Experiencing God in Nepal

Creighton alumna Kerri McCallister (inset) calls her volunteer work in this tiny, poverty-stricken nation “one of the greatest blessings” in her life.

Of Threshers, Cobblers and Iambic Pentameter

Teaching About Terrorism

Enron 101: Lessons from a Corporate Scandal
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Thank you for your support of Creighton University.

Enron 101: Lessons from a Corporate Scandal

President Bush, in his speech last month on Wall Street, said corporate scandals, such as the one that toppled energy giant Enron, have shaken the public’s trust in corporate America. Developing ethical, responsible corporate leaders for tomorrow is a primary focus of Creighton’s College of Business Administration. Many professors in the College — from accounting to management to finance — are using these scandals to reinforce important business lessons.

About the Cover
Creighton photographer Don Doll, S.J., captured this image of an 88-year-old woman near Nangakot, Nepal, welcoming visitors with a traditional Nepal greeting. The woman was out cutting grass for her cow at the time. Fr. Doll explained that it’s very common among Nepalis to greet people by putting their palms together, bowing slightly and saying “namaste” (nah-mah-stay) — which basically means, “I worship the divine in you.”
Creighton University Magazine’s Purpose
Creighton University Magazine, like the University itself, is committed to excellence and dedicated to the pursuit of truth in all its forms. The magazine will be comprehensive in nature. It will support the University’s mission of education through thoughtful and compelling feature articles on a variety of topics. It will feature the brightest, the most stimulating, the most inspirational thinking that Creighton offers. The magazine also will promote Creighton, and its Jesuit Catholic identity, to a broad public and serve as a vital link between the University and its constituents. The magazine will be guided by the core values of Creighton: the inalienable worth of each individual, respect for all of God’s creation, a special concern for the poor, and the promotion of justice.

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Spirits of Creighton
Kurt Morrison of Littleton, Colo., and Nakina Mills of Pine Ridge, S.D., received the University’s top student award at May commencement.

Relief in Sight
Fourth-year medical student Greg Stroup traveled to St. Lucia in March with Creighton’s vice president and associate vice president for Health Sciences, providing care to people suffering from glaucoma.

40 Development News

Heider Gift
The Jesuit tradition of being women and men for others is a daily goal for Charles and Mary Heider. Their most recent gift to Creighton will fund student scholarships.

44 Alumni News

Dad, Grandpa ... Father
Creighton alumnus Phil Flott, BA’67, a father of five and grandfather of 16, became a Catholic priest earlier this year. His son, Anthony, writes of the experience.

Hear Kitty, Kitty
Edward Walsh, PhD’83, and his wife and colleague, JoAnn McGee, Ph.D., MS’82, studied the hearing of lions and other big cats at Omaha’s Henry Doorly Zoo.

55 The Last Word

Are religiously sponsored health professions schools relics of the past or do they provide important and unique dimensions of education and health care? Creighton’s Richard O’Brien, M.D., examines the issue.

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For Kerri McCallister, BA’99, it was a leap of faith — leaving behind family and friends in Colorado to work as a JVI (Jesuit Volunteers International) school teacher in a poor village in Nepal. It is now a labor of love, an experience that has opened her eyes to social justice issues and deepened her faith in God.

28 Teaching About Terrorism
In the post-9/11 era, Creighton scientist Martha Gentry-Nielsen said our best defense against biological terrorism is knowledge, understanding and preparation. Gentry-Nielsen and her Creighton medical colleagues are working hard to make us more informed and better prepared.

32 Creighton Lawyer Finds Treasure in Ireland’s Past
During a search of his Irish roots, Creighton alumnus and Omaha attorney James Cavanaugh, BA’77, JD’80, stumbled upon an ancient legal system, passed from generation to generation by an amazing group of lawyer-poets known as Brehons.

34 Of Threshers, Cobblers and Iambic Pentameter
Bridget Keegan, Ph.D., chair of Creighton’s Department of English, has “rediscovered” an often overlooked and forgotten class of 18th and 19th century poets. Far from the social elite, these were laboring poets — equally adept at wielding a cobbler’s hammer or a farmhand’s thresher as well as a poet’s pen.
Proud of Alma Mater

May I say how proud I am that my alma mater gives voice to the talent it has within its teaching staff.

I was moved by the perspective and import of the article about the recycling of the earth’s water. (We Are All ‘Water Cousins,’ by John Scott, S.J., Spring 2001.)

Likewise, I was moved by the recent article by Robert P. Heaney, M.D., titled Chance, God and the Economy (Summer 2002).

Although he proposes no solutions, I applaud his effort in applying a scientific methodology to test the myths of a capitalist economy.

Even though he spoke a bit despairingly of “socialism” (which I assume would appease many of the “fat cat contributors” among Creighton graduates), I appreciate the fact that Jesuit institutions have the confidence in contemporary doctrines.

Also, as a postscript, I found Dr. Horning’s article on Putin to be, as usual, refreshingly insightful. When I took two semesters of Russian history from him in the ’60s, I could tell that Dr. Horning had the kind of “good heart” and objectivity that transcended the Cold War rhetoric of the time. I have two texts that we used at the time, and I refer to them, on occasion, to this day. The fact that Horning is still teaching (am I really that old?) says something about the intellectual integrity of my alma mater.

Thank you, Creighton.

George Bubnis, BA’66

Bothell, Wash.

Missing Two Points

Absolutely a great issue. All of the major articles were topnotch (A Bear Hug from Putin; Alzheimer’s Team Searches for Hope; Chance, God and the Economy; and Islam’s ‘Rogue Cousin’).

When I saw the subject of the Last Word column, Can There Be Peace in the Holy Land?, I expected more insight into the challenges of creating peace in the Middle East than I found.

Although I don’t quibble with anything Professor Raful wrote, I was surprised that his “simple realities” neglected two basic facts. First, the West Bank was taken by Israel in war, and Israel is therefore an occupying power. Second, the many Jewish settlements established in this occupied territory have been constructed on what was once Palestinian land.

Doesn’t Professor Raful acknowledge that the Palestinians should reasonably expect to have all of this land returned as part of the price of peace? And what did his Israeli contacts have to say on the land ownership issue?

John Novak, MBA’84

Omaha

Uncommon Perspective

I am a financial consultant with Salomon Smith Barney in Louisville, Ky.

Your published article Chance, God and the Economy has addressed several key issues that I have pondered for quite some time.

Dr. Heaney provides an uncommon perspective of the responsibility that comes with personal wealth and the importance of being a good custodian thereof.

The article was given to me by a client who also was intrigued and inspired by Dr. Heaney’s thoughts. I believe that several of our other clients would find the article to be beneficial and applicable to their lives.

I am glad that a bone biologist is open to sharing his economist-like thoughts.

Doug KRAFT

Louisville, Ky.
Callone Named to Higher Learning Commission Board

Patricia R. Callone, vice president for Institutional Relations at Creighton University, has been elected to a four-year term on the board of trustees of the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. Her term on the 18-member board begins Sept. 1.

“I am honored to serve higher education and the Higher Learning Commission in this capacity. My work with the commission is an extension of Creighton’s traditional commitment to provide service to the community and to higher education,” Callone said.

The Higher Learning Commission is part of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The association was founded in 1895 as a membership organization for educational institutions. It is committed to developing and maintaining high standards of excellence and is recognized by the Secretary of Education and the Committee on Recognition of Postsecondary Accreditation.

The association is one of six regional institutional accrediting associations in the United States.

Saint Joseph Hospital and Creighton University Launch New Medical Center Name

Saint Joseph Hospital, one of the oldest hospitals in Nebraska, and the Creighton University Health Sciences Division officially became linked under their new name, Creighton University Medical Center, on June 27.

The new name clarifies the position of Saint Joseph Hospital as the teaching hospital of Creighton University and reinforces the institution’s position as one of the premier academic medical centers in the region. Creighton University Medical Center (CUMC) includes the hospital and its clinics and Creighton University’s Health Sciences Division, which comprises the Schools of Medicine, Nursing, Dentistry, and Pharmacy and Health Professions.

This is a historic moment for both the hospital and Creighton, as the renaming of the organization recognizes the more than 100-year relationship of the two institutions as an academic medical center. The hospital was established by the Sisters of Mercy in 1870 and at one time was called Creighton Memorial Saint Joseph Hospital.

The status of both Saint Joseph Hospital and Creighton University will be preserved under the new name. The name also preserves the religious heritage of Saint Joseph Hospital through its university link with the Jesuits at Creighton. The Catholic litany will remain on the hospital wall that identifies Saint Joseph as the patron saint of the hospital, a source of hope to the sick, a protector of the poor and a comfort to the dying.

To learn more about the Creighton University Medical Center, visit http://health.creighton.edu.

CU Joins the Call for Liberal Arts Education

Creighton University has joined more than 365 colleges and universities in the Association of American Colleges and Universities Presidents’ Campaign for the Advancement of Liberal Learning (CALL).

This national effort, led by college presidents from across the country, seeks to increase public understanding of liberal education and to foster a societal commitment to providing a quality liberal education to every college student, regardless of the student’s field of study.

“We are pleased to be a part of this national effort to advance public understanding of the nature and benefits of a liberal education,” said the Rev. John P. Schlegel, S.J., president of Creighton University. “Our university was founded in the knowledge that a liberal arts education produces well-rounded individuals capable of meeting the demands of today’s complex world.”

CALL seeks to promote the intrinsic and societal benefits of a wide-ranging liberal education. The effort will promote the knowledge that a strong liberal education significantly expands economic opportunities and fosters intellectual resilience, civic capacity and knowledge of the wider world.

According to CALL and the Association of American Colleges and Universities, “Liberal learning is not confined to particular fields of study. What matters in liberal education is substantial content, rigorous methodology and an active engagement with the societal, ethical and practical implications of our learning. The spirit and value of liberal learning are equally relevant to all forms of higher education and to all students.”
Mahern Honored with Robert M. Spire Award

Catherine Mahern, director of the Milton Abrahams Legal Clinic at Creighton University, was awarded the 2002 Omaha Bar Association’s Robert M. Spire Public Service Award on May 1.

This award, named in honor of the late Robert M. Spire, former president of the Omaha Bar Association and Nebraska state attorney general, is presented annually to a lawyer who has demonstrated a long-term commitment to the enhancement of the public’s knowledge of the law and has shown a history of providing services to the community for purposes other than financial profit.

Mahern, an associate professor of law and the holder of the Connie Kearney Chair in Clinical Legal Education, has helped obtain more than $300,000 in grants from the Nebraska Commission on Public Advocacy for the ongoing operation at the Abrahams Legal Clinic.

From 1990 to 2002, Mahern participated in the Nebraska State Bar Association Minority and Justice Commission. Its charge was to study racial barriers to the profession, the courts, and the judicial system and implement programs to overcome these barriers.

Mahern currently sits on the Nebraska Supreme Court Pro Se Litigation Committee. This committee seeks to address the issues encountered by the self-represented litigant in the Nebraska courts, and to develop literature to assist these litigants in accessing the courts.

Commencement 2002 Honorees

Creighton University celebrated its 111th spring commencement exercises on May 18. In addition to awarding more than 1,180 graduates with their degrees, the University presented three Presidential Medallions and honored an outstanding alumnus.

Alumni Achievement Citation

The Alumni Achievement Citation was presented to Larry N. Ito, Ph.D. The Alumni Achievement Citation is Creighton’s highest alumni award.

Ito, BS’84, MS’86, received his doctorate from the University of Minnesota in 1990. That same year, Dow Chemical hired Ito. In the last decade, he has not only transformed the way Dow Chemical conducts its business, but he has transformed the environment.

Ito, now a technical leader at Dow, was instrumental in designing chemical processes that take chemical waste streams from other Dow commercial endeavors and convert the waste materials into useful products.

Presidential Medallions

The Presidential Medallion recognizes individuals and organizations which have displayed excellence in an academic discipline; distinguished local civic, cultural or volunteer service; and commitment to the educational and community ideals espoused by Creighton University’s Mission Statement.

Presidential Medallions were conferred upon Duchesne Academy of the Sacred Heart, the Omaha Star and the Knights of Columbus Father Flanagan of Boys Town Council No. 652.

Duchesne is one of 21 schools in the United States that make up the network of Sacred Heart Schools. For 120 years, the Academy has been a pillar of education in the community, educating girls to become women of conscience and confidence.

In 1915, Duchesne College was established and in its early years had an affiliation with Creighton. After six decades the college and elementary school closed at Duchesne, allowing the high school to prosper. Today, Duchesne High School serves more than 250 girls with a rigorous curriculum.

The Omaha Star has been covering issues and events in the city’s African-American community for nearly 65 years. Mildred Brown, who founded the newspaper, guided the paper during racial segregation, and the civil rights movement of the 1960s and 1970s. She worked at the paper until her death in 1989 at the age of 82. Since then, the paper has continued as a family enterprise. Marguerita Washington, Ph.D., owner, editor and publisher of the Omaha Star, is Brown’s niece.

In 1902, the Knights of Columbus develops lay and Jesuit groups to generate new initiatives to further the mission of the province. O’Brien developed a lay spiritual formation program for province employees. He also oversees fund raising of more than $3 million annually — funds that are used for the training of young Jesuits, the care of older Jesuits and for other good works.

