Last year, Creighton faculty, staff and students volunteered in 60 agencies in greater Omaha, serving in more
What does an “ordinary” day in the life of Creighton University outreach look like? Creighton University Magazine found out. On April 30, we followed, we e-mailed, we listened, we photographed. What did we find? An inspiring, unassuming community of men and women living Creighton’s mission — working for and with others in the service of faith, the promotion of justice and the pursuit of truth. Here are their stories:

12:00 A.M. CDT

“A Still-Point in a Turning World”

Midnight strikes on Creighton’s campus: An executive in Hong Kong taps his laptop and “retraces” to Creighton’s Online Ministries. He’s 13 hours ahead and continents away. The website, created in 1998, will receive some 42,000 hits today. Many will undertake the 34-week retreat, adapted to the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises. Others contemplate the daily Scripture reflection, written by Creighton faculty and staff. Visitors come from more than 100 countries; one calls the site, “a still-point in the turning world.” Collaborative Ministry’s Maureen McCauley, BA 75, MA 98, says the site nourishes those who “hunger for the Word of God.”

(www.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/online.html)

1:00 A.M.

Fighting AIDS in Zimbabwe

It’s 8 a.m. in Zimbabwe, and Creighton alumnus and Mission Doctors Association volunteer Richard R. Stoughton, MD ’62, rolls up his sleeves for a day of medical missionary work. Stoughton starts rounds at St. Theresa Hospital, serving a population of about 60,000, mostly peasant farmers. Among his patients: a 27-year-old teacher with acute ulcer symptoms, a 14-year-old boy with AIDS plus TB and acute pneumonia, and a terminally ill 36-year-old man with AIDS. “It is a busy ward with a preponderance of AIDS patients,” he said. HIV/AIDS is a pandemic in Zimbabwe; one in three adults is infected. But things are slowly improving, thanks to volunteers like Stoughton and his wife, Loretta. He

In the late 1800s, Creighton University’s founding family — Omaha visionaries Edward and Mary Lucretia, and John and Sarah Emily Creighton — saw the needs of their community and met them with an outstretched hand.

Today, 125 years later, rooted in the vision of its benefactors and the educational mission of the Society of Jesus, Creighton continues to extend the hand of service locally, regionally, nationally and globally.

Working in partnership with the communities it seeks to serve, Creighton reaps what it sows, and more. What follows is but a glimpse of 24 hours in the life of Creighton University outreach — one ordinary day in an extraordinary tradition.
points to a successful Mother-to-Child AIDS prevention program, which has “decreased the incidence of HIV children at 18 months of age from around 50 percent to about 20 percent.”

### 2:00 A.M.

**Community Garden Takes Root**

The Montclair Community Gardens are quiet now. But thanks to the efforts of City Sprouts and University volunteers, life is taking root here. City Sprouts, a grassroots organization working to turn neglected inner-city lots into beautiful, safe and productive gardens, is one of many community agencies that partners with the University to provide service opportunities for students, faculty and staff.

Director Nancy Williams praises Creighton’s efforts: “The students and faculty show up in force, enthusiastic about the day’s work. They leave an indelible impression whenever they volunteer.”

### 3:00 A.M.

**Hope in Baghdad**

Nine hours and a world away, it’s another searing afternoon in Baghdad for U.S. Army officer, combat nurse and 2002 Creighton graduate Jake Deeds. He has already seen three U.S. soldiers with multiple shrapnel injuries to the face and extremities. They had been on patrol when a rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) exploded within 20 feet of their Humvee. “On a daily basis, we see trauma after trauma,” Deeds said. “During April, we’ve treated 582 traumatic injuries, 70 percent of this month’s patient census.” Even as witness to the carnage of war, Deeds said his experience with the 31st Combat Support Hospital has been deeply meaningful. “Iraq is a dangerous place; there is a tremendous amount of fear and tragedy,” he said. “But we must remember that at the same time there is hope. As a nurse and a graduate of the Creighton School of Nursing, I am a part of that.”

