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With some Catholic elementary and high schools struggling to attract and retain high-quality teachers, Creighton University’s Magis program offers a possible solution. Program participants work toward a master’s degree in education, tuition-free, while serving in Catholic schools — especially those struggling economically. These Magis teachers also engage in spiritual formation and live together in community, rounding out their education.

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Creighton University students, including undergraduates, are often extended unique opportunities to collaborate with faculty members who have distinguished themselves as leading scholars in their fields. Creighton’s Bridget Keegan, Ph.D., shares a few of these stories.

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A second-year medical student works with two Creighton researchers in a breakthrough study that finds that oxygenating the brain during neurosurgery not only reduces mortality, but enhances overall patient outcomes. Their research drew the attention of the prestigious American Association of Neurological Surgeons.

On the cover: Clockwise from upper left, Creighton University Magis teacher John Roselle, BA’07; the Most Rev. Elden Curtiss, archbishop of Omaha, congratulating the Magis teachers at a special “missioning Mass”; Magis teacher Jeff Dorr teaching at the Red Cloud Indian School; Magis teacher Jennifer Ward working with students at St. Richard School in Omaha; and two students at Red Cloud.

Correction: Isabelle Cherney, BA’96, Ph.D., was incorrectly listed as the director of Creighton’s honors program in the Winter 2007 issue. That position is held by Geoff Bakewell, Ph.D., the Michael W. Barry Professor in Creighton’s Department of Classical and Near Eastern Studies.
Message from the University President

Pillars of Our Future

During my annual Convocation address in February, I addressed the state of the University and our aspirations for the future. As I shared with my University colleagues, the state of Creighton University is solid. Enrollment in our schools and colleges is at record levels, and we continue to attract high-quality students rich in service, leadership and diversity. We have experienced an increase in faculty collaboration across disciplinary boundaries — to the benefit of all our students. We have taken steps to place greater emphasis on ethical and moral decision-making across the curriculum. We “topped off” the Harper Center — our dynamic, soon-to-open living-learning center — and launched a new Faculty Partners Program, which pairs faculty with student services professionals to help students address critical collegiate and life issues. Our Willing to LEAD Campaign has sparked unprecedented interest and support, with more than $320 million raised to date. And we were recently named to the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll with Distinction for our exemplary service efforts.

These are just snapshots. Much more could be highlighted — for, indeed, great things are happening at Creighton.

In my Convocation remarks, I addressed eight “pillars” that I consider the building blocks for our tomorrow. I will briefly touch on each:

- **Graduate Education.** A task force, with representation from all nine of our schools and colleges, was formed last year to investigate opportunities for growth in our Graduate programs. The task force recently released a report that provides a framework for embarking on this journey. Recommendations include improved Graduate School infrastructure; support for new program development; growth in interdisciplinary and cross-school programs; and development of more distance education and other key programs.

- **E-Learning.** In January, the University held a joint academic forum titled “Extending the Creighton Experience,” which focused on ways to build and grow online learning. The forum was a great success, and I am encouraged by the ongoing conversations. I am excited by the possibilities of distance/e-learning. While we have introduced, or soon will, online programs in nursing, pharmacy, occupational therapy, education, dispute resolution and theology, I believe we still have an opportunity to do more in this area.

- **Scholarship and Research.** Creighton currently supports a range of important research, and we encourage faculty to seek outside funding for their scholarly work. We need to build on this success. It will not be easy. We are not a university with vast resources, but we are a university capable of building a culture of scholarship — one that allows faculty to fully realize our call to be among the leading Catholic universities in America.

- **Sustainability.** Although our colors are blue and white, Creighton must take on a “greener” approach. Renewable and alternative energies are perhaps one of the most important issues of the next decade. I have challenged the campus community to reduce our energy consumption by 5 percent this year.

- **Strategic Planning.** To help identify our future with more clarity, we will continue our engagement in strategic planning. An April planning retreat will convene the vice presidents, the deans, other administrators, and representatives of the faculty, staff, students and alumni. In measuring our success, we will look at the following dimensions: Have we been true to our mission? Have we exceeded the needs of our many constituencies? Have we enabled faculty and staff to develop professionally? Are we prudent stewards of our resources, while becoming more efficient and effective in providing our educational and other services?

- **Jesuit Identity.** Perhaps one of the most significant opportunities before us speaks to Creighton’s Jesuit identity. In mid-January, at the 35th General Congregation of the Society of Jesus in Rome, the Rev. Adolfo Nicolás, S.J., was elected as the new superior general of the Jesuits. Fr. Nicolás comes from a missionary tradition. He is a university professor, a theologian specializing in inter-religious dialogue. He understands the relationship between faith and culture, respects diversity and is sensitive to complex global issues. The Society’s transition in leadership — and, perhaps, emphasis — should be exciting for all of us engaged in Jesuit-sponsored enterprises. In partnership, we can embrace the change and move forward together.

My complete address can be found online at the Creighton Magazine website (www.creightonmagazine.org). Please enjoy this issue of the magazine.

John P. Schlegel, S.J.
President
Creighton Names New Deans for College of Arts & Sciences, School of Law

Creighton University has named new deans for the College of Arts and Sciences and School of Law. Both appointments will become effective in July 2008.

College of Arts and Sciences

Robert J. Lueger, Ph.D., is the new dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. He will replace Robert Kennedy, Ph.D., who has served as interim dean since 2006.

Lueger, associate provost for St. Edward’s University in Austin, Texas, has served in academic administrative roles for more than 14 years. He was the associate dean of Academic Affairs at Marquette University in Milwaukee from 2002 to 2005 and chair of Marquette’s Department of Psychology from 1993 to 2002.

“I have known Bob Lueger for some 20 years from my days at Marquette. I am gratified that Creighton has attracted such an accomplished administrator, prolific researcher and successful teacher. His commitment to the Jesuit tradition and his fit with Creighton’s mission bodes well for Creighton’s largest college,” said the Rev. John P. Schlegel, S.J., Creighton president.

A 1971 graduate of St. Benedict’s College in Kansas, Lueger received a master’s degree in 1974 and a doctorate in 1977 in clinical psychology from Loyola University Chicago. He served as director of the Center for Psychological Services at Marquette from 1987 to 1993. He has twice served as a visiting scholar at Northwestern University in Chicago. Lueger is licensed as a psychologist in Wisconsin.

School of Law

Creighton University has named Eric A. Chiappinelli dean of the School of Law. He will replace Marianne Culhane, who has served as acting dean since Patrick Borchers was named vice president for Academic Affairs in July.

Chiappinelli now serves as associate dean for Alumni and Professional Relations at Seattle University School of Law, where he has taught for more than 20 years.

“We are extremely fortunate to be able to attract a teacher, scholar and administrator of Dean Chiappinelli’s caliber,” said Borchers, law school dean from 1999 to 2007.

“Creighton University’s national reputation and Jesuit, Catholic values help make our University attractive to scholars of this quality,” said the Rev. John P. Schlegel, S.J., Creighton president.

A 1975 graduate of Claremont McKenna College in California, Chiappinelli earned his law degree in 1978 from Columbia University School of Law, where he was a Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar. He served as a clerk with the Supreme Court of California and the U.S. District Court, Central District of California. Chiappinelli practiced law in Los Angeles with the firms of Munger, Tolles & Olson and Jones Day.

His teaching and writing have been primarily in the area of business law, and he has published numerous law review articles on corporate and securities law topics. His latest scholarly project is a casebook on business entities. Chiappinelli’s current research interests include nonprofit governance and the relationship between corporate law and family dynamics.
Graduate Ministry Program Goes Online

Prepares Lay Ministers for Professional Service to the Church

Creighton’s new Master of Arts in Ministry program is preparing to go online next year, offering greater opportunities for lay men and women — regionally, nationally and even internationally — to gain the preparation, formation and professional competencies necessary to undertake a wide variety of roles in Church ministries.

While this program is designed to prepare participants for professional ministry in the Roman Catholic Church, it is also open to those outside the Roman Catholic tradition.

The program consists of three elements: the study of Scripture and the Catholic theological tradition, development of personal and ministerial competencies, and apostolic formation.

Applications to the program are currently being accepted through the Graduate School. For more information, contact LuAnn Schwery, coordinator of graduate programs, at schwery@creighton.edu or (402) 280-2870.

Eileen Burke-Sullivan, STD, MChrSp’84, assistant professor of theology, serves as director of Creighton’s Master of Arts in Ministry program, which began as a cooperative venture between Creighton University and the Archdiocese of Omaha. The on-campus program began in 2003, and its first class graduated in May 2007.

Teresa Roll, one of those May graduates, for instance, has served as a volunteer in the Church since she was a teenager, but she never had any formal theological education or training.

“The biggest gift of the program, for me, was my new appreciation for the doctrine and theology of the Catholic Church, which has helped me be a better mom, wife and Christian,” Roll said. “The program inspired me to be more creative in what potential ministry can be — in all my relationships going forward, not just limited to a church setting.”

Catholic Church leaders nationally have expressed as a priority furthering the theological and ministerial development of its lay ministers, who continue to grow in numbers.

In 2005, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops published Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord to serve as a “common frame of reference for ensuring that the development of lay ecclesial ministry continues in ways that are faithful to the Church’s theological and doctrinal tradition and that respond to contemporary pastoral needs and situations.”

The bishops wrote that lay ministers cooperate with ordained religious in parishes, schools, Church institutions and diocesan agencies — “a sign of the Holy Spirit’s movement in the lives of our sisters and brothers.”

Burke-Sullivan said these lay ecclesial ministers serve in a variety of roles. Examples include hospital chaplains, youth ministers, parish council members, religious education coordinators, liturgical directors, choir directors, parish business managers, pastoral associates and diocesan program directors.

By taking the program online, Burke-Sullivan said, Creighton is attempting to answer the call of the U.S. bishops among the wider Church community — including lay ministers working in rural areas.

“There is a big need in the rural areas for this type of program,” Burke-Sullivan said. “Many rural parishes share professional lay ministers, and there are not many master’s programs available to these lay leaders.”

Burke-Sullivan said an intense course of study allows participants to complete the program in two and a half years. Courses are generally eight weeks in length. In addition, graduates also must complete a final thesis project and an internship, volunteering in a diocesan or parochial position.

“We made a serious evaluation and assessment with the Omaha Archdiocese in making the decision to take the program online,” Burke-Sullivan said. “We thought we could serve a larger population and better serve the needs of the Catholic Church as a whole.”

The Master of Arts in Ministry complements Creighton’s other graduate theology programs: the Master of Arts in Theology and the Master of Arts in Christian Spirituality (CSP). The latter is a summer-only program and focuses primarily on preparing laity, religious and clergy to do spiritual direction and to give individually directed retreats in the Ignatian tradition.

“The Master of Arts in Ministry is an ideal fit with our CSP and master’s in theology to round out our service to the Church,” Burke-Sullivan said. “The three programs allow for crossover, providing our students with a wide range of opportunities for study.”

Creighton Goes Tobacco-Free

Creighton University will become the first Jesuit university — and the first Nebraska university — to go tobacco-free when a new campus policy takes effect July 1, 2008.

The Rev. John P. Schlegel, S.J., president, announced the tobacco-free initiative this past fall. Syed Mohiuddin, M.D., Richard W. Booth Professor and chair of the Department of Medicine, heads an implementation group that includes representatives from all areas of the University.

