

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



A New Era in Health Care

Opus Prize: Restoring Hope,
Lighting the Way Home

An Amazing Journey

Fall 2016



A Prayerful Election

Newly elected Jesuit Superior General the Rev. Arturo Sosa, SJ, prays before the tomb of St. Ignatius of Loyola — founder of the Jesuit religious order — with other Jesuit delegates of General Congregation 36. The Mass of Thanksgiving was held at the Church of the Gesù in Rome on Oct. 15. Creighton's the Rev. Don Doll, SJ, served as the official photographer for the General Congregation.



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Creighton University Magazine is published in the spring, summer and fall by Creighton University, 2500 California Plaza, Omaha, NE 68178-0001. Address all mail to University Communications and Marketing, Omaha, NE 68178. Postmaster: Send change of address to *Creighton University Magazine*, P.O. Box 3266, Omaha, NE 68103-0078.

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

To make a gift to the University, contact the Office of Development at 800.334.8794 or visit alumni.creighton.edu/give-back.

For the latest on alumni gatherings, contact the Alumni Relations Office at 800.282.5867 or check online at alumni.creighton.edu.

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Creighton University Magazine's Purpose

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



Message from the President

Strolling down our beautiful campus mall on a clear December night, the warm, inviting glow of holiday lights draws me to quiet reflection on the many blessings and gifts we share as a University community.

I am indeed grateful to the faculty, staff, students, Jesuits, alumni, benefactors, and others whose deep love for and commitment to our great University continue to significantly propel us forward in so many ways.

It has been a busy, exhilarating, and gratifying semester.

This fall, we welcomed a near-record number of students in our nine schools and colleges. Our enrollment of 8,393 students was the second largest in our University's history.

Freshman applications topped 10,000 for the first time, as we enrolled 1,031 diverse and academically talented students in the Class of 2020. They hail from 38 states, 14 percent are the first in their families to attend college, and their high school academic standing places Creighton among the top 10 Catholic universities in the nation.

For the 14th consecutive year, Creighton was ranked No. 1 in the Midwest by *U.S. News & World Report*. We were also one of only 36 schools nationally recognized for outstanding undergraduate research opportunities, and one of only 22 acknowledged for student internships. (We were the only Catholic university on either of those two lists, which included the likes of Duke, Harvard, Johns Hopkins, Cornell, USC, and MIT.)

We continue to pioneer the future of health care in the United States. Our clinical relationship with CHI Health, expanding partnerships in Arizona, enhanced interdisciplinary initiatives, and new University Campus medical center and School of Dentistry building coming soon are opening up new opportunities for our health sciences students and for the patients and communities we serve.

Construction work on the University Campus medical center is scheduled for completion in 2017, along with the Bergan Mercy Campus in central Omaha, which will provide inpatient and trauma care. Our 200,000-square-foot dental facility is scheduled to open in 2018. Both the medical center and dental building are located adjacent to campus, along Cuming Street.

Finally, we were honored this fall to host the 2016 Opus Prize, the world's most prestigious faith-based humanitarian award. Congratulations to the three finalists — Sari Bari, Cana Communities, and Jesuit Worldwide Learning (JWL) — and to the winner of the \$1 million prize, Sari Bari. Their work with the poor and marginalized serves as inspiration to all.

May the peace and grace of God fill your home during this holy season. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



Follow me on Twitter @CreightonPres

Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ
President

A New Era in Health Care 22

The U.S. health care environment has undergone vast change in the last decade, with more transformation on the horizon. Creighton has been meeting current challenges and proactively preparing for the future in a multitude of ways, including strategic partnerships and academic clinical settings that ensure students and residents are prepared for the health care world in which they will spend their professional lives.

Opus Prize: Restoring Hope, Lighting the Way Home 30

Creighton University hosted the 2016 Opus Prize in November. This annual faith-based, \$1 million humanitarian award recognizes leaders and their organizations for developing creative solutions to some of the world’s most pressing problems. Read more about this year’s winner and finalists and their work in addressing the issues surrounding sex trafficking, homelessness and refugees.

