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It is a safe bet that 10 or 20 years from now the sun will rise on an America filled with millions of inventions that do not currently exist. The questions are: What will those inventions be? Will they make the world a better place? And who will bring them to market? Creighton’s entrepreneurship programs are helping provide some answers.

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Frank Ayers, DDS’69, is more than an administrator and faculty member in the School of Dentistry — he is an institution. Ayers is retiring June 30, after 38 years of service to Creighton University.


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A Time of New Beginnings

More than 1,300 students walked across the stage during May commencement ceremonies, as we sent forth another bright, energetic group of graduates into a world in need of their professionalism, creativity and compassion.

Graduation is a time of reflection, a time of new beginnings, and a time that calls us to action.

At May commencement, we presented our Magis Award to the Creighton health care teams that traveled to the Dominican Republic to treat the victims of the devastating earthquake in Haiti. Creighton physicians Charles Filipi, M.D., and Brian Loggie, M.D., served as our commencement speakers — challenging our newest graduates to take bold action to serve our world.

As our health care teams proved, committed, compassionate individuals working together for a common cause can make a tremendous difference in the lives of others, especially those in most need of our mercy.

Developing women and men for others is the hallmark of Creighton’s Jesuit, Catholic education. But it is not the only measure of our success.

We are committed to developing graduates who can compete in this highly competitive job market and succeed in their chosen professions. We want to provide our undergraduate students with the tools necessary to enter graduate or professional school, if they so desire.

According to the latest data, we have been exceeding national averages in this area. In 2009, 93 percent of our undergraduate students reported being employed or in graduate, professional or volunteer programs within nine months of graduation. Nationally, the placement rate is about 68 percent.

Despite a challenging economy, campus recruiting activity by major employers has not slowed down — evidence that employers recognize the value of a Creighton education.

And salary averages for our undergraduates remain competitive with national salary data, even though many of our graduates stay in the Midwest, where the cost of living is much lower.

A Creighton education is a sound investment for our students, both undergraduate and professional.

As an institution, we are taking deliberate steps to ensure that we continue to provide an excellent educational value — consistent with our Jesuit, Catholic mission.

To that end, we have embarked on a Strategic Program Prioritization. Through this University-wide undertaking, we will prioritize all of the University’s programs and services in order to focus our efforts and resources on those initiatives that are most needed and those undertakings that we do extraordinarily well.

Our online offerings continue to grow, with a new web-based Master’s of Science in Information Technology Management. This new program is designed for IT professionals who want to move into leadership roles.

In all of these initiatives, our focus remains squarely on our students. And they are responding positively. According to a recent survey, 94 percent of our seniors reported being satisfied with the overall quality of instruction at Creighton, and we continue to retain and graduate students at a very high rate.

Indeed, much good work is being done here.

Thank you for your continued support of Creighton University this past academic year. Please enjoy this issue of the magazine. You and your family are in my prayers during these summer months.

John P. Schlegel, S.J.
President
McDermott Named Men's Basketball Coach

Greg McDermott was named the 16th head men’s basketball coach at Creighton University in April, replacing Dana Altman, who accepted the head coaching position at the University of Oregon.

Before coming to Creighton, McDermott was the head coach for four seasons at Iowa State. Before that, he coached for five seasons at Northern Iowa, which competes in the Missouri Valley Conference with Creighton, leading the Panthers to three NCAA appearances. McDermott is 149-131 in nine seasons as a Division I coach, with a career mark of 280-195 over 16 seasons.

Bruce Rasmussen, Creighton’s director of athletics, said he was looking for some key characteristics in a new coach, among them: documented success at the Division I level; an understanding of Creighton, the Missouri Valley Conference and the Midwest; a passion and intelligence for teaching the game of basketball; a commitment to family values; and outstanding personal character and integrity.

“I am confident that as you get to know Coach McDermott, you will see that he is an absolutely perfect fit for that vision,” Rasmussen said.

McDermott was welcomed as the new coach at an April 27 news conference, held on the floor of D.J. Sokol Arena in the Wayne and Eileen Ryan Athletic Center. He described the Creighton position not as a rebuilding job but “a retooling job.”

“This program, this University, is really a benchmark for all to follow,” McDermott said, “and we have to keep it there, and try to take it to another level.”

He added: “We’re here to win championships. We’re going to push these guys as hard as we can and do it in the right way, an instructive way” to get the players to reach their full potential on the basketball court and in the classroom.

“I think when you leave a game, you will feel like you have watched a team that has left it all on the floor.”

McDermott and his wife, Theresa, have three children, Nick (20), Doug (18) and Sydney (9). Doug will follow his father to Creighton and play basketball.

Burkey Named Senior Vice President for Operations

Daniel Burkey, BSBA’81, has been named to the newly created position of senior vice president for operations at Creighton University, effective July 1.

In this position, he will assume responsibility for the financial operations of the University and provide direct oversight of the Administration, Finance, General Counsel, Information Technology, Student Services and University Relations functions.

“I am pleased, along with the University’s Board of Directors, that Dan has agreed to accept this new challenge on behalf of Creighton University,” said the Rev. John P. Schlegel, S.J., Creighton president. “As the higher education environment has become increasingly more complex and permeated with rapid change, his experience and familiarity with Creighton and its operations will facilitate an agile and adaptive structure that can quickly respond to internal and external forces.”

Burkey has served as Creighton’s vice president for Administration and Finance since April 2001 and has been at the University for nearly 20 years. Prior to that, he served as a financial consultant and auditor with an international public accounting and consulting firm. The search for a replacement to fill Burkey’s current position will begin immediately.
Creighton Celebrates Commencement

Creighton University honored more than 1,300 graduates at commencement ceremonies on May 15. The University also recognized the following individuals for their contributions to education and the community.

Honorary Degrees
Philanthropic and community leaders Charles, BSC’49, and Mary Heider each received an honorary doctor of humane letters, for leadership in civic organizations as well as their ongoing support for and investment in higher education and cancer research.

Over the years, the Heiders have made substantial investments in the future of Creighton. They are the only donors in the history of the University to endow two chairs — one in the School of Medicine that has become internationally recognized in the field of cancer research; the other, an endowed Jesuit Faculty Chair, whose chairholder has won numerous top awards in photographic journalism. The Heiders have enhanced student life by funding renovations to the upperclass residence hall named in their honor and by supporting Creighton athletic programs for nearly 25 years.

In 2002, the Heiders received the Wisconsin Province of the Society of Jesus Ignatian Leadership Award. Charles Heider was awarded the University’s Alumni Achievement Citation in 2003.

Presidential Medallions
The Mid-America Council of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) and the Sisters of Mercy received Presidential Medallions to coincide with their centennial observances.

For 100 years, the Boy Scouts of America has instilled values of character, citizenship and leadership in area youth. The Mid-America Council includes more than 500 communities in Nebraska, Iowa and South Dakota, involving 33,000 Scouts and nearly 10,000 volunteer leaders. Receiving the award was Lloyd Roitstein, president and Scout executive of BSA Mid-America Council.

The Sisters of Mercy of the Americas established St. Catherine’s Hospital in the Forest Hill district of Omaha in 1910; it was the first hospital in the city to accept maternity patients. St. Catherine’s School of Nursing later became affiliated with Creighton University. Sister Norita Cooney, president of the Sisters of Mercy West Midwest Community, accepted the award.

Magis Award
Creighton also presented its Magis Award to Creighton-led health care teams that treated victims of the Jan. 12 Haiti earthquake. During a three-week period, five teams rotated into Jimani, Dominican Republic, providing medical supplies and lifesaving medical services. Accepting the award was Charles Filipi, M.D., professor of surgery, who coordinated the teams from Omaha, and Brian Loggie, M.D., chief of surgical oncology and Creighton’s Harold J. Bonnstedt Endowed Chair in Preventative Medicine. Loggie led the first health care team.

Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Award for Teaching Achievement
Victoria Roche, Ph.D., School of Pharmacy and Health Professions, received the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Award for Teaching Achievement. Roche is a researcher, instructor of pharmaceutical science, assistant dean and faculty adviser to the pharmacy honor society. Roche also teaches courses in Native American culture and health with an emphasis on service-learning and reflective writing pedagogy. Creighton students described her as a distinguished educator who embraces the Jesuit value of service that is a Creighton hallmark.

Two Students Named Goldwater Scholars
Creighton students Michael Davidson and Anya Burkart were awarded prestigious Goldwater Scholarships for 2010. Goldwater Scholarships are awarded annually, based on academic merit, to outstanding students who plan to pursue careers in natural science, mathematics or engineering.

Both Burkart, of Monument, Colo., and Davidson, a native of Kearney, Neb., now living in Omaha, just completed their junior years.

Burkart, a double major in physics and German, has worked in the laboratory of Creighton physics professor Mike Nichols, Ph.D., collecting and analyzing data on cell elasticity. The Clare Booth Luce Women in Science scholar at Creighton, she has presented her research at national conferences and completed a summer internship at the Universitat des Saarlandes, in Saarbrucken, Germany, as a RISE (Research in Science Education) scholar. Her future plans include attending graduate school and earning a doctorate in biological physics.

Davidson, a biochemistry major and biology minor, has served as a research assistant in Creighton’s chemistry department since 2009. A recipient of a dean’s undergraduate summer research scholarship and a Ferlic research scholarship, Davidson’s research has focused on the development of a novel technique to remineralize tooth enamel. He has worked primarily with chemistry professor Stephen Gross, Ph.D. Upon graduation, Davidson plans to pursue a joint M.D./Ph.D. degree and conduct translational research in oncology.
Creighton Honored in NCAA Academic Report

Creighton University is one of only 73 universities and colleges to have four or more of its athletic teams recognized in the NCAA’s Division I Academic Performance Program Report released in May. The report looks at academic achievement and honors those teams, by sport, in the top 10 percent nationally. Creighton men’s golf and women’s volleyball, cross country and golf were recognized.

Of note: Creighton student-athletes carried a cumulative 3.31 grade-point average in the fall of 2009 (women’s cross country had the highest cumulative GPA at 3.62); Creighton tied for 23rd nationally with a 94 percent graduation rate; and Creighton has won the Missouri Valley Conference All-Academic Award five of the past six seasons.

Lynch Honored for Cancer Research

Henry Lynch, M.D., director of Creighton’s Hereditary Cancer Center and the Charles F. and Mary C. Heider Endowed Chair in Cancer Research, received the prestigious Joseph H. Burchenal Memorial Award for Clinical Research from the American Association of Cancer Research during an April 17 ceremony in Washington, D.C.

Lynch has long been considered a pioneer in the field of hereditary cancer research and prevention. He was the first to describe a hereditary breast/ovarian cancer syndrome, findings that led to the identification of the BRCA1 and BRCA2 mutations that predispose women to this syndrome. Hereditary nonpolyposis colorectal cancer, also known as the Lynch Syndrome, is the most common form of hereditary colorectal cancer and is named after him. In 2009, Lynch was presented the National Consortium of Breast Centers IMPACT award.

Magis Productions Receives Chief Standing Bear Award

Magis Productions, founded by noted Creighton photojournalist the Rev. Don Doll, S.J., received the 2010 Chief Standing Bear Organizational Award during a May 14 ceremony in the Nebraska State Capitol rotunda. The award was presented by the Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs, recognized Fr. Doll and his colleague Carol McCabe for giving “voice to Native American peoples” and promoting “social justice for all” through photography.

Fr. Doll has photographed children of St. Augustine Indian Mission each year since 2005 for the award-winning St. Augustine fine art calendar. The 2009 calendar was named the nation’s top non-profit calendar by the Calendar Marketing Association. Fr. Doll also photographs students of Red Cloud Indian School in Pine Ridge, S.D., for its fine arts calendar.

Fr. Doll is a professor of photojournalism at Creighton and holds the Charles and Mary Heider Endowed Jesuit Chair.

Home Plate

A watercolor painting of Rosenblatt Stadium by Maureen Beat, administrative assistant in Creighton’s Ratio Studiorum Program, is featured on a special commemorative plate designed by nationally known fused glass artist Peggy Karr. At right, Beat stands with the “Remember Rosenblatt” Plate in front of the stadium. Plans call for Rosenblatt Stadium, home to the College World Series, to be razed sometime after this season, with the NCAA baseball tournament moving to a new downtown ballpark in 2011. “Hopefully, the plate will enable history and stories to be shared with those generations to come,” Beat said. “Peggy and I are now collaborating on the next plate for the ‘Hometown Heritage’ series.”
Solar Panels, Wind Turbines Power New Degree Program

Solar panels and wind turbines will soon dot the Creighton campus, powering a commitment by the University not only to the use of alternative energy but to a new degree program in energy technology.

