Merry Christmas from Creighton

Iraq's Shi'i Renaissance
Living with Cancer
Q&A on Stem Cell Research
Campaign for Creighton: A Progress Report

Winter 2007
The Shi’a of Iraq

The toppling of Saddam Husayn and his Sunni-dominated Ba’thist regime by American and British-led coalition forces has created a Shi’i renaissance in Iraq. History professor John Calvert, Ph.D., explains.

Campaign for Creighton: A Progress Report

Two years ago, Creighton announced the public phase of the largest capital campaign in the University’s history — the $350 million Willing to Lead Campaign. The response has been tremendous, and the results are propelling Creighton forward in numerous ways.

Living with Cancer

Creighton’s Cancer Counseling Program offers hope and comfort for those diagnosed with cancer. The program combines psychiatry and oncology to treat the whole person — body, mind and spirit.

Embryos, Ethics and Research on Human Subjects

The Rev. Kevin FitzGerald, S.J., Ph.D., addresses the issue of stem cell research in this Q&A. Fr. FitzGerald, who recently spoke at Creighton, holds doctorates in molecular genetics and bioethics and is on the faculty at Georgetown University.

On the cover: An angel hangs from the Nativity scene in St. John’s Church — one of the many “sights of the season” on Creighton’s campus. Whether it’s the calm, peacefulness of lightly falling snow, the festive twinkling of lights along the mall or the inviting scene of the Christ Child lying in the manger, Creighton University embraces this holy season in all its glory and splendor. Share in the joy, and “walk” with us through our “winter wonderland” with a slideshow of seasonal photos set to music. You’ll find it online at the Creighton Magazine website: www.creightonmagazine.org.

University News

Alumni News

Willing to Excel
A Time of Thanks

The holiday season provides us a time to relax a bit, reflect and give thanks for friends and family and for the many gifts we have received. At Creighton University, we have much for which to be grateful.

We are truly blessed with a community of faculty, staff and students committed to excellence in learning, research and patient care.

Our student enrollment is strong, and we continue to attract top-caliber students. The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools recently gave the University a very positive rating in its formal reaccreditation report. And our alumni and friends continue to respond generously to our WILLYING TO LEAD CAMPAIGN.

I am thankful for our benefactors who have enthusiastically embraced our bold vision for tomorrow.

It was just two years ago, in December 2005, that we announced the public phase of the $350 million WILLYING TO LEAD CAMPAIGN — the largest capital campaign in the University’s history.

At that time, I opined that our University was on the cusp of new beginnings, and that, through this campaign, we were forging a “second founding.”

The response to our call for support has been tremendous. There is a momentum driving Creighton forward. This is our moment of possibility. As I said at the campaign inaugural, this is our opportunity to “dream big.”

Indeed, I have never been more bullish about Creighton.

We began this campaign with a strategic blueprint that I called our “willed future.” In that analysis, we outlined four critical issues for Creighton.

- Attracting and retaining the students who enable us to thrive as a university.
- Revising our business model to decrease dependency on tuition and clinical income.
- Ensuring that our existing and future infrastructure and support systems enhance our ability to fulfill our core purposes.
- Increasing our capacity for research to improve our national stature and enhance student learning.

THE WILLYING TO LEAD CAMPAIGN is absolutely essential to realizing each of these goals.

In line with those goals, a major initiative of this campaign has been to increase our endowment, which supports student scholarships, academic and research programs and faculty excellence. The campaign also seeks to strengthen our Jesuit, Catholic identity, provide for major science and technology initiatives, and finance our historic campus growth.

Much has been accomplished, yet much more can be done. We must continue to dream big!

We are re-engaging our strategic planning efforts. Those discussions will include re-evaluating the optimum size of the institution at both the undergraduate and professional/graduate levels, determining the resources and facilities (if any) needed to address this growth, reviewing the status of graduate and online education, and conducting a thorough review of the needs within the health science schools and colleges.

In this issue of the magazine, you will find a progress report on the campaign. I hope this will ignite your imagination to “dream big” … for this campaign is an invitation to each of you to assist in transforming Creighton. As I shared at the campaign inaugural, the mantle of leadership has been passed. Now the privilege and responsibility to nurture Creighton rests with us.

As we settle into the early winter and the celebrations of Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year’s, know that you and your families are in my prayers and those of the Jesuit Community. I am personally very grateful for you, members of the extended Creighton family, who live out daily the tenets of your Jesuit education in your personal and professional lives. My hope is that the present generation of Creighton students will come to do the same. I believe they will!

Please enjoy this issue of the magazine. Wishing you and your family health and happiness during this holy season!

John P. Schlegel, S.J.
President
Fr. Schlegel Honored by Omaha Press Club

Creighton University President the Rev. John P. Schlegel, S.J., became the 114th Nebraska newsmaker to have his or her caricature enshrined at the Omaha Press Club during a ceremony this fall. A standing-room-only crowd of 250 turned out to honor (and roast) Fr. Schlegel at the event on Oct. 11. In addition, Omaha Mayor Mike Fahey, BA’73, surprised the Creighton president by proclaiming Oct. 11 as Fr. Schlegel Day in the city of Omaha.

Ken Stinson, chairman of Peter Kiewit Sons’ Inc. and a Creighton board member, served as the emcee. Additional roasters included Creighton Athletics Director Bruce Rasmussen; Fahey; Lyn Wallin Ziegenbein, JD’77, executive director of the Peter Kiewit Foundation; and Joseph Kavan, BA’79, JD’82, partner with Kutak Rock LLP.

The caricature has Fr. Schlegel standing on Creighton’s campus with a tennis racket in one hand and a pair of Opera Omaha tickets in his pocket, highlighting his love for physical fitness and the arts. In the background are various campus buildings, including residence halls, St. John’s Church and the Creighton University Medical Center.

Creighton Psychology Professor Named Nebraska Professor of the Year

Creighton University psychology professor Isabelle Cherney, Ph.D., has been named Nebraska’s 2007 “Professor of the Year” by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education.

Cherney was recognized during a special ceremony in Washington, D.C., on Nov. 15.

“Teaching is my calling and vocation. I could not imagine my world without sharing my passion with my students, colleagues, and friends,” said Cherney. “Few things bring me more joy than relating and imparting knowledge to others, by capturing their attention through interesting examples, providing students with a framework for interpreting new material, applying the material to their own lives, and preparing reasonable assessments.”

“Teaching involves creating, molding, sharing, nurturing, being patient, curious, and respecting individual differences. It is the best way to make a difference in someone’s life,” she added.

Students say her enthusiasm is often contagious. She is known for finding ways to connect course material to students’ lives, striking a careful balance between support and challenge, and making the information come to life.

She is one of the leaders in Creighton’s College of Arts and Sciences in mentoring undergraduate students in research that is presented and published regionally and nationally.

Cherney was one of 50 professors, representing each state, chosen for the award. There were nearly 300 professors nominated nationwide. She graduated from Creighton with a degree in psychology in 1996 and returned in 2000 as an assistant professor of psychology.

“I cannot think of a more deserving recipient of this very prestigious award,” said Creighton University President the Rev. John P. Schlegel, S.J. “Dr. Cherney displays an extraordinary commitment to her students and brings impressive expertise to her classroom.”
Athletics Center Vision Made Reality by Generous Donors

Breaking ground on the Ryan Athletics Center and D.J. Sokol Arena are, from left, Sharon Hanson, associate athletic director and senior woman administrator; John Cernech, vice president for Student Services; Dave Sokol; Peggy Sokol; Peggy Sokol Avery (holding daughter Lucy), Bruce Rasmussen, athletics director; Fr. Schlegel; Wayne Ryan; Eileen Ryan; soccer player Tony Schmitz and volleyball player Abby Bauman.

Amid a sea of blue-and-white clad Creighton student athletes, ground was broken on Oct. 16 for the new, $12 million Ryan Athletics Center and D. J. Sokol Arena, another major milestone in Creighton University’s master plan.

The 46,000-square-foot, two-story building will be located on the northeast corner of Webster Street and Florence Boulevard, near Creighton’s Morrison Stadium — home to the men’s and women’s soccer teams. The facility was made a reality by the generous donations of Dr. Wayne, BS’49, MS’51, and Eileen Ryan and family and Dave and Peggy Sokol. They, along with members of their families,Creighton leadership, athletic staff and students, shoveled dirt to symbolically mark the beginning of construction on the new athletics facility.

“One of the things that has always characterized Creighton athletics has been the long-standing tradition of supportive alumni and friends who do not hesitate to come forward to put their money where their hearts are,” said Creighton Athletics Director Bruce Rasmussen in recognizing the Ryans and the Sokols. “All of us are very excited about what this center and arena will offer.”

The Ryan Athletics Center will house coaches’ offices, student and officials’ locker rooms, an athletic ticket office, training rooms, hospitality meeting areas and media workrooms.

It also will feature the D.J. Sokol Arena, a 2,500 to 3,000-seat facility that will be home to Creighton women’s basketball and volleyball.

In addition, the arena is expected to be used for other campus and community events, including campus programs, coaching camps/clinics, concerts, speakers, and high school sporting events and graduations.

Creighton President the Rev. John P. Schlegel, S.J., recognized the Ryans and the Sokols for “embracing the University’s master plan” and accelerating efforts to make the athletics center and arena a reality.

“They felt the timing was right not only to make a difference at Creighton but to continue the renaissance of making the corridor from the riverfront to the Creighton University Medical Center an academic, athletic and entertainment district,” Fr. Schlegel said.

“Creighton University stands for excellence, my wife and I truly appreciate the value of a Jesuit education that asks students to challenge themselves academically, to examine their values, and to always seek the magis — going further than they thought possible,” Wayne Ryan said. “There is no doubt in our minds that a successful athletics program does immeasurable good for the University as a whole. Going to the games engages the student body and helps unify the campus.”

Dave and Peggy Sokol honor their son, D.J., who died in 1999 following a long battle with Hodgkin’s disease, with the naming of the arena. Sokol serves as chairman and CEO of MidAmerican Energy Holdings Company, a global leader in the production, supply and distribution of energy; and recently served on Creighton University’s Board of Directors. The Sokols are community leaders who devote time and resources to a host of charitable causes, including Creighton University, the Salvation Army, the Boy Scouts of America and more.

“Creighton University stands for excellence, and that is certainly reflected in the quality of its student athletes and the records they achieve. My wife and I have long believed that the best investment one can make is in the youth of our community,” Dave Sokol said.

Wayne and Eileen Ryan and their family have been longtime supporters of Creighton University. Wayne Ryan, chairman and CEO of Streck Laboratories, Inc., began his career teaching at Creighton, before pursuing his passion for research that led to the founding of his company.

The Ryans received The Ignatian Spirit Award in 2007 from the Wisconsin Province of the Society of Jesus. The award honors a couple who has exhibited the ideals associated with St. Ignatius Loyola, founder of the Society of Jesus. They also recently established the Fr. Henry W. Casper, S. J. Professorship in History to honor one of Ryan’s favorite Jesuit professors at Creighton. They are also Jaybackers, and their daughter, Connie, serves on Creighton’s Board of Directors and is president of Streck Laboratories, Inc.

