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Creighton basketball player Angie Janis reads to RaGina Key, left, and Kaylie Verdin during a visit to Liberty Elementary School in Omaha — one of many University outreach efforts.
Striving for a More Diverse Community

This third column on Creighton’s objectives as outlined in our Project 125 strategic plan focuses on diversity. I said in my inaugural address four years ago that we will seek to create an inclusive, diverse community at the University. I believe that there is in the Jesuit world view an implicit acceptance and appreciation of cultural and ethnic diversity.

Project 125, our strategic plan, challenges us to create a diverse human community of students, faculty and staff at Creighton. We intend to meet the following goals:

- Faculty, staff and students will exhibit cultural competence/proficiency and awareness of the significance of global diversity.
- At a minimum, underrepresented minority students, faculty and staff will constitute a percentage of the Creighton population consistent with the demographics of Omaha and the surrounding region.
- The retention rate of underrepresented minorities — students, staff and faculty — will equal or surpass that of their majority counterparts.
- Creighton will exhibit gender and ethnic balance when recruiting and retaining faculty, staff and students.
- Creighton will exhibit zero-tolerance with respect to discrimination or harassment.
- Creighton will develop strong relationships with local and regional minority communities.

We seek an inclusive community because it is the right thing to do, and the commitment is deeply rooted in our history.

The Jesuits in Omaha have historically been trailblazers in the area of racial harmony and racial integration. The Rev. John P. Markoe, S.J., of Creighton was well ahead of his time. He was in the advance guard of the civil rights movement in the 1930s and 1940s, long before the cause gained popular support and visibility. He worked actively with a group of Creighton students and helped organize the DePorres Club for the purpose of promoting civil rights for blacks. They pioneered the sit-in technique later used throughout the country in the 1960s.

Some observations on diversity as a strategic objective:

Diversity is a leadership issue. Responsibility for so important an issue cannot be delegated. This is one issue where you must lead from the top. Walk the talk and work the work. Building a diverse and inclusive work force should be a strategic priority for every business and organization, if for no other reason than the nation’s shifting demographics will dictate it!

Fostering diversity in the work force pays huge dividends with minimal effort. I have found over the years that a more diverse and inclusive workplace is more creative and, in business and industry, even more profitable.

It has been noted that “in a functionally multicultural society, people believe it is in their best interest to value the diversity that exists. By valuing people for their unique identity and enabling them to contribute, we can strengthen our resources, problem solving, decision making, and vitality as an institution, a corporation, a business, and as a nation.” (Katz and Torres, 1985, p. 33).

Being multicultural is fundamentally connected to Creighton’s Jesuit mission, values and purpose. We strive for diversity not because the administration or the front office thinks it is a good idea, but rather “because we recognize having diverse ideas, opinions, and styles of operations” is beneficial (Katz/Torres, p. 12). Diversity is a strength; it yields more creative, synergistic and effective outcomes. A diverse university is also more interesting and energizing.

Diversity is good business. An organization that makes it known that it desires an inclusive work force or office amalgam, enhances both its recruitment efforts and the retention of good people. This effort contributes to the overall success of the organization.

That is what Project 125, our strategic plan, is all about — ensuring the continued success of Creighton and our students!

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

John P. Schlegel, S.J.
A Holy Man …
And a Good Cribbage Player
I was especially pleased to read the piece about Francis Deglman, S.J., in the summer edition of Creighton University Magazine. I was fortunate to have Fr. Deglman as an instructor when I called upon him at his room in the rectory in the Administration Building.

He always would welcome me and offer to play a game of cribbage. During the game, he would counsel me and would reframe my attention to the things that really mattered, while beating me mercilessly in cribbage.

No, he was no patsy, but he was the gentlest, kindest and holiest man I have ever met. It was a thrill to stand in front of Deglman Hall when I last was on campus for an Elderhostel study session in the summer of 1991.

Robert W. Geith, BS’50
Cherry Valley, Calif.

Jesuits for Justice
Thank you for the excellent article, The Jesuits, by Professor Mihelich in the Summer ’04 Creighton Magazine. I was especially interested in the profile of the Rev. Francis Cassilly. It was apparent Fr. Cassilly was interested in helping the less fortunate and interested in the profile of the Rev. Francis Deglman, S.J., in the summer edition of Creighton University Magazine. I was fortunate to have Fr. Deglman as an instructor when I called upon him at his room in the rectory in the Administration Building.

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Robert W. Geith, BS’50
Cherry Valley, Calif.

St. Louis University, became actively involved in St. Benedict’s upon his arrival in Omaha in 1947. Fr. Markoe worked in a different time and held a different agenda than those who preceded him. He worked to change the societal boundaries that created the “mission” mentality held by many, including some of his colleagues, in regard to Negroes.

Fr. Markoe was the quiet force behind the Omaha DePorres Club, an interracial group interested in civil rights. In an interview published in the Omaha Star in May 1962, Fr. Markoe, never one to draw attention to his influence, gives credit to the DePorres Club, stating that it “played a decisive part in transforming St. Benedict’s from a Jim Crow Mission to a full-fledged parish.” Thus, Fr. Markoe helped his predecessors’ efforts reach their fruition, in a manner that Fr. Cassilly would surely have appreciated.

Matt Holland
Omaha

Remembering Fr. Coppens
The article on the history of the Jesuits at Creighton reminded all of us of some of our important predecessors. Although all Jesuits could not be cited in the article, as a faculty member at the Center for Health Policy and Ethics, the special contributions of Fr. Charles Coppens, S.J., ought to be mentioned. A noteworthy treatise written by Fr. Coppens was Moral Principles and Medical Practice. In 1897, the series of lectures he gave students at Creighton Medical College was collected and printed, continuing the contributions of his colleagues, in regard to Negroes.

Winifred J. Ellenchild Pinch,
MS’85, RN, EdD, FAAN
Creighton University Professor

Editor’s note: Here’s a little more information on Fr. Coppens, courtesy of the Midwest Jesuit Archives. A slight-of-build Belgian, who suffered a severe attack of typhoid fever at the age of 6, Fr. Coppens came to the United States in 1853 after being accepted into the Society of Jesus by another noteworthy Belgian, renowned Jesuit missionary Pierre-Jean de Smet. At 18, Fr. Coppens entered the Jesuit novitiate
and administrators who have made, and
cover of that first issue appears above at left.)
publication, rolled off the presses. (The front
this fall that the first Creighton
milestone with this issue. It was 20 years ago
us that James VI became king of Scotland in
B. Verschuur, MA’79, who correctly informed
at several other Jesuit institutions, died in
1920 at the age of 85 in Chicago.

Correction Fit for a King
A royal “thank you” to alert reader Mary
B. Verschuur, MA’79, who correctly informed
us that James VI became king of Scotland in
1567 and not 1562, as was reported in the
article on Bible translations in the last issue.

Celebrating 20 Years
Creighton University Magazine celebrates a
milestone with this issue. It was 20 years ago
this fall that the first Creighton Window
magazine, the predecessor to today’s
publication, rolled off the presses. (The front
cover of that first issue appears above at left.)
Thank you to all the Creighton faculty, staff
and administrators who have made, and
continue to make, this award-winning magazine
possible. It is very much a collaborative effort.
We also extend our gratitude to you, our
readers. It has been a pleasure sharing with
you stories that have provoked, entertained,
educated and informed.

We look forward to continuing the
conversation for another 20 years ... 
and beyond.
— Rick Davis, BA’88, editor

Worldwide Jesuit Leader’s Visit will Celebrate 125 Years of Jesuit-Lay Partnership

The worldwide leader of the Society of
Jesus will spend two days in Omaha Oct. 7
and 8 to commemorate the 125-year
presence of the Jesuits in Omaha.
The visit of the Rev. Peter-Hans
Kolvenbach, S.J., superior general of the
Society of Jesus, also will kick off the start of
the golden jubilee year of the seven-state
Wisconsin Province of the Jesuits
headquartered in Milwaukee, a region that
includes Nebraska.

To celebrate a theme of “Jesuit-Lay
Collaboration,” Fr. Kolvenbach will
participate in a series of events at each of
the five Jesuit missions in Omaha: Creighton
University, Creighton Prep, the Jesuit
Middle School of Omaha, along with St.
John’s and St. Benedict the Moor Catholic
parishes.

Highlights of the visit include a major
address Fr. Kolvenbach will deliver at
Creighton University on the evening of
Oct. 7 and the blessing of a new statue of
St. Ignatius Loyola on the Creighton
University campus. St. Ignatius founded the
Society of Jesus in the 16th century.
The statue will be a prominent feature of
Creighton’s central pedestrian mall, which is
being remodeled this summer.
During his stay, Fr. Kolvenbach also will
visit with parishioners, students, faculty
members and others involved with a wide
range of ministries in
and around the city.
A meeting with
Archbishop Elden
Francis Curtiss also
is planned. Fr.
Kolvenbach will
celebrate a Mass
with Jesuits,
colleagues and
friends at St. John’s
Church on Oct. 8.

The Jesuit leader also will hold meetings
with vice presidents, deans and University
Ministry staff at Creighton University; with
the Ignatian Associates, a Jesuit support
group; and with the Omaha-area Jesuit
Partnership Council. He also will spend an
evening with his brother Jesuits.

Forse Named Lempka Surgery Chair

R. Armour Forse, M.D., Ph.D., has been
appointed the Dr. & Mrs. Arnold W.
Lempka Professor and Chair in the
Department of Surgery at Creighton
University Medical Center. Forse joins
Creighton from Boston Medical
Center, where he served as professor
and vice chairman of surgery. Forse will
assume his new position on Sept. 1.

Previously, Forse was assistant professor
of surgery at McGill University and then
associate professor of surgery at Harvard
Medical School, where he co-founded and
directed the Center for Minimally Invasive
Surgery and directed the Clowes Laboratory of
Surgical Metabolism.

Forse serves on the editorial boards of
Obesity Surgery and the Journal of Parenteral
and Enteral Nutrition. He is a prolific
researcher and has authored or co-authored
more than 200 publications, books and book
chapters.

Forse’s clinical interests are
gastrointestinal surgery, including
minimally invasive procedures and bariatric
surgery. His research interests are
nutritional support, immunological and
metabolic response to injury, the treatment
of sepsis and the biology and treatment of
morbid obesity.

“We are looking forward to having Dr.
Forse join the Creighton University School
of Medicine,” said Cam E. Enarson, M.D.,
M.B.A., School of Medicine dean and vice
president for Health Sciences at Creighton
University Medical Center. “His vast clinical
and research experience in treating the
myriad problems associated with obesity
will benefit Creighton University Medical
Center patients, students and the Omaha
community.”
Kenefick, Morrison, Bellucci Honored at May Commencement

Creighton University’s 113th Spring Commencement was held May 15 at the Omaha Civic Auditorium. More than 1,100 students participated in the Commencement exercises.

In addition to awarding degrees, the University recognized the following individuals and organizations for their contributions to education, community, business and health: former Creighton President the Rev. Michael G. Morrison, S.J.; former Chairman and CEO of Union Pacific and former Chairman of Creighton’s Board of Directors John C. Kenefick; Creighton alumnus Richard J. Bellucci, MD’42; Creighton Preparatory School; and the Omaha Province of the Notre Dame Sisters. Terry Clark, Ph.D., also was honored for teaching achievement. Clark, professor of political science and director of the graduate program in International Studies, received the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Student Award for Teaching Achievement from the Creighton Students Union.

Honorary Degrees

Fr. Michael G. Morrison was Creighton’s 22nd president, leading the University from 1981 to 2000. Hallmarks of his presidency included building the University’s endowment, adding endowed faculty chairs, constructing major campus buildings and, most importantly, providing an excellent education for students.

Ordained in 1968, Fr. Morrison acquired five degrees, including a Ph.D. in history. He taught at St. Louis University, Marquette University, the University of Wisconsin, Creighton Prep and Creighton University.

John C. Kenefick’s legacy at Creighton includes serving 20 years on Creighton’s Board of Directors, 10 as its chair. Kenefick served on the Creighton Board during Fr. Morrison’s tenure as Creighton president. Together they believed in fiscal responsibility that provided a foundation for Creighton’s success. Kenefick’s legacy reaches beyond his Board leadership — a Creighton residence hall bears his name, the Bellucci microscissors, used today throughout the world for surgical procedures.

Bellucci has published more than 100 scientific articles and three books on ear surgery, and he has been director of otolaryngology at several New York hospitals. He continues to support ear surgery research while earning a litany of medical, civic and religious awards. Bellucci also established the Dr. Richard J. Bellucci Medical Research Fund at Creighton University.

Presidential Medallions

Creighton Preparatory School and the Omaha Province of the Notre Dame Sisters each received Creighton’s Presidential Medallion, which recognizes individuals and organizations that have displayed excellence in academic discipline; distinguished local civic, cultural or volunteer service; and commitment to the educational and community ideals espoused by Creighton University’s Mission Statement.

Creighton Prep joins Creighton University in celebrating a 125th anniversary this year. The two schools evolved from Mary Lucretia Creighton’s wish to open a free school for boys that would bear the name of her deceased husband, Edward Creighton. Under the direction of the Jesuits, the school opened in 1878 as an elementary school for boys. It eventually developed college-level courses. The preparatory classes continued for 80 years in the Administration Building on the Creighton campus until 1958 when Creighton Prep moved to 75th and Western Avenue, its current location.

The Notre Dame Sisters planted roots in Omaha 94 years ago as women of faith who make a difference. The history of the Notre Dame Sisters dates to 16th century France when a new community of sisters was founded to educate young girls, especially those who were poor. Today, the American Province of this international community is located in Omaha where about 30 sisters live. The community’s mission is to help meet the unmet needs of the poor and to nurture in them a conviction of God’s love for them.
Creighton Technology High in Fiber

How do you feed a growing campus appetite for information technology? Fiber. Plenty of fiber.