The $2.6 million project, funded mostly by federal grants, will involve the installation of a solar array that, once complete, will be the largest in the state.

It also will help establish a new energy technology major at Creighton. Physics professor Michael Cherney, Ph.D., one of the leaders on the project, said the new degree program will include courses on the science, public policy and ethics of alternative energy.

“The curriculum that is being developed for the program combines theory and practice. We want to attract highly motivated students who enjoy working with their minds, their hands and a broader community of people,” Cherney said.

The project, conducted in collaboration with Omaha Public Power District, includes the installation of several renewable energy technologies:

• a thin film of photovoltaic cells on the south sloping roof of the Kiewit Fitness Center;
• a self-adjusting 20-by-16 foot solar tracker panel and four 30-foot high wind turbines around the Lied Education Center for the Arts at 24th and Cass streets;
• and one large solar array (two rows of solar panels, one 300-feet long and the other 100-feet long) constructed above the parking lot between Burt and Cuming and 24th and 28th streets.

Students in Creighton’s atmospheric sciences program will track the efficiency of the panels through a weather station, using student-developed computerized models. The collective analysis will be viewable online and on digital displays found in the Hixson-Lied Science Building. Several campus buildings will use the power generated from these alternative energy sources.

Worth Repeating: MVC Champs!


Walker, Sears Join Athletic Hall of Fame

Former Bluejay basketball standouts Ben Walker and Ryan Sears were inducted into Creighton University’s Athletic Hall of Fame in April. Sears, BA’01, and Walker, BA’02, played together at Creighton from 1997 through 2001, leading the Jays to three NCAA tournaments and one NIT appearance during that span. Both went on to play professionally overseas. Sears is currently a coach with Kingdom Hoops, a youth basketball program in Ankeny, Iowa, where he and his wife, Angie, and daughter, Moriah, live. Walker currently works at Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Dallas and coaches youth basketball. In addition, Mike Mullin, JD’80, and his wife, Joani, were named “Jaybackers of the Year,” and senior student-athletes Tara Oltman (softball) and Robbie Knight (baseball) received the Rev. Carl M. Reinert, S.J., Scholar-Athletes of the Year award.

Ben Walker, BA’02, the Rev. John P. Schlegel, S.J., and Ryan Sears, BA’01.

And, of course, underlying those questions is a second set of challenges: How do I turn an idea into a product, how do I protect the intellectual property that my idea represents, and how do I market the final product?

These are daunting questions and have probably deterred many ordinary Americans from turning a “eureka moment” into wealth.

But have no fear, Creighton’s here. And so is Anne York, Ph.D., who has developed an innovative Bioscience Entrepreneurship Program (BEP) at Creighton that is designed to show students how it all works.

This innovative program gathers students of bioscience, business and law into teams charged with using their various skills to bring a bioscience product successfully to market.

“Very few schools have law, business and bioscience working cooperatively together,” York said. “That’s academia for you. But we had all the pieces here, and we’re collegial enough to make something like this happen.”

York arrived at Creighton four years ago after teaching at the University of Washington in Seattle and the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. She had observed the American entrepreneurial spirit at its most frenetic during those years. It was the age of the dot-com boom, and she saw the new technologies birthing exciting advances in DNA-based cancer research and in environmental products.

When she arrived at Creighton and noticed the unusual collegiality between various departments and Creighton’s strengths in the health sciences, she saw the chance to create a true cross-disciplinary entrepreneurship program.

Boosted by a $500,000 grant from the National Science Foundation’s “Partnerships for Innovation” program, received in February 2008, York began assembling student teams.

The program enrolls 12 to 14 students, roughly three each from law, business, medicine and science. Applicants, who so far have comfortably exceeded the number of places available, are interviewed to determine the “passion” they bring to the program—a difficult-to-define concept that York says includes their willingness to add a serious commercial endeavor to their already heavy academic schedule.

Sameer Bhatia is a sort of Exhibit A. Bhatia is an Omaha native who graduated from medical school in India before earning a Master of Business Administration degree from Creighton in 2009. He is a BEP graduate and the...
Creighton’s innovative Bioscience Entrepreneurship Program gathers students of bioscience, business and law into teams charged with using their various skills to bring a bioscience product successfully to market.

Summer 2010

Anne York, Ph.D., is director of Creighton’s entrepreneurship programs.

Sameer Bhatia, a graduate of the Creighton Bioscience Entrepreneurship Program, is the founder of Guru Instruments, which makes medical devices.

founder of Guru Instruments.

He’s a young man, with a wife and small child, but he’s dreaming big. Although the holder of a degree in medicine and surgery from India’s Dayanand Medical College, his interest lies more in inventing devices and machines to make medical treatment more precise and less expensive. He is currently employed at Creighton’s Department of Pathology but burns the midnight and weekend oil building his future.

And that future is taking shape. The winter 2010 Mopec medical catalogue features several products from Guru Instruments useful to individuals conducting autopsies. From a $91 headrest designed to stabilize the head of a cadaver, to forceps with an imprinted ruler (about $50), to foam grips for scalpel handles ($38 for a package of six), Bhatia and his Guru Instruments crew are busily inventing little things that make life easier for medical professionals.

It is Bhatia’s goal to take the profits from these small inventions and invest them into larger ideas that have the potential to affect significantly the way medicine is practiced in the United States. He envisions, for example, a “virtual physician” machine a person might have in his home, or that nursing homes might have on site, machines that would transfer relevant information to physicians without the need for an expensive in-person meeting.

And then there is Andrew McLaughlin, BSCHM’08, who is busily building RxQuote.com, a health care information website that will allow consumers to compare prescription insurance plans.

McLaughlin said he and four other BEP students worked with York to bring the concept to reality.

“Dr. York has been helpful beyond words,” he said. “She exposed us to everything that goes into starting up a bioscience venture. For example, prior to the BEP program, I had no idea of the amount of legal work involved in starting up a health care business. The interdisciplinary approach of the program has been extremely beneficial in exposing me to the aspects other than science involved in bioscience entrepreneurship.”

Another BEP program graduate bristling with energy is Steven Kelly who is building a wholesale bakery called The Educated Baker, which plans to produce premium pot pies both fresh and frozen. The business plan calls for using high school students to build the business through a five-stage process. The launch is set for August 2010.

He is also leading a team that has developed the iDrop, a blood-sugar monitoring device for diabetics that is compatible with an iPhone and which replaces a cumbersome kit that diabetics carry with them.

Ground zero for the entrepreneurship program is the Halo Institute, a private business incubator housed in a classic Old Market brick building, once home to Butternut Coffee, at 10th and Leavenworth streets in Omaha.

Bhatia’s fledging Guru Instruments is housed there, and, like the other business startups housed at Halo, he has used the low-cost environment to put down roots and expand his enterprise. Halo aims to launch up to 20 new for-profit businesses a year, all committed to the sort of social responsibility that has long typified Creighton’s Jesuit, Catholic philosophy.

The BEP is a one-year program consisting of a technology commercialization course held in the spring, a paid summer internship and a fall entrepreneurship course.

The graduate will have a certificate in Biotech Entrepreneurship attached to his or her full degree.

And he/she will have earned it.

Among the first steps the student will encounter is a rock-solid reality check, expressed by York as “kill early, and kill often.” In other words: Is the idea you have feasible, practical, achievable or unique (and hence patentable)? Is someone else doing it already, and if so can you do it better and cheaper?

If these criteria cannot be met then the project should probably be killed before the team invests time and resources into an idea with little chance of success.

On the other hand, if green lights are flashing everywhere, then an interesting journey is about to begin.

“If it’s a go then we have a whole new set of questions that need to be answered,” York said. “For example, do we license the technology to someone
Developing Entrepreneurs

A minute presentation. student-entrepreneurs delivers a 15-vote,” and takes place after each of the product they believe has the best chance of success. This is considered “casting a vote,” and takes place after each of the student-entrepreneurs delivers a 15-minute presentation.

While the BEP focuses on commercialization of bioscience products, Creighton’s new Professional Science Master’s (PSM) Degree in Bioscience Management program deals more broadly with the business of science. Matt Kreifels is nearing the end of this 15-month program — a degree he is completing while holding down his position as technology transfer project manager at Streck, Inc., in Omaha.

Streck manufactures products for clinical laboratories and is a leader in the field of cell stabilization.

Kreifels said he has been with the company for 10 years and felt he lacked a strong knowledge of the biosciences to match his competence in business management.

“The program made me aware of the environment and the language of the biotech field,” he said. “It gives you the tools you need, the resources, places to look, people to talk to.”

“If you can’t talk knowledgeably to medical professionals in a way that uses the terminology they use, then you are at a bit of a disadvantage in this field.”

The master’s program responds to the emergence of bioscience and health care as two of the most vibrant industries in modern economies.

The opportunities in those industries abound as universities, research

In the Spirit

Combining Entrepreneurialism and Social Consciousness

A little over a hundred years ago, in his immigrant novel of the Chicago meat-packing industry titled The jungle, Upton Sinclair seared into working class consciousness the idea that capitalism and social responsibility would forever be strangers.

Today a Jesuit, Catholic university in Omaha, some 500 miles west of the scenes so vividly painted by Sinclair, is attempting to merge its own brand of social consciousness with the capitalist model that eventually brought comfort and prosperity to America’s workers.

It’s called “social entrepreneurship,” and it is part of Creighton University’s vision of the Jesuit commitment to living lives devoted to the service of others.

It is also part of a compendium of entrepreneurship programs offered at Creighton, through the College of Business, aimed at producing students competent in all aspects of bringing a new product from the idea stage to the marketplace.

Taylor Keen, instructor of business at Creighton, said the “social entrepreneurship” program is a natural outgrowth of Ignatian altruism.

“The question is: How do we organize ourselves — as for-profits or non-profits — how do we take the process of capitalism, which has proved to be a wonderful thing, and so shepherd our resources that we make the world a better place?” he said.

Keen said the students who attend his social entrepreneurship class will find themselves in a world that puts less stock in theory than it does in action.

“Our is not a poor model,” he said. “They will be asked to turn an idea into reality.”

Laura Mizaur, a lecturer in the program, stresses to her students that creative thought applied properly can create businesses dedicated to positive social change.

It starts, she said, with “passion” and learning how to channel passion creatively.

“It takes a while for people to tap into creativity and how it works, to identify what they’re passionate about,” she said. It’s a journey, she said, that involves an exploration of one’s “life calling” — wherein students are challenged to reflect on the Jesuit ideal of magis, or doing more for Christ.

During this process, students study projects as diverse as an eye clinic in India; the phenomenon of TOMS Shoes, where a pair of shoes is donated to a child in need for every pair purchased; and even the humanitarian works of U2 lead singer Bono.

A list of the projects Mizaur’s students worked on this past semester makes for striking reading, ranging as they do from providing school supplies to war-ravaged children of east
Entrepreneurship student Andrew McLaughlin is developing a website, called RxQuote.com, that will allow consumers to compare prescription insurance plans.

Institutions and industries such as agribusiness and pharmaceuticals, among many others, seek professionals knowledgeable in business marketing.

With this, Creighton joins and enhances a national trend toward graduating scientists with business knowledge.

The Creighton program is affiliated with the National Professional Science Master's Association (NPSMA), which was incorporated in 2007 with the support of the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. USA Today calls the degree "the MBA for scientists."

The goal of the NPSMA is to encourage educational and business institutions to work together in creating a "new breed" of scientist able to bridge the worlds of medicine and business.

To be sure, strategic partnerships with the University of Nebraska Medical Center and other community and business partners have played an important role in the success of Creighton's BEP and PSM programs. But perhaps more important to the success of these programs is the collaborative effort on campus — a communal display of what the Jesuit's would call cura personalis or care of the individual.

"This University is all about the students," York said, "to help them have a better life and achieve their goals. This University is utterly devoted to that, which is consistent with my values, too."

Africa (invisiblechildren.com), to an after-school theater program, to providing support for America's troops, to developing a more reliable mixture for filling Omaha potholes.

More than 30 projects are under way, and they have one thing in common: They are supposed to be entrepreneurial — which is to say they should have a business plan that will allow them to stand alone without seeking taxpayer support.

(As a side note, Peter Gallo, Ph.D., joins the faculty this summer. With a doctorate degree in sustainable strategy and entrepreneurship from UNC-Chapel Hill and an undergraduate degree in sustainable engineering from Stanford University, Gallo surely will add another dimension to the program.)

Anthony Hendrickson, Ph.D., sees the combination of social consciousness and entrepreneurial spirit as the best of both worlds.