Alumni Honored with Achievement Awards

College of Arts and Sciences

On May 17, Kevin O’Brien, BA’81, received the 2002 Alumni Merit Award from the College of Arts and Sciences. He received his master’s in educational psychology from the University of Houston in 1986. Since 1998, O’Brien has been the director of the Ignatian Apostolic Partnerships Office in Baltimore. This office for the Jesuits of the Maryland Province

School of Dentistry

Roger B. Gerstner, DDS’69, received the School of Dentistry’s Alumni Achievement Award on April 19. Gerstner has been in private practice in Omaha and on Creighton’s dental school faculty for 30 years. As a member of the peer review committee of the Omaha District Dental

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established Council No. 652 on behalf of 52 Catholic men in Omaha. One of the charter members of the group was Count John Creighton.

From its humble beginnings in the early 1900s, the group of men has grown to more than 22,000 members at the beginning of the 21st century. In 1948, the group was renamed Father Flanagan’s Council to honor the founder of Boys Town. Today the council serves 11 parishes by promoting family, faith and the Church and assisting with Catholic education, civic involvement and aid to those in need.

Creighton’s first Presidential Medallions were awarded last year to Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Omaha and the Omaha Symphony.

Walker earned a doctorate of nursing science from The Catholic University of America in 1988. She is an associate professor of medicine and a behavioral researcher at the Diabetes Research and Training Center at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in Bronx, N.Y. She teaches practitioners how to motivate their patients to manage their diabetes and live longer, healthier lives. The American Diabetes Association (ADA) and the American Association of Diabetes Educators have benefited from Walker’s involvement for more than 15 years. She also was helpful in recruiting other Native American students to the University. Over the past three years, she personally sent out more than 550 letters to prospective Native American students.

Morrison received a bachelor of arts in political science at the commencement ceremony. While at Creighton, Morrison was active in more than a dozen student organizations including a term as president of the Creighton Students Union in 2001-2002, president of the Kiewit Residence Hall Council and executive officer of the Freshman Leadership Program. Despite a full academic schedule and his leadership duties on campus, Morrison also worked as an intern for Sen. Ben Nelson, D-Neb.

Fr. Schelgel with Marguerita Washington, Ph.D., editor and publisher of the Omaha Star, one of three Presidential Medallion recipients at May Commencement.

Kurt Morrison, left, and Nakina Mills were honored at the May 2002 commencement as the Spirit of Creighton Award winners.

Society, Gerstner evaluates and mediates complaints against dentists in the Omaha community. He has been instrumental in managing just and equitable solutions for both patients and dentists. From 1997 to 1999, Gerstner served as chairman of the Nebraska Board of Dental Examiners, a prestigious peer-nominated position appointed by the governor. He also is a member of the American College of Dentists, an organization that honors dentists of high moral and ethical character.

School of Nursing

The School of Nursing presented its Alumni Achievement Award to Elizabeth A. Walker, BSN’76, D.N.Sc., RN, on May 17.

Morrison, Mills Receive Spirit of Creighton Awards

Creighton University graduates Nakina Mills, of Pine Ridge, S.D., and Kurt T. Morrison, of Littleton, Colo., were presented the prestigious Spirit of Creighton Awards at the May 18 commencement ceremony.

The Spirit of Creighton Award is given annually to two students who represent the best qualities of the University’s founders. Recipients are honored for their initiative, enterprise, academic achievement and outstanding character traits.

Mills received a bachelor of arts in sociology at the commencement ceremony. During her years at Creighton, she spent countless volunteer hours at homeless shelters and day care centers and served as president of the Native American Association on campus. Mills set an example of service to others at the University and in the community. She was helpful in recruiting other Native American students to the University. Over the past three years, she personally sent out more than 550 letters to prospective Native American students.

O’Brien Walker Gerstner

Walker was also active in more than a dozen student organizations including a term as president of the Creighton Students Union in 2001-2002, president of the Kiewit Residence Hall Council and executive officer of the Freshman Leadership Program. Despite a full academic schedule and his leadership duties on campus, Morrison also worked as an intern for Sen. Ben Nelson, D-Neb.

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As we descend over St. Lucia, I get my first glimpse of its sandy shores lined with swaying palm trees. Crystal-clear water of a brilliant turquoise plays peacefully with the island’s white, speckled fringes. Having just escaped 12 inches of fresh snow back in frigid Omaha, I find myself daydreaming about relaxing under this intense sun and simply replenishing my soul after months spent landlocked and indoors. But the vision quickly disappears with the impact of landing, for we are here on a working trip with a distinct purpose: medical and surgical mission work for patients with glaucoma.

This work began in 1986 with M. Roy Wilson, M.D., vice president for Health Sciences, and colleague Sade Kosoko, M.D., associate vice president for Health Sciences/Multicultural and Community Affairs and associate professor of ophthalmology. Prior to coming to Creighton, the two physicians organized and carried out a groundbreaking study to determine the prevalence of glaucoma (increased pressure within the eye that can lead to optic nerve damage and vision loss) in the black population of St. Lucia. Prior to this effort, physicians globally had simply relied upon a clinical suspicion that pointed to higher rates of glaucoma in black patients.

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Prior to this effort, physicians globally had simply relied upon a clinical suspicion that pointed to higher rates of glaucoma in black patients.

After surveying and thoroughly examining more than 1,600 patients on the island over a six-month period, it was discovered that 8.8 percent of these black patients had glaucoma (compared to around 2 percent in the general U.S. population).

Finally, there was proof that blacks were truly more affected by this disease, and this evidence could be used domestically to increase awareness of, and therapeutic treatments for, glaucoma in African-Americans.

A decade after this initial study, Wilson and Kosoko returned to St. Lucia to follow up on their patients. Sadly, they found that more than half had progressed rapidly in their disease due to inadequate medical attention and a breakdown in the health care infrastructure on the island. Some individuals exhibited severe loss of vision, while others were blind from glaucoma.

Wilson and Kosoko realized that something must be done to help the St. Lucians who were suffering. And, in the spirit of Creighton’s unique Jesuit focus, a final mission was planned to offer definitive medical and/or surgical intervention to those patients who needed and would accept help.

So it was that this past March, I found myself accompanying this team to St. Lucia for a spectacular week tracking down these patients and offering them further assistance.

But, before you think that I somehow lucked into a great excuse for a vacation (as many of my classmates did), let me be the first to tell you that locating and treating patients in a developing country is no small task.

After weather-related flight delays turned our outbound trip from 12 hours to 36, we arrived in Castries, St. Lucia, on a Sunday evening around dark and began working immediately: communicating with local nurses about the location and condition of our patients and organizing the week’s activities.

The first day was spent in the field, making house calls in the areas around Castries in an effort to find those patients with no telephone or personal transportation. Many lived in houses that were built with poor timber and were on stilts, often lacking electricity or a clean water supply.

To further complicate matters, many St. Lucians were known only by nicknames, a common practice in the country. Also, as I eventually discovered, women often changed both their first and last names when they married, making it even more difficult to track them down.

With the generous help of the knowledgeable nurses from the Ministry of Health, though, we were able to locate many of those identified. These individuals were invited to Victoria Hospital (the government hospital) to be fully evaluated by the surgical team.
Study Reveals Eye Drops May Prevent Glaucoma

A National Institutes of Health (NIH) study reveals that eye drops used to treat elevated pressure inside the eye can delay or prevent glaucoma.

M. Roy Wilson, M.D., vice president for Health Sciences and dean of the School of Medicine at Creighton University Medical Center, was one of the primary investigators of the study.

High ocular pressure is known to be a risk factor in developing glaucoma. The Ocular Hypertension Treatment Study, which began in 1994 at 22 centers nationwide, involved 1,636 participants between the ages of 40 and 80, who had elevated eye pressure but no signs of glaucoma. By proving the disease can be treated before it causes vision loss, the study gives ophthalmologists more treatment options for their patients.

“This research is significant because of the number of patients involved and the implications for people with elevated ocular pressure,” said Wilson, who also serves on the study’s executive committee. “It shows that the eye drop treatment is an effective tool in preventing the disease.”

Glaucoma is a group of diseases that can lead to damage to the optic nerve and result in blindness. Open-angle glaucoma, the most common form of glaucoma, is one of the leading causes of blindness in the United States and the number one cause of blindness among African-Americans.

The study addresses the question of whether to treat patients who have elevated ocular pressure but no indication of glaucoma.

“Patients with elevated ocular pressure are at greater risk of developing glaucoma, but not all of them do. Ophthalmologists will look at each individual patient’s risk factors before recommending the eye drop treatment,” Wilson said.

The findings were released by the National Eye Institute and appeared in the June 2002 issue of Archives of Ophthalmology.
Removing Ovaries Prevents Breast Cancer in Some Women

Hereditary cancer expert Henry Lynch, M.D., Creighton University Medical Center professor, has contributed to research proving that a new option is effective in preventing certain types of breast cancer. Women with a genetic defect (BRCA1/BRCA2) that puts them at increased risk for breast and ovarian cancer now have another option for preventing breast cancer.

A study co-authored by Lynch shows the long-term benefits of removing ovaries as a preventive measure for women at high risk of breast cancer. The writers of the study, which was published in the New England Journal of Medicine last month, conclude that preventive removal of ovaries (prophylactic oophorectomy) in women likely to develop breast cancer reduced the risk of developing the disease.

Prior to this study, some women in this high-risk category thought their only option was to undergo prophylactic removal of the breast.

The hereditary breast-ovarian cancer syndrome is a disorder Lynch first described in the late 1960s and early 1970s when he joined Creighton University.

According to Lynch, the subsequent discovery of the BRCA1/BRCA2 mutations in this disorder has enabled physicians to counsel women with greater precision about their breast cancer risk.

“For a variety of reasons, even in the face of positive evidence, some women still find bilateral prophylactic mastectomy unacceptable,” he said. “This now comes full circle in that not only are we able to protect patients from ovarian cancer by removing the ovaries, but the surgery also provides highly significant protection against breast cancer.”

‘Super’ Computer Helps Fit Pieces Together

Suppose you were missing a piece to a puzzle, but were not allowed to wear your much-needed glasses to look for it? You know the piece is there, but you can’t see it.

Researchers at Creighton University Medical Center aren’t missing a puzzle piece. Their game is proteomics, the study of the structure of proteins. In order to help them “see” intricate protein structures, because it tells us the exact structure of the proteins that cause disease and the structural features that can be changed to remove the disease function of the protein,” he said.

In addition to looking at actual protein structures, the computer allows researchers to test theoretical models as well. In 2000, Lovas examined the structure of an antibacterial peptide from an insect to predict how it worked in bacteria. His prediction, tested by molecular dynamics simulation on the Beowulf computer, was correct. The information Lovas discovered was the basis for the design of a new peptide-based antibacterial drug.

The high performance computer was paid for with a grant from the National Science Foundation, through its Experimental Program for Stimulation of Competitive Research (EPSCoR). As part of its integral role in strengthening science in Nebraska, Creighton also participates in Biomedical Research Infrastructure Network (BRIN), a National Institutes of Health (NIH) program. BRIN encourages smaller colleges to develop research programs with the help of established investigators at Ph.D.-granting institutions such as Creighton University Medical Center and the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

Creighton provides access to advanced technology such as the Beowulf cluster to undergraduate students and their professors at non-Ph.D.-granting colleges, including Nebraska’s Wayne State College, Wesleyan University and the University of Nebraska-Kearney. The program is expanding to include Creighton undergraduate students in 2003.

“By applying massive technology and sharing resources with other researchers, we are able to fit all the pieces of the puzzle together and make important discoveries faster,” Murphy said.
ROTC Seeks Nursing Cadets

The U.S. Army is looking for a few good nurses.

And Creighton University’s Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC), in cooperation with the School of Nursing, is helping fill the demand.

The nursing shortage in the military is not as dramatic as in the civilian sector, where current projections forecast that the supply of registered nurses will no longer meet demand for nursing services by 2010.

However, Lt. Col. Joan Vanderlaan, the Army’s chief nurse for the 4th Region (ROTC), which includes Nebraska and 20 other states west of the Mississippi, said the Army Nurse Corps is about 180 nurses short of its goal of about 3,400 nurses.

To help fill that gap, Creighton’s ROTC program is offering scholarships, worth up to $17,000 a year for tuition and fees and $600 a year for books, to incoming cadets who agree to major in nursing. In exchange, the students agree to serve four years of active duty in the Army Nurse Corps upon graduation.

Lt. Col. Robert Werthman, who heads the ROTC program at Creighton, said some potential candidates may have a misperception that ROTC is like boot camp. The reality, he said, is that it’s a “very professional environment” that offers students a chance to be involved in the life of the University academically, socially and athletically.

Lt. Alyssa Thornburg, a Creighton ROTC cadet who graduated in May with a degree in nursing, admitted that she was a little apprehensive about the program. “I told myself, ‘OK, I’ll just try out ROTC for a week,’” she said. “Then it was a month, and then a year. I really liked the camaraderie and the personal interaction.”

