Graduation Day
Class of 2007

Beyond the Tooth
Residence Hall Life: Then & Now
True Blue: Snipp & Shugrue
Building an Interfaith World
Research at Creighton

Summer 2007
Beyond the Tooth: The Dental-Body Connection...........14
Dental observation and oral health could be the first line of defense against a range of systemic diseases, including diabetes, heart disease and even cancer.

Residence Hall Life: Then & Now.........................20
Residence hall life is changing at Creighton to meet the needs of today’s students, with living spaces allowing for more privacy and greater use of technology.

True Blue: Snipp & Shugrue.................................26
They combined for more than eight decades of teaching at Creighton. Creighton Magazine recounts the careers of retiring professors Dick Shugrue and Bob Snipp.

Building an Interfaith World...............................32
Creighton alumna Beth Katz, BS’00, director of Project Interfaith in Omaha, examines the misconceptions and evolution of the interfaith movement.

Research at Creighton: Making Connections............36
Meet Creighton scientists who are conducting leading-edge research and making new discoveries in areas as diverse as prion diseases (think, Mad Cow), minimally invasive surgery, hearing loss and osteoporosis.

On the cover: The largest number of graduates in Creighton University’s history walked across the stage at the Omaha Civic Auditorium on Saturday, May 12. Almost 1,300 degrees were awarded during two commencement ceremonies. Actor/comedian Bob Newhart, pictured in the top right, delivered the commencement address during the morning ceremony. Creighton President the Rev. John P. Schlegel, S.J., pictured in the middle, also delivered remarks at both ceremonies. Find more on commencement and alumni honorees beginning on Page 10.
It’s summertime and Creighton is blossoming — both literally and figuratively ... inwardly and outwardly.

Thanks to our dedicated grounds crew, with a little help from Mother Nature, our campus landscape is in full bloom, with rich greens and vibrant hues.

Cranes — the construction variety — also dot our campus, evidence of our continued growth.

Along with these outward signs of change comes our own human rebirth — a renewal of joy and hope.

Our recent graduates have been challenged to grow intellectually, socially and spiritually during their time at Creighton. Now they face a new beginning. The psalmist writes, “Lord, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.” May our new graduates be emboldened by that prayer as they go forth to be leaders and agents of change in our complex world.

On campus, our continued attention to tending to our mission is bearing fruit. A team of evaluators from the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association visited campus this spring as part of our voluntary accreditation review. Our last review was in 1996-97. A steering committee helped guide the process and hundreds of people within and outside the University provided input and assistance.

While the full report is yet forthcoming, the initial findings are extremely heartening. The review team found that we live and breathe our mission as a Jesuit, Catholic university; that we are prepared for future growth; that we are fulfilling our Jesuit mission of service to others; and that we are embraced by the Omaha community. While no follow-up visit or reporting is planned, this self-study provides a valuable tool for us to address and act upon our challenges and strengths.

As to the review team’s final point, let me add that we thrive in and of Omaha. The 128-year relationship between “town and gown” — Omaha and Creighton — continues to blossom. Creighton is energized knowing that our $190 million investment in redevelopment and east campus expansion has been fully endorsed by the Omaha business community.

I believe campus development can redefine an institution’s sense of purpose and energy, its academic goals and its public and civic image. Creighton’s campus expansion was a deliberate decision to be part of the redevelopment and, indeed, renaissance of downtown Omaha and the riverfront. Creighton and Omaha both benefit from their symbiosis.

Our 7,000 students are attracted to Omaha’s expanding entertainment, dining and cultural offerings — which were recently highlighted in a New York Times article. For our part, Creighton contributes nearly $680 million annually to the local and state economies, employs nearly 3,000 people, occupies 130 urban acres and provides health services at 62 sites throughout the area. Our students serve the city’s needy in extraordinary and generous ways (58,000 service hours in 2006) and many stay and work in Omaha after graduation — contributing to a “brain gain” for the area.

This is our moment of opportunity. Our students continue to excel in the classroom, laboratory, athletic arenas, and in the community. Our enrollment this past year was at an all-time high, and next year’s numbers look equally strong. Our incoming classes also are increasingly diverse, are heavily involved in leadership and service activities, and rank among the top in the region in terms of academics.

Creighton, indeed, is fertile ground for scholarship, research, dialogue and discourse. Let us continue to cultivate this community for the betterment of our world and the greater glory of God.

May you and yours have a safe and healthy summer.

Reflections on Virginia Tech

Our hearts go out to the students, faculty, staff and families of Virginia Tech who suffered a terrible loss in the tragic shootings of April 16. While random gun violence can take place at any time and place, college campuses remain vulnerable, despite state-of-the-art security, because they are free and open places. And we want that freedom to continue. While we are revisiting our own security and emergency preparedness policies, I also ask that we take this occasion to reach out to others, to build bridges and to mend relationships.

As we remember and pray for the victims and survivors of the Virginia Tech tragedy, let us, together, recommit ourselves — in words and in deeds — to building a strong and life-giving community here at Creighton University.

John P. Schlegel, S.J.
President
New Sorority on Campus …

Meet the members of Gamma Delta Pi — Creighton’s newest and Nebraska’s first Native American sorority. They are, from left, Taria Wolfe, Donnel Ecoffey, Kesha Bradford, Millicent Wolfe and Cedora Barnett (not pictured: Princella Parker). Founded last August, the Creighton chapter is the first Native American sorority at a Jesuit institution nationwide. With a Native American-based spirituality, but open to and supportive of all Creighton women students, the sorority focuses on Jesuit values, including a strong service component. The Creighton group also reaches out to Native American high school students who may need encouragement to consider college.
Graduated students Catherine Homan and Melissa Olson have received Fulbright Awards to continue their studies in Germany. Homan will attend the University of Freiburg to study the work of German philosopher Hans-Georg Gadamer. Olson will conduct her research at the University of Dortmund, studying the influence of the poet Walt Whitman on German Expressionist painting.

Established in 1946, the Fulbright Program is the U.S. government’s flagship program in international educational exchange. Fulbright alumni include Nobel and Pulitzer Prize winners, ambassadors and artists, prime ministers and heads of state, professors and scientists, Supreme Court justices and CEOs.

Homan also received the prestigious Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst (DAAD) scholarship. The scholarship is awarded to highly qualified graduating seniors and graduate students of all disciplines interested in furthering their studies in Germany. It covers all expenses and provides a monthly stipend for one academic year.

The DAAD is the German national agency for the support of international academic cooperation. It funds the exchange of students and faculty between Germany and other countries and represents the German higher education system abroad.

Two Creighton students were recognized in the 2007 Goldwater Scholarship competition. Nadia Sebastian of Oklahoma City, a sophomore this past year majoring in chemistry, received a two-year scholarship. Carolyn Posey, a junior this past year from Papillion, Neb., majoring in physics and mathematics, received honorable mention.

Sebastian was one of about 300 sophomores and juniors nationwide selected for a Goldwater Scholarship. One of the nation’s premier undergraduate scholarships, Goldwater awards recognize high academic achievers in the fields of mathematics, the natural sciences and engineering. More than 1,100 students, nominated by faculty at colleges and universities nationwide, competed for this year’s honor.

Sebastian plans to earn a medical or doctoral degree and conduct research in molecular and cellular biology and biochemistry. Her research focuses on osteosarcoma, the most common type of bone cancer and the sixth most common type of cancer in children. She is a Creighton Presidential Scholar and was named a 2006 Sir Alexander Fleming Scholar by the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation.

Posey plans to earn a postdoctoral degree in optics. She is focusing her research on the development of equipment to improve imaging and optics. Posey also has received numerous other scholastic awards, including the 2006 Clare Boothe Luce Award, the AT&T Telecom Pioneers Scholarship and the Ferlic Research Scholarship.

Patricia Callone, Creighton’s vice president for Institutional Relations, recently received the Shirley Washel Award for the Advancement of Women. The award was presented by the Program for Women and Successful Aging (PWSA), an Omaha-based organization that serves the needs of elderly people in the community.

Callone, a longtime advocate for the elderly, serves in several organizations dedicated to older adults and is the author of two books for those caring for people with Alzheimer’s disease — including Alzheimer’s Disease: The Dignity Within, which received book-of-the-year honors from the American Journal of Nursing.
Creighton Builds Sixth Habitat House

This year, Creighton University’s Habitat for Humanity Chapter built its sixth home in Lake Manawa, Iowa. Built from the ground up by nearly 150 Creighton student volunteers, construction on the home began last fall and was completed this spring. The home was dedicated on April 16 to the Derek and Amy Henry family.

Thomas Purcell, Ph.D., BSBA’72, professor of accounting and law, is the adviser for Creighton’s Habitat for Humanity Chapter.

Students Serve Others During Spring Break

A record 220 Creighton students participated in Spring Break Service Trips this past March at sites across the country, including 81 students who traveled to New Orleans to help with continued hurricane relief efforts.

“Getting to tour the entire city; getting to meet the homeowners, listening to their stories and making an impact on their lives was very powerful and rewarding,” said Kevin Cleary, a May graduate from Kansas City, Mo., who traveled to New Orleans and was one of a core group of students to organize the trips.

Cleary’s group stayed at a local church near Loyola University New Orleans and spent their days gutting hurricane-damaged homes. About 20 students stayed for an Ignatian Family Teach-In at Loyola University titled “Rebuilding Our Communities: Facing Racism and Poverty,” joining about 500 students and young adults from Jesuit high schools, colleges and parishes across the country.

In addition to New Orleans, Creighton students traveled to places such as Chicago, Oklahoma City, St. Louis, Indianapolis, Nashville and Denver. They served the homeless, tutored in schools, learned about the plight of immigrants along the Texas-Mexico border and built homes for Habitat for Humanity. They also learned more about themselves and their place in the world.

“You realize that you can make a difference in someone’s life …”

— Mack Savage
Creighton Student

Haddad Awarded Health Care Ethics Medal

Amy Haddad, Ph.D., director of Creighton’s Center for Health Policy and Ethics, was recently awarded a Pellegrino Medal by Samford University’s Healthcare Ethics and Law (HEAL) Institute in Birmingham, Ala., for her contributions to health care ethics.

Named after Edmund Pellegrino, M.D., a noted Georgetown University bioethicist who is also known as the father of the American bioethics movement, the Pellegrino Medal is awarded annually to individuals who are nationally recognized as leaders for their contributions to health care ethics.

Haddad holds the Dr. C.C. and Mabel L. Criss Endowed Chair in Health Sciences at Creighton. She is the author of numerous articles and several books. She was a co-author of Health Professional and Patient Interaction, which received the 2003 Alpha Sigma Nu National Jesuit Book Award in health sciences.
Mail-Order Drugs: Deal or No Deal?

Buyers beware. Businesses that encourage employees to order prescription drugs through the mail may not be reaping the financial rewards they think they are.

In recent years, mail-order pharmacies, owned by pharmacy-benefit managers (PBMs), have become popular among cost-conscious companies offering prescription benefits to their employees. Their belief — supported by a 2005 Federal Trade Commission (FTC) report — is that, overall, drugs purchased by mail cost a lot less than those bought from retail pharmacies.

Not so, according to a new study from Creighton’s School of Pharmacy and Health Professions, which disputes the FTC report findings. The study appeared in the January issue of Drug Benefit Trends.

“We found that brand-name drugs were slightly less expensive when purchased by mail, but generic drugs were more expensive by mail. When we combine the prices for brand-name and generic prescriptions, any differences virtually disappear,” said Robert Garis, Ph.D., associate professor at the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions.

Both the FTC report and the Creighton study were based on 2002 drug prices. Creighton researchers looked at pricing data for the top 50 brand-name and top 50 generic drugs by prescription volume.

The FTC based its report on aggregated price, and the Creighton study priced common drugs according to the terms stated by the FTC. While the use of 2002 data was necessary to compare the Creighton results fairly to the FTC analysis, Garis said the same pricing pattern continues today.

Creighton’s Robert Garis, Ph.D., found that generic drugs were more expensive when ordered by mail.

Given a continued increase in generic-drug use by both mail and retail pharmacies and the practice of high markups on generics by PBM-owned mail outlets, he added, retail pharmacies ultimately may offer the better value. He noted that recent reports show generic drugs account for more than 55 percent of all prescriptions dispensed through both mail and retail channels. “Employers need to ask PBMs more questions about their markups on generics, just as they would when purchasing ink, paper or other supplies,” Garis said. “The truth is that PBMs are racking up record profits through an increased use of generic drugs and an increased use of PBM-owned, mail-order facilities.”

Other Creighton researchers involved in the analysis were James D. Bramble, Ph.D., associate professor in the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions, and Pharm.D. candidates Michael Rea and Philip Anderson.

Creighton Hosts Pow Wow

Todd Ike of the Omaha Tribe performs at the third annual All-Nations Pow Wow on Creighton’s campus on March 31. Drummers and dancers from more than 26 Native American tribes participated in the event. December graduate Tracy Charging Crow served as the head female dancer. The event coincided with Creighton’s 11th annual Native American Retreat, titled “Discovering the Spirit Within.” During the three-day retreat, the University hosts Native American high school students, encouraging them to consider college and allowing them to further explore collegiate life.

Ketcham Honored by Creighton

Carol “Ketch” Ketcham, who has been part of Creighton’s athletics department for 37 years, was honored by the University in May with the “Leader for Life” award.

The award, which was given at the “Leaders for Life” fundraiser luncheon for women’s athletics on May 4 at Morrison Stadium, honors an individual whose actions have made a lasting impact on women’s sports at Creighton.

Ketcham, who for the last 10 years has served as athletic development officer and director of special events, began her work in Creighton’s athletic department as a clerk typist.

Over the years, Ketcham has worn many hats in the department, from senior women’s administrator/compliance officer to athletic ticket manager to co-tournament director for the College World Series.

In her current post, the Shenandoah, Iowa, native manages all major fundraising activities and events for the Athletics Department. She has played an integral role in raising more than $1 million through the Bluejay Jamboree.

“Carol is the consummate Bluejay,” said Director of Athletics Bruce Rasmussen, “working tirelessly on behalf of student athletes.”

Ketcham received Creighton’s Distinguished Administrator Service Award in 1990.
Historic Nun Study Celebrates 40th Anniversary

In 1967, 168 Catholic nuns from the Omaha area met with Creighton University officials to serve a higher cause. Another 24 joined them 10 years later. And, every five years, these women faithfully returned to St. Joseph Hospital for eight days and nine nights.

But this was no spiritual journey. The women — representing six motherhouses and all between the ages of 35 and 45 when they started — were participants in what would become known as the Omaha Nuns Study, a landmark research project pivotal to our modern-day knowledge about women’s bone health and osteoporosis.

For the study, the nuns would eat the same foods in exactly the same portions every day for eight days. The diets were designed to match, within 5 percent, their usual food intake in terms of calories, protein, calcium and phosphorus. Creighton researchers then meticulously gathered data to identify factors that influenced how the women’s bodies absorbed calcium, utilized it and excreted it.

“The project, because of the number of participants and the length of the study, literally wrote the book on the operation of the calcium economy in midlife women,” said Robert Heaney, BS’47, MD’51, the John A. Creighton University Professor, who designed and directed the project.

It also established Creighton as an international leader in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of osteoporosis, noted Robert Recker, MD’63, director of Creighton’s Osteoporosis Research Center.

