BSN at 50

Creighton Nurses Excel in Numerous Roles

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Fifty years ago, in 1958, Creighton University inaugurated its collegiate program for the
degree of Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN). The Creighton School of Nursing and
its BSN program have evolved over the past five decades, but the school’s position as a
leading educator of outstanding nursing professionals has remained constant. Creighton’s
BSN graduates continue to make their marks in the profession, through a wide range
of roles. Meet some of these pioneers, researchers, educators and difference-makers —
individuals who have formed lifelong bonds with each other and their school.

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Creighton University’s internationally renowned photographer, the Rev. Don Doll, S.J.,
served as the official photographer at the 35th General Congregation of the Society of
Jesus. The Congregation, which concluded in March, included the election of a new Jesuit
superior general, the Rev. Adolfo Nicolás, S.J. Fr. Doll’s photos give an inside glimpse of
the Congregation, which drew 225 Jesuits representing almost 20,000 conferences around
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The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius, founder of the Jesuit religious order, continues
to challenge and inspire those who undertake this reflection of one’s self and her or
his relationship with God. Creighton’s the Rev. Larry Gillick, S.J., has been directing
Ignatian retreats based on the Spiritual Exercises for nearly 48 years. He shares the history
behind the Exercises, a general overview of the experience and how these “exercises” —
formulated in the 16th century — can have a profound effect on one’s life, even in today’s
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Harvard, Yale and MIT couldn’t do it. But Creighton did. For the first time since the Barry
Goldwater Scholarships were established in 1986, Creighton University had four students
receive the prestigious award in one year. How did they do it? Read more about these
remarkable students.

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Correction: The degree year for
Charles Taylor, MD’75, was incorrect in the
spring 2008 article “Brain Gain.” Also, the
current method of monitoring oxygen in
brain tissue is through intracranial pressure.
On April 3 and 4, approximately 65 people representing the stakeholders of Creighton University met at the ConAgra Foods campus in Omaha to develop a preliminary strategic plan for the University. The meeting included vice presidents, deans and other administrators, as well as representatives of the faculty, staff, students and alumni.

Strategic planning is an ongoing process at Creighton that allows us to identify our future with more clarity. We started this process in 2001 with Project 125 and continued it through our successful reaccreditation by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association. The reaccreditation process involved hundreds of Creighton colleagues over a two-year period, culminating in a site visit in March 2007. As I have mentioned previously in this space, that monumental effort resulted in a unanimous vote to reaccredit until 2017. Most gratifying in the commission’s report was the affirmation that Creighton lives its mission as a Jesuit and Catholic university.

As we continue our commitment to strategic planning, we have another opportunity to renew our University and focus our collective efforts on our desired future. It begins with a commitment to our students. Our vision statement reads: As Catholic and Jesuit, Creighton University will be a national leader in preparing students to enrich and renew society through professional distinction, responsible leadership and committed citizenship.

While it is still early in this strategic planning process, there are themes that are starting to emerge that I would like to share with you.

For instance, we recognize there are several challenges facing Creighton University and higher education in general. In today’s weakening economy, students and their families are finding it increasingly difficult to afford private higher education. We also face pressures in relation to increasing technology expectations — whether it is offering the latest innovations or addressing issues of privacy and security. Increasing governmental oversight, uncertainties in the health care profession and changing student demographics are also issues facing Creighton and other universities. Strategic planning affords us an opportunity to address our internal and environmental challenges.

And we do so with great hope. For Creighton University continues to provide a quality education, as evidenced by the success of our students in obtaining professional employment upon graduation and in gaining admission to graduate and professional schools. We are blessed with nationally recognized faculty and staff who are dedicated to scholarship, research and the success of our students. We welcome an increasingly diverse student population, and the opportunities we provide our students for engaging in research are a mark of distinction.

As noted by the Higher Learning Commission, we are living our mission. We are a community enlivened with a spirit of service and justice. Additionally, we are supported by loyal and committed alumni, we are a University engaged in the community, and our size and complexity allow for collaboration and interdisciplinary curricula and programs across departmental, college and divisional boundaries.

There are several essential issues that we look to address as we move forward. Those include:

- How do we, as a university, maintain and enhance our Jesuit and Catholic identity and share that message with our constituents?
- How do we become more efficient and effective in providing our education, health care and other services, as best stewards of limited resources?
- How do we respond to the needs to implement new technologies, and maintain and expand our technology infrastructure, while remaining affordable for students and parents regardless of their economic circumstances?
- How do we strengthen our capacity to provide the highest quality educational programs across all colleges and schools?
- How do we attract, engage and retain the highest quality faculty, staff and students?
- How can Creighton University’s health science program strengthen its collective capacity to promote health and healing, interdisciplinary teaching, research and service?

Strategic planning is not an insular process. We will seek the input, advice and guidance of all of our constituents — alumni, faculty, students, staff and administrators — as we continue forward. It is my hope that this process stimulates a community in dialogue for the betterment of Creighton University, now and into the future.

On a side note, I would like to extend my congratulations and best wishes to our more than 1,300 spring graduates. It is my prayer that they leave here prepared and emboldened to be a light unto the world. May you have a safe and enjoyable summer. God bless you and your family.

John P. Schlegel, S.J.
President
Creighton Inducts Three into Athletic Hall of Fame

The Creighton University Athletic Hall of Fame added three alumni to its ranks at its annual induction ceremony this spring. This year’s honorees were Don Leahy, MSEd’58, Brian Mullan, Arts’01, and Richard Mulrooney, BSBA’05.

Leahy served as Creighton athletics director from 1985 to 1990 and has been active in Omaha sports for more than 50 years. During his tenure as Creighton’s AD, women’s soccer was added as a team sport. He received the Graduate School’s Alumni Merit Award in 1971.

Both Mullan and Mulrooney played soccer at Creighton and currently play for the Houston Dynamo Major League Soccer (MLS) team. While at Creighton, Mullan was a second-team National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) All-American and Missouri Valley Conference (MVC) Tournament MVP in 2000. He ranks second all-time in games played at Creighton with 88 matches, and helped lead Creighton to its seventh MVC Tournament title in 2000. Mulrooney earned NSCAA first-team All-American, MVC Tournament MVP and Most Valuable Player honors in 1998 at Creighton. Mulrooney was a three-time All-Midwest Region first-team member and first-team all-MVC member. In 1999, Mulrooney became the first Creighton soccer player selected in the first round of the MLS draft.

Higgins Receives Leader for Life Award

Mary Higgins, BA’73, assistant vice president for Student Retention and associate director of Ratio Studiorum, Creighton’s Jesuit-based advising program for freshmen and sophomores, is this year’s recipient of the University’s annual Leader for Life Award. The award honors an individual whose actions have made a lasting impact on women’s sports at Creighton University.

Higgins has been part of the growth and development of Creighton women’s athletics for more than 35 years — first as an undergraduate student-athlete and then throughout her years as head softball coach, assistant athletics director and administrator.

“Mary was a driving force for women’s athletics at Creighton and she has continued to champion that mission throughout her career,” said Director of Athletics Bruce Rasmussen.

Huber Named to Creighton’s Board

The Creighton University Board of Directors elected Mark Denniston Huber, BSBA’83, JD’86, to the Board on March 3. Huber is chief executive officer and president of PayFlex Systems, USA, Inc. Huber has served as president of Creighton’s National Alumni Board and is a former member of the Omaha Alumni Advisory Board. Huber and his wife Nancy Kerkmann Huber, BSBA’84, serve as Omaha chaircouples for the Creighton Society. Huber also is a member of the College of Business Executive Advisory Council and the Department of Accounting’s Advisory Board.
Bergman Chair
Inaugurated April 30

The August H. Bergman, M.D., Endowed Chair in Cardiology has become the 10th endowed chair in the Creighton University School of Medicine and the 32nd established at the University. The endowment is a gift from alumnus August H. “Gus” Bergman, BS’60, MD’66, of Prescott, Ariz., an accomplished and respected cardiologist. Aryan Mooss, M.D., professor of medicine in the Division of Cardiology, is the first chairholder.

At the inauguration ceremony April 30, Creighton University President the Rev. John P. Schlegel, S.J., noted that Bergman shares the University’s vision and understands the value of “integrating education, research and patient care to attain the highest level of quality in each.

“Dr. Bergman, you can be proud, as we are, of the man chosen to be the first holder of the chair that bears your name. Dr. Aryan Mooss has brought credit to Creighton University for 32 years,” said Fr. Schlegel.

Mooss, a native of India and naturalized U.S. citizen, received his medical degree in India in 1969. He completed his graduate medical education at Medical College of Ohio at Toledo and Creighton University School of Medicine. He joined the Creighton faculty in 1976 in the Department of Medicine and is currently professor of medicine in the Division of Cardiology.

During his 32 years with Creighton, Mooss has established a large cardiology practice and is regularly included in the “America’s Best Doctors” and “Best Cardiologists” lists. In 2002, he received the Master Clinician Award from the School of Medicine. He directed cardiology fellowship training from 1996 to 2006, a time when the program grew to become one of the most sought after, and continues to play a pivotal role in training cardiology fellows. Mooss also conducts clinical research, and was director of cardiovascular research from 1996 to 2006.

Bergman came to Creighton University from a farm north of Baileyville, Kan., the seventh of eight children. His mother, Elizabeth Catherine Bergman, was widowed twice and raised her children largely single-handedly. Bergman credits his mother, a teacher, with instilling his love for education in his children. His interest in medicine began at age 6, with the illness and death of his father, Joseph Bergman.

Bergman and his late brother, Charles, who also attended Creighton, were greatly influenced by the Rev. Richard McGloin, S.J., who took the Bergmans under his wing. Bergman became the founder of the cardiology department at Memorial Hospital of Dodge County in Fremont, Neb., where he practiced cardiology for more than 20 years and served as department head for more than 10 years. He also was the director of the medical intensive care-coronary care unit at that hospital. Since 1994, he has been practicing medicine at the Northern Arizona Veterans Administration Health Care System in Prescott, Ariz.

He has maintained close ties with Creighton, and his daughters, Heather Bergman Efaw, BS’97, and Heidi Bergman Hong, BSBA’99, followed their father to the University. “This endowed chair exemplifies my father’s lifelong commitment to Creighton University,” said Heather, “both in appreciation for his own education at Creighton as well as the future education of others.”

President Honored for Support of Women

Creighton President the Rev. John P. Schlegel, S.J., was the recipient of the 2008 Tim Rouse Advocate for Women in Leadership Award. The award, which honors men who embody and support the advancement of women, was presented at the ICAN (Institute for Career Advancement Needs) Women’s Leadership Conference on April 2 at the Qwest Center Omaha. ICAN is a nonprofit professional development organization in Omaha.

Fr. Schlegel was recognized as a longtime champion of women’s issues. As Creighton’s president, Fr. Schlegel has named four women to vice presidential positions at the University (a fifth to an interim vice presidential post) and recruited six women to the University’s Board of Directors.

He also has enhanced women in leadership by actively supporting Creighton’s Committee on the Status of Women. Most recently, he engaged the Committee on the Status of Women and the Eileen B. Lieben Center for Women in launching “Women’s Perspectives,” a lecture series designed to address and discuss issues surrounding women’s leadership roles, opportunities and issues on college campuses.