Construction of the athletics center complex is expected to be completed by the end of 2008. The completion of the athletics center is another example of the University’s growth, reflected in the strategic plan and identified as a funding priority in the $350 million Willing to Lead Campaign.
From Immigration to Prayer: Creighton Podcasts Offer Insight

Beyond the image of common garden statuary, who, really, was St. Francis of Assisi?

What are some of the ideas that inform Catholic medical ethics — and how does one navigate our confusing modern world with them as a guide?

Beyond praying to do one’s best, how else can a chaplain to Creighton’s student athletes help in the rough and tumble world of college sports?

These and nearly 40 other topical podcasts are available both as an iTunes subscription and online at a special Creighton resource, “Catholic Comments”: http://moses.creighton.edu/catholiccomments.

Hosted by Creighton theologians John O’Keefe, Ph.D., and Wendy Wright, Ph.D., who specialize in ancient Christianity and Christian Spirituality, respectively, Catholic Comments has made a name for itself on the Net and as a subscription podcast.

Indeed, the online resource has brought together a wealth of Catholic scholars from Creighton and elsewhere who offer their unique perspectives on being a Catholic in today’s world.

Just entering its second year this November, the program covers a broad range of topics, including church history, spiritual life, theology and current issues.

Immigration, moral judgments at the ballot box, Catholic social teaching, marriage and family, preparing for Lent — the podcasts are designed to reach listeners in their everyday lives and to help them consider their tradition as a rich resource for living.

The podcasts are downloadable on the iPod as a free subscription in iTunes. Or you can view each week’s new podcast and access the archives online. Listeners can also comment on the podcasts.

“The Catholic tradition has such rich resources with which we might pray, walk faithfully in daily life and shape ourselves as responsible global citizens,” said Wright, holder of the John C. Kenefick Chair in the Humanities. “Catholic Comments draws on the wonderful people we have here at Creighton as well as others around the country to make these resources easily available.

“The format is accessible, the conversations are thought-provoking and often deeply insightful. Dr. O’Keefe and I are delighted to be able to share the best the Catholic tradition has to offer with our listeners. We would also love to hear from our Creighton alums who, in keeping with the Jesuit tradition, are keeping their love of learning alive.”

Creighton University, Metropolitan Community College Offer Unique Restaurant Management Program

Creighton University and Metropolitan Community College (MCC) are partnering to provide the nation’s first professional hospitality and restaurant management program offered jointly by a four-year private university and two-year community college.

The program combines business courses from Creighton and culinary arts courses from the Institute for the Culinary Arts at MCC, and enables students to earn the ManageFirst Professional Plus certification from the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation (NRAEF).

Designed around skills identified by the ManageFirst Program as being essential to today’s managers in the hospitality and restaurant industry, the program connects two institutions, each offering content in their individual areas of expertise. The NRAEF developed its list of skills with input from more than 200 educators, operators, trainers and hiring managers.

“This is a groundbreaking program offering students the best of both worlds,” said the Rev. John P. Schlegel, S.J., president of Creighton University. “Students will be able to take advantage of the strengths of two highly rated educational institutions and participate in a program that should open multiple doors for them in the future.”

“With nearly 15 million positions in the food industry expected in the next 10 years, and many new management opportunities being created, this program complements a growing need,” said MCC President Jo Ann McDowell, Ph.D.

The program consists of seven courses from MCC, including information on purchasing, food production, nutrition, sanitation and cost management, and six courses from Creighton, covering subjects such as managerial accounting, restaurant marketing, customer service and employment law.

Upon successful completion of the program, students will receive an NRAEF ManageFirst Professional Plus Certificate from the NRAEF, Creighton University and the Institute for the Culinary Arts at Metropolitan Community College.
**Creighton Releases Cuba Report**

As part of a nationally commissioned study, Creighton University law and political science professors recently released a 277-page report for dealing with property claims in a post-Castro, democratic Cuba.

The two-year study was commissioned by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). In receiving the grant, the Creighton University School of Law was competitively selected from hundreds of applicants.

The Creighton team reviewed and compared other international claims systems in preparing the report. The report addresses the grievances of Cubans who lost their property to the Castro government, as well as the nearly 6,000 claims filed by U.S. citizens, valued in the billions of dollars. With limited money to pay these claims — likely just a few cents on the dollar — the report also recommends alternative compensation that would create further investment in Cuba. In addition, the report seeks to protect Cubans currently living on the island from being removed from their homes as part of any settlement.

“We respect Cuba as a sovereign nation … and we have a deep concern for the Cuban people,” said Patrick Borchers, vice president for Academic Affairs at Creighton and the study’s lead investigator. “Any resolution is going to be a Cuban one. We are offering suggestions as researchers.”

The Creighton investigators, he said, approached the report as a “neutral third-party.”

Elaine Grigsby, director of USAID’s Cuba Transition to Democracy Program, praised the report as very comprehensive. “The intent of the report is to draw on the experience of other countries, so when there is a democratically elected Cuban government, there will be a starting point,” she said. “This is a starting point.”

Other Creighton investigators included political science professors Erika Moreno, Ph.D., James Wunsch, Ph.D., and Richard Witmer, Ph.D., and law professors Arthur Pearlstein and Michael Kelly. Pearlstein directs the law school’s Werner Institute for Negotiation and Dispute Resolution, and Kelly is an international law specialist. Creighton graduate students in law and political science contributed to the report.

An executive summary of the report is available on the Creighton Magazine website at [www.creightonmagazine.org/CubaReport](http://www.creightonmagazine.org/CubaReport), or you can order a copy of the full report for $45 by contacting Pam Hopkins, hopkins@creighton.edu.

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**Kennedy’s Remarks Focus on Mental Health**

U.S. Rep. Patrick Kennedy, D-R.I., shared his thoughts on the importance of mental health care during a Nov. 4 visit to Creighton’s campus.

An estimated 26 percent of Americans ages 18 and older — about one in four adults — suffer from a diagnosable mental disorder in a given year. Kennedy advocates for equal access to health benefits for mental health and addiction treatment.

Sponsored by the Creighton Students Union, Kennedy’s brief speech, titled “Ending the Stigma,” was followed by a question-and-answer period.
Professor Honored for Fight Against Cystic Fibrosis

Nancy Hanson, Ph.D., associate professor of medical microbiology and immunology at Creighton, was one of five Nebraskans honored by the Nebraska Cystic Fibrosis Foundation during its annual banquet on Oct. 12. The event recognized individuals who have made significant contributions to understanding cystic fibrosis.

Hanson's laboratory is involved in determining optimal drug treatments for bacterial lung infections, from which cystic fibrosis patients suffer most of their lives and which can eventually become resistant to many antibiotics. In addition, Hanson and her colleagues are investigating mechanisms of resistance that could lead to the identification of new targets for the design of novel antibiotics that are more efficient in killing the bacteria causing these infections.

Kavan Elected to AAMC Post

Michael Kavan, Ph.D., BA'82, associate dean for student affairs at Creighton University School of Medicine, has been elected national vice chair of the Group on Student Affairs (GSA) for the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) for 2007-2008.

Kavan will help lead the GSA for a total of four years, beginning in November, serving one year each as vice chair, chair-elect, chair and past chair.

Furlong Named to NIH Council

Beth Furlong, Ph.D., JD'00, associate professor of nursing at Creighton University, has been named to the Director's Council of Public Representatives at the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

The council brings important matters of public interest forward for discussion and advises and assists the director in increasing public participation in NIH activities and public understanding of the organization.

Kavan and five other new appointees “bring a wealth of knowledge and professional experience in the areas of rural and community health, patient advocacy, health policy, nursing education, and communications, along with a strong commitment to enhancing public participation in the biomedical and behavioral research enterprise,” said NIH Director Elias A. Zerhouni, M.D.

Furlong, a faculty associate with Creighton's Center for Health Policy and Ethics, has four decades of experience in community health nursing. She has taught health ethics and related subjects to nurses and physicians in the Republic of Azerbaijan, Georgia, Lithuania and Armenia. Her international experience includes working as a Peace Corps volunteer in India and Fulbright fellowships in Jordan and Hungary.

Creighton Medical Student Receives Prestigious AAMC Scholarship

Creighton University medical student Danielle K. Potter has been awarded the prestigious Herbert Nickens Scholarship by the American Association of Medical Colleges.

Potter, of Waimea, Hawaii, is one of five, third-year medical students nationwide to receive the $5,000 scholarship in 2007 for their efforts to address the educational, societal and health care needs of minorities.

Potter is a past co-president of the Creighton chapter of the Student National Medical Association, the nation's oldest and largest student-run organization for medical students of color. She has also volunteered at Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, minority bone-marrow drives in Omaha, and labor and delivery classes at North Hawaii Community Hospital in Kameula.

In 2006, Potter spent three weeks in the Philippines, Cambodia and Thailand as a volunteer with HOPE worldwide, teaching first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation to children who were sexually and physically abused, as well as visiting families afflicted with AIDS.

Creighton Recognized Among Producers of U.S. Fulbright Students

Creighton University was included on the Fulbright Program's list of colleges and universities that produced the most 2007-2008 U.S. Fulbright Fellows. The success of the top producing institutions was highlighted in the Oct. 26 print edition of The Chronicle of Higher Education.

Two students from Creighton University won Fulbright awards for 2007-2008. Both Melissa Olson, of Blair, Neb., and Catherine Homan, of St. Louis, graduated with honors from Creighton and are conducting research in Germany.© University of Nebraska Medical Center
**Undergraduate Research Shines with Support of Alumnus**

Creighton’s second annual Ferlic Undergraduate Science Poster Presentation on Oct. 22 once more showcased the original research of Creighton’s undergraduate students in the physical sciences.

Made possible through the generosity and support of alumnus Randolph Ferlic, BS’58, MD’61, and his wife, Teresa Kolars Ferlic, this research program brought together 11 Creighton students in 2007 and supported them in their work with their faculty mentors.

Each of the students worked 40 hours per week for 10 weeks during the summer in the lab of a faculty member. Each student received a stipend of $3,200 for living expenses, $500 for research materials, and access to support that enabled them to attend meetings and present their work externally.

Thanks to this support, these Creighton students were able to focus solely on research efforts — and progress in ways that otherwise would be lost to them in holding down other jobs to support themselves.

Nearly half of all Creighton’s undergraduate students major in science — five times the national average. Creighton’s physics, chemistry and biology programs, as well as those in environmental and atmospheric sciences, rank among the best in the country.

This cross-disciplinary study is not available on most college campuses, and Creighton students do not undertake these initiatives alone. They are successful because they are mentored by talented faculty members who match their enthusiasm with patience, skill and expertise.

As a key administrator of this program, James Fletcher, Ph.D., assistant professor of chemistry, can attest to the support Creighton faculty bring to their students.

“While it is obvious that the faculty mentors support the students with their hands-on guidance,” Fletcher said, “it is important to realize that the students in turn support the scholarly interests of their faculty mentors with their research results. This symbiotic relationship makes programs such as the Ferlic Summer Research Program a win-win situation for everyone involved.”

