Of Threshers, Cobblers and Iambic Pentameter Feeling 'Alive' in Nepal Teaching About Terrorism

Enron 101: Lessons from a Corporate Scandal

Advancing Science at Creighton

Creighton Celebrates 125th Anniversary

Eating Disorders in Children

Fall 2003
Field of Dreams
The Creighton men’s soccer team, fresh from last season’s NCAA Final Four appearance, opens its 2003 season on a new state-of-the-art field — the first of its kind in the United States.

Cardoner Names Director
Creighton’s new Cardoner program for vocational exploration has its first director — Kristina DeNeve, Ph.D., a former psychology professor at Baylor University.

Buckley Gift Honors Father Eileen Hansen Buckley’s estate plan gift in excess of $2 million honors her father, Hans Hansen, MD ’05, and will be used to establish the Dr. Hans Hansen Neuroscience Wing in the Criss II building, which is currently under renovation.

Tracking a Hare Disease
Creighton alumnus Thomas Cohee, BS ’96, MD ’00, captured headlines by diagnosing three cases of “Rabbit Fever” — a rare infectious disease — in Lincoln, Neb.

Creighton Celebrates 125th Anniversary
On Sept. 2, 1878, Creighton opened as a free school for boys. Professor Dennis Mihelich, Ph.D., who is writing a book on Creighton’s history, explores the University’s beginnings in this first of a four-part series.

Eating Disorders in Children
Creighton has partnered with Children’s Hospital in Omaha to offer a program that could well become a national model for treating children with eating disorders such as anorexia, bulimia and binge eating.

Science education at Creighton is on the move. The new $18 million Hixson-Lied Science Building opened to students in January, and renovations to the Rigge Science and Criss buildings are under way.

Creighton Enters Anniversary Year with Momentum

Greetings.

June is turning into July as I pen these words. The Creighton campus is awash with summer flowers and animated with sports camps, summer school, reunions and Freshman Preview. It is a time of optimism, energy and joy as Creighton University prepares to celebrate its 125th anniversary.

As we approach this anniversary, we are reminded of our distinguished past, our positive present and the promising future that opens before us. We reflect on our founding family: two women and two men of generosity and vision. The Creighton families were pioneers, innovators and builders; they were committed to their Catholic faith, dedicated to the Jesuit tradition of education and rooted in their community.

The Creighton of today is no less and much more. We welcome this fall an extraordinary entering class. Our new students bring to campus the highest academic profile in the University’s history, and it appears that it will be among our largest entering classes, a full 17 percent increase over the 2002-03 year (see page 8).

Following two years of institution-wide planning — fiscal, academic and campus master planning — we have embarked upon the most ambitious campus expansion in Creighton history.

Guiding our growth is a newly promulgated strategic plan, which charts a path to advance Creighton into the first ranks of the nation’s institutions of higher learning. We will direct our efforts to each of the following strategies over the next years:
• Enhance Creighton’s national identity and focus its dedication to its mission;
• Nurture Creighton’s academic excellence — already recognized nationally as one of the finest comprehensive universities in the Midwest;
• Create a diverse human community of students, faculty and staff;
• Provide a dynamic living-learning environment for Creighton students; and
• Ensure overall financial stability for the University and its schools and colleges.

Helping us implement our plan is an energetic management team that includes two new vice presidents: Lisa Calvert, vice president for University Relations, most recently held a similar post at William Jewell College in Missouri, and Brian Young, vice president for Information Technology, comes to us from Hobart and William Smith Colleges of New York.

We are growing our campus well beyond the original seven acres deeded by the Creightons. We are growing the campus in ways that will help us achieve our strategic priorities. We dedicated an impressive and functional Hixson-Lied Science Building in late spring. Work has started on our new junior-senior town homes, and our soccer teams will play this fall on a new on-campus field. The soccer stadium will be finished in fall 2004. It will provide a rallying place for Bluejay pride among students, family, alumni and the greater community.

Finally, let me say that your generosity — alumni, family and friends — is remarkable.

We have just experienced one of the most successful fund-raising years in Creighton’s history. The more than $25 million in gift income is all the more astounding because it came in the midst of an economic downturn. Creighton prospers because of her loyal alumni and friends. Exceptional examples were Dr. Arnold Lempka and his wife, Agnes. Their selfless contributions to Creighton and other causes will be long remembered (see page 5).

Truly, Creighton enters its 125th anniversary celebration year with tremendous momentum!

The calendar is filled with events — academic, artistic, spiritual and athletic — that celebrate our distinguished past and point to an equally distinguished future. You are most welcome to all events. Check the 125th anniversary website for details:
http://www.creighton.edu/125_anniversary/

Please enjoy this issue of Creighton University Magazine. May God bless you and yours.

John P. Schlegel, S.J.
President, Creighton University
Letters to the Editor

Korver Represented CU

Kudos to Anthony Flott for his fine comprehensive portrait of our All-American Kyle Korver, BA’03.

As a Bluejay basketball fan of almost 40 years, the win over Southern Illinois in the MVC championship game was the most thorough dismantling of a good team that I have ever seen.

The Salukis’ recent antipathy toward Creighton extends beyond wearing “I Hate Ckon” T-shirts. Omaha World-Herald columnist Mike Kelley reported that when we last played Southern Illinois not only was Kyle Korver and the entire team subjected to obscenities and insults from the stands, but after the loss Kyle’s father was verbally assaulted with expletives.

The same Rev. Kevin Korver gave a homily at a special Mass on the Sunday before the Valley championship game against SIU. There was no talk of payback or revenge. Instead he told the story of a special needs child who was unable to get an autograph following a recent championship game against SIU. There was no talk of payback or revenge. Instead he told the story of a special needs child who was unable to get an autograph following a recent MVC championship game. One of the players saw this and picked up a C8on” T-shirt.

To my mind how Creighton wins is more important than the winning itself. And Coach Dana Altman continues to bring young men to our school who represent it in the finest fashion and true to our Jesuit values.

Bush Sr. Consulted Cicero

Regarding Jesus, Scripture and the Ethics of War (Summer 2003), I cannot help but recall that Bush the Elder, justifying the Gulf War, said that he had consulted Cicero. Not scripture, of course, but that famous Roman in an essay on war had this to say about the ethics:

“For there are two ways of fighting it out to a decision: one through discussion, the other through force. The former is characteristic of men, the latter of wild beasts.”

Cicero did allow that defending allies justified war.

Thomas J. Carraher, JD’50
Norfolk, Neb.

Who’s the Constitutional Law Expert?

I find it amazing and amusing that people who have not kept up with advances in their own fields feel fully qualified to discuss constitutional law with two legal professors at Creighton University. (See Letters, Summer 2003.)

To paraphrase George Kaufman “I don’t want a doctor that reads books on constitutional law, I want a doctor that reads books on medicine.”

Dave Larsen, BSPha’67
Arnolds Park, Iowa

Letter Was Erroneous

I was amazed at the vitriolic tenor of most of the letters responding to the article by Professors Mack and Kelly. (See Letters, Summer 2003.) One suspects that those with such views will not have their opinions changed by any article. However, Mr. James H. Mullen’s letter was erroneous in its contention that “only Americans have protection under the Constitution.” The rights guaranteed under the Bill of Rights apply to any “person” who is in the U.S. There is no reference in the Bill of Rights limiting its application to “citizens.”

John P. Murphy, JD’74
North Platte, Neb.

Yoga Article Unsettling

The article Creighton Couple Shares Love of Yoga in the Summer 2003 edition of the Creighton Magazine unsettled me a bit. I have no quarrel with Yoga as a health maintenance aid, but I do not like seeing the aspect of “meditation and prayer” given such prominence, as this aspect stems from Hinduism, as opposed to Christianity.

I wonder if this very nice couple would also subscribe to quiet prayer in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.

There are a great many New Age influences everywhere, and while I realize that some aspects can be incorporated into Catholicism, as in centering prayer, I think Catholic universities, to which parents are paying a lot of money to send their young adults, should be very careful about how they promote these influences.

Dottie Kubitschek
Lakewood, Colo.
Lempka Legacy

Estate Gift One of the Largest in School of Medicine’s History

Their involvement at Creighton and in the community was, in one simple phrase, a blessing.

Arnold W., BSM’40, MD’41, and Agnes Bjork Lempka, BSN’43, made the University’s mission their personal mission. Jesuit values guided their lives, including their relationship with God, service to others, the importance of family life and their belief in the inalienable worth of each individual.

“Arnold and Agnes were more than friends to this great University,” said Creighton President the Rev. John P. Schlegel, S.J. “They were family. They never forgot their alma mater and we will never forget them.”

A $3 million gift from the Lempka estate will augment the original $1 million endowment for the Dr. and Mrs. Arnold W. Lempka Endowed Chair in Surgery. Their gift is one of the largest in the history of the School of Medicine.

Dr. Lempka began his undergraduate career at Creighton in 1934 and graduated from the School of Medicine in 1941. While he was serving his internship at St. Joseph Hospital, he was called to active duty in the Army Medical Corps. During World War II, he was stationed in Africa as a first lieutenant and received the Bronze Star.

Following the war, he entered private practice in Omaha in the field of general surgery. He stayed in Omaha except for a few years away for post-graduate work.

“Arnold was a masterful surgeon, a superb technician. I haven’t seen anyone better,” said Claude Organ, MD’52, of Oakland, Calif., who is president elect for the American College of Surgeons.

Dr. Lempka’s picture hangs in the School of Medicine’s entryway to the Department of Surgery, testimony to the esteem in which his colleagues held his work.

“Throughout his years of service, Dr. Lempka never once missed Grand Rounds at the hospital,” said Tom Schuyler, School of Medicine director of development. “He and Agnes welcomed Creighton nursing students into their home to live while they studied. Their commitment to the University is truly legendary and they will always be remembered for their humanity.”

Dr. Lempka was president of the Nebraska Medical Association in 1976 and was the 1984 recipient of one of the Creighton School of Medicine’s highest honors, the Alumni Merit Award. He served 10 years on the Medical Alumni Advisory Board for the School.

Dr. Lempka held leadership positions with organizations including the Nebraska Medical Association and as a fellow in the American College of Surgeons. He was chairman of the board of Physicians Mutual and Physicians Life Insurance Companies of Omaha.

Agnes Bjork Lempka served for 50 years as a civic leader and community fundraiser. Virtually every major service organization, hospital, auxiliary and educational institution in Omaha is better because of her contributions. She received the Creighton School of Nursing’s Alumni Merit Award in 1977.

Bill Ramsey, BS’55, remembers Mrs. Lempka for her leadership qualities. “I don’t know what hit me, but one time I was emceeing a dinner, and I announced that ‘Aggie’s Army’ helped put the event together.”

The name stayed with them, and Mrs. Lempka’s group of faithful soldiers rallied around her, accepting the tasks she assigned whenever an Omaha area nonprofit organization requested assistance. “I think they enjoyed being ‘Aggie’s Army,’” Ramsey said. “Agnes was such a dear person.”

Ramsey said Mrs. Lempka was especially distinguished for orchestrating Mother Teresa of Calcutta’s visit to Omaha in 1976.

The Lemkess were devoted to their Catholic faith and both belonged to the Knights of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem and Alpha Sigma Nu, the Jesuit Honor Society.


“The University will miss their unfailing leadership,” Fr. Schlegel said. “Their commitment to the University helped Creighton chart an impressive record of educating women and men to carry forward the work they began.”

Partnership to Retain a Poison Center in Nebraska Announced

The State of Nebraska has partnered with Creighton University Medical Center, the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) and The Nebraska Medical Center to establish the Nebraska Regional Poison Center.

Under the new partnership, the state will provide $500,000 in funding to help Creighton, UNMC and The Nebraska Medical Center administer the program.

The funding comes from a combination of two sources that have a connection to poison centers — a bioterrorism grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and a hospital preparedness grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The CDC grant requires preparation for chemical attacks, while the HRSA grant requires collaboration with a poison center. Creighton, UNMC and The Nebraska Medical Center will attempt to identify additional funding to help manage the program, which has an annual budget of $1.23 million.

The partnership extends the existing strong collaborations among the state, Creighton, UNMC and The Nebraska Medical Center. Creighton has a long-standing connection to the poison center. A Creighton pediatrician, Matilda McIntire, M.D., founded Omaha’s Poison Center years ago. In addition, over the past two years, the state has worked closely with Creighton, UNMC and The Nebraska Medical Center on a number of initiatives dealing with bioterrorism preparedness.
Calvert Named VP for University Relations

Creighton University, which has embarked on the most ambitious campus expansion in its history, has named Lisa D. Calvert vice president for University Relations. “Lisa Calvert is a strong addition to the Creighton management team that is moving the University into a new era of growth and prosperity,” said Creighton President the Rev. John P. Schlegel, S.J.

