Knee-Deep in Research

A Great View:
A Farewell to Fr. Lannon

Adult Learners Unleash Their Potential at Creighton

Powerful Outreach: Developing Solar Solutions

Examining the Rules: Government Regulations

Creighton Names 25th President

Spring 2015
I consider it an honor and privilege to serve as interim president of Creighton University as we await the official arrival of our 25th president, Daniel S. Hendrickson, S.J., on July 1.

And it’s given me a new appreciation for the work — and the hectic schedule — of our recently retired president, Timothy R. Lannon, S.J., who stepped down Jan. 20 due to health concerns.

Creighton University owes a great deal of thanks to Fr. Lannon, who accomplished much in his short three-plus years in office. Through his leadership, vision and collaboration, we are on a strategic course that is having a profound impact on the University and will continue to guide us for years to come. We wish Fr. Lannon Godspeed in his departure.

I also want to express my gratefulness to the Board of Trustees, the Presidential Search Committee and the entire Creighton community — alumni, students, faculty and staff — for their efforts in helping select a new president.

It was a thoughtful, engaging and in-depth process. I specifically would like to thank Bruce Rohde, BSBA’71, JD’73, and Richard Kizer, BSBA’71, JD’73, for their leadership as co-chairs of the search committee.

Through our careful and extensive deliberations, I believe we have made an excellent choice with the selection of Fr. Hendrickson. He is bright, personable, a good listener and very enthusiastic about his new role. I believe he will be a perfect fit for Creighton.

I know the Creighton community will join me in giving Fr. Hendrickson a warm welcome when he officially arrives in July. In the meantime, Creighton University continues to excel.

- For the second consecutive year and the fourth time in seven years, we have another Nebraska Professor of the Year in Greg Zacharias, Ph.D., professor of English.

- U.S. News & World Report recently ranked several of our online programs among the top 20 in the nation in their respective categories.

- We are developing new and innovative programs — such as our online Master’s in Leadership, bachelor’s degree in Healthy Lifestyle Management and a joint occupational therapy doctoral degree with Regis University in Denver. ... And the list goes on.

Finally, I want to thank the Creighton community for your support and encouragement in my interim role. In my 11 years as dean of the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions, I have found Creighton to be a supportive and innovative campus. We are a great University, and our future is bright.

J. Chris Bradberry, Pharm.D.
Interim President
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Thank you for the updates … Keep them coming

In the Fall 2014 issue of Creighton University Magazine, we announced that alumni who updated their contact information (address, phone number, email) on or before Jan. 1 would be placed in a drawing for Creighton prizes. And you responded! Check out the winners here.

When your contact information changes, we want to continue to hear from you. You can send that information, with your name, to alumninews@creighton.edu. And we’ll continue drawing winners for Creighton prizes to show our appreciation.

— Anna Scherr Nubel, MA’03
Assistant Vice President for Alumni Relations

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Daniel S. Hendrickson, S.J., Ph.D., was announced as the 25th president of Creighton University in December. A Nebraska native who currently serves as associate provost of academic initiatives at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Fr. Hendrickson will take office on July 1.

Fr. Hendrickson succeeds Timothy R. Lannon, S.J., BS’73, who had announced earlier that he would be stepping down from the presidency on Jan. 20 due to health concerns. (You can read more about Fr. Lannon’s term as president, his decision to step down and his future plans here.) J. Chris Bradberry, Pharm.D., dean of the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions, is currently serving as interim president until Fr. Hendrickson’s arrival in July.

After Fr. Lannon announced his retirement in February 2014, Creighton launched a national search to find its 25th president. By April, a search committee was formed. The committee conducted listening sessions with students, faculty, deans and vice presidents, alumni and staff to identify the key qualifications, personal attributes and professional characteristics wanted in the next president.

“It became clear that across Creighton there is great interest in deepening the University’s connection to its mission,” said Julie Hefflinger, BA’70, a member of the Board of Trustees, a search committee member and president of the Creighton University National Alumni Board. “Our alums have a lasting connection to the unique Jesuit education they received at Creighton, so it is something they want to see endure for years to come.”

Bruce Rohde, BSBA’71, JD’73, co-chair of the search committee and chair of Creighton’s Board of Trustees, described the search as a “very intense and in-depth process” with a wide range of potential candidates.

“The search committee conducted a national search and as it turned out the best candidate was indeed a Jesuit with Creighton and local roots,” said Dick Kizer, BSBA’71, JD’73, a board member and search committee co-chair.

Fr. Hendrickson’s selection was publically announced at a Dec. 8 press conference on campus. He called the opportunity to serve as president of Creighton University “a great honor.”

“I am honored to be elected as president of Creighton University, both by the search committee and the fuller board of the trustees,” Fr. Hendrickson said. “They have asked me to embrace a crucial part of the Creighton way, and that is to engage the mission of the University. The board is passionate about the mission, and I’m to be the steward of that, and to invite this University community to keep embracing it. Creighton is already fantastic in mission; it’s known for that. I’m honored to participate in the mission of Creighton and help steward it forward into the 21st century.”

Fr. Hendrickson was born and raised in Fremont, Neb., and attended Mount Michael Benedictine High School in Elkhorn, Neb. He earned his B.A. in psychology and theology at Marquette University, after which he entered the Society of Jesus in 1994 and was ordained a priest in 2006 at St. John’s Church on Creighton’s campus. He has earned master’s degrees from Fordham, Santa Clara and...
Columbia universities and his doctorate was awarded from Columbia University.

Fr. Hendrickson studied in the Jesuit Humanities Program at Creighton for one year in 1996, and then returned to serve as an adjunct instructor of philosophy at Creighton University from 2000 to 2003 during his regency training with the Jesuits. He remembers the time well.

“To teach philosophy is a privilege,” he said. “It’s to ask students questions about their lives and about the world around them and to invite them to keep unfolding with great questions and great experiences.”

Former students talk of the difficulty getting into Fr. Hendrickson’s philosophy classes because they were so popular.

“Students loved him,” said Russell Bosn, BSBA’04, of St. Paul, Minn., who took an entry-level philosophy course from Fr. Hendrickson his freshman year. “To this day, I still have my classroom copy of Plato’s Republic and Descartes’ Discourse on the Method with handwritten notes. It’s hard to think of another class that had a greater impact on my life.”

In his role with the provost’s office at Marquette, Fr. Hendrickson co-directs a service leadership scholarship program, oversees an enrollment growth initiative and managed expansion of the Title IX compliance office. As a senior administrator at Marquette, he maintained his passion for classroom interaction and taught a Philosophy of Education course as well as the scholarship program seminars most semesters.

Fr. Hendrickson has served as a member of Creighton’s Board of Trustees for a little over a year, and sits on the boards of fellow Jesuit institutions Boston College and Xavier University. Among his various teaching duties, he has served as an adjunct professor at Creighton’s Institute for Latin American Concern in Santiago, Dominican Republic, and a visiting instructor at Jordan University College in Morogoro, Tanzania.

“Fr. Hendrickson brings a keen understanding of the value of a Jesuit education. His global teaching experience and his scholarly agenda, focused on Jesuit teaching, make him particularly well-prepared to deepen Creighton’s connection to its mission,” said Scott Heider, search committee member and chair of the Heider College of Business Board.

Fr. Lannon has known Fr. Hendrickson since 1994 — when Fr. Hendrickson was applying to become a Jesuit and Fr. Lannon served as one of the examiners interviewing candidates. Fr. Lannon said he was impressed with Fr. Hendrickson then, and is proud that he will be the next president of Creighton University.

“We are blessed to have a person who will take this University to great lengths,” Fr. Lannon said. “He’s smart, he’s bright, he’s priestly, he’s a thoughtful leader, a thoughtful thinker. He will be outstanding, and we are so blessed to have Daniel Hendrickson as our 25th president.”

Fr. Hendrickson’s brother D. Scott Hendrickson, S.J., Ph.D., is an identical twin and is an assistant professor of Modern Languages at Loyola University Chicago. His older brother, Ryan Hendrickson, Ph.D., is a political science professor at Eastern Illinois University.

Fr. Hendrickson said he is excited to return to Creighton as president.

“Coming back to Creighton is like coming home,” he said. “I’ve had good interactions on this campus at different times in my life. I’m from Fremont, Nebraska, which is close by. I know the city of Omaha. I have good colleague friends on this campus. I know Creighton alumnus from across the United States. It truly feels like coming home, and I’m very grateful for that opportunity.”

“A Transition Rooted in Service

While Fr. Daniel Hendrickson’s first “official” day as president doesn’t start until July 1, he returned to campus in January to begin a transition program that included meetings with students, faculty, staff and senior administration.

During his visits to Creighton, he has been eager to be of service to and with Creighton students — celebrating Mass with them, volunteering with them at the Siena/Francis House homeless shelter near campus and meeting with students in the service-based Cortina Community. He offered them the following five recommendations for effective service engagement:

1. Practice the tools of the Ignatian spiritual exercises, such as reflecting about experiences of service and praying the Examen.
2. Form meaningful relationships with the patrons of service agencies and recognize similarities and shared realities.
3. Think critically about the roots and conditions of social malaises.
4. Recognize ordinary misgivings and mistakes of one’s perspective and prejudices, and keep returning.
5. See the intersections that occur between core courses in the humanities, one’s academic major and service. How do these areas of influence overlap and inform one another?

“Fr. Hendrickson brings a keen understanding of the value of a Jesuit education. His global teaching experience and his scholarly agenda, focused on Jesuit teaching, make him particularly well-prepared to deepen Creighton’s connection to its mission.”

— Scott Heider, Creighton Board of Trustees
Bradberry Appointed Interim President

J. Chris Bradberry, Pharm.D., dean of the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions, has been serving as interim president of Creighton University since the retirement of Timothy R. Lannon, S.J., on Jan. 20. He will serve in the interim role until Daniel Hendrickson, S.J., joins the University on July 1 as the 25th president of Creighton University.

Serving in a transitional leadership role is not new to Bradberry. He served as the interim vice president for academic affairs for eight months in 2013, prior to Edward O’Connor, Ph.D., joining Creighton as the University’s first provost.

“My main priority is to help develop a smooth passage for Fr. Hendrickson,” Bradberry said. “We are engaged in an ongoing orientation process to help make his transition as seamless as possible.”

Bradberry earned his baccalaureate in pharmacy and master’s degree in hospital pharmacy from the University of Louisiana at Monroe. He completed his doctor of pharmacy degree at the University of Tennessee Health Sciences Center, Memphis, and his residency in pharmacy at the University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston.

Bradberry has been at Creighton since 2003, when he was appointed dean.

Selection a Homecoming for Nursing Dean

Creighton University’s College of Nursing will welcome home one of its own as dean this summer. Catherine Todero, Ph.D., BSN’72, was named in January as the college’s next dean, taking the reins on June 1.

“I am thrilled to be returning to Creighton University as dean of the College of Nursing,” Todero said. “Creighton launched me as a professional nurse and the opportunity to serve as the dean in my career is especially gratifying.”

Todero earned a master’s degree in nursing from the University of Nebraska Medical Center in 1974, followed by a Ph.D. in administration, curriculum and instruction from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1986. She also served in the U.S. Army Reserve Nurse Corps with the 82nd Field Hospital from 1979 to 1983, attaining the rank of captain.

Most recently, Todero served as associate dean and director of the School of Nursing at Azusa Pacific University in San Diego, a position she has held since 2012. She’s also been an associate dean and interim dean at the UNMC College of Nursing and director of the School of Nursing at San Diego State University.

And this is not Todero’s first administrative posting at her alma mater. From 1979 to 1980, she was the director of Creighton’s R.N.-BSN curriculum.

“Creighton is pleased to welcome Dr. Catherine Todero as the next dean of the College of Nursing,” said University Provost Edward O’Connor, Ph.D. “Dr. Todero has been a compassionate, innovative leader since her undergraduate days at Creighton. Her experience in nursing practice, academia and the military have shown her to be a consummate professional and a true practitioner of the Creighton mission, focused on service to others.”

McGreal Named Next Dean of School of Law

Paul McGreal will become the 11th dean of the Creighton law school on July 1.

“Creighton is pleased to welcome Dean McGreal as the next leader of the School of Law,” said University Provost Edward O’Connor, Ph.D. “Dean McGreal has had a brilliant career as an administrator and legal educator, and in private practice. We are excited he has chosen to continue his excellent work at Creighton.”

McGreal earned a Master of Laws degree from Yale Law School, a Juris Doctor from the Dedman School of Law at Southern Methodist University and a bachelor’s degree in economics from Williams College.

McGreal’s areas of expertise include constitutional law, religion and the law, First Amendment rights, corporate compliance and business ethics. He is the author of more than 35 articles and essays for law review publications at such institutions as the University of Notre Dame, Northwestern University and the University of Pennsylvania.

Most recently, McGreal served as dean of the University of Dayton School of Law, a position he’s held since 2011. Prior to Dayton, McGreal was director of faculty development and professor of law at Southern Illinois University’s School of Law from 2006 to 2011. He served as interim associate dean for a year at SIU.

“I am excited and humbled by the opportunity to join the Creighton University community and to serve the Jesuit mission of educating men and women for others,” McGreal said. “And I am privileged to join a faculty and staff at the School of Law who are strongly committed to the success of their students and alumni, and who make significant contributions to the legal profession.”
Creighton, Regis to Partner in Unique Degree Program

For the first time in history, two American Jesuit institutions of higher learning will partner to offer hybrid online and campus-based joint instruction for a degree program.

This fall, Creighton University and Regis University of Denver will work together to provide a doctoral of occupational therapy (OTD) degree program. The Creighton Regis Occupational Therapy Collaboration is the first and only partnership of its kind among Jesuit universities.

“We are immensely pleased to set out on this new partnership together with a fellow Jesuit institution,” said J. Chris Bradberry, Pharm.D., dean of the Creighton School of Pharmacy and Health Professions. “To be able to train a new generation of practitioners and leaders to serve Colorado and the greater Rocky Mountain region in the occupational therapy discipline is a great trust Creighton and Regis have willingly and solemnly accepted. We look forward to a fruitful partnership that can benefit the people of Colorado, the nation and the world.”

Students from Regis will begin the path to their OTD degrees with all didactic coursework being undertaken online, taught and administered by Creighton faculty and have ready access to academic support and career mentoring from Creighton faculty. At the successful conclusion of the program, students will earn a Creighton University diploma.

Creighton and Regis are embarking upon this partnership to address a growing shortage of occupational therapy practitioners in Colorado and the Rocky Mountain region. There is also evidence of skyrocketing demand for occupational therapy jobs nationally. A U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics study predicts more than 30,000 new occupational therapist jobs will be created by 2022.

“There is a real and growing need for occupational therapists, and this program will help create some of the best practitioners in the country, right here in Colorado,” said Susan Scherer, Ph.D., associate dean of the Rueckert-Hartman College for Health Professions at Regis.

Frederick Hanna, DMA, chair of the Department of Fine and Performing Arts, talks about the uniqueness of a half-century of the arts on Creighton’s campus in the video above.

A U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics study predicts more than 30,000 new occupational therapist jobs will be created by 2022.

For a calendar listing of 2015 events, visit ccas.creighton.edu/arts.

To learn more about the collaboration, request information or apply to the program, visit Creighton’s Occupational Therapy website.
Creighton Online Programs Rank in Top 20

Several Creighton online programs were ranked among the top 20 in the nation for their respective categories by U.S. News & World Report’s 2015 Best Online Programs. The rankings evaluated more than 1,000 distance education programs for bachelor’s and graduate degrees in business, education, nursing, engineering and computer technology.

The Creighton online program categories recognized are: No. 16 in Best Online Bachelor’s Programs (B.S. in Leadership); No. 12 in Best Online Graduate Business Programs (Master of Business Intelligence and Analytics and Master of Security Analysis and Portfolio Management); and No. 11 in Best Online Graduate Education Programs (M.S. in Educational Leadership and M.S. in School Counseling and Preventive Mental Health).

“This recognition is a testament not only to the growing prestige of our online offerings but also to our faculty and staff’s commitment and diligence in making these programs top-tier academic initiatives,” said Provost Edward O’Connor, Ph.D.

In the rankings, only degree-granting programs offering courses entirely online were considered. U.S. News & World Report factored in reputation, student engagement, faculty credentials and training, student services, technology and other criteria to determine its rankings. Peer review data based on schools’ evaluations of each other was also included.

Creighton is offering alumni a 25 percent tuition-reduction scholarship through the summer term, which is applicable to online programs. Learn more.