Thornburg is now working as a floor nurse at Madigan Army Medical Center at Fort Lewis, Wash. She looks back on her education and ROTC training with pride.

“I feel like I have accomplished a lot,” she said, adding with a laugh, “My little brother can’t believe that I can fire an M-16.”

Vanderlaan said she is impressed with the quality of Creighton students. Among recent Creighton ROTC nursing cadets, 100 percent passed their nursing license exam on the first attempt. Nationally, 85 percent of nursing cadets pass the test on their first try.

“From my perspective in this job, I really like for nurses to go to Creighton because I know that when they come out they have the foundation to pass the test on the first try and then they can move right into the hospital setting,” Vanderlaan said.

Grammy Winners on the Creighton Faculty? It Could Happen!

Fr. Ted Bohr, S.J., Department of Fine and Performing Arts, William Stephens, Ph.D., Department of Philosophy, and Leonard Greenspoon, Ph.D., holder of the Klutznick Chair in Jewish Civilization, are all featured on Fresh Aire 8, the most recent DVD offering by the internationally renowned group Mannheim Steamroller.

Creighton students, faculty and staff had a unique sneak preview of the DVD in February at an event hosted by the College of Arts and Sciences and the Department of Classical and Near Eastern Studies. Those attending received a free copy of the DVD and had a chance to express their views on the performances of the three Creighton faculty.

How did this Creighton-Steinmuller connection happen? According to Greenspoon, Chip Davis, the composer and creator of Mannheim Steamroller, contacted him. Greenspoon was teaching a course on ancient Egypt at the time.

“He said he was putting together a CD and DVD on ‘topics relating to infinity,’ and wanted to do a segment on how the ancient Egyptians viewed the afterlife,” Greenspoon said. “They built a special studio to look like an ancient Egyptian pyramid, with me dressed up like Indiana Jones. Or should it be Nebraska Greenspoon?” he laughed.

After the taping, Davis mentioned that he also would like to include someone to discuss ancient philosophy and art history. “Dr. Stephens and Fr. Bohr fit the bill perfectly,” Greenspoon said.

In reflecting on this experience, Davis observed that he was “pleased to have worked with scholars who so generously provided expertise in areas that I could not research myself. They added authenticity to the artistry Mannheim Steamroller fans have come to expect.”

When asked whether the three scholar-performers exhibited any artistic temperament, Davis, tongue firmly in cheek, declined to comment.

An informal poll of Creighton students who viewed the DVD gave the professors straight A’s. And the rest, as they say, is show biz history.
Creighton Hires Enrollment Manager

Creighton University has hired Donald C. Bishop from Cornell University as the associate vice president for enrollment management.

For the past six years, Bishop served as the associate dean of students and enrollment management at the School of Hotel Administration at Cornell. His duties began at Creighton in mid-August.

Bishop, who received his undergraduate and graduate degrees in economics from the University of Notre Dame, was the first undergraduate hired directly after graduation as an admissions officer in 1977. When he left Notre Dame in 1985, he was the associate director of admissions. From Notre Dame, Bishop went to Ohio Wesleyan University where he served as the dean of enrollment management from 1985 to 1994.

Now, It’s Creighton School of Pharmacy and Health Professions

Creighton University has changed the name of one of its academic units. The word “allied” has been dropped from the name of the School of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions. The unit, which had been known as the School of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions since 1982, delivers degree programs in pharmacy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, emergency medical services and health systems administration.

The change keeps the Creighton School of Pharmacy and Health Professions in step with a national trend, said Sid Stohs, Ph.D., dean of the School.

“ar the term ‘allied’ implies that the programs are not full-fledged health care professions, when in fact they are independent practitioners who work cooperatively with other health care professionals,” he said.

Faculty members voted in favor of the...
name change earlier this year, and the University’s Board of Directors endorsed it. The change was effective June 5.

The School has been a part of Creighton since 1905, when the University purchased the Omaha College of Pharmacy, which had opened in Fremont, Neb., five years earlier. In 1982, the School of Pharmacy expanded to become the School of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions. The reorganized school assumed responsibility for several programs previously organized as a division of the School of Medicine and enlarged its programs to include academic preparation for other health-related careers.

Creighton University Medical Center will receive a $2 million research facilities construction grant from the National Institutes of Health.

The grant will be used for design, construction and equipment repairs related to space renovation on the fourth floor of the Criss II Health Science Building at Creighton University Medical Center. The project will provide 13,960 net square feet of space for research.

“These grants are very competitive. It is unusual to receive funding on the first attempt,” said M. Roy Wilson, M.D., dean of the Creighton University Medical Center School of Medicine and vice president for Health Sciences. “This will allow us to expand our research capabilities and focus on putting NIH-funded investigators together for neuroscience related research. We are very pleased to move forward with plans to make our research facilities a more efficient and pleasant place for our researchers to conduct their important work.”

CUMC Receives $2 Million NIH Grant

Purtilo Selected for National Humanities Seminar

Ruth Purtilo, Ph.D., director of the Center for Health Policy and Ethics, was selected to participate in a summer seminar supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities. The five-week seminar, co-sponsored by the American Philosophical Association and Penn State University, took place at Sarah Lawrence College in New York.

The Endowment for the Humanities is a federal agency that supports seminars at colleges and universities each summer to advance teaching and research on important topics in humanities disciplines. The theme of this seminar is “Justice, Equality and the Challenge of Disability.”

Purtilo was part of a 15-member multidisciplinary group from across the U.S. that shared its expertise on the common theme. The work resulting from this seminar will be made available in a National Public Radio (NPR) production.

Creighton Again Offers Online Retreat

For the third year, Creighton’s Collaborative Ministry Office is offering a retreat on the Internet that anyone can make 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, from anywhere in the world. What makes the 34-week retreat experience so unique is that busy people can make the retreat in the midst of their everyday lives.

“The retreat gives weekly guidance on how to reflect upon very deep things, as they relate to the events, conflicts and choices of our daily lives,” said Fr. Andy Alexander, S.J., vice president for University Ministry and co-creator of the retreat with Maureen McCann Waldron, BA’75, MA’98.

The online retreat is based upon the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of the Jesuits. Waldron explains, “We adapted this powerful spiritual classic for a contemporary online community of students, faculty, staff, alumni and parents. We found that people all over the world, who are hungry for something deeper in their lives, have found it extremely helpful. We look upon it as extending the spiritual heritage behind every Jesuit sponsored ministry to a wider circle of the Creighton family, and for anyone who desires deeper freedom and a deeper relationship with God.”

The Online Ministries website can be reached at: http://www.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/online.html.

Theologians Receive Mandate

The Archdiocese of Omaha announced that all Creighton University theology faculty have been endorsed with the mandate, or mandate, stipulated in the Vatican’s Ex Corde Ecclesiae statement. The mandate — obtained from local bishops — affirms that theologians at Catholic universities are teaching in accord with the Catholic Church.
Enron 101: Lessons from a Corporate Scandal

By Eugene Curtin

Post-Enron college students who remember neither the Savings and Loan bailout nor the misadventures of Michael Milken in the 1980s are dealing with a new and harsher reality.
On the heels of the dot-com bust comes the sinking of a titanic corporation once held up not only as an innovative model of the new economy, but as a corporation committed to community service, employee satisfaction and shareholder prosperity. And then the floodgates appeared to open. Several other giant corporations, including WorldCom, Xerox and Tyco, came under close scrutiny for alleged accounting misdeeds, and panels of corporate leaders invoked the Fifth Amendment against self-incrimination before Congress.

But first, in this season of corporate discontent, came Enron, the biggest player of them all, and the hardest to fall. Enron had often been cited as a model corporation for the 21st century based on its innovative business models and management practices.

But those practices are under fire, flamed by numerous alleged abuses.

First, Enron traders may have engaged in fraudulent and criminal acts during the West Coast energy crisis.

“This is an ugly mess,” said Sen. Byron Dorgan, D-N.D., during Capitol Hill testimony on the events surrounding the crisis. “I think people in this country have been cheated out of billions of dollars.”

Second, Enron is facing ever increasing charges that it used complex accounting maneuvers, involving off-the-balance sheet partnerships, and intricate tax-reduction transactions to overstate profits by billions of dollars. According to The Washington Post, Justice Department officials are investigating whether these actions amounted to securities fraud, by giving a misleading picture of the company’s financial health.

And third, Enron’s top executives are taking heat for selling large blocks of company stock, while promoting the stock internally and restricting employees from selling their company stock as its value plummeted — wiping out as much as $1 billion of employee retirement savings.

As one of the nation’s most successful firms lay in ruins — filing the largest Chapter 11 bankruptcy in U.S. history prior to WorldCom’s collapse — the normally reserved chairman and CEO of the Goldman Sachs Group, Henry Paulson Jr., told a gathering in Washington:

“The Enron debacle and subsequent revelations have revealed major shortcomings in the way some U.S. companies and those charged with their oversight have gone about their business. And it has, without a doubt, eroded public trust.”

And then, in a clear sign that the wave of corporate scandals had reached critical mass, the president of the United States weighed in with a major speech calling on business leaders to stop “cooking the books.”

“My administration will do everything in our power to end the days of cooking the books, shading the truth and breaking our laws,” said President George W. Bush in a July 9 address to Wall Street business leaders. “When abuses like this begin to surface in the corporate world, it is time to reaffirm the basic principles and rules that make capitalism work: truthful books and honest people and well-enforced laws against fraud and corruption. In the long run, there is no capitalism without conscience, there is no wealth without character.”

Displaying character, and restoring the trust forfeited by Enron et al, will be a major responsibility of tomorrow’s business leaders. Creighton University professors — keenly aware of their responsibilities for instilling ethical standards in their business, accounting and finance students — are using Enron’s collapse as a poignant example to drive home a variety of business lessons.

First, and perhaps obviously, Enron turns out to be an excellent model of how not to behave, providing a lesson for students entering today’s business world. Less obviously, deeper lessons emerge having to do with character, cleaving to an ethical path, realizing that commitment to company must be balanced with commitment to community, and being careful not to indulge in those little ethical compromises that set one on a corrupting path from which escape can be difficult.

Robert Moorman, Ph.D., the Robert B. Daugherty Chair in Management and director of the Anna Tyler Waite Center for Leadership at Creighton, is busily turning the Enron debacle to his students’ advantage.

“I certainly understand the tragedy of Enron, but I see this as an opportunity for business professors because it really helps us make our points,” he said.

“For example, in my classes on leadership, a metaphor I tend to use a lot is the leader as shepherd.

“A shepherd really has two responsibilities — to move the flock from one pasture to another and to protect the flock while it is being moved. Performing only one duty means either the flock never moves or the flock is killed. Neither outcome is good in the long run.

“My point with Enron is that those leaders clearly failed to grasp their responsibilities to perform both roles. They were intent on moving the flock, but failed to protect them. And we see...
Moorman said Enron failed to follow a model he describes as “servant leadership.” This model expresses the idea that leaders lead in order to serve followers rather than merely to enrich themselves.

“How well were the followers served when only the leaders preserved their gains? The followers, who should have been protected, instead lost their jobs and their retirement nest-eggs,” Moorman said. “By studying Enron, our students can clearly see the broad responsibilities of leaders and understand the consequences of losing sight of how leaders really lead by serving others.”

Moorman also uses Enron to illustrate how leaders can quickly fall from grace.

“At one time, Kenneth Lay was heralded as a great leader,” Moorman said. “However, now he has lost all of his credibility. We discuss in our leadership classes how important leader credibility really is. As soon as followers believe you lack credibility, you’re done as a leader.

“Kenneth Lay and those who speak for him have tried to insulate him from legal responsibility by saying he was not involved in the key details and, even though he was CEO, he was not really in charge. In class, we talk about how these efforts may help him avoid legal responsibility, but he needs to realize that he is losing all of his credibility as a leader and will never really be able to lead anyone again.”

A stroll through Creighton’s campus illustrates how ubiquitously students are urged to inculcate values of ethics and service. Every 30 paces, it seems, banners decorate poles and streetlights.

Outside the campus, along public streets lined with fast food restaurants and other small businesses, the same banners flutter. The banner’s message is threefold:

Anchored in Ethics.
Centered on Service.
Pledged to Excellence.

The Rev. Thomas Manahan, S.J. — Father Tom, as he is known around campus — is a warm and friendly man whose bookshelves contain titles such as

Civility, The Soul of a Business, The Spirit of Community, Moral Issues in Business and Integrity. He appears the polar opposite of the unfeeling advocate of cutthroat business practices. But the man has teeth, and Enron recently felt his bite.

Manahan serves as chaplain and assistant dean for mission in the College of Business Administration and teaches a course in business ethics. He oversaw a dramatic presentation in which his students used the words of various players in the Enron fiasco to illustrate the hurt and disappointment experienced by those who suffered losses. The play also highlighted the broken promises, obfuscations and self-serving practices of some of the Enron corporation’s major players.

The Enron experience, as outlined in the play, offers great value in the classroom, Manahan said, and will enhance his ability to persuade students that business activity is not all about making higher and higher profits.

“The Enron case really offers an opportunity to help students come away with a sense that any individual business is part of a much larger system,” Manahan said, “and that ultimately it isn’t all about me; it’s not all about you.”