This spring Creighton opened the new Hixson-Lied Science Building, which reflects the University’s renewed commitment to cutting-edge science. It is the first piece of an extensive upgrading of the campus that will include a new 5,000-seat soccer stadium, new student housing and expanded landscaping. The University is coming off one of its most successful fund-raising years, and Fr. Schlegel said he believes that Calvert has the skills to propel Creighton’s advancement activities.

Calvert comes to Creighton from William Jewell College in Liberty, Mo., where she served as vice president for institutional advancement since 2000.

Young Joins Creighton as VP for Information Technology

Creighton University has named Brian A. Young vice president for Information Technology. “With Creighton’s focus on providing high-quality education through a dynamic, renewed learning environment, Brian Young’s extensive expertise in building and enhancing information systems will help deliver to students, faculty and others the technology infrastructure and tools they need for continued success,” said the Rev. John P. Schlegel, S.J., president of Creighton University.

Young joins Creighton from Hobart and William Smith Colleges, where he was vice president of information technology and chief information officer. He succeeds Conrad Dietz, who retired from Creighton in June.

Bradberry Named Pharmacy and Health Professions Dean

J. Chris Bradberry, Pharm.D., has been named dean of the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions at Creighton University Medical Center. He replaces Sidney J. Stohs, Ph.D., who stepped down in July, after serving as dean for more than 10 years.

Bradberry comes to Creighton from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis, where he was a professor in the Departments of Pharmacy and Family Medicine. He was professor and chair of the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Pharmacoconomics until July of last year.

Bradberry served as chief pharmacy officer at the Indian Health Center, U.S. Public Health Service, in Chinle, Ariz., from 1969 to 1971, and has practiced both community and institutional pharmacy. He has been on the faculties of the University of Texas, the University of Oklahoma and the University of Nebraska, where he was a clinical pharmacist for University Hospital and Nebraska Psychiatric Institute at the University of Nebraska Medical Center from 1972 to 1974.

Howell Named Dean of School of Nursing

Eleanor V. Howell, Ph.D., has been named dean of the School of Nursing at Creighton University Medical Center. Howell joined Creighton in 1996 and has served as interim dean for the past year. Prior to her appointment, Howell was associate dean for academic and clinical affairs, responsible for graduate and undergraduate nursing programs on campuses in Omaha and Hastings, Neb.

Howell was founding director of Creighton’s master’s in health services administration program, an interdisciplinary program that prepares mid-career managers and clinicians for leadership positions in health service organizations.

Prior to joining Creighton, Howell was associate professor and coordinator of special projects at the School of Nursing at Auburn University, where she generated and coordinated faculty practice and service contracts. While at Auburn, she established clinics for children and adolescents and developed an employee health program for Briggs and Stratton Corporation.

Chase New CU Admissions Director

Mary Chase, an admissions professional with a strong record of achievement in higher education consulting, has joined Creighton as the director of admissions and scholarships.

Chase comes to Creighton from Noel-Levitz, the largest and most comprehensive enrollment consulting firm in North America. As a former senior consultant with the firm, Chase brings a wealth of knowledge about the state-of-the-art recruitment and marketing practices followed by colleges and universities who have successfully increased their applicant pools and enrollment. Chase has a master’s degree from the University of Iowa and an undergraduate degree from Briar Cliff College.

At Creighton, Chase will manage the Undergraduate Admissions Office and the Merit Scholarship program.
Fr. Cortina, Tipton Honored at May Commencement

At Creighton’s commencement exercises on May 17, a Doctor of Humanitarian Service Honorary Degree was conferred upon the Rev. Jon Cortina, S.J., Ph.D., and the Alumni Achievement Citation was presented to William W. Tipton Jr., MD’67.

Fr. Cortina was recognized for his contributions to the people of El Salvador and his tireless promotion of social justice. With degrees in philosophy, theology and engineering, Fr. Cortina is chair of the Department of Engineering at the University of Central America, San Salvador. A native of Spain, Fr. Cortina has lived much of his life among and ministering to the people in El Salvador and surrounding areas.

During the El Salvador civil war in 1989, when he was working with impoverished residents away from his home in San Salvador, the six Jesuits with whom he lived, their housekeeper and her daughter were murdered. After the war ended, he used his expertise to build bridges, road systems and additional infrastructure to bring in fresh water and allow travel to the villages.

Tipton, chief medical officer at the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, was honored for his service to his profession and humankind.

Tipton is one of the most highly regarded orthopaedic surgeons in the nation. He earned his Creighton medical degree in 1967 and completed his orthopaedic residency at the University of California Davis in 1974, after two years with the U.S. Navy.

For 20 years, he served on the staff of Sacramento hospitals, specializing in joint reconstruction.

In 1994, Tipton was named executive vice president and chief executive officer of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, a 24,000-member, nonprofit organization. He served in that position until this March when he became the Academy’s chief medical officer.

Alumni Merit Awards Presented

School of Dentistry

Harold P. Kreski, DDS’53, received the 2003 Alumni Merit Award from the School of Dentistry. Following graduation from Creighton, Kreski studied periodontology at the University of Iowa School of Dentistry. He received his certificate in periodontology there in 1958. That same year, Kreski began his periodontics practice and became a faculty member in the Department of Periodontology in Creighton’s Dental School. He continued to teach part time in the department for 17 years, chairing the department for seven of those years.

Kreski is past president of both the Omaha District Dental Society and the Nebraska Society of Periodontists. He was a delegate to the Nebraska Dental Association and is a fellow of the American College of Dentists. He is past consultant for the VA Hospital Dental Division and a member of several dental associations, including the National Dental Honor Society and Pierre Fauchard Academy.

College of Arts and Sciences

The College of Arts and Sciences presented its 2003 Alumni Merit Award to Suzanne M. Bianchi, BA’73, Ph.D., professor of sociology and director of the Maryland Population Research Center at the University of Maryland at College Park.

Bianchi has worked as a civil servant, family researcher, author and teacher. Before joining the University of Maryland, she worked at the U.S. Census Bureau. Her most recent book, *Continuity and Change in the American Family*, won the 2002 Otis Dudley Duncan book award from the Population Section of the American Sociological Association.

Bianchi graduated *summa cum laude* from Creighton in 1973. She went on to earn a master’s in sociology from Notre Dame and a doctorate from the University of Michigan.

School of Nursing

Carol Murray Rehtmeyer, BSN’71, Ph.D., received the 2003 Alumni Merit Award from the School of Nursing.

Rehtmeyer received her bachelor of nursing degree at Creighton in 1971 and went on to earn a master of science in nursing degree and a doctor of philosophy degree from the University of Nebraska.

She is executive vice president for WellComm, an I-Trax, Inc. company, which she founded in 1996. The company specializes in health management services for employer groups and health provider organizations. She also is chief operating officer for Strategic Monitored Services, Inc., which provides care to patients using home, ambulatory, telephone and Internet-based visits.
Entering Freshman Class Expected to be Largest in 23 years

Creighton University is on track to enroll its largest entering class in 23 years.

A preliminary analysis of information from prospective students who have made deposits for the fall 2003 semester shows that Creighton also likely will enroll one of its most gifted classes.

If the current trend holds, Creighton will enroll more than 930 new students in the fall. The last time Creighton had more than 900 new students was in the fall of 1981, when there were 938 new students. The record year for new students at Creighton is 1979, when the entering class numbered 989. The second-highest total — 947 new students — enrolled in 1980.

“We have recruited an extraordinary class,” said Don Bishop, associate vice president for enrollment management at Creighton.

“The combination of a high academic profile, leadership and service will enrich our campus and the Omaha community.”

For the second year in a row, Creighton will enroll one of its best classes academically. Among the Creighton-bound students are 98 who were ranked No. 1 or 2 in their high school graduating classes. The median ACT for Creighton’s new students is 26; the median SAT score is 1200. A third of the entering students have high school GPAs of 4.0 or higher, and 42 percent were in the top 10 percent of their high school graduating classes.

In addition, 60 percent served as student body president, class president, captain of an athletics team or senior leader of a major organization, Bishop said.

Bishop credited the effort of Creighton’s Undergraduate Admissions Office and support from the University’s faculty, staff, alumni and students for the exceptional recruiting year.

“People see Creighton as an excellent University that is getting better every year,” Bishop said.

He also credited the University’s financial aid program, which was strengthened this year in response to the economy. Financial aid packages also recognized high school leadership and service.

Creighton also is experiencing a surge in transfer enrollments. The University expects to enroll at least 115 transfer students, up from 95 in the fall of 2002, and 77 in 2001. Many transfer students say they are coming to Creighton because they expect more personal attention.

Creighton’s marketing message emphasized the University’s position as the Midwest’s leader in producing students who go on to graduate and professional programs. Bishop noted that 54 percent of the new students say they are interested in health sciences or other sciences. Creighton’s new Lied Science Building likely was a factor in attracting students, he said. There is growth in other academic areas as well, with arts and business sections expecting new-student increases in the neighborhood of 30 percent.

Creighton’s success in varsity athletics also helped draw new students. Creighton’s men’s soccer team advanced to the NCAA Final Four, the men’s basketball team was nationally ranked, the women’s basketball team advanced to the WNIT Final Four and the softball team qualified for the NCAA Tournament.

CU Allergist Warns of Problematic Antihistamine Use

Thomas B. Casale, M.D., chief of allergy/immunology and director of clinical research at Creighton University Medical Center, is the lead author in an article in the May issue of the Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology concluding that allergies should be treated with non-impairing, second-generation antihistamines instead of older, first-generation medications that are sold over-the-counter.

Casale was part of a panel of experts in the areas of allergy and immunology that convened at an Aventis roundtable in August 2002. The panel highlighted that older antihistamines (for example, diphenhydramine [e.g., Benadryll]) are often dosed and selected inappropriately, leading to dangerous effects like sedation and impairment and a reduced quality of life.

The panel recognized that even though these older, over-the-counter antihistamines are known to cause sedation and impairment, 47 percent of allergy sufferers still take them. With one in seven Americans suffering from seasonal allergies, the cost to society is high. Disturbed sleep and sedation negatively impact patients’ quality of life.

While using an antihistamine with sedating properties, patients are 1.5 times more likely to have occupational injuries. The economic cost of inappropriately treated allergies also is high. One recent study showed a 10 percent decrease in productivity in employees with seasonal allergic rhinitis not receiving medication.

Further, allergies account for more than 10 million office visits per year, 28 million days of restricted activity and 10 million missed work days. On a typical school day, 10,000 children are absent due to allergies. The estimated direct and indirect costs of hay fever in the U.S. totaled more than $5.3 billion for 1996.

More than 40 million Americans suffer from allergies, but only 20 percent see a physician for diagnosis and treatment of their symptoms. Without physician consultation, allergy symptoms, if misdiagnosed or left untreated, could mask more serious chronic conditions such as sinusitis or asthma.

Photo by Dave Warren

Sandy Royle of Central City, Neb., reviews a Summer Preview brochure with her daughter, Victoria, during one of the campus orientation sessions in July. Victoria is a member of this fall’s incoming class.

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Cardoner Director Happy to be at Creighton

It’s 5:30 p.m., the day before the Fourth of July holiday weekend, and Kristina DeNeve, Ph.D., is slowly driving back to Omaha after a long week of conferences and meetings in Chicago and Milwaukee. She’s had some car trouble fixed, given an interview, posed for pictures and is now stuck behind two state troopers cleaning debris off the interstate.

But when DeNeve finally finds her way free and begins to talk about her new job as director of Creighton’s new Cardoner vocations program, there’s not a hint of frustration in her voice.

“Well, when your scholarly research involves studying happiness, perhaps you’re bound to learn a thing or two about keeping your cool,” DeNeve explained. “I was trying to figure out what God is calling them to do and affirm that calling.”

DeNeve left her job as a tenured faculty member at Baylor University to come to Omaha and study theology at Creighton.

“It was providence that brought me to Omaha,” DeNeve explained. “I was trying to answer God’s call.”

She found a job quickly as the continuing education director at Girls and Boys Town, and professionals.

“Before, I was working on a master’s degree in theology. “What really excited me about this program,” she continued, “was that, for me to really do my job, I am being asked to integrate who I am as a psychologist and who I am becoming as a theologian more completely and more fully than I ever dreamed.”

The Cardoner program, established with a $2 million grant from Lilly Endowment Inc., is designed to help Creighton students, alumni, faculty and staff to more fully explore God’s calling in their lives and professions.

“My job is an awesome job,” DeNeve said. “My job is to help people figure out what God is calling them to do and affirm that calling.”

DeNeve also looks forward to working with Creighton alumni, hosting local vocational renewal workshops and seminars and perhaps even traveling to some of the alumni clubs across the country to host renewal programs tailored specifically to that association’s needs.

“After all, the traffic really doesn’t seem to bother her.