To help the campus community comply with the effort, the University is offering tobacco-cessation programs, an interactive tobacco-cessation website (tobaccofree.creighton.edu), educational events, pharmacy discounts and more.

“Creighton University is dedicated to providing a healthy, comfortable and productive living and working environment for faculty, staff and students, as well as for our clients, customers and visitors,” Mohiuddin said. “Because our mission calls us to improve the health of the individuals and communities we serve, we believe the University has a responsibility to take a leadership role on this major health issue.”
Fr. Harmless’ Book Spans the Lives of Great Mystics

The Rev. William Harmless, S.J., is the author of a new book, *Mystics*, that explores the lives of “path-breaking religious practitioners who claim to have experienced the infinite, word-defying mystery that is God.”

The book takes its readers on a journey in time and culture, spanning the lives of eight great mystics, from Thomas Merton to the Sufi poet Rumi.

But it also does much more.

Through the writings — and the lives — of these six essential Christians, a Muslim and a Buddhist, Fr. Harmless believes voice is given to an essential part of ourselves and all other humans, a voice that our contemporary world quite “effectively silences in us all.”

Not only does Fr. Harmless believe that the mystics can, through their writings, have a presence in today’s world, but they can also awaken in us a realization of our own inner lives — and our connection with the Divine.

“The mystics use words to jolt us into recognizing the ineffable mysteries surging beneath the surface of our own lives and within the depths of our hearts,” Fr. Harmless writes, “and, by their artistry, can awaken us to see and savor fugitive glimpses of a God-drenched world.”

In fact, it is out of an ordinary classroom setting on a day that began like any other that Fr. Harmless says his inspiration for the book took shape.

“We had been going along for a few weeks, reading a mystic a day … It was at this juncture in the semester when one of my students raised her hand.

“‘I don’t want to sound arrogant,’ she began, ‘But you know — when I read these people, I think that I’ve experienced something like that. I am beginning to think that I’m a mystic — maybe not the same way these people are, maybe not as intensely. But I know what they’re talking about.’

“There was a pause, then hand after hand began to rise. I put aside the day’s lecture.

“We talked about the culture we live in, the way our world ignores — even silences — the mystical, the way it has deprived us of words, stopped us from speaking about the mystery that runes under and through our lives.

“We talked about the way the mystics give us a language, a vocabulary, to begin to articulate what we all taste and feel. We talked a little about (German theologian) Karl Rahner, S.J., about the way he suggests that being a mystic is a constituent element of the human person, that most of us are, in fact, repressed mystics.

“Slowly, we begin to understand that God and ultimate truth can be encountered here and now, among the ordinary pieces of life.”

Fr. Harmless, a professor of patristic and historical theology, calls *Mystics* largely “outside of my specialty, which is more in the area of early Christianity and the fathers of the church.”

But his new book is also rooted in his own area of study, especially his second book, *Desert Christians: An Introduction to the Literature of Early Monasticism*. (Earlier writings include *Augustine and the Catechumenate*, which discusses the saint’s concept of adult baptism.)

In this second book, Fr. Harmless examines the desert communities of early Christians, whose oral traditions spoke of a vibrant mysticism.


And the new book also seeks to add a different perspective to the body of literature on mysticism, Fr. Harmless says.

“William James, the great psychologist, was most interested in the mystical experience, what it meant in psychological terms” to have a sense of contact with the Divine. That abstracted the sacred experience from the ordinary, he believes.

Later writers urged that mysticism could only be understood through context and culture.

“Now, we study mysticism in terms of the communities, the recipients of the oral traditions. In the case of Hildegard of Bingen, we consider the Benedictines; Bonaventure, the Franciscans.”

Now, instead of excising the ultimate moments from the ordinary, Fr. Harmless adds, “We are learning these moments can be encountered here and now,” in the desert, in the classroom, “among the ordinary pieces of life.”

*Mystics* is available through major book retailers and in the Creighton University bookstore.
Creighton Celebrates Winter Commencement

 Almost 300 students received their degrees during Creighton University’s winter commencement on Dec. 15. In addition, special awards of recognition went to people and organizations that have made a positive difference in the Omaha community and around the country.

 Creighton University gave its first Magis Award to Omaha’s first responders from the Omaha Police and Omaha Fire and Rescue departments for their heroic, selfless acts of courage in the wake of the tragic events surrounding the Dec. 5 shootings at Omaha’s Westroads Mall. The process of considering and choosing the greater good in our thoughts and deeds is the essence of the Latin term “Magis” — literally, “the more.” It is equated with generosity, magnanimity and selflessness. These words describe the heroic actions of the first responders.

 First National Bank received the Presidential Medallion in recognition of the 150th anniversary. Current chairman Bruce Lauritzen received the award. Family-owned for six generations, First National Bank is the largest privately held company of its kind in the country, with more than $18 billion in managed assets and 7,500 employees.

 Creighton founder Edward Creighton served as the bank’s first president.

 The Rev. William O’Leary, S.J., MSGuid’68, a teacher at Creighton Prep High School for more than 43 years, received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree. While teaching a wide range of subjects, Fr. O’Leary has always reminded his students and his colleagues of their duty to love one another as Jesus loves us. Over the years, Fr. O’Leary would use whatever money he had to help underprivileged students by discreetly paying for lunch tickets or family utility bills. Although Fr. O’Leary recently retired from teaching, his presence is still felt at Creighton Prep and in the community.

 The Rev. George Bradshaw Murray, S.J., MD’72, received the Alumni Achievement Citation. Over the past 30 years, Fr. Murray has become an intellectual giant in psychosomatic medicine and neuropsychiatry and is held in great esteem as both a clinician and a teacher. He brought to these fields a unique educational background as the holder of degrees in theology, philosophy, biology, medicine and neurophysiology.

 Currently an associate professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School, he is renowned for his contributions to modern medicine’s understanding of and clinical applications for the human brain’s limbic system, which supports a variety of functions, including emotion and memory.

 Creighton Study Points to Relief from Seasonal Allergies

 The results of a new Creighton University study may soon spell relief for some of the estimated 40 million Americans who suffer from seasonal allergic rhinitis (SAR) caused by pollens such as grass and ragweed.

 According to Creighton researchers, noninhaled, intranasal carbon dioxide (CO₂) may offer a new, effective and safe treatment for many SAR sufferers. The study was reported in the January issue of the Journal of Allergy & Clinical Immunology.

 “These findings indicate that noninhaled, intranasal carbon dioxide is very promising as a safe and effective treatment to provide rapid relief for seasonal allergic rhinitis,” said Thomas Casale, M.D., principal investigator and chief of Creighton School of Medicine’s Division of Allergy/Immunology.

 “With the exception of a burning/stinging sensation when the carbon dioxide is first administered, there appear to be no significant side effects with this technique. It could be a good alternative for people who don’t want to take intranasal steroids.”

 Currently, there are no treatments available that provide truly rapid relief of SAR symptoms and are safe for long-term use, he added.

 In the Creighton study, patients receiving CO₂ reported a significant and rapid improvement in congestion, sneezing and other nasal symptoms — within 10 minutes and lasting at least 24 hours — over those taking a placebo (plain air). The CO₂ group also reported some, although not statistically significant, improvement in non-nasal symptoms such as watery and itchy eyes.

 Within 30 minutes of treatment, 50 percent of those taking CO₂ reported more than a 50 percent improvement in nasal symptoms, compared to 26.4 percent of the placebo group.

 The Creighton study involved 89 subjects, 18 to 75 years of age, who had at least a two-year history of seasonal allergies requiring pharmacotherapy. Sixty received CO₂ and 29 received plain air.

 The patients took the gases intranasally twice — once for each nostril — within an interval of less than five minutes for a total dose of about 1,200 milliliters.

 Casale noted that, despite currently available treatments, a significant proportion of patients with allergic rhinitis continue to suffer symptoms that impair their quality of life and can lead to other conditions such as asthma. The medical costs associated with SAR are estimated at $6 billion annually in the United States alone, he said.
Law Student
Battles 3-Generation
Cancer Gene

When Tricia McSorley opened her acceptance letter from Creighton’s School of Law, she felt ready to take on the world.

“I had always dreamed of being an attorney,” she says.

The young mother of three had mapped out the journey: law school, clerking, the bar exam, practice.

Life would no doubt unfold as it should.

McSorley had earned a degree in business from Bellevue University in May 2005. She and her husband, Mike, had started their family, with Kailey, 11, and Kelsey, 8, filling their young household, and London, now almost 2, just having joined them.

Gradually, it began to look as if the time were right for taking that long-considered step toward her career. So McSorley began preparing for the LSAT, with plenty of encouragement from Mike. And her test scores showed she did well. She was accepted at Creighton, with classes set to start in August 2006.

But there was one test of quite a different nature that nagged at the soon-to-be law student, and it was impossible to ignore her score: the genetic test for BRCA-1, the breast cancer gene that had ravaged her family on her mother’s side, showed up in her own genetic profile when she was screened for it in 2003.

A total of 16 women on her mother’s side of the family had had breast or ovarian cancer, McSorley recalls. Only four of these women had survived: her mother, Cheryl Collins, a three-time cancer survivor; her sister, Toni, 45, who was diagnosed with breast cancer in Tricia’s second year of law school, and two other relatives across three generations of record.

And, although the damaged gene largely plagued females, even McSorley’s little brother hadn’t been spared. At 18 months, Chris Collins was diagnosed with Wilms’ Tumor, a cancer that may have a genetic connection to breast cancer. Now 27, he survived this form of kidney cancer but needed a heart transplant as an adult because the cancer bout and treatment had so damaged his heart.

Her family was not alone in the struggle, though. They had a cancer-fighting ally at Creighton in Henry Lynch, M.D., director of Creighton’s Hereditary Cancer Institute. Lynch, who holds the Charles F. and Mary C. Heider Endowed Chair in Cancer Research at Creighton, had developed a registry of cancer-prone families over his 30-plus years of research in the field.

“Dr. Lynch saw the record of what cancer had done to us,” McSorley says, “and he told us it was out of control.”

As family members had started to register with Dr. Lynch, it made sense for McSorley to find out if she, too, carried the BRCA-1 mutation. From there, if she tested positive for the damaged gene, she’d enter the registry, and her case would be followed.

McSorley’s family knew that Dr. Lynch and the registry were life-savers: They could warn them early before the disease was symptomatic; thwart cancer in its earliest possible stages; and even guide them in preventive measures before the disease could take hold.

“I had great family support,” McSorley says. “And I told Dr. Lynch, ‘I know I’ve come out negative’ for the mutation.”

The Creighton center counsels patients well ahead of the testing. “They want you to think about what you’ll do, what your options are, before you even test,” McSorley says.

Still, Dr. Lynch’s answer was devastating: “Your results say you’re positive,” he said.

“So let’s talk about what you want to do.”

McSorley knew early on that she probably would opt for the preventive treatment: radical mastectomy with reconstructive surgery. With such a procedure, her chances of contracting breast cancer would plummet to about 9 percent, from around 80 percent without.

But it seemed her surgery could wait. After all, she was still young, even in terms of hereditary breast cancer.

But, by 2006, with law school soon to begin, McSorley knew she had to set a date. But how would that work with school? Was it possible to take time out? Or could she devise a special schedule?