Major corporations obviously have a responsibility to earn profits in order to pay their employees and satisfy investors, Manahan said.

But there is such a thing as stakeholders, too, people who are not directly connected to the company but who have an interest in its survival. That is where a commitment to the larger community must play a role, he said.

When Enron collapsed, the shock waves were felt throughout Houston and Omaha, where the company has its roots and many former employees, shareholders and retirees live. Businesses that did business with Enron or Enron employees felt the pain. This is the community of stakeholders that corporations need to consider, Manahan said.

Both Manahan and Moorman say the Enron experience has not yet changed their curricula. Rather, they said, it has made it much easier to bring home to their students the dire consequences of unethical business practices.

Ordinary people who lost their retirement savings, married couples who both worked for Enron and suddenly lost all their income, all are stark, real-time victims of business failure.

“I certainly understand the tragedy of Enron, but I see this as an opportunity for business professors because it really helps us make our points.”

— Robert Moorman, Ph.D.
Students in the Rev. Thomas Manahan’s business ethics course presented a stage production centered on the Enron case, using the words of those touched by or involved in the company’s collapse.

ethics gone awry, Manahan said.

Two floors below Moorman’s office, Ernie Goss, Ph.D., the Jack A. MacAllister Endowed Chair in Regional Economics, has just returned from making a presentation at a Better Business Bureau meeting. He is full of southern charm, and his eyes gleam when he realizes Enron is the topic.

Goss is famous locally and nationally for his economic prognostications, and is regularly quoted in the media. He describes himself as a free-market economist who holds to the “Old Testament philosophy” that good should be rewarded and bad punished.

Students in his classes, he said, are more likely to hear that the Enron collapse illustrates the strength of America’s capitalist system rather than its weakness. Enron, after all, has been severely punished.

“It’s a very positive development, in my view,” Goss said. “Those who don’t believe in free markets need to look closely at this. The market has punished Enron and has also punished the shareholders of Enron, who admittedly might not have known what was going on but were nevertheless taking a risk.”

Enron stock that had once sold for about $80 a share plummeted to mere pennies.

“We had this irrational exuberance, as (Federal Reserve Chairman Alan) Greenspan called it, beginning around 1995,” Goss said. “People were buying up stock and we had this view that somehow you didn’t have to be selling something.

“This whole experience brings us back to the old concept that is fundamental to the market system — that you buy and sell products and services that have value, and that if you don’t have that concept deeply ingrained in your company then you’re not going to be in business.”

Other lessons emerged from Enron, Goss said, lessons he hopes his students will take to heart. His students, after all, in the fullness of time, will be the next generation of leaders asked to serve on boards of directors of corporations, and will likely be paid well for their advice and guidance.

Goss objects to the figurehead director, who lends his or her name and prestige to a board but is actually uninvolved in the company’s functioning. Retired politicians frequently find such plums falling in their laps, Goss said, but that kind of inactive directorship is something he will counsel his students to avoid.

“There’s a huge responsibility that goes along with being a board member, and that is protecting shareholder value and following ethical principles,” he said. “We still have boards of directors that are rubber stamping management decisions, and I’m not at all confident that that is about to change.”

It will change if anyone cares to listen to Robert Pitts, Ph.D., dean of Creighton’s College of Business Administration.

Enron, he said, had an “outstanding” board of directors but they seem to have been very much asleep at the wheel.

“When you see the level of misconduct that’s been reported at Enron, at least what we’ve heard from snippets of testimony in Congress, it’s just unbelievable,” he said. “Everything went wrong at Enron.”

Primarily, Pitts said, respect for rules went out the window, and when that happens, everything falls apart.

“Will this be a teaching tool for us?” he said. “You bet it will. It will be a tool in our accounting classes, auditing classes and ethics classes.

“Our system of capitalism functions only when respect for rules, regulations and laws is there. I think we can get our students to think about the consequences of what happens when you push the limits, about the impact of that on real people.”

Throughout the University, the alarm bells set off by the Enron collapse are ringing loud and clear.

John Gleason, DBA, professor of decision sciences in the College of Business Administration, finds the case illustrates ethical issues on several levels. Those include corporate executives who take “obscene levels of remuneration” while restructuring businesses through layoffs that produce no long-term gain, and boards of directors whose relationships with top managers are too cozy.

Catharine Curran, DBA, an assistant professor of marketing, uses the case to
examine corporate decision making, its mechanisms and how those mechanisms failed and could be improved.

Randy Jorgensen, Ph.D., assistant professor of finance, finds Enron a useful morality tale for students planning to become financial analysts who will invariably find themselves pressured to modify criticism of a company whose business their employers are interested in attracting.

Thomas Purcell, Ph.D., who wears two hats as a professor of law and an associate professor of accounting, wants his students to understand that the accountants and auditors whose practices appear to be so unethical are a tiny percentage of the hundreds of thousands of financial professionals in the United States.

“The vast majority of those have not had ethical issues,” he said. “They have faced ethical dilemmas, certainly, but resolved them without compromising.

“Most will make the best decision, regardless of what it does to their relationship with the client.”

So, the full-court press is on. Professors in the fields of business, finance and ethics are trying to extract a little good from the Enron collapse. The question remains, however, whether the effort is hitting home. Are lasting lessons being imparted, lessons that will carry students through when they are faced with hard choices in their professional careers?

Enron employees and investors losing their life’s savings.

“It brought very much to the forefront how important it is not to put all your money into one stock,” he said. “You can lose everything. That became very clear after Enron.”

Coulton is majoring in accounting and finance with a view to eventually becoming a tax attorney. She said the mountains of finance documents typically accumulated by major corporations, and the difficulty of understanding them, makes it easy to hide wrongdoing.

Clearly, she said, accountants and auditors must have an ethical commitment to speak truth to clients, even if that truth loses them business.

“I always saw ethics courses as one of those fluffy subjects you don’t have to pay a lot of attention to,” Coulton said. "Now I realize it’s critical. These are not just lofty goals we aspire to. They’re principles that have a real impact on people’s lives.”

Creighton College of Business Administration Dean Robert Pitts, Ph.D., and the Rev. Thomas Manahan, S.J., stand outside the Bryant Resource Center in North Omaha. Creighton is helping to develop a community technology center at the former school. Manahan said corporations also must display a commitment to the larger community.

Photo by Bob Ervin

“America’s investors have been ripped off as massively as a bank being held up by a guy with a gun and mask.”

— Arthur Levitt, former head of the Securities and Exchange Commission

Among the lines Coulton spoke during the stage production addressed an issue she will always remember — that people like those who allegedly brought about the collapse at Enron are not necessarily evil. They are much more likely to be ordinary people who, faced with opportunities that require a little ethical compromising, take that
KEY EVENTS IN THE COLLAPSE OF ENERGY TRADER ENRON CORP.

Enron Corp. was the nation’s seventh-largest company until its collapse, which left countless investors burned and thousands of employees out of work.

Executive selloff

Lawmakers have noted that Enron executives and directors, including former CEOs Jeffrey Skilling and Kenneth Lay, apparently reaped almost $1 billion in stock sales in 2000 and 2001.

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401(k) choke hold

Enron employees’ lawsuit says the company told its employees in September that they would be barred from selling Enron stock in their 401(k) retirement accounts for about a month beginning Oct. 19. The stock price plummeted during that period.

Call to arms

Chairman Kenneth Lay, who has been President Bush’s biggest campaign benefactor, and CEO Lawrence “Greg” Whalley contacted government officials about the company’s financial trouble.

Oct. 29
Lay asks Commerce Secretary Don Evans if he can influence a decision by Moody’s Investors Service to downgrade Enron’s credit rating. Evans decides it would be inappropriate.

Late October to early November
Enron President Lawrence “Greg” Whalley telephones Treasury’s undersecretary for domestic finance “six to eight” times, according to the department spokeswoman.

Wary eye

The Securities and Exchange Commission, the Justice Department and a growing list of congressional committees investigate Enron Corp.

Oct. 31
Enron announces the SEC inquiry has been upgraded to a formal investigation.

Jan. 9
Justice Department confirms it has begun a criminal investigation of Enron.

About the author: Curtin is a free-lance writer working in Omaha.

Sources:
Vickers Stock Research Corp.; Yahoo.com; Commodity Systems Inc.; Associated Press

A giant falls

The words Coulton spoke belonged to Jeff Skilling, former president and CEO of Enron and the man who wears the blackest hat if media reports are to be believed. In testimony before a congressional hearing, Skilling sounded a contrite note, providing Coulton with her lines:

“... I am devastated by, and apologetic about, what Enron has come to represent,” he said. “I know that no words can make things right; too many people have been hurt too much.”

The ethical lapses that led to that apology are probably not unusual, Coulton said.

“I’m sure that a great many companies right now are dealing with ethical dilemmas,” she said. “Hopefully, it’s not just students who are learning lessons from this, and these companies will fix their problems.”

Fixing those problems, or perhaps avoiding them in the first place, could be among the greatest challenges students face when they step into the business world.

Jorgensen, the finance professor, tells his students: “It is your duty to follow your moral compass, even if you have to pay a price for that.”

The price can be severe, Jorgensen said, citing the example of two financial analysts who lost their jobs after recommending in the months before the Enron collapse that their clients sell their Enron stock.

That is indeed a heavy price, Manahan said, but the price people pay for ignoring their moral compasses is paid by the soul.

“If you push it in terms of writing a paper that isn’t your own, if you push it in terms of not being honest in a relationship, if you push it in terms of abiding by the letter of the rules but not the spirit of the rules, you’re really setting yourself in a pattern to say, I’m always on the edges, I’m willing to push my values and virtues to their limits. I don’t have an anchor,” Manahan said.

“You always have to remember that you might become someone you may not want to be.”

About the author: Curtin is a free-lance writer working in Omaha.
A half a world away from home, in a poor village where goats and chickens roam freely, Creighton graduate Kerri McCallister, BA’99, has felt the presence of God.
He comes quietly. But she knows He’s there, gently guiding her work for the Jesuit Volunteer Corps.

McCallister is a teacher at St. Xavier School in Godavri, Nepal, a rural village of rolling foothills and rice fields a few miles north of Nepal’s capital city of Kathmandu.

She arrived in Nepal — a mountainous country about the size of Illinois nestled between India and China — in November 1999. But her journey began years before, when, as a student at Creighton, she regularly pulled from the library shelves a book on volunteer organizations.

“I would read through the book, and every time I came to JVI (Jesuit Volunteers International), I started smiling,” McCallister said. “Something about it felt incredibly right.”

Though a Catholic with deep faith, McCallister felt strongly against pushing religious conversion. Instead, she wanted to “serve people on their level.”

She quickly identified with the four components of JVI: living simply, social justice, spirituality and living in community.

After graduating from Creighton with a degree in English and secondary education, McCallister joined JVI and began two weeks of orientation in Scranton, Pa.

She never asked to go to Nepal, but secretly that’s where she wanted to be placed.

“I just let it go,” McCallister explained. “Wherever I’m supposed to go, that will happen. So I felt very strongly that God was leading me here.”

Even so, it was still difficult to get on the plane and leave behind family and friends in Longmont, Colo.

“To get on the plane, to come here to a completely new country where I didn’t know what to expect and exactly what I was doing, I think that took a leap of faith,” McCallister said.

Adjusting to the new culture, she admits, was sometimes difficult.

“I didn’t know how to speak the language, I didn’t know how to cook new food, and, as for teaching, I was trained for secondary education,” McCallister said. “I had no background in English as a second language, and now I had to teach 45 kids in the class.”

During these difficult times, she turned to God.

“I would have little times where I would say, ‘God, this is a down day, and I need a sign.’ And it would always come,” McCallister said.

“I think that helped me develop more faith and trust in God.”

McCallister has fallen in love with the village’s simple pleasures — buying fresh vegetables at the local market, trekking across the rolling hills and soaking up the sights, sounds and smells of the beautiful countryside.

“I’ve felt so alive here,” she said.

“There are so many sensory things here that I love.”

McCallister was supposed to return home last year, but after much prayer and reflection, she decided to extend her visit for another year, and will return this November. Again, she felt God’s guiding hand in making her decision.

On the advice of a fellow JVI volunteer, McCallister approached a nun who runs a retreat house in the village to see if she could stay with her for the extra year.

Story continued on page 26.
McCallister and JVI colleague Mary Monners of Isabel, S.D., review their teaching schedules prior to the start of the school year at St. Xavier.

Getting ready: McCallister applies tika paste to her forehead. In Nepal, the mark signifies the center of intelligence and spirituality. The decorative inscription hanging on the wall, written in Nepali, is a translation from the Gospel of John. It reads: “You are my beloved.”

McCallister, second from left, participates in a faculty meeting.
McCallister distributes textbooks to students at St. Xavier. The school currently enrolls 630 students in grades one through seven.

Students wait in line outside St. Xavier to pick up their textbooks. The Jesuit-run school is located at the foothills of the Himalayan mountain range.
McCallister, along with her friend and JVI colleague Mary Monnens, tours the sights of Nepal’s capital city of Kathmandu.
Experiencing God in Nepal

Monnens, McCallister and the Rev. Casper Miller, S.J., principal of St. Xavier High School in Kathmandu and a spiritual counselor for Jesuit Volunteers International, rest underneath a tree during a tour of the city.
“The amazing thing was that Sister had been praying, just before I came into the chapel, asking for God to send her a companion in whatever form He chose.”

