

U n i v e r s i t y M a g a z i n e CREIGHTON

Timothy R. Lannon, S.J. **A Matter of the Heart**



Advancing Cardiac Care

Reaching Out:
Jesuit Refugee Service in Indonesia

In the Faith: Catholic at Creighton



A Matter of the Heart 8
Timothy R. Lannon, S.J., returns to his alma mater to become the first alumnus to hold the position of president of Creighton University. Learn more about this gregarious leader and how he arrived at this time and place.



Advancing Cardiac Care 14
A lot has changed in the diagnosis and care of heart patients since Creighton University first launched its cardiology program 50 years ago, but one thing has remained the same: Creighton's commitment to providing quality, compassionate care in an atmosphere of new discovery.



Reaching Out 18
Since its founding in 1980, the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) has been assisting the poor and marginalized around the world — and Creighton photographer Don Doll, S.J., has been there to capture its efforts. Most recently, he traveled to Indonesia, as JRS reached out to a tsunami-ravaged community.

In the Faith: Catholic at Creighton 24
While Creighton is open and welcoming to all students, regardless of their religious beliefs, it continues to provide its Catholic students with unique opportunities to live, express and grow in their faith.



Online Extra ...

Creighton alumnus Richard Deming, MD'80, leads a group of cancer survivors on the trip of a lifetime — a climb to the base camp of Mount Everest. Read his inspiring story online at www.creighton.edu/creightonmagazine.

Check out our new interactive online edition at www.creighton.edu/creightonmagazine.

On the Cover:

Creighton's 24th president, Timothy R. Lannon, S.J., is pictured inside St. John's Church on campus, by the emblem for the Society of Jesus. IHS is a monogram of the name of Jesus Christ.



University News	4
Alumni News	28
The Last Word	35

Message from the University President

It's Great to be Back

My fellow alumni, distinguished colleagues, patients of our health care programs and gracious benefactors and friends, thank you for your warm welcome back to Omaha and to the University that continues to capture our imaginations and the hopes and dreams of students today and yet to come.

Much has changed since I was a student here from 1969 to 1973. Thanks to the leadership and vision of my predecessor (and one of my former professors), Creighton's 23rd president, John P. Schlegel, S.J., our campus has truly been transformed over the last decade. Our east-campus expansion has provided our students with an exceptional environment in which to learn, relax and gather in community.

And much has remained the same, too. It's what I have called the "Spirit of Creighton" — a spirit of collaboration, of excellence, of the pursuit of truth, of resiliency and of community.

I am grateful for our dedicated faculty and staff and their untiring commitment to the success of our students and the mission of our University. I am pleased and humbled to be part of Creighton's Jesuit community — a community that had such an influence on my life when I was a student here. I am thankful for our alumni, benefactors and friends who continue to support this institution and share the opportunities of a Creighton education with future generations.

And then there are our students, who come to us with increasingly impressive academic credentials, an enthusiasm to learn and a passion to serve those less fortunate. I look forward to walking with them on their collegiate journeys. I just ask them to be open to the experience. I know firsthand: You never know where the Spirit of Creighton will lead you!

I was born and raised in the Midwest, growing up in Mason City, Iowa. While I loved my eight years at Saint Joseph's University in Philadelphia, I like to think I retained my Midwest roots. Although after my first Mass here at Creighton, one colleague commented, "I really like your East Coast accent."

After graduating from Creighton in 1973 and joining the Society of Jesus, I had the opportunity to serve as president of Creighton Prep, the Jesuit high school in Omaha. It was an incredible experience, and I look forward to getting reacquainted with my friends and former colleagues from Prep. My administrative duties then took me to Marquette, where I served as a vice president, and then to Saint Joseph's University as president. I enjoyed my time at both Marquette and Saint Joseph's, and I am grateful for the friendships forged and the accomplishments that were collectively made.

I return to Creighton grayer (one colleague commented: "I remember when you had dark hair"), but no less enthusiastic than when I was a student here nearly 40 years ago.

Creighton changed my life. It set the course for my vocation. Here, I was taught not what to think, but how to think — by a caring community of Jesuits, faculty, staff and fellow students.

I am delighted to be back. Like all institutions of higher education, Creighton University faces challenges — not the least of which is continuing to provide a quality education that is both affordable and accessible. I also believe it's essential that Creighton maintain and enhance its Catholic, Jesuit identity and mission. This will require an even greater degree of collaboration among Jesuits and lay colleagues. In this pursuit, I believe the *Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius* can be a unifying gift — giving firm roots to our campus's Jesuit heritage and vision.

As I mentioned in my inaugural address, this is a time for us, as the Creighton community of alumni, faculty, staff, benefactors and friends, to build upon our momentum to create a place recognized for attracting students from around the world, who come together in mutual understanding — to learn, to grow and to reach their God-given potential.

There is no university in the country like us, in terms of our size, our array of professional and graduate programs and our strong commitment to Catholic and Jesuit ideals and values.

We educate our students for personal and professional excellence, but we also challenge them to leave here emboldened to create a more just world, to give voice to the marginalized and to bring hope to those who feel hopeless.

It's a wonderful, life-affirming pursuit. And I feel fortunate to be back home to help carry it forth.

May God continue to bless you, your loved ones and Creighton University.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Timothy R. Lannon, S.J." The signature is fluid and cursive, with the last name "Lannon" being particularly prominent.

Timothy R. Lannon, S.J.
President

Creighton

Volume 28, Issue 1

Publisher: Creighton University; Timothy R. Lannon, S.J., President. *Creighton University Magazine* staff: Kim Barnes Manning, Assistant Vice President for Marketing and Public Relations; Rick Davis, Editor; Sheila Swanson, Associate Editor; Pamela A. Vaughn, Features Editor; Cindy Murphy McMahon, Senior Writer; Rosanne Bachman, Writer.

Creighton University Magazine is published in the spring, summer and fall/winter by Creighton University, 2500 California Plaza, Omaha, NE 68178-0001. Periodicals postage paid at Omaha, Neb., and additional entry points. Address all mail to Marketing and Public Relations, Omaha, NE 68178. Postmaster: Send change of address to Creighton University Magazine, P.O. Box 3266, Omaha, NE 68103-0078.

For enrollment information, contact the Undergraduate Admissions Office at 800.282.5835, admissions@creighton.edu.

To make a gift to the University, contact the Office of Development at 800.334.8794 or visit www.creighton.edu/giving.

For the latest on alumni gatherings, contact the Alumni Relations Office at 800.CU.ALUMS (800.282.5867) or check online at alumni.creighton.edu.

Social media links (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Flickr and YouTube) can be found at alumni.creighton.edu.

Update your mailing address or send alumni news (births, weddings, promotions, etc.) electronically through alumni.creighton.edu, call 800.334.8794 or mail to Office of Development, Creighton University, 2500 California Plaza, Omaha, NE 68178.

View the magazine online at www.creighton.edu/creightonmagazine

www.creighton.edu

Copyright © 2011 by Creighton University

 Recycled and Recyclable

 Printed with Soy Ink

Creighton University Magazine's Purpose

Creighton University Magazine, like the University itself, is committed to excellence and dedicated to the pursuit of truth in all its forms. The magazine will be comprehensive in nature. It will support the University's mission of education through thoughtful and compelling feature articles on a variety of topics. It will feature the brightest, the most stimulating, the most inspirational thinking that Creighton offers. The magazine also will promote Creighton, and its Jesuit, Catholic identity, to a broad public and serve as a vital link between the University and its constituents. The magazine will be guided by the core values of Creighton: the inalienable worth of each individual, respect for all of God's creation, a special concern for the poor, and the promotion of justice.



Photo by Don Doll, S.J.

Award-Winning Photo

"Veiled Differences, Unveiled Similarities," by Creighton photographer Don Doll, S.J., was selected as 1001 Stories of Common Ground's Best Photo and Best Overall Entry in its Positive Change in Action competition.

1001 Stories of Common Ground is a new website launched in April by Search for Common Ground, an international organization with headquarters in Washington, D.C., and Brussels, Belgium, dedicated to transforming how the world deals with conflict.

Fr. Doll's photo shows a Catholic nun welcoming an Iraqi refugee woman and her daughter to a Mother's Day celebration at the Jesuit Refugee Service Deir Vartan Centre in Aleppo, Syria.

Fr. Doll holds the Charles and Mary Heider Endowed Jesuit Faculty Chair at Creighton. He has photographed the plight of refugees worldwide for the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) since its founding in 1980. He recently photographed the work of JRS in the Aceh region of Indonesia. His photo essay on that experience can be found beginning on Page 18.

Creighton Ranked No. 1 in the Midwest

For the ninth consecutive year, Creighton University has been named the No. 1 regional university in the Midwest in *U.S. News & World Report's* annual "America's Best Colleges" edition. *U.S. News* has ranked Creighton No. 1 in the Midwest 14 times over the last 15 years.

The rankings are based on academic reputation, graduation and retention rates, faculty resources, student selectivity, financial resources and alumni giving.

U.S. News also recognized Creighton as a "best value" university — for giving students the best return on their tuition investment — and for its success in incorporating service-learning into its undergraduate programs.

"Creighton has been fortunate to receive national accolades from several prestigious national publications. The University takes great pride in these recognitions. Creighton's outstanding academic programs, graduation outcomes, commitment to providing scholarship assistance and focus on service-learning are quality measures that peers, parents, faculty, alumni and students value," said Timothy R. Lannon, S. J., Creighton president.

Creighton also was considered tops in its category for accepting students who possess a well-rounded high school experience. Creighton's freshman classes have been very involved in extracurricular and community activities during their high school years.

In addition to the *U.S. News* rankings, Creighton topped *Washington Monthly's* list of colleges and universities that do the most to contribute to the public good. And Creighton was included in *Forbes'* list of the 650 best undergraduate colleges and universities and the *Princeton Review's* list of the nation's top 376 institutions.

Henry James Finds Home at Creighton

English professor Greg Zacharias, Ph.D., reached a milestone this year with the publication of the fifth volume of *The Complete Letters of Henry James* — making it the largest edition (in terms of volumes) of Henry James letters ever published.

So how does the founder and director of Creighton's Center for Henry James Studies celebrate?

By delving into more of the letters of this prolific 19th-century writer. Indeed, he's already at work on volumes six and seven and, with his team, is working on hundreds of letters beyond those books.

There's plenty of material. The American-born James (1843-1916), who lived most of his adult life in Europe and published his first short story at the age of 21, is believed to have written between 14,000 and 15,000 letters — from short notes to 20-plus-page manuscripts.

"We know that in the last 20 years of his life, at least," Zacharias said, "he was writing three or more letters per day."

The Creighton Center for Henry James Studies has copies of 10,300 of the 10,500 letters known to exist — making it the largest repository of letter copies in the world. Harvard University owns the largest collection of original letters (about 4,000).

Because Creighton houses copies of the letters, it allows researchers relatively quick access to the material — drawing the attention of scholars worldwide.

These researchers are studying not only James and his writings, but the time period



Photos by Jim Fackler

Greg Zacharias, Ph.D., studies a handwritten letter by Henry James. Creighton houses the most copies of James' letters in the world.

during which he lived.

For instance, Zacharias relates the story of one scholar who was studying 19th-century Paris and wanted to know if James had written anything about the Eiffel Tower. The Creighton professor and his students investigated. The answer? He did not. Scholars have visited Creighton's center from as far away as China, as well as from the U.K., France and Italy, for example, to conduct their research. If needed, Zacharias even helps them find housing.

"We try to place ourselves at the center of James studies," Zacharias said. "We try to be as helpful as we can to our constituents. I think that's part of our mission of service here at Creighton University."

Zacharias founded the Center for Henry James Studies at Creighton in 1997, and along

with another James scholar, Pierre Walker of Salem State University, began formulating a plan for publishing James' letters. In addition to tapping James scholars worldwide, Zacharias invited Creighton students to help with his project. The students benefited from participating in unique scholarly research, and Zacharias saw to it that the volumes took shape.

The first two volumes were published in 2006. Other volumes followed in 2008, 2009 and 2011, with volumes six and seven scheduled for publication in 2012 and 2013. Each book contains about 80 letters, painstakingly transcribed from James' handwriting. Zacharias and his team compare the originals to their transcriptions at least 16 times. Deciphering the handwriting can sometimes be demanding, but they have come close to being stumped only once — a photocopy of the handwritten word (which they determined to be "enormous") hangs on the back of the center's door. The next step is to create scrupulous and full annotations — which explain references in the letters and help the reader better understand the context. The Modern Language Association reviews and approves each book prior to publication.

The volumes have earned the praise of critics. After the first volume, Alexander Theroux of the *Wall Street Journal* wrote: "For a snapshot of 19th-century Europe — and a sampling of a great novelist's young mind — there is perhaps nothing better than the latest, meticulously edited volume of *The Complete Letters of Henry James*."

Who was Henry James?

Henry James (1843-1916) is widely regarded as one of the most important literary figures in the history of U.S. culture, Zacharias notes. James wrote more than 20 novels, some 100 short stories, thousands of pages of art and literary criticism, several volumes of travel essays, and several autobiographical volumes. He was the son of Henry James Sr., a philosopher and theologian, and brother of William James, philosopher and psychologist.

Famous works. James' novella *The Turn of the Screw* (published in 1898), a gripping ghost story, was the basis for the 1961 movie *The Innocents*, and, in 1999, became a made-for-TV movie starring Colin Firth. Other notable works include: *The Wings of the Dove* (the first James novel Zacharias read; "it really hooked me"), *The Portrait of a Lady*, *Daisy Miller*, *The Ambassadors* and *Washington Square*. More than 100 films and stage plays have been produced based on Henry James' fiction.

Zacharias' picks. Never read James? Zacharias suggests mystery readers may like *The Turn of the Screw*, and for those who like historically situated novels, *Washington Square* (1880).





Rohde



Fitzgerald



Kizer



Kean



Leahy



O'Brien

Creighton Board Names New Leadership, Elects Members

Bruce Rohde, BSBA'71, JD'73, retired chairman and CEO of ConAgra Foods, Inc., has been named the new chair of Creighton's Board of Directors, succeeding William Fitzgerald, BSBA'59, retired chairman and CEO of Commercial Federal Corp. in Omaha, who will remain on the Board and continue his 38 years of service.

Rohde, who held a variety of leadership positions at ConAgra from 1984 to 2005, is currently the managing partner of Romar Capital Group. Rohde serves on numerous professional and community boards and is a member of the American Bar Association, the Nebraska Bar Association and the Nebraska Society of Certified Public Accountants.

Richard Kizer, BSBA'71, JD'73, chairman of Central States Health and Life Company of Omaha, was named the Board's new vice chair. Kizer has served on the boards of the Health Insurance Association of America and numerous educational institutions, organizations and legal associations.

Other newly elected members of Creighton's Board of Directors are Melissa Kean, MA'93, centennial historian at Rice University in Houston; William Leahy, S.J., president of Boston College; and James O'Brien, BSPha'71, an Omaha businessman and president of Creighton's National Alumni Board (NAB).

Kean completed her term as president of Creighton's NAB in June 2011. She was appointed centennial historian at Rice University in 2004 and is currently writing a history of Rice. She holds five degrees, including four in history, and is an author.

Fr. Leahy has served as president of Boston College since 1996. He previously served as a faculty member and executive vice president at Marquette University. A scholar of American history, Fr. Leahy is the author of the book *Adapting to America: Catholics, Jesuits and Higher Education in the Twentieth Century*.

O'Brien was elected president of the NAB this spring and began his two-year term in July. An owner or co-owner of several investment properties in Omaha, he has been active in Omaha's business community and on local boards.

Former Creighton Board Chair Kenefick Dies at 89

John Kenefick of Omaha, Creighton University Board of Directors *emeritus*, died July 15 at 89.

Kenefick, former chairman and CEO of Union Pacific Railroad, served 20 years on Creighton's Board, from 1975 to 1995. He was chair of the Board for 10 of those years. He received two honorary degrees from Creighton — from the College of Arts and Sciences in 1998 and from the Graduate School in 2004.

Kenefick's legacy at Creighton includes the John C. Kenefick Faculty Chair in the Humanities, which was endowed in his honor by the Union Pacific Foundation, and Kenefick Hall, a residence hall the University named after him.

He began his career at Union Pacific as a draftsman in 1947 and retired from the company in 1986.

Fr. Schlegel Named President, Publisher of *America*

Former Creighton President John P. Schlegel, S.J., has been named publisher and president of America Press Inc., a Jesuit-sponsored magazine and website headquartered in New York. He will assume the office in November.



