Heider College of Business
Creighton University's First Named School

Doug McDermott: Finishing the Journey
The Changing Face of America
He Bought the Farm ... and the Dodgers
Is There an App for That?
Miracles on 24th Street

Fall/Winter 2013
New Season, New Look

The Creighton men’s basketball team tipped off the 2013-14 season Nov. 8 with a 107-61 win over Alcorn State in front of a record season-opening crowd of 17,740 and with a new center-court logo at the CenturyLink Center Omaha, part of a revamped athletic brand for Creighton. For the latest alumni events around CU athletics, visit the new Fan Central site (alumni.creighton.edu/fan-central).
Message from the University President

The Momentum Grows

Amid the changing higher education landscape, one thing is certain — the future will not be like the past. Forward-thinking universities have momentum — they don’t stand still. As you’ll read in this issue of Creighton University Magazine, our students, faculty, alumni and donors are moving forward, building upon what’s good to make it great.

It has been a remarkable year at Creighton. We completed an all-campus, collaborative 18-month strategic planning process. Our Board of Trustees has approved the plan and we are preparing for implementation. This plan will be our blueprint for the future as we leverage our unique capabilities for interprofessional education by bridging our seven health profession programs with our excellent arts and sciences, law and business programs. We will share more details with you in the spring.

The University continued its enrollment growth trend in 2013, with our student population just over 8,000. We don’t take growth for granted, however, and have strategies in place, including recruiting more students outside the Midwest as we capitalize on Creighton’s entrance into the BIG EAST Conference. While the number of students from new markets has grown steadily — almost half of this year’s freshmen are from more than 400 miles from Omaha — there are areas where Creighton is not yet a household name.

We also took the opportunity afforded by the new conference to refresh our athletic mark and logos, and we are appreciative of the increased exposure that comes with the BIG EAST television affiliation with FOX Sports 1. Alumni will find enhanced connections through more gatherings related to athletic competitions and admissions and other events.

Many of you will remember the late Anne Scheerer, Ph.D., a longtime faculty member in the Department of Mathematics. We recently inaugurated an endowed faculty chair through her estate. The chairholder is Davender Malik, Ph.D., professor of mathematics, who has said his goal is to “… engage every student in class, from the first row to the last row, regardless of the class size and level, and make the learning of mathematics fun and effective.” I think Professor Scheerer would be quite pleased.

I saved our biggest news for last. The generosity of one couple, Charles and Mary Heider of Omaha, has made Creighton history. We have proudly named the Heider College of Business for our most generous benefactors since our founding Creighton family. We are deeply grateful that after Charlie Heider earned his business degree in 1949, he never forgot his alma mater.

As this year draws to a close, I hope the holidays find you content but open to growth, grateful but eager to share your blessings, and ready to take on the future through the faith that sustains you.

Timothy R. Lannon, S.J.
President
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The U.S. Census Bureau predicts that by the year 2040 there will be no ethnic or racial majority group in the U.S. Creighton faculty members are looking at this historic demographic shift and preparing Creighton students to think about proactive solutions to potential issues this shift may create in our nation’s schools, workforce and electorate.

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Creighton graduate Mark Walter, BSBA’82, heads a multi-billion-dollar financial services firm in Chicago and is the chairman and controlling owner of the Los Angeles Dodgers.

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*Miracle on 34th Street* … it is one of the most heart-warming holiday movies of all time. During this holiday season, Creightonians from 24th Street share their own “small” miracles — gentle nudges from above — that have touched their hearts and changed their lives.

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Duda, Huss Named Professors of the Year

Students call taking an upper-level course from Gintaras Duda, Ph.D., a rite of passage: “Dr. Duda’s passionate enthusiasm for physics and dedication to his students were driving factors for us to confidently excel in the sciences and grow our critical problem-solving skills,” says Anya Burkart, a 2011 Creighton graduate and biological engineering graduate student at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Duda enjoys engaging students in the classroom — whether it’s through technology, interdisciplinary collaboration or an occasional unconventional project, like requiring students to research, devise and solve mathematical models to save the planet from zombies.

“I’ve been at some great schools,” says Duda, “including Villanova for my undergraduate degree and UCLA for my doctorate, but there is no place like Creighton when it comes to enthusiasm in the field.”

Forensic psychologist Matthew Huss, Ph.D., BA’92, says that his goal in the classroom is to capture students’ attention and keep it, by imparting information that is worthy of their time and will inspire them to learn even more on their own.

“His incredible ability to take a subject, such as research methods, legal theory or mental illness, and make it relevant to students’ everyday lives is what sets Dr. Huss apart from his equally qualified peers,” says former student and Creighton colleague Leah Georges, BS’06, in describing Huss. “He brings psychology to life and insists that his students do the same.”

At a Nov. 14 ceremony, Duda and Huss were recognized as the National (Master’s category) and Nebraska Professors of the Year, respectively, by the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

Creighton’s 2013-14 National, International Recognitions

- **U.S. News & World Report**
  No.1 in the Midwest (11 years in a row) and No.1 Best Value in the Midwest for return on tuition investment

- **Kiplinger’s Personal Finance**
  No. 41 in top 100 “best value” private universities

- **Princeton Review**
  One of the nation’s top 378 colleges and universities in annual college guide

- **Washington Monthly**
  No. 7 in the nation for contribution to the public good

- **The Times Higher Education World University Rankings**
  One of the top 400 universities in the world

- **Forbes**
  No. 134 out of the 650 best institutions for quality of teaching, great career prospects, graduation levels and low post-graduation debt

- **Princeton Review Guide to Green Colleges**
  One of the 322 most environmentally responsible colleges in the U.S. and Canada
### Ferlic Scholars Digging into Summer Research

“Students clamor for these opportunities,” says Creighton professor Juliane Strauss-Soukup, Ph.D., BSCHM’93, in describing the Ferlic Scholars Program — which teams undergraduate science students with faculty mentors to conduct research over the summer. Thirteen scholars presented results of their research at a poster presentation in September, attended by the Creighton community and program sponsor Randolph Ferlic, BS’58, MD’61. The program, now in its eighth year, attracts a diverse group of talented students. “Students know that practical research experience will give them a decided advantage when it comes time to apply to top graduate and professional programs,” says Strauss-Soukup, director of Creighton’s new Center for Undergraduate Research and Scholarship.

Adds program coordinator HollyAnn Harris, Ph.D.: “These students have a unique opportunity to partner with some of Creighton’s leading faculty, and really roll up their sleeves and dig into their research.”

Ferlic alum Sarah Fredrick, BSCHM’09, a materials chemist specializing in the synthesis of nanomaterials for renewable technology and a doctoral candidate at Colorado State University, Fort Collins, described the Ferlic Program as having been “monumentally important” to her career. Fredrick hopes her work will one day help make solar technology as readily available as gas is today.

### Class of 2017 by the Numbers

Creighton welcomed more than 1,000 freshman and transfer students to campus this fall, bringing the University’s total enrollment to 8,019. Some interesting facts about the newest freshman class …

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>40%</td>
<td>Ranked in the top 10 percent of their high school class</td>
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<tr>
<td>54%</td>
<td>Interested in prehealth study</td>
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<tr>
<td>31%</td>
<td>Involved in student government in high school</td>
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<tr>
<td>76%</td>
<td>Active in a high school varsity sport</td>
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<tr>
<td>80%</td>
<td>From outside Nebraska</td>
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<tr>
<td>46%</td>
<td>From more than 400 miles away</td>
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<tr>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Students of color</td>
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<tr>
<td>83%</td>
<td>Involved with church or community service organizations</td>
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Jennifer Hartjes, a biochemistry major, discusses her poster presentation with Randy Ferlic, BS’58, MD’61.
Q: How do you define the role of provost, and how does it differ from that of the president?
A: The position of provost is new for Creighton, an addition designed to create a more unified and integrated educational operation. Previously, the health science schools reported to one vice president, and other academic units to another. Under the new model, all schools and colleges now report to the provost. The provost works more closely with deans and departments than does the president, to facilitate collaboration and ensure that the University is meeting its educational obligations while ensuring that the integrity and high value of that education is enhanced.

Q: What is your leadership style?
A: I believe in servant leadership. When I was a dean (at Quinnipiac University), I felt that my role was to create an environment in which faculty could teach and students could learn. I considered it my job to remove barriers and clear impediments to learning, so the real work could get done. Now, as a provost, my job is essentially the same, but at a new level — to serve the deans of Creighton’s schools and colleges and create for them an environment in which their programs and students can thrive.

Q: You have said that students and employers alike value interdisciplinary education and that Creighton is uniquely suited to deliver it. Can you explain?
A: Employers today are looking for more than mere content knowledge. They are looking for employees who will fit well within their organizations. They want candidates with strong written and oral communication skills who can work on teams and bring fresh new perspectives to problems and predicaments. They want innovative problem-solvers who will forge viable solutions, given the financial constraints of their organizations, and they want leaders who will bring ethical and moral decision-making to their positions, a hallmark of Jesuit, Catholic education. No one professional track can imbue graduates with all of those attributes. The beauty of interdisciplinary learning is that it taps strengths from various programs on campus. Given Creighton’s size of about 8,000 students, and with the diversity of nine schools and colleges, it is uniquely suited for this type of innovative education. Students can build academic bridges across disciplines, all on one single, walkable campus. I don’t know of any other place in the country where students can do that. We can encourage Creighton students to tailor their education in creative ways that will result in unique qualifications.

Q: How does Creighton balance a liberal arts education with career preparation?
A: A liberal arts education and preparation for a career are not mutually exclusive. A broad liberal arts foundation makes Creighton graduates well-rounded, versatile and knowledgeable job applicants, and it distinguishes them throughout their careers. In addition, a high level of competence, a robust internship program, an expansive and loyal alumni network and a history of successful placements keep job placement rates very high for Creighton graduates. Without a doubt, well-rounded people bring great value to organizations.

Q: What do you like best about Creighton, so far?
A: The people at Creighton — faculty, staff, students, alumni — overall, have great passion for the school. Their time at Creighton appears to have impacted them in deeply meaningful ways. Alumni remain connected to Creighton long after they leave campus. They attach great significance to their Creighton roots. You don’t find that everywhere.

The O’Connor File

Previously: Dean and professor of biomedical sciences, School of Health Sciences, Quinnipiac University, Hamden, Conn.

Education: Bachelor’s degree in biology, the State University of New York, 1986 … doctorate in pharmacology, toxicology and neuroscience, Albany Medical College, New York, 1992 … postdoctoral associate and a postdoctoral fellow, Department of Neurology, Yale School of Medicine, 1992 to 1994 … management development program, Harvard Graduate School of Education, 2002 … MBA in healthcare leadership, Yale School of Management, 2011.

Professional Activity: Active member of a number of professional societies, including the Association of Schools of Allied Health Programs (ASAHP), American Physiological Society, American Epilepsy Society and the Society for Neuroscience. He is certified as a fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives (FACHE).
Creighton Program Empowers Omaha Youth

Eighteen-year-old Alan Timilsina has a dream of obtaining a Gates scholarship. The full-tuition award would push him one step closer to his dream of becoming a physician. Timilsina went searching for advice about applying for the Gates, but what he found was a whole lot more.

“I had heard that there were people at Creighton who could help me apply for the Gates scholarship,” says the (Omaha) Bryan High School senior, “but what I found was a whole program at Creighton that has given me access to professors and even an admissions officer, who taught me about applying to colleges, taking tests, writing a personal statement, and most importantly for me — meeting deadlines.”

Ignatian College Connection (ICC) program coordinator Vanessa Rodriguez, BA’12, says that in her role, she is able to share her experiences with high school students who have a dream similar to hers at that age — to be the first in the family to go to college, earn a degree and make a difference in the community. The ICC program encourages underrepresented, low-income, or first-generation high school students to pursue higher education through precollege enrichment activities that are rooted in Jesuit traditions.