The project enjoyed continuous federal funding from 1967 until 1995, and was one of the longest-running, continually supported projects in the history of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), he noted. It provided the principal scientific basis for NIH recommendations for adult calcium intake.

Among the findings resulting from the study, Creighton research: Healthy adult women in midlife require 1,200 milligrams of calcium each day, and calcium absorption is influenced by such factors as body size, vitamin D, estrogen levels, age, race, calcium source and other nutrient interactions.

Although the eight-day inpatient studies ended in 1992, the women — now in their 70s and 80s — continue coming to Creighton for calcium absorption measurements and bone-density scans.

On April 25, study participants still living in the Omaha area met for a special 40th anniversary party to celebrate their extraordinary contribution to the health of all women for generations to come.

As for the next 40 years, The Catherine M. Recker and Matthew Pappajohn Endowed Osteoporosis Research Fund has been established by Recker’s daughter and son-in-law. Among other things, the endowment will support laboratory and clinical research, train future researchers, and provide ongoing patient care and treatment for those with osteoporosis.

For more information on or to contribute to the endowment, contact Matt Gerard, director of development for the Creighton School of Medicine, at (402) 280-5746 or (800) 337-8794.

Got milk? Sr. Zita Marie Sharrow, one of the participants in the Omaha Nuns Project, playfully wears a “milk mustache” during a reunion gathering at Creighton in April. The study helped define the recommended daily calcium requirements in adult women.
Former ConAgra CEO Speaks at Ethics Forum

As we conduct ourselves in the pursuit of our existing businesses and in the growth of our businesses in an ethical and moral way, we must also fulfill our commitments to our government, to our society and to ourselves as individuals. In one sense, ethics involves the point of view that suggests we live in a glass bowl, and we should feel comfortable with any actions we take, if they were shared publicly. Further, we will conduct our affairs within the law. Should there be evidence of possible malfeasance on the part of any officer or member of management, each employee must feel the responsibility to communicate that to the appropriate party. This is a commitment that each of us must undertake and not feel that it is a high-risk communication, but that it is expected and, indeed, an obligation.

From ConAgra’s Philosophy

When then-CEO of ConAgra, Inc., Charles M. “Mike” Harper published these words in 1984, he probably had little inkling that they would become inextricably linked to him and his vision for American business.

But linked they are, and Harper was at Creighton on April 2 to share his insights on ethics at the 2nd Annual President’s Forum on Ethics in Business at the Lied Education Center for the Arts.

Harper, member emeritus of Creighton’s Board of Directors, was chairman of the board of RJR Nabisco Holdings Corp. from May 1993 to May 1996 and chief executive officer of RJR Nabisco from May 1993 to December 1995. Prior to that, Harper was chairman of the board and chief executive officer of ConAgra, Inc., based in Omaha. According to the January 1994 issue of Prepared Foods, Harper took ConAgra “from a sleepy $500 million commodities business into the second largest food company in the U.S. with $21 billion in revenues.”

Of a total of 46 years in business, Harper spent 21 as a CEO.

Though he believes “businesses don’t have ethics but individuals do,” Harper said ethics start with the person and spread to the corporate culture. “You don’t have to educate people to be ethical,” he added. “People do (ethical) things because these are the right things to do.”

Still, Harper said, there are certain traits of a good leader that make for an ethical — and successful — corporate culture.

Hard work tops Harper’s list, a trait he said was instilled by his mother — and inspired Harper in his youth to work at anything from shoveling coal to serving as a plumber’s assistant to working in a foundry.

Be ambitious, Harper added, and believe in the possible. Be action-oriented, and be practical — and remember to say “thank you.”

“Thanks’ is the greatest motivator.”

A good leader is also “obliged to serve society,” Harper told the Creighton audience, and must establish a culture of trust at the organization. “Trust each other. When people work together, they can get things to happen.”

Attracting good employees is a natural, Harper added, especially if you recruit using your company’s vision statement or its core beliefs. Like ConAgra’s “white paper” (quoted in the intro), Harper said, “these are the characteristics of the company you want to build.”

Employees have to “buy into” the corporate vision, however, Harper said. “It has to become their own vision, too,” not just the CEO’s.

In Harper’s vision, employees need “the freedom to act, the responsibility for results, and the freedom to disagree and challenge.”

At work, behave as if your actions will be on the front page of the newspaper, Harper said. “And, if your CEO or anyone else is unethical, report him or her. It’s your obligation.”

Harper has been quoted repeatedly about his three top business priorities (earnings, earnings and earnings), and he believes that it is good people that achieve this business goal.

But attracting and keeping good people requires “treating people well,” Harper suggests, which is not only right but is also good for business.

Creighton Chosen as National Drug Abuse Information Center

Creighton’s School of Medicine has been selected by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) as one of four academic medical sites to serve as Centers of Excellence for Physician Information.

These centers will be national models supporting the advancement of drug addiction awareness, prevention and treatment in primary-care medical practices.

“Drug addiction is a major public health issue. About 6 percent of all Americans have a drug abuse or dependence problem. Yet, the problem is significantly underdiagnosed and undertreated by the medical community,” said S. Prizada Sattar, M.D., Creighton assistant professor of medicine and principal investigator for the Creighton Center of Excellence for Physician Information.

The Centers of Excellence are being developed in collaboration with the American Medical Association’s Research Education Consortium.

Creighton and the other centers of excellence will identify knowledge gaps about drug addiction, develop educational materials and resources to address those gaps, and determine the most effective means of delivering this information. The centers will explore a variety of subjects, including prescription drug abuse, methamphetamine abuse and addiction, substance abuse coupled with mental illness, and other issues related to drug abuse.

Soccer Hosts Kicks for a Cure

The Creighton women’s soccer team hosted the second annual Kicks for a Cure on April 21 at Morrison Stadium. The event featured high school and collegiate teams competing in exhibition matches to raise money and awareness in the fight against cancer. This year’s event raised about $134,000, with all proceeds benefiting Liz’s Legacy, a cancer research fund started by former U.S. Sen. David Karnes (R-Neb.) and family in memory of Karnes’ late wife. Liz Karnes died in April 2003 after a 12-year battle with ovarian cancer.
Mancuso, Dunn, McGuire, Sully, Sun Honored with Alumni Merit Awards

School of Dentistry
Vincent Mancuso Jr., DDS’71, received the 2007 School of Dentistry’s Alumni Merit Award on April 20. Mancuso, of Des Moines, Iowa, is a practicing pediatric dentist. Throughout the years, Mancuso has held positions critical to the University’s future success, including a term as president of the National Alumni Board and as a member of the School of Dentistry Alumni Advisory Board, 1996 to present. He and his wife, Carolyn Greco Mancuso, BA’68, have also worked as a team to make Creighton a better university. They served on the Creighton Campaign 2000 National Steering Committee. They are former national co-chairs for the Edward and Mary Lucretia Creighton Society and continue to be active members in the Des Moines Alumni Club. Mancuso is a member of Alpha Sigma Nu, the national Jesuit honor society; He is a fellow of the International College of Dentists and the Academy of Dentistry for Persons with Disabilities.

School of Nursing
The School of Nursing presented its 2007 Alumni Merit Award to Susan Dunn, BSN’78, on May 3. Dunn is the CEO of Donor Alliance located in Denver. Donor Alliance is one of 58 nonprofit organ recovery organizations federally designated by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to facilitate the donation and recovery of organs for people needing transplants. Additionally, Donor Alliance is a recognized leader in facilitating the donation and recovery of transplantable tissues in Colorado and most of Wyoming. From early on in her career, Dunn displayed her belief in reaching out to other communities through her work in the Dominican Republic and Creighton’s Institute for Latin American Concern. Her steadfast support of organ procurements shows her belief in human life and reverence for life.

College of Arts and Sciences
Tim Sully, BA’85, received the College of Arts and Sciences Alumni Merit Award on May 11. Sully is the Development Director at the Siena/Francis House, Nebraska’s largest homeless shelter, located in Omaha. Sully’s heartfelt sense of compassion shown toward men, women and children guests of the Siena/Francis House homeless shelter exemplifies the deep love he has for others. Prior to his position at the Siena/Francis House, Sully served in several positions at Creighton University: graduate assistant, resident director, and assistant director of Residence Life, as well as a coordinator of summer programs for the Institute for Latin American Concern. During his time at Creighton, his impact on student life was profound. In tribute, Residence Life has initiated the annual “Tim J. Sully Award,” given to a faculty or staff member who demonstrates exemplary performance and service.

College of Business Administration
Kevin McGuire, BSBA’73, received the 2007 Alumni Merit Award from the College of Business Administration on May 11. McGuire is chairman of the board and CEO of the Palm Desert National Bank in Indian Wells, Calif. His professional odyssey has included professorships, prestigious fellowships, and serving as a medical director and internist at other institutions. He has been with Procter & Gamble for more than eight years. She also participates in many professional organizations, including the American Society of Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics (ASCPT). As current chair of the geriatric section of ASCPT, she encourages clinical pharmacologists to become more involved in geriatric clinical pharmacology research to advance health benefits for the elderly.

Graduate School
The Graduate School presented its 2007 Alumni Merit Award to Lu Amy Sun, M.D., PhD’90, on May 12. Sun graduated from Creighton in 1990 with a doctoral degree in molecular pharmacology. She is the medical director of experimental medicine at Procter & Gamble Pharmaceuticals, Inc., of Mason, Ohio. Her professional odyssey has included professorships, prestigious fellowships, and serving as a medical director and internist at other institutions. She has been with Procter & Gamble for more than eight years. She also participates in many professional organizations, including the American Society of Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics (ASCPT). As current chair of the geriatric section of ASCPT, she encourages clinical pharmacologists to become more involved in geriatric clinical pharmacology research to advance health benefits for the elderly.

Arts & Sciences graduate Ashley Erin Ortiz of Denver shares a hug with Patricia Callone, vice president for Institutional Relations, as she walks across the stage on May 12.
Creighton University Celebrates Commencement

A record number of graduates, nearly 1,300, received their degrees during commencement ceremonies on May 12. In addition to awarding degrees, Creighton also recognized individuals and organizations for their contributions to education, community, business and health.

Presidential Medallions

Holy Name Housing Corporation

The Holy Name Housing Corporation has made the dream of home ownership a reality for more than 25 years in north Omaha. The group has purchased rundown and vacant houses since 1982, revitalizing depressed neighborhoods, building new homes and making them available to low- and moderate-income families. Accepting the award was Executive Director Sr. Marilyn Ross, R.S.M.

St. Cecilia Cathedral

For more than 100 years, St. Cecilia Cathedral in Omaha has served as an archdiocesan gathering place where parishioners from all backgrounds and walks of life can gather as a vibrant community of faith, service and spirit. It also has served continuously as the location of a Catholic grade school, the first in the city to be accredited by the public school system. Here thousands have been educated and young minds molded to walk in the footsteps of faith and generosity of spirit. The Most Rev. Elden Curtiss, archbishop of the Omaha Archdiocese, and the Rev. Michael Gutgsell, rector and pastor of St. Cecilia Cathedral Parish, accepted the award.

Honorary Degree

Creighton University presented a doctor of humane letters to Bob Newhart. Newhart, who became a household name in the early 1970s, delighted television audiences with two long-running programs: the "Bob Newhart Show," which began in 1972, and "Newhart," which launched in 1982 and lasted almost a decade.

For more than 40 years, Newhart has demonstrated that an entertainer can take the high road. Despite the many accolades and awards, Newhart has stated publicly that his crowning achievements are his longstanding marriage to his wife, Virginia, and their children and grandchildren.

Alumni Achievement Citation

Fletcher Miller Jr., M.D., BS’71, received the Alumni Achievement Citation at the afternoon ceremony.

Miller is an internationally known cardiologist practicing and teaching at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn. He currently serves as professor of medicine and director of the echocardiography laboratory where he manages more than 150 physicians and 300 staff.

He holds fellowships in the American College of Cardiology, American College of Physicians and American Society of Echocardiography. Renowned for his cardiac skills and educational abilities, he has taught worldwide and published hundreds of articles and papers, sharing his insights with the global health care community.

Miller is married to the former Deborah Benz, BSN’71. Their son, David, graduated in May from the College of Business Administration.

Spirit of Creighton Award Recognizes Two Students

Creighton University graduates Mary Rogers, MD’07, of Portland, Ore., and Brandon Hankey, BS’07, of Bennington, Neb., received the prestigious Spirit of Creighton Award during commencement ceremonies on May 12.

The Spirit of Creighton Award is given annually to the students who represent the best qualities of the University’s founders.

From the moment Rogers began her medical education at Creighton, she distinguished herself as someone with strong interpersonal and leadership skills. She was a dedicated participant in Project CURA (CreightonMed United in Relief Assistance) and served as the Class of 2007 chairperson for the Community Service Committee. In the community, she participated in programs including the Make-a-Wish Foundation, Habitat for Humanity, the Omaha Boys and Girls Club, YWCA, the Nebraska AIDS Foundation, the Siena/Francis House and Charles Drew Health Center. In addition, she was involved in research and used her experiences and expertise to educate others on a variety of topics including the global AIDS crisis, global health and international service.

Hankey, an honors student, served on the Honors Advisory Board and led several Creighton retreats and spring and fall service trips. He regularly demonstrated concern for his fellow students in his roles as Freshman Seminar group leader and resident adviser in Swanson Hall. Throughout his years at Creighton, Hankey shared his talents and time with the community, volunteering for the Zahrt Loess Hills Reclamation Project, City Sprouts Community Garden, Neale Woods Nature Center and the Siena/Francis House. At Creighton, he served as a tutor for the Athletics Department and was a member of Amnesty International and the President’s Committee on Diversity.

University Chicago. He has brought honor to his Jesuit, Catholic background as a wholesome, gifted, witty and time-tested comedian.

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Creighton University graduates Mary Rogers, MD’07, of Portland, Ore., and Brandon Hankey, BS’07, of Bennington, Neb., received the prestigious Spirit of Creighton Award during commencement ceremonies on May 12.

The Spirit of Creighton Award is given annually to the students who represent the best qualities of the University’s founders.

From the moment Rogers began her medical education at Creighton, she distinguished herself as someone with strong interpersonal and leadership skills. She was a dedicated participant in Project CURA (CreightonMed United in Relief Assistance) and served as the Class of 2007 chairperson for the Community Service Committee. In the community, she participated in programs including the Make-a-Wish Foundation, Habitat for Humanity, the Omaha Boys and Girls Club, YWCA, the Nebraska AIDS Foundation, the Siena/Francis House and Charles Drew Health Center. In addition, she was involved in research and used her experiences and expertise to educate others on a variety of topics including the global AIDS crisis, global health and international service.

Hankey, an honors student, served on the Honors Advisory Board and led several Creighton retreats and spring and fall service trips. He regularly demonstrated concern for his fellow students in his roles as Freshman Seminar group leader and resident adviser in Swanson Hall. Throughout his years at Creighton, Hankey shared his talents and time with the community, volunteering for the Zahrt Loess Hills Reclamation Project, City Sprouts Community Garden, Neale Woods Nature Center and the Siena/Francis House. At Creighton, he served as a tutor for the Athletics Department and was a member of Amnesty International and the President’s Committee on Diversity.
Creighton Inducts Three into Athletic Hall of Fame

Former student-athletes Jessica Powers Davis, BA’02, Michael Finley, BSBA’83, and Lance Hill, BSBA’94, were inducted into Creighton University Athletic Hall of Fame on April 4.