Zacharias Named Nebraska Professor of the Year

English professor and Henry James scholar Greg Zacharias, Ph.D., is Creighton’s second consecutive Nebraska Professor of the Year, and fourth in seven years. At right, Zacharias talks about his passion for teaching.

Online Master’s in Leadership Launches

Twenty students are enrolled in Creighton’s new online Master of Science in leadership degree program, which launched in January. They hold a variety of undergraduate degrees including journalism, business management, microbiology, human and social services, communication studies, exercise science and theater.

“Leadership is an exciting, innovative field,” says Gretchen Oltman, Ph.D., program director. “This program allows students to focus on moral and ethical leadership development from an interdisciplinary perspective.”

Oltman, who is also an assistant professor in Creighton’s popular doctoral leadership program, the Interdisciplinary Ed.D. Program in Leadership, says the master’s program builds on the strengths of the Ed.D. in that students are drawn from multiple disciplines and learn together in a cohort-based model built on Jesuit values.

“A student can complete the entire program online, yet know that the quality and content of the course is built on Creighton’s strong academic foundation. Courses in both programs are taught by Creighton faculty and professional practitioners working in their respective fields,” Oltman says.

Learn more about the Online Master’s in Leadership here.
As cases of mistaken identity go, this one was head and shoulders — and still another head — above the rest.

Last summer, Creighton undergraduates Ashley Weed, Sarah Copeland and Joseph Baronovic, along with their professor, Gregory Bucher, Ph.D., of the Department of Classical and Near Eastern Studies, were examining several pieces in the Joslyn Art Museum's Roman art collection when they came across what looked to be a statue of a young boy.

The head-and-shoulders marble portrait of a child somewhere between the ages of 6 and 8, perhaps crafted in the 1st century A.D., was something of a rarity. The Imperial Roman stonecutters who made the piece were not known for expending much effort on such baubles when the work's subject was so young and lacked social standing.

"It looked like such a beautiful piece," said Copeland, a senior from Omaha majoring in classical languages. "But when we got a closer look at it, we saw the cracks, the strange colors in it. Something was just off."

In that closer look, the students' initial excitement over their backroom find gave way to skepticism.

For having weathered a reputed two millennia being knocked about Europe and the United States, the stone looked remarkably well preserved. There were also, quite literally, some cracks beginning to show in the head's story.

"We saw that the head was not entirely made of ancient stone," Weed said. "Too shiny. Something that would not have been fabricated in ancient times. (There were) cracks in putty that were binding different pieces together. There were just too many things that pointed to this being a pastiche."

The Creighton team deduced it was an imitation, most likely made in the early 20th century, in Rome, by a craftsman looking to make a quick buck off an unsuspecting tourist.

Disappointed by their first find, the students moved on.

Sitting on another storage shelf in the Joslyn was a head from another portrait, this one of a baby at most 2 years old, again, another ostensible lacuna in Roman portraiture. If older children were unlikely to be the subjects of stone portraits, infants and toddlers were even less apt to become so immortalized.

Sculpted as he was during the Julio-Claudian Era of the 1st century A.D., Weed's hypothesis on the toddler's identity is that he may just be Tiberius Gemellus, the grandson of Emperor Tiberius.

"In the Julio-Claudian period, there's an emphasis on youth and a harkening back to the Golden Age in Greece," Weed said. "We'd seen other portraits of Tiberius' grandson and this one just started to look a lot like that to us. The literature, the style, it just seems to match."

While Bucher said the identity can't be wholly confirmed, the students and their mentor continue to visit the piece using their own heads to piece together the mystery.

Jeremy Fackler

Creighton-Joslyn Connection

Over the past 10 years, Creighton faculty and students have been presenting on a variety of topics relating to the Joslyn Art Museum's collection through the CU@Joslyn public lecture series.

The program has allowed Creighton students to comb through the Omaha museum's vault, making discoveries, presenting and publishing on pieces the Joslyn has held — but usually not displayed — for decades.

"To be able to do this kind of work in Omaha, at Creighton, has been really incredible," said Sarah Copeland, one of the students involved in the research of the two Roman sculptures. "I think people might say that's something you could only do at an East Coast school or in Europe. But here we were, holding something that's 2,000 years old in our hands."
By archaeologists’ own admission, theirs is a destructive science.

“Excavation is complex,” says Erin Averett, Ph.D., a professor of archaeology in Creighton University’s Department of Fine and Performing Arts. “As you dig, you destroy context. And what does an archaeologist need above all else? Context. Therefore, meticulous recording is paramount.”

For years, while archaeologists unearthed all those important finds, they were also chewing up valuable clues around the dig site that could help with deciphering the purpose and placement of those found objects. The advent of digital technology — especially the Apple iPad — has helped to alleviate some of the burden by allowing researchers to more fully document the area surrounding a dig site, visually and digitally upholding that precious archaeological context.

On the last four trips Averett has taken to Athienou-Malloura, the site of a 3,000-year-old religious shrine in Cyprus, iPads have helped document the dig, preserving visual evidence of the site for later analysis. Averett is assistant director of the Athienou Archaeological Project. Technology is also revolutionizing the discipline in other tangible ways. Three-dimensional scanning and imaging are becoming more common on archaeological digs and, with a Creighton University Haddix Grant, Averett, her students and colleagues have been able to use 3-D to sift through 4,000 fragments of small figurines and statues found at the Athienou-Malloura site and piece together those fragments into more complete statues.

Back home, with the expertise of an Omaha-based company, Tethon3D, Averett has been able to use digital scans to create 3-D printer copies of artifacts found at the site, including the head of the mythical hero Herakles. The head is the same size and, printed with a ceramic composite, has the same feel as the original, half a world away in Cyprus.

“Archaeology has always been at the forefront of embracing new technologies,” Averett says. “What’s happening now is another opportunity at democratizing what we do in the field, getting it into more people’s hands and sharing it with a wider audience.”
New Degree Program Focuses on Healthy Lifestyles

Laura Heinemann, Ph.D., assistant professor of medical anthropology, is teaching Introduction to Anthropology: Social and Cultural Determinants of Health this spring as part of the new interdisciplinary Healthy Lifestyle Management (HLM) degree program. The program, offered online through the College of Professional Studies and on campus through the College of Arts and Sciences, is intended to give students a broader perspective of how health is created, along with the skills to work one-on-one with others to improve their health. Creighton University Magazine talked to Heinemann and the program director, Tom Lenz, Pharm.D., about the innovative HLM program.

What is the importance of teaching healthy lifestyle management?

Heinemann: Teaching healthy lifestyle management helps to foster in students the knowledge base and skill set that enable them to approach health matters beyond the level of health care alone. It attends closely to those “upstream” conditions that can lead to illness in the first place. Teaching lifestyle management tunes students in to seeking out new ways to ensure that people’s lifestyles set them up for well-being, to structure better methods of support and to remove barriers people may encounter that could derail efforts to living healthier lives.

What will students gain from the program?

Lenz: Students will take away the knowledge, skills and values necessary to work within a team of health care professionals to help people thrive in the environments in which they live, work and spend their time. Along with the explicit HLM curriculum, there is a personal development component. We strongly believe that in order to help other individuals achieve a high level of well-being, the health and wellness professional must also have a high level of well-being, which includes a strong sense of self-awareness. This overlay of personal development will include reflection and team-based activities.

What career goals should students have if they’re thinking about applying to the program?

Lenz: This program was designed to be broad in scope. Students interested in the health and wellness fields will find it applicable to many situations. They can expect to find career opportunities in community wellness, employee wellness, and health and wellness coaching. These employment opportunities are expected to be in greater demand compared to average job-growth projections over the next couple of decades. Also, students interested in matriculating to a health sciences program can expect to gain a broad perspective of the many factors that influence health prior to learning the specific skills of their chosen health care profession. It is our hope that we can help improve the health of society through this type of program because it is specifically designed to address the root causes of disease.

Are there societal and cultural changes in health awareness that you’ve witnessed?

Heinemann: There is growing recognition that genes and biology constitute only part of the picture. The conditions in which people live and work, and the social forces that carve out these conditions, can comprehensively shape well-being. This recognition is reflected now, for example, in the fact that the newly revised MCAT (Medical College Admission Test) includes a substantial section that tests for an understanding of the social determinants of health and well-being.

How does the program tie into Creighton’s mission?

Lenz: This program is interdisciplinary with an emphasis in collaborative care so the student is aware of the “whole person” health needs of the individuals they are helping. We believe this is in line with St. Ignatius’ teachings of cura personalis and Creighton’s mission of caring for the whole person.

What changes in health awareness do you want to see in society?

Heinemann: I hope to see greater attention to those things that are necessary for all people to have a better chance at enjoying good health in the first place.

For more information visit the Bachelor of Arts in Healthy Lifestyle Management website.
Study Looks at Egg Whites for Breakfast

Joan Eckerson, Ph.D., and three undergraduate research assistants in the Department of Exercise Science and Pre-Health Professions recently completed data collection that examined the effect of three breakfast meals on satiety and dietary intake in college-aged women. ConAgra Foods sponsored the study.

The investigators recruited 40 normal-weight women who regularly ate a breakfast low in protein. Every subject ate either egg whites, pastries or their regular breakfast for five consecutive days — a different breakfast each week for three weeks. Although data analysis is in progress, the investigators hypothesize that the egg white breakfast will result in greater dietary protein intake and higher ratings of fullness.

If the research shows that increasing protein at breakfast results in a lower total daily caloric intake, it may have positive implications for weight loss.

Study Examines Possible Link between Nutrition during Infancy and Obesity

College of Nursing faculty Barbara Synowiecki and Misty Schwartz, Ph.D., have partnered with the Osteoporosis Research Center to study feeding techniques and nutritional intakes of 30 infants who are formula fed from birth to 6 months of age. While it is becoming widely accepted that a child’s nutritional status in early life may influence the overall health and long-term predisposition to obesity, infancy — a critical time for growth and development — is not often targeted for obesity prevention.

Health experts recommend breastfeeding, but many mothers either need to or choose to formula-feed their babies. The study’s goal, therefore, is to develop interventions and strategies to promote healthy growth of infants and children while preventing childhood obesity, especially in high-risk populations. The research team has enrolled 20 participants with 10 infants completing the study and 10 currently in the study.

Creighton Conducts Pediatric Flu Vaccine Study

Meera Varman, M.D., of Creighton’s Pediatric Infectious Disease Division is comparing regular flu vaccine shots to an investigational vaccine in children 6 months to 5 years of age. Half of the participants receive the regular flu virus vaccine and the other half the investigational vaccine containing a substance that enhances the body’s immune response to an antigen.

Children in the study will be followed for the flu season to see if they develop symptoms of influenza. Data will include the number of work days parents miss as well as the number of school or daycare days the child misses related to the child having the flu.

Fighting Chronic Disease among Minorities

Creighton University earned a Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health grant totaling nearly $1.5 million over the next three years to reduce health disparities in the African-American population in Douglas County.

“The cost of managing chronic diseases in Douglas County is enormous and growing,” says Sade Kosoko-Lasaki, M.D., associate vice provost of Health Sciences and principal investigator of the grant. “In this country, chronic diseases such as heart disease, cancer and diabetes are the leading causes of death, disability and health care costs, accounting for seven of 10 deaths among Americans each year, and more than 80 percent of the $2.7 trillion our nation spends annually on medical care.”

In Douglas County, the African-American population experiences above average incidence of death and disability due to chronic diseases. Creighton University’s Center for Promoting Health and Health Equity-Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health has joined forces with community stakeholders and will use public health strategies to reduce tobacco use and exposure, improve nutrition, increase physical activity, as well as improve access to chronic disease prevention, risk reduction and management opportunities.

Professor Earns $1.5 Million Grant to Continue Epilepsy Research

The National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke has awarded Timothy Simeone, Ph.D., a five-year $1.5 million National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant to identify new therapies to manage epilepsy.

In a previous study, Simeone, an assistant professor of pharmacology in Creighton University’s School of Medicine, identified one particular protein important for managing seizures in children and adolescents with a special high-fat diet. His current research explores the role of this protein and associated regulator pathways in normal and epileptic brain function. One in 26 people will develop epilepsy and approximately 30 percent can’t adequately manage the seizures with current medications.
When Disaster Strikes  By Eugene Curtin

International rule of national sovereignty can sometimes hamper relief efforts

Creighton law professor Michael Kelly is a member of a five-nation force trying hard to be irresistible. Before him, and the rest of his team, sits an immovable object that must be budged, at least a little.

It is unhelpful that the immovable object is a sacred concept of international law — the universal agreement that nations are sovereign and that their internal affairs are their own business. As Kelly points out, this foundational principle of international law has made progress and prosperity possible in many parts of the world.

But it also has enabled dictators and tyrants to impose criminally on their peoples, often using the shield of sovereignty to enrich themselves during times of natural disaster. It is this problem that Kelly wishes to tackle, along with his colleagues at the Four Societies organization, a gathering of legal minds drawn from Australia/New Zealand, Japan, Canada and the United States.

The result is a newly published book titled The International Law of Disaster Relief, published by Cambridge University Press.

"The problems we’re encountering with disasters is that there’s more of them, with climate change, and they’re more intense," Kelly says. "The frequency of when and where they happen tends to be located in the developing world, which means they hit the societies least capable of dealing with them.”

The irony, Kelly says, is the nations believed to be contributing most to anthropogenic global warming are least affected by it.

"So the developed world, which is really driving climate change, has a moral responsibility to help the developing world where these disasters are occurring because in some ways we’re helping to cause them,” he says.

That help is not lacking. The United States, in concert with other wealthy nations, reliably rushes food and medical aid to areas stricken by earthquakes and tsunamis. The problem begins when the aid becomes subject to border and import laws. In some cases, Kelly says, the leaders of developing nations confiscate the aid in order to reward their supporters and punish their enemies.

Because denying aid to a devastated people is abhorrent, Kelly says, a way must be found either to persuade corrupt governments to permit free access to affected areas, or else to circumvent their authority.

In other words, a way must be found to compromise their sovereignty, which, Kelly says, is a tough nut to crack.

"The sovereignty shield that international law affords every country from being interfered with by every other country is something that’s very robustly manifested by states that receive aid," he says. “Especially states that don’t have either the rule of law or democratically elected governments.”

Kelly says the picture shouldn’t be painted too darkly. International aid does get through, he says, even when the world’s most problematic nations are involved. But so much more could get through, so much more swiftly, and with a much better guarantee of effectiveness if the current ad hoc rush to help was replaced by an organized protocol of procedures codified in international law.

A concept along those lines, known as “R2P,” or “Responsibility to Protect,” has gained traction in some legal circles, he says. The concept holds that nations may lose their sovereignty if they prove unable to provide for their peoples, to protect them, or to prevent activities within their borders that inspire violence against other nations.

A precedent exists within the Security Council of the United Nations, Kelly says, which can override sovereignty in crisis situations. But that power, he says, is much diluted by the veto power granted to China and Russia, both of which are frequently in league with oppressive regimes.
Standing as a silent, colonnaded sentinel over Athens, Greece, the Parthenon has been subject to nearly two-and-a-half millennia of war, religious zealotry, unscrupulous treasure hunting and the wear and tear of the industrial and natural elements.

These vagaries of earth and humanity have rendered Athena's Temple on the Acropolis into one of the world's most recognizable archaeological ruins. In recent years, the Greek government has taken pains to preserve what remains of the Parthenon, opening the Acropolis Museum in 2009 and partnering with scholars, artists and policymakers to ensure the site remains a viable historical and cultural monument for generations to come.

A trio of Creighton University faculty has been part of an international team undertaking a decade-long project to document and potentially reconstruct specific components of the Parthenon through a series of drawings. The faculty members are Erin Averett, Ph.D., a professor in the Department of Fine and Performing Arts, Gregory Bucher, Ph.D., a professor in the Department of Classical and Near Eastern Studies, and Jess Benjamin, director of the Lied Art Gallery.

The drawings, done by Katherine Schwab, Ph.D., professor of art history at Fairfield University, depict the Parthenon's metopes, high-relief marble sculptures carved into the temple's frieze, a decorative band running just under the building's eave. A nationally touring exhibition of Schwab's work is on display at Creighton's Lied Art Gallery through March 29.

In the Parthenon's 2,500-year history, most of the original 92 metopes (pronounced MET-oh-peez) have been defaced, destroyed or carried off, providing a significant challenge for Schwab, whose pencil and pastel artwork is effected via a process adapted in part from the Tibetan practice of thangka painting. The thangka technique respects a painstaking consideration of line and shading, especially helpful in translating sculpture to two-dimensional art. The metopes, Bucher said, are coming to life in Schwab's work.