Rodriguez says the program offers academic counseling, college preparation, study skills development, writing development, ACT preparation, career exploration, financial aid and scholarship assistance, mentoring and more. In addition, participants can apply for one of two full-tuition Creighton scholarships.

ICC students meet twice monthly on campus and attend Summer Academy, an immersion experience that introduces them to the academic, social and spiritual aspects of college. They are involved in a group service project and learn how Jesuit education encompasses education for the whole person, to form graduates who will use their education to improve the world.

Omaha area high school students of all faith traditions can learn more about the opportunities available through ICC. Direct inquiries to icc@creighton.edu.
This fall, Creighton launched the Center for Undergraduate Research and Scholarship (CURAS) to support and encourage undergraduate research and scholarship.

Chemistry professor Juliane Strauss-Soukup, Ph.D., BSCHM’93, who has mentored some 60 undergraduate research students since joining Creighton’s faculty in 2000, serves as the center’s director.

**UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH**

Some interesting facts about undergraduate research at Creighton

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>400</th>
<th>50</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Creighton undergraduate students who enroll in research hours each year</td>
<td>Number of lab coats ordered for student researchers for fall 2013</td>
</tr>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>100</th>
<th>5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of students estimated to be volunteering on research projects without pay or credit</td>
<td>Average number of presentations given by each undergraduate researcher</td>
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<tr>
<th>$750</th>
<th>$1,000</th>
<th>$3 million</th>
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<tr>
<td>Number of faculty committed to helping undergraduates gain research experience through CURAS</td>
<td>Cost to run one set of kinetics experiments in Strauss-Soukup’s lab</td>
<td>Value of instruments in the chemistry department used by undergraduate researchers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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| Number of pages in one NIH or NSF grant proposal | Number of faculty research projects under way at Creighton on any given day that involve undergraduates |
Could Yoga Help Smokers Quit? A New CU Study Investigates

Amy Mayer, OTD, assistant professor in Occupational Therapy, has teamed with the Alegent Creighton Clinic Cardiac Center to study whether adding Hatha Yoga to an established smoking-cessation program can increase success rates for people who want to quit.

“Yoga has been proven to lower blood pressure, reduce stress and improve lung function. These are all part of the smoking-cessation experience,” Mayer says. “Our research is aimed at determining if yoga can help people be more successful with their smoking-cessation goals.”

3-D Microscope Gives Researchers Powerful New View

Mohammed Akhter, Ph.D., professor of medicine and director of the biomechanics laboratory at Creighton’s Osteoporosis Research Center, was awarded a nearly $600,000 National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant to install the area’s first high-resolution 3-D X-ray microscope, the Xradia MicroXCT-200.

The microscope will be used to acquire tomographic scans of biological specimens, including a variety of bone tissue in human bone biopsies as well as cochlear bone structure and embryonic skeletons in small animals. While conventional MicroCT instruments allow researchers to view characteristics of tissue samples to about \(\frac{1}{12}\) of the width of a strand of hair, the MicroXCT-200 allows scientists to view specimens down to \(\frac{1}{133}\) of the width of a strand of hair.

Cancer Research Yields Surprising Asthma Finding

What started as basic cancer research has yielded promising results for diagnosing and treating asthma, prompting the NIH to invest nearly $1.5 million in Creighton research to find out more.

Yaping Tu, Ph.D., a cancer biologist and associate professor of pharmacology, was studying a gene in mice that he thought, when removed, would lead to prostate cancer. Though the tumors failed to develop, Tu noticed the mice had trouble breathing and were less active, similar to asthma patients.

“This finding piqued our interest and made us wonder if there was a connection to human patients with asthma,” says Tu. In a preliminary study, Creighton researchers found a relationship between the missing gene and patients with asthma. The NIH grant will allow them to study how the gene works and to develop therapeutic approaches to restore the gene’s function.

Could Fat Around Our Hearts be Clogging Our Arteries?

It’s no secret that a diet high in fat and sugar can lead to extra fat around the waistline. But it’s what the diet will do to a specific type of fat around the heart that caught the attention of a group of Creighton researchers.

The NIH awarded Creighton researcher Devendra Agrawal, Ph.D., a five-year, $3.5 million grant to study epicardial fat and its role in the development and recurrence of atherosclerosis in the arteries of the heart. Joining Agrawal on the study are Creighton faculty members Michael Del Core, M.D., William Hunter, M.D., and Subhash Paknikar, M.D.

“The need for answers is urgent,” says Agrawal. “The incidence of both obesity and the insulin resistance resulting in type 2 diabetes — both of which are strong risk factors for inducing and accelerating inflammation in the vessels of the heart — is rising at an alarming rate in North America.”

The grant will also fund research into how vitamin D deficiency may contribute to the problem and examine the effect of vitamin D supplementation on the re-narrowing of coronary arteries after balloon angioplasty and stenting.

Study Shows Role of Vitamin D in Combating Hypertension

Insufficient vitamin D has long been associated with increased insulin resistance and hypertension, but how much vitamin D is ideal to ensure improvements in blood sugar control and blood pressure? A recent Creighton study provided answers, and the researchers hope that their findings will lead to improved governmental nutritional policies.

“It’s important to recognize the range at which any substance is effective,” says Robert Heaney, B.S’47, MD’51, the study’s lead author and the John A. Creighton University Professor. “At low intakes, a given increment will do little more than prime the pump, and at high levels, the effect is already realized so giving more does little or nothing. Only increments in intake above a certain basal status will produce a detectable effect.”

CU Professor Studying Protein’s Connection to Autism

The medical community knows more about autism today than ever before, but countless questions still remain. A two-year NIH grant will continue to further the understanding of the disorder by funding a Creighton professor’s research into a protein that may play a role in its development.

Shashank Dravid, Ph.D., associate professor of pharmacology, will use the grant to continue his work studying a protein called glutamate delta-1 receptor. He speculates that an inadequate level of this protein could be to blame for over-connectivity in the brain in at least some cases of autism.

“Genetic studies suggest there might be an association between the gene that expresses the glutamate delta-1 receptor and autism, but there isn’t enough research at this point to know why,” Dravid says. “We know there are changes in this gene in people with autism, but what that does downstream is still unknown. And we hope to find out.”
This fall, Creighton welcomed seven new Jesuits to campus. Jesuits in the classroom and in administration are an essential aspect of Creighton’s identity.

**Chris Duffy, S.J.,** is the director of strategic planning in the President’s office.

**Paddy Gilger, S.J.,** a 2002 Creighton graduate and recently ordained, is a founder and current editor of the popular Internet blog “The Jesuit Post” and associate pastor of St. John’s Church.

**Tony Homsi, S.J.,** a scholastic from Lebanon, is taking classes in journalism and digital media. He also is working to translate the Jesuit message into Arabic and to establish an online ministries program in the Middle East.

**Greg O’Meara, S.J.,** is the new rector of the Jesuit Community and a member of the School of Law faculty. Fr. O’Meara is a former assistant district attorney in Milwaukee County who taught at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

**Nate Romano, S.J.,** is an attorney who is working as an immigration law specialist at the Milton R. Abrahams Legal Clinic in the School of Law. Fr. Romano had his own law practice in Madison, Wis., prior to joining the law school at Creighton.

**Kyle Shinseki, S.J.,** teaches in the Heider College of Business and serves as its chaplain. He also is the Asian-Pacific Islander coordinator in the Office of Multicultural Affairs, working with students from different ethnic backgrounds, especially Hawaiian and Latino. He previously served at Omaha’s Creighton Prep High School.

**Joe Simmons, S.J.,** teaches philosophy in the College of Arts and Sciences and is assistant to Creighton President Timothy R. Lannon, S.J.

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**Malik Installed as Scheerer Chair in Mathematics**

Davender Malik, Ph.D., was installed in October as the inaugural holder of the University’s 38th endowed chair — the Frederick H. and Anna K. Scheerer Chair in Mathematics.

The chair is a gift from the estate of former mathematics professor Anne Scheerer, Ph.D., who served as dean of Summer Sessions, director of Academic Planning and administrator of the Lifelong Learning Center. Scheerer named the chair in honor of her parents.

Malik has been a full-time member of the math department since 1985. He has published extensively on abstract algebra, fuzzy automata theory and languages and fuzzy logic and its applications, as well as information science and programming.

He attributes his love of mathematics to his father, who taught him math and nurtured a lifelong love of the subject. Malik says his goal in the classroom is to engage every student — from the first row to the last — to make learning math enjoyable and effective.

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**Creighton Announces New Board Members**

The Creighton University Board of Trustees has four new members.

**Greg O’Meara, S.J.,** rector of Creighton’s Jesuit Community, comes to Creighton from Marquette University. He will teach in the Creighton University School of Law while serving as rector.

**Daniel Hendrickson, S.J.,** associate vice president in the Office of the Executive Vice President at Marquette University, teaches in Marquette’s College of Education and assists with the Burke Scholars program.

**Jim O’Brien, BSPha’71,** is the outgoing president of the Creighton University National Alumni Board (NAB). A successful Omaha businessman and volunteer, he has been a member of the Alumni Board since 2009 and has also served on a variety of local boards throughout the city.

**Juliana Nicholsen Hefflinger, BA’70,** is the new chair of the NAB. She has served on the Alumni Board since 2007. The Omaha native is former president of The Partnership for Our Kids and former development director for the YWCA in addition to serving on numerous area boards and committees.
iJay Store Gives Students a Taste of Running a Business

By Tom Nugent

Ask Creighton University marketing major Alexander Price why he loves his part-time campus job, and the gung-ho senior will immediately fire off a question of his own: “How often do students get to work at a store associated with one of the biggest high-tech companies in the world, right in the heart of their own campus?”

For Price and several dozen of his fellow students in the Heider College of Business, working in the new 1,000-square-foot Apple Authorized Campus Store — for both academic credit and a regular paycheck — provides a hands-on opportunity to apply business lessons learned in the classroom to a real-world setting.

“I’ve always been kind of an Apple geek, so having an opportunity to work there is awesome,” says Price, describing his five- to 10-hour-a-week job at the recently opened iJay store, located in the Harper Center. “Right now, there are about 10 of us (students) working in the store, and it’s really been challenging to get everything up and running smoothly.

“You can learn a lot about business in the classroom … but nothing can take the place of actually running one. The iJay store is the ‘real world’ and those of us who work there are learning new things every day about the ins and outs of making sales and controlling inventory and making sure that every customer we serve winds up wanting to come back.”

Business Dean Anthony Hendrickson, Ph.D., is convinced that having students manage a high-profile retail business is an effective way to help them learn about the realities of everyday commerce.

“I think the key thing for me about the iJay store is that I’ve always believed there shouldn’t be a gap between business education and business practice,” says Hendrickson, who floated the idea of a student-run retail store several years ago. “If you think about it, you soon realize that the dental school has a dentistry clinic and the law school has a law clinic. Why shouldn’t the business school have a business clinic?

“Apple is the second-most profitable company in the world, and running the iJay store right here on campus ought to give our students some valuable experience in doing all the things you need to do to make a profit in a retail operation. And that experience can pay big dividends later, because businesses want to hire people who’ve worked on balance sheets and inventory and sales — which is exactly the kind of thing our students will be doing in the iJay store each day.”

The new store began operations in early September and eventually expects to employ between 30 and 60 students each year. The iJay store sells Apple products such as laptops, iPads, desktop computers, iPods and cases, and will provide certification training for students to service and repair the products.

To be operated as a nonprofit and with faculty supervision, the store will approach retail a bit differently by serving as a focal point for a “practicum” course. The course, which will be offered in the spring semester, will allow students to collaborate on marketing and management decisions for the store.