Naming Ceremony for Michael Anderson Memorial Plaza

A ceremony was held on June 21 in memory of Lt. Col. Michael Anderson, MS’90, who died in the tragic crash of the space shuttle Columbia on Feb. 1, 2003. Creighton will name the plaza east of the Hixson-Lied Science Building the “Michael Anderson Memorial Plaza.”

Littleton Alston, professor of fine arts, unveiled a small-scale bust of a bronze sculpture he is working on of Anderson that will be placed on the plaza next year. Pictured above are Creighton President the Rev. John Schlegel, S.J., and Alston.
Creighton Set to Debut New Soccer Stadium

When the Creighton men’s soccer team takes the field later this month at the University’s new downtown soccer stadium, they will literally be stepping onto history.

The soccer stadium will sport a special astroturf designed specifically for soccer. It’s the first time this turf has been used in the United States.

The special turf was hand-picked by Coach Bob Warming, who traveled to Amsterdam, where the turf is produced, to personally test its quality.

The turf’s mixture of sand, rubber and fibers is designed to look and feel like natural grass.

That’s important in a sport like soccer.

“With this technology, we’ll be able to slide on it without getting burns,” Warming said.

Warming said the field also is good for the environment. The field’s rubber base consists of 60,000 chopped up used car tires — tires normally destined for the landfill.

It’s an environmental-friendly message he looks to share with children who visit Creighton’s campus.

“We do so much in the community with kids,” Warming said. “We usually talk to them about healthy lifestyles and goal setting. Now we’ll also talk about being good to the environment and how this surface helps that cause.”

And how will the new soccer complex — located just a few blocks east of Creighton’s main campus — help the Jays’ cause?

“Good teams come and go,” Warming said, gesturing out to the stadium still under development on a steamy July day. “But this will help keep the program stable.”

Over the last decade, Creighton’s soccer program has been more than stable — it has excelled.

Last season, the Jays returned to the NCAA Final Four. It was Creighton’s third trip to the NCAA College Cup since 1996.

Creighton has won a league-record eight Missouri Valley Conference Tournament titles, including last year’s title, and five regular-season championships since 1992. In addition, Creighton has advanced to the NCAA Tournament each year for the past 11 years — becoming one of only five programs to accomplish that feat.

Warming was a finalist for National Coach of the Year honors this past season after leading the Jays to an 18-4-2 record and one win shy of a national title match.

Warming, the program’s winniest coach with 101 wins, helped put Creighton soccer on the map in the early 1990s.

When Creighton reinstated men’s soccer in 1990, after a four-year hiatus, Warming was picked to rebuild the program. Over five seasons, Warming guided Creighton to three conference tournament championships and three NCAA Tournament appearances.

He left Creighton in 1995 to become athletic director at Furman University in Greenville, S.C., still feeling like he had some unfinished business at Creighton — mostly, a permanent stadium to call home.

“When I left in 1995, we had been telling people for three years that we were going to build a stadium,” Warming said. “I feel like this was an important piece — and perhaps the final piece — of keeping this program where it needs to be on a continual basis.”

Before returning to Creighton in 2001, Warming coached at Saint Louis University and helped oversee the renovation and expansion of the school’s 6,000-seat, on-campus soccer stadium.

Those renovations, while impressive, pale in comparison to the Creighton project.

“There have been hundreds of college stadiums that have been constructed in the last decade, but I don’t think there is anything as nice as this,” Warming said. “I think this will be the standard for the rest of the country.”

Warming expects that the complex will not only host Creighton soccer matches, but will host high school, club, Olympic development and international soccer events and tournaments, as well.

“We have one of the highest per capita soccer populations of any state in the country and we don’t have a soccer stadium anywhere,” Warming said. “Now, we will be able to host all kinds of things. The soccer world is just going to completely open up. It’s going to be tremendous.”

He said the stadium also could be used for symphony and other outdoor concerts and events.

While the complex opens for soccer play this season, it’s not completely finished. This season, spectators can relax and cheer on the Jays from a grassy hillside overlooking the field to the east; stands and luxury suites to the west will be available next year.

Locker rooms with a tunnel leading to the field, a conditioning room and offices are still to be constructed on the north end of the stadium. There is parking to the south.

When the final stages are complete, Warming said the stadium will hold 5,000 people.

The soccer stadium is part of a revitalization of downtown Omaha. The stadium offers a great view of the city skyline to the south. Off to the east can be seen the new convention center/arena.

“The synergy down here is unbelievable,” Warming said. “The whole energy of downtown Omaha is exciting.”

Warming expects the new stadium to “energize” students, who previously had to travel several miles to watch a Creighton home match. Warming also showed a couple of recruits the facility while it was under construction.

“They were really impressed,” he said.

The new stadium and the 2003-2004 Jays will debut Aug. 29, when Creighton hosts the Diadora Challenge. For a complete schedule, visit www.gocreighton.com.
Creighton basketball coach Dana Altman, above, was the 90th Nebraska newsmaker to have his or her caricature enshrined at the Omaha Press Club. A record crowd of more than 200 turned out to honor (and roast) Altman at the event on June 24.

Debate Team Wins Second National Championship

Creighton University’s debate team won its second consecutive national championship in Lincoln-Douglas debate at the 2003 National Forensics Association National Championship held at Ball State University in Muncie, Ind., in April.

Creighton beat second-place Missouri Southern University and third-place Central Michigan.

More than 100 colleges and universities from across the country, including the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Northwestern University, Western Kentucky University and Central Michigan, competed in the tournament.

Bakewell Named New Holder of Barry Professorship

Timothy R. Austin, Ph.D., dean of Creighton’s College of Arts and Sciences, has announced the appointment of a new holder of the Michael W. Barry Professorship of Arts and Sciences. Geoffrey W. Bakewell, Ph.D., associate professor in the Department of Classical and Near Eastern Studies, succeeds Ashton Welch, Ph.D., as the holder of the professorship. Welch will take a sabbatical leave this fall. Former Dean the Rev. Albert A. Agresti, S.J., established the Michael W. Barry Professorship in 2001. The primary responsibility of the holder of this position is to serve as director of the University’s Undergraduate Honors Program.

Creighton and Joint Forces Staff College Form Partnership

Military leaders from the National Defense University’s Joint Forces Staff College (JFSC) will be able to earn master’s degrees at Creighton University.

Robert Pitts, Ph.D., dean of Creighton’s College of Business Administration, and JFSC’s interim commandant, retired Col. C. Stanley Rones, have signed an agreement to enable JFSC students and alumni stationed at Offutt Air Force Base to complete an MBA or master’s degree in International Relations at Creighton. Creighton is one of nine universities in the nation to partner with JFSC.

Heaney Receives Institut Candia Award

Institut Candia has recognized Creighton University’s Robert P. Heaney, M.D., with its annual award for his significant contributions to raising awareness of calcium and its health benefits. Through this award, Candia honors Heaney for being an internationally recognized investigator who has advanced research on milk and its health benefits and widely communicated the information to scientists and the general public.

The Institut Candia, founded in 1990 and comprised of world-renowned scientists, fosters collaboration and information sharing among leading researchers to increase public awareness of how milk and calcium aid health.

Heaney, holder of the John A. Creighton University Professorship, has published more than 400 scientific articles and chapters. He has written three books, including Calcium and Common Sense, which was honored as one of the 10 best scientific books for the general reader.

CU Student Wins National Writing Award

Creighton University creative writing student Liz Stefaniak is one of this year’s national winners of the Associated Writing Programs’ Intro Journals Project award, a coveted award in the field of creative writing.

The Intro Journals Project is a literary competition for the discovery and publication of the best new works by students currently enrolled in member programs of the Associated Writing Programs.

“Winning this award is a prestigious honor and marks the winner as a young writer of tremendous promise, with the potential of becoming an important literary voice,” said Bridget Keegan, Ph.D., chair of Creighton’s Department of English.

A graduate student in creative writing, Stefaniak will have her work published in The Crab Orchard Review, an award-winning publication produced by Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. Winners are published in a variety of the nation’s top literary magazines.
AN 8,000-MILE JOURNEY THROUGH UNCHARTED TERRITORY. 2 YEARS, 4 MONTHS AND 9 DAYS OF EXPLORATION.
BEAUTIFUL VISTAS, BONE-CHILLING WINTERS, WONDROUS PLANTS AND ANIMALS.
A 28-MEMBER THEATRICAL CAST, 14 ORIGINAL SONGS AND A FULL-PIECE ORCHESTRA

In May 1804, an expedition of 30 ordinary men (young woodsmen and enlisted soldiers) led by Captains Meriwether Lewis and William Clark left St. Louis on an extraordinary journey to document the land the United States gained in the Louisiana Purchase and to find a water route to the Pacific Ocean.

Nearly 200 years later, Creighton’s theater department will stage an original musical production — Lewis and Clark Part One: Manifest Destiny — about that two-and-a-half-year adventure.

The production is the brainchild of Alan Klem, assistant professor of theatre at Creighton.

A decade ago, a personal interest in American history and a desire to learn more about Lewis and Clark’s epic journey across the American West led Klem to begin reading about the 1804-1806 Voyage of Discovery.

“I’ve always been interested in American history,” Klem said. “I don’t know what made me pick up the Lewis and Clark journals. Perhaps it had something to do with living in Omaha that I found it so very fascinating.”

The more he read about the expedition, the more interested he became. But the following passage in Lewis and Clark: Voyage of Discovery by Dan Murphy inspired a vision:
Re-enactors in historical dress command a full-sized reproduction of Lewis and Clark’s keelboat, Discovery, during the Lewis and Clark Festival in June at Lewis and Clark State Park near Onawa, Iowa. A re-enactor portraying William Clark in military dress is positioned at the bow of the 55-foot boat.
“Before winter another man would be dismissed, the last man to leave the expedition. But things of the future were hidden that night, for the play was still beginning. The sand bar was the stage, the driftwood fire the footlights, the Missouri’s murmur the leit motif, and the darkness a curtain. The unknown was before them like a blank wall. Their thoughts circled and probed at it, trying to see the other side. Maybe (Sgt. Charles) Floyd (the only member to die on the expedition) was there already.”

“Immediately I had the idea to write a musical based on the journals,” said Klem. “I tried to put it out of my mind because I’m not a musician, I’m a dramatist. But I never could divorce the idea of music as part of the story.”

Over the years, the idea stayed with him. The more he read, the more he believed a musical dramatization of the journey would be an effective way to entertain and teach the public about some of the extraordinary events of the journey.

“I think the things that happened make the story worth dramatizing,” Klem said. “There have been fine documentaries about the expedition, but not much in the way of dramatization. The movies of the 1930s romanticized it. Why no one has made a more realistic version I don’t understand. I think there are a couple of plays, but they haven’t been widely published.”

About three years ago, Klem decided to pursue the project. During a meeting of the fine and performing arts faculty, he announced his intention to write the play and that he needed to find someone to write the music and lyrics.

Fred Hanna, D.M.A., the department’s music coordinator, approached Klem after the meeting to express his interest in the project.

“He told me he wanted an all-American musical, a majestic orchestration with a contemporary feel,” Hanna said. “He was looking for a big sound.”

“Salieri (a contemporary of Mozart) said ‘Music is the soul of God.’ Everybody can understand music,” Klem said. “I’m not a great lover of musicals; many of them can be quite silly. But Les Misérables is a great musical. The music speaks volumes of the pain and glory going on in Victor Hugo’s novel.

“I thought music would capture the adventure, pain, glory and spectacle of Lewis and Clark’s journey,” he continued.

As the project continued to develop in the back of Klem’s mind, he began thinking about backdrop scenery.

“I had the idea for the backdrop scenery to be photographs along the route,” he said.

Klem invited renowned photographer and Creighton Jesuit the Rev. Don Doll, S.J., to lunch to discuss his idea and to ask Fr. Doll to recommend a student photographer.

“To my great surprise and delight, he said he’d be interested in doing it,” Klem said.

“I love the outdoors,” Fr. Doll said. “I wanted to get back to photography after spending so much time recently with videography. This is a purely enjoyable project for me to go out, explore and have fun making pictures. It’s the grandeur of God’s creation.”

During the 2001-2002 academic year, Klem and Hanna applied for and received a faculty research grant allowing them to pursue the project.

“Last summer, I finished my research and started writing in June,” Klem said. “I would write a scene and tell Fred I needed a song for a certain character, and he would write the music and lyrics.”

They finished writing in December. Hanna said his inspiration for the
music came from the themes and stories Klem would tell him.

“It was truly a collaborative process,” Hanna said. “Some parts of the script were written around the music, some of the music was written around the script. I would think about the story or theme, look through other musicals, listen to other pieces, play ballads or up-beat hoedowns. From there, the lyrics started to lead the music in the right direction.”

One particular song proved most difficult for Hanna to write.

“Alan asked me to use the exact words Thomas Jefferson wrote for Lewis to read to the Indians he met,” Hanna said. “It was not what I had come up with. It was tough for me to put it to music. I kept reading that passage over and over, and Alan and I kept talking about it. Finally, I ended up borrowing some techniques from opera and including some chanting.