What’s more, could she afford the multiple tests, the blood screenings and ultrasounds, the MRIs, all needed before the surgeries even got under way? With her medical needs, the family’s meager health insurance would be taxed to the extreme.

“I had to talk to someone,” McSorley recalls, and that “someone” proved to be School of Law Associate Dean Tricia Brundo Sharrar, BA’93, JD’96.

“Tricia came to me and wanted to learn how she could still stay in school yet have her surgery,” Sharrar says. “She was so motivated! We talked about options, and Tricia decided she could have her surgeries during school vacations. What an inspiration she was to me.”

With part of McSorley’s quandary solved, it was on to see the oncological surgeons.

With her surgical team, Drs. Janet Grange and Robert Langdon Jr., she encountered not only a highly competent — but a highly compassionate — pair.

“They were so insistent that I stay in law school,” she says. “And they insisted on helping me financially.

“There was another thing,” said McSorley, of the consultation with the surgeons. “And this was so moving. Dr. Grange told me that she had lost a sister to breast cancer when she (her sister) was in her second year of law school.”

McSorley’s physician then told her, “I feel as if you were sent to me to help.”

McSorley finished her first semester law finals on Dec. 15, 2006, and had her mastectomy on Dec. 18.

By the second semester, she was back in class, with her second surgery, the reconstructive phase, set for spring break 2007.

“I had great family support,” McSorley says. “And Creighton was wonderful. I couldn’t have done it without them.”

Today, McSorley’s schedule could exhaust even the most ardent among us, but she seems to fly through her day, without a feather ruffled.

“Dr. Lynch has given us an opportunity to control this gene. We need more people like him to find a cure. But, until then, we need someone like him to push on with research.”

“Every day it is something new, a new discovery. Back 25 years ago, when my mother had breast cancer, there wasn’t too much you could do. But look at it now.

“I tell my girls, ‘We can take care of this.’”

And, indeed, the bright side is that the gene cannot skip generations. If it stops with McSorley in her family, it’s gone.
Goldman Named First Holder of Mahoney Chair

Martin L. Goldman, M.D., Creighton University professor and chair of radiology, is the first holder of the Dr. Paul S. Mahoney Endowed Chair in Radiology and Medical Imaging. An inaugural ceremony was held Feb. 13.

Goldman joined the Creighton School of Medicine in 1999 as a professor and chairman of the Department of Radiology. At Creighton, he has helped build one of the region’s leading clinical programs in radiology, as well as a highly regarded radiology residency program. Creighton’s radiology residents scored in the top 5 percent in all of North America on national written board exams in diagnostic radiology in 2006 and 2007.

The Mahoney Endowed Chair is the ninth endowed chair in Creighton’s School of Medicine and the 31st at Creighton University. It is a gift from the estate of Paul S. Mahoney, M.D., a 1954 graduate of the school and a respected leader in radiology.

CHRP Opens New Patient Safety Course

At least 44,000 Americans each year die as a result of medical errors.

This spring, faculty in Creighton’s Health Services Research Program (CHRP) will address this growing concern with an interprofessional course centered on the safety of patients.

While vitally important in any health care setting, patient safety is receiving increased national attention and focus, say Creighton’s CHRP faculty.

Creighton’s federally funded CHRP was founded in 2004 and conducts health care research not just in patient safety, but in such areas as outcomes and pharmacoeconomics (the cost/benefit of therapies). Health information technology research is another special area of study in the Creighton program.

As part of the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions, the program pulls together research and training efforts among faculty within an interdisciplinary and collaborative research environment.

CHRP faculty and staff serve the research interests of governmental agencies, health care facilities, employers, health care industry companies and educators.

Student Author Chosen for Best New Voices

Ted Wheeler, a graduate student in Creighton’s creative writing program, had his short story “Welcome Home” selected for publication in the 2008 Best American New Voices anthology.

The fictional story is about a young soldier from Nebraska who refuses to fire his weapon during combat in order to return home to his wife unmarred by war.

“It deals with the notion that no citizen of a nation can avoid the tincture of war waged on his behalf,” Wheeler said.

Wheeler began working on the story in 2005 while reading daily about the U.S. involvement in Iraq and what it meant for the soldiers who were beginning to come home. But it wasn’t until a spring 2007 writers’ workshop, led by Creighton professor Mary Helen Stefaniak, M.F.A., director of Creighton’s creative writing program, that the story really began to take shape.

“My main intention was to write a story that exemplified our nation’s indecision regarding the war — our confusion on whether we should stay there and whether our presence in the Middle East is good or does harm,” Wheeler said.

“I wasn’t out to write a political story, per se, but was more into exploring the gray areas that make doing the right thing so difficult.”

Author Natalie Danford, who served as co-editor of the anthology, called Wheeler in November to tell him that his story had been selected.

“Even though I knew that it had been nominated, I was shocked that it had been picked,” Wheeler said. “My hands were shaking; I couldn’t really think straight.”

Wheeler, who earned his undergraduate degree in 2005 from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL), said he was attracted to Creighton’s creative writing program through his association with the program’s past director, Creighton professor Brent Spencer, Ph.D.

“I had worked with Brent Spencer before and enjoyed our time together. His wife (author and UNL professor Jonis Agee, Ph.D.) and I were very familiar from my time at UNL, so I had a couple of people on the inside who thought Creighton would be a good place for me. And, judging by this honor, who can argue with the results?”
Magis volunteer Jeff Dorr stepped back to review the questions about the Code of Hammurabi in ancient Babylonia that he had written on the chalkboard for his sixth-graders at Red Cloud Indian School on the Pine Ridge Reservation.

“What do you think?” he asked Magis Program Director Molly Davies, BA’97, of Creighton. Davies, a veteran teacher and adjunct education/theology professor, had driven the 400 miles from Omaha to observe and mentor Dorr and his fellow Magis volunteer, John Roselle, who teaches theology at Red Cloud High School.
She suggested making the wording of a question about consequences for breaking Hammurabi’s laws more specific. As Dorr did this, 14 lively Native American students burst into the room, talking and laughing as they scrambled to find their history books.

Kindly but firmly, Dorr admonished them to settle down as he opened class with a brainstorming session about current laws and the penalties for violations. For the next 40 minutes, he moved methodically through several oral and written activities to help students relate the ancient world to their lives on the reservation.

Toward the end of class, Dorr, a graduate of Xavier University, turned to St. Ignatius’ Prayer of Generosity posted on another chalkboard and told students that the class would start reciting it regularly.

“I know that not all of you are Christians but generosity is also a big part of Lakota spirituality,” he said.

When the bell sounded, the students departed as noisily as they had come and Dorr made a quick trip to the copy room to retrieve materials for his next class. The remainder of his day included more classes, meetings with Davies, Mass, dinner in the school cafeteria and further school work at the trailer on the mission compound where he lives with other volunteer teachers.

Dorr and Roselle, a 2007 Creighton alumnus, are among the 10 current participants in Magis, a six-year-old graduate program in Creighton’s Education Department that places teachers in Catholic schools for two years while they earn their master’s degrees in Education Secondary Teaching or Teacher Leadership, as well as teaching certificates, tuition-free. Participants receive a modest monthly stipend and live in community with other Magis volunteers.

Magis is an example of Creighton’s efforts to serve Catholic schools, especially economically challenged schools like Red Cloud and St. Richard School in North Omaha, where Jennifer Ward teaches fifth-graders, many of whom are Sudanese.

Timothy Cook, Ph.D., associate chair of the education department and founder of the program, said it grew from a meeting that he attended at Notre Dame, where Catholic universities discussed ways to better serve Catholic schools. A local anonymous donor provided seed money to start Magis. Creighton is currently seeking other donors to help finance the program and assist Creighton in serving Catholic schools.

Pillars of the Program

The “three pillars” of Magis are professional education, spirituality and community living. The program opens with a summer of graduate work in education and spirituality at Creighton. Through their education courses, participants learn how to manage classrooms, discipline students and prepare and present lessons. Ward is this year’s only participant with an education degree and teaching experience. Because her master’s will be in educational
administration, she took different education classes but she has lived with the others in Kenefick Hall and has taken her spirituality courses with them.

Both Davies and Cook said they regard teaching in Catholic schools as a vocation. Participants are selected for this competitive program based on both academic excellence and their interest in undergoing a spiritual formation program that somewhat resembles that of novices entering religious orders.

“The qualities we seek are academic rigor and interest in spiritual growth and development,” Davies said. “All of our teachers are practicing Catholics.” Many graduated from Jesuit high schools or universities or both. Community living includes faith sharing activities and community involvement. Roselle, for example, teaches confirmation preparation courses at Sacred Heart Church on the reservation.

Davies recruits participants from all over the nation through visits to campuses, but many first learn about the program through its website, creighton.edu/magis. Only about half of the applicants are selected. Sometimes worthy applicants are rejected because there is no suitable placement for them in a regional Catholic school — a problem that is likely to diminish as Magis expands from Nebraska and South Dakota to other states.

Next year, Davies hopes to add 15 participants, bringing the total to 23. The program can accept up to 15 applicants per year for a total of 30 participants, a figure it hopes to reach by 2009. That would be capacity for current staff and budget resources. Tuition and the stipends cost more than $25,000 per participant.

While the goal is to place as many participants as possible at “under-resourced” Catholic schools, placements at more affluent schools such as Omaha’s Creighton Prep, Duchesne Academy, Mt. Michael and Skutt Catholic also are welcome and help build the entire program, she said.

Since the program began, 18 people have completed it and more than half are still teaching in Catholic schools in Nebraska, she said. One is in parish ministry at North Platte and another

By the time Jeff Dorr graduated from Xavier University with a minor in education, he had decided to teach. He had passed up student teaching in order to spend a semester in Nicaragua but sought a graduate program that would turn him into a teacher. A Jesuit friend from home suggested Magis because of its stress on spirituality.

While he would have preferred to teach high school, Dorr accepted his middle school placement at Red Cloud because it filled the school’s needs.

“This is what it boils down to,” he said. “I didn’t go into teaching for self serving. I’m here to help the whole school. There are a lot of challenges in middle school.”

Dorr, who said he tends to be hard on himself, said that the first year of teaching is difficult under any circumstances and even veteran teachers find teaching on the reservation a challenge.

Growing up in an upper-middle class family, Dorr always knew he had many options and talents and his family helped motivate him to succeed. His students face a far more daunting reality.

“Here, the number of jobs is limited,” he said. “My students have abilities they haven’t realized they have at this point. They have an inability to grasp onto their talents and strengths. I want to encourage them to buy into the knowledge and abilities they have and to believe in themselves.”

Dorr said living in a rural setting for the first time also is challenging. “This weekend I wanted to go out and take a break, but where do you go?”

Rural poverty on the reservation is different than the urban poverty he saw in Nicaragua and “there’s a lot I haven’t sorted out. I’m still trying to figure out how to become a greater part of the community.”

In addition to teaching, Dorr supervises an athletic club and drives the Red Cloud school bus. “More than anything, this puts me in touch with where the students come from. I can understand the differences when I see what their front door looks like.”

Despite the difficulties, Dorr said he is committed to staying the two years, confident that it will be a “period of growth.”