“Many of the metopes are badly broken,” he said. “It's been extremely hard for art historians to work with them, to reconstruct them and preserve them. There have been line drawings done before, but there was always something missing. Photographs are good, but even they leave something out. Katherine Schwab has been trained to draw in this technique, very minutely observing these carved blocks and interpreting the logic of the silent stones.”
Ken Hermsen, DDS, professor of endodontics at Creighton, is living testimony that human beings are a special breed, as concerned with the dead as with the living.

Hermsen is a member of a Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team (DMORT), which operates under the auspices of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ National Disaster Medical System.

He can be called at any time to set aside two weeks to travel anywhere in the United States where a disaster has caused sufficient fatalities that dental identification of remains will be needed.

He has, in fact, been called five times — including to New York City in the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001, destruction of the World Trade Center, and again in 2005 in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, which led to more than 1,800 confirmed deaths.

The field of forensic dentistry is a little amorphous and lacks a formal educational process, although courses on the topic are much more available today than when Hermsen took an interest back in the late 1980s. It was an interest that led, by the early 1990s, to an affiliation with the Douglas County coroner’s office and with the Nebraska forensic dental identification team.

In 1998, Hermsen joined Region VII DMORT, consisting of Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas and Missouri. Three years later, he found himself in New York City, attempting to bring some form of comfort to the families of the nearly 3,000 people who lost their lives during 9/11 terrorist attacks.

Four years later, he was assigned to a makeshift morgue set up beside a school in the town of St. Gabriel just outside Baton Rouge, La.

The two disasters, he recalls, were mirror images of one another so far as forensic efforts were concerned. In New York, there were many dental records, but given the crushing weight of the World Trade Center rubble, there were few remains to work with. In Louisiana, however, there were plenty of remains but many dental records were deep under water — ruined or irrecoverable.

They did their best, he says, and experienced some success hanging wet dental records out on clotheslines until they dried and the mud and silt could be removed. In most cases the debris, when dislodged,

Hermsen assisted in the dental identification of remains following the terrorist attacks of 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina.

took the images with it, but trained dentists were able to match many remains with dental records nonetheless.

It is traumatic work, Hermsen says, and most people can do it only for so long.

“There is an emotional toll that happens,” he says, “and the authorities feel very strongly that people really need a break. They encouraged us to call home and touch base with family all the time.”

Forensic dentistry, while primarily noted for its work at disaster sites, is also a law enforcement tool, used to identify unknown remains, and sometimes used to clarify evidence by analyzing bite marks.

For Hermsen, forensic dentistry is a public service, performed in an attempt to bring closure to families.
Knee-Deep in Research
With a split-second shock, Nick Cerveny’s entire body jumps involuntarily as if he just experienced a body-wide hiccup. The 26-year-old, nine months removed from major reconstructive knee surgery, feels some discomfort. But he just laughs it off.

“The stimulus can be somewhat uncomfortable,” says Terry Grindstaff, Ph.D., assistant professor of physical therapy and researcher in the Rehabilitation Science Research Laboratory at Creighton. “But it does provide us and the patient with some very valuable information.”

Grindstaff has applied the same stimulus to himself many times — all in the name of science. Specifically, in search of the neuromuscular consequence of knee joint injury.

Grindstaff’s work covers a range of knee injuries — anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) tears, cartilage damage, osteoarthritis and more — among people of all ages and abilities. Visitors to his lab have included amazing athletes and sedentary seniors.

He’s trying to discover how knees go bad, how they can get better and ways to mitigate pain in what is the body’s largest and most injured joint. His work is getting noticed. Grindstaff and his colleagues have received more than $1.2 million in grant funding, and, in 2014, he received a New Investigator Award from the American Physical Therapy Association.

“He is, without a doubt,” says Deborah Givens, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Physical Therapy, “the most productive clinical researcher that I have encountered in my 20 years of experience in academic physical therapy.”

Knee Matters

Grindstaff’s research matters not just to Creighton’s student-athletes, with whom he’s worked since coming to campus in 2010. It’s also important for the middle-aged electrician who tore his meniscus but has to regularly climb a ladder as part of his job. It matters to the 65-year-old grandmother whose arthritis prevents her from walking with the grandkids in the park.

It matters to lots of folks.

Yes, to athletes, whom we most often associate with knee injuries. Overall, knee injuries make up about 55 percent of all sports injuries. Grindstaff has seen plenty of those. The Creighton University professor was an NAIA national-qualifying wrestler at Dakota Wesleyan University in Mitchell, S.D., where he earned an undergraduate degree in sports medicine. He also is among the medical staff for USA Wrestling and has traveled with its teams on trips to Russia, Eastern Europe and elsewhere.

But athletes are only part of the story. According to a National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey, there were 18.6 million visits to physicians in 2010 for knee issues. That’s up from 12.5 million in 2000. Of those visits, 10.7 million were made by people 45 and older.

In 2011, there were nearly 650,000 total knee replacements, one of the most common and costly musculoskeletal surgical procedures performed in the United States. That’s more than double the number of surgeries most often associated with older people — hip replacements. By 2030, according to one study, total knee replacements are expected to grow an astonishing 673 percent to 3.5 million.

What’s going on? Increased sports participation, especially among youth, certainly is a factor. But an increasingly obese and older population also contributes to the spike. The heavier we...
Knee-Deep in Research

Advice: So your knees are knocking? Here’s some advice from Creighton experts to take care of your body’s largest joint.

Consult an Expert
If you have pain, talk with a physician or physical therapist and “develop strategies to address that or to improve function,” says Terry Grindstaff, Ph.D.

Do What You Can Do
If you don’t exercise, you’ll start to experience decreased bone density and will lose strength in your quadriceps. But exercising can be difficult if you have knee problems. The key is finding what you can do. That might mean bike riding, brisk walking or swimming instead of running or playing basketball. “Move to sports or activities that require less impact with the ground,” says Dimitrios Katsavelis, Ph.D.

If the Shoe Fits …
The wrong shoe can lead to wrong biomechanics, which can lead to knee problems. Having the right shoe, says Katsavelis, can minimize forces received from the ground. Services exist that can match the way you run to the right shoe.

Lose Weight
Ground-reaction forces are proportionate to weight. A 200-pound man has a lot more force acting on his knees than does a 150-pound man. Even losing a little weight can help decrease knee loads. For every one pound of weight loss, there is a four-pound decrease in knee joint loads. Exercise and weight loss can reduce knee osteoarthritis symptoms.

Go Slow
If you’re just starting to exercise, take it easy at first. If you don’t, “you’re looking for trouble,” Katsavelis says. “Increasing intensity is a problem if you don’t go progressively.” Not just among the elderly, either. Nearly 50 percent of all injuries sustained by middle school and high school athletes are due to overuse, according to a guide published by the American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine and American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons. Each year, reports the guide, 3.5 million children are treated for overuse injuries.

are, the more stress we put on our knees. The older we get, the more likely knees are to degenerate. Even diet can come into play. Poor biomechanics, too.

No matter the cause, people with bad or injured knees typically share a common consequence — loss of muscle function in the quadriceps femoris, the large muscle group covering the front of the thigh that helps straighten your knee and flex your hip when you walk or run. That’s what Grindstaff is studying.

But where most clinicians and researchers focus on this muscle group to help the knee, Grindstaff looks elsewhere — to the spine and brain.

“The classic approach for knee injuries — or, more broadly, the management of musculoskeletal injuries — is to focus on the injured area,” Grindstaff says.

The direction Grindstaff takes — an approach only a decade or so old — is more comprehensive, asking, “What’s the contribution from the brain?”

It’s All in the Head
Grindstaff’s primary investigations center on “quadriceps inhibition.” It’s an exploration of why the quadriceps muscle seems to not work as well after knee surgery. It’s not a matter of the quadriceps instantly losing its inherent strength, he says.

“The day before you have surgery, you can make your thigh muscle contract,” Grindstaff says. “The day after or even hours after surgery, you cannot contract the muscle at the same capacity. That’s driven neurologically, and I think that’s where we kind of miss it sometimes from a rehabilitation perspective. Clinically, we tend to only focus on strength.”

Quadriceps inhibition is a reflexive response, beyond our conscious control. The body’s nervous system, in a protective effort, stops or “inhibits” the quadriceps muscle from fully contracting. And quadriceps inhibition happens with a variety of knee injuries, whether it be a torn ACL, meniscus tear or osteoarthritis. It happens even if a saline solution is injected into a healthy knee, mimicking joint swelling or injury.

“Quadriceps inhibition is almost ubiquitous,” Grindstaff says. “It occurs with almost any knee injury.”

Once shut down, the quadriceps group weakens and atrophies. Efforts to strengthen the quadriceps muscle are limited and the quadriceps may never fully regain strength despite surgery or resolution of knee symptoms.

To see why this is so, Grindstaff and his staff have performed more than 1,000 tests on subjects. He
estimates 70 percent of them were physically active who suffered a knee injury during or as a result of physical activity.

One test explores the role the spine reflexes play in quadriceps inhibition.

Most people are familiar with a knee-jerk reflex, in which the knee extends after the patellar tendon is hit with a reflex hammer. The reflex Grindstaff measures is very similar.

Grindstaff has subjects lie on a table and then attaches electrodes over three portions of the thigh muscle. The electrodes are connected to a machine that measures electrical activity in the quadriceps muscle. Another electrode, placed near the top of the thigh muscle, is used to elicit the reflex. A brief electrical stimulus is applied, activating the femoral nerve, which results in a quadriceps muscle contraction. A series of weak impulses are provided at first. Then the stimulus is increased. Subjects feel a brief but intense stimulus, and their thigh muscle contracts.

Another test explores the role the brain plays. Grindstaff and his student research assistants seat subjects in a chair, which looks like a high-tech version of a leg-extension machine found in most fitness facilities. Next, a coil is placed on the head. It is used to apply a magnetic stimulus to the motor cortex, which activates the thigh muscle. Muscle activity is measured with the same electrodes as in the previous test.

A seven-inch-long scar tattoos the side of Cerveny’s left leg, a lifelong reminder of the January 2014 rugby match during which he tore his ACL and LCL (lateral collateral ligament) and partially detached his hamstring. That required two grafts, surgeons using the Achilles ligament from a cadaver to replace the torn ligaments. He’s back to running and lifting weights, but as Grindstaff’s

One Thing Leads to Another
One of the major reasons for knee pain is an injury to the meniscus, which is almost always followed by the development of osteoarthritis.
tests show, his leg is not 100 percent.

Once seated in the chair and connected to the electrodes, Cerveny is asked to kick his lower leg as hard as he can to establish his maximum strength. Increasing levels of stimuli are then applied.

In people with knee injuries, the more intense stimuli register more activity in the quadriceps muscle than when the subject is kicking as hard as possible without any stimuli. That tells Grindstaff that Cerveny and other injured people like him aren’t using all of their thigh muscles.

Why does this matter?

Post-injury, people have to put more planning into how they walk, run, jump or skip. “It kind of steals resources available to do other things,” Grindstaff says. “If an athlete has to think a lot harder to get the thigh muscle to contract or think a lot harder on jumping mechanics or where her body is in space, now she can’t dedicate resources to the person in front of her trying to take the ball away. The ability to dual-task is compromised.”

And vice-versa. If the athlete is only thinking of the ball, he’s not dedicating enough thought to what’s going on with his leg, increasing the odds of another injury due to faulty mechanics.

How might that be overcome?

“I think cognitive thought or mental imagery has some really good potential there,” Grindstaff says. “Adding tasks to rehabilitation that require both cognitive thought and physical exertion are good options.”

The Brain and Pain

Another look at how the brain influences the knee comes with the work of Thomas Guck, Ph.D., a psychology professor and director of behavior science in Creighton’s Department of Family Medicine. A psychologist, he works in the area of pain perception and the psychology of pain, mostly chronic pain.

He’s working with Grindstaff specifically in an exploration of kinesiophobia, the fear of movement, and catastrophizing, the belief that something is worse than it actually is.

Individuals with higher levels of kinesiophobia and catastrophizing tend to have greater deficits in quadriceps strength, decreased physical function and report lower levels on quality-of-life measures. This further highlights the interaction between pain behavior and physical function.

Guck and Grindstaff are currently studying how health care providers can influence patient perceptions of pain. One group is told that treatment received will reduce pain and improve strength. A second group is told the treatment may or may not reduce pain and improve strength. The results of this study will better inform clinicians on how presentation of treatment options can influence patient outcomes.

Before an injury, athletes with healthy knees move without thinking. After an injury, though, many fear to move the same way they once did — even if they’re physically healed. “That’s a tough step for them to make, even though they may have recovered fully from an anatomical point of view,” Guck says.

Women and Knees

Women are more prone to knee injuries than men. Female athletes participating in basketball and soccer, for instance, are two to eight times more likely to suffer ACL injury, according to a guide published by the American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine and American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons.

Females also suffer meniscal injuries more often than men and at an earlier age and those tears often are associated with ACL injury.

Why? For one, females tend to have less strength than males in their quadriceps. They also have structural differences compared to males. With a wider pelvis, their “Q” angle, or straightness of their femur, changes, Creighton exercise science professor Dimitrios Katsavelis, Ph.D., says. The more the femur is angled, the more stress is applied to knee angles. And that often leads to poor jumping mechanics, which also stresses the knee.
“One of the big issues is trust and harm.”

Also, rehabilitation often is accompanied by pain. But if damage isn’t being done to the injured knee, that pain is just part of the process and must be endured. If patients don’t rehabilitate as well as they can because of the pain, recovery can be delayed.

“That distinction is a tough one for some,” Guck says.

It helps to have a good physical therapist who knows the difference, helping patients get past the pain to “new levels of function.”

“If the patient believes they’re doing harm or damage anatomically, they’re not likely to do as well going forward,” Guck says. “If they come to believe that they are not doing harm or damage to their anatomy, they’re more likely to challenge their fear of pain and move forward.”

Also, it’s important to distinguish between acute pain — something that happens with tissue damage or an injury — and chronic pain, where the anatomy is healed, but pain persists.

“The question,” Guck says, “is, How well am I functioning even in the presence of pain? Am I doing all the things I want to do — dancing or walking or doing things important to me?”

**It’s All in the Hips**

Where Grindstaff and Guck turn to the spine and brain to find answers about the knee, colleague Dimitrios Katsavelis, Ph.D., turns to the hips.

Katsavelis, assistant professor in Creighton’s Department of Exercise Science and Pre-Health Professions, is most interested in how fatigue can lead to injury. In one of his tests, Katsavelis brought subjects to fatigue by having them run at various speeds — including all-out. What he found is that when the legs tire, proper flexion at the hip can’t occur. That prevents proper flexing at the knee and, thus, makes a knee injury more likely.

Also during fatigue, the shock-absorbing function of the knee doesn’t work as well.

“You cannot really absorb the shock, the forces you’re receiving from the ground, very well,” Katsavelis says. “That’s a lot of internal forces acting on the body.”

That force works against the tibia and the femur, causing bone-on-bone contact, which can lead to arthritis. The quadriceps muscle can help dissipate these forces.

**Interventions**

Grindstaff has tested different interventions for people with knee pain, including manual therapies such as joint mobilization and manipulation, electrical stimulation and ice. So far, two interventions show the most promise.

The first is old-school and low-tech: ice.

The other is Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation (TENS). That’s done via low-level electric current applied through electrodes.

“By altering some of the sensations at the knee, we can have a positive impact on muscle function,” Grindstaff says. “It’s kind of a common intervention used for pain relief, but we are using it in a different way than most clinicians would consider.”

Grindstaff has subjects wear the TENS unit throughout the day. “It kind of feels like your knee is falling asleep,” he says. The goal is to reduce pain.

Initial findings indicate patients with anterior knee pain and meniscus injuries can immediately increase quadriceps function by 5 percent. “That’s pretty exciting,” Grindstaff says. “Even if they do not have pain, if we are able to override the reflexive inhibition, it will help them to more effectively use their quadriceps muscle during rehabilitation.”

And TENS may be a better option than ice given that subjects can wear the TENS unit all day, even while exercising.

“I think it’s giving us options to help improve or augment our existing approach to knee injuries,” Grindstaff says. “Right now, we are very focused on looking at some of the causes of quadriceps inhibition and looking at preliminary ways we can have an initial impact. I think our future research will further examine these interventions by incorporating them with existing physical therapy programs and studying people for longer periods of time.”