“It turned out to be one of the most poignant pieces in the production.”

“I had never written a musical or a play before. Neither had Fred,” Klem said. “We’re both novices. But I feel pretty good about this. It came together very well. The music is very grand, rich, glorious, powerful and dramatic.”

Hanna composed 14 original pieces for the musical.

“The creative aspect is complete,” Hanna said. “Now I’m orchestrating them. It’s a very enjoyable process. Once we know who will sing the songs, we can tweak them to that actor’s voice range. Also, in rehearsal, we may decide we don’t need a song and edit it out. The song is written, but it can continue to change.”

As Klem and Hanna worked on the play, Doll began shooting for the project.

“This was very much a collaborative process. Alan and I met, and he shared his vision,” Fr. Doll said. “I tried to make his vision a reality, to shoot his ideas.”

In summer 2002, Fr. Doll canoed three days on the river to shoot the White Cliff area in Montana where Lewis and Clark had such a difficult time. He also shot the Great Falls near Missoula, Mont., and traveled to Pompey’s Pillar near Billings, Mont.

“In one week, I shot video around the falls,” Fr. Doll said. “It took (the Corps of Discovery) almost a month to travel the 18 miles around the falls.
Lewis and Clark: The Musical

Lewis and Clark encountered many buffalo during their journey. At one point, Clark wrote in his journal “... bison were so numerous and loud that the men had difficulty sleeping.”

Fr. Doll traveled to North Dakota in February to photograph the expedition’s winter quarters and scenes like the one above of an ice- and snow-covered Missouri River, taken about 20 miles south of Fort Mandan off Scenic Highway 1804.
“(The Corps) wouldn’t recognize the river today with all the channelization and created lakes,” Fr. Doll said. “I looked for pristine settings that evoke what the river looked like when they explored it. There are a couple of stretches of the river that are considered pristine. One stretch is north of Sioux City. I tried to shoot the river at the Sgt. Floyd Monument, but it has changed too much.”

In February 2003, Fr. Doll went to North Dakota to shoot the expedition’s winter quarters at Fort Mandan and the Mandan Indians’ camp at Knife River. Later that spring, he traveled to St. Louis and shot the confluence of the Mississippi and Missouri rivers — where the expedition began — from an airplane.

“I trekked along the river,” Fr. Doll said. “It was horrendous — dark and black.”

In June 2003, Fr. Doll drove up to the Lewis and Clark Festival in Onawa, Iowa, where the Lewis and Clark Rendezvous re-enactors made a stop.

“They had an actual keelboat there with 38 tons of stuff that they pushed up the river. I shot a panoramic overview of the campground,” Fr. Doll said. “When Alan saw the results, he was very excited and plans to use them in the production.”

In July 2003, Fr. Doll traveled from Bismarck, N.D., to Fort Clatsop, Ore., to capture scenery from the rest of the journey. He hoped to encounter some summertime storms to more accurately reflect the mood of the Corps when faced with tempestuous weather.

“It’s more important to evoke scenes where the action takes place,” he said. “These guys were exploring where no white man had been before. I had a GPS (global positioning system) and a laptop computer. I plotted my journey on a topographical map. I could see which roads went through and which were dead ends. I was amazed by the ease of my journey.”

The photos and video will be projected onto an 18-by-35 foot screen to create...
Excerpt From Act II, Scene 4

Many extraordinary things occurred during Lewis and Clark’s Voyage of Discovery. The following excerpt illustrates how valuable York, Clark’s servant, was to the expedition when the members faced possible death from the Nez Perce:

The Indians begin a war dance in center stage as Sacagawea and an Indian woman approach York.

YORK: One night, while we was all sick and asleep, Janey (Clark’s nickname for Sacagawea) woke me and introduced me to an Indian woman called Watkuweis. She had come to tell us that Twisted Hair, the chief of the Nes Perce was considerin’ killin’ the members of the expedition on account of Cap’n Billy (as Clark was known) but couldn’t wake him so’s in desperation she turned to me. I done summoned what little strength I had left and staggered to the Indian village with the two women. Sure enough, the warriors of the tribe were a dancin’ around a campfire a hoopin’ and a hollern’. Watkuweis tried to interrupt the ceremonies with pleas to spare the soldiers but when they was about to physically throw her out of the circle she pointed to me. (War drums stop. Panic stricken, York pauses for a moment, then stands tall and shouts at the top of his lungs.)

DO NOT HARM THE WHITE MAN!!
BIG MEDICINE HAS SPOKEN!!

The Indians freeze in fear and uncertainty. The words echo throughout the canyons and mountains as if they can still be heard today.

(After a moment, York and Sacagawea leave the council and move downstage.) Half angry and half jist scared to death, I grabbed Janey and high-tailed it outta there as fast as I could. I figured there would be Indians a chassin’ us all the way back to the camp and I would be responsible for the killin’ and a scalp pin’ of the whole lot of us. But when we reached the camp, there was nothin’ but silence the whole rest of the night. Both of us sat next to each other fer the rest of the night thinkin’ of the dire consequences of my actions. I done realized I shouted to them in English. How would they even know what the hell I said?!!

(As the Indians approach.) Finally in the early light of mornin’ the Indians did come. But instead of weapons and war paint, they came with food and medicine. The few men who could stand and move around were quickly but peacefully assailed by more Indians who brought them hollowed out canoes to travel down the nearest stream on our journey west.

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Fall 2003

Lewis and Clark: The Musical

the backdrop. Klem estimates that the production will run about three hours with the intermission.

“It’s going to be big,” Klem said, “fully orchestrated. What’s really nice about it, I think, is that it is written in their language. You can tell by the way they wrote how they talked. As a dramatist, I’m interested in how historical figures would have talked and dressed.”

Klem used the 10-volume set The Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition by Gary Moulton of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln as his primary source.

“I’m very interested in York in particular,” Klem said. “He was Clark’s personal servant. He grew up with Clark, who took him on the expedition. There is not a lot about York in the journals, but he seemed to have been treated equally.”

The play is told from York’s point of view.

“We don’t know much about him. His story is a mystery, but he is such a wonderful role model for African-Americans,” Klem continued. “York was trusted and respected by all these men on the journey.”

York is a remarkable character for a
number of reasons.

“He could read and write, and he could shoot a gun,” Klem said, “and this is in a day and age when it was against the law for black people to do any of that.

“When they finally got to the Pacific in November 1805, Lewis and Clark allowed each member of the expedition to vote on where to spend the winter, including York and Sacagawea. It was the first time in recorded American history that a black man and an Indian got a vote. That’s the climax of the production.”

To Klem, the role is so important that he pre-cast it. Derrick Crawford, an administrator at Creighton University Medical Center, will portray York.

“I don’t like to pre-cast roles,” Klem said, “but this particular part required an African-American who could act and sing. Derrick will be great in this role with his experience and age.”

Crawford has appeared in other Omaha musical productions including Ain’t Misbehavin’ at the John Beasley Theater and, most recently, in Tommy at the Shelterbelt Theatre.

“Alan contacted me several months ago. We met and discussed the play. I never knew about York or the impact he had on the expedition,” Crawford said. “I could see the passion Alan has for this and it made me want to do this role. To me, this is a dream role for an African-American actor.”

Crawford has been studying the script and intends to know it thoroughly when rehearsals begin in September.

“I see York as a little naïve,” he said. “He was very loyal and risked his life several times. He was a master hunter in a day when slaves were not allowed to use weapons. He could write. Eventually, he is recognized as a member of the expedition. These are things that people don’t know. It’s amazing to me.”

The incredible journey continues. ©
In the United States, conservative estimates indicate that after puberty, 5-10 million girls and women and 1 million boys and men are struggling with eating disorders including anorexia, bulimia, binge eating disorder or borderline conditions.

— National Eating Disorders Association
In the end, an eating disorder isn’t really about food.

A curious contradiction, you say? Then talk with Mae Sokol, M.D., and soon the topic will rearrange itself from one that — for many — is challenging to understand into one that carries a passionate charge coupled with a sense of urgency. And at the top of the list of issues to be addressed for its victims? Self-esteem and identity.

Indeed, Sokol, associate professor of psychiatry and pediatrics at Creighton University’s School of Medicine, is pursuing the charge with an urgency. As the first director of the Creighton Eating Disorders Program at Children’s Hospital in Omaha, the soft-spoken woman is the point-person for what may develop into one of the best treatment programs in the country.

Begun in March 2002, the program is dedicated to treating disorders that affect 11 million Americans — more than diagnosed with Alzheimer’s. Eating disorders among children and adolescents are increasing, and the results can be fatal. While there is not yet an accurate way to track deaths, Holly Hoff, director of programs for the National Eating Disorders Association (NEDA), said anorexia has the highest mortality rate of any mental illness.

Credit for establishing the program goes to Daniel R. Wilson, M.D., Ph.D., chair of the Department of Psychiatry at Creighton. Wilson arrived on campus two years ago amidst changes in Omaha psychiatry. A decade-long Creighton-University of Nebraska Medical Center psychiatry faculty was dissolved; Omaha’s Richard Young Center, the last freestanding psychiatric hospital in Nebraska, was closing; and The Menninger Clinic in Topeka, Kan., was partnering with the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston and the Methodist Health Care System.

Menninger had an eating disorders program that drew children and adolescents from all over the country. “Dr. Steve Lazoritz (vice president of medical affairs at Children’s) and I both saw Children’s as an excellent community hospital transitioning into regional and national prominence,” Wilson said. “We knew the eating disorders program had worked very well at Menninger’s and Children’s should adopt it.”

Sokol, who had been in charge of the Menninger program, was the first person brought on. Wilson calls it “most propitious that Creighton and Children’s work together. Not only does this bring here a nationally significant clinical and research program, but it also has led to unique cross-training. Pediatric residents rotate along with psychiatry residents and fellows at Children’s on regular stints and electives. This model of more advanced psychiatric training for primary care residents is especially relevant to the needs of non-urban care.”

While the predominant eating disorder in the program is *anorexia nervosa* (dangerous eating patterns motivated by fear of weight gain), patients also have *bulimia nervosa* (binge eating, followed by purging), compulsive eating (periods of gorging with no purging; body weight may be normal to obese) and other disorders.

42% of 1st-3rd grade girls want to be thinner

Source: National Eating Disorders Association

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Set up for children and adolescents up to their 21st birthday (with no minimum age), the program is based on individualized treatment plans that
address the psychological, medical and family problems associated with eating disorders. There are three levels of treatment: an eight-bed Inpatient Program, a Day Hospital Program (in development) and an Outpatient Program. Eventually, inpatients will transition to the day program, then outpatient.

Hoff calls the program “very commendable. I wish there were more places able to offer this range of service. There simply are not enough places where patients can receive effective care.”

The visible centerpiece is the Inpatient Program, which includes wheelchair accessibility. Kathleen Koley Gast, SJN’69, staff psychiatric nurse, said, “Patients don’t arrive in wheelchairs, and none think they need one. But some of our under-weight anorexic patients have decreased muscle mass and their internal organs and heart may have sustained damage. So it’s important to conserve energy.”

Koley Gast adds that the condition of some patients is so medically unstable that they may need to be on a medical unit for telemetry (heart monitoring), and/or IV nutrition when admitted. Some also have serious psychological problems. In fact, although patients are free to move about within the unit, the doors are locked to guard against suicides and escapes.

The bedrooms surround the nursing station. Two multi-purpose rooms are used for everything from eating disorder education sessions to art therapy. A “quiet room” — a padded, windowless place — hasn’t been used so far. Patients eat in a fully-equipped kitchen and practice cooking there before returning home.

Each patient — the youngest to date being only 9 — receives an individualized, multidisciplinary treatment plan based on psychiatric, medical, psychological, nursing...
Eating Disorders in Children

As an assistant professor of English at Creighton, Shari Stenberg, Ph.D., helps students in her writing classes examine the printed words of American culture. “I want them to think critically about what they consume and challenge media information rather than easily succumb to it,” she said.

Driven in part by the prevalence of eating disorders among young women, she concentrates on the media’s role in shaping a woman’s body image. “We have internalized an idea of the female body that no one can measure up to,” Stenberg said. “Much of that comes from magazines, television and commercials. Teen magazines have more authority over young women than any other text. The average reader of Seventeen is 12. Now there is Cosmo Girl.”

She challenges students to consider the media’s effect, both on the intellectual and emotional levels. Rather than having students say, “This is how it is,” Stenberg wants them to learn how to say, “This is how it is and this is how it needs to change.”

Often, students respond with an insight that can only be gleaned from reality. Brittany Travers, a freshman from Colorado Springs, wrote:

“It started innocently. In my prepubescent days, I pretended to be a movie star by smacking on my mother’s lipstick and strutting around in a pink boa and high-heeled shoes.