“When I got the e-mail from Molly, being offered this option was a sign that I was meant to be here. It is sometimes hard to see that in the day-to-day, but when I step back and get a tiny bit of distance, yes, this is where I am supposed to be.”
When John Roselle came to Creighton, he planned to be a lawyer, but he changed his major to theology as he found his faith becoming increasingly important to him. He joined the Cortina Community, a program in which members live in McGloin Hall and focus on building community, sharing their faith and performing community service.

Other significant undergraduate experiences included a spring break service trip and spending a semester in Creighton’s Encuentro Dominicano Program in the Dominican Republic.

He began to think that he should teach theology in order to share his faith. The Magis Program “seemed like a very dynamic way to enter the profession and become a teacher.”

Roselle spent an intense summer earning 13 graduate credit hours to prepare for his Red Cloud assignment. He student-taught theology at Creighton Prep to students from various Catholic schools who had failed the course, good preparation for any future work with students “who didn’t want to be in school.”

At Red Cloud, Roselle teaches five periods of theology a day, drives the school bus twice a week, helps students with ACT test preparation and teaches confirmation prep at Sacred Heart Church. He also moderates a movie club that meets weekly, and he puts in hours of class preparation and grading at night. He and Dorr also are still taking graduate education courses.

Roselle is a warm, caring and imaginative teacher who uses such things as popular music to help make lessons come to life. In one class, for example, the goal for the day was: “To think about the role of the prophets.”

“Prophecy is not just telling the future, it is telling the truth about the present,” he told the class, then led the students in brainstorming about what would make the world better. The class ended with a song by Kelly Clarkson about people who were longing and hoping to be set free.

Roselle said he even loves grading papers because it allows him to see how students are thinking. He tries to cite what they are doing well, rather than to correct errors.

“My goal is not to bring God to them but to basically encourage them to see God already in their lives and consider how God can become an even more important part of their lives. I like to think of each class as a mini-retreat.”
is an education department adjunct professor and teaches elsewhere in Omaha. There is no obligation to continue in Catholic education beyond two years.

Davis said that Magis will likely soon expand to New Mexico and possibly Nevada. “We’ve met with the Archdiocese of Santa Fe and the Diocese of Gallup. They have a hard time recruiting qualified teachers.”

Red Cloud is eager for more teachers at all levels, said Robert Brave Heart Sr., superintendent of schools. Red Cloud, which is located in the middle of the Pine Ridge Reservation, has long recruited young college graduates from all over the country to volunteer for a year to help staff the school. Most have no education backgrounds but undergo an intense orientation to prepare them to live on the reservation and work with Native American students, often as teacher aides or in staff positions.

Magis’ combination of a two-year commitment and graduate work in education helps Red Cloud academically, he said. “We are hoping to get three or four more next year because of the quality of the program. We like it that we automatically get two years and two could lead to a third (year of volunteering). The longer the service, the better the work.”

Brave Heart said that it takes volunteers “a semester or a year to establish themselves. By the second year they have a good rapport with students and good teaching strategies.” Nick Dressl, principal of the high school, and Jennie Sierraz, principal at the prekindergarten through eighth-grade school, agreed. They praised the work of Dorr and Roselle.

Davis said she is particularly grateful to the program’s anonymous donor for his personal and spiritual support for Magis and its participants. “Our donor is still very involved,” she said. “He calls about every two weeks. He prays the rosary for our participants. He shows his interest and support for me.”

Cook said he feels that Magis has reached a “breakthrough point” with area Catholic schools.

“In the early years, we had to go out and work harder to get schools to participate with us,” he said. “Now they come to us.”

About the author: Wirth is professor and chair of the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication at Creighton. She is also author of the book They Made All the Difference: Life-Changing Stories from Jesuit High Schools, which focuses on the role of Ignatian spirituality in Jesuit high schools nationwide.

Creighton Working to Bolster Catholic Schools

Creighton University is at the forefront among universities seeking to ensure a bright future for Catholic schools. Creighton’s expertise and tradition of service can have a significant impact on the future of Catholic schools in the United States, and indeed, the world.

In 2005, the U.S. bishops urged Catholic higher education to be an active partner with K-12 Catholic school education — especially in the preparation of teachers and leaders. Creighton University is taking up this mantle, to benefit not only the Church, but all of society.

Creighton’s efforts — educating new teachers specifically to serve in Catholic schools, providing certification and leadership training for current teachers, collaborating with (arch)dioceses, conducting educational research, serving as a national resource, and more — are all important answers to the bishops’ call to higher education.

Yet, Creighton’s legacy and willingness to lead in Catholic school education must continue to excel and meet ever-changing challenges. Creating an Institute for Catholic School Initiatives will provide a formal structure to concentrate Creighton’s current efforts and expand to serve even more schools, teachers and students.

The Campaign for Creighton University will partner with philanthropic leaders who share Creighton’s transformative vision of an Institute for Catholic School Initiatives that sets the pace for Catholic educational excellence, which is rooted in Creighton’s Jesuit tradition of academic excellence and commitment to serve those most in need.

Willing to Lead

The Campaign for Creighton University

Schools Served

Students in Creighton’s Magis teaching program have served in the following schools: Archdiocese of Omaha: Jesuit Middle School, Holy Ghost, Holy Name, St. Thomas More, St. Bernadette, Holy Cross, St. Richard, St. James Seton, All Saints, St. Peter and Paul, St. Joan of Arc, Scotus Central (Columbus, Neb.), Gross Catholic, St. Francis (Humphrey, Neb.), Roncalli Catholic, Skutt Catholic, Duchesne Academy, Creighton Prep, Mercy High School, Mount Michael Benedictine, West Point Central Catholic. Diocese of Grand Island, Neb.: Grand Island Central Catholic, Kearney Central Catholic. Diocese of Lincoln, Neb.: Cathedral of the Risen Christ. Diocese of Rapid City, S.D.: Red Cloud Indian School, Pine Ridge, S.D., Red Cloud Middle School, Red Cloud High School.
Jennifer Ward’s road to a Magis teaching position at St. Richard School took a long detour from her childhood in Lincoln, Neb. — through two years of teaching at a Catholic school in Taiwan. A graduate of Lincoln Southeast and UNL, she had never before experienced Catholic education and it changed her life.

“I met an amazing American missionary who was in his 90s,” she said. “He became my spiritual director, and he influenced my desire to continue working in a Catholic school.”

When Ward returned home last April, she found the Magis program on the Internet, and was accepted. “It fit perfectly.” Because she already had her teaching certificate, she is pursuing her master’s in educational administration with the goal of becoming either a principal of a Catholic school in Africa or working to bring theater to inner-city Catholic schools.

Ward said that her work in Taiwan helped prepare her for teaching at St. Richard, where Sudanese students make up about a fourth of the population and most of the rest of the children are African-American. Both are cross-cultural experiences.

“My having experienced life as a minority in Taiwan gives me a perspective from which to better understand the minority experience of my students and their parents.”

Ward also teaches a theater class that she is particularly enthusiastic about and will expand next year because it allows students to express things about their lives that they need to convey.

“Teater offers students a forum in which to experiment with decision-making in a safe environment,” she said. “The choices students make on stage help build real-life character. Our theater class at St. Richard School is a forum for dramatic literature performance, transmission of thought through art, performance, music and dance. This is theater for social justice. Theater asks us to look inward to better understand and construct a culture of self.”

Ward lives in a community of other Magis teachers in the St. Bridget Convent in South Omaha. She said she loves both her work at St. Richard and experiencing the rich cultures of both North and South Omaha.

“When I left Taiwan, I hadn’t a clue (about what to do) but this (Magis) fit perfectly with what I wanted to do,” she said. “When you allow the Holy Spirit to guide your path, God’s will can be done. That’s what I think is happening.”
For Terry Clark, Ph.D., professor of international relations, mentoring students in his “fuzzy math” research group is teaching at its most intense and most rewarding. Likewise, for Greg Zacharias, Ph.D., professor of English, the opportunity to train students in documentary editing enables him to share the joys of academic life. Gintaras Duda, Ph.D., assistant professor of physics, conveys his enthusiasm for the mysteries of the universe in his lab, where his research students collaborate in investigating dark matter. For both Caroline Goulet, Ph.D., associate professor of physical therapy, and Jeff Smith, Ph.D., associate professor of education, researching with graduate students allows them to cross disciplinary boundaries and bridge the gap between the clinical and research environments.

These faculty members have distinguished themselves as leading scholars in their fields. They are also actively sharing their research agendas with their students, training the next generation of scholars. For the faculty and students profiled here, research is not a solitary “ivory tower” pursuit. It is an endeavor that builds community and allows students to see that their intellectual contributions can make a difference.

By Bridget Keegan, Ph.D., Professor of English and Associate Dean of Arts and Sciences
Dr. Greg Zacharias and the Henry James Center Team

Located on the third floor of the Humanities Building, the Henry James Center, directed by Greg Zacharias, Ph.D., is editorial headquarters for The Complete Letters of Henry James. It attracts James scholars from around the world, who, along with Creighton undergraduate and graduate research assistants, are editing, annotating, and publishing more than 10,423 letters by Henry James.

The first two volumes were published late in 2006 and received rave reviews from such esteemed publications as the Times Literary Supplement. The third (of the projected 40 volumes) is scheduled for 2008 publication. The center is the largest public repository of Henry James letter copies in the world.

Perhaps just as important as the artifacts it houses and the works it produces are the unique learning opportunities the center affords students in scholarly editing. Numerous students have collaborated in the center’s work since its opening in 1997. These student researchers have produced conference papers and published essays and book chapters.

Scholarly editing is a rigorous, theoretically complex endeavor, involving much more than transcribing primary documents. It requires the editor to have a deep knowledge of his or her subject, so as to decipher context and intention in the documents. The question of how to present original texts (if they contain errors or erasures, for instance) and how much intervention (or correction) is appropriate are vexing subjects in editorial theory. This is part of what Zacharias teaches students, and helping unravel these questions is what students contribute to the project.

“Dr. Zacharias taught me something very important about the responsibility one has in doing intellectual work,” said Natalie Roxburgh, MA’05, who is currently working on her Ph.D. in English at Rutgers University. “Whatever one’s project might be, one should produce it with care. He taught me to pay attention to both dynamism (it should be interesting) and accuracy (it should be rational).”

Zacharias said these students, through their research, see “the scholarly world as a welcoming place.”

“I learned that research is not work, but rather a passion, and that that passion, duly pursued, will produce commendable scholarship,” said Pat Phillips, BA’05, who is currently working on his Ph.D. in English at the University of Kansas. “I felt that my work was contributing to a greater good. It helped me and others ‘find their voice,’ which, to me, is what education is all about.”
Dr. Jeff Smith and Mary Ann Ekanem

As a nurse at Creighton’s Cardiac Center, Mary Ann Vogel Ekanem, BSN’80, noticed that although studies had proven correlations between mood disorders and heart disease, physicians typically did not factor this into their treatment of patients.

Ekanem developed her observations into a successful research project when she enrolled in Jeff Smith’s research methods class, a required course for the master’s degree in counseling that Ekanem is pursuing.

Smith was immediately impressed with Ekanem’s proposal, and he encouraged her to conduct the research. He noted that he hadn’t seen any similar research in the professional journals, and he believed that Ekanem had an original and important project.

Smith helped Ekanem get approval for her project from the Institutional Review Board and the Research Committee at the Cardiac Center. With Smith’s encouragement, Ekanem became the first non-cardiologist allowed to conduct research at the Cardiac Center.

