When the Bough Breaks

Literature and the Environment

Creighton’s All-American: Kyle Korver

Jesus, Scripture and the Ethics of War

Summer 2003
We’ll Miss ‘U’

Robert U. Guthrie, an ink-stained journalist who brought Creighton’s alumni magazine to life, kept a secret.

No matter how much we pressured, coaxed or bribed him with chocolate, the sweet-toothed PR professional never divulged what the “U” stood for in Robert U. Guthrie.

Bob retired this April after 21 years in Creighton’s PR office, his middle name still a mystery to colleagues.

His impact over two decades at Creighton, however, is clearly evident.

A 1955 University of Iowa journalism graduate, Guthrie served two years active duty in the Army before coming to Omaha in 1957 as a determined journalist.

He worked at the Omaha World-Herald (as a reporter, photographer, copy editor and picture editor) and at a newspaper in Fremont, Neb., before joining the Pulitzer Prize-winning Sun Newspapers of Omaha, eventually becoming news editor.

Guthrie came to Creighton in 1982, after PR stints at the architectural firm of Leo A. Daly and what is now Boys Town National Research Hospital.

As associate director of public relations, Guthrie was responsible for some 200 brochures and other University publications.

In the mid-80s, Guthrie helped create Window magazine, the predecessor to this publication. The first issue rolled off the press in 1984, with Guthrie as its editor.

He continued as Window’s editor for 13 years, before moving on to another challenge — managing the University’s website.

Bob and his wife, Dorothy, (who won fame with the office for her chocolate cheesecake) now look forward to traveling and spending time with their grandchildren.

In his final column as editor in 1997, Bob wrote: “Few of us welcome coming to work each day. I do and I consider myself among the luckiest to work at Creighton.”

Unassuming, untiring, unmatched. Bob, we will miss you.

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When the Bough Breaks

Groundbreaking research by Creighton’s Winifred Ellenchild Pinch, MS’85, Ed.D., R.N., is shedding new light on the experiences of parents whose newborns require specialized care in neonatal intensive care units. While the number of babies requiring such care is growing, most parents, Pinch found, are overwhelmed by the experience and are unaware of the struggles they will face.

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About the Cover

A nurse gently touches the head of tiny Isaac Chesler in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) at Creighton University Medical Center. Isaac weighed 1 pound, 10 ounces at birth. Picking up or holding newborns this small can be overly stressful on the babies. (Photo by Don Doll, S.J.)
Creighton University Magazine’s Purpose
Creighton University Magazine, like the University itself, is committed to excellence and dedicated to the pursuit of truth in all its forms. The magazine will be comprehensive in nature. It will feature the brightest, the most stimulating, the most inspirational thinking that Creighton offers. The magazine also will promote Creighton, and its Jesuit Catholic identity, to a broad public and serve as a vital link between the University and its constituents. The magazine will be guided by the core values of Creighton: the inalienable worth of each individual, respect for all of God’s creation, a special concern for the poor, and the promotion of justice.

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Creighton All-American Kyle Korver will be remembered as one of the best players to ever suit up for the Bluejays. In his senior campaign, the sweet-shooting forward from Pella, Iowa, guided the Jays to one of the best seasons in school history while keeping his feet firmly planted on the ground.

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What can Gospel passages and insights from the Christian tradition teach us about war and violence? Roger Bergman, director of Creighton’s Justice and Peace Studies Program, examines the issue.

36 Literature and the Environment
With spring in full bloom, English professor Bridget Keegan, Ph.D., writes that literature can be a powerful force in helping us become more aware of our relationship to the natural world around us. But not everyone agrees on what constitutes “nature writing.”

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China’s entry into the World Trade Organization offers a wealth of opportunities for American businesses, according to Creighton business professor and Chinese native Justin Tan, Ph.D., who recently traveled to Beijing to teach for a semester.

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For more than three decades, Creighton has been reaching out to low-income individuals, through federally funded TRIO programs, to make the dream of a college education a reality.

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Law Endowment
The new Donald J. and Daphne Campbell Endowed Scholarship Fund will support the education of Creighton law students.

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The Future of NASA
In January 1998, as a Creighton physics student, Alicia Dwyer Cianciolo, BSPhy’99, watched in awe as the space shuttle Endeavour lifted off Launch Pad 39A at Florida’s Kennedy Space Center for a nine-day mission. Today, Cianciolo is one of NASA’s leading young scientists.

55 The Last Word
More Americans get their information about nutrition from the media than from physicians. Why is that? John A. Creighton University Professor Robert P. Heaney, M.D., provides some answers.

Contact Us
Executive Editor: Stephen T. Kline
(402) 280-1784 skline@creighton.edu
Editor: Rick Davis
(402) 280-1785 rcd@creighton.edu
Associate Editor: Sheila Swanson
(402) 280-2069 bluenews@creighton.edu
Visit the magazine online at:
www.creightonmagazine.org
Church's Position Discussed

Peter Zimmer, MD, BS'89, (Letters to the Editor, Spring 2003) found it "puzzling, and indeed troubling, that the Catholic Church's stance on cloning was not mentioned, much less discussed," in my Winter 2002 article The Threat and Promise of Human Cloning. In reality, it was both mentioned and discussed. But it was not labeled the Church's position because it is a position not exclusive to the Catholic Church. With respect to reproductive cloning, the article states: "God created us and provided a natural means of reproduction. To alter that and reproduce asexually is to violate God's law." With respect to therapeutic cloning: "an embryo formed either by fertilization of an egg by a sperm or by nuclear transfer is a distinct individual human person ... its destruction is a violation of its right to life." This happens also to be the position of many other Christians, most Orthodox or Conservative Jews, and of Islam. The purpose of the article was to describe why people of good will (and some of not so good will) find themselves in disagreement about cloning and why, in a free and diverse society, even people of good will are not likely to reach agreement.

Richard L. O'Brien, MS'58, MD'60 Creighton University Professor of Medicine, Center for Health Policy & Ethics

Conclusions Not Supported

Professors Kelly and Mack's conclusions in the Spring 2003 cover article (The War on Terror: Assaulting Democracy at Home?) are not supported by their biased arguments. First, American citizens are at war with terrorism and its proponents. Second, only Americans have protection under the Constitution, not foreigners, not visitors with visas, not captured terrorists, not illegal entrants. Third, 9-11 critically affected the United States ability to conduct its economy, halted air transportation for several days, seriously interfered with American military interests, and narrowly missed destruction of the White House. Do the two Creighton professors really expect business as usual? Fourth, during its darkest hours, including 9-11, the United States could have been lost, with its Constitution becoming a mere footnote in some history book. I thank God daily for men like Lincoln, Wilson, Truman and Bush, who have protected the rights and opinions of others but not at the expense of life and liberty of all Americans.

James H. Mullen, MD'60 Riverside, Calif.

Administration Ignores Constitution

We applaud Creighton for its very fine and objective article Assaulting Democracy at Home. The tragedy of 9-11 and its aftermath have created a strong sense of vulnerability in our people and our government. The United States psyche was not mentioned, but that's no reason to ignore our Constitution. Going after the criminals in Afghanistan was a strong justification, but Iraq is something totally different. There is no proof that they attacked us, and no way should the U.S. have entered into war simply because the current administration in Washington doesn't like a Middle East dictator. This type of activity on our government's part is similar to something Stalin would have done. In addition, Congress hasn't declared war. Congress must hold that power, not Mr. Bush. What we have here is an "appointed," not elected, president and administration taking it upon themselves to ram through a very scared Congress an act (The Patriot Act) that abridges Americans' Constitutional rights. It is illegal and immoral. Our fear has been used by the administration to scare us into supporting aggression against another nation. This is something we have never done, and world opinion is totally opposed to this act. Mr. Bush and his administration have done immense harm to our great republic both here and abroad, which we hope we can someday repair. Hats off to two great Creighton law professors, Raneta Lawson Mack and Michael Kelly. They are true patriots and have done a great university proud.

Jeff and Judy Webster
Harmony, Minn.

Judicial System Not the Answer

Along with professors Mack and Kelly, I am concerned with the fundamental changes
that have been proposed or implemented by President Bush and Congress in reaction to the acts of terrorism that changed our lives on 9-11. But to suggest that the present judiciary system is the last bastion of guardianship of our civil liberties and our right to equal justice chills me even more. How can anyone feel comfortable with the knowledge that the same courts that ruled against the right to life and for abortion are also guarding our other “civil rights”? If the judicial system cannot withstand the onslaught of pressure from the liberal left, how can the professors justify any optimism that the courts can protect us from the conservative right? I prefer to put my faith in President Bush and Congress rather than the judiciary.

Paul Determan, BA’62
San Diego

Article Goes Too Far

As are many Americans, I’m both proud of our heritage and our nation. I love our ever growing and developing democratic republic. Like many alumni, my relatives were part of our heritage and our nation. I love our ever

“Act” and “this president has coerced Congress”

“was coerced into passing the USA Patriot

over half of Omaha. Let’s face it, professors: There are bad people and strong measures are required to find, fix and destroy an enemy who wears no uniforms, goes by no moral law, feels religion is all and does anything to achieve its ends. I would challenge these fine professors to stop worrying about whether a spy/enemy combatant is read his Miranda rights and do more to flush out this insidious evil among us.

Patrick Turner, BSBA’72
Roanoke, Texas

Did Nothing Change on 9-11?

The article The War on Terror: Assaulting Democracy at Home? is apparently based on the premise that nothing really changed on 9-11 — that terrorists must be treated as criminals, that there is no such thing as soldiers of a foreign power whose objective is not simply the destruction of our nation but the eradication of our people (including our religion). The authors ignore the fact that we are at war; they believe that we should deal with terrorism as we might deal with all other U.S. citizens committing ordinary criminal acts. I contend that trying to do so is misguided nobility. Moreover, the author’s list of “fundamental changes,” those implemented rather than those merely proposed, were precisely in response to the same types of criticisms launched immediately after 9-11. In effect, the authors are calling for a return to those conditions. Terrorists are no different than enemy soldiers, and once soldiers are captured or surrender, they are allowed only the rights given prisoners of war under the Geneva Convention. Likewise, American citizens who aid and support this enemy could, and should, be tried for treason. The authors also conveniently ignore, or fail to recognize, the principal

necessity for establishing military tribunals, and what is likely the only reason that they will be used. The U.S. court system has no provisions for protecting sources of information, and for that reason renders information or testimony otherwise completely admissible, as totally useless. Were we left unable to prosecute cases under military tribunals, we would be left to policies of assassination and the practice of “take no prisoners.” As bad as that seems, it is what happens in wars when soldiers are left with no viable alternatives. Regardless, since when is detaining foreign prisoners of war illegal or immoral? When did using lawful interrogation methods with such prisoners become illegal or immoral? And why is trying to obtain information from prisoners who might aid our efforts to combat terrorism and save the lives of innocent people around the world now suddenly illegal or immoral? Your authors openly question all of this, and in doing so, make the groundless claim that we have departed from our democratic foundations. I believe the real issue ought to be whether it is illegal or immoral to confront a terrorist movement in the same way we would confront another government or nation whose stated goal is to destroy us. Is this enemy any less a threat simply because its soldiers do not wear uniforms and swear allegiance to one specific nation or government? Are weapons of mass destruction wielded by radical Islamic terrorists any less a threat than those that were wielded by the Soviet ideologists? If anything, terrorists are more of a threat, since they have virtually nothing to lose and seek to gain only their martyrdom. The authors blatantly ignore virtually all of these issues, and likely several others, that surround the problems our nation can and will resolve without permanently eroding its democratic foundations. A much better article could have been written by someone better informed, more objective and perhaps a little less self-serving. I found it especially disturbing their calling into question whether our military tortures prisoners of any war, and by that, making a thinly veiled accusation that we might sanction the torture of our own citizens. This appeared to me as on the verge of “Assaulting Democracy at Creighton.”

Lauren Kohn, BS’68
Lakewood, Colo.

Let’s Broaden the Scope

The USA Patriot Act, passed by the Bush administration, was described by Mack and Kelly as “assaulting democracy” in its efforts to defend America from terrorism. That’s quite a strong civil libertarian premise. Abraham Lincoln was faulted for abolishing the right of

Extremist Ideology

I have rarely read an article that was so full of extremist ideology as Kelly and Mack’s War on Terror. It was almost as though a Taliban warrior wrote it to “defend” the very people who would think nothing of blowing up half of Omaha. Let’s face it, professors: There are bad people and strong measures are required to find, fix and destroy an enemy who wears no uniforms, goes by no moral law, feels religion is all and does anything to achieve its ends. I would challenge these fine professors to stop worrying about whether a spy/enemy combatant is read his Miranda rights and do more to flush out this insidious evil among us.

Patrick Turner, BSBA’72
Roanoke, Texas

Article Shows Bias

Perhaps I’m old and reactionary or perhaps I have a different perspective after working nearly 40 years in the defense industry (McDonnell Aircraft and Lockheed). Nonetheless, I think that professors Mack and Kelly show more than a bit of bias in their recent article. Really now, the U.S. Congress “was coerced into passing the USA Patriot Act” and “this president has coerced Congress”

are a bit much. As for John Coequyt being denied access to an online database listing chemical plants, I think it is much more likely that the database was shut down to limit information defining locations, types of chemicals produced and other information that might be of use to potential terrorists. I don’t believe it was intended to prevent an environmentalist from obtaining information relative to which chemical plants are violating pollution laws.

John Honrath, Arts’60
Woodstock, Ga.
he had reviewed my academic file. With his apologizing for being “nosey,” Father told me he had been observing my struggle. After Father asked if I would accompany him to his never become a reality. One day after class, I thought seriously of quitting. I feared my evenings, which I attended, but with little Portz offered special tutoring classes in the attendance, I struggled, to say the least. Fr. Business course. In spite of diligent class major, I enrolled in Fr. Portz’s Math for great priest, person and teacher. As a business a try. In fact, he further confessed that he had taken the liberty of speaking with an instructor he thought I would like in an area that he believed better suited my academic strengths. With my permission, he made a quick phone call. It was all arranged, he said. My new instructor was waiting to meet me. I went as directed and met yet another Jesuit who would have a significant impact on my life and career — Fr. John Schlegel. I graduated from Creighton with a major in political science. Ironically, in large part, I owe that major and my law degree to my one-time math teacher, Fr. Portz. The fact that he took the time to observe my struggle, let alone to take the steps to do something about it, is a tribute to him and Creighton. It’s often difficult to thank those who have made an infinite, positive difference in your life. I will always remember the compassion of this soft-spoken man with the friendly smile and a huge heart.