Grindstaff mentions that he has a couple ideas in particular he hopes to test. He and his student researcher look at each other and smile. Grindstaff isn’t ready to say what they are.

Who knows. He and his Creighton students might discover an intervention that shocks us all.

**Making a Better World**

**Enhancing and supporting groundbreaking research and scholarship campus-wide is a major initiative of Creighton’s strategic priorities.**
Billy Bluejay presents Fr. Lannon with a No. 24 jersey (for the 24th president) during the Creighton men's basketball game against Saint Mary's on Dec. 13.
While Timothy R. Lannon, S.J., leaves the office of the president at Creighton University after only three short years due to health concerns, the alumnus-turned-president sees continued success on the horizon for his alma mater.

The view of downtown Omaha on this cold, bright January afternoon is breathtakingly clear and expansive. Timothy R. Lannon, S.J., has invited me to step outside onto the patio of his apartment on the top floor of Heider Hall, in what may be one of his final tours of the stately residence.

“I’m going to miss this place,” Fr. Lannon says fondly.

He’s talking about the apartment — and reminiscing about quiet summer evenings on the terrace — but he could easily be talking about Creighton University, itself.

Fr. Lannon is retiring after three-and-a-half busy years as president of Creighton at the age of 64. He loves the place — and the people. He is the first alumnus to serve as president, having graduated from Creighton in 1973.

There’s no doubt Creighton holds a special place in his heart.

But his heart needed a break from the stress and demands of the job. Fr. Lannon became ill while celebrating Mass at St. John’s Church on Thanksgiving Day 2013, and in December of that year, he underwent a procedure to correct an irregular heartbeat.

After taking two months off following his weeklong hospital stay, Fr. Lannon announced, in February 2014, plans to step down as president in June 2015. He wanted to give the Creighton Board of Trustees time to find a quality successor.

In the interim, Fr. Lannon thought he could reduce his hectic schedule. But his self-described “pedal to the medal” approach soon had him working 12-hour days again.

“Constitutionally, I’m unable to slow down, and this position, as it should be and is expected to be, is a very demanding position. It requires full throttle.”

So this past November — after prayer, reflection and consultation with physicians and friends — he announced that he was moving up his retirement date to Jan. 20.

J. Chris Bradberry, Pharm.D., dean of the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions, is currently serving as interim president. And Daniel Hendrickson, S.J., will take over as Fr. Lannon’s successor beginning July 1.

While health issues prompted Fr. Lannon’s retirement, he wants people to know he’s feeling fine.

“I just saw my primary physician the other day,” Fr. Lannon says, sitting down for an interview a week before his final day as president. “And I’m feeling great.”

Indeed, he looks relaxed and vibrant. He’s dressed in jeans, a dress shirt and a blue sweater vest with
Creighton’s athletic logo. He had just recently returned from a trip to Australia and New Zealand. He expresses no second thoughts about stepping down. For him, the decision was as clear as the view outside his window. Some tragic signs, he says, confirmed his choice.

One was the death of his sister Jean (Lannon) Bird in August at the age of 61, after suffering a stroke. Another was the sudden cardiac death of Creighton theology professor William Harmless, S.J., in October.

“I thought, ‘If those aren’t enough signs, along with my own cardiac incident in 2013, what more do I need to see?’” He adds, candidly: “And honestly, after I got sick, the fire in my belly was diminished.”

That “fire in the belly” propelled Fr. Lannon to tackle some major initiatives during his three-plus years in office. Notable accomplishments include:

- A groundbreaking partnership with area health care provider Alegent Creighton Health (now CHI Health) in July 2012, which provided Creighton health sciences students with expanded primary clinical teaching sites. It was later announced that trauma and inpatient care would be relocated to CHI Health Bergan Mercy Medical Center and a new medical center campus would be constructed at 24th and Cuming streets, meeting a community need for primary care and medical specialties.

- An increase in undergraduate applications, which have doubled in the last two years, and a total enrollment for this academic year that hit an all-time high of 8,236 students.

- Introduction of a new provost model of administration for the University, with the goal of furthering Creighton’s academic excellence and bridging the missions of its nine schools and colleges. Ed O’Connor, Ph.D., joined Creighton on July 1, 2013, in this “chief academic officer” position.

- The largest renovation of academic space in Creighton’s history, affecting more than 100,000 square feet of campus space, initiated in 2012 as part of the Ignite the Greatness campaign, which raised more than $100 million in gifts and pledges.

- The establishment of Creighton’s first named college — the Heider College of Business — in October 2013. A transformational gift to the Ignite the Greatness campaign by 1949 business graduate Charles Heider and his wife, Mary, provided momentum to grow and relocate the business college.

- An invitation to join the BIG EAST Conference, which came in 2013 and marked a new era for intercollegiate athletics at the University. It also opened the door to expanded media exposure and student recruitment in under-tapped markets, especially on the East Coast.

**Joining the BIG EAST**

Of all the accomplishments, receiving an invitation to join the BIG EAST Conference was probably the most visible.

“That was fun … well, I can say that now,” Fr. Lannon says with a laugh, recalling the process. “At
the time, it was like a roller coaster.”

Fr. Lannon jokes that he and Athletic Director Bruce Rasmussen, to whom he gives much of the credit for Creighton’s acceptance, used to play a little game called “What are the odds?” — playing out various scenarios and Creighton’s chances of receiving an invite.

“At the beginning, I don’t think Bruce would go beyond 10 or 15 percent,” Fr. Lannon says.

As things started falling into place, Fr. Lannon remembers receiving a precisely worded call from a lawyer representing the BIG EAST schools. “He said to me, ‘This is not an offer; let me be very clear about this.’” He asked that Fr. Lannon sign a confidentiality agreement, after which, the lawyer continued, “I will share with you an agreement if we decided to invite Creighton.”

“Basically he was telling me if you were invited, this is what an agreement would look like,” Fr. Lannon says.

Fr. Lannon was in a regular meeting with his leadership cabinet, when a familiar name popped up on his cell phone.

“I normally don’t take calls during a meeting, but this time I excused myself.”

It was from his friend Fr. Dennis Holtschneider, president of DePaul University, a BIG EAST school.

“It’s with great pleasure, and I’ve been delegated by the seven presidents, to call you to invite Creighton to join the BIG EAST,” Fr. Holtschneider said.

“I told him, ‘This is a great honor. We’re very excited,’” Fr. Lannon recalls.

The partnership was announced on March 20, 2013, in New York on Fox Sports, with Fr. Lannon and the other BIG EAST presidents in attendance, and Creighton officially became a member at 12:01 a.m. on July 1, 2013 — joining other newcomers Butler and Xavier in the league with DePaul, Georgetown, Marquette, Providence, Seton Hall, St. John’s and Villanova.

Great Things Ahead for Creighton

Fr. Lannon says the challenges facing higher education today are enormous — escalating tuition costs, changing student demographics, increased emphasis on student outcomes, demand for interdisciplinary programs and many more.

But he believes through its strategic planning, Creighton University is well positioned for the future.

“The plan that we have for Creighton, I believe, has put us at a better competitive advantage,” he says.

Fr. Lannon says the Creighton difference begins with its Jesuit, Catholic mission. It’s an education, he says, predicated on preparing students not only to excel in their chosen professions but also to make a better world.

He says Creighton also benefits from having nine schools and colleges, and the opportunities that offers for interdisciplinary education, which can set students apart in today’s competitive job market.

“I think there’s always going to be enormous interest and desire for health professional positions,” Fr. Lannon says. “I think we’re uniquely positioned in that area, combined with a commitment to liberal arts education.”

Fr. Lannon also believes students today want more than an education. He says they are seeking a sense of community, a place where people care about their success and development.

“A very important part of success for a person is having a sense of hope for himself or herself,”

Although the challenges facing higher education today are enormous, Fr. Lannon believes that through Creighton’s strategic planning, the University is well positioned for the future.

> Creighton students Sora Kim, left, and Yueshi Lin pose for a selfie with Fr. Lannon at the Student Support Services Awards ceremony in April 2014. Kim is currently a first-year pharmacy student and Lin is a second-year pharmacy student.
Fr. Lannon says, citing studies by Gallup. “And that sense of hope, for students, is deeply influenced by their relationships with faculty members and staff. And we do that extremely well.”

Welcoming Fr. Hendrickson
Fr. Lannon met his successor Daniel Hendrickson, S.J., for the first time when the Fremont, Neb., native was applying to become a Jesuit in 1994. Fr. Lannon was one of a small group of Jesuits, called “examiners,” to interview Hendrickson.

“I had not met him until that particular day, when we had an appointment to see each other,” Fr. Lannon recalls. “And I thought, ‘This guy is really outstanding.’

“Daniel is bright, engaging and personable. From my perspective, he’s got all the right attributes for being a successful president. I’m happy for him and happy for Creighton.”

Fr. Lannon admits the job can be challenging. He has offered his full support to the new president. He is leaving him a copy of The First 90 Days: Critical Success Strategies for New Leaders at All Levels, a book he found helpful when beginning as president at Saint Joseph’s University in 2003.

“I’m committed to help him in any way in regards to the transition because, like everyone else, I want him to be successful and for Creighton to thrive,” Fr. Lannon says. “And I’m very confident that will be the case.”

Any one piece of advice he would give the incoming president?
“Despite the challenges, enjoy the job. It’s a privilege to be president of Creighton University.”

The Legacy
Fr. Lannon says he hasn’t thought too much about his legacy as president. While he’s spearheaded major initiatives, there have also been smaller moments that have touched his heart.

Take, for instance, the small group of fraternity brothers who invited Fr. Lannon to one of the meetings they hold regularly to share their life experiences.

“I was absolutely amazed by their openness with each other, especially with me in the room,” Fr. Lannon says. “They talked about their successes and setbacks and their relationship with Christ. That is, and will be, a lasting impression for me.”

His 2011 inaugural theme was “The Spirit of Creighton.” He believes that theme has taken root across campus over the past three years.

“I think there is now this greater sense that we are one university. You see that in our planning process. You see these (academic) bridges being built, and new programs being offered through interdisciplinary activity. I think people are even more proud of Creighton.”

His view of Creighton as he departs is breathtakingly clear and expansive — derived from his 45 years as a student, alumnus and president.

“If there’s any legacy for me, I hope it’s that I played a part in our students leaving here prepared to change the world, while valuing others, God and themselves.”
What’s Next for Fr. Lannon?

On Jan. 26, Fr. Lannon started the Ministry to Ministers program at the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio. It’s a four-month intensive spiritual and theological sabbatical experience designed for religious men and women who have been in ministry for a number of years.

In the summer, Fr. Lannon plans to travel, read and relax, with trips to museums nationwide and a trip to Italy.

And then, in the fall, he will serve as the president in residence at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, collaborating on a semester-long course in the Higher Education Program.

“Judith Block McLaughlin (program director) will be responsible for the class. She will be talking about theory, and I’ll be addressing the practicalities.”

Fr. Lannon also plans to spend more time with friends and family. “My sister Kay said it will be nice to have her brother back.”

Visit creighton.edu/lannon-gift for more information on making a gift in honor of Fr. Lannon.
Every adult learner has a compelling story behind how they returned to school. Read the stories of these five Creighton undergraduate adult students on the following pages.

When people think of a traditional college student, they often think of an 18 to 22 year old pursuing a bachelor’s degree who lives on campus. That picture is changing. More and more, adults are heading back to school to complete their degrees, and they are an important part of the Creighton community. They are in good company: One of the first adult learners, St. Ignatius of Loyola, attended college at 35 after serving in the military.

Adult learners are not new to Creighton, but certain programs are. Formerly University College, the College of Professional Studies (CPS) opened its doors in 1983 to serve this growing population. In 2009, students 25 and older accounted for roughly 40 percent of all college and graduate students, according to the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). The number of adult learners is expected to be 9.6 million by 2020, according to the NCES.
“The growth in higher education by age group — those 25 and older — is expected to be twice as much as the traditional learner,” says Tracy Chapman, Ph.D., associate dean of Adult and eLearning, and executive director of the Center for Academic Innovation at Creighton. She says the predicted increase in adult learners is due to an increased national focus on reaching the millions of adults who have started a degree but did not finish, thus positively impacting the level of education of the workforce. The decrease in the number of traditional students is a result of shrinking birthrates.

To ensure Creighton continues to attract the adult learner, it stays on top of the trends. Chapman said adult learners prefer hybrid or blended classes where the class is part online, part face-to-face. Creighton offers them. Higher education institutions, including Creighton, are giving credit for college-level learning that happens outside the classroom. Also new on the adult learning front are competency-based programs that measure what a student has learned instead of the amount of time they spend learning.

The 308 adult students enrolled in undergraduate programs at Creighton range up to age 72, are an equal balance of males and females, and 15 percent are veterans (see “Why Creighton Makes Good Cents for Veterans”).

“Adult learners bring a rich diversity of life experience and enrich the campus,” says Gail Jensen, Ph.D., dean of the Graduate School and the newly named College of Professional Studies. “When we talk about social justice, adult learners get it because they have rich life experiences. Their life experiences make these values come to life because they may have a family, may have been in the military or may have struggled with a job. Their perspective is very different from that of an 18 year old.”

The Ignatian piece is certainly the value-added part of a Creighton education.

“Creighton’s niche is to provide this student population access to high-quality, mission-based Jesuit education,” says Chapman. “We focus on developing individuals in the key areas sought after by employers.”

A few key areas include a broad knowledge in the liberal arts and sciences,

Ron Fergeson says he didn’t pick kindergarten, but kindergarten picked him. When he was taking an education course while in the Army, he went in uniform to observe a kindergarten class and within five minutes of being around the students, he knew he belonged there. Now he’s close to achieving his goal of teaching.

After 26 years in the military with the first 13 as a cavalry scout and the second as a career counselor, the Harley-riding 46-year-old Omaha native was going to earn his education degree at a public university. But when he found out how long it would take, he checked out Creighton. He learned he could cut a year off of his studies.

“I’m honored to go to Creighton,” says Fergeson. “I’ve always held Creighton in high reverence.” When he was about kindergarten age, he’d drive past Creighton with his grandparents and think that Creighton is the place to go. He’ll graduate in May 2016.

While in the Army, Fergeson attended 10 different schools, ultimately getting a general studies associate’s degree. He says he’s noticed Creighton is different.

“The big difference is the personal attention to details Creighton provides to the students,” he says. “They are genuinely concerned about the student’s success and how they’re doing. It’s not a cattle drive.”

One challenge, however, is technology. He found the technological aspect a bit daunting because the traditional students have so much more experience with it. He referenced a computer technology course that was fast-paced for him.

“Hey, you’re going at warp speed, and I don’t have the engine started yet,” he would be thinking about the class, which wasn’t as challenging for the traditional students since they grew up with cell phones and the Internet. Fergeson enjoys debating with the traditional students and his time with the adult learners. And he’s on pace to fulfill that other classroom dream — to educate the next generation as a kindergarten teacher.
The ninth child of a single mom, she will be the first in her family to earn a college degree. Darling Handlos grew up in Nicaragua and came to Bellevue, Neb., in 2000 because her mother had moved there. In June 2014, Handlos, who is 33, became an American citizen. Today, one of her driving motivations is to help immigrants escape poverty and obtain an education.

When she first arrived, she took ESL (English as a Second Language) classes, earned her general equivalency degree (GED) and after having her first child, she stayed home for 10 years. In 2010, she attended a community college to earn her paralegal studies degree and currently works full-time as a paralegal in a private firm. Previously, she worked for a nonprofit, Justice for Our Neighbors, whose mission is to welcome and help immigrants. Handlos’ work there and being an immigrant herself inspire her to want to go to law school.

“I strongly believe that our experiences — our life story — equips us in our personal mission to love, inspire and serve others,” she says. “That’s where my true joy comes from.”

Today, Handlos juggles her family responsibilities, work and school at Creighton. This pre-law student is pursuing her Bachelor’s in Leadership Studies (BLS) degree. When she first thought of attending Creighton, she had heard that students with a GED or classes from a community college do not make it at Creighton. “I thought I was way out of my league here,” she says, but Laurie Galeski in admissions at the time, changed her perception — and Handlos is so glad that she did.

She’s now involved in the nontraditional student union as the social media and community service coordinator, is a member of the Alpha Sigma Lambda honor society and a peer mentor for an adult learner course, Making the Transition to College: Strategies for Degree Completion.

“My love being a part of the Ignatian family,” says Handlos. “I love the mission of Creighton. I live it. St. Ignatius is one of my inspirations.”
In some cases, students take tests or compile a written portfolio to earn credits.