Schlegel

Fr. Schlegel retired as president of Creighton University in June, after 11 successful years in the position.

At *America*, Fr. Schlegel succeeds Drew Christiansen, S.J., as president. Fr. Christiansen will remain *America's* editor-in-chief. The publisher's position has been open since April.

Fr. Schlegel expressed enthusiasm at taking on a new ministry. "*America* is a vital national Jesuit apostolate bringing Catholic opinion to bear on the great public issues of the day," Fr. Schlegel said. "I am grateful for the opportunity to help secure and improve *America's* presence in today's new media environment."

He said he was buoyed in his decision "by the encouragement of brother Jesuits, friends and colleagues that *America* is the right challenge" for him to take on at this time.

"I join everyone at *America* in welcoming Fr. John Schlegel, who has all the right experience and expertise to lead us into the next phase in *America's* history," said Albert Pierce, chairman of the *America* board. "These are exciting times for *America*!"

Magis Teachers Answer the Bell

Twenty-seven graduate education students are teaching full-time in 15 Catholic schools in five dioceses across Nebraska and South Dakota this school year as part of Creighton's Magis Catholic Teacher Corps.

The two-year degree program, now in its 10th year, allows highly motivated, faith-filled students to serve in under-resourced Catholic schools while pursuing their master's degrees in education and their teaching certificates.

Magis teachers take courses on campus during the summer and online during the school year. They also live together in Christian community and participate in spiritual prayer, reflection and retreats.

Tuition for Magis teachers is fully subsidized. In addition to master's degrees in education, students can earn master's degrees emphasizing school leadership or counseling. Magis is Latin for "the more" and is used by the Jesuits in asking, "What more can I do for Christ?"

First-year Magis teacher Peter Cunningham, BS'11, who is teaching math this year at St. Columbkille Catholic School near Omaha, said he enjoys teaching in a Catholic school where there is "an emphasis on the development of the whole person or the *cura personalis*."



Photo by Dave Weaver

A group of freshmen participates in a team-building exercise during Welcome Week activities this fall.

Fall Enrollment Sets Record

Creighton welcomed a record 7,730 students to campus this fall in its undergraduate, professional and graduate programs — surpassing the previous record of 7,662 set last fall.

That included 973 freshmen — the fifth largest freshman class in Creighton's history. Creighton has now enrolled nine of the 10 largest freshman classes ever since 2003.

While the size of the class is impressive, so is its academic profile. The profile of this year's freshmen ranks Creighton among the top 10 Catholic universities and the top 50 private universities in the nation. This year's freshmen hail from 38 states, 43 percent ranked in the top 10 percent of their high school class and 25 percent are students of color.



READ MORE @
creightonmagazine.org

The Future of Space Exploration

When the space shuttle *Atlantis* landed safely on July 21, it ended a 30-year adventure in which five separate shuttles resupplied the International Space Station, deployed satellites, launched interplanetary probes, and, through one notable alumnus, built a lasting connection to Creighton University. Read more about Creighton's connection to the shuttle program — and what Creighton faculty see as the next frontier for space exploration — online at creighton.edu/creightonmagazine.

Study to Examine Hereditary Prostate Cancer in African Americans

Creighton University's Hereditary Cancer Center has received a three-year, \$731,278 grant from the U.S. Department of Defense to study the role heredity plays in prostate cancer among African Americans.

"Prostate cancer is the leading cause of cancer death among men in the United States. African American men have two times the occurrence of prostate cancer as do Caucasian men and suffer a significantly higher mortality," said Henry Lynch, M.D., principal investigator and Creighton Hereditary Cancer Center director.

While it's estimated that about 10 percent of all prostate cancers have a hereditary link, the problem has been understudied in African Americans. With few exceptions, relatively little is known about the role genetics plays in this population, noted Lynch, holder of the Charles F. and Mary C. Heider Endowed Chair in Cancer Research.

The study will focus on identifying the hereditary factors of the disease that are specific to African Americans. The goal is to develop early and intensive screening and prevention management strategies that will decrease African Americans' incidence of, as well as death rate from, hereditary prostate cancer, he said.

Jackson State University in Mississippi is collaborating in the study. The goal is to involve 300 African American prostate cancer patients from the Omaha area and about 500 from Jackson, Miss.



Fr. Lannon greets students after the annual Mass of the Holy Spirit at St. John's Church on Sept. 14.

Photo by Jim Fackler

A Matter of the Heart

By Rick Davis, BA'88

Senior Doug McAcy learned a lot about Timothy R. Lannon, S.J., in what would normally be a 10-minute walk from the Harper Center to the main campus, as he guided Creighton's new president between Welcome Week events.

"It took us just under an hour to get from Harper to St. John's," McAcy explains, "because he would stop and talk to someone, stop and talk to someone. It's great to see.

"He's very 'in the moment,' wanting to know about you, wanting to talk to you."

That seems to be the consensus among those who know Fr. Lannon and those who are getting to know him, as he takes on the job as Creighton's 24th president. Simply put: He's a people person.

"He was always very gregarious, outgoing," remembers former classmate Gary Batenhorst, BSBA'73, now a lawyer in Omaha. "He always had a big circle of friends. He was caring, and he always had time for everybody that he met.

"The personality that you see on campus today is very similar to the way he was 40 years ago."

So what shaped Timothy Lannon and brought him to this time and place — as the first alumnus to head Creighton University?

A Large Family

It all began in Mason City, Iowa, where he was born on Dec. 2, 1950 — the sixth of seven children to James and Eileen Lannon.

His dad was a Creighton medical school graduate, class of 1936. James had come to Creighton from Winner, S.D., on an athletic scholarship, and played running back on the Creighton football team.

He married Nora Eileen Ryan on Sept. 5, 1936. Eileen, an Omaha native, had graduated from the now-closed St. John High School, which was located across from St. John's Church on Creighton's campus.

Dr. Lannon completed his rotating internship at Creighton and St. Joseph's Hospital, and a surgery apprenticeship in Fort Dodge, Iowa, before opening his medical practice in Clear Lake, Iowa, in 1938. The Lannons welcomed home three children — Dennis (who died in 2004), Kay and Pat — before James, a reserve officer in the U.S. Army Medical Corps, was called to serve in World War II. Capt. Lannon participated in the D-Day invasion of Normandy and served as a medical officer until his active duty was completed on March 17, 1946.

He then returned to Iowa, opening a medical practice in Mason City. Four more children followed — Mickey, James, Timothy and Jean. Dr. Lannon kept busy building his practice, serving as Mason City's health director and working on staff at St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital.

"We were lucky in that my mother could stay home with us, so she basically raised us kids," Fr. Lannon explains. "The older kids were way above us in age, so there were the four of us. To be honest, we were brats. Of course, we all love each other now, but there was a lot of bantering and teasing back then. But my parents were terrific in the example that they set."

James and Eileen Lannon are both deceased. Eileen died in 1985, James in 2002. The couple shared their Catholic faith with their children. Timothy attended Catholic grade school and high school in Mason City, at Holy Family and Newman Catholic, respectively.

"In high school, I was on the student council and in speech and

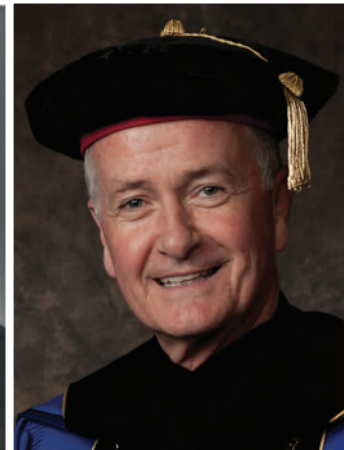


Photo left courtesy of Creighton University Archives
Photo right by Don Doll, S.J.

Lannon as student body president in 1973 and as president of Creighton University in 2011.

debate. I loved that experience. In fact, I didn't want to leave high school."

But college was calling. A young Lannon was set on enrolling at the University of Iowa, but when he visited the campus in April of his senior year, something didn't feel quite right.

"I went home and said to my mom and dad, 'I don't think Iowa is the place.' My dad suggested that I look at Creighton," Lannon remembers. "I had been to Omaha several times, but I had never seen the campus.

"So we came down, and I think it may have been a Sunday. Nobody was here. We walked through Brandeis, and I remember telling my dad, 'This is the place.' I see it now as God's hand."

Creighton Days

In the fall of 1969, Lannon arrived on the Creighton campus.

"The first couple of months, I hated it," he admits. "But I think that had more to do with my difficulty with transitions."

Lannon's plans were to attend medical school, most likely at Creighton, and then become a doctor like his father.

"I think, in a way, the person that I admire the most is my dad," Lannon says. "He was very gifted, very bright."

It didn't take too long for Lannon to get acclimated to Creighton and become involved. The math major was elected freshman class president for the College of Arts and Sciences. He became a residence hall adviser and served as president of the Phi Kappa Psi fraternity. His junior year, he got involved with the Student Board of Governors, and his senior year, he was elected president of SBG.

"It was not a surprise that he ran for president and was elected," says Mary Higgins, BA'73, who served on the student board with Lannon and is now the assistant vice president for student retention at Creighton. "He was well-known on campus. He was certainly popular, but also respected as an intelligent, sound student leader."

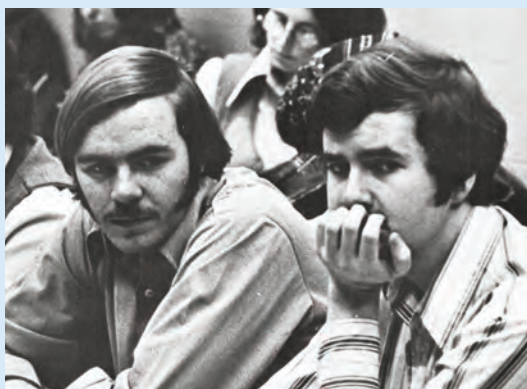
The late '60s and early '70s were tumultuous times on college campuses and across America — with the Vietnam War raging. The tensions could be felt at Creighton.

"It wasn't just the war," Higgins explains. "There was an attitude of a little bit of rebellion against University leadership."

When Creighton President Joseph Labaj, S.J., announced a



Fr. Lannon with his grandmother, Eunie Lannon, left, and his parents, Eileen and James Lannon, at the profession of his vows in 1979.



Photos left courtesy of Creighton University Archives / Photo right by Jim Fackler

Top left: Dave Pearl, BA'73, Anne Dyer McGuire, BSN'73, Mick Weishaar, and Lannon pose for a photograph as the 1970 freshman class officers at Creighton. **Bottom left:** Tim Sullivan, BA'73, JD'76, left, and Lannon listen intently during a 1972 Student Board of Governors meeting. **Right:** Fr. Lannon reunites with Creighton's 1973 Spirit of Creighton winners during his inaugural week celebration. Clockwise from top left are Gary Batenhorst, BSBA'73, Mary Higgins, BA'73, Anne Dyer McGuire, BSN'73, and Lannon.

tuition increase for the 1973-74 school year, Lannon and the Student Board of Governors drafted a list of 10 demands for the administration. When the administration refused to accept the demands, Lannon and some student leaders circulated a petition asking students to pledge that they would withhold paying the tuition increase until the demands were met.

"We knew we didn't have a chance," Lannon admits, although, according to back issues of the *Creightonian*, at least 380 students signed the pledge. "But we wanted to get the attention of the administration. And I don't think we were asking for anything outrageous."

Lannon and his fellow student leaders showed that same chutzpah when they paid a visit to men's basketball coach Eddie Sutton, asking the future Creighton Athletic Hall-of-Fame coach to be more visible on campus and speed up the tempo of play.

"I thought the meeting went OK," Lannon recalls, "although he probably wasn't too happy with it."

(As an aside, in Lannon's first year as president at Saint Joseph's University, the men's basketball team climbed to No. 1 in the national polls and reached the Elite Eight in the NCAA Tournament, where they were knocked off by Oklahoma State, coached by none other than Eddie Sutton.)

While he was not afraid to speak his mind, Lannon always remained professional and cordial, Higgins says.

"Tim bridged that rebellion with folks in authority in a mature,

conscientious way," Higgins says. "There was a fair amount of confrontation, and he was able to be in the conversation — to bridge the conversation and keep it respectful."

Indeed, the administration had taken note of Lannon and his fellow student leaders. At graduation in May of 1973, Lannon was one of four students (the others were Higgins, Batenhorst and Anne Dyer McGuire, BSN'73) presented with the Spirit of Creighton Award, the highest student award bestowed by the University.

"Besides being ordained a priest, there has been no greater honor in my life," says Lannon, who chose Spirit of Creighton as his inaugural theme this fall.

A Crushing Blow

Lannon loved his time as a student at Creighton, which he describes as the most formative years of his life.

"I remember attending a party in lower Brandeis my senior year, and I left the party early to say goodbye to the campus," Lannon says. "I remember looking up at the stars and thanking God for the experience."

But it was time for Lannon to move forward — to pursue his dream of following in his father's footsteps and becoming a doctor. The first step: applying to Creighton's medical school.

"I got turned down," Lannon says. "That rejection was a huge setback, but it was a turning point in my life."



Photos by Jim Fackler

Clockwise from top left, Fr. Lannon greets freshman students and their parents during move-in; serves Communion during the Mass of the Holy Spirit; chats with a student during Welcome Week; and meets with faculty, staff and students following his welcome Mass.

"I remember so well, I lived in Swanson Hall, and I remember lying on my bed thinking, 'What does this all mean?' I began talking with Jesuits. I pretty much decided what I needed to do was to take a year to think about it. I'm so grateful for that."

He worked as a counselor for Creighton's undergraduate admissions office for a year, where he had also done some work as a student — which includes the following harrowing side note.

Lannon and a classmate were driving back to campus after an evening University event when "six Omaha police cars converged on us with shotguns out and said, 'Get out, get out! Get your hands up!'" The Creighton students had been mistaken for two suspects in an armed robbery of a gas station earlier that day.

After working in admissions for a year, Lannon spent the summer of 1974 traveling Europe for six weeks with two buddies from Creighton, on money he had invested from his childhood paper route. Another big decision was about to take shape.

A Major Decision

In the fall of 1974, Lannon entered the Society of Jesus.

"I was impressed with the priests at home, both in my parish and at my high school," Lannon says. "I guess it was always in the back of my mind, but I was fighting it quite a bit. Then I met the Jesuits here (at Creighton), and I was so impressed by these men.

"They were so talented and bright, yet so approachable. I thought, 'Why wouldn't I want to join them?'"

It came as a shock to classmate Batenhorst.

"I, like most people I suppose, was surprised when I heard he was going to do that," Batenhorst says. "But as I thought about it, it made complete sense to me." The Jesuits were role models on campus, he explains, and students were shaped by the likes of Mike Sheridan, S.J., Don Doll, S.J., and Dick Hauser, S.J.

Lannon entered the Jesuit novitiate. His novice master was the late Jim Hoff, S.J., former Creighton professor and later president of Xavier University. "I loved the experience," Lannon says, but by his second year, he was beginning to have his doubts. "I had lost the enthusiasm and the energy," he explains. "Looking back on it, I think it was just a transition period that I misread."

Whatever the case, Lannon left the Jesuits. "It was a confusing time for me that I had never experienced before," Lannon admits. Questions lingered. Should he get married and start a family? He had broached that question with a young woman as an undergrad, but they eventually parted ways. Should he again pursue the dream of becoming a doctor like his father?

He found refuge — and some good advice and spiritual direction — at a new retreat house in Iowa and on the roof of Swanson Hall.

Soon after leaving the Jesuits, Lannon reached out to one of his former Jesuit teachers, Dick Hauser. Hauser remembers the visit well.

"I said, 'I have a key to the roof of Swanson, so let's go up on the

roof and talk," Fr. Hauser recalls. He asked him point-blank why he left the Jesuits, but Lannon had no answers.

"My guess, and I think he would affirm this, is he admired his dad immensely. And in the back of his mind, I think he wanted to be like his dad."

In Iowa, Gene Merz, S.J., had just established the Emmaus Community in Des Moines, an old Victorian house that had been converted into a spiritual renewal center.

"I set up a situation for him where he could be connected with the community," Fr. Merz recalls. "He worked with a Dominican sister, Marge Toomey, in the Homes of Oakridge, which was a tough, low-income housing area about a block north of the Emmaus Community. It was also at that time that I directed Tim spiritually."

Hauser believes that direction lifted Lannon's spirits.

"I think that during the spiritual direction, it became clear that his vocation was different than his dad's," Hauser says. "I think he saw that his vocation was to the Jesuits."