Creighton University is setting the table for today and tomorrow’s technology needs by installing a network of tubes, called microducts, through which hair-thin fiber-optic lines are literally being blown.

The system — called Blolite — offers two distinct advantages over traditional fiber-optic technology: speed of installation and flexibility for future growth.

Installation looks simple enough. Two technicians feed spools of color-coded fiber-optic lines, up to 12 at a time, through a special machine. A burst of compressed air sends these threads sailing through the microduct tubing.

The fibers can travel about 600 feet in 10 minutes. Stringing those fibers by hand could take an hour or more and involve six to eight technicians.

Creighton is the first academic facility to blow 12 Blolite fibers through a microduct tube, providing maximum capacity.

Creighton has been installing the microduct tubing for more than a year and a half now.

The recently renovated Rigge Science Building and Criss Health Sciences buildings are connected to the network with nearly 70,000 feet of Blolite fiber. Every room in the new Hixson-Lied Science Building is connected, with room to grow.

Creighton’s new junior/senior housing on the east edge of campus became the first residence hall in the U.S. to be wired with Blolite technology this spring.

And to accommodate eastward expansion, the University is installing 28 microduct tubes and more than 250,000 feet of Blolite fiber — including lines to the new soccer field.

Not all tubes will be filled with fiber, though, allowing the University room to grow.

“Plenty of spare microduct tubes will provide a way to easily expand the campus network,” said Brian Young, Creighton’s vice president for Information Technology, “positioning the University for success in the 21st century and ensuring that students have access to nationwide and worldwide information and resources.”

With the tubes in place, adding additional fiber or replacing current fiber with newer technology will be much easier.

“Adding additional blown fiber requires much less labor cost,” said Rick Brokofsky, Creighton’s director of telecommunications. “It allows us to get the network up and running that much faster. It’s not at all disruptive to our campus life.”

Creighton and Brokofsky were recently recognized as “technology innovators” by General Cable and NextGen Fiber Optics, the Cincinnati-based companies that market Blolite technology.

“The Blolite project is an example of our ongoing commitment to students and faculty to seamlessly integrate technology into our academic environment,” Young said.

It’s a taste of the future, today.

CU a Top-50 Wireless Campus

Creighton University was recognized this year by Intel Corp. as one of the country’s best campuses for wireless computing access for students. Intel ranked Creighton No. 46 in its annual top-100 “Most Unwired College Campuses” survey.

Creighton Receives $2.5 Million NIH Grant

Creighton University will receive a five-year $2.5 million grant from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, part of the National Institutes of Health, to study the effects of violence exposure on children with disabilities. The grant will provide approximately $525,402 each year for the next five years.

The purpose of this project is to determine whether there are long-term adverse mental health consequences to childhood violence exposure among adults with an identified childhood disability. According to Patricia M. Sullivan, Ph.D., principal investigator of the study, a disability includes speech and language disorders, learning and developmental disabilities, physical disorders and hearing and visual impairment. Resiliency to childhood violence exposure also will be studied.

Sullivan is a professor of neurology and psychology at Creighton. Other Creighton researchers on the project include C. Timothy Dickel, Ed.D.; Ravi Nath, Ph.D.; and Gleb Haynatzki, Ph.D.

According to Sullivan, this research is important to study because the long-term effects of violence exposure in childhood are currently unknown. “If we know that exposure to violence at an early age is linked to later mental health problems, we can identify targets for prevention and identify appropriate interventions,” Sullivan said.

Watson Receives Fulbright Award

Patrice Watson, Ph.D., associate professor of preventive and public health at Creighton University Medical Center, has been awarded a Fulbright Scholar grant to lecture at the University of Zimbabwe Medical School during the 2004-2005 academic year.

Watson will assist in the development of a new master’s degree program in biostatistics and epidemiology. She is one of approximately 800 U.S. faculty and professionals who will travel abroad to some 140 countries for the 2004-2005 academic year through the program.
New Handbook to Help Alzheimer’s Caregivers, Family and Friends

Of the estimated 4.5 million Americans who have Alzheimer’s disease, more than seven out of 10 people with the disease live at home. And close to 75 percent of their care is provided by family and friends. A new handbook is now available to help these caregivers, whether they are family and friends or health professionals.

The handbook, which is the first of its kind, is called The Dignity Within: A Handbook for Caregivers, Family Members and Friends of Those with Alzheimer’s Disease or Related Dementia. It is unique because it concentrates on nurturing the skills and talents that remain with the person who has Alzheimer’s disease or related dementia throughout the progression of the disease. It also includes tips on how the caregiver can take care of one’s self, and also offers tactics on how to communicate with a person who has Alzheimer’s disease.

The co-authors of the book are Pat Callone, vice president for Institutional Relations at Creighton University; Roger Brumbak, M.D., chair of Creighton University Medical Center’s Pathology Department; Creighton educator and co-founder of Discipline with Purpose, Inc., Barb Vasilloff; and Connie Kudlacek, executive director of the Alzheimer’s Association of the Midlands.

The book can be purchased from the Alzheimer’s Association Midlands Chapter via www.midlandsalz.org.

Goldstein Wins National Writing Award

Lauren Goldstein has been chosen as one of this year’s national winners of the Associated Writing Programs Intro Journals Project award, a coveted honor in the field of creative writing. Goldstein, who graduated in May, is the second Creighton student in two years to win this annual award.

“Winning this award is a prestigious honor and marks the winner as a young writer of tremendous promise, with the potential of becoming an important literary voice,” said Bridget Keegen, Ph.D., associate professor of English.

The Intro Journals Project is a literary competition for the discovery and publication of the best new works by students enrolled in member programs of the Associated Writing Programs. Winners are published in a variety of the nation’s top literary magazines. Goldstein’s poem, “Rhythm and Numbers in a Florida Kitchen,” will be published in Willow Springs.

A Royal Appointment

Creighton University dance coordinator Lisa Carter has been appointed to the board of examiners for the Royal Academy of Dance, one of the largest and most influential dance education and training organizations in the world.

Established in 1920 and headquartered in London, the Royal Academy of Dance is an international teacher education and awarding body for classical ballet.

With her appointment, Carter joins an elite group of 173 examiners residing in 24 countries. They conduct examinations both at home and abroad, furthering the Academy’s mission of promoting the knowledge, understanding and practice of dance internationally.

Examiners are experienced and respected teachers who must pass examinations themselves before their appointments. Carter traveled to London last November for her examiner training.

“It’s a great honor. I’m really thrilled,” Carter said. “It’s a phenomenal opportunity, and I think it makes me a better teacher.”

Before coming to Creighton in 2002, Carter taught dance in London, Hong Kong and Cape Town, South Africa.

CU Medical Students to Establish Magis Medical Clinic for Homeless

Students in Creighton University Medical Center’s School of Medicine have received a grant to establish the Magis Medical Clinic for homeless men, women and children in the Omaha area. The grant is part of the “Caring for Community” program from the Association of American Medical Colleges, in collaboration with the Pfizer Medical Humanities Initiative. Creighton’s School of Medicine is one of only eight medical schools in the country to receive the award.

Creighton medical students proposed the Magis Medical Clinic in response to the community’s need for medical services for homeless families.

“Creighton’s School of Medicine has a tradition of service to the community. We developed the Magis Medical Clinic concept because we were actively looking for ways to contribute our expertise and caring in a way that would truly help our community,” said Zulma Barrios, a fourth-year Creighton medical student and one of the project organizers.

Working with the Omaha Area Continuum of Care for the Homeless, the students found that there are few outpatient health care options available to the homeless on Saturdays. Medical students will provide free drop-in health services Saturday afternoons and evenings at the Siena/Francis House, located near the Creighton campus. The clinic is scheduled to open in September.
A Tiger’s Tale

With her 6-foot, 200-pound frame stretched out across the hospital gurney, Helga began her journey into Creighton University Medical Center … and into history.

It took a team of physicians and staff to lift her limp, sedated body out of the back of a minivan and swiftly wheel her through the hospital’s back entrance — after visiting hours and away from other patients — up to the third-floor radiology lab.

Her once-piercing yellow eyes were groggy. Her massive tongue spilled out from between sets of king-sized canines the size of a man’s finger. Her massive, but muscular, body — fortified by a ravenous appetite that could devour the equivalent of 400 hamburgers at one meal — was still.

The team struggled to move her onto the bed of the CAT scan. Arms strained as instructions were called out. “OK, let’s get everyone out,” someone finally said. The room emptied, except for a few personnel wearing lead vests.

Everyone else — physicians, medical residents, researchers — packed into a darkened adjoining room. Through a large window, they could see Helga — belly up, strapped down and wrapped up like a giant burrito … only her head, back legs and tail visible. They watched with anticipation as she slowly glided toward the machine’s doughnut-hole opening. X-ray pictures popped onto a computer screen. The scientists gasped at what they saw: CT images of a live Siberian tiger.

“This was definitely a first,” said Edward Walsh, PhD’83, a scientist at Boys Town National Research Hospital in Omaha. Walsh and his wife and Boys Town colleague, JoAnn McGree, Ph.D., MS’82, have been studying the hearing of large cats in cooperation with Omaha’s Henry Doorly Zoo for the past four years.

“Seeing images of the brain of a tiger while it was still alive was exciting … squared,” Walsh gushed.

Never before had scientists recorded CT and MRI images of a live tiger.

This historic event was made possible by an amazing collaborative effort — involving scientists, researchers and staff from Creighton University, Boys Town National Research Hospital, the Henry Doorly Zoo, Creighton University Medical Center, the Department of Radiology and others.

“This was the best collaborative environment we’ve ever worked in,” said Walsh, who routinely collaborates with researchers from around the world.

It also was made possible by one beautiful tiger — a 17-year-old Siberian, born at the Knoxville Zoo, who had come to Omaha 10 years ago. But she was suffering. A tumor had developed deep in her right hip. It had been surgically removed once. But it was not healing properly. The cancer returned. And Helga’s life was nearing the end; the average life expectancy of a tiger in captivity is 15 to 20 years.

The zoo made the decision to euthanize her. But first, she would undergo the historic tests at CUMC — tests that could provide important information about her species … a species that is seriously endangered. It’s estimated that there are only 300 to 400 Siberian tigers living in the wild.

“This research has important repercussions for conservation efforts,” said Dr. Douglas Armstrong, the senior veterinarian at the Henry Doorly Zoo.

Researchers hope to use the data to assist with tiger identification in the wild, as well as population encroachment issues.

The scientists also preserved the tiger’s brain and removed the temporal bone of the inner ear and the larynx.

“These tissues are so hard to come by,” Walsh said. “One of our goals is to establish collaborations with scientists from around the world … and then generate a monograph describing the tiger’s central nervous system.”

Walsh is collaborating with world-renowned voice scientist Ingo Titze of the Denver Center for the Performing Arts and Tecumseh Fitch, a professor at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland and one of the world’s top animal vocalization experts.

They are especially excited about the “fresh” larynx, which was frozen in liquid nitrogen right after surgery.

“(Fitch) told me if we could harvest a fresh larynx and get it to Titze, we could answer questions that have gone unanswered for over 150 years,” Walsh said. “Titze is re-equipping his facilities for the study — the first ever tiger larynx assessment.”

Their research may help answer a seemingly simple question: Why do big cats (tigers, lions, jaguars, leopards) roar, while smaller cats purr? And, might big cats purr, as well? The answer, many scientists believe, lies in the larynx.

Understanding big cat vocalizations and hearing could lead to advancements in conservation efforts, such as tracking elusive tiger populations through “acoustic fingerprinting” or developing acoustic devices to deter tigers from wandering into areas inhabited by humans.

While Walsh looks to collaborate with the zoo again, he will never forget Helga. “She lived a very good life … and, in the end, she made an extraordinary contribution to wild biology.”
Unlocking the Mysteries of Hearing

The mystery of hearing, and of its loss, has engrossed David He, M.D., Ph.D., for the past 12 years — years in which the Creighton University professor-researcher has made nationally recognized advances in understanding the mechanics of a remarkable little component of the ear known as the outer hair cell.

The latest recognition of He’s work came when his paper describing how adult mammalian outer hair cells convert vibration into electrical signals (a process known as mechanoelectrical transduction) was published in the June 18 edition of *Nature* magazine, a prestigious 135-year-old international journal of science targeting both the lay reader and the scientist.

There are probably more dramatic or glamorous components of the human body that require study, but He will be the first to tell you that none is more puzzling or impressive than the humble, microscopic, outer hair cell.

Outer hair cells partner with the ear’s inner hair cells, which transmit acoustical information to the central nervous system. The magic of the outer hair cell is that it magnifies mechanical vibrations in the inner ear so that our ears can detect very low-level sound. The attempt to understand that process of magnification — how it works and why it sometimes does not — has led the Deafness Research Foundation, and the federal government, to beat a path to He’s laboratory door.

He is among a handful of researchers nationwide charged with uncovering the workings of the outer hair cell, and the only one who conducts research on mechanoelectrical transduction using adult mammalian cells.

“All mammals hear based on the same mechanisms,” he said. “All have inner and outer hair cells, but the mammalian hair cell tends to be very, very delicate.”

For that reason, he said, researchers have typically conducted research using hair cells from lower vertebrates, which tend to be harder and less subject to damage during the maneuverings necessary for research involving microscopic subjects.

The advantage of his approach, He said, is that mammalian hair cells, typically drawn from a guinea pig, are a much closer relative of the human hair cell, making the extra effort and frustration worthwhile.

That the outer hair cell magnifies sound has been speculated since the early ’80s, He said. How it does so appears related to the fact that the cells can change their somatic length, expanding and contracting in an action known as motility, at an incredible speed — 6,000 times faster than a human being can throw a punch. Nothing else known to man has achieved that kind of speed, He said, and understanding what makes that possible could permit giant inroads not just into resolving deafness but in applications that cannot yet be imagined.