The August H. Bergman, M.D., Endowed Chair in Cardiology is the 10th endowed chair in the School of Medicine.
Creighton Seeks Support for Institute for Catholic School Initiatives

Creighton University is creating an Institute for Catholic School Initiatives to better serve the largest network of private schools in the world — the Catholic school system. In the United States, 7,498 Catholic elementary and secondary schools enroll more than 2.3 million students. Yet Catholic schools face their own unique challenges; chief among them, preparing the next generation of teachers and leaders for the specific apostolate of Catholic education.

Creighton’s Institute for Catholic School Initiatives will be multifaceted — including professional outreach, research and education. The Institute is seeking the support of Creighton alumni and friends to endow the following components:

- **The Magis Catholic Teacher Corps.** This program allows students to pursue their graduate degrees in education tuition-free while teaching in under-resourced Catholic schools.
- **Institute administration.** A director, associate director and administrative assistant are needed to advocate for and organize the Institute’s initiatives.
- **Catholic school leadership preparation.** Creighton is home to a nationally award-winning, online leadership certificate program for Catholic school administrators who have not been educated at Catholic institutions.
- **Religion teacher certification.** With an urgent need for religion teachers in Catholic schools, Creighton is the only university in the U.S. that has a Catholic religion teacher certification program.
- **Professional development opportunities.** With online offerings, this can apply to Catholic educators worldwide.
- **School consulting.** While Creighton education faculty are often sought by Catholic schools for their expertise in areas such as enrollment management, finance, curriculum and marketing, the department does not currently have the staff to fill all requests.
- **Research and an endowed chair.** This positions the Institute as a valuable resource and contributor on critical issues in Catholic education.

Learn more about Creighton’s Institute for Catholic School Initiatives online at: www.creightonmagazine.org/CurrentIssue/CatholicSchool.pdf.

Creighton Hosts Summit on Violence Study

Creighton University announced an enhanced program of study concerning violence and its effects on all ages — from infants to the elderly — at a luncheon summit on March 25.

Creighton President the Rev. John P. Schlegel, S.J., invited community leaders to the summit to review the nationally recognized research being conducted by Patricia Sullivan, Ph.D., and Timothy Dickel, Ed.D., co-directors of the new “Creighton Study of Violence Across the Lifespan.” Sullivan is a professor of psychiatry and psychology at Creighton and director of the Center for the Study of Children’s Issues. Dickel is a professor of education and psychiatry.

Since 1990, Creighton researchers have focused on children and youth, both with and without disabilities, who have been victims and perpetrators of physical and sexual violence. The research encompasses child maltreatment, domestic violence and community violence.

The entire summit presentation can be found online at: www.creightonmagazine.org/CurrentIssue/ViolenceStudy.

Townley Named ‘Great Allergist’

Robert Townley, MD’55, professor of medicine and medical microbiology and immunology at Creighton, was recently named a 2008 Great Allergist by the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology at its annual meeting in March. The Academy’s History and Archives Committee annually selects members to reflect on advancements in the field. Townley was part of a team that helped develop new medication to treat patients with moderate to severe allergic asthma. Read Townley’s reflection online at: www.creightonmagazine.org/CurrentIssue/townley.pdf.
Creighton Celebrates Commencement

More than 1,300 students received degrees during commencement ceremonies on May 10. The University also recognized the following individuals and organizations for their contributions to education, the community and the arts.

Alumni Achievement Citation

Creighton presented its highest alumni award, the Alumni Achievement Citation, to Karen Dolan Rauenhorst, BSN’75. Rauenhorst was recognized for her leadership in nursing, service to others and philanthropy.

In addition to her nursing degree from Creighton, Rauenhorst earned a master of public health degree from the University of Minnesota. She has provided 20 years of nursing care in several hospitals, and has served in leadership roles for professional nursing organizations, including the Association of Women’s Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses.

A past member of the Catholic Charities USA board of trustees and the Catholic Community Foundation, she currently serves on the College of St. Catherine board of trustees and Catholic Relief Services board of directors. Her work with Catholic Relief Services has widened her scope to international concerns. Her growing foundation work solidifies her leadership in philanthropy, as she serves as president of the Sieben Foundation, vice president of the Mark and Karen Rauenhorst Family Foundation and as a member of the board of directors of the Minnesota Council of Foundations.

Honorary Degree

An honorary degree was conferred on Kenneth Bird, Ed.D., superintendent of Omaha Westside School District.

Bird has served the students and families of the Westside School District for more than 30 years. He assumed the position of superintendent in 1992. Before that, he held a variety of positions with the school district. Under his leadership, Westside has become one of the state’s most technologically advanced districts. As Nebraska’s first school to introduce a 1 to 1 learning program in 2004, Westside charted new territory for other educators in the state and the country by providing laptop computers to each high school student. Colleagues attribute Westside’s strong academic reputation to Bird’s constant push for improvement.

Bird has received several awards, including the Nebraska Superintendent of the Year and the Nebraska Council of School Administrator’s Distinguished Service Award.

Presidential Medallions

Presidential Medallions were awarded to Opera Omaha and St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church.

For more than 50 years, Opera Omaha has provided operatic masterpieces to packed houses. The highly rated opera company has also focused on community outreach.

St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church is celebrating its centennial this year. The only Greek Orthodox Byzantine style church in the Omaha area, it is a visible reminder on the Omaha landscape of a place where fellowship and family thrive.

Lappe Awarded $2.35 Million NIH Grant

Joan Ortmeier Lappe, Ph.D., MS’85, the Dr. C.C. and Mabel L. Criss and Drs. Gilbert and Clinton Beirne Endowed Chair in Nursing and professor of medicine, has been awarded a $2.35 million, five-year grant from the National Institutes of Health to determine if increased intake of dairy foods in adolescent females with habitually low calcium intake will decrease body fat gain.

Heaney Receives Awards

Robert Heaney, B.S’47, M.D’51, John A. Creighton University Professor, received the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s prestigious W.O. Atwater Memorial Award at the American Society of Nutrition conference in April. The Atwater Award is considered to be one of the top honors in the nutrition field.

Heaney also was one of two physicians earning the National Osteoporosis Foundation’s first Legends of Osteoporosis Award in May at the foundation’s annual meeting for his “extraordinary contributions to the scientific body of knowledge about bone biology and osteoporosis.”

Heaney and colleagues at Creighton’s Osteoporosis Research Center are internationally recognized experts in the fields of bone biology and calcium and vitamin D nutrition.

Study Sheds New Light on Cancer Treatment Options

A prospective study involving researchers from Creighton and 10 other U.S. medical centers sheds new light on treatment options for women who are at genetically high risk of developing breast and gynecological cancers.

The research is the first to show that removing a woman’s ovaries and fallopian tubes may not be equally effective for BRCA1 and BRCA2 breast cancer-causing gene mutations, said study co-investigator Henry Lynch, M.D., director of the Creighton University Hereditary Cancer Center and the Charles F. & Mary C. Heider Endowed Chair in Cancer Research.
Saffold Receives UNCF/Merck Science Undergraduate Research Award

Creighton Arts and Sciences junior Jonathan Robert Saffold of Papillion, Neb., received a $25,000 Undergraduate Science Research Award from the United Negro College Fund/Merck Science Initiative this spring. The Creighton student is one of only 15 undergraduates in the country who were chosen for the award.

“Jonathan is a hard-working student who puts much thought into his research,” said Eric Haas, Ph.D., his research mentor and assistant professor of chemistry at Creighton.

As often happens with bright students, many options presented themselves to Saffold when he graduated from high school halfway around the world, Yokota High School on Yokota Air Force Base in Japan.

The son of a civilian employed by the U.S. Department of Defense, Saffold entered MIT as a freshman, majoring in computer science and engineering. But he found the field less interesting to him than he had hoped and became focused on medicine and medical research.

So, Saffold said, when his parents moved from Japan to Papillion, he decided to transfer to Creighton, “to be closer to my family and possibly attend Creighton for medical school.”

Saffold found his niche at Creighton. “I’ve realized that I’m more interested in chemistry than medicine and would like to do research that has biomedical implications.”

And that’s where the UNCF/Merck award will really help.

Worth up to $25,000 for his senior year, the award also provides Saffold with two summer internships at Merck Research Labs this year and next.

Now, he said, he doesn’t “have to take out any loans this year, which is always good. I also get the chance to intern at a Merck Research Lab, which will be pretty cool since I’d like to one day be involved in organic synthesis and drug design.” Each of these positions will pay him $10,000.

Best of all, Saffold has learned he will be working with a research group on an Alzheimer’s disease project.

How did Saffold get bitten by the research bug? The Creighton student says teachers along the way have spurred his interests and encouraged his talents.

“I first became interested in chemistry in high school, and my teacher Ms. Karen Lund initially influenced me.”

And so have his Creighton professors. In fact, Creighton has been recognized nationally for the quality of and opportunities for undergraduate research in the sciences.

“Dr. Martin Hulce has inspired me because I enjoyed taking his organic chemistry class, and I, too, would one day like to be a professor of organic chemistry,” Saffold also said his research project with Haas is another example.

“Jonathan will not let stumbling blocks, which are a common occurrence in research, deter him from pursuing his research goals,” Haas believes.

“He has already gone well beyond passive participation to actively suggesting experiments that we hope to carry out in the lab.”

Creighton Faculty Receive Fulbright Scholarships

Two faculty members at Creighton University have received Fulbright grants.

Christopher Gerteis, Ph.D., associate professor of history, received a Fulbright research grant to support his project, titled “Blue Collar Youth and Rise of the New Left in Postwar Japan.” He will be in residence at Sophia University in Tokyo during the 2008-2009 academic year.

Steve Virgil, director of the Community Economic Development Clinic at Creighton’s School of Law, has been awarded a Fulbright Fellowship for teaching and research in the Czech Republic. Virgil will spend the spring of 2009 at Palacky University law school in Olomouc, Czech Republic. His project is to develop a model curriculum for using the law school’s resources to serve non-governmental organizations (NGO’s) in Eastern Europe. Virgil will research and write an article defining strategies to facilitate the development of NGO’s in the relative vacuum of post-Soviet Eastern Europe.
U.S. News Ranking Recognizes Werner Institute

Creighton University School of Law has climbed to the rank of 12th in the nation among nearly 200 law schools offering dispute resolution classes, according to U.S. News & World Report's assessment of America's Best Graduate Schools.

Since 2005, Creighton’s dispute resolution program has been housed in the Werner Institute for Negotiation and Dispute Resolution. The institute, established with a gift from the C.L. Werner family, uses the field of conflict resolution to engage a variety of issues in an increasingly complex world. In addition to enhancing the dispute resolution education of law students, the institute currently enrolls more than 85 master’s students, many of whom are nonlawyers. This area of Creighton’s School of Law is receiving increasing attention while creating new opportunities for collaboration among Creighton’s graduate and professional programs.

Through the Werner Institute, Creighton is one of a handful of universities that offers a master’s degree and a graduate certificate in dispute resolution. The institute also offers workplace training in conflict management, started the first university-based program to integrate emerging health care issues with the practice of conflict resolution, and recently established a Public Issues Collaboration Initiative (PIC) offering facilitation, mediation and consultation services to public stakeholders. The institute will launch a major program in distance education when it begins offering its graduate degree online and through other media in the fall of 2008.

The new ranking places Creighton ahead of Stanford University and many other world-renowned law schools that offer courses in conflict resolution.

“These emerging programs not only benefit our students, but also give greater perspective to our study, focus attention on Omaha and help the world at large. Each of these aspects furthers the mission of a Jesuit university,” said Arthur Pearlstein, director of the Werner Institute.