Jessica Powers Davis

Powers Davis, who played at Creighton for two seasons (1997, 1998), is the first women’s soccer player inducted into the Creighton University Athletic Hall of Fame. She holds single-season records for points, goals and assists, and is the only All-American in the program’s history. In 1998, she was named the Missouri Valley Conference (MVC) Player of the Year, first-team All-Central Region, second-team All-American, third-team Academic All-American, and first-team MVC Scholar Athlete.

This past year, Davis was named to the MVC’s All-Centennial Team. An attorney specializing in public interest law, Davis lives in Birmingham, Ala., with her husband, William, and their daughter, Ellen.

Michael Finley

The versatile Finley played outfield, first base, and catcher during a career (1980-83) that saw Creighton post four consecutive winning seasons and three seasons with 32 wins or more. He batted .340 or better all four years and ranks among the top-10 leaders in career batting average, runs, hits, RBIs and home runs. His 36 career home runs stood as a school record until 1998; his 214 career RBIs still are a school best. A first-team all-conference player in 1981, Finley also excelled in the classroom. An honor roll student, he received the Carl M. Reinert, S.J., Scholar-Athlete Award his senior year. Finley currently lives in Kansas with his wife, Susan, and four sons, Brian, Danny, Jack and Kevin.

Lance Hill

In five seasons with the men’s soccer program (1990-94), Hill helped guide the Bluejays to three NCAA Tournaments (’92, ’93, ’94). Hill was a three-time all-region selection and two-time all-MVC honoree. His four goals in one match (1993 against UNLV) tied him for the school record. During Hill’s career, the Bluejays went a combined 72-19-7 and lost just two conference matches. He was part of the program’s first NCAA Tournament win in 1994, the same year he was named to the MVC All-Tournament Team. Following his Creighton career, Hill was drafted in the 11th round and played professionally for the Colorado Rapids — earning Rookie of the Year honors his first season. Hill has served on Creighton’s National Alumni Board and remains active on the Dallas Alumni Advisory Board. He lives in Carrollton, Texas, with his wife, Jennifer, and their son, Landon.
In Memoriam

Lieben: Longtime Administrator, Champion of Women

Eileen Lieben, longtime dean of women and associate dean of students at Creighton, who was known for her poise, elegance and support for women’s rights and issues, died April 12. She was 91.

Born Jan. 23, 1916, in New York City, Lieben received her master’s degree from Creighton in 1962 and began her career in the Division of Student Services as assistant dean of women. During her many years at Creighton, she also served as associate vice president of Student Services, interim vice president of Student Services and dean of women. At the time of her retirement in 1996, Lieben was assisting University Relations with special events and projects.

She is survived by three sons, Peter, BA’66, Jeff, BA’68, and John, and her nephew Thomas Brooks, MD’90, of Springfield, Mo.

The Eileen B. Lieben Center for Women at Creighton University was established in 1998, and the Eileen B. Lieben Award in the Department of History has been presented annually to an outstanding female history major since 1990.

Fr. Driscoll: Theology Professor, Pharmacy Chaplain

The Rev. Donald Driscoll, S.J., died unexpectedly on March 21 of a heart attack at the Jesuit residence on campus. Fr. Driscoll was 73.

Born in Evergreen Park, Ill., on June 17, 1933, after attending parochial schools in Chicago, he went to Campion Jesuit High School in Prairie du Chien, Wis. He entered the Jesuit novitiate at Florissant, Mo., on Aug. 8, 1952. From 1967 until 1986, he taught theology at Marquette University High School in Milwaukee and served as its rector, as well.

In 1987, Creighton welcomed Fr. Driscoll, who became a member of the theology faculty and chaplain for the School of Pharmacy. Fr. Driscoll was probably best known throughout his years in the Society as the man who always found humor in every situation, colleagues say.

Fr. Ginsterblum: Theology Professor, Hospital Chaplain

The Rev. John Ginsterblum, S.J., died Oct. 11, 2006, at the Jesuit Community of St. Camillus in Wauwatosa, Wis. He was 84.

Born in Prairie du Chien, Wis., on March 1, 1922, Fr. Ginsterblum graduated from Campion Jesuit High School in 1939 and entered the Jesuits in 1940.

Fr. Ginsterblum’s life spanned what were actually four careers: as professor of theology at Creighton University (1957-74); as superior of the La Storta Jesuit Community in Minneapolis while teaching at the College of St. Catherine in St. Paul (1974-81); as hospital chaplain at St. Joseph Hospital, both in St. Paul and in Omaha (1981-91), and as pastoral associate at Our Lady of Peace in Minneapolis (1992-94). He also served at numerous parishes for months at a time while pastors were on sabbatical.

Fr. Lemke: Philosophy Chairman

The Rev. Norbert Lemke, S.J., who served at Creighton for many years as a member of the philosophy department and for three years as its chairman, died March 27 at the St. Camillus Jesuit Community in Wauwatosa, Wis. He was 93.

Born Jan. 30, 1914, in Oshkosh, Wis., Fr. Lemke entered the Society of Jesus on Sept. 1, 1931, in Florissant, Mo. He was a member of the ordination class of 1944, which included many other well-loved Creighton Jesuits. Among them were Jesuits Vincent Decker, William Kelley, James Kramper, Harold McAuliffe, Austin Miller, Carl Reinert and John Scott.

His apostolic assignments took him from Regis High School and, then, to Creighton in 1949, where he taught sociology and philosophy. He left Creighton in the mid-1960s to teach and study in Korea, returning to Creighton in 1966 to teach philosophy and lead the department.

Fr. Lemke was at home not only in the classroom, but also as a pastor, especially in his later years. In fact, chaplaincy work took Fr. Lemke on a multitude of assignments on the East Coast, punctuated with a return to Omaha to Creighton’s teaching hospital, then St. Joseph.
And so is modern medical science, which is pondering once again whether dental observation and oral health could be the first line of defense against a range of systemic diseases such as diabetes, heart disease and even cancer.

It’s not a new idea. Its roots lie in the 19th century, when W.D. Miller, a pioneer in dental research, published *The Human Mouth as a Focus of Infection* in 1891. The idea that disease might originate in the mouth held some sway until the dawn of the 1930s when doubts about the validity of the 19th century science, and about the wide scope of Miller’s claims, largely assigned the idea to medical myth.

Until the dawn of the late 1980s, that is, when a more scientific approach — and far more modest claims — revived the concept, a revival that has gained steam consistently since.

Old seadogs knew very well, when yanking a throbbing tooth from a suffering shipmate’s mouth, that bleeding gums were a sure sign of scurvy. They were onto something.

When one considers that the mouth harbors so many millions of bacteria that they outnumber the cells of the body; that these microorganisms can cause inflammations and infections; that researchers suspect that uncontrolled inflammation may contribute to disorders as serious as clogged arteries, heart attacks, arthritis and cancer; then it should surprise no one that a possible connection between oral health and systemic disease is an idea whose time might just have come.

In the process, dentists face the possibility of becoming the first line of defense against a range of diseases.

Steven Friedrichsen, D.D.S., dean of Creighton University’s School of Dentistry, is fully aware of the latest research showing that contemporary dentistry is no longer solely about fixing teeth.

“From time immemorial we have known of certain diseases — systemic diseases — that we can detect orally,” he said. “But now, in addition to observation, there are studies that are linking oral disease to systemic disease.”
It is a leading goal of Creighton’s dental school, he said, not only to inform dental students of the wider role they can play in the world of health care, but to educate them to do so.

“We are looking at a far more interdisciplinary role,” Friedrichsen said. “We’ve looked at our curriculum for the future, and we need to go in a direction that will take the dentist beyond the tooth. That is where we have to direct additional efforts.” Too few dentists currently are alert to the possibility of detecting diseases other than dental disorders, Friedrichsen said. “There is also a growing use of salivary and oral tissue diagnostics contributing to diagnosis of systemic disease.”

Like pharmacists, who have seen their medical role expand greatly in recent years, Friedrichsen said dentists face a future in which they will likely be called on to contribute to the diagnosis of problems far more serious than abscessed teeth and cracked crowns.

“We see our role as raising a red flag and then working with the relevant physician to approach a problem,” Friedrichsen said.

While research into the link between oral and systemic health is ongoing, the idea is advancing that inflammation of the gums — a defensive reaction caused by the body’s effort to eliminate bacteria that have begun breaking down gum tissue — might be responsible for releasing oral bacteria into the bloodstream. If those bacteria should survive their journey, they could lodge anywhere, perhaps even in the arterial wall of the heart.

There they will be assaulted by white blood cells charged, essentially, with eating the troublesome bacteria. The problem occurs when these newly engorged white blood cells — known as macrophages — die in place, thus initiating fatty deposits (plaque) in the arterial lining and possibly causing the onset of arteriosclerosis, commonly known as hardening of the arteries.

All this because the owner of the body where all this warfare takes place — which is to say you — skimps on oral hygiene and doesn’t take the time to brush as well as he or she should, to floss, to rinse, and, most critically, to make regular dental appointments.

This is serious stuff.

So serious that on May 25, 2000, U.S. Surgeon General David Satcher issued Oral Health in America, a landmark report that urged the medical establishment to view the mouth as “a mirror for general health and well-being.”

A press release issued by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services in support of Satcher’s report said modern science is steadily uncovering links between poor oral health and diseases not previously thought related.

“Dentists, by focusing on the mouth, have an opportunity to look at what’s happening to the whole person.”

— U.S. Surgeon General David Satcher

“Recent research findings have pointed to possible associations between chronic oral infections and diabetes, heart and lung disease, stroke, and low birth-weight premature births,” the statement said.

In an interview with Scientific American magazine, Satcher expanded on the report’s conclusions concerning those diseases.

“Those are the ones where there is mounting evidence,” he said. “We still don’t have that definitive, long-term study because those take a long time, but more and more studies support the associations.”

Indeed, Satcher presaged Friedrichsen’s remarks concerning the possibility of diagnosing systemic disease via oral observation.

“Dentists, by focusing on the mouth, have an opportunity to look at what’s happening to the whole person,” Satcher said. “And by partnering with the health professional, they can work to make sure that the patient gets the care that he or she deserves.”

A cautious distinction between an “association,” between oral and systemic disease, and a “cause and effect” relationship is often drawn in the medical literature. The American Dental Association (ADA), for example, while confident that an “association” exists between oral health and systemic disease,
states in a series of online publications that a “cause and effect” relationship has yet to be proven.

“It is important to differentiate between those data supporting an association between two diseases or conditions and those indicating a causal relationship, so that the information can be interpreted accurately,” wrote Michael Barnett, D.D.S., of The State University of New York when introducing a collection of articles on the topic sponsored by the ADA.

An ADA paper prepared by Ryan Demmer, Ph.D., and Moïse Desvarieux, M.D., Ph.D., made a similar point about the certainty of an association, but the uncertainty of a causal effect between oral health and systemic disease.

“At this stage, there is no certain evidence that periodontal treatment could help prevent cardiovascular disease,” they wrote.

They welcomed the discussion, however, asserting that greater cooperation between the dental and medical worlds, spurred by the possibility of an oral health-systemic disease relationship, can only benefit patients by encouraging a greater commitment to oral health.

John Mattson, DDS’66, professor of periodontics at Creighton, and chair of that department, said the distinction between “association” and “cause and effect” is typical of scientists, who quite properly take a cautious approach to making definitive statements.

“No one wants to declare something to be true, and then have some evidence pop up that leaves them with egg on their faces,” he said.

Nevertheless, he said, the associational evidence is strong, and the possibility exists that a five-year study currently under way at the University of North Carolina’s Center for Systemic and Oral Diseases might make it even stronger.

For example, he said, persons with missing teeth or advanced periodontal disease have a greater incidence of systemic disease, while obese persons tend to have a higher rate of periodontal disease than the general population.

Also, Mattson said, low birth weight and prematurity birth appear to have a close relationship with periodontal disease, perhaps because periodontal disease is inflammatory and causes membrane rupture. And then there is endothelial cell dysfunction (a hallmark for vascular disease), which Mattson said has been seen to decrease “markedly” after periodontal treatment.

“There is much to link the two,” he said. “And when you start putting all these pieces together, it becomes like a stream going downhill.”

Mattson said there is growing evidence that would suggest that patients with advanced periodontal disease should be warned about retaining questionable teeth, particularly if there is a family history of cardiovascular disease.

“I think if a dentist had a patient with severe periodontal disease who was going to decline treatment because that treatment would mean losing teeth, then the dentist would be justified in explaining the possible association between neglected oral care and systemic disease,” he said.

“They should know the possible risks.”

John Shaner, D.M.D., associate professor of general dentistry at Creighton, and the director of courses in oral diagnosis, oral medicine, and temporomandibular disorders (a variety of conditions that cause tenderness or pain in the jaws), works with “medically compromised” patients — patients who bring a pre-existing systemic disease, or a mental or physical disability, to the dentist’s chair.

He, too, pointed out the close relationship already known to exist between poor oral health and some systemic diseases.

Patients with arteriosclerosis (hardening of the arteries) have a high incidence of oral disease, he said. Additionally, oral bacteria is commonly found in diseased arteries; inflammation is a key indicator of whether a person will develop diabetes or other systemic diseases, and oral bacteria is a key cause of inflammation.

“The mouth is the gateway to the body, and a healthy mouth reduces the risk of systemic disease,” Shaner said.

All this evidence, and the opportunity — perhaps obligation — to incorporate dentistry into the wider world of medicine has led Friedrichsen to call for a greater emphasis on making sure Creighton’s dental students understand that dentistry is no longer just about fixing teeth.

That emphasis is part of the School of Dentistry’s new “Strategic Pathways Initiative” — an action plan designed to keep Creighton’s dentistry program at the forefront of dental science. It calls for redesigning the school’s curriculum, and, in the process, incorporating a more comprehensive approach to systemic disease, while not compromising the school’s enviable reputation for clinical preparation, Friedrichsen said.

It is an approach that has previously been present in Creighton’s curriculum on a piecemeal basis, he said. “We’ve taken a good look at where we want our curriculum to go,” Friedrichsen said.

“We’ve probably done a very good job in the past of bringing bits and pieces into the
curriculum, but we need to bring all the elements together, to develop a full range of capability.”

Shaner, with his emphasis in medically compromised patients, is helping to develop that range of approach.

Although many “medically compromised” patients belong to categories such as the physically handicapped, a core group consists of those who suffer from pre-existing diseases such as cardiovascular disease or diabetes. Such patients require precautions in order to ensure that oral bacteria released during surgery do not make things worse.

“Bleeding in the mouth can cause oral bacteria to travel in the blood, possibly leading to infections elsewhere,” Shaner said.

Special concern centers on geriatric patients, Shaner said, who are at particular risk of developing periodontal disease with the possibility of severe implications.

“The problem is that elderly patients may not be able to brush their teeth any more — perhaps a problem with their hands,” Shaner said. “So they are unable to maintain proper oral care, and no one is going to do it for them.

“Roughly a quarter of the people who die in nursing homes die from complications from pneumonia, and pneumonia can be caused by oral bacteria swallowed and aspirated into the lungs.”