He’s research, which is ongoing, could see much greater importance placed on the mechanoelectrical transduction of the outer hair cells. His findings have revealed that the outer hair cells produce a much larger transducer current than previously thought when jostled by a long, narrow membrane known as the basilar membrane. The basilar membrane begins the process by vibrating in response to sound, pushing the outer hair cell upward against a tectorial membrane, which forces the hair bundle to bend.

A great mystery, He said, is the process by which the vibrations of the basilar membrane, and the subsequent changes to the outer hair cells, turn into a magnified signal that is passed to the inner hair cells.

He was part of a research team at Northwestern University in 2000 when the team announced the isolation of a protein they named prestin. That protein gives the outer hair cells their ability to elongate and contract, which is essential to our hearing.

Damage to outer hair cells results in profound deafness. If the mechanisms that give those cells their remarkable flexibility can be uncovered, then perhaps new cells can be manufactured and implanted, He said.

Regeneration seems beyond hope since outer hair cells in mammals do not regenerate, any more than a limb does. They do, however, regenerate in birds, He said, which perhaps leaves a door open for future research and discovery.

He, a native of China, came to Creighton approximately a year ago after spending eight and a half years at Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill., and three years at Boys Town National Research Hospital. In addition to his research work in the Hair Cell Biophysics Laboratory at Creighton’s Department of Biomedical Sciences, He teaches physiology.
High Hopes for Soccer Success

Creighton University’s men’s and women’s soccer teams open play this fall with their sights set on return trips to the NCAA tournament.

Men: Will 13 be a lucky number? The Jays will be shooting for their 13th straight NCAA tournament bid when they open play Sept. 3-5, hosting the Diadora Challenge. Last season, the 12-6-2 Jays advanced to their fifth Elite Eight appearance, finishing one game shy of a return trip to the Final Four.

This season, Creighton will host the State Farm Missouri Valley Conference soccer tournament Nov. 12-14.

“It is a great opportunity to have a nationally televised event on our campus,” Creighton coach Bob Warnin said. “The tournament will not only showcase our new stadium, but also Creighton’s campus expansion and Omaha’s revitalized downtown.”

Women: Last season, the Jays barely missed becoming only the second team in Missouri Valley Conference history to repeat as conference tournament champions, losing to Illinois State in a shootout in the tournament final.

In 2002, Creighton won its first regular-season and conference tournament titles to advance to its first NCAA tournament.

The Jays will be looking for a repeat trip in 2004 when they open the season Aug. 27 at the Nebraska Adidas Classic in Lincoln. The Jays play their first home match on Sept. 4 against South Dakota State.

Find more information on Creighton’s fall sports — including schedules, ticket information and season results — at www.gocreighton.com.

A Memorable Softball Season

The 2004 Creighton softball team will be remembered as one of the most successful in school history. The Jays repeated as Missouri Valley Conference tournament champions, reached the NCAA regional semifinals, and finished the year ranked in two national polls.

The 44-17-1 Jays finished the season ranked 28th in the ESPN.com/USA Softball Poll and 31st in the USA Today/NFCA Poll.

Creighton was led by a pair of All-Americans in pitcher Tammy Nielsen and outfielder Stacey Rybar — the school’s first MVC Pitcher and Player of the Year, respectively.

Nielsen’s 0.67 ERA was the best in the conference and the fifth-best among all NCAA pitchers. She also ranked 17th in the nation for wins (28) and 18th in strikeouts (334). Rybar led the conference with 49 runs scored and ranked 29th in the NCAA in slugging percentage (.709). The senior also set a school and conference record for career home runs with 37.

Five Bluejays earned first-team all-conference honors: Nielsen, Rybar, Melanie Dorsey, Abby Johnson and Kari Shank.

Overall, Creighton ranked among the NCAA leaders in pitching, scoring, home runs, triples and slugging percentage. The 44 wins were the most by a Creighton softball team since 1989, and marked the fifth time the Bluejays have topped 40 wins.

Creighton has now appeared in five of the last six MVC tournament championships, winning the last two.

Servais Named Coach of the Year

Creighton’s first-year baseball coach, Ed Servais, was named the Missouri Valley Conference’s Coach of the Year after guiding a team that finished 20-37 in 2003 to a 35-24 record in 2004.

Servais, a Bluejay assistant for the past six years, became the first, first-year coach in league history to be named the Missouri Valley Conference Coach of the Year.

Creighton’s turnaround was sparked by its tremendous defense and the play of its two All-Americans, pitcher Steve Grasley and second baseman Tony Roth. Grasley finished the season 12-4 with a 3.0 ERA. His 12 wins led the Valley, ranked 10th nationally and put him third among Creighton pitchers for wins in a season (behind Mike Heathcott, 15 wins in 1991, and Dan Smith, 14 wins in 1990). Roth ranked among the Valley leaders in hitting (.356), hits (68), doubles (17) and stolen bases (19).

Roth, along with shortstop Brad Dutton, also solidified one of the best middle infielders in NCAA history. Between them, they handled 412 fielding chances and made just two errors.

As a team, Creighton finished with a .982 fielding percentage, tops in the nation in 2004 and the best since college teams started using aluminum bats in 1974.

Rasmussen Honored

Creighton Athletics Director Bruce Rasmussen was one of 24 collegiate athletic directors nationwide to receive AD of the Year honors from the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics.

Rasmussen was one of four regional winners at the I-AA/I-AAA level. The award was presented at the association’s annual convention this past June in Dallas.

Rasmussen has served as athletics director at Creighton for the past 10 years. During his tenure, Creighton’s athletic teams have excelled, new facilities have been constructed for basketball, soccer, baseball and softball, a new Student-Athlete Support Center was established, and the women’s volleyball program was created.

Prior to becoming athletics director, Rasmussen led the Creighton women’s basketball team to a 196-147 record over 12 years. His 196 wins are the most in the program’s history.
Bringing Sight to Sore Eyes

“Five nearly blind brothers, all in their 20s, walk into the clinic single file,” writes ILAC Director Terri Lynch this spring from the Dominican Republic. “Each one with an arm outstretched holding onto the shoulder of the one in front of him.”

And so begins one of Creighton University’s most recent health clinics in the D.R., sponsored by the 32-year-old Institute for Latin American Concern. Begun in 1972 by a group of Cuban Jesuits to bring health care to the small villages (campos) that dot the D.R.’s lush hillsides, ILAC came to Creighton in 1976. Over the years, the group has served thousands of Dominicans — and has become a special opportunity for Creighton health professionals and others to serve among the poorest of the world’s poor.

This spring, thanks to the inspiration of Robert C. Della Rocca, MD’67, and his wife, Darlene, a team of eye surgeons and others from the New York area joined the ILAC effort: They left home to examine the eyes of 635 Dominicans, operating on 116. Among the surgeries, such as the one pictured at top right, were those for cataracts and strabismus (crossed eyes). A young campo patient, Mari Elena Polanco, beams in the “after” photo inset at right, her newly straightened eyes sparkling.

An aerial photo of the new ILAC Center, featuring three surgery suites, also appears here.

Visit the Creighton University Magazine website (www.creightonmagazine.org) for a complete photo essay, featuring ILAC’s spring 2004 work. All photos here and online are the work of the Rev. Don Doll, S.J., professor of photography and holder of the Charles & Mary Heider Endowed Jesuit Faculty Chair.
Creighton’s ‘Dream Team’

By Oliver B. Pollak, Ph.D., JD’82

Editor’s note: This is the first in a two-part series highlighting the people who have shaped, or been shaped by, Creighton University’s School of Law over the past 100 years.

Matthews  Delehant  Monsky  Horan

Debate and oratory were vital features in 19th century political life and played an important part in 20th century higher education. Public speaking prepared students to think on their feet, fostered leadership and aired contentious contemporary issues. Students honed their skills at the country’s most reputable debating organizations.

Creighton’s 1911-12 debate team was composed of law students Francis P. Matthews, John Wayne Delehant, Henry Monsky and Philip E. Horan. This memorable quartet, Creighton’s “dream team,” would become servers and leaders on a national and international scale.

Francis Matthews, BA’10, MA’11, JD’13, born in Albion, Neb., in 1897, worked his way through school scrubbing floors, waiting tables, selling men’s furnishings and tutoring high school students in Latin and Greek. Like many of his Creighton colleagues, he played a prominent role in the Knights of Columbus. He served on local boards, as chairman of the Douglas County Democrats’ Central Committee and as counsel for the anti-Depression Reconstruction Finance Corporation. During World War II, he was director of the USO (United Service Organizations), visiting troops in 12 countries in Africa, Asia and Europe and meeting with the pope.

Matthews chaired the Nebraska delegation at the 1948 Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia. President Harry Truman appointed him vice chairman of the National Civil Rights Commission in 1948 and Secretary of the Navy in 1949.

Matthews left the Cabinet in 1951 to become ambassador to Ireland, the home of his ancestors. He spoke at Creighton’s 1951 commencement, proclaiming, “I love Creighton University from the fullness of a life enriched by the benefits of my seven years of training under her influence. … The Jesuit system of education affords to every student submitted to its efficacy a training in mind and soul adequate to qualify him as a citizen of intelligence and integrity.”

Matthews died unexpectedly of a heart attack in Omaha at the age of 65 in 1952. His death was noted in newspapers at home and abroad, including The Times of London.

John Delehant, BA’10, MA’11, JD’13, was born in Goodland, Kan., in 1890. He graduated from Creighton and practiced in Beatrice, Neb., from 1913 to 1942. In 1913, he chaired the Democratic Club. He married Loretta M. White, DDS'14, in 1917. An active member of the Knights of Columbus, he was the keynote speaker in 1928 for Creighton’s 50th anniversary and the 1932 commencement speaker. Many of the addresses of this powerful orator were published. President Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed him to a federal district court bench in 1942. Judge Delehant took senior status in 1957 and died in 1972.

Henry Monsky, JD’12, was born in Omaha in 1890. He graduated from Central High School in 1907, entered the law school’s night program in 1909 and transferred to day classes in 1910. He graduated first in his class in 1912 and went into partnership with classmate Donald J. Burke, JD’12.

Monsky, a Jew, could not join his Catholic friends in the Knights of Columbus. Instead he became a missionary for B’nai B’rith, the world’s largest Jewish men’s organization. As international president from 1938 until his death in 1947, he was a leading spokesman for American Jewry opposing Nazi policy and the Holocaust. Monsky met with presidents Roosevelt and Truman. He attended the formation of the League of Nations in 1945 in San Francisco. He died unexpectedly at the age of 57 in 1947.

Monsky’s concern about juvenile delinquency led to his instrumental support for the Rev. Edward Flanagan’s Boys Town. Monsky is depicted in the 1938 Academy Award-winning film, Boys Town, as a businessman. Monsky and another of his law partners, William Grodinsky, JD’13, have streets named after them in what is now Girls and Boys Town in Omaha.

While Philip Horan, BA’08, MA’10, JD’13, does not appear as visible as his teammates, he joined Mutual Health and Accident Association of Omaha (Mutual of Omaha) in 1927, rising to vice president and general counsel in 1952.

These students continued a lifelong friendship and affection for their alma mater. They met at reunions. Future deans sought their counsel. Matthews and Delehant were law partners, as were their sons. And, in this centennial anniversary of Creighton’s School of Law, their legacy lives on.

About the author:
University of Nebraska at Omaha historian, author and attorney Oliver B. Pollak is writing the history of the Creighton University School of Law. This year marks the 100th anniversary of the law school.
Last year, Creighton faculty, staff and students volunteered in 60 agencies in greater Omaha, serving in more
In the late 1800s, Creighton University’s founding family — Omaha visionaries Edward and Mary Lucretia, and John and Sarah Emily Creighton — saw the needs of their community and met them with an outstretched hand.

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

Working in partnership with the communities it seeks to serve, Creighton reaps what it sows, and more. What follows is but a glimpse of 24 hours in the life of Creighton University outreach — one ordinary day in an extraordinary tradition.

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

12:00 A.M. CDT

‘A Still-Point in a Turning World’
Midnight strikes on Creighton’s campus: An executive in Hong Kong taps his laptop and “retreats” to Creighton’s Online Ministries. He’s 13 hours ahead and continents away. The website, created in 1998, will receive some 42,000 hits today. Many will undertake the 34-week retreat, adapted to the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises. Others contemplate the daily Scripture reflection, written by Creighton faculty and staff. Visitors come from more than 100 countries; one calls the site, “a still-point in the turning world.”

Collaborative Ministry’s Maureen McCann Waldron, BA’75, MA’98, says the site nourishes those who “hunger for the Word of God.”
(www.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/online.html)

1:00 A.M.

Fighting AIDS in Zimbabwe
It’s 8 a.m. in Zimbabwe, and Creighton alumnus and Mission Doctors Association volunteer Richard R. Stoughton, MD’62, rolls up his sleeves for a day of medical missionary work. Stoughton starts rounds at St. Theresa Hospital, serving a population of about 60,000, mostly peasant farmers. Among his patients: a 27-year-old teacher with acute ulcer symptoms, a 14-year-old boy with AIDS plus TB and acute pneumonia, and a terminally ill 36-year-old man with AIDS.

“It is a busy ward with a preponderance of AIDS patients,” he said. HIV/AIDS is a pandemic in Zimbabwe; one in three adults is infected. But things are slowly improving, thanks to volunteers like Stoughton and his wife, Loretta. He
points to a successful Mother-to-Child AIDS prevention program, which has “decreased the incidence of HIV children at 18 months of age from around 50 percent to about 20 percent.”

### 2:00 A.M.

**Community Garden Takes Root**

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

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

### 3:00 A.M.

**Hope in Baghdad**

Nine hours and a world away, it’s another searing afternoon in Baghdad for U.S. Army officer, combat nurse and 2002 Creighton graduate Jake Deeds. He has already seen three U.S. soldiers with multiple shrapnel injuries to the face and extremities. They had been on patrol when a rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) exploded within 20 feet of their Humvee. “On a daily basis, we see trauma after trauma,” Deeds said. “During April, we’ve treated 582 traumatic injuries, 70 percent of this month’s patient census.”