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Lachell Wardell, a student in Creighton’s Master in Public Health program, grew up in one of Chicago’s most dangerous housing projects. Her mother was killed and Wardell dropped out of high school, becoming a single, homeless teen mom. Meet her as she visits the site of her one-time home, reflects on her life’s journey and how she is helping children growing up in poverty, who are often traumatized by violence.



On the Cover:

Anna Worley, BS’10, MD’14, Creighton family medicine resident, examines a young patient.

Photo by Dave Weaver

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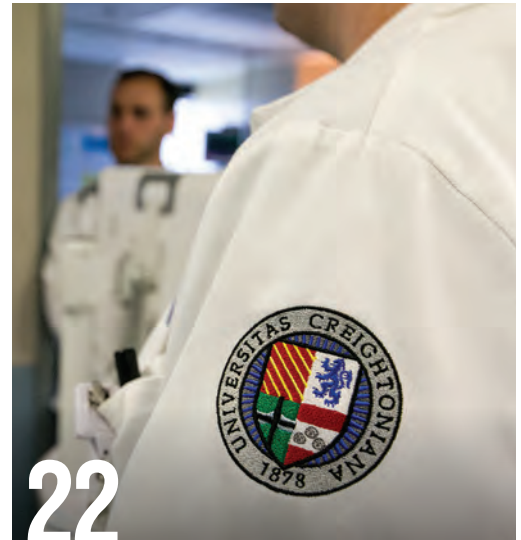
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Fr. Hendrickson Honored

Named founding member of first European chapter of Alpha Sigma Nu

Celebrating a joint mission for Jesuit higher education, Creighton President the **Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ**, headed to Seville, Spain, for the installation of the first European chapter of the century-old Alpha Sigma Nu Jesuit honor society, at Universidad Loyola Andalucía on Oct. 21.

Loyola Andalucía invited Fr. Hendrickson as the “Padrino de la primera promoción de Alpha Sigma Nu of Europa.” The honor signified Fr. Hendrickson’s role as a founding member of the first Alpha Sigma Nu installation in Europe.

Fr. Hendrickson, who was inducted as an honorary member of Alpha Sigma Nu at Marquette University in 2013, played an important role in the Spanish ceremony: He assisted in the honorary induction of his twin brother, the Rev. Scott Hendrickson, SJ, of Loyola University Chicago.

At the ceremony, Fr. Hendrickson delivered the keynote address, highlighting the importance of Alpha Sigma Nu for Jesuit higher education. The board of governors of Loyola Andalucía honored him for his achievements in higher education, his work as president



Gabriel Perez de Alcalá, president of Universidad Loyola Andalucía, left, and Creighton President the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, during the Alpha Sigma Nu ceremony in Seville, Spain.

of Creighton University since 2015 and the Creighton Global Initiative.

The partnership between Creighton and Loyola Andalucía began with a visit from the Spanish university to Creighton last spring, and has continued with a student exchange program. Two students from Loyola Andalucía studied at Creighton during the 2016 fall semester.

Alpha Sigma Nu began in 1915 at Marquette University. It is the only Jesuit honor society and recognizes students for achievements in scholarship, loyalty and service. Creighton’s chapter is the second oldest Alpha Sigma Nu chapter in the U.S.



Help others live healthy, full lives.

Creighton University is renowned for excellence in the health sciences. Our commitment to Jesuit values also demonstrates that we know health care means much more than treating diseases. It means caring for people and helping to create health in all dimensions of their lives. That’s why we’ve established the Center for Health Promotion and Well-Being, with the mission to foster the creation of health across the lifespan. Through the center, we offer outstanding programs in the fast-growing field of health and wellness.

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Creighton
UNIVERSITY

Creighton Breaks Ground on New Dental School Building

\$84.5 million project will expand outreach to underserved patients

Creighton University broke ground Sept. 15 on a new 200,000-square-foot School of Dentistry building to be located at 21st and Cuming streets. The \$84.5 million project is scheduled to be completed in July 2018.