### 4:00 A.M.

**Connections in the ICU**

Creighton medical resident Michelle Aerni, D.O., has been at Creighton University Medical Center since 6 a.m. yesterday. She was “on-call” overnight, slept a bit and is now making early-morning rounds. “I love it,” she said. Aerni’s rotation has her working in the hospital’s Intensive Care Unit, caring for the critically sick and injured. Life and death hang in the balance here. It’s a difficult job — one that Aerni and her medical center colleagues approach with skill and compassion. “You take each patient as an individual,” Aerni said.

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**Serving the World**

Whether it’s enrolling a student from Albania, ministering online to someone in Indonesia or sending faculty and students to the Dominican Republic to provide medical relief to the poor, Creighton University serves the world. In fact, Creighton’s service in 2003 stretched across all seven continents, reaching 89 countries.

**Europe**

32 countries

Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia/Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom.

**Asia**

23 countries

Armenia, China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Palestine, Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Korea, Syria, Thailand, Taiwan, Turkey.

**North America**

12 countries

Bahamas, Canada, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Puerto Rico, Trinidad/Tobago, United States.

**South America**

5 countries

Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Guyana, Venezuela.

**Africa**

13 countries


**Antarctica**


**Australia/Oceania**

4 countries

Australia, Fiji, Guam, New Zealand.
4:00 AM
Aerni comforts a patient in Creighton University Medical Center’s ICU.
“When their families come in, I try to connect with them and keep them informed.” Making these emotional connections can be tough. “Some doctors may try to steer away from that. But I don’t. I try to get connected.” (Aemi began a Pulmonary Critical Care Fellowship at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., July 1.)

A Life of Simple Prayer
Warblers herald the morning in Brooksville, Miss.; Creighton alumna Norag Burgess, MA’95, wakes with prayer, reviews yesterday’s retreat sessions and sets out bread dough to rise. Such is the life of pure simplicity at the Dwelling Place, where Burgess is spiritual and retreat director. Founded in 1987 by Sr. Clare Van Lent, MChSp’83, another Creighton alum, the Dwelling Place provides a peaceful enclave for spiritual renewal through prayer, counseling and private or directed retreats. Burgess said the center reaches out to a state that is “racked by poverty and racism,” offering a “deep journey of faith” for those who seek it.

6:00 A.M.
A Contemplative Walk at Creighton’s Retreat Center
Dawn breaks near Griswold, Iowa; the Rev. David Smith, S.J., takes a contemplative walk in the woods surrounding the Creighton University Retreat Center, where he is director. “The world is charged with the grandeur of God,” wrote Gerald Manley Hopkins. The center helps people recharge this connection through prayer, group retreats and spiritual guidance.

7:00 A.M.
Serving Others in Costa Rica
An hour behind us in Costa Rica, Creighton graduate and Peace Corps volunteer Lucie Howe, BA’03, rises for a day of service. Today, she teaches a sexual abuse prevention class at an elementary school in her barrio. Howe was inspired by her Creighton education, which included: two spring-break service trips, a semester in the Dominican Republic, weekly service as an English tutor at South High School and as a Girl Scout leader at the Latina Resource Center. “All of these experiences led me to understand that service is an essential part of the building of the kingdom of God,” Howe said. “Creighton is a dynamic place that develops the whole person, and it gave me a solid base for the adventures that still await me.”

8:00 A.M.
‘Never Lazy, Boring or Green!’
On another morning, University President the Rev. John P. Schlegel, S.J., may be wrestling with budgets, meeting with students, visiting alumni or engaging government and civic leaders in conversations on critical issues. But, this morning, Fr. Schlegel is here — in a classroom of tiny desks and creaking radiators at inner-city Sacred Heart Elementary School — reading to a class of semi-wide-eyed second-graders. Schlegel rouses their attention with his sonorous reading of Verdi, a book about an exuberant python who insists on staying young. “I will never be lazy, boring or green!” Schlegel’s voice booms,
and the kids laugh. The class, then, insists on reading Schlegel a story. The University president goes desk-to-desk helping with the trickier words. By the time Schlegel leaves, he has learned the name of each child, shared stories and delivered the message that the schools in Creighton’s community matter deeply to him and to the University.