“The iJay store is a retail outlet, but it’s also a learning outlet,” says business professor Tim McMahon, who was the driving force behind implementing the project. “We’re a business college, and Apple is one of the most successful businesses in the world.

“What’s not to like about a business that allows our students to work with one of the world’s top retail brands, while also helping to make some of the daily decisions on which business success depends?”
Creighton Celebrates Opening of Heider College of Business

As Brian Kuehner walks to class, he enters through a new glass-enclosed atrium, stops briefly to watch the stock ticker that circles a state-of-the-art investment center, and makes a mental note to visit the new iJay store to purchase the latest Apple products from classmates who manage the outlet.

Welcome to the newly named Creighton University Heider College of Business inside the reconfigured Mike and Josie Harper Center on east campus.

“This competes among the finest facilities at the most prominent business schools,” says Kuehner, a junior accounting and finance major from Saint Paul, Minn.

The business college was relocated to the Harper Center before the start of the fall semester as part of the ongoing Ignite the Greatness campaign — which is fueling the largest renovation of academic space in Creighton’s history, affecting more than 100,000 square feet across campus.

At the grand opening for the Heider College of Business on Oct. 23, it was announced that more than $93 million in gifts and pledges, from more than 1,200 donors, has been raised through the campaign — including an undisclosed transformational gift from 1949 business graduate Charles Heider and his wife, Mary.

“This is a historic time in the life of Creighton University,” says Creighton President Timothy R. Lannon, S.J. “We are blessed to have donors who share our vision — graduating men and women who not only have the skills to succeed in business, but who are inspired to be business leaders grounded in ethics and service to others.”

The campaign, launched in November 2012, will also support Creighton’s goal of increasing its business school enrollment to meet the growing demand for CU business graduates locally and nationally.

“In the near term, our goal is to grow undergraduate enrollment from 700 to 1,000 students,” says Heider College of Business Dean Anthony Hendrickson, Ph.D. “We will do that by continuing to offer our students real-world business experience, a dynamic curriculum that keeps pace with an ever-changing business environment, and by taking advantage of the interprofessional opportunities at Creighton.”

About 98 percent of Creighton business graduates either have a job or have gone on to graduate school within six months of graduation. In some areas, particularly in accounting and finance, the rate is 100 percent with some students receiving job offers in their junior year. There are more than 3,000 internships available to business students annually.

Rick Virgin, vice president for University Relations, thanked campaign co-chairs and Omaha business leaders Scott Heider and Mark Huber, BSBA’83, JD’86, for their vision and drive in fast-tracking the campaign.

“Scott Heider and Mark Huber described speed to market as a key component of this campaign,” Virgin says. “In a little less than two years, the friends, alumni, corporations and foundations responded emphatically to the need of expanding the Heider College of Business, both in physical space and enrollment.”

The Heider College of Business is the first named school at Creighton.
About the Heiders

The generosity of Charles and Mary Heider of Omaha enriches every Creighton University student. Through their philanthropic support of cancer research, student life, athletics, scholarships and Creighton’s Jesuit Community, one can feel their reach from all corners of campus.

Charles Heider earned a Bachelor of Science in Commerce degree from Creighton in 1949 and found success in the travel and investment industries, being named to the Omaha Business Hall of Fame in 2005. He served on Creighton’s Board of Trustees for 17 years and was elected to emeritus status in 1997. Charles and Mary support numerous civic programs and organizations. In 2002, the Wisconsin Province of the Society of Jesus bestowed on the couple the first Ignatian Leadership Award from the Jesuit Council of Omaha. Creighton honored them with honorary doctorate degrees in 2010.

“As a graduate of the college, I couldn’t be more pleased to be associated with one of the best business schools in our country today, right here in our community.” — Charles Heider, BSC’49, HON’10

“As a long-time member of the University Board of Trustees, I can tell you a degree from Creighton’s Heider College of Business is a differentiator. As a CEO, I can also tell you that graduates from the Creighton Heider College of Business are in demand.” — Mogens Bay, chairman and CEO, Valmont Industries

“We had a dream to make a lasting impact on future generations of business leaders and the communities they serve. Creighton is the engine that will make this dream happen.” — Scott Heider, Ignite the Greatness campaign co-chair

“I love the new name, the Heider College of Business. It immediately puts Creighton among the most prestigious business schools in the nation, alongside the likes of Wharton or the Kelley School of Business.” — Gabriel Connealy, junior entrepreneurship major from Mullen, Neb.

“I love the new facility. It fosters community and education, and you can feel it in the atmosphere when you walk in.” — Cecilia Lorenz, senior accounting major from Denver

Heider Securities Investment and Analysis Center

One of the most visually dramatic areas inside the Heider College of Business is the glass-enclosed Heider Securities Investment and Analysis Center, with its eye-catching stock ticker and 12 Bloomberg terminals that provide students with real-time investment information. “In my previous role as an executive with the CFA Institute, I traveled the world and had the opportunity to visit many top colleges and universities. I have not seen another university facility that rivals the Heider Investment Center,” says finance professor Robert Johnson, Ph.D. “It is physically striking, functionally designed and technologically advanced. . . . The setting mirrors that of a first-class trading floor of a Wall Street firm.”

Adds finance professor John Wingender, Ph.D.: “We have definitely found that Creighton business graduates with Bloomberg experience have a big edge over other business graduates when seeking employment.”

Did you know

Creighton’s Heider College of Business ... 

Contributes greatly to Omaha’s “brain gain.” While nearly 80 percent of business students hail from outside Nebraska, about 65 percent stay after graduation.

Ranks second for delivering the best return on investment, behind the University of Pennsylvania and ahead of Notre Dame — with graduates earning more on average over their lifetime. (AffordableCollegesOnline.org)

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Creighton’s two-time All-American, Doug McDermott, returns for his senior season and a shot at playing in the BIG EAST.

By Carol Zuegner, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Journalism & Mass Communication

Photo by Jim Fackler
What do you do when two dreams collide?

If you are Doug McDermott, Creighton’s two-time All-American basketball standout, you defer the dream of playing in the NBA, a dream honed from the time you were little and were never without a basketball in your hands. You follow your heart to live out another goal you have often imagined — playing four years of college basketball and earning a degree from Creighton.

McDermott is back for a senior season. His April decision to follow that dream dispels potential nightmares for Bluejays fans as Creighton begins play in the BIG EAST. He, his parents, teammates and others talked about what led to that decision and what’s next for him and Creighton basketball.

“I really did have a chance to go,” Doug McDermott said in an interview. “But it kind of hit me. I could still accomplish two pretty big goals. One was to play in the NBA and another one just to get a degree at a great school. And that’s what it came down to: me being able to get a degree, stay all four years in college, be around my family and some of my best friends and be able to compete in the BIG EAST.”

Doug McDermott’s unique experience added weight to the idea of staying. He’d have one more year of playing for his dad alongside a group of teammates with incredible chemistry. Creighton’s move to the BIG EAST meant new opportunities and new challenges. He and his family got lots of advice and information from many sources, but in the end, it was up to Doug. In April, the decision that had been in the background for months was front and center now that the season was over.

“It was hard. It was the first time I ever felt like a decision was strictly on me, and it happened to be the most important decision of my life,” Doug McDermott said.

“I went back and forth every single day. I couldn’t sleep at night.”

From the beginning of the 2012-13 basketball season, it appeared that Doug McDermott would leave for the NBA after his junior year. As a sophomore, the 6-foot-8 forward was Creighton’s first player to be named a first-team All-American. He was a finalist for national player of the year. He had been one of the nation’s top scorers.
He and the Bluejays ended his junior season as Missouri Valley Conference regular-season champions, as MVC conference tournament champions and with a win in the NCAA Tournament. Doug repeated as a first-team All-American. He was a finalist for national player of the year. He had Creighton’s career and single-season records for points, field goals and three-point percentages.

“You wondered: What else can he achieve? You wonder if now is the right time,” said Coach Greg McDermott, who wore two hats during the process: dad and coach. “At the end of the day, only Doug can answer that.”

Decisions to go early into the NBA hinge on where the player might go in two rounds of 30 picks each. The first round means a guaranteed salary. In the second round, there’s no guarantee. As Doug’s coach, Greg McDermott was the only one who could talk to the NBA teams directly, to get feedback and information on where the teams projected Doug’s chances.

“In a normal situation, a college coach would present the information to the parents for them to decipher,” Greg McDermott said. “Well, his coach is also his dad. I was just very careful to be very factual in everything I did.”

Greg McDermott went over the positives and the negatives with Doug so his son had all of the information. “But I have coached him long enough that I understand the difference between a question that’s being asked as his coach and a question being asked as his dad,” he said.

It’s a guessing game, but Greg McDermott and Doug figured that in the 2013 draft, a best-case scenario would have Doug picked in the mid-teens and worst-case in the mid-20s in the first round of 30 picks. Though there’s a school of thought that the 2014 draft would be better, Greg McDermott said he felt after the top 15 or 16 players, that draft would not be much different than this year. If Doug has a good year, he likely would be in the same range next year.

Greg McDermott and his wife, Theresa, say they tried to remain neutral throughout the decision process.

“If someone would have told me I had to tell Doug what to do, I probably would have told him to go and his mother would have told him to stay,” Greg McDermott said. “We were here for support and this had to be his decision. We tried to give him a lot to think about on both sides of the ledger.”

His mother said Doug had the basketball facts. “He told me, ‘My mind says go, but my heart says to stay.’ I always think if you follow your heart, you have no regrets,” Theresa McDermott said.

One of the best pieces of advice Doug said he got from his father was of the NBA, but he still thought Doug should stay. Grant Gibbs thought he would have graduated, but, this summer, the NCAA granted a waiver giving the team’s “glue guy” another year. Gibbs said he thought Doug would go as it seemed like a logical move after the standout season, but the intangibles of life at Creighton made a difference.

“I think his situation here, his role at Creighton, what he means to the community and the team helped slide him in the right direction,” Gibbs said.

A dinner with former Creighton star and now Atlanta Hawk Kyle Korver while Doug was in Atlanta for the NCAA Final Four also played a part in the decision. Korver, who has played for four teams in a 10-year NBA career, told Doug that playing in the NBA is a dream, but

“It was pretty obvious that he just loves college and loves playing for his dad. Senior year in college is a great year in your life. I think he knows that. And Doug is going to be great in life, no matter what. He’s more than a jump shot.”

– Kyle Korver, BA’03
it’s also a job. Korver is careful to say that he didn’t want to sway Doug; it had to be Doug’s decision. “It was pretty obvious that he just loves college and loves playing for his dad,” Korver said in a phone interview. “Senior year in college is a great year in your life. I think he knows that. And Doug is going to be great in life, no matter what. He’s more than a jump shot.”

The debate over whether one draft is stronger or weaker doesn’t really matter, Korver said. “If you’re good enough, you’ll make it in the NBA. If you can play, the scouts will find you.”

Despite Doug’s pedigree as the son of a coach, the path to college basketball and perhaps the NBA wasn’t always apparent. While the young Doug might have always had a basketball in his hands, five years ago, you might not have pegged him as a future All-American.

Ames High School basketball coach Vance Downs ruefully says now that he wishes he could say he always knew Doug would be an All-American. “He wasn’t a starter in his junior year of high school. I have to confess that,” Downs said. “He was a late bloomer.”

Growing six inches over the span of a year or so helped. Doug was part of an amazing run for the Ames High squad, as teammate Harrison Barnes was the top high school prospect in the country his senior year. Barnes went on to play for North Carolina for two years and now is in the NBA. The media attention on Barnes and the high school team was staggering with some games on ESPN. With all the attention, Doug learned some important lessons.

“My high school coach kept us all so humble. That really stuck with me,” Doug said. “Our saying was humble and hungry. Stay even keel. Let all the work go on the court.”