Tarnjit Saini, DDS’92, professor of general dentistry at Creighton, is doing his part to expand the role of dentistry through his use of the $250,000 i-CAT scanner acquired by Creighton in 2005. The scanner has been a critical component supporting a wide variety of research endeavors in the school.

Saini said the scanner marks a “major shift” in dentistry since dentists are now able to see a three-dimensional image of the skull “from any conceivable direction.”

The scanner provides life-sized cross-section images of the jaw with the intent of diagnosing dental problems.

But, Saini said, the scanner also captures clear images of the base of the skull, the ears, the upper part of the neck and the pathway of the four arteries responsible for supplying blood to the brain.

“We want to increase (student) exposure to a variety of mechanisms for cancer detection and to enable them to distinguish normal from abnormal.”

— Stephen Hess, DDS’78

Saini said i-CAT scans routinely reveal calcification of the arteries servicing the brain, a problem that might cause strokes if the calcification is severe. In addition, he said, nasal tumors can be seen, and even problems with the inner ear that could lead to vertigo can be observed. Osteoporosis and arthritis of the spine also can be spotted through the i-CAT scans, he said.

Indeed, Saini said, he has found that 62 percent of i-CAT scans reveal problems unrelated to the dental problem for which the scan was originally conducted.

“Obviously, as dentists, we need to understand and be aware of all these areas that we have an opportunity to see,” he said.

Given the likelihood that dentistry will assume a more prominent medical role in the future, Stephen Hess, BS’69, MS’71, DDS’78, is urging students to pay attention. Hess, assistant professor of general dentistry at Creighton, said the detection of oral cancer in the United States has been pretty stable at 30,000 new cases a year for approximately
two decades.

All students are trained to perform a head and neck exam, he said. Visual examinations are conducted of the face and the scalp for possible cancerous lesions—areas that patients don’t ordinarily see, but which are very easy for a dentist to notice when the patient is in a chair. They are also trained to conduct complete intra-oral and extra-oral exams, he said. And, he said, new biopsy techniques are available for evaluating lesions.

“We want to increase exposure to a variety of mechanisms for cancer detection and to enable them to distinguish normal from abnormal,” Hess said. “More recently we have seen an advent of different methods of evaluating some symptoms and lesions—brush biopsies, chemical tests involving rinsing with a solution and then using a special light.”

For the past two years, Hess said, he has been conducting small, “case-based” classes where he plays a patient with a medical history, X-rays and clinical reports from which the students are expected to identify and diagnose various systemic problems and their impact on oral health and dental treatment. “They might include oral cancer or even HIV/AIDS,” he said.

All these are methods that can enhance the detection of systemic disease, and Creighton dental students can expect to hear much about them. The big question, Hess said, is what do students, newly expert in the art of detecting oral cancer, do when they discover the disease?

“They may find something and then not know what to do,” he said. “It is important that they know what the next step is, that we get the patient in touch with the appropriate professional for further treatment.”

The dentist, then, joins a team that has been forming over the years, part of the first line of defense against disease. His or her responsibilities no longer end just with the mouth, but what the mouth reveals about the overall health of the patient.

About the author: Curtin is a freelance writer in Omaha.
May graduate Elizabeth Hilpipre multi-tasks in her Opus Hall apartment (photo by Mark Romesser); inset, students study in their room in 1968 (photo courtesy of Creighton Archives).
Back in 1961, when this writer showed up on campus as a very green freshman from a small town, Gallagher Hall loomed large at the west end of campus.

Although each double room was the size of a postage stamp, it was a new room. You shared the bathroom with the 54 other women, waited in line to use one of two hall phones, had to check in on the weekend by midnight — or maybe it was 1 a.m., but what’s the difference? You got a demerit if you didn’t make your bed, but you could smoke in your room.
In 2003, when Elizabeth Hilpipre, a May journalism graduate, moved into Kiewit Hall, two students still shared one room, but now the hall was wired for the latest technology. Sharing a community phone would be unthinkable for this ultra-connected cell-phone generation, and all the residence halls were now smoke-free.

By sophomore year, Hilpipre and her roommate moved into Swanson Hall. Renovated in 1999, Swanson has four-person, two-bedroom suites with a shared bath. “Instead of walking down the hall with all your shower stuff every morning, you walked through the door,” she recalls.

Junior year, it was a Davis Square four-bedroom apartment with two baths, kitchen, breakfast area and living room. “I was ecstatic, kind of like when you see a movie star,” she says. “It’s amazing how excited you can get over a stove and refrigerator.”

Could life get any better? Actually, yes, since Opus Hall opened in fall 2006. “We got in line at 5 a.m. to get our two-story apartment — two bedrooms, a kitchen, bath and living room on the first level, then a spiral staircase to two bedrooms and a living room on the loft level.”

Richard Rossi, Ph.D., associate vice president for Student Services/Residence Life, points out what’s obvious to today’s students. “Construction matters,” he says. “Residence halls are being built to fit the students’ needs rather than having students conform to what the building allows them to do.”

That means more privacy. “They grew up with their own bedroom, even their own bathroom,” Rossi says. “All of a sudden, they’re sharing a bathroom with lots of students. It is more than just an inconvenience. For some, it is absolutely difficult.”

Rossi acknowledges today’s students aren’t thought of as being modest, certainly not by MTV standards. But they still want bathroom privacy. “At the same time, sharing bedroom and common facilities brings freshmen together, which is why we put them in the traditional (older) buildings,” he says. “Then, they form strong bonds. We know that if we can help students develop a strong relationship with Creighton, they are much more likely to be successful and complete their education here.”

As students move into sophomore year and beyond, they need — and want — less support, more privacy, fewer restrictions and fewer people in their living quarters. McGloin, for example, has two double-bedroom suites with four students sharing a bath instead of 35 to 50. “From sophomore year on, the communities become smaller, more private, with fewer staff and more independence,” Rossi says. “After all, at some point, our students will leave us and take care of things on their own.”

True, but isn’t there still a collective alumni twinge of envy when even pre-2000 grads realize just how spiffy today’s residence hall apartments — for juniors and beyond — really are? This writer, for example, spent her junior year in the bedroom of a family home on Lafayette Street. She and her roommate could use the kitchen if no one from the family of five was in it. Senior year was spent in the upstairs of a home that’s since been replaced by a great big hospital on the west end of campus. That year, the four roommates’ “kitchen” was in the basement, next to the furnace — two chairs, one light bulb and a really small table.

Celia McGuire Forristal, BS’53, can do one better. When she transferred to
Kenefick Hall

About: Originally "The Palms" was renamed in honor of retired Union Pacific Railroad chairman John Kenefick in 1995; Home To: 200 co-ed students; Community Partner: The North Omaha Boys & Girls Club

McGloin Hall

About: Named for the late Rev. Richard McGloin, S.J., a residence hall adviser at Creighton for 50 years; Home To: 260 co-ed students, Cortina Community; Community Partner: Assumption-Guadalupe School

Swanson Hall

About: Named for Campbell Soup executive and community leader W. Clarke Swanson; Home To: 440 co-ed students, Honors Scholars Community; Community Partner: Siena/Francis Homeless Shelter

Creighton as a junior, the office suggested she rent a bedroom since there were no women’s accommodations. “We’d talk about the fact that men had dorms and we didn’t,” says Forristal. “But if you lived on your own, you weren’t as restricted. Anyway, we knew going into Creighton we wouldn’t have dorms.”

Her favorite Creighton story isn’t about where she lived, but rather where she ate — The Beanery. After she’d graduated, she still came back to St. John’s Church for 6:15 a.m. Mass. One particular morning, she was “praying for a good husband,” then walked over to The Beanery for a cup of coffee, and got to talking with a student named Pat Forristal. This April, the couple, who lives in Holstein, Iowa, celebrated their 51st wedding anniversary.

The most recent change in residence hall living had its roots in the 1990s, when juniors and seniors were moving in droves to new apartments west of campus or to loft units in Omaha’s Old Market area. When those students went home after classes, they didn’t come back to campus at night. A study determined that they would live on campus if Creighton could provide the same kind of facilities as those off-campus. The result? Davis Square and Opus Hall, with everything from private bedrooms to a personal furnace.

Wayne Young, BA’93, Ph.D., sees residential life as a very good situation. “I would say there’s no other way to go to college than to live in a residence hall. Period. The data shows students do better if they live with their peers and are more likely to go on to graduate school,” says Young, who was an RA (resident adviser) as a student and is now acting assistant vice president for student learning.

Looking ahead, Rossi sees new situations to address, new challenges to meet, especially an increase in diversity on campus. “Students will be living with people who are different from themselves, and they must understand one another,” he says. “The large U.S. Latino population is predominantly Catholic. Should these students come to Creighton, they are more likely to be first-generation college students, as compared to the majority of Creighton students today. Each group will have different needs, and everyone will need to know how to react to their new environment. I’d say students come more prepared to do that today than in the past.”

About the author: Shanley is a freelance writer, author and speaker living in West Des Moines, Iowa. She is the author of Survival Secrets of College Students (Barron’s Educational Division/New York).

Davis Square

About: Named for Thomas Davis, one of Omaha’s early business leaders, and funded by the Davis and Lauritzen families; Home To: 256 juniors/seniors; Community Partner: Project Welcome

Heider Hall

About: Originally "The New Central Towers" renamed in 1998 in honor of longtime Creighton supporters Charles, BSC’49, and Mary Heider; Home To: 80 graduate/professional students; Community Partner: Seven Oaks of Florence

Opus Hall

About: Made possible through a generous gift from the Opus Corporation and Creighton alumni Mark Rauenhorst, BA’73, and his wife, Karen Dolan Rauenhorst, BSN’75; Home To: 276 juniors/seniors; Community Partner: To be announced
Developing Community

Living in a residence hall is an integral part of community life at Creighton. But a truly successful community experience goes beyond bricks and mortar as students in each hall cultivate, together, a basic Jesuit tenet — a sense of service that promotes justice. Richard Rossi, Ph.D., associate vice president for Student Services/Residence Life, says, “Developing community is so important that you can’t just wait for it to happen. You need to help create it through programs and activities.”

Community Partners

In 1993, Creighton became what is believed to be the first college in the nation to establish a Community Partners program. That happened after Deglman Hall resident adviser Deanna Casper Marcellino, BA’95, developed a relationship with Girls, Inc., a nonprofit that provides educational programs to girls in high-risk, underserved areas. The Deglman-Girls, Inc., relationship meant Creighton had an all-women’s hall providing community service to an all-women’s organization. Today, every hall except Opus (which only opened in fall 2006) partners with an Omaha community agency or organization to identify weekly volunteer opportunities, event planning and collaboration, and fundraising efforts aimed at financially supporting the nonprofit.

Roberta Wilhelm, executive director of Girls, Inc., of Omaha, says, “Creighton students help with homework and jobs around our building. Being exposed to these college students helps our girls see that college is something they can aspire to. Our girls have seen where you live and what college is like. Eventually, they will be first-generation college students. They can’t get this kind of experience from their families.”

While Creighton students have always performed service, Rossi says pairing residence halls with nonprofits was a good move. “Originally, it was Girls, Inc., this week and Catholic Charities the next. Students did good acts but didn’t establish lasting relationships with the people they were working with. It’s through ongoing relationships that students ultimately get to know the children or the elderly or whomever they might be serving.”

Adds Wayne Young Jr., Ph.D., BA’93, acting assistant vice president for student learning, “We are constantly emphasizing to students that they need to be responsive to the greater community as leaders. We want them to say, ‘OK, how can I be for people less privileged than I?’”

Living & Learning

Three distinctly different programs bring like-minded students together to live in clusters.

The Freshman Leadership Program, on Kiewit’s ninth floor, originated in 1987 and became a residential program in 2001. Incoming freshmen who have been high school leaders apply to be one of 59 students in a community that boasts 18 mentors, six executive team members, one student coordinator and two staff advisers. Says Rossi, “You’re part of a community as soon as you get to school. You have all these resources to grow as a leader; you build connections with campus leaders and participate in a long-term community service project.”

Often, upperclassmen who were involved in the program as freshmen continue as resources and mentors.

The Honors Scholars Community admits 49 freshmen annually. They live together on Swanson’s ninth floor, pursuing what Pope John Paul II called a “united endeavor of intelligence and faith [that] will enable people to come to the
full measure of their humanity.” Translate that as academically rigorous, small, discussion-oriented classes in courses based on interdisciplinary and topical issues. Students are guided by a faculty mentor, have more access to faculty and visiting campus speakers and participate in monthly events as a group.

The Cortina Community, which began in fall 2003, is part of the Cardoner at Creighton program, established through a grant from the Lilly Endowment. The Cortina Community admits 56 sophomores who live on McGloin’s fifth floor. The program was established to help students integrate their studies, prayer, reflection and service. Students explore the values of community, faith, justice and service. Guided by faculty mentors, they take academic courses together, make retreats and engage in service projects.

Residence Hall Programs

Programs focus on student development throughout the year. Freshmen learn about themselves and how they can be successful at Creighton by considering the question, “Who am I?” “We focus on transition issues, from home to school,” says Rossi. “Living with independence, being more self-reliant. Students aren’t able to make that transition without support.”

The sophomore question — “Who am I in relation to others?” — helps students begin moving into the greater community. “They’re over the hurdle of leaving Mom and Dad behind,” Rossi says. “Now, they’re utilizing their leadership skills, choosing a major, thinking about internships and graduate school.”

They get help with big-ticket items like how to prepare for an internship if they’ve never even been through an interview, and the little-ticket items, like how to eat shrimp cocktail.

“Who am I becoming for others, for the world?” asks apartment students (juniors, seniors and graduate/professional students) to focus on how they will use their gifts and talents for life beyond Creighton. An etiquette dinner prepares them for interviews and professional dinners. Another program established a book group that recently read Dead Man Walking and discussed

Changing Students

Today, college students everywhere are more serious than in generations past, more focused, even as freshmen, to life after graduation. Life on campus in 2007 is not their parents’ experience.

Wayne Young Jr., a 14-year alum, knows that. An RA during college, he is now acting assistant vice president for student learning, and a man with stories of the newest generation.

Regarding technology. “If you’re on the fourth floor and you’re breaking up with your boyfriend on the fifth floor, you might IM (Instant Message) one another to break up,” he says. “Worse yet, if two roommates don’t want to live with each other anymore, they’ll IM that message to each other — while in the same room.”

Regarding parent involvement. “It’s been said that cell phones are the largest umbilical cord in the world,” Young says. “You can meet with a student, tell him where he messed up, talk about where to go from here and the minute the student steps out your door, he calls Mom and she calls me.

“At the same time, somewhere along the way, we have gotten so focused on a student’s development that we forgot parents have a breaking-away point, too. There’s a body of thought out there that, for kids in First-World countries, the separation point from parents is now in the late 20s.”

Karen Kelly, BSN’74, a member of Creighton’s National Alumni Board, remembers RAs providing a home-like environment. That was so important that, in her junior year, she became an RA herself — first for freshmen who “needed a lot of help adjusting to college and being homesick for family and friends,” and the next year, for graduate students “who only needed me when they lost their keys.”

Carl Huber, BA’86, now of Duluth, Minn., applied to be an RA because “you’d have your own bathroom. And I waited tables in the Jesuit kitchen so I was guaranteed a good meal.”

“We looked out for the kids,” he says, “helped them balance fun against the challenges of academics.” He added: “There was always the presence of a Jesuit on the floor, which was nice.”