Hendrickson, dean of Creighton's College of Business, keeps an keen eye and a guiding hand on Creighton's entrepreneurship programs and is eager that they reflect the Jesuit ideal of women and men living for others. In short, he is eager that Creighton encourage businesses that have clear "redeeming" social values.

"Social entrepreneurship says we still want to be profitable, but we also want to do social good," Hendrickson said. "If you have an idea for a new type of casino, and even though obviously there is the potential there to create jobs and to make a lot of money, it is probably not the kind of thing we would accept into our program."

Nevertheless, Hendrickson said, Creighton does encourage the kind of individual courage that so typified the American entrepreneurial spirit during the 19th century and which he believes has seen something of a revival in the Internet age.

"Go back to the 1800s and think about how people lived then," he said. "You had 140 acres and you were on your own. You were essentially an agribusiness entrepreneur."

The history of the first three quarters of the 20th century was not similarly conducive to that spirit of individualism and risk taking, Hendrickson said.

The Great Depression, two world wars that did much to encourage the yearning for security over risk, and the advent of major corporations to which people devoted their entire working lives in return for a reliable pension, created a relatively risk-averse culture.

But that mold has been broken by the advent of the Internet and its related technologies. The gold rush is back on, and the key, Hendrickson said, will be to channel the explosion of entrepreneurial energy in a positive direction.

"The goal of Jesuit education is to be socially useful," he said. "We need to remember the Ignatian values that for 400 years now have stressed the importance of caring for the individual, being men and women for others, meeting our human obligation to give back, and finding God in all things."
Economic crises make strange bedfellows. Catholicism and Marxism are one such combination.

The combination is strange because the early Marx argued that all notions of God were anthropological projections of human faculties and values. In this line of argument, Marx was following the lead of Ludwig Feuerbach’s *Essence of Christianity* (1841).

Feuerbach argued that we see God as having a will because we have wills; we see God as having an intellect because we have intellects; that the Trinitarian structure reflects human familial kinship; and, famously, that churches and cathedrals were really temples to the human capacity for glorious architecture. Feuerbach’s exact words are: “Where man inhabits houses, he also encloses his gods in temples. The temple is only a manifestation of the value which man attaches to beautiful buildings. Temples in honor of religion are in truth temples in honor of architecture.” Interestingly, Feuerbach’s widely read 19th century work of philosophical theology and anthropology was translated into English in 1854 by famous novelist George Eliot.
Subsequently, Marx’s criticisms of Christianity only deepened. He regarded Christian values, especially in their Protestant forms, as abetting the interests of capitalism. Marx was suspicious, in particular, of the emphasis on individual salvation, the value of work and the promise of an afterlife. This promise, he thought, made us less likely to wage for social justice in this life, enabling a fatalism that was socially and politically disastrous.

Despite this heavy criticism of Christianity, combinations of Marxism and Catholicism are not an entirely new phenomenon. Marxism was enough of a global force from the mid-19th century, but it was the Catholic Church that provided the necessary vocabulary to set the agenda for Marx. A Plea for Man, published in 1869, was the title of Karl Marx’s magnum opus Das Kapital: A Plea for Man. While Reinhard Marx advocates for a reconciliation with the Christian values that Karl Marx criticized, Reinhard Marx also nods to Karl Marx’s crisis theory, his critique of capitalism’s internal contradictions, and his diagnosis of widespread social alienation, as Peter Gumbel notes in a recent article in Time Australia.

As Richard Owen observes in an article from The Times Online published last fall, there has been still more recent attention to Marx from philosopher George Sans. Sans praised Marx’s famous idea about the widespread social alienation present in capitalist society in an article that appeared first in a Jesuit paper, and later in L'Osservatore Romano, the Vatican newspaper.

What is it in Marx that is, and has remained, so powerful in the more than a century since his death in 1883? To answer this question, we will have to begin thinking about Marx in different ways. These ways of thinking about Marx have been occluded for us for two precise historical reasons. First, Marx was immediately notorious in his own lifetime, and was expelled from various European countries for his political theory before finally settling in London in the early 1850s. Second, the 20th century allied Marx’s name with a whole spate of global political movements, some also very notorious. That is a lot of historical weight and sedimentation from which Marx’s own writing must be carefully excavated. Drawing on work that I explore in my new book Karl Marx on Technology and Alienation, I suggest three new ways of looking at Marx.

Marx as Theorist of Economic Crisis

From as early as 1848 up until the end of his life, Marx worked on a theory of economic crisis. Even in the late 19th century, these crises had familiar forms that we still recognize today. Marx worried about the unemployment crises that had a disproportionately adverse affect on the working classes, but ultimately affected all of society. Later in his work, Marx worried about the credit crises that arose, he thought, from the complexities of capitalist circulation patterns.

According to Marx, crises are not an accident. Instead, periodic economic crises seemed to be a regular feature of the capitalist mode of production. Marx sought an explanation for this in what he called the inherent instabilities of the capitalist mode of production. His central worry was a technical problem called the fall in the rate of profit.

According to Marx, capitalism develops technology in order to save human labor. In his own age, he watched steam technology replace human, wind and water power. We need only think of household devices like the dishwasher in order to understand the same point. However, capitalism makes its major profits from the very human labor that it renders superfluous. This produces a contradiction, since the very technologies capitalism produces in order to make production more efficient limit the rate at which it can realize profit from human labor.

Capitalism tries many strategies to abate this. It is not uncommon to find humans doing work for which machines have been invented, since human labor is cheap, while machine labor is expensive. Marx cites the working-class women used to haul canal boats through London. To make this example more contemporary, we need only think about shoveling snow by hand or, to take a more political example, the work of assembling television sets in a maquiladora factory. The choice to use human labor instead of mechanical labor harbors the value judgment that the good of liberated human time is less valuable than the expense of using a machine.

However, the strategy of anachronistic labor ultimately fails to solve the contradiction, since technologies must ultimately be introduced in an industrial operation in order to compete with more efficient operations that have introduced
technologies. Faced with this, capitalism hits on the strategy of expanding operations. While profit is realized from human labor in ever more marginal ways, this is compensated by a larger volume of commodities to be produced and sold.

The problem with this, according to Marx, is that operations cannot expand indefinitely. Markets hit limits, even when these limits can be stretched by extending capitalist production around the globe and enabling the working classes not only to produce, but also to consume, both quotidian and luxury goods.

Faced with this internal contradiction of the capitalist mode of production, Marx argues not only that crises are inevitable, but that they will worsen as the capitalist mode of production matures, as technologies become ever-better, and as markets become saturated.

Marx’s own work was a product of the economic crises that beset Europe in the 1840s. If his theory is correct, these crises can be set in a lineage with those increasingly global crises that plagued the 1880s, the 1930s, the 1970s, and even with the current economic crisis. As capitalism becomes ever more dominant, our ability to contain crisis is diminished.

An increased attention to Marx, then, has come not only within Catholicism’s worries about social alienation and the poor, but also within economics and politics more generally.

**Marx as Technical Historian**

In order to develop his theories about how technology operates within the capitalist mode of production, Marx studied technology in great detail. We usually think of Marx as the rhetorician of communist political movements, and while this is certainly true, Marx also was a bit of a nerd.

Beginning in the 1850s, Marx sat in the reading room of the British Museum for nearly a decade, studying the most progressive information about machine technology — and everything else that he could lay his hands on — that the 19th century had to offer. This effort was partly pragmatic, since Marx was supporting himself by serving as a newspaper reporter, including as the European correspondent for the abolitionist *New York Daily Tribune*. But it was also theoretical, as the diversity of materials in Marx’s notebooks from this period reveal.

As a part of these studies, Marx turned his attention to the changes happening as a result of relatively new technologies for intensifying production. Marx is particularly concerned with the steam engine, the weaving loom and agricultural fertilizer. We are now so used to living with these inventions that it is difficult to imagine how transformative they were when they were first widely introduced. The steam engine placed large amounts of motive power under human control, and must have appeared as magic to a first generation of users.

Not only did these technologies completely transform production, or how we make things, they also transformed the social world. The steam engine was an important element in the development of rail travel, which not only changed how our ancestors moved around, but also their perceptions of space, time and distance. Today, airline travel plays roughly the same role. Moreover, the development of heat engines would later give rise to the internal combustion engines we use today in automobiles.

The technology that allowed a weaving loom to weave patterns into cloth was a series of sophisticated punch cards. If a thread spindle hit the card, then a pattern was not woven. But if it hit one of the small cutouts, the thread would be woven into the pattern. This allowed a task that previously had to be done by hand to be done by a machine. Later the same punch card technology was developed, by Charles Babbage, into a machine for calculation that was a predecessor of the computer. This latter machine has, today, completely transformed both our productive and our social lives, in ways Marx could scarcely have imagined when he made notes on Babbage in 1845 and again in 1860.

Agricultural fertilizer, important still today in Nebraska and around the globe, was a new development for Marx. This invention changed not only the volume of food that we can produce, but also how we imagine food within the social structure. Because of his nascent understanding of agricultural fertilizer and his hope for its possibilities, Marx, unlike earlier theorists, is able to imagine a world without food scarcity, and we see the mark of this in his notions of an ideal society.

An increased attention to Marx, then, has also come from the consideration of the social role played by technology. But while Marx celebrated technological inventiveness, in general, he worried about how technology use might also lead to unsustainable ways of life within the capitalist mode of production. Critics of technology, such as environmental critics, about our use and abuse of fossil fuels and agricultural fertilizers can also find evidence for their theories in Marx’s works.

**Marx as Philosopher**

It is easy to forget that, in addition to a law degree and a career as journalist, Marx also had an advanced degree in philosophy. But we forget this at our peril if we want to understand this figure.

Marx was in the western part of Germany, the part of Germany most influenced by the 18th century French Revolutionary tradition. From this background, Marx inherited the political
At Second Glance: The Karl Marx You Never Knew

philosophy of Jean-Jacques Rousseau, whose work he admired. As a young man, Marx traveled to Berlin to study the philosophy of G.W.F. Hegel, and he wrote a dissertation on the pre-Socratic philosophers Democritus and Epicurus. His notebooks reveal knowledge of Aristotle, Hobbes, Spinoza, Machiavelli, David Hume, Adam Smith and a variety of other famous philosophical figures.

This is important because it helps us to understand why so much of Marx’s work transpires on a high theoretical level, a level that has scarcely been recognized in political caricatures of his ideas. It also helps us to understand the continuities between Marx’s insights about the historical formation of human beings and the crippling of human beings under capitalism and Aristotle’s notions of habit, practice and the possible alienations that result from over-immersion in economic life.

Philosophical training also activates our political imaginations in ways that allow us to see far beyond the norms of our immediate context. Political philosophers have long asked: What is a just society, and how would such a society be structured? Marx, who developed in a Germany that did not even celebrate a free press, had a political vision that extended far beyond his own time.

For all of the radical demands of 1848’s Communist Manifesto, including the abolition of the family, private property and inheritance, there are many that no longer seem as radical to us today. Free education for children in public schools, the abolition of children’s labor, and the combination of agriculture with manufacturing industries: These are things we have adopted. Marx’s ideas that the state must take an interest in credit and banking, communication, and transport are far less controversial today than they would have been in the European 1840s, particularly in the wake of the contemporary economic crisis.

In short, we may have but poorly understood a rich philosophical figure whose literary legacy was too readily caught up in global political movements. This is not to minimize Marx’s radical claims, as it is worth remembering that his is a species of just war theory that justifies revolutionary violence in the hands of the working classes, and still less is it to issue an apologia. However, I am suggesting that Marx’s philosophy is worth a long second glance, a glance more liberated from prejudice, innuendo and historical sedimentation than previously.

For more information, see Ludwig Feuerbach’s book The Essence of Christianity; Peter Gumbel’s article from Feb. 2, 2009, called “Rethinking Marx” in Time Australia; Karl Marx’s famous Manifesto of the Communist Party; Richard Owen’s article from Oct. 22, 2009, called “Vatican thumbs up for Karl Marx after Galileo, Darwin and Oscar Wilde” in The Times Online; and author Amy Wendling’s book Karl Marx on Technology and Alienation.

About the Author

Amy Wendling, Ph.D., joined Creighton in 2006 as an assistant professor of philosophy in the College of Arts and Sciences. As a graduate student at Penn State University, Wendling conducted research in the archives of the International Institute of Social History in Amsterdam and at the Staatsbibliothek in Berlin through a Fulbright grant and an international research fellowship. There, she discovered Karl Marx’s unpublished notebook excerpts from July 1852, which included writings on technology and political economy. Karl Marx on Technology and Alienation, published in May 2009 by Palgrave Macmillan, is Wendling’s first scholarly book.

Photo by Jim Fackler
Who knew what secret “hats” our faculty wore, as they scribbled a formula on whiteboard — or waxed eloquent about constitutional law?