Teammate Gibbs said playing in the shadow of the best player in the country, in Barnes, helped hone Doug’s drive to make himself a better player. “Doug is tireless about improving his game,” Gibbs says. “How much better can I get today? That’s how he’s been able to build and add all the parts of the game he has.”

Gibbs said Doug’s work ethic combined with a complete lack of interest in all of the attention that’s showered on him have helped strengthen the team chemistry. “He’s just a throwback because that’s not his deal. That’s always rubbed off on people on the team.”

Greg McDermott calls the current Bluejays a special group with good leadership and a determination to build a culture of unselfishness. “They have their own sets of personalities and quirks, but when you put them all together, it just works. Part of it is that it’s an unselfish group by nature. They really care about one another and want to see teammates do well,” he says.

That chemistry will have to be a catalyst for the Bluejays to find a niche in the BIG EAST, which features traditional basketball powers like Georgetown, Marquette, Butler, St. John’s, Villanova and others. Travel to big cities like Washington, D.C., New York and Philadelphia and games televised on the new Fox sports network add to that aura.

“We know what we’re getting into,” Coach McDermott said. “We haven’t won championships and gone to the NCAA (Tournament) because we jump higher and run faster than the teams we’re playing. We’ve won because we’ve been able to execute and play for each other. If we continue to have a group of young men that are committed to that, we’ll always have a chance.”

Doug echoes his coach: “We have business to take care of. We know how hard it’s going to be. That’s why we’re working so hard now.”

Greg McDermott sees a great year as Creighton begins to help build the new league. Doug will be a part of that.

“Most parents send their kids off to college and see them a couple of times a year,” Greg McDermott says. “I get to see him every day. I get to watch him change and grow as a player, as a person. Not many parents are afforded that luxury.”

As he goes to classes to finish up his degree in marketing and prepares for what’s ahead, Doug says he’s had no regrets about his decision.

“This is the place for me. You can’t get enough of this place,” Doug said. “I think any Creighton student who’s been here would agree with me.”
Over the next three decades, it’s expected that non-Hispanic whites will no longer make up the majority of Americans. How will this historic demographic shift reshape our nation’s schools, workforce and electorate, and redefine long-held notions about race?
On Jan. 1, 2040, first-grade teacher Manuel Rodriguez looks out over his class and is greeted by pupils of various skin tones and cultural heritages. ... CEO Li Shu addresses her board of directors and sees no clear racial or ethnic majority. ... Susan Johnson looks up from lunch in her retirement community and notices that while most of her fellow residents are white and female, her caregivers are a much more diverse group.

These fictional scenarios are based on projections by the U.S. Census Bureau, which predicts that by the year 2040, America will be a “majority-minority” country. In other words, if current trends continue, by 2040, there will be no ethnic or racial majority group in the United States.

While some people find that forecast intriguing, others may look at the numbers with trepidation. They ask themselves: With such a shift in demographics happening so rapidly, how do we plan for the future?

Four Creighton professors aim to answer that question. This fall, they began teaching “The 2040 Initiative,” an interdisciplinary seminar that asks students to visualize what America will look like 27 years from now, and then find proactive solutions to any potential problems that may occur with immigration laws, education, healthcare, housing, political polarization, criminal justice and family dynamics, including child care and elder care. We asked these professors to gaze into their crystal balls, and tell us what life may be like in America in 2040.

Immigration is a Big Concern

David Weber, associate professor in the School of Law, specializes in immigration law, and he’s familiar with how, in the past, laws were created to control the ethnic distribution of the population. For example, at one time, regulations existed to curtail Chinese immigration, and before World War II, under the Immigration Act of 1924, there were quotas created to limit immigration from Southern and Eastern European countries, in part to restrict how many Jews were permitted into the country.

Joel Kotkin, one of the nation’s premier demographers, noted in Smithsonian magazine that in 2000 the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, an association of 30 democratic, free-market countries, found the U.S. was home to 12.5 million skilled immigrants, equalling the combined total for Germany, France, the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada and Japan. “The United Nations estimates that 2 million people a year will move from poorer to developed nations over the next 40 years, and more than half of those will come to the United States, the world’s preferred destination for educated, skilled migrants,” writes Kotkin.

That information intrigues Weber.

“My concern is the country will move from a balanced visa allocation approach that currently incorporates family-based, employment-based and diversity visas to solely or primarily an employment-based meritocracy — granting visas according to what sort of workplace knowledge one has,” he says.

The classic example is an adult child who immigrates to America, gains citizenship and then petitions for the parents to follow. But under an employment-based meritocracy, the government instead grants visas to people who are experts in technologies like science, engineering, math and computers.

“And for every computer programmer who gets a visa, that means there’s one less visa for somebody’s parent,” Weber says. “While some will undoubtedly favor that approach, it is important to keep in mind that it is not a cost-free trade-off. For every additional scientist or engineer entering the country, there is one less family being reunited.”

Weber points out that Americans have worried about the influx of immigrants ever since the Declaration of Independence was signed.

“People have been decrying the evils of immigration for over 200 years. Benjamin Franklin wrote about the fear that the country wouldn’t be able to assimilate all the new peoples coming here,” he says. “Today, we get gloom-and-doom forecasts from both the left and the right. Pundits scan studies, pick out five-second sound bites and call it truth.

“There’s still a lot of polarity today, but my gut feeling is our country in 2040 will look a lot like what it looks like today. I believe the country is very adaptable, because young people are very open to change.”
What started last year as lunchtime conversation has grown into a new classroom experience that, four professors hope, will spur a national dialogue on how the U.S. can peacefully cope with the rapidly changing face of America’s identity.

Law professors David Weber and Palma Joy Strand were discussing news reports about how the non-white population in the U.S. will be in the majority by the year 2040. Suddenly, they had a eureka moment.

“As we talked about how current legal structures were not set up to handle the coming demographic shift, we became excited about creating something that would generate discussion on that topic,” Weber remembers. “We wanted to examine that shift in a more formal setting.”

They took their idea for a class on how the coming demographics change will alter our national identity to Sue Crawford, Ph.D., professor of political science and international relations, and a member of the Nebraska State Legislature; and Rebecca Murray, Ph.D., associate professor of sociology and chair of the Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work. They believed Crawford, whose specialty is American government and public policy, and Murray, whose interest is urban data analysis, would give the class another unique perspective.

Weber received an award from the Dr. George F. Haddix President’s Faculty Research Fund to create “The 2040 Initiative: Leading the Discussion of America’s Changing Demographics and Explaining the Structural and Societal Shifts Expected with the New Face of America.”

In the year 2040, school-age children will predominantly be of color or Hispanic origin, while the population that schools depend on for financial support will be mainly older, non-Hispanic white people who do not have school-age children.

This is why Weber feels “The 2040 Initiative” is important — it will get students thinking about issues that will affect the country, the inherent adaptability of the country and, ultimately, themselves.

An Aging Population and Public Education

Law professor Palma Joy Strand says one of her biggest concerns about demographic change is how the graying of America could put a strain on public education.

The Center for Public Education points out that the population is growing older and more diverse at the same time. In 2010, 13 percent of the population was at least 65 years old; by 2050, that number is expected to be about 20 percent. Non-Hispanic whites are the oldest; Hispanics are the youngest. Our youngest population is the most diverse; 47 percent of children younger than 5 belong to a racial or ethnic minority group.

So, what does this mean? Basically, school-age children will predominantly be of color or Hispanic origin, while the population that the schools depend on for financial support will be mainly older, non-Hispanic white people who do not have school-age children. That’s a troubling thought for the public school system, which relies on voters passing levies, says Strand.

“We have a responsibility to do what we can for the folks coming up behind us,” she says. “Unfortunately, elderly people are more likely to vote, yet they are less likely to support things for minority kids. If that dynamic begins to develop, it’s not healthy for us as a country.”

Shortfalls in public education may create gaps between student groups. Minorities have historically been under-represented in professions like science, medicine and engineering. With the non-Hispanic white population shrinking and the entry-level workforce increasingly made up of minorities, the U.S. could face serious shortages in many critical professions.

Should the government do more for the public education system? An Associated Press exit poll taken on Election Day 2012 shows the disparity between racial groups. The survey found that 60 percent of white voters think government should do less for people, while 58 percent of Hispanic and 73 percent of black voters think government should do more for people.

“My research shows support for higher education over the last 20 to 25 years has shifted from supporting low-income students to supporting upper- and middle-income students,” Strand says. “Lower income students tend to be minority students, where middle- and upper-income students tend to be white. So, it’s not surprising that blacks and Hispanics say, of the Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work. They believed Crawford, whose specialty is American government and public policy, and Murray, whose interest is urban data analysis, would give the class another unique perspective.

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Political change can also be mobilized at the local level by strategic interests, Crawford says. At the grassroots level, as local leaders recognize that their constituents are becoming more diverse, these leaders will likely reach out to bring in groups that will help them build their political base. This strategic move creates an incentive for political integration of growing segments of the population. Some communities across the nation, Crawford says, are intentionally seeking recognition as “welcoming communities” as an economic development strategy.

“If these communities experience economic growth,” she says, “then other communities may see the benefits of diversity, and those citizens may begin working to change their locale into a more welcoming community.”

Community by community by community, change takes place. And, eventually, this changes the national identity.

How Will We Live Together?

Rebecca Murray, Ph.D., associate professor of sociology and chair of the Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work, calls herself an “environmental sociologist.” She studies the use of urban space, and how various demographic groups identify themselves through how they use their space. As our urban environments have expanded, we have created “silo-ed spaces,” Murray says. In other words, we are seeing segregated urban areas that represent distinct communities of people instead of one homogenous community. By 2040, this could become even more pronounced.

“We have insulated communities in Omaha, where southeast Omaha is primarily Hispanic, northeast Omaha is primarily black, and west Omaha is predominantly Caucasian,” she says. “There are very few mixed ethnic neighborhoods in the city, and even fewer mixed socioeconomic ones.”

Silo-ed spaces also feed a de-facto segregation mindset. “The thinking, especially for the white majority, is, ‘We stay out of space that isn’t ours.’ So certain areas become identified with their groups, and isolation becomes the norm.”

Groups are hesitant to change because people are afraid of losing their identities, Murray believes. There is security in staying within the same group, because identity change creates fear and, sometimes, anger.

The way to counteract that fear is for people to start talking. “My hope is that exposure to other cultures will open us up,” Murray says. “The more we talk to each other, the more we see that we share with others, then the more we’ll increase our level of tolerance to others.”

And that’s the goal of the 2040 Initiative — to get people talking. Because communication is the foundation of trust and acceptance, says Weber.

“The more contact you have in a community,” he says, “the easier it is to break down stereotypes that people might have about each other. Certainly, you will always have fearful and bigoted people, but bringing people into dialogue will help them realize they have many more commonalities than differences.”
He Bought the Farm …
and the Dodgers

Mark Walter didn’t have much back in the day. But what he did have, he often shared with his Creighton chums. Needed a ride? Walter would give you the keys to his Ford Pinto. Hungry? It wasn’t uncommon for Walter to pop for dinner. He’d even give you the shirt off his back — or at least his leather jacket.

That’s what Ed Barrack borrowed from Walter for a date one night in 1982. Barrack recalls it as if it happened last night, and with good reason — while fumbling around in Walter’s leather jacket, Barrack pulled out a 1-ounce bar of gold. Barrack’s date figured he was trying to impress her. He wasn’t. The gold was Walter’s from an investment he had made in high school.

“Probably hid it in his jacket pocket and forgot it was in there,” Barrack says. “He was investing even then.”

Chances are you’ve never heard of Walter, even though today he’s one of the wealthiest people in America. He’s CEO of Guggenheim Partners, a global financial services firm that manages more than $180 billion in assets. He’s also chairman and controlling owner of the Los Angeles Dodgers. In December 2012, *SportsBusiness Journal* ranked him eighth on its annual list of the 50 most influential people in sports business.

