A Whole New Ballgame

A Matter of Integrity
Beyond the Economy: The New Deal and the American Promise
Meet the Freshman Class
The Bishops’ Synod on the Bible: What Happened?

1924 intramural/club team
1986 women’s basketball
2001 women’s volleyball

Fall/Winter 2009
Showcasing Women’s Athletics............................................... 8
The opening of the new Wayne and Eileen Ryan Athletic Center and D.J. Sokol Arena this fall — home to Creighton’s women’s basketball and volleyball teams — has put the women’s athletics program at the University in the spotlight. Read more about this first-class facility and the history of women’s athletics at Creighton.

Beyond the Economy:
The New Deal and the American Promise.................................. 14
Franklin D. Roosevelt’s New Deal went beyond addressing the economic conditions of a nation reeling from the Great Depression, writes Creighton history professor Heather Fryer, Ph.D. It also was concerned with renewing the “American Promise.”

Profiles of the Freshman Class .................................................. 18
Creighton’s 2009-2010 class is the largest, most diverse and most academically talented in the University’s history. Meet a few of these articulate, young future leaders.

The Bishops’ Synod on the Bible: What Happened? .............. 20
Last year, an international gathering of bishops in Rome called for greater biblical literacy among Catholics. Creighton University Magazine asked the Rev. Dennis Hamm, S.J., who hosted an international group of bible scholars at Creighton this summer, to discuss the synod of bishops and its messages. Fr. Hamm holds the Graff Chair in Catholic Theological Studies at Creighton.

A Matter of Integrity ............................................................... 24
Robert Moorman, Ph.D., the Robert Daugherty Chair in Management at Creighton, teams with colleague and business professional Roger Franscecky, Ph.D., to unravel the meaning of leadership integrity and its importance in today’s corporate climate.

University News ......................... 4
Campaign News ..................... 28
Alumni News ......................... 30
In this season of thanksgiving and renewal, I am reminded once again of the blessings we share as friends, as families and as a University community.

Indeed, Creighton University is blessed; our harvest is bountiful. True, the winds of today’s economic uncertainty affect us all in our individual circumstances and as a society. But with a firm trust in God, we move forward boldly — sowing the seeds of the future.

We are thankful for the gifts we, as a university, have received: a record-setting freshman class, top rankings in national publications, dedicated faculty and staff, and engaged alumni and donors. As winter approaches, let us reflect for a moment on the fruits of our collective labors.

As you may know, we welcomed a record number of freshmen to campus this fall, with more than 1,050 incoming students. This group carries excellent academic credentials. Their academic profile places us among the top six private universities in the Midwest with more than 4,000 undergraduate students and among the top 10 Catholic colleges and universities in the United States. This class comes from points across the nation and around the world and is the most ethnically and economically diverse in our history.

I am also pleased to report that for the seventh straight year (and the 12th time in 14 years), U.S. News & World Report magazine has ranked Creighton No. 1 among Midwest master’s universities in its annual “America’s Best Colleges” guide. The magazine editors also ranked Creighton among the top 50 institutions nationally for undergraduate research and creative projects; recognized us as a “best value” institution; and labeled us as a “school to watch” for our innovation and focus on the future.

Additionally, in October, Creighton was ranked No. 6 among the nation’s top “Best Neighbor” colleges and universities for our engagement with the city of Omaha, and the Fulbright Program recognized Creighton for developing Fulbright Fellows.

Worth noting is the tremendous growth we are experiencing in our graduate programs, with a 34 percent increase in Graduate School enrollment from 2008 to 2009.

The majority of that increase has come in our online programming. Innovative programs in security analysis and portfolio management, negotiation and dispute resolution, ministry, health care ethics and Catholic school leadership are attracting a broad array of students. These programs are being offered primarily online, as we are committed to harnessing the power of technology to bring the excellence of a Creighton education to a wider audience — including current professionals who are seeking master’s level education.

Finally, I would like to recognize Creighton’s Online Retreat. This popular 34-week retreat for everyday life, based on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius, annually attracts thousands of Internet visitors from around the world.

The success of this retreat has resulted in the publication of a new book by the Rev. Andy Alexander, S.J., and Maureen McCann Waldron of Creighton’s University Ministries. The book is titled Retreat in the Real World: Finding Intimacy with God Wherever You Are. In addition, in accordance with its global popularity, the Online Retreat is now available in Chinese, the Swahili language Kiswahili and Swedish — joining translations already available in Spanish, Japanese and Russian.

This retreat, which can be started at any time, can be a powerful experience. I encourage you to take advantage of this resource to pursue a more intimate relationship with God in the busyness of everyday life and in this time of thanksgiving.

Thank you for your continued support of Creighton University. With the next Creighton University Magazine scheduled to publish in 2010, we send you early Christmas greetings and best New Year’s wishes. May God bless you and keep you during this holy season.

John P. Schlegel, S.J.
President
Frey Named Vice President for Health Sciences

Donald Frey, M.D., has been named vice president for health sciences at Creighton University, with oversight responsibility for Creighton’s schools of dentistry, medicine, nursing and pharmacy and health professions. He assumed the post on Aug. 3.

Frey, the Roland L. Kleeberger, M.D., Professor of Family Medicine, most recently served as chair of family medicine at the Creighton School of Medicine, a position he held since 1995. “Dr. Frey has been an extremely effective and successful leader of Creighton’s Department of Family Medicine for nearly 15 years,” said Creighton President the Rev. John P. Schlegel, S.J. “His knowledge of the national and local health care environment and his research in such pivotal areas as health care policy and the educational mission of academic health centers make him an ideal candidate for this position.”

Frey is a passionate advocate for quality and affordable health care for all U.S. citizens. His teaching interests include rural health care, health policy and reform, medical ethics, and preventive health care and wellness.

Heaney Named Vice President for Research

Robert Heaney, BS’47, MD’51, will oversee research for the entire University, including the School of Medicine, as Creighton’s first vice president for research. Heaney, himself renowned for his decades-long research in osteoporosis, assumed the newly created post in August and will be responsible for maintaining a competitive research infrastructure, supporting faculty researchers and developing revenue-generating opportunities.

“I am pleased that Dr. Heaney has agreed to accept this new challenge,” said Creighton President the Rev. John P. Schlegel, S.J. “He has the skill and the vision to begin a new and prominent chapter in the history of Creighton University research — just as he did with the University’s internationally recognized Osteoporosis Research Center.”

Heaney said the addition of this new position aligns Creighton to “make a substantial leap ahead in research, particularly biomedical research. I see my role as helping to create an infrastructure that removes red-tape barriers to research and allows faculty members to focus on research itself.”

Heaney is a world-renowned expert and lecturer in bone biology, with special emphasis on calcium and vitamin D nutrition.

Creighton Medical Associates Names CEO

Todd Carlon has been named chief executive officer for Creighton Medical Associates (CMA) — the academic, multispecialty faculty group supporting the clinical and academic missions of Creighton University School of Medicine.

For 10 years (1997-2007), he was chief administrative officer for University of Minnesota Physicians, Minneapolis, an academic medical group practice with 700 physicians and 1,300 staff members at 36 clinics. Most recently, Carlon served as regional vice president for Pediatric Medical Center Group’s Mountain Region, 2007-2009. In this capacity, he led and managed 32 for-profit medical group practices in 11 states.

Carlon also has held administrative positions with several other health organizations, including Fortis Healthcare in Milwaukee, Wisconsin Physicians Service in Madison, and Mayo Clinic and Mayo Foundation in Rochester, Minn.


**U.S. News Honors Creighton Again**

For the seventh year in a row and the 12th time in 14 years, Creighton University is ranked No. 1 among Midwest master’s universities in *U.S. News & World Report*’s annual “America’s Best Colleges” edition.

The magazine also recognizes Creighton as the No. 1 “best value” university in the Midwest, for giving students the best return on their tuition investment; includes Creighton in its unranked listing of the top 50 institutions for undergraduate research and creative projects; and ranks the University No. 5 among Midwestern “schools to watch” for innovation and continued improvement.

In addition, the *Princeton Review* lists Creighton as one of the nation’s top 371 colleges and universities in its 2010 annual college guide.

“Academic excellence is a part of our mission and it is particularly rewarding to be acknowledged by the broader community for our academic excellence,” said Creighton President the Rev. John P. Schlegel, S.J. “It speaks volumes for the quality of our faculty.”

**Creighton Named ‘Best Neighbor’ University**

Creighton University once again has been recognized nationally as a “best neighbor” for its community impact. Creighton ranked in the top 10 at No. 6.

The top-25 listing, compiled by a national higher education expert, recognizes the positive effects these institutions have on their urban communities through commercial and residential activities such as revitalization, cultural renewal, economics, community service and development.

“Creighton takes great pride in its strong partnership with the city of Omaha,” said Creighton President the Rev. John P. Schlegel, S.J., citing the fact that Creighton has invested more than $285 million in needed academic, student and community facilities that have improved the economic vitality, cultural renewal and civic engagement of both the University and the city. “But even more important are the community service and community relationships the University fosters at the very heart of our mission,” Fr. Schlegel added.

**New Director Focuses on International Admissions**

As the new director for international admissions, David McCauley passionately believes that increasing Creighton’s undergraduate international student population enhances the campus environment for all students — providing opportunities for cultural dialogue and learning.

Over the past year, McCauley has presented on Creighton in Oslo, Norway; Helsinki, Finland; Stockholm, Sweden; Santiago, Chile; Lima, Peru; Panama City, Panama; Santa Cruz, Bolivia; and Shanghai, China, to name a few. Upcoming visits are planned to Hong Kong, Beijing, Korea, Vietnam, Singapore and Japan. He also has met with overseas businesses to discuss internship opportunities for Creighton students.

“Our international students enrich the cultural wealth of our Creighton community, and we are excited about the ability to offer a Jesuit education in the midst of an internationally dynamic educational experience,” McCauley said.

McCauley has an international background. He earned a bachelor’s degree from Colby College in Waterville, Maine; completed master’s coursework at Queen’s University in Ontario, Canada; and earned a master’s degree from St. Lawrence University in Canton, N.Y. He worked as an English teacher in Madrid, Spain, and in college admissions at several institutions in New York, before founding a global company for the license of educational and entertainment intellectual property rights.

**Fr. Schlegel Visits Guantanamo**

Creighton University President the Rev. John P. Schlegel, S.J., was one of a group of community and civic leaders from across the United States to tour Naval Station Guantanamo Bay in September as part of the Joint Civilian Orientation Conference (JCOC). The JCOC is a program sponsored by the Secretary of Defense for civilian public opinion leaders interested in increasing their knowledge of military and national defense issues.