To accommodate hectic schedules, CPS offers accelerated degree programs in which students attend evening classes once a week for four hours to complete an eight-week course. Degrees include organizational communication, creative writing and health administration. In addition, online courses provide additional flexibility in earning credits — and students can even earn an online degree, with Creighton’s Bachelor’s in Leadership Studies.

CPS understands adult learners may not have written an academic paper or used a library for research in a long time. “One of the most critical things about adult learning is building the self-confidence that they can succeed,” says Jensen. “For many, they had negative experiences in high school or at community colleges. Building self-confidence goes to the heart of learning and helps them fulfill their lives and contribute to the community.”

To build that confidence, CPS requires adult learners to take Making the Transition to College: Strategies for Degree Completion. Kirby wrote this course. Students learn about resources such as BlueLine, a learning management system that supports coursework, and the EDGE, a wealth of resources for academic and career transition.
After graduating from high school in 1988, Jill Limas attended two universities but ended up on academic suspension for one year. Her next step — working full-time at the Sarpy County Courthouse — contributed to her current pursuit of becoming a mediator.

“There (at the courthouse), I grew up, fell in love with the Nebraska judicial system and discovered that I loved learning,” says Limas. She spent 10 years working her way up in several departments. “When I mastered everything I could at the courthouse, I realized I must return to school if I want to advance my career.”

But when her grandma couldn’t live on her own and moved in with her parents and Limas’ dad became ill, she moved back home to help her close-knit Italian family. “During that time, my resolve to return to school became even more focused,” says Limas. “I also became a single parent. Fortunately, my family was very supportive during this time.” She attended a community college, but found that her infant son wasn’t receiving the attention he needed, so she put her education on hold.

Now her son (pictured with Limas above) is 12 and Limas has completed her undergraduate degree in December 2014 in creative writing, one of the accelerated programs Creighton offers. “With my son’s encouragement, I put attention to my education once and for all,” she says. “I think he wanted to see if I practice what I preach to him! He hasn’t been disappointed.”

Although she had fears about attending Creighton, such as whether she could “cut the muster,” in reality she found she could do well and even help others who struggle. She also has met other students like her who are single parents and working full time. She’s made friends.

It wasn’t easy. In addition to working full time as a legal secretary at a law firm while earning her degree, she also has made time for campus activities, including the Committee on the Status of Women, the Faces of Creighton and Omicron Delta Kappa national leadership honor society.

To use her gifts, Limas plans to apply to the Werner Institute at Creighton for a Master of Science in Negotiation and Dispute Resolution. “I want to be a mediator, to lighten the burden of the courts and help the flow of cases through the judicial system,” says Limas.
“Adult learners are autonomous, independent, self-directed learners who come with a wealth of life and professional experience.”

Anne Schoening, Ph.D.

“Adult learners are autonomous, independent, self-directed learners who come with a wealth of life and professional experience,” says Schoening. “They need to understand we value that experience because they bring a unique perspective to any learning situation at Creighton.”

Instructors engage nontraditional students by showing them the practical side of what they are learning, even if it is theoretical in nature. “They need to see the practicality and relevance. It’s very important,” says Schoening.

Within the class, the faculty apply Ignatian values, such as cura personalis or care for the whole person. “There’s a true commitment to the mind, body and spirit. We’re interested in students as people,” says Schoening. “How do we practice cura personalis? Adult learners are busy people with careers and family obligations, so we acknowledge these and ask ourselves, ‘Under what circumstance do we need to be flexible with the adult learner?’”

As Creighton looks at the increasing pool of adult learners, the University will continue its mission to best serve them because it works, with graduates every day making a difference in their professions and their community.

Julian McFadden packs a powerful punch in the boxing ring and in 2010 won both the Midwest and U.S. regional Golden Gloves championships. As a senior at Creighton, this 24-year-old international relations major holds down 18 credit hours as well as three jobs, two of which he works late into the night, arriving home at 3 a.m.

“I tell myself it will pay off,” says McFadden. “I’m in my senior year. I’m so close.”

McFadden sets his goals high. One goal was to make the 2012 U.S. Olympic team, but when he found out he was going to be a father, he decided to go to school. After attending a community college and a private school, he decided to enroll at Creighton. His 3-year-old daughter is his motivation. He hasn’t hung up his gloves and will be fighting in the U.S. trials to compete in the 2016 Olympics.

McFadden takes a comment from his boxing coach that has helped him with his studies. When McFadden was 19, the coach said, “Boxers never listen.” Even though he thinks the coach was joking, McFadden said the comment turned him into a listener. “That stuck with me,” he says, “and I apply it here.” It seems to be working, as McFadden will graduate in May.

Over the past three years at Creighton, he’s noticed how involved a professor in political science has been in his career. This type of concern was not something he got at the community college. “They’re really invested in my career and are dedicated to my success,” says McFadden. “That was brand new to me.”

Although he knows he will have to start small, McFadden thinks of many ways he can use his international relations degree: the FBI or foreign policy are a couple options he’s considering.

Making a Better World

Reaching out to adult learners, while maintaining enrollment growth among traditional students, is one of Creighton’s strategic priorities.
Creighton's energy technology students get real-world experience while helping nonprofits with alternative energy solutions

Room 119 in Creighton’s Eugene C. Eppley Building is an unassuming space, its bare walls and utilitarian furniture bearing little testimony to the challenges faced by students enrolled in Creighton’s Energy Technology Program.

A hospital in Nigeria and the Siena/Francis homeless shelter in Omaha currently form the focus of their attempts to harness the power of the sun in the form of solar cell technology. In this room, and upon the efforts of these students, rests the humanitarian dream of a Nigerian priest, and the hope of a young, up-and-coming physics professor to prove the efficacy of solar power.
The students conduct their research under the guiding eye of Larry Hopp, a civil engineer whose 40 years as an engineer — with the Kiewit Corporation — prepared him for his new role as program director. Creighton’s Energy Technology Program offers two undergraduate degree tracks as well as a minor in sustainable energy, and its “outdoor classroom” includes the largest solar array in the state of Nebraska.

“We’re trying to apply everything they’ve learned to a real-life project,” Hopp says. “They’re a pretty energetic group, and they’ve accomplished some amazing things already. I just try to give them the problem, stand back and watch them get tuned in.”

The senior class consists of six students, and their challenge reaches into the African nation of Nigeria, where, in 2005, Joseph Ukpo asked Andrew Ekpenyong to further his education in physics, particularly as physics relates to biomedicine.

It was an unusual request for a Catholic archbishop to make of a diocesan priest just two years past ordination, but Archbishop Ukpo had something big in mind, and Fr. Ekpenyong proved fully on board.

That “something big” is a hospital to be built in Afua, Nigeria, the first of three such hospitals planned for the Nigerian ecclesiastical province of Calabar. Its construction is being led by Fr. Ekpenyong, who is conveniently accessible to Creighton students given his role as an assistant professor of physics on campus.

Their challenge is to devise a system of solar panels on the roof of the hospital, and in an adjacent “solar garden,” sufficient to keep the hospital functioning during the frequent outages that plague the power grids of developing nations.

The hospital is the Energy Technology Program’s “Capstone” project, a project that tests the competency and efficiency of those students on the verge of graduation.

But while the seniors ponder the vagaries of Nigerian weather, the program’s sophomores and juniors are working with Andrew Baruth, Ph.D., assistant professor of physics, to design a solar project at the Baright Shelter, which is the men’s dormitory at the Siena/Francis House homeless shelter, not far from the Creighton campus.

The project will use standard silicon-based solar cells, although students have

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**From Solar Projects to Physics Cells**

Creighton physics professor the Rev. Andrew Ekpenyong, Ph.D., MS’07, is pictured with Archbishop Joseph Ukpo of Nigeria. Ekpenyong is working with students in Creighton’s Energy Technology Program on a solar project for a hospital under construction in Afua, Nigeria, to be named for Ukpo.

Fr. Ekpenyong was also part of an international research team that explored the process of how cells combat infectious diseases, which may open up new options for disease management and treatment. The team’s research was recently published in the prestigious *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*. Fr. Ekpenyong talks about his research in this video.
Powerful Outreach

They keep in close touch with Fr. Ekpenyong, who earned a master’s degree in physics from Creighton in 2007 and a Ph.D. in 2012 from Cambridge University in England. Fr. Ekpenyong joined Creighton’s physics faculty in 2014, and teaches general physics and coordinates the undergraduate teaching laboratories.

The Nigerian hospital will be called the Joseph Ukpo Hospital and Research Institute, in honor of Archbishop Ukpo, who retired last year at the age of 75.

Fr. Ekpenyong says the students’ work is critical to meeting World Health Organization requirements that the hospital be energy efficient and have access to an alternative energy source. Although the students are 6,000 miles away from the worksite, Fr. Ekpenyong says they are working hand in glove with the Nigerian workers who are clearing the land by hand, building concrete blocks from cement and digging foundations with shovels.

And they were given five weeks to get it done.

“Sometimes, the real world is like this,” Hopp says. “You have to do it right away. The hospital is already under construction. This is an opportunity to apply their skills to a real-world need.”

Three teams of Creighton students presented their designs to members of the Creighton and Omaha communities for a solar project at the Baright Shelter at the Siena/Francis House.

The Nigerian Hospital Project

The seniors working with Fr. Ekpenyong were tasked with multiple facets of the hospital’s solar project — from design to devising ways to fund it (including the purchase, installation and maintenance of the solar panels) to proposing alternative power sources should solar prove infeasible.

The seniors are Ryan Gnabasik, Erin Cheese, Rachel Ketchmark, Andres Rodriguez-Burns, Zach Stading and Jonathan Trudel.

The sulfide research aims to produce next-generation solar cells capable of absorbing 1,000 times the energy-producing sunlight of silicon cells. It will be conducted in cooperation with the Omaha Public Power District (OPPD), which is supplying grant assistance in an effort to explore the future of solar power.

The two projects, in addition to the sulfide solar research, reflect the intent of the Energy Technology Program to give students cutting-edge, real-world experience.

The opportunity to help Baruth conduct lab research into emerging solar cell technology based on sulfides.

During his team’s presentation, Koy Matthews, a junior energy science major, describes the annual shade analysis he calculated for the more than 100 solar panels in his group’s design for the Baright Shelter at the Siena/Francis House.
Ryan Gnabasik, above, who is a senior double major in physics and energy science, works in faculty member Andrew Baruth's lab, where they are researching sulfide-based solar cells. Gnabasik is preparing the atomic force microscope for nanoscale imaging which allows researchers to see what the sulfide-based materials look like at the nanoscale: Are they smooth or rough? Are the small crystals that form relatively large or small? Are there any signs of cracks?

They are a people without access to modern medical facilities, he says, and the students’ knowledge and skills can change that harsh fact.

“There are no medical vehicles,” Fr. Ekpenyong says. “If someone gets a gash in his leg, he must walk to a clinic no matter how far, and even then it will probably be an unskilled doctor working in the open air.”

Stading, one of the seniors on the project, says Fr. Ekpenyong explained his needs to the group, and they saw an opportunity.

“Since we have been learning about this (profession) for the past four years, we thought this would be a great opportunity for us to apply our skills in a real-world scenario,” he says.

Stading and his fellow students studied the issue and developed a report. They found that 120 solar panels on the roof, and another 40 in an adjacent solar garden would be enough to support critical machines in the event of a power outage. The solar energy would be stored in batteries. The students also proposed an aquaponics system to provide food for the hospital. They estimate it would cost little more than $6,000 to install the water-and-fish system that would recycle fish waste to provide food to grow edible plants.

The challenge, as in all things, is funding.

The total cost of the solar panel project, including transporting materials to Nigeria along with on-site installation, is estimated at $78,300, with the 160 solar panels absorbing...
$40,000 of that total. Grants will be sought from private foundations, along with private donations from various sources.

**Proposal for Homeless Shelter**

The solar revolution occupied Room 119 again in December when a public forum was held on the Siena/Francis House project. Baruth's students presented a feasibility study laying out how the project might be achieved.

The Siena/Francis project is something of a team effort involving the Energy Technology Program, OPPD and Nebraskans for Solar, a tax-exempt organization dedicated to developing solar power projects.

OPPD is eager to see a solar project get off the ground, Baruth says, both to demonstrate the feasibility of the technology and to engage the public, without whose support progress will be much slower.

To that end, Baruth divided his students into three groups and challenged them each to draw up a proposal for installing silicon-based solar panels.

The three proposals presented in the December forum demonstrated the ongoing difficulties posed by cost. The three presentations placed the project cost anywhere from about $64,000 to $110,000 and placed the period at which the installation would begin generating savings — the "pay-back period" — anywhere from 17 to 37 years.

The project is a useful test for his students, Baruth says, and will remain so as they face the challenge of securing funding.

The students' research showed that about 100 solar panels should be installed at Siena/Francis, either directly on the building or at some other location nearby. They would generate no more than 25 kilowatts of power. Above that, the produced solar power exceeds OPPD's net metering guidelines.

The 25 kilowatt limit is typical of the public policy obstacles with which solar power must contend, Baruth says. To those barriers is added the high cost of installation.

In some ways, he says, public policy is a greater obstacle than the science, adding layers of cost to a product that is essentially inexpensive.

"The cost of a solar cell pales in comparison to the cost of installing solar," he says. "It's a fraction of the actual cost. There's a lot of infrastructure, a lot of red tape that needs to be cut."

But Baruth says he is confident Creighton's energy technology students are fighting a winnable fight. Solar technology is advancing, he says, and strides are being made in other states, including California, Arizona and Nevada.

"The rules there have changed quite a bit," he says. "You are beginning to see large-scale photovoltaics being installed in large fields, arrays that are a mile long and are producing half a gigawatt of power — the equivalent of a public power station completely produced by a solar array."

**While silicon cells have been the foundational element of solar technology for the past 50 years, sulfide-based cells are a promising alternative.**

**Sulfides have a potential solar absorption capacity that is 1,000 times greater than a traditional silicon cell.**

**The New Frontier: Sulfide-Based Solar Cells**

A bonus for Baruth's students is the opportunity to gain research experience into the coming photovoltaic solar technology of sulfide-based solar cells.

These are an alternative to traditional silicon panels, and could revolutionize solar technology if their feasibility is demonstrated. Silicon is one of the most abundant materials in the earth's crust, and its availability has made it the first choice for solar cells. The problem with silicon, Baruth says, is that purification it is an expensive process. Even so, silicon has been the foundational element of solar technology for the past 50 years.

Given the purification drawback, scientists are beginning to look at other elements that look very much like silicon, behave much like silicon, but can be less expensively adapted for solar use. Some of these alternatives, like indium and gallium, are rare chemical elements and therefore expensive. Others, like cadmium, are dangerous.

So it is that sulfide-based solar cells have been attracting attention.

Infinitely available, and therefore a sustainable technology, sulfides have a potential solar absorption capacity that is 1,000 times greater than a traditional silicon cell. That means, Baruth says, that a sulfide photovoltaic cell could be one thousand times thinner than a silicon cell and absorb the same amount of light. The implications for cost reductions are enormous. But just as significant are the implications for flexibility. A substance so thin could be manufactured in sheets of film and wrapped around buildings, or even attached to something as mundane as a backpack.

Sulfide-based cells are so thin they can be stacked an incredible 7 million to a meter.

It is an emerging technology, and silicon continues to dominate the solar industry, but Baruth and his students are clearly intent on exploring sulfide's potential.

"We really want to show that these things are feasible," he says.

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**Making a Better World**

Reflecting, energizing and fulfilling Creighton's mission — the commitment to educational excellence and the promotion of justice in the Jesuit, Catholic tradition — are priorities of Creighton's strategic initiatives.
The costs of government regulation can be especially burdensome on the poor, a Creighton professor believes.
Laura and Bob — she a lawyer, he a doctor — placed their two children in a state-licensed daycare center where the ratio of toddlers to teachers is 3:1. They can afford the $850 per month per child cost. But the couple will go out to fewer movies and dinners for awhile.

Meanwhile, Bonnie, a single mother with two children, needs to find an affordable daycare center for her kids so she can go to work. Unfortunately, Bonnie’s monthly gross income from her job at a fast-food restaurant is slightly more than what it would cost to enroll her children in an approved childcare facility. So, her only option is to put her youngsters in an unregulated “underground” center — a private home where the ratio of infants, toddlers and preschoolers to adult supervisors is about 20:1.

Actually, Bonnie has another choice: she could not work, stay home to raise her children and apply for government assistance.