Even as witness to the carnage of war, Deeds said his experience with the 31st Combat Support Hospital has been deeply meaningful. “Iraq is a dangerous place; there is a tremendous amount of fear and tragedy ...,” he said. “But we must remember that at the same time there is hope. As a nurse and a graduate of the Creighton School of Nursing, I am a part of that.”

### 4:00 A.M.

**Connections in the ICU**

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

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### Serving the World

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

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

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

#### North America
12 countries
- Bahamas, Canada, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Puerto Rico, Trinidad/Tobago, United States.

#### South America
13 countries
- Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Guyana, Venezuela.

#### Africa
13 countries

#### Australia/Oceania
4 countries
- Australia, Fiji, Guam, New Zealand.

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4:00 AM
Arnold comforts a patient in Creighton University Medical Center's ICU.

Photo by Monte Kruse, BA '83
"When their families come in, I try to connect with them and keep them informed." Making these emotional connections can be tough. "Some doctors may try to steer away from that. But I don’t. I try to get connected." (Aerni began a Pulmonary Critical Care Fellowship at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., July 1.)

5:00 A.M.

A Life of Simple Prayer

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

6:00 A.M.

A Contemplative Walk at Creighton’s Retreat Center

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

7:00 A.M.

Serving Others in Costa Rica

An hour behind us in Costa Rica, Creighton graduate and Peace Corps volunteer Lucie Howe, BA’03, rises for a day of service. Today, she teaches a sexual abuse prevention class at an elementary school in her barrio. Howe was inspired by her Creighton education, which included: two spring-break service trips, a semester in the Dominican Republic, weekly service as an English tutor at South High School and as a Girl Scout leader at the Latina Resource Center. “All of these experiences led me to understand that service is an essential part of the building of the kingdom of God,” Howe said. “Creighton is a dynamic place that develops the whole person, and it gave me a solid base for the adventures that still await me.”
and the kids laugh. The class, then, insists on reading Schlegel a story. The University president goes desk-to-desk helping with the trickier words. By the time Schlegel leaves, he has learned the name of each child, shared stories and delivered the message that the schools in Creighton’s community matter deeply to him and to the University.

9:00 a.m.
Pass Go, Collect 200 los dólares
At St. Francis High School in rural Humphrey, Neb., 2004 Creighton master’s in education graduate Ben Hamilton, and his class play Monopoly — in Spanish. “It’s great,” said Hamilton. “The students want to play all the time.” Without Hamilton, the community of 765 would have no Spanish instruction. Hamilton is one of a few talented educators teaching in under-resourced Catholic schools through a unique program called MAGIS, Mentoring Academic Gifts in Service. Supported by the Omaha Archdiocese, Creighton’s MAGIS program helps answer the critical need for religion teachers in Nebraska. MAGIS participants teach for two years in a Catholic school while living in community and pursuing professional and spiritual development.

10:00 A.M.
Outreach in a Car Lot
A car dealership is perhaps the last place you’d expect to find a nun on a chilly April morning. But here is Creighton Theology Professor Joan Mueller, Ph.D., MChrSp’89, walking the lot with a Sudanese family looking at sticker prices. Through her Project Welcome, Mueller is working to assist Omaha’s growing Sudanese refugee population — helping them find jobs, adequate housing, health care, tutors for their children or even a car. She has found support from Creighton students and faculty and from the Archdiocese of Omaha. Mueller said these outreach efforts benefit Creighton. “As I am constantly challenged to see life and theology from new perspectives, so too are my students — through my teaching and through opportunities for service. In addition, many Sudanese children dream of attending Creighton, and we are doing all we can to prepare them for this type of challenge.”

11:00 A.M.
A Quiet Success
Although the Bryant Community Technology Center keyboarding class is hard at work, the room is quiet — that is if you don’t count the cadence of typing and a muted sound of audio-tutorials through headphones. “Some people here are practicing the fundamentals; others are typing resumes or writing papers for school,” program coordinator Patrice Gunter said. Open to the community, the North Omaha center offers a spectrum of courses from “Computer Basics for Seniors” to an after-school “Cyberkids” program. Creighton University and the College of Business Administration, in
collaboration with Omaha’s Applied Information Management Institute and the Bryant Resource Center, launched the center in 2000. “It’s a great community . . . ,” Gunter said, “and Creighton is a part of it.”

12:00 P.M.

**Bridging the Technology Divide**

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

1:00 P.M.

**A Grave Error Made Right**

Now in exams, third-year law students Meg Olsen and Marc Dion are the last students to work on a case involving a single father’s struggle to get his name on his daughter’s birth certificate. Three years ago, Mario Zuniga came to the Milton R. Abrahams Legal Clinic at Creighton’s School of Law “feeling helpless.” The students, with the guidance of professor and director Catherine Mahern, battled with the Bureau of Vital Statistics to see a grave error made right. “They helped me work with the process,” Zuniga said. “They gave me patience and they gave me hope.” Picking up the new birth certificate, Zuniga exclaims, “It’s finally official!”

2:00 P.M.

**An Outstanding Role Model**

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

3:00 P.M.

**Sweating (and Smiling) to Richard Simmons**

With a Richard Simmons video playing, Creighton students are working out with special-needs kids . . . and they’re having a blast! The Madonna School for
Exceptional Children and Creighton University share a rich tradition of values-steeped education. Every Friday for a year, Creighton students from Gallagher Hall have been joining the kids at the Madonna School for physical education class or Special Olympics training, and for the simple joy of it. Creighton’s Department of Residence Life, with the Center for Service and Justice, introduced the nation’s first student housing “Community Partner Initiative,” through which each residence hall partners with a community agency to provide students with service opportunities. The program is part of a University-wide priority to be mindful of its role as a corporate citizen.

4:00 P.M.
‘Two-Way Exchange’ at OneWorld

In the children’s reading corner at the OneWorld Community Health Center in South Omaha, a Latina mother reads to her daughter while waiting for a well-child checkup. At OneWorld, where 70 percent of patients are uninsured, Creighton’s mission of cura personalis (care for the whole person) is delivered through every diabetes exam, dental screening, child’s immunization and supportive service. CU alumna and OneWorld executive director Mary Lee Fitzsimmons, Ph.D., BA’67, BSN’80, (who stepped down this month after 10 years) describes the Creighton relationship as “a two-way exchange.” OneWorld is staffed largely by University medical residents and faculty; nurses, pharmacists, dentists and social workers; Creighton’s Terry Wilwerding, DDS’77, is president of OneWorld’s board; and CU’s medical labs donate services. In February, Fitzsimmons and her staff received Creighton’s first Women in Ministry to the Poor award.

5:00 P.M.
A Moment of Fellowship

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

6:00 P.M.
‘God Calls Us ... to Do Our Small Part’

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

Gaston stressed that the good work of the center stems from partnerships among staff, students and the community.
7:00 P.M.

A Voice for the Voiceless

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

8:00 P.M.

Art with a Message

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

9:00 P.M.

$35 and a One-Way Bus Ticket

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

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

11:00 P.M.

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

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

10:00 P.M.

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

Outreach at the Core of a Creighton Education
By Patricia R. Callone

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

As part of Creighton’s 125th anniversary year, I asked the Creighton University Magazine staff to consider an article on the multiple dimensions of Creighton’s outreach and a “Day in the Life: Service Outreach” was begun. The resulting article is a snapshot of Creighton’s efforts — an inspiring “one-day” picture. As vice president for Institutional Relations, I have the unique privilege of tracking the many dimensions of service and outreach that flow from Creighton year-round. I can look at the University’s outreach/service as a whole. Creighton is unique among the 28 Jesuit schools and colleges in the United States because of our size, the diversity of our nine schools and colleges, and the presence of the Creighton University Medical Center on campus. We are a community of about 8,500 people — including students, faculty and staff. Our campus is a “small town” in the midst of a growing and dynamic city.

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

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

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

Find more information on Creighton’s outreach online at www.creighton.edu/communityrelations.
In typical American fashion, let’s come straight to the point: Is Canada really not much more than one vast 51st U.S. state, stretching north out of our back door?

“Good heavens,” says Creighton University Professor of History Ross Horning, Ph.D., with his characteristic wry smile and incredulous shaking of the head, though Americans may unconsciously view Canadians this way.

Offspring of the same colonial “parent,” Canada diverges in key ways from its powerful neighbor to the south, that divergence often asserting itself in separate stances on world policy.

Indeed, from our opposite views on such issues as the Iraq war, land mines, global warming, the death penalty, same-sex marriage, guns, health care and other worldwide concerns, our neighbors to the north differ from us in important ways — and probably always have.

Girding the North American continent at the 49th parallel is the longest unfortified border in the world. The same wheat fields flow north and south undeterred by the boundary; the same spine of the Rockies stretches north from Montana into Alberta and British Columbia; the same oceans lap the Maritimes and the Maine coast, the San Juans and Vancouver.

The illusion of a seamless mega-country is probably enhanced even more as roughly 200 million people cross the Canada-U.S. border every year, a figure that causes some consternation as the two countries contemplate the pathways of potential terrorists.

Still, for all of our similarities, we are different, Horning says.

Our Collective History, Cultures

Canada and the U.S. were settled in the same 18th century sweep of colonialism, as Great Britain, France, Spain and the Dutch all jockeyed for power and territory in the New World.

England had defeated the French on the Plains of Abraham in 1759 in Canada. It was the decisive battle in North America, Horning says, “forever sealing Britain’s claim to Canada.” The battle was only one part of a worldwide war, the Seven Years War, which saw
England defeat France in India and again in Europe. The conflict was finally settled by one of the many treaties of Paris, this one in 1783.

But the divergence in our two cultures — Canada and the U.S. — was evident even then, in our far-off 18th century pasts.

“We got all the Puritans — and Canada got the French,” Horning says with a touch of humor. But he’s serious. These historic forces still play out today, he believes, in the differing attitudes, mores and national policies of our two countries.

Secular Society; Calvin Influenced

Early U.S. settlers came to the new world largely for purposes of religious freedom, while settlers further north came more for worldly opportunity. Horning is cautious to temper this generality, of course, noting that many Americans showed up for plenty of nonreligious, worldly reasons. And many immigrants fled to Canada, settling in religious communities.

Still, the counterweight of religious freedom played a big role in early U.S. settlement. No early U.S. settler was free from the influence of John Calvin, Horning believes, asserting that Calvinism today is the “most influential religion in the Western world.”

That said, just what is Calvinism — and how has it defined American culture and not Canadian culture?

Born of the Protestant Reformation in Europe, Calvinism in its purest form calls for a literal reading of the Bible — and a society organized on that literal reading. In this type of society, there is no boundary between that which is sacred and that which is not. All, in effect, is sacred.

Calvin also taught that a powerless humanity is saved only through God’s compassion and grace, although not all will be saved. The concept of salvation belonging to “the elect” runs through this tradition, and, with it, the concept of predestination — somehow, through no merit of one’s own, one is “chosen,” or not chosen — for salvation.

Many have credited Calvinism for justifying the accumulation of personal wealth, often at the larger society’s expense; the placement of the individual’s value over that of the group; and even the revolutionary struggle for liberty.

Revolutionary; Evolutionary

That brings to mind another difference, Horning says: We are a revolutionary society, while Canada is an evolutionary one.

More than mere wordplay, these two concepts touch on deep differences between our two cultures, he believes. “Every American knows the significance of the date 1776. But Canadians would be hard-pressed to give you an exact date for their emergence as a nation,” Horning explains. While the date July 1, 1867, pinpoints the formation of Canada as a self-governing dominion retaining ties to the British crown, the date 1965 might figure prominently, too. That is the date the red-and-white maple leaf national flag first officially flew over Canada. Another important date for Canadians is 1982, when Queen Elizabeth II signed the new Constitution Act. Among other things, the act formally transferred control over the constitution from Britain to Canada.

In Horning’s view, Canada has gradually evolved to become what it is today — a constitutional monarchy and a parliamentary democracy. These separate histories Horning sees as neither good nor bad, but merely helpful keys to “understanding our very different pasts.”

Some scholars even assert that the “revolutionary/evolutionary” difference is visible today in the two national characters. For example, patience tends to prevail as a cultural value north of the border, while “taking action” is of more value in the States. Confrontation is a more acceptable cultural norm with us, while a low-keyed approach is valued further north. “Polite skepticism,” in the words of Robert MacNeil (formerly of the MacNeil/Lehrer Report) usually trumps partisanship in day-to-day Canadian society.

But, to truly grasp Canadian culture, one must dig for other differences, Horning says.

Melting Pot; Distinct Communities

One distinction is simply a view of one’s own culture. A case in point:

The U.S. often sees itself as a melting pot of different cultures, as ethnic groups seek to blend into the society’s one fabric. But Canadians more often see themselves as a patchwork quilt, a country of up to 60 distinct ethnic groups, from French to First Nations — Canada’s name for its aboriginal people. In fact, it was only recently that the Canadian census listed “Canadian” as an ethnic identity option!

To Horning the perfect example of that striving for ethnic distinction is Quebec. Child of one of the country’s two founding parents, France, Quebec has long committed itself to retaining both its French language and its culture.

The province’s strong French antecedents help explain this separatist dynamic in Canada, a movement that in 1995 narrowly missed — by 1 percent — making Quebec a separate country. Here, more than 6 million people have their own language, religion and culture, and help to make the city of Montreal the second largest French-speaking city in the world, just behind Paris.

Horning doubts that Canada would have ever had a civil war to force the dominion to stay together. It was typical, he believes, to put the whole question of sovereignty to a vote of the people.

And here, again, is another marked difference between these colonial cousins.