“Dr. Smith gave me the encouragement to just go for it and trust that you had a good idea and that you could pursue it,” Ekanem said.

Smith said he tries to instill a sense of confidence in the students he mentors, so that they’re not afraid to explore and pursue new ideas. He also stresses to his students the importance of being ethically sagacious in their research activities. It is critical, he said, that students follow a code of ethics in designing a research agenda, so that no harm, even inadvertently, comes to the project participants.

Smith encourages the students in his research methods class to critique one another and help each other anticipate potential ethical blind spots. Although it can be intimidating to share research ideas at an early stage, Smith believes that letting colleagues review your plans makes the final project stronger.

Both Smith and Ekanem are proud of the fact that this research project will have results that can be applied. The two are also excited about the cross-disciplinary emphasis of the research, which brings together doctors, nurses and counseling professionals.

Ekanem is currently in the process of writing up her results and will work toward publishing them. She credits Smith with helping her see that she could take something she was already doing and integrate it into a significant research project. After she graduates in May, Ekanem isn’t sure what her next project might be, but after working with Smith, she can definitely say that she has a special place in her heart for research.
Caroline Goulet, Ph.D., left, associate professor of physical therapy, is collaborating with Audrey Cassel, who is working on her doctorate in physical therapy, and others on research to determine the most beneficial cardiovascular exercises for individuals with multiple sclerosis.

Cassel worked as a professional physical therapist for many years before partnering with Goulet on a research project at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital in Lincoln, Neb. Their partnership was part of Cassel’s post-professional efforts to earn a doctorate in physical therapy.

Goulet and Cassel’s research project involves collecting and analyzing data to help exercise physiologists work with individuals with multiple sclerosis to determine the most beneficial mode of cardiovascular exercise.

The two are now collaborating with researchers from the Madonna Institute for Rehabilitation Science and Engineering and the University of Nebraska to develop an elliptical trainer better suited to those regaining mobility and strength.

The research allows Goulet to show her students the productive connections between the clinical and the research settings. It also allows her to integrate her passion for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) into how she introduces research activities and methods to students. “Research shouldn’t just be conducted in silos,” Goulet said.

Goulet’s professional journey has taken her around the world, from Canada to California to Iowa to Hong Kong. Her travels exposed her to a variety of professional and educational settings. But Goulet’s passion for teaching led her to Creighton.

Goulet has been delighted with Cassel’s energy and commitment to the project, viewing her as a full collaborator in all aspects of the project. For Cassel, the enthusiasm is mutual. “Caroline sees the possibilities for advancement of knowledge in everyday practice and in research,” Cassel said. “She exhibits patience with the simplest and basic questions, but appreciates the neuroplasticity of all minds, including mine. I have learned the basics and complexity of physical therapy research. She is not afraid to ask her students the hard questions and make sure they have the right answers.”
Dr. Gintaras Duda and the Dark Matter Research Team

Physics professor Gintaras Duda loves mentoring students in research because it introduces them to a new mode of thinking and new ideas about what it means to study physics.

“Problems are not always solved by looking at an answer in a textbook,” Duda said. “You may not know an answer or even know where to look for that answer at first. You don’t get a feel for this as an area for discovery unless you are in a research situation.”

Duda’s lab is devoted to exploring one of the biggest unanswered questions in science today: the nature of so-called “dark matter” — the substance or particle that physicists believe collectively constitutes more than 90 percent of the mass of the universe but which is non-luminous and thus cannot be detected through traditional astronomical means.

Because of the intensively theoretical nature of this research, it often takes time for students to be sufficiently trained to collaborate in Duda’s lab. Yet his students agree that the effort is worth it. Duda remembers one of his proudest moments: the summer research fellowship won by one of his first undergraduate protégées, Ann Kemper, and her presentation that followed.

“Ann had to explain dark matter and quantum mechanics, and she did a brilliant job of talking to a non-specialist audience,” Duda said.

Encouraging all of his students to present their research at professional conferences is another goal that Duda emphasizes. Participation in conferences allows students to see that good research doesn’t happen in isolation. “People collaborate and generate ideas at these meetings and that is hugely important for the field,” Duda said.

Sophomore Katie Garrett, one of Duda’s current protégées, has been learning the programming necessary for her to work with DarkSUSY, a computer program that numerically simulates the behavior of possible dark matter particles. Duda is also helping Garrett write her own research paper about dark matter, geared toward undergraduates.

“He is a great role model and has taught me a lot about what it means to do research and how to do it well, which includes not only being knowledgeable in your subject but being willing to learn and collaborate with others,” Garrett said.
Dr. Terry Clark and the Fuzzy Math Team

Although the subject of Terry Clark’s research study is the application of fuzzy mathematics to formal models in political science, the admiration that Clark’s research protégés demonstrate for this charismatic professor is perfectly clear.

Together with two other Creighton faculty members — John Mordeson, Ph.D., who holds the Mordeson Chair in Mathematics, and Mark Wierman, Ph.D., associate professor of computer science — Clark leads a team of 17 students. Working under the auspices of Creighton’s Center for the Mathematics of Uncertainty (also known as “fuzzy math”), directed by Mordeson, the team has produced a book and four articles in the last two years (all co-authored with students) and has applied for a National Science Foundation grant.

Clark conducts weekly group meetings along with numerous individual meetings with students assigned to particular tasks within the project. His students note that his zeal for the subject is positively contagious, and they find themselves working even harder.

“I’ve learned that research can be both amazing and frustrating,” said junior Danae Mercer. “I’ve learned how it is to sit for hours and days crunching numbers only to find that your hypothesis was wrong, and then I’ve learned how it’s all worth it when the hypothesis is right. I’ve learned that scholarship isn’t so much about reading books and writing papers as it is about thinking, just thinking … and then I’ve learned that to think, I need the foundation of those books and previously written papers.

“I’ve learned that in any situation, you get out of it what you put into it. I’ve learned research requires self-discipline, in that there are no grades, no deadlines, nothing but what you want to accomplish. If you fail, it is your own fault. If you succeed, it is only because you have pushed yourself to unprecedented heights and you have been willing to work hard.”

For Clark, mentoring students in research is where he feels he most fulfills the Jesuit charism of cura personalis. Clark aspires to show students just how enjoyable a life of the mind can be and encourages them to make learning a part of the rest of their lives.

“The time I’ve spent working on this project has been extremely rewarding,” said senior Alan Hickle. “I’ve learned so much from this work, and I never got a credit hour for it. It has emphasized, for me, that some of the best learning opportunities have nothing to do with being in a classroom. People ask me what I do and all I can say is ‘I get fuzzy.’ If I said any more, I would keep talking for two hours.”
Brain Gain

Creighton researchers — including a second-year medical student — make a major discovery in treating patients with brain injuries.

By Eugene Curtin
In 2006, he took part in the Wisconsin Ironman triathlon, which required a 2.4-mile swim, a 112-mile bicycle trip and a marathon run of just over 26 miles. He also ran a marathon in 2004 and can occasionally be found scuba diving or zipping down snow-laden hills tenuously attached to a pair of skis.

Which is all very well for a young man at the peak of his physical powers. But last year he was handed a real challenge by two Creighton University professors who gave him an opportunity that may be unique in the history of American neurosurgery.

Morrison, a second-year student at Creighton University School of Medicine, had participated in a long-term study that began in 2000 under the guidance of Pradeep Narotam, M.D., and Narendra Nathoo, M.D. The study concerned ways and means of delivering oxygen to the brain tissue of brain-trauma victims, and attempted to determine whether improved oxygen flow would deliver not just physical survival, but a better general outcome overall.

Morrison was assigned the role of chief number-cruncher. He spent many hours hunched over the results flowing from the study, trying to decipher what the facts and figures were saying. What he found captured the attention of the nation’s most prominent neurosurgeons and resulted in an invitation to Creighton to send someone to address them at their national convention held last April in Washington, D.C.

Narotam and Nathoo, generously recognizing Morrison’s labors, chose their student — not yet a licensed physician — to stand before the giants

“To make a presentation to a general session of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons, as we were asked to do, is an incredible accomplishment that puts Creighton on the map as a major player in the treatment of brain trauma.”

— Charles Taylon, MD’71, Chief of Neurosurgery
of neurosurgery and explain what had been discovered.

Now that’s a challenge, as Charles Taylon, MD’71, chief of neurosurgery at Creighton, will tell you.

Taylon described the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS), before which Morrison was to make his presentation, as “the premier neurosurgical organization in the world.”

“It is almost impossible to make a presentation at meetings of that organization,” he said. “The competition is extreme. To make a presentation to a general session, as we were asked to do, is an incredible accomplishment that puts Creighton on the map as a major player in the treatment of brain trauma.”

Dr. Pradeep Narotam, like all people of science, assumes nothing.

Asked whether it is not obvious that improved oxygen flow to the brain would ensure a better outcome than if the brain were oxygen deprived, Narotam leans in to his interviewer, a quick lesson in the imperatives of science already forming on his lips.

“That,” he said, “is a supposition.” Medical science supposes nothing, not even that which might appear obvious. It’s all “supposition” until trials, tests and treatments delivered over time to a sufficient number of patients inch the supposition toward fact or fiction.

So neither Narotam nor Nathoo was about to assume that victims of brain trauma would experience better outcomes if oxygen flow to brain tissue could be improved. To test that hypothesis, they began a study in 2000 designed to prove things one way or the other.

It is well known, of course, that oxygen deprivation is bad news for anyone attempting to overcome brain injury. Insufficient oxygen delivery is believed to enhance by a factor of four the chance that a brain trauma victim will die. But would an enhanced oxygen flow ensure not just survival, but a better general outcome? Would it, for example, permit someone whose injuries seemed likely to condemn them to a vegetative existence, to experience a better result, a better quality of life?

And if so, how could the presence of oxygen in brain tissue be monitored, and thus regulated? Is there a better way to do that than monitoring intracranial blood pressure, the method used for approximately the past 40 years?

The work the Narotam-Nathoo team performed on those questions — especially the data collection and analysis conducted by Morrison — captured the interest of the AANS. After receiving a 250-word abstract of the procedure, the organization requested a presentation be made at a plenary session of its annual meeting.

While this was in itself a great tribute to the work done at Creighton, Narotam and Nathoo’s choice of presenter was a tribute to the long hours and relentless investigation performed by their student, Morrison. Two years into his studies, he was challenged to stand before the greatest names in American neurosurgery and tell them what had been going on at 30th and California streets.

Morrison said the opportunity was a little intimidating.

"We were showing that the quality of life in the final outcome was significantly better if the patient got improved oxygen treatment."

— Pradeep Narotam, M.D.
It was, remember, a plenary session, which means that all the participants would be expected to attend. In this case, that meant more than 3,000 neurosurgery professionals could be on hand. Morrison had 12 minutes to speak, and found, upon stepping into the spotlight and standing before a microphone, that all was well.

“I wasn’t till at ease at all,” he said. “I had prepared for it very well. I focused on the most relevant and ground-breaking aspects of what we had done.”

Morrison said he had many people approach him after his presentation asking how they could adopt the procedure. Researchers have provided a lot of feedback, he said.

What the Creighton team had done was to demonstrate to a 95 percent certainty, after following 139 patients over five years, that a method they devised of monitoring and regulating oxygen flow to brain tissue could reduce mortality and improve outcomes. Each patient was followed for six months after surgery to ensure accuracy.