Course on Converting Scientific Research into New Business Ventures

Creighton University law, science, medical and business students are getting a real-world taste of what it takes to convert scientific research into new business ventures.

Sixteen students were enrolled in an inaugural class this spring. A three-year, $536,000 National Science Foundation Partnerships for Innovation grant funded the effort.

Titled “An Interdisciplinary University-Based Education Partnership to Support Biomedical Technology Commercialization in Nebraska,” the program involves Creighton’s College of Business, School of Law, School of Medicine and Office of Technology Transfer.

“Our goal is to create a sustainable model for training future entrepreneurs. One of the unusual aspects of this program is that it involves multiple academic disciplines as well as partnerships with the University of Nebraska Medical Center and a diverse group of public, private and nonprofit entities,” said Anthony Hendrickson, Ph.D., dean of the College of Business.

The entrepreneurship program includes two three-credit-hour courses — one in the spring and the other in the fall — and a six-credit-hour summer internship.

“The field of bioscience entrepreneurship is exploding, and yet management talent with the interdisciplinary skills needed to commercialize these discoveries is in short supply — particularly in states like Nebraska,” noted Anne York, Ph.D., Creighton associate professor of entrepreneurship, who developed the program.

Rigge Science Labs Honor Four Friends

Four refurbished physics laboratories were dedicated this spring at Creighton, bearing names of four friends long associated with the University — or with friendships that intertwined with Creighton along the way.

Thanks to an anonymous donor, the laboratories are named for: Vincent McAndrew, the Condensed Matter Student Physics Laboratory; Kevin O’Connor, the Nuclear Instruments and Methods Student Physics Laboratory; Robert T. Reilly, ARTS’45, the Electronics Student Physics Laboratory; and David L. Shanahan, BA’66, the Atomic Physics Research Laboratory. While family members of all the honorees were on hand for the March 30 event, only Shanahan survives to have been present at the ceremony.

All believed in the value of a Jesuit education, according to dean emeritus of the College of Arts and Sciences, Robert Kennedy, Ph.D., at the dedication. And, according to friends through the years, they also believed in the joy of the game of golf.

McAndrew, a blacksmith for Union Pacific, taught golf to grandkids and neighborhood kids in his spare time.

Starting life with the intention of joining the Jesuits, O’Connor was for 50 years caddy master at the Omaha Country Club, where he would eventually start a scholarship for the young caddies.

One young caddy was Shanahan, who helped pay his way through Creighton Prep with money earned — while working for O’Connor.

And Reilly, who directed public relations at Creighton for many years and was a gifted writer, was a neighbor of the McAndrews, and swung a club with the best of them.

Now those four names will embellish the physics labs in Rigge Science.

Nearly half of the undergraduate students at Creighton major in the sciences, Kennedy told his audience at the March event, and Creighton has a well-earned national reputation for success in science education.

Creighton’s physics program, for example, ranks in the top 12 percent in the nation, Kennedy said, while “our biology program is in the top 3.5 percent and the chemistry program in the top 1.5 percent.”

Kennedy concluded that the University was “pleased these laboratories will be named in honor of four friends who believed in the value of Jesuit education,” friends who have been so generously honored by one who wishes to remain unnamed.
While the history of Creighton University’s bachelor of science in nursing (BSN) program can be traced as far back as the 1920s and 1930s, its beginning as a four-year, academic- and clinical-based course of study for Creighton students dates to 1958.

That year, writes Creighton historian Dennis Mihelich, Ph.D., in his book *The History of Creighton University 1878-2003*, the University inaugurated its “Basic-Collegiate Program for the degree of Bachelor of Science in Nursing.”

The goal of the new program, according to a University publication at the time, was to produce nurses “who will be more widely read; able to make better judgments; more adaptable; have more maturity and poise, and as a result be better nurses [i.e., professionals].”
Nursing education traditionally had been the province of hospitals and doctors. Veteran nurses and physicians taught their nursing understudies through apprentice-style, hospital-affiliated programs — known as “diploma schools.” This was the case at Creighton, where these “diploma” nurses could also complete two more years of collegiate study to earn a BSN.

Bringing nursing into the academic fold, while designing a program that would emphasize practical clinical experience, was the challenge facing the Rev. Gerald FitzGibbon, dean of Creighton’s College of Arts and Sciences, and Dorothy Vossen, who held a master’s degree in nursing from the University of Minnesota and became the nursing department’s first chair. (Nursing was a department in the College of Arts and Sciences at the time; it became the Creighton College of Nursing in 1973 and the School of Nursing in 1978.)

Fifty years later, Eleanor Howell, Ph.D., a graduate of the University of Alabama-Birmingham, presides over a nursing school that is vastly different.

Her high-tech universe involves computerized mannequins, research into childhood obesity, and clinical research designed to aid the young and the elderly. Research is ongoing into the important question of how juvenile diets can be designed to avoid osteoporosis in later life, and into the need to ease the transition of the elderly from independent to dependent status.

Health promotion is the school’s focus, Howell said, for all ages.

“We are very focused on health promotion,” she said. “Dietary needs, exercise, the problem of obesity, these are major issues for us.”

The nursing school has also stepped into a void created when the Douglas County Board stopped funding nursing services in some Omaha K-12 schools. Howell said Creighton is providing nursing services to 32 elementary, middle and high schools in the Omaha area.

The school’s undergraduate enrollment, with 480 students, is pushing capacity, while its graduate program continues to flourish, offering a number of specialty tracks.

Students walking for the first time through the doors of today’s nursing school will find they have access to cutting-edge technology, including computerized mannequins, exact digital reproductions of the human body. These “digital humans” will react appropriately to receiving incorrect medications or improper doses. They can die. They can heal. They are, Howell said, a great addition to nursing education, one that shows clearly the consequences of poor intervention.

“The students take the mannequins very seriously,” she said. “It’s very realistic, and it is an excellent tool in the classroom.”

Howell said a pressing goal is to increase the number of students entering the graduate program since it is from their ranks that future teachers will be drawn. “They will be the nurses who instruct other nurses,” she said.

In the following pages, Creighton University Magazine celebrates the nursing school’s BSN milestone by profiling a few of the program’s graduates.
“We’ve been friends since our sophomore year,” Hercinger said. “There’s a group of six of us that gets together every Christmas for a little party. We do that to this day.”

There’s nothing easy about the academic life, of course. It takes discipline and encouragement. These three women encouraged each other all the way to doctorates, having taken the same doctoral course.

Laughlin describes Parsons as “the ringleader,” the first of the three to begin teaching at Creighton. Parsons began teaching at Creighton in 1983. Today, she is chair of Creighton’s accelerated nursing program.

The arrival of Laughlin and Hercinger came gradually, as the advantages and benefits of working at Creighton became apparent.

“At lunches, or wherever we were getting together, we would talk about what we were all doing,” Parsons recalled. “I always thought that they would be great at Creighton in this or that position.”

In addition to Parsons’ nudging, Hercinger was coming to some conclusions of her own.

She served on the nursing school’s alumni board and said she was constantly hearing about improvements and innovations to Creighton’s nursing program.

“My friendships with people at Creighton, in addition to my service on the alumni board, made me keenly aware of all the exciting things that were happening, as well as the outstanding research and innovative curriculum,” Hercinger said.

Laughlin, who began her Creighton career in 1990, said the three women have a wide range of nursing experience, having worked at other medical institutions in the Omaha area in areas such as hospice, gerontology, medical-surgical and traditional nursing.

All that knowledge and experience now resides at Creighton, a testimony to lifelong friendship that students often don’t even know are being formed.

“The bonds of friendship you form in school can be very strong,” Hercinger said. “They can be lifelong.”

They all have Ph.D.s after their names now, but once upon a time they were just three good friends. Omaha natives all, they graduated from Creighton’s School of Nursing in 1976.

And then, of course, the years began slipping by. Jobs, children, the innumerable details of life. Thirty-two years slipped by, and while those years brought many changes, they did not weaken the friendship that developed at Creighton.

In fact, the three former classmates are closer than ever these days — quite literally, since they now all teach at the nursing school. Mary (Tracy) Parsons, Ph.D., BSN’76; Ann (Franco) Laughlin, Ph.D., BSN’76, MS’94; and Maribeth (McCullough) Hercinger, Ph.D., BSN’76, are a daily presence for Creighton’s nursing students, but how many of those students realize that these three teachers have something to say about friendship and not just nursing skills?

Nancy Curtis Molter, Ph.D., BSN’68 — that’s Col. Molter to you, soldier — is retired now after spending 26 years in the U.S. Army, almost entirely in the area of critical care.

But that long road lay entirely ahead of her in 1968 when Molter departed Creighton with her nursing degree in hand. She immediately embarked on three years of Army service — payback for the Army having funded her last two years of school.

The Army had no idea what a good deal they had cut. At the end of her three-year commitment, Molter valued Army nursing so much (this was the peak of the Vietnam War) — its
relative freedom from bureaucracy and regulation, the steady advances in medical treatment, the sheer importance of the work — that she signed on for the long haul.

That long haul took her initially to Fort Bragg, N.C., where she taught a class in practical nursing. Thereafter, she spent time in Okinawa, where she watched the United States ceremoniously return that hard-won real estate to Japan. She also served at Fort Sam Houston in Texas and the Walter Reed Medical Center in Washington, D.C., ground zero for so many of America’s wounded warriors.

It was a long way from Creighton’s campus, a world Molter recalls where women were still required to wear skirts, no one was allowed to wear blue jeans, dorm hours were strict, and Robert Kennedy and George McGovern made campus appearances.

Nursing was all she had ever wanted to do.

“I always knew I was going to nursing school somewhere,” she said.

Despite being born at Fort Knox in Kentucky, and having traveled widely and often as the child of an Army father, Molter landed at Creighton because her family had relatives in Iowa. In 1994, having been named president of the American Association of Critical Care Nurses, Molter returned to Creighton to receive the school’s Alumni Merit Award.

Life has come full circle for Molter. Now in possession of a Ph.D. in Human and Organizational Systems, she is back working for the Army as a research nurse with the Joint Theater Trauma System, which tracks injuries and seeks to improve treatment for America’s wounded troops.

She said she once heard a story that instantly reminded her of Creighton.

In the story a man questions another why he constantly pockets little rocks and stones. Told to try it, he begins pocketing stones and discovers the next morning that they have transformed into precious jewels.

“Creighton was like that,” she said. “Kids in school don’t appreciate what they are picking up as much as they will once they graduate.

“You start reaching into your pockets and pulling out what Creighton taught you. I just kept reaching in my pockets and kept pulling out all these jewels.”

Along the way, as they pursued their nursing careers, some Creighton graduates have made, or are making, significant contributions to medical research.

Among their number is Barbara Braden, Ph.D., SJN’66, BSN’73, whose name is known worldwide as the inventor of The Braden Scale, and Ann Laughlin, Ph.D. (also profiled on page 12), who has launched a study aimed at helping elementary schoolchildren build healthy eating habits and therefore avoid childhood obesity.

For the past 25 years, nurses all over the world have been detecting and alleviating a biting pain known commonly as “bed sores” but referred to within the nursing profession as “pressure ulcers.” They have been doing so in the name of Barbara Braden, who developed The Braden Scale in 1983.