And then, there was some fatherly advice.

"I thought my dad wanted me to be a doctor," Lannon relates. "But he said, 'No, no, no. I want you to be happy.'"

Lannon re-entered the Society of Jesus in 1977. And, in fitting fashion, he was ordained a priest at St. John's Church in 1986.

The Return to Creighton

After returning to the Jesuits, Fr. Lannon's career path took him to Marquette University High School, as an instructor and then an assistant principal. He then came back to Omaha in 1988 as a 37-year-old president of Creighton Prep High School.

"It was great," Lannon says about his experience at Prep, although he told the Jesuit provincial at the time that he didn't



Fr. Lannon celebrates Mass at St. John's Church during his first official day as president on Aug. 1. "I loved the liturgy, and I was absolutely amazed by the large turnout," he says.

think he was ready for the job. "I remember shaving in the morning and praying to God to get me through the day."

Ryan Zabrowski, BSBA'01, met Fr. Lannon as a freshman at Prep in 1992.

"He was always known for standing outside of Prep every morning and greeting students as they came in," Zabrowski says. "He was a nice, outgoing person who was always approachable."

Zabrowski, who is now a real estate broker in Omaha, says Fr. Lannon was an inspiration to him. Zabrowski, like Lannon, served as student body president while at Creighton University.

Lannon left Prep in 1995 to pursue his doctorate in administration, planning and social policy at Harvard University's Graduate School of Education. Lannon joined Marquette University as the assistant executive vice president in 1999. He stayed at Marquette, rising to the position of vice president for university advancement, before accepting the presidency of Saint Joseph's University in Philadelphia in 2003.

"I loved Saint Joseph's, and still do," Lannon says. Every fall, he would meet with the university's executive board to discuss succession plans. "I said, 'I have no intention of leaving, at all. But I might consider leaving if Marquette or Creighton became available.'"

In March 2010, Robert Wild, S.J., then the president of Marquette, announced that he would be stepping down by June 2011. Four months later, in July 2010, John Schlegel, S.J., publicly announced that he would be stepping down as president at Creighton effective July 2011.

"I got a phone call from Bruce Rohde suggesting that he wanted to meet with me and some other members of the Board," Lannon explains. Rohde, BSBA'71, JD'73, was the vice chair of the Creighton Board of Directors at the time, and now serves as its chair.

"I said, 'I would be willing to meet you anywhere between here (Philadelphia) and Omaha,'" Lannon recalls. "And he said, 'We'll come see you.'"

(The meeting was a first step. Lannon would still be vetted by a Creighton Presidential Search Committee, which included representation from the Board of Directors, faculty, staff, Creighton's Jesuit community, students and alumni. The provincial for the Wisconsin Province of the Society of Jesus would need to agree to the move, and Creighton's Board would grant final approval.)

Lannon reserved space at the Union League in Philadelphia, under the guise of a "Creighton Prep alumni gathering." "I asked for a lot of information," Lannon relates. "The meeting was very open, very frank. They talked about the wonderful things about Creighton, but every great school has its challenges, and we talked about the challenges."

Lannon says he also met with the Marquette presidential search committee shortly thereafter — before beginning an eight-day spiritual retreat in Milwaukee.

"I told both Marquette and Creighton that I would make a decision by July 31, which is the feast of St. Ignatius, whether I would be a candidate at all and, if so, at which university," Lannon says. He then made the retreat with Fr. Merz.



Fr. Lannon is officially inaugurated as Creighton University's 24th president during a ceremony on campus on Sept. 30, with the provincial for the Wisconsin Province of the Society of Jesus, Thomas Lawler, S.J., at his side. Fr. Lannon's inaugural address and additional photos and videos from his inaugural week can be found online at creighton.edu/administration/presidentialinauguration.

"In my prayer, and with Gene's help and God's grace, it appeared to me that Creighton was the right choice, and that's where God was calling me.

"The bottom line, for me, is it was a matter of the heart. Because I loved my four years here (at Creighton), and I was transformed here."

On the Go

His days as president are hectic. He usually rises around 5 or 6 a.m., and sometimes works until 9 or 10 p.m. He reserves a couple of hours early in the morning for himself: to pray, to read, to exercise.

Lannon says that his Jesuit spirituality also allows him "to find this oasis within me that's peaceful, even in the midst of chaos, and I consider this to be the Divine Presence." Lannon emphasizes that he's a "Jesuit priest first and a university president second."

And if he's having trouble finding that spiritual oasis, don't be surprised to find Fr. Lannon outside on the deck of his Heider Hall apartment with "a nice glass of wine and my iPod cranking it out."

"Sometimes," he says with a smile, "that's where I do my best thinking."

Although to some, Lannon appears unflappable.

"He has never seemed overwhelmed in our personal conversations," Fr. Hauser says. "He seems to have the ability of putting business aside and relaxing and being with people when that's appropriate. He's genuinely fun to be with, because he's got such a great sense of humor and he's spontaneous."

Lannon has already found his way into the hearts of some of

the students.

"Fr. Lannon is a complete and utter delight, always with an approachable, sunny demeanor," says Laura Jablonski, a sophomore from St. Louis who met him at an Inter Residence Hall Government meeting. "He possesses a fresh energy, which is fantastic for Creighton."

Fr. Lannon is also known for his penchant for remembering names, a skill honed during his days at Prep when he would flip through the school directory at night to memorize student names and faces. He especially enjoyed the jaw-dropping reaction of students when he would greet them by name without having met them before.

"Remembering names is one thing, but it's also truly understanding what's going on in your life," says Zabrowski. "He was asking numerous students how this test was going or how that study was going. It goes back to that genuine care for people."

Batenhorst says during a recent visit to campus he watched as Fr. Lannon introduced himself to a student and asked how she was doing and if she had any complaints.

"She said, 'No,'" Batenhorst recalls. "And he responded, 'Well, if you have any complaints, I'm the guy to talk to.' I think that very hands-on approach is something he's really good at."

Lannon says he's excited about the future of Creighton ... about building on the legacy of former president Schlegel ... about connecting with alumni ... and, mostly, about being part of an educational tradition that he knows, firsthand, can transform students' lives.

"Creighton University changed my life," Fr. Lannon says. As president, he looks to share that gift with others.

Advancing Cardiac Care

By Anthony Flott

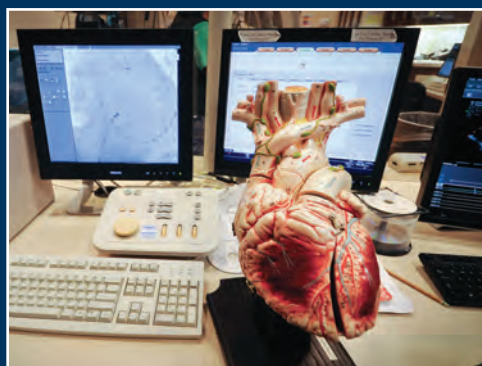


Photo by Dave Weaver



Photo by Dave Weaver



Photo by Jim Fackler

Top two photos, Creighton offers state-of-the-art facilities to diagnose and treat heart rhythm disorders with its new electrophysiology (EP) lab. Bottom photo, Creighton researchers test the effectiveness of different types of stents in the laboratory.

Being assigned to the Bishop's Room wasn't necessarily a good thing for patients at the old Saint Joseph Hospital. Sure, it was beautiful. There were nice pictures hanging. Even a fireplace.

But before Richard Booth, M.D., arrived and established the Cardiac Center of Creighton University, the Bishop's Room was where coronary patients were sent to live or die on their own.

"Because we couldn't do anything for them," says the 87-year-old Booth, now retired and living in Omaha.

What a difference 50 years make. Since the Cardiac Center's launch in 1961 — and especially in the last 25 years — cardiac care has blossomed.

"We can actually save people's lives," says Michael Del Core, BS'79, MD'83, who's been at the center since 1988 and is its associate director. "It's got a great variety of technologies that we have at our disposal to help diagnose and treat heart disease.

"Every day there's further evolution of the technology, and we're getting better and smarter about treating heart disease."

The Cardiac Center has grown alongside cardiology. And sometimes it has led the field. It has the only free-standing facility of its kind totally dedicated to cardiovascular teaching, research and the care of patients with heart disease. Within its 60,000 square feet are 19 cardiologists, 14 fellows and a 200-person support staff tending to 90,000 patient-visits annually. The center has been recognized as a Blue Cross and Blue Shield "Blue Distinction Center for Cardiac Care" and has been awarded a gold award from the American Heart Association.

And Creighton's nationally recognized expertise in cardiac care extends beyond the Cardiac Center. In September, Creighton heart surgeons from the Department of Surgery earned a top rating from *Consumer Reports*, one of only three Nebraska physician groups to receive three stars.

"When I started out, the tools we had were our ears, with the stethoscope, an EKG machine and a chest X-ray," says Booth, the center's chief of cardiology until 1971 and later medical director at then-Saint Joseph Hospital. "Now we have all these catheterization tools, visualizing tools, reconstruction tools.

"It's hardly the same business."

Closing Circles on a Killer

One thing that hasn't changed: Heart disease is the leading cause of death in the United States. A Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) document notes that 663,391 people died from heart disease in 1961. In 2006, 631,636 people died of heart disease — one in every four deaths. The CDC expected heart disease in 2010 to cost \$316 billion in health care services, medications and lost productivity.

Nine of 10 heart disease patients have at least one known risk factor: high cholesterol, high blood pressure, diabetes, smoking, being overweight/obese, poor diet, physical inactivity and alcohol use.

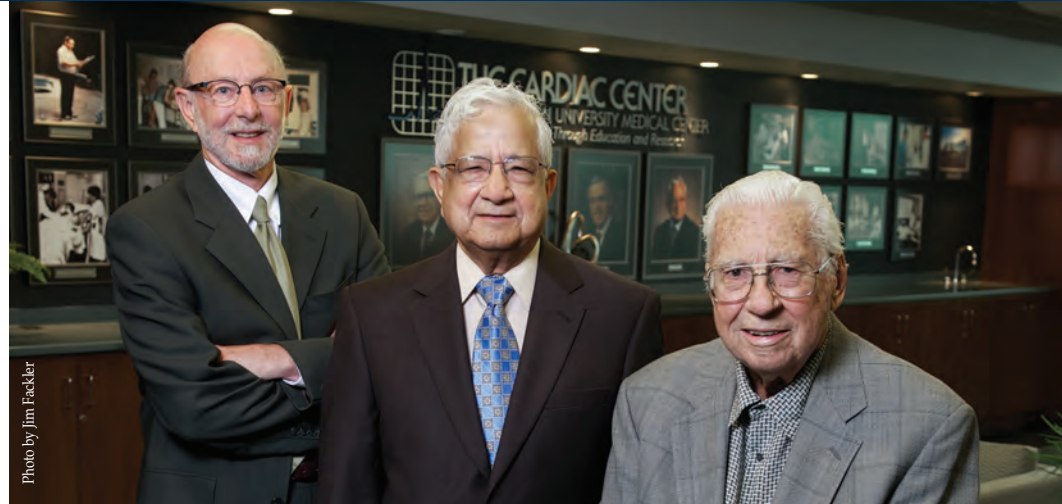
The good news is that the death rate from heart disease, considering the population increase, is about half what it was in 1961. That downward trend is thanks to better cardiac care. Syed Mohiuddin, MS'67, M.D., who joined the Cardiac Center faculty in 1970, recalls a time when, "We made due with whatever we had, mostly our eyes, ears and hands, which made us good clinicians."

"We made terrific diagnoses using those skills, but we couldn't really offer many therapeutic options for our patients," Mohiuddin says. "But that spurred us to learn more, to devise new things, develop new technology."

Adds Del Core: "It's an evolving science ... there have been tremendous leaps and bounds to how we treat these patients."

And the Cardiac Center has been at the forefront of such treatments. Booth mentions implementing defibrillators to shock hearts back to life. Pacemakers were introduced in the 1960s and the Cardiac Center organized a clinic to regularly monitor patients with them. By the 1980s, says Del Core, patients regularly were sent to bypass surgery. Today, he adds, "We fix them up with stents and balloons." Within an hour, Del Core can insert a stent — a metal mesh tube about the size of a ballpoint pen's spring — to open a once-blocked artery.

Del Core says the first generation of stents was introduced in 1994. Ten years later, new stents were introduced, coated



Creighton University was one of the early pioneers in the field of cardiology, beginning its program 50 years ago. From left is the Cardiac Center's current director, Dennis Esterbrooks, MD'74; past director Syed Mohiuddin, MS'67, M.D.; and one of the program's founders, Richard Booth, M.D.

with medication to prevent artery tissue from re-closing around them. Today, Del Core and colleague Devendra Agrawal, Ph.D., who holds the Peekie Nash Carpenter Endowed Chair in Medicine, are conducting further research on stents with a \$2.6 million grant from the National Institutes of Health.

Agrawal says the study involves investigating a "new therapeutic gene" that could eliminate problems associated with balloon angioplasty and intravascular stenting. One such problem occurs when the growth of new cells in the muscle layer of a treated artery reblocks blood flow through that artery, a condition known as restenosis.

"This is an attractive and viable option to combat the longstanding complications of coronary intervention," Agrawal says, "and could save thousands of lives worldwide." He added that combining the therapeutic gene approach with balloon angioplasty could "eliminate the need of stents in coronary interventions."

Mark Holmberg, MD'87, a faculty member since 1993, notes how mobile echocardiogram machines once had to be hauled in "huge vans." The latest models can fit in the back of a sports utility vehicle and acquired images can be viewed and interpreted on a laptop computer.

"It easily gives us better pictures than machines from a few years ago," Holmberg says.

Dennis Esterbrooks, MD'74, a 32-year

faculty veteran and the center's director, points to the evolution from continuous heart-rhythm monitoring in the coronary care units to intermittent short-term outpatient monitoring to new smart-phone based technology, allowing continuous outpatient monitoring for days or weeks at a time.

Medicines have matched the pace of technologies, coming a long way from the introduction of nitroglycerin more than 130 years ago. Today, notes Tammy Burns, PharmD'04, a pharmacist and director of the center's research team, "This is a field where there are continuously new drugs, new technologies, new guidelines."

Creighton currently is participating in about 25 prestigious trials (some international) for drugs nearing FDA approval. That means the center's patients have the most helpful medicines available to them — often for free.

"It's pretty fast-paced, but it's really nice because physicians get experience with new medication," Burns says. "I can learn about these new medicines before they hit the market and learn about issues or common side effects."

All of it is a far cry from what Booth had available to him 50 years ago.

"It's a question of getting the patient at the right time to the right place that can do something, because the tools we have nowadays are pretty fantastic," Booth says. "They save lives."



Photos by Jim Fackler

Top, Michael Del Core, BS'79, MD'83, the Cardiac Center's associate director, says the center has always been "forward-thinking." Middle, Mark Holmberg, MD'87, says echocardiogram machines have become more mobile while providing better images. Bottom, Tammy Burns, PharmD'04, says Creighton is participating in international trials involving heart drugs.

Thinking Forward

But Booth and the Cardiac Center didn't just follow the lead of others. At times, they led the field.

"The Cardiac Center is defined by — has always been defined by — forward-looking thinkers," Del Core says. "From the beginning when Dr. Booth and Dr. [Vincent] Runco 50 years ago started the Cardiac Center, they were really on the cutting edge. They were doing things back then that nobody else was doing."

Almost immediately. In 1962, at a medical convention in Cleveland, Booth watched a machine that could display EKGs over data-telephone wires. "Nobody seemed to pay much attention to it," Booth says. But Booth, who worked with long-distance communications as a soldier during World War II, immediately grasped the new technology's potential. At the time, many hospitals had to mail EKGs for interpretation by a cardiologist. That caused critical delays in patient care.

Booth partnered with then-Bell Labs in New Jersey to establish data-phone lines at the Cardiac Center. The system was operational in six months, and Booth traveled to rural outposts to promote the technology that provided EKG results in minutes rather than days.

"That absolutely revolutionized [EKG transmits]," Booth says. "Bell Labs had no idea this was going to be such a popular machine so they had to gear up to make them."

Even on a weekend, Booth says, he might get 50 EKGs to read at home. "In our best years we were taking in 100,000," he says. "We extended all the way from Wyoming to Illinois, from the Canadian border well into Kansas."

Del Core calls it "a tremendous innovation." One that led to relationships with many rural medical providers. That, in turn, "Established a good line of referrals coming in," Esterbrooks says, "which is important for the University, the School of Medicine and for education." Today, the Cardiac Center alone serves up to 1,000 patients monthly at its outpatient clinic.