In and out of the classroom, a Creighton University education is about the development of the whole person. This is a sampling of faculty members who live out that mission, with life-affirming pursuits outside of academe — from the whimsical to the more serious.

Horses and dogs and pups — oh my!

Cecile Marie Zielinski, MD’71, is associate dean for Graduate Medical Education at Creighton — but she’s also a renal transplant specialist, a champion for organ donation, a humanitarian, a mentor … and an aficionado and breeder of Morgan horses and the Bouvier des Flandres dog.

Zielinski’s office is a busy place, where graduated medical students come for guidance into residencies and fellowships. Long recognized as an excellent teacher at Creighton, Zielinski has received the Dedicated Teacher Award and the Student Award for Best Mentor and Role Model. And she has served as program director for surgery residents.

Yet, if you think the busyness of life ends as Zielinski locks her Creighton office door, you need to think again. Misty Green Farm, her 100-plus acre property nestled in the rolling hills just north of Omaha, reveals the “other half” of Zielinski’s life.

Here, two beautiful, divergent, yet historically aligned, species — the Morgan and the Bouvier, represent enormous commitment on Zielinski’s part — and just plain work. With 14 horses and 10 dogs, eight of them new puppies, perhaps that level of commitment is to be expected.

Horses and dogs were almost always a part of Zielinski’s life. Her Austro-Hungarian grandfather kept Lipizzan mares. At 16, Zielinski got her first show-dog, a smooth fox terrier, whom she trained herself and showed at Westminster. Zielinski began looking seriously at horses during her medical residency, and settled on the Morgan as her breed of choice. She took advanced riding lessons, and soon purchased Cedric, her first Morgan.

From these lines, the Creighton dean has bred world champions. Trophies, ribbons and pictures of champion Morgans and Bouviers line the walls of her stable office.

Still, as with any endeavor that involves devotion and love, there is heartache, too.

New Bouvier puppies were born this April, but the mother unexpectedly died during delivery. Zielinski is coping with the unexpected — hand-feeding and caring for the puppies.

Zielinski has some advice for those juggling many interests: “Don’t ever give up the things you love to do, even if you’re a busy doctor.”
Eyes light up

Youthful memories and a great-uncle kindled in Brian Henriksen what today is his other teaching passion: blacksmithing.

Still, for this assistant professor in Creighton’s School of Pharmacy and Health Professions, an early interest that took shape at his uncle’s forge didn’t manifest itself until later in his life. That’s when Henriksen felt the tug to learn the art and science of blacksmithing, then teach it to underserved high school students in Omaha.

He insists his twin specialties, pharmacy sciences and blacksmithing, aren’t really so different from each other. He believes there’s “a natural link between teaching medicinal chemistry to pharmacy students and teaching the chemistry of metals” to high schoolers.

Thus, twice a week, after he hangs up his lab coat at the end of a busy day at Creighton, he heads for the Hot Shops Art Center in Omaha. Here, he dons the protective gear of the trade and teaches the art and science of blacksmithing “to underprivileged students so they have the skills to produce quality pieces of metal art.”

And that’s just what seems to happen under his tutelage. Watching students “develop their skills so rapidly and produce some amazing pieces” is one of his happiest moments at the forge.

“There is something special about teaching high school students and seeing their eyes light up when they can watch chemistry principles in action.”

Piece holds light, takes life

For Lucinda Brauckman Carroll, D.D.S., B.S’80, B.F.A’07, the secret of her work and hobby is balance.

A dentist and dental professor by day, Carroll is an artist after hours, and we’re not talking about someone who quietly dabbles in a bit of paint. This artist works large, in cast bronze and stone with a primary interest in sculpture.

Her art interest was first awakened in her at age 7 in a class at Omaha’s Joslyn Art Museum. But “I also had a keen interest in science in high school,” Carroll recalls.

For Carroll, striking a balance between the two worlds is the key. “My greatest challenge is to balance my time and energy … If I’m using all my spare time for art, I also lose balance. I have to keep work, exercise, family and my spiritual life in there, too.”

Carroll sees a real link between vocation and avocation. “My experience in bronze casting was useful in dentistry, and my experience in dentistry is useful in art. Many of the materials are the same. I will say that the mindset at work is very different than my mindset in the studio; it takes some energy to shift back and forth.”

But, also, there’s joy.

“The best thing about doing sculpture is the point where the piece begins to ‘hold light,’ starts to look real. The next is when the piece takes life. When I am doing a portrait, there comes a point at which I recognize the person. I can say, ‘Hello, there you are. Welcome.’”

Right brain, left brain

“I’m a right-brain person in a left-brain world of academia,” said Barbara Harris, Ph.D., field practicum coordinator for Creighton’s Department of Social Work, “and I’m hungry for creative outlets.”

A 30-year veteran of the social work profession, 17 of those years at Creighton, Harris allows that, “as an academic, I spend a good deal of my day in my head.”

Thus, after hours, time on her head, it would seem, is the perfect relaxant.

“I love understanding how my body works when it’s well and when it’s stressed and what I can do to feel more whole,” Harris said. “And it’s nice to have a new skill that I can share with the community. I really love yoga, and for me it’s consistent with Jesuit values — and it integrates my belief system.”

Harris was in her late 40s when she found yoga, after suffering a back injury.

Today, she is a certified yoga teacher. Harris has provided instruction to medical students struggling with test anxiety to health care professionals dealing with fatigue. Soon, she’ll begin a teaching session at the Women’s Correctional Facility in York, Neb.

But her all-time favorite yoga students? “My daughters’ friends … I think it’s critical that they mitigate the (technology-induced) effects of a racing brain with techniques to quiet the mind — or who knows what they will be like when they are my age?”

Name: Barbara Harris, Ph.D.
College of Arts and Sciences
Interest: Yoga

Name: Lucinda Brauckman Carroll, D.D.S., B.S’80, B.F.A’07
School of Dentistry
Interest: Sculpting
Faculty After Hours

kind of mental work I do in the classroom as a teacher and in research and other academic activities. And, of course, the actual manual manipulation of what are sometimes very small objects uses a completely different part of the brain.”

And, sometimes, quite honestly, can be maddening, says Wells. “When you are sewing an underarm gusset that is a third the size of a postage stamp into a blouse that’s about the size of half a slice of bread, it’s not really very relaxing … But the reward comes when you turn out a miniature garment or jewelry item or purse that’s a tiny aesthetic feast for the eyes.”

From finance and insurance to … pumping iron?

When a friend urged Ed Horwitz, MBA’08, to try his hand at a local powerlifting competition five years ago, the Creighton business professor was skeptical … and nervous.

“All powerlifters (seemed like) these huge guys that lifted far more than I ever could. Mostly, I felt that I just didn’t belong on the (same) platform” with them.

But, after his first competition, he says he was hooked.

Hooked so much, in fact, that Horwitz would dedicate about 1,250 training hours over two years for less than 30 seconds of actual competition. It paid off.

In 2008, he brought home the “gold,” with the World Championship in the bench press bestowed by the 100% RAW Powerlifting Federation.

Here, “raw” means no assisted lifting, he explains, “just bare hands and chalk. My best lift in competition was 350 pounds.”

He also coaches and trains Special Olympic athletes in powerlifting. When one of the athletes, who had Down syndrome, died unexpectedly a few years ago, Horwitz and his powerlifting colleagues raised money to sponsor Special Olympic lifters in her name. He and a friend also established “a Special Lifters division at our National Championships where we help special needs kids and adults compete.”

“The look on these kids’ faces after they lift on the platform of our National Competition stage is priceless … It is very rewarding to help them and just to be around them.”

Tiny, aesthetic feast for the eyes

For most people, Debbie Wells’ hobby might at times sound more like torture than tranquility.

And, she admits, there are tortuous moments.

“The worst thing is spending eight or 10 hours piecing together an eight-panel coat with pocket flaps, a Chesterfield collar and set-in sleeves and then finding out, after the lining goes in, it’s too snug,” says Wells, Ph.D., associate dean of graduate business programs and associate professor of management.

You get the picture when you realize that Wells’ after hours “clients” who wear exquisitely tailored garments are 22-inch characters, Robert Tonner American Model dolls.

Under Wells’ highly trained and artistic eye, this miniaturized world seems fully in sync with ours, as if her impeccably tailored, beautifully gowned dolls would be as equally at home on Paris runways as on display shelves in Wells’ home.

But you also have to consider the scope of her hobby as well as its scale: One room in Wells’ home features about 20 of her dolls, with nearly 100 outfits. “The other 80 (dolls) are stored out of UV reach and in humidity controlled conditions.” So, we’re talking about not just a pastime, but a passion.

We’re also talking about early mentoring.

“I started to be fascinated by the process of sewing when I was about 8 years old,” she recalls. “My paternal grandmother was a milliner when she was young. On one visit, we bought a Butterick brand Barbie doll pattern (and) I still remember the exact pattern and most of the outfits.”

Soon, Wells, too young to be allowed on a high-speed machine of her own, started creating outfits for herself and her dolls, on “an old Singer treadle machine in the basement of my parents’ home.”

Today, a couple of high-speed machines later, Wells finds — almost — complete respite in her hobby from the everyday world.

“Artistic sensibility and design instincts are different than the

Name: Debbie Wells, Ph.D.
Graduate School/College of Business
Interest: Doll clothes designer and seamstress

Name: Ed Horwitz, MBA’08
College of Business
Interest: Weightlifting
Chores and starlight
When Ed Morse, Creighton professor of law, stands in the fields 15 miles east of Omaha in rural Iowa, he can easily savor a connection to the land.

After all, it’s just out his front door, where the inevitable chores call to him early each morning and may keep him up into the evening hours.

Morse inhabits the family farm where his father was born 90 years ago. In fact, both parents live just a half-mile down the road that Morse travels daily to the School of Law. Here, he holds the McGrath, North, Mullin & Kratz Endowed Chair in Business Law and specializes in taxation, trade, technology and regulation.

But the Creighton world drops away as Morse slows for the turn at the farmstead.

“This activity fits the rhythm of my school year, as I tend to have more going on (at the farm) when there are breaks (at school). I enjoy the connection to the land and the opportunity to experience rural life, and to share it with my family,” he says.

Indeed, with 45 mother cows and their calves, the Morse family farm is just that, involving at some time or other every family member.

His parents, including his 86-year-old mother, “are still quite active, and my father helps with chores nearly every day. My wife, Susan, and our children all participate in one way or another.”

The Morses feed out their calves, and “most of those are marketed directly to local families as freezer beef.”

While some would cringe at the workload, Morse finds many blessings. “The opportunity to work with your hands also provides time to think, which I believe has helped me to be productive as a scholar.”

But for the joy of a real hobby, Morse and his family grab an eight-inch telescope and look to the stars. On a clear night, he says, the view “is magical. It is wondrous to behold these worlds that God has made.”

It’s all in the celery salt
Creighton Assistant Professor of Nursing Marilee Aufdenkamp, BSN’91, MS’99, could easily add “HDU” to the “MS, RN” following her name. (To the uninitiated, that’s Hot Dog University, Aufdenkamp laughs, “the Harvard of Encased Meats,” of which she and her husband, Elbert, are graduates!).

This Hastings, Neb., campus-based nursing faculty member calls the business she co-owns with Elbert “marital therapy.”

Its real name, however, is Hot Diggety’s Chicago-Style Dogs, but Aufdenkamp may have a point about the business’s therapeutic side. “There is always plenty to talk about, and we get to work side-by-side for a common goal. My husband grew up on a farm, and the kitchen was where the action was. He is a fearless cook and gets great joy out of feeding others.”

And, like so many other hobbies, Aufdenkamp’s has definite links to childhood. “I thought that I wanted to own a restaurant — the kind with a daily special and a small short-order menu.”

The Aufdenkamps’ hot dog cart plies a variety of venues in south-central Nebraska, and is as at home at county fairs, auctions and team parties as it is at graduations, employee/customer appreciation events and birthdays. During a typical year (from early May to late fall), Aufdenkamp says, she and her husband prepare and sell anywhere from 1,500 to 2,000 hot dogs.

One can’t help but ask Aufdenkamp if she really likes hot dogs, to which she answers a definite, “I do.”

“Hot dogs are fun. They are frequently associated with other pleasurable events like picnics, backyard barbecues, camping, ball games … I think they remind us of our childhoods. There is nothing quite like a hot dog.”

OK! We’re convinced. But does our professor have any secret biases, say, in the toppings?

“It’s the combination of toppings, the mingling of flavors and textures, that really makes a Chicago-Style hot dog special,” she says diplomatically.

