech industry, Walker says it's partially a pipeline issue because women don't see themselves represented in the field. This summer, for example, her 9-year-old son attended coding camp and the class was all boys.

And, unfortunately, Walker says people still fall victim to hidden biases and points to the

classic riddle where a man dies in a car accident and his young son is rushed to the hospital where the surgeon waiting for the patient says, "I can't operate on this boy! He's my son." Who is the surgeon? Many adults get the answer wrong and let their biases cloud their thinking. The surgeon is the boy's mother.

## BUSINESS SENSE

**THE BUSINESS CASE FOR DIVERSITY** is compelling. McKinsey & Company's January 2018 report "Delivering through Diversity" found that companies with the most ethnically diverse executive teams are 33% more likely to outperform their peers on profitability. In addition, companies in the top quartile for gender diversity on their executive teams were 21% more likely to experience above-average profitability than companies in the fourth quartile.

Walker agrees diversity and inclusion are good for the bottom line. She adds diverse teams perform better and come up with more solutions because they bring different ideas and perspectives with them to discussions.

© Sarah Walker, PhD, left, and Regina Taylor, PhD, faculty members in the Heider College of Business, helped develop a four-part lecture series for young professionals to explore emerging topics in the fields of diversity, inclusion and equity in the workplace.

Those efforts can be multiplied through a university experience, Whitt says, that embraces and engages diversity and inclusion.

"We are producing students who will populate the workforce and lead into the future," Whitt says. "We want them to have an experience at Creighton that they will remember as developing them to speak up for justice and inclusion both in the workplace, as well as in their communities."

Organizations that act with respect, value each employee's story and have leaders that understand the difference between simply being diverse and being inclusive will create workplaces where employees thrive and, ultimately, those organizations as well.

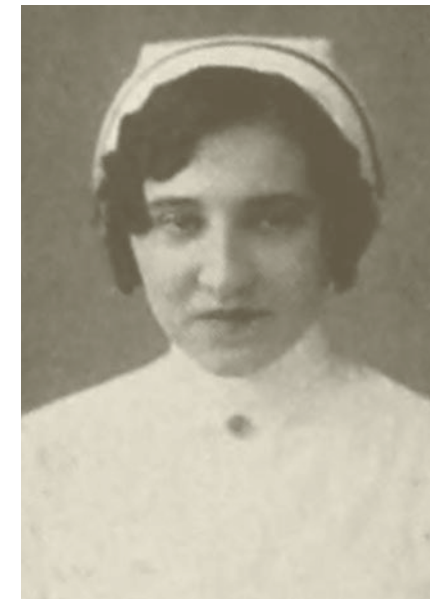


# THE 12 ANCHORS

**On Jan. 2, 1942, Helen Gorzelanski, SJN'32,** was taken prisoner of war by the Empire of Japan. Helen, then 34, had been a U.S. Navy Nurse stationed at the Cavite Naval Base outside Manila in the Philippines. When the Japanese military conquered Manila, they found 12 Navy women nursing wounded sailors in a makeshift hospital.

The nurses had hoped their captors would follow the Geneva Conventions and repatriate the medical corps. But the corpsmen, surgeons and dentists were sent to a prison camp for military men. The women were sent to a civilian concentration camp set up at the University of Santo Tomas in Manila.

BY EMILIE L. LUCCHESI, PHD



When Helen and the other nurses arrived at Santo Tomas, they saw a campus that no longer resembled a college. Empty classrooms were crammed with inmate beds and armed guards stalked the perimeter.

Santo Tomas was a world away from Creighton University and Helen's former life in Nebraska. Helen was born in 1908 in Nebraska to Polish immigrants. She was the third of four daughters and the first of the siblings to be born in the U.S. She attended the Creighton University-affiliated nursing program at St. Joseph's Hospital, living in the student nurse residence on 10th Street.

At Santo Tomas, Helen found herself in a prison camp with more than 3,100 civilian men, women and children. Along with the other Navy nurses, she reported daily to the infirmary to provide comfort and care to other inmates.

Early in their captivity, inmates presented with ailments due to malnutrition and stress. The Japanese military provided only two meager meals and expected their captives to make purchases at the camp's "canteen." Only the most fortunate were able to supplement their diets. The rest lived on rice and a scant supply of vegetables. At the infirmary, the nurses explained to inmates why their gums were bleeding or their hair was thinning.

The Navy nurses tried to remain hopeful for their anxious patients. But as 1942 progressed, the U.S. military lost the Battle of Bataan and then Corregidor. Army nurses transferred into the prison and whispered updates to their Navy counterparts — the U.S. had been defeated and help wasn't on the way.

Comfort from communication also wasn't coming anytime soon. Helen's family didn't



**Above Left:** Navy nurse Helen Gorzelanski before the war. She graduated from Creighton's affiliated nursing program with St. Joseph's Hospital in 1932.

**At Left:** Upon arrival at Santo Tomas, the women were forced to pose for a Japanese propaganda photo. Front row, from left: Susie Pitcher, Helen Gorzelanski, Peg Nash, Eldene Paige, Laura Cobb, Edwina Todd. Back row, from left: Mary Rose Harrington, Goldia O'Haver, Bertha Evans, Dorothy Still. Not pictured: Mary Chapman and Basilia Torres.





**Above:** Adm. Thomas Kincaid welcomes the Navy nurses to Leyte, an island in the Philippines. Navy nurse Dorothy Still passed out during the photograph and had to sit down during the greeting. Gorzelanski (wearing sunglasses) stands directly behind Chief Nurse Laura Cobb (wearing head wrap, talking with Kincaid).

**Bottom Left:** Men at Santo Tomas sleep in a gymnasium that is cramped and stressed.

**Bottom Right:** Navy nurses give a reporter an interview about their experiences. From left are Carrie "Edwina" Todd, Helen Gorzelanski, the reporter and Susie Pitcher.



learn of her captivity until that summer. The Navy sent telegrams in which they "exceedingly" regretted to inform the nurses' families that their daughters were missing in action. Later, a representative from the War Department confirmed the women were in a civilian prison camp.

In the camp, Helen's life fell into a routine of tolerating daily hardships. Each morning, the camp commanders used the overhead speaker to play music and wake the camp. She waited in a lengthy line to use the toilet — there were only about 30 commodes to service 3,100 inmates. She then collected her meager rations from the kitchen and reported to duty in the infirmary.

In May 1943, the commander came onto the overhead speaker with an important announcement. He spoke in English and repeated his message twice. The Japanese military was building a countryside camp at a former agriculture college near Los Baños. The commander sought 800 able-bodied men to transfer to the camp to build the housing and sanitation systems.

Few inmates wanted to transfer. Life in Santo Tomas was diseased, cramped and frequently violent. But it was predictable. Interest further diminished after inmates learned the new camp lacked running water, electricity and an ample supply of fresh water.

A civilian physician was willing to go. He approached Navy Chief Nurse Laura Cobb and asked if the Navy nurses would be willing to transfer. The Army's chief nurse had already turned down his request. If the Navy nurses did not transfer, there would be no other medical care providers in the new camp. Cobb gathered the 12 Navy women. She knew it was a great risk, but she felt they were needed. She asked the nurses if they were willing to transfer. Each woman agreed, including Helen.

On the morning of their departure, Helen and the Navy nurses waited in front of the building as flatbed trucks sputtered to a stop. Other inmates came to wish them well and thank them for their tireless care. As the women climbed into the truck, they heard the familiar music of the U.S. Navy's march song, *Anchors Aweigh*. Another inmate had used the PA system to play the recording. The inmates cheered and clapped as the Navy nurses pulled away. The 12 Navy women had indeed been the anchors of the camp.

The new prison camp had an infirmary building the nurses were allowed to use. But it had been stripped bare. Even the cabinets were pulled from the wall. The women began

the exhausting process of rebuilding. They were creative and relied on the materials on hand to help the barren building resemble an infirmary. They used pipes to piece together bedframes. They stuffed cotton-like fluff from bulak trees into pillows and mattresses. They used bamboo to create drinking straws and tongue compressors. And they smeared tree sap onto bandages as adhesive.