This year’s conference was hosted by the United States Southern Command, with visits to U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay and various other sites throughout the command. Creighton University graduate U.S. Navy Rear Adm. Tom Copeman III, BS’81, serves as commander of Joint Task Force Guantanamo.

“This was an eye-opening experience,” Fr. Schlegel told *The Wire*, the official news magazine of Joint Task Force Guantanamo, “not just because of the hospitality of the troops here or the mission they perform, but truly the spirit in which they do it.”
From Book to Internet ... And, Now, in Paperback

It started out small enough: Creighton employees wanted to learn more about the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of the Jesuits.

But how would the typical employee, without guidance, delve into a 16th century text that was more often the provenance of Jesuits and other trained scholars?

“We knew that the Exercises were not a book to read,” said Creighton’s Maureen McCann Waldron, BA’75, MA’98, associate director of Creighton’s Collaborative Ministry Office, “but a guide for directors, to give this retreat experience to others.”

The Rev. Andy Alexander, S.J., vice president for university ministry, and Waldron also realized there simply weren’t enough spiritual directors available to share the Exercises of St. Ignatius with the faculty and staff at Creighton who wanted to make the retreat.

Meanwhile, Waldron and Fr. Alexander had already begun the Online Ministries at Creighton, inviting 50 Creighton faculty and staff to write reflections on the Scriptures of the day. But there was a surprise, the pair soon learned. Not only were Creighton people finding the Daily Reflections helpful, but people from all over the world were tapping into them online, as well.

If the Daily Reflections were pulling in that kind of interest, what about the Spiritual Exercises? What about a retreat online, based on these spiritual treasures?

Fr. Alexander and Waldron say they knew that St. Ignatius encouraged his Jesuit and lay colleagues to adapt his Exercises to fit the needs of the people. So, over an eight-month period, the pair attempted to do just that: studying the Exercises in depth and translating them into an online experience adapted to the lives of busy people.

They also sought out colleagues, including the Rev. Larry Gillick, S.J., director of the Deglan Center for Ignatian Spirituality at Creighton, and the Rev. Don Doll, S.J., world-renowned photographer. Fr. Gillick contributed reflections for each of the 34 weeks of the retreat, and Fr. Doll brought to life the retreat with photos touching on the weekly themes.

As a final step, Waldron and Fr. Alexander added an opportunity for people making the retreat to share the graces they were experiencing, and, long before blogs existed, those sharings were posted on the Internet. Tens of thousands of those sharings now form a kind of online community for retreatants, as people read what others have written before them.

Now in its 10th year, the retreat not only has cut across geographic barriers, it has cut across language barriers, as well.


Today, the Online Retreat has taken off from the original English to also include Spanish, Japanese, Russian and Chinese, plus Swedish and Kiswahili, Eastern Africa’s most popular tongue.

From there, it will go into audio as Mandarin and Cantonese.

All along the way, Fr. Alexander and Waldron say, people have wanted the user-friendly retreat they encounter online in book form.

“People don’t always want to pray right at their computer,” said Fr. Alexander. “They were looking for something easier to carry when they prayed in another room or even another city.”

And, so, this fall, Creighton’s online retreat is available in paperback, too, and, at 308 pages, it’s pretty portable.

Retreat in the Real World: Finding Intimacy with God Wherever You Are by Fr. Alexander and Waldron was published this summer by Loyola Press.


The Creighton Online Ministries website is at: http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/online.html.

School of Medicine Establishes Phoenix Campus

Creighton’s School of Medicine and St. Joseph’s Hospital and Medical Center in Phoenix in June announced an academic affiliation that will create a Creighton medical school presence in Phoenix.

The Phoenix campus will be formally known as Creighton University School of Medicine at St. Joseph’s Hospital and Medical Center, a member of Catholic Healthcare West. The Creighton campus in Phoenix will be the only Catholic medical school campus located west of Omaha.

Under the new affiliation, Creighton will establish a fully operational campus at St. Joseph’s that will offer two full years of clinical training. Creighton will expand its entering medical class from 126 to 152 students, starting in 2010. Forty-two, third-year students will move to Phoenix for their final two years of training, starting in 2012.

“This with the looming shortage of health care providers, there has never been a more critical need for skilled physicians with high ethical standards and a commitment to Catholic values and traditions.”

— Donald Frey, M.D.
Vice President for Health Sciences

Today, the Online Retreat has taken off from the original English to also include Spanish, Japanese, Russian and Chinese, plus Swedish and Kiswahili, Eastern Africa’s most popular tongue.

From there, it will go into audio as Mandarin and Cantonese.

All along the way, Fr. Alexander and Waldron say, people have wanted the user-friendly retreat they encounter online in book form.

“People don’t always want to pray right at their computer,” said Fr. Alexander. “They were looking for something easier to carry when they prayed in another room or even another city.”

And, so, this fall, Creighton’s online retreat is available in paperback, too, and, at 308 pages, it’s pretty portable.

Retreat in the Real World: Finding Intimacy with God Wherever You Are by Fr. Alexander and Waldron was published this summer by Loyola Press.


The Creighton Online Ministries website is at: http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/online.html.

With the looming shortage of health care providers, there has never been a more critical need for skilled physicians with high ethical standards and a commitment to Catholic values and traditions.”

— Donald Frey, M.D.
Vice President for Health Sciences.
Oprah Book Club
Highlights Former Student

Nigerian-born author Uwem Akpan, a Jesuit priest who studied English and philosophy at Creighton, had his collection of short stories — titled Say You’re One of Them — chosen by talk show host Oprah Winfrey for her popular book club.

The book’s five short, fictional stories have been heralded by reviewers for their powerful, gritty, personal look at the poverty, strife and violence affecting some of the most troubled regions of Africa. Each story is written from the perspective of children.

“My Parents’ Bedroom,” one of the stories from the collection, which deals with tribal conflict in Rwanda, was chosen as a finalist for The Caine Prize for African Writing in 2007.

Say You’re One of Them won the Commonwealth Writers’ Prize for Best First Book (Africa Region) 2009 and PEN/Beyond Margins Award 2009, and was a finalist for the Los Angeles Times Art Seidenbaum Award for First Fiction.

“Each one of these stories really just left me gasping,” Winfrey said on her website. The New York Times called the book a “startling debut collection” and Entertainment Weekly raved, “awe is the only appropriate response to Uwem Akpan’s stunning debut.”

Kuttab: Israeli-Palestinian Situation ‘Ripe for Resolution’

Jonathan Kuttab, a Palestinian attorney, expert in international law and leading human rights activist in Israel and Palestine, spoke at Creighton on Oct. 8. The title of his address was “Peace and Justice for Palestine: Can Either Be Achieved Through Non-Violent Resistance?”

“On the one level, the situation is very ripe for a resolution, because all the elements of a possible deal, a just, rational, pragmatic deal, that addresses Israel’s concerns and interests and addresses
The new Wayne and Eileen Ryan Athletic Center and D.J. Sokol Arena opened this fall to rave reviews and one of the largest (and most boisterous) crowds ever to watch a Creighton volleyball match.

More than 850 balloon-waving students streamed into the arena on Aug. 28 for Creighton’s season-opening volleyball match against Texas Tech in the Bluejay Invitational. They were part of a record on-campus crowd of 2,285 to watch volleyball — shattering the previous mark of 476 set in 1994. (Nearby, at Morrison Stadium, another 941 fans watched the Creighton women’s soccer team shutout South Dakota 8-0.)

Following a three-set sweep of the Red Raiders, Creighton volleyball coach Kirsten Bernthal Booth called the venue “a top-five facility in the country.”
Indeed, the Wayne and Eileen Ryan Athletic Center and D.J. Sokol Arena have ushered in a new era of Division I women’s athletics at Creighton University. The 78,000-square-foot facility serves as the home for women’s basketball and volleyball. It also houses locker rooms, coaches’ offices, ticket offices, athletic training, meeting rooms, a media room and more.

“The Wayne and Eileen Ryan Athletic Center and D.J. Sokol Arena are part of a modern infrastructure that supports the total educational experience nurturing our students and enriches the life of the Creighton campus and the Omaha community,” Creighton University President the Rev. John P. Schlegel, S.J., said at the dedication ceremony, the morning of the inaugural volleyball match. “I come here today very excited for our student-athletes, especially the women who will play here, but also for the entire Creighton community who will benefit from this beautiful venue.”

The facility was made possible through support from Wayne and Eileen Ryan and David and Peggy Sokol and their families, along with gifts from other generous Bluejay supporters. A Creighton alumnus, Wayne Ryan, Ph.D., BS’49, MS’51, is chairman and CEO of Streck, Inc. The Ryans’ daughter Constance Ryan, ARTS’75, president of Streck Laboratories, is a member of Creighton’s Board of Directors. David Sokol is chairman of MidAmerican Energy Holdings Company and a former member of the Creighton University Board of Directors. Both families are longtime supporters of Creighton University and Bluejay athletics.

“The Ryan and Sokol families are champions of the outstanding students whose athletic and academic performance enhances the University’s visibility and reputation,” said Lisa Calvert, Creighton’s vice president for university relations. “Their support is also a testament to their belief in Creighton’s key role in the life of a city committed to its own revitalization.”

For Rosemary Cenovich Gross, BScHist’57, and Mary Higgins, BA’73, pioneers of women’s sports at Creighton, the new facility is a testament to how far women’s athletics have come. Gross, who taught chemistry, math and computer science for more than four decades at Creighton, served as an academic advisor to Creighton athletes from 1985 until 1997, just a few years prior to her retirement in 2000. Higgins championed women’s athletics as a student in the 1970s, became a Creighton Hall of Fame softball coach and currently serves as assistant vice president for student retention at Creighton.

“It’s a great recruiting tool,” Gross said of the new facility, “but it is also great for the kids’ confidence and feelings of...
The locker room for women’s basketball, pictured above, is one of six team locker rooms in the Ryan Athletic Center. The others are for softball, volleyball, men’s and women’s soccer, and baseball.

Creighton women’s basketball players Sam Schuett (foreground) and Ally Jensen work out in the facility’s strength training room.

worth ... ‘Gee, we have our own place.’”

Added Higgins: “At Creighton, our emphasis is always on the student — providing them with a well-rounded collegiate experience. Athletics is a part of that, both for the student-athletes and the students who cheer them on. This beautiful facility really fulfills that mission.”