But, when pressed, she says “it is the celery salt … the celery salt makes it for me!”
This spring, Creighton University bestowed Alumni Merit Awards upon outstanding graduates of the College of Arts and Sciences, College of Business, Graduate School, School of Law and School of Nursing.

**College of Arts and Sciences**

David W. McLaughlin, Ph.D., B.S.Phy’66

From Omaha to Greenwich Village in Manhattan; from president of the Creighton Physics Club to provost of one of the top private research universities in the world; David McLaughlin describes himself as a scientist, a professor and an administrator who uses his Jesuit education every day.

McLaughlin is the chief academic officer of New York University, serving as leader of the faculty and the council of deans.

McLaughlin, professor of mathematics and neural science at NYU’s Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences, served as director of the Institute from 1994 to 2002 and is, himself, a researcher of the first rank. His computational models of the primary visual cortex may one day have far-reaching implications in our understanding of how the visual system responds to stimulation.

McLaughlin is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics.

**College of Business**

Thomas W. Garner, B.S.BA’70, M.BA’71

Tom Garner’s business acumen and knowledge of the petroleum industry led to his success as co-founder of Vanguard Petroleum Corporation of Houston. But it was Creighton, Garner says, that gave him the background that allowed him to feel comfortable as an entrepreneur.

As Vanguard president and majority owner, Garner is responsible for supply, marketing and administration of the petroleum products business. His partners describe him as a philanthropist whose heart is as big as his work ethic.

Garner co-founded and serves on the board of the Liquid Petroleum Gas Charity Fund, which raises money for industry employees and families who have suffered financial hardship. He has donated his time at Martha’s Kitchen, a ministry that serves hundreds of homeless each week, and has been active with Santa Maria Hostel, a treatment facility for addicted women and their children.

“It's been nearly 40 years since I left Creighton University,” he says, “but I can promise you that Creighton University never left me.”

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After downloading the free application at [http://gettag.mobi](http://gettag.mobi), simply “snap” or scan the barcode above with your mobile phone to find videos honoring this year’s awardees. Or visit [www.creighton.edu/publicrelations/eveningofhonors](http://www.creighton.edu/publicrelations/eveningofhonors).
“That you have accomplished all that you have is a credit to your intellect, your faith, your character and your work ethic. What credits you even more is your reflection in the thousands of lives you have helped shape, through your example, your mentoring and your teaching.” – Creighton President the Rev. John P. Schlegel, S.J., addressing the honorees at the presentation ceremony

**Graduate School**

Lt. Col. Alan G. Glodowski, MS’90

Lt. Col. Alan Glodowski credits his father with his love of physics and his Creighton professors with the patience and flexibility that allowed him to earn a master’s degree in the subject when U.S. Air Force reconnaissance missions took him away from the classroom for weeks at a time.

“My Creighton professors were willing to work around my schedule, postponing tests until I returned,” Glodowski says.

Glodowski began his 23-year military career as an electronic warfare officer stationed in Omaha and at Souda Bay Naval Air Station in Greece. He taught physics at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs; was the first U.S. Air Force officer to graduate with top honors from the Royal Air Force Flight Test School in England; and served as Undersecretary of the Air Force for Acquisition at the Pentagon.

Now retired from the military, he is a senior lecturer in physics at the Illinois Institute of Technology, where he encourages his students to use innovative technology to solve environmental problems.

**School of Law**

Hon. Douglas F. Johnson, JD’87

Since he was appointed to the Douglas County Juvenile Court in 1993, Judge Doug Johnson has become a recognized leader in improving the lives of children and families.

Johnson played a major role in implementing the Court Appointed Special Advocate Program (CASA) for Douglas County, which designates trained volunteers as advocates for abused and neglected children. He developed and leads the nation’s first “Zero-to-Three” Family Drug Treatment Court and, in 2009, was named president of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges.

Johnson is co-chair of the Nebraska Supreme Court’s Commission on Children in the Court, is a member of the Governor’s Commission for the Protection of Children, is a 2005 Zero-to-Three Fellow and is a 2008 Nebraska State Bar Fellow.

Most importantly, after 17 years on the bench, he continues to enthusiastically welcome every new case of a child from a broken home as an opportunity to help a child in need. “I thank the Jesuits,” he says, “for training me for a life of service.”

**School of Nursing**

Col. Leland L. Jurgensmeier, BSN’77

In his 30 years in the U.S. Army Nurse Corps, Col. Leland Jurgensmeier served in senior leadership positions in military medical centers at home and abroad, including the 15th Evacuation Hospital in Saudi Arabia during Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

With each assignment, Jurgensmeier accepted new challenges and made significant contributions, many of which will have lasting impact on the Army Nurse Corps, the military health care system and the Army Medical Department. In 2004, he was named chief of nursing at Madigan Medical Center in Tacoma, Wash., overseeing 300 nurses and a $26 million budget. Jurgensmeier is recognized for the compassion he shows to his patients as well as the care he takes in mentoring new Army nurses.

Creighton’s accelerated nursing program prepared him well, he says. “Creighton’s School of Nursing took risks to be good at what they do, and they taught me to do the same,” he says.

Among his awards are the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, five Army Meritorious Service Medals and the Army Commendation Medal.
Ayers on Pace to Cross Finish Line After 38 Years

Frank Ayers, DDS’69, is more than an administrator and faculty member in the School of Dentistry — he is an institution. Viewed by many students and alumni as a mentor, role model and friend, Ayers is retiring June 30, after 38 years of service to Creighton University, most recently as associate dean for student affairs, director of admissions and associate professor of pediatric dentistry.

Ayers joined Creighton’s faculty in 1972 as a part-time clinical instructor. In 2005, he was the initial recipient of the student-initiated Dr. Frank J. Ayers Spirit of Compassion Award, and has received the University’s St. Ignatius Award and Distinguished Faculty Service Award.

He met the Rev. Larry Gillick, S.J., director of Creighton’s Deglman Center for Ignatian Spirituality, in the late 1970s, shortly after Fr. Gillick came to Creighton. Their friendship has spanned three University presidents and dozens of pairs of running shoes.

When they began running together, Ayers was a junior faculty member and Fr. Gillick was the spiritual director for the Jesuit scholastics at Creighton. Since then, they have both compiled impressive resumes along with thousands of miles. (Today, Fr. Gillick is internationally known for spiritual direction.)

Ayers and Fr. Gillick run most afternoons at the Kiewit Fitness Center on campus. Fr. Gillick is blind, so Ayers is his guide and usually sets the pace.

They stay connected via a short rope that each loops around his arm. “We’re always losing the rope and having to improvise,” Ayers said. “One time, we were using a piece of string, which isn’t as strong.”

As the pair turned a bend on the track, the string snapped, but neither of them felt it. Luckily, someone running behind saw what happened and realized Fr. Gillick was veering off course.

“A woman yelled out, ‘Fr. Gillick, stop!’ and he immediately stopped,” Ayers related. “Another step or two and he would have run right into a steel pole — and we were running at a pretty good clip.

“We have shed tears on that track. We laugh — we talk the whole time,” he added.

Fr. Gillick agreed. “What that track has heard us talk about — deaths in our families, marriages, graduations — I’ve learned a lot about dentistry, too.”

The strongest tie that binds the two friends is the spirituality of St. Ignatius of Loyola.

He is a soul companion,” Fr. Gillick said of Ayers. “He knows Ignatian spirituality so well.”

Ayers’ Ignatian-inspired Christianity is a daily occurrence in his work with students, but two of his Creighton involvements stand out: the Institute for Latin American Concern (ILAC) and minority recruitment to the dental school.

“ILAC is one of the most Ignatian experiences at Creighton,” Ayers said. “Going there is a life-defining experience for just about everyone involved. The immersion, becoming part of the Dominican people’s lives, has had a profound effect on my spirituality.” Ayers has served as ILAC’s dental director for 15 years and has traveled to the center in the Dominican Republic at least five times.

Marlena Minshall, ILAC specialist, said Ayers was instrumental in soliciting dental alumni to contribute funds for the ILAC dental program. “He worked diligently with the ILAC staff to purchase the various dental medications and supplies for the summer program,” Minshall said. “Dr. Ayers lives out the ideals of magis, cura personalis and being a person for others.”

Ayers said it was through jogging with Fr. Gillick that he became more aware of the long relationship between the Jesuits and Native Americans. That understanding eventually led to Ayers helping organize the Jesuit Dental School Recruitment Collaborative for Native American Students.

With funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Creighton, Gonzaga and Marquette universities have joined forces to address disparities in the oral health of Native Americans. The program creates a pipeline into the dental profession for Native American students who have strong tribal and cultural affiliation.

Creighton’s School of Dentistry enrolled four, first-year Native American students this year, and four have already been accepted for next year. With only 30 Native American dental students enrolled in 56 dental schools in the United States, Creighton’s dental program has the highest number of first-year Native American students enrolled in the nation.

“Throughout Dr. Ayers’ career, he has been an advocate and champion for students,” said dental Dean Wayne Barkmeier, D.D.S. “He has been instrumental in increasing the enrollment of disadvantaged students and providing guidance for all students.”

Ayers said he will always be “proud to be associated with Creighton.”

“Everyone here ‘gets it’ — the Jesuit, Catholic mission of Creighton University. I didn’t just work in the dental school; I crossed lines with other schools. Creighton, in all of its schools and colleges, is very involved in the community of Omaha and the wider global community. Creighton really does develop leaders — compassionate individuals who care about the underserved.”
Alumnus Honors Ayers with Scholarship

Twenty years ago, Adam Diasti formulated the concept for a full service dental services company while studying dentistry at Creighton University. Helping him to succeed as a student was mentor, faculty member and administrator Frank Ayers, DDS'69.

Today, alumnus Adam Diasti, DDS'90, and his wife, Chrischelle, have endowed a scholarship fund, the Dr. Frank J. Ayers, Jr. Endowed Scholarship Fund, to provide scholarships to dental students. Diasti is the president of Coast Dental Services, Inc., the leading provider of dental services in the Southeast, with nearly 120 dental practices in Florida and Georgia.

“Dr. Ayers was always there for students in good times as well as challenging moments,” Diasti said. “I owe much of my successful career to him. Chrischelle and I feel privileged to be able to help students attend Creighton University School of Dentistry for the most rewarding experiences of their lives.”

Diasti said what sets Ayers apart is “his compassion and genuinely caring attitude toward his students, especially someone in need. He is a gracious man. Regardless of daily differences, he treated everyone with mutual affection and respect. He truly exemplifies the best in humanity.”

“Creighton is blessed to have alumni and friends like the Diastis who understand the vision of the University and its commitment to students,” said Creighton President the Rev. John P. Schlegel, S. J. “But it is especially significant when alumni honor a faculty member who had a profound impact on their educational experience.”

Scholarship Recipient: ‘He Didn’t Judge Me’

Students who have known Frank Ayers, DDS’69 — and that would include just about everyone enrolled in the School of Dentistry for more than 30 years — could fill volumes with tales about his kindness and wisdom.

But a recent story — one that involves both a current student and an alumnus of the class of 1990 — says it all.

Adam Diasti, DDS’90, was so grateful for the education in dentistry he received from Creighton — and in particular for the mentoring he received from Ayers — that he wanted to establish an endowed scholarship in Ayers’ name.

The first recipient of the Dr. Frank J. Ayers, Jr. Endowed Scholarship is senior dental student Katarzyna Piekarska, a Chicagoan who is also a Polish immigrant. Piekarska spoke of her affection for Ayers, and gratitude for the scholarship, at the Spring Dental Assembly in April.

She explained that a college advisor and two dental schools discouraged her from pursuing her dream of attending dental school in the United States — citing her financial situation and thick Polish accent. But she had a different experience when she applied to Creighton:

“Dr. Ayers interviewed me. Sometimes people tell you they aren’t judging you, but you know they are. Dr. Ayers never did that. He didn’t judge me. He never laughed at my accent. He listened. And he actually heard me.

“I was different from other students. My brother and I were simple immigrants, the first in our family to graduate from college. Professional education was not something we expected as a birthright.

“Creighton accepted me and I started classes in 2007. Creighton’s Jesuit, Catholic mission and values immediately resonated with me. Poland, of course, is overwhelmingly Catholic. It was a wonderful experience to have religion in the classroom.

“Dr. Ayers told me that I inspired him. It made me want to cry. No one ever told me that before. I was just being me. And he was the one who was the inspiration. Going to dental school was my dream, and he helped make it come true.

“I am so honored to be the first recipient of the scholarship that bears Dr. Ayers’ name. To be recognized as someone who deserves this scholarship is an amazing feeling.”