“We were able to show that the quality of life was significantly better if the patient got improved oxygen treatment,” Narotam said.

The size and duration of the Creighton study was termed “gold standard” by Amy Lawrenson, a spokeswoman for BrainOxygen.org, a website created by Narotam and his associates to promote the method they had devised.

“The research performed at Creighton was of such intense interest because it was a large study conducted over five years, incorporated the gold standard of a six-month outcome, and had findings which may prove to be landmarks,” Lawrenson said.

“Neurotrauma patients often survive but have severe disability,” she added. “Using brain oxygen monitoring not only reduced mortality but markedly improved ‘good’ outcomes while decreasing outcomes in the vegetative and severely disabled categories.”

The method the Creighton physicians devised uses the Licox Brain Tissue Oxygen sensor, a device used to measure oxygen in the brain. The Licox first emerged about 10 years ago and has since become a standard tool for measuring brain oxygen.

The standard, intracranial procedure allows the Licox to estimate the presence of oxygen in the brain after drilling a hole in the skull and comparing blood pressure there with blood pressure in the rest of the body.

The brain-oxygen monitoring method developed by the Creighton team permits a probe to be placed directly into the brain tissue, yielding much greater accuracy.

A key element of the innovation is an algorithm developed by the Creighton team and currently posted at BrainOxygen.org for any medical professional who might like to adopt the procedure.

The algorithm is a step-by-step explanation of how to conduct the procedure.

Narotam said it became clear as he, Morrison and the rest of his team advanced the procedure that they were on to something important.

“We treated the brain oxygen levels of all our patients very aggressively,” he said. “After John did the analysis of all the data as a summer student project, it was clear that we had some powerful results.

“We were showing that the quality of life in the final outcome was significantly better if the patient got improved oxygen treatment.”

And that’s the point.

The Creighton team was trying to find out whether oxygenating the brain, accurately and efficiently, would not just reduce mortality but would enhance the overall outcome for patients. The answer, Narotam said, after Morrison had crunched all the numbers, was an unequivocal “yes.”

It is a discovery that Narotam said puts Creighton “on the map” in terms of neurosurgery, a field long dominated by universities in California and Pennsylvania.

But, he said, his team is not about to get proprietary with it.

“We want to share this and make it available to everyone who cares about neurological injury,” he said.

To that end, they created BrainOxygen.org, a very basic website where they have posted the protocols and procedures that will allow any qualified neurosurgeon to pursue the same method in treating brain injury patients.

What did Morrison think about the opportunity, so early in his medical career, to stand up before the giants of his industry?

“I never heard of such a thing myself,” he said. “There were a total of nine presenters at various plenary sessions, and they think I might be the first student to make a presentation.”

Taylon suspects Morrison might very well be right.

“I have not looked into this, so I cannot say it with certainty, but I would be very surprised if John was not the first medical student to make such a presentation before such an important body,” he said.

Taylon said the brain-tissue procedure now embarks on a path toward eventually being accepted as a “guideline.” It is too young and innovative to have yet achieved that important designation, he said, but it is on the path.

The intracranial monitoring of blood pressure, the standard treatment for monitoring brain oxygen for the past 40 years, walked a similar path before being accepted as a medical guideline, Taylon said.

If it should ever achieve that status, Taylon said the credit will be entirely due to Narotam and Nathoo.

“They were the two main pioneers,” he said. “They had the idea and put the study together, with John extracting the data. It has been a long and detailed study. It’s one thing to have an idea and a machine. At some point you have to answer the question, ‘But will it make a difference?’

“They answered that question.”

About the author: Curtin is a freelance writer in Omaha.
Message from the Campaign Chair

Campaign Supports Jesuit Mission

For more than 450 years, the Jesuits have played a unique and extraordinary role enlightening the human race. For more than 450 years, they have been leaders in the field of education, combining the latest scholarship with traditional teachings.

For more than 125 years, the Jesuits at Creighton University have not only educated young women and men to be proficient in their chosen fields, but they have shaped individuals to be leaders in their communities and in society. They have emboldened graduates to work and stand for justice. And, by their examples, they have shown how to live in service to God and others.

Their influence goes beyond the classroom. They reach out to students — as counselors, as motivators, as role models. They are scholars, engaged with the world and the study of God’s creation, who challenge students to examine their lives more fully. And they remain involved in the lives of Creighton graduates, celebrating with and consoling us during life’s journey.

What are your Jesuit memories? Indeed, the list of Jesuits who have had a positive influence on the lives of Creighton students stretches across various academic disciplines and class years. Each of us, it seems, can claim a Jesuit experience that has touched our hearts, minds or spirits — making a difference in our lives.

These powerful memories, no doubt, have contributed to the success of the Willing to Lead Campaign. Our alumni, friends and benefactors realize the impact a Creighton Jesuit education can make in the lives of women and men. Through this campaign, we have a unique opportunity to not only support those experiences but to enhance and expand Creighton University’s Jesuit, Catholic identity. Thank you for your continued support of the campaign.

Bruce Rohde, BSBA’71, JD’73
Campaign Steering Committee Chair

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

No Place Like Home for Creighton Donors

Like many former students, you made Creighton University your home for a number of years. Now, there is a way for you and other Creighton alumni and friends to return the favor. Through an arrangement known as a retained life estate (RLE), you can make a lifetime donation of your home while continuing to live there. This increasingly popular arrangement provides both you and Creighton with significant benefits.

An RLE is a gift plan defined by federal tax law that allows you to donate your home, vacation property or farm to a qualified charity while retaining the right to live there for the rest of your life. Creation of the RLE generates an immediate charitable contribution deduction on your income tax return. While you live on the property, you are responsible for the routine expenses normally associated with ownership — maintenance fees, insurance, property taxes, repairs, etc.

“This is an often overlooked way to make a considerable impact upon Creighton that not only generates immediate, sizeable income tax benefits, but also helps to streamline the future administration on one’s estate,” said Robert Skrydlak, associate director of Estate and Trust Services. “Plain and simple, the retained life estate is a wonderful way to create your legacy to the University.”

Several alumni and friends of the University have taken advantage of this strategy to create substantial endowment funds, including the late Gilbert Beirne, MD’45, who used this planning technique for both his Palm Springs and Pebble Beach, Calif., homes.

“Jack McGraw also was pleased with the many other Creighton alumni and friends in the Palm Springs area for many years. Now, the future sale proceeds will someday help future students have a better educational experience at Creighton,” said Joan McGraw. “We strongly believe and are committed to the educational mission and values of the University and feel privileged to do our part.”

“Our biggest surprise was how simple it was to create this gift. We had done our estate planning homework, so the transaction was uncomplicated and easy.”

— Jack McGraw, BSBA’53

Jack McGraw, BSBA’53, and his wife, Joan, saw this gift arrangement as a tax-efficient way for the couple to continue their support of the University. The McGraws have supported Creighton campaigns, alumni activities, athletics and the College of Business Administration. In 1997, they also established the Jack and Joan McGraw Endowed Chair in Information Technology Management. Jack, a 1993 Alumni Achievement Award recipient; his son John, BSBA’84; and many extended family members have attended the University. In addition, for many years, the McGraws have hosted annual alumni gatherings near Palm Springs, Calif.

“Things have really come full circle … our home has been the destination for gatherings of Creighton alumni and friends in the Palm Springs area for many years. Now, the future sale proceeds will someday help future students have a better educational experience at Creighton.”

For more information on a retained life estate or any gift of real estate, contact Steve Scholer or Robert Skrydlak of Creighton’s Office of Estate and Trust Services at (800) 334-8794, ext. 1143; (402) 280-1143, or at giftplanning@creighton.edu.
Phi Rho Sigma Medical Society Receives New Charter at Creighton

In its heyday, Creighton’s all-male Phi Rho Sigma Medical Society, ETA chapter, was known for its full academic as well as social calendars.

The fraternity’s house at 4016 Davenport St. served as the physical home each year to medical students hailing from California, New York and elsewhere. On weeknights, members studied. Breakfast and dinner were served Monday through Friday with a big dinner on Sunday.

“But the memories, those were made on the weekends,” said Omaha anesthesiologist Pat Adley, MD’64. “We were pretty well known around the city for our active social scene on Fridays and Saturdays. On Saturday nights, we always had live music.”

The chapter was founded in 1900, and Adley said the “glory days” were probably the mid-1950s — after the Korean War — to around 1970.

But then, the music stopped. The ETA chapter disbanded and, in 1982, the house with so many memories was sold for $30,229 by the Phi Rho Sigma Alumni Association.

Fast forward to 2005 when Omaha ophthalmologist Carol Drake, M.D., (wife of Robert Troia, MD’79) and faculty adviser for the Phi Rho Sigma chapter at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, received a call from Wells Fargo bank. There was a dormant account, held in the fraternity’s name, that was about to be turned over to Nebraska’s state treasurer.

Drake did some sleuthing and discovered the account, which contained $95,153, represented proceeds from the sale of the Davenport Street house plus interest. She began contacting ETA chapter alumni, including Adley, to determine how they wanted to proceed.

Fast forward again to June 2007. The ETA chapter rises from the ashes and receives a new charter. There are differences now. The new chapter includes men and women — about 25 medical students to date — and there is no house. But the house remains an important piece of this chapter’s past and future. Money from the long-dormant account will be used to support the chapter’s service and educational activities.

Former Creighton Phi Rho members interested in serving on a newly formed alumni board, should contact Carol Drake at (402) 393-6936 or cdrake6936@mssu.com.

What are Your Hidden Assets?

Estate planning often is viewed as a process for you to inventory, manage and distribute your assets. But, really, what are the assets you have to distribute? One would assume by assets, we mean tangible items such as stocks, a home or retirement funds. Surprisingly, more and more of the people I assist have a hidden asset they want to perpetuate: their values — what they believe in, subscribe to and how they want to be remembered.

It is often out of a discussion about these personal values that parents, alumni and friends begin to look more closely at their philanthropic goals and how their beliefs and values can be reinforced and preserved through thoughtful estate planning.

By including a charitable component in your estate plan, you can ensure that your philanthropic values and beliefs are sustained. Through a charitable bequest from your will or trust, or by naming Creighton as beneficiary of your IRA or 401(k), you can create an endowed scholarship and attest to your conviction that a Jesuit education remains an option for all who want to come here.

Your willingness to share your estate can create an endowed professorship or research fund to recognize the University’s brightest educators and scholars and confirm your passion for scholarship and the keys it holds to our future.

Your estate gift, in recognition of the Jesuits’ dedication to the Creighton Credo, “to be of service to others,” can create the Center for Catholic Thought or support the Center for Service and Justice and testify to your belief in these same values.

These are but a few of the ways you can perpetuate your legacy, sharing your ideals and values with future generations. You can find more information on charitable estate planning at giftplanning.creighton.edu.

Please take a moment to consider your hidden assets.

For further assistance, contact us at (402) 280-1143, (800) 334-8794 or giftplanning@creighton.edu.

Steve Scholer, JD’79
Director of Estate & Trust Services
The Edward and Mary Lucretia Creighton Society is Creighton University’s premier Donor Recognition Club. Members of the Creighton Society sustain the University through their unrestricted annual gifts. These generous contributions to Sustaining Gifts are crucial to ensuring that Creighton is a leader in providing the highest quality Jesuit, Catholic education to our students.