And none of that comes as a surprise to friends from his Creighton days.

Planning Ahead

Barrack recalls that while some at Creighton, “just wanted to get through class,” Mark Walter was “already planning what to do in the future.”

Barrack recalls that Walter, while attending Creighton, had a brokerage account and was buying and selling stocks and commodities (thus the gold bar).

“We knew he was going to do something big,” says Barrack, who lived two rooms from Walter in Gallagher Hall. “He had a quiet confidence. He was smart, really smart. I don’t know if he knew the level of success he would achieve, but I think he knew he was going to be doing big things and he had a plan.

“He always had a plan.”

Walter’s plan then was simple: “I wanted to be successful enough to have a reasonable career to buy a farm.”

A dozen or so years ago, he and his wife of 23 years, Kimbra, a former attorney with Morgan Stanley, did just that. They also own several ranches and in March purchased the 7,600-acre White Oak in northeast Florida. It’s home to a conservation center that houses endangered species and is a favorite place for the Walters to take their 12-year-old daughter.

Those are among the fruits of a career whose seeds were germinated in Omaha but which took full root in Chicago. After graduating from Creighton in 1982 with a business degree, Walter earned a law degree from Northwestern University in 1985. He worked for the law firm of Sonnenschein Carlin Nath & Rosenthal, then for First Chicago Bank. In 1996, he founded The Liberty Hampshire Company in Chicago.

Four years later, he and partners J. Todd Morley, Dominic Cucio and Peter Lawson-Johnston II formed Guggenheim Partners. The company has headquarters in the Franklin Center in Chicago and on Madison Avenue in New York. The *Los Angeles Times* reported the 53-year-old Walter’s personal net worth at $1.3 billion.

That’s all a far cry from Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where Walter was born and raised (just an hour from the Field of Dreams baseball field). Walter’s father, Ed, worked at a concrete block manufacturing company. His mother was a bookkeeper before staying home to take care of her four children. Now in their late 80s, the Walters still live in Cedar Rapids.
Mark Walter, BSBA’82, heads a multi-billion-dollar financial services firm and is the top man with LA’s iconic baseball franchise.
“They had that work-hard-and-be-a-responsible-person, meet-people-more-than-halfway ethic,” Walter says. “That’s an ethic I carry around and try to instill in our company.”

When he was a sophomore at Thomas Jefferson High School, the family moved from a rural area into town, just a couple of blocks from St. Jude Catholic Church. Walter played sports at TJ, but was “an average athlete, at best.”

“By the time I was a senior,” he says, “I was more focused on moving on.”

He chose Creighton for its Jesuit and Catholic roots. “Same values we had,” he says. “Right over the plate for us.”

To pay for college, Walter took out student loans to augment what his parents provided and in summers worked construction and at a factory that manufactured concrete bridge supports. He later earned a small accounting scholarship at Creighton and worked for the admissions office, giving campus tours to prospective students and their parents.

The Organizer

Mark Baggio met Walter after transferring to Creighton from the University of Illinois in 1979.

“Mark, he was just like the All-American kid,” says Baggio, now an attorney for Ice Miller in Chicago. “Always had a smile going and introduced me to a number of just great, great people in and around campus. He was like a part of the welcoming committee.”

Baggio says Walter was the one who got everyone together for intramural soccer, football, softball and basketball games. Many of the players came from third-floor Gallagher. Walter was goalkeeper and captain of the soccer team.

“We had a ton of fun and Mark was a great organizer of those kinds of activities, including getting our jerseys and getting us all coordinated,” Baggio says.

The gang included Barrack and his cousin, Tony Barrack. They would hang at the Kiewit Center, grab nachos at Don’t Drink the Water or drinks at the Blue Jay or Mr. Toad’s. Some of them once headed to Kansas City’s Kauffman Stadium, where Walter caught his first Major League game (he mentioned that to Royals owner David Glass at the 2012 All-Star game there).

“I couldn’t have been any happier than I was there,” Walter says of his time at Creighton. He said it was the equivalent of being retired and hanging with friends, “though none of us had any money.”

In the classroom, Walter was all business. He mentions professors Thomas Purcell, Ph.D., BSBA’72, JD’77, and Jerome Sherman, Ph.D., among his favorites.

“The education was phenomenal,” Walter says. “The business education there was technologically sound [and] the principles of investing and return and risk were embedded in a lot of that educational background. A great deal of my success is based on what I learned at Creighton. You really couldn’t find a better place, and I couldn’t have had a better experience.”

Baggio, also a 1982 business grad and a 1985 Creighton law grad, says Walter was his go-to guy when he needed numbers help.

“He was a person who just could grasp things very quickly,” Baggio says. “I always thought that with his flair for finance and accounting that big things were headed his way.”

Guggenheim

Walter’s success with Guggenheim came while others failed.

“The financial crises — not just the latest one but some of the things that happened around 2000 and a little bit after that — in some way helped us because some firms had either lesser talent or performed by taking large risks on their clients’ behalf, and these firms ultimately became exposed,” says Walter, who several times a week starts his day at 3 in the morning.

The Dodgers are his best-known acquisition. Walter and a private partnership forming Guggenheim Baseball Management purchased the iconic baseball franchise for $2 billion. That topped the franchise purchase record of $1.1 billion paid for the Miami Dolphins in 2009 and the $845 million the Ricketts family (whose patriarch — billionaire TD Ameritrade founder Joe Ricketts, BA’68 — is also a Creighton graduate) paid for the Chicago Cubs in 2009. Previous Dodgers

Did you know?

- There are 30 Major League Baseball teams
- 2 are owned by Creighton graduates
- Los Angeles Dodgers (Mark Walter, BSBA’82)
- Chicago Cubs (Joe Ricketts, BA’68)
owner Frank McCourt, who was in bankruptcy, had purchased
the team for $430 million in 2004.
Walter’s partners include Todd Boehly, Bobby Patton, Peter
Guber, NBA legend Earvin “Magic” Johnson and longtime
sports executive Stan Kasten.
The deal was announced in late March 2012, just days after
Walter was in Omaha for a first-round NCAA basketball game
at CenturyLink Center.
“I was still completely anonymous then,” he says.
Not so once the deal went public. And that surprised him.
“It just didn’t seem to me that as the owner, chairman of the
baseball team in another city, that I was going to be much of
a center of attention,” he says. “Maybe a little bit of news on
transactions and then it’ll blow over and go back to normal.
“That just has not been the case.”
The Chicago Tribune was among the first to start digging.
They called all the Windy City’s movers and shakers. Only a
few had heard of him. None knew him. The Los Angeles Times
profiled him. Forbes Magazine featured his firm. ESPN ran an
online article, “Mark Walter is the Promise.”
“All of a sudden people are wondering, ‘Who is this Mark
Walter?’” Baggio says.
That doesn’t suit Walter’s style.
“I personally like a low profile,” he says. “People do business
with Guggenheim, not Mark Walter.”

Who is Mark Walter?
Baggio and Walter have remained close. Walter stood up in
Baggio’s wedding to his first wife in 1986 at Creighton’s St.
John’s Church. When they all were back in Chicago, Baggio
would let Walter borrow his Toyota Corolla when he wanted
to visit his parents in Cedar Rapids. They’d hang out with
Baggio’s parents. Every Christmas for years thereafter, Walter
would send them a box of Omaha Steaks.
Today Baggio’s daughters, who attend DePaul University,
ocasionally house-sit for the Walters in their upscale Lincoln
Park home. The two Marks e-mail each other every two weeks
or so. When Baggio had quadruple bypass open-heart surgery
earlier this fall, Walter was among the first to check on him.
Barrack, on the other hand, had lost touch with Walter. He
hadn’t talked to him in at least 15 years. He was watching
ESPN last year when “Mark Walter” was mentioned in a report
on the Dodger sale. Could it be the same one?
“I immediately got on my computer, typed in ‘Mark Walter,
Guggenheim’ and it came up,” Barrack says. The two would
connect via e-mail. Walter later would treat him to a Dodgers
game, flying him and five family members down from San
Francisco, where Barrack works for real estate firm Pietro
Management.
He did the same for Baggio in Chicago, not long after the
Dodger purchase had been finalized. They hit the field early.
“All of a sudden,” Baggio says, “I’m being introduced to
Tommy Lasorda and my jaw is open: ‘Holy cow, this is Mr.
Dodger.’ He was talking to me like I was his old buddy.”
Walter, Kimbra and others from the Guggenheim team were
there. The group was in the stands near home plate. People
kept coming to Walter and congratulating him on the purchase.
He’d stand and greet them. An usher kept telling Walter to sit
down and quit blocking the aisle.
Eventually, Baggio says, “she realized there was something
unique about this guy as people from all over the place kept
coming up to say hello.”
The usher turned to Baggio: “Tell me who he is.”
That’s what everyone else wants to know now.
On your smartphone right now, you may already have an app to stay on top of your heartbeat, luggage, bank account, flight schedule, shopping list, music, distance to the nearest gas station — even the phone itself. There are apps to help you manage your health, diet, water intake, wedding planning, exercise routine, reading abilities and pain. The OpenWays app can turn your smartphone into a hotel-room key. There are even apps to turn your phone into a mirror and flashlight.
This year, downloaded apps have reached the 50-million mark in Apple’s apps store, which has a current inventory of 900,000 apps. We’re reaching the milestone of having more mobile connections on the planet than people, and more than 95 percent of Creighton University students are now arriving on campus with a smartphone, according to Wayne Young Jr., Ph.D., BA’93, associate vice provost for Student Life at Creighton.

“Apps is short for applications,” says Cynthia Corritore, Ph.D., professor of business intelligence and analytics at Creighton University, who teaches mobile app development. “This term is synonymous with ‘programs’ or ‘software’ and has been used in the tech industry for decades. However, when small programs went public, the industry coined the shortened phrase ‘app’ to describe them. So apps are simply software that enables hardware to run and do something specific. They are predicated on mobile computing and using our smartphones.”

When designing a quality app, creativity, simplicity and a focus on the “user experience” (UX) are a must. In fact, UX has become a burgeoning field, drawing upon psychology, computer science, anthropology, business-intelligence analytics, cognitive science and industrial design, according to Corritore. “Consider my 75-year-old father using Instagram and Words With Friends. It better provide a great UX. If people have to concentrate on how to use an app while using it, it distracts them from what they are trying to accomplish and they will quickly move on. There are too many people out there building good ones.”

It’s getting harder and harder to make money at it, but the field is wide open — not only to developers, but also to entrepreneurs willing to shell out approximately $2,000 to see their ideas come to fruition. A good idea can bring in many thousands of dollars in the first week or so, but it’s also likely to soon be replicated, forcing the creator to move on.

A good app idea is generally something you find personally appealing and need, says William Duckworth, Ph.D., associate professor of statistics. He’s created three of his own through his company, Lucky Duck Apps: B.O.B. is a parental-control web browser; Photo Backup App lets you backup the images and videos you take with your iPhone, iPod Touch or iPad; and Warranty Consultant helps you decide whether or not to get the extended warranty.

“If you are getting ready to buy a product — like a digital camera, cell phone or something along those lines — and you’ve gone to Best Buy or some other retailer, they will ask you if you want to buy the extended warranty,” Duckworth says, explaining his Warranty Consultant app. “From a statistician’s point of view, that should be a fairly simple probability problem to tackle. But I found myself always wondering whether or not I wanted it. So I realized this would be the perfect problem for an app. With a few calculations, that app could tell me whether it’s a good idea or not.”

“The app I use the most is The Pope App. I use it almost every day to read the daily homily, which Pope Francis gives in the chapel in the St. Martha apartment building where he lives. I normally use the ‘news’ link, which I like because it is updated frequently. I also look at the ‘From the Pope’ link and enjoy a variety of texts of the Pope’s talks, audiences and other messages. The +Vaticano link has a menu of links to a variety of other Vatican information pieces.”