Why is Bonnie forced into this seemingly no-win situation? Because under her state’s law, a childcare facility must maintain a ratio of one supervisor for every three children. This drives up the price of childcare (qualified supervisors are expensive) and forces parents of low-income families to grab whatever option is available — even if it’s illegal and possibly dangerous.
Diana Thomas, Ph.D., left, doesn’t believe all regulations should be eliminated. There are many worthy rules governing food production, the environment and public safety, to name a few. The benchmark, she believes, is if the regulation results in a high cost but offers a low benefit to consumers, it should be scrapped.

Are Regulations Necessary?

In her study “Regressive Effects of Regulation,” published by the Mercatus Center at George Mason University in Arlington, Va., Thomas argues this about regulations: Those who are least able to afford a hike in the price of a product or service are often forced to bear a disproportionate share of the burden of the implementation of a new regulation regarding that product or service. She believes this, in the end, especially hurts low-income households that are already working to stretch their dollars.

In other words, she says, regulations tend to favor wealthier consumers, who can afford a price increase and want regulation, and put less affluent consumers who do not have the financial resources to pay for regulation at a disadvantage.

Thomas doesn’t believe all regulations should be eliminated. There are many worthy rules governing food production, the environment and public safety, to name a few. The benchmark, she believes, is if the regulation results in a high cost but offers a low benefit to consumers, it should be scrapped.

An example she offers: In Toronto, Canada, the Toronto Board of Health is contemplating spending up to $690 million to retrofit 69 subway stations with anti-suicide barriers around the tracks. There were 243 suicides in the city of Toronto in 2009, the last year statistics were available. Critics of the plan say the money would be better spent on mental health services, especially in crisis intervention and suicide prevention programs.

“It’s important to look at what’s more effective — barriers or other forms of suicide prevention?” Thomas asks. Even if

Diana Thomas, Ph.D., associate professor of economics at the Heider College of Business and associate director of the Institute for Economic Inquiry at Creighton University, has studied scenarios like this, and sympathizes with Bonnie’s plight. “Many states’ regulations regarding daycare centers are inefficient and counter-productive,” says Thomas, who has a child in daycare. “Centers should be allowed to pick their own rules about child-to-teacher ratios, so parents can choose which center is most affordable for them. Doing this would present different childcare options, so that parents in lower-income households can choose their best option. For example, if a 3:1 option is too expensive, they could try a daycare center with, say, a 5:1 ratio.”

In fact, Thomas adds, research suggests that a larger children-per-teacher ratio has little effect on child care quality. She suggests a ratio of infants to providers of 4:1 and toddlers to providers at 5:1. In her work with Devon Gorry, Ph.D., of Utah State University, she has found that an increase in the infant-to-staff ratio requirement by one infant is associated with a decrease in the cost of care of up to 22 percent, which translates into a reduction in the annual cost of child care of up to $2,168.

Thomas is currently researching this topic, and is preparing a paper with Gorry on “Regulations and Cost of Childcare.”

But childcare regulations are just the tip of the iceberg for Thomas. Every year, she says, federal and state governments pass thousands of regulations on everything from airlines to zambonis. Lawmakers believe these rules will protect consumers and members of the workforce.

But do they?
the barriers were in place, “people might choose to take their lives in another way. It’s always better to help people with a problem, rather than prevent them from doing something.”

And she says Toronto mass transit users can expect to pay higher fares as the cost of the barriers is passed on to them.

### Inhalers and Rearview Cameras

Thomas says there are plenty of examples of regulations in the U.S. that hurt low-income families. One of the costliest involves asthma inhalers.

In 2005, the Food and Drug Administration banned the use of ozone-depleting chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) that are used as propellants in medical inhalers, which are used by people with asthma. Medical inhalers had been exempted from a 1987 ban on CFCs, because they only contributed negligible amounts of CFC to the atmosphere. Thomas says that while the 1987 ban of CFC was important and resulted in a recovery of the ozone layer, the 2005 ruling ended up tripling the cost of asthma inhalers from $15 to $45. So, many people who needed inhalers found it tougher to afford them.

Research from the early 2000s suggested that banning chlorofluorocarbons from devices like inhalers would produce only “small improvements” to the ozone layer, and concluded that nonindustrial sources of chlorofluorocarbons were “insignificant” to the problem. The regulation eliminating chlorofluorocarbons from medical inhalers was a low-benefit, high-cost move that discriminated against low-income consumers, Thomas says.

“What was the trade-off?” she asks. “Did the move end up saving people’s lives? Fewer people used inhalers, which was a detriment to their lives. And those who continued using inhalers found their income reduced.”

Another example she gives is the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration’s (NHTSA) mandate requiring automakers to put rearview cameras in all passenger vehicles by 2018. Currently, such features are found in luxury models or are part of upgrade packages, an option that is mostly affordable to higher-income households. The cameras, lawmakers believe, will reduce the number of fatalities resulting from drivers backing up and hitting pedestrians.

Thomas’ research indicates that about 228 individuals die annually in such accidents (44 percent are under age 5). The Department of Transportation believes the regulation will cut the number of fatalities by up to 50 percent — equivalent to a reduction in the risk of being a victim of a back-over accident from 1 in every 200,000 children under age 5 to about 1 in every 400,000 children under age 5. In comparison, the mortality risk associated with pregnancy is about 1 in every 300,000. In other words, the risk of being in a back-over accident is much smaller.

Is rearview camera legislation cost-effective? The NHTSA estimates the auto industry will have to spend about $2.7 billion to bring all vehicles up to snuff. That comes out to adding another $200 per vehicle, and that price would be passed on to consumers, Thomas says, adding that low-income households will have the most difficulty absorbing that cost.

“That extra charge could push some people out of the market to buy cars,” Thomas says. “In turn, that could keep them from pursuing employment opportunities, or force them to take transit, which has its own risks and would cost more in the long run.”

Thomas says there is also a more foundational issue with the regulation in terms of the cost-to-benefit ratio.

“Another way to think about it is the $2.7 billion total cost of the regulation translates to $23.7 million per life saved,” she explains. “That is a lot of money that could be spent on reducing other, more significant risks and potentially save a greater number of lives.”

### Suggested Solutions

In June 2013, Thomas testified on the pitfalls of over-regulating before a U.S. House subcommittee on regulatory reform. In her Mercatus Center paper, she argues that the best way to improve the public’s health and safety is for people to make their own decisions about buying the goods and services that best serve their individual needs. When politicians make decisions about health and safety issues, she says, they often end up ignoring the needs of lower-income households.

She says regulators must consider the unintended consequences and hidden costs of their rules, and realize who ultimately bears the costs of regulation and suggests:

- Regulations should respect people’s ability to determine their own needs and work to improve the options of consumers, rather than limit them.
- When considering a regulation, lawmakers should consider whether the costs expended on reducing small risks could be better spent more cost-effectively for larger risks.
- Policymakers should consider not only the total costs of a regulation, but who will actually be forced to bear those costs.

“The two questions lawmakers need to ask themselves when considering new regulations are, ‘Are people able to pay for this?’ and ‘Does this regulation make sense?’” Thomas says. “If Congress considered that the benefits of a regulation should be greater than the costs involved in implementing it, that would be the first step in the right direction.”
Reaching for a Dream
Path to Medical School Takes Detour Through L.A. High Schools

With his flight to Brisbane, Australia, in January, Anthony Edholm, BS’12, was soaring toward a dream: medical school. And at the prestigious University of Queensland, no less.

But boarding the plane in his home state of Minnesota, Edholm felt a certain sadness. He was leaving a profession and a group of young people who had challenged him, frustrated him, inspired him and, ultimately, touched his heart.

After graduating from Creighton with a degree in biology, Edholm postponed medical school to teach at an inner-city school in Los Angeles as part of the Teach for America program. Teach for America is a national program that enlists recent college graduates and professionals to teach for at least two years in schools in low-income communities.

"It was a big culture shock for me," Edholm says. "But it was also one of the best experiences in my life."

Attending medical school had always been a goal.

Edholm had run track and played on state championship football teams at Totino-Grace High School near his hometown of Andover, Minn. Nine broken bones and four concussions had familiarized him with physicians. And inspired him to become one.

He enrolled at Creighton with his sights set.
He became president of the Premed Society. He worked in Creighton’s Hereditary Cancer Center. He was selected for Creighton’s Ferlic Summer Research Program for undergraduate students, and worked in the lab of Kristen Drescher, Ph.D., in medical microbiology and immunology, studying the correlations between b-cell chronic lymphocytic leukemia and Lynch syndrome cancers.

He interned with the American Cancer Society (ACS) in Omaha, and when his boss went on maternity leave, he found himself visiting with cancer patients discussing various programs the organization offers. He especially remembers visiting a 5-year-old girl, who was battling brain cancer, and her parents.

“I remember walking into her room, and trying to be as strong as I could,” Edholm recalls. “I tried to give the parents more information and options from the ACS. It was a telling moment in my life. It was probably the hardest thing I’ve ever had to do.”

He discovered he could do it. And, more than ever, he could see himself in the medical profession, reaching out and helping people like the family of that 5-year-old girl.

Meanwhile, a recruiter from the nonprofit Teach for America program had heard Edholm speak at a Premed Society event, and was impressed with the Creighton student.

“He sent me an email and wanted to meet,” Edholm says. “I told him I would sit down and hear what he had to say.”

The idea of teaching had been percolating in the back of Edholm’s mind. Both of his parents were teachers.

“After hearing the recruiter’s experience of teaching in an underprivileged area, working with kids who weren’t under-skilled but maybe had never had a chance to showcase their skills, it really kind of sucked me in,” Edholm says.

He interviewed simultaneously for medical school and Teach for America.

Teach for America came back with an opportunity to teach science at a Los Angeles high school and possibly coach — all very attractive to Edholm.

“I kind of rolled the dice and said, ‘Why not give it a shot?’” Edholm recalls.

So Edholm put his dreams of medical school on hold and moved to Los Angeles to teach at View Park High School.

“This was far removed from suburban Minnesota, where I grew up,” Edholm says. “I had some huge wake-up calls.”

Violent crime encroached on the school. One day while he was teaching, gunfire sounded outside and a bullet lodged in his classroom’s protected-glass window. Within the span of two weeks, Edholm says, there was a fatal stabbing on the sidewalk across from the school, a drive-by shooting and a robbery at the Cash for Gold business behind the school.

There was also an issue of race. Edholm is white; the entire student population at View Park is African-American.

“It was tough going in and breaking through that racial barrier,” Edholm admits. “I realized that I had to personally connect with them, and show them that I was there because I wanted to be.

“And by the end of my first year, we had really made some incredible connections.”

In addition to teaching, Edholm coached football and track and field at View Park — which had no track or football field on which to practice or compete. The student-athletes were bused to a nearby high school. “That was a big challenge,” Edholm says.

But Edholm didn’t use that as an excuse. He told his student-athletes that he expected them to work hard and give their best efforts — in and out of the classroom — and he wouldn’t settle for anything less.

The track team excelled, winning a variety of events at the Los Angeles City Section Track & Field Championships. In football, View Park became only the second team ever from the L.A. City Section to reach the Southern California Regional Bowl Championship. But for Edholm, the greatest joy was seeing student-athletes earn scholarships to further their education.

Whether it was in the classroom or in athletics, Edholm was determined to be a positive influence in the lives of his students. And the students responded. Many still keep in contact with him.

“It’s a powerful feeling,” he says. “It became a lot more than just teaching. It wasn’t just a 9-to-5 job. It became my whole life.”

Following his two-year stint at View Park, Edholm worked for a summer with Envision National Youth Leadership Forum, which provides programming on university campuses for high school students interested in medicine and other professions. He also began looking again at medical school. But when an opportunity to teach and coach at St. John Bosco High School in L.A. opened up, he jumped at it.

He taught at St. John Bosco this past fall semester, when he heard from the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia. Medical school was calling.

“It was a very difficult decision,” Edholm admits. “I saw a future for myself as a coach. Closing the door on that was difficult. The same thing as a teacher. I loved getting up every day and teaching. You’re making such an impact, and it goes beyond the classroom. You’re molding kids into adults at a critical period in their lives.”

He sought the opinions of others. One physician friend gave a piece of advice that stuck:

“You will always be a teacher as a physician,” the friend said. “You’re going to have to work with patients and tell them about illnesses and tell them about disease, and influence and educate them on the ways to maintain healthy lifestyles.”

So now the teacher returns to the classroom — one dream fulfilled and future dreams on the horizon.
Michael J. Scott, MD, Seattle, is the administrator for the Seattle Dermatology Center. He also is a member of the USA Table Tennis Hall of Fame and has been invited to participate in the World Senior Table Tennis Championships in China.

Robert E. Rissi, BS’51, JD, Scottsdale, Ariz., a Korean War veteran, was the recipient of an Ambassador for Peace Medal from the Republic of Korea. The medal is an expression of appreciation from the South Korean government to U.S. servicemen and women who served during the Korean conflict.

Dr. Francis B. “Bernie” Rang II, BA, Burbank, Calif., was named the 2014 Distinguished Faculty Member by El Camino College in Torrance, Calif. Rang has been a professor of Spanish at El Camino since 1984. He has served as president of the Federation of Teachers (local 1738), and as president of the California Language Teacher Association and also of the Modern and Classical Language Association of Southern California.

Michael G. Busse, BSBA, Downers Grove, Ill., has been selected to chair the Audit and Finance Committee for Delta Dental of Illinois. He also is a member of the executive committee at Delta Dental.

Maureen Coufal Proksel, BA, Bennington, Neb., received a 2014 Volunteer of the Year award by the Bennington Community Foundation. She was recognized for her many volunteer hours at the Bennington Library, Festival of Trees and Bennington Women’s Club.

John G. Langdon, BS’63, MD, Winter Park, Fla., is the governor of the Florida Chapter of the American College of Physicians (ACP), the national organization of internists. He has been a member of ACP since 1985 and a fellow since 1998. Langdon is the chief medical strategist at NewWave Biologics, Inc., and chief medical officer at Environmental Health Technologies.

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The fact that he would one day be traveling the globe conducting international business transactions was the furthest thing from young Donald Montgomery’s mind when he was a boy in Chicago. All he knew was that he wanted to play baseball.

It was baseball that first brought Montgomery, BSBA’84, JD’89, to Creighton in 1980. But it was the special feeling he experienced that kept him at the University, completing degrees in business and law. Montgomery is the 2014 recipient of the Judge Elizabeth D. Pittman Award in the School of Law.

“I was recruited for baseball, and I chose Creighton over the universities of Illinois, Missouri and Nebraska,” he says. “On my visit to the campus, I could tell that Creighton was not just a college but a community, a home away from home.”

Montgomery says when he decided to attend law school, he and his wife, Paris, were parents of the first of their three sons. “I knew that Creighton and my friends in the community would provide a support network for my family. I also knew the law faculty was committed to teaching first, and I was told that I would be able to develop professor-student relationships with the faculty, which I thought was critical.”

Today, as senior tax director and counsel for General Electric’s Energy Management
organizations and leadership in the Bar and with legal services providers. Cole is a shareholder at Briggs and Morgan, P.A., in Minneapolis.

Gilbert J. Passarella, BA, Mesa, Ariz., is the administrator of the Chicago Cubs’ minor league teams at the organization’s spring training complex in Mesa.

Stephanie Stockard Spelic, BSN, Omaha, retired in January 2014 after nearly 30 years of teaching and service to the Creighton University College of Nursing.

Lawrence E. Hynek, BSBA, Morse Bluff, Neb., owner of Lawrence E. Hynek Farms, LLC, in Morse Bluff, recently graduated in the fourth class of the Nebraska Water Leaders Academy. The academy is a yearlong program that educates current and future decision makers about the vital role that rivers, streams and Nebraska’s abundant aquifers play in the economic stability of the state. Daniel E. Monnat, JD, Wichita, Kan., was listed by Chambers USA 2014 as one of Kansas’ most notable litigators of white-collar crime and government investigations. Monnat also was named to the International Who’s Who Legal: Business Crime Defense 2014. The publication is a strategic research partner of the American Bar Association’s Section of International Law. In addition, Monnat’s firm, Monnat & Spurrier, was named a “Best Law Firm” in the Wichita metropolitan region in two categories — appellate practice and criminal defense: white collar. The national ranking is jointly produced by U.S. News & World Report and Best Lawyers.

Stephen W. Kay, JD, North Platte, Neb., wrote the book Episcopal Church of Our Savior–Our Second Century of Service, which was released in December 2014. The Stephen Kay Heritage Room at Episcopal Church of Our Savior in North Platte was dedicated by the Rt. Rev. J. Scott Barker, Episcopal Bishops of Nebraska, in September 2014.