The new building will increase the number of patients served from 12,000 annually to 15,000. Patients come from all walks of life in the Omaha area and many otherwise would not have access to regular dental care.

“Service to patients across the spectrum coupled with a vision for innovation has long been at the heart of the curriculum in the Creighton School of Dentistry,” says Creighton President the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ. “In this new facility, faculty and students together will be able to expand those parallel missions, finding the best ways to compassionately care for all patients and making the latest treatments available.”

According to Mark Latta, DMD, dean of the School of Dentistry, the new facility will accommodate a modest enrollment gain, offer more clinic space, and feature enhanced labs, classrooms, research space and offices. Most importantly, says Latta, it will expand Creighton’s outreach to underserved patients.

“For more than a century, the Creighton University School of Dentistry has served a vital role in the community by supporting the oral health care needs of the region’s citizens. We are dedicated to educating the nation’s premier dentists and providing comprehensive, compassionate oral health care to all of our patients,” says Latta.

“A larger, updated and technologically advanced facility will allow us to meet the growing demands of our dental program, our patient base and the national population. As we look toward our vibrant future, we will continue our commitment to an outstanding clinical education experience rooted in Jesuit principles that underscore our care of those in need.”



An architectural rendering of the new School of Dentistry building at 21st and Cuming streets.

Creighton School of Dentistry Quick Facts

Patients Served

12,000 ▶ Number of patients currently served annually

Estimated number to be served annually at the new building

◀ **15,000**

155 Of the 174 dental chairs in the community available to underserved patients, 155 are located at Creighton University

\$91.4 million

Students and staff are projected to provide \$91.4 million in discounted and unreimbursed services over the first 10 years of the new facility being open

\$21.6 million

Along with its community partners, the School of Dentistry is projected to provide services (free clinics, preventive care, education and pediatric dental care) valued at \$21.6 million over the new dental facility’s first 10 years

Economic Impact

The economic impact of the Creighton School of Dentistry is expected to grow from its current \$627 million to \$848 million by 2023

\$627 million to \$848 million

200 Up to 200 new jobs will be created indirectly

Notable Spaces in the New School of Dentistry

- > Expanded pediatric services, providing a larger dental home to children who would not otherwise receive regular dental care
- > An Interdisciplinary Health Practitioner Office, uniting the School of Dentistry, School of Medicine, School of Pharmacy and Health Professions and College of Nursing, offering a wider range of services to patients
- > The Wilwerding-DiLorenzo Digital Technology Center, a computer-aided design and manufacturing (CAD-CAM) center that will guide students through use of the latest dental technologies

[Q&A]

A Window on the Modern World

Creighton delegation investigates a broader, deeper relationship with Haiti



Creighton students, from left, Jake Recker, Josh Nichols and Shannon Mulcahey share a moment with Haitian children during their visit to the island nation last summer.

For the better part of a half-century, Creighton University has been sending students, staff and faculty on immersion experiences and service-oriented excursions to the Dominican Republic, the nation that makes up the eastern two-thirds of the Caribbean island of Hispaniola.

For 10 days this summer, a group of 10 Creighton students and two professors — Laura Heinemann, PhD, a medical anthropologist, and Roger Bergman, PhD, director of the Justice and Peace Studies program — traveled to the western side of the island, to Haiti, to get a broader, deeper perspective of that Caribbean nation. Kat Turco, student life director for Creighton's *Encuentro Dominicano* program in the Dominican Republic, also accompanied the group.

Creighton University Magazine sat down with Bergman, who was on his fifth trip to Haiti, to talk about the motivations and opportunities for what he hopes is a new relationship for Creighton.

Q Creighton has a long-standing relationship with the Dominican Republic, Haiti's neighbor. What inspired you to look west at Haiti?