Ferlic students for 2007 are: Kristi Lorenzen, senior biology major, talks about her research at the Ferlic Undergraduate Science Poster Presentation. Lorenzen worked with Annemarie Shibata, Ph.D., assistant professor of cellular neuroscience.

**NYSE Chairman Headlines Business Symposium**

Marshall Carter, chairman of the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) and deputy chairman of NYSE Euronext, was the featured speaker at Creighton’s annual Executive Business Symposium.

The symposium was held Nov. 2 at the Qwest Center Omaha. This was the fourth year for the symposium, which is open to all students and is designed to connect students with business professionals to enhance and further the classroom experience.


In addition to Carter, other speakers included Kelly McDonald, BSBA’85, M BA’89, a marketing strategist with more than 15 years experience working with global organizations such as Apple, Levi Strauss and Microsoft; Nebraska Gov. Dave Heineman; Gail Werner-Robertson, BA’84, JD’88, founder and president of GWR Wealth Management; Ron Gartlan, BSBA’69, president and CEO of Godfather’s Pizza; and Bruce Simon, president and CEO of Omaha Steaks.

The symposium is organized by students in Creighton’s Anna Tyler Waite Center for Leadership, a four-year leadership development program in the College of Business Administration.

Carter also gave a special class session on leadership and the challenges facing the financial services industry. Carter is a recognized leader in the banking industry, a former Marine Corps officer and a decorated Vietnam veteran. He took over as chairman of the New York Stock Exchange in April 2005. He is currently deputy chairman of NYSE Euronext, a holding company created in April 2007 by the combination of NYSE Group, Inc., and Euronext N.V.
Worshippers visit the tomb of Imam Husayn, grandson of the Prophet Muhammad, who is buried in a shrine in the Shi’i holy city of Karbala, Iraq. The tomb is one of the holiest places for Shi’i Muslims.

The Shi’a of Iraq

By John Calvert, Ph.D.
Fr. Henry W. Casper, S.J., Associate Professor in History
They traveled to Karbala in the hundreds of thousands, grave-faced men and women dressed in black, walking, crawling over the ground, chanting prayers and lamentations, rhythmically beating their chests. The date: April 22, 2003. The occasion: Arba’în, the day on which the Imam Husayn was martyred centuries earlier by the forces of the “iniquitous” Sunni caliph of Damascus. For Shi’î Muslims around the world, the annual commemoration of Imam Husayn’s martyrdom is an important component of their devotional landscape.

Yet, for a quarter of a century, Saddam Husayn severely curtailed and even banned the performance of Arba’în and other Shi’î rituals. As leader of the Sunni-dominated Ba’thist regime, Husyan made every attempt to diminish Shi’î identity in Iraq.

But now, in April 2003, the Americans were in charge. Together with their British allies, they had overthrown Iraq’s Ba’thists. Saddam Husayn was on the run and would soon be extracted from the “spider hole” in which he sought refuge. For most Iraqis, but particularly for Iraq’s long-suffering Shi’î population, the fall of Saddam Husayn was an exhilarating moment of liberation. In the ritual mourning of their martyred Imam, the Shi’a released decades of pent up emotion.

Unintended Consequences

The Americans and the British had come to Iraq to build a democracy. In the view of the White House and of Whitehall, the project would serve two purposes. It would secure an oil-wealthy ally abutting the Islamic Republic of Iran, whose ambitions the U.S. administration was eager to check, and it would encourage democratic forces elsewhere in the region to push harder for positive change in their countries, perhaps with the assistance of the United States. The net effect would be the emergence of a kinder, gentler Middle East, one friendly to American political and business interests.

Democracy, so the thinking went, would breed prosperity and contentment, which, in turn, would end the despair and humiliation driving Al Qaeda’s global jihad.

At the urging of their leaders, Iraq’s Shi’a turned out massively to vote in the elections that followed Saddam’s ouster, but not necessarily because they sought to replicate the Jeffersonian model. Rather, most Shi’a viewed the elections as a convenient instrument by which their beleaguered community might gain political power at the expense of Iraq’s Sunni establishment. The fruit of this strategy was the elevation to power of the Shi’a-dominated coalition government of Nuri al-Maliki — and the Sunni backlash it engendered.

There have been other consequences. In decapitating the Ba’thist regime, the Bush administration created the conditions of a Shi’a renaissance in Iraq that has emboldened Iran and Lebanon’s Hizbullah. Some observers, including King Abdullah II of Jordan, have spoken openly of an arc of resurgent Shi’a power stretching from Beirut to Tehran.

The U.S. now finds itself in the position of having to contain the Shi’a surge, a goal it shares not only with Israel, its steadfast ally, but also with a number of Sunni Arab states and, it should be added, with the jihadi guerrillas and terrorists. The Iraq war has altered the Middle East’s balance of power, but not in ways anticipated by or appreciated in Washington.

The Partisans of ‘Ali

Every great world religion has its sectarian divisions. In Islam, the major sectarian divide is between Sunni and Shi’î Muslims. Among the world’s Muslims, Sunnis are the clear majority, comprising between 85 and 90 percent of the total. Although there are significant Shi’î populations in South Asia (India, Pakistan and Afghanistan) and the Caucasus (Azerbaijan), most Shi’a reside in the Middle East, especially the Gulf region but also in Lebanon and Syria. What is notable is that, with the exception of Iran and a small number of dynasties in the medieval period, Shi’î Muslims have rarely held the reins of political power. Indeed, in many modern Middle Eastern states, such as Iraq (where they comprise 60 percent of the population), Bahrain (where they are 75 percent of the population) and Saudi Arabia (where they are 10 percent), the Shi’a have been marginalized and
sometimes persecuted.

The difference between Sunni and Shi'i Muslims hinges on the issue of leadership: Who should govern the Muslim community following the death of the Prophet Muhammad? According to the Sunnis, the Prophet died without designating an heir. Left to their own devices, the Muslims of Medina chose leaders from their ranks. These were the “khulafa” — in the anglicized version of the term, “caliphs.” Unlike the Prophet, the caliphs possessed no special religious knowledge. Their tasks were simply to uphold the integrity of the Muslim community, defend it from its enemies and enforce the Shari'a, the body of rules, regulations and advice that derive from the Qur'an and the Prophet’s example. In history there were three important caliphal houses: the Rashidun (632-661), the Umayyads (661-750) and the Abbasids (750-1258).

In contrast to the Sunnis, Shi'i Muslims believe that the Prophet Muhammad did, in fact, designate a successor, namely, his cousin ‘Ali ibn Talib, who was also husband to his daughter Fatima. Further, they believe that the legitimate governance of the Muslims should remain in the line of ‘Ali and Fatima. Shi'i Muslims refer to these descendants of the Prophet as “Imams” (literally, “leaders”) and consider their judgment on religious and worldly affairs to be infallible. According to Shi'i theologians, God provided the Imams with special wisdom so that they might properly guide the Muslim community in the absence of the Prophet. Shi'a attach special significance to the third Imam, Husayn, who was killed at Karbala in 680 C.E. in his attempt to wrest control of the nascent Islamic state from the Sunni Umayyads. Husayn’s “passion” is Shi'ism’s central symbol, representing the eclipse of justice in a world bereft of legitimate leadership.

Yet, Shi'i theology is also confident that matters will improve. According to Shi'i doctrine, in the year 874 C.E., God concealed the Twelfth Imam in order to protect him from his Sunni Muslim enemies. Accordingly, the Twelfth Imam is invisible, even to believers. He will, however, return one day to earth as the Mahdi — the “Guided One” — and restore justice to the world. He will wreak vengeance against the illegitimate usurpers of religio-political authority and expand his just rule throughout the world through jihad.

This millennial scenario, elaborated and embellished over centuries in a vast body of apocalyptic literature, has much in common with Messianic traditions in other faiths, notably Judaism and Christianity. It is especially apparent among members of religious communities that are routinely oppressed or marginalized, the historical experience of the Shi’a throughout the Middle East.

In the absence of the manifest Imam, the affairs of the Shi’i community are guided by clerics (‘ulama). The most revered clerics are given the title “marja-e taqlid,” “source of imitation,” so called because every Shi'i Muslim must follow the teachings and advice of a living marja on issues ranging from the sublime to the very ordinary: “Since perfume has alcohol in it, and alcohol is forbidden, may a Shi’a wear perfume?”

A young Iraqi boy in Baghdad kisses a portrait commemorating the death of Imam Husayn. Shi’a attach special significance to Husayn, who was beheaded at Karbala in 680 C.E. in a battle to wrest control from the Sunni Umayyads.
In the 20th century, the title “ayatollah” (literally, “sign of God”) became customary for designating a marja-e taqlid. At any given time, there are only a handful of ayatollahs available to dispense wisdom. Over the 18th and 19th centuries, many of the most revered Shi‘i clerics resided at the shrine cities of Ottoman Mesopotamia: Karbala, Najaf (which houses the tomb of ‘Ali), al-Khadhimiyya and Samarra.

Shi‘ism vs. Arab Nationalism

The 19th century was something of a golden age for Shi‘ism in Mesopotamia. Taking advantage of the Sunni Ottomans’ inability to closely control the region, the region’s Shi‘i clerics and urban merchants enjoyed semi-autonomy, especially in the areas south of Baghdad. In those days, Karbala and Najaf bustled with activity. Their streets were filled with pilgrims, seminary students and scholars from around Iraq and abroad. Lonely seminarians could, if so disposed, partake of the practice of mut‘a, a temporary marriage contracted with a woman for any length of time, even for a matter of hours. Sunnis regard this practice as a form of prostitution, but most Shi‘a consider it legitimate, tracing it back to the time of the Prophet. The shrine cities, especially Najaf, were the preferred burial grounds for Shi‘a who sought to spend the period between death and bodily resurrection in the vicinity of their beloved Imams. Consequently, the cities benefitted from a brisk traffic in corpses, some of which were transported from as far away as India. In 2004, U.S. Marines battled the Mahdi Army of Muqtada al-Sadr in these same graveyards.

Following the Ottoman Empire’s defeat in World War I, Great Britain and France imposed a new political order over the Middle East that severely diminished Mesopotamia’s informal autonomy. When, in 1920, it appeared that Britain’s occupation of Mesopotamia, which had commenced in 1917, was to be formally institutionalized in the form of a League of Nations Mandate, the Shi‘a rose up in violent rebellion, receiving only minor support from the Sunni population.

Iraq’s top Shi‘i cleric, Grand Ayatollah Ali Sistani, enters a room in Al-Abdaly on the Iraqi side of the border with Kuwait in this image taken from television in August 2004.

The British crushed the rebellion at the cost of 10,000 Arab lives and, in 1921, united the Ottoman provinces of Basra, Baghdad, and Mosul to create the state of Iraq. Partly to punish the Shi‘a, and partly to appease the Sunni Hashimites who helped against the Ottomans during the war, the British placed Faysal, son of the Sunni prince of Mecca, on the throne of the new country. Over the course of the following decades, Iraq’s politics and economy were directed largely by the country’s Sunni elite.