Not surprisingly, some of yesterday’s residence hall rules have changed. Richard Rossi, associate vice president for Student Services/Residence Life, says rules now aren’t “the don’t-do-this and don’t-do-that series. They’re written so you can understand why they exist, such as to help students respect the dignity of others, or to be part of a just community.”

The way RAs work with students is a little different today, too. If roommates are having disagreements and searching for ways to irritate each other, for example, the RA will talk “not so much about how you have to be nice but rather, ‘Do you understand that your roommate is a child of God?’” Rossi says. “Discipline, today, is more about teaching a different way of living than it is about punishing. We want students to develop a stronger sense of character and purpose than they had when they got here.”

Former student RAs Karen Kelly, BSN’74, and Carl Huber, BA’86, attest to one constant: Creighton’s care for the individual student.
Creighton bids a fond farewell to two retiring professors, who combined for more than eight decades of teaching at Creighton University. One is from the School of Law: Richard Shugrue, and the other is from the Chemistry Department: Robert Snipp. These are their stories.

By Bob Guthrie
Richard Shugrue, a genuine law school legend, is retiring after Summer School this year. He joined Creighton’s School of Law in 1966 and has spent more than four decades teaching.

It’s only appropriate that you should learn something about him, since he knows everything about you, if you went to the law school in the past four decades during which he’s been teaching.

It’s easy to call him a “people person.” The term is contrived and overused. But there is simply no other term that fits Dick Shugrue, who turned 70 in February.

A former student, Tricia Brundo Sharrar, BA’93, JD’96 (today an associate dean for administration and student affairs in the law school), remembers her first encounter with Shugrue: “He was very scary. I waited until after class and went up to him to ask a question. I started to introduce myself when he said: ‘I know exactly who you are. What’s your question?’

This unnerving knowledge for a person he has never met can seem scary, but it is just Shugrue’s way.

Dick has a rational explanation: “One of the blessings about a school like (Creighton) is ... well, we call it the Creighton Family. When we recruit people to come here, we say there is something different about how you are going to be treated here and how you are going to be respected here.

“A kid is not a number when she comes here.

“So I try to get to know my students by name and by face. Then I try to figure out how many of their moms and dads I taught. Sometimes I will get a call from Mom or Dad saying Suzie is in my class and ‘she is a lot smarter than I ever was.’”

Want proof of his “people connection?” Simply walk by his office. It is “always,” according to his fellow professors, filled with students. On his office wall are the notes from his students about what they plan to do for a project, some neatly typed, others brief and hand-printed.

There is no lecturing in the courses he teaches. They are all interactive, whether there are 80 first-year students or 18 upper-class students in his courses.

“A typical American law teacher uses some variation of what we call the Socratic exchange, where a teacher sets out a bunch of questions and asks a student to respond to those questions,” Shugrue said. “You get a lot of dialogue in the class and it is a lot of fun.

“The beauty of this gig is that you can kind of marry your vocation and your avocation,” he said. “I teach public law and the Constitution. Today, for example, I was able to talk to the first-year students about a new decision that just came down from the New Jersey Supreme Court on same-sex unions. We didn’t spend a lot of time on it, but a good lawyer ought to know what is going on.”
There seems also to be a lot of enjoyment among students and their diminutive professor. “Doc” Shugrue (a pleasantry in respect for Shugrue’s doctor of philosophy degree), himself, recognizes that he is not the tallest of his colleagues:

“I’m six foot, five inches but look a foot shorter in loafers.”

This brings us to one of the biggest jokes perpetrated by students on a professor, and its legendary status is a reflection of the connection they feel with Shugrue.

Dick’s elfin appearance can be an attractive feature and it tends to make people see the professor in a different light.

“The year we moved into this building, which would be the winter of 1974-75, the dean at that time tried to sell all the rooms. We would have the Fitzgerald Conference Room and so forth. So the kids took this to the (men’s room) and labeled one of the urinals (the one that was child sized) as the ‘Richard E. Shugrue Memorial Urinal.’ I thought it was the greatest joke around.”

In a couple of years, Shugrue said, the sign got ripped off. “So that year’s class said ‘We’re not going to let this go,’ and they put up a replacement sign.”

Clearly the students like Shugrue, a man short on the outside but tall on the inside, where it counts. They consider him “one of their own.”

He has seen many changes in his 41 years at Creighton.

“Now that they all have laptops,” Shugrue says of his current students, “I’m kind of a movable feast. I move around behind them so I can see if they’re doing crossword puzzles. In the old days, they would just bring in a newspaper, but now with the laptops they just hide behind them.”

Shugrue has long been a figure in Democratic politics. Today he is often consulted on matters of politics in Nebraska and is considered an approachable guru of politics. He answers questions from reporters far and wide, who regularly call him.

In 1958, when Frank Morrison tackled his run for the Senate against Roman Hruska, he came to Shugrue (then editor of the Daily Nebraskan).

“The first Democratic campaign I was involved with was Frank Morrison’s. He came down to visit me and I didn’t know him personally. I knew his son. And I knew his daughter-in-law because she was editor of the yearbook. Morrison said he was looking for a campaign manager who didn’t want a lot of money.

“I was the only paid staff member of his campaign. I got the sum of $25 a week. We drove all over the state in
this old beat-up Pontiac. I'd be sitting in the back seat with Maxine (Morrison's wife) and I'd be typing up a release for the next town on this little portable typewriter as we drove. The whole thing was really fun.”

Although Morrison lost his bid for Senate, Shugrue had been bitten by the political bug. He worked on a mayoral campaign in Lincoln and worked for an agency for a while before coming to Creighton in 1966.

Clearly the students like Shugrue, a man short on the outside but tall on the inside, where it counts. They consider him “one of their own.”

“I was hired in the Political Science Department and Fr. Dick Spillane was chairman,” said Shugrue. “Spillane was chosen as the rector for the Jesuit community, and I was asked to be chairman. It wasn’t much of a job, since there were only three of us.”

Shugrue became an associate professor of law in 1971. His writings include articles for the Creighton Law Review, The Prairie Barrister, Trial Lawyers Forum and the Nebraska Law Review. He has been elected to the chair of the House of Delegates of the Nebraska State Bar Association. He is a member of the board of directors of the American Judicature Society.

Dick knows everything about everybody. It’s a given.

In the ’60s and ’70s, Duffy’s Tavern in South Omaha was the place where the politicos met to talk and eat ... and drink. Shugrue knows all about it.

“Duffy’s was a great watering hole. It was owned and operated by the Red Munnelly family. (Red was appointed postmaster of Omaha by President John F. Kennedy in his first year as president.)”

Dick went down the Munnelly and Cavanaugh family trees, through Jack Cavanaugh, father of John Cavanaugh, the congressman, and on to brothers-in-law and ancestors. He knew stories about all of them and their connections to one another.

Shugrue plans to retire to Prescott, Ariz., where he is building a house. His eldest daughter, Kate, who is an assistant attorney general in Arizona, lives in Prescott with her husband and two children. Grandparenting seems to be high on his list of things to do. Another daughter, Margaret, lives in Colorado, and Molly, the youngest, moved back from Arizona to Omaha within two blocks of the Shugrue homestead.

While being interviewed for this story, Dick suddenly inquired about the interviewer’s wife. He recalled that he had been hired in the late ’70s by her to speak at a gathering of her nursing organization, Nurses Association of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. He said he became interested in health and law topics and for a few years continued to talk before various health organizations.

Wherever Dick goes, he is certain to know his neighbors and his town. He’s a people person. You can’t see it any other way, once you get to know him.

Preparing the Next Generation

Professors such as Dick Shugrue and Bob Snipp are part of a legacy of dynamic teacher-scholars at Creighton University who nurture, encourage and motivate students to become enlightened and engaged citizens of the world.

Endowed deanships, chairs and professorships across all colleges and schools are critical to retaining Creighton’s leading faculty and attracting new scholars who will follow in the footsteps of educators such as Shugrue and Snipp. The names of these endowments also bring prestige to the University and have an impact that can be profound.

Your gift to THE CAMPAIGN FOR CREIGHTON is an investment in Creighton’s future, allowing Creighton to retain and recruit high-caliber, motivated faculty who will — like Snipp and Shugrue — enrich the student experience and make a difference in the community.
Even if you had never met Robert Snipp, and you lived in Omaha during the past 29 years, you knew of him. And you could spot him in a crowd. Tall, with a long, white beard and chiseled features, Snipp stands out wherever he goes. That, and the fact that he has appeared in some 30 odd plays and musicals and one special Christmas show has brought him a place in the Omaha consciousness.

He appeared in 29 of the last 30 annual performances of *A Christmas Carol*, retiring from the play only when Dick Boyd (Scrooge) left the stage. Snipp for all those years played the Ghost of Christmas Present. He and the costume he wore likely made it into more pages in local publications than anyone else's photo. But he taught physical chemistry for 43 years at Creighton. Most people are incredulous that a scientist could have both “left and right brains.”

“People would ask me,” Snipp said, “how I could be a chemistry teacher.” Snipp played parts in 31 productions, even having bit parts in Hallmark Hall of Fame productions of *AmeriKa* and *O Pioneers*.

Snipp received professor *emeritus* status this year and doesn’t plan to truly retire. His university has asked him to teach a course in introductory chemistry. He and his wife, Patricia, have no plans to move away from Omaha. They have worked as a team since Patricia received her degree in chemistry. Both have been fixtures at Creighton since.

Bob Snipp, Ph.D., in his lab at Creighton, where he has taught physical chemistry for the past 43 years.

Bob Snipp

1964-2007

During his career, Snipp developed specialty courses in mathematical methods, chemical kinetics and polymers, in addition to teaching and contributing pedagogical ideas in the general chemistry and physical chemistry sequence courses. He also developed and taught classes on creativity and problem solving. Throughout these accomplishments, Snipp has focused on ways to enhance critical-thinking at all levels of chemistry instruction.

“Physical chemistry is mostly mathematical stuff,” Snipp says. “You look at a reaction as a function of time. You might then ask yourself, ‘How can I write an equation for this?’ I’m interested in big molecules, because when you put them in solution they sort of wrap around and do strange things.”

Snipp says his greatest joy is teaching, but there is no doubt about his love for the stage, too. That love is returned by stage cohorts.

Carl Beck, artistic director of the
Omaha Playhouse, says: “Bob is just an incredibly wonderful, generous man. Cast members just dote on him. He has a way of winning over new cast members. We relied on Bob to integrate others into the cast. We love Bob and his wife. They are truly wonderful friends of the Playhouse.”

**Snipp says his greatest joy is teaching, but there is no doubt about his love for the stage, too.**

Snipp says he has kept “young” by teaching and being involved in his stage work with young people. “Being around young people keeps you young,” says Snipp. “I see folks that I graduated from high school with and they seem so old-fashioned to me. It happens to you if you are not around young people.”

Bob figures he has actually “been at” Creighton for more than 43 years. “I went to Creighton Prep when it was up here on the hill,” he said, pointing out his office window. “So I really started here in 1950. I was only away for four years at Iowa.”

He carries a fair load of teaching. “We make sure our freshman classes are under 55,” Snipp said. “But I have an honors class of 35 and I have a physical chemistry class in two sections with 14 students in each. There is a lot of work in the class, writing and an introduction to research methods. My wife helps with the honors class. She is semi-retired and also does some consulting.”

Snipp has a son, Joseph, who teaches in political science at Creighton, and a daughter, Kirsten, who teaches English as a second language in Tokyo, Japan. There are two grandchildren in Japan and Bob says “they’re a challenge.” They bring books in Japanese and ask him to read them aloud. Phonetic reading doesn’t get him off the hook. His grandchildren, who have grown up in a dual-language environment, can speak both languages and understand them. Bob says when he reads to the grandchildren, they ask him if he understands it and he says “no.”

But the kids keep bringing him Japanese books to challenge him.

Snipp’s first stage appearance was in *Shenandoah*, in 1976. Over the next 29 years, he appeared in 31 productions ranging from several operas to Broadway musicals. He plays piano, as well as sings bass, which he even does in the choir at his church, St. Margaret Mary’s. He says his opera salary sometimes was $3 a night.

He has had to work hard for his pay. “You might have to memorize 100 pages of Italian,” he says. “You had to want to do it.”

Bob can relate stories about his movie work in *AmeriKa* and *O Pioneers*. A bloodless takeover of the United States by the Soviet Union is the plotline behind the 1987 television miniseries *AmeriKa*. It starred Kris Kristofferson, among others, and Snipp found him to be “very pleasant, intelligent, and he signed an autograph for me.”

Snipp said he went to a “cattle call” for *AmeriKa* and sang “The Star Spangled Banner” along with a few others. “The crowd was supposed to sing, but it didn’t seem to get going, so I belted it out,” Snipp said, “and the director stopped the show to sign me up.” The production was done in Tecumseh, Neb., for the most part. Even Tecumseh was a stand-in for another Nebraska town, Milford. Filming eventually took place in both Canada and Nebraska.

Snipp said he still gets royalties every time the film is shown in a different market. “I just got a check for 69 cents when it opened in Europe,” he said.

“The show’s premiere was in Lincoln, Neb., and the director met Patricia and I outside the theater and called me by name,” Snipp said. “How can these folks remember so many people?”

“There were hours spent ducking tanks and explosions, jumping out of buses that would explode in a few minutes,” Bob said. “It was quite an experience.

“For *O Pioneers*, the director saw me in *AmeriKa* and asked me to be a grave digger (filming was being done in Schuyler, Neb.) in *O Pioneers*. It was a blast.” Bob says production would stop to make sure he looked hot and sweaty. “It was 100 degrees in the shade and someone was assigned to me to bring water every time there was a break in the production.”

With one thing leading to another, you can be sure Bob Snipp hasn’t had his last casting call or singing part.

**About the author:** Guthrie is a freelance writer in Omaha and retired editor of Creighton University Magazine.
Building an Inter
What images pop into your mind when you hear the word “interfaith”? Perhaps you envision a group of people from different religions sitting in a circle sharing the most intimate details of their faiths. Or maybe they’re holding hands, singing *Kumbaya* (or another campy folksong), their eyes glittering with tears, smiles etched on their faces.

While both images certainly describe two forms of interfaith activities, they are by no means representative of what constitutes interfaith work as a whole and are, in many ways, reflective of what the interfaith movement was in its early genesis of the 1970s and ’80s rather than what it is today.

**It began with *Nostra Aetate***

The Second Vatican Council propelled the modern interfaith movement in the United States when it issued *Nostra Aetate* in 1965.

This groundbreaking document transformed the relationship between the Catholic Church and the Jewish community by repudiating the centuries-old charge that all Jews were responsible for the death of Jesus. The document also emphasizes the religious bond shared by Jews and Catholics, reaffirms the eternal covenant between G-d and the People of Israel, and dismisses Church interest in trying to baptize Jews.

It also affirms the Catholic Church’s relationship with the Hindu, Buddhist and Muslim communities and encourages Christians to enter into dialogue with members of these religious traditions: “Let Christians, while witnessing to their own faith and way of life, acknowledge, preserve and encourage the spiritual and moral truths found among non-Christians, together with their social life and culture.” *Nostra Aetate* provided an unprecedented launching point for inter-religious dialogue and debate. Its impact sent a ripple through religious communities around the world and caused some Protestant denominations to re-examine their relationships with other Christian denominations and with non-Christian religions. It also left many people — clergy, scholars and laity — wondering just what it means to implement such a bold call.