A More and more, I have thought of Haiti as a window on the modern world. It was the first place Columbus landed on his first voyage. It was the site of the first European settlement in the so-called New World. It was the site of the first genocide in the Americas. And it was the place where the first African slaves were brought.

Haiti was the wealthiest colony in the world, then the site of the only successful slave rebellion in world history, and yet we don't put the Haitian revolution in the same category of importance as the American and French revolutions. The world doesn't have a grasp on what Haitian history and contributions have been. It was the first fully free republic in this hemisphere, abolishing slavery six decades before the Emancipation Proclamation and the 13th Amendment.

Q How would you gauge the student reaction to this trip? What were some of the most moving learning experiences?

A I don't think it's an exaggeration to say that all 10 of our students thought our 10 days in Haiti were the best experience in their time as Creighton students. Carla Bluntschli and her young staff of the *Na Sonje* (We Will Remember) Foundation were wonderful hosts and guides to Haitian history, culture and current issues. I have heard our students say we learned a ton, we were safe, we had fun, and we were certainly well-fed. I think we all kind of fell in love with Haiti, thanks especially to Carla and her staff.

The single most moving experience for me and many of our students was visiting with a woman described as "ultra poor" by Fonkoze, Haiti's "bank for the organized poor," the largest microfinance organization in the

country. Fonkoze seeks out such women for a special program that leads them from not being able to sign their own name to building up small assets to benefit their families, such as the four goats that the woman we spoke with showed us so proudly. She told us she was “a new woman” because of the Fonkoze program. Standing next to her new home with a concrete floor and a tin roof, it was beautifully heartbreaking.

Q Since your trip, Haiti was again hit by tragedy as Hurricane Matthew struck the island in October. What did you learn about the resilience of Haitians?

A Matthew was, I believe, the fifth major storm to hit Haiti in the last decade, and of course the 2010 earthquake was even more devastating. Haiti’s own elites have failed it time and again and ever since its revolution, the international community, including the U.S., has treated Haiti like a pariah state.

Much of the “aid” sent to Haiti is uninformed by local realities and culture, and seems mainly to reinforce prejudicial stereotypes about the inability of Haitians to fend for themselves — which they could do successfully if the rest of the world would learn to listen to the grassroots leaders who have their communities’ best interests at heart.

The suffering has been great and there’s still misery everywhere, but I think most Haitians would say that resilience, survival from day to day and hoping for a better future, is what Haiti is all about. There’s been progress, despite the tragedies, as the rise in life expectancy rates over the last few decades attests.

Q You experienced a Haitian Voodoo service. Tell us a little about what Voodoo means to Haiti.

A The old joke is that Haiti is 90 percent Catholic and 100 percent Voodoo, although today that overestimates the Catholic affiliation, as Protestant proselytization has made inroads. Our young guides had all grown up with respect for Voodoo as the indigenous



While on their immersion trip to Haiti, Creighton students helped some of the locals grind coffee.

backbone of Haitian culture, whether they were active participants now or not. You have to remember that the slave masters were Catholic, and that slavery in Haiti before the revolution has been described as the cruelest anywhere, so it’s a wonder Catholicism has had as much staying power in Haiti as it has. Voodoo has deep roots in the slaves’ memory of their African ancestry and is honored today as providing the spiritual fire for the revolution.

We were welcomed into a three-hour service and escorted to the heart of the congregation, with some people going so far as to give up their seats for us to take a closer look as some of the initiates experienced possession by spirits. It’s not possession as we might connote it popularly — Voodoo spirits are said not to enter into anyone unwilling. The metaphor is that of a rider on a willing horse, and the spirit does not do harm but rather, through the initiate, shares wisdom, advice and insights meant to help members of the community. To some of our religious sensibilities, it was very different from anything we had ever experienced, but it was also profoundly human. Ignatius enjoined us to find God in all things, and I’d rather

take that perspective than condemn Voodoo as pagan superstition out of hand. Besides, for many Haitians, Voodoo and Catholicism exist side by side, as Catholic saints and Voodoo spirits are thoroughly conflated.