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

“Apps we love

There are two apps associated with Catholic practice that I like. One is called IMissal, which is just what it sounds like — a traditional missal, only digital. One app I use all the time is called Meditator. It is a simple meditation timer, which is great for the practice of Centering Prayer, a common form of Christian contemplative prayer. I also like GoodReader for reading documents and editing text, and Keynote for giving presentations. I also have an app called Attendance2 for taking attendance in class.”

John O’Keefe, Ph.D.
College of Arts & Sciences
Professor of Theology

William Duckworth, Ph.D., has created three apps of his own through his company, Lucky Duck Apps.
“Is There an App for That?”

新疆的南疆、北疆、江浙、四川等地的风光和自然景色在这些视频中得到了生动的再现。

第二语言 — 不仅可以提高他们的阅读技能，还能保持他们对学习的兴趣。

“每个应用都有不同的重点，比如教学阅读、解码或阅读理解，“道尔说。 “我们发现，阅读应用通过图片、声音和卡通，可以非常有动力。我们还制定了一个系统来评估阅读应用，这样老师就知道如何应用它们，以及它们是否适合特定学生。“

在克里特顿大学，应用一直在开发。在科里托的APP开发课程中，学生往往设计的是他们在学校遇到的问题，比如找停车位、食谱或开放的健身房。大学本身现在有一个为新生及其父母设计的应用，今年下载了3,625次。Guidebook应用包含了克里特顿的耶稣会价值观、娱乐活动和校园服务，还有Welcome Week的时间表。

“它是我们价值观、服务项目、整个克里特顿体验的一部分，是新学生和他们的父母和家人的虚拟伴侣,”杨说。“我们需要给他们的一切，或者让他们了解的一切，我们都能做到，并随时更新。我认为，这是我们向父母和家庭展示我们存在的方式，没有其他国家的大学能做到。“
We really pride ourselves on building a community here, and I think we’ve only doubled our effort with this.”

The University’s 2014 app will launch this February in partnership with the undergraduate admissions office and will have features just for high school seniors to get them better acquainted with the University, such as photos and a map of the campus as well as admissions requirements.

“"It’s another way that we show that Creighton is a much different option in the marketplace,” Young says. “It’s reassuring for parents, new students and prospects to have all of that information right at their fingertips at all times. So it really allows us to be available as a resource, 24-7.”

The popularity of apps is based on the popularity of mobile devices. So as the devices continue to evolve, so will apps. Many are now being used like virtual assistants, keeping track of the many chores of daily life.

“I like to use Cozi, which is a web-based shopping list and to-do list,” says Maureen McCann Waldron, BA’75, MA’98, associate director of the Collaborative Ministry Office. “It helps me keep multiple lists, and I can type a list into my desktop computer and then find it on my phone. I carry a list of birthday and anniversary cards I need for the year, sorted by month; holiday gift ideas; and books people suggest to me. Our Groceries lets me keep a running grocery list on my phone, and if my husband calls and says he is stopping by the store on his way home, I can e-mail or text him the grocery list. Finally, I heard about Any.do from St. John’s former music director, Tony Ward. It’s a flexible to-do list that lets me move items around and cross them off as I need to.”

The next frontier is likely to be apps designed for wearable computers — a technology that’s been around for approximately 20 years, but is just now beginning to reach the mass market due to advances in technology.

Professor Corritore is excited about wearable technologies and is currently sporting a new wearable computing device.

“I just got a smartwatch, pre-public release, called the Pebble,” she says. “That’s the name of the company that makes it. It talks to my smartphone. So when I get a phone call, my watch vibrates and shows the caller ID. It does the same when I receive a text message or an e-mail. I never have to listen for my ringer again.”

She said that one of the most exciting aspects of wearable technologies is the app development that they stimulate.

“App development is happening for Pebble watches now. And soon we are going to see other smartwatches, so I expect that app development will move to those devices, as well. This is an ongoing trend — new, often smaller, devices are built and released, followed by developers creating new apps for them. I tell my students all the time that these are truly exciting times to be alive.”

"MapMyFitness is great for walking, running, cycling at your own pace. You can track activity, share with friends and map runs, rides, walks and hikes. This app also syncs a calorie counter to MyFitnessPal and livestrong.com and has a blog. MyFitnessPal tracks caloric intake and exercise expenditures, has a wide database of food, monitors your progress through the week, keeps track of total weight loss and allows you to connect with friends.”

Thomas Baechle, Ed.D.
College of Arts & Sciences
Professor & Chair
Department of Exercise Science

apps we love

“One of my favorite business apps is ICardSort. This is an iPad app that allows the visual organization of material. I’ve used this in a lot of brainstorming sessions. Along those lines, I also use Mindjet Maps, a mind-mapping program that is also great for brainstorming and note taking. I use Keynote for all of my presentations in class. Finally, I use the built-in notes app. I like this app because it syncs across all of my devices.”

Trent Wachner, Ph.D.
Heider College of Business
Assistant Professor of Marketing
It was fall 1978. Creighton sophomore Lou Halamek, BS’81, MD’86, was determined to learn a skill that had eluded him since childhood: swimming.

“My family had never been big swimmers,” he recalls. “I thought it would be a good idea to learn. … On the first day of class, instructor Mary Higgins, BA’73, Creighton softball coach, lined everyone up in the shallow end of the pool and said, ‘Swim to the other end.’

“I told her, ‘You have to understand, I don’t swim. At all.’

“She said, ‘Just do whatever you do to get to the other end.’ So I walked, across the pool and back. When she asked me to float, I sat on the bottom of the pool for about a minute and then stood up and said, ‘I don’t float, either.’”

“Lou was a member of the Creighton baseball team, a very skilled athlete and excellent ball player,” Higgins recalls, “but when it came to swimming, he sunk like a rock. I was afraid he would drown. I scared myself imagining the headlines: Creighton Student Drowns During Swim Lesson with Higgins.

“We had a student who was working for us in the athletic department, Katherine (Katie) O’Connor, BA’81, who had competed in synchronized swimming on a select team. She was a beautiful swimmer — very athletic and very patient. I asked her if she would be willing to work one-on-one with Lou.”

“I was immediately struck by how nice he was,” remembers Katie. “He had a great personality. He worked hard, but he would make a little joke or a light-hearted comment every now and then. He had a good disposition, and he was kind.”

Every Tuesday and Thursday that semester, Lou plowed through the water until eventually he learned to float … and then to swim.

“Well, one bubble and dunk led to another … “ says Higgins.

The week before finals, Lou asked Katie to hang back after class. He presented her with a red rose and asked her to accompany him to a New Year’s Eve party. “He surprised me,” says Katie. “I figured he was going to throw me in the pool.”

The two were married on May 30, 1986, at St. John’s Church on the Creighton campus. They have lived in Palo Alto, Calif., since 1990. Lou is a neonatologist with Stanford University Medical Center. Their daughter, Kelly, graduated from Claremont-McKenna College in May. Their son, Michael, began classes this fall at the University of San Diego. Both are capable swimmers.
“On Jan. 5, 2012, I was planning my week and thought I would set aside the next afternoon to spend some time with the ailing Deacon Tony Filipcic,” recalls Jim Clifton, S.J., associate vice provost for Health Sciences Mission and Identity. Filipcic mentored Clifton in the practical aspects of parish life, when Clifton arrived as the new pastor of St. Frances Cabrini Church in Omaha in 2004. He was “a warm and faithful fellow whom the parishioners dearly loved.”

“When I arrived, the nurse was just leaving Tony’s room, intending to call me to tell me that Deacon Tony was minutes from death. ‘Who told you to come?’ she asked, and all I could say was, ‘Somehow, God gave me a nudge and told me to come today instead of tomorrow.’

Tony’s dear niece and her husband were in the room, and they told me that he had been very restless. I sat down with Tony, told him I was there, and spent time telling him how grateful I was that he had taught me to be a real pastor; how grateful I was for his prayers and support and friendship and service. Without ever opening his eyes, he relaxed completely and his face showed great peace.

“I read to him the simple verses from Matthew’s gospel: Come, blessed of my Father, and inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry, and you gave me food; I was thirsty, and you gave me drink; I was naked and you clothed me; a stranger, and you welcomed me. I was ill and you comforted me; in prison, and you came to visit me.

“Tony opened his eyes, smiled and died.

“Deacon Tony had become so completely the one who serves the pastor, whoever that happened to be, that he waited for the pastor to come before he completed his journey to the great Pastor he had served so selflessly all his life.

“But for God’s nudge, I would have kept him waiting … or worse still, missed this final blessing.”

“I like him,” said my dad. “He’s a straight shooter.”

The him was Creighton Jesuit the Rev. William Kelley. The place was a hotel convention room in my hometown of Naperville, Ill. I was a high school junior, searching for a college. Fr. Kelley was there on behalf of the admissions office. He was trying to recruit students, but he didn’t sugarcoat his message. Creighton, he told us, would be hard, but it would prepare us well for the demands of adult life.

Not exactly the message a 17-year-old kid wants to hear, but my dad was all in. A visit to Creighton later that summer, and I was in, too. Fr. Kelley, to a great degree, brought me to Creighton University. But I wouldn’t see him again for years. Not during my student years. Not at graduation. Not as I began my career, got married, bought a home, started a family.

After I returned to Creighton to work in the PR office, my wife and I had a chance to sit next to him at Creighton basketball games. She liked him right away. He could be gruff and somewhat intimidating. But he was also very charming and kind-hearted.

Then I had an opportunity to interview him for one of our University publications. With photos of alumni — weddings, baptisms, fishing trips, graduations, holidays, vacations — lining his office wall, it sunk in that Fr. Kelley had not only influenced my life … but the lives of many others. And I had a unique opportunity to tell his story. To give something back, in some small way. What a wonderful life.

Forward to this fall. My wife was recovering from surgery. As she sat in her hospital room, she lamented, “I wish Fr. Kelley were here.” (Fr. Kelley died in 2000.) A member of the housecleaning staff was quickly moving about the room, straightening up. Suddenly, she stopped, looked at us and asked: “Do you mind if I pray with you?” She prayed over my wife in Spanish. I couldn’t help but think: Was Fr. Kelley here, too?

When my story on Fr. Kelley was published, he gave me a call. I didn’t know what to expect. Would he like it? “A fellow Jesuit told me, ‘It must be nice to read your own obituary,’” he said, with his typical dry wit. He then added: “It was well done. Thank you.”

No, Fr. Kelley, thank you.

Your Story …

Now we want to hear your stories. What are your miracles on 24th Street? Let us know. E-mail Rosanne Bachman at rosannebachman@creighton.edu.
Alum Items

52 Joseph E. Torres, DDS, El Paso, Texas, was featured in an article for the El Paso District Dental Society newsletter celebrating his 90th birthday. Torres currently operates his own practice, Joseph E. Torres, D.D.S.

56 E.J. Giovannetti, BS 63, JD, Urbandale, Iowa, was honored by the city of Urbandale which dedicated a shelter house in his name. Giovannetti also celebrated his 30-year career in public service, 20 years of it as Urbandale’s mayor.


68 Kathleen Hermann Baloussek, BS, Moraga, Calif., received the 2013 Monsignor John T. McCracken Award for Outstanding Bay Area Catholic Woman of the Year in April. Baloussek is the founder and leader of a local chapter of Claremont-based Shoes That Fit.

69 Dr. Mary Beth Knapp Susman, BA, Denver, was elected president of the Denver City Council for a second term.

70 Dr. Susan H. Godar, BA, Paterson, N.J., was named interim dean of the Cotsakos College of Business at William Paterson University in Wayne, N.J. Richard H. Weare, BA, Mesa, Ariz., received the Harry O. Lawson Outstanding Achievement in Court Administration Award. Weare is the former court executive/ clerk of the court for the district of Arizona.