At the dedication, Megan Neuvirth, a senior on Creighton’s women’s basketball team, spoke about her deep appreciation for being able to play in such a first-class facility. “My teammates and I are so grateful for the leadership and support you all have given us,” Neuvirth said. “We are proud to be able to play in the Wayne and Eileen Ryan Athletic Center and D.J. Sokol Arena. We will do our best to honor your confidence, your generosity and the legacy of the Ryan and Sokol families.”

Sarah Schulze, a senior captain on the volleyball team, described coming to Creighton as a “defining moment” in her life, one that she prayed about. “Being a part of this Creighton family was definitely one of the best decisions I’ve ever made,” Schulze said at the dedication.

“I speak on behalf of my entire team. We are humbled and feel blessed to be able to play in the best and only facility in the country that has been built specifically for women’s athletics,” Schulze said.

She added that the support shown by the extended Creighton community has helped her fulfill her dreams and will advance “the dreams of future women who will wear a Bluejay jersey.”

Wayne and Eileen Ryan’s daughter Stacy Ryan and her husband, Brad Focht, join Creighton President the Rev. John P. Schlegel, S.J., in unveiling the Ryan Athletic Center plaque — while daughter Constance Ryan, ARTS’75, a member of Creighton’s Board of Directors, Eileen Ryan and Wayne Ryan, Ph.D., BS’49, MS’51, look on.
Distant Dreams

Dreams. That’s what Mary Higgins had in the early 1970s, when she was a student on campus.

Higgins, who also broke down barriers as the first woman directly elected to the executive board of Creighton’s student government, yearned for a chance to put on a Creighton uniform and compete in her University’s name. She and others of like-mind set out to form a softball team, so they could “play like we did at home before college.”

While women at Creighton had competed in intramural sports, there were no major intercollegiate teams like today. Higgins approached then assistant athletic director Dan Offenburger, BS ’58, MSedu ’63, with her case. She knew the arguments against forming women’s teams. “They don’t bring in enough money,” she said. “But, then, I reasoned that there were other men’s teams that weren’t money-makers either. So it was a male-female question.”

It didn’t hurt that Title IX — the hotly debated federal legislation that made it imperative for schools, colleges and universities to establish women’s sports programs — had become the law of the land in 1972.

“At Creighton, it was not so much a politically driven issue; we just wanted to play softball,” Offenburger saw the value of the idea, Higgins said. “He was a morally driven man and he knew this was right. He told us to go ahead and order uniforms and produce a schedule of teams to play.”

So, in the spring of 1973, Creighton University sponsored an intercollegiate women’s softball team.

“I remember when I put on the uniform with Creighton stitched across the chest,” said Higgins, who, at the time, was finishing her senior year. “I was excited to represent Creighton. I had followed Creighton all my life and felt like I was continuing in the path of Paul Silas, Tom Apke and their athletic tradition.”

Creighton’s inaugural softball game against Midland College in Fremont, Neb., as fate would have it, was rained out, but the team did complete its schedule — finishing the year a respectable 3-7.

In the beginning and for some years, the women had no facilities for softball. “We played mostly at Dill Field [near Benson Park] and, of course, at competitors’ fields.” (The current on-campus field at 21st and California streets didn’t open until 1979.) Offenburger served as the coach that first year.

By the following year, Offenburger had hired two women (Meta Johnson and Eddy McClure) to — as the 1974 Creighton yearbook put it — “start a well-rounded women’s intercollegiate sports program.”

Johnson organized women’s intramurals and coached the newly formed women’s volleyball and swimming teams. McClure taught physical education and took on the coaching duties for the softball team and the newly formed women’s basketball team. The volleyball and basketball teams played their home games in what is now the Vinardi Athletic Center — affectionately known among many alumni as the Old Gym. The volleyball team finished that first season in 1974 at 5-12. The women’s basketball team finished 9-5 during the regular season and traveled to Fremont, Neb., for the Women’s College Basketball Tournament, where they finished 2-2 for seventh place. The swim team ended its inaugural season 2-2.

Over the years, several more women’s athletic teams were formed, others were dropped and some, like volleyball, were dropped and later reinstated. Today, women can choose from eight varsity sports: basketball, volleyball, crew, golf, soccer, softball, cross country and tennis.

Higgins graduated in the spring of 1973 as the first season of softball came to an end. She went to work in Admissions as a counselor and began pursuit of a master’s degree. Athletics was never far away, however, and she became a graduate assistant in athletics. Then, in 1977, she was asked by Offenburger to coach women’s softball.

She did ... for 17 years, compiling a record of 564-298 — highlighted by 12 consecutive winning seasons (1980-91), two small college state championships (1978, 1979) and a fifth-place finish in the 1986 Women’s College World Series. Her place in Creighton history was assured when she became the first woman inducted into Creighton’s Athletic Hall of Fame in 1987. Among many other awards, she also received the Mary Lucretia and Sarah Emily Creighton Award in 1983 for creating an environment supportive for women on campus.

A Pioneer

Rosemary Cenovich Gross remembers, during her student days in the late 1950s, donning a set of shoulder pads, running down the steps toward the former football stadium (located just east of the current Hixson-Lied Science Building) and taking part in a spirited game of pushball, featuring Creighton’s two sororities at the time.
Pushball wasn’t a game for the timid or meek, as Dennis Mihelich, Ph.D., shares in his book, *The History of Creighton University: 1878-2003*, with this excerpt from the 1963 *Bluejay* yearbook:

“So furiously fought was the annual pushball game that the officials halted hostilities and called it a draw. Tempers flared at the outset when the two teams bombarded each other with water balloons and eggs.”

The game basically consisted of pushing a soft, air-filled ball, six feet in diameter and weighing about 50 pounds, toward a set of opposing goals.

“It was great fun,” said Gross, whose team of sorority sisters, with the help of a Jesuit priest, borrowed practice uniforms from Creighton Prep High School. “I think the other team was amazed when we came out with football uniforms on, and I don’t know if they ever recovered.”

A framed picture of her in shoulder pads hung on her office wall at Creighton, intriguing a good many student-athletes who visited for academic counseling.

Gross’ role in Creighton athletics was not one she had anticipated, but it was one she grew into naturally — as an avid sports fan and Creighton supporter.

“I started by keeping statistics for basketball with Bruce Rasmussen [current athletic director and former women’s basketball coach],” said Gross. Rosemary’s desire to support her athletes was unbridled. She and her husband, Bob, also a 1957 Creighton graduate, spent hundreds of hours and traveled hundreds of miles to support Creighton athletes in competition. She took on more duties as time passed, and eventually was named the academic coordinator for Creighton’s athletics department in 1985.

Rosemary acted in several ways to assist with recruits and varsity players. “I would tell the recruits what was expected of them,” she said. She began hiring tutors to help students with their heavy load of playing and studying.

“Mary Higgins asked if I would help with her softball recruits and players,” said Gross, who, at first, primarily worked with men’s basketball.

Soon Higgins got Gross involved in the players’ social lives so that “they got to know me as a person and not just that lady behind the desk,” Gross said.

Gross found her biggest role in building confidence among the young women athletes.

“I remember telling one of our very best woman athletes that she should apply for a graduate scholarship,” she said. “She had been ‘all everything’ in her career, but she was hurt as a senior and did not play.”

“It took about an hour to convince her that ‘yes, you are better than you think you are’ and ‘yes, you should apply for a Missouri Valley Conference scholarship.’” She went on to win the scholarship.

In retirement, Gross was awarded the Leader for Life award, honoring those who have made an impact for women’s sports at Creighton University. The award citation includes the following quote from a former student-teaching assistant: “She (Rosemary) is perhaps the primary reason for the success of our student-athletes, and for the success of Creighton’s athletic programs as a whole.”

**Paving the Way**

While Offenburger played a significant role in promoting women’s participation in sports in the late 1960s and early 1970s, it was another athletic director, Bruce Rasmussen, a former women’s basketball coach hired by Offenburger, who pushed for the new on-campus athletic center and arena.

“We wanted a home for women’s basketball and volleyball on campus,” Rasmussen said. “The future for the old facility, the Civic Auditorium, was to go away.” Omaha city officials had decided the old building was no longer needed.

Rasmussen, who guided the women’s basketball team to prominence over 12 years beginning in 1980, added that there was a need for a gathering place for students, faculty and staff on campus.

“The Ryan Athletic Center and D.J. Sokol Arena [which seats 2,950] will have the winter commencement, and will host speakers, workshops and intramurals,” he said.

Anyone intimately acquainted with the Ryan Athletic Center and D.J. Sokol Arena sings the praises of the new building.

Jim Flanery, BA’87, Creighton’s women’s basketball coach, called it “visible proof of the commitment by our university and our community to the continued growth in opportunities for women.”

If there is a motor driving the new facility, it is Carol Ketcham, whose athletic department titles include senior woman administrator, development officer and director of special events.

She has been at Creighton since 1970 and rose to her current position by being a dynamo who gets things done. She is now charged with maintaining ties with donors and raising money for the athletic department.

“We are very pleased to have the Ryan Athletic Center and D.J. Sokol Arena,” she said. “I am proud of all the women and men — current and former athletes, coaches, administrators, students, faculty, fans and donors — who helped pave the way to make this a reality. We have raised the bar. And I see nothing but success in our future.”
Philosopher George Santayana, in his *Life of Reason*, famously wrote that “those who cannot remember the past are doomed to repeat it,” but spotting and minding historical lessons is harder than it sounds. Images of the bread lines of the Great Depression are deeply ingrained in America’s collective memory and yet, here we are, unwittingly, in another grave economic crisis with very little certainty about how it happened or how to reverse it. Over the past year, Americans have searched the 1930s for a way through today’s morass of deficits, bailouts, bankruptcies, foreclosures and stimulus priorities, with no clearer sense about how long the pain will last or what the future will hold.
Comparing the 1930s and the 2000s is difficult, in part, because we are looking at not one but two unfinished historical trajectories. The United States’ entry into World War II launched a new program of government spending that superseded Roosevelt’s New Deal, leaving historians to debate its results without the benefit of seeing its full effects. In the present case, war in two theaters came not at the end of the economic crisis — as it did in 1941 — but at the beginning, forming a challenging prelude to the collapse faced by the Bush and Obama administrations. So the comparisons are anything but clear, making the history ripe for the sort of politicization that sparks tantalizingly spirited debate but that is ultimately obfuscating, generating more heat than much-desired light.