Initially, the women were able to negotiate medicine and supplies from a hapless Japanese sergeant who was in charge of the garrison's health care but lacked a medical background. The nurses traded for insulin and vitamins in exchange for answering his many questions. But as the war progressed, supplies and food dwindled as punishment for the Allied Forces' advancement in the war. By early 1945, the inmates received just 500 calories a day from the camp kitchen. Gardening or foraging for vegetables was forbidden. Inmates were starving, and all the nurses weighed less than 100 pounds. Yet, they continued to work 12-hour shifts at the infirmary.

Helen was on duty in January 1945 when she heard a rifle blast. She had been hovering over patient charts when she saw the camp's surgeon race through the lobby and burst through the front door. An inmate had been shot near the perimeter of the camp. The injured man had snuck out of the camp while the garrison was busy with their morning calisthenics. He returned with a bag of fruit and a fresh chicken. A guard in the watchtower took quick aim and fired. Helen and the nurses watched helplessly from a distance as the man writhed in pain. The surgeon begged the commander to bring the man to the infirmary for treatment. The commander ordered the inmate's execution instead. Within minutes, Helen helped the doctor prepare for the autopsy. The report was later used to convict the commander of war crimes.

In the following weeks, more inmates died from malnutrition, disease and violence. The inmates sensed the commander wanted more prisoners dead, and they were increasingly petrified by rumors of a massacre. On Feb. 22, 1945, inmates watched with terror as guards placed machine guns around the perimeter of the camp and turned the barrels inward.

The next morning, the guards locked up their rifles in a storage shed and began their calisthenic routine. American and Filipino forces attacked while the garrison was at its most vulnerable. Helen hid in her barrack while the liberators quickly eliminated the enemy.

**At Santo Tomas, Helen found herself in a prison camp with more than 3,100 civilian men, women and children. Along with the other Navy nurses, she reported daily to the infirmary to provide comfort and care to other inmates.**

Once the all-clear was given, Helen reported to the infirmary to help with the evacuation of ill inmates. Within hours, all the inmates were safely behind Allied lines. The nurses soon learned the massacre had indeed been planned for that afternoon. The camp commander had been waiting for another unit of Japanese soldiers to reach the camp and serve as backup. Liberators, fortunately, got there first.

Helen was able to write to her mother in Omaha, but she was still on duty. After a week, her chief nurse insisted the Navy women be allowed to recuperate. By mid-March 1945, Helen was back in Omaha with her family. But she did not remain in Nebraska long. Similar to the other Navy nurse POWs, she was no longer conditioned for the cold weather. She married and moved to California, near Napa.

Helen died in 1972, killed by a drunken driver. Her legacy continues as one of the "12 anchors," the Navy nurse POWs who stopped hopeless inmates from drifting.

**About the author:** Emilie Lucchesi is a journalist and author in Chicago. She has written for *The New York Times*, *The Atlantic* and *Discover Magazine*. She is the author of a new book about the Navy nurse POWs, *This is Really War: The Incredible True Story of a Navy Nurse POW in the Occupied Philippines*.



# Pedestrian Bridge Now Carries Heaney Name

The airspace over Omaha's North Freeway has been on C.E. "Carr" Heaney Jr.'s mind for almost half a century.

In the mid '70s, there was interest in building a bridge over the freeway to close the gap between Creighton's campus and what was then St. Joseph's Hospital (later Creighton University Medical Center and now the Atlas apartment complex).

Heaney, BS'50, JD'57, was the attorney who obtained the air rights for the prospective bridge, negotiating a 49-year lease with the federal government. Rent was more than reasonable: \$1 a year.

"We signed and sent them a check for \$49," Heaney says now. For nearly 50 years, the air was theirs.

But the project faltered. The bridge went nowhere.

Then, more than 30 years later, Heaney and Sue Morris, president of the Omaha fundraising group Heritage Services, met with then-Creighton President the Rev. John Schlegel, SJ.

"It wasn't a meeting about the bridge," Heaney says. "But Fr. Schlegel mentioned it would be nice if they could connect campus to the other side of the freeway. I told him, 'We've got access to that airspace right now.

I'm probably the only person still alive who is aware of that fact."

All of this is to say that the Heaney Pedestrian Bridge, completed in 2018, is a wholly appropriate name for the 560-foot-long bridge spanning the freeway.

This fall, Creighton dedicated the bridge in honor of Carr and his late brother, Robert P. "Bob" Heaney, BS'47, MD'51. Heritage Services' board of directors, along with the Sunderland Foundation and friends, made a significant gift to ensure the Heaney name remains forever connected to Creighton.

Each Heaney brother lived his life in service for others, transforming their city and University in the process.

Carr's legal career spans more than six decades. He wrote the articles of incorporation for Heritage Services and defined legal parameters for the development of projects that changed the face of the city — including the Durham and Joslyn Art museums, the Orpheum Theater, Holland Performing Arts Center, TD Ameritrade Park and many more.

"Carr has been with us for all of it," Morris says. "He has such an affection for Creighton.

As did his brother. We thought the bridge dedication would be a wonderful way to honor that affection and the many ways they connected the University to the city."

Carr's brother, Bob, was a beloved figure on campus. He joined the Creighton faculty in 1957 and chaired the Department of Medicine through the '60s, later serving as Creighton's first vice president for health sciences and the inaugural holder of the John A. Creighton University Professorship from 1984 to 2014. He worked at Creighton for nearly 60 years, leaving a body of work in osteoporosis and vitamin D research that brought international recognition to the University.

Getting a bridge in their name, Carr says, is an honor that would have meant a lot to his brother.

"My father would be very pleased," said Bob's daughter, Muirne Heaney, JD'83. "What's true of my uncle is true of my father. Their dedication to service for Creighton and this community has been profound."

Now, a monument to that dedication stretches on, 50 feet above the freeway, a bridge that spans a lifetime. — **BY MICAH MERTES**