Starting with this issue of the Creighton University Magazine, Creighton Society members will be recognized as follows:

- **Ignatian Circle ($10,000 and above)**
- **Jesuit Circle ($5,000 to $9,999)**
- **Founders’ Circle ($2,500 to $4,999)**
- **Sustaining Member ($1,000 to $2,500)**

**Alum Items**

**John J. Connolly, MD**, Omaha, received the Bergan Mercy Medical Center Auxiliary’s Candlelight Award at the 68th Annual Candlelight Ball on Nov. 17, 2007. The award honors Bergan Mercy volunteers for their service.

**John T. Growney, BS 59, MD**, Atchison, Kan., a physician at Atchison Hospital, has passed the 2007 Recertification Examination given by the American Board of Family Medicine, and is certified as a Diplomate.

**James F. Keefe, MD**, Pacific Palisades, Calif., a pathologist at Centinela Hospital Medical Center in Inglewood, Calif., was one of five recipients of the 2007 College of American Pathologists Foundation Humanitarian Grant Award. The grant allows Keefe to train a senior pathology resident to provide medical services in Bhutan.

**Dr. Mary Mincer Hansen, BSN**, Panora, Iowa, recently joined Des Moines University as a faculty member in the Global Health department. She was previously director of the Iowa Department of Public Health.

**Dr. Ann Malone Berger, BSN**, Omaha, was appointed the Dorothy Hodges Olson Endowed Chair in Nursing at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. The chair, established in 1995, is a five-year term, with potential for reappointment. Berger is nationally recognized for her research on breast cancer.

**Lt. Col. Donald R. Anderson, BS 68, MD**, Washington, D.C., has begun a 15-month tour of duty to command a military hospital in Iraq. It is Anderson’s second tour of duty in Iraq in the past five years. He will be responsible for treatment of active duty troops, as well as for humanitarian and civilian care.


**Sandy S. Goetzinger-Comer, BA**, Omaha, has recently been named senior associate director for emerging communications technology at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. She was director of public affairs at the medical center for the past 13 years.

**Dr. Amy M. Haddad, BSN**, Omaha, director of Creighton University’s Center for Health Policy & Ethics, is a contributor to a new anthology, *Stories of Illness and Healing: Women Write Their Bodies*. She contributed two poems to the book, “What if They Said?” and “Stenotactic Biopsy,” regarding her experiences as a patient.

**Charles S. Caulkins, JD**, Fort Lauderdale, Fla., managing partner in the Fort Lauderdale office of the law firm of Fisher & Phillips, has been named to the 2008 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* in the specialty of labor and employment law.

**Mary Kay Green, BA 65, JD**, Kansas City, Mo., is the author of *Women of Courage: The Rights of Single Mothers and Their Children*.

**Renee Scott Bridges, BA**, Villanova, Pa., has joined the section staff at United States Tennis Association Middle States in Valley Forge, Pa., as diversity/multicultural manager. Dr. Robert J. Kemp, BA, Bluffton, Ohio, is an associate professor of social and administrative sciences at the College of Pharmacy at Touro University in Vallejo, Calif. Ronald J. Klein, R.P., BSPA, Helena, Mont., is executive director for the Montana State Board of Pharmacy in Helena. Dr. Timothy J. McConnell, BA, Sandy, Utah, education specialist for the Utah Office of Education in Salt Lake City, was awarded the doctor of education degree in educational leadership and policy from the University of Utah.

**Kerryllyn Whalen Rodriguez, BSPA**, Freeport, Ill., was honored with the “Bowl of Hygeia,” a national award for outstanding community service in pharmacy, given by the Illinois Pharmacists Association. Whalen Rodriguez, who is a pharmacist with Shopko in Freeport, was chosen largely because of her extensive humanitarian efforts in Peru.

**Philip J. McCarthy Jr., JD**, Flagstaff, Ariz., an attorney in Flagstaff, was elected to the board of trustees of the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys.

**Hon. Sara B. Greenberg, JD**, Arlington, Va., is an administrative judge for the board of land appeals with the U.S. Department of the Interior in Arlington.

**H. Douglas Knust, BSBA**, Alexandria, Va., is an associate with Booz Allen Hamilton in McLean, Va.

**Hon. Y. E. Scott, JD**, Aurora, Colo., was the recipient of a Community Service Award presented by the Sam Carey Bar Association in Colorado.

**Christopher J. Blaylock, BSBA**, Alexandria, Va., was the chairperson of the University of Maine at Farmington’s College of Business Administration.

**Frederick W. Weidinger, JD 85, MBA**, Great Falls, Va., has been named chairman of the board and chief executive officer of Braintree, Inc., based in Toronto.

**Brenda Fernandez Dick, DDS**, Dakota Dunes, S.D., a dentist with Practice Limited to Orthodontics in Sioux City, Iowa, is serving as president of the Sioux City Dental Society, Inc. Jon A. Jacobson, BSBA 83, JD, Treynor, Iowa, trust officer and chief compliance officer at Trustco Financial Corp., was elected to the board of directors of the SBS Bank.

**Katherine L. Funk, Esq., BSBA**, Washington, D.C., is a partner with the Washington law firm of Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal, L.L.P.
Hansen’s Book Becomes Hollywood Movie

If Ron Hansen were a movie critic, he would give The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford a big thumbs-up. The Creighton alumnus is well-acquainted with the script. In fact, you could say he wrote the book on it.

Hansen, a 1970 Creighton graduate, is the critically acclaimed author of the book by the same title, published in 1983.

“There was an immediate interest in its cinematic possibilities,” Hansen said. “Through the years, I was approached by other directors and studios, and a script was even commissioned, but getting the financing was the chief difficulty. You’re talking tens of millions of dollars for such a film.”

Cue the swinging saloon doors; enter Brad Pitt. The Hollywood megastar expressed interest in bringing the book to the big screen in 2004, and Warner Bros. gave its OK in the summer of 2005.

Hansen doubts the movie would have been made without the support of its leadings actors — Pitt, who plays Jesse James, and Casey Affleck, who plays Robert Ford.

The movie was released in October. Hansen’s review?

“It’s superb, a masterpiece,” Hansen said. “I couldn’t have hoped for a finer adaptation.”

The Omaha native had a chance to spend some time on the set.

“I was in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, for three days, and Calgary for four,” Hansen said. “I don’t think I ever stopped grinning as I watched the actors play their parts. Brad and Casey especially were amazing.”

The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford is Hansen’s second novel. He took three years researching and writing the book, reading everything about James he could get his hands on, including daily Kansas City newspapers of the era. Hansen said he was attracted to the story by James’ cult celebrity.

“And he was the first person I know of who was assassinated — the word favored over ‘murdered’ back then — by someone who actually admired him, something I witnessed when John Lennon was shot down by a fan on my birthday in 1980.”

Hansen is currently the Gerard Manley Hopkins, S.J. Professor in the Arts and Humanities at Santa Clara University. His first novel, Desperadoes, was published in 1979. He was twice a finalist for a PEN/Faulkner Award, for The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford and for Atticus (1996), a 1997 National Book Award finalist.

In January 2007, Hansen, who holds a master’s degree in spirituality from Santa Clara, was ordained a Permanent Deacon for the Diocese of San Jose. His newest historical novel, Exiles, about the Jesuit poet Gerard Manley Hopkins and his poem “The Wreck of the Deutschland” will be published in April 2008.
Jason M. Toney, BS, Rochester, Minn., has opened a dental office, North Pointe Dental, a comprehensive family practice in Rochester.

Christopher M. Gibbs, MD, Bloomington, Ill., a physician with Digestive Disease Consultants in Normal, Ill., has completed his fellowship training in gastroenterology and hepatology at Stanford University Medical Center in Stanford, Calif. Majid A. Hussaini, BS, Elgin, Ill., is director of the department of pediatrics at Children’s Memorial Hospital in Chicago.


Daniel J. Moore, BA, Philadelphia, is an associate with Reed Smith, L.L.P., in Philadelphia. Capt. Angela Morrison Swan, BA, Goodyear, Ariz., has been promoted to her current rank in the U.S. Air Force.

Nathan S. Busch, JD, Gering, Neb., was appointed administrator for the Western Service Area for Nebraska Health and Human Services. Amy E. Revel Teas, JD, West Des Moines, Iowa, is an associate with the law firm of Bradshaw Fowler Proctor & Fairgrave, P.C., in Des Moines. Abby Goettch Walleck, BSBA ’01, JD, Milford, Iowa, an attorney with the law firm of Ladegaard Maahs and Owens in Spirit Lake, Iowa, was honored for her pro bono work with low income Iowans through the Iowa Volunteer Lawyers Project. She received the award at the Northwest Iowa Volunteer Lawyer Appreciation Night that recognizes the efforts of volunteer lawyers and Iowa Legal Aid in northwest Iowa.

Tama S. Trewet, BSDH, Atlantic, Iowa, has been named director of development for CASS Incorporated in Atlantic. The organization is a community-based provider of rehabilitative services for people with disabilities or other challenges to a successful life of work and living.

Hillary J. Aerts, BA ’02, MED, Omaha, a journalism teacher at Omaha North High Magnet School, has been named a 2008 Rising Star Award recipient. The national recognition by the Journalism Education Association honors 10 teachers from across the nation with one to five years of journalism teaching experience. Noted in her selection for this award were her...
commitment to journalism and passion for her work, which allow her to create outstanding media. Melissa C. Heelan, JD, Washington, D.C., is associate editor of the Law Reporter, for the American Association for Justice in Washington. Kelsy Bothmer Sherwood, BS, Hickman, Neb., has joined the Southern School District in Blue Springs, Neb., as a kindergarten teacher. Casey J. Symonds, Esq., JD, Kansas City, Mo., is an associate attorney with the law firm of Franke Schultz & Mullken, P.C., in Kansas City.

06 Bridget M. Morris Findley, BA'03, JD, Dayton, Ohio, is an attorney with Lori A. Strobol Co., LPA, in Centerville, Ohio. Georgiana Lee, BA, Kirtland, N.M., is producer for Linda, As In Beautiful, L.L.C., in Santa Fe, N.M. Fr. Bernard A. Lutz, MA, Fort Branch, Ind., was elected director of ministry to priests for the diocese of Evansville, Ind.

Marriages
87 Angela M. Heller, BS, and Jeffrey A. Jones, June 1, 2007, living in Omaha.
92 Molly P. Tighe, JD, and Frederick Emmetsberger, July 29, 2006, living in Denver.
103 Emily C. Gacke, BS, and Jordan L. Poss, BA, May 25, 2007, living in Iowa City, Iowa.
107 Emily C. Gacke, BS, and Jordan L. Poss, BA, May 25, 2007, living in Iowa City, Iowa.
112 Patrick M. McLaughlin and Julia A. Bednar McLaughlin, BA, Topeka, Kan., a daughter, Anna Brynne, April 1, 2007.
114 Erik C. Bendorf, BSBA'92, JD, and Cynthia Bendorf, a daughter, Bridget Anne, April 1,

Art Awards Have Creighton Flair

Tim Guthrie, BFA'89, associate professor of journalism, was honored as the Best New Media Artist at the second annual Omaha Entertainment and Arts Awards ceremony on Jan. 3 at the Holland Performing Arts Center. He also took first for Best Group Show, for Nuclear Dichotomies, an exhibit exploring the images and issues of the “nuclear age,” which he put together with his brother Ken Guthrie, BFA’90, a graphic artist in Omaha. Tim Guthrie’s work has been shown internationally in Italy, Greece and at the Hiroshima Animation Festival in Japan.