There is one visible connecting thread in this early stage historical development that provides continuity, context and a template for action in the economic initiatives of Roosevelt and Obama. It is in the emphasis that both presidents placed on restoring the American Promise. This time-honored ideal guarantees that those who work hard, conduct business honorably and contribute to the growth of the nation will enjoy limitless opportunities to prosper and create better lives for their children. Beyond reviving a moribund economy, both leaders sought to restore faith in this fundamental principle when they entered the Oval Office. For many, the loss of this guarantee is as profound as the loss of a job, a home or personal savings because they are all critical to forging one’s destiny in the grand tradition of American independence. Roosevelt acknowledged this when he referred to the Depression as a “failure in national vision” and Obama in his warning that “the American promise [was] threatened” by recklessness and greed.

To protect the American Promise, Roosevelt and Obama conceptually recast the federal government as its guarantor, creating very direct ties — too direct for many — between Washington, Wall Street and individual citizens. Their massive government stimulus efforts, beyond being controversial experiments in spurring economic growth, were conceived as vehicles for promoting responsibility, fairness, equal opportunity and progress toward a new and better era. Historians of our students’ generation will measure the success of the Obama administration’s efforts to referee the economic playing field, invigorate citizen participation and resuscitate the American Promise within a new green economy. If this attempt at restoring the American Promise and revising it for the 21st century is anything like that of the Roosevelt administration, our future historians will encounter mixed outcomes and vigorous debate in the historical record. The New Deal’s spirit of optimism and patriotic participation in recovery prevailed, but the extension of federal power Roosevelt believed necessary to guarantee and protect the American Promise drew fire during the 1930s and ignited the controversy over the government’s role in American economic life that burns like an eternal flame in postwar American politics.

**The American Promise in 1916**

The American Promise was alive and well in 1916 when a broad coalition that included the YMCA, the American Bankers Association, the General Federation of Women’s Clubs and the U.S. Treasury launched National Thrift Week. Highlights included Bank Day, Budget Day, Own Your Own Home Day, Pay Bills Promptly Day and Share with Others Day. National Thrift Week continued into the 1920s, but with overproduction, merger fever, an unregulated stock market and the rise of the consumer credit industry, more Americans aspired to buy the good life instead of building it. Sinclair Lewis’s 1922 everyman, George Babbitt, was the picture of success — a man who “made nothing in particular” but was “nimble in the selling of houses for more than people could afford to pay.” Like his real-life counterparts, Babbitt (and Lewis, quite likely) had no inkling that the nation was headed toward the unthinkable, where burst bubbles, nose-diving asset values and a flurry of pink slips formed a treacherous landscape.

The Roaring Twenties came to an abrupt end on Oct. 29, 1929, as people’s fortunes in the stock market evaporated, especially for the millions of ordinary Americans who purchased stock on the margin. Businesses failed, unemployment reached 25 percent and under-employment affected another 25 percent of households. Lyricalist Yip Harburg expressed the despair of the millions Roosevelt identified as “the forgotten man” in his hit song “Brother, Can You Spare a Dime?” — the fourth most requested in 1932. The mournful narrator recounts a life of building the dream “with peace and glory ahead,” taking up the hammer, the plow and, during World War I, the gun, only to find himself begging for a piece of bread and spare change.

**What’s in a Name?**

In the world of public policy, naming is everything, because it signals the relationship between new legislation and the people it is meant to affect. Roosevelt’s “New Deal” gave the recovery a distinctive cast from any notion of “New Handouts,” “New Paternalism” or a “New Economic Order.” A deal, after all, is an exchange between parties; it is neither a charitable nor a revolutionary act. The New Deal reset the terms in place among government, industry, the financial system and the forgotten man so that everyone was a stakeholder in the recovery. The aim, said Roosevelt, was “to restore America to its own people.”

Although pop culture images present the New Deal as a massive relief program in which the government “dealt” people jobs, housing, farm subsidies and cans of surplus meat, such direct aid was a small part of the overall effort to stimulate the economy. The National Recovery Administration, established in 1933 through the National Industrial Recovery Act, sought to keep production profitable and work gainful through agreements that allowed
businesses to set industry-wide prices (price floors), while providing workers with set wages and maximum work weeks and giving labor unions the power to hold their employers to these standards under the Fair Labor Standards Act.

For those who remained without jobs, the Federal Emergency Relief Agency (FERA) funneled $500 million in relief through state governments as matching block grants, forging a direct tie between Washington and needy Americans who would have previously received charitable aid from churches, community chests or local government. In most cases, the federal government issued relief in exchange for labor, goods or some other form of direct participation in the economic recovery, restoring a sense of efficacy to the millions of Americans who wanted to earn a living — not receive a handout.

The New Deal and Youth

The New Deal did not leave American youth among the forgotten. Although they did not have families to feed, concern mounted that jobless youth would fall prey to juvenile delinquency when the economy was down and would be unprepared to uphold their end of the American Promise when the economy improved. With the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), millions of Americans between the ages of 18 and 35 were sent to work in the national parks and on roads, bridges and other languishing infrastructure. Young men from across the United States lived in camps where they worked together on soil conservation, fire control, reforestation and road repair. Hard work and outdoor living were time-honored educators, and adult supervisors instilled habits of neatness and punctuality. The CCC required each participant to send $25 a month to his family, thus extending the economic benefit outside the parks and into the cities. While direct economic benefit remains debatable, the CCC has a proud alumni association that continues to promote their contributions to American life.

The Depression also took its toll on educational opportunities. Like many young people today who face deferring an education or combining studies and a heavy work schedule, students during the Depression often had no option but to leave school altogether. The National Youth Administration (NYA) provided grants to high schools and colleges in exchange for student labor, which often involved tutoring younger students. This put tuition dollars and additional labor back into the educational system while affording students time to focus on their studies. Young workers who were not in school could participate in the NYA work projects that provided vocational training in areas that would be in demand when the economy recovered.

The New Deal put millions of unemployed adults to work through the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) and the Public Works Administration (PWA). The TVA, conceived as “a corporation clothed with the power of government but possessed of the flexibility and initiative of a private enterprise,” was, like the PWA, far from a mere “make-work” agency. It was charged with implementing integrated solutions to regional underdevelopment, encompassing everything from rural electrification and erosion control to malaria prevention, enhanced farming techniques and hydroelectric development. Although the experimental agency had its share of planning problems, the Tennessee Valley gained the infrastructure necessary for 20th century economic growth: navigable waterways, modern systems of flood control and, most critically, electricity that was accessible and affordable. Nationally, the PWA modernized the transportation system with 650,000 miles of roads, 78,000 bridges, 125,000 buildings and 700 miles of airport runway, not to mention such monumental projects as the Golden Gate Bridge, the Hoover Dam and the Lincoln Tunnel.

The Works Progress Administration (WPA) created another 7 million jobs on a host of community projects from slum clearance, literacy programs, minor construction and food distribution. Next to images of enthusiastic road crews, the WPA is perhaps best remembered for “Federal One” and the pantheon of extraordinary mid-century American artists it employed, including John Cheever, Zora Neale Hurston, Orson Welles, Aaron Copeland and Jackson Pollock. In addition to funding hundreds of works of literature, music and visual art, Federal One employees collected folk music, folklore and oral histories from communities across the nation. While the immediate economic impact of these programs was small, they celebrated the American Promise in the 1930s and left some of the great treasures of America’s modern heritage.

Finding a Balance

Not all New Deal programs stood the test of time, however, and the first to go were the ones that undermined the very...
spirit of independence that Roosevelt claimed to defend. The Department of Agriculture built greenbelt villages to house displaced farmers and industrial laborers. Residents applied to live in affordable government housing with acreage for cultivation to supplement or replace wage labor. Government extension workers coached urbanites in farming, rural citizens in industrial work routines and women in maintaining the American standard of housekeeping. Federal control of a local community proved unsustainably oxymoronic as prosperity returned.

Even the WPA was abandoned like a hot potato as soon as jobs became available in the private sector, starting with the employees of Federal One, who had grown tired of using pro-New Deal themes as their subject matter. Anti-New Dealers shut down the Federal Theater Project in 1939, charging that it produced “communistic” dramatizations of dire social issues. The artists, for their part, saw the demand for light Americana as its own form of state propaganda and returned to the free marketplace of ideas at the first opportunity. Such negotiations demonstrate the importance of citizen participation in striking the balance between allowing the government to validate the American Promise and preventing it from altering its essential freedoms and obligations. From even the most frightening depths of the Depression, Americans overwhelmingly held individual autonomy, local control, freedom of expression, fidelity to the Constitution and limiting the expansion of executive power as nonnegotiables in their New Deal with the government.

In some instances, these nonnegotiables put the “Forgotten Man” at odds with President Roosevelt, particularly in his attempt to bolster his power as guarantor of the American Promise by altering the composition of the Supreme Court. The conflict began when the Supreme Court struck down the National Industrial Recovery Act for shifting legislative power to the executive branch and the Agricultural Adjustment Act for usurping state government as regulator for agriculture. These decisions, seen as catering to conservative businessmen burdened by new constraints in the New Deal, roundly rejected Roosevelt’s argument that the severity of the Depression warranted bold political innovations to advance the bold economic ones.

In short order, the Supreme Court went after the TVA, the Wagner Act (guaranteeing unions the right of collective bargaining) and the Social Security Act, and Roosevelt, having a clear mandate in his 1936 reelection, schemed to protect the New Deal by expanding the number of seats on the Supreme Court and “packing” them with pro-New Dealers. The adoring public that gave Roosevelt his mandate expressed immediate outrage at the appearance of extra-constitutional measures to further the New Deal, even if they were taken to protect their government jobs, their right to organize and their right to retirement benefits. The court-packing plan went by the wayside, and Americans entered World War II five years later with a slightly improved economy (it had both improvements and setbacks), renewed national infrastructure and a skilled population prepared in every way to defend the American Promise at home and to promote its ideals abroad.

A Healthy Debate
Obama’s template for massive investment in public works and renewed role of government as guarantor of the American Promise are notably similar to Roosevelt’s. So, too, is the tenor of Obama’s opposition who, like Roosevelt’s detractors in the 1930s, worry that the recovery plan will extend the reach of the federal government and, in the long term, nurture the very dependency and irresponsibility it purports to reverse.

The debate is a healthy and necessary one because, as history shows, New Deals are just that — periodic opportunities to evaluate the terms of the American Promise. It is part of a discernible pattern of national renewal, and one in which every American can take an active part.

Faculty Mentors Are Key
Creighton’s faculty-scholars, through their accomplished teaching and cutting-edge research, program development and clinical training, prepare students to contribute to society. In fact, Creighton is nationally recognized for undergraduate faculty-mentored research and creative opportunities. To learn how you can help enrich students’ experiences by supporting faculty development, contact the Office of Development at 800.334.8794.
Ryan Yamada is part of a time-honored tradition of Hawaiians attending Creighton, a tradition that stretches back to the 1950s and before. In fact, Creighton currently enrolls more than 600 Hawaiian students — more than any other university on the East Coast, in the South or in the Midwest.