McCallister currently teaches at St. Xavier in the morning and a village school in the afternoon. In addition to English, she also teaches social studies and a course on population and environment.

The Jesuit-run St. Xavier instructs some 630 students in grades one through seven. (The school is in the process of adding a grade level every year, with the hopes of eventually expanding through 10th grade.) Inside the one-story, brick and concrete school buildings, the classrooms are simple: benches and desks, with a blackboard at the front as the only teaching aid.

All subjects, except Nepali, are taught in English. And most children begin learning English around age 4, so they are familiar with the language.

School is not mandatory in Nepal. But McCallister sees education as critically important, not only as a vehicle for learning, but as a forum to get students to believe in themselves.

“If you can teach students to think for themselves, or just teach them that they have power, that what they say matters, that their ideas are important, I think that’s a huge way to empower the students later in life,” McCallister said.

After all, she said, it’s not the volunteer’s role to push for political or structural changes within the host country, but to empower the nation’s citizens so that they can make the necessary changes.

McCallister’s students, however, aren’t the only ones learning and growing. The Creighton alumna said she has discovered a lot about herself, too, and her evolving worldview, becoming more of an advocate for the poor and downtrodden.

“I think we have a responsibility for the poor. And I think so often, especially in the U.S. or wealthy countries, we kind of gloss over that,” she said.

McCallister recalled walking in the village and coming across a beautiful, Western-style house. In the midst of all the small village homes, she was struck by the fact that only this expensive home had its property enclosed by a wall.

“It made me think that we have to see them, so that the housing they can afford is away from us,” McCallister said.

The experience opened her eyes. “You stop seeing poverty as something negative, but as a place where God is present,” she said.

It also presents a challenge for those of affluence in countries such as the United States.

“In the U.S., we have so much economically, so much in terms of opportunity and education, that I think we have a definite responsibility and moral obligation to share that wealth,” McCallister said.

Her experiences in Nepal have led
her to reflect on theology courses taken at Creighton and the idea of building the kingdom of God on earth.

“It just seems very unfair that there is such a great disparity of wealth,” she said. “I see so many things that we could do, that we have the power to do, to make that thought a reality — that the kingdom of God can be here (on earth).”

“I think so many times I have experienced the kingdom of God here (in Nepal) in little ways. Just small amounts of time.”

McCallister tells the story about visiting one of her student’s families during Dasain, a major Hindu holiday held in October. The family greeted her with a traditional blessing, spreading red tika paste on her forehead.

“Her father called me bahini, which means younger sister. But my student wanted her father to call me chori, or daughter, so that we could be sisters,” she said.

“I just felt so graced and so much a part of their family. And I just felt God’s presence so much there that it was like a little moment of what it really must be like to be in the kingdom of heaven. To be so open and have things shared so freely, with so much love.”

McCallister said it will be hard to leave Nepal, both because of the people and memories she will leave behind and because of the challenges awaiting her once she returns home.

“I think for me, in some ways, the hardest thing will be to get on the plane to go back knowing that I want to live differently now.

“That because of this experience, I do not want to be a mainstream part of Western culture. I want to live in a way that honors the people here and honors what I’ve learned.”

She is still wrestling with how to best do that. But her message is simple.

“One of the things I’ve learned and one of the things I would like to share the most is that we all have so many gifts. And we just have to share them.”
Teaching About Terrorism

By Lori Elliott-Bartle

Martha Gentry-Nielsen, Ph.D., in her lab at Creighton, said to combat terrorism, “we have to ... think like terrorists.”
Two years ago, Martha Gentry-Nielsen, Ph.D., was part of a Creighton-University of Nebraska team that received a grant from the state of Nebraska to help combat bioterrorism.

The team agreed to develop training materials and present a total of eight training sessions for various health care professionals likely to respond to large outbreaks of disease during a bioterrorist attack.

Gentry-Nielsen said her biggest challenge initially in fulfilling the terms of the grant was finding audiences interested in the subject. She did manage to give two presentations in the summer of 2001.

And then came Sept. 11.

The scientist who couldn’t book a training gig was suddenly in high demand. In the months since the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, as well as the anthrax-inducing letters, she has conducted more than four times the number of workshops than what she had committed to do originally. Workshops and training sessions have now been held across the state for infectious disease experts, infection control nurses, laboratory personnel and emergency medical service workers. A 20-minute training video featuring Gentry-Nielsen has been distributed to every fire station in Nebraska.

Gentry-Nielsen, a professor of medical microbiology and immunology at Creighton University Medical Center, offers her audiences a mix of scientific knowledge with reassurance. You might expect a professor to perceive knowledge and understanding as one of the best defenses.

“The more people understand about how to recognize and protect against bioterrorist attacks, the less afraid and more prepared we will all be in case of a large-scale event,” she said.

What sorts of large-scale events could Gentry-Nielsen envision happening? The Creighton researcher outlined several scenarios.

“We think mostly about organisms that would infect people,” she said, “but we also must be vigilant against an attack on our livestock or agricultural crops. We only have to look at what happened in the United Kingdom last year to see how devastating the introduction of something like foot-and-mouth disease would be to our economy and our food supply.”

In order to combat terrorism, Gentry-Nielsen believes “we have to try to think like terrorists, anticipating potential scenarios and then taking steps to ensure that they’re not played out. The last thing most of us would have expected last August was having planes flown deliberately into the World Trade Center. Today we have to think differently.”

We also have to understand how fear operates in terrorism. “The purpose of terrorism is to intimidate, coerce or frighten the victim. In this country, we take the safety of our mail system and our food and water supply for granted. That’s one reason the anthrax-laced mail incidents were so shocking and disruptive. Although it was tragic that five people lost their lives, the major effect was not to kill people, but to terrify them, disrupt our nation’s infrastructure, and create a huge expenditure for our government.”

Although Gentry-Nielsen believes other infrastructures such as municipal water supplies are potential targets, she said the “dilution factor” would make it difficult to affect masses of people in their homes. “It would be much easier to contaminate the drinking fountains or ice machines used in a large facility during a sporting event or rock concert.”

As a country, she said, we have learned many things from staged events such as Operation TOPOFF, a $3 million drill that took place in May 2000. This exercise simulated the simultaneous occurrence of a chemical weapons attack in Portsmouth, N.H., a radiological event in Washington, D.C., and the release of the plague bacterium in Denver.

“What we learned,” she said, “is that we need much better coordination in terms of leadership, decision making and distribution of scarce resources.”

To that end, more focus now has been placed on strengthening community response teams and beefing up our public health systems.

In June, President Bush signed into law a $4.6 billion bioterrorism bill to stockpile vaccines, improve food inspections, boost security for water systems and enhance coordination among federal, state and local agencies and health care providers.

Donald Giger, Ph.D., who has taught at Creighton’s medical microbiology
Causes smallpox, declared eradicated in 1980 by the World Health Organization. Last vaccinations in U.S. in 1972. Virus is stable and easily transmitted from person to person; estimates say each infected person can infect 10 others. Mortality rate: about 30 percent.

Fever, chills, headache, backache develop seven to 17 days after infection, followed by dense rash on face, arms and legs.

Lesions occur on palms and soles.

Leaves permanent scars.

No proven treatment, although promising antiviral drugs exist.

Vaccine stockpile exists and can be protective even if given three to four days after infection.

This toxin is the most lethal known compound by weight. Estimates say that one gram of purified toxin could kill about 10 million people.

Causes botulism.

When toxin is ingested, it is very lethal. It also can cause illness when inhaled.

Exposure leads to paralysis that begins at the head and extends down through the body. Double vision, difficulty swallowing and speaking and drooping eyelids may occur.

Can be treated with breathing support and antitoxin medication; may require weeks or months on a ventilator.

No person-to-person transmission.

Above: Top, microscopic view of the smallpox virus; middle, smallpox rash on a child; bottom, a microscopic view of the highly toxic Clostridium botulinum endospores.

department for 20 years, also is involved in the local effort to combat bioterrorism. He is responsible for the clinical microbiology laboratory section at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center and is a member of the Omaha Metropolitan Medical Response System or OMMRS. This local group is part of a federal program designed to improve collaboration between health care, law enforcement, fire and public health entities and their abilities to manage a large-scale attack.

“A big challenge for OMMRS is to keep everyone constantly trained and reminded to be thinking bioterrorism in all its presentations or forms,” Giger said, “but I’m impressed with the coordinated effort that does exist here in Omaha and the fact that it has been under way in the Midlands for several years.”

There are critics of this “preparedness” approach. An editorial published in the Nov. 8, 2001, issue of the New England Journal of Medicine argued that preparedness activities shouldn’t take the place of making public health a priority.

“The deplorable lack of funding for public health programs increases the vulnerability of the United States and the world to outbreaks of infectious diseases whatever their origin. But instead of making public health the priority, proponents of preparedness have embraced the idea of a ‘dual benefit’ — a trickle-down theory suggesting that public health programs will gain from the allocation of billions of dollars for terrorism-preparedness programs dominated by military and police agencies. ... It is a contradiction of good public health practice to spend billions of dollars for dubious and dangerous preparedness while blocking international efforts directed at the primary prevention of war and terrorism.”

And there are questions about whether our vulnerability really will be alleviated by preparedness measures. Thousands of cargo containers come through our ports of entry every day via trucks, trains and ships. We take for granted the freedom of movement we enjoy individually and commercially; these very freedoms put us at risk.

Bioterrorism offers distinct challenges because of the delay between the time of exposure and development of disease. That delay makes it harder to detect and trace the exposure than, for example, chemical or nuclear attacks, which come with their own sets of challenges.

Chris Destache, Pharm.D., associate professor with appointments in the Schools of Pharmacy and Health Professions and Medicine, outlined characteristics of chemical weapons in a Creighton-sponsored mini-medical school presentation in early 2002. He noted that blistering agents and nerve agents can cause death and debilitating injuries. Although there are antidote medications, the ability to administer them before they cause damage is a challenge.

In May 2002, the New York Times Magazine published a cover bearing these words: “The best reason for thinking that a nuclear terrorist attack won’t happen is that it hasn’t happened yet, and that is terrible logic. The problem is not that we are not doing enough. It is that there may be no such thing as enough. How scared should we be?”

Writer Bill Keller admits he isn’t sleeping as well as he used to, and closes his story with a quote from David Albright, a physicist who counts himself as an expert who imagines attack scenarios for a living. Albright says, “I’m an optimist at heart. I think we can catch them in time. If one (nuclear explosion) goes off, I think we will survive. But we won’t be the same. It will affect us in a fundamental way. And not for the better.”

At Creighton, most efforts to alleviate the anxiety such scenarios induce have come in the form of education and outreach. In addition to the health care sessions conducted by Gentry-Nielsen and others, Creighton faculty members have done many media interviews, have led mini-medical school sessions for community members and have incorporated ideas about preparing new generations of health care professionals by considering curriculum questions.

In April 2002, Gentry-Nielsen, along with Rod Nairn, Ph.D., and Floyd Knoop, Ph.D., of Creighton’s Department of Medical Microbiology and Immunology, attended a conference to discuss methods of incorporating bioterrorism preparedness training into the medical school curriculum. As well as sharing ideas during the conference, these Creighton professors will collaborate with other attendees across the country.
to develop a consensus statement concerning what our future physicians need to know.

Efforts at Creighton’s teaching hospital have included participating in OMMRS and improving communications with fire, rescue and police responders. One of the more visible additions is the set of decontamination showers located in the parking garage below the emergency room. In this area, victims who have been exposed to hazardous materials can be treated.

“I believe that the more ordinary citizens know about these organisms ... the more likely we are as a society to recognize an event early on.”

— Martha Gentry-Nielsen, Ph.D.

Policies related to collaborating with other hospitals and agencies, staffing, infection control, security and handling equipment and supplies have been developed, according to Alvin Kobes, who manages the care environment at Creighton University Medical Center. Kobes said that preparedness planning has always been part of the hospital staff’s work and points to the community-wide development of the Healthcare Evacuation Networks in 1997 as a precursor to today’s activities.

In the end, it probably comes down to how each of us will decide to participate in our communities and what choices we make about living our lives each day.

“You could lock yourself in your house, avoid all public places and refuse to let anything into your house,” Gentry-Nielsen said. “Effective, but not very practical. I believe that the more ordinary citizens know about these organisms, know about how they are disseminated and what symptoms they cause, the more likely we are as a society to recognize an event early on. My advice is to learn, read, listen and do as much as you can to understand these things.

“The more you know and understand the less frightened you have to be,” she said. “The more you know, the more you will feel in control of the situation and then you can do a better job as a citizen to help the health care professionals and the government officials deal with a problem.”

Marvin Bittner, M.D., associate professor of medical microbiology and immunology at Creighton, outlines the choices by citing Thomas Friedman, a foreign affairs columnist for the New York Times who has won three Pulitzer Prizes.