Against the emergence of Baghdad as the political center, Najaf and Karbala declined in importance. Unable to withstand the controlling impulses of the Sunni-dominated state, Iraq’s Shi‘i clerics retreated to the margins of society. One result was that during the period of the constitutional monarchy (1921-1958) Qom and Mashhad in Iran replaced Iraq’s shrine cities as the primary centers of Shi‘i learning. Certainly the most influential graduate of the seminary at Qom was Ruhollah Khomeini who became a marja in 1963 following the death of Iranian Grand Ayatollah Husayn Borujerdi. Khomeini went on to lead the Iranian Revolution of 1978-79.

The Saddam years (1979-2003) represented the nadir of Shi‘i fortunes in Iraq. The president of Iraq diverted Iraq’s oil revenues away from the Shi‘i south to the cities and towns of the “Sunni Triangle.” He restricted Shi‘i religious observances. Although the bulk of Iraq’s army was made up of Shi‘i conscripts who served the state loyally, Saddam Husayn was afraid that
elements within the Shi'i population, particularly those with family ties to Iran, constituted a security risk. And so, during the early stages of the brutal war with Iran (1980-1988), he had tens of thousands of Shi'a deported to Iran.

The sustained ill treatment of Iraq's Shi'a during the 1970s and 1980s ignited clerical opposition to the Ba'thist regime. The central figure in this reaction was the Ayatollah Muhammad Baqir al-Sadr.

Muhammad Baqir al-Sadr was the driving force behind the creation of the Da'wa Party, launched in the late 1950s in the holy city of Najaf in Iraq. Organized into secret cells, the party's objective was to preserve Shi'i identity against the influence of Western ideologies. However, during the 1970s the Da'wa Party turned its full attention to Saddam Husayn's suppression of the Shi'a. Inspired by the Islamic Revolution in Iran, some Da'wa members turned to violence. In response, Saddam Husayn executed Muhammad Baqir al-Sadr, allegedly by driving nails into his head and setting him ablaze. Their will unbroken, elements within Da'wa attempted, in 1982, to assassinate Saddam, who retaliated by killing scores of people in Dujail, the hometown of the would-be assassins. It was for this particular crime that Saddam Husayn was tried and executed in December 2006. During Saddam's execution, a number of the Shi'i guards, one of whom managed to record the event on his phone-camera, chanted, "Long live Muhammad Baqir al-Sadr!"

Saddam Husayn's defeat in the 1990-1991 Gulf War provided the Shi'a with a new opportunity to change the status quo in their favor. Tens of thousands of Shi'i conscripts in the Iraqi army, streaming home in defeat from Kuwait, heeded President George H.W. Bush's call for the Shi'a and Kurds to rise up against the tyrant. The American help that the Shi'a expected never materialized. Although they did not want him in Kuwait, Washington and Riyadh were keen to keep Saddam Husayn on his presidential throne in order not to create a power vacuum in Iraq that might then be exploited by Iran. Employing the Republican Guard units that he had kept out of harm's way during the war, Saddam Husayn crushed the uprisings and then unleashed a reign of terror upon the
general Shi’i population. Most of the mass graves discovered in the wake of the 2003 American advance up the Tigris and Euphrates river valleys date from this period of savage repression.

During the 1990s, the Shi’i suffered with other Iraqis under the weight of sanctions by the United States and Great Britain. The suffering was compounded by the country’s broken infrastructure — a legacy of the Gulf War. Given the West’s disregard for the well-being of Iraq’s Shi’a, it is perhaps not surprising that the pilgrims who marched to Karbala in 2003 mixed their religious chants with anti-American slogans.

**Tyranny of the Majority?**

To the dismay of the U.S., the United Iraqi Alliance that came to dominate Iraq’s parliament following the 2005 national elections was comprised largely of Shi’i religious parties. The top vote-getter was the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI). Led by ’Abd al-Aziz al-Hakim, whose father had been the leading ayatollah of Najaf in the 1960s, SCIRI initially accepted the Ayatollah Khomeini’s theory of clerical rule, which some say made the party a proxy of Iran. However, in May 2007 SCIRI assuaged these fears by announcing that it would no longer take guidance from Iran and would instead follow the fatwas (judicial opinions) of Grand Ayatollah Ali Sistani. In order to signify its new independence from Iran and its revolution, the party renamed itself the Supreme Islamic Iraqi Council.

Another big winner in the elections was Muqtada al-Sadr, son of the much respected Grand Ayatollah Muhammad Sadeq al-Sadr, who was assassinated by Saddam Husayn’s secret police in 1999. (Muqtada is also the son-in-law of the previously-mentioned Ayatollah Muhammad Baqir al-Sadr.) Over the 1990s, Muqtada’s father looked to the interests of the impoverished dwellers in Shi’i East Baghdad, which came to be called “Sadr City” in his honor. Muqtada al-Sadr inherited his father’s constituency and, like him, accepts Khomeini’s rule of the jurisprudent. However, Muqtada al-Sadr is not an ayatollah; he does not have the scholarly credentials (according to some accounts, he spent much of his youth playing video games). Rather, he bears the less distinguished title “Hujjat al-Islam” (“a proof of Islam”). Unlike other Shi’i parties and individuals in parliament who are willing to cooperate with one another and with the Americans for strategic and practical purposes, Muqtada al-Sadr has used his black-clad Mahdi Army time and again to assert his authority both against U.S. forces and Shi’i rivals.

The question before both Iraqis and Americans is whether the Iraqi government will be able to address effectively the challenges before it. Will it be able to provide security to Iraq’s citizens, both to the Shi’a, who have been the targets of jihadi attacks, and the Sunnis, who have suffered terrible retribution? Will it work to incorporate more Sunnis into the state’s decision-making processes, for example, by reversing the de-Ba’thification law? Will the government manage to pass an effective oil-revenue sharing law that will satisfy the demands of the country’s Sunni center? These and other issues remain unresolved.

**We’re not in Kansas Anymore**

In his book *Imperial Life in the Emerald City*, Rajiv Chandrasekaran of the Washington Post describes the naïve, ideologically narrow vision of the American personnel attached to the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) in the Green Zone during the early years of the occupation. According to Chandrasekaran, CPA officials were chosen because of their political loyalty to the U.S. administration, not necessarily on account of their expertise or knowledge of Iraq’s affairs. Going in, many held the general assumption that Iraq’s Shi’a were “secular” and open to U.S. tutelage. Like most Americans working in Iraq, they were unprepared for events as they unfolded. In toppling Saddam Husayn, the United States and its British ally let loose forces and trends, including a “Shi’a revival,” which it has been unable to effectively understand, predict and manage in accordance with its interests.

**About the author:** John Calvert is the Fr. Henry W. Casper, S.J. Associate Professor in History. His research focuses on Islamist movements in the Middle East and South East Asia. With William Shepard, he is translator and editor of Sayyid Qutb’s *A Child from the Village* (Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 2004), and author of *The Arabian Peninsula in the Age of Oil* (Philadelphia: Mason Crest, 2007) and the forthcoming *Islamism: A Documentary and Reference Guide* (Westport: Greenwood Press, 2007).

**Suggestions for Further Reading:**

On Dec. 3, 2005, Creighton University announced the public phase of its most ambitious capital campaign ever — *The Willing to Lead Campaign* — with a goal of raising $350 million and securing Creighton’s place at the forefront as one of the finest Jesuit, Catholic universities in the United States. Now, two years later — thanks to the support of alumni and friends across the country — the University is closing in on that goal with more than $300 million raised.

“The response to the campaign has been overwhelmingly positive,” said Bruce Rohde, BSBA’71, JD’73, chair of the Campaign Steering Committee. “This is an exciting time in the history of the institution. Through the shared vision and generosity of alumni and friends, we are truly transforming Creighton University.”

*The Willing to Lead Campaign* is aligned with Creighton’s strategic planning — part of a “willed future” outlined by Creighton University’s president, the Rev. John P. Schlegel, S.J., vice presidents and deans. Thanks to the generosity of donors, Creighton University has endowed seven new faculty chairs in nursing, dentistry, medicine, law, business, and arts and sciences; created the Werner Institute for Negotiation and Dispute Resolution in the law school; increased the amount of scholarship money awarded to students; and created endowed professorships in history and nephrology. Several other faculty chairs will be announced in the near future.

“To date, nearly 57,000 alumni and friends have participated in the campaign,” said Lisa Calvert, vice president for University Relations. “It is incredible how the alumni have stepped forward to support the University’s future.”

The initial stages of the campaign focused on Creighton’s science education. With construction of the Hixson-Lied Science Building, Creighton seized an opportunity to become a national template for undergraduate science education, creating opportunities for interdisciplinary learning and research among undergraduate and graduate students and faculty. That was followed by renovations to the Rigge Science Building and Criss II and III buildings. These improvements promote faculty and student recruitment, faculty retention and student satisfaction. Nearly half of Creighton’s undergraduate students major in a science, compared with the national average of about 5 percent.

Buoyed by an anonymous $50 million gift to *The Willing to Lead Campaign*, Creighton is among the most prominent Catholic universities in the United States.
TO LEAD CAMPAIGN, Creighton then began its dramatic east-campus expansion — designed to provide undergraduate and professional students with a high-level, academic, life-changing experience. This has included construction of the Davis Square and Opus Hall student town homes for juniors and seniors; opening of the Rev. Michael G. Morrison, S.J., Stadium, home to Creighton men’s and women’s soccer; construction of the Mike and Josie Harper Center for Student Life and Learning (to be completed in 2008); the renovation and expansion of the campus mall, unifying the campus from east to west; and renovations to historic St. John’s Church. Most recently, the University broke ground on the Ryan Athletics Center and D.J. Sokol Arena, the future home to Creighton women’s basketball and volleyball.

THE WILLING TO LEAD CAMPAIGN has been aggressive on all fronts. The campaign seeks nearly half its overall goal in endowments for people and programs. Substantial endowment support will secure and strengthen Creighton’s core asset, its faculty, while providing the scholarship support necessary to attract a diverse community of students with the skills, ethics and motivation to build a better society.

“This campaign is about our shared dreams for Creighton’s future,” Fr. Schlegel said. “We are standing on the shoulders of giants, from the creative and entrepreneurial spirit of the Creighton family to the adventurous spirit shown by our university leaders, faculty, staff and alumni throughout the decades. Now, this is our moment of possibility. We are on the path to assume national prominence. We are grateful to the many individuals who have participated in this campaign and contributed to its success. But we still have some critical funding needs, and we look for your continued support as we move forward.”

THE WILLING TO LEAD CAMPAIGN seeks support in five key areas: Jesuit mission and Catholic identity (Willing to Believe); science education and technology (Willing to Innovate); east-campus expansion (Willing to Grow); endowment for people and programs (Willing to Excel); and the annual fund (Willing to Serve). On the following pages, we share with you the progress of the campaign in these critical areas, as well as outline those priorities that require additional support through the campaign.