Mark Weber, BA’84, JD’87
Omaha

Michael Anderson a Friend
Feb. 1, 2003, was a terrible day for America, the space program and for Creighton University alumni. My friend, astronaut Michael P. Anderson, MS’90, was among the seven people who perished aboard the shuttle Columbia. I was so excited back in 1998 when I saw Anderson on the cover of Creighton’s Window magazine while working at the U.S. Post Office in Oklahoma City. His father and I were in the Air Force together, and we both have since retired. Michael was very intelligent and very focused. I am very proud of him.

John H. Henderson Jr.
Oklahoma City

HRT Study Used Horse Estrogen
The article The Truth About HRT (Spring 2003) and other news reports regarding the national study on hormone replacement are adding to the confusion and misperception regarding hormones for women. Most physicians and the public may not be aware that the hormone replacement therapy (HRT) used in the Women’s Health Initiative study was Prempro, a combination of a HORSE estrogen (Premarin) and MPA (medroxyprogesterone acetate), both of which are NOT HUMAN female hormones. To be accurate, the term “estrogen” used in the article should be replaced with “horse estrogen.” The public and physicians should be aware they are not equivalent. Elizabeth L. Vliet, M.D., a physician in Dallas, and the author of the book Screaming to Be Heard, has done 25-plus years of work demonstrating the clinical benefits of HUMAN estrogen and HUMAN progesterone for perimenopausal and menopausal women. Her book details the differences in the types of estrogen and progesterone available and states that the best option for women is to use the same hormones produced in the ovaries, not a HORSE estrogen and chemically altered progesterone imitation.

Christianne Bishop, MD’98
University of Washington Medical Center
Department of Rehabilitation Medicine
Seattle

Editor’s note — Creighton’s Dr. Robert Haney offers the following response: “Fundamentally, there is no difference between rabbit estrogen or horse estrogen or human estrogen. The estrogens contained in Premarin are at least partly converted to the human estrogens once they are absorbed into the body. The real fundamental difference between the natural release of hormones and the use of hormone replacement therapy is the way in which the drugs are administered. Under natural circumstances, the ovarian hormones are released into the systemic circulation, bypassing the liver. It is NOT natural for estrogen to come in by mouth, whether it be horse estrogen or human estrogen. Doing so leads to a disproportionately large effect of the estrogen on the liver and the other body tissues. It is important to keep in mind, as the article brought out, that the arm of the study using estrogen only is still ongoing. The only valid inference is that the harm-to-benefit ratio must be different from the cancelled portion of the study, which examined the combination of estrogen plus progestin.”

Will the Real Editor Please Stand Up?
I imagine many of my classmates will be amazed to learn that I was editor of Creightonian (see Letters to the Editor, “Headlines to Remember,” Winter 2002). My husband, Phil, was the editor, and it is his story. Either he didn’t sign the e-mail or his name got lost in the shuffle.

Mary Lou Ryan Gauthier, BS’51
Arvada, Colo.

Letters to the Editor

Warm Memories of Creighton ‘Home’
As a former Creighton House resident (1990-1991, under Dr. Super), I am saddened to learn of its upcoming fate with a wrecking ball. My best memories from my Creighton years involve the Creighton House and its residents. The anecdotes Dr. Stefanaki included in her article (Last Word, Spring 2003) were very similar to the memories I have from more than 10 years ago — the annual Halloween party, late-night discussions, and most importantly, a strong sense of community, values and true friendship. I am honored I had the opportunity to live there. More importantly, I am glad to know that my old home hosted hundreds of other residents over the years who had the chance to love it (and live it) as much as I did. Keep the memories.

Christine (Egley) Juhasz, BA’93
Millsap, Texas

A Great Priest, Person, Teacher
It was with great sadness that I received the news of the passing of Fr. Bernard Portz, a great priest, person and teacher. As a business major, I enrolled in Fr. Portz’s Math for Business course. In spite of diligent class attendance, I struggled, to say the least. Fr. Portz offered special tutoring classes in the evenings, which I attended, but with little benefit as far as my grades were concerned. I thought seriously of quitting. I feared my lifelong dream of attending law school would never become a reality. One day after class, Father asked if I would accompany him to his office. To my surprise, he indicated that he had been observing my struggle. After apologizing for being “nosey,” Father told me he had reviewed my academic file. With his trademark warm, beaming smile, he explained that my academic strengths were in areas other than business. I wasn’t really failing, he explained, I was simply in the “wrong” school. He suggested I give the College of Arts and Sciences a try. In fact, he further confessed that he had taken the liberty of speaking with an instructor he thought I would like in an area that he believed better suited my academic strengths. With my permission, he made a quick phone call. It was all arranged, he said. My new instructor was waiting to meet me. I went as directed and met yet another Jesuit who would have a significant impact on my life and career — Fr. John Schlegel. I graduated from Creighton with a major in political science. Ironically, in large part, I owe that major and my law degree to my one-time math teacher, Fr. Portz. The fact that he took the time to observe my struggle, let alone to take the steps to do something about it, is a tribute to him and Creighton. It’s often difficult to thank those who have made an infinite, positive difference in your life. I will always remember the compassion of this soft-spoken man with the friendly smile and a huge heart.

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Christianne Bishop, MD’98
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Mary Lou Ryan Gauthier, BS’51
Arvada, Colo.
CU Women Reach WNIT Final Four

The Creighton women’s basketball team reached the Final Four of the Women’s National Invitation Tournament in a 24-9 season that ended with a flourish.

The Bluejays finished the regular season as the Missouri Valley Conference co-champions. Creighton’s bid for a second straight conference tournament title, however, fell short, with a setback in the semifinals.

The loss knocked the Bluejays out of a second consecutive NCAA Tournament appearance, but not out of post-season play.

Led by two-time conference Player of the Year Christy Neneman, the Bluejays mounted a magnificent run through the WNIT.

Creighton notched road wins over Maine (25-6), Siena (25-8) and Iowa (18-15) to advance to the WNIT Final Four for the first time in school history.

The Bluejays’ magical season ended with a loss to Auburn in the semifinals in front of a noisy, school-record crowd of 4,400 at the Omaha Civic Auditorium.

Sophomore guard Laura Spanheimer finished the season as the conference’s Defensive Player of the Year, the first time a Creighton player has received that honor. And guard Kristi Woodard was named to the MVC All-Freshman Team.

Creighton set school records for games in a year (33), three-point field goals (259) and blocked shots (127), and was one shy of tying the school mark for steals in a season with 394.

The Jays bid a fond farewell to seniors Jenny Burns and Teresa Wessling. Wessling played in a school-record 119 career games, while Burns was close behind, playing in 111.

CU Men Return to the Big Dance

The Creighton men’s basketball team finished one of the best seasons in school history with its fifth straight trip to the NCAA Tournament.

Led by All-American Kyle Korver (see story on page 24), the Jays climbed to as high as 10th in the Associated Press poll for the first time in school history.

Creighton earned an automatic berth in the NCAA Tournament by winning its fourth Missouri Valley Conference Tournament championship in five years.

The Jays entered the NCAA Tournament as the No. 6 seed in the West — the school’s highest seeding ever — and as one of only two teams with 29 wins (the other being Kentucky).

After nearly clawing back from a 26-point deficit, Creighton fell to Central Michigan in a heartbreaking first-round loss to finish the season 29-5. It was Creighton’s first 29-win campaign in school history and its fifth consecutive year with 20 or more wins.

Creighton stayed in the national rankings for 15 consecutive weeks and finished with a school-best final regular-season AP ranking of 15th.

The Bluejays lose three seniors, bidding farewell to Korver and guards Larry House and DeAnthony Bowden.
Leighton to Head Omaha Community Foundation

Michael Leighton, president of the Creighton University Foundation, has been named president of the Omaha Community Foundation, succeeding Del Weber, who will retire.

Leighton, who also was vice president for University Relations, graduated from Creighton in 1970 and then spent most of the next 30-plus years serving in various administrative positions at the University. As vice president for University Relations, Leighton presided over the Creighton 2000 fund-raising campaign, which raised $127 million, the most successful campaign in Creighton history. During Leighton’s career as the University’s chief fund-raising officer, Creighton raised more than $200 million.

“We extend a heartfelt thank you to Mike Leighton for all that he has done throughout his Creighton tenure to help Creighton be a national leader in higher education,” said the Rev. John P. Schlegel, S.J., president of Creighton. “The Omaha Community Foundation will benefit from Mike’s philanthropic leadership and dedication to helping nonprofit organizations.”

“My time at Creighton has been a wonderful experience. Working for a university the caliber of Creighton has been rewarding personally and professionally. I will certainly miss the talented faculty, administrative staff, students and alumni at Creighton University,” said Leighton.

“However, I look forward to building on the successful efforts led by Del Weber at the Omaha Community Foundation.”

The Omaha Community Foundation has been an integral part of the Omaha community since its inception in 1982. OCF facilitates philanthropy in the Omaha metropolitan area, Southeast Nebraska and Southwestern Iowa.

Construction to Begin on Student Apartment Complex

With several large pops, created by roughly 65 pounds of explosives, the 15-story Burt Tower on the east edge of Creighton’s campus was reduced to rubble in a matter of seconds this past February, making way for new housing for Creighton upperclassmen.

A few thousand spectators gathered at the Creighton ball fields to watch the implosion of the 40-year-old Burt Tower at 20th and Burt streets, which Creighton purchased last year from the Omaha Housing Authority.

Misti Gilkey, a freshman from Gillette, Wyo., was selected in a raffle to push the button triggering the implosion. She joined Creighton President the Rev. John P. Schlegel, S.J., at a staging area to do the honors.

Creighton plans to build a new $12.5 million housing complex on the site, with enough apartments to accommodate 250 students. The complex will feature three, three-story L-shaped apartment buildings attached by walkways, with a secure grassy courtyard in the middle.

The University hopes to break ground on the new complex by the end of June. Construction is scheduled to be complete by Aug. 1, 2004, with the apartments opening to students that fall.

Hawks Named to Creighton Board

The co-founder, chairman and CEO of Tenaska, Inc., Howard L. Hawks has been named to Creighton University’s Board of Directors. Hawks co-founded Tenaska, Inc., an international energy company headquartered in Omaha, in 1987.

“We are pleased to have Howard Hawks join Creighton University’s Board of Directors,” said Creighton President the Rev. John P. Schlegel, S.J. “Howard is known for his leadership, business acumen and integrity. Those qualities coupled with his commitment to education and extensive community involvement make him an excellent addition to Creighton’s board.”

In 2002, Tenaska was ranked 57th on Forbes Magazine’s list of the top privately held companies in the United States. Affiliates Tenaska Marketing Ventures and Tenaska Marketing Canada together rank among the top 20 natural gas marketing companies in the United States. Tenaska Power Services, the company’s electric marketing affiliate, is the largest company of its kind in the Texas market.

Hawks, a longtime supporter of Creighton, was named to the Omaha Chamber of Commerce Business Hall of Fame in 2002. In 1999, he was honored by the University of Nebraska at Omaha College of Business as a distinguished alumnus. His extensive community involvement includes support for many charities, the arts and civic organizations, and he also serves on several boards, including the Omaha Henry Doorly Zoo, Joslyn Art Museum and Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben.
CU Celebrates 35 Years of Offering TRIO Programs

For 35 years, Creighton University has been reaching out — through its federally funded TRIO programs — to low-income youths and adults in the Omaha area who dream of being the first in their families to earn a college degree.

“It’s a comprehensive program to prepare these individuals to enter college and succeed,” said Wallace Southerland, who administers the TRIO programs at Creighton. “We provide a lot of services that people can’t find elsewhere in Omaha.”

TRIO programs were established at colleges and universities nationwide after Congress passed the Higher Education Act of 1965. Called TRIO because it initially featured three programs (today there are seven that serve students), TRIO programs are designed to help students overcome class, social and cultural barriers to higher education.

Creighton University was the first university in the state of Nebraska and among the first universities in the nation to offer TRIO programs starting in 1968. “These programs have been changing lives for the last 35 years,” Southerland said. “We help bridge the gap for kids whose families might not have the resources to prepare them for higher education.”

Creighton Dental Outreach Draws Smiles

For Omaha families who lack the insurance coverage or financial resources to send their children to the dentist, a recent outreach effort by the Creighton University School of Dentistry was something to smile about.

On March 22, Creighton dental students and faculty provided needed dental care to some 50 children from low-income Omaha families at its main dental clinic. The effort was part of the American Dental Association’s inaugural “Give Kids a Smile” access-to-care campaign, held in conjunction with Crest Healthy Smiles 2010.

“For everyone who participated, it was a positive experience,” said Gary Westerman, D.D.S., professor and chair of the Department of Community and Preventive Dentistry at Creighton. “It was a good learning experience for our students to participate in this type of outreach effort and we helped a lot of kids.”

The participating children received complete dental exams and cleanings, along with information on oral hygiene. Arrangements also were made for follow-up care, if necessary.

About 30 Creighton dental students and five Creighton faculty members provided care, along with 33 dental hygiene students from Creighton’s cooperative Dental Hygiene Program with Iowa Western Community College in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Children were selected for the program by the Hope Medical Outreach Coalition, a local non-profit community organization that coordinates the volunteer delivery of health care to homeless, indigent, uninsured and underinsured adults and children in the Omaha area.

Creighton has participated in four similar outreach efforts since 2001, and two more sessions are scheduled to be held this June.

Shawntal Mallory-Smith, center, works with twin sisters Ashley, left, and Amber Johnson, right. Both are sophomores at Central High School in Omaha.

Shawntal Mallory-Smith, BA’97, JD’00, said the TRIO programs helped her adjust to college life. Mallory-Smith attended Upward Bound Math/Science the summer after graduating from Omaha’s Burke High School.

“It was instrumental in helping me transition into college life,” said Mallory-Smith, who is the first in her immediate family to graduate from college.

Mallory-Smith took college-level English and algebra courses, taught by Creighton faculty, through the six-week summer program and lived on campus.

The program gave her a “jump start” on her Creighton career. She earned full-tuition paid diversity scholarships for undergraduate and professional school, receiving a degree in communication studies and Spanish in 1997 and a law degree in 2000. She now works as a coordinator for Creighton’s Classic Upward Bound program, encouraging and advising students on their college plans.

Creighton offers five of the seven TRIO programs, assisting students from the sixth-grade through adulthood. For Southerland and his colleagues, the many stories of student success are the rewards for their hard work.

“We get to make a tangible difference in the lives of these participants,” Southerland said. “We get to see students, who maybe didn’t think they could get a college education, attend college and succeed.”
Professor Sees Opportunities for Business in China

Creighton business professor Justin Tan, Ph.D., predicts that China’s recent entry into the World Trade Organization will be a boon for American companies doing or looking to do business in the world’s most populous country.

“I think, for Americans, we talk about how the Chinese may benefit,” said Tan, who was born and raised in China and has spent the last 18 years studying and teaching in the U.S. “We tend to see it as a favor to the Chinese, when, in fact, this is better for U.S. interests.”