The center's faculty members also travel to 11 different rural hospitals

approximately 70 times each month, mostly in eastern Nebraska and western Iowa. That saves patients travel time and helps center faculty extend knowledge to rural physicians.

Another center "first" was its establishment of a fellowship program, accomplished in 1964 when Booth secured a grant from the National Institutes of Health. (Mohiuddin was one of the first three fellows.)

As a result, says Booth, "Many of the cardiologists in Omaha were trained by us." Mohiuddin says that numbers more than 150 fellows "who are now throughout the country, and also in some foreign countries. They are messengers of what a good practice of cardiology is."

About 12 years ago, the center was among the first to perform catheterizations through the wrist, resulting in far fewer complications than leg/groin catheterizations.

"Labs in Europe were doing that," Del Core says. "But nobody here in the United States was doing it. We decided to pick it up." Now 80 percent of the center's catheterizations are done through the wrist.

"Even today, that forward-thinking is still in existence," Del Core says. "We're evolving ourselves to always be ahead of the pack and today we do things in the cardiac catheterization lab that less than 1 percent of the rest of the country does."

The Cardiac Center was the area's first facility to have an echocardiogram, color doppler studies and an electrophysiology lab with, says Mohiuddin, "probably the newest technology available." And it was among the first in Omaha to offer an arrhythmia ablation program — which looks to eliminate heart rhythm disorders through the use of electrical current.

"We're right in line with the major centers throughout the United States," says Kelly Airey, M.D., who helped establish the Complex Arrhythmia Ablation Program two years ago. Working often with Hussam Abuissa, M.D., she practices electrophysiology to diagnose and treat the electrical circuitry of the heart.

"In terms of ablative procedure, I've seen people disabled from atrial and

ventricular arrhythmia with multiple hospitalizations that we've ablated and it's turned their lives around completely," Airey says. "No more drugs, no more hospitalizations."

Future

The 50-year celebration is nice, but it's clear that Creighton cardiologists have their eyes on the future.

Del Core points to a "tomorrow" when valve replacements are done in the catheterization lab, eliminating the need for open-heart surgery for people with heart valve disease. Burns talks of implementing the newest anti-coagulant agents and of pharmacogenomics. "A hot topic right now in pharmacy is looking at genetic impact on the way people metabolize or respond to different drugs," she says.

Del Core also sees a day "a few years down the road" when "bioabsorbable" stents are used. They would slowly disintegrate over months but the artery would be left open.

Esterbrooks talks of a "polypill" that might contain multiple medications in one inexpensive pill and which, postulate two researchers, could reduce heart disease and stroke mortality by up to 80 percent if widely used.

Mohiuddin talks of genetics as "where the future of medicine is; not only recognition of what genes do, but also how we can replace genes. Replacement therapy."

He also cites an extension, of sorts, of Booth's EKG data-phone system. "The next step is going to be long-distance diagnoses and learning," Mohiuddin says. "That we could actually see patients without ever going there. It is in development."

Even Booth remains forward-focused, talking of the possibility of "using stem cells to rebuild the heart."

"That's a little ways off," Booth says, "but it's certainly possible."

And a long way from the Bishop's Room.

About the author: Flott is a freelance writer in Omaha.

50 Years

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the cardiac program at Creighton University. Richard Booth, M.D., and the late Vincent Runco Jr., M.D., co-founded the program in 1961. Booth was first chief of cardiology at Creighton, and Runco succeeded him in 1971. Both came from Ohio State University, where Booth was an assistant professor of cardiology and Runco a fellow of cardiology.

Robert Heaney, BS'47, MD'51, then Creighton's chairman of internal medicine, hired the pair. They didn't have much beyond each other. Cardiac patients weren't even monitored to know when they experienced a heart event.

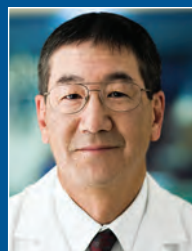
"There was no cardiology department in the area," says Booth, 87. "In those days, cardiology was just becoming a recognized specialty and there were only a few training programs. So everything we did was kind of a first."

The center grew steadily from a handful of rooms on the ground floor of the old Saint Joseph Hospital. In 1992, it moved to its current facility at 30th and Webster streets. Nineteen years later — and half a century since its start — the Cardiac Center is among the University's jewels.

Heart Surgery

by Rick Davis, BA'88

There is a symbiotic relationship between the cardiologist and the surgeon in providing the appropriate, most effective care for patients with heart disease.



Sugimoto

Jeffrey Sugimoto, M.D., chairman of the Department of Surgery and chief of the Division of Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery, says Creighton is noted not only for the quality of its care, but for the personal attention it provides each patient.

"A lot of heart programs are considered machines or factories," Sugimoto says. "I think with the combination of the outreach of our cardiologists and having a cardiac surgery program in place, our patients are never seen as numbers. We get to know the patients and their families personally, and provide very individualized care."

Creighton also is recognized for what is known as "bloodless surgery."

"In any surgery you perform, you will lose some blood," Sugimoto explains. "There are multiple techniques that we use to limit that loss and to save the blood that we lose and give it back."

What does that mean for the heart patient? Sugimoto says that nationally 50 percent of heart surgery patients require a blood transfusion, which includes some associated health risks, as well as additional costs. "In our program," he continues, "it's less than 10 percent."

So what does Sugimoto see for the future of heart surgery? In the near term, the next five to 10 years, he believes there will be more heart surgeries performed as our population ages, and that these surgeries will be successfully performed on older and older patients.

"There also will be advances that will make it less invasive," he says. "What that generally implies is smaller incisions and shorter recovery times. But will we still be doing bypass surgery for people with coronary artery disease? The answer is, 'Absolutely, yes.'"

In the longer term, he says, growing hearts in the lab through the use of stem cells or developing mechanical hearts provide promise, but must be weighed against "astronomical" costs.

Photo by Mark Romesser





In the remote mountain village of Pauton Luas, Mustika Yundari, a 29-year-old Jesuit Refugee Service inclusion officer, talks with local villagers to determine the community's needs. Pauton Luas had been the center of three decades of fighting between the Indonesian government and separatist rebels until a peace deal was brokered in 2005, in the aftermath of the devastating tsunami that struck the area a year earlier.

"St. Ignatius called us to go anywhere we are most needed for the greater service of God. The spiritual as well as material need of nearly 16 million refugees throughout the world today could scarcely be greater. God is calling us through these helpless people."— Pedro Arrupe, S.J.

The late Jesuit Superior General Pedro Arrupe, S.J., wrote the above words on Nov. 14, 1980, upon founding Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS). Today, JRS works in 50 countries, and, since nearly the beginning, Creighton's Don Doll, S.J., has been there to photograph its efforts — including this summer in the predominantly Muslim region of Aceh, Indonesia. Fr. Doll shares that story in the following photos, with the narrative provided by *Creighton Magazine* features editor Pamela Adams Vaughn.

Reaching Out

Creighton's Don Doll, S.J., photographs the work of Jesuit Refugee Service in Indonesia

Seven years ago this December, a huge tectonic plate on the floor of the Indian Ocean suddenly lunged, and Aceh, Sumatra, the nearest landmass, shuddered.

A few minutes later and without warning, the ocean seemed to tip wildly away from the shoreline and, then, tip back — a 9.3 earthquake had spawned a massive tsunami that took more than 230,000 lives and left half a million people homeless around its shores.

Aceh took the biggest hit.

Jesuit Refugee Service, an international Catholic organization established by the Society of Jesus in 1980, quickly reached out to Aceh to offer assistance. What took shape was a remarkable partnership between a Catholic relief agency and a predominantly Muslim community, working together for the greater good of a



In the village of Lawe Buluh Didi (population 250), JRS project coordinator Donatus Akur, left, assists villagers in pouring the foundation for a mosque. It took a year and a half of negotiations for the community and JRS to achieve an agreement to work together on the project. The community supplied the labor and JRS helped fund the effort, about \$25,000. Fr. Doll notes that a mosque is more than a place of worship here; it is the community's gathering space.



A young student enjoys a lighter moment with a Jesuit peace education officer, who was questioning him on disaster preparedness.



Students at a local school in Aceh participate in a disaster drill. JRS is helping the communities to prepare for the next tsunami, earthquake or flood.

struggling people.

That fact was not lost on Don Doll, S.J., the Charles and Mary Heider Endowed Jesuit Faculty Chair at Creighton, who spent two weeks photographing the recovery effort in Aceh.

"The Jesuits reach out to the poorest of the poor regardless of their faith," Fr. Doll explains. "The Jesuits are assisting Muslims: What an example for the world!"

In order to help, the JRS team first had to listen — meeting with local leaders to build trust and an atmosphere of partnership.

"It was crucial to involve the community, religious leaders, institutions, organizations and authorities in socialization, assessment, program design and evaluations," says Fransiscus Yoppie Christian, JRS Aceh advocacy coordinator. "That way, it was the community who took ownership in initiatives, workshops and publications. JRS not only employed local staff in key positions, but sought the approval from local religious leaders and authorities before publishing information or making key decisions."

The communities, in general, welcomed JRS assistance



JRS disaster preparedness teams worked in 17 schools and villages. On this day, the village of Lawe Sawah, population 2,800, simulated a disaster as they are susceptible to earthquakes and floods. The town's people begin an orderly procession to the soccer field after the warning siren is sounded.



Some adults and children acted as injured disaster victims during the disaster drill in Lawe Sawah, which was coordinated by JRS.



after the organization and its program were introduced to them, with only very few political leaders expressing suspicion and rejection, the team members say.

How to respond to suspicion? With respect and patience.

What was most interesting and, ultimately successful, was that Jesuits and other Christians were outnumbered on their own staff!

"Of the 41 JRS staffers who came together to help Aceh rebuild, only eight were Christian," says Toto Yulianto, S.J., director of the JRS Aceh project.

"After working in Aceh for three years," he adds, "JRS staff saw a change in the community ... A primarily Muslim staff under the auspices of a Catholic organization had lessons to learn when working in Aceh."

When accompanying, serving and advocating for



the rights of the rural communities in South Aceh, for example, JRS learned it could build on previous experiences working with Islamic communities in other parts of Aceh province. JRS staff members were all educated on local culture and religion and approached projects with respect.

Nowhere was this change in the community more stunning to the participants than a couple of special



JRS purchased tractors to assist one community in plowing its rice fields. Above, rice is prepared for a blessing of the tractors. Left, a village imam delivers a traditional Aceh blessing, pasting the cooked rice on the tractors' engines. Below, villagers move the tractors to a storage area behind the mosque at the village's center.



construction projects that took shape: the building of a mosque and the rebuilding of an Islamic school.

The work of JRS in Aceh ended this past June, after finishing the scheduled three-year implementation.

What remains? A mosque built by many hands from different faith traditions. Restored schools. Tractors to share the labor in replenished rice fields. Hope rekindled. Hearts somehow mended after tremendous loss.

IN THE FAITH: CATHOLIC AT CREIGHTON

By Susan Naatz
Associate Vice President for University Ministry



Photo by Jim Fackler

While Creighton University welcomes students of all religious traditions, the University continues to connect in a unique, meaningful way with its Catholic students — educating them in the faith, to be women and men of conscience and conviction, who, in the spirit of Jesuit founder St. Ignatius, will serve others and seek a more just world.



“How are Catholic students living their faith at Creighton?”

Andy Alexander, S.J., vice president for University Ministry at Creighton, recently posed that question to *Creighton University Magazine*.

One might assume that Creighton is meeting the needs of its Catholic students simply because it is Catholic and Jesuit. Tradition is important; it gives us roots. But living that tradition is what truly bears fruit.

While not every Catholic student is actively practicing her or his faith, Creighton’s weekend liturgies are full and many students are able to articulate how they have chosen to practice their faith. In the following sampling, four students and three recent graduates share their experiences as Catholics on Creighton’s campus.



Faith Doesn't Stop at the Church Doors

Katie Kastl, a senior theology and secondary education major from Yukon, Okla., was a student intern for Campus Ministry during the 2010-2011 academic year.

Heavily involved in her parish youth group during high school, she found college life different. There was no youth group she could join; she had to figure out where she fit in from a faith perspective. At Creighton, she says she felt encouraged to branch out and interact more with people from different cultures and faith traditions — finding that “we’re more alike than different.”

Her Campus Ministry intern work involved organizing and attending the weekly Protestant worship services and working with Justice Walking — a program designed for students to come together to explore and share their faith in relation to a specific issue of social injustice.

She emphasized that her Jesuit education has helped her understand discernment, reflection and Catholic social teaching.

“In the end, this internship was more than I could have ever asked it to be,” Kastl writes in a reflection on her experience. “I have learned a lot about the world around me and about myself. I have learned more than I had ever thought before, that my faith doesn’t check itself when I step outside the doors of the church. My faith affects how I see, and how I treat, the world around me.”



Photo by Jim Fackler

Katie Kastl says at Creighton she has had an opportunity to interact with different cultures and religions.



Not Afraid to Question

“College is a tumultuous time and there are many challenges in college,” says Vivian Irizarry, BS’11, who graduated this May with a major in biology and a minor in historical theology and is now a medical student at Loyola University Chicago.

“Sometimes you can get lost. On a daily basis, I encountered students who struggled with their Catholic faith. Sometimes they questioned and they stopped going to Mass. I, myself, stopped going to Mass for awhile. Then you encounter the Marie Hiltons (director of faith formation in Campus Ministry) who help form you and are there when you are questioning and you come back to the church.”

At Creighton, Irizarry became more comfortable with questioning. “If I’m not questioning, then I’m not growing in

faith and walking with Christ. I’m at a standstill and moving backward. A university is a place to question. Ultimately, you have to seek the answers; this made my faith foundation stronger.”

Irizarry’s faith was shaken last year when her mother died.

“I was blindsided by the pain and loss, doubting God and wondering about suffering and pain,” she says. But returning to Creighton after the funeral was like “coming back to family. There were so many people who cared about me and were worried.”

She found support through Campus Ministry and the Jesuits.

“Faith is imbedded in our mission to provide a safety net when you really doubt God,” Irizarry says.

Irizarry lived her faith through participation in Creighton’s ILAC Dominican Republic Summer Mission Program, Campus Ministry retreats and the St. Peter Canisius Society. (The Canisius Society, named after the Jesuit who wrote the first catechism, builds community and focuses on topics of Catholic faith that members wish to experience in a deeper way.)

“The Jesuit tradition has formed me. I’m learning about the world and how to apply what I have learned in college — taking the message of Christ into the world.”



Meeting “a Need and a Thirst”

John Roller, a senior theology major from Bismarck, N.D., says, at Creighton, he has grown in his understanding of Jesuit spirituality and has

taken to heart the Ignatian value of finding God in all things, “especially in daily life and experiences.”

Roller, past president of the Rosary Club at Creighton, is one of a group of Catholic student leaders at the University looking to combine Catholic groups on campus in an effort to create a central place for students wanting to learn more about the Catholic faith.

“There is excitement,” he says. “Students want



Photo by Andrew Campbell

Vivian Irizarry, BS’11, now a medical student in Chicago, found support during a painful time.



Photo by Jim Fackler

John Roller is looking to pull together Catholic groups on campus.

involvement and want to take the initiative. There is a need and a thirst, and we are trying to implement that right now."

He says the Jesuits on campus serve as religious mentors and guides. He specifically mentions Roc O'Connor, S.J., rector of the Jesuit community at Creighton, who is involved in retreat and Eucharistic adoration experiences with various student groups.

"Even with his busy life, Fr. O'Connor takes time with students," Roller says.

Roller says he learned how to bring his faith into action and the importance of service through his participation in the Cortina Community at Creighton. Cortina is a living-learning community for sophomores developed by the Creighton Center for Service and Justice, the Department of Residence Life, and Academic Affairs, in which students are challenged to live authentic lives of faith as women and men for and with others.

"Cortina helped me think about how faith should influence and motivate my life choices after college," Roller said.



Experiencing God through Music

Erin Johnson, a senior biochemistry major from Owatonna, Minn., is very involved in the Praise and Worship group at Creighton. Praise

and Worship Nights are student-coordinated services featuring contemporary music, reflections, speakers and prayer in community. Johnson attended the Praise and Worship organizational meeting her freshman year and immediately became involved.

Music director Tony Ward describes the group as "very much a peer-to-peer ministry. Watching them rehearse, I see them working so well on their own that I don't need to step in. I believe that students who are actively engaged in practicing their faith are more prone to remain active after they leave Creighton."