Through your support of the campaign, you will join those who have demonstrated their enthusiasm for our “willed future” and signify that, above all, Creighton University is Willing to Lead. For more information, or to contribute or discuss a gift to the campaign, please call (800) 334-8794 or (402) 280-2740.
“Everyone who supports Creighton is blessed with the opportunity to contribute to the formation of ‘men and women for others’ who are imbued with Jesuit values of justice and solidarity.”

— Richard L. O’Brien, MS’58, MD’60, University Professor, Center for Health Policy and Ethics

Renovations of St. John’s Church

St. John’s Church lies at the heart of Creighton’s campus, both literally and figuratively. This venerable neo-Gothic landmark — which opened as a tiny chapel in 1888 — is where students, alumni, Jesuits and parishioners, through the generations, have come to pray, to mourn, to celebrate, and to gather in community. On July 28, Creighton University celebrated the breathtaking renovations to St. John’s Church and consecrated its new altar with a Mass offered by Omaha Archbishop the Most Rev. Elden Francis Curtiss and concelebrated by more than a dozen Jesuits. The University’s goal for liturgical renewal is to refresh the church in ways that engage people in a richer communal experience more reflective of Creighton’s dynamic Catholic faith.

Endowed Jesuit Chair

As fewer men enter the ministry, the presence of Jesuits on the Creighton campus assumes urgency. Creighton University seeks an endowed Jesuit Chair to attract Jesuit scholars and teachers to campus. Common at many other Jesuit institutions, the endowed chair would reinvigorate the Jesuit presence and offer students greater access to the spiritual guidance so fundamental to the Creighton experience.

Endowment for the Center for the Study of Catholic Thought

Creighton University has programs that educate faculty about the mission of the Society of Jesus and that introduce them to Jesuit spirituality. However, a new Center for the Study of Catholic Thought would coordinate and encourage special activities that relate specifically to the Catholic intellectual tradition through public lectures, faculty seminars, research grants and visiting scholars. The center would attract Jesuits from all over to Creighton to pursue their studies, teaching and research.

Endowment for Collaborative Ministry

The Collaborative Ministry Office’s innovative Online Ministries is a remarkable Creighton University success story and has become one of the finest faith-based websites in the world — with 1.7 million visitors each month from 145 countries. Creighton seeks endowment, so it can build this creative response to the electronic age and gain distinction for its innovative commitment to nourishing the University’s worldwide faith community.

Endowment for the Center for Service and Justice

Every day, Creighton students, faculty, staff and alumni are making a difference in the world through more than 150 programs in 440 locations, professional careers, and community leadership and boards. Creighton’s Center for Service and Justice is the University’s anchor for enriching the development of the campus community and its service to greater society. Our students’ enthusiasm for the service of faith and justice and the spirit of service they apply after graduation are hallmarks of a Creighton education and set us apart from many of our educational peers.

Integrated Science Center: Hixson-Lied, Rigge, Criss II and Criss III & Technology Infrastructure

With nearly half of Creighton’s undergraduate students majoring in science — five times the national average — an emphasis on further developing an interactive, collaborative
and interdisciplinary science education is a critical component of The Willing to Lead Campaign. Taking advantage of favorable short-term funding rates, the University made a visible leap forward in science education in 2003 — opening its six-story, 110,000-square-foot Hixson-Lied Science Building and renovating the science space in the Rigge, Criss II and Criss III buildings. The goal of this Integrated Science Center is to maximize the synergies of a strong undergraduate science program and a major medical center in one institution — further encouraging students and faculty to explore the frontiers of healing, science and biomedicine.

Now the University must assure the future sustainability of its contributions to science education and research through a major infusion of private philanthropic support. The Campaign for Creighton seeks funding in three related areas: (1) completion of the funding of the Integrated Science Center, (2) significantly upgraded technology infrastructure, and (3) endowment to transform Creighton’s health sciences education, research and clinical missions to accommodate a new threshold of excellence. Achieving this bold vision will demonstrate that Creighton University is Willing to Innovate.

“The Magis Clinic is such a needed, educational and inspirational project. We owe a lot to the philanthropy of the Creighton community.”
— Medical student Justin Birge, MS’03, on support for the student-run Magis Clinic, which offers services to the homeless

WILLING TO GROW
SUPPORT FOR CAMPUS EXPANSION
GOAL: $99 MILLION

In 2003, Creighton leadership created a dynamic and nationally recognized campus master plan. The University took advantage of historically low interest rates and once-neglected properties that were selling at fair market value. Thus the momentum of Omaha’s downtown progress, the University’s opportunity to realize key elements of its 15-year campus master plan and the early success of The Campaign for Creighton provided the confidence to move ahead with several innovative facilities and beyond the original campaign goal.

The Rev. Michael G. Morrison, S.J., Stadium
The Rev. Michael G. Morrison, S.J., Stadium is one of the nation’s premier soccer complexes. The Bluejays’ new home also underscores Creighton’s national soccer reputation and the new opportunity for NCAA tournaments. It provides Omaha with a major new sports venue — a 5,000-seat stadium within walking distance for students and fans who live and work downtown.

Davis Square and Opus Hall Town Homes
Unlike students at many universities, Creighton juniors and seniors want to live on campus. They value residence halls as extensions of the learning environment. Creighton’s first junior-senior town homes, Davis Square, opened in 2004, with Opus Hall following in 2006. Both have been popular with upperclassmen; when Davis Square first opened, three times as many students requested rooms as were available. Indeed, juniors and seniors are excited to spend their last formative years on campus, while younger students benefit from their presence and leadership.

The Mike and Josie Harper Center for Student Life and Learning
Construction of the 214,000-square-foot Mike and Josie Harper Center for Student Life and Learning is scheduled to be completed in the summer of 2008. The importance of this signature building cannot be overstated. In addition to providing essential, centrally located services for students, the Harper Center will serve as Creighton’s front door, warmly welcoming prospective students, parents, members of the
community and all other visitors. Designed to be a comfortable environment, the Harper Center will enhance students' experiences by providing an atmosphere that encourages excellence in all aspects of student life.

**Ryan Athletics Center and D.J. Sokol Arena**

On Oct. 16, ground was broken for the new Ryan Athletics Center and D.J. Sokol Arena. The 46,000-square-foot, two-story building, to be located on the northeast corner of Webster Street and Florence Boulevard, will be home to Creighton women's basketball and volleyball. (See story on Page 5.)

**Willing to Excel**

Support for Endowments for People and Programs

**Goal:** $145 million

“At Creighton University, one of our main goals is to attract the highest-ability students from all socioeconomic backgrounds and create campus communities that prepare them for a global society,” said Fr. Schlegel. “It is also critical that we retain our leading faculty and attract new scholars. All of this is accomplished through a strong endowment. While we have received significant funding in this area through the campaign, we still have a ways to go to reach our goal. Your gifts to this vitally important portion of the campaign will strengthen our University and benefit students for generations to come.”

**Student Scholarships**

Scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students are vital to Creighton’s ability to achieve its goals as a Jesuit, Catholic university that enables students to apply their knowledge and talents with compassion and sound moral judgment. The primary reason that Creighton loses qualified students to other institutions is a lack of merit-scholarships or need-based financial aid. As the University competes for high-ability students from a national student base, its need for merit awards and financial aid will continue to increase. Endowments for merit- and need-based financial aid will allow Creighton to achieve strategic goals of greater national reach and expanded cultural and ethnic balance. As part of its Jesuit, Catholic mission, Creighton University has an obligation to educate increasing numbers of high-ability middle- and lower-income students seeking admission to undergraduate colleges and to further their goals in professional/graduate schools. A flourishing endowment will attract more exceptional students from all socioeconomic backgrounds and ensure sustained excellence over the long term.

**Faculty Endowments**

A university’s reputation and value are built on the quality of its faculty, who nurture, encourage and motivate students and who, through their research, scholarship and love of teaching, attract other outstanding faculty. Through **The Willing to Lead Campaign**, the University has endowed seven new faculty chairs:

- The John N. Mordeson, Ph.D., Endowed Chair in Mathematics through a gift from George Haddix, Ph.D., MA’66, and his wife, Sally Hansen Haddix;
- The Union Pacific Endowed Chair in Accountancy;
- The McGrath North Mullin & Kratz Endowed Chair in Business Law;
- The Charles F. and Mary C. Heider Endowed Chair in Cancer Research;
- The Sheila and James J. Shea Family Endowed Chair in Anesthesiology;

“Creighton has always been known for its teaching … But there is world-class research going on here, as well. Creighton is known for its work in bone and calcium biology and for its work in hereditary cancer syndromes. We hope to do more. We should do more. I think we can do more.”

— Robert P. Heaney, MD’51, Professor of Medicine and Endowed Chairholder, John A. Creighton University Professor
Such sustaining gifts ensure that Creighton’s educational aspirations and commitments will be fully realized — the very treasures of the University.

OTHER CAMPAIGN FUNDING

As in all campaigns, there are other miscellaneous gifts and restricted gifts that fall outside of the stated campaign priorities but are equally essential to moving Creighton University forward. This campaign is an invitation to all alumni and friends to “dream big” and to demonstrate that we are Willing to Lead. For more information on how your gift can benefit Creighton University — or to contribute or further discuss a gift to the campaign — please call (800) 334-8794 or (402) 280-2740.

WILLING TO SERVE
SUPPORT FOR THE CREIGHTON FUND
GOAL: $30 MILLION

Creighton students learn to embrace the world and immerse themselves in it. Faculty provide students the intellectual, ethical, social and spiritual integration they seek — and society needs — so they can apply their knowledge and talents with compassion and sound moral judgment. Unrestricted annual gifts provide the institution with the necessary flexibility to apply funds where they are needed most and help relieve the upward pressures on tuition, which remains the major source of operating revenues. By contributing to the campaign goal of $30 million, alumni and friends can participate in what will, cumulatively, be one of the largest gifts ever to the University.

“Receiving scholarship awards has allowed me to focus on studying and excelling academically, knowing that my finances are taken care of and that I won’t have to make decisions for my career and family dictated primarily by my debt.”

— Danielle Ku`Ulei Potter, Creighton medical student, Class of 2009

“At Creighton University, one of our main goals is to attract the highest-ability students from all socioeconomic backgrounds and create campus communities that prepare them for a global society.”

— The Rev. John P. Schlegel, S.J., President

Gifts to the campaign also funded the Henry W. Casper, S.J., Professorship in History, supported by Wayne, BS’49, MS’51, and Eileen Ryan; and the DCI-J. Dan Egan, M.D., Endowed Professorship in Nephrology, established through the joint efforts of Dialysis, Inc., and the School of Medicine’s Division of Nephrology.

Libraries and Technology

Today’s students have grown up in a “digital world,” and the libraries have accommodated those changes in the way they deliver information and support high-tech learning. To facilitate cutting-edge research and to remain adaptable to the digital future, Creighton must further invest in its libraries.

The Dr. Edward J. “Eddie” and Neta DeRose Endowed Chair in Dentistry through a gift from their sons Michael, DDS’82, and Dan DeRose; and The Dr. C.C. and Mabel L. Criss and Drs. Gilbert and Clinton Beirne Endowed Chair in Nursing.