Many of the interfaith initiatives that followed emphasized the commonalities of various religious traditions — sometimes at the expense of some very important differences.

For example, a common practice in the 1970s and 1980s for fostering relations between Jews and Christians was to hold a Passover seder, a Jewish ritual meal through which the story of the exodus of the Jewish people from slavery in Egypt into freedom in Israel is
retold and relived. Many Christians, in a desire to show solidarity with the Jewish community or to honor their “Jewish roots,” began holding seders on their own and oftentimes overlaid this sacred Jewish ritual with themes corresponding to Jesus’ life, death and resurrection.

Ironically, this phenomenon of “Christian seders” has, in many cases, strained Jewish-Christian relations, as many in the Jewish community view it as disrespectful of their tradition and smacking of supersessionism (meaning that it ends up reinforcing the view that Christians have replaced the Jews as G-d’s chosen people and to this effect Judaism is obsolete or incomplete).

In the 1990s, the interfaith movement in the United States continued to grow, spurred by the increasing plurality of religions in our country. However, Jewish-Christian dialogues and encounters still dominated the movement. The Sept. 11 terrorist attacks sparked a greater interest in Islam in this country and pointed to the need to work actively to include members from religions other than Judaism and Christianity in interfaith activities. Yet, the call for engagement originally issued through Nostra Aetate still poses a challenge for many clergy, scholars and laity 40 years later.

In the face of rising Islamophobic, anti-Semitic, and anti-immigrant attitudes in the United States, engaging people on issues of faith and religious diversity is needed as much now as ever.

Interfaith misconceptions

Today, the interfaith movement is rapidly growing, building on many of the lessons learned from the first 40 years and redefining what it means to be in dialogue with others.

Project Interfaith (also known as the Malashock Project for Interfaith Affairs), which I direct, was launched as an affiliate of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) Plains States Region (Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska) in December 2005 with the mission to “work with religious groups, educators and all members of the community to promote a deeper respect for and understanding of the religious diversity in our community.” Our programs take many forms — from an interfaith architectural tour, highlighting a diversity of worship spaces, to a Jewish-Christian Study Circle that discusses deeper aspects of interfaith relations. In the latter, Jewish, Catholic and Protestant scholars and clergy co-facilitate the sessions and explore the different interpretations of shared sacred texts such as the Decalogue/Ten Commandments.

I believe that there is a genuine hunger to learn about the religious diversity in our community and our world.

In order to fully participate in interfaith experiences, one must have a solid understanding of one’s own beliefs and religious tradition. While it is true that for many people interfaith interactions often cause them to reflect, investigate and sometimes question their own beliefs and traditions, such study also frequently leads individuals to develop a deeper understanding of their religious identity and awakens a desire to learn more about their own traditions.

My own experience

This was certainly true for me when I encountered my first significant interfaith experience as a young Jewish woman attending Creighton University.

Creighton was my first experience with
an overtly Catholic, religious educational environment. I still vividly remember sitting in the requisite “Theology 101: Christianity in Context” course and learning for the first time about the basic theological tenets of Christianity.

Sure, I knew about many Christian cultural icons such as Santa Claus and the Easter Bunny, having grown up in a predominantly Christian society, but I realized that I was completely ignorant about the actual theology of the religion.

For many of my classmates, I was the first Jewish person they had ever met. As I frequently asked questions about Christianity, many of my peers asked me about my Jewish faith.

I realized from their questions just how shallow my knowledge of Judaism was. This, in turn, motivated me to learn more about Jewish teachings and traditions and eventually led me to embrace Judaism not because it was the religion in which I was raised but because it was the religion in which I chose to practice as an adult.

My own spiritual development was furthered by Creighton’s Campus Ministry, which encouraged me and several other students to form an interfaith student group to create programs that would educate the Creighton community about the religious diversity on campus. Many of the friendships forged with fellow students and faculty through my interfaith work at Creighton remain today.

Through my current role with Project Interfaith, I am privileged to work with Creighton as it continues to grow its commitment to interfaith work that is rooted in its mission: “Members of the Creighton community are challenged to root in its mission: “Members of the Creighton community are challenged to

Building an interfaith world

In a world where people of diverse backgrounds and beliefs are increasingly connected through technology, economics, marriage and work, we cannot afford to overlook the one aspect of diversity which is so central to how people view the world and their roles in it: religious diversity.

Building a world that is respectful and inclusive of religious diversity (including the freedom to not subscribe to a religion) requires a commitment from individuals and institutions of all faiths and backgrounds.

On the individual level, it demands that one develop a strong understanding of one’s own religious identity and beliefs, as well as work proactively to educate oneself about the beliefs and practices of others.

Cultivating relationships with people from different faiths — through interfaith programs or other avenues — allows us to know and appreciate both the universal and unique aspects of our religious traditions as well as the tremendous diversity in belief, customs and practice that exists within each religious tradition.

On the institutional level, we can begin by understanding and respecting the twin rights of religious freedom and separation of religion and state that are enshrined in the U.S. Constitution. Within the workplace, we can develop policies, procedures and practices that foster an inclusive environment for religious diversity and equip staff with the skills and knowledge necessary to serve a religiously diverse society.

Empathy, resolving conflicts in a peaceful and productive manner, and soliciting input from diverse stakeholders are skills that need to be developed and nurtured and are critical to empowering people to thrive in a diverse world.

I believe that there is a genuine hunger to learn about the religious diversity in our community and our world. I think that this hunger will only continue to intensify as our communities become more diverse and as our world becomes further interconnected.

Indeed, today the term “interfaith” is more powerful and relevant than ever. It engages us — clergy, scholars and laity — to find new, innovative ways to answer the ambitious goals posed by the Catholic Church through Nostra Aetate 40 years ago. Let us, together, answer that call.

About the author: Beth Katz is the director of Project Interfaith at the Anti-Defamation League Plains States Regional Office in Omaha. She graduated from Creighton University in 2000 and holds Master of Social Work and Master of Public Policy degrees from the University of Michigan. She teaches an International Conflict Resolution course as an adjunct professor at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. She may be reached at bkatz@adl.org.

Willing to Believe

The Creighton spirit is rooted in Jesuit, Catholic core values — self-awareness, integrity, love and service. The Campaign for Creighton seeks private support to recommit the University to setting hearts on fire. Through a successful campaign, we will encourage new ways of active reflection in the classroom, understand our own faith traditions more deeply, and expand our awareness of diverse cultures and beliefs.

Above all, we will preserve and extend our commitment to each student’s life of mind, heart, imagination and spirit by integrating each student’s academic study into a broader life of service and faith.
“I believe that to treat disease you first need to understand it, and right now we’re still trying to understand the basic biology of prions.”

— Jason Bartz, Ph.D.

Bartz, an assistant professor in Creighton’s Department of Medical Microbiology, is working to unravel the prion puzzle with his colleague Anthony Kincaid, Ph.D. “I’m trained as a virologist and tend to think of things from the infectious agent’s point of view,” Bartz says. “Tony is a neuroscientist in Creighton’s physical therapy department, and he thinks of things from the brain’s point of view. Having a collaborator who is trained in a different field helps you look at the same problem but in a different way. Tony and I are brutally honest with each other. We’ve each had experimental ideas in which the other found fatal flaws. Our multidisciplinary approach to science has been very beneficial.”

Bartz delights in discovery. “One of the goals of research is to increase knowledge. We’re a curious species. Finding out something new is very satisfying even if it disproves your pet hypothesis. Discovery inspires you and drives you to want to know more.” In his drive to discover more about prion diseases, Bartz is being helped by a five-year, $1.5 million grant from the NIH National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke to determine how these devastating neurodegenerative prion diseases are transmitted. “On one hand,” Bartz says, “it’s very gratifying that our work is considered significant enough to fund to this degree. It’s also a huge responsibility to make sure we’re productive with the resources.”

At the July 2006 meeting of the Biennial Institutional Development Award Program Symposium in Washington, D.C., Bartz was among the nominees for the prestigious Thomas Maciag Award. His poster presentation was highlighted for special presentation emphasis at the meeting.
Osteoporosis

Robert Recker, MD’63, Robert Heaney, BA’47, MD’51, and Joan Lappe, Ph.D., MS’85, lead Creighton’s Osteoporosis Research Center, considered one of the top bone research centers in the world. “We have a large team including other scientists, statisticians, project nurses, research assistants, dieticians, technicians and support staff,” Lappe said, “and these team members are integral to our successes.”

With funding from the National Institutes of Health and the Department of Defense, Creighton’s triumvirate has conducted research in stress fracture reduction with female Navy recruits at the Great Lakes Naval Station; studied the possible correlation between increased calcium intake, physical activity and stronger skeletons in children; and conducted tests in rural Nebraska to determine if calcium and vitamin D supplementation decrease the risk of fracture in postmenopausal women. This particular study provided unexpected results. “We found that vitamin D supplementation decreased the risk of all types of cancer,” Lappe said, “which was even more exciting than preventing fracture.”

“Ongoing, active research is a vital element in the learning environment of an academic institution,” Recker said. “I’d like to see Creighton’s research profile increase over time. It is fundamental to our mission and goals.”

Recker’s most satisfying accomplishment was the discovery, in collaboration with colleagues, of a genetic mutation that causes high bone mass — the opposite of the bone-thinning disease osteoporosis. “It’s difficult to identify women at risk for fractures before they actually experience a break,” Recker explained. “Our aim is to find causes for low bone mass that could lead to developing agents that stimulate bone to strengthen itself.” To that end, Creighton’s osteoporosis team is working with the Metabolic Bone Disease Program at Columbia University in New York. “Columbia’s new high-resolution CT scanner shows the internal structure of bone and provides information previously obtainable only through surgical biopsy,” Recker said. In November 2006, two dozen Creighton participants flew to New York and were examined at Columbia. The Creighton study, funded by the National Institutes of Health, was later featured on NBC’s Today show.

Heaney has spent 50 years in the study of osteoporosis, bone biology and calcium physiology. An internationally recognized expert in the field, Heaney has appeared before the U.S. House of Representatives to urge continued support for milk in school lunch programs. His research has raised the awareness of calcium and its health benefits, and most national tests for calcium bioavailability — the measurement of calcium assimilation by the body — have been carried out in his lab.

“Ongoing, active research is a vital element in the learning environment of an academic institution,” Recker said. “I’d like to see Creighton’s research profile increase over time. It is fundamental to our mission and goals.”
Hearing Loss

Hearing impairment affects about 250 million people worldwide, and the numbers will rise as baby boomers age. Loss of the ear’s hair cells and their connection to the brain is one reason for age-related hearing loss, and current treatment requires either an electronic cochlear implant or regeneration of lost neurosensory cells. Research at Creighton is progressing on both these fronts through the work of Kirk Beisel, Ph.D., Bernd Fritzsch, Ph.D., Richard Hallworth, Ph.D., and David He, Ph.D. The team has received millions in research funding to help achieve its ultimate goal: to restore hearing by “tricking” hair cells in the inner ear to regenerate and restore their electric signals to the brain. The team has been very productive, and their research on several fronts has gained national and international attention.

Hallworth, who assisted in the development of the first successful cochlear implant in the 1970s, says, “What we do is explore, and who knows what will become of what we find? For example, the underlying scientific knowledge that made the cochlear implant possible was generated by investigators 60 years ago. This was followed by researchers trying to understand how nerve cells work. All these folks had disease processes in mind, but weren’t out to ‘cure’ anything in the short term. They just knew that what they found would be useful some day, in ways they could not have predicted.”

Fritzsch feels that, “armed with the current molecular machinery to implement this information, it’s possible that we will be able to cure hearing loss within the next decade, thus sparing the majority of baby boomers a retirement without music and communication. About 65 percent of my time is dedicated to reaching that goal, and is largely driven by competition with other national and international researchers. This is a very time-consuming and exhausting race.”

Creighton’s contributions to the race have been published in the most prestigious journals. “I was extremely excited when I learned that the journal Nature had accepted my manuscript and would publish it,” said He, who admits he is “obsessed” with outer hair cells and the way they “twist and shout.” He was recently named to the Auditory Study Section at the National Institutes of Health, an appointment that honors both his work and Creighton University.

“Unfortunately, money is the mother’s milk of research, and we can be much more productive if we have support. Seed support and federal research funds will return enormous dividends to Creighton, to Nebraska and, eventually, to cures.”

It’s possible that we will be able to cure hearing loss within the next decade.”

— Bernd Fritzsch, Ph.D.
Minimally Invasive Surgery

Robert Fitzgibbons Jr., MD’74, knows that a camel can’t pass through the eye of a needle, but — in his world of minimally invasive surgery — endoscopic cameras with microscopes and tiny fiber-optic flashlights can pass through tiny incisions that later will be closed with just a stitch or two. Fitzgibbons is chief of the Division of General Surgery and associate chairman of the Department of Surgery at Creighton. The recipient of numerous research grants, Fitzgibbons’ effort resulted in the development of the University’s Center for Endosurgery of which he is the director. The center is primarily concerned with the development of new procedures and devices for the performance of minimally invasive surgery.

“Patients leave the hospital sooner after minimally invasive surgery and return to normal activities sooner than with conventional open surgery.”

— Robert Fitzgibbons Jr., MD’74

“Patients leave the hospital sooner after minimally invasive surgery and return to normal activities sooner than with conventional open surgery.”

— Robert Fitzgibbons Jr., MD’74

“For patients, minimally invasive techniques have many advantages over open repair techniques,” Fitzgibbons said. “Laparoscopic, keyhole procedures mean less trauma to the body, less blood loss, smaller surgical scars, less need for pain medication and a shorter recovery time. Patients leave the hospital sooner after minimally invasive surgery and return to normal activities sooner than with conventional open surgery.”

Fitzgibbons’ current research shows that even minimally invasive procedures can sometimes be avoided. Most recently, he was the principal investigator of a study that showed men who have an inguinal hernia but experience minimal or no symptoms may not need surgery at all. The work was funded by the Agency for Health Care Related Quality with a budget of more than $6 million. The findings, reported in the Jan. 18, 2006, issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association, defy traditional medical wisdom that recommends inguinal hernias be repaired when found. Before the Fitzgibbons study, most surgeons assumed that a hernia would become harder to repair the longer it remained. “This study determined that watchful waiting is as effective as an operation and is a safe and acceptable alternative to surgery for patients with very few symptoms,” Fitzgibbons said. “Importantly, there appeared to be no penalty for delaying surgery.” A registry has been established at Creighton University funded by the American College of Surgeons, under Fitzgibbons’ direction, to continue to follow the patients from the study indefinitely.

About the author: Nogg is a freelance writer in Omaha.

A Legacy of Research

Every day on the Creighton University campus, scientists and researchers serve as models for students with great ambitions to be of service. They illustrate Creighton’s fidelity to the Jesuit, Catholic educational tradition in which science education has always been at the forefront. They signify that, like the visionary men and women who were the University’s founders, pioneering ventures in vast new landscapes are both Creighton’s legacy and future.