**9:00 A.M.**

**Pass Go, Collect 200 los dólares**

At St. Francis High School in rural Humphrey, Neb., 2004 Creighton master’s in education graduate Ben Hamilton, and his class play Monopoly — in Spanish. “It’s great,” said Hamilton. “The students want to play all the time.” Without Hamilton, the community of 769 would have no Spanish instruction. Hamilton is one of a few talented educators teaching in under-resourced Catholic schools through a unique program called MAGIS, Mentoring Academic Gifts in Service. Supported by the Omaha Archdiocese, Creighton’s MAGIS program helps answer the critical need for religion teachers in Nebraska. MAGIS participants teach for two years in a Catholic school while living in community and pursuing professional and spiritual development.

**10:00 A.M.**

**Outreach in a Car Lot**

A car dealership is perhaps the last place you’d expect to find a nun on a chilly April morning. But here is Creighton Theology Professor Joan Mueller, Ph.D., MChSp’89, walking the lot with a Sudanese family looking at sticker prices. Through her Project Welcome, Mueller is working to assist Omaha’s growing Sudanese refugee population — helping them find jobs, adequate housing, health care, tutors for their children or even a car. She has found support from Creighton students and faculty and from the Archdiocese of Omaha. Mueller said these outreach efforts benefit Creighton. “As I am constantly challenged to see life and theology from new perspectives, so too are my students — through my teaching and through opportunities for service. In addition, many Sudanese children dream of attending Creighton, and we are doing all we can to prepare them for this type of challenge.”

**11:00 A.M.**

**A Quiet Success**

Although the Bryant Community Technology Center keyboarding class is hard at work, the room is quiet — that is if you don’t count the cadence of typing and a muted sound of audio-tutorials through headphones. “Some people here are practicing the fundamentals; others are typing resumes or writing papers for school,” program coordinator Patrice Gunter said. Open to the community, the North Omaha center offers a spectrum of courses from “Computer Basics for Seniors” to an after-school “Cyberkids” program. Creighton University and the College of Business Administration, in
Day in the Life: Service Outreach

...service is an essential part of the building of the kingdom of God.”
—Creighton graduate & Peace Corps volunteer Lucie Howe

gave me patience and they gave me hope.” Picking up the new birth certificate, Zuniga exclaims, “It’s finally official!”

2:00 p.m.
An Outstanding Role Model
The students at Omaha’s Liberty Elementary School look up to Creighton’s Angie Janis — way up. At 6-foot-1, Janis, a junior on Creighton’s women’s basketball team, stands out in a crowd, especially at a grade school. And she should. For Janis is someone they also can look up to as a role model — an athlete who excels in the classroom, as well as on the court. Last season, while helping Creighton to a WNIT championship, Janis earned conference Scholar Athlete recognition — carrying a 3.04 grade-point average in nursing. Janis is active in Creighton’s Bluejay Outreach school partnership. Creighton’s goal: to have every athlete perform at least four hours of community service per month.

3:00 p.m.
Sweating (and Smiling) to Richard Simmons
With a Richard Simmons video playing, Creighton students are working out with special-needs kids ... and they’re having a blast! The Madonna School for

12:00 p.m.
Bridging the Technology Divide
Associate professor of anthropology and director of the Native American Studies major Raymond Bucko, S.J., is teaching a Web design and editing class to personnel at the Red Cloud Indian School at Pine Ridge Reservation.
“Native Americans are on the ‘have not’ side of the technology divide,” Fr. Bucko said, “but the schools (here) are wired. My goal now is to assist in a larger project of intellectual repatriation ... to attract Native scholars to Creighton through our academic excellence and our personal connections.”