72 William A. Conway Jr., MD, Birmingham, Mich., was selected as one of the “50 Most Influential Physician Executives in Healthcare” by Modern Healthcare magazine. Conway is the only Michigan physician to be honored and is currently the executive vice president and chief quality officer of Henry Ford Health System and CEO of Henry Ford Medical Group.

74 Tom L. Ludwig, BS 69, DDS, Harlan, Iowa, was elected vice president of the Iowa Dental Association in May.

78 Gregory L. McClinton, BA, Silver Spring, Md., senior trial attorney for the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, obtained a unanimous federal jury verdict of more than $20 million to eight former employees of Four Amigos Travel Inc. and Top Dog Travel Inc. for sexual harassment and retaliation in April. McClinton recently retired from the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission after 25 years of federal service.

80 Terri A. Czajka, BA, Indianapolis, was recognized by Chambers USA in the Natural Resources and Environment practice group. Czajka is currently a partner at the law firm of Ice Miller LLP and chair of the Environment, Natural Resources and Toxic Tort Group.

82 John D. Barnes, BS/BA, Alexandria, Va., launched Barnes Associates Consultants, a consulting firm providing services for association management, public policy and advocacy.

87 Dr. Stephen J. Conroy, BA, Poway, Calif., was appointed faculty director of the Center for Peace and Commerce at the University of San Diego.

88 Janet L. Melchior-Kopp, BA BS JD, Omaha, was appointed vice president and trust manager of Mutual of Omaha Bank’s wealth management group.

91 Jennifer Oakes Boyden, BA, Otis, Ore., was awarded the Four Lakes Prize in Poetry for her recent book, The Declarable Future, published by University of Wisconsin Press. Boyden’s previous book, The Mouths of Grazing Things, was awarded the Briggming Prize in Poetry.

92 Geoffrey M. Riley, MD, Lafayette, Calif., joined Stanford University School of Medicine’s Department of Radiology as a clinical associate professor.

95 Laurie L. Johnston, JD, Seattle, has been named director of Global Legal Services- Employment with Expeditors International, headquartered in Seattle.

96 Matt S. Dehaemers, BFA, Shawnee, Kan., has his public art piece, “To The Power of Twelve,” on display at Arrowhead Stadium, home of the Kansas City Chiefs. Kevin F. Hormuth, JD, Chesterfield, Mo., has been named to the 2014 Best Lawyers in America list. Hormuth practices commercial litigation at Greensfelder, Hormker & Gale PC’s St. Louis office.

99 Joseph M. Caturano, BA 94, JD, Fairfax, Va., joined Bean, Kinney & Korman in Arlington, Va., as a domestic relations attorney. Ryan J. Eikmeier, BA, Oak Park, Ill., assistant dean of curriculum for Kaplan University’s Schools of Business and Information Technology, performed the oratorio “Theodora” with the Handel Week Festival in Oak Park. Eikmeier is currently performing in the cabaret trio “Treble in a Red Dress.” Dr. Jim A. Mello, MBA, Lebanon, Conn., presented a research paper, “In Support of Others: An Examination of Psychological Capital and Job Satisfaction in Academic Staff,” at the International Conference on Learning and Administration in Higher Education in Nashville in May. Mello is currently assistant provost for academic administration, budget and planning at the University of Hartford.

00 Shilee Therkelsen Mullin, JD, Omaha, joined Spencer Fane Britt & Brann LLP as an associate member of the litigation and dispute resolution group.

02 Rev. Patrick L. Gilger, SJ, BA, Berkeley, Calif., was ordained to the Jesuit priesthood at Madonna della Strada Chapel on Loyola University Chicago’s campus.

03 Emily Janda Monteiro, BA 01 MA, Bryan, Texas, received her Ph.D. in English from Texas A&M University in May. Nicholas A. Prenger, BA, Omaha, was promoted to president at the Steier Group Inc.

04 Adam J. Dea, BS/MA, San Diego, is a civilian lead meteorologist for the Department of the Navy at Fleet Weather Center in San Diego. Alaina M. Stedille, BA, Casper, Wyo., was named a “Rising Star” by 2013 Mountain State’s Super Lawyers.

07 Ashanti Weaver, BSBA, Lithia Springs, Ga., joined Southern Methodist University in Dallas as operations manager for the Hughes-Trigg Student Center.

10 Leland A. Barker, BS, Henderson, Nev., received a Master of Science in Kinesiology degree from California State Fullerton in May. Margaret M. McGlynn, BS, Belleville, Ill., was a recipient for the American Medical Association Foundation’s Physicians of Tomorrow Award.

11 Jessica C. Pittman, BS, Atlanta, received a Master of Public Health degree from Emory University in May and joined the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists as an associate research analyst.

13 Cassie Kleinsmith Watson, JD 12, MS, Pittsburgh, Pa., and Lakewood Ranch, Fla., joined Neighborhood Legal Services Association in Pittsburgh as an attorney.

Tell us what’s new in your life. Have you started a new job? Recently married? Earned a promotion? Had a bouncing new baby? Received special recognition? If so, we want to know about it!

Submit your news: alumninews@creighton.edu

800.334.8794
Heeding a Call in South Sudan

He wasn’t going to go at first. But in 2010, Daniel Steier, BS’75, MD’79, found himself heeding the call to go on a mission trip 12,000 miles away in the war-torn African country of South Sudan, near the Uganda border. His brother, James Steier, M.D., BSPha’69, also felt the call to go to this ravaged land, where a 20-year civil war had left people with no infrastructure, no electricity or clean water and no modern healthcare. Where one in four babies does not survive to a first birthday, and one in seven mothers dies in childbirth, the highest maternal mortality rate in the world. Where life expectancy is 49 years.

Since then, Dan has gone back to Kajo Keji County three times on medical missions, and Jim has gone on four. They are part of the Healing Kadi Foundation, a nonprofit organization founded by Joseph Dumba, M.D., a medical partner of Dan Steier and native of Kajo Keji, and lawyer Wayne Naro. Its mission: to provide modern, reliable and sustainable healthcare to an area with thousands of transplanted refugees, many of whom have never seen a doctor.

Dan Steier remembers his first trip, traveling on a crowded bus across Uganda from the Entebbe Airport near Kampala. “The rule was that no one could bring live chickens or fish on the bus. But people sneaked them in anyway,” he said.

Bumping along nearly impassable roads, Steier saw a stark landscape with a few grass huts, no wild animals and too many people. Most of the animals, including lions, had been driven out by the war. Those that had stayed behind had been eaten. The people, including a half-million displaced from their traditional homes, kept streaming into Kajo Keji.

“You haven’t seen poverty until you’ve seen it there,” Steier said. “In the U.S., even the poorest of the poor can usually find a place to get a drink of clean water. But there, children were drinking from puddles, malnourished and full of parasites, often suffering from infections. They were all sick.

“It is overpowering,” he continued, “to see them sitting in the dirt in the sun, eating what they have, and they have so little.” But when they see the medical mission arrive, “they dance and sing and greet us. They are happy and they smile.”

Through grants and numerous fundraising ventures, the Healing Kadi Foundation was able to purchase three “Clinic in a Can” structures and began sponsoring a Sudanese medical student in exchange for a commitment to practice in Kajo Keji County. In June 2013, it opened the first modern medical clinic in Kajo Keji with a 15-member staff. In the first two months, more than 1,500 patients came, many walking from as far away as Juba, the capital city of South Sudan, or Uganda.

The clinic is a good first step, Steier said. It provides outpatient care, and there is a small operating room for minor surgery. But there is no room for post-operative care. And there is no shelter yet for the patients waiting in the sun for treatment.

Healing Kadi’s ultimate goal is to build a permanent hospital with three operating rooms, a maternity ward and an emergency room. “We have the land available where the clinic is now and architectural plans have been donated. With the clinic established, we can bring in nursing and medical students for training. We hope to open the hospital by 2017,” Steier said.

Money, of course, is always the obstacle. But those committed to the mission of Healing Kadi have faith that God will provide. The clinic is proof of that, Steier said.

He remembers that he wasn’t going to go on that first trip. “I thought they had plenty of doctors.” But being part of that mission and the others has made him “a lucky person to be able to volunteer to help these people.” Despite the language barrier, the overwhelming numbers of patients, and the limitations of what can be done, Dan Steier sees progress and hope.

And on the last trip, he said, he only cried once.

A Sudanese baby brings a smile to Jim Steier, M.D., BSPha’69, a volunteer with the Healing Kadi Foundation. One in four children in South Sudan dies before celebrating a first birthday.
Seeking an Old Enemy, Winning My War  By Tim Coder, BA'67

HANOI — Forty-three years have passed and I am in Vietnam again, this time minus jungle fatigues, M16 and rucksack, no longer young and sturdy and drafted out of the Creighton law school.

My mind wanders restlessly in search of old enemies as the bus crosses Victory Bridge over the Red River toward the stilled heartbeat of Ho Chi Minh and the charming decay of colonial Hanoi, the heart of darkness during the Vietnam War. I drift back to my days as a grunt with the 101st Airborne Division and the dot on the grid map where my six-man team — one of many in the battalion — made itself small on the DMZ’s high hills. It was in October 1969. Our officers told us we would be farther north than any American infantrymen had been in the war. Our mission was to be on the lookout for North Vietnamese Army units, to watch and report, not to engage the NVA, a distinction we happily noted.

I envisioned what might be behind that line of hills marching toward Hanoi in a north-south valley of 8-foot-high elephant grass that looked from our hilltops like a Nebraska wheat field.

Did people there embrace the inevitable and often terminal sacrifices of a too-long war waged by Uncle Ho, Charles De Gaulle, Lyndon B. Johnson and Richard Nixon? Certainly they embraced it more than we did.

I came home a little damaged, but unbroken, and she, the prettiest girl I’d ever seen, accepted my proposal of marriage. Surely, I’d been no hero, my lasting scar being a residue of jungle toe fungus, and the Army awards no Purple Heart for that.

Our tour guide, Son, says cheerfully that the North Vietnamese are “an optimistic people who look not to the past but the future and have no ill-will for Americans.”

I ask whether he might be willing to point out an NVA veteran I could talk to, explaining I was a veteran of the American War. His cheer turns cold — he had told us American bombs had killed his grandfather — and says that “such a meeting would have to be arranged and could take many weeks.”

We walk briefly through Hanoi’s Hoan Kiem District named after the lovely Lake of the Returned Sword. The air is thick with smoggy moisture, the incessant zoom of motor scooters and the head-numbing beeps of horns.

I am seeking an old enemy.

As I scan the sidewalk markets, my thoughts turn to more than 58,000 American dead — a handful of them my good friends — and the millions of Vietnamese soldiers and civilians from both the North and South. Was that kind of carnage worth it? Already I know the answer. I knew it before my draft call.

I hurrying to catch up with my tour group.

Two old enemies from worlds apart, both of us have won our war.

About the author: Tim Coder, an Omaha native and 1967 Creighton graduate, served as an infantry squad leader with the 101st Airborne Division and later as a battalion and brigade correspondent in Vietnam in 1969-70. The retired journalist from Corrales, N.M., is author of the novel War Without End, Amen: A Vietnam Story.
More than 2,600 alumni and friends returned to the Creighton campus for 2013 Alumni Homecoming Weekend. The Block Party outside of Morrison Stadium was a popular event during the weekend, with 1,350 in attendance.

ALL alumni and friends are invited back to campus for this annual fall tradition. Make plans to come back to the hilltop to enjoy the campus and reconnect with friends during one fun-filled weekend. In addition to Alumni Homecoming Weekend, the 10, 20, 25, 30, 40 and 50-year reunion classes and other milestone reunions will have the opportunity to celebrate their anniversaries.