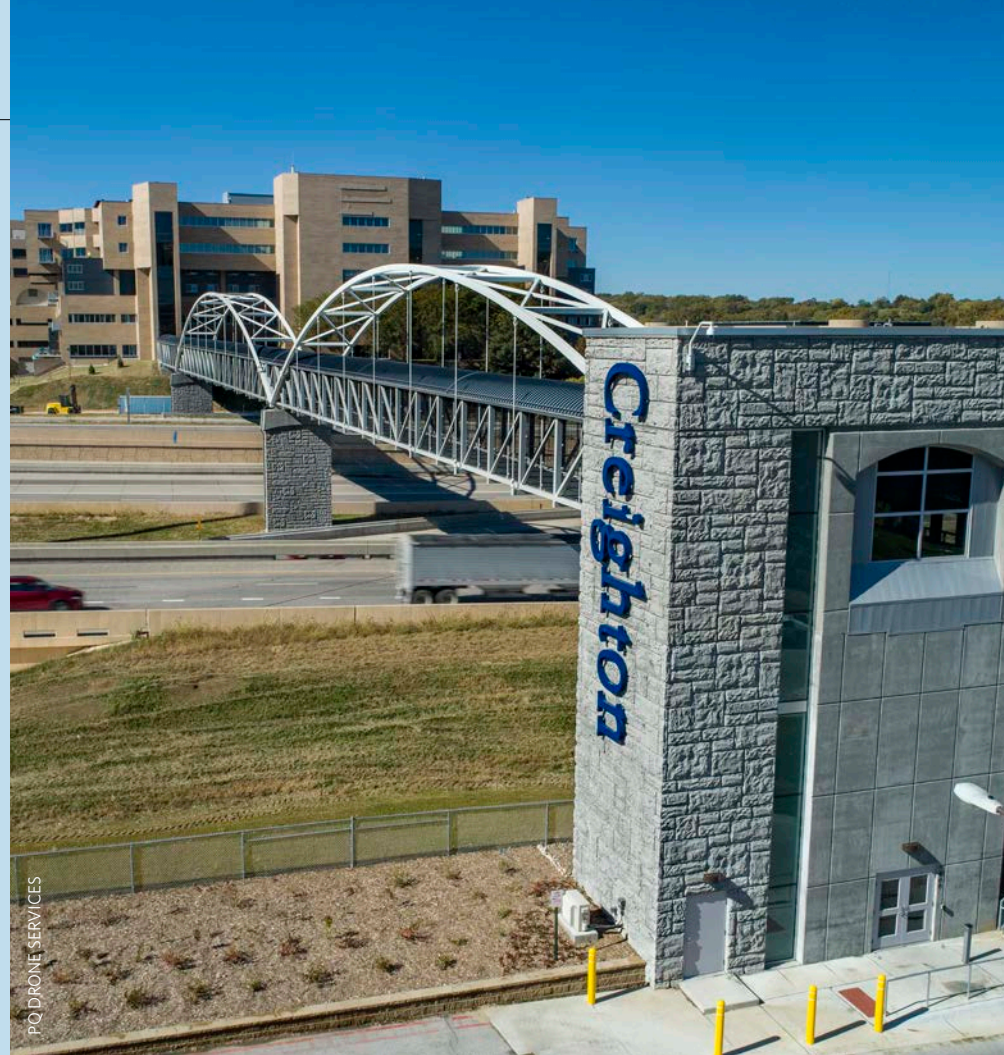


PHOTO: HERITAGE SERVICES



C.E. Heaney Jr., BS'50, JD'57



Robert Heaney, BS'47, MD'51

# 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](mailto:alumninews@creighton.edu).

**61 Donald F. Kish, BA, Katy, Texas,** recently celebrated his 25th anniversary as a deacon. He continues to serve as a deacon at his home parish of Epiphany of the Lord Catholic Community in Katy.

**68 Daniel D. Houlihan, BA, Six Mile, South Carolina,** recently returned from a six-month vacation to Italy with his wife and their Labrador Retriever, Jack Daniels, and published a book about their adventures. The book, titled *Jack Daniels' Great Italian Adventure*, is available on Amazon, and details the wild ride of traveling with a pet in Italy. The book portrays the beauty and wonder of smaller Italian hilltop towns, recommends food and wine and tourist activities, describes the maddening task of dealing with the Italian bureaucracy, and shares the triumph of filling in missing ancestry holes with the help of a kindhearted Italian. Houlihan is a retired Army officer, a former CIO for the state of Indiana, and served as CEO of two subsidiaries of the information technology company NIC, Inc.

**73 John B. Atkins, JD, Omaha,** was a co-recipient of the Nebraska State Bar Association's 2019 George H. Turner Award. The award is presented to a member of the bar association who has demonstrated unusual

efforts in furthering the public understanding of the legal system, the administration of justice and confidence of the legal profession. Atkins is vice president and senior trust officer at Union Bank & Trust Company in Omaha. **David G. Sabott, DDS, Erie, Colorado,** was installed as the 2019-2020 secretary/treasurer of the American Board of Orthodontics in May 2019. Sabott practices orthodontics in Brighton, Colorado, and is a past president of the Rocky Mountain Society of Orthodontists, the Angle Southwest Component of the Edward H. Angle Society, the Colorado State Orthodontic Society and the Boulder County Dental Society.

**76 Daniel E. Monnat, JD, Wichita, Kansas,** of Monnat & Spurrier, Chartered, is again listed in the *Best Lawyers in America 2020 Edition* list in four practice areas: criminal defense-general practice; criminal defense-white collar; bet-the-company litigation; and appellate practice. Monnat also was named to the *Who's Who Legal: Business Crime Defense 2019*, and earlier this year, was named as a leading attorney on the *Who's Who Legal: Government Investigations* list. **Jean Dickes Phelan, BSN, Omaha,** an associate professor of nursing at Midland University in Fremont,

Nebraska, received the Helping Hands Award in May 2019 for her work as the faculty advisor for the Student Nursing Association at Midland.

**77 Patrick K. Costello, JD, Lakefield, Minnesota,** was the recipient of the 2019 Minnesota State Bar Association (MSBA) Lifetime Achievement Award. The award is presented to an experienced member of the state bar who has continually displayed commitment and contributions to the bar, the legal profession and the public throughout his or her career. In addition to his many contributions to the MSBA, Costello was cited for his national recognition in agricultural law and estate tax matters. **Mary Kay Green, BA'65, JD, Lee's Summit, Missouri,** wrote the screenplay *Courageous Crystal Chambers, A New Rosa Parks*. The screenplay is based on the 2007 book she wrote, *Women of Courage: The Rights of Single Mothers and Their Children, Inspired by Crystal Chambers, A New Rosa Parks*, about Green's federal lawsuit *Crystal Chambers v. Omaha Girls Club*. **James L. Vacek, BSMth'73, MD, Olathe, Kansas,** is the recipient of the Kansas City Medical Society's Exemplary Leadership Award for 2019. Vacek is professor of cardiovascular medicine at the University of

Kansas Medical School and Health Care System. He has been a fellow of the American Heart Association, the American College of Cardiology, the American College of Chest Physicians. Vacek previously received the Educator of the Year Award from the Department of Cardiovascular Medicine at the University of Kansas and was the 2017 James Sullivan Visiting Professor at the Creighton University School of Medicine. He has co-authored more than 200 published papers and more than 200 abstracts.

**80 Randy K. Newby, DDS, Wichita, Kansas,** was elected president elect of the American Orthodontic Society (AOS) by its members at the annual meeting in Washington, D.C., in September 2019. Newby's table clinic titled "Beware of the Dreaded Triangle When Treating Orthodontic Cases" was chosen by the AOS members as the best table clinic presented at the meeting.

**82 H. Douglas Knust, BSBA, Chamberlain, South Dakota,** was named 2019 South Dakota Franchised Dealer of the Year by the South Dakota Automobile Dealers Association. Knust has a Chevrolet-Buick dealership in Chamberlain and a Ford-Lincoln dealership in Winner, South Dakota.



**83 Stephen A. Donato, JD,** Fayetteville, New York, was recognized as a super lawyer in the *2019 Upstate New York Super Lawyers* in the bankruptcy-business practice area. In addition, he was selected for inclusion in *2020 Best Lawyers in America* in the field of bankruptcy and creditor debtor rights/insolvency and reorganization law and litigation-bankruptcy. Donato is an attorney in the Syracuse, New York, office of Bond, Schoenck & King. **Dr. Sheila McGuire Riggs, ARTS,** St. Paul, Minnesota, serves as the chair of the board of directors of the Hennepin Healthcare System in Minneapolis. Riggs is chair of the Department of Primary Dental Care at the University of Minnesota's School of Dentistry. **Brian G. Yonish, BA'80, JD,** Clifton, Virginia, recently retired as acting general counsel, U.S. Department of Defense, Office of Inspector General. Yonish served for nearly 38 years as a Navy judge advocate and civilian attorney in the Department of Defense.

**85 David J. Ceci, BA,** Staten Island, New York, completed the book and lyrics for his first full-length musical, *Fur Pajamas* (music by John Allman), which was then selected by the Seattle Playwrights Salon for its monthly public reading series. This first public reading of *Fur Pajamas* took place in July 2019 at the Palace Theater & Art Bar in Seattle. After 22 years in banking, Ceci retired from Northfield Bank in 2018 to focus on his writing. He has studied at the Dramatists Guild Institute, the New York Musicals Festival (NYMF) and Primary Stages Einhorn School of Performing Arts (ESPA). His work has been performed in New York City at the Green Room 42 as part of the NYMF; Jimmy's No. 43 through ESPA's "Detention" series; and with The PlayGround Experiment during its "Drop & Give Me 10" series. Ceci is a member of the Dramatists Guild, the Playwrights' Center, Theater Resources Unlimited (TRU), and the Committee on Theater and

Performing Arts of the New York State Bar Association.

**87 Jennifer Enright-Ford, BSN,** Oconomowoc, Wisconsin, was awarded the Key Recognition Award by West Bend Mutual for an exoskeleton project with a spinal cord injury patient. The award came with a charitable contribution, which was presented to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Enright-Ford chose the foundation in honor of the patients she worked with at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in the 1980s who deeply impacted her nursing career.