Upon its entry into the WTO in December 2001, China agreed to lower its tariffs on imports and open previously closed markets, including industries such as retail, financial services, telecommunications and insurance.

“These are some key areas that the Chinese have always refused to open,” explained Tan. “When you open the professional services, like accounting services and insurance, you basically allow the companies to reach the individual households, the individual consumer — the most basic fabric of the society.”

China remains a communist country, but its economic system has been slowly evolving — and now ranks as the sixth largest economy in the world.

American companies have been increasing their presence in China. The number of U.S. companies operating affiliates in China increased more than five-fold from 1989 to 1997 (from 64 to 350), with sales reaching $20 billion in 1999, according to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.

The relationship between the U.S. and the Chinese has not always been a smooth one.

The collision of a U.S. spy plane with a Chinese fighter jet in April 2001 increased tensions between the two countries. The plane, which landed in China, was detained, along with its crew, by the Chinese government before all were eventually returned to the U.S.

“That’s an incident where if you ask people in the two countries you get an entirely different story,” Tan said. “I think the Chinese saw this as a humiliation.”

Before that, an errant U.S. missile struck the Chinese embassy in Serbia during the NATO-led war in the Balkans, raising tensions. And in 1996, in what was considered a diplomatic insult, the U.S. issued a visa to Taiwan’s president allowing him to speak in the U.S., after assuring Chinese officials a visa would not be issued. Beijing officials fiercely contend that Taiwan and Tibet are part of China.

“Individually, these incidents may not make a difference,” Tan said. “But, collectively, you don’t know what people making decisions will think when they are awarding business contracts.”

Following the 1996 incident, then Chinese president Jiang Zemin announced that the government had awarded a minivan joint venture license to Germany’s Daimler Benz.

“Previously,” Tan said, “it was widely believed that Chrysler, now merged with Daimler Benz, was the frontrunner.”

Some American politicians also have raised fears regarding the burgeoning U.S. trade deficit with China — which topped $100 billion in 2002. Tan believes that number is “significantly distorted.”

One source of distortion, he explained, is that Chinese companies often purchase parts and materials from the U.S. or elsewhere for product assembly in China, but those costs are not deducted from the total export.

In addition, many Chinese exports are routed through Hong Kong, which, while part of China, is treated as an independent identity in international trade. These exports are often counted as Chinese exports to Hong Kong and their final destination — which Tan describes as “double counting.”

One Chinese company that Tan consulted exported refrigerators to the U.S. through its Hong Kong subsidiary, but the most expensive component — the compressor —

Creighton Part of New MBA Program in Beijing

This past fall, Justin Tan, Ph.D., became the first professor from Creighton’s College of Business Administration to teach at Peking University as part of an MBA program being offered jointly by the top Chinese university and the 26 U.S. Jesuit business schools.

Initiated in 1999, the Beijing International MBA program was the first of its kind offered by any U.S. university to be approved by the Chinese government.

The program offers Chinese students an opportunity to pursue a fully accredited MBA degree, either full time or part time, on the campus of Peking University. Creighton MBA students also have a chance to travel to China and study in the program.

Courses are taught by business and management faculty from the consortium of Jesuit schools. Creighton provides at least one professor every other year.
was purchased from an American company. The Chinese firm, however, reported the dollar value of the entire refrigerator as its export.

“The Chinese government gives incentives for Chinese companies to export. There’s a rebate. So, very often, they export at a loss,” Tan said. “In many cases, a significant portion of the export is actually parts and components purchased from the U.S.”

Additionally, in the case of the Chinese refrigerator manufacturer, for each small-volume refrigerator that it exported, it got one quota to import a high-quality compressor, which the company put into larger, more expensive refrigerators to be sold in the Chinese domestic market.

China also has become a “global manufacturing base” for many large American and multinational companies. These companies utilize China’s low-cost labor to manufacture products for export back home or abroad. Of China’s more than $200 billion in exports in 1998, more than 40 percent had their source in multinational American and multinational companies.

“Today, a lot of Chinese cannot buy these American cars because they do not have the credit. Right now, most banks do not offer car loans,” Tan said.

“GMAC and GM are trying to bring their financial services to China to help the Chinese buy cars. Imagine how much that’s going to shock the automobile market. It’s huge. It’s a great opportunity for GM and companies like that.”

Entry into the WTO also forces China to abide by international trade rules governing such things as copyright infringement and anti-dumping laws.

Tan believes U.S.-China trade relations have played a valuable role in China’s peaceful evolution to a more open society. “We’re looking at an entirely different China today than 24 years ago,” Tan said. “Chinese society is much more open today.”

China’s new president Hu Jintao — who took office earlier this year in the first peaceful transition of power in the country’s 53 years of Communist rule — has pledged to continue China’s “accelerated socialist modernization.” Tan said he is optimistic about the leadership change and encourages the United States to continue to push for dialogue in the area of human rights.

“We need to work hard to promote mutual understanding,” Tan said. “I think former Secretary of State James Baker, in discussing U.S.-China relations, said it aptly: ‘If you want to make a friend, you have to work very hard to earn it. If you want to make an enemy, you can always find one.’”

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**Haddad Earns National Pharmacy Educator Award**

For outstanding contributions to pharmacy education, Creighton University Medical Center professor Amy Haddad, Ph.D., BSN’75, has earned the Robert K. Chalmers Distinguished Pharmacy Educator Award. The American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy bestows this national award annually on one pharmacy educator who has made major contributions in the profession.

Since coming to Creighton in 1984, Haddad has helped establish the University as a leader in educating pharmacy students on the importance of ethics in professional practice.

Haddad earned the Pharmacy Educator Award for effective curriculum development and innovation, impact on educational programs, research relative to pharmaceutical education, and public service and outreach through educational activities and functions.

“It’s an honor to be recognized among my peers and for my life’s work in the area of pharmacy ethics. It’s also outstanding recognition for Creighton University for its commitment to teaching ethics,” said Haddad, who is associate director of Creighton University’s Center for Health Policy and Ethics and a faculty member in the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions.

Haddad will be recognized at an awards ceremony in July at the annual meeting of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy in Minneapolis.

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**Fr. Schlegel Honored for Diversity Work**

Creighton President the Rev. John P. Schlegel, S.J., will receive the Otto Swanson Spirit of Service Award at the annual humanitarian awards dinner sponsored by the National Conference for Community and Justice May 29 in Omaha.

These awards recognize community leaders for their contributions in promoting understanding and respect among all races, religions and cultures.

Fr. Schlegel listed creating a campus environment that enhances diversity for students, faculty and staff as one of his main priorities during his February Convocation address. A complete text of the address can be found online at www.creighton.edu/president/speeches/convocation2003.
Creighton Couple Shares Love of Yoga

Turning off our constantly chattering minds every day takes diligent practice. But the results of ongoing efforts can be very freeing: a focused mind, an ordered body, positive energy and a sense of peace. For Creighton couple Vasant and Prafulla Raval, the practice of Yoga through meditation and its hallmark effect of quieting the mind has been a way of life since their marriage in 1970.

The Ravals have been sharing their love for meditation with the Creighton community, most recently leading a CU Wellness Luncheon on Yoga, Meditation and Prayer.

The Ravals said, “Meditation allows one to feel more at peace with self and others. The more you practice meditation, the less you find the need to be angry, because you have adopted other-centered behavior. Such behavior is a result of a growing consciousness of who ‘you’ are, that is, a sense of the relatedness of every ‘living thing’ around you.”

“You find that you don’t need all the ‘things’ that you thought you needed or wanted from life,” Vasant said.

So, what does it take to get to this state of mind?

Prafulla said, “Meditation must be practiced diligently and consistently. You may choose to meditate anytime, but it is not an isolated practice. You must be in ‘sync’ with your actions during the day. If you have spent the day in anger, you won’t be able to meditate well that evening. After all, a turbulent mind will take long to reach a peaceful state.”

It takes the first few minutes to harness the meandering mind. The Ravals liken reaching for the meditative state to taking a jet flight. It takes about 10 minutes to climb to a cruising altitude. Likewise, coming out of your daily happenings and attempting to silence the mind takes time, as your mind moves toward a higher state. The Ravals caution, “Do not get discouraged if the quality of your meditation is not the same every day. Just know that it will improve over time.”

Can a practice of meditation draw a couple closer?

It makes married life more harmonious, the Ravals believe. They both say they are very like-minded. “We seem to think the exact same way. We are in harmony, almost like having telepathy. Our tastes, preferences and priorities have converged to choices that are optimal for self-actualization. It may be a result of the practice of yoga together over the years or just growing together that is part of a healthy marriage.”

The Ravals see the effect their practice has on their teaching and their other work at Creighton.

“‘The work environment and people at Creighton foster spirituality. This in turn facilitates practicing meditation. The other-centered behavior — the result of meditation — benefits stakeholders of Creighton. There is sort of a convergence of goals. It doesn’t even seem like we are going to work!'”

So, what’s next for the Ravals in their profession and their practice?

For the past several years, they have been writing a book titled, The Business of Karma: Spirituality in the World of Work. The book is about projecting a way of life suggested in the Bhagwad Gita to a modern-day corporate community and discovering ways to improve the world of work. (The Bhagwad Gita, “Song of the Lord,” is a Sanskrit poem, consisting of 700 verses divided into 18 chapters, that is regarded by most Hindus as their most important text — the essence of their belief.) With two chapters remaining, the Ravals hope their book will be in print before the end of 2003.

Creighton Stop on Declaration Road Trip

One of the 24 remaining original “Dunlap broadsides” of the Declaration of Independence, printed on July 4, 1776, was displayed at the School of Law on April 3. The Creighton campus visit was part of the Declaration of Independence Road Trip stop in Omaha from late March through early April. Creighton University was the only higher education institution among four- and two-year colleges in the Omaha area that displayed a rare copy of the Declaration of Independence.

During the event, Nebraska Chief Justice John V. Hendry offered remarks setting the Declaration in context. Following Chief Justice Hendry’s remarks, Creighton debate students tackled the question: “Does the right to vote include the right not to vote?” in a “town hall”-type discussion.

For more information, visit http://www.IndependenceRoadTrip.org.
Booth Named New Volleyball Coach

Kirsten Bernthal Booth, formerly with Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, has been named Creighton’s new head volleyball coach. She replaces Howard Wallace, who resigned Dec. 10 to pursue other opportunities.

“Kirsten has experienced outstanding success in coaching volleyball,” said Creighton Athletic Director Bruce Rasmussen. “She is a very good leader with a high energy level and a strong character. We are very excited about her commitment to Creighton and our volleyball program.”

As Kirkwood’s head coach for the last three seasons, Booth led the Eagles to three regular-season conference titles and two top-five finishes at the national tournament. She was a Midwest Coach of the Year in 2001 and a District Coach of the Year in 2000 and 2001. She’s excited about the opportunity at Creighton.

“Creighton is committed to both academics and athletics,” she said. “I feel the program has the potential to be competitive on the national level.”

Booth, a graduate of Nebraska’s Lincoln East High School, was an Academic All-American and conference MVP in volleyball at Truman State University in Kirksville, Mo., where she was a four-year letter-winner (1993, 94, 95, 96). She ranks among the all-time NCAA Division II leaders in career assists with a school-record 6,077. Following her senior season, Booth was named Missouri’s NCAA Woman of the Year.

Former College of St. Mary (Omaha) coach Paul Giesselmann joins Booth as an assistant coach. Giesselmann was 227-80 in eight seasons at St. Mary before leaving the program after the 2001 season to spend more time with his family.

Justice Thomas Visits Law School

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas visited the School of Law during the first week of February. While at Creighton, Justice Thomas and Michael Fenner, James L. Koley ’54 Professor of Constitutional Law, taught the class Supreme Court Seminar. The two-week class, taught by Fenner during the first week, was open to 40 second- and third-year law students. The students were assigned to read U.S. Supreme Court opinions and during the class those opinions were discussed and analyzed with Thomas and Fenner. Justice Thomas will return to Creighton in two years to again teach in the law school. This is the second time he has visited Creighton’s School of Law to teach a class with Fenner.

McGaugh Receives Pittman Award

Attorney Raymond S. McGaugh, BA’76, JD’84, was honored recently with the Judge Elizabeth D. Pittman Award, which celebrates distinguished African-American law school graduates. This was the fifth year for the award, which is given in honor of Elizabeth D. Pittman, the first African-American graduate of the Creighton University School of Law, who went on to become the first African-American judge in Nebraska.

McGaugh, a member of the international law firm Greenberg Traurig in Chicago, has extensive experience counseling clients in the areas of banking, commercial and construction lending, corporate finance, municipal finance and real estate finance.

McGaugh is a member of the board of neutrals of the National Association of Securities Dealers’ Regulation Office of Dispute Resolution.
Dr. Heaney Receives National Award

Robert P. Heaney, BS'47, MD'51, was selected by the American Society for Clinical Nutrition (ASCN) to receive the prestigious E.V. McCollum Award for 2003. According to the ASCN, the award is given to a clinical investigator who is a major creative force, actively generating new concepts in nutrition and personally seeing the execution of studies testing the validity of these concepts.

The award is named for E.V. McCollum, a pioneer in human nutrition at Johns Hopkins School of Public Health in the early 1900s. McCollum discovered Vitamins A and D, and was an early promoter of milk consumption as an optimal way for the public to include these vitamins in their diets.

Heaney, holder of the John A. Creighton University Professorship, is internationally recognized for his work that crosses from endocrinology and metabolism into orthopedics, nutrition and dentistry.

Professor Receives $100,000 Grant

Ward A. Pedersen, Ph.D., assistant professor of neurology at Creighton University Medical Center, has received a New Investigator Research Grant from the Alzheimer’s Association. The $100,000 grant will fund research to test drugs targeting the part of the brain that controls stress, anxiety and depression to determine if such drugs are also effective in treating memory problems.

According to Pedersen, Alzheimer’s disease patients have adverse changes in the regions of the brain that control memory, anxiety and mood. “The clinical problems associated with Alzheimer’s disease are not unrelated, meaning that changes in the brain regions controlling stress and anxiety can have an effect on the regions of the brain involved in memory,” Pedersen said. “Research in this area will seek to discover if drugs that are proposed for the treatment of depression are effective in the treatment of Alzheimer’s disease.”

Website Brings Ancient World to Students

The ancient world of Greece, Turkey, Israel and other Eastern Mediterranean countries is being brought to new life through an interactive website established by Creighton theology professors Ronald Simkins, Ph.D., and John O’Keefe, Ph.D.

The website (http://moses.creighton.edu/vr/) uses maps, virtual reality images of archaeological remains, still photos and text to aid in the teaching of antiquity. Simkins and O’Keefe received Creighton’s Instructional Technology Award during the President’s Convocation in February for their work on the project.

“This is a way of illustrating the ancient world,” said Simkins, who started The Virtual World Project in the spring of 2001. “It’s the next best thing to being there.”