Alumni Homecoming Weekend Favorites

> Golden Jays Luncheon & Ceremony
> Deans’ Receptions followed by the President’s Alumni Dinner
> Getting Blue Block Party

Learn more at alumni.creighton.edu/weekend and keep up to date with all the plans for Alumni Homecoming Weekend through the Bluejay Buzz!

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Follow us on Twitter twitter.com/CreightonAlumni #weekend
Marriages

94 Michele K. Starzyk and Max Bogard, BA, July 12, 2013, living in Omaha.
97 Wendy Z. Streit, BSN, and Justin J. Iverson, June 1, 2013, living in Omaha.
99 Peggy Dineen, BA, and James Reall, July 27, 2013, living in Omaha.
102 Natalie O. Nowak, JD, and Thomas J. Skutt Jr., JD 03, May 19, 2013, living in Omaha.

Births

89 Fred Leibsle and Kate Lee Leibsle, BA, Shawnee, Kan., twins, a son, Thomas Lee, and a daughter, Audrey Marie, March 29, 2013.

Deaths

54 James J. Hannigan, BS, Omaha, Aug. 31, 2013.
Congratulations to the 2013 Alumni Merit Award Recipients

James, BS’83, MD’87 and Regina “Molly” McComb Conahan, BA’83
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Francis J. Ayers, DDS’69
SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

Richard A. Witt, BSBA’74
HEIDER COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Judy A. Weill, JD’79
SCHOOL OF LAW

Maureen “Dede” Meyer Johnson, BSN’74
COLLEGE OF NURSING

Joseph D. Lynch, MD’66
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Dorothy A. Ostrowski, Ed.D., BA’78, MA’81, MS’97
GRADUATE SCHOOL

Sr. Rovina M. Turyazayo, PharmD’96
SCHOOL OF PHARMACY AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS
PT Grad Builds Life of Service in the Dominican Republic

By Sarah Smith, BA’07

For Nick Kietzman-Greer, BA’04, DPT’07, service isn’t a single act; it’s a way of life.
As a physical therapist, he has spent the last two years educating physical therapy students and volunteering in the Dominican Republic. Along with his wife, Laurie, also a physical therapist, they are revising the physical therapy curriculum at Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra in Santiago de los Caballeros, teaching classes and performing missionary work.

Before moving to the Dominican Republic in June 2011, Kietzman-Greer participated in Creighton’s Institute for Latin American Concern (ILAC) program as an undergraduate, and completed a physical therapy rotation there in 2007. From 2008 to 2010, he traveled to the Dominican Republic with Laurie as a healthcare volunteer with ILAC. Their primary responsibility was to supervise Dominican physical therapy students.

He said he and his wife, who met during a physical therapy rotation and married in 2009, had discussed moving there extensively before going.

“It just made sense to us that this was the obvious decision,” he says. “This was the place.”

Kietzman-Greer spends most days researching education programs, then attends university and church meetings. Though hectic, he enjoys the variety of the work.

“It keeps us from getting bored.”

The eventual goal is to restructure and improve university curriculum so Dominicans can carry out physical therapy training and work on their own. Although he and Laurie could directly treat patients, he finds it more effective to educate students. That way, he says, they can help potentially thousands more patients in their lifetimes.

They plan to stay another three years.

Although their work has been well-received, there are challenges living in a developing country. Access to medical equipment is limited and the university doesn’t have enough staff to teach classes, as the pay for educators is low. They often have to recruit teachers outside the country.

Despite this, Kietzman-Greer says his time has been immensely rewarding. He recalls when his church pastor asked him and Laurie to visit a family with a physically disabled son. After arriving, they saw he couldn’t walk. This prevented him from attending school, and his family was too poor to pay for daily transportation to take him. He says the child likely suffered from a neurological disorder caused by an untreated high fever as a baby. They gave him a pair of crutches to use, and he was so excited to move on his own that he immediately walked with them. A year later, Kietzman-Greer learned the boy was able to walk without crutches.

It’s instances like this that motivate him.

“We just wanted to use the skills that God has given us to help serve others as we can.”

ILAC Celebrates 40th Anniversary

2013 marks the 40th anniversary of ILAC, an international, Catholic, Ignatian-inspired, collaborative healthcare and educational organization. Programs are offered at Creighton in partnership with the ILAC Mission in the Dominican Republic. Through ILAC, healthcare professionals, volunteers and students, including Creighton undergraduate and professional students, learn about and serve the poor and marginalized in the Dominican Republic. Since 1973, thousands of Creighton students have participated in ILAC. Its first summer program involved pharmacy, dentistry, medical, nursing and undergraduate students. Today, ILAC operates a center in Santiago and clinics in six rural towns, providing healthcare to more than 3,000 Dominicans annually.
A Path of Justice

By Molly Garriott, BA’89

When Jesse Renteria, BA’03, talks with federal policymakers about issues affecting Native Americans, he speaks from experience — and through a desire for “justice in action” honed at Creighton.

Renteria works at the Mapetsi Policy Group, a Washington, D.C.-based advocacy group that serves as a link between tribal governments and federal policymakers, with the intent of protecting and preserving tribal sovereignty.

Renteria grew up on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota, a member of the Oglala Lakota Sioux tribe. His path to the Capitol was not easy. He attended the Jesuit-sponsored Red Cloud Indian School on the reservation and wanted to continue his education at a Jesuit university. “That was important to me as a first-generation college student (in my family),” Renteria says.

But a significantly low ACT score slowed the admissions process. Undeterred, Renteria built an academic foundation by enrolling in community college. Then, with a letter of recommendation from Peter Klink, S.J., then-president at Red Cloud Indian School, Renteria applied to Creighton.

“I consider myself a resilient person,” says Renteria, a quality he attributes to his mother. “I learned how to bounce back from failures and shortcomings early on, and I think that quality has helped me endure and overcome challenging situations.”

Overcome indeed. Eventually, Renteria was not only accepted to Creighton but received the Rev. Michael G. Morrison, S.J. Scholarship, which supports economically disadvantaged Native American students who are members of federally recognized tribes.

It was the first of numerous awards. Renteria received the Alan M. Schleich Award as Creighton’s top undergraduate history student. And, at graduation in 2003, he was recognized with the University’s Spirit of Creighton Award for embodying Creighton’s credo of initiative, enterprise, academic achievement and outstanding character traits.

Renteria considers himself fortunate.

“Creighton has an amazing network of people and programs willing to assist those who are willing to take advantage of the resources and put in the effort,” he says.

Student Support Services, he says, played a significant role in helping him acclimate to college life. Renteria feels called to give back.

From the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota to Creighton University to Washington, D.C., Jesse Renteria, BA’03, continues to be a strong advocate for Native Americans.

He has taught English in Haitian refugee camps, worked with disabled children in the Dominican Republic and taught middle school at the Tohono O’Odham Nation’s Reservation near Tucson, Ariz.

An opportunity to research and write for a Smithsonian-sponsored project at the Center of Southwest Studies in Durango, Colo., sidelines graduate studies at Notre Dame. His work was displayed in the Smithsonian Institute’s National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C., during its grand opening. Currently, the exhibit is on tour.

His association with the Smithsonian and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute brought him nearly a decade ago to Washington, D.C., where he eventually joined Mapetsi. But he has never forgotten his roots.

“The issues that I work on professionally are also important to me personally because they impact the community where I grew up.”
Having a Ball on Campus

It was a Creighton tradition — at least until it got out of hand and was nixed. It began around 1950 as an annual showdown: freshman men versus sophomore men on the field of the old football stadium, a show of brute force referred to by some as “mass chaos” and “earnest brutality.”

“Push ball” was invented by M.G. Crane of Newton, Mass., in 1891, and was adopted first by Harvard University, but over the years, several college campuses held annual push ball tournaments, including Creighton.

The rules in a nutshell were that two teams of 11 each played for two periods, with a goal of pushing a massive, six-foot-in-diameter ball under the crossbar of a goalpost, for five points, or over the crossbar, for eight points.

“I don’t remember any rules,” says Rosemary Cenovich Gross, BSCHM’57, who retired from Creighton in 2000, where she served as a math professor and academic coordinator for the athletic department.

“It was a huge canvas ball that had quite a bit of weight to it. It was very hard to get off the ground because it was so heavy.”

Gross recalls her sorority, Theta Phi Alpha, facing off against the women of Theta Epsilon in a push ball tournament during homecoming festivities in 1956.

“It was the only time I played. It was fairly rough — a few of us fell over — but it was nothing compared to when the guys played. What made our game so funny was that the chaplain of our sorority, Norbert Lemke, S.J., was also the chaplain of the Creighton Prep football team. He arranged for us to wear the guys’ practice uniforms. When we ran out on the field with our big padded shoulders and helmets, people howled!”

Unfortunately, push ball at its best resulted in a few bumps and bruises, and at its worst, saw more than one participant carried off the field, as well as a referee from a 1962 game, trampled and carried away unconscious.

Do you have a Creighton tradition you would like us to feature? Send your ideas to Rosanne Bachman at rosannebachman@creighton.edu.
My Christmas memories growing up are about four things: the feast of Christmas itself; family; giving and receiving gifts; and food — both preparation and eating.

It was a religious, family, cultural celebration. Everything was timed according to how it would fit in with the other things in the overall experience. We were reminded of the meaning of the feast, and the preparations for dinner taught my sister and me about how cooking was a sign of generous love.

After the early morning gifts, we had a ritual of stuffing the turkey before Mass. My sister and I loved to watch our parents work together on that process. After Mass and breakfast, we would go to our grandparents’ home to gather with our extended Italian family. Everyone brought something. Our mother always brought one of the turkeys and her fabulous Italian stuffing.

Her stuffing had generous amounts of Italian sausage, turkey, mushrooms and homemade turkey broth — prepared the day before. Not only was the stuffing, and her rich gravy, a meal in itself that day, but we loved the leftovers for days to come. It symbolized so much about love and sacrifice.

I hope this stirs your favorite Christmas memories.

Our Family’s Christmas Recipe

By Andy Alexander, S.J.

My mother would boil some turkey thighs or drumsticks (often with a turkey neck), to make a broth the day before. She would strip the meat off the bones and chop it up. She would refrigerate the broth and skim the fat off in the morning, in order to use several cups of the turkey broth to moisten the stuffing. She would always brown some Italian sausage (often homemade), in advance, as well. She always used several days old bread — often toasting it in the oven — to make her own breadcrumb mix. I liked to watch her break it up with her hands. Finally, she’d add an extra dash of oregano and basil to the mixture, along with rubbed sage. It made a great stuffing. This is definitely Italian and savory.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Italian Sausage Stuffing</th>
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<tr>
<td>2 pounds of browned Italian sausage</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 or 4 cups of chopped turkey</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 cups of sliced mushrooms</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 large onion, diced</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 stalk of celery, diced</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 to 10 cups of breadcrumbs – crouton size</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 to 4 cups of turkey broth</td>
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Use a large mixing bowl or roasting pan. Begin with two-thirds of the breadcrumbs. Add meat ingredients, the mushrooms, onions and celery. Mix well. Add half of the liquid and the dry seasonings, and mix again. Finally, add the beaten eggs and mix again. Add more breadcrumbs and more liquid until the stuffing is moist, but not too wet. Stuff the bird and bake the rest of the stuffing in a baking dish. The bird will keep its stuffing moist. It works great to add more liquid to the stuffing in the baking dish.
Integrity. Humility. A strong work ethic. And a commitment to helping others. Those traits aptly describe Creighton alumnus, philanthropist and Board member *emeritus* Charles Heider, BSC’49, HON’10, and his wife, Mary, HON’10. Those are the same characteristics the newly named Creighton University Heider College of Business looks to instill in its graduates. You can read more about the Heider College of Business beginning on Page 14.