**88 Martin A. Cannon, BS'85, JD,** Crescent, Iowa, has been leading legal efforts in the pro-life community. Cannon, along with **Michael J. Seibel, BSBA'91, JD'95,** has served on the legal panel for the National Sidewalk Advocates for Life. Cannon and Seibel recently spoke at the Pro Life Women's Conference in New Orleans. The two also spoke at the National Sidewalk Advocates

Conference in Dallas with many pro-life leaders including David Bereit and Abby Johnson.

**93 Gerard T. Forgét III, BSChm'90, MBA, JD,** Omaha, has been elected as a shareholder at Gross & Welch law firm in Omaha. Forgét's practice has been primarily focused on estate planning and probate, corporate and business law, tax law, and trust preparation and administration.

**95 Robyn Allyn Heiser, BSN,** O'Neill, Nebraska, was promoted to assistant professor at Clarkson College in Omaha, where she teaches in the graduate nursing program. **Michael J. Seibel, BSBA'91, JD,** Albuquerque, New Mexico, has been leading legal efforts in the pro-life community. Seibel, along with **Martin A. Cannon, BS'85, JD'88,** has served on the legal panel for the National Sidewalk Advocates for Life. Seibel and Cannon recently spoke at the Pro Life Women's Conference in New Orleans. The two also spoke at the National Sidewalk Advocates Conference in Dallas with many pro-life leaders including David Bereit and Abby Johnson.

**98 Tricia O'Hare Jedele, JD,** Coventry, Rhode Island, was named chief of the environmental advocacy unit for the Rhode Island Office of the Attorney General. Jedele served as a special assistant attorney general from 1999 through 2009 before becoming the advocacy director for Conservation Law Foundation's Rhode Island office. She returned to the Rhode Island Attorney General's Office in April 2019.

**02 Jess W. Hoeme, JD,** Cheney, Kansas, was honored by *2020 Best Lawyers in America* in the area of criminal defense-general practice and DUI/DWI defense. Hoeme is an attorney at Joseph, Hollander & Craft in the firm's Wichita, Kansas, office. His practice is focused in criminal litigation across the state of Kansas and he represents Kansas law enforcement officers and agencies in matters of professional affairs and investigations.



© Andrea Bashara, left, a former assistant dean in the School of Law, now an associate director in the Creighton Business Office, meets with Jamie Bell, JD'16, on the set of the musical *Hamilton* at the Orpheum Theater in Omaha.

her alma mater as the show ran Sept. 10-29 at Omaha's Orpheum Theater.

"I fell in love with Creighton. I liked the professors. I liked the staff. I liked the vibe," she says. "And I loved law school. I learned a lot and had a good time."

But after interning at a law firm, she realized that she missed the friendships and unique atmosphere of the theater community.

"I realized theater is a very social community. The relationships you make in theater are quicker to form and more personal than maybe in a law firm," Bell says. "I made the decision that I was going to go back to doing theater, and that's been a good choice for me. It's worked out well. I've never regretted it."

For Bell, running the spotlight is its own kind of art form. Operating a light herself, she also directs two local stagehands running their own lights during each performance. On any show, the job requires strength of leadership and a keen focus.

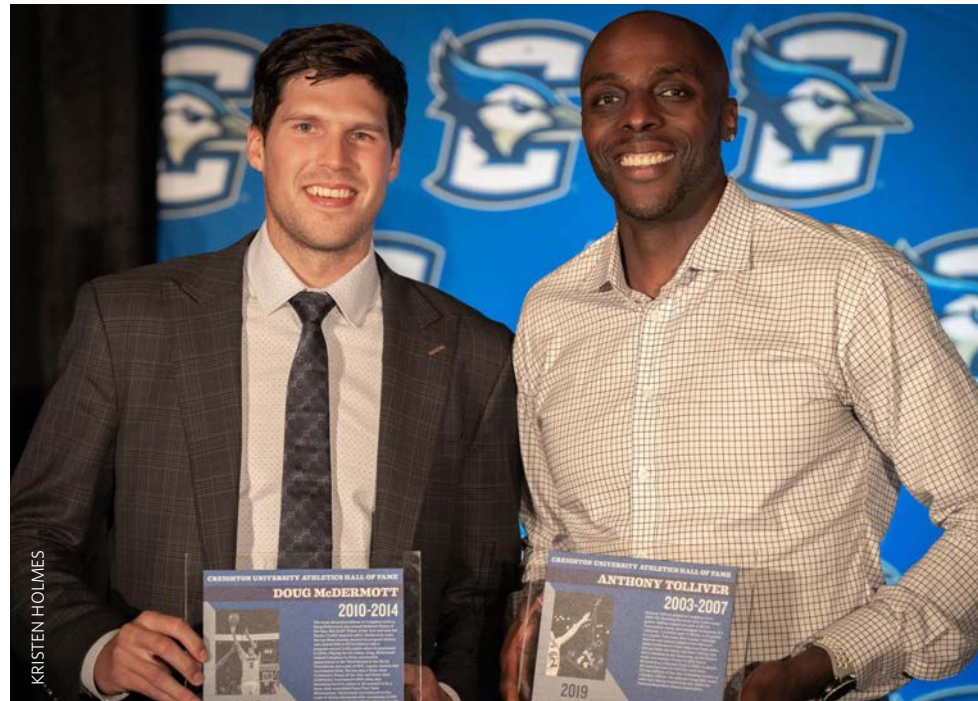
But that's especially true for *Hamilton*.

"It requires the ability to feel music and how to give direction in a clear and concise way quickly and efficiently," she says. "Especially on *Hamilton*, I have to be in the game all the time. The show is very specific. It's very quick. Things get thrown at you on this show, and I just have to be in the game."

The musical, written by composer Lin-Manuel Miranda, follows the life of U.S. Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton during and after the American Revolution. The show has become a critical and popular smash hit, earning the 2016 Pulitzer Prize for Drama and 2016 Tony Award for Best Musical.

Overall, Bell says she's glad her career has taken her back to the theater. The magic of the stage, she says, is unique and timeless.

"There's just something about being in a theater, watching a show with a group of people. It's just an experience you can't have in the same way at any other sort of event," she says. "There's just nothing quite the same as sitting in a theater and experiencing a deeply moving moment, or funny moment, or an amazing well-sung song or well-danced number, with an audience." — **BY BLAKE URSCH**



## ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

All-time greats **Doug McDermott, BSBA'14,** left, and **Anthony Tolliver, BSBA'07,** were inducted into the Creighton University Athletics Hall of Fame on Aug. 24. McDermott starred at Creighton from 2010-2014, and was the 2014 National Player of the Year. Tolliver played from 2003-2007, and guided the Bluejays to two NCAA Tournament and two NIT appearances.

### ALUMNI PROFILE

## On the Spot with *Hamilton*

**JAMIE BELL, JD'16,** thought she would give law school a shot. "My dad was an attorney, and when I finished (undergrad), I thought, 'I'm going to go to law school when this theater thing stops working out,'" she says.

That "theater thing" was her life's work. As a child growing up in Iowa, she danced and sang. As an undergraduate at Millikin University in Decatur, Illinois, she studied technical theater. After graduation, she worked on productions all over the country, including Chicago and Las Vegas.

Bell did eventually pursue a legal career, selecting a school in Omaha where her mother and sister lived. She graduated with a degree from the Creighton University School of Law in 2016.

And though she enjoyed her time at Creighton — and honed valuable critical-thinking, analytic and problem-solving skills — the stage still beckoned.

Today, Bell is back in the theater, running the lead spotlight on the acclaimed Broadway musical *Hamilton* as it tours the country. She recently spent the better part of a month near



# Austin Blazes Trail with *Steel Inferno*

**HAILEY AUSTIN, BA'16**, a 24-year-old PhD student at the University of Dundee in Scotland, inked her name in international comic book history as the first American to write in the United Kingdom's legendary *Commando* comic, with her story *Steel Inferno*.