Scholars today know more than ever about the ancient world, Simkins explained, but this material is largely inaccessible to students because it’s published mostly in highly technical archaeological reports.

The website, on the other hand, is fun to explore.

Visitors can virtually “walk around” archaeological remains and get a feel for the land through 360-degree, panoramic images. Simkins and O’Keefe have used the website’s roughly 4,000 pages could serve students love it,” Simkins said. He added that the website’s roughly 4,000 pages could serve as an effective teaching tool in a variety of disciplines — from archaeology to history to Christian studies to world literature.

“One reason we put this on the Internet is we want this to be accessible to all,” Simkins said.
Three Inducted into CU Athletic Hall of Fame

At a special recognition banquet on April 8, three former Creighton athletes were inducted into the Creighton University Athletic Hall of Fame.

Kelly Brookhart Prokupek, BS’93, was on Creighton’s softball team from 1990-93. Under her leadership, the team won two conference championships and participated in three NCAA Regional Playoffs. Brookhart Prokupek holds several Bluejay career marks including games played (239), wins (71), pitching appearances (122) and starts (102). A two-time, second-team All-American honoree, she holds the school record for consecutive scoreless innings pitched at 81 (seventh longest streak in NCAA history). Brookhart Prokupek was a two-time High Country Athletic Conference Tournament Most Valuable Player, and she ranks in the top 10 in nearly every Bluejay career mark for both hitting and pitching.

Ira L. Philson, BA’94, achieved an outstanding record as a member of Creighton University’s men’s soccer team from 1990-93. Known as “Peanut” to many, Philson was a key member of the Creighton University men’s soccer team that laid the foundation for success that continues to this day. Philson’s speed and athletic ability were his trademarks as he started 70 of 75 career games while earning all MVC accolades in 1992 and 1993. A two-time All-Midwest Region selection, Philson was honored as the MVC Defensive Player of the Year in his senior year. In Philson’s four-year career, the Bluejays posted a record of 57-14-6 while losing just one regular-season game in MVC play.

Scott Servais, Arts’89, played baseball at Creighton in the late 1980s. While playing for Creighton, Servais was in the international spotlight as a member of the U.S. Olympic Team that won the gold medal in 1988. He also was a member of the USA Senior Team at the World Championships, the USA Pan American Team and USA Intercontinental Cup Team in Cuba. Servais ranks in the Creighton Top 10 for homers with 27. He went on to play professionally with the Houston Astros, Chicago Cubs, San Francisco Giants and the Colorado Rockies. Servais now works in the Chicago Cubs organization.

Spring Break Service Trips Celebrate 20th Anniversary

Like so many students before them, Creighton students, excited about spring break, boarded vans and fanned out across the country — on a pilgrimage.

Not for fun and sun, but for service and fellowship.

“Taking part in a service trip is an opportunity to put into practice those things learned in the classroom in a way that will serve the greater human community,” said Lindsey Anderson, a senior from Maple Grove, Minn., who participated in her third Spring Break Service Trip this March.

Nearly 130 students visited 19 service sites across the country as part of this year’s Spring Break Service Trips. Anderson served as a coordinator for a group that traveled to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota.

“It was a unique experience,” Anderson said. The students learned about the Lakota people from tribal members, painted the inside of a house and did some work for their host, Our Lady of the Sioux Church.

“It was an experience of the great beauty and hospitality of Lakota culture,” Anderson said.

Creighton’s Spring Break Service program — one of the oldest of its kind in the United States — began in 1983 when seven students traveled to two sites in rural Kentucky to provide community service.

Today, more than 100 students annually flock to sites across the country, from Milwaukee to San Antonio, performing a variety of service, from repairing homes to serving meals to the homeless.

Over the past 20 years, these service trips have not only provided people and communities with needed assistance, but they have helped students grow personally.

“These trips have helped to inspire me to make the pillars of the service trips — service, justice, community, simplicity and reflection — the pillars of my own life,” Anderson said.

“They have been experiences of what a Jesuit education is supposed to be about. Spring Break Service Trips truly are creating men and women for others.”
Alice and Bob (not their real names) were as excited as any couple when they learned that Alice was expecting a child, but they were also a little worried.

When the Bough Breaks

By Winifred J. Ellenchild Pinch, MS’85, Ed.D., R.N.
Professor in the Creighton Center for Health Policy and Ethics and in the School of Nursing
Alice knew from a previous pregnancy that she had an incompetent cervix. That meant she was at risk of early dilation unless a stitch was placed around the cervix at the appropriate time.

When Alice experienced contractions in the fourth month of her pregnancy, she was told it was probably false labor, nothing to worry about, but she made an appointment with her physician just to check it out.

When examined, the physician found that she was already completely dilated. The baby was on the way — breech presentation — and, as she said, “It was pretty traumatic!”

A Caesarian section was performed at approximately 28 weeks gestation — more than two months before her due date. The baby boy weighed about 1 pound, 7 ounces. By comparison, an average newborn weighs 7 pounds, 8 ounces.

After the baby stabilized, Bob was the first parent to see the child — his son, Adam (see box at right) — in the hospital’s neonatal intensive care unit, or NICU (pronounced nikk’you). As Bob described his experience, he emphasized that he “had a confidence inside that God gave me, that no matter what I saw, he was my son ... he would be a normal person.” Alice, on the other hand, was not so confident.

“When I went to see the baby, I just ... oh my; my heart went to my stomach, and I just could not believe that this tiny, little kid ... that this tiny, little kid ...” Her voice trailed off, and then she continued.

“His body was as big as a Barbie doll and his head was as big as a plum. He just ... his limbs were skinnier than my little fingers. He was so, so tiny. I just didn’t see how he could live.” — “Adam’s” mother

Alice and Bob were among the approximately 135,000 sets of parents annually in the United States whose newborns require special care in a neonatal intensive care unit.

Although survival rates for premature babies like Adam, born at 28 weeks, are reported at 80 percent or higher, outcomes can vary significantly and may not be known for many years. And these high-tech units can be intimidating for parents, many of whom feel unprepared for the challenges that lie ahead once they leave the hospital.

The body of literature devoted to this debate, as it applies to the NICU, has become extensive since the 1980s. Issues range from mercy killing to quality of life questions to treatment options (morally obligatory versus optional, for example) to personhood criteria.

However, prior to my research project that began in the mid-1980s, there was a notable gap in the debate: the perspective of the parent in regards to the ethical dimensions of neonatal intensive care.

Of course parents were considered in the discussion, but few reports were written by the parents themselves, and these articles did not necessarily include an ethical dimension. A number of other pieces presented the parental perspective, but gave no evidence that the authors had specifically explored those bioethical issues with parents.

Finally, a group of articles described various responses of parents to NICU care, but again there was no focus on the ethics of that care.

As a community health nurse, having

The Ethical Debate

The possibility for increased long-term complications has helped to shape an intense ethical debate on neonatal intensive care. Whether we can use a particular medication or surgical procedure, the ethical question is, should we? And who should decide?

“... his limbs were skinnier than my little fingers. He was so, so tiny. I just didn’t see how he could live.”

— “Adam’s” mother

About ‘Adam’

Bob and Alice’s baby, Adam, although not the smallest possible weight to survive, was an extremely low-birth-weight infant at 1 pound, 7 ounces.

Bob and Alice were part of a study by Creighton’s Winifred Ellenchild Pinch, examining parental perceptions of neonatal intensive care units. (The family agreed to allow Creighton University Magazine to publish the accompanying photograph of their son in the NICU and to discuss their case provided that their real names were not used.)

Pinch first interviewed Bob and Alice when Adam was still in the hospital. She interviewed them again four years later. At that time, Alice described her son as a very curious child, interested in everything around him. But she said Adam was also a little slow in meeting some developmental milestones, such as walking and crawling and the pronunciation of some words.

“I know that the parents made an effort to provide stimulation and encourage growth and development,” Pinch said. “The good news is he was not blind nor was he deaf — two big possible negative outcomes.”

Adam is now 15 and in the eighth grade. His father reports that “except for the first couple of years, he has caught up and is doing great.” Adam is a B-average student in school and likes to bowl and has even played some basketball.
worked with families like Alice and Bob’s after the baby is discharged from the NICU, I decided to conduct a long-term project to examine and explore parental perceptions in this area.

In 1985, I began interviewing parents of high-risk infants, asking about their NICU experiences for the pilot study. Later, the first interviews for the longitudinal project were conducted prior to the infant leaving the NICU, with subsequent interviews six months postdischarge and four years postdischarge.

The results of the project only describe the parental perceptions. Such an approach was grounded in the conviction that whether or not the events could be corroborated by some documentation or by testimony from a health professional, for the parents, the descriptions were their reality.

The Surprising Findings

The most surprising result was the parents’ perception that, in general, there is no moral dimension to NICU care, nor did they recall any decision-making for their infants that matches the ethical debate in the literature. Decisions, as parents perceived them, were medical ones.

As one parent shared, “They (professionals) make the decisions. They’ve got to get your permission to do anything to him before they do it ... the surgery on him. But I really haven’t made too many decisions because they make them all. I just come and see him every day.”

Only two parents discussed traditional bioethical dilemmas. One family discussed the infant’s potential quality of life given the severe bleeding that had occurred within the baby’s skull, and another couple considered discontinuing the use of the ventilator for their child. The latter couple explained that they did not make a decision as much as they simply agreed with what the health professionals offered as the best option.

Parents’ concerns, as they discussed their NICU experiences, focused on normal newborn needs: feeding, cleanliness, sleep and comfort.

Most parents didn’t realize the potential challenges associated with meeting these needs or the risk of medical complications. Parents repeated over and over again that they had been told their infant only had “to grow a little.” In actuality, the task of completing fetal growth outside the uterus is a formidable one, and parents did not recognize the degree of intervention that might be required to accomplish this goal.

Parents repeated over and over again that they had been told their infant only had “to grow a little.”

So much of what health professionals did in the NICU appeared routine, but parents had trouble determining the meaning of various medical interventions — was a treatment initiated because the infant was improving or was it begun because the infant had a setback? Parents did not question the health professionals because, for the most part, they did not know what questions to ask.

Most parents were overwhelmed by many elements of the experience: the unexpected nature of their situation, their lack of previous experience with such a medical crisis, the highly technical atmosphere of the NICU environment, the vulnerable status of the newborn and the competence of the staff.

Parents did not necessarily recognize their own needs during the infant’s hospitalization, but after the infant was discharged, when they assumed full responsibility for the infant’s care as well as all decision-making, their needs became abundantly clear. At that point, parents more fully understood the status of the child and the potential outcome with which they would live for the rest of their lives.

Most parents, while they approved of the decisions made in the NICU, felt quite strongly that they should have been involved to a greater extent. Parents, overall, felt unprepared for the discharge — when they suddenly became responsible for making all the decisions.

The Best Interest Standard

A best interest standard is one approach to ethical decision-making. For example: What’s in the best interest of the newborn or the family?

But who determines that standard? Is it the parents? Or, as frequently defended in other essays, is it the health professionals?

Many argue that parents are unable to make an objective decision, as they are likely to be biased in favor of their own interests rather than those of the child. Parents in this project, however, favored parental authority.

Parents interviewed noted the potential bias and self-interest of health professionals. Such circumstances could include: professionals who favor aggressive treatment and discharge from the NICU regardless of the status, or future potential, of the infant; the avoidance of any inpatient death during NICU hospitalization; or the accomplishment of professional gain either by advancing the field of neonatology or by making a name for themselves or their practices.

Far-reaching Effects

Few children leave the NICU without any residual effect. These babies have a unique start in life. And whenever something comes up with these children that seems out of the ordinary, the first thing the parents ask themselves — even years after the NICU hospitalization — is, “Does this relate to the NICU experience?”

Delays in reaching developmental milestones are common occurrences. Sometimes these children make up great differences, but, as one father indicated, their family finally had to accept the fact that their child would never “catch up.” Reading and language skills seem to
A rise in the number of premature births and the increased use of reproductive technologies are fueling an increase in the number of infants needing the high-tech, high-cost care of neonatal intensive care units.

In 2001, nearly 12 percent of all live births — or 470,000 babies — were premature (defined as before the 37th week), according to the March of Dimes. That's a 27 percent increase since 1981. While their survival rates have increased, these infants remain at greater risk of developing serious health problems — from cerebral palsy to mental retardation to blindness.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention also estimates that in 2000, more than 36,000 births were the result of assisted reproductive technology (such as in vitro fertilization) and that more than a third of the triplet and “higher-order” multiple births were due to such technology. More than half of the newborns from multiple gestational pregnancies require NICU care, and these pregnancies are, by definition, high-risk.

These statistics have resulted in a spike in the number of high-tech neonatal intensive care units being established at hospitals across the country and an increase in the number of health professionals going into the field.

The NICU is also big business. Charges (not costs) for the care of one infant can range from a low of $100,000 to more than $1 million for the initial hospitalization. The course of treatment for these infants can vary from a smooth, seamless progression from admission to discharge to the application of multiple, sophisticated procedures for complex conditions. The latter hospitalization more than likely resembles a long roller coaster ride of progress and regression rather than a short, uninterrupted train ride across the plains.

Although there are many effective techniques and procedures available to assist these high-risk newborns, problems still occur and not all infants will be discharged without long-term difficulties. The smaller the infant, the earlier the birth and the greater number of crises, the higher the risk for prolonged, serious difficulties.

### Assisted Reproductive Technology

The use of in vitro fertilization and other related procedures has increased significantly since the first “test-tube” baby was born in the United States on Dec. 30, 1982. These pregnancies are more likely to result in multiple births, with the associated need for more neonatal intensive care.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of reported assisted reproductive technology (ART) procedures performed in the U.S.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>64,724</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>81,899</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**26.5% increase**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>The number of triplet and high-order multiple births in the U.S. has more than quadrupled since the 1980s with the advent of ART.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>37*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>173.6*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>469.2% increase</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Percentage of multiple births (U.S., 1998)**

- **3%** Among ALL women giving birth
- **56.4%** Among women using ART

*per 100,000 live births*

Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
create a particularly frequent barrier as mentioned by families.

Psychological problems and the lack of social adeptness were noted by other parents. After discharge, children with special needs were deprived of contact with other children for months or years as they were dependent on equipment, experienced repeated hospitalizations, or just were simply with adults more than those their own age.

A recent, interesting observation by some professionals is the possibility that in preteen or teen years, these children’s psychological problems are congruent with post-traumatic stress syndrome. These therapists have come to believe that the NICU experience is the index event.

Family support simply cannot end at discharge but must continue throughout the child’s life. Among these families there were numerous celebrations of their children’s accomplishments, whether it was a cognitive task, a psychological improvement or a social turning point. However, during the interviews with these families there was an emphasis on the difficulty of their situations, the hardships they experienced, and the strong, negative, emotional drain on their lives.