“By junior high, make-up was no longer a game, but a necessity. Who would want to look at my face without it? And, when the womanly curves of puberty set in, I girdled in my stomach.

“I did it all without even thinking ... without even questioning. Teen magazines, advertisements, movies all promised boys and popularity to me if I could just squeeze myself into those jeans or that shirt. If I could find the willpower to stay on that treadmill for just another hour, I would finally be skinny ... happy ... loved.

“But, before I knew it, it was no longer the attainment of beauty; it was disfigurement. In the bloody competition, I had sucked in my individuality, mutilated my God-given curves of insight, and walked on a treadmill until there was nothing left of ‘me.’

“But, I was one of the lucky ones. Compared to all those driven by skinniness to death, I’ve made it this far relatively unharmed.

“Sometimes I wonder, Who will be the one to end it all? Who will be the one to shatter these mirrors of self-hate? Then, I pinch at the fat on my thighs, as I look in the mirror, and I head back to the gym.”

Tackling the Media’s Image of Beauty

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Creighton’s Peer Education Offers Help

During the six years Michele Millard was providing one-on-one therapy for students at Creighton’s Counseling Center, she became increasingly interested in the prevention end of her work.

“I thought there had to be something to keep students from getting to this point,” she said. So in 1996, Millard helped transform the Alcohol Education Center into the Peer Education Program. The program deals with typical issues confronting college students — stress, dating, relationships, sexual decision-making, smoking, alcohol, diversity and eating disorders.

Millard said it’s “no surprise that a college environment like Creighton would see issues with eating disorders and body image. The characteristics of someone struggling with those issues are being Caucasian and a high achiever, coming from a middle- to upper-class socioeconomic status, and being in a major life transition.”

Among the program’s efforts:

• A three-credit course training peer educators to help students address life-choice issues. Between 15 and 20 course-graduates each year volunteer to provide programs, everything from freshman seminars to sorority presentations. “The presentations are purely educational,” Millard said, “but at some level, informal counseling happens.”

• Awareness activities such as panel discussions and displays in the student center and bulletin board displays in residence halls.

• Staff psychologists and therapists who provide up to 12 hours of free therapy to a student per semester.

• Screening for Mental Health, an on-line screening program. Students answer questions about eating disorders and an evaluation of their answers indicates whether a professional consultation would be helpful.

• Periodical, student-facilitated support groups led by someone who has completed treatment and is in recovery.

Creighton’s Peer Education Offers Help

During the six years Michele Millard was providing one-on-one therapy for students at Creighton’s Counseling Center, she became increasingly interested in the prevention end of her work.

“I thought there had to be something to keep students from getting to this point,” she said. So in 1996, Millard helped transform the Alcohol Education Center into the Peer Education Program. The program deals with typical issues confronting college students — stress, dating, relationships, sexual decision-making, smoking, alcohol, diversity and eating disorders.

Millard said it’s “no surprise that a college environment like Creighton would see issues with eating disorders and body image. The characteristics of someone struggling with those issues are being Caucasian and a high achiever, coming from a middle- to upper-class socioeconomic status, and being in a major life transition.”

Among the program’s efforts:

• A three-credit course training peer educators to help students address life-choice issues. Between 15 and 20 course-graduates each year volunteer to provide programs, everything from freshman seminars to sorority presentations. “The presentations are purely educational,” Millard said, “but at some level, informal counseling happens.”

• Awareness activities such as panel discussions and displays in the student center and bulletin board displays in residence halls.

• Staff psychologists and therapists who provide up to 12 hours of free therapy to a student per semester.

• Screening for Mental Health, an on-line screening program. Students answer questions about eating disorders and an evaluation of their answers indicates whether a professional consultation would be helpful.

• Periodical, student-facilitated support groups led by someone who has completed treatment and is in recovery.
Could Strep Lead to Anorexia?

Mae Sokol, M.D., director of Creighton’s new Eating Disorders Program, is known for being the first to describe infection-triggered anorexia nervosa.

Recent evidence suggests that certain transmissible agents may cause or contribute to some psychiatric illnesses. Clinical and research observations have led to the hypothesis that a post-infectious and auto-immune process may cause or exacerbate certain cases of anorexia nervosa.

These disorders are described by the acronym PANDAS (Pediatric Auto-immune Neuropsychiatric Disorders Associated with Streptococcus), when they occur in youngsters and the causative agent is Group A streptococcus, the bacterium that causes strep throat.

The possibility of infection-triggered anorexia nervosa suggests that infectious disease history should be evaluated in relation to eating disorder symptoms. Treatment strategies are being developed that may help some of these patients.

Most fashion models are thinner than 98% of American women.

Source: National Eating Disorders Association

“Psychiatrists need more education about eating disorders and nutrition. Psychiatrists usually don’t weigh patients. But if somebody loses or gains weight, it tells you a lot about what’s going on with that person. A Texan who grew up on a cattle ranch told me that cattle were screened for medical problems by weighing them.”

— Mae Sokol, M.D., Director of Creighton’s new Eating Disorders Program
People sometimes underestimate how serious an eating disorder can be,” said Koley Gast. “A malnourished body is unable to develop muscle mass or normal growth of brain cells. Reproductive organs cannot fully develop, bones cannot grow strong and health can be limited. This is more than just an ‘I-want-to-be-skinny’ issue. We can’t just snap our fingers and say, ‘Eat!’”

Instead, said Sokol, “We help patients find out who they are, not what their weight is. We have to meet their emotional and medical needs. We cannot treat these patients with just medication or just psychotherapy.”

The average inpatient length of stay for anorexics has been 31 days and 14 days for bulimics; for outpatients, the average treatment time is about a year. Research indicates that 50 percent of treated patients will recover, 30 percent will experience partial recovery and 20 percent will not recover.

The bottom line: “There is usually life after an eating disorder,” Sokol said. “In that respect, it’s different from, say, schizophrenia, which is a condition that often lasts a lifetime.”

About the author: Shanley is an author and freelance writer living in West Des Moines, Iowa.

For more information about the Creighton Eating Disorders Program: (402) 955-6190 or toll-free at (888) 216-1860 or http://www.chsomaha.org. The program provides a community eating disorders education program every second Saturday of the month. This program is free and open to the public.

### Messages for Parents & Physicians

**Parents: Trust Your Instincts**

Holly Hoff of the National Eating Disorders Association tells two stories.

- A parent called and said their daughter has been throwing up for three months, then asked, “How long can this go on before it becomes a problem?” Hoff’s response was that the vomiting was a problem the first time it happened.
- Then there’s the parent who got the daughter through treatment. However, her bulimia had taken its toll, and even as she was working to recover, her body gave out and she passed away in her sleep because of an electrolyte imbalance (caused by dehydration and loss of potassium and sodium from the body as a result of purging behaviors).

Hoff said, “Parents need to trust their instincts, do some research and then express concerns in a caring way. One of the biggest ways to be effective,” she added, “is to start early.”

For more information, call the National Eating Disorders Association’s information and referral line at (800) 951-2237, or visit the association online at http://www.NationalEatingDisorders.org.

**Physicians: Look Beyond the Surface**

Creighton’s Mae Sokol, M.D., talks about a patient, a girl, who kept losing consciousness while running track. She was eventually seen by a pediatric cardiology specialist who never asked her if she had an eating disorder. Finally, in a meeting with Sokol, the girl said she was losing consciousness because she wasn’t eating.

The problem here, as far as Sokol is concerned, is that much of the medical community does not routinely ask questions about eating disorders. “Be aware that an eating disorder could be the problem,” she said. “Ask simple questions like, ‘Are you on a diet?’ ‘Have you ever been on a diet?’ ‘What do you think about your current weight?’

“Many women want to lose five pounds, but if a patient says she is terribly overweight, even when you can see that she is underweight, that’s probably a good sign of an eating disorder.”

Adds Joyce Stoural, patient care manager for Creighton’s Eating Disorders Program, “When a young person comes in with gastrointestinal problems or vomiting, rather than just fix the immediate problem, the doctor should ask why the problem exists. We need to look further than the surface.”

### Normal BodyWeights

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<tr>
<th>Height</th>
<th>Feet and Inches</th>
<th>Small Frame Female</th>
<th>Medium Frame Female</th>
<th>Large Frame Female</th>
<th>Medium Frame Male</th>
<th>Large Frame Male</th>
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All information on this chart is weights at ages 25-59 based on the lowest mortality rate. Weight is in pounds according to frame (indoor clothing weighing 3 lbs., shoes with 1” heels).

Source: Metropolitan Life Insurance Company.
On Sept. 2, 1878, on a hilltop overlooking an emerging frontier city, Creighton first opened its doors as a free school for boys.

Over the next 125 years, the fledging school, founded by one of Omaha’s pioneering families and nurtured by the Jesuits, evolved into a nationally recognized University.

This is the first of a four-part series telling our story.
Creighton Celebrates 125th Anniversary: Getting Started

Creighton Celebrates Anniversary

Anniversary
This fall, Creighton University celebrates its 125th anniversary — with the magazine happily joining in the fete.

Beginning with this issue, Creighton University Magazine carries a story each quarter highlighting some of the forces that shaped the University from the time of its founding.

Meanwhile, American historian Dennis N. Mihelich, Ph.D., associate professor of history at Creighton, has accepted Creighton President the Rev. John Schlegel’s challenge: Prepare a scholarly history of Creighton to mark its 125th year. Set to release in 2005, much of Mihelich’s research has been primary, that is, undertaken for the very first time.

Having searched church and University records, vintage photographs, pieced-together accounts, a good share of myth and, eventually, oral history, Mihelich opens with the dramatic time of the school’s beginnings. What emerges is a clearer picture of the Creighton progenitors, the University’s struggles, and its inevitable shaping by Jesuits and the church, American culture and the sweep of events around the globe and here at home.

At the time of Creighton’s founding in 1878, the country was emerging from a depression, and Omaha was a dusty (or muddy, depending on the season) boomtown. In its streets, Irish and German immigrants mingled with English, Scandinavians and others. Creighton’s founders were at once a product and a part of this quintessential West, with its frontier openness and optimism.

But not every force in the young country was a positive one. The American Protective Association based itself across the Missouri River in Clinton, Iowa, and sought to throw Catholics out of leadership positions. (Although the group came to Omaha and published a newspaper, it never made inroads beyond the antics of a few religious bigots, Mihelich said.)

The University’s early curriculum adhered to the Ratio Studiorum, literally, the study of reason, which the Jesuits had perfected in Europe through the centuries. Here, a young boy was trained from late childhood to adulthood in a prescribed humanistic education that differed from the elective pattern common in elite American universities.

In its early years, the University would work with these two forces: its own distinctive heritage and the need, for credibility, to assimilate into the prevailing culture. In 1916, Creighton could mark its first official milestone in this direction: accreditation by the North Central Association of Colleges and Universities.

Finally, in those early years, there was World War I, which claimed an entire generation. Though the United States would lose comparatively few soldiers to the war, 126,000 versus nearly 1 million in Great Britain alone (8.5 million in Europe), a pandemic of influenza would cut a wide swath here at home. In fact, the angel that graces the northeast corner of the Jesuit Gardens today is a remnant of this time, when Creighton students gave thanks for lives spared.

But that’s getting ahead of our story. Here, we only concern ourselves with the University’s inaugural year, a time of optimism, hard work and hope.

— Pamela Adams Vaughn
Features Editor
Creighton College opened its doors on the first Monday in September of 1878, in a raucous frontier town that possessed an ample number of drinking establishments and houses of prostitution but lacked paved streets and virtually every other amenity today associated with urban living.

On paper, Creighton became the 17th institution of higher learning operated by the Jesuits in the United States, but, actually, it took more than a decade to achieve that status.

Like most Catholic colleges, especially in frontier areas, Creighton had to begin with elementary grades and develop those young students to become eventual collegians. Also, by the time Creighton College inaugurated its program of study, the United States had developed a distinctive educational system to which the Jesuits had to adapt.

American students, for example, had initiated an “extracurriculum” — which included debating clubs, literary societies and intercollegiate sports. Moreover, American democracy and pragmatism demanded a more utilitarian curriculum — geared toward training the average citizen for productive employment — than the Jesuits had developed through the centuries.

The explosion in scientific knowledge also competed fiercely with the humanities-based Ratio Studiorum. In those early years, uncertainty abounded. The Missouri Province almost abandoned the school, but as Omaha became a boomtown, the College also began to succeed. The Jesuits adapted, the Province established a uniform course of study and the generous support of John Andrew and Sarah Emily Creighton financed the evolution of the institution from a grade school to a college that graduated its first class in 1891.

With Mary Lucretia’s bequest in hand, in March 1877 Bishop James C. O’Connor announced the imminent construction of Creighton College on a seven-acre site composed of five pieces of property purchased from five different parties for the total cost of $12,000.