Austin moved to Scotland with no experience writing comics, but earned a master's degree in comics and graphic novels at the University of Dundee. *Steel Inferno* tells a fictionalized version of a true World War II story of bravery and sacrifice.

Inspired by the daring efforts of a train crew that saved a Cambridgeshire town from an ammunition train that caught fire, Austin was determined to share the story in the popular war comic.

"I came across the rail disaster and was struck by the incredible bravery of those who sacrificed themselves to prevent an even greater tragedy," Austin says. "With 44 carriages packed full of ammunition, the damage and loss of life would have been colossal if they had not got the wagon

on fire as far away as they could.

"No one really knows how the fire broke out, but for my story I thought 'what if it wasn't accidental?' and had a Nazi spy sabotaging an ammunition delivery only to be foiled by these men.

"Luckily the editorial team at *Commando* loved it, and I'm very excited to see it published. I didn't have any experience of writing comics before I came to Dundee, but I have learned so much in my time here. I love doing it and want to do a lot more of it in the future."

Austin graduated from Creighton with a bachelor's degree in 2016, double-majoring in English and Spanish with a minor in history. Her PhD research in comics attracted media attention last year after she discovered rare comics dating back to the 1800s in the University of Dundee's archives.



**05 Elizabeth J. McGee, DDS**, Las Vegas, was named president of the Nevada Academy of Pediatric Dentistry. McGee is a board-certified fellow of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, and has been practicing for more than 10 years at Pediatric Dental Care Associates at Aliante in North Las Vegas, Nevada. **Kieth T. McGovern, BSBA**, Kansas City, Missouri, was promoted to partner at BKD CPAs & Advisors in Kansas City.

**06 Kate DeCleene Huber, OTD**, Indianapolis, was appointed associate dean of the College of Health Sciences at the University of Indianapolis in October 2019.

**07 John F. Ferraro, BS'86, MA**, Aurora, Colorado, was ordained a permanent deacon in the Archdiocese of Denver by Auxiliary Bishop Jorge Rodriguez in June 2019. Ferraro is a pastoral assistant and theology teacher at Regis Jesuit High School in Aurora.

**08 Joanna M. Gonzales, BA**, Brookeville, Maryland, was promoted to the rank of lieutenant commander in September 2019. Gonzalez is stationed in Busan, South Korea, working as the Navy's force judge advocate for Rear Admiral Michael Donnelly's staff.

**09 Dr. Joshua T. Steere, BS**, Newtown, Pennsylvania, joined Bucks County Orthopedic Specialists in Doylestown, Pennsylvania, in September 2019. Steere is an orthopedic surgeon who performs joint replacements and treats a wide variety of hip and knee problems including adult hip dysplasia, osteonecrosis, inflammatory arthritis, infection and fractures.

**11 Ryan K. Bratcher, JD**, Kansas City, Missouri, has joined the law firm of Cordell & Cordell in the Independence, Missouri, office as a litigation attorney. **Liam A. Dawson, BS**, St. James, Minnesota, is principal at Northside Elementary School in St. James. **Kassandra E. Montag, MA**, Omaha, is the author of the novel *After the Flood*, which was released in September 2019 by publisher William Morrow. The book explores a global narrative of a changed natural environment alongside an intensely personal story of one mother fighting to protect her two daughters. The book will be published in more

## SUPPORT CREIGHTON and Reduce Your 2019 Taxes by Year-End

Your planned gift to Creighton provides support for students, faculty and staff who are driven to change the world.

### THREE WAYS TO MAXIMIZE YOUR IMPACT:

1. Contribute Appreciated Securities
2. Make a qualified Charitable Distribution from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA) or Roth IRA
3. Receive income for life through a Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA)

To learn more about meeting your personal and charitable goals through charitable gift planning, contact us at [giftplanning@creighton.edu](mailto:giftplanning@creighton.edu) or 402.280.1143.



than 12 international territories, and Chernin Entertainment has optioned the novel for television. Montag is an award-winning poet, and *After the Flood* is her first novel.

**12 Maggie T. Rudersdorf, BSN**, Denver, is the associate clinical manager for the Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders at Children's Hospital Colorado in Denver.

**17 Quinn R. Eaton, JD**, Omaha, was named a 2019 *Great Plains Super Lawyers* Rising Star in employment litigation-defense. Eaton is an attorney at Husch Blackwell in Omaha.

### WEDDINGS

**04 Nancy I. Kelsey, BA**, and Edward Carroll, June 8, 2019, living in Cleveland.

**11 Kathleen M. Hart, BA**, and Peter J. Freeze, BA'12, Aug. 17, 2019, living in Kansas City, Missouri. **Michelle L. Trentman, DPT, BSHS**, and Nicholas Cobet, March 30, 2019, living in St. Louis.

**14 Amanda S. Brandt, BA**, and Matthew C. Hoover, BA'15, Sept. 21, 2019, living in Omaha.

**15 Kelsey E. Chemelewski, BS'11, MD**, and Brent E. Smoots, MD, June 29, 2019, living in Phoenix.

**18 Tayte J. Koussa, OTD**, and Justin Kingman, May 25, 2019, living in Loma Linda, California.

### BIRTHS

**01 Dr. Josh Turek, BA**, and Brigid Walsh Turek, BA'06, Norfolk, Nebraska, a daughter, Lucy Clare, March 20, 2019.

**02 Jacob M. Steinkemper, JD**, and Molly Wickham Steinkemper, JD'03, Omaha, a son, Sawyer Wolfgang, Aug. 28, 2018.

**07 Nicholas L. Milewski, PharmD**, and Emily Milewski, Omaha, a daughter, Elin Rose, Feb. 25, 2019.

**09 Jonathan L. Schemmel and Angela Schroeder Schemmel, OTD, BSHS**, Granville, Iowa, a son, Leo Daniel, March 7, 2019.

**10 Zachary T. Spelic, BS'09, SMJ**, and Chassidy Kruger, Omaha, twin daughters, Elliana Joann and Korina Lou, Sept. 13, 2017.

**12 Cody A. Wetzel and Erin Ming Wetzel, BA'08, JD'12**, Gretna, Nebraska, twin daughters, Avery Rose and Sutton Mary, May 31, 2019.

**14 Daniel Latus and Kimberly Utzig Latus, BSBA'12, JD**, Fitchburg, Wisconsin, a daughter, Aurora Kay, June 10, 2019.

**18 Alex C. Covalt, BA'11, MBA**, and Katherine Larcom Covalt, BSBA'11, Omaha, a daughter, Parker Olivia, July 5, 2019.

### DEATHS

**39 Leo G. McManus, ARTS**, Pittsburgh, Sept. 21, 2019.

**43 Maurice J. Steier, BSPHA**, Omaha, July 10, 2019.

**45 Ruth Landholm Merritt, SJN**, Keene, New Hampshire, May 27, 2019.

**48 Ruth Clarkson Bollinger, BS**, Fort Collins, Colorado, Jan. 1, 2019. **Ellen Ristic Casaccio, BS**, Omaha, Sept. 28, 2019. **Doris Martin Crunk, SCN**, Nebraska City, Nebraska, Aug. 5, 2019.



COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY OF DUNDEE



**49** Margaret Cherek Robinson, **SJN**, South Bend, Indiana, July 28, 2019.

**50** Anna R. Hunt, **SJN**, Denver, Oct. 1, 2019. **Merle L. Johnson, BSPHa**, Council Bluffs, Iowa, Aug. 19, 2019. **E. Daniel Reeder, BUSADM**, Omaha, July 20, 2019.

**51** Harold L. Edelman, **BS**, Council Bluffs, Iowa, Oct. 11, 2019. **Joseph O. Foy, BSPHa**, San Pedro, California, July 19, 2019. **Michael F. Shanahan, MD**, Seattle, June 22, 2019. **Stephen E. Wallace, MD**, Omaha, Aug. 14, 2019. **Alyce Giever Walsh, SJN'44, BSN**, Omaha, Aug. 5, 2019.