Making a Difference

The most laudable goal in health care research is to make a positive difference in people’s lives as a result of a study or project. My project explored concerns and difficulties in order to know where changes might be made.

The most prevalent request from parents across all phases of the project was for the provision of more information — good, bad or tentative.

The setting was also important. Parents wanted a private discussion where all involved could sit down and be able to exchange perspectives freely — not standing around the infant’s isolette, in hallways or around other parents.

Parents wanted someone to listen to them as well as obtain information about the status and prognosis of their infant. They indicated that they needed information in a form they could understand and under circumstances in which they had time to absorb and digest the information. Some specifically mentioned audiotapes or videos to supplement the verbal exchange. These requests have been repeated over and over again, since my formal research project ended, by parents who participated in later interviews for the epilogue of my book *When the Bough Breaks: Parental Perceptions of Ethical Decision-Making in the NICU*, 2001, University Press of America and more recently just this spring in anecdotal discussions with some additional parents.

Some parents had questions about the environment of the NICU. They observed how busy the unit was and wondered if the noise and bright lights were detrimental to their child’s recovery. There is research to support these concerns and a number of NICUs have made changes in these areas.

A supportive and nurturing staff was another essential factor for parental coping and adjustment while the infant remained in the NICU. A welcoming atmosphere and an environment that encouraged questions would make the setting less intimidating for parents.

Although providing information to parents was pivotal, some noted the benefits that resulted from my research interviews — labeled intensive “listening” by one parent. One mother explained that these tactics — to talk without an agenda, think and explore one’s own view of the situation — enabled her to further clarify her personal values, beliefs and traditions as they related to this challenging situation.

Family stories in and of themselves may not provide a solution, but they can shed light on the human condition which, in turn, might raise awareness relative to these issues and lead to changes in the future experiences of similar families.

Editor’s Note: Dr. Pinch’s research assistant for the NICU project was Margaret L. Spielman, SJN’50, BSN, MSEd’78. The retired assistant professor of nursing was active in conducting interviews and editing final copy for the research. To learn more about Dr. Pinch’s work with high-risk newborns and their families, attend the 14th Annual Women and Health Lecture, “When the Bough Broke,” on Sept. 3, 2003, 7 p.m., Skutt Student Center Ballroom. Questions: (402) 280-2017.
At a 1 pound, 10 ounce birth weight, tiny Isaac Chesler has passed from 24 weeks to 28 weeks successfully. Son of Teresa and Brian Chesler of Omaha, Isaac has gained a full five ounces in a world where each ounce attained is a small victory.

Isaac also has the distinction of being the smallest infant in Creighton’s NICU at the time of this writing.

With luck, Isaac will leave his isolette one day soon for moments of touch. His parents can hardly wait for that day.
When Maria Ryan of Omaha gave birth to her second child on March 13, 2003, little Francisco was a full 7 pounds. But Maria had been cautioned that her infant son’s lungs might not be fully ready at birth (the lungs are among Mother Nature’s last features in humans to develop). “When I heard his cry, I thought, ‘We’re going to be OK,’” she recalled when he was born.

But breathing problems soon plagued little Francisco, who was whisked off to the NICU, with Mom right by his side. Maria tries to spend all day with Francisco while her husband, Andres Valtes, works. Then, they switch shifts while Maria tends to the rest of her family and her life.

She strokes little Francisco’s hand. “Maybe we can go home next week,” she said. Until then, precious oxygen works through her baby’s lungs, urging them to work on their own.
When Samuel was born to first-time parents Linda and Brent Fickbohm of Bronson, Iowa, they were pretty well-prepared for their small son’s early arrival.

Linda had spent the last two months of her short-term pregnancy in the hospital at Creighton University Medical Center. Her goal: to carry little Samuel through her compromised pregnancy to at least his 28th week.

“Each day in the uterus is equal to about three days in the NICU,” Linda explains. “And the survival rate goes up with each week” the baby can remain inside the mother. If delivered at 24 weeks, infants have a 50 percent survival rate. But if the babies can be carried to their 28th week, the survival rate climbs to 80 percent or higher.

When Samuel, whose name literally means “gift of God,” achieved the 28-week goal, “we had a party for him,” said Linda. Soon he was on his way, all 2 pounds, 14 ounces of him.

Born on Feb. 21, 2003, little Sammy had to wait for two weeks to be held by Brent and Linda. “They need all their energy just to grow,” the Fickbohms explain. Snuggling their infant would have robbed him of precious energy, they were told. “It seemed as if he were still an ultrasound image” the new parents said as they observed their little son at first. Samuel puts on about an ounce a day in the NICU.

“He’s got a lot of tubes,” Brent said, lifting Samuel gingerly from the isolette. One tube delivers Linda’s pumped breast-milk, bypassing her infant’s not-yet-developed swallowing mechanism. “But now he’s breathing on his own,” Brent said, smiling. Soon, he’ll learn the art of breathing while swallowing, something everyone except the parents in the NICU probably take for granted.
Korver points to the home fans after Creighton’s 85-76 win over Southern Illinois at the Civic Auditorium on Jan. 18.
ESPN commentator Jay Bilas sat courtside at the Civic watching one of college basketball’s most amazing spectacles — Kyle Korver’s pregame shoot-around.

With his moppy blonde-dyed hair pushed out of his eyes and his white tube socks pulled knee-high, Korver applied laser-guided precision to flat-footed set shots and jumpers, layups and dunks, free throws and 3-pointers. Bilas, in Omaha with ESPN for CU’s “Bracket Buster Saturday” showdown with Fresno State, figures Korver took 100 shots in all.

Ninety of them hit nothing but nylon. Halfway through Korver’s paces, though, Fresno State took the court and the Pella Pistol called it quits. Bilas wandered over and asked why. “I just don’t think it’s a good idea to have them watching me drill shots,” Korver said, “and get the idea they should guard me even closer than they already do.”

Fat chance. Few players this past season were guarded more closely than Korver — on and off the court.

California migration to Iowa and Dick Vitale tabbed him as his midseason player of the year. The Omaha World-Herald devoted an entire article to a single play of Korver’s, dissecting his long pass to center Joe Dabbert in the Team’s MVC championship-game demolition of Southern Illinois. Heck, even his mom’s baking talents were praised, a World-Herald food writer publishing Laine Korver’s recipe for “Melt-Away Cookies.”

After a season-long blitz of publicity, what’s left to be said? “To take it from another angle,” said CU Coach Dana Altman, “I wouldn’t know where to go. There’s been so much written on his family, him, his time here.”

Part of that, said Altman, is a reflection of the team’s glory. “I think the big reason that Kyle got the attention he did is that we beat Notre Dame and we beat BYU and beat some of those teams early. And he played well, and it just kind of snowballed. The media picked up on him and started looking at his numbers, and we kept winning. If we had lost to Notre Dame, he could have had a great year and nobody would have noticed it.”

But the 22-year-old Korver did get noticed, perhaps to his chagrin. “He doesn’t have to be the center of attention or the person talked about,” said his mother, Laine. “In fact, he probably feels more comfortable if he’s not.”

Yet just as he adjusted to the defenses thrown his way, Korver also handled the full-court “press.” “A lot of guys don’t know how to handle the stature that they find themselves in,” said Steve Pivovar, who covered Creighton this year for the World-Herald. “It either makes them uneasy or it makes them a little big-headed. Kyle … for some reason has decided that instead of running from this situation, he’s embraced it and he’s tried to share it with his teammates, and he’s tried to share it with students, and he’s tried to share it with anybody else who wanted to come along.”

Certain themes emerged in the Korver coverage this year: The Family; The Dedication; The Nice Guy; The Servant; The Shot; The Legacy; and The NBA. If he’s not Creighton’s best player ever, certainly he’s the most talked about.

And here’s what folks had to say.

The Family
By now, Omahans probably know as much about the Korvers as they do their own families. They know how his mom once scored 74 points in a high school game. How his mom and Korver’s father, Kevin, both played at Division III Central College in Pella, Iowa, as did two uncles. They heard all the “son of a preacher man” references, his father being a reverend at Pella’s Third Reformed Church. That his mom stays home with his three younger brothers, Klayton, Kaleb and Kirk. That the
Korver clan followed Kyle hither and yon in the family van throughout his Creighton career, and that Klayton is following him into the MVC (alas, to play for Drake).

As Kyle gained attention, so did his family. But that’s nothing new. “Being raised in a pastor’s family, in a smaller town, people can kind of put you on that pedestal,” said Laine, talking on her son’s birthday, St. Patrick’s Day. “We tried to keep our kids and ourselves off that. You’re just set up for a fall.”

Thus grounded, Korver took the adulation humbly. “A lot of it has to do with his upbringing,” said Pivovar.

The Dedication

Kyle Korver didn’t show up as a ready-made All-American. It took some work. “I think everyone was concerned about his strength,” Altman said. “He was pretty thin. He was a 17-year-old who was kind of young. We had to project him down the line. We didn’t know about his work ethic, didn’t know about his competitiveness.”

He didn’t start so hot, either. “He didn’t get off to a great start his freshman year,” Altman said. “But that’s real typical of a lot of freshmen, a lot of first-year players.”

Korver was scoreless in 10 minutes in his first game and averaged just 3.1 points in his first six outings. He struck for 13 against Illinois State, was erratic for a stretch, then closed with a flurry, registering double figures in points in 12 of his final 19 games. He improved steadily from there. Korver led the team in scoring as a sophomore, and in points, rebounds, assists and steals as a junior. Same story as a senior, save for ranking second in assists. Consistency was his hallmark; Korver ended his career having scored in 114 straight games dating to midway through his freshman season.

“His all-around game has really improved,” Altman said. “It was hard to improve a lot on his shot … but he’s a much better rebounder, a much better defender. All facets of his game he has really taken pride on improving upon.”

Much like one-time CU great Bob Portman, said ex-Bluejays Coach Red McManus. “The two of them would never take it easy one day in practice,” McManus said. “They’d work hard all the time and try to improve themselves and be leaders of their own teammates. They’re an inspiration.”

The Nice Guy

Korver may wear size 14 shoes, but that doesn’t mean he has a big head, too, says fellow student Rick Neneman. “He’s a good kid,” said Neneman, who attended all but one of CU’s home games this year and the MVC tourney.

“He’s one of the nicest kids at Creighton. He’s always real nice to people if they come up and talk to him. He won’t act like he’s too good for you.”

Pivovar has seen his share of inflated egos while covering collegiate sports. Korver isn’t among them. “He’s probably the antithesis of the perception of the modern athlete,” Pivovar said. “The guy who … thinks he’s better than everybody else just because he can dribble a basketball or carry a football. Kyle’s definitely not that. He just wants to be part of the crowd. He doesn’t want to separate himself from people, doesn’t want to separate himself from students. And he’s been very giving of his time, not only with fans, but with reporters and just anybody else who has … needed to be a part of his life.”

Win or lose. Pivovar recalls that after CU’s loss to Evansville — a game that cost the Bluejays the regular-season MVC crown — Korver didn’t go into a postgame pout. Instead, he remained on the court doing interviews and signing autographs. Same thing after CU lost at SIU. “They just lost the conference championship,” said Pivovar, “… but to leave the area he had to walk right through the large group of Southern Illinois fans, and a lot of them were standing there getting Kent Williams, the Southern Illinois star, getting his autograph. And as Kyle approached and tried to get his way through, a lot of those people broke off and they wanted Kyle’s autograph.”

On their “I H8TE CR8HTON” T-shirts, no less.

Korver kept signing. “He’s always been a great gentleman,” said McManus.

The Servant

That will draw no argument from
Creighton Athletic Director Bruce Rasmussen. “A lot has been written about what Kyle has accomplished,” Rasmussen said. “I’m more concerned about what Kyle is. Kyle is very servant-oriented. A lot of times in basketball and football, as you get elevated in status, you expect people to wait on you and expect your needs to be addressed. A lot of great athletes are very in-focused: ‘How do I make myself better?’ Kyle is very out-focused. He is concerned about his teammates.”

Not to mention the fifth-grade students at Omaha’s St. Vincent de Paul grade school. The 30 kids in Carrie O’Donnell’s class there wrote Korver asking him to visit. He called O’Donnell, a Creighton alumna, almost two months later and arranged for a surprise showing — on the eve of Bracket Buster Saturday.

“He’s been nothing but wonderful throughout the whole thing,” said O’Donnell, BS’98. Korver fielded questions from each of the kids, asked them questions, ate lunch with them (sloppy Joe day) and signed autograph after autograph. The kids also gave him a St. Sebastian medal (patron saint of athletes) and personal blessings, each one making the Sign of the Cross on Korver’s forehead. A regular church-goer (hey, his dad is a pastor) and member of Jays for Christ and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Korver was perfectly at ease.

“He goes to a lot of schools … a lot of youth groups and speaks,” Rasmussen said. “He makes himself available after every game for autographs. He’s really lost himself in this whole issue, and I think that’s unique.”

Says Altman: “I think Kyle has been a great ambassador.” Korver, a true “student-athlete,” graduated with a degree in journalism and mass communication in May.

**The Shot**

Dana Altman first saw The Shot during a summer AAU tournament in Las Vegas in 1998. “We’d heard of him,” Altman recalled. “I liked the way he shot the ball. That’s the first thing that catches anyone’s attention. When the ball comes out of his hand, it looks
ESPN’s Bilas also is a big fan of The Shot—especially after watching Korver light up Fresno State for seven 3s. “This guy’s the best shooter in the country,” he said during the broadcast. “I don’t think it’s close.” Asked later about that comment, Bilas made only a slight modification. “I should have said he’s the best shooter unguarded,” he said. “When he’s unguarded, he doesn’t miss. I’ve seen all the great shooters this year, and over the years … this kid Korver is the best shooter. I’m not sure anyone’s seen more focused defenses to stop a player than he has.”

Korver backed that up in April, finishing second in ESPN’s 15th annual Three-Point Championships.

The mechanics of The Shot, Bilas said, are the secret to his success. “It’s an effortless shot and one clearly he’s worked on. He’s got a gift. A high release. He gets it off quickly. He’s got a beat. He squares up very nicely. His footwork is outstanding. Everything you’d want. He’s got as good a shot from a technical standpoint as anyone I’ve seen.”

Those mechanics make up for a body (6-foot-7, 210 pounds) that isn’t exactly imposing. “Kyle’s not going to scare you,” Bilas said. “But after he lights you up for 25, it’s too late.”

The payoff has been the record books. The Shot launched Korver to sixth all-time in NCAA history for career 3-pointers (371) and 14th all-time in three-point accuracy (45.3 percent). Among players 6-7 or taller, no one’s been better.

The Legacy

It may be impossible to say where Korver ranks among CU greats. Let’s say, though, that he’s in the game. “He’s one of the best that’s played here,” McManus said.