Representative Democracy; Parliamentary Democracy

Canada has a parliamentary system, with all of its special features; the United States does not. Our idea of the three branches of government — executive, legislative and judicial — really comes from the French writer Charles de Montesquieu, Horning says, and his “The Spirit of Laws,” rather than from our colonial parent, Great Britain.

In fact, the U.S. is the only democracy in the world without the parliamentary system; parliamentary democracy is the
American History Dotted With Calls for One North America

“Since 1775, Americans have expressed the idea, by word and by action, that Canada should be a part of the United States,” Creighton Professor of History Ross Horning says. “Indeed, there is the general feeling that Canadians should want to be part of the U.S.”

The idea goes way back. For example, the Continental Congress in the fall of 1774 appealed to the British in Montreal and the disgruntled French to join in “the fight for liberty,” but they were rebuffed.

The following year, Congress authorized the invasion of British North America (Canada), which included the American siege of Montreal, a siege that was only ended the following May by the appearance on the horizon of the formidable British Navy.

Even the Articles of Confederation, drafted in 1781 and replaced by the U.S. Constitution seven years later, includes a provision that Canada can become part of the United States.

In the War of 1812, the U.S. once more invaded Canada, under the direction of Gen. William Hull, who announced as he crossed the border near Detroit on July 12, 1812: “Inhabitants of Canada ... I come to protect you, not to injure you ... You have felt British tyranny; you have seen her injustice. ... I tender you the invaluable blessings of civil, political and religious liberty. ...”

The British reponded by capturing Detroit that August, under the leadership of Sir Isaac Brooks.

By April 1813, U.S. armies turned to York (now Toronto), Canada’s national capital, and destroyed all public records, the library and two elegant halls among many other public buildings. A church was burglarized and several homes destroyed. Similar destruction took place in what is today Niagara Falls, Ontario.

In retaliation, by that December, the British burned several areas of the U.S. capital, Washington, D.C.

At the close of the Civil War, Sen. Charles Sumner said that Britain could help repay the U.S. for aiding the American Confederacy by “giving us Canada.”

In 1911, Champ Clark, speaker of the House, said, “We are preparing to annex Canada ... I hope to see the day when the American flag will float on every square foot of the British North American possession clear to the North Pole.”

In 1968, Undersecretary of State George Ball implied that Canada was only postponing the inevitable (being taken over by the U.S.) simply for “the psychic satisfaction of maintaining a separate national and political entity.”

And, even as recently as November 1979, in a campaign speech in New York, presidential candidate Ronald Reagan said, “It may take the next 100 years, but we can dare to dream that at some future date, a map of the world might show the North American continent as one.”

Ben Franklin wrote in the Treaty of Paris in 1783 that Britain could settle the American Revolution by “giving us Canada.”

governing system for 181 countries around the globe.

You cannot vote directly for the prime minister in a parliamentary democracy, but, of course, you can for the U.S. president. If you live in the PM’s district, you, in effect, have already voted for him or her when you elected that member to the House of Commons.

In order to elect the head of your party to the prime minister post, your party has to win more than 50 percent of the vote, plus one seat. (Without a majority, both parties form a coalition government.) Also, there is no race within the party for the prime minister slot, as the party elects its own leader.

One feature of the parliamentary system is that any member of the prime minister’s cabinet must be an elected representative, i.e., a member of the House of Commons. (In the U.S., the president’s cabinet can come from any previous post, elected or not, in government, business, education and so forth.) In Canada, the PM may create as many cabinet posts as he or she deems necessary, which is not true in the U.S.

Also, elections in parliamentary democracies are usually held every five years, though an election can be called at any time. And, where the number of members in the U.S. House of Representatives is set at 435, the number of representatives in Canada varies with necessity.

And, as in the UK, in Canada you can stand for election in any district, no matter where you live, although this is not often done.

Though known as a consummately polite society, Canada offers what Horning calls “the best show in town” every Monday morning at 10 in the Canadian House of Commons. Also called “responsible democracy,” the Canadian system allows for “the opposition ... to stand up and ask any
Navigating The 49th Parallel

By Betsy Elliot-Meisel, Ph.D.
Associate Professor and Chair, Department of History

How does one define the U.S.-Canadian relationship? A deceptively easy question; there are no easy answers. There are the saccharine banquet toast cliches and the vitriolic op-ed rants; the pedestrian-level friendships and the national-level tensions; the privately frank closed-door meetings and the public photo-op smiles. The definition, then, is as varied as the issues, individuals and settings, but there are undeniable realities concerning the present relationship.

As always, there is more that binds us together than divides us. Both nations are wealthy, democratic, capitalist states that were largely settled by immigrants seeking and finding a new and better life. With highly educated populations, both states expect and enjoy a free press, entrenched constitutional rights, interdependent economies and a vested interest in a shared continental defense.

But the divide between the two states is greater than the 49th parallel and is, arguably, increasing at this time.

Both nations believe in their own national myths: the Americans’ exceptionalism, altruism, moral righteousness, rugged individualism and the moral duty to spread democracy and free oppressed peoples around the world. Canadians have a more collectivist ideal; believing they are a kinder, more humble, morally superior, less militaristic and less violent society committed to human rights and multinationalism. Both myths are rooted in heritage and have elements of truth ... and both have always been, and continue to be, vulnerable to examples of self-delusion.

While the United States and Canada do have the world’s longest undefended border, both nations have long taken the other for granted: Canada has counted on the United States to ensure continental defense and the “special relationship” that exempts it from many of America’s foreign policies. The United States has counted on a quiet, staunch ally that might voice its disagreements in private but would not embarrass the U.S. publicly. All these assumptions are presently strained, if not actually in disrepair, as the border is rife with discord.

While political differences have existed in the past (i.e., the Vietnam War and draft dodgers), and trade and resource issues are as old as the two nations, this present difference goes beyond the bilateral relationship and extends onto the international stage.

Differences also exist on another plane, the domestic policies of each nation. While Canada is a nation quite divided by regionalism, at present Canadians are largely united in defining themselves as “not American” and proudly charting an independent course nationally and internationally. The Canadians seem more comfortable to be moving closer to Europe and away from the United States in social policy and cultural values. And certainly in foreign policy, Canadians are not rubberstamping the American agenda and have joined much of the world in opposing U.S. policy.

At this point, too, the tensions are not merely on the national level, but have percolated down to the pedestrian level. Canadians have traditionally struggled to define themselves in some sense beyond “not like Americans.” In searching for the Canadian soul and a distinct identity, Canadians have at once embraced and rejected their more populous neighbor to the south. Only 18 months ago, Canada’s national news magazine, Maclean’s, ran a cover debate entitled, “America Lite: Is That Our Future?”

It seems clear that Canadians need not fear becoming “America Lite,” but they are also not willing to completely abandon ties to the United States. New Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin has publicly stated his desire to get U.S.-Canadian relations back into their more traditional comfort zone. But President George W. Bush’s focus is elsewhere, and the Canadian public’s position on such sensitive issues as the war on terror and the war in Iraq have not changed.

Thus, a cordial but distant relationship will likely continue for some time on the highest levels of government. And, while millions of Canadians and Americans will continue to look fondly across the
questions of the PM and his or her cabinet — and they have to answer.” This often-raucous tradition goes back to colonial times.

As does the place of the crown. When the late Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau was asked if Canadians might just want to join the United States, he quipped, “I think they (Americans) might have trouble getting used to the Queen.”

Canada is a constitutional monarchy, and as such features a head of state, an office we simply do not have in the U.S., Horning explains.

Queen Elizabeth II is the head of state for Canada and is represented there by the governor general. The prime minister, as head of government, speaks for the political majority; the governor general, as head of state, speaks for the whole country. Canada’s current governor general is the Hon. Adrienne Clarkson.

In some ways, the U.S. unites the head of state with the prime minister in the person of the president. Horning believes our pattern is not mere coincidence but an intentional effort on the part of the U.S. at its founding to distinguish itself from its British antecedents.

If you are Canadian, you are a Canadian subject of the Queen of Canada, Queen Elizabeth II.

Shared Legal Heritage

For all our differences with our northern neighbors, we are united by many, many likenesses, Horning admits, that run the gamut from language to law.

In fact, our mutual heritage of English common law unites us, although, typically, Quebec, with its French roots, has adopted the Napoleonic code of laws rather than its English counterpart.

While English common law evolves over time through a series of legal decisions and does not attempt to cover all possibilities, Napoleonic code remains relatively fixed in nature, preferring instead to anticipate and answer all legal questions.

Still, applying those common codes of law took predictably different twists and turns in the two countries’ histories.

A typical example for Horning is the gun issue in each country, an issue with roots, he believes, in the course of western expansion.

“As Canada opened up its frontier west,” he points out, “the Royal Canadian Mounted Police went with it.” Not so in the U.S., Horning explains.

“We had the ‘vigilante’ concept, that each person was responsible for taking the law to the frontier.” That meant that society felt it needed to mete out the “justice of the gun-barrel” in the absence of the police.

Today, each country views the other’s gun laws as inexplicable, with Canada heavily regulating private ownership of guns — and the U.S. balking at control efforts for its plethora of individually owned weapons.

Still, to Horning, an understanding of our common yet distinctive pasts might help us Americans to feel less puzzled over our neighbor’s attitudes and policies.

And, surely, Horning adds with a knowing smile, with a little bit of knowledge about our own history and our northern neighbor’s, an informed U.S. citizen wouldn’t gush in surprise at the Canadian border, “Oh, you speak American, too!”

About the author: Horning has been teaching Canadian history at Creighton for more than 30 years. He was twice a visiting professor at the University of Ottawa, played professional baseball in Quebec City, participated in summer seminars in Canada on Quebec and Ontario and served on the board of the Association for Canadian Studies in the United States.
In a culture that is not supportive of marriage (40 percent of U.S. marriages end in divorce), a Christian approach offers a positive alternative — “an intimate partnership of life and love.”

The Situation
A mounting body of social-scientific research profiles the crisis of American marriages and families. The profile indicates the greatly elevated divorce rate with negative impact on the former spouses and their children, the skyrocketing cohabitation rate, the increasingly common phenomena of single motherhood and father absence, and the resultant poverty among women and their children.

Research correlates the widespread separation of fathers from their children to other societal changes: the declining salience of marriage and parenthood, the dramatic increase in marital disruption and divorce and the rise in non-marital childbearing.

It also documents the consequences for children of being raised by only one parent and suggests that the erosion of the norm that mothers and fathers live with, support and nurture their children has serious negative implications for children and for the entire society.

There is compelling evidence that the marked decline in children’s well-being and health in the past 30 years is linked to family disruption and living in mother-headed, fatherless families.

The most tangible and immediate consequence is the loss of economic resources; the highest rate of poverty in families with children are six times more likely to be poor if they are headed by a mother alone than if they are headed by two parents.
America is among children, especially the children of marital disruption and non-marital childbearing. Families with children are six times more likely to be poor if they are headed by a mother alone than if they are headed by two parents.

The economic distress associated with family disruption and father absence often translates into physical and mental vulnerability for single mothers and their children, and is inextricably related to other serious personal and social problems.

Children in single-parent households are more prone to develop serious social and behavioral problems than are children who grow up with both parents. Their socio-emotive skills and their academic achievement are lower, their behavioral problems and delinquency rates higher.

Males who experience family disruption in childhood are more likely to drop out of school, leave home, start work, enter relationships and become fathers earlier. Females who experience family disruption in childhood are more likely to have sexual relations in their teens and to have a child at an early age outside of marriage.

The effects of single motherhood and fatherlessness are neither short-lived nor easily remedied. Though the multiple economic, psychological and social effects on children of family disruption, single parenthood and father absence may remain submerged until years later, they can extend into continuing problems across time and generations.

Research shows that marriage is a wealth-creating institution. Married couples, on average, build more wealth than either singles or cohabiting couples. Marriage encourages a wide variety of wealth-accumulating activities, like saving for the future, buying insurance, buying a home. Married couples also often receive transfer of wealth from both sets of grandparents, more than do cohabiting couples. Single mothers almost never receive any financial support from the fathers of their children.

Economics is not the only reality that marriage enhances; it also enhances the health of men, women and their children. Both married men and women, on average, enjoy better health and lower rates of injury, illness and disability than otherwise similar singles.

A recent study of 9,400 respondents between the ages of 51 and 61 compared the occurrence of major disease and functional disability in married, cohabiting, divorced and never-married individuals. After controlling for age, sex and race/ethnicity, married individuals had the lowest rates of disease and functional disability. Married people, especially married men, have longer life expectancies than similar singles.

Another well-known result of marriage is the reduced risk of depression for women. Married men and women also have lower rates of alcohol and drug abuse than do singles, a fact that has important consequences for their children.

Children who live with their own married parents, on average, enjoy better health than children in other family forms; they are also at less risk for physical and sexual abuse.

Marital research also has shown that the sex lives of married people are better than those of their unmarried counterparts. Not only do married spouses have sex more often than their unmarried counterparts, they also enjoy it more, both physically and emotionally.

If marriage increases the wealth of families, divorce and unmarried childbearing decrease it for mothers and their children.

In the United States, no matter how poverty is defined and no matter how race and ethnicity are controlled, single mothers with children emerge as the poorest of all demographic groups.

In 1990, the Census Bureau reported that the median income of couples with children was $41,260 and the median income of mother-headed families was $13,092.

The loss of economic capital is not the only loss suffered in mother-headed families; the loss of social capital is equally destructive.

After controlling for the effect of racial and economic variables, research shows that, compared to children who grow up in an intact family with two parents, children who grow up in a single-parent family are three times more likely to have a child outside of marriage, twice as likely to drop out of high school, one and a half times more likely to be out of school and unemployed, and two to three times more likely to develop emotional and behavioral problems. Young women from single-parent families are more likely to marry and bear children early, and to have their own marriages end in divorce.

This evidence has led researchers and analysts to a major conclusion: On the whole, two parents, a mother and a father, are better for a child than one parent.