“Thomas Friedman talked about two types of responses among Beirut residents during the worst of the fighting there in the 1980s,” he said. “Some were survivors. That’s all they did. They worried and they survived. Others were, in his description, the thrivers. Friedman might be on his way to play tennis when he’d hear jets roaring overhead. He’d take a look. If they were going one way and the tennis courts were the other way, he’d keep on going to his tennis match. As guests gathered for a dinner party, the sound of artillery fire interrupted. The hostess calmly asked the guests if they would prefer to eat now — or wait until the firing stopped.

“As an infectious disease specialist, I have been asked question after question about dealing with bioterrorism,” he continued. “More and more, I am convinced that I am not the person who has the important answers. The most important question is how you are going to live your life, and that is a question we each must answer for ourselves. Terrorists engaged in psychological warfare will fail if you simply choose to live your life with as few changes as possible.”

For more information
To learn more about anthrax or smallpox, or for a listing of other biological and chemical agents, visit the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website. The CDC offers online news and information on “Public Health Emergency Preparedness & Response” at the following Web address, www.bt.cdc.gov.

Yersinia pestis

Causes bubonic and pneumonic plague.
Transmitted from person to person.
Natural disease of rodents spread by fleas. Infected fleas would cause bubonic plague, which can develop into pneumonic plague if untreated.

Bubonic plague causes swollen and tender lymph nodes called buboes, fever, chills, headache and exhaustion. Normally can be cured with antibiotics.

Pneumonic plague can result from untreated Bubonic plague or could be caused if Yersinia pestis was spread in an aerosol. Within two to three days, patient will have sudden onset of fever, chills, cough that may produce bloody sputum. Breathing difficulties and coagulation problems develop, causing blackening of the extremities (which is why it has been called the Black Death).

Nearly always fatal unless treated with antibiotics in first day following symptoms.

Vaccine exists but requires a number of doses and has been shown to be effective only against bubonic plague.

Photos courtesy of the Public Health Image Library, CDC, Atlanta, GA.
Creighton Lawyer Finds Treasure in Ireland’s Past

By James P. Cavanaugh, BA’77, JD’80

Editor’s Note: When James P. Cavanaugh, BA’77, JD’80, a partner in Omaha’s Cavanaugh Law Firm, P.C., began to search Irish history for his roots, he thought he’d find what most Irish Americans find: A story of triumphs and tragedies, famine, oppression and exile in the New World. He found that, of course, but he also discovered a whole mysterious world of lawyer-poets called the Brehons (pronounced Bré-han), who developed alongside the ancient Greeks, with their own system of laws based on family or “clann.”

“A Brehon (literally, maker of judgments) was a poet-scholar of law who acted as both legal adviser and judge in Irish society,” Cavanaugh explains. The Brehons were a hereditary caste of men and women who traced their profession back from early modern times to the Druids of pre-Christian Celtic Europe.

“I had stumbled upon a legal system that had shaped my ancestors’ lives for literally thousands of years. I learned that a truly magnificent story had been lost — and I was playing a small part in its rediscovery.”

Cavanaugh is working on a book about Brehon law to be published in Ireland next year. Below is his story of discovery.

In Irish, Brehon law is called “An Seanchus Mor” — literally, the Great Story. Like almost all important knowledge in Irish history — medicine, literature, genealogy — the law was passed down in the form of poetry that was chanted or sung by its adepts. In the case of the law, Brehons would invariably come from Brehon families, and they would be taught from childhood the “legal poems.” It took years to memorize the entire legal code, and, when the scholar had achieved a certain level of proficiency — usually by the mid-30s, a Brehon would take his or her place in society as an adviser, judge and, in effect, legal library.

The amount of specific legal knowledge these people carried in their heads would put to shame our modern lawyers with
our laptops and libraries. The Brehons carried the law in their heads and operated a virtually paper-free legal system that regulated an advanced and stable human society for thousands of years.

Even more remarkable than the massive human memory-based form of the Brehon legal system was its substance. For from these ancient citizens issued a code of law that was comprehensive, rational, compassionate and very attuned to human nature and behavior. It had one guiding principle — the alternative equivalent to our "Equality before the Law" — which was "Family First."

A good example of this family-centric system at work can be gleaned from the law tracts contained in Irish manuscripts — mostly from the 15th and 16th centuries — that survived the book-burning frenzy of successive waves of invaders. First written down in the 5th to the 8th centuries A.D. by Christian monks, these later manuscripts faithfully copied the earlier oral traditions, including many passages that were not entirely consistent with Church teachings. Such was the respect that even the Irish clerics had for An Seanchus Mor and the Brehons, that it is written that St. Patrick himself assembled the chief Brehons and his own monks and instructed them to transcribe the Brehon law.

The traditional date given for this compilation is 438 A.D., coincidentally the same year that the Code of Theodosius was published in the crumbling Roman Empire.

The Irish laws were comprehensive in the extreme, dealing with everything from beekeeping to king making. Throughout, they always and everywhere refer not only to what mishap occurred but also to the perpetrator’s family or clan — and its obligations for settling any claims.

In this ancient culture, the measure of a person’s status was his or her “honor price” (log n-ench — literally, the price of his face). Honor prices in this cash-free society were counted in cumals — the value of a female slave or three milk cows. Honor prices ranged from 14 cumals (42 milk cows) in the case of a provincial king down to 1/12 cumal (one yearling heifer) for a youth living on his father’s land. An individual's entire honor price was only payable upon that person's death, while fractions of honor prices were payable for non-lethal injuries.

Circumstances could change the honor price of an individual. For instance, if a king had been injured in battle, “an injury to the back of his head while he flees from a battlefield gives the honor price of a commoner to him, unless he has gone through the enemy, for in that case a wound in the back of the king’s head entails the same fine as a wound in his face.” Thus, courage or cowardice could make or break a king’s claim.

People who sustained disabling injuries were put on “sick maintenance” at the expense of the culprit until they were cured. As well as medical expenses, the culprit had to provide suitable food and accommodations — not only for the victim but also for an accompanying retinue. The accommodations were outlined in detail and had to offer a restful atmosphere where “no games are played in the house. No tidings are announced. No children are chastised. Neither women nor men exchanged blows. ... No dogs are set fighting in his presence or in his neighborhood outside. No shout is raised. No pigs squeal. No brawls are made. No cry of victory is raised nor shout in playing games. No yell or scream is raised.”

Additional payment to a victim’s clann was assessed when the victim had reached what under American law we would call “maximum medical benefit.” This body-fine was meant to cover “the fear of death, the gravity of the sickness, and the extent of the blemish.” The Brehon judges were required to know “the correct body-fine for every limb from temple to heel.”

While each individual had his or her own honor price, the payment of damages went not to the individual but to the head of that person’s clann. Conversely, damages were paid by the offending party’s family. Honor price, damages and restitution were all relative to your relatives!

In this society there were no jails. The family was responsible for the acts of all its members. Consequently, the family had a very great incentive to police itself, and God help the one who cost the clann a cow!

As a family-centric system, Brehon law also made sure that everyone belonged to someone. No one could be without a clann and survive. A loner was treated as a non-person, with no honor price — a deadly position in which to find oneself in Old Ireland. Your clann was your right to life. As a result, there were no concepts of illegitimacy, orphanhood, homelessness or rugged individualism. Everyone belonged. "Who are your people?" was a very serious question.

To ensure this belonging, the Brehons devised comprehensive systems of marriage, divorce, inheritance, succession and, most importantly, genealogy. It was essential to know your ancestors. Everything depended on it. These people would look on most of us moderns as social amnesiacs for not being able to recall more than a few generations of our ancestors.

The 13th century Irish poet Mac Con Midhe summed it up thus:

If it were not for poetry
The music of sweet stringed harp or lute
We would know nothing of a good man,
His career or His repute after his death
Noble men could find no knowledge
Of their traditions or descent.
Let these be woven in poems
Or say good-bye to history,
If the Irish will go so far as to drive away
the art
An Irishman’s birth won’t count,
Every noble will be a churl!

My first history teacher, my Irish grandmother Anne Conroy Munnelly, put it this way, “You can’t know who you are or where you’re going if you don’t know who you were or where you’ve been.”

In all of this, the prime directive was to preserve the family, and one comes away from even a brief study of Brehon law with a sense of wonder at the sheer humanity of its intent. These ancients fashioned a self-enforcing web of laws passed down in poetry that lasted for thousands of years and regulated a society that truly put family first.

There is something to be learned from all of this. Martin Heidegger wrote, “The Oldest of the Old follows behind us in our thinking, and yet it comes to meet us.” As we venture through the first years of the new millennium, it is always instructive to note how our ancient ancestors dealt with the same problems we face today. It is also sobering to recognize that their civilization operated successfully for many times the short history, to date, of our own!
The decades-long debate about the literary canon has had a profound impact on who and what is taught in the English classroom. The textbook I use for my British literature survey course now includes pioneering female writers, such as Aphra Behn, Eliza Haywood and Hester Thrale Piozzi, as well as Daniel Defoe, Alexander Pope and Samuel Johnson. My colleagues in American literature teach African-American poet Phyllis Wheatley or Native American poets as well as Walt Whitman or Emily Dickinson.

But while the canon has been opened to include talented writers regardless of their gender and ethnicity, there remains one group which continues to be neglected: writers from the laboring classes. No matter how well-versed a reader may be with women authors or authors of color, it is very unlikely that a student — or even a teacher — of British literature will have heard of Stephen Duck, Mary Collier, Mary Leapor, James Woodhouse, Ann Yearsley, Robert Bloomfield, John Clare.
or any of the hundreds of other British poets of laboring-class origins. Colleagues and students are stunned when I tell them that there were more than 1,000 laboring-class poets publishing in Britain and Ireland between 1700 and 1900.

How is it that there can be so many laboring-class writers and yet few, if any, are known or studied — even with our expanded ideas of the literary canon? Especially as America’s own Labor Day approaches, I would argue that the category of class has been neglected in the reconfiguration of the canon largely because, unlike race or gender, social class is not biological. Although some theorists have argued that race and gender are also social constructs, there is no denying that class is certainly socially constructed. Class is something we supposedly are able to change. Witness the fact that some of the most popular novels from the 18th century to our own time tell the stories of the protagonists’ struggle to rise out of poverty and obscurity to attain a comfortable upper-middle-class (or even aristocratic) status. What literary historians identify as the first English novel, Daniel Defoe’s *Robinson Crusoe* (1719), is both an epic story of humanity against the elements and a story of how much the Protestant work ethic pays off. The ne’er-do-well Crusoe survives on the deserted island, and becomes fabulously rich doing so. In popular fiction, at least, a lower-class status is something to escape, not celebrate.

How social class informs poetic genres is more complex. The reasons why laboring-class poets wrote, to whom they wrote, and what they wrote about vary greatly. Many poets wrote for religious and devotional purposes, versifying scripture and penning prayers to help them accept their difficult fate. Others wrote to feel connected to a larger community, or to amuse their friends and family by transcribing songs and witty poems that might have, in an early era, remained within an oral tradition. And, while becoming a poet was never a way to get rich quickly, many did write to better their economic condition. They were able to do so because in the late 17th century, authorship came to be understood as a “career” in the modern sense of the word — something

Duck, an agricultural laborer from Wilshire, was the most celebrated laboring-class poet of the 18th century. The illustration is from Duck’s *Poems on Several Subjects* (1730).
which required specialized training and for which one was paid. Prior to this era, poets were either patronized by wealthy aristocrats or were noblemen themselves. Poems were circulated primarily in manuscript or were performed orally. Early 17th century advances in printing technology combined with increased literacy rates (underwritten by Protestantism’s mission to teach all believers to read scripture) changed the patterns of production and consumption of printed material.

Due to increased literacy among the laboring classes and the prospect of writing to earn additional income, the early 18th century saw a surge in the number of laboring-class poets. These poets offer a unique but largely neglected perspective on crucial historical developments, including the Agricultural and the Industrial Revolutions. It may surprise some to know that Thomas Gray’s *Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard* (1751) or Oliver Goldsmith’s *The Deserted Village* (1770) were not the first or the only English poems to elegize the conditions of the poor in a nation rapidly shifting from an agrarian to a manufacturing economy. Stephen Duck, Mary Collier, Mary Leapor and James Woodhouse are some of the laboring-class poets who treat the same theme from their firsthand experiences of those historical changes.

As people of all classes moved away from the country and into cities and towns, nostalgia for the countryside resulted in a resurgence of interest in literary genres that celebrated or described pastoral images. It was in this climate that the most celebrated laboring-class poet of the 18th century hit the scene. Stephen Duck, a rural agricultural laborer from Wilshire, published *The Thresher’s Labour* in 1730. In it, Duck details the struggles he faced as a farm worker. While descriptions of hard labor date back to the early Greek and Roman poets, such as Hesiod and Virgil, never before had the pains of farm work been detailed in print by a

Yearsley, known as the “Milkwoman of Clifton” because she delivered milk from door to door, gained popularity with England’s social elite in the late 18th century for her poetry. The illustration is from a 1787 book of her poetry, titled *Poems on Various Subjects*. 
farm worker himself. Moreover, Duck elevates this arduous work by describing it in the language of classical mythology and martial prowess, calling his threshing tool a weapon. This technique gives his manual labor a dignity that straightforward “realistic” depiction might not:

Now in the air our knotty Weapons fly,
And now with equal force descend from high,
The Cyclops’ Hammers could not truer chime,
Nor with more heavy strokes could Aetna groan,
When Vulcan forg’d the arms for Thetis’ Son.