COURTESY PHOTO

Korver “high-fives” students at St. Vincent de Paul during a visit to the Omaha grade school.
among scorers, but they took stats from each other. The parade of CU greats also includes Rick Apke, Vernon Moore, Benoit Benjamin, John C. Johnson, Kevin McKenna, Rodney Buford, etc. Altman points to Ryan Sears and Ben Walker from Korver's own era.

And there's the rub — comparing different eras.

“How do you compare what Paul Silas did in the ’60s to what Kyle’s doing now? It’s a different game,” Pivovar said. “It’s just so hard to compare that year to this year. (Even) in the 10 years between now and back when Harstad and Gallagher played.”

Silas himself agrees, saying he couldn’t repeat today his stats of 40 years ago. “Oh, no way,” said the man who once nabbed 37 rebounds in one game and who most recently coached New Orleans in the NBA. “Defenses are so much better. Offenses are so much more detailed. Our game was more run and gun. You had to get up a fair amount of shots each game in order to do well. Nobody played zone at that time. It’s virtually impossible to average 20 points and 20 rebounds. If a guy averages 13, 14 rebounds (today), he’s a heck of a rebounder.”

So where does all this put Korver? “It’s the old cop-out,” Pivovar said. “He’s one of the best. If nothing else, he’s taken his team to places where no other Creighton person has taken their teams. That obviously has to be a big check in his case.”

The NBA

“If I had a draft pick,” Bilas said during the Creighton-Fresno St. game, “I’d use it on Kyle Korver.”

But what about the 29 teams that do have a pick in the June 26 NBA draft? When assessing Korver’s chances of making the NBA, some compare him to others. Silas said Korver can be similar to 6-9 forward Pat Garrity of the Orlando Magic. “But with more rebounding skills. He has the chance to be a good rebounder as well as a good defender.” Bilas draws comparisons to former longtime pros Jeff Hornacek and Dell Curry, both long-range sharpshooters.

Such talk is heady stuff for the folks in Pella. “I always thought he would be a very good player,” said his mother. “(But) I didn’t know how good or how far this would go. Now we’re talking to pro agents? Oh, my gosh. He always had that inner drive and tenacity to push himself and to work hard.”

“And he’s always had that good shot.”

“For the most part,” said Bilas, “he’s got something they covet, and they don’t have much better.”

Altman concedes Korver will have to improve other areas of his game. “He can’t make it on just his shot,” he said.
The most compelling statement I have ever come across about war and peace is that “after Hiroshima, just war can never be the same, and after Auschwitz, pacifism can never be the same.”
During the 2000 presidential campaign, candidate George W. Bush was asked what philosopher had most influenced his thinking. A born-again Christian, then-Gov. Bush replied, “Christ.” He didn’t elaborate on the specifics.

But if President Bush were to have an imaginary colloquy with Jesus, as Hillary Rodham Clinton reported having with her hero Eleanor Roosevelt, about the challenges facing the United States after Sept. 11, 2001? What might Jesus say about the United States’ military interventions in the Middle East and the consequences for the Middle East and the United States? What might Jesus say about Osama bin Laden’s terrorism, Saddam Hussein’s penchant for weapons of mass destruction, or North Korea’s nuclear threat?

Would he preach today as he did in first-century Roman-occupied Palestine that his followers are to love their neighbors as themselves, even if those neighbors are enemies, and even if those enemies are terrorists? Would he offer the left cheek, the cheek that requires a blow with a fist, mano a mano. Why offer the left cheek? Because that would say, “If you want to strike me, do not presume my inferiority. I resist, but I do not stoop to your violence. I am your equal in dignity.”

What follows are images from the Gospels and insights from the Christian tradition that might help us clarify our thinking.

Jesus Makes Peace

The New Testament contains no treatise on the subject of war, but it does portray Jesus as a peacemaker. Perhaps the most compelling image is of Jesus’ response to the mob that brought an adulterous woman before him, hoping to expose his growing religious authority as a fraud. What would Jesus do? He knelt down and doodled in the sand. Why such surprising behavior?

Perhaps we should have asked, What wouldn’t Jesus do? He wouldn’t confront the angry crowd head on, on its terms. He wouldn’t puff himself up with all his moral and rhetorical might and lambaste the accusers or the accused. He didn’t make himself big. He made himself small. He did the unexpected, the mysterious (but very ordinary). He hunkered down. He stalled for time, perhaps praying for inspiration. Without so much as a single word, he took charge. He rewrote the script. No one threw the first stone. And the rest of the story is, quite literally, scripture. The tables were turned. The angry accusers became the shame-faced accused. The scared accused became a sacred icon of rescue, reprieve and release. Jesus made peace where there could have been ugly, religiously sanctioned violence. Nothing miraculous or supernatural, nothing you or I couldn’t have done. Maybe the greatest tool for peacemakers is imagination and surprise.

Jesus Counsels Nonviolent Resistance

But what about that turn-the-other-cheek business? If Jesus isn’t around to get us neatly out of scrapes as he did for the woman caught in adultery, do we have no choice but to roll over and play doormat, and maybe end up dead? Did Jesus really counsel nonresistance to evil, as some translations of Matthew 5:39 indicate? Not so, according to scripture scholar Walter Wink (see his *The Powers That Be: Theology for a New Millennium*). How could Jesus bring salvation from sin if he didn’t resist and overcome it? Wink suggests that Matthew 5:38-41 (part of the Sermon on the Mount) is the key to understanding how Jesus would have us resist evil so that God’s will might be done and the kingdom made present on earth. First, “offer no resistance to the evildoer” (New American Bible) is better translated, do not return evil for evil, violence for violence. But how then are we to respond when aggression is coming our way?

Why, in Matthew’s version, does Jesus specifically counsel turning the other cheek when someone has struck you on the right? Because, according to Wink, that suggests you have been slapped, backhanded, by a right-handed person. You have been put in your place, as Roman would have done to Jew, master to servant, husband to wife, parent to child. Jesus is offering his advice in the hard case where a person of lesser status and power is being reprimanded by his or her “better.” Why offer the left cheek? Because that would require, from a right-handed person, a blow with a fist, mano a mano. Because that would say, “If you want to strike me, do not presume my inferiority. I resist, but I do not stoop to your violence. I am your equal in dignity.”

Power to the Powerless

But what about “If anyone wants to
go to law with you over your tunic, hand him your cloak as well"? This time the imagined scene is a court of law, perhaps the village gate. The elders are gathered to hear the case of a creditor against a debtor who is in arrears. A tunic or outer garment has been given as collateral, which suggests why the debtor needed a loan in the first place — he’s so poor the tunic is his most valuable possession, serving not only as his coat but probably also as his bedroll. That’s why Deuteronomy 24:10-13 and Exodus 22:25-26 prescribe that the creditor must return the garment each night, so that the poor debtor won’t be without protection against the night’s cold.

But now a creditor is demanding that the tunic be handed over permanently, and Jesus counsels the debtor, give him your cloak or inner garment as well. With perhaps the whole village watching, strip yourself and show everyone just how greedy the rich lender really is. Strip him of his respectability. In that culture, says Wink, nakedness would have been as shameful to the beholder as to the one unclothed. Again, the socially inferior and presumably powerless person has trumped the status of the oppressor, and done so without violence, which might have backfired anyway.

And who could press you into what kind of service for one mile? Even today, milestones can be spied on ancient Roman roads in the Holy Land. That’s so a centurion would know how far a Jew could be legally conscripted to carry the Roman officer’s heavy field pack. One humiliating but bearable mile, but no farther. What would Jesus have you do? “Go with him for two miles.” On your own initiative, force the centurion to break the law or beg you to put down his gear, maybe forcing him to chase after you. Now who’s in charge? Now who’s in trouble?

Wink calls the strategy demonstrated in these three little scenes “Jesus’ third way,” neither flight (nonresistance) nor fight (violent resistance), but a kind of “moral jujitsu” (nonviolent resistance) whereby the oppressed transforms the dynamics of oppression, lifting up his or her own dignity while exposing the pretense of the oppressor.

It’s what Gandhi, inspired in part by the Sermon on the Mount, called satyagraha, soul-force or truth-force, and to which our unfortunately negative term “nonviolence” really doesn’t do justice. What are the weapons of the peacemaker inspired by Jesus’ third way? In defense of human dignity, we have at our disposal imagination, insight, presence of mind, surprise.

What Would the Samaritan Do?

But do these tactics always work? Might some situations be too far gone for these nonviolent weapons to be effective? What would the Samaritan do, as the influential Christian ethicist Paul Ramsey once asked, if he had arrived on the scene between Jerusalem and Jericho not after but while the beating was going on? How would he demonstrate compassion, even to an enemy, and so attain salvation if ongoing brutality was the scene facing him?

Presumably, Jesus would have the Samaritan try every nonviolent means possible. He would plead, yell for help, try to distract the assailant, insert himself between the aggressor and his victim, throw sticks — even beat him with a stick — all in a nonlethal manner. Perhaps if he were a honey merchant, he could pour his inventory all over the bandit in hopes of sweetening him up and slowing him down. Talk about surprise!
But what if this guy were a real sociopath (and a behemoth besides) and just became further enraged? What if it became clear that such interventions would only lead to two brutalized bodies or even two corpses instead of one? What if my neighbor-who-is-the-aggressor can only be stopped from killing my neighbor-who-is-the-victim by delivering a potentially fatal blow? What would the Samaritan do? Would Jesus permit the *coup de grace*, if there were no other way? Could there be any grace, any love, in such an act, however necessarily but reluctantly performed? Is killing in defense of the innocent ever God’s will?

**Defending My Neighbor**

It is often pointed out that Jesus did not defend himself against unjust accusation and lethal violence at the hands of the collaborationist Jerusalem authorities and the representatives of imperial Rome. Granted. But that is not our question. Would Jesus have used lethal force to defend his friends or an innocent stranger against unjust attack?

I do not know. I wish Jesus had left clearer instructions. I do know that this is one of the thorniest questions in Christian ethics. I do know that by and large the early Church adopted the position of nonresistance when persecuted. Some of the early saints and theologians were what today we would describe as pacifists, as they believed that soldiering and discipleship were incompatible. The very first model of Christian holiness was martyrdom.

But it’s one thing to abjure self-defense so as to imitate the passion of Christ, quite another to refuse to defend an otherwise defenseless neighbor. This was the state of the question for St. Ambrose of Milan and St. Augustine of Hippo in the fourth and fifth centuries, after Christianity was first legalized, in the year 313, and then established as the state religion of Rome, in the year 380. It has not escaped the notice of modern Christian pacifists that the Christian just war tradition originated when discipleship and citizenship first became competing loyalties. They would call the Constantinian revolution a fall from grace. They would say that loyalty to worldly empire won out over loyalty to the kingdom of God made visible whenever Christians give witness to it with their lives.

But other Christians, indeed the church’s mainstream tradition since the time of Augustine, and including Aquinas, Luther and Calvin, propose that there may be tragic occasions when lethal force may or even must be used to defend human life against aggression. Justice is the value that distinguishes permissible killing from impermissible murder. The fifth commandment (the sixth in the Jewish, Orthodox and Protestant traditions), as interpreted by the Catholic Church and all other churches except the pacifist traditions such as the Mennonites and Quakers, is not absolute. It prohibits murder (the directly intended destruction of innocent human life) but not all killing.

**The Just War Tradition**

No fuller official account of this Christian perspective on war and peace can be found than in the United States Catholic bishops’ pastoral letter of 1983, *The Challenge of Peace: God’s Promise and Our Response*. Four assertions set the stage for a lengthy discussion. The first echoes Wink’s objection to “offer no resistance.” Christians, say the bishops, have no choice but to resist evil, including unjust aggression. The only choice is how. Second, the bishops insist that there is a presumption against violence and a preference for nonviolence as a response. But third, in extreme and tragic situations, that presumption may be overridden and lethal force used as a last resort. And fourth, such force must be limited by the very justice it seeks to defend.

Making use of the thinking inherited from Augustine, Aquinas, other theologians and Pope Pius XII, the U.S. bishops articulate seven criteria, all of which must be met if going to war is to be morally justified. (1) There must be just cause, and only the defense of human life and rights against unjust aggression qualify. (2) There must be right intention, the pursuit of peace and justice, and not, for example, the humiliation of the enemy. (3) There must be comparative justice on the side of the defenders, but there must be no illusion of absolute justice, no temptation to a crusade or holy war.
ideology. (4) There must be a realistic expectation of positive proportionality between the benefits to be attained (harms avoided) and the harms to be inflicted. (5) There must be a reasonable hope of success, lest lives be lost in vain. (6) War may be entered into only as a last resort, after every reasonable nonviolent approach has been tried and found ineffective. And finally, (7) only competent authority, those with responsibility for the common good, may make such momentous decisions.

These criteria, known as *jus ad bellum* (the law or justice of going to war) are complemented by another category, known as *jus in bello* (the just conduct of war). Not only the war as a whole, but each battle, strategy and tactic must adhere to the criterion of proportionality. Right intention should also figure as an *in bello* as well as an *ad bellum* criterion. And, especially relevant in this age of weapons of mass destruction, innocent citizens in the enemy state must not be targeted. That would be murder. This is the well-known principle of noncombatant immunity or discrimination. If the cause is justice, if the whole point is to protect innocent human life, then it matters not which side those lives are on. A justified war can become unjust if these criteria are not observed.

**Just War Today**

The criteria of proportionality and discrimination have led some to believe that a just war in the contemporary context is impossible. The letter of the U.S. Catholic bishops, for example, has been described as advocating what has been called “nuclear pacifism.” They cannot imagine how nuclear weapons could be used in a limited, proportionate or discriminate way. Just war, maybe; nuclear war, never.

With the 1991 Persian Gulf War, however, sophisticated weapons guidance technology seems to have taken the argument in the opposite direction. So-called “smart bombs” can be targeted at military facilities and away from civilian populations with considerable precision. That, of course, does not eliminate “collateral damage,” a euphemism for unintended civilian casualties, but it does promise to limit it.

On the other hand, as Notre Dame ethicist George Lopez has pointed out, precision guidance also makes possible the targeting of civilian infrastructure — public services — upon which the military depends. This is exactly what transpired in the 1991 Gulf War. According to Lopez, 10 months after the armistice, “almost as many Iraqis ... had died from the results of the bombing as died during the six weeks of actual fighting.” By the end of the next year, “more than a hundred thousand Iraqi civilians died from the lack of clean water and sewage disposal, and the breakdown of electrical service to hospitals.” Because of the ensuing epidemics, this amounts to a form of indiscriminate biological warfare. One might well ask, what did we think was going to be the result?