**A Christian Response**

The preceding raises a question: Can anything be done to improve the situation of marriage?

The Catholic Church answers with a resounding "yes," suggesting that the Catholic approach might supply corrective marital meanings.

Christianity is and always has been a religion of the Book. It gives prominence to its canonized writings called the Bible, the very word of God. It is natural and predictable, therefore, that Christians turn to their Bible to find solutions to their marital and family problems.

And what the Bible shows is quite clear: If grace is embedded in Christian family, it is embedded not in family structure but in the following of Jesus.

Many modern Christians appear to equate being a Christian with merely being born into a “Christian” family. That perspective is sadly in error. Being Christian means actively living a Christian life. That a family is a Christian family is determined not by its social structure but by its being faithful to the biblical story of God as revealed in Christ.

The Catholic label for biblical, interpersonal, marital processes today is covenant. Marriage, the Second Vatican Council taught, is “an intimate partnership of life and love” (Church in the Modern World, 48). Marriage is something more than a mere juridical contract about material things; it is something human, something personal, something religious.

This approach was bolstered theologically by the insertion into the Council’s text of the biblical notion of covenant, an insertion that was explained in the commentary given to the Council Fathers along with the revised text in
September 1965. “There is no mention of ‘matrimonial contract’ but, in clearer words, of ‘irrevocable personal consent.’ The biblical term ‘covenant’ (foedus) is added at the intuition of the Eastern Churches for whom ‘contract’ raises some difficulties.” The understanding of covenant as used by the Council is dependent upon the intuition of the Eastern Churches and to that intuition, therefore, we must briefly turn.

The Orthodox intuition of marriage as covenant is located in the context of the biblical covenants of God with Israel and the Church. Covenantal election involves God and people in a steadfast commitment, and in the church the fullest expression of that commitment takes place in the sacrament of marriage.

The covenantal bond within which God works out salvation is in essence a nuptial bond. Conversely, the nuptial relationship achieves its true purpose and attains its true fullness only insofar as it is based upon an eternal covenantal commitment.

The purpose of marriage between a man and woman is to create between them a bond of covenant responsibility and faithfulness that represents and reactualizes the eternal bond established by God with His chosen people, and so it is that marriage is “a great mystery” which refers to Christ and the Church (Eph 5:32).

The use of covenant rather than contract takes marriage out of its narrow, traditional, juridical sphere and situates it in the sphere of interpersonal, religious, steadfast commitment and responsibility.

Its identification as a “biblical term” insinuates its connection to the everlasting covenants between God and Israel and Christ and Church.

What does the teaching about marriage as covenant and sacrament mean in real life?

In a covenantal-sacramental marriage, spouses consent and commit themselves to create a life of equal and intimate partnership in loyal and steadfast love.

When God created the heavens and the earth, when no plant had yet sprung up from the earth because God had not yet brought rain, a mist rose up and watered the earth. The mist turned the dry earth to mud, in Hebrew ‘adamah, and from that ‘adamah God formed ‘adam and breathed into ‘adam’s nostrils the breath of life. And ‘adam became a living being (Gen 2:4-7). "When the Lord Yahweh created ‘adam, He made ‘adam in the likeness of Yahweh. Male and female He created them, and He blessed them and He named them ‘adam” (Gen 5:1-2).

This myth, for it is a myth, responds to the perennial human question: Where did we come from?

We, in Hebrew ‘adam, in English humankind, came from God. Male and female as we are, we are from God, and together we make up humankind. This fact alone, that God names woman and man together ‘adam, establishes the equality of men and women as human beings.

The further myth that speaks of the creation of woman from man’s rib, intends in the Hebrew metaphor to emphasize that equality, not their separate creations.

The Catholic bishops of the United States underscore this reading in their response to the concerns of women in the Church. Since “in the divine image... male and female (God) created them” (Gen 1:27), woman and man are equal in everything that is human; they are “bone of bone and flesh of flesh” (Gen 2:23). It is only because they are so equal, says the myth, that they may marry and “become one body” (Gen 2:24). When they marry in a covenant marriage, their equality is further underscored and solidified by the extent to which they are both equally bound by the terms of their covenant.

Christian marital covenant demands not only the creation of a life of equal partnership but also the maintenance of that life. As the God revealed in Jesus is not a God who creates and then abandons creation to its own laws, as Jesus is not a Christ who gives Himself up for the Church (Eph 5:25) and then abandons her, so no Christian believer creates a covenant, a marriage, a sacrament and leaves it to survive by itself.

When a Christian man and a woman marry, they commit themselves mutually to a set of behaviors that will nurture and sustain their marriage, their sacrament, their covenant.

As Christian believers, they will find those behaviors suggested in general throughout the New Testament and specifically summarized in the Letter to the Ephesians. The writer critiques the list of traditional household behaviors in first century Palestine, together with the inequality embedded in it, and challenges all Christians to “give way to one another because you stand in awe of Christ” (5:21). The critique both challenges the absolute authority of any Christian individual over another, including that of a husband over a wife, and establishes the basic attitude required of all Christians, even if they be husband and wife, namely, an awe of Christ and a giving way to one another because of it.

Since all Christians are to give way to one another, it is not surprising that wives are challenged to give way to their husbands (5:22). What is surprising, at least to those husbands who see themselves as lords and masters of their wives and who seek to found this unchristian attitude in Ephesians, is the challenge to husbands.

It is that “the husband is the head of the wife as that is, in the same way as Christ is head of the Church” (5:23).

In immediate response to the obvious question — “How is Christ head of the Church?” — the writer explains, “He gave himself up for her” (5:25), a clear echo of Mark’s gospel description of the Son of Man who “came not to be served but to serve” (10:45). There is a loud echo also of the teaching Jesus constantly sought to inculcate in his power-hungry disciples, namely, that in the kingdom of God the leader is the servant of all (Luke 22:26).

The Christian way to exercise authority
is to serve. To be head as Christ is head is to serve. The Christian husband is called to be the first servant of his wife, and she is equally called to be his first servant. One behavior by which Christian spouses may nurture both their marriage and their sacrament is the Christian rule of service, of God, of one another, and of the familial and social needs around them.

Another Christian behavior, in and out of marriage, is the great commandment: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Lev 19:18; Mark 12:31). Husbands, the author of Ephesians instructs, are to “love their wives as their own bodies,” for the husband “who loves his wife loves himself” (5:28). We can rightfully assume that the same instruction is intended also for wives. A paraphrase of Paul clinches the rule of love for Christian spouses: Those who love their spouses have fulfilled all the rules of behavior for nurturing and sustaining a covenant marriage (Rom 13:8).

A covenantal marriage is not just a wedding to be celebrated, it is more critically an equal and loving partnership to be lived for the whole of life. When spouses covenant to one another in the sacrament of marriage, they commit themselves to explore together the religious depth of their married life and to respond to that depth in the light of their mutual covenant to Christ and to the Church in which He abides.

It is their marital life, lived in faith, friendship, mutual love and service, that is ultimately the Catholic sacrament of the presence of God and God’s Christ in the world.

A Christian marriage is an intimate and equal partnership of life and love. Its origin is, ultimately, in God’s act of creating ‘adam’ male and female, proximately, in the covenant of the spouses’ free, willed and irrevocable consent. Its goal is the continuation of Christ’s mission to establish the reign of God in the lives of the spouses, their family and in the world in which they live.

About the author: Lawler is an internationally renowned theologian of marriage and family and the author of numerous publications and books, including: Family: American and Christian and Marriage and Sacrament: A Theology of Christian Marriage.

Marriage as a Covenant
The wedding ceremony by which couples enter into marriage is a covenant ceremony, according to the standard covenant requirements. There is: first, a prologue that identifies the parties making the covenant (“I, Michael, take you Susan”); second, the identification of the purpose of the covenant (“... as my lawful wedded wife ... wedded husband”); third, a specification of the irrevocable duration of the covenant (“... until death do us part”); fourth, an enumeration of covenantal blessings and woes (“... to have and to hold ... for better or for worse, in sickness and in health”); fifth, a publicly sworn oath (the marital consent); and, finally, a public and permanent record of the covenant ceremony (the marriage certificate).

It is natural and predictable that Christians turn to their Bible to find solutions to their marital and family problems.
Remembering Bob Reilly

This is a love story. Grab your hankies.

By Robert U. Guthrie
Robert Thomas Reilly loved writing. He loved his 10 children. He loved his wife, Jean. He even loved his work, serving as the public relations director at Creighton University for 16 years. He loved Ireland and being Irish. And he loved his religion. He wrote about all these things, but mostly about Ireland and a most incredible and touching story about his wife’s decline in Alzheimer’s.

There were the novels: Rebels in the Shadows, about the legendary secret society of the Molly Maguires, formed to battle the coalmine owners in the 1870s; Red Hugh: Prince of Donegal, turned into a Walt Disney movie, and now in its fourth edition; Irish Saints; Come Along to Ireland; Christ’s Exile; Public Relations in Action; and another half dozen including co-authored books such as Historical Omaha: An Illustrated History of Omaha and Douglas County, and Lucky, about the life of Charles Durham. He wrote television and movie scripts. In fact, in some 50 years, he wrote more than 1,000 articles, short stories and treatises in more than 100 national and regional publications.

Bob Reilly was simply compelled to write.

“He could not, not write,” said son Hugh. “My father was an aman mor, Irish for great soul. Such a person makes an impact on everyone he touches.”

Matt Holland, son of Denny Holland, one of Bob’s business associates and a friend, told Hugh about the time he and his family were busily cleaning the house after Matt’s father had died. “We cleaned and cleaned, until there was nothing left to clean in that rambling three-story house.”

By mid-afternoon they were drained of all energy and suffering the wound of having lost Denny Holland.

Matt told Hugh: “At that moment, your dad appeared at the door with a box of crackers, some cheese and a box of cookies. He came in and said he had heard about my dad and knew he had to stop by.

“We all sat in the front room as the winter afternoon light faded. Your dad began to tell stories, not about my dad, but about angels and runaway horses. As he spoke, time seemed to stop.

“We thought about nothing but the images his stories created in our minds. After ... maybe an hour, maybe two, your dad got up and left as abruptly as he had arrived. But his stories had changed the day for us. We were different somehow, relaxed and at peace.”

That was Bob the shamachie, the Irish storyteller.

We became engaged in 1943, while I was on leave, and Jean then waited almost two years for me to return from the Second World War. She wrote to me every day, even when I was missing in action and she had no idea if I was alive or dead ...
us, we will attack you.’ The next day, all the Germans were gone.”

Bob decided to run for the Second District Congressional seat in 1970 in the 25th year of his marriage, and although Jean worked in the travel industry, she became a politician’s wife.

Besides 10 children of their own, two Boys Town residents “adopted” the Reillys. Jean said in the 1970 Reilly campaign newspaper: “Just being den mother to all those Reillys,” is old hat ... “(it) is a beautiful chaos that keeps you active.

“(I met Bob in 1942) and soon Bob was off to war,” she said. “We had the standard wartime V-mail courtship until Bob was captured. ... The letters stopped coming then, so I reread the old ones and prayed. “Then, in May 1945, Bob wrote that he had been liberated and was on the way home! We were married three weeks later. I quickly learned of my husband’s compassion. We spent our honeymoon visiting parents of the boys in Bob’s platoon who had been killed in action. It was the kind thing to do, and I was awfully proud of my new husband.”

In 1950, we returned to Omaha and raised our children there. Besides Kathleen’s deafness, three of our youngsters had severe asthma, and another had an eye tumor removed at the Mayo Clinic. ... Throughout those challenging years, Jean bore the major domestic responsibilities, always without complaint. People remarked about her serenity. ... I learned to admire her instinctive wisdom. ... All these qualities made it seem doubly unjust when she developed Alzheimer’s.

When he wrote Red Hugh and sent it to a publisher, he received a terrible rebuff in which an editor blasted the story as a terrible piece of writing. Bob threw it out and started over, taking just a couple of months to rewrite the entire book on his old Royal manual typewriter, all the while typing with just two fingers. The resulting story not only sold, but has gone to a fourth printing today and gained the interest of Walt Disney a year before the master producer died. Bob reckoned it was the last work to receive Walt’s blessing directly. Red Hugh premiered in Omaha at the old State Theater in 1966.

You can’t talk about Bob without considering his competitive spirit. So many stories abound that it is difficult to pick just one. He was always “playing” wastebasket basketball in his office crumpling up endless pieces of paper after “false starts” on his next note for a book or article.

A tribute article most likely written by his friend, the late Harry Dolphin, BS’49, probably says it best:

“Driveway basketball, another Reilly specialty, is suspect of a fix. Several small X’s chalked on the drive are the only places he shoots from in his unerring game of Horse.

“A word of warning — watch him in ping-pong on his home court. The large lamp and equally large paddle at his end of the table give him an edge on the visiting player at the dark end of the table with the postage-stamp-size paddle and the furnace room door that periodically swings into range of his backhand.”

Bob’s life was a living kaleidoscope of activity. In the late ’60s, Bob started a travel agency (with Jean’s experienced help) for tours of Ireland. He carried on with this until 1992, when his son Hugh took over. Out of the tours came an unfinished book on Irish pubs. Hugh may try to complete it, but its many pages now are outdated, since Bob quit work on it in the early ’80s.

During one period, Bob took to the Omaha Playhouse stage. He won the Fonda-McGuire Award, and Henry Fonda and Dorothy McGuire presented the award to him. His television scripts included those for actors Lorne Greene and Michael Douglas.

His Irish books and his interest in Ireland came naturally. His mother and father were Irish. His grandfather was the first Reilly, of their family’s heritage, born in the U.S., according to Hugh.

In his later years, Bob adopted a beard, which progressively whitened until his death. You could have put a green hat on him and people would have asked him the location of his gold. His Irish twinkle, his general “lift” on St. Patrick’s Day, his storytelling penchant, and that pure white beard ... all lent a leprechaun-like air.