The Campaign for Creighton University seeks $62 million in support for science education and technology. Creighton must persevere in advancing its science and technology capabilities to continue graduating world-class scientists, health care providers, business and professional leaders who have been molded by the ethics and moral distinctiveness of the Jesuit, Catholic faith, identity and mission. As an institution creating the next generation of scientific leadership and students prepared for compelling careers and service, Creighton University is demonstrating that it is Willing to Innovate and Willing to Lead.
The Magic of Momentum

One way to measure the progress of an institution is through the actions of its constituents and supporters, and based on that, I can tell you that Creighton University has never been more vibrant or energized.

Based on the support that has come from so many in all shapes, sizes and amounts, the Creighton spirit is alive and well. What is encouraging is the number of alumni, faculty and friends who have chosen to get on board and demonstrate their pride in Creighton, its students, its mission and its future.

Let me give you some examples: In 2005-2006, the University’s sustaining funds increased by 23.5 percent. And that didn’t happen by the actions of just a few. It happened because of the actions of many. In fact, collectively, gifts to the Campaign’s $30 million goal for Sustaining Gifts (formerly the annual fund) will represent one of the largest gifts ever to the University. Your gift does make a difference!

In contributing to the Willing to Lead Campaign, you join a growing community of alumni and friends committed to ensuring that our educational aspirations and pursuits will be fully realized now and into the future.

While the value of the life-changing education that Creighton offers is inestimable, keeping that education affordable and available to all students, regardless of socioeconomic status, is critical to the University and its mission.

Your annual gift, whatever the size, helps ease the University’s reliance on tuition dollars, and collectively these gifts make the dream of a high-quality Creighton education a reality for many deserving students. (Currently, 95 percent of Creighton students receive some form of financial assistance.) Annual gifts also are used to support student scholarships, which often provide the financial assistance necessary to attract and retain talented and needy students.

For some, scholarships can mean the difference between attending Creighton or not. For instance, Creighton has always educated students who are the first generation of their families to attend college, and these students usually have a greater financial need. Our investment in first-generation students is an investment in their families’ futures. A good number of these students are also members of minority groups, which addresses Creighton’s stated mission of building an inclusive community wherein students from all backgrounds learn to become enlightened citizens prepared to engage in civic discourse and change the world for the better.

Individually and collectively, our gifts allow the University to move forward in significant ways, to constantly improve, to fulfill a vision that Creighton University is Willing to Lead.

Thank you again for your participation in this historic Campaign, and for all that you have done and continue to do to support Creighton University.

Bruce Rohde, BSBA’71, JD’73
National Campaign Chair

For more information, or to contribute or discuss a planned contribution to the Campaign, please call (800) 334-8794 or (402) 280-2740.

Two Join Sustaining Gifts Area

Creighton’s Office of Sustaining Gifts welcomes two new assistant directors. Ashley Sammin, assistant director of sustaining gifts for reunion giving, previously was a campaign coordinator for The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Sammin graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a degree in English and is currently completing a master’s degree in public administration at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

Her primary responsibilities will include the management of the reunion giving programs for the health sciences.

“I plan to develop strong relationships with Creighton alumni,” Sammin said. “I am excited to be working at Creighton because of the mission and values it upholds.”

The other “newcomer” is Katie Trautschold, BS’01, MS’07, assistant director for gift clubs, but she is actually not new to Creighton. Trautschold holds an education degree from Creighton and just completed a master’s degree in counseling. She has worked as an undergraduate admissions counselor and a School of Nursing recruitment counselor and freshman academic adviser. As part of her graduate requirements, she has been working in Creighton’s counseling center, helping students at risk of dropping out of school.

“My goal is to continue representing Creighton and the Jesuit mission while working with alumni and friends, helping to reach our Willing to Lead campaign goals,” Trautschold said. “I am excited for the opportunity to continue my career at Creighton and to be a part of the Creighton family.”

“Willing to lead: Campaign for Creighton Update”

“Willing to lead: Campaign for Creighton Summer 2007”
Venture Capitalist Invests in Magis Clinic

Peter “Rocky” Snawerdt of Melbourne, Fla., knows a good investment when he sees one.

A partner in the venture capital firm Melbourne Partners, Snawerdt is an Omaha native. On a recent trip to his hometown, he learned of the Magis Clinic, an outpatient clinic for homeless and uninsured people conceived and operated by Creighton University School of Medicine students. One visit to the clinic and Snawerdt was impressed.

Melbourne Partners, through its Remember to Share Foundation, made a $10,000 gift and a 10-year pledge of $25,000 each year, for a total commitment of $260,000 to the Magis Clinic.

Snawerdt said the foundation gives primarily to educational or medical initiatives. “The Magis Clinic is unique because it combines both of our priorities. It provides medical services to people who can’t afford care, and it provides education to the medical students who volunteer there.”

The Magis Clinic was begun in 2004 when a group of Creighton medical students found there were few outpatient health care options available to the homeless and uninsured. They sought and received a grant from the Association of American Medical Colleges to establish the clinic. Since then, more than 400 medical students, along with some 75 physician volunteers, have provided care to hundreds of patients per year.

The clinic features free drop-in acute care services, as well as referrals to existing community services, on Saturdays at the Siena/Francis House, which is located near the Creighton campus. In addition, specialty clinics in diabetes, psychiatry and sexually transmitted diseases have been initiated.

Magis Clinic fundraiser Justin Birge, a third-year medical student from Omaha, said he reacted to the Remember to Share gift with “…shock, followed by joy, followed by apprehension, followed by shocked joy. It was great.”

Plans are to expand the clinic from two to four exam rooms, with a laboratory/procedure room, teaching space and more storage, as well as to upgrade lab equipment. “Rocky wanted to be sure we are able to keep up with our equipment needs, especially those that may be large, one-time expenses,” Birge said. “Funds also may be designated to the Magis Clinic endowment, helping to secure the future of the clinic even beyond the next 10 years.”

He added, “A donation of this magnitude to an organization such as the Magis Clinic, which is a very efficient and high-yield per-dollar charity, ensures that volunteer students and physicians will continue to serve and improve the health of Omaha’s uninsured and underinsured population more effectively and for years to come.”

Jacob Smeltzer, a third-year medical student from Derby, Kan., has been a Magis Clinic director for more than a year. Smeltzer and the other student-directors oversee the operation of the clinic.

“When I found out about the donation, I was overwhelmed,” Smeltzer said. “It is truly a remarkable gift.”

He said Creighton’s medical school “is full of idealistic students striving to make a difference. For example, signups to volunteer at the clinic usually involve students getting to school one or two hours early to wait in line for a chance to volunteer some of their precious free time, for which they receive no school credit. Donations like this allow them to put their ideals into action.”

Snawerdt said the nature of the gift — spread out over 10 years — will allow the students to learn the additional skill of business planning. “Doctors need experience in how to plan a business because their practices are their businesses. This will give the students insight into long-term planning,” he said.

Snawerdt acknowledges, “I get more satisfaction out of our foundation than the business. There is a sense of doing something good for the world from the foundation, rather than just helping individual clients.”

As the fundraiser for the clinic, Birge said his job is made easier “by the fact that the Magis Clinic is such a needed, educational and inspirational project. We owe a lot to the philanthropy of the Creighton community, the Omaha community and School of Medicine alumni. We have received many private donations and grants, in addition to the funds received through our own fundraising events.”

The clinic’s major event is the annual Magis Classic, a golf outing coordinated with the Omaha Community and School of Medicine Alumni. We have received many private donations and grants, in addition to the funds received through our own fundraising events.”

The Magis Clinic is such a needed, educational and inspirational project. We owe a lot to the philanthropy of the Creighton community, the Omaha community and School of Medicine alumni. We have received many private donations and grants, in addition to the funds received through our own fundraising events.”

The clinic’s major event is the annual Magis Classic, a golf outing coordinated with the School of Medicine Alumni Weekend, which raised $28,500 in 2006.

The Magis Clinic is one example of how The Campaign for Creighton University supports programs that benefit both Creighton students and people in need. For more information on the Magis Clinic or other Campaign priorities, contact Matt Gerard, director of development for the School of Medicine, at (402) 280-5746, or the Office of Development at (402) 280-2740.
Message from Estate and Trust Services

Endowments the Cornerstone of a Strong University

As this issue of Creighton University Magazine illustrates, there is a myriad of diverse activities occurring on this campus. From new, cutting-edge faculty research to increased interfaith dialogue, Creighton is constantly at work. Much of this good work is made possible through the University’s steadily increasing endowment, which provides perpetual funds to support faculty positions, research, scholarships, libraries, athletics and more. A strong endowment also allows the University to explore new areas of inquiry and to advance its tradition of providing an affordable, values-centered education, anchored in the Jesuit tradition.

A key component of the Willing to Lead Campaign is building on the endowment cornerstones laid down through the charitable bequests from Edward and Mary Lucretia and John and Sarah Creighton. This will allow Creighton University to move toward its goal of a $500 million endowment by 2008, an achievement that indicates we have the private support necessary to stand among the finest Jesuit, Catholic universities and assume a position of national leadership.

Have you considered participating in the Campaign through a charitable bequest, or through a planned or life income gift that creates your own endowment or adds to an existing University endowment? Because endowments provide a permanent source of assistance, you can be assured that your legacy will last forever and will serve as an inspiration for others to follow.

Charitable bequests are a time-tested and popular way to create an endowment for Creighton. In your will or trust, you may state a specific amount to fund an endowment or, as is often recommended, you may express your gift as a percentage of your total estate, or the portion remaining after paying other bequests, fees and taxes. In addition to furthering Creighton’s mission, charitable bequests can also decrease your taxable estate. Further advantages can be realized by designating Creighton as a beneficiary of your most tax-burdened assets, such as your IRA, 401(k) or qualified retirement plans. These gifts can be implemented simply by requesting and completing a Beneficiary Designation Form from your plan provider.

If you prefer to receive immediate income and tax benefits, perhaps you should consider a gift to establish a life income arrangement, such as a charitable gift annuity or charitable remainder trust. These gift plans offer you an immediate income tax deduction and a lifetime income for you and others while providing future support for Creighton and can be directed to establish a permanent endowment.

These are just a few of the methods to ensure your legacy and a strong Creighton will continue in perpetuity through an endowment. If you would like to receive further information on endowment gifts, planned gifts or estate planning, please e-mail me at sscholer@creighton.edu or call (402) 280-1143 or (800) 334-8794. The Office of Estate and Trust Services will work with you to fulfill your wishes for the allocation of your endowment gift.

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

Faculty, Staff Contribute to Campaign

Creighton faculty, staff and Graybackers (retirees) participated in the Willing to Lead Faculty and Staff Campaign in April, sending a strong message to the University’s friends and alumni.

“Participation by faculty, staff and Graybackers in The Campaign for Creighton University demonstrates that members of the campus community are willing to personally sacrifice, above and beyond giving of themselves in their daily work, to support the University’s mission, goals and aspirations,” said Lisa Calvert, vice president for University Relations.

“Our faculty and staff appreciate what is being accomplished on campus thanks to the generosity of alumni, parents, friends, corporations and foundations,” Calvert said. “By giving to the Faculty and Staff Campaign, they are able to feel even more a part of this amazing success.”

Schools, colleges and individual departments came up with creative ways to encourage their members to “Let Your Blue Shine Through” by making pledges and gifts.

Paintshop foreman Judd Allen was one of the first to give to the Faculty and Staff Campaign. “I feel it is the least I can do,” Allen said. Sheryl Sommer, associate professor of nursing, said, “I think it’s important that we show the community at large that faculty and staff support Creighton’s goals and mission.”

Students were eager to help out, and made thank-you calls to show their appreciation. “I’m grateful to everyone who has given,” said Sarah Schmitt, a senior in finance and marketing, “because as a student, I see firsthand how the Creighton community is benefiting from the Campaign.”
Pension Protection Act Benefits Creighton and Donor

Thanks to the Pension Protection Act of 2006, Creighton University and its supporters mutually are reaping benefits. In 2006, Creighton received more than $530,000 in gifts from donors who took advantage of this legislation, and the ultimate beneficiaries are Creighton students.

A provision in the Act, which is effective through 2007, allows charitable gifts to be made from a traditional IRA or Roth-IRA by donors who are age 70½ or older at the time of the transfer. The donations count toward satisfying minimum distribution requirements and are tax-free. The contribution must be transferred directly to a qualified public charity, such as Creighton University, and cannot exceed $100,000 in a tax year.

“This provision has a brief window of opportunity, until Dec. 31 of this year,” said Robert Skrydlak, associate director of Estate and Trust Services. “It allows our charitable partners to support The Campaign for Creighton University and receive tax benefits previously not available. Response from Creighton’s friends and alumni has been tremendous.”

Paul Murphy, MD’51, of Wichita, Kan., used the Act to establish an endowed scholarship in honor of his late wife, Marjory Mahoney Murphy, and her passion for education and the arts.

A retired radiologist, Murphy said, “The Act gives me an opportunity to donate more to Creighton than I could have without the benefit of the provision.”

He added, “It’s a wonderful way to combine giving to Creighton and honoring my wife.”

Paul Murphy, MD’51, with his late wife, Marjory Mahoney Murphy. He used the Act to establish a scholarship in her honor.

By endowing the Marjory Mahoney Murphy scholarship, we will help other young people get a Creighton education.”

Jim, BSC’51, and Barbara Ludwig Corboy, SJN’52, of Plano, Texas, directed their donation to an endowed scholarship fund they previously set up. “We directed the scholarship to go to a student in need,” Jim Corboy said.

Corboy, who is retired from the oil and gas equipment services industry, said he has, like many alumni, “reached the magic age where it is compulsory to take distributions. This was a wonderful opportunity for me to direct my minimum distribution, which ordinarily is treated as taxable income, directly to Creighton. Congress moved so slowly, I don’t think many people were aware of this Act,” he said. “The education of medical students is a very expensive process,” he said. “While tuition covers only part of the total cost, it is still a burden to many students. We hope this scholarship helps reduce that burden for some students in future years and helps them achieve their ultimate goal.”

Jim, BSC’51, and Barbara Ludwig Corboy, SJN’52, of Plano, Texas, directed their contribution to an endowed scholarship they previously established.

Jim, associate professor emeritus of anesthesiology at Creighton’s School of Medicine and former chairman of the Department of Anesthesiology, said the couple had endowed a scholarship several years ago, but wanted to add to it. “The education of medical students is a very expensive process,” he said. “While tuition covers only part of the total cost, it is still a burden to many students. We hope this scholarship helps reduce that burden for some students in future years and helps them achieve their ultimate goal.”

For more information about contributing to Creighton from an IRA or Roth-IRA — or possibly converting other retirement plan assets to a Rollover IRA — before the Pension Protection Act expires on Dec. 31, contact Steve Scholer or Robert Skrydlak of Creighton’s Office of Estate and Trust Services at (800) 334-8794, ext. 1143, (402) 280-1143, or at giftplanning@creighton.edu.

Summer 2007
Creighton Inaugurates Criss-Beirne Chair in Nursing

The Dr. C.C. and Mabel L. Criss and Drs. Gilbert and Clinton Beirne Endowed Chair in Nursing was inaugurated on May 2. Joan Lappe, Ph.D., M’S’85, professor of nursing and professor of medicine, and director of clinical and pediatric studies at the Creighton University Osteoporosis Research Center, is the first chairholder.

Cam Enarson, M.D., vice president for health sciences and dean of the School of Medicine, noted the significance of the event, calling it “historic for Creighton’s health sciences schools — the inauguration of the first endowed chair in the School of Nursing.”