“I was grateful that I didn’t have to explain to people how I paddled from Hawaii and up the Mississippi to get to school,” Yamada says teasingly.

While Yamada, who is considering a career in medicine, is quick to joke, he’s also serious about his education. “I want to make a difference in current issues such as poverty and homelessness. When I leave Creighton, I want to say that I was able to make a difference in someone’s life and that because of my education, I will be able to pursue a career that will help many more people.”

In point of fact, the freshman finds he’s already being encouraged to make a difference, thanks to Creighton. Within the first week at Creighton, Yamada says, Welcome Week leaders took freshmen to a homeless shelter to illustrate the Jesuit commitment to social justice. For fall break, Yamada journeyed with other students to help with a Habitat for Humanity effort in Stroud, Okla., and will start volunteer work with the Madonna School in Omaha.

Nia Jarrett’s visit to Creighton over her high school’s winter break seemed to clinch the choice for this biology and pre-med major.

“After hearing and seeing all of what Creighton provides for its students to make them well-rounded and caring citizens of society,” she recalls, “I knew this was the school for me.”

Creighton is Jarrett’s first experience with Jesuit education. Given her goals and hopes, the Creighton freshman seems uniquely matched to the Jesuits’ view of and hope for the world.

“With all the negative influences in the
world, we (the future leaders) need to know how to change the world to a place that cares for one another and to speak up for those who are ignored.”

Coupled with the degree that she plans to earn in medicine some day, Jarrett couldn’t find a better foundation than a Jesuit education for envisioning — and working toward — a more just world.

**TYLER BURROUGHS**  
St. Louis

With academic interests in international relations and international law, Tyler Burroughs is the oldest of four children and the first in his immediate family to go to college.

For him, being the first is “both exciting and nerve-racking.” He is buoyed by strong family support. “My dad said it best: ‘The only thing you need to worry about is to study hard; other than that, just be yourself. I know you will do great.’”

Because of the proximity of Saint Louis University for Burroughs growing up, the Jesuits were a familiar force in his life. “I like (the Jesuit focus) on educating you not only in a scholarly way, but also spiritually. I wanted to go to a university that I knew would make me a complete, educated human being.”

Balancing family expectations and his own hopes and dreams is helped by Burroughs’ own gentle wit and perspective. “I know that I won’t save the world tomorrow before dinner,” the freshman says, “but after I’m done here, I’ll be a well-educated person working in the U.N. … and, of course, saving the world.”

**ANDREA ZAPATA**  
Barranquilla, Colombia

From Andrea Zapata’s home, the journey to Omaha takes many hours by air. She is only the second student from her high school to go to Creighton, and, like her predecessor a year before, she also watched her beautiful tropical country, from the air, recede into the clouds.

“I chose Creighton because it has many of the things I was looking for,” Zapata says. “It is a small university but with many colleges and careers; you can get to know everyone and have more direct contact with your professor.”

Being a Jesuit university also mattered to the young Colombian. “My father studied in a Jesuit university in Colombia, and he was very fond of Jesuit education methods,” Zapata confides.

Making that cultural transition is not always easy, but Zapata has found a welcoming environment at Creighton. “People here are very caring and show interest in me and in my culture. I was afraid that I would get rejected for being Hispanic and having an accent, but to the contrary Creighton has made me feel very comfortable.”

A prime motivation for Zapata in getting a Creighton education? “I would hope to be able to get an amazing job where I can be happy, see the world, and help others along the way.”

**SCOTT QUINN**  
Omaha

In sorting through childhood photos recently, Scott Quinn and his family “stumbled upon a baby picture of me eating with a Creighton bib on. It seems that I was destined to come here from the beginning!”

Quinn’s father Ron, BSBA’70, MBA’76, and brother Nick, (“my hero in my life”) now a senior, influenced the freshman’s college selection, as did Creighton’s Jesuit tradition and programs in his chosen field of study, theology and social justice.

“The idea of actually being active, of taking the initiative to go out and be with the disenfranchised, or live in solidarity with the poor, or fight for justice, that type of thinking gives me hope for the future,” said Quinn, a graduate of Creighton Prep High School. Becoming a secondary education theology teacher, especially at a Jesuit institution, is high on this freshman’s list.

Quinn finds Creighton’s true spirit reflected in the comments of fellow students. “I am overwhelmed by the times I hear people say that they are impressed by the friendly, family atmosphere that flourishes at Creighton. I am so glad that I followed my heart in coming here.”

**ERIN BORCHERS**  
Omaha

Erin Borchers, who posted the highest ACT score among Creighton freshmen (a perfect 36), says she was looking for a college experience that would make her “the best I can be.”

She says she’s found that in Creighton. Borchers’ brother, Ryan, graduated from Creighton in May, and her father, Pat, is academic vice president and professor of law.

“I want to get an education that will help me not only in the job market and in my future career, but one that will help me in all aspects of my life,” she says. “I want to say that I challenged myself academically and spiritually, that I developed what I’m good at but also tried new things.”

In visiting both Catholic and non-religiously affiliated schools, she “realized how important that aspect of my education was. I found out that I really did want to go to a school where faith and service mattered to people.”

**Scholarships Make a Difference**

Creighton University seeks to assure all bright students that an exceptional educational experience in the Jesuit, Catholic tradition is available to them regardless of income. Scholarships and financial aid make the difference in whether the best students choose to attend Creighton — the University was able to attract the outstanding freshman class of 2009-2010 because of the financial aid it could offer. Of all the funding Creighton awards undergraduate students for scholarships and financial aid, 92.2 percent comes from unrestricted general funds. To find out more about supporting students, contact the Office of Development at 800.334.8794.

**WILLING to LEAD**

THE CAMPAIGN FOR CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY
The Bishops’ Synod on the Bible: What Happened?
n August, Creighton University hosted the 72nd international meeting of the Catholic Biblical Association of America — attracting some 235 biblical scholars from the U.S. and around the world to campus for four days.

One of the panel discussions focused on the 12th general assembly of the Synod of Bishops, held last year in Rome and convoked by Pope Benedict XVI to address theoretical and practical issues regarding the place of Scripture in the life and mission of the Catholic Church.

The moderator for this panel discussion was the Most Rev. Emil A. Wcela, retired auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Rockville Centre in Long Island, N.Y. The panel featured four international scholars: Sr. Mary Coloe, P.B.V.M., who holds a joint teaching position at the Australian Catholic University and St. Paul’s Seminary, Brisbane; the Rev. Daniel Harrington, S.J., a professor of theology at Boston College and the author of numerous books, including *How Do Catholics Read the Bible?* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2005); the Rev. James Okoye, C.S.Sp., a professor of biblical studies at the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago; and the Rev. Jean-Pierre Ruiz, associate professor and chair of the Department of Theology and Religious Studies at St. John’s University, New York.

*Creighton University Magazine* asked the Rev. Dennis Hamm, S.J., Graff Chair in Catholic Theological Studies at Creighton, one of the organizers of the meeting, to distill the responses from this panel discussion and provide an overview and address the effects of this worldwide gathering of bishops.

*Creighton Magazine (CM): What’s a world synod of bishops in the Catholic Church? Have we always had them? Or is it something new?*

**Fr. Hamm:** The practice of a pope convening an assembly of bishops from around the world to advise him on a particular theme or set of issues is a product of the aftermath of Vatican Council II (1962-65). Between 1965 and 2008, there have been 12 such general synods. Many people will recall the second one (1971), where the bishops addressed the topic of justice in the world and asserted that work for social justice is an essential part of the proclamation of the gospel. The synod just prior to the 2008 meeting occurred in October 2005 and the topic was the Eucharist.

*CM: Why did Pope Benedict think it important to convene a general synod of bishops on the Bible?*

**Fr. Hamm:** First, he noted that focus on Scripture followed naturally from the 2005 synod’s topic of the Eucharist. The Bread of the Word goes with the Body of Christ at the center of the Church’s practice of faith. Moreover, he observed that, after more than 40 years since Vatican Council II, the Church’s implementation of the council’s teaching on the place of Scripture in our life and mission remains unfinished business. We can rejoice in some robust developments in this area: (1) a Lectionary (i.e., the book containing biblical selections for liturgical celebrations) that offers readings from about 70 percent of the Bible across three years of Sundays, and two years of weekday celebrations; (2) more homilies that are based on Scripture; (3) better preparation of priests in biblical study; (4) more study of Scripture by lay persons; and (5) fuller integration of Scripture in religious education generally.

But each one of these developments calls for more work and deeper integration. Some think the Lectionary could be improved, with a still fuller representation of Scripture and a better interface between Old Testament and New Testament readings. As for Vatican II’s mandate for biblically based homilies, while we have made progress, we need to get better at it. There is a hunger for the word among Catholics that is not being met everywhere; in some places,
Evangelical mega-churches are packed
with Roman Catholics who are not finding
in their parishes the teaching on the Bible
that they seek. While there is plenty of
scholarly material out there by Catholic
authors, we still need more and even
better resources — in all social media (TV,
Internet, CDs, DVDs, podcasts, study
programs) — that address what has to be
acknowledged as general biblical illiteracy.

**CM: How does a general episcopal
synod work? What is the process?**

**Fr. Hamm:** After a pope calls for a
synod, national episcopal conferences
of bishops elect some of their number to
represent them at the meeting in Rome.
As a stimulus to begin to open up the
topic and to get a feel for how the chosen
issue is experienced in various parts of
the world Church, a committee prepares
lineamenta, a series of observations and
questions intended to explore the issue
and evoke responses from the bishops
of the world. Those responses are
then summarized in what is called an
instrumentum laboris, which is exactly
what it sounds like, a working paper that
provides the basis for the presentations at
the assembly itself. (Curious? Google those
Latin labels, and the search engine will
take you right to those texts on the Vatican
website. These preparatory documents are
worth reading in themselves.)