Maj. Gen. Marcia M. Anderson, BA, Verona, Wis., was featured in a June 2014 Washington Post article on “Getting More Women into Army Leadership.” Anderson is the acting assistant chief and deputy chief, Army Reserve. As a citizen-soldier, Anderson is employed by the United States Courts, where she serves as the clerk of Bankruptcy Court, Western District of Wisconsin, in Madison, Wis. Cynthia Schulz-Long, BA, Vero Beach, Fla., a Dame of Malta, has been reappointed to a second three-year term as chair of the Vero Beach Area Order of Malta. The Sovereign Military Hospitalier Order of St. John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta is the oldest continuous religious order of the Catholic Church, and the oldest continuous order of chivalry in the world. The Knights and Dames of Malta make a lifelong commitment to serve the needs of the sick and the poor and to defend the Catholic faith. Schulz-Long’s husband, W. Roger Long, BA’79, DDS’83, a Knight of Malta, is completing his term as co-chair of the Vero Beach Area. Dr. James W. Reed Jr., BS, Mauston, Wis., was selected to serve Division in Atlanta, he oversees global tax reporting, compliance and planning. His work ranges from structuring how GE sells its products and services, setting up new business operations, working on acquisitions and dispositions, and ensuring that GE complies with the tax rules of other nations. His division conducts business in more than 70 countries, and he oversees a team of 28 tax professionals worldwide.

The seeds of his future were planted as early as his initial recruiting trip, when he met a third-year law student, Greg Rhodes, JD’81. Later, Tom Purcell, Ph.D., BSBA’72, JD’77, professor of accounting in the Heider College of Business and professor of law, became his closest faculty mentor. “Through discussions with both of them, I concluded that obtaining a law degree would advance my career interests,” Montgomery says.

His career has indeed advanced. Following graduation, Montgomery practiced law in Chicago before joining GE in 1992. “The challenge of working in a dynamic company with some of the smartest people in the world while being challenged professionally every day has been rewarding,” he says. “I have also gained great cultural awareness from my international business travels.”

Montgomery was the first in his family to attain a four-year degree. He says his parents encouraged him and his two brothers and one sister to go to college, and he saw early on that “the people who succeeded had gone on to college.”

The Pittman Award ceremony, which in 2014 celebrated 66 years of distinguished African-American graduates, noted Montgomery’s leadership and service as a student, his career achievements and the plethora of volunteer activities in which he participates. The list includes mentoring and teaching at-risk students, founding youth programs and church work.

“Everything I have achieved is due to people who invested in me when I was young and learning the correct way to do things,” Montgomery says. “My teachers saw academic potential, and they took the extra time to help me realize that I could reach an even higher level of achievement. My youth and high school coaches continually put me in situations where I could develop individual and team leadership skills.

“I felt I owed paying this forward to my community and using the gifts that God had given me to help lead and hopefully inspire other youth to reach their goals.”

He holds fond memories of his years as a third baseman at Creighton as well. He still ranks among Creighton leaders for career batting average (fifth, .373); batting average for a single season (first, .470, 1983); runs scored in a season (tied for second, 80, 1983); and slugging percentage for a season (second, .783, 1983).

“My teammates supported me through a tough freshman season,” Montgomery says. “They led by example through their work ethic and academic successes, and they played a key role in the success I had on and off the field after my freshman year.” The team improved every season, eventually becoming ranked in the top 25 his junior year, 1983.

In fact, he was drafted in the eighth round by the Montreal Expos in 1983. He played for one season and a part of another season before returning to Creighton, finishing his degree and graduating on time with his class.

“The lessons I learned on the CU baseball team were a microcosm of life,” Montgomery says, “and they prepared me very well for life’s challenges and opportunities.”
on the Tufts University School of Medical board council. Reed received his medical degree from Tufts School of Medicine in 1984.

Randy K. Newby, DDS, Wichita, Kan., has successfully completed a one-year Master Clinician Program Curriculum in implant dentistry. Newby received his certificate from the gIDE (Global Institute for Dental Education) and the UCLA School of Dentistry in Los Angeles in September 2013. M. Josephine Vaske Petermeier, BA, Minneapolis, was ordained a deacon and is serving in three women priest led communities.

Judy Lee-Kirchmann, BA, Greta, Neb., received the “Emerging Leader of the Year” from the Professional Convention Management Association. Kirchmann is an account executive with ConferenceDirect, a meeting, convention, group travel and event-planning firm based in Los Angeles. She manages the Nebraska office.

Patrick M. Healy, MD, Wichita, Kan., received the Outstanding Teacher Award from the University of Kansas Medical Center in Wichita. G. Mark Rice, JD, West Des Moines, Iowa, was selected for inclusion in Great Plains Super Lawyers 2014.

Rachel Heaney Dowd, BSN’81, BA, Omaha, is serving in the Dominican Republic as a member of Chronic Care International, which provides education and medical treatment for diabetes and hypertension. Michael R. Kealy, JD, Reno, Nev., has been recognized in the 2015 edition of Best Lawyers in America. In addition to being listed in Best Lawyers, Kealy has been named the 2015 “Lawyer of the Year” in the Litigation–Real Estate category in Reno. Kealy is an attorney with the Reno office of Parsons Behle & Latimer. Dr. Elizabeth Freund Larus, BA, Fredericksburg, Va., professor of political science and international affairs at the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, has been awarded a Taiwan Fellowship for 2015 to conduct field research in Taiwan on U.S.-China-Taiwan relations. Jeffrey T. Peetz, JD, Lincoln, Neb., has formed the law firm Endacott, Peetz & Timmer with Kent E. Endacott, JD’94, and Patrick D. Timmer. The firm focuses on trust and estate law and community banking law and is located in Lincoln.

Guy M. Hanson, BS’80, DDS, Boise, Idaho, was elected to the Academy of General Dentistry (AGD) Board during the AGD 2014 Annual Meeting & Exhibits in June. Hanson has served the AGD in numerous capacities, including Region II regional director, Idaho AGD president, Idaho AGD secretary and AGD spokesperson.

Barbara Begley Gilman, BS, Omaha, was named the 2014 Distinguished Teacher for the Plains States from the National Catholic Educational Association. This award was given to an elementary teacher in recognition of outstanding Catholic teaching. Gilman is a third-grade teacher at St. Margaret Mary School in Omaha. Tracie E. Keller, BS’81, DDS, Colorado Springs, Colo., was named one of the Top 25 Women in Dentistry by Dental Products Report in September 2014. Mary Kay Mangus Leatherman, BA, Omaha, wrote and published the novel Vanity Insanity. She also manages and teaches for 3MT ACT Test Prep in Omaha. Dona A. Ponepinto, BA’83, MS, Gig Harbor, Wash., joined the United Way of Pierce County in Tacoma, Wash., as president and CEO in January 2014.

Paul F. Millus, BA’83, JD, Floral Park, NY., of counsel to Meyer, Suozzi, English & Klein, P.C., member of the litigation and employment law departments, has been selected for Long Island Business News’ “Around 50” Award. The award recognizes Long Island’s companies and business leaders over 40 years old. Millus also was sworn in as president of the Theodore Roosevelt American Inn of Court in September 2014. Thomas W. Tye II, JD, Kearney, Neb., received the 2014 Sertoma Service to Mankind Award in May. The award recognizes Tye’s 30 years of service to the Kearney area.

Laura A. Chagnon Tighe, JD, Golden, Colo., was appointed as a District Court Judge in the First Judicial District (Jefferson and Gilpin counties in Colorado).

Dr. Roxanne M. Gonzales, MS, Rye, N.H., is president of Granite State College in Concord, N.H. Jeffrey T. Harvey, JD, San Antonio, was included in S.A. Scene’s 2014 “Best S.A. Lawyers” list. Harvey is a partner in the San Antonio office of Jackson Walker L.L.P.

Lori Micek Maret, BA, Lincoln, Neb., was appointed to the District Court bench for the 3rd Judicial District (Lancaster County, Neb.). Lawrence H. Necheles, BA’66, JD, Pontiac, Ill., has been appointed to two new positions: public guardian and public administrator of Livingston County, Ill., and administrative hearing officer for vehicle seizures for the city of Pontiac.

Frank W. Ierulli, JD, Peoria, Ill., has been reappointed to the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission and the Standing Committee on Judicial Advisory Polls within the Illinois State Bar Association. Ierulli is an attorney at the Peoria office of Howard & Howard Attorneys PLLC.

Kent E. Endacott, JD, Lincoln, Neb., has formed the law firm Endacott, Peetz & Timmer with Jeffrey T. Peetz, JD’83, and Patrick D. Timmer. The firm focuses on trust and estate law and community banking law and is located in Lincoln. Dr. Monalisa McGee, MS, Omaha, is the Telecare Region Six Recovery Center administrator and was elected to serve on the board of directors for the National Board of Certified Counseling’s NCC-CCE (National Certified Counselor-Center for Credentialing and Education). David J. Thrower, JD, Superior, Colo., was appointed as municipal judge for the town of Superior. In addition to his duties as municipal judge, Thrower continues his private practice of law in Boulder, Colo., concentrating in estate planning, business and real estate matters.

Daniella E. Flanagan, BSBA, Hemet, Calif., starred as the lead in the film The Life and Crimes of Doris Payne. The film is about a poor, single African-American mother from the segregated 1950s South who winds up as one of the world’s most notorious jewel thieves. Jennifer T. Holloway, MD, Southbury, Conn., was elected to the board of trustees of the Fairfield County Medical Association.

Justin D. Phillips, DDS, Windsor, Calif., was voted Best Dentist in Sonoma County for 2014 in The Press Democrat’s Readers Choice Awards. This is the second year in a row that Phillips
Kitzi Hendricks, BA’11, never thought she would be where she is today. As a Creighton student majoring in psychology, she was unsure of her future career plans. But a senior-year service trip, an internship and an Internet search later, she decided that aiding the underserved was her calling.

She recently returned to the United States after spending three years volunteering as a Franciscan lay missioner in Cochabamba, Bolivia, with the Franciscan Mission Service — a group that trains lay Catholics for service missions in impoverished and marginalized communities. Hendricks served at a shelter for girls who had suffered from abuse and as a human rights advocate for victims of torture. She says her experience was immensely fulfilling and has inspired her to pursue a career serving those in need.

Hendricks’ initial interest in working with a Latino population began her senior year at Creighton during a service trip to El Paso, Texas. She then interned with the Omaha/Douglas County Victim Assistance Unit, working with a victim advocate who handled domestic and sexual violence cases, the majority of which involved Spanish-speaking people.

“I recognized the massive need for advocates who not only speak Spanish, but who understand the context of Latin America,” she says.

While searching for post-graduate volunteer opportunities, she found the Franciscan Mission Service website, and discovered that its mission aligned with her interest to serve in Spanish-speaking communities.

“I felt called to it,” she says. “This is it. This is where I’m supposed to be.”

After completing a period of discernment and a three-month training program — which included community living and courses in social justice, cultural learning and mission history — she was placed in Cochabamba. She spent her first year volunteering at a shelter for adolescent girls who had experienced sexual, physical and emotional abuse. The next two years, she interviewed individuals who had been tortured during the country’s dictatorships and recorded their testimonies for historical purposes.

Working with torture survivors, and consistently hearing so many graphic stories, was emotionally draining, she admits. She began to have nightmares, and eventually saw a therapist. She also changed her daily activities, avoiding graphic news reports to help limit negative news, exercising more and seeking out spiritual direction. But she also felt thankful to be there for the survivors, and to possibly play a role in their healing.

“These people are so strong. And they’ve confided in me to share their stories and pass them on.”

She especially remembers one survivor, an elderly man who lived alone and had no contact with his family. During one of his interviews, he performed a moving song that he had written about his hurt and loneliness. He told Hendricks that he would like the song played at his funeral.

“It was so sad; I had tears in my eyes,” she says.

Although emotionally difficult at times, she says her interactions with the people of Cochabamba were rewarding and something she will never forget.

“I won’t forget the people and how they made me feel and the time we spent together. I won’t forget what they taught me.”

It also gave her a different perspective of life in the U.S.

“I feel like I’m relearning everything again,” Hendricks says. “I’m seeing it with different eyes.”

She credits Creighton for nurturing her interest in service and preparing her for mission work.

“Almost everyone I was surrounded by (at Creighton) had an interest in serving others,” she says.

Kitzi Hendricks, BA’11, shares a hug with girls at a shelter in Cochabamba, Bolivia, where she volunteered with the Franciscan Mission Service.

Hendricks plans to enroll at Santa Clara University in March to earn a master’s degree in counseling psychology, and hopes to one day counsel Latino immigrants.

Hendricks credits her experience in Bolivia with stoking a passion for service in her personal and professional life.

“It set me on a different path. I’m really excited for where I’m going because of where I’ve been,” she says. “My entire thought-process is different. My entire way of going about life is different.”

Kitzi Hendricks, BA’11, shares a hug with girls at a shelter in Cochabamba, Bolivia, where she volunteered with the Franciscan Mission Service.
received the award. He currently practices at Phillips Family Dental. Andrea Rowley Reeb, BA’93, JD, Clovis, N.M., was appointed as the 9th judicial district attorney in New Mexico.

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Heather Tentinger Johnson, BS, Remsen, Iowa, was named among Engineering Leaders Under 40 by Control Engineering and Plant Engineering magazines. Johnson is a division manager with Interstates Companies in Sioux Center, Iowa.

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Carmon Wondercheck Harvey, BA, Philadelphia, has joined LeClairRyan as a shareholder on the firm’s labor and employment and commercial litigation practice area teams in the Philadelphia and Newark, N.J., offices. Majid A. Hussaini, BS, Elgin, Ill., has joined NorthShore University HealthSystem in Evanston, Ill., as a director-medical group operations for the NorthShore Neurological Institute. Dr. Lorna L. Perez, BA, Buffalo, N.Y., received tenure and promotion to associate professor of English at SUNY Buffalo State where she is currently serving as the interim chair of the English department. Joyce C. Stewart, BA, Bisbee, Ariz., a teacher from the Tucson Unified School District in Tucson, Ariz., was selected as an NEH summer scholar from a national applicant pool to attend one of 22 seminars and institutes supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities. Sixteen teachers from across the U.S. were selected to attend the program.

Kristin Kadleck Zurek, BA, St. Louis, was recently named a partner with Cordell & Cordell, the nation’s largest domestic litigation firm focusing on representing men in family law cases. Zurek is one of seven partners in the 150-attorney firm.

01  
James M. Kinney, BSBA, Omaha, was recently named to Golf Digest’s Best Teachers in America Under 40. Kinney is the owner Omaha’s GolfTEC.

02  
Jess W. Hoeve, JD, Cheney, Kan., an attorney with Joseph, Hollander & Craft LLC in Wichita, Kan., and manager of the firm’s Kansas DUI Defense Team, has been named chairman of the Criminal Practice Committee of the Wichita Bar Association. Dr. Angela Morrison Swan, BA, Litchfield Park, Ariz., completed a Ph.D. in public service leadership—criminal justice in January 2014.

03  
Dr. Hanh T. Nguyen, BS, Orange, Calif., received the Faculty of the Year Award in June 2014 from the University of California at Irvine School of Medicine, where Nguyen is an assistant professor in the School of Medicine. Travis L. Turner, JD, Austin, Texas, has formed Piper Turner Bollier, PLLC, in Austin with James Piper and Leslie Bollier. The firm exclusively handles complex family law cases.

04  
Alaina M. Stedillie, BA, Casper, Wyo., was named as a Rising Star in the 2014 Mountain Learn more at alumni.creighton.edu/weekend

September 17-20

Alumni, families, friends and fans — mark your calendars for Creighton University’s Homecoming! Meet Creighton’s new president, enjoy soccer and volleyball and attend the President’s Alumni Dinner. In addition to these fun events, the 10, 20, 25, 30, 40 and 50-year reunion classes and other milestone reunions will have the opportunity to celebrate their anniversaries.
States Super Lawyers edition in the area of business litigation. Katie E. Wude, BA, Los Angeles, is the senior special projects editor at GOOD Magazine.

Robert A. McLean Jr., BA, Omaha, was elected to the Society of Professional Journalists board of directors as Region 7 director in September 2014. Michele C. Wise, BA, McCook, Neb., an educator at St. Patrick Elementary School in McCook, was selected from a pool of more than 400 applicants to participate in the Library of Congress Teaching with Primary Sources Summer Teacher Institute in July 2014.