Johnson says Praise and Worship Nights are special times set aside for God. Even when she has had a very busy week, once she gets to the Praise and Worship Nights, it is comforting and refreshing.

"I experience God through music. Music helps me to ask, 'How can God not exist if I experience God through the beauty and power of music?'"

She adds: "I love St. John's Church. I cried through the



Photo by Dave Weaver

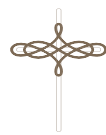
For senior Erin Johnson, Praise and Worship Nights are special times set aside for God.

entire Welcome Mass when I came to Creighton. Starting off with that Mass is the greatest part of Welcome Week. God is here and on this campus."

She says that her retreat experiences, especially the Encounter and Fall Adventure Retreats, set the tone for both her freshman and sophomore years. Jen Kennedy-Croft, Campus Ministry retreats coordinator, shares: "It is truly an honor to walk with our students on their faith journey. I learn a great deal through listening to their reflections and know that we are helping form students who live a faith that does justice."

Johnson describes her spring break service trip to Pilsen, Ill., as "awesome." She also spent three weeks in the Dominican Republic with her theology class, witnessing people living their faith deeply despite extreme poverty. These experiences led her to volunteer at Creighton's Magis Clinic at the Siena/Francis House in Omaha, working with the homeless and uninsured alongside Creighton medical students.

She says Creighton has helped her in "integrating faith and discernment into one conversation. In this world that causes us to question God, Creighton fosters faith no matter what faith a student practices."



Catholicism is a Lifestyle

Nick Stukel, a senior biology major from Gregory, S.D., with plans to attend medical school, is an accomplished pianist who was encouraged by the Most Rev. Blase Cupich, who at the time was the bishop of Rapid City, S.D., to get involved right away when he came to Creighton. His first week on campus, he connected with Tony Ward, director of music ministry, and, within a month, Stukel was playing regularly at Mass.

Stukel is a founding member of the Praise and Worship group and has faithfully stayed committed to it, believing that this is "a way of reaching out to my generation with music that touches us."

"Music is one of my strongest passions and has helped me to grow in my faith at Creighton," Stukel says. "When I arrived at Creighton, I didn't know how much more I could grow in my faith. I've participated in the Creighton Center for Service and Justice (CCSJ) core team reflections, retreats and the *Spiritual*



Photo submitted

Nick Stukel spent six weeks in the Dominican Republic this summer, helping set up medical and dental clinics in the village of La Peñita. He is pictured with members of his host family.

Exercises. Sometimes I sit late at night in church and play the piano. It is a very reflective, prayerful time."

In addition to his music, Stukel described his participation in two fall break service trips through CCSJ as incredible, life-changing experiences. Those trips "changed the way I think about issues like immigration and poverty," he said. "I've become more open-minded and willing to see the world from different points of view."

"Creighton, at its deepest level, made me realize how deep the Catholic tradition really is. Being Catholic means more than just going to church on Sunday. It encompasses the way we look at others through the lens of social justice. It (Catholicism) is really a lifestyle."



Putting Faith into Action

Erin Schmitz, BSN'11, put her faith into action through her involvement in Creighton's Students for Life, which included serving as the group's president her senior year. Schmitz was involved in recruiting speakers, participating in service work, praying at the abortion clinic in Bellevue, Neb., and traveling to the annual



Photo submitted

Erin Schmitz, bottom right holding sign, helped lead Creighton Students for Life members in a trip to Washington, D.C., Jan. 21-25, for the annual March for Life to protest the legalization of abortion.

March for Life event in Washington, D.C.

"Students for Life helped me to become an advocate for the unborn and to live my faith," says Schmitz, who is now working as a nurse at a physician's office in Colorado. "I also made many long-lasting friendships through Students for Life and it was very spiritually fulfilling."

In addition to her involvement in Students for Life, Schmitz participated in a retreat every semester during her four years at

Creighton, became a Eucharistic Minister and got involved with St. John's parish.

"I just love St. John's," she says. "It is a beautiful church, but it's not simply that. I feel welcome. I feel like it is home."

"My freshman year, I was very reserved and Mass was a way to just absorb things and feel the presence of God. Now I can be myself, take things in: process, reflect and be with the communities of both St. John's parishioners and Creighton students."

She is thankful for her Creighton experience. "Not only does Creighton have great academics; it is also about spiritual and service orientation. You are definitely formed into a well-rounded person during your time at Creighton."



Student to Campus Minister

Jeff Peak earned his undergraduate degree in journalism from Creighton in 2008, then completed a year of service work before returning to Creighton to pursue a master's degree in ministry, which he is scheduled to receive in December.

Retreats at Creighton had a significant impact on Peak's faith journey.

"I began to own my faith through retreats," he says. "My faith was no longer my parents' faith; it was mine."

"We were affirmed for being who we are as unique, blessed and wonderful children of God, which is something we don't always hear or recognize. Often it's critical voices that get through, not the voice that says, 'God created me, so I am good.'"

Peak was also affected by Creighton's Center for Service and Justice (CCSJ).

"My first service trip experience was to New Orleans in spring 2007, which was a year and a half after hurricane Katrina. Our direct service was gutting houses, but we also formed relationships with the local residents and engaged in social analysis where we gained a deeper understanding of the issues affecting the area."

"People talk about 'being on fire.' I felt that I was 'on fire' when I returned from the service trip. I had experienced a real shift in my world-view and I couldn't view my own life the same again."

While Peak worked on his graduate studies, he also served as an intern with CCSJ and as a peer minister/chaplain — which influenced his decision to become a Catholic minister.

"When I started as the CCSJ graduate intern, I wasn't sure that ministry was my calling," he reflects. "If anything, I figured that I could get my master's degree, cultivate some wonderful skills, but still fall back upon my communications background if necessary. That changed during my time at Creighton."

He began his work as a campus minister at Saint Peter's College, a Jesuit institution in Jersey City, N.J., this fall.



Photo by Jeffrey Vock

Alum Items

67 Dr. Joseph P. Drozda Jr., ARTS, Chesterfield, Mo., was elected to the American College of Cardiology board of trustees. Drozda is currently director of outcomes research at Sisters of Mercy Health System.

70 Dr. Michael J. Smith, BS, Bainbridge Island, Wash., wrote the book *An Owl's Whisper*, published in April 2011 by CreateSpace.

73 Hon. Jeffrey V. Coen, BA, Dallas, retired district court judge, received the 2011 Louise Raggio Advocacy for Women Award from Legal Aid of Northwest Texas. Coen was also named 2011 Best in Dallas by *D Magazine* in the area of mediation/arbitration. **Philip L. Garland, BA '68, JD**, Garner, Iowa, received the Rolland Grefe Pro Bono Publico Award at the Iowa State Bar annual meeting in June 2011.

75 Thomas A. Ruma Jr., MD, Bennington, Neb., received the 2011 Nebraska Medical Association's Distinguished Service to Medicine Award for his contributions to medicine and Immanuel Medical Center. **William D. Scherle, JD**, Des Moines, Iowa, received the Iowa State Bar Association's highest honor, the Award of Merit, during the association's annual meeting in June.

76 Daniel E. Monnat, JD, Wichita, Kan., for the 24th consecutive year, has been named to *The Best Lawyers in America*. In the 2012 edition, he was honored for criminal defense, white-collar criminal defense and appellate defense.

78 Andrea Fairley Addington, BSN, Johnston, Iowa, received her doctorate in education in May 2010 from College of Saint Mary in Omaha. Addington is currently an associate professor at Allen College in Waterloo, Iowa.

77 Michael J. Kemmy, BSBA, Charlotte, N.C., was certified as a specialist in elder law by the North Carolina State Bar Board of Legal Specialization.

83 Jon A. Jacobsen, BSBA, Treynor, Iowa, presented and facilitated the Treynor State Bank Trust Summit held at the Mid-America Center in Council Bluffs, Iowa. Jacobsen is currently the senior vice president of trust and investments for TS Bank. **Jodi Grassmeyer, JD**, Tucson, Ariz., has been elected chairman of the Canyon Community Bank board of directors. **Michael R. Kealy, JD**, Reno, Nev., represented the Clean Water Coalition in Clark County, Nev., and obtained a unanimous ruling from the Nevada Supreme Court declaring the \$62 million the legislature took from the water coalition for the state's general fund was unconstitutional.

85 Shannan Neppl Brommer, BA, Omaha, has been named director of the Stewardship and Development Office at the Archdiocese of Omaha. **Joseph A. Happe, BA '82, JD**, Des Moines, Iowa, has joined Davis Brown Law Firm as a shareholder attorney. **Rev. Thomas J. Merkel, BA**, Omaha, was honored as an administrator of the year at the Archdiocese of Omaha Archbishop's Dinner for Education. **Jose L. Muguerza, BS**, Saratoga, Calif., is founder and chairman of Business Services, Inc., in San Jose, Calif.

86 Michael W. Jahnke, JD, Southampton, N.Y., has joined Loeb & Loeb LLP as a partner and co-chair of the antitrust practice in the firm's New York office. **Dr. Rebecca K. Rowley, BA**, Clovis, N.M., was named president of Clovis Community College in July 2011.

88 Maureen A. Harrington, BS, Omaha, was honored as an inner-city and special education teacher

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 \$2,499)

of the year at the Archdiocese of Omaha Archbishop's Dinner for Education. **Dr. Glenn M. Ihde II, BSChm**, Red Oak, Texas, gave the presentation "Short-Term Safety and Symptomatic Outcomes of Transoral Incisionless Fundoplication in Patients with Chronic Gerd" at the Southwestern Surgical Congress annual meeting in Ko Olina, Hawaii. **Reinaldo Pascual, JD**, Atlanta, has been elected to the board of trustees for Syracuse University and the Atlanta History Center. Pascual is currently a corporate partner at Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker, LLP, in Atlanta.

89 Robert C. Lawler, BS '85, MD, Lemont, Ill., was honored at the Society of St. James the Apostle 24th Annual Banquet - Honoring Christ's Heroes. Lawler is currently a physician from the Archdiocese of Chicago.

90 Alexander G. Calfo, JD, Los Angeles, successfully defended Ford Motor Co. in a lawsuit by a former employee claiming that exposure to asbestos caused him to develop mesothelioma. **Douglas F. Steenblock Jr., BA '83, MD**, Ames, Iowa, has been elected president of the Iowa Psychiatric Society for the 2010-2012 term. Steenblock has also been named a distinguished fellow by the American Psychiatric Association. **Rev. L. Dale Tripp, MS**, Kansas City, Mo., received a doctor of ministry from the Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in May 2011.

91 Walter A. Reed III, JD, Reading, Pa., has been appointed to a one-year term as a population health associate with the Jefferson School of Population Health at Thomas Jefferson University.

92 Michael P. Burns, BSBA '89, JD, Sutton, Neb., has been appointed county judge for the 10th Judicial District of Nebraska.

93 Rochelle M. Christensen, MD, Rapid City, S.D., has begun the medical practice, Rapid City Obstetrics & Gynecology. **Frankie Brown Jones, BA '90, JD**, Litchfield Park, Ariz., received the 2011 Exemplary Public Service Award from the Black Women Lawyer's Association in

Arizona. Jones also was elected to a three-year term on the Conflicts Case Committee by the State Bar of Arizona board of governors. **Peter J. Smith, BA**, Englewood, Colo., has been elected to a five-year term as a board member on the city of Englewood Transportation Advisory Committee.

94 Shayne Swiecicki Kennedy, BA, Oak Lawn, Ill., had two plays, "The Unexpected" and "Plans to Form a Human Chain Faltered," produced by Omaha's Shelterbelt Theatre in July.

95 John B. Buckman IV, JD, Chatham, N.J., has been named general manager of KAYWEB Angels, LLC, an investment firm in New York. **Shannon Donaldson Hoy, BSN**, Omaha, received a doctorate of nursing practice from the University of Massachusetts Amherst School of Nursing. **Lt. Col. Brett J. Schneider, BS '91, MD**, Silver Spring, Md., has been named chief of the Department of Psychiatry at Walter Reed National Medical Center in Bethesda, Md. Schneider was also inducted into the Order of Military Medical Merit in recognition of his contributions to military medicine.

96 Matthew S. Dehaemers, BFA, Kansas City, Kan., founder of Project Reclamation, was the lead artist for an art auction benefit in August 2011 with proceeds supporting the Spiva Center for the Arts in Joplin, Mo. The artwork was created from objects and debris collected from the aftermath of the tornado in May 2011.

97 Emily Johnson Hathcoat, BA, Chicago, was promoted to assistant vice president of corporate marketing and advertising for CNA Insurance in Chicago.

98 Carrie O'Donnell Brink, BS, Omaha, received her doctor of philosophy in educational administration and policy studies from Denver University in August 2011. **Jennifer Gibson Hannah, JD**, Shawnee, Kan., was elected by the partnership of Lathrop & Gag, LLP, to the firm's executive committee. **Stephen R. Patterson, BSBA '95**,



Updating the Alumni Directory

Creighton has contracted with Harris Connect to update contact information for our alumni. Harris will also help produce a hardcover publication that will allow you to reconnect with old friends, as well as network professionally.

Harris will be contacting you in the next few months to verify and update your contact and career information by:



e-mail



mail



phone

Thank you in advance for your participation.

Friendships Sail On for 'Golden Yachters'

By Pamela Adams Vaughn

They met as juniors in Creighton's brand new Degelman Hall. The walls were said to be so thin that they inspired the rule, "No speaking after 10 p.m.," so that other students could study.

The year was 1956; Austin Miller, S.J., presided over male students as dean, and discipline was stern.

Put those forces together, and you get ... the Golden Yacht Club?

It all started on a cold November evening, as the aforementioned junior men were chatting with a group of new coeds. "It was all just a lot of hot air," Paul Fritz, BSBA'58, recalls. "But one of us mentioned that we kept a golden yacht." (One member, Bob Whitaker, BS'58, attributes the club's name to student Jerry Micek, BS'59, whose years at St. Benedict's in Kansas included sending freshmen to the principal to request the "key to the Golden Yacht.")

After that, the club "just seemed to take on a life of its own," he added, although it would take a good while for the group to become more organized. After all, back then, Creighton's Jesuits banned membership in secret societies on campus, and the loosely formed group knew enough to lie low ... most of the time.

Part of the impetus for creating the club surely came from the degree of discipline on campus at the time. After all, it was the 1950s, and it seemed that if the dean couldn't be everywhere at once to enforce the rules, his lieutenants certainly could.

A case in point: the "quiet after 10" rule.

"It was after 10 p.m., and our lights were out," remembers Yacht Club member Elden Jonas, BSBA'58.

"I said, 'Goodnight, Jim,' and from across the room my roommate called, 'Goodnight, Elden.'

"All of a sudden the door flew open, and a Jesuit was looming in the doorway," the hall light behind him making Bernard Hasbrouck, S.J., barely recognizable.

"You are talking after hours," he boomed at the startled roommates.

"Students now have no idea what the discipline was like on campus back then," says Jonas.

For starters, there were strict hours and dress codes, and, "for undergraduates, attendance at Mass each Thursday or Friday was compulsory." If you missed Mass? "Your penalty was to appear before Fr. Miller and give him your excuses."

The stern atmosphere on campus kept order, but an added outcome seemed to be a streak of gentle rebellion.

Still, what may have focused the dean's ire on a few of these juniors came in the form of a survey.

The subject? Campus food, which even then elicited ready remarks.

"We were questioning students entering the cafeteria about the quality of the food, if the utensils were clean, if the food was hot," remembers Jonas.

All of a sudden, word spread through the

organize formally.

Thus, in February 1958, the Yachtsmen came together at the old Fireside Restaurant on Leavenworth Street for their first meeting and the installation of officers.

Indeed, officers ran the gamut from admiral Bob Whitaker, BSBA'58, to commodore. In fact, Fritz admitted, everyone in the Golden Yacht Club was an officer. "We were very democratic," he said — and in office for life.

Soon emblematic ribbons were purchased, but club members dared not flourish them in public. (Indeed, it wasn't until 2004 that the Yachtsmen got their official pins.)

The group's intention was never exclusion, members say, and, at \$1 a year for dues, the club seemed anything but exclusive.

Over the years, the Yachtsmen have managed to meet about three times each year.



Pictured at the 1963 wedding of Golden Yacht Club member John O'Gara are, from left: Jerry Micek, Jim Glass, Jim King, Elden Jonas, O'Gara, Ed Vitzthum (dec.), Jerry Nightingale, Bob Whitaker and Paul Fritz.

cafeteria that Fr. Miller wanted the "surveyors" to report to him immediately.