**CM: How many finally go to the
meeting?**

**Fr. Hamm:** At that October 2008 synod
on Scripture, there were 253 synod
participants.

**CM: And what came out of the
meeting?**

**Fr. Hamm:** Well, for starters, you
have 310 highly placed individuals
from around the world who have been
sensitized to the need to become more
proactive in promoting biblical literacy
and the deeper integration of Scripture
into the life and mission of the Church.
Then there are the texts that have
emerged in the process. First there are
those preparatory documents that I have
mentioned. Other significant texts came
out during the process, including an
address by Rabbi Shear-Yashuv Cohen,
the chief rabbi of Haifa, and one by
Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of
Constantinople, both available in Origins,
the Catholic documentary service. The
homilies of Pope Benedict, at Masses at
the beginning and end of the synod, are
also available in Origins; they are not only
informative regarding his mind on some
of the issues at the synod, they are also
inspiring models of the biblically based
homily the Church has been advocating
since Vatican II. Benedict not only
illuminates the Scripture readings of the
day, he applies them to the concerns of
the moment. Finally, there is the “Message
to the People of God,” summarizing the
synod’s thoughts issued at the end of
the meeting (see Origins, vol. 38, no. 22
[Nov. 6, 2008] pp. 341-349) and
then a more extensive set
of 55 propositions

(paragraphs, really) giving a multitude of
observations and practical conclusions,
accessible online at www.zenit.org/article-
24448?l=english.

**CM: What do members of the Catholic
Biblical Association learn from this
world synod of bishops on the word of
God?**

**Fr. Hamm:** Those of us who are
privileged to work as professional
students and teachers of the Bible always
need to remember that the Scriptures
originated in faith communities and
are still meant to serve the faith of
those communities. We can become so
fascinated solving the puzzle of what a
document meant in its original cultural
setting that we can neglect to bring that
meaning into the present, to answer
the inevitable question, “So what?”
Even when we think we have arrived at
something close to the original meaning,
the job is only half complete. The goal is
to show how these ancient writings can
nurture the faith of believers today.

When scholars theorize about biblical
interpretation, we sometimes speak of
“the hermeneutical circle.” The phrase
sounds like something esoteric, even
occult, but it simply refers to the fact
that the interpretation of an ancient text
involves studying the text first in its
original context, in all its dimensions
(documentary, culturally, historically,
ecclesiastically), and then moving to our
context, in all of those same dimensions
as we experience them in our own day,
which has surprisingly much in common
with the ancient world, and also much
that differs from those earlier times and
places.

The current retrieval of the ancient
tradition the monks called lectio divina
provides a helpful reminder that Bible
study is incomplete until we take the text
personally — that is to listen for how it
speaks to us and me, now, and to pray
about it. The monastic tradition speaks
of four movements or processes in lectio
divina. (1) Lectio refers to the reading
of the text, and can include study. (2)
Meditatio, meditation, refers to any way
of working actively with the text, “entering”
it imaginatively, applying it to one’s
own experience and that of one’s faith community or the church and to the world as a whole. (3) Oratio, praying, is simply speaking to God as the text prompts us. (4) Contemplatio, contemplation, entails listening to the text in a way that allows God to call us to further conversion. Finally, Pope Benedict reminds us in homilies and other writings that the process of interpreting and responding to Scripture is not complete until we put what we hear into loving action in our daily life. Only then do we carry out Jesus’ mandate to “hear the word of God and do it” (Luke 8:21 and 11:28).

The positive gain in the current popularity of lectio divina is the way it highlights that the biblical word of God is meant to be taken personally for the nurturing of faith. But biblical scholars are careful to issue a caveat: Any praying with Scripture that is not accompanied by an ongoing habit of studying the literal, original meaning in its historical and cultural context can easily lead to approaching the biblical text as a kind of Rorschach inkblot onto which one projects one’s own preoccupations rather than listening to the word in the full context of the whole Bible as understood in the context of the living tradition of the Church. As St. Thomas Aquinas insisted, the spiritual sense must always be grounded in the literal sense.

The synod’s emphasis on the place of Scripture in the mission of the Church gives biblical specialists a healthy nudge. Like every other academic field, biblical studies as practiced in academe, where most of us scholars make our living, encourages the kind of research and writing that leads to specialization. Graduate study in the Bible encourages one to become, say, a Johannine scholar, or an expert in Luke-Acts, or the Prophets, or Paul, or the Pentateuch. Universities and professional journals rejoice in specialists, but faith communities hunger for generalists. As in the realm of our health-care system, the Church needs more biblical scholars who are “general practitioners.” A good general practitioner of the study of Scripture has to go deep in some part of the biblical tradition to get a professional sense of the issues and methods involved. But as teachers and mediators of scholarship, we need to “go broad” — know the whole thing well — to show how it all hangs together, especially how the Christian Scriptures work with their Jewish roots in what we call the Old Testament.

For Christians, the whole Bible — Old Testament and New — is all about Jesus. Christians are not really a “people of the Book.” We are people of a Person, Jesus Christ. We recognized the Hebrew Bible as Sacred Scripture that points, surprisingly, to Jesus. The New Testament books spell out that connection between what we call the Old Testament and Jesus. We take the first testament seriously both because God revealed himself first to the people of Israel, with whom he made a covenant never revoked, and also because Israel gave us Jesus and the first Christians, and Israel’s Scriptures provide for Christians the language for understanding Jesus.

**CM: What is the message of this synod for the average Catholic?**

**Fr. Hamm:** Simple: Every Catholic should own a Bible, read it, study and pray with it. This is necessary not only to address a kind of cultural illiteracy, but taking the Bible personally is the only way to remedy a very real spiritual malnutrition. From the middle of the 16th century to the middle of the 20th, we Catholics refrained from individual reading, study of and praying with Scripture because such practices were associated with Luther’s emphasis on sola Scriptura (“Scripture alone”). Vatican Council II recognized that state of affairs and initiated a recovery program that the recent world bishops’ synod has encouraged us to continue with more vigor. We have plenty of help to do this. For personal study, I recommend either The Catholic Study Bible or The Saint Mary’s Press College Study Bible. Plunge in anywhere, and work through a book of the Bible, using notes and maps, for just 20 minutes a day. Then pray about what you learn for 10 minutes. Your mind and heart will love it. The readings at Eucharist will take on new life. Your new relationship with the word of God will start showing in what you think and do.
A Matter of

INTEGRITY

What exactly is integrity and why is it so critical for today’s leaders to possess?

By Robert H. Moorman, Ph.D.
Robert Daugherty Chair in Management
Director of Creighton’s Anna Tyler Waite Center for Leadership

and

Roger Fransecky, Ph.D.
Founder and CEO of the Apogee Group
Clinical Professor of Leadership
Over the past two years, we each have been involved in a number of conversations about leader integrity, either for business research articles on integrity and leadership, for leadership courses we are teaching, for our leadership coaching and consulting work, or for our work developing and hosting the Leadership Conversations series sponsored by the Creighton University College of Business and Cox Business.

We have learned that: 1) leader integrity is universally held as one of the, if not the, most important leadership attributes; and 2) its importance is rivaled only by our lack of clarity of what it truly means and why it is so important. Too often, our approach to leader integrity follows Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart’s famous line about pornography, “I can’t define it, but I know it when I see it.”

Leadership expert Tony Simons, author of The Integrity Dividend, notes that, in 2005, “integrity” was the single most looked-up word in Merriam-Webster’s online dictionary — suggesting that “people are very interested in the concept [of integrity], but are not exactly sure what integrity means.” While Merriam-Webster defines integrity as a “firm adherence to a code of especially moral or artistic values,” defines integrity as “part of [a leader’s] being, not as dogma” and emerges from leaders who “have a true sense of themselves.”

A second classification promulgated by Palanski and Yammarino focuses on consistency in a leader’s words and actions. Often captured by clichés such as “walk the talk” or “practice what you preach,” word/deed consistency refers to a leader who, as James Kouzes and Barry Posner note in The Leadership Challenge, will DWYSYWD — “Do What You Say You Will Do.”

In The Integrity Dividend, Simons calls word/deed consistency “behavioral integrity” and his research shows that follower perceptions of a leader’s word/deed consistency are directly linked to various measures of financial performance and “might be a more important performance driver than employee satisfaction, commitment, sense of trust or feelings of fairness.”

A third classification or definition describes the special case of consistency in the face of adversity. A leader with integrity will not only take a position that is consistent with his or her values and pronouncements when things are going...
well, but will also do so when faced with a threat challenging that position. This occurs when a leader remains steadfast even when confronted with challenges or temptations. As Lynne McFall notes in the journal Ethics, “We admire those who stand up for their beliefs when they have something to lose.”

Among many of the leaders we interviewed, this concept informed their definitions of integrity. They often spoke of the willingness to admit failure, regardless of what was at stake. Andrea Ragnetti, our most recent guest for Leadership Conversations and the CEO of Philips Consumer Lifestyle, particularly imbibes the willingness to take risks and stand up for what you believe in, in his definition of leader integrity. He told us, “It takes courage to accept the consequences of your choices, and such courage is the hallmark of a person with integrity.”

**Integrity and Consistency with External Values**

Is an internal consistency — either between values and beliefs or words and actions — enough to be judged by others as having integrity? While it does inform us of someone’s integrity, it is an incomplete picture. Integrity becomes simply a judgment about process (How consistent are you?), rather than a judgment about content (About what are you consistent?). This can be troubling.

For example, in the leadership classes we teach, students often ask the question, “Was Hitler (or another example of an evil person) a good leader?” We never believe that the student is seeking a justification for Hitler’s actions. We just believe the student is trying to argue a more academic point that leadership may be more about the process of change rather than the content of that change. We answer this by asking: Is leadership a value-free process or is it appropriate to include an evaluation of what the leader asked followers to do? Much discussion ensues.

The same type of question could be asked about leader integrity. Are we simply judging integrity on internal consistency or is it better to include an evaluation of how appropriate the consistent words or actions are? We believe there is great value in expanding the internal consistency definitions to include judgments of external consistency — judgments regarding the degree to which what leaders believe, profess and do are consistent with others’ beliefs about what is right, moral and just.

In our conversation with Ragnetti, he attributed his integrity to both “a group of universal ethical values and a set of personal values that are nonnegotiable.” His integrity emerged not only from his own core values, but also from the way those values aligned with universal values held by his followers.

Peter Cheese, Accenture’s managing director of human performance, told us that he believes that, at its core, leader integrity is based on a trust between leader and follower. That trust is created by the leader’s internal consistency of his or her values, beliefs and actions, but it also reflects the follower’s belief that the leader understands the follower’s needs, values and perspectives. Trust occurs when followers believe not only that their leader’s words and actions are aligned, but that those words and actions align with the values of those they lead.