Its position on a crest northwest of Capitol Hill (today’s Omaha Central High School) would give it a “grand view of the surrounding country,” the bishop wrote, and, when completed, the building would be “the largest in the city, and its architecture the most artistic.” The bishop also explained that the College would not be “a boarding institution, but a day school, and at first the instruction (would) be of a primary character until pupils shall have reached a college grade, when the higher
Creighton Celebrates 125th Anniversary: Getting Started

One month later the bishop began recruiting the Jesuits of the Missouri Province. His initial letter stated that his intention “from the first” had been to invite the Society to administer the school, but he had deferred because he understood that a rejection loomed likely “owing to a want of members.” Therefore, he resolved to have one of his priests operate the facility until it prepared sufficient students able to enter college-level classes.

“But a careful examination of my surroundings,” the bishop revealed, “has satisfied me, that it will be exceedingly difficult for me to conduct the establishment on the proposed plan, and I have accordingly concluded to ask you if it would not be possible for you to take charge of it, from the start.” He asked for only one or two priests who could hire lay faculty until the Society gained more members, and he promised “all possible security against being disturbed by myself, or my successors, in the possession and administration of the institution.”

But Jesuit Provincial the Rev. Thomas O’Neill hesitated making a decision until he could visit the site and analyze the bequest. Furthermore, he argued, he could not reach a conclusion until he knew the consequences of having accepted the offer to operate Detroit College, set to open in September 1877.

The bishop responded by sweetening the pot, pointing out that with the inventory of property complete it now became clear that, with residuals due to the increase in the value of Mary Lucretia’s estate, the total bequest rose to about $200,000.

While no correspondence exists in the Midwest Jesuit Archives to verify the machinations, several Jesuit scholars later recorded that Bishop O’Connor had to appeal directly to the Jesuit’s Superior General in Rome to finally convince O’Neill to accept the assignment.

Construction began in early May, workers laid the cornerstone on Aug. 27, 1877, and Fr. Roman Shaffel, S.J., a Belgian Jesuit from Loyola University in Chicago, arrived on Dec. 6, 1877, in anticipation of welcoming the first students to class in early January.

The following Sunday a hastily arranged meeting at St. Philomena’s Cathedral, not “sufficiently announced,” garnered the parents of only 24 potential students. Subsequently, on Dec. 20, Shaffel placed an advertisement in three Omaha newspapers:

“As the Preparatory Department of the Creighton College will open on the first Monday of January, 1878, the parents who desire to send their sons to this institution will please apply before Christmas to the President, Rev. R. A. Shaffel, at his residence on Eighteenth street, between Cass and California streets.

But construction delays had been rife. The idea had been to open the College even though its exterior stone, roof and plastering were incomplete, a notion that had to be scrapped for the safety of the students and faculty.
Thus, it wasn’t until July 10, 1878, that Shaffel finally moved into his room in Creighton College, and, by the week of Aug. 6, he had recruited two lay teachers from Chicago.

Two weeks later, one priest and three scholastic Jesuits arrived in Omaha from St. Louis. Shaffel, “undersized in stature,” and “parsimonious,” whose actions seemed “somewhat nervous,” assumed the duties of president and prefect of studies (duties of a contemporary dean). His staff members were unknown to each other, which probably added to the anxiety associated with their inaugural enterprise.

And an additional staff member came, sent to Omaha by the Provincial to rest the eyes he had “overstrained” during his noviceship. Soon, the young Jesuit was taking charge of the boiler room, cleaning the private rooms, and generally doing the manual work of a “lay brother” in his first year. He also served as sacristan but admitted to possessing no artistic flair. His sight recovered, and he began teaching a full schedule the second year. Thus, the great scientific luminary, one Gulielmus (William) F. Rigge, began his Creighton career.

Creighton College commenced on Monday, Sept. 2, 1878. The following day the Omaha Daily Herald, the only one of the three daily newspapers to report the event, wrote:

Creighton College was on yesterday morning thrown open for the reception of students, of whom, up to noon, about 180 (actually 120) had been enrolled.

After the assignments to classes had been made the students were dismissed till this morning, when the regular studies of the classes, of which there are four, will be commenced.

Students had applied for admission all during the month of August. The entrance reading examination consisted of a completion exercise. For example, the tester gave an applicant a sheet of paper with such words as, “the boy” and “top” written on it, and the youngster had to recite a complete sentence using the words. “The boy spins the top” would garner a “you pass” response.

Except at elite universities, this type of admissions test was quite common, and, by the 1870s, sparked the movement demanding higher uniform standards that led to the creation of the College Entrance Examination Board at the turn of the century.

A successful reply earned the applicant the status of “second reader.” Fr. William Rigge later asserted, “The Class of Rudiments of the Year One deserved its name. It was what we would now call almost kindergarten. Some of the children in it — they surely were not students — were barely six years old. (John B. Furay Jr., a future president of Loyola University, Chicago, entered the second semester seven weeks shy of his sixth birthday.) The reader need not, therefore, be told what they did in the classroom.”

At the other end of the spectrum, “the most advanced class, Third Humanities, was in many respects on a level only with the higher grades of the present-day grammar school.”

Students paid no tuition but did have to purchase their books from the College bookstore. The enrollment increased for most of the year, reaching 155 in mid-November and peaking at 170 in January 1879. The proportion of
Protestants increased, as well.

The course of study followed the modified Ratio Studiorum established at St. Louis University. Theoretically, Creighton College offered the standard six-year classical course “designed to impart a thorough knowledge of the English, Latin and Greek languages; of Mental and Moral Philosophy; of Pure and Mixed Mathematics, and of the Physical Sciences, besides all the usual branches of a polite education.”

Actually, no one “imparted” college-level instruction in the first decade. The College also offered a four-year commercial course, which embraced “all branches of a good English education ... (to prepare) students chiefly for business and commercial pursuits,” but few students were ready for that level of instruction, either.

The preparatory department for those who could read and write and who were “not under ten years of age” attracted the vast majority of students, and did so only by lowering the age requirement.

Thus, Creighton College opened as an elementary school beset with all the attendant problems. Regular attendance interfered with other more important pursuits for many students. Warm weather and the fall and spring horseracing seasons produced many absences, as did the preview of a new fire engine for the city.

Many students started classes late because of fall employment opportunities and left as early as March to work again.

Numerous holidays also interrupted the schedule, including Fr. Shaffel’s name day, May Day and St. Patrick’s Day. But some of the holidays were strange to these transplanted European Jesuits. Shaffel complained that he had to give the students the day off on the Friday following Thanksgiving because the Omaha High School (today’s Central) did so, and Creighton students would just play hooky. He vowed not to do it again and did not do so the next two years. His successor, however, Americanized the College’s holiday schedule.

The first-year schedule also introduced many religious practices that became custom. On Sunday, Sept. 8, 1878, at 9 a.m., the Jesuits held their first Mass for students in the third-floor chapel, probably the precursor of the Mass of the Holy Spirit.

A portable altar on casters stored in the hallway was rolled into the room and stationed near the large doors on the east side. Fr. Shaffel had to do the
homilies because Fr. Hubert Peters, vice president and prefect of discipline, who spoke English poorly and was the only other Jesuit priest, refused to preach.

Weekly collections averaged $1.40, a total that included a silver dollar from John A. Creighton. Obviously, weekly revenue suffered greatly when John Andrew was out of town on business or vacation!

The Sunday morning service included an “instruction” for the young students in attendance. On Sept. 21, the two priests initiated Saturday confessions at the chapel for the adults and students who had made their First Communion. The following year, the Sunday Mass at the College became mandatory for all Catholic students unless they acted as servers at a neighborhood church.

Soon, the annual three-day retreat was added in the fall, the school colors were chosen and, finally, on Feb. 10, 1879, Fr. Shaffel instituted catechism lessons for 40 boys that resulted in 28 of them making their First Communion on May 4.

The first year also witnessed the introduction of a limited “extracurriculum.” On Friday night, Feb. 21, 1879, the College held its first public entertainment in the third-floor auditorium-chapel.

A temporary stage was erected on the west end of the room. Poor Catholics in Omaha received the proceeds from an overflow crowd that heard songs sung by the week-old choir and “declarations” from other students. Lay teacher Edward O’Brien managed the extravaganza and played the lead in the evening’s finale.

Because of the young age of the students, athletics merely consisted of intramural games during the “recreation” period. The “big boys” played on the 120-by-240 foot yard south of the building, while the “little boys” used the 190-by-210 foot north lawn. “Football according to the old style (pre-rugby soccer-style game of trying to kick a ball through competitors arranged in a circle) was the favorite game of the students in the yard. The small boys especially enjoyed it,” reads a college account.

The one “interscholastic sport” that existed the Jesuits frowned upon because it came in the form of fisticuffs. According to Fr. John B. Furay, “Most of the boys came from the south and southeast sectors (of Omaha). As they passed the Omaha High School on Capitol Avenue there were occasional scrimmages and fights between the two high schools.” “Scrimmages” probably was a euphemism for group fights, although it could have referred to brief games of rugby football that were emerging at the time.

The first year ended with examinations and commencement (promotion to the next grade). On Monday, June 16, 1879, the faculty formed two boards to test the students. On Wednesday, June 25, Mmes. Edward C. and Felix McShane decorated the auditorium and hung a picture of Edward and Mary Lucretia, commissioned by John Andrew in Dayton, above the temporary stage.

Although a rainstorm erupted that evening, “few of the 700 chairs (were) empty.” Some students gave speeches or sang songs, and the affair ended before 10 p.m. After the exhibition, refreshments (wine, cakes and cigars) were served to the clergy and reporters. Subsequently, as the college embarked on year two a journalist offered an evaluation:

The college has now entered upon its second year, with the prestige of success of an unequivocal kind, which attended the first year of its existence. It has seemingly established itself in the community, as is evidenced by its increased attendance and the uniform kindliness of expression with which it is spoken of in our midst. A new institution, established under novel circumstances, gathering together strange students and placing them under professors in many respects unknown to them, it has achieved a success which, to say the least, is gratifying and commendable. With the advance of time this success will become more and more pronounced, especially when the graduates, trained to think, to speak, to write, to live lives of purity and honesty before God and man, come forth to fight the battle of life in all its stern reality. For such is the aim of Creighton College. Let it be hoped it may be eminently successful in its laudable undertaking for the sake of our city, our State, and for humanity; and that it may convey to posterity the name of its generous founder, of whose energy and liability it is, indeed, a befitting memorial.
Advancing Science at Creighton

New Hixson-Lied Science Building, Renovations Provide Needed Space, Upgrades

By Eileen Wirth, Ph.D., Professor and Chair, Department of Journalism and Mass Communication
For years, Creighton’s undergraduate science departments have prided themselves on their high national rankings, the performance of their students and the significant research performed by faculty.

But they’ve had a hard time selling this message to some prospective students, because the old labs in Rigge Science “really showed their age and long, intense use,” said Biology Professor Theodore Burk, Ph.D. “Their dilapidated condition did not make the kind of positive impression that our strong science programs should.”

No more.

Since January, the opening of the eye-catching $18 million Hixson-Lied Science Building housing undergraduate and some health sciences faculty offices, classrooms, computer rooms and student spaces has sent an exciting new message. Science education at Creighton is on the move.

But the Hixson-Lied Science Building is more than an attractive addition to Creighton’s campus. President John Schlegel, S.J., says it offers Creighton the opportunity to become a “national template for undergraduate science education” by “creating interdisciplinary learning” opportunities as recent Creighton President the Rev. John P. Schlegel, S.J., chats with Christina M. Hixson, sole trustee of the Lied Foundation Trust, at the dedication of the Hixson-Lied Science Building in June.
The new building with its dramatic circular six-story glass atrium is just part of Creighton’s $53 million upgrade of its undergraduate and health science education facilities. Other components include the $15 million renovation of the Rigge Science Building and $20 million in improvements in the Criss II and III buildings.

As spring semester ended, faculty and others worked overtime to empty Rigge, hauling research equipment and supplies to temporary storage in Hixson-Lied and elsewhere in preparation for construction. This fall, undergraduate science students will move into attractive, well-equipped, fully renovated labs, said Burk, a member of the renovation steering committee. Upgrades of faculty research labs should be completed by January.

Burk stressed that the renovation of Rigge is as important as the construction of Hixson-Lied because so much science instruction takes place in labs. It’s especially important at Creighton because nearly half of Creighton’s undergraduates major in a science compared with the national average of national reports have recommended.
about 5 percent. Many of Creighton’s major competitors have constructed new science facilities in the past 10 years.

“Our old teaching laboratories were an embarrassment,” said Bruce Mattson, Ph.D., professor of chemistry. “We heard a lot from students that they were coming from high school facilities that were far more modern.”

The Criss II and III improvements will be made over two years, said Roderick Nairn, Ph.D., senior associate dean for academic affairs in the School of Medicine. About half of the $20 million will be spent to replace the heating and air conditioning systems.