Frank Ayers, DDS’69, with scholarship recipient Katarzyna Piekarska and Adam Diasti, DDS’90, and his wife, Chrischelle. The Diastis established a scholarship in Ayers’ name.
With Your Help, Creighton Students Inspire Hope for the Future

For more than 131 years, Creighton University has inspired men and women to lead purposeful lives — to seek the promise of humankind in ourselves and in others. This noble pursuit traces back to the innovators, builders and visionaries who founded this University — the Creighton family and the University’s first Jesuit faculty members who saw the crossroads of opportunity and faith and placed the cornerstone for what today is a nationally renowned university.

This spirit is visible today in the vibrant exchange of ideas, insights and knowledge between our faculty and students — which results in students being imbued with the knowledge, compassion and desire to shape a more just world.

You, our alumni and friends, have told us that you believe our society needs what Creighton has to offer. And with your support, Creighton is able to fulfill that mandate.

Your investments have helped Creighton provide a distinctive approach to education that instills not just information but ideals, that fosters not just technical skills but critical and creative thinking, and that inspires not just competence but professional distinction and faith-based leadership and service.

As 1,346 new graduates of our undergraduate, graduate and professional schools proudly crossed the stage at our recent commencement — their families and friends applauding and cheering — it was obvious that we were witnessing a significant event. These accomplished people will go out and make a difference because they are prepared for professional distinction, ethical leadership and involved citizenship.

Even in these difficult economic times, students and their parents see the value in a Creighton education. This fall we will welcome a new contingent of future leaders, more than 1,000 members of the class of 2014. The academic talents of the incoming freshmen are impressive, but even more impressive is that more than three out of four are involved in service and faith-based organizations.

Creighton is being called upon at this critical time in history to make sure that such talented, compassionate students — tomorrow’s leaders — receive the scholarship assistance they need to come to Creighton and stay at Creighton.

Financial aid made the difference for these students, as 97 percent of the class received some form of financial assistance.

Thank you for your past support for our students. They need you now, more than ever, to help them fulfill their dreams of attending Creighton, where they will have educational experiences that are profound beyond measure.

Lisa D. Calvert
Vice President for University Relations

Alumnus' Thoughts Turned to Creighton

When School of Dentistry alumnus Gaylord Huenefeld, DDS’58, graduated from Creighton, he was sure of one thing: “Creighton did a great job of teaching us to be dentists. The dental school couldn’t be beat.”

To back up his statement, Huenefeld said that when he took the Florida Board of Dentistry exam, he finished hours before the other test-takers. And he passed the first time. “The Florida test was considered very difficult,” he said. “It was almost unheard of for someone from out of state to pass the first time.”

Today, more than 50 years later and following successful careers in general dentistry and other fields, when

Gift Funds Head and Neck Cancer Research

How cells express proteins seems to determine how healthy the cells really are. And, with new tools at hand to view these intracellular events under microscopy, scientists can determine what’s going awry in a cell very early, long before disease is expressed as an array of symptoms in the larger organism.

Under normal conditions in the body, cell growth is tightly regulated by genes and their products, including proteins, through a number of cellular networks. Changes in protein turnover in a cell can cause changes in the cell’s metabolism, which may affect how the cell works — or, worse, initiate pathological processes.

This idea is sparking new research at Creighton, thanks to a gift of $70,000 from the Dobleman Head and Neck Cancer Institute, and the research prowess of Caishu Deng, M.D., and Gary Guishan Xiao, Ph.D., both of the School of Medicine. Deng is an assistant professor and pathologist in Creighton University’s Department of Pathology and Creighton Medical Laboratories, and Xiao is an associate professor of medicine, associate professor of medical microbiology and immunology, and director of the Functional Genomics and Proteomics Laboratories at
contemplating his estate plans and legacy, Huenefeld decided he wanted to give back to Creighton.

“I wanted to help someone who would appreciate the support, and give to someplace where my gift would do the most good. My dental school did more for me than anything else, so why not help Creighton?”

Huenefeld, 83, has structured his estate to fund an endowed chair or endowed professorship in pediatric dentistry in the School of Dentistry. Endowed chairs and professorships allow the University to retain or recruit pre-eminent faculty members, which profoundly impacts students’ educational experiences.

Huenefeld said the faculty at Creighton impressed him. “We received much more hands-on training than at other schools,” he said.

After 20 years as a successful general dentist on the west coast of Florida, Huenefeld retired from dentistry and grew oranges and raised quarter horses and cattle. But he never forgot his alma mater. He stated emphatically that, “Creighton holds a soft spot in my heart.”

There are many ways to express your gratitude to Creighton, create your legacy and impact tomorrow’s students through a planned gift today. To explore the possibilities, contact the Office of Estate and Trust Services at 800.334.8794, giftplanning@creighton.edu or visit http://giftplanning.creighton.edu. We will offer you confidential, personalized assistance and answer any of your questions.

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

Creighton’s Osteoporosis Research Center.

Funding for the research project, “Functional Genomics and Proteomics Analysis of Oral Cavity Squamous Cell Carcinoma,” is administered by Deng, while the study itself will be carried out in Xiao’s laboratory.

This research is going to study the genes and proteins that play important roles in the evolution, development, growth and spread of a form of cancer known as squamous cell carcinoma. While squamous cell carcinoma can occur in many different organs, it represents more than 90 percent of all head and neck cancers. “These sorts of studies have not yet been well done,” Deng says. The Creighton scientists say they hope to rewrite this story, thanks to the Dobleman gift.

The scientists say they hope to discover several novel proteins and/or their associated cellular networks that play key roles in causing oral cavity squamous cell cancer. The implications for those genes and proteins and their associated pathways identified in this project will help further the understanding of the cause(s) of oral cavity squamous cell carcinoma, and provide effective diagnostic and prognostic approaches for treatment, according to the Creighton researchers.

The Dobleman Head and Neck Cancer Institute of Omaha states its mission as “dedicated to the diagnosis and treatment of cancerous and benign tumors of all kinds in the head and neck area.” These include tumors of the head, skin, skull-base, mouth, throat and larynx.

The institute is led by Thomas Dobleman, M.D., a fellow in the American College of Surgeons and a graduate of the UCLA Medical Center, who completed his residency and fellowship at the University of Chicago. Dobleman, who has specialized in head and neck cancer surgery and reconstructive surgery for 20 years, has practiced in Nebraska since 1990.

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The institute includes a nurse coordinator and a team of physicians specializing in such areas as head and neck cancer and reconstructive surgery, medical oncology, radiation oncology, general surgery, pathology, radiology and oral and maxillofacial surgery. Head and neck cancer is the sixth leading cancer in the U.S., and it is one of the most expensive cancers to treat, says the Omaha physician. “Not only does this involve an attempt to cure and return function to the patient,” Dobleman explains, “but it often involves reconstructive and cosmetic repair for the patient, as well.”

Dobleman, who is director of head and neck cancer surgery at the Creighton University School of Medicine as well as assistant clinical professor of oral and maxillofacial surgery at Creighton School of Dentistry, says the institute’s choice of Creighton for the new research was prompted by several factors.

“We are familiar with the wonderful research going on at Creighton. And, as a graduate of the University of San Francisco, I have been close to the Jesuit mission,” the physician said. “Creighton has a real reaching out to the community that shows where your heart is.”

Dobleman finds this aspect of protein research exciting, as well. “Science has been doing ‘let’s find the gene’ research for a while across the country. Now we’re focusing on ‘let’s find the protein,’ which has not yet been done on head and neck cancers beyond a scattering of efforts.

“The time is right to put all this together at Creighton with these excellent research scientists.”

Gaylord Huenefeld, DDS’58, at his home in Florida, is proud of his Creighton dental education.
Alumni News
Summer 2010

Two Promotions Announced

Anna Scherr Nubel, MA’03, has been named the new assistant vice president for alumni relations, replacing Diane Dougherty Crowley, BA’82, who has accepted the position of assistant vice president for principal gifts. Both positions are located within Creighton’s Division of University Relations.

Crowley had worked in Creighton’s Alumni Relations Office for more than 15 years, starting in 1994 as an assistant director. She was promoted to director of alumni relations in 1999 and to assistant vice president for alumni relations in 2007. Prior to joining the Alumni Relations Office, Crowley worked as an assistant director of admissions at Creighton from 1991 to 1994.

In her new position, Crowley will lead and manage Creighton’s principal gifts team, working to help the University realize its mission of educational excellence through philanthropy and endowment growth.

Nubel joined Creighton in 2001 as assistant director of alumni relations. She was promoted to associate director of alumni relations in 2005. Prior to coming to Creighton, she worked at Creighton Prep High School as a special events coordinator and coordinator of grants.

In her new position, Nubel leads an alumni relations team dedicated to fostering a lifelong connection between alumni and the University.

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 Catholic, Jesuit 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)

Edward John D. Hartigan, BSM’41, MD, Longboat Key, Fla., was promoted to clinical professor of medicine at the Creighton University Founders Week Convocation.


Sr. M. Raymond Dieckman, O.S.U., BS, Maple Mount, Ky., celebrated 60 years of religious life. Dieckman is an Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph in Maple Mount.

Paul E. Tamisea, DDS, Omaha, was promoted to professor emeritus of general dentistry. The award was presented at the Creighton University Founders Week Convocation.

Richard R. Stoughton, MD, Plant City, Fla., along with his wife, Loretta Stoughton, received the Monsignor Anthony Brouwers Award from the Mission Doctors Association.

Robert R. Recker, MD, Omaha, professor of medicine and Division of Endocrinology chief, was inducted as an honorary member of Alpha Sigma Nu.

Michael J. Weaver, BS’60, MD, Omaha, was promoted to clinical associate professor emeritus of medicine at the Creighton University Founders Week Convocation.

Frank J. Ayers, DDS, Omaha, associate dean for student affairs and director of admissions for the Creighton University School of Dentistry, was the recipient of the Distinguished Faculty Service Award presented at the Founders Week Convocation.

Gerald A. Brundo, DDS, Omaha, professor of prosthodontics and dean emeritus of the Creighton University School of Dentistry, was the recipient of a 25-Year Faculty Service Award presented at the Founders Week Convocation.

William L. McQuillon, BS’72, MD, Greeley, Neb., was elected chairman of the board of TCM Bank, N.A., in Tampa, Fla., in June 2009. Richard P. Murphy, MD, Omaha, associate clinical professor of surgery, was the recipient of a 25-Year Faculty Service Award for Contributed Service presented at the Creighton University Founders Week Convocation.

Stephanie Stockard-Spicel, BSN, Omaha, assistant professor of nursing at the Creighton University School of Nursing, was the recipient of a 25-Year Faculty Service Award presented at the Founders Week Convocation.

Ernest W. Chupp, MS’72, MD, Omaha, clinical instructor of obstetrics and gynecology, was the recipient of a 25-Year Faculty Service Award for Contributed Service presented at the Creighton University Founders Week Convocation.

Dr. Rory J. Conces, BA, Omaha, is the editor-in-chief of 3D International Dialogue: A Multidisciplinary Journal of World Affairs, an academic e-journal published by the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

Robert F. Cryne, JD, Woodbridge, Va., joined the U.S. Department of Justice in Chantilly, Va., as a trial attorney in the special operations division. Michael M. Kagan, BA, Rockford, Ill., has joined the Catholic Diocese of Rockford as assistant superintendent of schools. Stephen J. Lanspa, MD, Omaha, professor of gastroenterology at the Creighton University School of Medicine, was the recipient of a 25-Year Faculty Service Award presented at the Founders Week Convocation.

Alum Items

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Alumnus Overcomes Violent Tragedy, Looks to Inspire Others

Charles Thomas Jr.’s world was turned upside-down in May 2006. Hard work in the classroom and on the basketball court had allowed the Flint, Mich., native to earn a bachelor’s degree from Notre Dame, begin a career and pursue graduate studies. (A degree from Creighton would come later.)

He was an inner-city success story.

But home was still a tough place; a 2009 national study, compiled from FBI data, ranked Flint as the fifth most dangerous city in America.

Playing basketball at gyms around the city, Thomas knew the dangers firsthand: “I’ve seen people get shot; I’ve seen dead bodies. Once, leaving a gym, I saw a kid lying (dead) behind a Dumpster; I was 17 years old.”

Thomas’ block was relatively calm, and he was fortunate to have parents (both of whom worked at the General Motors plant) and friends who pushed him to do well in school and sports. And he did.

He graduated with a 3.97 GPA from Powers Catholic High School in 1998, was accepted into Notre Dame, walked on the basketball team and eventually earned a scholarship. (Thomas thought about leaving Notre Dame his freshman year, “because I knew my parents couldn’t afford it,” but his mother sold her car to keep him in school.) After graduating in 2002, Thomas landed a job as a government (Akil) are not here with me, so I’m going to have to do it for you. I’m going to complete graduate school for you.”