"He kept a dark office," the Yachtsman recalls, "lit only by his desk lamp." There he sat in the gloom, surely a dramatic figure.

"We were made to stand at attention in front of Fr. Miller, and I remember looking up at the ceiling, checking for other lighting.

"Fr. Miller immediately thought I was rolling my eyes as he lectured, and he yelled, 'You are an embryonic Bolshevik!'"

Of course, a better rallying cry could hardly have been imagined, and a few months later the Golden Yacht Club "set sail," unofficially, to be sure.

In a fit of practicality, recalls Jim Glass, BS'58, MA'69, "We waited until our senior year — a few months ahead of graduation" to

A few members are far flung though a central core remains in or near Omaha.

The group's motto — "to foster and preserve the friendships and relationships which have been developed during our undergraduate years" — says a lot about the Yachtsmen and their willingness to go where friendship takes them.

The Yachtsmen, indeed, often have come together for each child's — even grandchild's — wedding and many other rites of passage.

Even sharing in loss marks the closeness of the group. Indeed, a ripple of gentle laughter could be heard at the funeral of member Ed Vitzthum, BS'58, when reference was made to his membership in "the GYC."

And, in the best tradition of the Yachtsmen, he was buried wearing his pin.



Photo by Ford Jacobsen

107 Candles for Dental Alumnus

Will Miles Clark, DDS '29, right, looks over the photos of his Creighton dental school class with School of Dentistry Dean Mark Latta, D.M.D., during a visit to Creighton on Aug. 17 to celebrate his 107th birthday. Clark, who currently lives in Tucson, Ariz., toured the campus with his daughter and two sons. He even burst into a rendition of Creighton's fight song, "The White and the Blue." The video can be found on Creighton's YouTube channel, youtube.com/creighton1878.



Want to connect with Creighton alumni in your city?

Attend an event: Attending an alumni club event is a great way to meet new people and reconnect with Creighton. For a schedule of events, visit www.alumni.creighton.edu.

Volunteer to help in your city: We're always looking for more help! Consider becoming a member of your local area's Alumni Advisory Board. Currently, we have boards in the following areas, but more are coming soon! For more information or to sign up to volunteer, visit www.alumni.creighton.edu/getinvolved.

- Chicago
- Denver
- Kansas City
- Minneapolis/St. Paul
- Omaha
- Phoenix
- St. Louis
- San Francisco/San Jose
- Washington, D.C.

Plan an event: Don't see your city listed or any upcoming events where you live? Plan one with our Event in a Box program. More information can be found at: www.alumni.creighton.edu/eventinabox.

Connect online: Find fellow alumni through the Creighton Alumni Association on Facebook and Twitter.



facebook.com/CreightonAlumniAssociation



twitter.com/creightonalumni

MBA, Omaha, has been elected to the Metropolitan Utilities District board of directors. **Matthew J. Steele, PharmD**, El Dorado, Kan., is a pharmacy consultant for Doc McGhee Management located in Los Angeles and Nashville, Tenn.

00 Anthony Blash, PharmD, Rocklin, Calif., has joined Adventist Health in Roseville, Calif., as a pharmacy informaticist for physician services, business intelligence and analytics.

01 Aimee Bataillon, JD, Omaha, has joined Adams & Sullivan, P.C., in Papillion, Neb., as an attorney. **Rick R. Campbell, DDS**, Roseburg, Ore., has moved his dental practice, Campbell Family Dentistry, to a new state-of-the-art facility in Roseburg, Ore. **Brian J. Daiker, JD**, Ashton, Iowa, has joined Hedeon, Hughes and Wetering in Worthington, Minn., as an attorney. **Mary L. Ferwerda, BA '93, MS**, Milwaukee, received her Juris Doctor degree from Marquette University in May 2011. Ferwerda is currently an associate attorney in the corporate immigration division of Grzeza Law Group.

02 Jess W. Hoeme, JD, Murdock, Kan., joined Joseph & Hollander, LLC, in Wichita, Kan., as a criminal defense trial lawyer and manager of the firm's DUI defense team.

03 Jason K. Lowry, BS '99, MD, Owings Mills, Md., was honorably discharged from active duty after serving three years as an orthopaedic surgeon in the United States Air Force and has been selected for a one-year orthopaedic surgery fellowship in adult reconstruction at Sinai Hospital in Baltimore. **Jeffrey D. Sullivan, BA**, Indianapolis, has taken vows through the Society of Jesus at the Church of St. Thomas More in St. Paul, Minn., and has become a member of the Wisconsin Province of the Society of Jesus in August 2011. **Colin M. Wellenkamp, JD**, Silver Spring, Md., vice president of sustainable partnerships for Washington Linkage Group, organized Washington, D.C.'s, first charity benefit for Joplin, Mo., recovery in June 2011.

04 Shay Graves Burk, BA, Hastings, Neb., was named runner-up for the Outstanding Young Journalist of the Year award by the Nebraska Press Association. **Shawn P. Dontigney, JD**, Bellevue, Neb., became a shareholder at the law firm of Perry, Guthery, Haase & Gessford, P.C., LLO, in Lincoln, Neb. **Amy Nejezchleb, BA**, DeSoto, Ill., received a doctorate in English from Southern Illinois University Carbondale in May 2011. Nejezchleb was a contributing author for *Is It About a Bicycle?: Flann O'Brien in the Twenty-First Century*, published by Four Courts Press in March 2011.

05 Casey J. Symonds Esq., JD, Kansas City, Mo., has been named equity partner at the law firm of Altieri, Kelly, Symonds & Reed, LLC.

06 Belinda L. Corleyturnipseed, BA, Aurora, Colo., is the Toastmasters International 2011 District 26 Table Topics Champion.

07 Lt. j.g. Jacob E. Meusch, BA, Atkinson, Neb., received the 2011 Burton Award for Distinguished Writing for the article he wrote, "Equal Education Opportunity and the Pursuit of 'Just Schools': The Des Moines Independent Community School District Rethinks Diversity and the Meaning of 'Minority Student,'" during the 12th annual program and gala in June 2011. **Adam White, BS '03, JD**, Omaha, gave the presentation "Recent Developments in Fraud Enforcement" at the Healthcare Financial Management Association mid-year meeting in June 2011.

09 Sara Baldwin Bockstadter, JD, Kearney, Neb., opened Bockstadter Law Office in Minden, Neb. **Jeffrey R. Dorr, MED**, Cedarburg, Wis., has taken vows through the Society of Jesus at the Church of St. Thomas More in St. Paul, Minn., and has become a member of the Wisconsin Province of the Society of Jesus in August 2011. **Benjamin L. Lowndes, BA**, St. Paul, Minn., received his master's in English from the University of Nebraska at Omaha in May 2011. **Jenna Cheese Lowndes, BSN**, St. Paul, Minn., has joined HealtEast Heart Care Clinic as a device nurse. **John Roselle III, BA '07, MED**, Broken Arrow, Okla., has taken vows through the Society of Jesus at the Church of St. Thomas More in St. Paul, Minn., and has become a member of the Wisconsin Province of the Society of Jesus in August 2011.

10 Christopher P. Bellmore, JD, Omaha, successfully disputed his first case in front of the Nebraska Supreme Court. Bellmore is currently an attorney in the Madison County, Neb., public defender's office.

Marriages

85 Fiona Glade and **Walt C. Livingston III, BA**, June 2010, living in Sacramento, Calif.

91 **Michelle A. Lacey, JD**, and Dirk Nauman, June 27, 2011, living in Pekin, Ill.

97 **Jennifer L. Dohrn, BSN**, and Thomas Halliday, June 11, 2011, living in Chicago.

00 **Kristen Gray, BSN**, and Justin Sechrest, Oct. 2, 2010, living in Batavia, Ill.

05 **Lynsie E. Lyons, BSN**, and Peter D. Jones, May 3, 2011, living in Omaha.

07 Marie K. Bruening, BSBA, and Charles R. Fraass, Nov. 5, 2010, living in Omaha.

08 Meghan P. Matthews, BS'02, MS, and Kevin M. Martin, April 10, 2010, living in Omaha.

09 Jenna Cheese, BSN, and Benjamin L. Lowndes, BA, July 9, 2011, living in St. Paul, Minn. **Rachel Mans, BA,** and Mark C. McKenny, BSChm'04, DDS'08, May 21, 2011, living in Clive, Iowa.

10 Catherine Berger Pass, BS'09, MS, and Chad E. Olinger, BS'08, July 30, 2011, living in Omaha. **Dalia Youssef, MS,** and Benjamin T. Moore, BS'05, MS'09, July 12, 2011, living in Alexandria, Egypt.

Births

90 Greg J. Winjum, BSBA, and Laura C. Winjum, Orland Park, Ill., a daughter, Hannah Caroline, March 29, 2011.

92 Mark G. Manley, BSBA, and Georgia A. Manley, Gardner, Kan., a daughter, Violet Alice, Aug. 23, 2010. Patrick M. McLaughlin and **Julia Bednar McLaughlin, BA,** Topeka, Kan., a daughter, Megan Grace, Dec. 22, 2010.

95 C. Sean Frazier and Jeannie Bogatz Frazier, BSBA, Omaha, a son, Easton Christopher, June 13, 2011.

96 Scott Moller and Erica Sloan Moller, BA, Omaha, a son, Kellan Sloan, May 16, 2011.

97 Mark P. Bendon, BSBA, and Jacqueline Schmit Bendon, BSBA'98, Omaha, a son, Jacob Mark, May 18, 2011. Carlton J. Hathcoat and **Emily Johnson Hathcoat, BA,** Chicago, a daughter, Abigail Laine, June 3, 2011. Craig M. Hawley and **Sarah Seibert Hawley, BSN,** Maple Grove, Minn., a son, Maxwell Joseph, Feb. 25, 2011.

98 Peterson E. Brink and Carrie O'Donnell Brink, BS, Omaha, a daughter, Mari Caroline, Aug. 25, 2011. Jason Groth and **Jill Mormann Groth, BA,** Cedar Falls, Iowa, a daughter, Madeline Marie, June 7, 2010. Eamon A. Javers and **Maureen Mathews Javers, BS,** Silver Spring, Md., a son, Hugh Doyle, March 21, 2011. Nick J. Knudtson and **Lisa Dispense Knudtson, BS,** Lone Tree, Colo., a son, Logan Russell, June 2, 2011. **Dr. Matthew R. Mendlick, BA,** and Catherine Rush Mendlick, BA, MD'02, Omaha, a daughter, Mia Grace, July 28, 2011. Joshua D. Nore and **Jill Hoppe Nore, PharmD,** Albion, Neb., twin daughters, Grace and Hope, Aug. 5, 2010.

A Friend's Vision Fulfilled

Donald "Don" Petersen, BSC'50, and Albert "Al" Soberanski, MD'56, met as teenagers at Fort Dix, N.J., where both were assigned to the Army Signal Corps. Their friendship lasted more than 60 years.

Following his discharge from the Army, Petersen returned to Omaha and to Creighton, to finish his degree in accounting. Soberanski soon followed. Petersen graduated in 1950 and pursued graduate study at Saint Louis University; Al stayed at Creighton and graduated from the School of Medicine in 1956. Petersen married Therese Matras, SJN'50, BSN'51, and the couple moved to Denver. Soberanski moved to Denver, too, and devoted his life to medicine, conducting heart research for a time before settling into practice as an internist for more than four decades at Denver General Hospital.

"Al was a highly intelligent person and a product of his Jesuit medical education and his Catholic ideals," Don explains. "He believed that a patient's spirituality and relationship with God had a great deal to do with overall health. He wanted the proceeds of his estate to be used to help future physicians better understand the significant role of faith in healing."

Soberanski died in 2010. His wish comes to fruition with the Albert Soberanski Endowment for the Medical Humanities in the School of Medicine, the only known program of its kind. It will allow students to explore how Ignatian philosophy can be applied to the practice of medicine, influence patient interaction and affect outcomes.

"I know Al would approve," Petersen says. "Ignatian philosophy stresses the care of the whole person — mind, body and soul. This is a wonderful expression of what Al believed."



Photo by Mike Kleveter

Don Petersen, BSC'50, with School of Medicine Associate Dean Thomas Hansen, MD'00. A gift from Petersen's late friend Albert "Al" Soberanski, MD'56, will support a unique program in which medical students will explore Ignatian philosophy and how it can be applied to the practice of medicine.

99 Chris Kamykowski and Mandy Hobson Kamykowski, BS, St. Louis, a son, Logan Patrick, June 27, 2011.

00 Gregory P. Armendariz, BS'98, MCS'00, and Kristin Eickhorst Armendariz, BSEvs'98, Papillion, Neb., a daughter, Emily Anne, June 28, 2011. Justin H. Sechrest and **Kristen Gray-Sechrest, BSN,** Batavia, Ill., a son, Justin Hudson Jr., June 6, 2011.

01 Brian C. Bowman, JD, and Elizabeth Sipperley Bowman, JD'03, Omaha, a daughter, Charlotte Elizabeth, June 25, 2011. **Christopher M. McEvoy, MD,** and Julie A. Chang, MD'00, Honolulu, a son, Matthew Chang, June 15, 2010. John Washburn Jr. and **Kara Witulski Washburn, BA,** Aurora, Colo., a daughter, Kinsley Joy, Feb. 22, 2011.

02 Timothy R. Gradoville, BSBA, and Jamie Gradoville, Philadelphia, a son, Johnathan Robert, June 7, 2011.

03 Adam J. Heng, BSBA, and Brianne McDaniel Heng, BSN, Omaha, a son, Jackson Jude, June 6, 2011. **Jason K. Lowry, BS'99, MD,** and April N. Lowry, Owings Mills, Md., a daughter, Gabrielle Claire, March 26, 2011. Douglas E. Moore and **Megan Steffensmeier Moore,**

BSBA, Norfolk, Neb., a daughter, Tessa Elizabeth, March 22, 2011. Richard J. Murcek and **Christina M. Radi-Murcek, BS,** Omaha, a daughter, Scarlett Joanne, April 11, 2011. **Bryant T. Ott, BA,** and Patrice Jones Ott, BA, JD'10, Omaha, a son, James Thomas, Aug. 27, 2011. **David L. Paulzine, JD,** and Rebecca Olson Paulzine, JD'04, Farmington, Minn., a daughter, Mallory Quinn, March 4, 2011. Ryan M. Wiebe and **Maureen Muehlebach Wiebe, BS,** Kansas City, Mo., a son, Oliver Theodore, Dec. 15, 2010.

04 Daniel Ossowski, BSEvs, and Kathryn Langan Ossowski, PharmD'07, Maple Grove, Minn., a son, Colin Thomas, April 6, 2011. Stephen J. Rickerl and **Amy D. Nejezchleb, BA,** DeSoto, Ill., a daughter, Josephine Rickerl, Aug. 20, 2010. **Adrian R. Rider, BA,** and Sarah Wootton Rider, MA'10, Omaha, a son, Blake Andrew, Feb. 1, 2011. **Ryan L. Van Winkle, BSBA,** and Jackie Van Winkle, Omaha, a son, Lucas Lee, Jan. 20, 2011.

05 Brian P. Hennen, PharmD, and Kelly McCombs Hennen, BSN'04, Omaha, a son, William Andrew, April 3, 2011.

06 Daniel M. G'Sell, PharmD, and Marie Halbur G'Sell,

BS'02, DDS, Dardenne Prairie, Mo., a daughter, Evelyn Marie, July 18, 2011. Robert J. Hladik Jr. and **Katelin Beykirch Hladik, BSBA,** Omaha, a son, Cooper Thomas, March 13, 2011. **Thomas O. Rudersdorf, DDS,** and Jenni Rudersdorf, Omaha, a son, Thomas Howard, May 11, 2011. **Adam B. Smith, MD,** deceased, and **Melissa A. Smith, BSN'05,** Omaha, a son, Carson James, March 8, 2010. Brian Tiegs and **Markeita Simon Tiegs, DPT,** Lake Crystal, Minn., a daughter, Rhea Mae, July 25, 2011.

07 K.C. McVey, DDS, and Sarah Ambrose McVey, DDS, Hayden, Idaho, twins, a son, Charles Frederick, and a daughter, Gracie Elizabeth, May 18, 2011. Michael J. Youngblut and **Erin Bullerman Youngblut, BSN,** Dubuque, Iowa, a son, Christian, May 27, 2010.