1:00 p.m.
A Grave Error Made Right
Now in exams, third-year law students Meg Olsen and Marc Dion are the last students to work on a case involving a single father’s struggle to get his name on his daughter’s birth certificate. Three years ago, Mario Zuniga came to the Milton R. Abrahms Legal Clinic at Creighton’s School of Law “feeling helpless.” The students, with the guidance of professor and director Catherine Mahern, battled with the Bureau of Vital Statistics to see a grave error made right. “They helped me work with the process,” Zuniga said. “They

12:00 PM
Fr. Bucko brings technology to students on the wide-open land of the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. Here, he works with Lisa Yellow Horse.
Exceptional Children and Creighton University share a rich tradition of values-steeped education. Every Friday for a year, Creighton students from Gallagher Hall have been joining the kids at the Madonna School for physical education class or Special Olympics training, and for the simple joy of it. Creighton’s Department of Residence Life, with the Center for Service and Justice, introduced the nation’s first student housing “Community Partner Initiative,” through which each residence hall partners with a community agency to provide students with service opportunities. The program is part of a University-wide priority to be mindful of its role as a corporate citizen.

Service by the Numbers
Creighton University’s community involvement in 2003 included:

- 350,000 patient visits
to Creighton medical clinics in Greater Omaha and rural Nebraska and Iowa;
- 60,000 patient visits
to the Creighton dental clinics;
- 31,500 patient visits
at Creighton physical therapy sites;
- 15,000 patient visits
to Creighton occupational therapy sites;
- 5,500 patient visits
to Creighton pharmacies;
- 1,200 low-income individuals and families
were assisted through the Creighton law clinics;

Hundreds of patients
at 50 clinical sites received health care from School of Nursing students and faculty.

Fitzsimmons and her staff received Creighton’s first Women in Ministry to the Poor award.

A Moment of Fellowship
A homeless man in Army fatigues removes his battered “God Bless America” cap and bows his head for grace. It’s suppertime at the Siena/Francis House, and the dining room is packed. The shelter’s development director Tim Sully, BA’85, offers the blessing. It may be the one brief moment of bounty and fellowship in the day for these guests. Just blocks from campus, the Siena/Francis House is Creighton’s neighbor, and the University treats it as such. Sully captures the long-standing relationship: “Creighton truly cares about Omaha’s poor and homeless. Almost any day of the academic year, I see students here serving dinner, making sack lunches, sorting through donated clothing, cleaning or decorating the facility. ... One night I literally bumped into someone wiping down a dinner table. When I turned around, I saw that it was Fr. Schlegel.”

'God Calls Us ... to Do Our Small Part'
Maria Teresa Gaston draws a satisfied breath. The Creighton Center for Service and Justice (CCSJ), which she directs, continues to grow like a beloved campus tree, its sheltering branches extending wide, locally and internationally. CCSJ works with many agencies in Omaha. Through the center, students, faculty and staff participate in service clubs, spring-break service trips, awareness-raising immersions and post-graduate volunteer service. “God calls us each to do our small part in living the values of the reign of God today,” Gaston said. “Together, we can nurture new communities where all can experience the fruits of the Spirit, of peace and of justice.”

Gaston stressed that the good work of the center stems from partnerships among staff, students and the community.
A Voice for the Voiceless

Engaged in final exams, third-year law student and committed activist Patrick Chee reports on his typical Friday. After working at Creighton’s legal clinic, Chee joins friends and community members at the Spirit of Peace Community to discuss and work on social justice issues. Other times find him maintaining the website for Creighton’s chapter of Amnesty International, volunteering around town or fulfilling obligations as president of the Environmental Law Society. “My Fridays are spent serving the low-income community in a legal capacity. It’s been truly humbling to see how much need there is and how much there is to learn from those I’ve had the privilege to serve. ... I feel called to be an advocate and a voice for the voiceless.”

Art with a Message

Creighton’s outreach assumes many expressions — most vividly in the fine arts. Consider Rachel Bennett’s senior thesis, “Dichotomies: Figurative Painting,” on display in the Lied Gallery on campus. Bennett’s artwork explores the individual’s struggle with society’s gender, ethnic and class roles. “The main theme of my work is the transcendence of stereotypical barriers,” the BFA senior said. “Liberation from these expectations can be a freeing experience.”