The poem was an immediate success, and earned the poet the attention and admiration of Queen Caroline, who bestowed upon him an annual allowance and a royal sinecure, as the librarian for her gardens at Kew.

Duck’s poem was so popular that it went through numerous editions over the next 10 years and inspired a spate of imitators: John Bancks wrote The next 10 years and inspired a spate of imitators: John Bancks wrote the next 10 years and inspired a spate of imitators: John Bancks wrote The Muse in Livery (1732); Robert Dodsley, who later went on to become one of the most successful publishers of the 18th century, began his career with a collection about his works as a footman, The Weaver’s Miscellany (1730); and Robert Tatersal penned The Bricklayer’s Miscellany (1734). However, the liveliest response to Duck was composed by Petersfield washerwoman Mary Collier. Collier was prompted by Duck’s unflattering representation of women workers, whom Duck described as too busy gossiping to attend to their jobs. In her poetic rebuttal, Collier articulated in 1739 an argument made by many feminists today (and experienced by working mothers the world over): that women, in fact, must work double shifts. Women’s work does not terminate with the end of the traditional workday, but continues with housekeeping and child rearing. Moreover, while male agricultural laborers enjoy seasonal respites (typically during the winter months), it is during those times that women must take on odd jobs, such as laundring, to make ends meet, while the men are seasonally unemployed.

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Collier describes the woman worker, working in the field with the extra burden of a child on her back, racing home to start the housework after an exhausting day in the fields. She addresses her fellow male laborer:

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of Threshers, Cobbler and Iambic Pentameter

Clare’s poetry protesting enclosure in the 1820s is one of the earliest instances of laboring-class poetry offering systematic protest against social injustice.

long outstripped the sales of Wordsworth’s Lyrical Ballads.

While Bloomfield is rarely read today, John Clare has become the most celebrated “peasant poet” of the Romantic period. Like many of the laboring classes, Clare supported himself with a variety of occupations, from stone masonry to gardening. However, Clare’s first love was poetry and he wrote prolifically from the age of 13 forward. Clare grew up in the village of Helpston, and witnessed his rural community irreparably altered by the policy of agricultural enclosure. Enclosure was a practice of agrarian “improvement.” Areas that were previously held in common by villagers, and used to graze livestock, support small vegetable gardens or gather kindling wood, were taken over and subsumed within a more instrumental and “organized” method of farming that tore down trees and put up hedgerows to indicate property boundaries, preventing all but the authorized workers from “trespassing” on the landlord’s holdings. Clare’s poem, The Mores (1821-24), for example, describes the open vistas of his native region prior to enclosure, and how the landscape was defaced by the greed of enclosing landowners:

Far spread the moorey ground a level scene
Bespread with rush and one eternal green
That never felt the rage of blundering plough
Through centuries wreathed springs blossoms on its brow

Unbounded freedom ruled the wandering scene
Nor fence of ownership crept in between
To hide the prospect of the following eye
Its only bondage the circling sky

Now this sweet vision of my boyish hours
Free as spring clouds and wild as summer flowers
Is faded all-a hope that blossomed free

victorious, but with her reputation tarnished due to the “ingratitude” she had shown to her patron.

Although rural “peasant poets” (as they were condescendingly called) dominate in the 18th and early 19th centuries, laborer-poets who practiced the artisan trades were also numerous. Bricklayers, millers and weavers wrote poetry. Perhaps the most poetically gifted trade was shoemaking. More than 50 cobbler poets published during the 18th and 19th centuries. Certain material conditions surrounding the work of shoemaking were likely to have made it easier for these manual laborers to pursue a poetic vocation alongside their primary occupation. Unlike agricultural laborers, or later, workers in factories or mills, shoemakers worked independently or in small groups without the supervision of a “master” who could punish them for any breaks in productivity. The activities of shoemaking were non-repetitive and not noisy (as were the threshall and the loom), and made it possible for coppers to compose and take breaks to jot down lines. Shoemaker poet James Woodhouse describes alternating the use of a pen and an awl in his daily labors. Woodhouse also describes how he kept his cobbling work on one knee and an open book on another. Finally, because all classes of people needed shoes or shoe repair, the shoemaker was much more likely than other workers to interact with individuals in the elite intellectual or aristocratic classes who might offer patronage or assistance. The cobbler John Bennet had the good fortune to practice his trade in Oxford, and was eventually assisted by literary historian Thomas Warton, who was also a customer in his shop.

In the Romantic Era of the early 19th century, we begin to see an overall shift in literary values toward a more “democratic” idiom for poetry, described most famously in William Wordsworth’s “Preface” (1802) to Lyrical Ballads (1798). Wordsworth differentiates his verse as being written in the “real language of men” and celebrating the simpler country life. Such an aesthetic, that elevates the commonplace, the everyday and the natural, led to the continued interest in poetry by “common folk” and in forms of poetry, such as the ballad, that had a long oral tradition. But as critic Scott McEathron has recently argued, Wordsworth, far from being original in his celebration of the “real language of men,” had simply managed to repackage for polite audiences the kind of poetry that laboring-class authors had been producing for decades. In particular, Wordsworth could be said to have capitalized on the celebrity of one of the few laboring-class poets whose name might be familiar to more than a few specialists: Scottish “poet of the plough” Robert Burns. Burns was not the only popular laboring-class poet of the early 19th century. It is a little-known fact of literary history that in 1800, Robert Bloomfield, a London shoemaker, published one of the best-selling poems of the first years of the 19th century. Bloomfield’s The Farmer’s Boy

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Such an exploitative appropriation of nature is protested throughout Clare’s poetry, and his ecocentric vision has gained him popularity among modern environmentalists.

Clare’s poetry protests enclosure in the 1820s is one of the earliest instances of laboring-class poetry offering systematic protest against social injustice. It is only near the end of the Romantic period that we see poetry clearly articulating a working-class or proletariat position. Because there were no organized “labor movements” until the late 18th and early 19th centuries, laboring-class poets rarely had occasion to take explicitly political positions in their poems. However, by the Victorian age, when labor movements such as Chartism (a 19th century democratic social and political reform movement in England) became an important political force, poetry was a key medium for expressing a collective laboring-class identity. Allen Davenport, Thomas Cooper and Ernest Jones were the poet laureates of the mid-19th century labor movement in Britain. The voice of social protest rings clear and strong in poems such as Jones’ *The Factory Town* (1844):

> Fear ye not your masters’ power
> Men are strong when men unite;
> Fear ye not one stormy hour;
> Banded millions need not fight.

Laboring-class poets from Duck to Jones remind us of the dignity and the strength of working men and women, and their poems are a testament to the significance of a laboring-class perspective on British history and society. If the voices of laboring-class writers can also be included in the literary canon, alongside the voices of women and writers of color, our understanding of literary history will only be enriched. ©

More on Laboring-Class Poets

A full bibliography of the more than 1,000 British laboring-class poets writing from 1700-1900 can be found online at http://human.ntu.ac.uk/clare/elsie.htm

About the author: Keegan is assisting with a six-volume edition of English Laboring-Class Poetry, 1700-1900, forthcoming from the British Press, Pickering and Chatto.
Heiders’ Faith in Creighton’s Mission, Vision Inspiration for Support

Charles Heider, a 1949 graduate of Creighton’s College of Business Administration, and his wife, Mary McBride Heider, have simple reasons for supporting Creighton. They have faith in the mission and vision of the University and strongly believe in its future with the inspiration and leadership of the Jesuit Community.

The Charles and Mary Heider Endowed Jesuit Faculty Chair at Creighton, funded by the Heiders, supports the internationally renowned photographic work of the first chairholder, the Rev. Don Doll, S.J.

Doll said the Chair allows him the opportunity to continue his humanistic photography throughout the world. “The chair is a great honor and I thank God and the Heiders for this opportunity,” he said. “I now have more of a chance to be an eye for justice in the world.”

This year, the Heiders have contributed $1 million to the Heider Endowed Scholarship Fund for undergraduate students. They said their gift stems from their desire to support Jesuits and the students faced with the ever-increasing cost of higher education.

“When I meet students looking for a college to attend, I always tell them to look at Creighton,” Charles said. “This endowed scholarship fund will hopefully help some of those students who need financial assistance.”

In 1998, the 12-story Creighton residence hall at 22nd and Davenport streets was renamed Heider Hall in their honor.

The Heiders also support Omaha’s Creighton Prep High School and the Jesuit Middle School. The Heiders’ two sons, Mark and Scott, attended Creighton Prep, and Scott is now on the board of Creighton Prep.

Charles’ enthusiasm for Jesuit education led him to many years of service on the University’s Board of Directors beginning in 1980. He currently is an emeritus member of the board. “When Fr. Schlegel’s current goal for east campus expansion is completed, it will represent a very significant contribution to the University,” he said.

Charles, who has enjoyed success in the investment industry, serves on a cadre of boards and committees including the Joslyn Art Museum, Children’s Hospital, Nebraska Humane Society and the Omaha Community Foundation.

Charles is a member of the investment committee for Creighton and serves as chairman of the Health Future Foundation Board.

Mary attended Duchesne College in Omaha and serves on the board of the Stephen Center Sponsors, Catholic Charities Foundation and Sacred Heart CUES.

The Jesuit tradition of being women and men for others is a daily goal for them.

Harry, JD’30, and Edith Dwyer’s Estate Gift Funds Law Scholarships

The story reads like a Hollywood screenplay. The era is World War II. A young, beautiful English girl named Edith relocates to the United States with her mother after bombs destroy their ribbon factory.

Following the war, the mother-daughter immigrants find themselves in Beverly Hills, Calif. Edith gains employment at a fashionable dress shop where she meets Hollywood’s most notable bachelors who vie for places on her dance card. She spurns them. She prefers to spend her free time at the Veterans Administration Hospital, caring for the troops who helped end the war in her homeland.

At the hospital, she meets Harry Dwyer, a 1930 Creighton law school graduate from Plattsmouth, Neb. Injuries sustained at Omaha Beach hinder Harry’s ability to speak, but he eventually regains his voice, marries Edith and practices law in California.

Alumna’s Family Pays Tribute to Her Late Mother with Endowed Scholarship

The only magazine Salli Jo Bayne read cover to cover was Creighton University Magazine. She loved hearing about campus activities and watching her daughter, Michelle Bayne Zagurski, BA’96, MBA’00, participate in them.

Michelle joined Creighton her sophomore year as a transfer student. Unhappy at her first school, she took a year off and visited other campuses. She said she chose Creighton because of the feeling she had the first time she walked on campus. “It was peaceful. Everyone I
Harry died in November 1979, and Edith made plans to one day celebrate her husband’s appreciation for his Creighton education. She was absolutely devoted to him and to her adopted homeland.

“I am so glad I moved to the States,” she wrote to friends at the University. “I give America a kiss every night. The Yanks are the very first to help wherever it is needed. That’s why I love this country so.

“Harry wanted everyone to know he was a Nebraska native. He was such a proud man and Omaha rang out loud and clear when he was asked where he grew up. With his deep voice and power, my word, how it rang out! He was also proud of Creighton. His father told him, ‘Don’t just tell people you’re going to college, tell them you’re going to Creighton.’”

In England, Edith’s family similarly demonstrated the value of a quality education. “I was raised by a wonderful Scottish father who said education was number one. He wanted only the best when it came to education. My father would send gifts to Oxford all the time and would say, ‘There are some wonderful brains out there that need funds to receive an education. Who knows who will be helped with this check?’”

Edith passed away in November 2000 and bequeathed more than $300,000 for endowed scholarships for Creighton law school students. Dean Patrick J. Borchers said the gift means a great deal to the school.

“The parents of Harry and Edith were prescient,” Borchers said. “Creighton is the destination of choice for many talented students, but without scholarship support, their dreams may be unrealized. The willingness of the Dwyers to help students they would never know to realize their dreams of becoming a Creighton lawyer is an act that will forever testify to their character and the character of their fine families.”

When they ask you if you attended college, tell them you attended Creighton.”

Finding the perfect university for Michelle was also important to her parents, William and the late Salli Jo Bayne of Redlands, Calif., who supported her decision to transfer to a different university.

“My first semester at Creighton, my parents came to visit for fall break,” Michelle said. “I was very excited just to walk around campus with them. I remember my mom saying how comfortable she was on campus. She saw how much progress I was making, academically and socially, and how much the University meant to me.”

When Salli Jo died of cancer in April 2001, her family wanted a meaningful way to pay tribute to her.

“The goal was to memorialize my mother by contributing to something she believed in,” Michelle said. The family found the perfect match in the Salli Jo Bayne Endowed Scholarship, a fund that provides financial assistance to undergraduate students by using interest earned from the account’s principal.

“The Scholarship is an excellent way to remember Mom,” Michelle said. “She believed in everything Creighton stood for. It’s a beautiful expression of how much she loved the University and believed in the undergraduate experience. She would want anyone who wants to attend Creighton to have that opportunity. The scholarship will help make that happen.”