Willing to Serve
Support for the Creighton Fund
Goal: $30 Million

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Living WITH CANCER

By Ozzie Nogg

Tammy Kaczmarek Haase, left, with her son, Preston, and husband, Michael.

Winter 2007
Tammy found herself battling cancer as well as society’s perception of those with the disease. “People didn’t know how to react to me,” she explained. “I lost friends, I got fired from my job and I lost myself. I was desperate for help.” Tammy received it from Jeffrey Knajdl, M.D., and Barbara Clinkenbeard, MS’99, APNP, in the psycho-oncology program at the Vince Lombardi Cancer Center in Milwaukee.

“Tammy feared she wouldn’t be able to have an intimate relationship and a family, because even though she was in her 20s with her life ahead of her, she had breast cancer,” Clinkenbeard recalled. “I remember the day Tammy came into one of our psychotherapy sessions with a cast on her foot and told me she had kicked the dresser out of anger and pain. Dr. Knajdl and I met with her together and she shared with him her fear that no one would want her. He assured her that the man she chose would love her for all the right reasons. Tammy hung onto Dr. Knajdl’s words.”

Hung on, literally, for dear life. “I didn’t want to fight,” Tammy said, “but Barbara and Dr. Knajdl were with me during every stage of treatment. If it wasn’t for the two of them, I wouldn’t have made it through.”

While at the Lombardi Cancer Center, Tammy made pink votive candles, sold them and donated the proceeds back to the facility. “Today,” Clinkenbeard said, “Tammy is cancer free, married to a wonderful man and recently gave birth to a healthy baby boy — Preston Michael. Tammy is my candle of hope as I continue to do this difficult yet rewarding work. Hope is the foundation of our practice.”

Since they arrived in Omaha in 2006 to establish Creighton’s Cancer Counseling Program, Knajdl, the program’s director, and Clinkenbeard, his partner in practice, have brought hope to many. A combination of psychiatry and oncology, “psycho-oncology” is designed to treat the whole person — mind, body and soul — within a medical, psychiatric, social and spiritual framework. Knajdl is one of only two psychiatrists in Nebraska board-certified in medical psychiatry — also known as psychosomatic medicine. Clinkenbeard is a psychiatric nurse practitioner. They have a combined 25 years of service in psycho-oncology, having worked in the Milwaukee program before coming to Creighton.

The treatment of emotional distress in cancer patients is a priority at Creighton, and the University stands as one of only three medical facilities in the nation that provides comprehensive psycho-oncology counseling. Furthermore, Creighton is the only facility in the area that employs two full-time psycho-oncologists.

“During our eight years in Milwaukee,” Clinkenbeard said, “we helped advance the psycho-oncology program and built a large practice. We saw over 12,000 patients living with cancer. We helped treat their anxieties, helped them fight and live with this disease. We were doing important work.”

But the pair — both Nebraska natives
“Helping people fight and live with this disease is truly a privilege and a journey we’re equipped to take with patients every day. I think this work has changed my life. I’ve become a better physician and a better person because of it.”

— Dr. Jeffrey Knajdl

had a dream to build a psycho-oncology program back home, and they wanted that program to be at Creighton. In 2005, Knajdl received an e-mail from Brian Loggie, M.D., chief of Creighton’s surgical oncology department. “Dr. Loggie asked if Barbara and I would be interested in coming back. He had a vision of creating a multidisciplinary program and wanted psycho-oncology to be a critical hub of Creighton’s wheel of services. We came back and visited and knew that the timing was right and God was bringing us here to do the work we so passionately love.”

Knajdl and Clinkenbeard arrived with unique credentials. Clinkenbeard is board certified as a clinical nurse specialist and, in addition to her work with the Cancer Counseling Program, serves on the faculty of the Creighton School of Nursing. Knajdl is the only physician in Omaha board certified in psychiatry who is also a diplomate in psychosomatic medicine — the art and science of taking psychiatric care of the medically ill patient. Both Knajdl and Clinkenbeard are able to diagnose, order lab tests and prescribe medications — a feature of Creighton’s program not available anywhere else in the city.

“Equally important,” Knajdl said, “Barbara and I are full-time dedicated psycho-oncologists, so our mission is to focus exclusively on cancer patients and their families, to help them understand that even in advanced cases you can live during a dying process, to help those who are struggling at a time when part of that struggle could be made easier.”

To date, the team has eased the struggle for approximately 120 patients or consults since the Creighton Cancer Counseling Program began.

“That’s 120 more individuals who hopefully have gotten through their cancer diagnoses easier, experienced less distress, and had better medical, Creighton University has a long-standing commitment to healing. A strong desire to make a difference in patients’ lives has always been the foundation of Creighton University’s health sciences research, education and compassionate care.

The healers who are advancing medical understanding and training health care practitioners at Creighton University are creating a better world. Our goal is to move to the front ranks of Jesuit, Catholic health care education with the standing that allows us to recruit the world’s best researchers, practitioners and educators. We have the talent, commitment and leadership to make this happen.

The Creighton family who founded the University believed in the leveraging power of endowment to establish and continue Catholic institutions such as Creighton University. They were innovators, and they served their community selflessly every day. Now you can share in this legacy and our University’s contributions to new discoveries, cures and therapies. We invite your generous support for endowments for faculty and student scholarships in the health sciences as Creighton University demonstrates that it is Willing to Excel — and Willing to Lead.
emotional, social and spiritual care because of it,” Knajdl said.

Patient care can include art and pet therapy. Clinkenbeard told of one patient who sewed her pain into a doll she had made. “Her doll was beautiful and became an important part of our work together in psychotherapy.” Another patient found peace in her final hours with a therapy dog named Duffy. The hospital chaplain later told Clinkenbeard: “I’ve never seen anything like it. Duffy made skin-to-skin contact along the patient’s side and the patient calmed down, breathed easy until there was no more life in her on this earth. Duffy stayed steadfast and present by her side until she went to heaven.”

“I look at things differently because of the work I do,” Clinkenbeard said. “I don’t take much for granted and I’m constantly reminded that our lives are more fragile than we realize. Our work makes such a difference in a patient’s journey through cancer.

“Other doctors give the diagnosis, set the treatment protocols, determine when chemotherapy will be administered. If the news our patients receive isn’t good, my job is to help them focus and compartmentalize their lives. They know we’re here for them with 24-hour coverage if they get into trouble. And our patients appreciate the fact that we’re going to be with them, that we’re an integral part of their care.”

Clinkenbeard and Knajdl also are able to access spiritual counseling and nutritional consultations for their clients, and have recently started The Conquering Cancer Chorus — their first ongoing support group for people with cancer or those affected by the disease. “The group will meet regularly in Creighton’s music department to sing,” Knajdl said. “Research proves that music therapy helps patients express feelings. It also promotes wellness, alleviates pain and helps manage stress.”

Future plans for the Cancer Counseling Center include the addition of social work services and child-life specialists — professionals who work with children who have a parent or family member who has cancer or who has died from cancer. Tying all the pieces together is a staff of nurses who navigate patients through their care and guide them to the appropriate services.

“Helping people fight and live with this disease is truly a privilege and a journey we’re equipped to take with patients every day,” Knajdl continued. “I think this work has changed my life. I’ve become a better physician and a better person because of it. I’ve learned so much from my patients. I often tell my students, ‘It’s not what you say to your patients that matters, but what you let your patients say to you that really counts.’ I also have learned that you truly can get people to feel better emotionally during one of the most difficult times of their lives. With the right kind of assistance, you can truly live with cancer.”

About the author: Nogg is a freelance writer in Omaha.
Embryos, Ethics and Research on Human Subjects

By William Blazek, S.J., M.D.

As U.S. and world culture struggle to plot a sound ethical course through the tempest of changes that characterizes today’s medical research climate, the U.S. Jesuit Assistancy is blessed to count among its members the Rev. Kevin FitzGerald, S.J., Ph.D. With doctorates in molecular genetics and bioethics, Fr. FitzGerald holds the Lauler Chair in Catholic Health Care Ethics at Georgetown University School of Medicine. His expertise is poignantly topical for Catholics and non-Catholics alike.

Q: What, from your perspective, is the core issue in the debate over embryonic stem cell research?

KF: The central question is [determining] the ethical parameters we should have for research, especially research done on human beings. There are some who argue that embryos are not human beings; but from a scientific perspective, we have always considered embryos as the early stage in human development. [Thus an embryo] is an early developing human organism. Now we can debate whether that early developing organism deserves certain protections and the respect of the human community, but to say that [a human embryo] is not a human being is scientifically incorrect.

Q: Before we go too far, some of our readers might like to know what stem cells are and how they differ from other kinds of cells.

KF: Stem cells are the source of all the other cells in the body. Their job is to replace other cells damaged through wear, tear, injury or disease. Stem cells also make more stem cells because the body can’t afford to use up all the ones you have; [any individual] needs to have a source of stem cells for the future. That is why the stem cells both make other cells and “self-renew.” But we have to be careful. The concept of stem cells is a developing concept. We are now looking at cells in tumors that we are calling cancer stem cells. These are tumor cells that may be left behind [in a patient] after most of the tumor has been destroyed by whatever therapy we are using. Even though it may look like [the danger] is over, these very resilient cells remain and can reconstitute a tumor. That is why we are calling them cancer stem cells. There are so many kinds of stem cells that we always need to be careful [with our terminology]. In general, a stem cell ... makes other cells and makes more of itself.

Q: You often start your discussion of stem cell research by pointing out the difference between embryonic, adult and what you just called cancer stem cells. Why are these distinctions so important?

KF: Currently, the distinction most often cited is between embryonic and adult stem cells. The term adult is actually a bit misleading; it refers to several other kinds of stem cells such as fetal, infant, adolescent and elderly. All of these other stem cells come from sources other than embryos. The embryonic stem cells are obtained early on in human development, during a stage when the developing human being is small. They are usually taken from a developing embryo when it is in what we call the blastocyst stage. In that stage, the embryo is made up of around 200 cells. The ethical problem here is that to get these [embryonic stem] cells, at least currently, the embryo must be destroyed.

Q: Are there strong reasons for proceeding with embryonic stem cell research? Many reports and advocacy groups point out opportunities to treat serious diseases like Parkinson’s, Alzheimer’s and diabetes. How does the ethical debate play out on this point?

KF: The central question is (determining) the ethical parameters we should have for research, especially research done on human beings. There are some who argue that embryos are not human beings; but from a scientific perspective, we have always considered embryos as the early stage in human development. [Thus an embryo] is an early developing human organism. Now we can debate whether that early developing organism deserves certain protections and the respect of the human community, but to say that [a human embryo] is not a human being is scientifically incorrect.
KF: If there were no potential benefits, we would not be having a political debate. But we have to recognize that the reasons for pursuing embryonic stem cell research have shifted over the years. Initially there was great interest and great excitement about the creation of tissues and organs directly from these embryonic stem cells that would then be available for transplantation. Well, the research that has been done in the past several years indicates that this is unlikely for a couple of reasons. One is the way the embryonic stem cells can form tumors, and the other is that we have found many other alternatives such as adult, placental, umbilical cord blood and other stem cells that may be more amenable to becoming therapies. In addition, there is the idea that all of us have our own stem cells that we may be able to marshal and manipulate in such a way as to address the loss of tissues and organs.