Some years ago I had lunch with the late actor Pat O’Brien, who gave me this memorable line: A priest friend of his had described hearing the Confessions of nuns as “being stoned to death with popcorn.” Sometimes the caregiver’s role is like that. No major tantrums or hallucinations but, rather, a series of small difficulties.

Like things being moved to unfamiliar locales. The sugar bowl travels to the freezer, bananas join the silverware, dirty clothes fraternize with the clean. The Alzheimer’s patient might want to help with the cooking and mix peanut butter with the eggs and then burn that concoction. Or fill the steam iron with liquid starch. Or fold everything in sight, making 50 neat squares out of a toilet paper roll.

Reilly family photo, taken around 1966.
Left to right, front row: Pegeen and Michael; second row: Kathleen, Bob and Jean; third row: Hugh, Moira and Donal; fourth row: Eileen, Colleen, Michaela and Christine.
Hugh talks about his mother and father: “My mom and dad were a matched set. They pulled together. They had great fun with each other.

“I remember my mother telling me one time, ‘You know, Hugh, if your father wanted to, he could be president of the United States.’ That’s how she felt about him. He felt the same way about her — that there wasn’t much she could not do. He left a lot of the childrearing to her. He would come home from work and go upstairs and write.

“He teased her and they had great fun together. I remember one time we had cream pies, two or three of them. Dad said, ‘I always wanted to do this,’ and he picked up one of the pies and threw it at Mom ... but he missed. Mom had one of the pies at the other end of the table. She threw it at him and she nailed him. She was laughing and he was laughing. Another time I remember them chasing each other around the backyard with water hoses.”

I acknowledge my lack of professional skills, but I did bring things to the table: I love this patient; I have a history with her; I understand her needs, know her likes and dislikes; I provide familiarity and security and a certain level of comfort. I know the house and environment. I knew I was a link to a past already damaged.

When Alzheimer’s first intruded in their life, Hugh noticed the change in his father. “At first he was impatient, but he developed patience with my mother. He would get angry with her ... saying, ‘I told you that before,’ when she began to lose track. She would get defensive and he would feel terrible. That didn’t last long. He came to terms with it. And her (decline) happened over a 10-year period.

“My mother had fallen and hit her head and we figured, ‘Well, maybe that’s what’s causing it.’

“Mom doubled the average life span of those diagnosed with Alzheimer’s. Her body gradually shut down. People think they die of other things, like pneumonia. But they don’t. They die of Alzheimer’s. She lost her swallowing reflex and could not eat or drink. By then she was in hospice.”

There are many variations of love, but I’m not talking about the kind that flares up and burns brightly for a time. I mean the kind you can bank like a good fire against the certain cold and dark.

And duty. I was brought up respecting duty, which means you continue to do something even when the reasons have dissipated. Call it commitment.

Bob was educated at Creighton University and earned an advanced degree at Boston University.

He was an instructor, alumni secretary, director of special resources and director of public relations during his 16 years at Creighton.

In 1966, he became a vice president and partner in the public relations firm of Holland, Dreves and Reilly.

He became a professor at the University of Nebraska at Omaha in 1972 and retired as a full professor in 1987. He was named a professor emeritus, and a chair in the communication department bears his name.

I pray, of course, but not for cures or miracles. I pray for my wife’s continued health and serenity and for my own understanding. I pray that our children will also come to terms with the situation and not fret about this cross being visited on a wonderful mother or this disease tearing apart a couple still very much in love. I want them to know that God doesn’t wish suffering on anyone.

Jean’s decline was gradual but unremitting.

“The first few years, she didn’t do much,” said Hugh. “The last four or five years in the nursing home she knew Bob. She knew him pretty much until the end. She would look at us and she would maybe know that we were important somehow, but she knew Bob and she would ask for Bob.

“Most days, Jean just sits there beside me, rests her head on my shoulder and dozes. Sometimes ... I show her photos, sing to her, talk softly. On Sundays I bring her communion, but more and more, she seems unaware of what she is doing. I feel caught between sacrament and sacrilege.

One day the nurse said, “I tear up every time I see how excited she is to see you.”

“Listen,” I told her, “for 60 years that’s the way I felt when she walked into a room.” The nurse cried at that.

“At the end, he was so tender to her. We had brought her home and put up a bed downstairs. Bob had a bed upstairs. We moved Bob’s bed down next to hers near the end. He was happy with that.

“On her last day, we put the two beds next to each other downstairs.

“We pushed the beds together. He kind of sprawled across the two beds as much as he could toward her. He would stroke her hair and hold her hand.”

Some six weeks later, April 14, 2004, Bob died in his sleep.

I have a certain conviction that we will be together again and as we used to be. I have had dreams about that final reunion. I’ve seen it in my mind a hundred times. We’re both dressed in white and we’re dancing in front of patio doors open to the sea.

About the author: Guthrie is the former editor of Creighton’s Window Magazine.
What Others Had to Say ...

A Role Model

Bob Reilly was my friend and a role model.
I had known Bob for years when I decided to write a book about international adoption. I called him for advice.
He must have gotten hundreds of similar calls, most of which would never go beyond square one. He was probably too polite to say that.
Bob urged me to persevere because he liked my subject and respected me as a writer. He explained how to prepare a book proposal and offered leads for finding a publisher. He helped at every step until the book How To Adopt A Child from Another Country appeared. He brought a ream of copy paper to my publication party to encourage me to start another book.
I have modeled my journalism teaching career on his because he did everything I value so well. His former students raved about his classes. He published scholarly materials while continuing to write thoughtful and enjoyable articles and books for intelligent general audiences (like the readers of this magazine). He devoted countless hours to mentoring individual students.
Any encounter with Bob was a good time — the smile, the laugh, the wit, the story. You always learned something from him — even at his wake.
The night after Bob’s wake, I attended a duty social event. As I sat at the table feeling sorry for myself, I thought about the story his sister, Barbara, had told about Bob’s POW days when he was kept in solitary confinement. He had used a pencil to widen a hole in the wall to see a tiny bit of the world. Then he used the time to write a book of poems for Barbara at home.
I felt foolish. No wonder I had always admired Bob. Talk about a guy who knew how to make the most of whatever hand life dealt him!

Eileen M. Wirth
Chair
Journalism and Mass Communication

A Devoted Husband

When Bob Reilly reaches the Pearly Gates, St. Peter will recount his many talents and deeds. Clearly, there will be a long list of accomplishments punctuated with a significant grouping of adjectives. First and foremost, Bob was a devoted husband and father. Just to see him with his lovely wife, Jean, and their children, his love and admiration of them was clear. Over the course of Jean’s long illness, Bob was ever the devoted spouse and cared for her often to the detriment of his own health.

Rosalee A. Roberts, APR,
Fellow PRSA
Longtime Vice President,
Public Relations
Bozell & Jacobs

An Irish Bard

Bob Reilly was an Irish Bard. What is often forgotten is that a storyteller must first have heard a story. Bob was the ultimate listener. He didn’t soak up information like a sponge; he inhaled it like a vacuum sweeper.
And once inside him, all the information became part of his fabric to the point where time, place, gender, ethnicity all lost their independence and Bob lived the tale. On a trip to Ireland with him every field, coast, tower, town and pub was presented to the visitor with the familiarity and insight of the centuries. Bob never shaded the truth about his beloved Ireland.
Bob was a competitor. I first encountered this side of him in the original Public Relations Office, a
Remembering Bob Reilly

victims’ families comfort the driver is a masterpiece of Christian grace and mercy), and the one for Creighton’s magazine about the poetic Irishman, John Mulhall.

I get tears in my eyes recalling these classic Reilly stories. I used his stories to show my class, and he used some of mine to teach his. It’s a small part of our friendship, but a part I’ve already missed. I just finished a story for the UNO Alum magazine — an article about a very good man of faith, wrestling coach Mike Denney. I wanted so badly to show it to Bob.

Warren T. Francke
Active writer and retired UNO professor

Allen B. Schlesinger
Professor Emeritus
Biology

A Family Man

The excitement was palpable the morning Kathy (Bob’s deaf daughter) rushed into my classroom to tell me that her father had talked on the telephone with Walt Disney. Incredulously, I said, “The REAL Walt Disney?” She reassured me as she explained that the famous producer wanted to make a movie from Bob’s recently published book, Red Hugh: Prince of Donegal.

I related this happy episode to Jean as she and I sat in our room at the Harold House Hotel in Edinburgh, Scotland, in the spring of 1991. ... I shall always treasure recalling one evening as the phone rang in our room. Jean answered and her face became radiant when she heard Bob’s voice. That luminous expression never changed as they continued their conversation and made plans to meet in Ireland in the next day or two.

Sorting through numerous photographs of Bob and Jean, I am impressed that even an ordinary snapshot could reveal such deep affection; theirs was a union of faithful and caring love. When they spoke of their children, the dominant emotion was always the same — loving concern, justified parental pride in their accomplishments, and deep sorrow for their losses and unrealized goals.

Betty Dineen Shrier
Writer and close friend

A Respected Colleague

Bob and I alternated on a column in the Sun Newspapers in the ‘60s and ‘70s.

We got in the habit of showing each other whatever we’d most recently written.

There was his article on being a caregiver during Jean’s Alzheimer’s. Nothing he wrote was more revealing or touched people more deeply than that article in U.S. Catholic.

Other favorites of mine were the article he wrote about a train hitting a school bus, the one about a fatal accident (the scene in the church when victims’ families comfort the driver is a masterpiece of Christian grace and mercy), and the one for Creighton’s magazine about the poetic Irishman, John Mulhall.

The school bus story starts a few seconds before the train will hit the bus. The crew sees it and knows they’ll crash. The only question: Will all the kids flee in time? Bob holds the reader at that point and artfully delivers all the exposition — about such wrecks, about the crew, and especially about the bus driver and the kids on board, including young heroes who hustle their friends to safety.

I get tears in my eyes recalling these classic Reilly stories. I used his stories to show my class, and he used some of mine to teach his. It’s a small part of our friendship, but a part I’ve already missed. I just finished a story for the UNO Alum magazine — an article about a very good man of faith, wrestling coach Mike Denney. I wanted so badly to show it to Bob.

Warren T. Francke
Active writer and retired UNO professor
McGrath North Mullin & Kratz Pledges $1 Million for Endowed Chair

The School of Law at Creighton University is pleased to announce the establishment of a new endowed chair, the McGrath North Mullin & Kratz Endowed Chair in Business Law. A $1 million pledge from the Omaha law firm’s Foundation will fund the chair.

“I want to thank McGrath North Mullin & Kratz and the individual members of the firm who have made this contribution possible, for this very generous gift,” said the Rev. John P. Schlegel, S.J., Creighton president. “The McGrath North chair will become part of the School of Law’s legacy, and signifies the firm’s dedication to quality education. This is a great addition to our centennial celebration.”

Gifts of endowed chairs in the School of Law contribute to fulfilling a law school priority: attracting and retaining nationally recognized faculty. As part of the faculty, chair holders are scholars whose talents leave an indelible mark on their fields, their students and their colleagues.

“Endowed chairs are most important to the reputation of law schools,” said Patrick Borchers, dean of the School of Law. “This chair honors McGrath North’s commitment to the School and the community, and the gift will ensure that the Creighton School of Law will remain among the nation’s leaders in business law education. The chair will always be held by a person of national prominence in the field of business law.”

“This pledge represents our continuing commitment to Creighton University and its law school,” said David Hefflinger, BA’69, JD’72, president of McGrath North Mullin & Kratz. “Creighton University is a vital part of the Omaha community and Creighton’s School of Law has educated many of our firm’s attorneys. We hope that this gift provides an impetus to others during the centennial year for the law school.”

Creighton University and the McGrath North Mullin & Kratz firm have a strong relationship over many years, going back to Jack North, JD’48, who was a founding member of the firm and taught at the School of Law, and Bruce Rohde, JD’74, a former president of the firm who is now CEO of ConAgra Foods and a member of the Creighton University Board of Directors. Starting in 1988 and through 1992, McGrath North established and funded the largest scholarship fund for Creighton law school students, which currently has an endowment of more than $875,000. From 1993 through 1998 the firm gave $500,000 to establish the McGrath North Mullin & Kratz Legal Research Center in the law school’s Klutznick Library.

“McGrath North has helped Creighton students with scholarships; they have helped us with our facilities with their gift to the law library renovation; and now, the firm is helping us with our faculty with the creation of the endowed chair,” Borchers said. “The firm understands the importance that all three areas, students, faculty and facilities, play in providing quality education. We are grateful for the overwhelming support we continue to receive from our friends at McGrath North Mullin & Kratz.”

The McGrath North Mullin & Kratz Endowed Chair in Business Law is the third chair in the School of Law. The other endowed chairs are the A.A. & Ethel Yossem Endowed Chair in Legal Ethics (Richard Collin Mangrum, chair holder) and the Connie Kearney Endowed Chair in Clinical Legal Education (Catherine Mahern, chair holder).

A formal inaugural of the McGrath North Mullin & Kratz Endowed Chair in Business Law will be held after the chair holder is selected. The celebration of the School of Law centennial will take place on Sept. 10 at the Qwest Center Omaha.

To learn more about endowment opportunities at Creighton, contact the University Development Office at (800) 334-8794, (402) 280-2740 or 2500 California Plaza, Omaha, Nebraska, 68178-0115.

Will Your Estate Plan Pass the Test?

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

You’ve probably had this dream. You walk into class and sit down. As the teacher places the test upon your desk, you realize that you are not prepared to take the final exam.

Without regular preparation and review, when put to the test, your estate plan likewise may fail to effectively carry out your wishes for the efficient transfer of your assets. Estate planning experts generally recommend reviewing your estate plans at least every five to seven years to ensure they take full advantage of current tax law. Indeed, a look back at the past seven years reveals that the federal government made significant changes to gift and estate tax law in 1997 and again in 2001. Coupled with this, regulations governing IRAs and qualified retirement plans have also been significantly amended. Will your estate plans receive a passing grade when examined next to these new rules?