In addition, Creighton alumnus Catherine Ferguson, BA’65, took home three awards in the categories of Best Visual Artist, Best 3D Artist and Best Solo Show, and alumnus Jamie Burmeister, BA’92, was named Best Public Art Artist. Homer Vela, BA’08, was honored for Achievement in Lighting Design for I Am My Own Wife, produced by SNAP! Nick Zadina, BFA’01, and Kevin Lawler, Arts’86, earned Best Actor (play) and Best Director (play), respectively, for their work on I Am My Own Wife.

Creighton’s spring 2007 production of Chicago (directed by Tammy Meneghini) won Best Musical, and Patrick Roddy, adjunct professor of dance, won Best Choreographer in a Musical for his work on Chicago. Bill Van Deest, adjunct professor and theater coordinator, won for Best Scenic Design for his work on I Am My Own Wife.

Births
92 Patrick M. McLaughlin and Julia A. Bednar McLaughlin, BA, Topeka, Kan., a daughter, Anna Brynne, April 1, 2007.
94 Erik C. Bendorf, BSBA’92, JD, and Cynthia Bendorf, a daughter, Bridget Anne, April 1,
Alumni News

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Patrick Friedmann and Amber Goetsch Friedmann, BS, Galva, Iowa, a son, Jacob Murlen, Nov. 16, 2007. M. Ronnie Thomas, BSCS 97, MS 00, MBA, and Amy Charles Thomas, BSBA 98, Omaha, a son, Isaac Alan, May 31, 2007.

John C. Keane, BSBA 00, JD 03, MBA, and Marguerite “Maggie” Thorn Keane, BA 00, MD 05, Phoenix, a son, Jude Stephen, Aug. 9, 2007. Daniel G. Kolder, BS 00, MD, and Michelle Kolder, Columbia, Mo., a daughter, Abigail Elizabeth, Sept. 10, 2007. Matthew S. Schroeder, BS 00, DDS, and Barbara Santos Schroeder, BS 00, DDS, Grand Rapids, Minn., a son, Benjamin Matthew, Sept. 21, 2007.


Chad A. Braun, BSMth 02, DDS, and Meghan E. Ord Braun, BS 02, Littleton, Colo., a son, Jack William, Dec. 9, 2007.

Deaths


Look for the brochure in the mail or find more information online at: www.creighton.edu/alumni
The following alumni have recently been appointed to Creighton University’s National Alumni Board (NAB). The NAB is the governing board for the Creighton University Alumni Association. It provides direction to the Alumni Association on alumni programming and services; represents the interests of alumni to the University; and supports the University’s strategic initiatives in such key areas as fundraising, career networking and student recruitment.

**Dr. H. Eugene Brooks, BA’75, Brighton, Colo.**

Brooks is currently on faculty at the University of Colorado at Denver Health Sciences Center. Brooks earned his D.D.S. from the University of Missouri in Kansas City (UMKC) and practiced dentistry in Topeka, Kan., prior to moving to Colorado. He is a past member of Creighton’s College of Arts and Sciences Alumni Advisory Board. His wife, Pamela Brown Brooks, BSMT’76, and their daughter, Sonja, BA’06, are also Creighton graduates.

**M. Douglas Ford, BSPha’69, Menomonee Falls, Wis.**

Ford is a retired district manager for Walgreens Drugstores in Milwaukee. He worked as a pharmacist, store manager and district manager at Walgreens Drugstores in Milwaukee for 35 years — the last 24 years as district manager for 30 stores. He is a past member of Creighton’s Milwaukee Alumni Advisory Board, and his son, Michael, attended Creighton. Ford also holds an M.B.A. from the Keller Graduate School of Management.

**Dr. Shawn J. Green, BS’83, Davis, Calif.**

Green is senior scientific adviser to TripleTree, an investment bank focused on working with growth companies in the areas of information technology, health care and business services. He is a co-founder of various biotechnology and medical device companies, including EntreMed, Inc. and Maxcyte, Inc. Green holds a Ph.D. in cellular biology and an M.B.A. from Georgetown University. His wife, Heidi Choate Green, is a 1983 graduate of Creighton’s College of Business Administration and presently serves as vice president of CGI Group, Inc.

**Juliana “Julie” Nicholsen Hefflinger, BA’70, Omaha**

Hefflinger is president of All Our Kids, Inc., a nonprofit organization in Omaha that mentors and provides scholarships to at-risk youths in the community. Hefflinger holds a master’s degree in guidance and counseling. Her husband, David Hefflinger, BA’69, JD’72, and their son, Joseph, JD’05, are also Creighton graduates.

**Jon L. Narmi, MBA’73, Council Bluffs, Iowa**

Narmi is senior vice president of wealth management, senior portfolio manager and senior investment management consultant for The Narmi Group of Smith Barney in Council Bluffs. He is also a graduate of the University of Iowa and the Securities Industry Institute of the University of Pennsylvania’s Wharton School of Finance. His son, J. Joseph, MBA’98, JD’01, and daughter, Ann, MD’03, are also Creighton graduates.

**Kathleen Keough Soto, BSN’75, Harlingen, Texas**

Having practiced nursing for more than 20 years, Keough Soto recently retired as concurrent review coordinator for Knapp Medical Center in Weslaco, Texas. She is currently working as an independent sales consultant with The Pampered Chef. Her husband, Gilberto Soto, BA’72, graduated from Creighton with a degree in Spanish. Her father, Don Keough, BS’49, is also a Creighton alumnus.
Remembering John M. Scott, S.J.

We all probably keep a similar file. Ours is a little gray folder that’s labeled, “Kudos.” We’ve had it for years. And, by far, the greatest majority of the notes enclosed in it are signed, “Fr. John.”

They always followed publication of first Window, then Creighton University Magazine, when a Fr. Scott story would appear. And his stories were really hymns to creation, always about some wonderful aspect of the earth and its beauty; the wonderful logic and majesty of science; the great, mysterious cosmology; the marvelous dance of the planets, the seasons and the stars.

A memorial Mass for the Rev. John M. Scott, S.J., was held on a blustery Sunday, Jan. 13, at St. John’s Church on the Creighton campus, and we couldn’t help but note that Fr. Scott would have found something wonderful to enjoy about the day.

Fr. Scott died on Dec. 27 at St. Camillus Jesuit Community in Wauwatosa, Wis. He was 94.

But Creighton alumni would have seen him on campus from 1978 to 2002, when he was part of the Jesuit community. He was a prolific writer. He also had served for a year as associate pastor at St. Agnes Church in Omaha.

But, according to an article written about Fr. Scott in the spring of 2000, the Creighton Jesuit saw himself in a certain way: “Despite a body of work that includes textbooks and learning guides, dozens of pamphlets, and hundreds of articles, Fr. Scott sees himself as priest, teacher and scientist first, and an author second.”

Fr. Scott was born in Omaha, on April 8, 1913, but the family soon moved to Butte, Mont., where he attended Immaculate Conception Grade School and then Christian Brothers High School until 1927.

Returning to Omaha, he graduated from Creighton Prep in 1931 and entered the Society of Jesus that same year. Fr. Scott went on to St. Louis University, earning the A.B. and M.A. degrees in philosophy. Soon, he was assigned to the Holy Rosary Mission in Pine Ridge, S.D., where he taught mathematics and general science from 1938 to 1941. From 1941 to 1945, he studied theology at St. Marys College in St. Marys, Kan., and was ordained on June 21, 1944.

After receiving his licentiate in theology from St. Louis University, Fr. Scott went on to earn an M.S. in physics there in 1947.

Then, for 30 years, Fr. Scott found his “home,” as a physics teacher at Campion Jesuit High School in Prairie du Chien, Wis. From 1948 to 1978, Fr. Scott was a stern, yet endearing, scientist whose colorful physics experiments dazzled his students and ingrained in them a love of learning. One of his former students still remembers him today as the best teacher he ever had. Another remembers that Fr. Scott so interested him in science that he would “sneak my physics book into my Spanish class,” just to figure out the previous experiment.

Fr. Scott was acting superior of the Campion community from 1975 to 1978.

After Campion closed, Fr. Scott spent one year as associate pastor of St. Agnes Church in Omaha, and, until 2002, was a writer and member of the Creighton Jesuit Community. Due to failing health, he moved to the St. Camillus Jesuit Community in Wauwatosa, Wis., where he spent the rest of his life.

Support for Jesuit Mission and Catholic Identity

“This spring, Creighton University students are again fanning out across the country to assist the elderly, work in soup kitchens, tutor young children and rebuild lives destroyed by natural disaster. This marks the 26th year of Creighton’s Spring Break Service Trip program. Our students go to serve, but they return having learned more about themselves and their roles in creating a more just world. So many of them report just that when they gather to reflect on their experiences! Your support of this campaign furthers Creighton’s Jesuit, Catholic mission of developing students who are women and men for others, and testifies to the belief that — together — we can make a difference in the world.”

Fr. Roc O’Connor, S.J.
Rector, Jesuit Community

“Recently, through our innovative Online Ministries website, we were able to share the proceedings of the 35th General Congregation of the Society of Jesus with not only our campus community here at Creighton University but with the wider world. Sharing our Jesuit mission and encouraging others to grow in their faith are integral parts of Creighton’s Jesuit, Catholic tradition. Through your support of this campaign, Creighton can continue to lead as an internationally recognized center for Jesuit, Catholic thought and perspectives — shedding light on a complex world.”

Fr. Andy Alexander, S.J.
Vice President for University Ministry

Creighton is sustained by its Jesuit, Catholic tradition. Our goal is to educate competent, compassionate and committed students who are enlivened with a spirit to love and serve others, especially the poor and marginalized; to seek God’s truth in all its forms; and to act for justice. This campaign is about nourishing that faith culture. A successful campaign will illustrate that, when it comes to providing a values-centered education in an environment that welcomes all faith traditions, Creighton University is WILLING TO LEAD.

WILLING TO LEAD
THE CAMPAIGN FOR CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY

www.creighton.edu/development
A Moment in History

When 225 Jesuits from around the world gathered in Rome this winter for the religious order’s 35th General Congregation, Creighton University’s own Don Doll, S.J., was there to capture the proceedings as the official photographer.

It was a historic moment for the Jesuits: They accepted the resignation of Superior General Peter-Hans Kolvenbach, S.J., who was retiring at the age of 79, and elected a new Superior General, the Rev. Adolfo Nicolás, S.J.

Fr. Doll’s photographs from the Congregation have appeared worldwide. In addition, Creighton University’s Online Ministries is serving as a global resource for information on the Congregation. You can find the website at:

www.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/GC35

A Portuguese Jesuit took this photo of Fr. Doll with new Superior General Adolfo Nicolás, S.J., left, and retiring Superior General Peter-Hans Kolvenbach, S.J. “The photo, for me, is an expression of how the men and the Society appreciated the work we did,” Fr. Doll said. “I attempted to stand next to them, but they placed me in between them. Their appreciation of the photographic work was like an embrace — and I still feel the consolation.”