Since there are many alternatives to the use of embryonic stem cells for therapies, that leaves us with only one substantive scientific reason to pursue human embryonic stem cell research. That is to investigate early human development. If one can find or create embryos that have specific genetic mutations linked to a certain disease, there is still hope that embryonic stem cell research may yield insights which could help in the development of therapies. But with that, we are back into doing research on human beings. We could do very exciting research on human beings at all stages of development and life, but our society has chosen to place important restrictions on such research in order to prevent harm to and the exploitation of human beings. So the question once again is whether or not we will destroy human lives to do research.

Q: In a related vein, what can readers of this article do to get involved in the debate?

KF: Well, we can do several things. First, have a better understanding of the issue and the Catholic perspective on it. One easy way to do this is to visit the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops website (usccb.org/prolife). It is very helpful. The other is to recognize that we need an empowered public in order to use our rapidly developing biotechnologies well. We live in a pluralistic society, so we need to engage in discussions of where we want to go with technologies, what we want to do with them, and whom we want them to help.

We are going to continue to struggle with these very large and difficult issues on all the technologies that come along, not just stem cells and cloning. What we should say is, “Here are some fundamental values that we hold dear, but not just because they are important for Catholics. We think they are important for everyone. Human lives are to be valued whether they are at the beginning or at the end — all the way through.” Whatever breakthroughs may come, they should come not at the expense of some human beings. They should come for all.
Alumni News
Winter 2007

Alum Items

51 The Rev. Canon William L. Griffin, BA, Canyon Lake, Texas, was elevated to Canon in the Anglican Province of America in recognition of his missionary successes. He serves as Rector of St. Joseph Anglican Church in New Braunfels, Texas.

56 Rev. Thomas E. Geelan, MSEd, Ruthven, Iowa, has retired as an active priest of the Sioux City, Iowa, Diocese. He served 45 years as pastor at several parishes, as well as superintendent, principal and teacher in the Catholic schools of the diocese.

59 Jorge E. Sanmartin, BS'62, MSEd, Rapid City, S.D., has retired from the practice of cardiology and the Heart Doctors/Heart and Vascular Institute in Rapid City. Sanmartin is one of the founders of the Heart Doctors.

62 Dr. David L. Vesely, BS, Tampa, Fla., chief of endocrinology, diabetes and metabolism for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs at James A. Haley VA Medical Center in Tampa, was the recipient of a 2007 Service to America “Sammie” Career Achievement Medal presented by Partnership for Public Service. Vesely discovered three hormones made by the heart that benefit the treatment of congestive heart failure, kidney failure and cancer. He also is a professor of medicine, molecular pharmacology and physiology at the University of South Florida in Tampa.

68 Charles B. Kelly Jr., BA, Paradise Valley, Ariz., a reporter for the Arizona Republic and co-winner of the Arizona Press Club Award in 1993, is the author of Pay Here, his first novel, a thriller, published by Point Blank Press.

69 John A. Dillon, BA, State College, Pa., is senior lecturer in journalism at Pennsylvania State University in University Park, Pa.

71 Terri Vint Morrison, SUN, Tempe, Ariz., and her husband, Dr. Nick Morrison, founders of Morrison Vein Institute in Tempe, have celebrated 10 years of treating patients with vein disease at the institute.

73 Dr. Ellen Benge Poole, BSN, Glendale, Ariz., earned a doctor of philosophy degree in nursing from the Catholic University of America in 2007. Her dissertation was “The Relationship of Preoperative Teaching Received, Preoperative Teaching Valued, and Selected Conditioning Factors to Postoperative Recovery in Ambulatory Laparoscopic Abdominal Surgery Patients.” She also has joined the graduate nursing faculty at Kaplan University, teaching an online program.

74 John S. Slowiakzec, JD, Omaha, of Lieben Whitted Houghton Slowiakzec & Cavanagh, P.C., L.L.O., has been elected to membership in the American College of Family Trial Lawyers. Membership in the College is extended by invitation only to experienced family trial lawyers who have mastered the art of advocacy and whose professional careers have been marked by the highest standards of ethical conduct, professionalism, civility and collegiality.

75 Hon. Gary B. Randall, JD, Omaha, Douglas County District Court Judge in Omaha, was elected vice chair of the National Conference of State Trial Judges.

76 John S. Slowiakzec, JD, Omaha, was the recipient of a 2007 Service to America “Sammie” Career Achievement Medal presented by Partnership for Public Service. Slowiakzec has been elected to membership in the American College of Family Trial Lawyers. Membership in the College is extended by invitation only to experienced family trial lawyers who have mastered the art of advocacy and whose professional careers have been marked by the highest standards of ethical conduct, professionalism, civility and collegiality.

80 Rebecca S. Rasmussen, BS, Salem, Ore., clinical director for New Perspectives Center for Counseling and Therapy in Salem, has been appointed to a second term serving on the Oregon State Board of Clinical Social Workers by the governor of Oregon. Robert E. Shaddy, MD, Philadelphia, was named chief of cardiology at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia.

81 April M. Shaughnessy, BS, Alexandria, Va., was appointed director of external relations for the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy in Alexandria. Dr. Kenneth G. Stenstrup, BA, Winona, Minn., has been tenured to the theology department at Saint Mary’s University of Minnesota in Winona.

82 Marcia J. Catania, BSN, Rancho Mirage, Calif., infection prevention/control practitioner at John F. Kennedy Hospital in Indio, Calif., was the recipient of the Nursing Award of Excellence for 2007 presented by the Rancho Mirage, Calif., Chamber of Commerce. She also was quoted in an article on “The Super Germ” — Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA) that appeared in the Palm Springs Life magazine in July 2007.

83 Fredrick H. Bates, Esq., JD, Chicago, founder and past chairperson of the Chicago
Tips for Year-End Charitable Giving

The end of 2007 rapidly is approaching. Now is when many of us are making our year-end tax and charitable gift plans in preparation for 2008. Please keep the following guidelines in mind as you contemplate your year-end gifts to Creighton University. Remember, only gifts completed by Dec. 31 can be used to reduce your taxes due in April 2008.

If you mail your year-end gift, it is complete as of the date of postmark. If you use a credit card, your gift is complete when the transaction is authorized by your bank. If you mail your signed charge authorization, make sure that your letter is postmarked no later than Dec. 14. After that date, please contact the Office of Development at (402) 280-2740 or (800) 334-8794, or make your credit card gift online at www.creighton.edu/development.

Gifts of stocks and mutual funds also are welcomed. Gifts of securities owned for more than one year entitle you to deduct its fair-market value without having to report the capital gains you would have realized had you sold the investment. If stock you own has decreased in value, you should consider selling it and gifting the net proceeds. Then you may be able to claim a loss on the stock and a charitable contribution deduction from the same transaction.

For securities electronically transferred from your account to Creighton, your gift is complete and valued on the date it reaches the University’s account. Gifts of stock certificates hand-delivered to Creighton are complete on the date of delivery; stock certificates and necessary stock powers sent by mail are complete as of the date of postmark. If you ask a transfer agent to have shares you own re-registered in Creighton’s name, the gift is not complete until the re-registration is finalized on the corporation’s records. Because Creighton may be required to open a new account with the fund, gifts of mutual fund shares may take several weeks to transfer, so plan ahead and allow extra time. Please call our office at (402) 280-1143 or (800) 334-8794 for the necessary forms and guidance on how to transfer stock and mutual funds to the University.

If you are interested in converting cash, securities or land into a life income arrangement with Creighton, please call or write for a personalized proposal. Charitable remainder trusts and gift annuities may be ideal for individuals who want to explore ways to increase their annual income, realize income tax benefits and make a deferred gift to the University.

On behalf of the students, faculty and staff of Creighton University, thank you for your continued spirit of philanthropy and willing participation in THE CAMPAIGN FOR CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY. For further assistance, please contact us at (402) 280-1143, (800) 334-8794 or giftplanning@creighton.edu, or visit us online at http://giftplanning.creighton.edu.

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

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Message from Estate and Trust Services

Tips for Year-End Charitable Giving

Dr. Ernie F. Soto, BS, Davie, Fla., a dentist in Plantation, Fla., serves as editorial advisor and editor, dental division for iHealthspot, Inc., a leading web development company for medical professionals in Margate, Fla. The company was selected as a winner in the Spring/Summer World Wide Web Health Awards. They received a Merit Award for Patient Education for Physician Websites.

Elaine Zoucha Stenstrup, BSN, Winona, Minn., is a clinical nurse specialist in the adult/pediatrics bone marrow transplant unit at the University of Minnesota Medical Center, Fairview in Minneapolis.

Robert D. Dalager, JD, Phoenix, a shareholder with the Phoenix law firm of Gallagher and Kennedy, has been elected to the board of directors at Goodwill of Central Arizona. Jacob A. Gatschet, BS, Minneapolis, has joined the Minneapolis law firm of Fish and Richardson, P.C., as an associate in the firm’s litigation group.

Hon. Douglas F. Johnson, JD, Omaha, a judge of the Separate Juvenile Court of Douglas County, Neb., was elected vice president of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges at the organization’s conference held in San Francisco. Judge Johnson presides over Nebraska’s first Family Drug Treatment Court.

Betsy L. McCoy, BA, JD, Coral Gables, Fla., an attorney in Coral Gables, has earned a master of laws degree in real property development from the University of Miami School of Law. She will concentrate her litigation practice on land use and real estate development matters.

Karen Rolf Cronin, BSBA, Landenberg, Pa., is regional transition leader for the U.S. for the DuPont Company in Wilmington, Del.

Marty J. Matz, DDS, Omaha, a dentist in Omaha, was elected president of the Omaha District Dental Society.

Richard A. Tuohy, BM, DMD, PA, a dentist in Lakeland, Fla., was recognized by the American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons as an International Master in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery.

Porter A. Moser, BSBA, St. Louis, was named assistant coach for the Saint Louis Billikens men’s basketball team. Moser is a former guard with the men’s basketball team at Creighton University.

Diana J. Vogt, JD, Omaha, senior associate with the Omaha law firm of Sherrets and Boecker, L.L.C., was recognized by the Omaha Bar Association with the Robert M. Spire Public Service Award for her contribution to the...
Creighton Artist Adds Touch to Opera Omaha’s Aida

Creighton alumna and Omaha artist Catherine Ferguson, BA’65, is designing the costumes and sets for Opera Omaha’s April 2008 production of Aida.

Ferguson is widely recognized for her installations and sculpture. Her work has been featured in public and private collections, including the Sheldon Memorial Art Museum in Lincoln, Neb. She created a 16-foot-tall sculpture for Omaha’s main library, titled Totem, and was one of five artists chosen to participate in the Bemis Center’s Art 4 Omaha initiative — creating Sky Fin, a large-scale outdoor sculpture on display outside Qwest Center Omaha. In 2005, she was awarded one of the Bemis Center’s first Community Artist Fellowships for her extensive artistic contributions to the community.