Adam L. Cockerill, BSBA’04, JD, Bellevue, Neb., has joined the Omaha law firm Koley Jessen P.C., L.L.O., in the employment, labor and benefits practice group.

Emilie Williams Kaplan, JD, Chicago, was named a partner at the Chicago firm of Sneckenberg Thompson & Brody LLP. Kaplan was also named an Illinois Super Lawyer Rising Star in litigation for 2012, 2013 and 2014, and a Top Women Attorney in Illinois in 2013 and 2014. Michael J. Rea, PharmD, Overland Park, Kan., was featured in the April 22, 2014, issue of BusinessWeek. The article focuses on Rx Savings Solutions, the company he founded with Douglas M. Bosch, MBA, PharmD, also from Overland Park.

Dr. William A. Nester, BS, Springfield, Ill., received his medical degree from Southern Illinois University School of Medicine in May 2014. Nester is completing his internal medicine residency at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago. Melissa A. Schilling, JD, Burlington, Iowa, joined Dickinson Law in Des Moines, Iowa, as an associate focusing on traditional labor law and employment litigation.

Sylvia J.S. Bartell, BA, South Royalton, Vt., spent last summer focusing on environmental justice after being awarded a Rubin Fellowship from Vermont Law School. Bartell worked with the nonprofit Vermont Energy Investment Corporation. Bartell is a law student at Vermont Law School in South Royalton. Angela Terry Lennon, JD, Omaha, was accepted to the Women’s Fund of Omaha’s 2014 Circles group. The group of young professional women leaders in Omaha supports the mission of the Women’s Fund, promotes networking opportunities for women professionals and develops leadership skills to serve the Omaha community.

Kimberly A. Berberich, BS, Downers Grove, Ill., is serving with Jesuit Volunteer Corps Northwest, working at Aiding Women in Abuse & Rape Emergencies (AWARE), Inc., in Juneau, Alaska. John R. Rasmussen, BA, Omaha, is serving with Jesuit Volunteer Corps Northwest, working at St. Labre Indian School in Ashland, Mont.

Maria J. “Majo” Sand Espinoza, BSBA, Tiquipaya Cochabamba, Bolivia, is serving with Jesuit Volunteer Corps Northwest, working with Catholic Charities of Oregon, El Programa Hisapno–Anti-Poverty Services in Gresham, Ore. Laura G. Jablonski, BSBA, St. Louis, is serving with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps, working at Reconcile New Orleans, Inc./Café Reconcile in New Orleans. Katherine M. Nimrod, BA, Glenview, Ill., is serving with Jesuit Volunteer Corps Northwest, working with the Alaskan AIDS Assistance Association in Anchorage, Alaska.

Margaret L. O’Connor, BA, Ferndale, Wash., is serving with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps, working at St. Francis Mission in St. Francis, S.D. Nicole M. Rocconi, BA, Riverside, Ill., is serving with Jesuit Volunteer Corps Northwest, working at Providence Hospice of Seattle, Providence Transitions, in Seattle. Kelly M. Sullivan, BA, Dekalb, Ill., is serving with Jesuit Volunteer Corps Northwest, working at Columbia Gorge Community College, Student Services, in Hood River, Ore.

Weddings

Michael F. Steiner, BSBA’84, JD, and John Burge, Oct. 4, 2014, living in Palm Springs, Calif.

Nicholas R. Marketto, BSBA, and Sean McConnaughey, July 19, 2013, living in Denver.


Kristine L. Komrofske, BA, and Curtis D. Self, Sept. 28, 2013, living in Omaha.


Katherine M. Smith, DPT, and David Coke, April 28, 2012, living in Greensboro, N.C.


Births

James Reall and Peggy Dineen Reall, BA, Omaha, a son, Patrick Michael, Sept. 16, 2014.

Danielle M. Roth, BSN, Phoenix, a son, Xavier Nathaniel, March 28, 2013. Thue H. Tran, BS’05, MD, and Jennifer Lueth Tran, BS’03, Omaha, a son, Tai Geoffrey, Nov. 23, 2014.


Deaths

38 Mary Morgan Hanan, ARTS, Council Bluffs, Iowa, July 14, 2014.
39 Rosemary Gaughan Daly, BSC, Omaha, Jan. 8, 2015.
40 John F. Daly, PhD ’38, JD, Omaha, June 9, 2014.
43 William F. Boyle, BSC, Omaha, Nov. 8, 2014.
44 Alice Roth McGowan, BusAdm, Omaha, Oct. 21, 2014. John MacRae Williams, DDS, BSM, Omaha, Nov. 8, 2014.
58 Helen Knievel Bracht, SCN, West Point, Neb., Nov. 1, 2014. Warren H. Dunn, BSBA’56, JD,
The Storytellers

Creighton grads bring family histories to life

Three Creighton graduates from different eras are using their innate curiosity to help clients convey compelling personal, family and corporate stories. Often their research reveals details or events untold — or unknown — before, such as the time they uncovered a land grant that Ulysses S. Grant had signed for a family's great-grandparents' Nebraska homestead.

Jim Fogarty, BA'67, Robert Mundy, JD'79, and John Dechant, BA'05, MA'08, along with David Harding, are the four partners operating Legacy Preservation LLC, based in Omaha. Another Creighton alumnus, Chuck Kelly, BA'68, is a senior writer for the group and lives in Phoenix. The private publishing firm creates one-of-a-kind books in print and digital formats.

A circuitous route brought them all together. Fogarty, who has a newspaper and public relations background, was first exposed to memoirs when his father, the late newspaperman Hugh Fogarty, BA'28, wrote his own life story in 1993. Mundy, a financial planner, was becoming keenly aware of some of his clients' desires to do more than get their financial houses in order when he met Harding and they discussed their common interest in writing personal histories. Fogarty's career had begun to include book publishing when the three eventually crossed paths and they launched the firm in 2006.

Dechant, whose undergraduate degree was in journalism, was finishing up his master's degree when he heard about Legacy Preservation: “I always wanted to do something like this — I just didn’t know such a business existed.”

To date, Legacy has been commissioned to produce books for more than 50 clients in nearly 10 states. “The common thread among all of us,” says Fogarty, “is that we're storytellers. We help people discover and tell their stories. In our conversations (with clients), we frequently find things no one ever knew.”

Legacy takes each project from conception through research, interviewing, writing, design and printing. The clients are the publishers and own the copyrights and digital archives. Generally, print runs are small — from 10 to 200 on average — as audiences for the books are not wide, but clients can print more whenever they desire.

The process is unique for each book, with an average production period of one to two years. The most labor-intensive project involved 50 interviews with 45 people; another required 34 interviews over four consecutive days.

“It’s a very interactive process,” Dechant says. “We wait on the client. We work at their pace.”

Whether clients have thousands of photos or just a shoebox full, the partners say the biggest surprise to all involved has been how therapeutic the process is for the clients.

“Sometimes looking at a grandmother’s ring or a painting on a wall will trigger a flood of memories and emotions,” Mundy says.

“The book is crossing the finish line, but they’ve already run the race,” Dechant says. “They gain a greater understanding of who they are.”


Mary Kopperud Ramsey, MSEd, Omaha, May 14, 2014.


Professors emeriti, former chair of the Department of Pharmacy/Pharmacology, School of Medicine; Feb. 3, 2015.

James Michalski, SJ.

Member of the Creighton Jesuit Community; Dec. 6, 2014.

Fletcher A. Miller Sr., M.D.

Former chair, Department of Surgery, School of Medicine; Jan. 25, 2015.

Bernie Reznick

Former dean, Heider College of Business; Dec. 14, 2014.

Sr. Marie Schwan, CSJ


* Faculty and Jesuits who are Creighton alumni are listed in the Alumni Deaths section of Creighton University Magazine.
Property Rights in Cuba

News that the U.S. will begin normalizing relations with Cuba renews interest in Creighton study.

By Patrick Borchers
Professor of Law and Director of the Werner Institute

Few nations have preoccupied me like Cuba. This is a personal story. It’s a Creighton story. It’s an international story. But it’s not much about the politics of the United States and Cuba.

In 2005, when I was dean of Creighton’s School of Law, a young faculty member and international law expert, Mike Kelly, said that he wanted to team up with members of Creighton’s political science faculty to make a grant application to the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to study the resolution of claims of Cuban expropriated properties.

“Great,” I said. As dean, one of my goals had been to build the international profile of the law school. “Uh, there’s one other thing,” Mike said. “We need you as the principal investigator.” He read my quizzical look. “You’re well known in private international law, so we need you.” I agreed, figuring we had no shot.

Several months later, Mike told me: “We won.” “Won what?” I said, figuring it was about one of Mike’s moot court teams. “The USAID grant,” he replied. Oh that.

We had lots of new friends and enemies. A Washington Post columnist suggested that we had won because an assistant administrator in the USAID, Adolfo Franco, JD’83, was a Creighton graduate, even though we had never met.

“Welcome to the big leagues,” I thought.

One friendly voice was the Omaha World-Herald. In an editorial it said “political sniping” was unfairly targeting us and scorned some of the more absurd Castro-apologist claims.

Our first meeting included those of us who would do most of the writing: Kelly, political science professors Erika Moreno, Ph.D., and Rick Witmer, Ph.D., and me, as well as indispensable research assistants Julie Borchers, BA’04, JD’07 (no relation); Danielle Pressler, BA’04, MS’07, JD’10; Leah Shadle, BA’03, JD’07; and Kevin Tuininga, JD’07. Werner Institute faculty members Arthur Pearlstein and Jackie Font-Guzman, as well as then-political science chair Jim Wunsch, Ph.D., would also play important roles. I said that I felt like the dog that caught the squirrel. Now what?

We wrote a 280-page book. It covers a tortured political history; examines mechanisms by which claims have been resolved in disputes between nations; crunches massive amounts of data regarding the claims; and surveys Cuban, U.S. and international law.

It was a long road. We added another research assistant, Katie Pitts, BA’09, JD’12. Our travels took us to places as varied as the Harvard Law Library, Washington, D.C., and Europe.

The Creighton libraries obtained scads of foreign language materials. We made trips to Miami, where most of the Cuban-American community resides. We made trips to Cuba. We quite literally scoured the globe.

We were in Miami in 2006 when news broke of Fidel Castro’s brush with death. The streets were packed with Cuban-Americans waving Cuban flags. Fidel proved to be harder than thought, but power passed to his brother (probably half-brother) Raul. We met with lots of interested parties in Miami. We accepted an invitation to a joint briefing with the U.S.’s Southern Command.

We attended meetings that included Cuban exiles. I say, without exaggeration, that they would kill the Castro brothers, even if it meant enduring torture and death.

We did a lot of work.

We wrote and published the report and held a well-attended press conference in October 2007.

A funny thing happened. Our report was well received. We suggested alternatives to cash compensation, such as development rights for claimants and ways to stimulate the Cuban economy. We wrote that claims of Cuban-Americans and Cubans stood on the same moral footing as claims of Americans.

Many of our early critics were silent. We presented at conferences and testified before Congress.

In April of 2014, The Boston Globe contacted us. Maybe the reporter knew something we didn’t. The reporter called our report “the most ambitious and pragmatic solution that’s been laid out so far” to the property issue.

Then in December 2014, President Barack Obama announced, after 18 months of secret negotiations, that the U.S. and Cuba were restoring diplomatic relations.

Suddenly, the Creighton report is a hot item again — generating press inquiries from across the globe.

We all hope that our report helps arrive at a just solution.

But I’m stuck with a Cuban aphorism: “What are the three great accomplishments of the revolution? Sports, education and health care. What are its three great failures? Breakfast, lunch and dinner.”

Any solution that doesn’t address “breakfast, lunch and dinner” is no solution.

Read more

Following the news in December that the U.S. and Cuba had moved to normalize relations, the Creighton University study and its authors have been highlighted in numerous national media reports, including an article that appeared in Bloomberg, “Cuba Property Claims, Yielding Pennies, May Spur Talks.” Read the article here.

And the winners are …

Terri L. Alberhasky, JD’09
Leo R. Armatis, BA’59
Kathy Egan Balwanz, BA’69, MA’77
Jane Otto Barlow, MD’86
Charles W. Bayley Sr., BSBA’57
Donna Ward Beard, BS’56
Tina Holter Betancourt, BSN’94
Kim A. Bland, MS’99
Connie Weihs Booth, BSN’76
Bernard M. Bogatz, DDS’56
Sara Swinney Bovasso, JD’98
James T. Brady, BS’61
Ruth Ellis Bryant, BA’83
Susan Gibboney Bulger, BSN’79
John E. Burke, ARTS’59
Michael G. Busse, BSBA’65
Effie Costello Caldarola, BA’68
Joseph M. Caturano Jr., BA’94, JD’99
Mary Brady Clarke, BA’71
Robert W. Collison, MD’62
Jane Wyrick Conner, BA’66
Constance Thille Coughlin, SJN’49
Katherine Larcom Covalt, BSBA’11
Kelly Nash Crummer, BSBA’11
Anita Widhalm Daggett, BS’70
Janet Berch Daley, BS’77
Thomas E. Desmond Jr., MD’66
Michael Dorsey, BA’78
Ronald A. Dorsey, BS’95, DDS’99
Allan W. Doss, BA’63
Ann E. Duffy, BA’14
Carole Versaci Dugan, BA’68
Donna D. Durfee, BSPha’77, PharmD’82
Suzanne Chmiel Fisher, BSMT’88
Rita A. Foral, BA’64
M. Douglas Ford, BSPha’69
Milcentt Pogge Garcia, BA’76, MA’77
Lucille Bischof Gardner, BSN’46
Joan Smith Gehke, BA’69
Shurie R. Graeve, JD’94
Mary Fitzpatrick Graft, BSN’84
James J. Greteman, BSBA’76
Matthieu F. Groh, BSBA’04
Kristine Cherek Hacker, BS’88
Joann Kelly Hageman, BSPha’83
Michael J. Haller Jr., BA’80, JD’83
Herbert E. Hames III, BA’74, JD’77
Becky E. Haworth, BA’12
Dr. James D. Herzog, BA’78
Sr. Jeanette Homan, OSF, MChrstSp’81
Peter A. Howlett, BSBA’73
Geoffrey L. Huber, BSBA’98
Brooks Humphreys, MA’09
Robert E. Hurd, S.J., MD’78
Nancee Sockel Johnson-Meester, MS’91
Lisa Gunia Jorgenson, BSN’03
Jill R. Koch, BA’96
Sarah M. Kornblum, BSN’07
Theresa Lohr Kozney, BS’71
Marc G. Kraft, BSMT’71
Beverly Bogle Louthan, JD’89
Gary A. Ludwin, BS’68, MD’72
Alvin J. Mauler, BA’68
Heather Sorensen McAvoy, BA’01
Karen Jackson Miller, ARTS’74
Mary Ann Miller, BA’63
Joyce Eisenmenger Morrison, BA’77
Mark T. Mowat, BSBA’86
William J. Nosek Jr., BSPha’60
Christina Hinners O’Meara, ARTS’86, BSMT’87
Helen Palumbo Odland, MD’81
Joan Pfister Pope, DDS’81
Mary Arouni Porto, BA’72
Michael W. Reilly, BA’71, JD’74
Gary P. Riedmann, BA’69, MARelEd’74
Mary Streich Rish, BSRT’84
Dr. Michael J. Rooney, BA’77
Brian M. Sadowski, BSChm’01, MD’05
Patricia Janka Sandoz, BA’87
Judith A. Schweikart, BA’79, MSGuid’72, JD’80
Nancy Brown Shugrue, MSGuid’78
Elizabeth Sokolowski, BA’10
Mike F. Steiner, BSBA’84, JD’87
William J. Swift, BSW’80
Charles Thomas Jr., EdD’14
Hon. Laura Chagnon Tighe, JD’87
Jennifer A. Tilleman, PharmD’02
Rev. Rolf R. Tollefson, MA’08
Michael E. Unser, BS’78, DDS’82
Shelley Van Bibber, BSN’09
Dr. Amy Koller Veale, BA’83
Victoria R. Wagner, BA’04
Bruce A. Wilson, JD’88
Francie McGuire Winkler, BA’69
Roy A. Wise, BSBA’71
Curtis S.F. Wong, MS’80, MD’85
Douglas K.C. Wong, BS’82, DDS’86
Kristine M. Wong, PharmD’04
Harry P. Yosten, BA’72, JD’76
Vincent W. Young, BS’07

Thank you for updating your information!