Rajesh Subramanian, senior vice president for FedEx’s international marketing, offered an example of how his integrity is shaped by his ability to adjust and align his values to the values held by his followers. When he learned that FedEx Canada had slipped in the “Top 50 Places to Work” rankings, he knew the best way to solve this was to respond directly to FedEx Canada’s concerns. Always a place where “high touch” leadership practices were valued, he launched a marathon of conversations with his employees, or in FedEx language, he “walked the belt.” When his associates sensed his personal commitment to responding to their concerns, morale surged and performance improved. Subramanian correctly aligned his actions with the values held by those he was leading, and, the following year, FedEx Canada was back on the list.

The practices of these and other leaders show us that integrity is not only about the consistency of internal beliefs, values and actions, but is also a consistency with the moral frameworks that show us what is right within our organizations and communities. We believe it is better to think of integrity as not only being consistent, but also as being consistently right.
Why Do These Definitions of Integrity Matter?

In sum, leaders with integrity offer a range of consistencies in their values, beliefs, words and actions — such that these are all internally consistent with each other and are externally consistent with the values and moral fabric of the constituencies they are trying to lead. Why is it important to believe that leader integrity considers both internal and external consistencies? The answer lies in the information that each judgment makes available to followers, because these definitions offer key insight into why leader integrity matters so much.

One particular paradox of the leadership process is that followers, who are normally consigned to the less powerful role in the leadership relationship, actually control a very important initial decision: the decision to follow. Much of what goes on early in the leadership process is the leader trying to convince followers that following him or her is the best course. For example, think about what all presidential candidates do before elections. Given all the pandering, handshaking and baby kissing, is there really a question of whether followers have power?

Because a decision to follow is really a follower prediction of what the leader will do in the future, anything like integrity that links past and present values, beliefs and words to future actions becomes a very important, if not the most important, judgment. The decision to follow is really a “leap of faith” decision that the leader will follow through on what was promised. Integrity matters because it communicates fundamentally important information that helps make a decision to follow quite easy to accept.

Based on internal consistency definitions, integrity tells followers that the leader’s values, beliefs and words will directly lead to future actions. When followers are deciding to follow, they do not have access to the future results of the leadership effort. Instead, followers are asked to predict what will happen and, based on the leader’s words, decide whether that prediction warrants the sacrifices required of followership. Integrity means that those words matter and can be trusted.

Additionally, if we accept the view that leader integrity also includes external consistency, attributions of leader integrity tell followers about the morality of what the leader will do and what the leader will ask the follower to do. The information conveyed by integrity would also tell followers whether the leader would ever ask them to act against their own values and morals. External consistency means that the followers can trust that the leader would not place them in morally or ethically dubious positions.

Leading with Integrity: The Best Option

We believe leaders have many reasons to act with integrity because of what integrity is and what it signals to followers. Do you, as a leader, give your followers the information they need to decide to take the leap of faith and follow you? Integrity is your leadership brand; it communicates your value proposition of what following you will bring. We believe that all leaders will benefit from asking themselves the following:

- Do your followers know where you stand on both the articulated and unarticulated issues that may arise from your leadership effort? Can they predict your actions from your words, values and beliefs?

- Do your followers know that while you may ask them to perform in ways that may challenge their views of the world, your decisions will still be harmonious with their ethical standards and moral values? Do they know you may challenge them, but you would never violate their moral frames?

- Do your followers know that even when all else is falling down, there are previously known and agreed-to principles that will still be standing in the end? Do they know that even if circumstances turn virtually every other idea on its head, the compelling reasons to follow you still exist?

Why must followers know these things? Because followers must predict what will happen if they follow. With integrity, our past can convey our future and communicate how well that future will follow the past.

In a time when the “magical thinking” of cheap money, ever-rising portfolios, abundant natural resources and little accountability have so clearly led leaders astray, leading with integrity has never been more important. We must lead using the timeless values of honesty, courage and accountability. We can no longer allow greed to take trust and integrity hostage. People follow leaders they trust and the best way to elicit trust is to lead with integrity.

Ignatian Values Permeate Mission

Creighton University strives to educate women and men who are not only proficient in their professions but also enriched with a spirit of service to create a more just world. The Creighton mission is rooted in Jesuit, Catholic core values of self-awareness, integrity, love and service. These ideals are exhibited through the implementation of the mission throughout Creighton’s campus, schools, colleges and programs. Students become confident leaders because they are challenged to reflect on these transcendent values and incorporate ethical and moral principles into their lives, always keeping in mind the needs of those forgotten by society. To help strengthen Creighton’s mission and values, please contact the Office of Development at 800.334.8794.
Willing to Lead: Campaign for Creighton

Willing to Lead
Campaign Update

Gifts of All Sizes Truly Make a Difference for Our Students

Creighton University is experiencing a transformational time in our history because of the heartwarming groundswell of support from you, the University’s alumni and friends.

Sometimes you ask us if smaller gifts have an impact, and the unequivocal answer to that is a resounding yes.

A significant factor in the ongoing success of our Willing to Lead campaign is the broad base of support from alumni and friends at every giving level.

The campaign’s remarkable momentum is due to the record number of donors — 63,000 strong — and the fact that half of these are first-time donors. We are reaching such extraordinary milestones — $445 million to date — with gifts of all sizes.

These gifts — your gifts — have a huge impact on the University because they provide the current use funds to support scholarships and financial aid for our students. Of all the funding Creighton awards to undergraduate students for scholarships and financial aid, 92.2 percent comes from unrestricted general funds.

This year, your generosity helped us attract our largest, most academically talented freshman class ever, grow our overall enrollment to an all-time high of 7,385 and experience excellent retention rates. Your help ensures that students can come to Creighton — and stay at Creighton — to be prepared for professional distinction, ethical leadership and involved citizenship. Creighton is able to empower students to examine, engage and change the world in the Jesuit, Catholic tradition because, with your support, the University is able to provide the financial aid resources students need.

This is an exciting time of year at the University, for many reasons. The campus is bustling as students settle into their classes and their many other activities, and we just welcomed thousands of alumni for Reunion Weekend. The University is blessed to have so many alumni give back to Creighton through their reunion class gifts, which in turn help current students.

You may be hearing from one of those students soon, as our Fall Phonathon gets under way. Our student callers tell us they enjoy connecting with those who have gone before them and hearing your stories. Thank you for being so generous and allowing Creighton to pursue unprecedented opportunities for today’s students and tomorrow’s leaders.

Lisa D. Calvert
Vice President for University Relations

Message from Estate and Trust Services

Year-End Charitable Giving to Creighton

The following guidelines are offered to assist you as you contemplate making a year-end gift to Creighton.

Remember, only gifts completed by Dec. 31 can be used to reduce your taxes due on April 15, 2010. If you mail your year-end gift in the form of a check to Creighton, your gift is complete as of the date of the postmark. If you use a credit card, your gift is complete when the transaction is authorized by your bank. If you mail your signed charge authorization, make sure your letter is postmarked no later than Dec. 14. After that date, please contact the Office of Development at 800.334.8794, or make your gift online at www.creighton.edu/development.

Gifts of stocks and mutual funds offer benefits to you and to the University. Gifts of securities owned for more than one year entitle you to deduct fair market value without having to report the capital gains you would have realized if you had sold the investment. If stock you own has decreased in value from your original purchase price, you may want to consider selling it and gifting the net proceeds. That way, you may be able to claim both a loss on the stock and a charitable contribution deduction.

For securities electronically transferred from your account to Creighton’s, your gift is complete and valued on the date it reaches the University’s account. Gifts of stock certificates hand-delivered to Creighton are complete the day they are delivered; stock certificates and necessary stock powers sent by mail are complete as of the date of the postmark. If you ask a transfer agent to have shares you own re-registered in Creighton’s name, the gift is not complete until the re-registration is finalized on the corporation’s records. Because Creighton may be required to open a new account with the fund, gifts of mutual fund shares may take several weeks to transfer, so please plan ahead and allow extra time.

2009 is the final year for IRA owners age 70 or older to meet their charitable goals by making gifts directly from IRAs.

If you are interested in converting cash, securities or land into a life-income arrangement with Creighton, please call or write for a personalized proposal. You can contact us at 800.334.8794, giftplanning@creighton.edu or visit http://giftplanning.creighton.edu.

Steve Scholer, JD’79
Director of Estate & Trust Services
Whitten Installed as First Sekt Chair

Creighton University law professor Ralph Whitten was installed as the first holder of the Senator Allen A. Sekt Endowed Chair in Law on Sept. 8.

Whitten has been a professor of law at Creighton since 1977. He holds undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Texas and has a Master of Laws degree from Harvard. He teaches and writes in the area of civil procedure and conflict of laws.

The Sekt Endowed Chair in Law is the fourth endowed chair in the School of Law and the 33rd endowed chair at Creighton University.

Allen Sekt graduated from Creighton School of Law in 1936 and first practiced law in Sioux City, Iowa. He later moved to San Francisco, where he met his wife, Lillian.

While conducting business in Guam, he fell in love with the island and its residents; it became home to the Sekts for nearly 30 years. In Guam, Sekt launched a successful land development business, which included office and hotel projects. He started a car rental agency, a used car lot and later owned a car dealership. Perhaps most notably, Sekt was elected as a senator to the island’s legislature, and he became Guam’s voice in Congress during the 1970s.

In retirement, Sekt moved to Oahu, Hawaii, and later to Green Valley, Ariz. He died in 2007, at the age of 93, in Phoenix. Sekt left a rich legacy of public service to his adopted home of Guam and to the university he loved. Students in the School of Law have benefited from the Honorable Allen A. Sekt Endowed Scholarship, and will benefit in the future from the endowed chair that bears his name.

Kean’s Gift Supports University Archives

When alumni visit Creighton University, they usually meander around the campus and take in some of their favorite spots from their college days: a beloved residence hall, the Jesuit Gardens, St. John’s Church, the V.J. and Angela Skutt Student Center.

When Melissa Kean, Ph.D., MA’93, comes to campus, she makes a beeline to an obscure hideaway and hunkers down for a good long stay. She also returns the next day and as many times as she can before she returns to her home in Houston.

The object of her affection is nestled in the southeast corner of the lower level of the Reinert-Alumni Memorial Library — the Creighton University Archives. Many people are not even aware of its existence, but it holds such treasures as papers of the founding Creighton family, films, audio- and videotapes, photographs, the Creightonian student newspaper, yearbooks, commencement programs and much more historical memorabilia.

Kean’s interest in the University Archives is active on many levels. Kean, who is president of the National Alumni Board, graduated from Creighton with a master’s degree in history in 1993. She credits her life’s work to her Creighton mentors:

“I became a historian entirely because of the teachers I had in the Creighton history department. They gave me the tools I needed to succeed and after earning my Ph.D. in 2000, I was appointed Centennial Historian at Rice University in 2004,” she said. The heart of her work is archival research in the history of higher education.