The scale identifies six criteria that indicate whether these painful bed sores are likely to develop, assigns scores to each criterion and suggests preventive measures. Nurses are trained to watch for such factors as nutrition, skin moisture, lack of sensory perception and areas where the body might be subject to frequent friction.

Braden, currently dean of Creighton’s University College, developed her scale between 1982 and 1983 as an effort to improve care in nursing homes where problems with bed sores are most common.

Her method has traveled far and wide since then, has been translated into 20 languages, and has its own website at www.bradenscale.com. Many awards have come Braden’s way over the last 25 years, the latest being an award from the World Union of Wound Healing Societies, conferred in June.

More locally, Laughlin and Creighton University have stepped into a void created when the Douglas County Board cut funding for school health nursing. Many of Omaha’s private schools don’t have a budget for private nursing and so Creighton is providing those services using student nurses.

The program, which provides the students with valuable experience and
schools with needed services, monitors such factors as blood pressure, waist size, diet and physical activity.

Laughlin said she noticed that the Body Mass Index for many of the children they were treating was clearly in unhealthy territory and was only getting worse.

So a two-year pilot study was launched in August 2007 in which students in two schools are given healthier diets and an exercise program, whereas students in two other schools are left without changes.

“We are doing this in the third and fourth grades,” Laughlin said. “That’s an age when the kids have not yet developed bad eating habits.”

He was a pioneer, for sure, at a time when male nurses were almost as rare as female firefighters. But, like all pioneers, McCabe just kept going, right through a full medical career in the U.S. Army. Today, he can be found serving as a nurse-anesthetist at the Omaha Surgical Center.

And then there is Emerald Keen, BSN’01, the nurse with the Irish name and the Native American lineage. She showed Native Americans in the Omaha area that Creighton University is a place they will find encouragement and help if they desire professional status and job security.

And a third pioneer, Mary Sullivan, BSN’83, who is blazing a trail in the relatively new field of forensic nursing, and is the recipient of the 2003 U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary’s Award for Nursing Excellence and the Creighton University School of Nursing Alumni Merit Award for 2004.

Together, these three carry on a tradition of innovation and progression that has always defined the School of Nursing.

McCabe, amusingly, found himself involuntarily enrolled in Creighton pre-med by his mother and a friend who felt he needed the discipline and motivation they believed the school would provide.

“But,” McCabe recalled, “Jesuits have a way of bringing you to reality.” And so, after a “chat” about the improbability of his maintaining the 3.8 or 4.0 GPA medical school would require, he visited with Dorothy Vossen, the nursing school’s first chair.

They became “fast friends,” he said, and he was on his way to a lifetime in the medical field.

Keen also found herself unexpectedly at Creighton. She had enrolled at Oklahoma State University to study psychology but was unhappy there. With the help of her mother and her mother’s friend, who worked in recruiting at Creighton, she transferred and enrolled in nursing.

She said she found a home in Creighton and went on to help found the Native American Student Association at the University.

“I was just proud to be part of a prestigious school,” she said. “I felt included, and I cherished that they respected my individuality. They knew I was Native American, and they respected it.”

Employed today in the fields of heart transplants, bypass and chest pain at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, Keen said she would recommend a nursing career to anyone, Native American or otherwise.

“It’s a wonderful field to be in,” she said. “You’ll always have job security. Nurses are wanted wherever you go.”

For almost 20 years, Sullivan has worked for the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) in the area of psychiatric and mental health nursing. But she has also carried collateral duties as a forensic nurse, a relatively new branch of the profession.

Forensic nursing is an umbrella term that covers caring for victims of crime and collecting evidence.

A native of Kansas, who now lives in Arizona, Sullivan is responsible for pioneering the VHA’s forensic nursing program, and has sometimes been given special assignments investigating suspicious deaths.

She said the field of forensic nursing is about 15 years old and brings medical skills to bear on legal issues involving suspicious deaths, physical...
or sexual abuse, and harm deliberately done to patients, prisoners or residents of nursing homes.

“It’s really a cross between medicine and the law,” she said. “Nurses are ideally placed to play that role.”

Sullivan is an active member of the International Association of Forensic Nurses, the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, Sigma Theta Tau and the American Psychiatric Nurses Association.

If Catherine (Matousek) Todero, Ph.D., BSN’72, has not lived the American story, no one has lived the American story.

She grew up in South Omaha, the child of parents removed only a generation or two from their Czech immigrant forbears. Her father worked in the Omaha meat-packing industry. Her mother was a country school teacher who did not graduate from college but saw her daughter’s potential, assuring her that “you are so smart you could go to Creighton one day.”

And so she did, via Archbishop Ryan High School, graduating from the Creighton School of Nursing with the Class of 1972.

Much has happened between then and now, but the bottom line is that this child of an Omaha meat-packer is today the director of the School of Nursing at San Diego State University (SDSU) in San Diego and has a pediatrician daughter and a son attending law school.

“Creighton” became a familiar word to Catherine Matousek while growing up in the very Czech community of South Omaha.

Her mother, Rita, used it often, as a beacon, an academic lodestar on which she hoped her daughter’s attention would fix.

“I got early on that Creighton was a very special place,” Todero said. It helped that her aunt was a nurse, an achievement Todero’s mother regarded highly and held before her daughter.

Her mother and father lived to see Todero’s success, and, she recalls, took great pride in it, her father referring to her proudly as “the professor” long before she became one.

She went on to earn a master’s degree in 1974 from the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC), and a Ph.D. from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1986.

Her career has been a whirlwind of activity, achievement and academic appointments that saw her serve as associate dean for the undergraduate program at the UNMC College of Nursing before accepting the San Diego directorship in 2006.

Interestingly, Todero and her husband, Joe, BA’65, are something of homebodies.

“No one ever thought I would leave Omaha,” she said. “I never wanted to leave Omaha, and neither did my husband. He loves his hometown, and so do I.”

It was her husband’s love for Omaha that caused her to nix an associate deanship at Emory University in Atlanta.

“But,” she said, “he did not say he was adamantly opposed to a move to San Diego.”

Asked about her career highlights, Todero cited creation of a Mobile Nurse Center, a joint project of UNMC College of Nursing and Cosmopolitan International, which saw nurses travel to medically underserved places to conduct tests and deliver treatments.

Establishing an accelerated bachelor’s degree at UNMC is another highlight, Todero said, an achievement that took a lot of work but which has now received federal funding with a perfect score of 100.

In San Diego she has helped expand the university’s campus to rural areas, thus delivering educational opportunity to people who did not previously have it.

And, she said, through a cooperative partnership formed with the San Diego VA, and another well-written proposal, SDSU was chosen as one of four universities nationwide to provide nurses to the VA while the VA provides nurse educators to the university.

About the author: Curtin is a freelance writer in Omaha.
For two months this past winter, the world’s Jesuits met in Rome for GC35, the Society’s 35th General Congregation. Their purpose was two-fold: to elect a successor to the Very Rev. Peter-Hans Kolvenbach, S.J., superior general, who turns 80 this year and sought to retire, and to reaffirm their commitments as Jesuits to the worldwide mission: a faith that does justice.

Creighton’s the Rev. Don Doll, S.J., official photographer, recorded the event in photos, while former Creighton theology faculty member, the Rev. David Schultenover, S.J., professor of historical theology at Marquette University, served as one of 225 delegates to the assembly.

At the momentous event, the 29th successor to founder Ignatius Loyola, Adolfo Nicolás, S.J., 71, a Spanish theologian with extensive experience in Asia, was named superior general of the Society of Jesus.

To view Fr. Doll’s photos from GC35, visit www.creightonmagazine.org/gc35photos.com.
A View from the 35th General Congregation

The new superior general, the Very Rev. Adolfo Nicolás, S.J., prays before the altar of St. Ignatius at the Jesuit Church of the Gesu.

Newly named Father General Adolfo Nicolás, S.J., left, with retiring Father General Peter-Hans Kolvenbach, S.J., who led the Society of Jesus for 25 years. St. Peter’s Basilica is in the background.

The light in Pope Benedict XVI’s living quarters (building far right) went on while Fr. Doll took this shot of the full moon over St. Peter’s Basilica.
There is an increasing emphasis on the Creighton campus — and in society — on the importance of exercise for physical health. Likewise, we are gaining a greater realization of the importance of nourishing our spiritual health.

Here, we can turn not to a gym but to a little book — The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius.

Developed by the founder of the Jesuit religious order, the Spiritual Exercises is a method of prayers, meditation and contemplative practices designed to bring us closer to God.
Born in northern Spain more than 500 years ago, Iñigo de Loyola spent his young adulthood engaging in military exercises, preparing to do the deeds of gallantry and courtly advancement. He was of the family of the Loyola Castle. He was quite successful and became a captain, leading his forces against the French, who had invaded the Spanish territory. During a particular battle, Iñigo was struck in his leg by a cannonball and so ended one career. He was taken back to his home to recover and, as it happened, to discover.

As Iñigo was literally laid low, his daydreams were spent trying to reverse his nightmare. He found himself dreaming about how he would dazzle the women of the court once more and rise in fame as a gallant warrior. Little by little, he grew tired of his vanity fair and was forced to read the only books in the castle: ones on the life of Christ and others on the lives of the saints. These were not his usual interests, but he made the best of them, the very best. He began finding his daydreams centering on the excitement he felt when thinking of how he would like doing saintly and heroic things for Christ.

When he would have other thoughts of the court and military life, his spirit drooped, but he was moved to a soul’s delight when pondering the possibilities of doing the more noble deeds. Upon recovery, he desired to find out what kind of battle was going on between his dreams, his sense of faith drooped, but he was moved to the excitement he felt when thinking of how he would like doing saintly and heroic things for Christ.

After his convalescing, Ignatius — with a limp serving as a constant reminder of his war injury — made his way to a mountain cave near the town of Manresa, close to a Catholic monastery. There he began to ask the big questions. Through this process, he was forced to face his answers. For him, and for us as well, the questions asked and the answers received begin to form an attitude. When we stay faithful to our answers, the attitudes will reveal themselves in actions. So this soul-searching warrior became the first member of the spiritual “Triple A Club”: answers, attitudes, actions.

This can be a scary process, because it might involve — and for Iñigo it did — real life-changing ways.

One change he made was his name. He wanted to be known as Ignatius, after an early-Christian saint and martyr, and he no longer considered himself as from the castle and family of Loyola but of the family of God. There were other changes, more dramatic and profound. He retired from his fine clothing of royalty and draped himself in the poorer garments of a pilgrim, for this is what he subsequently called himself. He had asked the big questions about God and who God was and what God did. His answers led to other questions about who he was, who others were and what all these things around him were really about. All his answers began forming his attitude or spirituality.

How he lived his attitude, based on his faith in a loving God, would eventuate in what we know now as Ignatian Spirituality. Living with our answers will cause us tensions, as they did for Ignatius. Once he realized that all creation, including his own life, was a tremendous gift from a loving God, the resulting tension was to reverence, rather than abuse and misuse, these God-given blessings.

While on the mountain, he began writing little snatches of insights and reflections. He felt he had experienced something very special, like a wonderful secret, and he wanted to share it. He came down from the mountainside after a little more than a year with his little book and a song in his soul, a song he wanted to teach the world to sing. Remember, he was not a theologian or very educated. The church officials heard that he was preaching this new form of spirituality and refused to allow him to continue. But, upon review, the Church’s thinkers gave the book back, blessing him and it. Though new, in some ways his ideas were also ancient and real.