**52** Leonard A. Buelt, **BUSADM**, Kasson, Minnesota, July 13, 2019. **Gwendolyn Merlin, BSPHa**, Medford, Oregon, June 8, 2019. **Maria Russell Parrish, BA**, Silverthorne, Colorado, Sept. 28, 2019. **Charles T. Swoboda, BS**, Lake Bluff, Illinois, Sept. 5, 2019.

**53** Margaret Hobart Heese, **SJN**, Tampa, Florida, June 8, 2019. **Mary G. Putnam, SCN**, Omaha, July

22, 2019. **Rosemary Pedersen Shald, SCN**, Elkhorn, Nebraska, June 16, 2019.

**54** Patricia Bauer Chleborad, **SCN**, Omaha, Aug. 21, 2019. **Raymond J. Buman, BS**, Harlan, Iowa, Oct. 6, 2019. **Howard E. Hoenig, MD**, Fort Worth, Texas, Aug. 28, 2019. **Virginia "Ginger" McCloskey, SCN**, El Monte, California, Sept. 16, 2019. **Janice Casey Monaghan, SJN'53, BSN**, Toronto, July 16, 2019. **Edward R. Nalty, BS**, Houston, July 2019. **Richard F. Norris, BS'53, JD**, Valley, Nebraska, Aug. 10, 2019.

**55** Rev. Michael A. Churchman, **MA**, Council Bluffs, Iowa, June 26, 2019. **Valerie Peter Duffy-Crane, BSN**, Laguna Woods, California, May 24, 2019. **Jack L. Peterson, BSPHa**, Winnetka, Illinois, Sept. 14, 2019. **Robert E. Rissi, BS'51, JD**, Scottsdale, Arizona, Sept. 13, 2019. **Bernard J. Stock, BS**, Omaha, Sept. 28, 2019.

**56** N. Patrick Kenney, **MD**, Omaha, Aug. 14, 2019. **Dorie Lawrence, ARTS**, Concord, California, June 20, 2019.

## ALUMNI PROFILE

# OT Graduate Finds Voice in Broadcasting

The story of how an occupational therapist wound up interviewing Zendaya on Radio Disney is a long one, he admits. But for **PETER FERRERI, OTD'06, BSHS'07**, the experience has been a lesson in growing and adapting.

"The most important term I've learned in life is something called 'transferable skills,'" says Ferreri, a Chicago-based tech development specialist and broadcaster who chose to pursue a career in radio and TV after earning his Doctor of Occupational Therapy degree from Creighton.

"What I learned from Creighton, what I learned from OT school is that everything in life is a network, and networking gets you from one place to the next," he says.

During his OT clinical rotations, Ferreri worked with patients with traumatic brain injuries and stroke survivors, many of whom needed to relearn basic skills. It was intense, he says, being with people in some of their most difficult moments.

So for his last rotation, he proposed to his professors something a little different: He would go to the happiest place on Earth.

Disney World.

That summer, Ferreri interned in the Guest Services department, specifically focusing on the park's offerings for guests with disabilities. To pay the bills, he worked part time as a greeter at Epcot.

There, he noticed many of the tables weren't compatible for children in wheelchairs and pointed this out to park management. Impressed, he says, the park promised him a job when he graduated. But when the time finally came, park officials regretfully informed him they weren't hiring.

After a brief stint as a wellness counselor, Ferreri mulled his options: He considered pediatrics; he considered working in hospitals; he considered coaching and umpiring.

Then he remembered something from years before: During his summer at Disney, he won a staff talent competition after performing a number from *Phantom of the Opera*, and another staff member encouraged him to pursue a career in entertainment.



JEFFERY TRAILER

"I told my dad, 'This is going to sound crazy, but I think I might go back to school and take some classes in broadcast journalism. Scratch the itch,'" Ferreri says.

He started taking classes at the Illinois Center for Broadcasting (now the Illinois Media School) near Chicago. He scored an internship at NBC Chicago and later worked overnights at a radio station in Montana.

And eventually, he landed a job as an on-air host at the company he'd initially set out to work for: Radio Disney.

In his spare time, he taught classes at the Illinois school where he'd studied broadcasting. When Radio Disney opted to cut back on local DJs, Ferreri went to work for the school full time.

In his broadcasting career, Ferreri has served as the regional station manager for the Illinois Media School, an executive producer for the Windy City Bulls (the NBA G League affiliate of the Chicago Bulls) and a play-by-play announcer for the University of Chicago, the Illinois Institute of Technology and the

**"The most important term I've learned in life is something called 'transferable skills.' What I learned from Creighton, what I learned from OT school is that everything in life is a network, and networking gets you from one place to the next."**

PETER FERRERI, OTD'06, BSHS'07

BIG EAST Conference. Now, as a new father, he's decided to scale back his broadcast work to part time.

Looking back, he's happy with the shift his career took. He's had the opportunity to interview big names — country star Jason Aldean; actresses Zendaya and Bella Thorne; pro wrestling hall-of-famers Mark Henry, "The Million Dollar Man" Ted DiBiase and Diamond Dallas Page; and singers Ben Folds and Ashanti.

In doing so, he found he was repurposing skills he learned during his occupational therapy studies at Creighton.

"In OT, you have to sit and talk to parents and tell them, 'Your child, we're here to help them.' That's real-world stuff. You're learning right there how to communicate during the best and worst of times," Ferreri says. "You're learning to be fearless when it comes to your life situations." — **BY BLAKE URSCH**

# RANKED TOP 20 NATIONALLY

## for Online Graduate Programs

in the 2019 U.S. News & World Report Best Online Programs



Creighton  
UNIVERSITY

gradschool.creighton.edu

Graduate School





## BACK TO SCHOOL

### Des Moines surgeon returns to Creighton to earn his undergraduate degree

As a Creighton undergrad, **Dan McGuire, MD'82**, stands out; 62-year-old orthopedic spinal surgeons going back to school after a near-40-year hiatus just don't make up a huge part of the student body these days.

McGuire lives in Des Moines, Iowa, works in northwest Iowa and is pursuing a degree online in Healthy Lifestyle Management through the College of Professional Studies.

When he walks the stage at commencement next spring, he'll finally have something he's sought for more than four decades — an undergraduate degree from Creighton.

"I never received a degree," he said. "I did three years at Creighton before I got into medical school. I was just a few hours short of an undergraduate degree, but I didn't want to delay medical school."

After med school, McGuire and his wife, Andrea "Andy" Holden McGuire, BS'78, MD'82, moved to St. Louis, and later Des Moines. Of their seven children, three are Creighton grads. (McGuire estimates that

about 25 members of his extended family have graduated from Creighton since 1960.)

The McGuire-Holden Family Scholarship Fund also bears the family names. Established in honor of their respective parents, the fund assists students in the College of Arts and Sciences, with a preference given to rural Iowa natives pursuing a career in medicine.

"Every year we get letters from some of the scholarship recipients, and many of them have really cool stories," McGuire said. "It's a wonderful feeling to know that you're helping someone."

They've also given to the Magis Clinic, the School of Medicine and the Athletics Department.

"Creighton has done great things for our family. Now we want to help make sure it continues to do great things for others. It's just a wonderful place."

Getting a Creighton education again after all these years is, he said, a daily reminder of that. — **BY MICAH MERTES**

© Before the start of the fall 2019 semester, Des Moines, Iowa, area students and their families attended a Creighton send-off. Pictured from left are Creighton students Kate Youngers, Dan McGuire, MD'82, Sara Mullenbach, Alessandro Stanco, Elizabeth Wunn, Duncan Kyhl and Kiersten Bahr.

**57 Vincent J. Kirby, JD**, Norfolk, Nebraska, March 3, 2017. **Harold J. Norman, BUSADM**, Phoenix, Sept. 24, 2019. **James J. Shea, MD**, San Luis Obispo, California, July 31, 2019.

**58 Ronald L. Bourke, BS**, Greybull, Wyoming, Sept. 11, 2019. **Phyllis Erickson, MLN**, Hastings, Nebraska, Aug. 22, 2019. **Luella Joan Jedlicka Kocina, SCN**, Lake Barrington, Illinois, Aug. 12, 2019. **Claire M. "Tex" Oswald, BS**, Omaha, Sept. 14, 2019.