$35 and a One-Way Bus Ticket

This day finds Jesuit novice and Creighton graduate Dan Justin, BA’02, at the midpoint of his pilgrimage in Torreon, Mexico — miles off the Mexican tourist map. During their first year of vocational formation, Jesuits embark on a one-month “pilgrimage experience,” with $35, a one-way bus ticket and the exercises of St. Ignatius as their compass.

At the Miguel Pro Jesuit Community, Justin is learning about the graces and challenges of ministry in Mexico. “As I prayed over my day and prepared for bed, I experienced a deep gratitude for
the opportunity to witness the workings of God within the life of this community, and I wondered where my pilgrimage would lead me in the weeks and months to come."

10:00 P.M.

Integrating Service, Faith & Justice

Creighton sophomore Kelly Orbik is counting her blessings. Orbik is a resident of the Cortina Community—a new living-learning experience that helps students integrate service, faith and justice into their everyday lives. Named after a Jesuit educator and activist in San Salvador, the Rev. Jon Cortina, S.J., the community arose from Cardoner at Creighton, a program that was established with a $2 million grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. to help students, faculty, staff and alumni more fully explore God’s calling in their lives. For Orbik, participating in the Cardoner program comes naturally. She teaches English as a Second Language at South High School on Wednesdays; volunteers at a nature center on Saturdays; attends a Cortina Community reflection group on Sundays; and talks nightly with her roommate about “the highs, lows and what we are especially thankful for.”

11:00 P.M.

Caring for Twins in New NICU

Tonight, twins were born pre-term, but are gaining vigor within the new Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Creighton University Medical Center. Opened this spring, the newly remodeled NICU holds 21 private patient care rooms. Research shows that the first 72 hours of a newborn’s life are the most critical, and neonatal nurse and Creighton graduate Elizabeth Holtmeier, BSN’02, enjoys providing specialized care during this precarious time.

And so, this day of Creighton outreach ends with the tiniest of persons and the greatest of hopes. Twenty-four hours … one day … 125 years. ☺

Outreach at the Core of a Creighton Education

By Patricia R. Callone

In my 25 years at Creighton, I’ve had the wonderful opportunity to work with many diverse groups in the broader community as well as within the Creighton community. Every year I hear more and more about the service activities in which the Creighton community is involved: students, alumni, faculty and staff. I hear the same comments: “The Creighton community is greatly enriched by its outreach activities. Our outreach is central to our educational mission.”

As part of Creighton’s 125th anniversary year, I asked the Creighton University Magazine staff to consider an article on the multiple dimensions of Creighton’s outreach … and a “Day in the Life: Service Outreach” was begun.

The resulting article is a snapshot of Creighton’s efforts — an inspiring “one-day” picture. As vice president for Institutional Relations, I have the unique privilege of tracking the many dimensions of service and outreach that flow from Creighton year-round. I can look at the University’s outreach/service as a whole.

Creighton is unique among the 28 Jesuit schools and colleges in the United States because of our size, the diversity of our nine schools and colleges, and the presence of the Creighton University Medical Center on campus. We are a community of about 8,500 people — including students, faculty and staff. Our campus is a “small town” in the midst of a growing and dynamic city.

Creighton President the Rev. John P. Schlegel, S.J., often reminds us that we are to live our mission of education and service in the local, regional, national and international communities. We are not a land-grant university, but a private university in the public service. All our outreach and service activities flow from our educational mission. Our concentration is to be an active corporate citizen, an inviting neighbor, a catalyst for good, a promoter of justice.

A challenge for the Creighton community is that we are to be more than a source of education and service. We are to aspire to be role models for each other: students, faculty, staff and alumni. We are to help each other find our unique God-given skills and talents, assist each other in developing those gifts, and then focus them for the betterment of our world community.

Outreach activities have the power to change individuals in amazing, sometimes life-changing, ways. Our partnerships with the community and diverse service activities truly ARE central to the experience of a Creighton education.

Find more information on Creighton’s outreach online at www.creighton.edu/communityrelations.