08 John S. Schmidtke and Amber J. Schmidtke, PHD, McDonough, Ga., a son, Cooper Benjamin, March 14, 2011.

10 Scott M. Keenan, DPT, and Jacquelyn Hall Keenan, BA'97, Omaha, a daughter, Makayla Brhyn, Feb. 21, 2011. **Robert J. O'Malley, DDS,** and Natalia Bolamperti-O'Malley, BS'04, DDS'08, Omaha, twin sons, Dominic Paul and Vincent Sebastian, June 22, 2011.

Alumni Honors

School of Medicine

Longtime Indianapolis pediatrician Eric Yancy, MD'76, received the 2011 Alumni Merit Award from the School of Medicine on Sept. 9.

Yancy began his practice as a first-year resident in the newborn intensive care unit of Indiana University Medical Center/James Whitcomb Riley Hospital for Children and was named chief resident in 1979. Over the course of three decades, he has taught and mentored hundreds of medical students at Methodist Hospital of Indiana and at the Indiana University School of Medicine.

Yancy's commitment to educational excellence and his profession has led to numerous awards, including induction in the national medical honor society, Alpha Omega Alpha, in 2007, and being named teacher of the year twice by Methodist Hospital. He has also received numerous community awards and continues to work to advance health care for economically disadvantaged families.



Yancy

College of Arts and Sciences

The College of Arts and Sciences presented the Alumni Merit Award to William Roe, BSCHM'76, on Sept. 13.

Roe was named president and chief executive officer of Coskata, a biology-based renewable energy company in 2007. Prior to that, he was the chief operating officer of Nalco Chemical Company in Chicago, where he had worked for 29 years. He began his career at Nalco as a chemist in research and development and was the inventor and author of 13 patents and numerous technical articles and papers. He was later put in charge of the Asia/Pacific operations headquartered in Singapore.



Roe

Roe recently joined the advisory board of the Creighton Energy Program, where he contributes his experience in technology and energy-related businesses to the innovative new program at Creighton.

He and his wife, Kathy Roe, BSPha'76, live in Naperville, Ill.

School of Dentistry

Linda Hixon, DDS'94, received the School of Dentistry's 2011 Alumni Merit Award on Sept. 16.

Hixon, who has practiced dentistry in Belen, N.M., for the past 13 years, has devoted much of her spare time to humanitarian trips, providing dental care to impoverished regions of Honduras, the Dominican Republic, Philippines, Nepal and India. She has also been active in numerous community and professional societies. Hixon has served the New Mexico Dental Association (NMDA) as



Hixon

a delegate and district trustee, Albuquerque (N.M.) District Dental Society as president and a board member, Greater Belen Chamber of Commerce as a board member, and Albuquerque Astronomical Society as a board member.

She has also participated in many community service projects, including Give Kids a Smile and NMDA Donated Services. In 2010, the NMDA presented Hixon with a service award for her work.

School of Nursing

Ann Malone Berger, BSN'71, Ph.D., received the School of Nursing's Alumni Merit Award on Sept. 22. Berger is the Professor Dorothy Hodges Olson Endowed Chair in Nursing at the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC).

Her background includes more than 10 years in all levels of coronary care and more than two decades in oncology nursing care. In 2005, she received UNMC's Outstanding Teacher Award and was named a fellow in the American Academy of Nursing.



Berger

Berger has distinguished herself most notably for her work in fatigue, particularly as it relates to cancer and chemotherapy. She and her research team received a \$1.5 million grant from the National Institute of Nursing Research to study chemotherapy fatigue, the first research of its kind. The study, involving 220 women with breast cancer, identified the need for more sleep and healthy eating habits to directly impact physical and mental well-being.

School of Pharmacy and Health Professions

Douglas Pick, BSPha'83, president and chief executive officer of Omaha-based Pharmaceutical Technologies, Inc., received the 2011 Alumni Merit Award from the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions on Sept. 24.

Pick began his career as a community pharmacist, opening his own pharmacy in 1990. In 1992, he co-founded Pharmaceutical Technologies, Inc. (PTI), a pharmacy-benefits management firm. Today, PTI employs more than 150 people in Nebraska and has facilities in Nebraska, Colorado, Wyoming and California. The company has about 3,500 clients representing more than 2.7 million employees and dependents.

As president and CEO of PTI, Pick has been honored with the Blue Chip Enterprise Award, given to small businesses by MassMutual Financial Group and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. In 2000, PTI earned the Omaha 25 Excellence in Business Award for First in Growth from the Omaha Chamber of Commerce and KPMG.



Pick

Giving the Gift of Sight

By Sarah Smith, BA'07

What college sweethearts Jim, BS'83, MD'87, and Molly McComb, BA'83, Conahan of Denver have accomplished with the Mission of Healing Eyes is simply ... well ... eye-popping.

They started their faith-based, nonprofit organization, which treats the poor in Guerrero, Mexico, who are blinded by cataracts, in 2006. Since then, they have completed nearly 800 vision-restoring cataract surgeries, examined close to 7,000 people in their eye clinic and dispensed more than 10,000 pairs of glasses.

Both say none of it would have happened if their three children hadn't come up with the idea.

During a family trip to Zihuatanejo, Mexico, the fourth-largest city in Guerrero, in the spring of 2006, their teenage children saw a number of locals who couldn't see because they were suffering from cataracts. These individuals didn't have access to eye care either, as the nearest clinic for the poor was more than 100 miles away. With Jim trained as an ophthalmologist specializing in refractive surgery and eye micro-surgery, the family decided they needed to help.

They made plans to return in October to



Creighton graduates Jim, BS'83, MD'87, and Molly McComb, BA'83, Conahan established Mission of Healing Eyes (healingeyes.webs.com) to provide eye care to the poor in Mexico.

provide free eye care.

But, how to start? Jim had traveled previously to Mante, Mexico, with colleagues to perform free cataract surgeries and knew how difficult it was to organize a free clinic.

Undeterred, they began to make some phone calls. Eventually, they were given space at the Mexican naval hospital in Ixtapa to use as a clinic.

When they finally returned in October, more than 100 patients were waiting to be screened. The Conahans returned in November and measured the patients for cataract lens implants, and then came back again in December to perform the cataract surgeries.

Now, the family typically spends a week

at a time in May and October at the naval hospital performing surgeries, giving eye exams and dispensing glasses.

Their mission, quoting Mother Teresa, is "to see that the blinded poor are the face of Jesus in distressing disguise" and to live out Matthew's Gospel message when Jesus explains in a parable, "as you did it to the least of my brethren, you did it to me."

Since the first mission, Jim said Healing Eyes has blossomed into a well-organized machine. Each trip is structured with designated stations for patients. Their vision is checked, their eyes are dilated and a doctor ensures they are fit for surgery. They are measured for a lens implant, given a number and then operated on. Patients receive an eye-patch and are re-examined the next day.

Molly works as the clinic administrator, while Jim performs the surgeries and examinations. Their three children also participate: Megan serves as an interpreter, Matt distributes glasses and Brian assists Jim. Jim says doing mission work with Molly and their children is a blessing.

"Imagine a dad who gets to work side by side with his kids and his wife, in the true spirit of what our Lord would like you to do," Jim said. "The joy is beyond description."

Deaths

27 Albert N. Brown, DDS, Nashville, Ill., Aug. 14, 2011.

33 Richard A. Steinauer, DDS, Redondo Beach, Calif., May 12, 2011.

35 Minnie Connolly Egerer, SJN, Annandale, Va., Jan. 23, 2011.

37 Carroll D. Smyers, JD, Lakeland, Fla., June 25, 2011.

38 Edna Christman Dalton, SJN, Columbus, Neb., Jan. 29, 2011.

42 T. Richard Liebert, PHB, Leawood, Kan., May 7, 2011.
Charles P. McCoy, BS'38, MD, Wichita, Kan., May 19, 2011.

43 William R. Brock, PHB, Omaha, July 24, 2011. **Betty Cunningham Redle, SJN,** Akron, Ohio, March 17, 2011. **Marvin D. Taxman, PHB,** Omaha, May 18, 2011. **John M. Tondra, BSM'42, MD,** Indianapolis, July 20, 2011.

44 Lyle B. Eggerman, DDS, Kansas City, Mo., Jan. 22, 2011.

45 Robert E. Donlin, BSM'44, MD, Chandler, Ariz., April 26, 2011. **John J. Larkin Jr., ARTS,** Scottsdale, Ariz., Aug. 8, 2011.

47 Catherine Barber Kosinski, SCN, Escondido, Calif., Jan. 25, 2011. **Myrtis Stark Lambert, SJN,** Sierra Vista, Ariz., Feb. 9, 2011. **Rosemary Lyons Schmidt, BS,** Omaha, May 1, 2011.

48 Daniel M. Colleran, BSC, Bloomington, Ind., May 21, 2011. **Catherine M. Fessler, SCN'44, BSN,** Phoenix, July 9, 2011. **James J. Finnegan, BS,** St. Paul, Minn., July 8, 2011. **Lorraine Hakel Firmature, SJN,** Canoga Park, Calif., July 25, 2011. **Thomas F. Lahey, BSC,** Wichita, Kan., May 27, 2011. **M. Jane Hayes McDermott, ARTS,** Omaha, May 3, 2011. **Harold R. McDowell, BSC,** Ft. Wright, Ky., Feb. 24, 2011. **Paul E. Neagle, BSM'46, MD,** Newbury Park, Calif., July 18, 2011. **Robert L. Soener, BSC,** Omaha, Aug. 12, 2011.

49 Emily Autzen Beckman, SCN, Omaha, June 11, 2011. **Leo T. Callahan, BSC,** Bismarck, N.D., July 14, 2011. **Francis L. Weis, BSC,** Salem, Ore., May 22, 2011.

50 James F. Beard, BusAd, Omaha, May 1, 2011. **James W. Ingraham, JD,** Palo Verdes Estates, Calif., March 17, 2011. **Sherwood "Patrick" Peartree, MD,** Omaha, April 20, 2011.

51 James P. Clarke, BSC, Omaha, June 20, 2011. **Sr. M. Canisia Gerlach, O.S.F., BSN,** Peoria, Ill., May 26, 2011. **John V. Saner, BSPha,** Long Beach, Calif., July 23, 2011.

52 Benjamin Y. Chock, BSPha, Honolulu, April 4, 2011. **John J. Lobdell, BSC,** Surprise, Ariz., May 25, 2011. **Margaret Ferry Neuharth, SCN,** Auburn, Wash., April 14, 2011. **Dr. Richard J. Kieny, ARTS,** San Diego, March 26, 2011. **Emanuel M. Racher, MD,** Flossmoor, Ill., July 11, 2011.

53 Elizabeth O'Connor Lawless, SJN'52, BSN, Wamego, Kan., July 1, 2011. **Michael H. Walker Sr.,**

BusAd, Eastview, Calif., April 9, 2011.

54 Roberta Maloney Callahan, SCN, Omaha, Aug. 9, 2011. **Rev. Robert M. Condon, BA'49, MA,** Omaha, July 24, 2011. **Rev. Roy E. Conroy, BS,** Tucson, Ariz., March 23, 2011. **Donald G. Eggerman, DDS,** Albany, Ore., June 11, 2011. **Dr. James M. Donovan, BS,** La Jolla, Calif., April 6, 2011. **Joseph H. Kirby, DDS,** Meridian, Idaho, June 7, 2011. **Leo P. Leonelli, MD,** Astoria, Ore., May 23, 2011.

55 Dr. Norlin G. Rueschhoff, BSC, South Bend, Ind., May 19, 2011.

56 Richard T. Brennan, BA, Sioux City, Iowa, April 29, 2011. **Mary Sullivan Keeffe, SCN,** Omaha, July 12, 2011. **Joseph G. Ramm, BSC,** Westlake Village, Calif., June 14, 2011. **Sr. Margaret M. Schwartz, O.S.U., MSEdu,** Louisville, Ky., May 22, 2011. **Kathleen Gallagher Skrinar, BS'49, MD,** Tacoma, Wash., April 1, 2011.

57 James P. "Jim" Monen Sr., JD, Omaha, Aug. 18, 2011. **Richard D. Rasmussen, BSPha,**

Alumni Connections to Creighton Becoming Even Stronger

You — as Creighton alumni — are vital members of the University community. Your involvement in your cities and towns, churches, families and workplaces brings Creighton University to every state — as



Simic

well as many other countries.

There definitely is something special about Creighton, and I say that as someone who did not graduate from Creighton. As I've interacted with

and gotten to know many alumni, I, too, have experienced a connection that extends across the years and across many miles. I truly believe, as our new president, Timothy R. Lannon, S.J., said in his inaugural address, that there is a

Spirit of Creighton and it is strong, engaging and full of life.

Because you mean so much to Creighton and Creighton means so much to so many of you, we are working hard to revitalize our regional alumni programming. If you haven't noticed already, we hope you soon will realize that Creighton wants to better connect you to the University, to each other and to Creighton's Catholic, Jesuit mission.

Since the beginning of this year, we have increased regional outreach staffing and have restructured our regional Alumni Advisory Boards. We are asking our alumni volunteers to play a larger role in planning alumni events in their areas, and we appreciate their enthusiasm and desire to do so.

We are using social media networking tools to spread the word. In fact, each alumni club has its own Facebook page. Our Creighton alumni website, alumni.creighton.edu, is our main networking hub, where you will find everything you need to link up with Creighton, other alumni, events and more. Through this site you can connect to

Creighton alumni on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Flickr and YouTube, as well as to news about your school or college.

The popular "Spirit at Work: Creighton Alumni Day of Service" is broadening to include opportunities for service throughout the year instead of just one day. Wanting to serve and have an impact on those in need are hallmarks of Creighton graduates.

Because successful alumni are Creighton's greatest marketing and recruiting tools, we are also engaging alumni more effectively in working with prospective students.

If you haven't already, please visit the alumni website or call the Office of Alumni Relations, 402.280.2222 or 800.282.5867, to find out how you can become involved. Thank you for all you do for Creighton — we are very proud of our alumni!

*Laura C. Simic
Interim Vice President of Development
and Alumni Relations*

Lincoln, Neb., Aug. 4, 2011. **Ann Carey Torczon, ARTS**, Covington, La., June 4, 2011.

58 Robert E. Huettner, DDS, Omaha, April 25, 2011. **William A. Sauser, BSMT '57, MS**, Omaha, Aug. 8, 2011.

59 James E. Travnicek, BS, Omaha, April 10, 2011.

60 John W. Cerveny, BSBA, Omaha, May 22, 2011.

61 C. John Gatz, BSBA '58, JD, Norfolk, Neb., July 17, 2011. **Kevin C. Nash, BS '57, DDS**, Algona, Iowa, May 21, 2011. **Kathleen Herek Norris, SJN**, Omaha, July 2, 2011.

62 Lt. j.g. Genevieve P. Snow, BA, Lakeport, Calif., April 22, 2011. **Dr. Hans J. Mayerhofer, BS**, Placerville, Calif., April 11, 2011.

63 Hon. Theodore L. Carlson, JD, Omaha, April 16, 2011. **Sr. M. Carmelita Grantz, O.S.U., MA**, Louisville, Ky., June 20, 2011. **Judy Sieben McGill, BA**, Santa Monica, Calif., July 13, 2011. **Richard L. Snyder, BSBA**, New Hampton, Iowa, Aug. 21, 2011. *** Rita Suhr Troska, SJN**, Ada, Okla., March 10, 2011.

64 M. Alice Bowman Phelps, BA, Goffstown, N.H., June

29, 2011. **Thomas L. Dermody, DDS**, Alamo, Calif., March 30, 2011.

65 Jerome J. Coon, BSBA, Omaha, June 8, 2011.

66 David N. Greeley, MS, Asheville, N.C., Aug. 12, 2011. **Lt. Col. Leroy Hoden, BA '60, MA**, Albuquerque, N.M., Oct. 1, 2010. **Robert B. Sparks, BA**, Long Island, N.Y., Feb. 22, 2011. **Thomas S. Schmit, BSBA**, Omaha, April 7, 2011.

68 Richard J. Siems, DDS, Fremont, Neb., July 18, 2011.

69 * Emmet B. Keefe, MD, Mill Valley, Calif., Aug. 8, 2011. **Rev. Aloysius J. McMahon, MSGuid**, Omaha, May 17, 2011.

70 Jeffrey R. Alseth, BA, Omaha, May 10, 2011. **Patrick T. Heffron, MD**, Norfolk, Neb., July 17, 2011. **Maureen S. Smith, BSN**, St. Paul, Minn., July 11, 2011.