Thomas had transferred to the University of Texas-San Antonio, where he earned his MBA in 2007 with a 3.9 GPA and worked as a graduate marketing assistant in the athletics office. A short marketing stint at Wynn Resorts in Las Vegas followed. Then, in 2009, Thomas joined ManTech International Corporation in Herndon, Va. — a leading provider of national security technologies, services and solutions to the U.S. government — where the 30-year-old currently serves as an intelligence analyst.

It was “divine intervention,” Thomas said, that brought him to Creighton University and its Werner Institute for Negotiation and Dispute Resolution.

Up late one night on the computer, “the program from Creighton just popped up.” Already interested in negotiation and dispute resolution (earning a related certificate at Notre Dame), “I thought it would be a good fit for me.”

He was among the first class to begin Creighton’s 15-month online negotiation and dispute resolution master’s degree program in 2008. He graduated in 2009 with a perfect 4.0 GPA.

“Charles is smart, engaging and really cares about people,” said Arthur Pearlstein, director of the Werner Institute. “He worked relentlessly hard in all of his classes. His is an inspirational story.”

And it’s one Thomas hopes to share with others. He has written a book about his life and is currently looking for a publisher. His message?

“Believe in yourself,” Thomas urges.

“Understand that, at some point, you will face adversity, but when the storm comes, stand in the middle and say (to the storm), ‘Do your worst. But I’ll still be standing when this is done.’

“I’ve tried to stay positive and keep the faith. As long as I do my part, God, the grand architect of the universe, will do the rest.”

Charles Thomas Jr. used basketball to stay out of trouble growing up. He earned a master’s degree in dispute resolution from Creighton in 2009.

“There were times I would write a graduate-level paper, get a 100 percent, and not even remember having written the paper because I was drunk,” Thomas said. “Or I would take three or four shots of vodka before taking a test.

“I didn’t handle it well. I could feel my life slowly but surely eroding away.”

The turning point came when Thomas was out with a friend and the friend’s mother at dinner. Thomas had three stiff mixed drinks, which he thought were watered down. The friend’s mother had a sip, “Are you serious, these are full of alcohol!” His friend added: “You need to slow down.”

It had been a year since Goodman’s murder. Thomas began to pull his life together, relying more on his faith.

“I had been going to church, but just because I thought I was supposed to,” Thomas admitted. “But then I started reading the Bible more and really going to church and trying to understand. I had never really dealt with the whole grieving process.”

The day after Akil Goodman’s death, his mother had pulled from the mailbox a letter from Wayne State University in Detroit. It offered a scholarship.

Thomas, his head clear and his focus returned, became more determined: “I felt I had something to prove to the world — You (Akil) are not here with me, so I’m going to have to do it for you. I’m going to complete graduate school for you.”

Charles Thomas Jr. used basketball to stay out of trouble growing up. He earned a master’s degree in dispute resolution from Creighton in 2009.
Former Bluejay Yori
Flying High

As a women’s basketball player at Creighton in the 1980s, Connie Yori, BA’86, parlayed hard work, determination and a competitive spirit into a hall of fame collegiate career.

As a coach, Yori has used those same traits to rise to the top of the ranks.

This past season, Yori led the University of Nebraska women’s basketball team to an unprecedented perfect (29-0) regular season, a Big 12 Conference regular-season championship and a Sweet 16 appearance in the NCAA tournament.

Along the way, the Creighton alumna collected a bevy of coaching honors: Women’s Basketball Coaches Association National Coach of the Year, Kay Yow National Coach of the Year, Associated Press National Coach of the Year, U.S. Basketball Writers Association National Coach of the Year, Naismith National Coach of the Year and Big 12 Conference Coach of the Year.

But honors are not important to Yori. “For me it’s really simple. There are two goals I’ve always had: I want to coach the game that I love and continue to get better in that area, and then I want to impact young people,” Yori said. “Those are the only two goals that I ever have.”

Yori excelled as a player at Creighton. She still ranks third on the school’s all-time scoring list, with 2,010 career points. She was inducted into Creighton’s Athletic Hall of Fame in 1992, and her No. 25 jersey has been retired.

Yori played for coach Bruce Rasmussen, and, after graduating from Creighton with a bachelor’s degree in journalism in 1986, she joined her coach on the bench as an assistant. Rasmussen would later be named athletics director at Creighton and hire Yori as his replacement.

“I felt that Bruce was a great teacher of the game,” Yori said. “I felt like his passion for the game was contagious. I think as a player and an assistant coach, I developed a greater toughness. In the mental aspect of the game, I felt like I learned a lot.”

Yori said the values instilled by her parents — values of hard work and integrity — were reinforced during her days at Creighton.

“I felt that Creighton was a great place for me, personally,” Yori said. “Creighton is a place that is others-centered. It was a perfect place for me to be a student-athlete. And as a coach, it was an honor to be able to continue to represent a University for which I have great respect.”

Yori was named head women’s basketball coach at Creighton in 1992, following a two-year stint as head coach at Loras College. She was only 28.

“I was given an opportunity at an age that not too many people would have gotten,” Yori said. She admits that she needed to mature as a coach. And she did.

She compiled a 170-115 record — with three NCAA tournament appearances — in 10 years as head coach at Creighton. In 2002, she guided the Jays to MVC regular-season and tournament titles, and an NCAA tournament berth — earning conference coach of the year honors.

Following that season, she was named head coach at Nebraska. Over eight seasons, Yori has guided the Huskers to seven post-season appearances, but this past season set new heights. This year’s 32-2 team became the first in league history to post an unbeaten regular season, climbed to a program-best No. 3 in the national polls and secured the school’s first No. 1 seed in the NCAA tournament.

While Yori has achieved success as a coach, she is quick to credit her players. “This year just happened to be a year where I had a better team,” Yori said. “When you have good players, you always look smarter as a coach.”

Stay “Tuned” In!

Welcome to the new and improved Jay2Jay, the online home for Creighton University alumni.

Jay2Jay now offers more features to keep you better connected to your Creighton friends and former classmates.

Log on to Jay2Jay today at www.alumni.creighton.edu/tunedin, fill out your online profile and register for a chance to win iTunes gift cards!
Cavel Receives 2010 Dental Alumni Merit Award

W. Thomas Cavel, DDS’70, professor of general dentistry and the Dr. Raymond W. Shaddy Endowed Chair in Operative Dentistry, was awarded the 2010 School of Dentistry Alumni Merit Award on April 23.

Cavel has been an educator for more than 38 years and exemplifies many of the ideals of Creighton University through his leadership in dental education, research and service to others.

He began his teaching career in 1972 following a short time in the U.S. Army. He has held numerous positions on the faculty, including chair of the Department of Operative Dentistry from 1986 to 1994, assistant director of clinics from 1985 to 1995 and chair of the Department of General Dentistry from 1999 to 2007. In 1999, the American Association of Dental Examiners named him “Citizen of the Year.” Cavel was inducted into the Nebraska Dental Hall of Fame in 2007.

An active member of his church and his community, he has made numerous trips to the Institute for Latin American Concern (ILAC), giving dental care and service to those less fortunate.
Fall 2010 Destination Creighton Reunion Weekends

School of Medicine Reunion Weekend — Sept. 10 & 11
with special celebrations for the classes of

College of Arts and Sciences, College of Business, Graduate School,
School of Law* and School of Nursing Reunion Weekend — Oct. 1 & 2
with special celebrations for the classes of

*The School of Law invites all alumni to return to campus to honor dean emeritus and professor of law Rodney Shkolnick at the annual alumni dinner.

School of Pharmacy and Health Professions Reunion Weekend — Oct. 7 - 10
with special celebrations for the classes of

For more details, visit alumni.creighton.edu.

03 Megan T. Henningsen, OTD, and Tracy L.约翰, Jan. 16, 2010, living in Sioux Falls, S.D.
05 Meredith A. King, BA, and Brian J. Hanson, BS, MD’09, May 30, 2009, living in St. Paul, Minn.
06 Megan E. Mazur, BA, and Mackram F. Eleid, MD, Nov. 14, 2009, living in Phoenix.
07 M. Clair Stevens, BSBA, and Christopher J. Acker, Sept. 26, 2009, living in Forest Park, Ill.

Births

81 Mark W. Tefft, BSPhy, and Elaine J. Tefft, Redondo Beach, Calif., a son, Archer Louis, June 24, 2009.
81 David Scott and Theresa Burkey Scott, BA, Omaha, a daughter, Sarah Mary, Feb. 4, 2010.
89 Brent C. Myers, BA, and Michelle McQuillian Myers, BS’95, Omaha, a daughter, Emma Mae, Sept. 21, 2009.
90 Daniel M. O’Keefe, BA, and Shannon Mullen O’Keefe, BA, Omaha, a son, Finn Patrick, Jan. 11, 2010.
95 Brian W. Nagel, BSBA, and Joy Epperly Nagel, BSN’96, Brooklyn, N.Y., a daughter, Siena Elena, Jan. 30, 2010.
96 James B. Hushka, BA, and Carrie Gustin Hushka, BSBA, MBA’03, MS’03, Omaha, a son, Jude Arthur, Oct. 22, 2009.
98 Kirk R. Hughes, BA’91, MS, and Emily E. Hughes, Council Bluffs, Iowa, a son, Jackson Joseph, Jan. 12, 2010.
99 Gerald L. Kratovich, JD, and Andrea Babic Kratovich, BSBA’93, MBA’94, JD, Overland Park, Kan., a son, Henry Dean, Feb. 4, 2010.
99 Jose Bautista and Julie Oswald Bautista, BA, Kansas City, Mo., twin sons, Benjamin Daniel and Nicolas James, Jan. 20, 2010.
99 Thuc H. Tran, BS’95, MD, and Jennifer Lueth Tran, BSN’03, Omaha, a son, Thuc Paul Jr. “TJ,” Feb. 23, 2010.
99 Peter James and Theresa Ebert James, PharmD, Beaverton, Ore., a son, Holden Rupert, Feb. 17, 2010.
99 Jose C. Novacek and Stephanie Luft Novacek, PharmD, Olathe, Kan., a daughter, Raegan Lynn, Aug. 12, 2009.
99 Capt. John P. Finken, BSBA, and Lindsey Hemmingsen Finken, PharmD’07, Yuma, Ariz., a son, Grant Parker, Nov. 8, 2009.
99 Ryan M. Brennan, BA, and Rosemary Ryan Brennan, BS’03, Omaha, a daughter, Eleanor Marie, Dec. 8, 2009.
99 Scott M. Going, JD, and Sara Cizek Going, BA’02, JD, LaVista, Neb., a son, Leo Marshall, Feb. 5, 2010.

Deaths

36 Rose Hobza Cvetas, SJN, Omaha, Jan. 6, 2010.
Creighton Remembers Fr. Strittmatter, Dr. Haller, Dr. Vining

The Creighton University community mourns the loss the Rev. Paul Strittmatter, S.J., a former campus minister at Creighton who most recently served as a pastor for three Iowa churches; Michael Haller, M.D., who established the family practice program at Creighton in 1968 and twice served as its chairman; and Robert Vining, D.D.S., former associate vice president for Health Sciences and dean of the School of Dentistry.

Fr. Strittmatter died March 30 of a sudden heart attack. He was 63 years old. A Des Moines, Iowa, native, Fr. Strittmatter joined the Society of Jesus in 1964. He earned a bachelor’s degree in philosophy from St. Louis University in 1970 and a master’s degree in history from the same institution in 1971. He taught history for a time at Creighton Prep High School. He was ordained a priest in 1977 and then served in campus ministry and the medical school at Creighton. He spent nine years working on the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota before becoming pastor of churches in Dunlap, Woodbine and Mondamin, Iowa.

Haller died in his sleep on April 4 at the age of 79. In addition to his work in family practice, the longtime Creighton physician and administrator established an airplane flight instruction program for Creighton medical interns and residents in an effort to make practice in rural communities more attractive.

“Dr. Haller will be remembered as the pioneer of modern primary care, not only at Creighton, but throughout the Nebraska region. His dedication to his patients made him a role model for all young physicians,” said Donald Frey, M.D., vice president for Health Sciences.

Vining died Feb. 21 at the age of 90. Vining joined the Creighton dental faculty in 1952 and served as chair of operative dentistry from 1956 to 1958. He went on to work as a scientist for dental supply companies, but returned to Creighton in 1972 as dean of the School of Dentistry. He was promoted to associate vice president for Health Sciences in 1983. He held that post until 1985, when he returned to full-time teaching in the Department of Removable Prosthodontics. He was promoted to dean emeritus in 1986 and was named an honorary alumnus of the School of Dentistry in 1995.
Alumni Answer Haiti’s Cry

Even as Creighton sent the first of its medical teams to help victims of the Haiti earthquake that struck on Jan. 12, Creighton alumni were heading toward Haiti from all over the United States — and the world. Following is a snapshot of their efforts.