Just as physical exercise helps the body stay lively, so the Spiritual Exercises assist a person to reflect upon big questions — which will readjust certain “mis-attitudes” and aid in choosing appropriate actions. The Spiritual Exercises are formulated into four weeks, not seven-day weeks, but more biblical weeks.

I warn you: Just as doing physical exercise might inform you of certain muscular deficiencies, and the need for further and intense work, so making the Spiritual Exercises can be a rigorous process. We have to face our truths! We have to face how we have not faced our truths! We have to face the real truths of a loving, patient, laboring, inviting and personal, eternal and mysterious Being.
The First Week

The first week of the Spiritual Exercises calls the person to reflect upon God’s love in creating everything. Then each person confronts that she or he also has been created personally as a gift. Then there comes the praying with the gifts of creation and how they are to be received and reverently used. Throughout the first week, there rides the big question: For what purpose am I, are we, created?

The rest of the first week offers the invitation to experience the loving response of God to us, even in our lack of reverently and gratefully responding to God’s gifts. The first week does involve personally reflecting on our disorderly conduct, aka sin. The week is not so much about sin as it is about how this loving God does not give up on bringing us to our creational status as God’s beloved family. The Exercises confronts us with the conflict between what we say about who we are, because of our sin, and who God says we are, because of who God is.

The Second Week

The second week is spent in going through the picture album of Christ’s life. Ignatius invites the person praying through the Exercises to receive what Jesus is doing, not just for the person or persons of the stories, but more personally for the retreatant, as well. Ignatius asks the person to get into the picture and see, hear and smell what is going on, both in the Gospel narrative and in her or his own life. It is about Jesus’ getting up close and personal and the retreatant doing the same.

Intimacy cannot be standardized. Each person meets Jesus according to how Jesus meets the person praying through the Exercises to receive what Jesus is doing, not just for the person or persons of the stories, but more personally for the retreatant, as well. Ignatius asks the person to get into the picture and see, hear and smell what is going on, both in the Gospel narrative and in her or his own life. It is about Jesus’ getting up close and personal and the retreatant doing the same.

Guiding the Spiritual Journey:

Larry Gillick, S.J.

For the Rev. Larry Gillick, S.J., conducting retreats is close to second-nature, though anything but routine. The Creighton Jesuit says he has guided people — from students to adults, groups to individuals — in about 500 of these spiritual journeys. Spiritual direction has spanned his entire life as a Jesuit, now about 48 years.

“Most often,” said Fr. Gillick, “these retreats flow from the spirit and text of the Spiritual Exercises" of St. Ignatius, the 16th century source of all Jesuit spirituality.

For Fr. Gillick, the key strength of the Spiritual Exercises is clear: “They assist us in allowing God to find us wherever we are, hiding or searching, or lost.”

This means one’s life takes on “a more personal relationship with God and with others,” Fr. Gillick adds. “I enjoy doing so many things which involve God’s meeting students, faculty and staff, as well as alumni and alumnae, through my being a simple instrument. I enjoy watching God do the great work and listening to such good people trying to respond to the mysteries of God and their own lives.”

And, while Fr. Gillick came to Creighton to direct the Deglman Center for Ignatian Spirituality in 1991, his outreach has extended far beyond the Creighton campus. It includes 20 years of helping to direct the Catholic bishops of the upper Midwest in their eight-day annual retreat.

And, lest readers think the retreats have been for Catholics alone, Fr. Gillick directs non-Catholics, as well.

“The presiding bishop, or primate, of the Episcopal Church in the United States has been coming to the Jesuit Community at Creighton for 18 years for his annual eight-day retreat,” said Fr. Gillick, “and I have been blessed by guiding his retreat.”

Fr. Gillick, like his fellow Jesuits, is often a retreatant, as well. As a Jesuit, he has made two 30-day retreats (the full cycle of the original Ignatian version) and each year makes an eight-day retreat guided by the Exercises. For ordained Jesuit priests and brothers, the Spiritual Exercises are an essential way of life, though the length may vary from the eight-day to the 30-day form.

“The unique feature of the Exercises is that they are so personal and invite the person to be uniquely related to God and to life. Nobody is just like the next somebody in God’s eyes, and the Exercises allow a person to enjoy being just who they are.”

The Rev. Larry Gillick, S.J., flanked at Creighton by the St. Ignatius sculpture, urges readers to begin the liturgical year online this fall at www.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/online.

Photo by Mike Kleveter
The second week invites the retreatant to get in contact with the question of identity: Who and what are trying to define who we are, our value? The Creator is trying to give us our identity and so, too, is the world around and within us. There is a struggle that has to be faced about to whom we belong. This struggle to answer this big question does result in some kind of a decision or election to follow Jesus more closely, according to the person’s unique relationship with God.

**The Third Week**

The third week centers our attention intellectually and our hearts emotionally on the openness of Jesus to who He was as a “Suffering Servant.” The retreatant walks with, talks with Jesus as He experiences ultimate rejection even by His closest friends. We watch Him live His life gratefully even to the point of His physical death. We listen to His conversations with the Roman officials and with His disciples at His Last Supper. We listen to His words from the cross and stand with His mother and good friend at the foot of the cross.

We are invited to consider that if we decide to follow Him more closely, then we, too, will have to confront our own self-centered desires for the easy life, the successful life, the powerful life. Jesus died because He confronted the powerful and the pretentious. Those following Jesus will also be invited to a similar life and perhaps death.

There is a tendency during the considerations of His dying to be sad and guilty. There is some of that, of course, but ultimately our praying this week’s Exercises results in a deep sense of being so loved by a God who did all this for the love of us all. The invitation again is for the retreatant to desire to follow that love no matter what the cost.

**The Fourth Week**

The fourth week is spent in praying with the events of Christ’s Resurrection. He raises to raise the minds and spirits of His dispersed followers. He goes about collecting and reuniting the disappointed and discouraged. His death was not an ending, but a continuation. We watch Jesus offer peace, reconciliation and a sense of mission to His little group. We use the powers of imagination again to watch Him meet His mother, who had stayed faithfully watching at the cross. There is a sense of joy and meaningfulness to our staying faithful to our own decisions and crosses.

The retreatant is invited to consider the cost of discipleship. We are invited through the contemplations of this week to consider the investments we are being called to make and our subsequent sacrifices. The Cross will lead to the Crown, but each person has to consider the cost. Some of His friends want to take the “Jerusalem bypass” and live the la-la life of avoidance and noninvolvement. Jesus rose from the dead to bring us all to life. He was faithful to who He was. Watching Him during this week of the Exercises moves us to embrace our infidelities. Like the fleeing and denying friends of the third week, we continually find ourselves being found, blest and sent to continue His Resurrection in our lives and others’ lives.

**The Final Week**

The final prayer exercise is a consideration again of all the gifts with which this loving God continues to bless us. As with Ignatius, who came down from his mountain retreat, the modern maker of the Exercises will be moved to do something. The retreatant offers his or her mind, memory and entire will to the Divine Giver and trusts that only God’s love and grace are necessary, and will be riches enough.

As with physical exercise, when we stop and start again, we experience the muscles saying, “Don’t ever stop again; it is too painful.” One who begins the Spiritual Exercises is so influenced that he or she never stops making them. The Exercises are not a program or workshop, but a way of receiving life and living more freely what has been given. One does not actually make the Spiritual Exercises, rather the Exercises make the person a fuller receiver of her or his creation. Ignatian Spirituality flows from these Exercises into the personal lives and missions of those who do come face to face with Jesus and themselves.

Just as St. Ignatius was compelled more than 450 years ago to bring the world the “good news” of his spiritual understanding, so, too, is Creighton University committed to carrying forth that vibrant message. The world, after all, is just as hungry now for the message of hope and God’s goodness as it was in St. Ignatius’ time. It is only our way of communicating that message that has profoundly changed.

Creighton’s Online Ministries website draws one million visitors each month from 125 countries. This remarkable response shows that our innovative approach to ministry has global acceptance — and fills a great need.

For more about Creighton’s Online Ministries, including the Ignatian retreat, go to the following website: www.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/online.html. For those wanting to follow the liturgical year, the online retreat begins Sept. 14. And, for ways you can support Creighton’s Jesuit mission and Catholic identity through Willing to Lead: The Campaign for Creighton University, visit online: www.creighton.edu/development/ourvision/believe/index.php.
For the first time since the Barry Goldwater Scholarships have been offered, Creighton had four students receive the prestigious awards in one year, that honor accorded Rajeev Anchan, Katherine Garrett, Natalie German and Anastasia Yanchilina in March.

“I think our student scholars outclass students anywhere,” said English professor Bridget Keegan, Ph.D., who worked with Creighton students applying for the scholarships. “They are exceptional young people.”

The scholarships are awarded by the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation, established by Congress in 1986 to honor the longtime Arizona senator and one-time presidential nominee. Applicants for the scholarships must be a sophomore or junior mathematics, science or engineering student. Recipients receive a one- or two-year scholarship that covers up to $7,500 of tuition, fees, books, room and board.

More than 1,000 students applied in 2008, no more than four from any one university. Creighton began with a University-record 130 applicants. That was narrowed to 12
Harvard, Yale and MIT couldn’t do it. Neither could Columbia, Stanford, CalTech or Duke. Creighton did, though.

students by an internal selection committee and, eventually, to the final four nominees. Only eight other universities in 2008 saw all four of its nominees receive the award.

Creighton has nominated students for Goldwaters for at least 20 years, but its previous best showing was three recipients in one year. Physics professor Michael Cherney, Ph.D., Creighton’s Goldwater faculty representative, estimates that 20 Creighton students have received Goldwater Scholarships.

“It identifies Creighton as one of the best places for undergraduate research,” Cherney said. “It shows that students are able to work with faculty on significant projects even early in their undergraduate careers. It also shows Creighton’s ability to prepare students in the areas which will lead to success in graduate study in the sciences.”

Which is typical of Goldwater scholars. The foundation’s website indicates that recent Goldwater scholars have been awarded 70 Rhodes Scholarships, 94 Marshall Awards and numerous other distinguished fellowships.

Don’t be surprised if the students profiled on the following pages do the same.
For Rajeev Anchan, studies at Creighton — and his hopes beyond — are a matter of the heart. Literally.

Anchan has lost one grandfather to a heart attack. Another has had bypass surgery. And so he wants to do whatever he can to stop the No. 1 killer in the United States — cardiovascular disease (CVD).

“My current project is understanding how the body innately responds to an unhealthy diet, tobacco use and lack of physical activity,” said Anchan, who last summer conducted research at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. “Current procedures are only successful about 66 percent of the time and there is often little to no warning before a serious heart attack. It is my desire to better understand and define the precursors of CVD by understanding the mechanisms which the body naturally initiates to prevent injury.”

A Millard North High School graduate, Anchan came to Creighton with a Presidential Scholarship, declared a double major (biochemistry and mathematics) and set his sights on earning doctorate and medical degrees. He had seen a flyer about the Goldwaters as a freshman but filed it away — in the trunk of his car. “I didn't even recognize the name Barry Goldwater,” says Anchan. “He died when I was just 10 years old. There were only two old people I knew back then, and one was Bob Barker.”

His dad found the flyer — crumpled — when cleaning Anchan’s car last summer. When studies resumed last fall he found the Goldwater flyer in his desk and taped it to the wall. “This year I would apply.”