**60 Leo J. Boland, BS**, Rapid City, South Dakota, September 2019. **William J. Dowling, MD**, Los Angeles, June 17, 2019. **Sr. Mary Joyce Meyers, OSB, MA**, Atchison, Kansas, June 11, 2019. **Samuel D. Porter, MD**, West Des Moines, Iowa, Aug. 6, 2019.

**61 Albert Frieztsche, MD**, San Francisco, Sept. 12, 2019. **John M. Kuhry Sr., ARTS**, Omaha, July 4, 2019.

**62 Anthony E. Eggers, ARTS**, Vancouver, Washington, Aug. 21, 2019. **John F. Hamlin, DDS**, Forest Grove, Oregon, Sept. 26, 2019. **Daniel J. Peterson, ARTS**, Omaha, Sept. 12, 2019.

**63 Joseph F. Burns, BS**, Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin, June 17, 2019. **Thomas F. Dowd, BSBA'61, JD**, Omaha, Aug. 7, 2019. **William J. Dunn, JD**, Omaha, Sept. 29, 2019.

**64 William J. Barnes, BSPha**, Omaha, Sept. 30, 2019. **Albin S. Bosn, MA**, Hillman, Minnesota, Sept. 13, 2019. **Maria E. Gonzales, BA**, Denver, Oct. 2, 2018. **Benjamin H. Phipps, BA**, Omaha, Sept. 22, 2019. **Milton M. Rowley, MD**, Lubbock, Texas, Sept. 12, 2019.

**65 Joseph M. Goecke, BSBA'59, MBA**, Omaha, Sept. 10, 2019. **James J. Halbach, BS**, Wheeling, Illinois, July 11, 2019.

**67 Eldon Ehlers, MBA**, Bristow, Virginia, March 7, 2019. **Rev. Eugene R. Koch, MSEdu**, West Des Moines, Iowa, Sept. 29, 2019.

**68 Charles M. Falbo, BSPha**, Tucson, Arizona, Aug. 16, 2019. **Sr. Madonna Fink, SCL, MA**, Leavenworth, Kansas, July 20, 2019. **Sr. M. Dorothy Heideman, OSB, MSEdu**, Atchison, Kansas, Aug. 29, 2019. **Ronald K. Parsonage, JD**, Waterloo, Nebraska, Aug. 3, 2019.

#### ALUMNI PROFILE

## The Lactation Pharmacist

Creighton graduate turns personal search into a quest to help breastfeeding mothers

**LESLIE SOUTHARD, PHARMD'14**, had questions. Months after giving birth to her daughter, Carmen, in 2016, Southard developed shingles on her rib cage. The painful rash is an ordeal for anyone, but as a new mother, Southard was especially concerned.

"I was freaking out because I had no idea if I could breastfeed. I had no idea if the medication I was taking was safe," she says. "Here I am, a pharmacist, and I can't even tell if my medication is safe and whether it will affect my milk supply."

So she went looking for answers. And then some.

Today, the Omaha-based Southard has become a resource for breastfeeding mothers around the world as The Lactation Pharmacist. On her website ([thelactationpharmacist.com](http://thelactationpharmacist.com)), the Creighton graduate and certified lactation counselor reviews various medications for their effects on lactation and offers virtual consultations to women with questions.

"There's been a high demand for it all," says Southard, who works full-time as a pharmacist at CVS. "I get questions from everywhere. From just regular lactating individuals to doctors to dentists. They all say there's a need for this. They're thankful there's someone out there trying to put out the right information."

Southard was initially drawn to pharmacy as a way to help others. She chose Creighton, she says, because several family members attended and spoke highly of the University's student-centered approach to education.



Though her experience in the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions equipped her well for a career in pharmacy, she says, her formal training touched only briefly on how certain medications can affect lactation. Determined to learn all she could, Southard began speaking to experts and seeking out the latest research. She launched her website in January 2019 after realizing that many mothers — and many health professionals themselves — had the same questions she had.

It's an area that's particularly of interest these days, as breastfeeding undergoes a revival following a marked decline in the practice after World War II, Southard says. As mothers struggle with the usual day-to-day challenges of lactation, they're looking for a calm, knowledgeable voice to guide them through, she says.

Southard has since become a lactation counselor, working toward becoming a full-fledged

consultant, through the International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners. She fields questions from women dealing with a range of medical issues, all wondering how various treatments will affect their ability to feed their babies.

One common question she's received is whether over-the-counter allergy medicine will affect a woman's ability to produce milk. The answer: It won't.

Southard is hoping to broaden the reach of The Lactation Pharmacist through online courses for both lactating mothers and medical professionals. Eventually, she hopes to become a national expert in lactation and make life a bit easier for future moms.

"In an ideal world, when I retire, I would love for people to know exactly where to go to get information regarding lactation and medication," she says. — **BY BLAKE URSCH**





COLIN CONCES

GRADUATE SCHOOL PROFILE

## Ophthalmologist Finds Vision for Leadership: 'Love is the Key'

**DONNY SUH, MD, MBA'19**, made a promise to his mother. When he was a boy growing up in South Korea, Suh's mother suffered from an eye condition that the family couldn't afford to treat. Suh told her that one day he would become a doctor and help heal other patients with similar conditions.

Following what Suh considers to be several "miracles" and meeting "angels," he fulfilled his promise. Today, Suh is a pediatric ophthalmologist and adult strabismologist at Omaha's Children's Hospital & Medical Center and professor at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

Even though he achieved his childhood dream, he hasn't stopped setting goals. In May, Suh graduated with an Executive Healthcare MBA from Creighton's Heider College of Business.

"I've been practicing medicine for 20

years, and I've truly enjoyed taking care of patients and teaching medical students and residents, but as I was moving up in the ranks, I realized I needed to sharpen my leadership skills," says Suh, who is currently serving as interim surgeon-in-chief at Children's. "I needed to learn how to interact with patients, other colleagues and leadership in the hospital, and I also needed to understand finance and how to resolve conflict."

The Executive Healthcare MBA program is designed for doctors like Suh, who are

looking to learn organizational leadership skills and advanced business concepts. The program has a robust and credible curriculum, designed around two of the most well-respected professional associations in the health care industry: the American College of Healthcare Executives and the American Association for Physician Leadership. Suh, who also teaches as a clinical associate professor in Creighton's School of Medicine, says he chose Creighton because he admires the culture of the University and the work ethic of its students.

During the program, Suh and his classmates heard from professors, as well as speakers from across the country, who presented on what it means to be a "servant leader," and how to embrace their own vulnerabilities, strengths and weaknesses to effectively manage a team. The students and the professors worked together throughout the program to encourage growth in each other.

"They focused on their core values of heart, mind and soul," Suh says. "They wanted to make sure that I learned to be a good person and that I could truly turn around and help other people. They wanted to make sure I could reach a person's soul and mind, and provide hope. That was something very unique and for which I have tremendous respect."

Suh says the skills he cultivated in the MBA program have influenced his day-to-day work. He's learned he doesn't have to be perfect to be an effective leader. He's learned how to recognize his own weaknesses and blind spots and surround himself with people who complement them. The experience, he says, has helped him become a better communicator and a better doctor.

"There is a big difference between listening and hearing. Now I feel I truly listen to my patients and, because I know myself better, I can help people better," he says. "The one key ingredient that all leaders should have is to truly love the people you are working for. Without love, you don't have a chance. That's what I learned. Love is the key ingredient." — **BY BLAKE URSCH**

Visit [business.creighton.edu/healthcaremba](http://business.creighton.edu/healthcaremba) for more information about the Executive Healthcare MBA program in the Heider College of Business.

**69** Dennis Clark Jr., PHARM, Council Bluffs, Iowa, Sept. 22, 2019. **J. Jack Gross, BA'65, JD**, Omaha, June 15, 2019. **Dr. Peter A. Neenan, BA**, Council Bluffs, Iowa, Aug. 24, 2019. **Sr. Mildred M. Rueff, OSU, MSGuid**, Louisville, Kentucky, July 20, 2019. **Ray E. Weghorst, BA**, Roseville, Minnesota, Aug. 31, 2019.