Guy Giroux, BS’80, MD’84, anesthesiologist, Topeka, Kan., traveled to Creighton’s Institute for Latin American Concern (ILAC) in the Dominican Republic in January and assisted Creighton health care personnel in Jímaní. “In 21 years of medical practice, I’d never seen so many amputations.”

Paul Duwelius, BS’77, MD’82, orthopedic surgeon, Lake Oswego, Ore., had plans for more than a year to replace 10 hips and 12 knees at the Juan Bosch Trauma Hospital in La Vega in the Dominican Republic. But soon he and his medical team, volunteering for ILAC, began to see the injured arriving from Haiti, and treated them, as well. They put in “some long days,” he would acknowledge.

Gregory Staeheli, BS’06, MD’10, Richland, Wash., volunteered in Jímaní, D.R., where Creighton medical teams were based. Staeheli assisted with external fixations, pinnings and some amputations.

Lee Louis Yiuhon, DPT’04, physical therapist, Hong Kong, has been helping in Haiti. But his work, part of a post-earthquake rehabilitation project, has been centered in Sichuan, China, since the 2008 earthquake there. “I hope we can share the rehab work for the humanitarian and relief project,” he adds.

Robert Young, BS’83, MS’85, MD’90, anesthesiologist, Pittsford, N.Y., volunteered with InterVol, a nonprofit organization founded in Rochester, N.Y. His team arrived in Leogane, Haiti, “with 800 pounds of medical supplies,” according to wife, Kelly Young, BSBA’86, and remained to provide surgery and anesthesia services for approximately one week.

James P. Morgan, BA’86, MD’91, physician and surgeon of Montclair, N.J., is co-founder and medical director of The LAMP for Haiti, www.lampforhaiti.org/, a federally recognized charitable organization that serves the poorest slum in the Western Hemisphere, Port Au Prince’s Cite Soleil. The LAMP provides free medical care, as well as community and legal assistance to people who would otherwise go without, a commitment that has grown exponentially with the earthquake. Morgan’s wife, Elizabeth Cunningham Morgan, BA’86, M.D., said “working as a physician there gave me the satisfaction as a doctor that I have not felt in years.”

Chief Warrant Officer Kent Watson, BA’75, U.S. Army, Fort Belvoir, Va., and Forest Park, Ga., supervises U.S. assets through the Joint Task Force-Haiti. He reports that international funding (for Haiti relief) has been $1.139 billion, and “many countries are clearly demonstrating the goodness of humanity and genuine good will.”

Kevin Kathman, OTD’08, occupational therapist, Bloomington, Ind., Orthopedics of Southern Indiana, spent two weeks serving at St. Damien’s Children’s hospital in Port Au Prince, Haiti. While there, he “worked with an anesthesiologist who is an alumnus of our medical school … (and) also met a nurse who is the mother of a current...
Rebuilding in Chile

Hearing of the Feb. 27 Chilean earthquake, Edward J. (Jamie) Welch II, BA’92, (foreground in the blue shirt) a marketing consultant in Pensacola, Fla., left for the Chilean capital, Santiago, to volunteer with Un Techo Para Chile — A Roof For Chile. Founded by the Rev. Felipe Berios, S.J., the organization sent 3,000 volunteers to build 1,600 homes during Holy Week. From “Good Friday to Easter, we built all 1,600 houses we set out to build,” said Welch. See his story and photos online at creightonmagazine.org.

Jay Bridgeman, MD'01, orthopedic surgeon, Hershey, Pa., Penn State Hershey Medical Center, specializing in hand surgery, microvascular surgery and limb reconstruction, upper extremity trauma and congenital hand deformity, was in Haiti working with Operation Smile as an orthopedic/hand surgeon. His travels are documented at www.operationsmile.org/haiti/haiti-week-1.html.

Robert Della Rocca, MD’67, Port Chester, N.Y., co-founder, ophthalmologist, surgeon director, New York Eye and Ear Infirmary; chief of ophthalmology, St. Lukes/Roosevelt Hospital Center, New York City, served in the Dominican Republic in March, as part of the Volunteer Health Program (VHP). VHP is a non-profit health care program which focuses on primary medical and surgical eye care to underserved rural areas in Central America and the Dominican Republic.

Joseph Boyle, MD’91, emergency medicine physician, Elbert, Colo., who went to Haiti to treat earthquake victims, wound up bringing home his son, 4-year-old Sebastian, whose adoption he and wife, Ann, had been attempting for almost a year. While in Haiti, he and his group treated more than 1,000 patients.

Editor’s note: Creighton University Magazine is proud to highlight alumni in service around the world. Please send your information to alumndata@creighton.edu.

Your Help is Still Needed

You can still donate to the Haiti relief effort through Creighton’s Institute for Latin American Concern by visiting http://securejay.creighton.edu/haiti. The Rev. Bill Johnson, S.J., director of pastoral care at Creighton’s ILAC center, also notes that “Show Your Goodness” T-shirts are available in a variety of colors, sizes and languages at www.showyourgoodness.com. All profits will be sent to the Jesuit Refugee Service in Haiti to help children suffering from the earthquake. You can read Fr. Johnson’s full story in the most recent issue of Jesuit Journeys, online at www.jesuitswisprov.org/jesuit_journeys.

Call for Entries: CU Magazine Essay Contest

Author Ron Hansen to Judge

Creighton alumni who have an urge to write have an opportunity to be published — thanks to a special essay contest in Creighton University Magazine.

“Finding God in Daily Life” is the topic for contest entries, to be judged by Creighton faculty and noted author and Creighton alumnus Ron Hansen, BA’70, winner of the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters Award in Literature and author of many highly acclaimed novels.

With an Aug. 1, 2010, deadline, contest entries must:

- Include a cover sheet with the following information: Name, graduation year, address, phone number and e-mail;
- Be 700 words or about three typed, double-spaced pages in length with standard margins and numbering;
- Include two hard copies of the essay, stapled, without identification on any pages.

The contest winner will be chosen and notified by Christmas 2010, with the winning entry to be published in the Spring 2011 issue of the magazine.

A commemorative prize will be awarded.
The Catholic Church and Social Justice: What’s Government Got to Do with It?

By Roger Bergman, Ph.D.

In 1919, in the aftermath of World War I, the Catholic bishops of the United States issued a pamphlet titled “Social Reconstruction: A General Review of the Problems and Survey of Remedies.” According to Monsignor John Tracy Ellis in his classic study, American Catholicism, some of the remedies were “minimum-wage legislation; unemployment, health, and old-age insurance for workers; age limit for child labor; legal enforcement of the right of labor to organize; and the need for a public housing program and for a national employment service.”

In response, the president of the National Association of Manufacturers wrote a letter to Cardinal Gibbons, the leading American prelate, stating “it is our belief that a careful reading of this pamphlet will lead you to the conclusion … that it involves what may prove to be a covert effort to disseminate partisan, pro-labor union, socialistic propaganda under the official insignia of the Roman Catholic Church in America.”

Nonetheless, despite the hostility of such vested interests, by mid-century all but one of the bishops’ proposals for social reconstruction, for social justice, had become the law of the land. So much a part of the fabric of American life have those ideas become that it would be unthinkable for a candidate for public office to run on a platform calling for their repeal. As an opponent of the recent health care legislation is reported to have shouted at a congressman who supported the legislation, “Keep your hands off my Medicare!”

I was reminded of that prophetic 1919 pamphlet when earlier this year media personality Glenn Beck accused all churches who preach social justice of actually promoting socialism. That is especially ironic since the document that inspired “Social Reconstruction” was Pope Leo XIII’s groundbreaking encyclical letter, *Rerum Novarum*, offered a vigorous critique of socialism, while also warning of the ills of unbridled capitalism. On the large majority of the very poor is the result of “the callousness of employers and the greed of unrestrained competition.” He does not mince his words: “a small number of very rich men have been able to lay upon the masses of the poor a yoke little better than slavery itself.”

Leo’s remedies to the social malaise included not only a general renewal of Christian morality but also an assertive role for government: “Whenever the general interest of any particular class suffers, or is threatened with, evils, which can in no other way be met, the public authority must step in to meet them,” and “when there is a question of protecting the rights of individuals, the poor and helpless have a claim to special consideration.”

But notice that important clause: “which can in no other way be met.” This is an early statement of what later became known as the “principle of subsidiarity,” a key theme of modern Catholic social teaching. Leo described subsidiarity as the principle “that the law must not undertake more, nor go further, than is required for the remedy of the evil or the removal of the danger.”

Commentators often point out that subsidiarity cuts both ways. Simply put, no bigger than necessary, but also, as big as necessary. The second part of that motto explains why the popes of the last half-century have consistently supported the United Nations and other world bodies. Global problems, such as climate change, call for global solutions. That is not an argument for a single world government or that “bigger is better.” But neither does subsidiarity align with Henry David Thoreau’s famous dictum, “That government is best which governs least.” Of course, faithful citizens will and even should argue vigorously about where the line between big-enough and too-big is to be drawn in any particular case.

Whenever the Catholic Church is accused of promoting socialism, I gratefully recall that 1919 pamphlet and its prophetic vision, which close to a century later doesn’t seem extreme at all.

Roger Bergman, Ph.D., is director of the Justice and Peace Studies Program and associate professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology in the Creighton College of Arts and Sciences. His book Catholic Social Learning: Educating the Faith That Does Justice is being published this year by Fordham University Press.
A Look at Faculty Research

The discovery of new knowledge, the search for truth in all its forms, the development of novel approaches to complex issues … Scholarly and scientific research is integral to Creighton University’s mission. Below, we share a sampling of Creighton faculty members living out that directive.

Rui-Ping Xia, Ph.D., assistant professor of physical therapy … her research in rigidity (stiffness or inflexibility) associated with Parkinson’s disease could lead to better clinical diagnosis and assessment of treatment outcomes.

Nursing professors Misty Schwartz, BSN’92, Ph.D., and Ann Laughlin, BSN’76, MS’94, Ph.D. … their work with approximately 25 parochial schools has lead to various research opportunities, including projects relating to prevention and interventions for childhood obesity.

Cristina Fernandez, M.D., associate professor of pediatrics … her research interests span from childhood obesity to safety programs for school children, from vitamin D to asthma and obesity, from health disparities and cultural sensitivity in medicine to breast feeding and lead intoxication.

Sonia Rocha-Sanchez, Ph.D., assistant professor in oral biology and biomedical sciences … she is studying inner-ear sensory cells (hair cells) with the ultimate goal of developing gene therapies for cell regeneration to assist those suffering from hearing loss.

Political scientists Richard Witmer, Ph.D., and Erika Moreno, Ph.D., are also husband and wife … Moreno’s research interests include Latin American politics, comparative politics, political institutions and electoral systems, while Witmer’s primary interests are American Indian politics and political institutions.

The discovery of new knowledge, the search for truth in all its forms, the development of novel approaches to complex issues … Scholarly and scientific research is integral to Creighton University’s mission. Below, we share a sampling of Creighton faculty members living out that directive.
Arts and Sciences graduate Patrick Carter of St. Paul, Minn., and School of Medicine graduate Marley Doyle of Overland Park, Kan., received the Spirit of Creighton Award at Creighton’s May commencement ceremonies.

Carter, a justice and society major, was active in volunteer and leadership roles both on and off campus. His list of activities included: Jesuit University Humanitarian Action Network president, Cortina residence hall community advisor, Spring Break Service trip coordinator, St. John’s Church lector, Habitat for Humanity volunteer, English as a Second Language tutor, and Center for Social Justice advocacy team member. He helped develop Creighton’s Online Ministries’ Student Daily Reflections; interned with a national Catholic social justice lobbying group; and represented Creighton at a national student panel on campus sustainability. Carter plans to pursue a master’s degree in public policy at the University of Minnesota this fall.

Doyle, president of the 2010 medical class, was active in Creighton’s student-run Magis Clinic for the homeless and medically underserved, and established and directed Magis psychiatry clinics for both adults and children. She served as vice president of the Student National Medical Association, and, in 2006, earned Creighton’s Aesculapian Award — given annually to one medical student from each class for compassion and selfless service. This spring, she was inducted into the Gold Humanism Honor Society, a national honor society that recognizes medical students for demonstrated excellence in clinical care, leadership, compassion and dedication to service. Doyle will pursue a psychiatry residency at Northwestern University’s McGaw Medical Center in Chicago.