The Criss-Beirne Endowed Chair honors the memory of four of Creighton University’s most generous benefactors, C.C. Criss, MD’12, and his wife, Mabel, and brothers Gilbert Beirne, MD’45, and Clinton Beirne, MD’48.

Creighton President the Rev. John P. Schlegel, S.J., told those gathered that if the Crisses and Beirnes were still alive, he would love to tell them how proud they should be of Creighton’s health sciences schools, and especially the School of Nursing.

“I would tell them how the school is doing its part to meet this nation’s critical shortage of nurses. I would point to the innovative program the school has developed for registered nurses to earn bachelor’s degrees that offers flexibility and convenience to balance career and home life.

“I would show them how the School of Nursing is offering outstanding graduate opportunities so students can take advantage of the wider responsibilities nurses are taking on across the health care spectrum,” Fr. Schlegel said.

“And I would show them the outstanding research of Joan Lappe, who has dedicated herself to the promotion of bone health and prevention of osteoporosis.”

But the Crisses and Beirnes would not be surprised by these accomplishments, Fr. Schlegel said. “C.C. and Mabel Criss and brothers Gil and Clinton Beirne were convinced that the mission of Creighton University and its health sciences schools was well worth their long-term investment. Long ago, they committed their resources in the certain belief that Creighton University would continue to provide the finest health care education possible, and to make lasting contributions to the quality of human life through research and outreach programs.”

Vice President for University Relations Lisa Calvert noted that the Crisses and Beirnes demonstrated their love, loyalty and deep belief in Creighton University’s educational mission through generous and ongoing support that continues long after their deaths.”

“C.C. and Mabel Criss and brothers Gil and Clinton Beirne were convinced that the mission of Creighton University and its health sciences schools was well worth their long-term investment.”

— Fr. John P. Schlegel, S.J.
Creighton President

Dr. Criss died in 1952, in 1961 his wife honored her husband’s memory with a $4 million gift to Creighton to build a new medical complex. At that time, the Criss grant was the largest ever made to the University, exceeding even the $3 million which had been given by the Creightons. Over the next 17 years, Mabel contributed to virtually every building in the health sciences complex.

When Clinton Beirne died in 1990, he left his estate to his brother and to Creighton. When Gilbert died in April 2005, the bulk of his estate was designated for unrestricted support of Creighton University and its health sciences programs.

The Criss-Beirne Endowed Chair enables the School of Nursing to expand its commitment to nursing science. In the fall of 2006, 465 undergraduate and 81 graduate students were enrolled in the School of Nursing.

Chairholder Joan Lappe has dedicated her research career to the promotion of bone health and prevention of osteoporosis across the lifespan. Lappe’s goal is to help people develop and maintain strong bones so that they avoid fractures. She was one of the first investigators to study the bone health of children, and she has successfully competed for funds from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Department of Defense to carry out her work.

Lappe and her colleagues recently completed a study of nearly 1,300 women from rural Nebraska to determine the effects of calcium and vitamin D supplementation on bone health in a population of older women. Not only did the supplementation improve bone health, but also vitamin D was found to dramatically decrease the incidence of cancer. This was the first study to demonstrate that supplementation with vitamin D can have this effect. Findings from this study have the potential to significantly decrease the incidence of all types of cancer.

Lappe received her basic nursing education at St. Catherine’s School of Nursing in Omaha, which was affiliated with Creighton University. She also earned her master of science with a major in nursing from Creighton.

Joan Lappe, Ph.D., receives congratulations from Creighton President the Rev. John P. Schlegel, S.J., after being presented with the endowed chair medallion.
Union Pacific Chair in Accounting ‘Signal of Trust’

The Union Pacific Endowed Chair in Accountancy was inaugurated on May 15, the fifth endowed chair to be established in the College of Business Administration and the second devoted to the accounting profession. Jack Krogstad, Ph.D., is the first to hold the new chair.

Creighton President the Rev. John P. Schlegel, S.J., told those gathered that the U.P. chair “embodies the symbiotic relationship between America’s corporate entities and the halls of the academy.

“Inherent in that relationship is our responsibility to provide our corporate partners with graduates who are imbued with a thorough knowledge of best business practices and the ability to use them wisely and ethically in the broad context of our Jesuit values.”

Fr. Schlegel noted that Union Pacific has helped Creighton define curricula that address the needs of modern business, working closely with faculty and offering students face-to-face interaction with U.P. leaders and hands-on experience as interns. In addition, he said, many students have been able to attend Creighton because of scholarships supplied by Union Pacific.

“It is not surprising that Union Pacific and Creighton University are spoken in the same breath,” he added. “The two are linked in history. The communications and transportation industries were both transformed by the building of the telegraph, in which Edward Creighton played a significant part, and the railroad, which he championed. Both Creighton University and Union Pacific were founded by visionaries, path-makers and builders.”

The Union Pacific Corporation, headquartered in Omaha, is one of America’s leading transportation companies, operating the largest railroad in North America. It maintains more than 32,000 miles of track in 23 states across two-thirds of the United States.

James Young, Union Pacific Chairman and CEO, told the audience, “Edward Creighton encouraged Union Pacific Railroad to base its operations in Omaha — arguing that the city would be good for the railroad and the railroad would be good for Omaha.

“Today, we see the wisdom of Edward Creighton’s belief. Union Pacific’s latest visible investment in Omaha, our new home, rises to the east of the Creighton campus. It is also the workplace of many Creighton graduates.

“Over the years, Union Pacific and Creighton University have grown up together — linked to one another and with the city of Omaha. Ed Creighton was right — we have been good for each other.”

Young said his company is “particularly pleased with our long-standing relationship with Creighton’s accounting department and the leadership role individuals such as Dr. Jack Krogstad play in creating and instilling modern, ethics-based standards for the profession.”

In introducing Krogstad, Anthony Hendrickson, Ph.D., dean of the College of Business Administration, said, “The Union Pacific Endowed Chair in Accountancy means a lot to the college, to its students, and to me as dean.

“Endowed chairs are key to rewarding outstanding educators, to supporting their work, and to keeping them here. The ability to retain our best faculty members is crucial to maintaining and increasing the level of education we provide our students.

“It is a signal of trust that Union Pacific has chosen our college in which to establish this chair. We do not take that lightly. It means that the Union Pacific name will be linked to the highest standards of teaching and accounting practices for as long as Creighton is here. It means that Creighton students will continue to receive the benefit of a teacher like Dr. Jack Krogstad.”

Krogstad is both a leader in his field and an outstanding educator. The decorated Vietnam veteran is a graduate of Union College in Lincoln, Neb., and earned his doctorate from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

He has taught at the University of Texas-Austin, Kansas State University, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, and the University of Illinois-Champaign/Urbana.

He came to Creighton in 1980 as the John P. Begley Professor of Accounting. He has also served as associate dean for graduate programs. Krogstad teaches auditing, accounting and strategic management courses for undergraduate and graduate students.

Krogstad has held numerous leadership positions in academic, professional and nonprofit organizations. He was the director of research for the National Commission on Fraudulent Financial Reporting, 1985-1987, as well as for the Institute of Internal Auditors’ “Vision for the Future” study, 1997-1999. He recently served as a consultant to the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants in its development of the new computerized CPA certification examination.

He has been the recipient of many awards, including the American Accounting Association’s Outstanding Auditing Educator Award, Creighton’s Distinguished Service Award, the Institute of Internal Auditors’ Michael J. Barrett Award, the College of Business Administration Faculty of the Year Award, the Burlington Northern Foundation Faculty of the Year Award, and the Nebraska Society of CPA’s Outstanding Accounting Educator Award.

Jack Krogstad, Ph.D., addresses those gathered for the inauguration of the Union Pacific Endowed Chair in Accountancy on May 15. Krogstad was installed as the chairholder.
Willing to lead: Campaign for Creighton Update

Sustaining Gifts Critically Important

Creighton University Director of Sustaining Gifts Dennis Henkenius, BA’71, wants to put to rest the erroneous notion that any gifts to the University are “too small.”

“Every gift is important,” Henkenius said. “All gifts help Creighton provide the best possible education for our students.”

In addition, he said participation rates are important criteria by which universities are judged among peer institutions. Participation rates let corporations and foundations know that an institution has a strong alumni donor base.

“Creighton University is especially grateful for all gifts, large and small, that are provided on an annual basis,” Henkenius said. “We are blessed with a supportive group of alumni, parents and friends who continue to respond to our personal, phone and direct mail appeals. Our alumni show the Board, corporations and foundations that we have a strong base of support.”

David Black, BSBA’05, former Creighton Students Union president and now manager of political programs for the Union Pacific Corporation in Washington, D.C., is a young alumnus who already has begun contributing to his alma mater.

“No matter what the amount is, the act of giving is a strong show of support for Creighton,” Black said. “A $25 gift is worth much more to Creighton than just that actual dollar amount.”

Black said he is also motivated by the gratitude he feels toward Creighton. “I am where I am today because of people at Creighton. During my four years of undergrad, someone was always helping me get where I wanted to go. Professors, older students, and especially alumni, took time to help me be successful. I need to make sure the next class, and the class after that, gets that same treatment, and I know that contributing is one of the best ways to ensure that happens.”

Endowed Chairs Rise to 30 at Creighton

Creighton University now has a total of 30 endowed chairs, with its two most recent additions — the Dr. C.C. and Mabel L. Criss and Drs. Gilbert and Clinton Beirne Endowed Chair in Nursing and the Union Pacific Endowed Chair in Accountancy.

Endowed chairs are prized by universities worldwide as symbols of the belief an institution places in the value of scholarly endeavors. They are a perpetual gift to students. At Creighton, our 30 endowed chairs immeasurably widen students’ worlds, bringing honor to the chairholder, the donor and the University. In addition, endowed chairs aid in attracting and retaining distinguished faculty members.

Since 2000, the year the Rev. John P. Schlegel, S.J., became president of Creighton University, 10 endowed chairs have been inaugurated. The growing number of endowed chairs is a clear indication of the University’s momentum in securing its place at the forefront as one of the finest Jesuit, Catholic universities in the United States.

Martz Joins Creighton as Principal Gifts Director

Susan Martz is Creighton’s new director of principal gifts. Martz comes to Creighton from Colorado College, Colorado Springs, Colo., where she was senior director of advancement and served on the leadership team, supporting the college’s $300 million campaign.

Martz is responsible for the Principal Gifts program and works in close collaboration with Creighton’s president, the Rev. John P. Schlegel, S.J., and the Board of Directors.

“I am thrilled to be joining Creighton at this pivotal time in its history,” Martz said. “Willing to Lead: The Campaign for Creighton University has tremendous momentum. Our benefactors are showing that they, too, are willing to believe in Creighton’s transformation.”

Creighton’s annual fund is called Sustaining Gifts, indicating the critical importance these gifts play in the University’s future. These types of gifts ensure that Creighton’s educational aspirations and commitments will be realized. They also signify a promise that future generations will benefit from the foundation of a Creighton education.

The Campaign for Creighton University seeks $30 million in Sustaining Gifts, which will allow alumni, parents and friends to cumulatively participate in one of the largest gifts ever to the University.
Upcoming Alumni Events

Summer

Twin Cities College of Business Administration
Young Alumni Reception
Wednesday, July 18, 2007
6-8 p.m. The Local, 10th & Nicollet. Minneapolis

Chicago Alumni & Friends
Friday, July 20
8th Annual Cubs Event at Wrigley Field.
Chicago Cubs vs. Arizona Diamondbacks, Upper Deck
Patio Pregame Party 11:30 a.m., Game Time 1:20 p.m.
Wrigley Field, 1060 W. Addison St.

San Diego Alumni & Friends Reception
Thursday, July 26
7-9 p.m. L'Auberge Del Mar Resort and Spa, 1540 Camino Del Mar. Del Mar, Calif.

School of Law Alumni & Friends
Friday & Saturday, Sept. 7 & 8
School of Law Reunion Weekend 2007

School of Medicine Alumni & Friends
Friday & Saturday, Sept. 14 & 15
School of Medicine Reunion Weekend 2007

Undergraduate and Graduate School Alumni & Friends
Friday & Saturday, Sept. 21 & 22
Reunion Weekend 2007 for the College of Arts and Sciences, College of Business Administration, School of Nursing and the Graduate School

School of Pharmacy and Health Professions
Alumni & Friends
Thursday – Saturday, Oct. 4–6
School of Pharmacy and Health Professions Reunion Weekend 2007

National Alumni Board Members
Friday & Saturday, Nov. 2 & 3
National Alumni Board fall 2007 meeting

Alumni & Friends Hilltop Jam
Friday, Sept. 21
8-11 p.m. East end of Creighton’s campus. Will be held in conjunction with the Kick-off Party for Reunion Weekend 2007.

For updates on alumni events, visit the Alumni Association website at www.creighton.edu/alumni

Fall

Interested in a good family-oriented weekend?
Attend this Aug. 3-5 retreat at the Creighton Retreat Center in Griswold, Iowa. Singles, couples and children of all ages are welcome!
Sessions will focus on noticing God’s presence in our daily family lives, and balancing our vocational calls with relationships, work and self.

For questions or to register, contact Kristina DeNeve at (402) 280-2992 or kdeneve@creighton.edu.
Suggested donation: $15 single, $25 couple, $30 family

Sponsored by Cardoner at Creighton.

Family Vocation Vacation
$30 million for support of Sustaining Gifts (formerly the annual fund)

“I am able to incorporate Jesuit ideals into my classroom. I teach my students how to be active participants in the world around them.”

Luke Ostrander, BA’06
Graduate student in Creighton’s MAGIS teaching program

“Working at the Magis Medical Clinic reminds me why I came to medical school. When faced with the normal pressures of studying and tests, my visits to the clinic put things back into focus: I came here to help people.”

Clare Hoff, MD’07
A student director of Creighton’s Magis Medical Clinic

Whether it’s volunteering in a medical clinic that serves the health care needs of the homeless or working with underprivileged children in a Catholic grade school, students at Creighton are challenged to be women and men for and with others.

Magis, a Latin term meaning “more,” is the charism of the Society of Jesus and answers St. Ignatius’ question: What more can I do for Christ?

The MAGIS teaching program at Creighton and the student-directed Magis Medical Clinic are two examples of how that call is being answered at the University.

Begun in 2000 with a gift from John, BS’50, and Ann Louise Micek, BA’75, MAGIS participants teach in underresourced Catholic schools while earning a master’s degree in education from Creighton. As part of the two-year program, MAGIS teachers live in community with each other and attend monthly spirituality meetings with a Jesuit.

The Magis Clinic, begun in 2004 by Creighton medical students, provides outpatient health care services to the homeless and uninsured at the Siena/Francis House shelter, located near campus. Since its opening, more than 400 medical students, along with some 75 physician volunteers, have provided care to hundreds of patients annually.

Through your support of Sustaining Gifts, you are furthering Creighton’s mission of challenging bright young minds with an education rooted in justice and service, and demonstrating your commitment that you are Willing to Serve.
Congratulations to the Creighton softball, baseball and men’s basketball teams, which claimed conference titles this past season. The basketball and baseball teams won their respective conference tournaments, while the softball team won both the regular-season and tournament championships. Creighton’s Nate Funk (basketball), TJ Eadus (softball) and Pat Venditte (baseball) were named tournament MVPs.