71 Daniel A. Rietz, BA, Omaha, May 21, 2011. **Donald B. Johnson, MBA**, Omaha, April 6, 2011.

72 John K. Prell, BA, Omaha, Aug. 22, 2011.

73 Claudia Marquard Brand, BSMth '72, MA, Denver, April 28, 2011. **Mary Anne Henry, BSMth**, Portland, Ore., Feb. 6, 2011. **Anthony A.**

Zych, MSGuid, Jackson Township, Ohio, Jan. 2, 2011.

75 John A. Collett, BS, Greenwood, Mo., June 10, 2011.

76 Barbara J. Gaskins, JD, Cave Creek, Ariz., July 9, 2011. **Richard W. Harter, JD**, Plattsmouth, Neb., Jan. 17, 2011. **Thomas J. O'Connor, MD**, Lafayette, Ind., June 21, 2011.

78 Mary V. Dooling, BSN, St. Louis, Nov. 25, 2008.

79 Michael J. English, BSBA, Omaha, Aug. 10, 2011. **Thomas P. Heller, JD**, Winnabow, N.C., May 13, 2011.

81 * David A. Reinsch, BS '77, DDS, Phoenix, May 12, 2011.

83 Robert B. Guzman, BS '79, MD, Irving, Texas, May 10, 2011. **Lormong Lo, BA**, Lincoln, Ark., July 19, 2011. **Wayne V. Weight, JD**, Creston, Iowa, March 31, 2011.

84 William "Willie" Watters, JD, Las Vegas, July 6, 2011.

85 David M. Geary, MS '81, MD, Marshall, Texas, June 8, 2011.

89 Richard H. Burdick, JD, Omaha, June 29, 2011. **David F. Heilman, BS**, Council Bluffs, Iowa,

May 16, 2011. **Patrick M. Kuhry, BSBA**, Omaha, June 29, 2011.

91 Michelle McTee Cassidy, BA, Omaha, April 22, 2011. **Patrick J. Hoke, MBA**, Omaha, July 29, 2011.

92 Evelyn Thomas Labode, JD, Omaha, May 22, 2011.

93 Lynore D. Ward, MD, Suffolk, Va., April 22, 2011.

94 Liborio S. Namnama, BA, North Arlington, N.J., Aug. 7, 2011.

95 Jerome E. Drakeford, MS, Omaha, May 20, 2011.

99 Sheryl L. Costello, BS, Golden, Colo., July 2, 2011.

00 Andrea Andrews Manoucheri, BA '92, PharmD, Sacramento, Calif., April 4, 2011.

04 Robert S. Johnson, JD, Omaha, June 7, 2011.

06 Adam B. Smith, MD, Omaha, Aug. 11, 2010.

09 Bethany R. McGhee, BSBA, Leavenworth, Kan., July 6, 2011.

Rise Up, Egypt, and be Free

By John Calvert, Ph.D.

The Fr. Henry W. Casper, S.J. Associate Professor of History

In the scorching heat of summer, Cairo hits you like a sledgehammer. Exhaust fumes from gridlocked traffic mix with beads of sweat that sting the eyes. In the city's core, pedestrians compete aggressively with battered Fiats, shiny SUVs and the occasional horse cart. Automobile horns join with the periodic summons to prayer, which emanates from Cairo's 4,000-odd mosques, to create a cacophony. It takes one only a moment to understand that this is a city of extraordinary vibrancy, the pulsating, creative heart of the Arab world, where wealthy neighborhoods juxtapose sprawling slums and cosmopolitanism rubs uneasily against religious fundamentalism.

Yet in June 2011, it was clear that Cairo had changed, at least in terms of mood. The mega-city was edgy, overtaken by an anxiety that I had not encountered before. It seemed as though the Egyptian people had lost their famous sense of humor. In place of laughter, there was sullenness and despondency.

The reason, of course, had to do with the uncertain course of Egypt's Revolution. Months earlier, in January and February 2011, the people of Egypt had risen up against the dictatorial regime of then-President Hosni Mubarak in what soon became a country-wide protest movement.

Egyptians accused Mubarak and his clique of implementing self-serving economic policies that left 40 percent of the population living on \$2 per day, and of sacrificing Egypt's dignity to the regional security concerns of the United States and Israel. Even more urgently, they railed against the state's domestic repression, manifested in emergency laws and police-state practices in the political sphere. Such behavior, said the protesters, reflected the contempt of the regime for the Egyptian people.

Armed only with slogans and steely determination, Egyptians from all walks of life — Muslims and Christians, middle class and poor — gathered at Cairo's Tahrir Square in the name of justice and freedom. With my students at Creighton, I watched the drama unfold live on the al-Jazeera network. The students were aware that they were watching history in the making.

However, by June, the ebullience had given way to turbulence. As I walked Cairo's lively streets, it was clear that the previous unity had fractured. Various political tendencies now asserted themselves. At Tahrir

Square, the epicenter of the Revolution, each group now had its own stage or lean-to. As the fierce sun set, Tahrir would come alive in spirited and sometimes raucous debate.

On many points there was consensus. All Egyptians, save those whose fortunes were tied to the regime, pressed the interim authority — the

Supreme Council of the Armed Forces — to cleanse the ministries of remaining Mubarak loyalists. Many Egyptians, too, were insistent that the Council bring to justice policemen who had earlier shot-dead unarmed demonstrators. And Egyptians agreed on the necessity of writing a new constitution, of establishing an independent judiciary, and of holding parliamentary and presidential elections, following which the soldiers would retire to their barracks.

But there were also important differences. On one hand were the Islamists, represented most forcefully by the Muslim Brotherhood, who aimed for a modern state with an "Islamic frame of reference." On the other stood the liberals who pushed vigorously for a secular state where religion would be a purely private affair. Although life in Cairo, Alexandria, Suez and other cities went on, the situation was increasingly

volatile. The police had yet to fully reconstitute and crime rates soared. The demonstrators at Tahrir, who were pressing the Supreme Council to speed up the pace of reform, feared that they would again be attacked by knife-wielding *baltageya* — "thugs" in the pay of the Old Regime.

Revolutions are messy affairs. I learned this as a student when I traveled in Iran during the 1979 upheaval that brought the Ayatollah Khomeini to power. As during the early stages of the Iranian Revolution, it is not yet clear how the Egyptian experience will play out. Will the pluralism that defined its early moments prevail? Or will a new form of authoritarian rule, either secular or religious, take hold?

Yet revolutions are also buoyed by hope and a vision of the future. One evening, I stumbled upon a group of mainly young people joyously singing the songs of Ahmed Fuad Negm and Shaykh Imam. Throughout the 1960s, '70s and '80s, Negm and Imam — one a poet, the other a composer — had spoken truth to power. Now their songs were intoned by a new generation, which despite setbacks and travails, saw a bright future open before it: Rise up, Egypt, and be free!



Anti-Mubarak demonstrators in Tahrir Square in Cairo, Egypt. Flag-waving Egyptians danced, sang and cheered as they bid farewell to Hosni Mubarak's 30-year regime on Feb. 11.

Samuel Aranda / Corbis

The Creighton Pathway: A Tradition is Born

With faculty dressed in full academic regalia and nearly 1,000 freshman students clad in their blue Creighton game-day T-shirts — some carrying banners with such Jesuit slogans as “*Magis*,” “Men and Women for and with Others” and “*Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam*” (for the Greater Glory of God) — the new Creighton Pathway made for an impressive sight as the procession wound its way east from St. John’s Church, across 24th Street, underneath the Creighton University archway, past Morrison Stadium and the Billy Bluejay statue, to the Wayne and Eileen Ryan Athletic Center and D.J. Sokol Arena for the annual Academic Convocation ceremony. Creighton faculty and staff lined the walkway cheering their support. “This is a significant event for this University,” said Creighton President Timothy R. Lannon, S.J. “While the Class of 2015 was the first to make this historic procession, from now on, the Pathway will be an important tradition at Creighton.” Watch a video of the event at creighton.edu/creightonmagazine.



The Future of Space Exploration

By Eugene Curtin

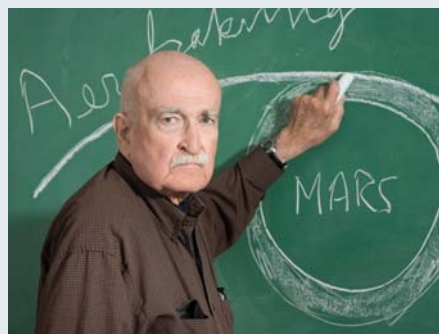
When the space shuttle *Atlantis* landed safely on July 21, it ended a 30-year adventure in which five separate shuttles resupplied the International Space Station, deployed satellites, launched interplanetary probes, and, through one notable alumnus, built a lasting connection to Creighton University.

Air Force Lt. Col. Michael Anderson, a 1990 graduate of Creighton's master's program in physics, served as an astronaut aboard the space shuttle *Endeavour* and the ill-fated space shuttle *Colombia*, which exploded on Feb. 1, 2003, 16 minutes before its scheduled landing, taking the lives of all seven on board, including Anderson's.

While a bronze bust of Anderson, honoring his memory, stands proudly outside Creighton's Hixson-Lied Science Building in a plaza that bears his name, perhaps a greater tribute will be the direction America's space program takes now that its signature shuttle program has closed.

Three Creighton experts in the field agreed that the future of space exploration lies very much in the balance.

Thomas McShane, S.J., who taught Anderson, has received three national space grants for work on detecting cosmic rays. He said the private sector appears poised to



Physics Professor Thomas McShane, S.J., says manned trips to Mars might be the next logical step for America's space program.

take the lead in space exploration as the U.S. government retreats from a role it played for 50 years beginning in 1961 when Alan Shepard Jr. became the first American in space.

"The private sector people are actively pursuing a spaceship-type of thing, but things are up for grabs at the federal level right now," he said.

"It's going to be a question of what people want to do — something dramatic like space



Creighton's Gintaras Duda, Ph.D., says NASA seems to be lacking a clear vision for the future, but the private sector could find gains in missions like colonizing the moon.

colonization or something less ambitious and more short term, like a return to the moon or perhaps a trip to asteroids.

"Certainly a manned trip to Mars might be the next step or two, but all of this hinges on how the relationship develops between the government and the private sector over the next five or 10 years."

Gintaras Duda, Ph.D., who joined Creighton's faculty in 2003 and specializes in astro-particle physics, a specialty of astronomy, has no doubt the private sector is ready and able to carry the baton in smaller things, perhaps even a return to the moon, but that the truly big and bold projects might not offer a sufficient return on investment.

"I think there's a great deal of potential for routine things like launching satellites," he said. "The private sector could certainly take that over and see an immediate return on investment."

Then there is the intriguing proposition that private industry could establish a colony on the moon, Duda said, not for colonization purposes but as a base from which ships could be launched to mine metal — and mineral-rich asteroids.

"We've exhausted many resources here on Earth, and the type of mining that is commercially viable is opposed by a lot of people for a lot of reasons, so the asteroid belt begins to look attractive," Duda said.

But truly historic outreach — deep space exploration and the pure science that emerges from such adventure — waits on NASA clarifying its vision, Duda said.

"It's almost like NASA's lost its way," he said. "I don't know that there's a clear vision as to what the next step is."

He said the fate of the James Webb space telescope, the proposed successor to the Hubble space telescope which revolutionized our understanding of the age of the universe, taught us much about "black holes" and

established that the universe is expanding, is instructive.

"A congressional committee this year said, 'Ah, it's running over budget, it's been delayed, let's cancel the project,'" Duda said.

"So it's not just on the manned space exploration side, it's on the science side as well. It's frightening to me, because as a patriotic American I look at it and say, 'Is there going to be a mission in the next decade that does really good science and is purely American?' And the answer may be, 'No.'"

Jack Gabel, Ph.D., assistant professor of physics, is a researcher in observational astrophysics, currently focusing on quasars and active galactic nuclei.

While the yearning to explore distant planets with human beings is understandable, he said, funds might better be spent on telescopes, robotic missions and other methods that do not involve the expense of protecting humans.

"There are a lot of people opposed to investing the amount of money it would take



Jack Gabel, Ph.D., says while manned missions are worthwhile, telescopes and robotic missions can provide a lot of "bang for your buck."

to fly humans out of low earth orbit and they have a valid point," he said.

"You can get a lot of bang for your buck by putting resources into unmanned scientific missions."

Technologies yielded by space science, sometimes as mere by-products of a particular experiment, have dramatically improved the lives of humans, he said. And those same endeavors have exponentially advanced our understanding of our universe.

"I don't think we should do away with human space flight," he said. "It's worthwhile to find a replacement for the space shuttle."

"But when funds are limited, the use of really advanced telescopes in earth orbit or beyond, or robotic missions that land on Saturn or Jupiter, can yield a lot of science for a relatively small amount compared to manned exploration."

The Climb

By Brian Triplett

Richard Deming, MD'80, believes deeply that adversity leads to personal growth — whether it's battling a deadly disease like cancer or taking on the world's tallest mountain.

Deming, medical director of Mercy Cancer Center in Des Moines, has treated and counseled cancer patients for 22 years. He is also an avid outdoorsman, with travels to Alaska, New Zealand, the Alps and the Andes.

So, maybe it should come as no surprise when the 57-year-old physician/adventurer decided to lead a group of cancer survivors on a 13-day, round-trip trek to the base camp of Mount Everest.

Deming had heard many patients compare their cancer journey to climbing a mountain. So wouldn't climbing the real thing be a powerful, symbolic experience? In April, Deming and 14 cancer survivors from Iowa set off for Nepal and the Himalayan Mountain Range, which includes Mount Everest. While it wasn't Deming's first climbing trip to Nepal, this time would be different ... special.

"The first time I went to Nepal on a climbing trip, it was all about going farther, faster, higher and being at the front of the pack," Deming said. "As a climber, it felt like I was fulfilling my dreams. This time, it felt like I was giving birth to 14 dreams. I savored the opportunity to walk at the back of the pack with those who were having the most difficulty. I was inspired by their strength, grit, grace and determination."

Nine of the cancer survivors were female, five were male; they ranged in age from 27 to 64; seven had survived breast cancer, two Hodgkin's Lymphoma, while others survived tonsil cancer, prostate cancer, a malignant brain tumor, sarcoma and leukemia. More than half had never traveled outside the United States, and none considered himself or herself a mountain climber. Some were only a month or two out of treatment.

"It was, without a doubt, the single most life-defining trip I could have taken," said 49-year-old breast cancer survivor Karen Parman.

The group included a high school principal, a musician, a truck driver, a police officer and a mental health counselor. Indeed, it was an eclectic group. But, by the end of two months of training, and the three weeks climbing up Mount Everest, the group walked as one.

"We were very conscious of what we were trying to accomplish in terms of having a new experience that was going to open our eyes to a new culture, that was going to be something that would be rich and meaningful, and it was just overwhelming to me how it had all come to fruition," Deming said.

When planning the expedition, Deming didn't want the trip to be open to only those cancer survivors who could afford it, so he committed his own funds and attracted contributions from many cancer advocacy groups, including the American Cancer Society, LiveStrong and Susan G. Komen for the Cure, as well as from many local businesses and individuals.

Reaching out to those in need is nothing new for Deming, who has been honored for his service by both the American Cancer Society and the Wellness Council of Iowa. Deming received the Dr. Adolf Sachs award from Creighton for graduating at the top of his



Creighton alumnus and Iowa physician Richard Deming, MD'80, jokes around while leading a group of cancer survivors up to the base camp of Mount Everest. One hiker, a breast cancer survivor, called it a "life-defining" trip.

class of 120 students in 1980. He credits the University for fostering a spirit of giving back to others.

"I always knew that Creighton represented an education that was steeped in a moral and ethical tradition. That appealed to me as I sought out an institution that would provide me with a career in health care," Deming said. "Not coincidentally, what began as a career in medicine has transformed into a compassionate ministry of healing. I owe this, in part, to the basic ethical principles of health care I learned at Creighton."

Back on the mountain, out of the 29 climbers (including, with Deming, 15 supporters), 27 reached the Mount Everest base camp — where they spent the night in tents in minus-5 degree temperatures atop a snowy glacier. They had reached a breathtaking altitude of 17,600 feet, in the shadow of Mount Everest's 29,000-foot peak. But the trek was about more than reaching the top.

"It's everything you learn about yourself along the way," Deming said. "It was bigger and better and more emotionally packed and certainly more difficult than I ever thought it would be. I told everybody I need a little bit of a time before I even know how much this is going to change my life and how much it'll change their lives."

About the author: Brian Triplett is a freelance writer who chronicled the group's climb up to the Mount Everest base camp. You can learn more about the trip online at: www.theworldtri.com/category/channels/livestrong.