The University also will build a five-story building between Criss II and III where the current dock is and create a mixture of offices, computer-based instruction areas, research labs and student spaces. The renovation of Criss II will feature a new open-plan lab on the fourth floor partially financed by the National Institutes of Health, Nairn said. Some renovated classrooms will be ready this fall. The total project will expand space 30 to 40 percent.

“The main thing the medical students will gain is a space on the fourth floor for interactive small-group education,” Nairn said. The floor will house most activities for first- and second-year students and become “a showpiece” for Creighton medical education.

Nairn said that even though the School of Medicine gets only a small part of the Hixson-Lied Building, he’s pleased that health science students can share lounges and other common areas with undergrads. “This is very important to students. We don’t have enough lounge and study space and these areas will be used even on weekends.”

Nairn said the improvements will promote faculty and student recruitment, faculty retention and student satisfaction. Creighton wants to attract the best possible faculty and students who can go anywhere. It’s hard when “they see 40-year-old buildings and outdated labs” and when there is no space to expand successful programs.

Both undergraduate and health science faculty members participated in planning Hixson-Lied.

“Where the end users, had a huge role,” said Mattson, who was project shepherd for the undergraduate portion of Hixson-Lied. “Historically this is not how Creighton or other institutions have done things.” Often faculty met five times a week for a year with each other and the architects from HDR, Inc. to design the project, monitor progress and ensure that their needs were met.

Important features include the numerous interactive learning areas where faculty and students can work in small groups in “comfortable, small settings,” Mattson said. The faculty also is especially pleased with the small preparation rooms adjacent to classrooms where professors can conveniently store equipment for demonstrations.

“There are lots of computer rooms,” he said. “Our modern labs and classroom technology, student spaces, public spaces and spaces where majors can work should impress prospective students and faculty.”

Pharmacy faculty, who occupy the first floor of Hixson-Lied, are equally enthusiastic about the new building, said Sidney Stohs, Ph.D., who recently stepped down as dean of Pharmacy and Health Professions. “It’s wonderful to have all pharmacy faculty in one geographic area for the first time since 1970. We’ve been scattered between a dozen floors in three buildings. It is tremendously good for our faculty.”

Stohs praised the building’s state-of-the-art classrooms and said that having his faculty housed together will improve the educational process and promote faculty cooperation and

“We moved in while they were still working; most people, except the faculty, had hard hats on.”

— Bruce Mattson, Ph.D. professor of chemistry
collaboration.

He also said he hopes the new building will help pharmacy faculty get to know their undergraduate colleagues better and possibly promote discussions of research.

Mattson said planning for the 110,000-square-foot Hixson-Lied building began in 1998 under the leadership of former President Michael Morrison, S.J., and has enjoyed strong support from President Schlegel and the Creighton Board of Directors.

Both Nairn and Mattson said that Fr. Schlegel has taken special interest in the building’s appearance, including selection of the external materials and the general design.

Mattson said Fr. Schlegel wanted to create an attractive building that makes an architectural statement as well as being functional.

Fr. Schlegel promoted features such as an outdoor plaza/picnic area and the conversion of a former parking area to green space, Mattson said. “This is a wonderful building.”

Burk said he sees the improvements in science facilities as a significant example of the many positive developments at Creighton, including one of the largest freshman classes in 23 years.

“Everything is falling into place in Omaha with the construction of the new arena and downtown and at Creighton. If you look at the whole package, it’s really exciting. With our increasing freshman numbers, everything is on an upbeat note.”

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Floored by the Atrium

Step inside Creighton’s new Hixson-Lied Science Building, and you’ll most likely find yourself staring at the floor. Yes, the floor.

The view looking up the glass spire is spectacular, but the view looking down at the terrazzo floor is equally impressive thanks to Creighton’s Joel Davies.

Davies, M.F.A., BFA’95, an assistant professor of Journalism and Mass Communication, designed the floor’s mosaic, a grand depiction of an atom with its sleek curves racing the length of the Walter and Suzanne Scott Atrium. The atom’s “electrons” are colorful medallions representing all of Creighton’s colleges and schools. (See inset photos.)

As the focal point of the atrium, the mosaic can be viewed from all floors. So go ahead and stare.
Hixson-Lied Science Building

An Overview
• $18 million
• Six-stories, 110,000 square feet
• Houses the Departments of Environmental and Atmospheric Sciences, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Psychology, Preventive Medicine, Vice President for Health Sciences-Multicultural and Community Affairs, School of Pharmacy, Institute for Latin American Concern (ILAC), a College of Arts and Sciences Advising Suite that includes the honors program and pre-health science advising
• 13 classrooms, 3 computer access labs, 5 teaching labs
• Increases undergraduate science space by 40 percent
• Designed by HDR, Inc. of Omaha
• Ground broken on June 4, 2001; faculty moved in Dec. 16, 2002
• Named in honor of Christina M. Hixson, sole trustee of the Lied Foundation Trust, and in memory of Ernst F. Lied and his parents, Ernst M. and Ida K. Lied

The Donors
Major donors who have helped fund the $53 million science construction program include:
Lied Foundation Trust, Walter and Suzanne Scott, Kiewit Companies Foundation, Mutual of Omaha Companies, Commercial Federal Bank, Mr. and Mrs. William A. Fitzgerald, E.L. Wiegand Foundation, estate of Eileen Buckley, Dr. and Mrs. Robert Van Demark, Mr. William R. and JoAnn McCroy Kunkel, Dr. and Mrs. David W. Niederee, Drs. Sal and Mary Conti, Dr. C.C. and Mabel L. Criss Memorial Foundation, Dr. and Mrs. Paul J. Duwelins, Mr. and Mrs. H. James DeLine, Dr. and Mrs. George F. Haddix, Dr. and Mrs. C. Thomas Hagan, Patrick J. Kerrigan, the family of Dr. Donald J. and Betty A. Baumann, Dr. and Mrs. Michael J. Schekall, Dr. and Mrs. Wayne Yakes
Buckley Gift Honors Her Father

When the University dedicates a wing of the renovated Criss II building in 2004, it will bear the name of a Danish immigrant who was born the year Creighton was founded.

Eileen Hansen Buckley of St. Petersburg, Fla., honored her father by making a gift in excess of $2 million to Creighton through her estate plan. Buckley’s father, Dr. Hans Hansen, was a 1905 graduate of Creighton’s School of Medicine.

Coupled with a $2 million grant from the National Institutes of Health, Buckley’s gift will establish the Dr. Hans Hansen Neuroscience Wing of the Research Facility for the Study of Development and Disease in the Nervous and Immune Systems.

The partnership celebrates the School’s extensive and progressive research efforts in the neurosciences and Hansen’s commitment as a psychiatrist to disabled veterans.

Following the opening of the adjacent Hixson-Lied Science Building, substantial renovation of the School of Medicine’s Criss buildings is now under way. According to Roderick Nairn, Ph.D., the new wing will unite several of Creighton’s preeminent neuroscientific investigators in one area of Criss II.

“These gifts will permit us to enhance our nationally recognized research in the study of neuroscience and will be the model for similar endeavors,” Nairn said. “Moving investigators’ laboratories from single occupancy laboratory spaces into an open facility will enhance collaboration among faculty, post-doctoral fellows and students working on different projects. The wing also affords equipment sharing with other researchers. Mrs. Buckley’s gift directly supports the growth of our project goals,” Nairn said.

Hans Hansen was born in a small town near Copenhagen, Denmark, in 1878. Following his older brother, he immigrated to Logan, Iowa, and eventually found work at a Logan pharmacy while he learned English. Hansen later became a registered pharmacist.

Impressed by Hansen’s work ethic and intelligence, a Logan doctor suggested that the young pharmacist become a physician. He registered at Creighton and worked his way through medical school, graduating in 1905.

He married Alice Mary Canty of Logan and Eileen, their only child, was born in 1912.

During World War I, Hansen was appointed division surgeon for an infantry unit that fought in France. At the war’s end, he held a major’s commission and stayed in Europe an additional year to study psychiatry at the University of Paris.

Upon his return to the United States, he resumed his medical practice in Logan.

In 1922, Hansen joined the Veterans Administration, moving around the eastern half of the United States and practicing at two new neuropsychiatric hospitals.

Following his retirement from the Veterans Administration, Hansen returned to Logan and practiced privately until his death in 1955.

Eileen Buckley was among the first women to graduate from the University of Minnesota with a law degree. Following her 1936 graduation, she was a Veterans Administration attorney and practiced in Batavia and Buffalo, N.Y. She later established a law practice in Logan, Iowa, and retired to Florida.

In her estate plan, she bequeathed that her alma mater and her father’s alma mater should equally share a majority of her estate.

“She was interested in memorializing her father’s name because she was very proud of his accomplishments,” Buckley’s St. Petersburg, Fla., attorney, Carl Schuh said. “That was expressed in her will. It’s wonderful to know that her gift is going to make such a major contribution in an area that was a focus of her father’s career.”

Buffalohead-McGill Uses Honorarium to Establish Scholarships

When Tami Buffalohead-McGill’s friend learned she was named the 2003 recipient of the University’s Mary Lucretia Creighton Award, she wanted to help her celebrate.

Thomas J. Tracy of Santa Ana, Calif., told Buffalohead-McGill, BA’89, he would send a $1,000 check to her favorite charity and, without hesitating, she asked him to make the check to Creighton.

With the gift, Buffalohead-McGill, coordinator of Multicultural Student Services, established the Jade Mesa and Trever McCauley Memorial Scholarships. The funds honor the promising Native Americans who died before they could attend college and realize their potentials.

“They were positive role models who, from a young age, worked to improve the lives of others,” Buffalohead-McGill said.

When fully endowed, the funds will provide annual scholarships to Native American Retreat participants. Mesa and McCauley attended the retreat and planned to earn college educations.

Mesa, from Lincoln, Neb., volunteered to work with homeless people, with children in the community and at Lincoln’s Indian Center.

A drunken driver at Santee, Neb., killed Mesa, 17, on June 26, 2000.

McCauley, from Walthill, Neb., was a leader in the local Youth Council where he encouraged young people to stay drug- and alcohol-free.

McCauley, 18, died in a car-train accident in Sioux City, Iowa, on May 9, 2002.

For information on the Jade Mesa and Trever McCauley Memorial Scholarships, please contact the Creighton Office of Development at (800) 334-8794 or (402) 280-2740.
Koley Law Professorship Established

Creighton University received $250,000 from the Omaha World-Herald Foundation and Omaha World-Herald Company executives to establish the James L. Koley Professorship in Constitutional Law. This is the first endowed professorship at the Creighton University School of Law, and it honors Creighton graduate James L. Koley, co-founder of the Koley Jessen, P.C., law firm in Omaha. Jim Koley earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1952 and a Doctor of Law degree in 1954.

In addition to classroom instruction at the law school, the holder of the Koley Professorship will research constitutional law issues and organize an annual lecture or symposium emphasizing the rights, liberties, freedoms and responsibilities established by the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. G. Michael Fenner, J.D., is the first holder of the Professorship.

“Creighton is honored to receive the endowed professorship contributions from the Omaha World-Herald Foundation and many of the newspaper’s executives. Their gifts recognize the achievements of one of our outstanding alums,” said Patrick J. Borchers, dean of the School of Law. “Jim Koley is a highly regarded member of the bar and of the Omaha community. Creighton joins the World-Herald in paying tribute to Jim’s remarkable legal and business career through the Koley Professorship.”

John Gottschalk, president and chief executive officer of the Omaha World-Herald Company said the Professorship recognizes Jim Koley’s nearly 40 years of service to the World-Herald.

“Jim helped design and later implemented Peter Kiewit’s plan for employee ownership of the paper in 1979,” Gottschalk said. “He then served as corporate counsel and, for the last decade, as a director of the company. “Our shareholders and officers also are grateful to him for his service as a steward of the First Amendment. Most particularly, his lead role in the landmark unanimous U.S. Supreme Court decision (Nebraska Press v. Stuart) effectively ended prior judicial restraint of publishing information obtained in an open-court proceeding.”

Jim Koley and his wife, Patricia Killeas Koley, JD’58, have four children, three of whom attended Creighton. Jim Koley’s mother also holds a Creighton degree.

He has served on numerous company and civic boards, including Art’s-Way Manufacturing Co., Inc., the Dover Corporation, Carlson Systems Corporation, Kennon S. Shea & Associates and Watson Land Company. He is a “Lifetime Fellow” of the Nebraska State Bar Foundation.

Jack Williams Continues to Give to Creighton

Among his various duties as a Creighton employee, which included serving as editor of the University catalogs, Registrar Emeritus Jack Williams liked what he saw. Expanding course offerings, new majors and even new academic departments illustrated the dynamics of a growing University. But the basic themes of a Jesuit education, emphasizing a theological and philosophical base, stayed constant.

“There was always an identifiable theme, rooted in values, at the University,” Williams said. “Some basic truths are eternal.”