Ferguson said she was “stunned” when she learned she was chosen to design for Aida. Over the past year, she has listened to its music “over and over, maybe 150 times.” She also traveled to California, Michigan and New York to see productions. Both she and Opera Omaha artistic director Stewart Robertson wanted to give Aida a fresh interpretation.

Ferguson found the metaphorical key she was looking for during a visit to the Egyptian collection at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. “I overheard a docent explain the significance of the sacred blue lotus — its own cycle of opening each day and closing at night symbolizing the life, death and rebirth of the pharaoh/sun god.” Immediately she began drawing the lotus — blossom, bud, stem — as a recurring motif in the costumes and sets.

In a career spanning three decades, Ferguson has explored cloth and dye, earthworks, gardens, sculpture and installations. Now, she can add opera to her résumé.

in the delivery of care, respect for patients, their families, and healthcare colleagues, and also demonstrates clinical excellence.

David M. Christensen, MD, Omaha, has been named senior vice president for medical affairs and chief medical officer at Children’s Hospital in Omaha. Patrick J. Murphy, BSBA, Brentwood, Mo., an attorney with the St. Louis law firm of Danna McKirick, PC., was one of 17 people comprising the Clayton Chamber of Commerce Leadership Clayton 2007 graduating class. He was selected to participate in the leadership development program based on his leadership potential and community involvement. Mark T. Peters, JD, Peoria, Ill., was promoted to senior compensation attorney at Caterpillar, Inc., in Peoria.

Amy M. Corrievue, BS, Scottsdale, Ariz., is deputy associate superintendent for Early Childhood Education for the Arizona Department of Education in Phoenix. Therese A. Nelson, BS, Omaha, is principal at St. Bernadette Catholic School in Bellevue, Neb. Daniel J. Neppl, JD, Glenview, Ill., is a partner in the insurance/reinsurance disputes practice for the Chicago law firm of Sidley Austin, L.L.P. Margaret “Maggi” Peterson Pivovar, BSOT, Prairie Village, Kan., wife of John G. Pivovar, BA’91 and mother of four, had life-saving surgery in May 2007, amputating both legs below the knees, as a complication from meningococcal meningitis.

Joel M. Davies, BFA, Omaha, head of the visual communications sequence and director of the interdisciplinary graphic design program in the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication at Creighton University, was selected to be a member of the Apple Distinguished Educator Program, Class of 2007. The relationship program focuses on educational excellence and leadership. The educators are members of a select group of K-12 and higher education professionals possessing an identified expertise in educational technology leadership.

Kimberly A. Doht, BSN, McCool Junction, Neb., has earned a master of science degree in nursing as a family nurse practitioner. She has joined the medical staff at Warren Memorial Hospital in Friend, Neb., as an advanced practice registered nurse/nurse practitioner. Erin Shonsey Murman, BSBA, Omaha, is vice president of private banking for Bank of the West in Omaha.

James M. Van Leeuwen, BA, Denver, manager of Denver’s Road Home and Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness for the City and County of Denver, has earned a doctor of philosophy degree in public policy at the University of Colorado, Graduate School of Public Affairs.

Joseph M. Caturano Jr., Esq., BA 94, JD, Nokesville, Va., was selected by his peers as one of Virginia’s Legal Elite in civil litigation by Virginia Business Magazine in 2006. He specializes in civil litigation at Caturano & Caturano, P.C., in Manassas, Va., with an emphasis in personal injury law. He and his wife, Kristi Cantrell Caturano, JD, formed the law firm in 2005. Kelly J. Goodall, BA, St. Louis, has earned a master of degree in social work from Washington University in St. Louis, and has joined the Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence in Springfield, Ill., as economic empowerment project manager.

Mary A. Car-Blanchard, BSOT’93, OTD, Omaha, is senior medical author for iHealthSpot, Inc., a leading web development company for medical professionals in Margate, Fla. The company was selected as a winner in the Spring/Summer World Wide Web Health Awards. They received a Merit Award for Patient Education for Physician Websites. Jillianne Muller Danahay, BSN, Omaha, has earned a master’s degree in nursing from the University of Nebraska Medical Center, and is an adult nurse practitioner with Infectious Disease & Epidemiology Associates in Omaha.

Julia M. Schulte Hanish, BSBA, Kansas City, Mo., an FBI agent with the Department of Justice for the U.S. Government in Kansas City, was the recipient of the Federal Guardian of Justice Award presented by the Department of Justice, District of Kansas, in recognition of outstanding service provided in the prosecution of significant cases by the U.S. Attorney’s office, the highest recognition given to a member of the law enforcement community by the office. She was honored for her investigation of fraud and money laundering in Operation Grocery Sack spanning four states.

Eric D. Kelderman, JD, Pierre, S.D., has joined the U.S. Attorney’s Office in Pierre as an assistant U.S.
Kratoska, Connor Honored with Alumni Merit Awards

School of Medicine
Mary Kratoska, MD’77, the first female physician to open a private obstetrics/gynecology practice in Omaha, received the School of Medicine’s 2007 Alumni Merit Award on Sept. 14.

In addition to her private practice, the Omaha resident has served as an assistant clinical professor at Creighton’s School of Medicine, receiving the school’s 25-Year Faculty Service Award in 2006. She is a past president and current member of Creighton’s Medical Alumni Advisory Board.

Kratoska serves on the Nebraska Women’s Health Advisory Council for the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services’ Office of Women’s Health. She is a fellow of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology and a member of the American Medical Association, Nebraska State Medical Association, Metropolitan Omaha Medical Society, and the Omaha Ob-Gyn Society.

Kratoska earned a bachelor’s degree in zoology from the University of Iowa in 1973 before earning her medical degree from Creighton in 1977.

School of Pharmacy and Health Professions
Sharon Connor, BA’88, PharmD’93, an assistant professor with the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy, received the 2007 Alumni Merit Award from the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions on Oct. 5.

Connor directs the University of Pittsburgh’s Program for Pharmaceutical Care for Underserved Populations, a program in which volunteers offer pharmaceutical services to homeless and low-income people.

Under her direction, faculty, alumni and students provide direct patient care, acquire free medications, organize supplies and recruit new volunteers to provide services at clinics and shelters throughout the Pittsburgh area.

A past volunteer with Doctors Without Borders, Connor also has helped meet the health needs of people in a number of Third-World nations. Her efforts have included six-month-long, unpaid service trips to both Kenya and Ethiopia.

Since 2002, Connor has served on the board of the Rx Council of Western Pennsylvania, which helps patients obtain prescription drugs they could not otherwise afford. For her community service, she received the 2005 University of Pittsburgh Chancellor’s Distinguished Public Service Award.
Over 300 alumni gathered for this year’s Hilltop Jam, held during Reunion Weekend in September. Alumni and friends enjoyed the music of The Confidentials on Creighton’s newest autumn jewel, the George and Susan Venteicher Mall, which stretches from the western edge of Morrison Stadium to 24th Street — a gift to The Campaign for Creighton.

Over 300 alumni gathered for this year’s Hilltop Jam, held during Reunion Weekend in September. Alumni and friends enjoyed the music of The Confidentials on Creighton’s newest autumn jewel, the George and Susan Venteicher Mall, which stretches from the western edge of Morrison Stadium to 24th Street — a gift to The Campaign for Creighton.
Schumacher, PharmD, Platte Center, Neb., a daughter, Abigail Cecilia, July 11, 2007, and an adopted son, Benjamin Reid, July 4, 2006.  


93 Timothy P. Flaherty, BSBA, and Jane Ringel Steussman, BSBA, Omaha, a daughter, Anne Marie, May 10, 2007.  


Jason F. Knoblauch, BSBA, and Kari Knoblauch, Atlanta, a daughter, Kathleen Marie, June 18, 2007.


Christopher H. Hawkins, JD, and Kayla Hawkins, Omaha, a son, Jackson Christopher, Aug. 6, 2007.


W. Riley Kovar, BS '33, MD, Omaha, May 10, 2007.


Elizabeth Kelly Fleming, SCN, Omaha, Aug. 23, 2007.


Wesley Williams, BSBA, Omaha, Aug. 15, 2007.


Juan Valle, MAIR, Slidell, La., May 1, 2007.


Brenda K. Brown, MS, Omaha, Aug. 27, 2007.


OBITUARY CORRECTIONS:

Edward H. McDaniel, husband of Roxanne Westendorf McDaniel, BS'73, MS'82, Columbia, Mo., March 26, 2007. He was incorrectly listed as the alumnus in the fall 2007 issue.

Robert F. Welsh, BSC'49, Naples, Fla., June 12, 2007. His degree year was incorrectly listed in the fall 2007 issue.

Joan N. Sanders, wife of Charles W. Sanders, BS'57, Fairfax, Va., May 26, 2007. Charles Sanders was incorrectly listed as deceased in the fall 2007 issue.
Endowments for Faculty Support

“It is important to keep current with the latest research findings, meet with other scientists to exchange ideas, and collaborate with other institutions. Endowments provide the flexibility to enhance these essential areas of academia.”

Isabelle Cherney, BA’96, Ph.D.
Director of the Honors Program and associate professor of psychology
Carnegie Foundation Nebraska 2007 Professor of the Year

“This endowment provides me the time to pursue major research in ‘fuzzy math’ (the science of mathematical uncertainty). Fuzzy math has potential impact on many disciplines. One project will use the expertise of our Center for Mathematics Uncertainty to serve the deaf community.”

John Mordeson, Ph.D.
John N. Mordeson Endowed Chair in Mathematics

Endowment is the lifeblood of great universities, a perpetual savings account and a measure of commitment to the future. To sustain and grow our quality and nationally recognized education and research, The Campaign for Creighton University has designated nearly half its $350 million goal for the support of people and programs. Essential to achieving this goal is philanthropic support for endowed deanships, chairs and visiting professorships and faculty research grants.

Endowed chairs, deanships and professorships allow the University to attract and secure new talent and vitality in key areas of academic leadership or particular specialties. They make an indelible mark on the educational experience we provide and our reputation for excellence. These endowments also allow the University to take advantage of its unique complexity — with new interdisciplinary programs that connect the humanities, business, science, health care and law. The impact of interdisciplinary study is catalytic, leading to new areas of inquiry shaped to modern needs.

By 2010, we seek to double our current endowment to $500 million. Through The Campaign for Creighton University we have defined our bold future and seized our moment as we strive to secure our place at the forefront as one of the finest Jesuit, Catholic universities in the United States. We invite you to join us with unbounded support as we demonstrate together that we are Willing to Lead.
This year marked the 16th straight NCAA appearance for the Creighton men’s program. The Jays went undefeated (4-0-2) in conference play for the first time since 1996 to earn a share of the Missouri Valley Conference (MVC) regular-season title.

The Creighton women won the MVC Tournament crown to earn an automatic berth in this year’s NCAA Tournament. They have now appeared in the NCAA Tournament four out of the last six seasons.

Congratulations to the men’s and women’s soccer teams for making the NCAA Tournament again this season!