He did, but barely. A 17-hour course load affords little down time, and that’s often filled with intramural sports, Jays for Christ, academic clubs, campus recycling initiatives and other activities. So Anchan didn’t write his initial application responses until the night before they were first due to Creighton. He continued to polish that effort to the point where it caught the eye of Goldwater reviewers.

Having the Goldwater Scholarship, “provides a means for affording school rather than busying oneself with the demands of part-time jobs,” said Anchan, currently an electrocardiogram technician at Creighton University Medical Center. “I am grateful for the award; it is truly a testimony of hard work and God’s blessing.

“Creighton has pushed me. Honestly it’s not easy, but I wouldn’t have it any other way.”

Pursuing answers is the essence of higher education, but Katherine Garrett might be at it for a while. Her challenge? Explaining the unexplainable. More specifically, dark matter.

“Dark matter is so strange and intriguing, and I really want to be a part of discovering what it really is,” said Garrett, a sophomore from Glenwood, Iowa. “It’s so weird to think that there’s so much matter out there that we can’t explain.”

The interest was sparked by Creighton physics professor Gintaras Duda, Ph.D., after Garrett approached him about possible research tracks. “He gave me a bunch of articles and books about the universe and dark matter. I was hooked.”

The possibility of research was one of Garrett’s reasons for attending Creighton. She had wanted a school close to home and had visited campus a few times, but after a couple of physics majors showed her around the department and the lab in which they worked, Creighton became her final choice. “That’s when I learned that undergraduates could be involved in research, which sounded perfect for me.”

Garrett received the Magis and Ignatian Leadership scholarships, later earning a Dr. Randolph M. and Teresa Kolar Ferlic Fund in Undergraduate Science Research Scholarship. In April, noted Cherney, she gave a presentation at a session of the American Physical Society Meeting, something that typically only faculty and graduate students do.

The technical obtuseness of her work, though, doesn’t always translate to those unfamiliar with dark matter. And so writing her research project description for the nonspecialized Goldwater reviewers took time — and numerous drafts. Duda, her adviser, and Cherney gave assists, as did Creighton’s writing center. She began working on her application a month prior to Christmas break.

“When I found out they only give a few hundred in the nation, I was pretty scared. I know there are thousands of dedicated and hard working students out there.”

A few months later she was standing with her mother and calling her father to tell him the good news. “He sort of screamed and it was so loud my mom could hear him across the room,” recalled Garrett, who wants to attend graduate school and become a researcher and teacher.

“It’s definitely helping financially. Creighton has given me a wonderful foundation so far for what I want to do as a career. I’ve been able to do a lot of research and get a great, well-rounded education.”
Natalie German is no stranger to going the extra mile. For the past few years, German and relatives have participated in the annual Alzheimer’s Association Memory Walk, a nod to the sufferings of her grandfather, who lived with the disease for five years.

That path has led her to Creighton. “Through these experiences, I learned about the research being done to study the disease,” said German. “I want to use my passion for science to join this research endeavor.”

A junior, German is majoring in chemistry with her sights set on earning a doctorate in biochemistry in order to study Alzheimer’s biochemical pathways. She already is receiving Presidential, Clare Boothe Luce and IDeA Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence scholarships. She also is the new president of the Arts and Sciences Student Senate.

“Natalie German is outgoing, intellectually gifted and hard working,” said Cherney.

It’s easy to see where that last trait was planted. German came to Creighton from Humphrey, Neb., where her parents, Allen and Cheryl German, are farmers. She’s the second oldest of four children, including an older brother who attends the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

“We all have such diverse interests, but we share the common thread that we push ourselves to excel in the area we are most passionate about,” she said.

Her work thus far has included three separate research projects at Creighton with Garrett Soukup, Ph.D. (biomedical sciences), Julie Soukup, Ph.D. (chemistry), and Stephen Gross, Ph.D. (chemistry). “Their passion for research is contagious.”

Such collaboration laid the groundwork for an impressive Goldwater application, though summing up an entire year of research into a one-page essay was no small feat. “One of my research projects focuses on structural analysis of riboswitch RNA,” noted German. “I needed to present this research in a scientific manner that still would be intriguing to nonscientists.”

Mission accomplished. “I was so impressed by how well all four Creighton Goldwater applicants compared to students from schools all across the country,” she said. “That’s what Creighton intends to do — equip us with tools to think and show us that we can give Ivy League students a run for the money.”

And walk the extra mile.

Anastasia Yanchilina is majoring in chemistry with her sights set on earning a doctorate in paleoclimatology, in which she hopes to receive a doctorate. “What intrigues me most about paleoclimatology is its interdisciplinary nature as it involves geology, chemistry, physics, biology and atmospheric science,” said Yanchilina, who this summer is conducting research at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Massachusetts after being awarded a summer fellowship there. “In graduate school, I think what I would like to do is a reconstruction of past climates, which would include laboratory and field work, and later try to model it.”

Global warming also is of interest. “There is a lot of controversy regarding the implications of future change,” she said. “Exploring how climate varied in the past helps us understand the control factors that influence climate, and thus make more accurate projections about the future.”

Yanchilina already has received Creighton’s Presidential and Presidential Mentorship scholarships and a scholarship awarded by the Society of Exploration Geophysics. Cherney describes her as “perhaps the hardest working and most academically focused student I have encountered in my nearly 20 years at Creighton.”

Yanchilina, who hopes to conduct research at a national research laboratory, or at a university as a principal investigator, says Creighton’s Honors Program has been the key to her Creighton experience. “I don’t think I’ve taken a class I didn’t want to take, which makes learning very interesting, and I am always motivated.”
Campaign Helps to Transform Creighton

As you have been paging through the issues of Creighton University Magazine, you know that Creighton is boldly designing its future. If you have strolled across the vibrant, expanded campus, you have seen for yourself what bold strategic vision, inspiration and commitment can generate. This transformation has been possible because of all the alumni and friends who have helped advance Willing to Lead: The Campaign for Creighton University.

If you haven’t had the chance to visit the Creighton University campus recently, I invite you to do so. And once there, make a point to not only see the buildings, landscaping and community being created — from the western edge to the student-centered east campus living and learning environment — but also take the time for a closer look.

As you tour the campus, you’ll see our most important assets — our students and our faculty. You will observe students hurrying to class or chatting on the mall — students such as Tyler Gassaway, who will graduate in 2010. Tyler has stated that scholarship assistance was crucial to his decision to attend Creighton. He says Creighton is “everything you could ever hope for in a university,” and that he finds the Creighton community to be “unbelievably embracing.”

Alumni and friends play important roles in supporting students by funding scholarships, ensuring that high-ability students who could not otherwise afford to attend Creighton are able to benefit from all that the University has to offer. You will also observe faculty members — meeting with students, discussing issues over coffee with a colleague, or heading to class. Our donors make it possible for professors, such as Wendy Wright, Ph.D., who holds the John C. Kenefick Endowed Chair in the Humanities, to be all that they possibly can be, sharing their expertise and creativity with students. Donors who endow faculty chairs, professorships or deanships, or fund academic programs, further Creighton’s tradition of excellence in Jesuit, Catholic education and research.

As you continue on your tour, you will see the Hixson-Lied Science Building, the University’s bold initiative that includes 200,000 renovated square feet of the Criss/Rigge science facilities and an additional 110,000 square feet. Hixson-Lied is an integrated science center that fosters creative collaborations among Creighton’s health science students, faculty and researchers, assuring Creighton’s continuing competitiveness in science education.

The Willing to Lead Campaign is based on a shared and inspired vision and determined strategic planning. It pulls together the energy and expertise of all of us.

As you walk east, you will notice Davis Square and Opus Hall, the University’s newest living communities for juniors and seniors. Because of these comfortable, convenient apartment-style residences, more than 500 juniors and seniors are choosing to live on campus, and the whole Creighton community benefits from their presence and their mentoring of younger students.

You can’t miss the newest structure, the Mike and Josie Harper Center for Student Life and Learning. Creighton’s largest construction project in 50 years, set to open in August, will be the signature campus building for decades to come. The four-story Harper Center will be a pulse point, bringing many student and academic services together under one roof, and will serve as Creighton’s front door, welcoming prospective students, parents, alumni and other visitors.

Classrooms, the campus bookstore, the Alumni Sports Café, offices and other areas in the Harper Center will soon be bustling with students. These state-of-the-art spaces will bear the names of alumni and friends who, like those whose names are on and in Creighton buildings large and small, believe in furthering Creighton’s highest aspirations. These individuals, as well as the many who choose to give anonymously, have made a decision to align their own legacies, or the legacies of former professors or family members they have chosen to honor, with Creighton University.

All the buildings you will see — and the infrastructure you can’t see — are designed and created with one goal: to fulfill Creighton’s academic mission. That mission is dedicated to empowering students to engage the world and giving them the tools to change it responsibly.

The Willing to Lead Campaign is based on a shared and inspired vision and determined strategic planning. It pulls together the energy and expertise of all of us: alumni, faculty, students, staff, board members, administrators and the wider community. Such commitment is indeed infectious — and transformative.

Thank you for all you do to support Creighton University.

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

For more information on Willing to Lead: The Campaign for Creighton University, visit www.creighton.edu/development.
$1.5 Million Gift to Benefit Cardiac Center

A hardworking southwest Iowa farm family, a strong belief in education of young people and the grace of God came together and resulted in a $1.5 million gift to the Creighton University Cardiac Center. The gift came through the generosity of former school teacher and farm manager Jacqueline E. Johnson.

A history of heart disease within Johnson’s family played a strong role in her decision to make a gift to the Creighton Cardiac Center. Her father died of a heart attack in 1980, and her brother had heart bypass surgery at age 51. In addition, several other relatives in her father’s family suffered with heart disease. In fact, Johnson, herself, was hospitalized following a heart attack. She remembers the exact date: May 28, 1996. “I try to forget it,” she said. “I remember lying there in the hospital room. I was so scared, not knowing what the future was going to hold for me. Fortunately, I was able to recover.”

The future would include a heartache of a different type — the sale of the Enewold-Johnson family farm. The land had been in her family for decades. Johnson served as the “hands on” manager of the farming operation. She was involved in the purchase of seed corn and soybeans, fertilizer, grain storage bins and other aspects of farm management. Johnson also managed the sale of the farm’s annual crops of corn and soybeans. Farming definitely continues to run through her veins.

“I searched long and hard and had many sleepless nights wrestling with what my father’s advice would be,” Johnson said. “I never thought I would part with my family’s land and had always planned to die with it in my estate. I had never considered the farm not being part of me and me not being part of the farm. I always envisioned it as a lifelong partnership.”

Johnson’s parents, Arthur and Florence Enewold, married during the Great Depression and farmed their entire lives in Mills and Pottawattamie counties in southwest Iowa. The Enewolds were hard-working people and good stewards of the land. Arthur and Florence instilled that work ethic in their two children. Jacqueline married Henry Johnson in 1953. Henry was serving in the U.S. Air Force at the time. They lived in base housing in Louisiana, where Henry was stationed. After completing service in the Air Force, the young couple returned to southwest Iowa, where Henry took advantage of the G.I. Bill to receive training, which resulted in a 30-year career at Western Electric in Omaha. Jackie served as a second-grade teacher at Rue Elementary School in Council Bluffs, Iowa. She eventually retired from teaching in 1975 to focus more on her strong farming interest. “I thoroughly enjoyed teaching,” she said. “I wouldn’t give up that experience for anything. Teaching the young children, so eager to learn, was very fulfilling for me.”