Creighton’s mission found a lifelong champion in Williams.

“Higher education, as exemplified by Creighton, is a worthy cause and you can take joy in supporting it,” he said. “It’s a satisfying feeling to contribute for the future. It gives you an opportunity, while you’re still alive, to share some of your treasure with an institution that has done so much for so many, including me. I can’t think of a better way to invest money.”

With a Creighton tenure that spans 45 years, Williams has invested more than money in the University. He also gave of his time and talents. Following his 1940 graduation with a bachelor’s degree in biology, he joined the FBI Laboratory in Washington, D.C., became a special agent and specialized in the examination of documentary evidence. He returned to the University as registrar in 1946, a position he would hold for 41 years.

His commitment to Creighton continues today through the charitable gift annuity he has funded at the University. He calls it a win-win situation.

“I think that the charitable gift annuity is a good way to invest your money and have the satisfaction of some return,” he said. “It benefits the University and me.”

The charitable gift annuity is a contract between Williams and Creighton University, providing for the payment of a lifetime income to him at a fixed rate. Williams received an income tax deduction when he made the gift. Yearly payments to him also include an attractive feature: The IRS views a portion of each payment as a nontaxable return of the original gift.

For more information about charitable gift annuities or on how you can support the future of the University, contact Creighton’s Office of Estate and Trust Services at (402) 280-1143, (800) 334-8794 or e-mail sscholer@creighton.edu. The address is 2500 California Plaza, Omaha, Neb., 68178.
Crane Honored with Scholarship Fund

For more than 40 years, Marilyn Crane has provided encouragement, comfort and a guiding hand to Creighton University medical technology and medical students.

Through the generous donations of those she touched — alumni, faculty, staff and students — an endowed scholarship fund has been established in Marilyn Crane’s name to benefit Creighton medical students.

The establishment of the Marilyn M. Crane Endowed Scholarship was announced April 30 at a retirement party for Crane on Creighton’s campus.

“Marilyn Crane has shown extraordinary dedication to the teaching mission of the medical school,” said Roderick Nairn, Ph.D., senior associate dean for academic affairs in the School of Medicine.

“She has been remarkably helpful to generations of medical students. She would always go out of her way to make them feel comfortable. She has the most caring, giving nature you can imagine.”

Crane came to Creighton and St. Joseph Hospital in 1962 as a staff medical technologist.

In 1968, she became the education coordinator for the Creighton/St. Joseph Hospital Medical Technology program and directed the medical technology program until its closure in 1988. She then joined the School of Medicine as an educational coordinator.

In her quiet, unassuming way, Crane made a difference in the lives of four decades of students.

“Not a medical student has passed through here who doesn’t hold Marilyn Crane close to his or her heart,” said the Rev. Tom Hansen, S.J., a 2000 graduate of Creighton’s School of Medicine.

Fr. Hansen, now the chief family practice resident at Creighton University Medical Center, described Crane as an “extraordinary model for us of compassion and kindness.”

He said that students would often head to Crane’s office after scoring poorly on a test or quiz.

“She would listen patiently to our doubts and disappointments, then offer us the assurance that everything would work out OK,” Fr. Hansen said. “It only took that small amount of hope and kindness to motivate us to try harder and to move forward.”

Crane is a three-time recipient of the School of Medicine’s Golden Apple Award. She also received a School of Medicine Distinguished Service and Dedication Award and the University’s St. Ignatius Award, which honors faculty and staff who embody the Ignatian values of justice, education, compassion and peace.

Crane plans to stay active in retirement, continuing to volunteer as a Eucharistic minister at St. Joan of Arc Church in Omaha and as a hospice volunteer at Hospice House. She also plans to volunteer with Creighton’s Campus Ministry program and spend time traveling and tending to her flower garden.

Letters from former students attest to the positive influence Marilyn Crane has made in the lives of so many.

“My guess is that you have no idea how you have shown the face of God to all of us,” Fr. Hansen said, addressing Crane in front of the gathering at her retirement party. “But you have. And we, I, will be forever grateful for this.”

With the Marilyn M. Crane Endowed Scholarship, the gentle, guiding hand of Marilyn Crane will continue to make a difference in the lives of medical students for generations to come.

For information on making a gift to the Marilyn M. Crane Endowed Scholarship, contact the Creighton University Office of Development at (800) 334-8794.

Roderick Nairn, Ph.D., left, and Creighton President the Rev. John P. Schlegel, S.J., present Marilyn Crane with a check announcing the scholarship fund established in her name. The presentation was made during Crane’s retirement party on April 30.

Ruth Henneman has been named Creighton University regional director of development. She brings to the position a proven record of fund-raising success, knowledge of the University and an appreciation for Jesuit higher education.

Henneman will work with donors in Texas, the southeast United States, Kansas and parts of Nebraska. She joined the School of Medicine Office of Development in 1998, where she was associate director and implemented the School’s Reunion Giving programs.

Henneman replaces Regional Director William J. Nosek Jr., BSPh’60, of Hot Springs, Ark., who served in this capacity for 12 years. Nosek retired in June.

Development Office Announces Appointment of Henneman

Henneman
Endowment Gift Celebrates Mentor-Student Relationship

When Joseph Rush, MD’52, reflects on his career, he recalls the influential leadership of Don C. Weir, BS’34, MD’36. Weir’s careful mentoring of residents left an indelible impression.

The Creighton-educated doctors shared an alma mater that instilled in them Jesuit values of caring for the whole person. They met while Rush was enrolled in Weir’s residency program at St. Louis University Hospital.

When Weir died in 1995, his widow, Dorothy, funded the Don C. Weir, M.D., Development Fund for the School of Medicine’s Department of Radiology. Goldman said. “I think Dr. Weir would approve. The Rushes’ generous gift has allowed us to increase participation in the program. Our residents owe both Mrs. Weir and the Rushes a debt of gratitude.”

Weir spent his entire career in St. Louis, leaving only for service in World War II. “From 1945 to 1970, Dr. Weir utterly dominated the city,” Rush said.

“Washington University had money; St. Louis University had Dr. Weir. All the other Catholic hospitals would bring their tricky film to him to read. He was so sharp; he caught all the errors.”

Mrs. Weir said she cried when she learned of the Rushes’ gift to the Endowment.

“I was just so happy that someone thought that much of Don,” Mrs. Weir said. “Dr. Rush is just a wonderful man. I always admired him because Don thought so much of him.”

To learn more about Creighton’s endowment opportunities, call the Office of Development at (800) 334-8794 or (402) 280-2740.

Walking in the Footsteps of Legends

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

What do Leona Kappes McCarthy (the mother of Creighton alumni), friend of the University Blanche Hacker and Creighton alumnus Dr. Harry Keig, MD’76, have in common with Edward and Mary Lucretia Creighton? Like the Creightons, their desire to support higher education at Creighton University was carried out through a carefully crafted estate plan.

Unfortunately, only a minority of Americans has an estate plan. In fact, statistics indicate that less than 45 percent of Americans have a will. It bears repeating ... if you do not have a will, the state in which you reside at your death will enforce its own plan for the distribution of your estate.

Wouldn’t you prefer to have your own plan, one that meets your goals? A small investment of time can pay huge dividends for your heirs and your estate. Starting with a simple evaluation of your present and future needs and an assessment of your financial affairs, you can formalize your strategy for the orderly transfer of your estate.

During this evaluation stage, many of our alumni and friends choose to include a bequest to Creighton University. A charitable bequest may decrease their taxable estates but, more importantly, signifies their commitments to Creighton’s mission and builds upon the foundation originally laid by the Creighton family.

Each year, the foresight and generosity of those who have included a bequest to the University in their estate plans strengthens Creighton. In the past three years, the University has received distributions from 56 estates totaling more than $11.7 million in estate gifts that have endowed scholarships and professorships, built and renovated vital classroom space and endowed memorial funds to honor family members and friends.

I encourage you to take control of your financial destiny and provide for the future of your loved ones by formalizing your estate plan. I also invite you to follow in the footsteps of the Creightons, McCarthy, Hackers and Keigs and help to ensure the future of Creighton University by including a charitable bequest in your will or trust, or by including the University as a beneficiary of your qualified retirement plans. If you decide to leave a bequest to Creighton, you will be eligible for membership in the Creighton University Heritage Society — our recognition group for those who have made provisions in their estate plans for the University.

If you would like to receive further information on estate planning, learn how to include a bequest to Creighton in your estate plan, or if you are interested in becoming a member of the Heritage Society, please call (402) 280-2740 or (800) 334-8794. Please accept my thanks if you have already included Creighton in your estate plan. And, if you have not previously notified us of your plans, please contact us and we will enroll you in the Heritage Society.
Creighton Ceremony Celebrates Beginnings

“All betwixt and between.” That’s the phrase my grandmother would have used to describe the awkward 10-week break that separates senior year in high school from freshman year in college.

The young women and men who live in that strange, twilight summer experience a daunting array of emotions, ranging from highs of excitement and self-assurance to lows of anxiety and insecurity.

At Creighton, of course, we invite our newly admitted freshmen to attend a Summer Preview weekend in June or July, so that they can begin to become familiar with the campus, form a few early friendships, and meet their academic advisors. But in the end, only one thing can bring a completely satisfying end to their stubbornly indeterminate status: the day when they finally become “a college kid.”

So when exactly does that magical moment occur? Eighteen months ago, the College of Arts and Sciences confronted the perplexing fact that, while graduation, with all its pomp and circumstance, has always marked with finality the conclusion of a Creighton student’s undergraduate career, nothing of equivalent weight stood at its beginning. For the Freshman Class of 2002, therefore, we devised the first ever College Matriculation.

Matriculation now occupies an important slot in the schedule for the Monday of Welcome Week. By that time, our newest students have been on campus several days; their parents and siblings have said their goodbyes; and the first day of classes lies just 48 hours away. In this context, then, our freshmen gather at St. John’s to be formally admitted to our College in a brief but, we believe, impressive ceremony.

We designed Matriculation to include several elements calculated to make it memorable, even though it comes in the middle of so much that is new and confusing in our new students’ lives:

• Formality. The College deans wear academic robes, as do many of the faculty, and St. John’s, of course, provides a magnificent setting.

• Seriousness. The proceedings open with brief speeches by the dean, the president of the Student Senate, and a member of the College’s Alumni Advisory Board. In her or his own way, each speaker lays special stress on the fact that, in entering our College, students also commit themselves to lifetimes of learning and of service in the Creighton tradition.

• Action. The students are then asked to come forward and sign the College Roll, each page of which contains at the top a printed pledge to uphold the high standards of the academy and of our College.

• Recognition. As they leave, students receive bright enamel pins. A new design is developed each year by graphic design students from the preceding year’s freshman class and contains elements symbolic of the College’s mission and values.

At the heart of this ceremony lies the component that I believe is most likely key to its appeal for our young students. Standing in the center aisle of the church, Patricia Fleming, Ph.D., senior associate dean of the College, outlines some of the extraordinary strengths of that year’s freshman class — their academic records, their diversity, and their prior extracurricular achievements. She then asks me in so many words to admit the members of this new class of students to our College.

Why is this so significant? Because, when I respond by telling these young men and women that they are now members of the Creighton College of Arts and Sciences, I confirm for them that, at last, they have finally and conclusively taken the step that they have been looking forward to for months, that they have truly become college students, that they are no longer living “betwixt and between.”
Congratulations to May graduates Margaret (Maggie) Erin Bowie and Jesse Luis Renteria, who received the University’s prestigious Spirit of Creighton Award at spring commencement.

Bowie, from Colorado Springs, Colo., received a bachelor of science degree in business administration. Renteria, from Pine Ridge, S.D., earned his bachelor of arts degree in history.

Bowie and Renteria received the award at the conclusion of Creighton’s 112th commencement ceremony in May.

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.

Bowie served twice as the president of the Creighton campus chapter of Habitat for Humanity. During each of her years at Creighton, Bowie participated in a Spring Break Service Trip and was instrumental in developing and leading the first Spring Break Service Trip in Omaha. She also gave her time as a tutor in the athletic department and as a tour guide for the Office of Admissions.

She earned the requisite 150 hours of academic credit needed to apply for the CPA exam in just eight semesters and was on the Dean’s Honor Roll for each semester at Creighton. Bowie also earned designation on the Dean’s Honor Roll for Social Responsibility in the College of Business Administration every semester since the fall of 1999, completing 24 hours of service each semester.

Renteria, a graduate of the Jesuit Red Cloud School, also spent his college days in service of others. Renteria was an Upward Bound tutor, an Omaha School Mentor and was active in Creighton’s Native American Retreat and the Native American Association. He was chosen as one of 25 students nationwide to take part in the University of Iowa’s Law School Prep program. This fall, Renteria, who earned a full scholarship to Notre Dame, will begin study for his master’s degree in education with an emphasis in history.

Best wishes to Bowie and Renteria … and to all our recent graduates.