Michelle, who lives in Omaha, said she is excited about and proud of the gift to Creighton. She fondly remembers the University’s welcoming atmosphere as a new journalism major in a city new to her.

“I guess what stands out most is my relationship with my journalism professor and academic advisor Dr. Eileen Wirth,” she said. “She cares so much about all of her students. She always had time for me. The way she believed in me helped me to discover many possibilities. For me, she epitomizes the role of a professor at Creighton.”
Creighton Mourns Death of Ruth Belzer

Ruth Frisch Belzer, a devoted friend of Creighton University, died June 19 at her home in Beverly Hills, Calif., at the age of 91.

Ruth’s husband, the late Dr. Oscar S. Belzer, was a 1928 graduate of Creighton’s School of Dentistry. Oscar Belzer immigrated to the United States from Russia in 1921 with his family. They eventually settled in with cousins in Omaha, living in a house near what is now the Creighton campus.

Oscar Belzer and Ruth Frisch were married in July 1933, and they had one son, Jerome. Oscar practiced for 25 years in Omaha’s Medical Arts Building. He became known as “the singing dentist” because he often sang to his patients as he worked on them.

In 1954, the family moved to Los Angeles, where Oscar Belzer continued to practice until retiring in 1988.

Jerome, who shared his parents’ love of education and of being of service to others, became a prominent pathologist in Los Angeles. Tragically, he was diagnosed with a fatal illness and preceded his parents in death in November 1996.

But before he died, Jerry, as he was known to many, established the Dr. Oscar S. Belzer Endowed Chair in Dentistry at Creighton, in honor of his father, and the Jerome J. Belzer Chair in Pathology at UCLA, where he did his residency.

“Jerry’s gift to Creighton reflected his love for his parents and their commitment to our University and to higher education in general,” said Wayne Barkmeier, DDS, dean of the School of Dentistry. “This was a wonderfully generous and compassionate family.”

The Dr. Oscar S. Belzer Endowed Chair in Dentistry was inaugurated at Creighton in September 1997. In 2000, Ruth Belzer established the Jerome Belzer Endowed Scholarship in the School of Dentistry for those students who assist in the professional activities of the chairholder.

The Belzer Chair honors outstanding senior faculty members who serve the traditional mission of excellence in dental education, providing comprehensive, clinical expertise coupled with ethical and moral components and quality research. The late Richard J. Blankenau, DDS’66, was the first to hold the Belzer Chair.

Gary H. Westerman, DDS’69, professor and chair of the Department of Community and Preventive Dentistry, is the current holder of the Belzer Chair. He was installed in February 2000.

Ruth Belzer, who was an Omaha native, maintained close ties to her hometown even after the family moved to California. As part of her 90th birthday celebration, Ruth Belzer created the Belzer Family Gallery as part of the Nebraska Jewish Historical Society.

Ruth Belzer is survived by niece Eunice Denenberg and her husband, Norman, of Omaha and their family, plus numerous other nieces, nephews and dear friends.

As a professor, Dr. Urban was a tireless mentor to his students. As a friend, he and his wife, Susan, opened their home and hearts, guiding students’ personal well-being and gently leading them to success.

Don Vap, DDS’65, using Dr. Urban’s benevolence as his example, proudly celebrates the life of the kind professor through the School of Dentistry’s Dr. T.J. Urban Memorial Lecture Series.

“Dental school was a different playing field than we were accustomed to,” Dr. Vap said. “Dr. Urban cared about us even when it felt like many things were against us. When you saw Dr. Urban, the sun came out.”

Theodore J. Urban, Ph.D., (1926-1990) joined Creighton in 1954. He was chair of Oral Biology and associate dean in the School of Dentistry. He received the University’s Distinguished Service Award in 1984 and four times received recognition as Outstanding Teacher of the Year.

The Dr. T.J. Urban Memorial Lecture Series is part of the continuing education program at the School. It encourages Creighton dentists in lifelong learning. Through it, various experts, on the cutting edge of dental procedures, annually come to the University to share their knowledge. The series is supported by interest income earned from an endowed account. The fund is open for additional contributions.

“I think it’s important that Dr. Urban be remembered with more than just a plaque on the wall,” Dr. Vap said. “The new generation of Creighton dental students will not have the pleasure of knowing him. We need to memorialize him. He was a great human being.”

Gift Establishes Dr. T.J. Urban Lecture Series

Imagine being a dental student and one day having concerns about whether you can stretch your meager financial resources to the end of the semester. That same day, one of your professors gives you a job as his teaching and research assistant or steers you toward scholarship funds no one knew existed. When students most need some extra cash, jobs at this professor’s house often materialize from nowhere.

A generation of Creighton students experienced the bighartedness and openhandedness of such a professor, Dr. T.J. Urban.

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Many Ways to Support Creighton’s Endowment

Creighton University is committed to keeping its quality education affordable. The University’s many alumni and friends help to ensure that eligible students can afford a values-centered education.

Students arrive on campus from varied backgrounds, from all regions of the United States and from many corners of the world. Diversity enriches the educational experience and is an inherent component in the concept of a university.

Just as Edward and Mary Lucretia Creighton envisioned, their endowed gift to create the University encouraged many gifts. Creighton’s modern founders — today’s donors — continue to guard traditions of welcoming students with promise, no matter their financial circumstances.

The future of Creighton is contingent upon endowing this University with perpetual support. Nearly two-thirds of endowed funds are for student assistance, faculty development and professorships.

**Endowed Scholarships** — Gifts of $25,000 and up for scholarships and grants may bear the names of their donors. The donors determine whether their gift takes the form of achievement-based scholarships, need-based grants or a combination of both.

**Endowed Professorships** — An endowed professorship permits the University to select an eminent professor from across the academic world to hold a visiting or permanent chair without dependence on the operating budget.

An endowed chair at Creighton University can be established with a minimum gift of $1.5 million for the School of Medicine and $1 million for all other schools and colleges.

Distinguished professorships can be created with a minimum gift of $500,000, and professorships may be established with a minimum gift of $250,000.

**Endowed Book Funds** — Endowed book funds, established with a minimum gift of $10,000, help supplement dwindling acquisition budgets and increase library holdings. An endowed book fund provides resources on a perpetual basis to support the ongoing acquisition of new scholarly publications. The endowment provides a permanent source of funding that offsets escalating costs.

**Faculty Development** — Creighton University is committed to maintaining the capability of its faculty at the highest levels possible. Opportunities and incentives for development help faculty continue to uphold traditions of academic excellence.

Gift opportunities for faculty development range from sabbatical leave programs to clinical research programs and post-doctoral fellowships.

To learn more about endowment opportunities at Creighton, please contact the University Development Office, at (800) 334-8794, (402) 280-2200 or 2500 California Plaza, Omaha, Neb., 68178-0115.

Newsletters Offer Valuable Information

By Steve Scholer, JD’79
Director of Estate & Trust Services

Changes occur every day in the world of estate and charitable planning. The Tax Act of 2001 continues to raise a number of questions. As the tax changes are phased in over the next few years, many people are uncertain as to how these changes will affect their estate plans.

Where can you find helpful, timely information regarding how to plan your estate? The Office of Estate and Trust Services is here to help you.

For the past five years, we’ve been providing timely updates through *Estate and Trust Services Journal*. This free newsletter addresses current income and estate tax planning issues, planned giving techniques and memorial giving opportunities at Creighton. As tax changes occur, we provide you with plain-language information. We show you tax advantaged strategies to plan your estate.

In addition to the *Journal*, we are now expanding this service to focus on the specific needs of some alumni groups.

Older graduates of Creighton’s School of Medicine or School of Dentistry will receive Health Professionals’ *Tax Journal*. With ongoing changes to the health care field, estate planning may be of increasing importance to you. This newsletter can help you as you plan for college expenses for your children or grandchildren, succession planning, retirement planning and the ultimate distribution of your estate.

We’ve also launched a newsletter for our alumnae. Many women have forged successful careers and have assumed increased financial responsibility. A component of your overall financial plan should be the orderly distribution of your estate. *Focus on Women* addresses these issues and shows how planned giving can help you blend your philanthropic and financial goals into a unified plan.

These three newsletters will help explain recent tax legislation and will help guide you as you develop your estate plans. As you plan your estate, we hope you reflect upon the ways that Creighton has impacted your life and about ways you can support the mission of the University. Many people make their ultimate gift to Creighton through their estate plans. If you decide to leave a bequest to Creighton, you will be eligible for membership in the Heritage Society — our recognition group for those who have made provisions in their estate plans for the University. These gifts build upon the legacy first established through the estate gift of Edward and Mary Lucretia Creighton.

If you would like to receive one of our planned giving newsletters or if you are interested in becoming a member of the Heritage Society, please call (402) 280-2885 or (800) 334-8794. If you have already included a bequest to Creighton in your estate plan, please let us know and we will enroll you in the Heritage Society.
Religious Values in Health Professions

Why should a Catholic Jesuit university provide health professions education? In the beginning, at least part of the reason was to provide education for the children of Catholic immigrants who were discriminated against by other institutions of higher education. But that was only part of the reason; another is the importance of health care and service as a ministry.

Creighton’s medical school was founded in 1892, just 14 years after the establishment of the University. It was followed not long after by schools of Dentistry, Pharmacy and Nursing.

Religious sponsorship of educational and health care institutions is rooted in the concepts that education based on religious values serves God and society, that life and health are God-given, that health care, especially for the underprivileged, is a proper use of human talent.

However, many private schools founded with religious motives have foresworn their religious purposes in our diverse and largely secular society.

Of the more than 100 U.S. universities that have health science centers, only nine retain explicitly religious sponsorship and missions. Four of those are operated by the Jesuits (at Creighton, Georgetown, Loyola and St. Louis universities).

With so few in existence, are religiously sponsored health professions schools relics of the past, or do they provide important and unique dimensions of education and health care?

The underlying value system of those explicitly religious health science centers remaining in the United States is the Judeo-Christian tradition. This tradition believes in a giving, personally interested God, a God who has given human kind physical being and the world as an expression of love, who expects humans to emulate the divine attributes of loving and giving.

The Judeo-Christian tradition is strongly committed to community, to the dignity and equality of all human life. It is a world-embracing and world-affirming tradition, seeking better to know and to understand God’s creation and its meaning.

Health professions education in religious institutions properly strives for the formation of students with professional attitudes consonant with this tradition, consistent with specific ethical systems and values. This does not mean indoctrination or insistence on doctrinal conformity. On the contrary, acceptance of religious values must be voluntary, based on personal conviction. In religiously sponsored health science schools, specific values and ethical norms may and should be advocated. However, there is no room for coercion. We are not to judge but to teach and to serve.

And we are to teach and to serve motivated by love, charity and commitment to justice. “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another.” (John 13:34)

Despite trends to treat health care as a business, religious health professions schools teach students to place the interests of those they serve above their own, and that health professions should serve all who are in need. Professionals should have regard for the human dignity of those they serve and should have no consideration other than the needs of those they serve. All are equally deserving of professionals’ attention, knowledge and skills.

Such motivation, attitude and commitment to service do not imply or allow compromise of excellence. Piety and religious conviction cannot substitute for competence. In fact, proper attention to human medical need demands a high degree of competence. Anything less does not properly serve human dignity.

Religious sponsorship implies a commitment to change the world and the manner in which its occupants are treated. Human knowledge and systems are incomplete and imperfect. Religious health professions schools profess to strive continuously to improve the science, the art and the systems of health care. Their research and efforts to reform should be motivated by the love and desire to serve humanity.

Further, health science centers dedicated to religious values understand that science instructs theology, especially in understanding life, suffering and death. Scientific knowledge contributes to the formation of ethical positions and their application to health care.

Health science centers animated by specific religious traditions foster expression of religious values integral to their culture and to their educational and service missions.

Creighton and other medical centers with religious missions have contributed importantly to the professions and the ethic of health care. Nurtured and supported, they continue to add an important dimension to American professional education and health care.
The Rev. Robert Hart, S.J., known affectionately among Creighton coaches, student-athletes and Bluejay fans as “Padre,” has retired to his hometown of Milwaukee.

Fr. Hart — his thick shock of white hair, beard and affable smile — had become a fixture on the sidelines of Creighton sporting events. Padre served as chaplain for the athletic department for 20 years.

He was a true team player. He traveled with the teams, cheered for the teams, prayed with the teams and, when it was warranted, even cajoled a few officials to try to get a call for the team.

Fr. Hart came to Creighton in 1982, after spending the previous eight years in Connecticut as a parish priest and chaplain at Yale Hospital.

He taught theology at Creighton until last year.

Fr. Hart was inducted into Creighton’s Athletic Hall of Fame last year, but his presence stretched well beyond the playing field. He loved the students and was always there for them. Many returned to have him perform their weddings or baptize their children.

Now at 70, with Parkinson’s disease advancing on him, the Jesuit they call Padre has returned to Milwaukee.

But his spirit and memory will remain on the hilltop campus that, for the past two decades, he called home.

For all of those, past and present, touched by the dedication and compassion of Fr. Hart, we wish him the best in his retirement. Thank you, Padre.