After a very long soul-searching process, Johnson sold the family farm in the fall of 2007. Thankfully for Johnson, as one door seemed to close, another door was coming open. Johnson realized that she had the opportunity to write a new chapter of her life with the proceeds from the sale of her land. She turned to friends and business advisors to find opportunities she might be able to explore as a donor to causes that Johnson personally held close to her heart. The Creighton Cardiac Center was a “natural” for Johnson. She knew that family friend and advisor, Jon Narmi, MBA ’73, had a daughter in the cardiology program at Creighton. Johnson asked if Ann Narmi, MD ’03, a cardiac fellow, could come visit with her to tell her more about Creighton’s cardiology program and describe any needs it might have. Ann Narmi explained that the cardiology program was in need of additional funding, which would allow cardio fellows to conduct additional research and receive additional training beyond the scope of traditional programs. Johnson quickly empathized with Narmi and the needs of the cardiology program because of her own personal experiences.

“I have great admiration for Ann and a lot of respect for her dedication to her education and training,” Johnson said. “The rigor of 13 to 15 years of education to become a cardiologist is something I respect immensely. In addition, she was so gracious in meeting with me and taking the time to answer my questions. I can tell she has a great bedside manner.”

It was after the meeting with Narmi that Johnson realized she could turn the sale of the farm into a blessing.

“I thought that I could help grow and nurture young, budding cardiologists, instead of corn and soybeans,” Johnson said. “God had a plan when we had to sell the family farm.”

That plan is now the Jacqueline E. Johnson Endowed Cardiology Education Fund, which will be used to help purchase training equipment and support cardiovascular education for Cardiac Center fellows and faculty. Johnson is especially grateful that her gift will continue in perpetuity, allowing young cardiologists aided by this gift to touch the lives of thousands of patients throughout their careers, and the careers of generations of cardiologists to come.

Johnson, modest and shy by nature, asked only one thing in return for her $1.5 million endowed gift, and that was an honor for her mother and father. The Cardiac Center auditorium will be named in honor of Arthur and Florence Enewold.

“They worked hard together on the farm and this is the result,” Johnson said. “I am sure they would have never dreamed to have something like this, something so tangible, in their memory. I am thrilled beyond belief that I was able to do this for them.”

“I wanted to make a gift that was local and ‘hands-on’, where I could see the benefit and impact within the community. This just seemed like the right thing to do. I know my husband, Henry, and my parents would be very happy with my decision, and that makes me happy.”
Alumni Items

66 Pauline Jirik-Babb, BA, New Rochelle, N.Y., has been named chairperson of the psychology department at Iona College in New Rochelle, N.Y.

67 Matt Reres, BA'64, JD, Chantilly, Va., has received the National President’s Award from the American Society of Military Comptrollers for a series of ethics and fiscal law articles and speeches.

74 Robert E. Mathiasen, BA, Lincoln, Neb., has been named assistant director and academic adviser for undergraduate distance education programs at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln’s Office of Extended Education and Outreach.

78 Stephen L. Goeser, BSMT, Omaha, has been promoted to president and chief executive officer of Methodist Hospital in Omaha. Pamela Breitenkamp Robinson, BS, Leawood, Kan., has been elected president of the Kansas Association of School Boards.

80 Michael T. Walsh, BSPha, Chicago, has received the 2007 McKesson President’s Award.

81 Diane K. Duren, BSBA, Omaha, has been named one of the Top 15 Women in Business for 2008 by PINK Magazine for her vision in creating the Express Lane food products train during her tenure as vice president and general manager in agriculture products at Union Pacific Railroad. She is currently the vice president and general manager in chemicals at Union Pacific Railroad.

83 Michael D. Matejka, BSBA 80, JD, Omaha, has joined the Omaha law firm of Woods & Aitken LLP.

85 Daniel T. Bleyhl, BSN, Omaha, recently became a fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives.

87 Christopher J. Weber, BSBA 84, JD, Hightstown, N.J., has joined Arbinet-thexchange, Inc., in New Brunswick, N.J., as associate general counsel.

88 David P. Rupp, BSOT, Delaware, Ohio, has joined OhioHealth Neighborhood Care in Columbus, Ohio, as director of rehabilitation.

91 Rachel J. Muir, BSN, Dillingham, Alaska, has received the Barbara Berger Award for Excellence in Public Health from the Alaska Public Health Association.

93 Amy L. Erlbacher-Anderson, BA 91, JD, Omaha, has been named partner in the Omaha law firm of Baird Holm, LLP, in the Labor, Employment and Employee Benefits Law Practice Group. She is listed in The Best Lawyers in America 2008 for her work in immigration law. Will W. Gray, JD, Omaha, has joined ProKarma, Inc., in Omaha as general counsel.

95 Shannon K. Hoy, BSN, Omaha, has been named one of the Ten Outstanding Young Omahans by the Omaha Jaycees. She is currently an instructor for the Neonatal Nurse Practitioner Program at Creighton University.

97 Patricia M. Riedmann, MCSM'88, MBA, Omaha, has been named director of the project management office at Woodmen of the World in Omaha.

99 David J. Anderson, JD, Denver, has joined US Airways in Tempe, Ariz., as regional manager of airport affairs.
From Vietnamese Boat Child to Medical School Graduate

When Quyen Nguyen, MD’08, crossed the stage at Creighton’s May commencement with his fellow medical school graduates, it marked the end of a long journey for the childhood immigrant from Vietnam.

Nguyen fled Vietnam with his mother and older brother in 1988. “I was one of the Vietnamese boat people,” Nguyen said.

They lived at a refugee camp in the Philippines for one year before coming to the United States in 1989. Now, 20 years after he fled Vietnam, at age 30, Nguyen is fulfilling a dream by graduating from Creighton’s medical school. His mother and father were in the audience as he walked across the stage — no doubt proud of their son’s accomplishments.

“My mom and dad came here with nothing. Their joy now is to see all their labor is paying off,” Nguyen said.

Nguyen was only six months old when his father, a member of the South Vietnamese army, fled Vietnam to come to the United States. Nguyen said a number of his extended family members were thrown in prison for having ties to the South Vietnamese government.

“The government would come in the middle of the night and wake our family up,” Nguyen said. “(My family members) were forced to hear about their ‘sins’ against the North.”

Nguyen remembers that when he was 5 years old, the government forced him and his family out of their home. Nguyen, his mother, brother, five aunts and grandmother then lived together in a one-bedroom home.

His mother finally decided that was enough, and packed the children up to be reunited with their father.

The family lived in San Jose, Calif., where his dad worked as a laborer at an electronics assembly plant and his mother worked minimum-wage jobs.

Nguyen finished high school, worked typical teenage jobs (McDonald’s, Hollywood Video, a retirement home, the morning shift at UPS) and attended San Jose State University. After his freshman year of college, he took a year off and joined the Army Reserve. He respected his father’s military service, and needed time to “decide what I wanted to do with my life.” He completed basic training and advanced individual training and was assigned to the 14th Psychological Operations Battalion in California. He returned to San Jose State, earned a bachelor’s in accounting in 2000, got married and began working for Arthur Andersen.

Nguyen worked as a financial auditor for Arthur Andersen and became a certified public accountant. He had achieved a good measure of success in life, but he wasn’t happy with his career. His brother, who had gone to medical school, suggested he look at the health professions. Nguyen began taking courses on nights and weekends. He loved them. He dived into fulfilling all the prerequisites for medical school — cramming the majority of the coursework into one year of study.

He was accepted to the School of Medicine in 2004. “Getting into medical school was tough for me. I am thankful that Creighton gave me an opportunity,” Nguyen said. “I obtained a very good education here.”

Nguyen is a member of Alpha Omega Alpha, the national medical honor society, and, as a medical student, conducted grant-funded research in the area of cancer genetics. He will complete his residency at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, after which he is excited about a career in research and teaching.

It’s been a long journey for Nguyen, and it hasn’t been easy. One of the toughest parts of medical school was not regularly seeing his two children, ages 6 and 5, who remained in San Jose.

“I know how hard it is growing up without a father figure, but this was the best option for our family,” Nguyen said. “Sometimes you have to sacrifice to make your dreams come true.”
Looking to connect with your lost friend from biology class?
Looking for a job in Chicago or San Francisco and would like a Creighton connection to at least get your foot in the door?
Want to share pictures of your new baby with your alumni friends across the country?
Want to hire a Creighton graduate for your company but don’t know where to turn?
You can do all this — and more — at a new online social- and career-networking site exclusively for Creighton alumni. Welcome to JAY2JAY.

This is your new space to connect with Creighton — whether you are looking for a job or looking to reconnect with your classmates. Even the name — JAY2JAY — denotes a sense of connection ... of belonging.

Getting there is easy. Just visit alumni.creighton.edu and log on.
If you already registered with Creighton’s previous online directory, no sweat; just use your same login and password. Never logged on before or forgot your username and password? No problem. There is a link to e-mail the Alumni Relations Office, and we will send you your username and password.

So, now you are ready to start. Let the fun begin!
First, develop your own personal page. You can share as much or as little information as you feel comfortable. You are in control. And the site is password-protected, so only other Creighton alumni have access. You can even upload your own picture. While you are there, invite your classmates to join your circle of friends — your “flock” of Bluejays, if you will. If they are not yet registered with JAY2JAY, you can send them an e-mail “requesting” they sign up. JAY2JAY’s social networking site — called JAY2JAY@Play — is much like the other social networking sites out there, Facebook and MySpace. But you don’t need to be a Facebook or MySpace aficionado to navigate your way around JAY2JAY. For those unfamiliar with online social networking, this is an easy, fun way to start — with your Creighton classmates. For those savvy online social networkers, JAY2JAY gives you all the features you want. And if it doesn’t, please tell us. The site will evolve to meet the needs of Creighton’s alumni community.

But life isn’t all play. We also want to be fulfilled in our careers.

That’s when you can click on JAY2JAY@Work. Whether you are looking for that first job out of college or looking to change careers, we encourage you to visit this section of JAY2JAY. Here you can connect to the Creighton Career Center’s Jobs4Jays site, which offers job listings from across the country, from major employers to smaller businesses, in a variety of fields.

We also encourage Creighton business owners, CEOs and others responsible for hiring at their companies or firms to post openings on the Jobs4Jays site. As Creighton alumni, you know the value of a Creighton education. You have an insight into the character and value-based education that are a part of the Creighton graduate. And now you can reach out to them with career offerings in one convenient location. It is a win-win for employers and applicants alike.

Creighton’s alumni reunion classes are already using JAY2JAY as a way to connect with their classmates in anticipation of reunions scheduled for this fall (see page 28 for more information).

But you don’t need a formal reunion event to organize a gathering of your Creighton friends. Use JAY2JAY to plan a night out with your former sorority or fraternity sisters and brothers, a day of service with your Swanson Hall floormates, dinner with former Physics Club members, or a pregame party with your “blue crew” buddies. And, when you can’t get together in person, JAY2JAY allows you to share pictures and video to keep your Creighton friends updated on what’s happening in your life.

So connect today. We have even sweetened the pot. For those who register with JAY2JAY between now and Aug. 29, you have a chance to win an iPod™ touch™!

Register for JAY2JAY at alumni.creighton.edu
News

Lucas W. Atkinson, JD, North Platte, Neb., has joined the North Platte law firm of Norman Paloucek & Herman Law as an associate attorney. Holly R. Wolf Prenger, JD, Omaha, has joined the Nebraska Title Company in Omaha as associate general counsel.