**Is There a Better Way?**

Pope John Paul II, in his 1991 encyclical letter *Centesimus Annus*, declared, referring to the 1991 Gulf War: “No, never again war, which destroys the lives of innocent people, teaches how to kill, throws into upheaval even the lives of those who do the killing and leaves behind a trail of resentment and hatred, thus making it all the more difficult to find a just solution of the very problems which provoked the war.”

Having lived under the totalitarian oppression of both the Nazis and the Communists, John Paul II can hardly be described as naive about worldly realities. Rather, one of the contemporary realities that seems most to have impressed the Pope, as recorded in *Centesimus Annus*, is the decisive role nonviolence played in bringing down communism in Europe. His own role in the fall of the regime in his Polish homeland is justly celebrated. The Catholic Church can also take credit for playing a significant role in the nonviolent ouster of the dictators Ferdinand Marcos in the Philippines and Augusto Pinochet in Chile.
Nonetheless, the Pope also favored humanitarian military intervention in Bosnia, East Timor and Central Africa to disarm the aggressors and to establish peace. His attitude toward force is obviously complex. That’s why Jesuit ethicist Drew Christiansen has called John Paul II a “just war pacifist.” While not absolutely ruling out the use of force as a last resort in defense of human life, he might well now be thought of, along with Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa and the Dalai Lama, both Nobel Peace Prize recipients, as one of the world’s most ardent advocates of nonviolent resistance.

The most compelling statement I have ever come across about war and peace is that “after Hiroshima, just war can never be the same, and after Auschwitz, pacifism can never be the same.” But what would that look like?

Just-war-pacifism is, of course, a logical contradiction. One cannot simultaneously endorse an absolute and a relative presumption against the use of force. On the other hand, perhaps what John Paul II is pointing us toward is a third alternative that is only beginning to emerge in the examples, such as the Solidarity movement in Poland, chronicled in *A Force More Powerful: A Century of Nonviolent Conflict*, both the book (published by St. Martin’s Press) and the three-hour PBS documentary series by the same name.

As much planning, preparedness, discipline and courage would be required to wage nonviolent resistance as now goes into military operations. Such a transformation obviously represents a long-term vision. In the meantime, the just-war tradition provides Christian citizens and all people of good will with a substantial ethical perspective by which to enter public debate about U.S. military policy and conduct.

What would Jesus do about tyrants like Saddam Hussein? Maybe we’re only beginning to imagine an answer.

About the Author: Bergman directs the Justice & Peace Studies Program in the Creighton College of Arts & Sciences and teaches a course on “Christian Ethics of War & Peace.”
“The Poetry of Earth is never dead”
— From John Keats’
On the Grasshopper and the Cricket
O Nature, Nature, hearken to my Cry, 
Each Minute, wounded am, but cannot die. 
My Children which I from my Womb did bear, 
Do plow deep Furrows in my very Face, 
Do dig my Sides, and all my Bowels tear: 
My Children which I from my Womb did bear, 
Each Minute, wounded am, but cannot die.

Yet even as the general area of study has increased, contention has flared over what should, or should not, be categorized as “nature writing” and what the objectives of environmental literary studies should be. Does simply including a forest or a flower in the “background” make an author a “nature writer”? Does an author need to represent a particular political point of view in how that forest or flower was described? In teaching students about the history of literary representations of nature, do professors have an obligation to model for students such “green” awareness in their classrooms and in their political and ethical conduct in other areas of their lives?

Part of the dilemma surrounding the teaching of literary works devoted to nature stems from the fact that the very word “nature” itself has such a broad range of meanings.

To earlier authors, “nature” denotes primarily the inherent qualities of a person or thing — what makes that entity unique. With respect to people, it can refer to someone’s innate character (as in “she’s moody; that’s just her nature”). It can also refer to the totality of all things in the universe. These older definitions present “nature” as something static, unchanging.

The more modern meaning of the term, which gained currency in the middle of the 18th century, envisions nature as a force, as something dynamic and ever changing.

In their thinking about nature, earlier authors were more heavily influenced by the tenets of Christian theology, which clearly saw humanity as superior to (and often responsible for) the rest of creation in a “great chain of being.” Writers from the early 19th century onward, who were more cognizant of scientific knowledge, adopted a more secular point of view and were more likely to question the more traditional hierarchical view. Instead of placing human needs and desires above that of the rest of the planet, some began to adopt what environmental ethicists would today call an ecocentric perspective. Perhaps because of this, many literary historians tend to privilege these more modern writers, whose perspectives more closely resemble modern “green” political opinions.

A growing body of scholarship has debated the question of the forms and genres of proper “ecocriticism.” Harvard scholar, Lawrence Buell, for instance, in his study The Environmental Imagination: Thoreau, Nature Writing, and the Formation of American Culture, lists four separate conditions that a poem or story must meet to be considered an “environmental text.” First and foremost, Buell stipulates that in an environmental text: “The nonhuman environment is present not merely as a framing device but as a presence that begins to suggest that human history is implicated in natural history.” This rules out texts in which nature is just “backdrop,” but includes texts in which nature has an impact on human life and vice versa.

Similarly, British critic Jonathan Bate writes in The Song of the Earth that true ecocriticism is “not a description of dwelling with the earth, not a disengaged thinking about it, but an experience of it.” This emphasis on the recording of the experiential and, in particular, the sensory and affective dimension of the relationship between the human and the nonhuman has become increasingly central.

Patrick D. Murphy, however, in Farther Afield in the Study of Nature-Oriented Literature attempts to create a much more specific classification, differentiating “nature writing” (which is largely fictional, such as natural history or travel writing) from “nature literature” (poetry and fictional writing describing nature). Both of these are distinct from “environmental writing” (which is nonfictional, polemical and works to effect social change) and “environmental literature” (which also works toward altering values but does so through fictional or poetic media).

Regardless of how one classifies it, one of the most exciting dimensions of looking at nature or the environment in literature is how it allows one to discover new texts and authors as well as rediscover old ones.

Many familiar stories and poems can be productively reinterpreted from an ecocritical point of view. Mary Shelley’s Frankenstein, for instance, remains the
most significant modern allegory of the dangers of scientific tampering with
Mother Nature. It is a clear cautionary tale for the unpredictability and possible
perils of scientific hubris in attempting to control or replace nature’s processes.

Even J.R.R. Tolkien’s popular *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy contains a powerful
environmentalist message. The green and pleasant land that is the Hobbits’
Shire is threatened by what can only be described as Sauron’s earth-destroying
military-industrial complex. When the very trees begin marching to exact
revenge on the Dark Lord, Tolkien’s ecopolitics are hard to miss.

Reading with an ecocritical perspective allows one to appreciate classics of
American literature in a new light, as well. For example, while John
Steinbeck’s epic of the Great Depression, *The Grapes of Wrath*, certainly makes a
clear statement about social justice, it is important to remember that given the
novel’s emphasis on agriculture, how humans interact with one another is
depthly linked with how they interact with the land.

America’s vast and varied landscapes have produced some of the most popular
nature writers of the 20th century, who are becoming more well-known as
interest in environmental literature grows. These writers include Mary Austin, author
of the poignant and precise essays on the desert Southwest, in *The Land of Little
Rain*, and John Muir, who wrote wide-ranging stories from *The Mountains of
California* to his *Travels in Alaska*.

The writing of many of the Native American peoples is also of great
interest to scholars of environmental writing, as it frequently articulates an
eccentric ethic, one that regards all living beings as sacred. This ethic is
reflected in the sacred poetry of many Native American tribes, as well as in
autobiographical narratives, such as
Lakota Sioux writer Luther Standing
Bear’s *My People the Sioux* (1928).

Nebraska has contributed several

**Literature and the Environment: The Course**

Six years ago, I volunteered to teach a
course in the English Department titled
Literature and the Environment (ENG
381). In preparing for the course, I began
a search for an anthology of poems,
stories and essays to use as the primary
textbook for the class.

While I very much wanted to study
those great classics of nature writing, such as *Walden*, I wanted to offer to
students a broad historical overview of the varieties of ways that writers from
ancient times to the present had engaged in writing about and representing the
natural world.

I felt strongly that a good deal of the
erlier American writing about nature, such as Emerson’s essential essays, was
depthly influenced by British literature.

So in my search for a suitable text, it was
important to me that whatever book I chose include selections from both British and American writers.

Although I searched a good deal, I

discovered that there was no book in
print that met my class’s needs. When I
met that semester with Chris Barker,
from publisher Prentice Hall, I mentioned
my fruitless search. Chris asked if I had
considered creating the anthology I was
seeking and publishing it with Prentice
Hall. After all, in searching for resources,
I had found that there were many other
universities besides Creighton that were
offering courses on literature and the
environment or on nature writing. If the
book I envisioned was something that I
might find useful, it might be a good
resource for other teachers and students
across the country.

I realized the project was too much
work for just one person. So I contacted
one of my mentors, Professor James
McKusick of the University of Maryland,
a nationally recognized expert on
Romantic-period nature writing, and
invited him to join me on the project. Our
proposal for the anthology was quickly
accepted by Prentice Hall and we set to
work immediately, selecting authors
and texts that we wanted to include,
from the Renaissance to the present.

During the following spring semester,
while I was beginning work compiling
and editing the anthology, I had the
pleasure of teaching ENG 381, testing
out some of the texts I wished to
highlight in the anthology on a group of
Creighton students. I was able to gauge
their enthusiasm and interest in a
variety of different works and learn
which poems and stories spoke most
profoundly to them.

I was also able to make new discoveries
through the students’ research projects.
important authors to the tradition of the literature of nature. Willa Cather’s fiction, such as *O Pioneers!*, explores and questions the impact of the “manifest destiny” of westward expansion on both the land and the people dwelling on it. And Loren Eiseley’s magnificent essays, such as *The Bird and the Machine*, clearly demonstrate how the eye of the scientist and the poet can complement one another in exploring our relationship to the world around us.

After the 1960s, as environmentalist causes gained prominence on the national and international political agenda, thanks to watershed studies like Rachel Carson’s *Silent Spring*, we have witnessed a real flourishing of novels and poems devoted to nature. Many of these titles and authors are well-known: Annie Dillard’s *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*; Edward Abbey’s *Desert Solitaire* or *The Monkey Wrench Gang*; Leslie Marmon Silko’s *Ceremony*; M. Scott Momaday’s *House Made of Dawn* or *The Way to Rainy Mountain*; or Jane Smiley’s *A Thousand Acres*, to name just a few. Among the poets, Seamus Heaney, Gary Snyder, Maxine Kumin and Mary Oliver are some of the most widely read.

With such a wealth of materials to choose from, it is not surprising that courses on green writing, literature and the environment and nature writing are cropping up at universities across the country. At Creighton, my own course, English 381: Literature and the Environment, is an elective option for students pursuing environmental studies degrees.

Just as Margaret Cavendish did in the 17th century, a poet such as Mary Oliver in the 21st century offers us a reminder of our connection to and responsibility for the world around us. While the work of environmental scientists and political activists can help us to understand our impact on nature and guide us in how to act to preserve the environment, it is the poets and writers who can help to make us feel more deeply our relationship to nature.

Writing of her encounter with a simple grasshopper in the poem *The Summer Day*, Oliver is able to transform this experience into an understanding of the sacred quality of all life, and to reveal how it exists, all around us, if we only pay attention to it.

> Who made the world?  
> Who made the swan, and the black bear?  
> Who made the grasshopper?  
> This grasshopper, I mean —  
> the one who has flung herself out of the grass,  
> the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,  
> who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of up and down —  
> who is gazing around with her enormous and complicated eyes.  
> Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly washes her face.  
> Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away.

I too kept a notebook alongside the students in that class. For their final project, I assigned students to research and write about an author who wrote about the students’ own “local environment.” Thus, for instance, I was able to learn about writers such as Linda Hasselstrom, who writes about the same ranching life in South Dakota that one of my students grew up experiencing.

I was also able to field-test assignments for the students. I believe strongly that what makes so much of the nature writing we were studying so incredibly beautiful and powerful has to do with the writer’s immediate and sensory engagement with the world around him or her. I felt it was essential not to limit our study of environmental texts to the closed setting of the classroom. Thus, instead of asking students to merely write about the authors we were studying, I asked them to engage the world around them like the authors we studied by keeping what I called a “Green Writing Notebook.”

This assignment asked students to go outside and into the natural world to think and write about their sense of their place in it. While they were certainly allowed to use that week’s assigned reading as a starting point, I gave them wide latitude to write whatever and however they felt moved, provided it connected with our general topic of the human relation to nature. I gave them the freedom to be creative, to write poems or songs, to draw pictures, to include samples of leaves or feathers, however they wished to document their active engagement with nonhuman nature.

I too kept a notebook alongside the students, and we often began class reading to one another from our writings. Thus students both studied nature writing and began to create it themselves, so as to fully explore how the intermediary of the written word both helped and hindered their sense of their place in their natural world.

While the class was just a small seminar, it was one of the most rewarding I have taught in my nearly 20-year career. I was honored to work with students from both the English Department and the Department of Environmental Sciences, and I have to confess that the EVS students gave the English majors a run for their money when it came to sheer creativity. When I finished the anthology, nearly two years after that course, I dedicated the book to the students in that class.

For more information on nature writing, including several good bibliographies, visit the website for the Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment (ASLE) at www.asle.umn.edu.  

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Scholarship Pays Tribute to Anderson

Lt. Col. Michael P. Anderson’s name will grace a new endowed scholarship. Creighton University president the Rev. John P. Schlegel, S.J., announced the establishment of a scholarship in memory of Anderson, MS’90, an astronaut who died aboard the space shuttle Columbia on Feb. 1. He was 43.

The scholarship fund, which accepts additional gifts, will support students studying physics, the department from which Anderson earned a master’s degree.

“It would be difficult to find an individual who better exemplifies alumni achievement,” Fr. Schlegel said. “Michael Anderson was a physics pioneer. The University is a pioneer in higher education. Memorializing Michael’s name and example through a Creighton scholarship is a gift to future generations. We want to ensure that his name lives on in perpetuity.”

The Rev. Thomas McShane, S.J., directed Anderson’s master’s degree research. He remembers him as a special student who took a day off from work to give a Creighton group a private tour of the Kennedy Space Center.

Anderson received the University’s prestigious Alumni Merit Award in 1998. His U.S. Air Force honors include the Undergraduate Pilot Training Academic Achievement Award, the Defense Superior Service Medal and the Meritorious Service Medal.

“He certainly made a fine impression on the University,” Fr. McShane said.

The 16-day Columbia flight, for which Anderson was payload commander, was a dedicated science and research mission during which the crew successfully conducted approximately 80 experiments.

Gifts to the fund may be sent to Creighton University, Office of Development, Michael P. Anderson Scholarship Fund, 2500 California Plaza, Omaha, Neb., 68178. For more information, please call (800) 334-8794 or (402) 280-2740.