“I care deeply about Creighton. It has done more for my family than I can ever repay and I see this as only one step that needs to be taken to ensure that its history is not lost.”

— Melissa Kean, Ph.D., MA’93

Curiously, she did not inhabit Creighton’s archives while she was a student. “I never used the University Archives while I was at Creighton, but my daughter began working in them as an intern when she arrived on campus four years ago and I’ve since spent a great deal of time there.”

Kean’s daughter, Maggie Kean Wissink, BA’09, who followed her mother by attaining a degree in history, plans to become an archivist herself and pursue a master’s degree in library and information sciences.

David Crawford, University archivist, knows the Keans well. “Melissa has a strong interest in libraries and history and her daughter Maggie was our first intern from the Creighton history department,” he said.

Kean’s love of all things historical led her and her husband, Steve, to make a generous gift to Creighton’s Publications Preservation Program. While working in the archives one day, she overheard Crawford talking about the need for archiving Creighton’s electronic information as it appears on web pages. She approached Creighton’s Office of Development to see how she could go about helping fund the electronic archival program.

“It is really important that we do this and she recognized that fact,” Crawford said.

“The electronic archiving of Creighton’s more recent digital information is a way to help preserve the record of the University in the modern era without burdening the physical archives,” Kean said.

“I care deeply about Creighton. It has done more for my family than I can ever repay and I see this as only one step that needs to be taken to ensure that its history is not lost.”

Thanks to the contributions of alumni and friends such as the Keans, Creighton is able to remain true to its roots, while always looking forward.

Indeed, the history of Creighton is filled with true visionaries who were committed to forming a university rooted in faith, committed to service and dedicated to rigorous scholarship. To join in this vision, contact the Office of Development at 800.334.8794.
Hartigan Receives Service Award

John Hartigan, BSM'41, MD'43, was honored Sept. 11 with the Creighton University School of Medicine’s Service Award. Hartigan earned his medical degree from Creighton University School of Medicine in 1943 and entered private practice in Omaha in 1947. For more than 60 years, he served as a contributed faculty member in the school’s Department of Internal Medicine, volunteering as a teacher and mentor to generations of Creighton medical students and residents.

During his long and illustrious career, Hartigan served in several capacities with the Omaha-Douglas County Medical Society. He was also a member of the Omaha-Douglas County Board of Health and served one term as board president. He was president of the Omaha-Douglas County Medical Society in 1969 and Nebraska governor of the American College of Physicians, 1970-1976.

Edward and Mary Lucretia Creighton Society

The Edward and Mary Lucretia Creighton Society is Creighton University’s premier donor recognition club. Donors at the Creighton Society level sustain the University through their unrestricted annual gifts. These generous contributions to the University are crucial to ensuring that Creighton is a leader in providing the highest quality Jesuit, Catholic education to our students. Alumni donors recognized at the Creighton Society level are identified as follows:

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

Sr. Rene Backe, C.S.A., MChSp, Gallup, N.M., has been appointed director of Sacred Heart Retreat Center in Gallup by Bishop James Wall. Todd M. Starr, JD, Pagosa Springs, Colo., has been named county attorney for Archuleta County, Colo.

Col. Ronald J. Place, MD, Fort Knox, Ky., has been named hospital commander for Ireland Army Community Hospital in Fort Knox.


Arturo Vazquez, JD, El Paso, Texas, opened a free legal clinic in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, providing free immigration assistance to the needy.

R. Bryan Bell, DDS, Portland, Ore., an oral surgeon and faculty member at Oregon Health Sciences Center in Portland, climbed Mt. Hood in June 2009, reaching its summit. Dr. Steven C. Cunningham, BSChm, Catonsville, Md., department of surgery faculty-fellow in liver and pancreas at Johns Hopkins University, wrote an English/Spanish bilingual children’s book, Dinosaur Name Poems, published by Three Conditions Press in January 2009. The book was translated by his wife, Myriam Gorpose, Ph.D.

Lawrence J. Sutton, DDS, Ocala, Fla., climbed Mt. Hood in June 2009, reaching its summit. Sutton also received his Matership of the Academy of General Dentistry and is president-elect of the Florida Dental Association central district.

Sarah C. Ray, PharmD, Milwaukee, has been named chair-elect of American Pharmacists Association’s Academy of Pharmacy Practice and Management Section on Clinical/Pharmacotherapeutic Practice.
America Young Makes Hollywood Splash (or Sparkle?)

When Danielle America Young, BA’00, headed for Hollywood a few years ago, she was armed with talent (lots of it), a Creighton degree in theater and, as one professor put it, “sparkle.”

At least, that’s how Creighton’s Bill Van Deest describes her. “She was a great student,” recalls Van Deest, associate professor and theater coordinator, “very hardworking, very motivated. And she had, I guess you could say, a ‘sparkle’ to her.”

Today, that same sparkle is lighting up Young’s career. The 30-year-old Creighton alumna’s work not only encompasses acting, but production, direction, casting direction and stunts.

Among her credits, the Creighton alumna (who goes by her middle name, America, after her grandmother), served as the voice of Wendy Darling in the 2008 animated Disney movie Tinker Bell.

“Animation and voice-over are the hardest (media) to get into,” says Young, a native of Santa Fe, N.M. “Most people can do up to 30 voices, so the jobs that come open in animation just aren’t there.”

“I was so happy to get the part,” Young explains, adding that she contributed a few more voices to Tinker Bell, including a couple of fairies.

But let’s back up a bit. Just how did Young get from here to the coveted “there” that is Hollywood?

“I started out at Creighton in pre-med,” she says, which explains her interest in organic chemistry and even mammalian physiology. “But I’ve always loved theater. I graduated at 21 — and thought I’d go out to L.A. and just ‘get my teeth kicked in.’”

So, she kind of steeled herself against what she thought would be the inevitable: failure. But it still hasn’t happened.

And, sure, that may be due to just plain talent, but also focus, at least that’s how Van Deest sees it.

He relates a story or two that might just sum up Young’s personality and drive.

Back in her Creighton theater days, “Danielle was dancing on-stage, and, at the time, she hated dancing, didn’t think she was very good at it,” Van Deest said. “She got her foot in the door.”

And, thankfully, Young says, no theater skill was necessarily included makeup, raised her hand and said, ‘I do,’ and right away she was in the cast,” Van Deest said. “She got her foot in the door.”

And, thankfully, Young says, no theater skill was completely new to her, in large part because of her Creighton preparation.

“The Creighton theater department is so personalized, and they made you think outside the box. They encouraged us to try everything, to find what fit.” As a student, Young organized the Theater Club, started a variety show. She threw herself into wardrobe and set design, as well as acting. And she cast around on campus for clubs to join for a broader experience.

Young’s Feel Good Film Festival, which she created a few years ago, may be the best metaphor for her work right now.

“We only screen movies that are comedies or have happy endings — that show the beauty and hope in the world. It’s the only festival like it on the continent. I’m extremely proud of that.”
Marriages

89 Christine Heer, BSMth, and Brian Vuell, June 6, 2009, living in Omaha.


Births


90 Dr. Tri H. Tran, BS, and Tami Tran, Omaha, a daughter, Catherine Johanna “Cate,” July 30, 2009. Jeff Wright and Marlene Wall Wright, BSBA, St. Paul, Minn., a son, Landon Donaldson, Sept. 18, 2008.


87 Carson R. Wirges, BA, and Kristin Wirges, Houston, a son, MaxWell Creighton, June 2, 2009.


March Madness 2010!

This is your chance to win Missouri Valley Conference men’s basketball tickets! Enter, update or confirm your contact information on Jay2Jay and be entered to win two all-session tickets to the MVC tournament. Plus, two nights at the Hyatt Regency Riverfront Hotel! Visit http://giving.creighton.edu/mvc and click the © Jay2Jay link.
Alumni Honors

School of Medicine Alumni Merit Award

Allen Dvorak, MD’69, received the School of Medicine Alumni Merit Award on Sept. 11.

Dvorak, a diagnostic radiologist, grew up in Howells, Neb. He was a full-time faculty member in the Department of Radiology at Creighton University, 1973-83, serving as associate chair of radiology for two years. He left the University to pursue private practice at various community hospitals.

Dvorak has served on the Nebraska Board of Health, the Health Planning Council of the Midlands and many other organizations concerned with equal access to quality and affordable health care. He is a past president of the Nebraska Medical Association and the Metro Omaha Medical Society.

He also has been active as a community volunteer, serving such organizations as the Archdiocese of Omaha, Boys Town, Christ the King Catholic Church and Creighton University School of Medicine. He is a member of the School of Medicine’s Alumni Advisory Board.

John Blazek, who earned a bachelor’s degree in pharmacy from Creighton University in 1977, received the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions Alumni Merit Award on Oct. 2.

Blazek, a well-known Omaha businessman and community volunteer, also received a master’s degree in business administration from Creighton in 1986 while working as a pharmacist at Clarkson Hospital and Kohll’s Community Pharmacies. He co-founded his first business, Total Home Care, in 1981.

Today he is the president and owner of JMB Capital, managing director and co-owner of Heartland Health Therapy, and director and co-owner of Pioneer Publishing.

Blazek has also been active as a volunteer for Skutt Catholic High School and KVSS Spirit Catholic Radio and as economic development co-chair for the Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce board.

Deaths

37 Elisabeth (Roennau) Young, PhD, Annapolis, Md., July 16, 2009.
More than 1,400 alumni gathered for reunions this fall. Watch for more information on the 2010 reunion dates coming soon.
Catholic Comments

Creighton theology professors Wendy Wright, Ph.D., the Kenefick Chair in the Humanities, and John O'Keefe, Ph.D., the A.F. Jacobson Chair in Communications, are the hosts of a weekly Internet podcast — Catholic Comments — dedicated to the discussion of the contemporary Catholic Church from an Ignatian perspective. Shows can be found online by visiting the Center for Catholic Thought (http://cct.creighton.edu) and clicking on the Catholic Comments link. The podcast is also available for downloading and subscriptions on iTunes. The Willing to Lead campaign seeks support for faculty initiatives and Creighton’s Jesuit, Catholic mission.
Community Outreach

Creighton University operates in partnership with communities locally, regionally, nationally and globally to share new knowledge, advance scientific discovery, serve the poor and marginalized, care for the sick, engage complex societal issues, improve the social and economic landscape, and educate ethical leaders who will pursue a more just world.

For this is Our World. And this is Our Promise.

Read more in Creighton’s newly published community relations report, available online at: www.creighton.edu/publicrelations/newscenter/publications