Marriages


Births


For a listing of upcoming alumni events, check out the alumni website: alumni.creighton.edu
Creighton Taps Four as Spirits of Creighton at May Commencement

A graduate of the College of Business Administration imbued with a spirit of determination, optimism and service and three medical school graduates who helped establish a free medical clinic serving Omaha’s homeless, uninsured and underinsured, received the Spirit of Creighton Award at spring commencement on May 10 at the Qwest Center Omaha.

Joseph Ortega, BSBA’08, a finance and accounting major from Aurora, Colo., was presented the Spirit of Creighton Award during the morning ceremony. Justin Birge, MD’08, of Omaha; Jacob Smeltzer, MD’08, of Derby, Kan.; and Mary (Maggie) Skrypek, MD’08, of St. Paul, Minn., received the award during the afternoon ceremony. Since 1949, the Spirit of Creighton Award has been given annually to graduating students exemplifying the best qualities of the University’s founders. Recipients are honored for their initiative, enterprise, academic achievement and outstanding character traits.

Joseph Ortega

In addition to holding a 4.0 grade-point average, Ortega has been highly involved during his time at Creighton. He served as president of Creighton’s chapter of Beta Alpha Psi, the accounting honor society, and vice president of Creighton’s chapter of Beta Gamma Sigma, the international society for business students and scholars. He also was a a four-year participant in the Anna Tyler Waite Leadership program, and a walk-on with the baseball team for two years.

Ortega also reached out in service to the community. He was co-director of the Youth Leadership Omaha program, co-sponsored by the AIM Institute and the College of Business Administration. As an intern with Qwest Communications, he organized Phones for Life, a project through which donated phones were distributed to the elderly, the disabled and victims of domestic abuse. Ortega also established the Paul S. Ortega Foundation in his grandfather’s name. The nonprofit organization is dedicated to supporting and assisting the elderly in their daily lives. He has interned in the office of former President Bill Clinton in New York, as well as in the office of Sen. Ben Nelson (D-Neb.). Ortega plans to attend law school and pursue a career in politics.

Justin Birge, Maggie Skrypek and Jacob Smeltzer

Medical graduates Birge, Smeltzer and Skrypek were instrumental in establishing the Magis Medical Clinic at the Siena/Francis House in 2004. The student-run program serves more than 1,500 medically underserved patients annually. Medical students and physician volunteers work with other organizations to provide acute care and follow-up, physical exams, lab tests, medications, specialty clinics and referrals.

As fundraising director for the Magis Clinic, Birge raised more than $450,000 through grants, private donations and events over the past three years. He also served on the School of Medicine Student Advancement Committee and was his class vice president for two years. Birge has been active as a volunteer with Paws for Friendship, a pet therapy program, and Body Basics, a community program teaching Omaha grade-school children about anatomy and physiology. He has been inducted into the prestigious Gold Humanism Honor Society for his integrity, compassion and altruism.

Skrypek has served as director of the Magis Clinic, coordinating other officers and managers, writing grants and representing the clinic to the Omaha community. She has also been very active in Creighton’s Institute for Latin American Concern (ILAC) and Creighton United in Relief Assistance (Project CURA), service programs that bring free health care and health education to underserved populations around the world. Skrypek has served as a volunteer with an Omaha pediatric tuberculosis clinic, Siena/Francis House, Habitat for Humanity and Project Suds, a community program teaching Omaha children proper hand-washing techniques.

Smeltzer has volunteered his time to such organizations as the Magis Clinic (including two years as director), Siena/Francis House, One World Community Health Center, Body Basics and Project Suds (organizer and volunteer). At Siena/Francis House, he organized an ongoing program through which ConAgra Foods donates bread to the shelter. He was inducted into Alpha Omega Alpha (AOA) Medical Honor Society, and he served as co-president of AOA’s Creighton chapter. He has been inducted into the prestigious Gold Humanism Honor Society.
Lyons, Smith Receive Alumni Merit Awards

School of Dentistry
Ray A. Lyons, DDS’79, received the 2008 Alumni Merit Award from Creighton University’s School of Dentistry on April 25.

Lyons has been involved in dental care and teaching for more than 27 years. As chief of special needs dental services at the New Mexico Department of Health Los Lunas Community Program, he has managed the oral health care of patients with complicated medical conditions and multiple disabilities. At the same time, he has served as an adjunct assistant professor at the University of New Mexico (UNM) Dental Programs. Lyons is a member of New Mexico Governor’s Oral Health Council, and a dental consultant for UNM’s School of Medicine. He has lectured nationally and internationally on the care of patients with disabilities.

Through the years, he has held many leadership positions, including national president of the Special Care Dentistry Association, national president of the Academy of Dentistry for Persons with Disabilities, and oral health expert on the professional board of directors for Community Services Network of Western Tennessee.

He is the 2001 recipient of the Harold Berk Award from the Federation of Special Care Organizations in Dentistry for exemplary contributions to the advancement of oral health care for persons with disabilities. He was named New Mexico Dentist of the Year in 1991, by the Pierre Fouchard Academy and Healthcare Practitioner of the Year in 2007 by the Association for Retarded Citizens of New Mexico.

School of Law
The School of Law presented its 2008 Alumni Merit Award to Walter J. Smith, JD’72, on May 9.

As managing partner of Baker Botts, LLP, Houston, Smith has been the driving force behind the firm’s development of a nationally recognized program for employing individuals with cognitive disabilities in each of its offices throughout the United States. Botts recently received the Employer of the Year Award from the Disability Services Board of Fairfax County, Va., and the National Disability Employer Recognition Regional Award from the New York State Educational Office.

Smith has practiced corporate and securities law at Baker Botts, LLP, for more than 27 years. Following his graduation from Creighton, he clerked on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit and earned a master’s of law degree from Harvard Law School. He moved to Houston, corporate headquarters for Baker Botts, LLP, in 1975.

He has been involved in numerous civic and charitable activities. Currently, he serves on the board of trustees of Riverview School, Inc., a school for students with special needs in East Sandwich, Mass.; the boards of directors of Fund for Teachers, Inc. Houston; Central Houston Inc., Houston; the Greater Houston Partnership; the University of Houston Law Foundation; and the Development Board of the University of Texas Health Science Center.

Deaths


50 Suzanne “Sue” Corder, SJN, Omaha, Feb. 24, 2008.


Declining interest rates have many people scrambling to bring their financial pictures back into focus. While many view this situation negatively, lower rates can have a positive impact upon the immediate benefits donors receive from several deferred charitable gift plans.

The declining interest rates have a direct impact on an IRS factor called the applicable federal rate (AFR). Each month the IRS determines a new AFR, which is used in the calculation that determines the deductible portion of your deferred gift. Right now, this rate is the lowest it’s been since 2003, thus making the charitable gift annuity, charitable lead trust and a retained life interest in your personal residence, vacation property or farm very attractive.

A charitable gift annuity is a contractual agreement between Creighton University and you in which the University agrees to pay you, or you and another individual, a fixed annual sum for your lifetime or lifetimes. (The fixed rate is based upon your age at date of funding. For example, currently a 65-year-old would receive 6 percent and a 75-year-old 7.1 percent for life.) A portion of your quarterly lifetime payments is taxable and a portion is tax-free. If your gift is completed in a month with a low AFR you will receive more tax-free income. You also receive an immediate charitable income tax deduction for a portion of the assets transferred to Creighton.

A charitable lead trust is an arrangement that permits you to first direct income from assets placed into the trust to Creighton for a period of time and then direct the trust’s remainder back to you or to your heirs. This trust is ideal for people who want to support Creighton but also want to have funds available for their children or grandchildren. The historically low AFR produces an increased charitable deduction, which can significantly decrease the taxes on the trust assets ultimately transferred to your heirs. With careful planning, it is possible to completely eliminate all estate and gift taxes on the trust funds that will ultimately go to your heirs.

You also may donate your personal residence, vacation property or farm to Creighton and retain the right to live there for your lifetime. In exchange for your gift, you receive a charitable income tax deduction for a portion of the fair market value of the property donated. The current low AFR will provide you with a significantly higher income tax deduction when compared with prior months. The retained life estate is a wonderful way to support Creighton by converting the appreciation in your property to an immediate charitable deduction that you can use to offset taxable income … without having to write a check.

These are but three of the myriad ways in which you can benefit while helping to transform Creighton University’s future. If you would like further information or a personalized no-obligation illustration of how these, or other, charitable gifts can fit into your financial picture, please contact the Office of Estate and Trust Services at (800) 334-8794, (402) 280-1143 or by e-mail at giftplanning@creighton.edu. You also can find us on the web at giftplanning.creighton.edu.

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

Omaha, Feb. 17, 2008.

Linus W. Fangman, Arts,
Leander, Texas, Jan. 10, 2008.


Richard E. Donahoe, FRN.
Omaha, Jan. 4, 2008.


Rod “Rodney” D. Larson, MA, Omaha, Jan. 1, 2008.


Sr. Carol Reeb, SSND, MS, St. Louis, Nov. 23, 2007.


Cornerstone Circle ($50,000 to $99,999)
Distinguished Circle ($100,000 and above)
Edward and Mary Lucretia 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. Creighton Society members are recognized as follows:

❖ – Ignatian Circle ($10,000 to $19,999)
❖ – Founders’ Circle ($2,500 to $4,999)
❖ – Sustaining Member ($1,000 to $2,500)
Support for Science Education and Technology

“Creighton students are gaining a strong national and international reputation. They are applying and being selected for prestigious scholarships such as the Rhodes, the Fulbright and the Goldwater in record numbers. Creighton undergraduates engage in research with faculty in all fields of inquiry — including the humanities, the social sciences and the natural sciences. These opportunities give our students a dynamic educational experience typically reserved for graduate students. The prestigious publications, presentations and scholarships that result set our students apart from their peers at other academic institutions. Each summer, the College of Arts and Sciences provides limited scholarship funding to students pursuing independent research. Your support of the WILLING TO LEAD CAMPAIGN advances student/faculty research as we aggressively work to further Creighton’s prominence as a national leader in the area of undergraduate research.”

Bridget Keegan, Ph.D.
Associate Dean and Professor of English

“Creighton University’s Goldwater scholars (see story on Page 22) are a testament to the quality science education afforded students at the University. WILLING TO LEAD: THE CAMPAIGN FOR CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY supports Creighton’s continuing efforts to enhance science education and technology. Our goal is to maximize the synergies of a strong undergraduate science program and a major medical center in one institution. Through your generous support of the WILLING TO LEAD CAMPAIGN, our students will benefit from facilities and technology that allow them to excel. Through its commitment to the sciences, Creighton University is WILLING TO LEAD.”

Michael Cherney, Ph.D.
Professor of Physics and Goldwater Program Faculty Representative

“At Creighton, students can become involved with faculty members and their research on a personal level. We are not the only school that values undergraduate research, but we do start earlier and ask more of our students than our peer institutions. This is what gives our students the Creighton advantage to earn national recognition and to secure places in graduate and professional programs. Research and internships help students put classroom knowledge into a real world context. These experiences facilitate students in gaining a better sense of who they are and what they are called to do.”

Michael Cherney, Ph.D.
Professor of Physics and Goldwater Program Faculty Representative
Complete contest rules are available online at: alumni.creighton.edu