**71** Mary Russell Fleming, BSN, Sioux City, Iowa, Jan. 11, 2019.

**70** Francis W. "Mark" Mercer, LAW, Omaha, Sept. 16, 2019. **John C. Tonkin, BSBA**, Juniata, Nebraska, Sept. 10, 2019. **Josephine Valasek, MSGuid**, Spalding, Nebraska, June 24, 2019.

**72** David L. Armstrong, MD, Pomona, California, July 4, 2019. **Michael L. Schultz, BSBA'71, MBA**, Yutan, Nebraska, Aug. 25, 2019.

**74** Thomas L. Ludwig, BS'69, DDS, Harlan, Iowa, June 12, 2019. **Lawrence H. Kurth, BS'68, BSPha**, Rochester, Minnesota, June 14, 2019.

**75** Rev. Martin P. Conley, MS, Omaha, Aug. 6, 2019. **Donald A. Dupler, JD**, Frazer, Pennsylvania,

Aug. 31, 2019. **Charles W. Flynn, BSPha**, North Fort Myers, Florida, Sept. 25, 2019.

**76** Randy S. Heimes, BA, Omaha, July 12, 2019. **Stephen P. Vogel, BA**, Bradenton, Florida, June 28, 2019.

**78** Sr. Patricia M. Will, CPPS, MChrSp, Dayton, Ohio, Aug. 2, 2019.

**80** Lynn Furlong Lamoureux, BSN, Omaha, Sept. 30, 2019. **Jose L.M. Reynoso, MD**, Scottsdale, Arizona, Oct. 4, 2017.

**79** Timothy E. Force, BSBA, Washington, D.C., July 22, 2019. **Rev. Theodore Hottinger, SJ, MS**, Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, April 22, 2019. **Gary B. Kline, DDS**, Bozeman, Montana, June 6, 2019. **Sr. Mary S. Wedig, RSM, MChrSp**, Chicago, July 7, 2019. **Virginia Hearn Whiting, BSN**, Fredericksburg, Virginia, Dec. 13, 2018.

**82** Mary E. Cassidy, BA'78, JD, West Des Moines, Iowa, June 5, 2019.

**83** Richard J. Jizba, MS, Omaha, July 8, 2019. **Keith E. Petersen, BA**, Omaha, Sept. 3, 2019.

**84** Mary Beth Kenkel Pileggi, BSPha, Lockport, Illinois, Sept. 21, 2019. **Theadora Bosscher Stroo, JD**, Coppell, Texas, June 20, 2019.

**85** James R. McCoy, BA'80, JD, Madison, Wisconsin, Aug. 24, 2019.

**86** Charles A. Domke, BS'71, BSPha, Vero Beach, Florida, May 26, 2019. **Michael B. Wright, BSBA**, Eden Prairie, Minnesota, Aug. 11, 2019.

**87** Hiroji Noguchi, BS'82, MS'83, MD, Columbus, Mississippi, Oct. 4, 2019.

**88** Sr. Mary J. Gaspar, PBVM, MChrSp, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Sept. 23, 2019.

**89** Ann A. Larson, JD, Fort Dodge, Iowa, July 21, 2019. **Karen Gall Uher, MS**, Omaha, July 10, 2019.

**91** Lyle A. Hiljus, MCSM, Bellevue, Nebraska, Aug. 23, 2019.

**96** Marilyn Gorzelanski Bazer, BA, Ralston, Nebraska, June

18, 2019. **Anthony L. Hernandez, JD**, Hialeah, Florida, April 6, 2019.

**06** Michael P. Nash, JD, Friday Harbor, Washington, July 11, 2019.

**14** Lori K. Gigliotti, MS'08, EDD, Papillion, Nebraska, Oct. 10, 2019.

**15** Mary Tomlinson Kent, BS'11, DDS, Omaha, Oct. 5, 2019.

**16** Kayla M. Jacobson, BSN, Hastings, Nebraska, May 24, 2019.

### IN REMEMBRANCE

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

**Rev. James Fitzgerald, SJ**, development office, 1968-1971 and 1979-1983; Sept. 11, 2019

**Rev. Jonathan Haschka, SJ, MFA**, sculptor artist-in-residence, 1977-1985; Oct. 3, 2019

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

MAY 28-31, 2020

# Reunion

WEEKEND

Get your blue on and celebrate! This family-friendly weekend of Bluejay fun includes the President's Dinner, campus tours, class parties and more!

Milestone celebrations for the classes of 1960, 1965, 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005 and 2010.

creightonalumni

Registration coming soon.  
[creighton.edu/reunionweekend](http://creighton.edu/reunionweekend)





JIM FACKLER

## Inspiring STEM Initiatives Earn Creighton Diversity Award

Creighton's Department of Health Sciences-Multicultural and Community Affairs (HS-MACA), which will celebrate its 20th anniversary in 2020, was named an inspiring program in STEM by *INSIGHT Into Diversity* magazine, the largest and oldest diversity and inclusion publication in higher education.

The award honors colleges and universities that encourage and assist students from underrepresented groups to enter the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). Creighton, along with 49 other recipients, was featured in the September 2019 issue of the magazine.

Honorees were selected based on efforts to inspire and encourage a new generation of young people to consider careers in STEM through mentoring, teaching, research and successful programs and initiatives.

HS-MACA is led by Sade Kosoko-Lasaki, MD, associate vice provost of health sciences and professor of surgery (ophthalmology). *Creighton* magazine asked her to explain the mission of her department and to explain the significance of the award from *INSIGHT Into Diversity*.

### What is HS-MACA?

The Department of Health Sciences-Multicultural and Community Affairs was created in 2000 to advance and promote diversity in the health sciences schools and in the University. The department has developed many relationships with the community, which have yielded a growing and positive relationship with North and South Omaha, and we have been rewarded with significant grant money to perform preventive work related to improving health outcomes among minority populations.

### How did this award come to be conferred?

We had an opportunity to apply, which required us to meet stringent criteria regarding inclusiveness. We had to demonstrate that the University maintains a lot of STEM programs — science, technology, engineering and math — to promote diversity in the field. The literature is very clear that, nationally, the United States does not have a lot of underrepresented minorities in the STEM field. Creighton University is now one of the very few institutions recognized as having a STEM program that actively attracts minorities.

### What is the significance of the award?

This is a very significant award. Creighton University has prided itself as being consistently recognized in national publications, such as *U.S. News & World Report* and more recently the *Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education*. Creighton has now clearly demonstrated that not only is it good in academics, but it is also good at attracting minorities into the STEM field. This award sends a message to underrepresented populations across the nation that Creighton University, which draws 80% of its students from outside Nebraska, welcomes minorities. The magazine states it clearly: "This award is presented to institutions whose programs inspire a new generation of young people to consider STEM careers as well as support working professionals in the field." Further, the award recognizes "colleges, universities and organizations that are doing their part to improve access to STEM fields for students from underrepresented groups."

### What does the award mean for Creighton graduates?

It means they will be noticed when employers search through numerous applicants for jobs. When someone says, "I'm from Creighton, and I've gone through some of the STEM programs at Creighton," the employer will recognize the name, will know the caliber of our programs, and will give the Creighton applicant a second look. Corporations and employers looking to diversify their workforces — and they all are these days — are in close contact with *INSIGHT Into Diversity* magazine, so if they ask the magazine for recommendations, Creighton is now in the mix.

## Become Your Best You



"At Creighton, I found professional connections and civic volunteer opportunities that propelled my professional career and personal development in ways I could not have imagined. I am a better leader, advisor and advocate because of the skills I learned at Creighton."

—Kelsey Haswell, MBA'18  
Interdisciplinary Leadership doctoral program student

[gradschool.creighton.edu/bestyou](https://gradschool.creighton.edu/bestyou)

Creighton  
UNIVERSITY

Graduate School



Creighton  
UNIVERSITY



Merry Christmas  
and Happy New Year  
from Creighton University