A few of these changes are:
1) The amount exempt from federal estate tax has climbed from $600,000 in 1997 to $1.5 million; it is scheduled to increase to $2 million in 2006 and $3.5 million in 2009. Unless changed, the estate tax will be repealed in 2010 and thereafter the exempt...
amount returns to its 2002 level of $1 million. Estate plans that stipulate distribution to heirs with reference to “the amount exempt from federal estate tax” should be regularly reviewed. Because this stipulation will provide an increasingly larger gift to your heirs, it could result in unintentionally disinheriting spouses or residual beneficiaries.

2) Legislation will ultimately eliminate the “stepped-up basis” at your death of property and investments left to your heirs. Though this property might avoid federal estate taxes, in the future it will be subject to income taxes if sold by your estate or your heirs.

3) The IRS simplified the rules governing the required minimum distributions you must take from IRAs and qualified retirement plans after you reach age 70 1/2, as well as reducing the minimum amount you must withdraw each year. While these accounts are still subject to estate and income taxes, the new rules streamline the process for leaving these assets to charity.

Though these and other amendments have required diligent oversight of your financial and estate plans, they have had positive effects upon charities and those who have included a charitable component to their plans. These include:

1) The increased estate tax exemption amount allows you to pass more assets tax-free to your heirs. Since your estate is now subject to less tax, you can increase the portion designated for philanthropy without reducing the percentage given to family or friends.

2) A sound estate planning principle is to utilize your most tax-burdened assets to satisfy your charitable estate planning objectives. The new IRS rules for testamentary transfers of IRAs and qualified retirement plans allow you to name Creighton or other charities as a beneficiary without causing an increase to your required annual minimum distribution and will generate substantial income and estate tax savings.

I strongly encourage you to consult with your professional advisors to ensure your estate plans pass their most significant test. If you would like to receive additional information on estate planning or learn how to include a bequest to Creighton in your estate plan, call (402) 280-1143 or (800) 334-8794.

Please accept my thanks if you have already included Creighton in your estate plans. And, if you have not previously notified us of your plans, please contact us for membership in the Heritage Society, our recognition group for those who have made provisions in their estate plans for the University.
Strom Endowment Fund Established in Law School

One of the judiciary’s most admired and recognized figures has established an endowed scholarship at the Creighton University Ahmanson School of Law.

In celebration of the law school’s 100th anniversary, Judge Lyle E. Strom has made a $50,000 gift to create the Hon. Lyle E. and Regina Strom School of Law Centennial Endowment Fund. The fund will provide scholarship support to needy and deserving students at the Creighton University School of Law.

“My wife died about three years ago, so I decided to establish the scholarship because she always had a great interest in education,” Strom said. “We were always interested in trying to help young people.”

Strom, a senior U.S. District Court judge in Nebraska, was associated with the Omaha law firm of Fitzgerald, Brown, Leahy, Strom, Schorr and Barmettler for 32 years, having joined the practice upon his graduation from Creighton in 1953. He led the firm’s trial department, handling all types of litigation. Strom was appointed a district judge by President Ronald Reagan. In 1987, he was named chief judge of the United States District Court of Nebraska. He took senior status on Nov. 2, 1995.

“The federal judicial system is really wonderful,” Strom said. “The senior status allows me to cut down on my caseload. But I also can make myself available to serve in other districts. I work in New Mexico, Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina and New York on a fairly regular basis, helping them with their dockets.”

Throughout his career, Judge Strom also served as an adjunct faculty member at the Creighton University law school. Many law students received the benefit of his experience in the trial practice course, a course that he taught for 25 years. In 1995, he became director of the Spire Internship Program, where students are placed in public-related agencies and work 150 hours during a semester while taking their regular courses. He continues to counsel students in the program, helping the current director, Barbara Gaskins.

“When Judge Strom was in private practice and known as one of the best trial attorneys in the area, he dedicated his time to teach the trial practice course at Creighton. I know he didn’t do it for the adjunct professor pay,” Gaskins said. “He did it for the love of the students, the university and teaching.”

That love is represented in the creation of the Strom School of Law Centennial Endowment Fund and his gift of time and talents to the law school.

“Judge Strom is a person who has always been generous with students, whether through his work in the Spire Internship Program, the Boy Scouts or through his professional life. This scholarship continues that generosity,” said Patrick Borchers, dean of the School of Law. “It’s a great honor to have his name and Regina’s name forever associated with the Creighton law school.”

Creighton Society Celebrates 15 Years

This year, Creighton University's premier donor recognition club, the Edward and Mary Lucretia Creighton Society, celebrated its 15th anniversary with a record-breaking year in both number of members and dollars raised.

There are 910 members in the Creighton Society and more than $1.54 million was raised in fiscal year 2004, which ended June 30.

The Edward and Mary Lucretia Creighton Society is made possible by the generosity of individuals who make unrestricted gifts each year of $1,000 or more to the general University or to one of Creighton’s schools or colleges.

Throughout its 15-year history, Creighton Society members have contributed more than $13 million to the Annual Fund. Annual Fund gifts play a vital role in sustaining the mission of Creighton University and have an immediate impact on the campus. These gifts support the operating budget of the University, and relieve dependence on tuition income and the financial burden carried by students and their families.

“I think more and more Creighton alumni and friends realize the benefits of an education in the Jesuit tradition,” said Carrie Albers, director of annual giving. “It’s a nice way for these donors to contribute to the education of current and future Creighton students.”

With the continued support of Creighton Society members, who believe in and share Creighton’s sense of mission and educational commitment, the University’s future will continue to be bright.

“We are grateful for the generous support of our Creighton Society members over the past 15 years and look forward to continued growth in the Society,” Albers said.

For more information about the Creighton Society, please contact the Creighton University Office of Development at (800) 334-8794 or (402) 280-2740.
Scholarship Funds Honor Former Law School Deans

When Rodney Shkolnick arrived at Creighton University in 1961 to teach contract law, he and his late wife, Lois, were a young couple with two children. They were grateful for the opportunity.

A quarter century later, Shkolnick grew concerned that the opportunity for many students to attend Creighton law school was beyond their means. The result was the Rodney and Lois Shkolnick Scholarship Fund, which he and his wife began in 1985 with a donation of $11,000. Almost 20 years later, fueled by grateful students and friends in the legal profession, that fund has passed the $200,000 mark.

The fund is one of two named for deans of the law school whose intent is to ease the growing financial burden of attending law school.

The other is named for Lawrence Rafal, a professor of legal ethics who served as dean from 1988 to 1999 and recently accepted a position as dean of the Touro Law School in Central Islip, N.Y.

The Lawrence and Dinah Rafal Endowed Scholarship was founded in 1999 by the father of a law student whom Rafal admitted. The student, Rafal said, has since become a successful attorney.

The father, grateful that Rafal gave his son a chance, wanted to do something for the professor. Rafal suggested a scholarship fund.

It was, Rafal said, an easy call.

“There is absolutely no doubt that the ability to give kids scholarships, or grants, or low-interest loans, or no-interest loans, or work study programs, there’s no doubt in my mind that those kinds of things have helped a lot of people,” he said.

And, Rafal said, since the Creighton law school stresses the responsibility of lawyers to help those in need, a strong scholarship program is a must.

Shkolnick said it is a great gift when a student or a friend donates to a professor’s scholarship fund.

“These funds are extremely, extremely important,” he said. “I have just been pleased and flattered and grateful to all the people who have contributed.”

While scholarships are important to students in need, Shkolnick and Rafal agreed that scholarships also are an important tool for attracting the best students. Both said they are deeply interested in attracting the best students because they believe there is a “Creighton way” to study and apply the law.

For Shkolnick, the “Creighton way” involves stressing the human side of law.

“We want people to recognize that they’re always dealing with people,” he said. “That they’re not just dealing with an intellectual legal problem, though it is that, but that they are dealing with people, and you have to treat people as you want to be treated yourself.”

Students, although adults by the time they enter law school, perhaps have a little room left for moral guidance, Shkolnick said.

“It’s not enough to have a good heart,” he said. “But you cannot be a good Creighton lawyer if you lose track of the people involved. Some things ought to feel right to you, and some things not right.”

Rafal believes the ultimate goal of the scholarship funds is to produce lawyers committed to justice.

“I can show you Creighton-educated lawyers who daily do justice … everyday justice, such as helping people to start a business, write a will, make sure that their legacy is left the way they want it left,” he said.

“We take other people’s causes, and we want our lawyers to represent those causes zealously.”

To make a contribution to the Rodney and Lois Shkolnick Scholarship Fund or the Lawrence and Dinah Rafal Endowed Scholarship, or for more information on endowed scholarship opportunities at Creighton University or the School of Law, contact the Office of Development at (800) 334-8794 or (402) 280-2740.
The bulldozer grinds forward, chewing an ever-deeper hole for a new science building. The driver backs up the dozer for another push, but falters. He sees something. It appears to be a bone — maybe a large bone. Has he just discovered a missing link to prehistory? Has he uncovered human remains, unleashing a curse upon himself and the world? Should he call the police? Notify the press? Cover it up and go on?

This never happened, but could have, when Creighton began excavation in 1966 for its new Rigge Science Building. The driver would have been the victim of a hoax, played by one of the best hoaxers around at the time: Allen Schlesinger, Ph.D.

“We didn’t do it, but we sure thought about it,” said Schlesinger, professor emeritus of biology. “Bob Reilly, who was public relations director at the time, was always after me to make an important discovery. I suggested seeding the site with a few fossils.”

Someone would have discovered the bones the next day. It would have been a masterful hoax.

“We never did it,” continued Schlesinger, “but Bob’s eyes certainly gleamed for a moment.”

Bones can silence a bulldozer and summon reporters in droves. Why?

For one thing, bones are enduring. They “remain.” Lucky for us! These remains show us the past; they are obvious treasures for natural historians, archeologists and anthropologists. But philosophers?

Indeed, philosophers. Jinmei Yuan, Ph.D., opens a lecture for her Introduction to Chinese Philosophy course by explaining how some of the oldest script was carved on the shoulder blades of oxen.

Theologians? Nicolae Roddy, Ph.D., leads students on an archeological dig to the Sea of Galilee’s northern shore. When a bone is found, he writes, the students “uncover a kind of mirror in which they, as human beings, are reflected. ... It [brings] them more fully into the energies of the Creator.”

Even astronomers? Fr. Rigge’s memoirs recount how grading crews uncovered part of a skeleton near his (and our) beloved observatory. A local historian identified the remains as belonging to M.C. Gaylord, the first person to die among Omaha’s early settlers.

Perhaps bones are powerful because they define who we are, regardless of the façade. Of course, bones capture the attention of nearly every department and division on the health sciences side of campus. But artists? Jesuits?

Artist Bob Bosco maintains a bone collection to help his students see their subjects as flesh-draped completions of complex skeletal structures.

The Rev. Raymond Bucko, anthropologist and Jesuit, maintains a multitude of web pages. One of these provides a riveting account of Isaac Jogues’ determination to find and bury the bones of his martyred friend, Rene Goupil. Another of Fr. Bucko’s websites catalogs ancient games played by the Lakota, many of which involve manipulating bones.

Perhaps more than enduring and defining, bones are intensifying. They have an emotional payload that makes them mysterious, scary — even perverse.

One can only guess the thoughts coursing through two treasure hunters’ minds when they took a large bone they had discovered to the biology department in the early 1960s. Schlesinger finishes the story:

“I told the two we had a real expert on bones and went to get John [Sheehan].” (John was the chair of the biology department at the time.) “When he arrived he examined the bone carefully and then raised it above his head, paused briefly and threw it onto the cement floor with shattering force. Pieces of bone flew in all directions. John bent, retrieved the largest fragment and, showing its interior blood-red marrow to the two outraged fossil hunters, spoke only one word: ‘Cow.’”

Oh, well. Other remains rest to be discovered.

About the author: Kokensparger is a Creighton staff member and freelance writer.
The Rev. James E. Hoff, S.J., chancellor and former president of Xavier University and former vice president of University Relations at Creighton University, died July 23 after a four-month battle with cancer. He was 72.

“Jim Hoff was a mentor and a friend. He served Creighton and Xavier University with distinction. He was a splendid Jesuit and priest,” said Creighton President the Rev. John P. Schlegel, S.J.

Fr. Schlegel paid tribute to his friend and fellow Jesuit in June by establishing the Rev. James E. Hoff Magis Scholarship at Creighton.

Fr. Hoff served as vice president of University Relations and president of the Creighton Foundation from 1983-1990. In the 1980s, he spearheaded one of Creighton’s most successful capital campaigns, the Campaign for Creighton, which raised $102.5 million over a five-year period. He served on Creighton University’s Board of Directors since 1990.

He left Creighton in 1991 to become the 33rd president of Xavier University in Cincinnati. He had served as the chancellor of Xavier after retiring as president in December 2000.

Fr. Hoff began his career at Creighton in 1969 in the theology department. He served as acting dean of Creighton’s School of Medicine from 1980 to 1982, and he was an associate professor of ethics in health sciences and associate professor of theology from 1976 to 1990.

His background in medicine and theology coalesced in courses that stressed ethical issues in patient care. Fr. Hoff introduced the concept of hospice care in Omaha and was a founding board member of Hospice Omaha, Inc., working with the organization from 1975 to 1997.

Born in 1932 in Milwaukee, Fr. Hoff entered the Society of Jesus in 1953 and was ordained in 1965. He earned a bachelor’s degree in biology in 1958 and a master’s degree in philosophy in 1959 from Spring Hill College in Alabama. He later attained a master’s in theology from St. Louis University (1966) and a doctorate in theology from Rome’s Gregorian University (1969).