Irish Books Find Home at CU

Just as the Creighton family came to America from Ireland, ultimately settling in Omaha, a collection of rare Irish books has completed a years-long odyssey, finding a home at the University bearing the Creighton name.

When Maureen Brady, BA’60, MS’69, heard that the Columban Fathers near Bellevue, Neb., wanted to donate some Irish language books, she immediately thought of Creighton.

“I thought Creighton was a particularly fitting home for the books, especially with its Irish heritage and Irish Studies program,” said Brady, president of the Omaha chapter of the Irish-American Cultural Institute. “As a Creighton graduate who shares its Irish heritage, I am thrilled that these books will be preserved and used.”

The collection contains rare volumes,
Kennedy said. “We look forward to displaying them prominently in the new science complex to inspire future generations.”

Brodston also donated items the scientists used in research, including Fermi pieces from the University of Chicago where he conducted the world’s first nuclear chain reaction while involved in World War II’s Manhattan Project.

Brodston, who lives in Centerville, Ohio, is a U.S. Air Force flight surgeon. He presented the gifts in memory of his father, George, who attended Creighton in the 1940s.

As a kicker, George Brodston scored the last point in the history of Creighton football. After serving with the Marines in World War II, the senior Brodston played professional football and was a recruiter for many professional and college sports organizations. For more than 30 years, he coached boys and girls at Omaha’s St. Joseph and Archbishop Ryan high schools.

“As my former players and students often tell me how much they admired their old coach,” Brodston said. “My father was tough as nails. He was known for his physical power, inner resolve and personal courage, which he repeatedly displayed in his last days in his battle with cancer. He admired scientific scholars as well as people who worked hard and persevered to overcome personal and professional setbacks, like Fermi and Steinmetz. When I selected the first items for donation, I chose these two because I knew my father would have approved of the choices.”

Brodston also gave Creighton a set of noteworthy, mint condition, 1806 Greek to English translations of accounts of the Peloponnesian War to mark his father’s fondness for military history. The Department of Classical and Near Eastern Studies accepted the texts on behalf of the University.

The gifts are among the first that Brodston plans to donate from an extensive collection of rare books and items of historical significance that he began 30 years ago. Creighton will receive the bulk of the collection, with select museums and other universities receiving some pieces.

“I owe a lot to the old school, the teachers and my fellow students who helped me while I was there,” Brodston said. “I will never forget their generous support. This is one small way of showing my appreciation to my father and Creighton University at the same time.”

Other books include an Irish language psalter, or prayer book, published in 1825, titled Un t’Psaltair; and Seirce-Leannmain Crist or The Imitation of Christ, first written in 1418, published in Irish in 1886. In addition to the literary and ecclesiastical works, the collection includes reference and instruction books.

Pieces from the collection will offer a unique perspective of Ireland to students in the Irish literature track of the English major and in conjunction with Creighton’s summer school at Trinity College, Dublin. Gardiner said the collection already has become a valuable resource for scholars throughout the global Irish studies community.

The Reinert Alumni Memorial Library’s Rare Book Room will house the newly created collection.

If you have volumes that you believe will further Creighton’s rare book collection, please contact the Office of Development at (402) 280-2741.
Charitable Gift Annuity: Is One Right for You?

Maybe the time is right for you to consider a charitable gift annuity. With falling interest rates, charitable gift annuities have become increasingly popular for individuals who want to secure a dependable stream of fixed income and also make a future gift to support Creighton University.

In addition to the attractive payment rate, charitable gift annuities offer several other distinct tax advantages. Because the University receives the remaining balance of the annuity upon its termination, a percentage of the annuity entitles you to an immediate charitable contribution deduction. Another benefit for many is that a portion of each annuity payment is often tax-free. (Both the charitable deduction and the tax-free portion of your annuity payment are determined by an IRS calculation, which we will be glad to illustrate in a personalized, no-obligation proposal for you.)

Now that you know some of the benefits associated with charitable gift annuities, how do they work? A gift annuity is a simple contract between you and Creighton. In exchange for your irrevocable contribution, the University agrees to pay you, or you and another person you designate, a fixed sum annually for life. The payments are customarily made on a quarterly schedule and deposited directly into your bank account. The annuity payment rate and charitable deduction are based on the age of each beneficiary on the day the annuity is funded. The older the annuitant, the greater the amount of annual payments. The minimum amount for a Creighton University charitable gift annuity is $10,000. There is no limit to the number of annuities you may establish. Annuities can be funded with cash or publicly traded securities and, in some cases, with highly marketable real estate.

If you are not looking for immediate income but would like to begin building a future stream of income, the University also offers deferred charitable gift annuities. This option allows you to make an irrevocable gift and receive an immediate charitable income tax contribution deduction, but delay annual payments until a specified future date. The longer you delay the payments, the greater your charitable deduction and the higher the annual payment.

If you would like additional information on how to take advantage of the attractive rates now available through the Creighton University charitable gift annuity program, please call the Office of Estate and Trust Services at (402) 280-1143 or (800) 334-8794, or e-mail sscholer@creighton.edu. If you would like to write, the address is 2500 California Plaza, Omaha, Neb., 68178.

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Personal Loss Leads to Research Gift

Cancer. It’s a harsh word with a harsh reality for millions of people. For some, it presents a life-threatening challenge that they can overcome through surgery and months of varying treatments. For others, it means certain and untimely death.

Blanche Hacker lost too many people in her family to cancer. The disease left her without immediate family. Hacker died in May 2002 at age 100. Upon her death, she bequeathed half her estate to Creighton for cancer research.

“She was one of the nicest ladies I have ever known,” said John Respeliers, JD’54, Hacker’s attorney.

She grew up in Council Bluffs, Iowa, but lived in Omaha for more than 40 years, Respeliers said.

“`She maintained her mind and sense of humor,” he continued. “She lived in her own home without assistance until the year before her death. She was a very private lady.”

Hacker lost her husband, her sister and her son-in-law to cancer. Her only daughter died in 1996.

Hacker designated that her estate should fund cancer research and research leading to pain relief for cancer sufferers.
Scholarship Fund Pays Tribute to Professors

As landmark cases pepper his law career, Donald J. Campbell, JD’78, remembers to never do two things: never use the word “irregardless,” and never forget his Creighton roots and the professors who laid the early foundation for his extraordinary legal career.

Despite a 25-year lapse since his last lecture with Richard Shugrue, J.D., Ph.D., Campbell still recalls the professor’s indictment against those misusing English. Anyone who committed the linguistic taboo of using the non-word “irregardless” would fail.

“I have never used it,” Campbell said, “and I’m offended when I hear anyone use it. Dr. Shugrue was a marvelous professor. I recognized on my first day of constitutional law that he was a brilliant scholar.”

Today, Shugrue admits he exaggerated. “I’m not really the kind who would fail students for incorrect speech,” he said, “but language is our lab, our field research. We use the English language to communicate, and lawyers take that lesson to heart every day. I want my students to do a better job of being ethical advocates. Don Campbell is an excellent example for them.”

In tribute to the academic excellence of his professors, including Shugrue, Dean Emeritus Rodney Shkolnick, J.D., Edward Birmingham, J.D., and Terry Anderson, J.D., Campbell established a fund for School of Law students. The $100,000 gift creates the Donald J. and Daphne Campbell Endowed Scholarship Fund. Interest income from the endowment supports tuition for Creighton law students.

While at Creighton, Campbell worked with the U.S. Department of Justice as a scholar. Following graduation, he joined the Clark County, Nevada, District Attorney’s Office where he prosecuted several high-profile crime cases. In 1981, he was named Assistant United States Attorney, later becoming chief of the Organized Crime/Drug Enforcement Task Force. His many trials led to numerous commendations for outstanding prosecutorial performance.

In 1986, Campbell left the Justice Department and entered private practice. He is currently the senior partner in the Las Vegas firm of Campbell & Williams. Campbell has provided lead counsel in a long list of well-publicized jury trials. His notable clients include Donald Trump, former heavyweight champion Riddick Bowe, casino magnate Michael Gaughan, BSBA’65, The Wall Street Journal and the Las Vegas Review-Journal.

“Dr. Shugrue taught constitutional law and stressed the importance of the First Amendment in the lives of every American, and I have valued his lessons in my representation of the press,” Campbell said.

Campbell’s trial work in the field of business litigation, catastrophic personal injury and corporate criminal defense has earned him multiple listings in Woodward & White’s Best Lawyers in America and Martindale-Hubbell’s Bar Register of Preeminent Lawyers. In 1994, he was named a fellow of the prestigious American College of Trial Lawyers, an honor reserved to the top 1 percent of trial lawyers in the United States. In addition, Las Vegas Magazine recently named him one of the city’s best attorneys.

“One of the primary reasons I’ve experienced success is the education and guidance I received from my professors,” Campbell said. “Dean Shkolnick was a father figure to all his students. He was very approachable and very encouraging. You could always get a kind word and good piece of advice from him.”

Shkolnick remembers Campbell as an extremely bright student. “Don was serious about his studies and represents the qualities we like in our students and appreciate in our graduates,” he said.

“We hope our current students follow his examples, both those in and out of the courtroom.”

Providing scholarships, Campbell said, opens opportunities for deserving students who could not otherwise attend Creighton.

“I like to think that my firm uses the tools and skills of the law profession in accordance with Jesuit principles,” he said. “I look forward to assisting students in discovering the rewards of the Jesuit tradition at Creighton.”

In tribute to the academic excellence of his professors, Donald J. Campbell’s $100,000 gift creates the Donald J. and Daphne Campbell Endowed Scholarship Fund. Interest income from the endowment supports tuition for Creighton law students.

Campbell’s generous gift gratifies the School of Law faculty members.

“I am particularly happy when donors designate their gifts for scholarships,” Shugrue said. “Many men and women want to attend Creighton. Our generous alumni recognize the need for scholarships. You hope that the next generation will likewise be generous to its alma mater.”

In addition to honoring his professors, Campbell said his gift is also a tribute to his parents, William and Mary Campbell, as well as his classmates. “I went to school with some fine people,” he said. “I have a great deal of respect for the people of Omaha and the people of Nebraska.”
There are few health topics of more interest to the general public than nutrition. Many magazines and newspapers have regular nutrition columns, plus frequent feature articles on a nutritional topic. There are health food stores in virtually every shopping mall. Clearly the public is hungry for nutrition information.

In a 2000 nationwide survey of where the public gets its information about nutrition, The American Dietetic Association found that nearly two-thirds of the respondents relied on the print media and, by contrast, less than 10 percent relied on physicians.

One might have thought, since nutrition is about health, that physicians would be the first source to which a person would turn for accurate nutritional information. Why isn’t that so?

First, time pressures. Physicians are overwhelmed by the challenges of fixing what is already broken. People come with illnesses or injuries that need attention now. One hears it argued that it would have been better to prevent those illnesses, which is certainly true. The problem is that, except for diseases caused by alcohol, tobacco, firearms and obesity, we don’t really know how to prevent most of the problems that a physician confronts every day. Nevertheless, for some of the chronic diseases there may be nutritional prevention, and medicine does seem slow to embrace these. Why?

Interventions that don’t produce directly tangible results provide no feedback. Nutrition is firmly established in only two fields of medicine — pediatrics and obstetrics — and both afford a short time horizon. One can see the effects of good and bad nutrition in well baby and prenatal care within months. But if the nutritional goal is preventing osteoporosis, or arthritis, or atherosclerosis or cancer, with health outcomes 30 or 40 years into the future, the physician gets no feedback to reinforce a commitment to the nutritional program concerned.

But there is another, deeper reason. One hundred years ago, when nutritional science was born, the idea that not eating right could make you sick seemed crazy. If you ate enough to allow you to work and maintain your weight, you automatically had good nutrition. The prevailing belief at the time was that all disease was caused by invasion of the body from outside — either germs or toxins. The idea that not eating something could make you sick was inconceivable. Today, of course, nutritional deficiency diseases like scurvy, rickets, pellagra and beriberi are well understood and have been integrated into the body of medicine’s thinking. But all these classical nutritional deficiency disorders are short latency diseases. Stop eating foods containing the nutrient concerned and in a few weeks or months you’re sick. Diseases like osteoporosis, which might take longer to develop (years instead of months), have been very slow to be accepted as having a nutritional basis.

Overwhelmingly, medicine’s principal approach to nutrition is locked into the pre-nutrition paradigm — the toxin model. The disease is caused by too much of something. Think of what your doctor may have told you about salt or cholesterol or saturated fat. These are all treated as toxins. (And consumed in excess they may well be — though even for some of them the case is unraveling today.) But how often do we hear about getting too little of something?

Some medical observers have argued that there is also a distinct anti-nutritional bias in medicine — to the point even where evidence of the efficacy of nutritional interventions is often overlooked in the major medicine textbooks. How serious that bias may be is unclear. Still, while many individual physicians are strong nutrition advocates for their patients, the medical establishment remains largely unconvinced. That skepticism is partly a reaction to the rampant nutritional quackery to which the public is exposed; part also is because the major establishment nutrition programs (fat, salt and cholesterol, for example) have not delivered on their promises. So why get excited about claims that consuming more calcium, or vitamin D, or folic acid would help anything?

With increasing demands on physicians, it’s unrealistic to expect them to spend huge amounts of time educating themselves and their patients about nutrition. As a society we need to find other ways of getting accurate nutritional information to the public.

Also, while a plausible case can be made that dietary improvements would decrease the burden of many chronic diseases, conclusive proof still eludes our grasp. We cannot afford to go off half-cocked with vitamin D or folic acid (for example), as we did with cholesterol, fat and salt. It is hard enough to incorporate nutritional interventions into medicine when the benefit is real but deferred for years. Promising benefits that turn out to be illusory will only increase medicine’s resistance to nutrition.
Harry Truman was president, Gary Cooper won the Best Actor Oscar for *High Noon*, Ernest Hemingway published *The Old Man and the Sea*, Dick Clark hosted his first *American Bandstand* and Marjorie Wannarka began working at Creighton University. The year was 1952.

Through 11 U.S. presidents and seven Creighton presidents, Marge Wannarka has served generations of Creighton students and faculty.

Marge served as director of Creighton’s Health Sciences Library for 39 years, hired for the job by the late Fr. Carl Reinert, S.J., the University’s president at the time. She was later named to her current position of director of the University’s archives, overseeing the photographs, documents and other memorabilia that chronicle Creighton’s rich history.

In December, at the University’s annual holiday luncheon for employees, Wannarka was honored for 50 years of service to Creighton, receiving a standing ovation from those in attendance.

Blessed with a work ethic instilled by her parents and a delightful sense of humor, Marge cherishes the relationships she has formed at Creighton, adding with a smile: “I’ve had a tremendous opportunity to learn many things ... and I’m not charged tuition!”

It’s people like Marjorie Wannarka who make Creighton truly special. Congratulations and thank you, Marge, for your 50 years of dedicated service!