Q A second trip is in the works. What are your hopes for Creighton establishing an ongoing relationship with Haiti?

A Our 2016 trip was the first Creighton-sponsored trip to Haiti since 1999, I believe. Students in our Dominican Republic program have not been allowed to travel to Haiti since then, but I think we’ve blazed a trail that other Creighton programs will follow. A Creighton delegation to the DR over spring recess will also travel into Haiti, and I think the semester program is considering the possibilities. You can’t fully understand the eastern two-thirds of the island that is the DR if you don’t understand the western one-third of the island that is Haiti. That’s still a fraught relationship, and our students need to see both sides of the history. Again, it’s an essential window on the modern world, especially in this hemisphere.

Recker First to Hold O'Brien Chair in Health Sciences

Robert Recker, MD'63, professor of medicine and director of Creighton's Osteoporosis Research Center, was installed as the inaugural holder of the O'Brien Chair in Health Sciences during a campus ceremony on Sept. 28.

The chair was established through a generous gift from longtime Creighton supporters Richard O'Brien, MS'58, MD'60, and his wife, Joan Gurney O'Brien, SJN'55. Dr. O'Brien served as dean of the School of Medicine from 1982 to 1992 and vice president for Health Sciences from 1985 to 1999. He is currently a professor emeritus in Creighton's Center for Health Policy and Ethics.

"The O'Briens share a deep love for Creighton University and our Jesuit, Catholic mission," said Creighton University President the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ. "This new endowed chair in the health sciences is a testament to their continued commitment to the success of the University and its faculty and students. We are grateful for their longtime dedication and service to Creighton."

The O'Brien Chair in Health Sciences



Robert Recker, MD'63, is an internationally recognized expert in the field of metabolic bone disease.

is the 39th endowed chair established at Creighton University, and the first new chair inaugurated at the University since 2013.

"Endowed chairs play an important role in a vibrant and robust university," said Jeremy Bouman, interim vice president for University Relations. "They allow us to attract and retain outstanding faculty, providing support for innovative research, teaching and scholarship. They also provide an opportunity to recognize and honor dedicated donors, such as the O'Briens, and ensure that their legacy is permanently

connected to Creighton's academic mission."

The O'Brien Chair in Health Sciences is unique at Creighton in that the chair holders will rotate between the School of Medicine and the College of Nursing.

Both Robert "Bo" Dunlay, MD'81, dean of the School of Medicine, and Catherine Todero, PhD, BSN'72, dean of the College of Nursing, expressed their gratitude to the O'Briens for establishing the endowed chair.

"This unique approach honors and celebrates both of their academic backgrounds, which are so important to them," Todero said. "It also recognizes the importance of each of the professions, and the good work of the College of Nursing and the School of Medicine in terms of research, teaching and patient care."

As the first holder of the O'Brien Chair, Recker said he is "incredibly grateful and humbled."

Aside from a medical internship at Lackland Air Force Base and three years as a flight surgeon in the Air Force, Recker's entire academic and professional life has been at Creighton. He joined the School of Medicine faculty in 1970, and has served as chief of the Division of Endocrinology since 1974 and director of Creighton's Osteoporosis Research Center since 1986.

Recker is an internationally recognized expert in the field of metabolic bone disease.



Joan Gurney O'Brien, SJN'55, left, and Richard O'Brien, MS'58, MD'60, are excited to continue their commitment to the University's future through the O'Brien Chair in Health Sciences.

He and his colleagues identified a rare genetic mutation that contributes to high bone mass. “If you imagine the human genome as Interstate 80, stretching from the East Coast to the West, what we found was a crack in the pavement,” Recker said in announcing the discovery in 2001.

“Dr. Recker is an outstanding researcher and scientist,” said Dunlay. “His findings on the role of the LRP5 receptor protein in high bone mass was a seminal discovery in the field of bone biology. In addition, the Osteoporosis Research Center, which he directs, continues to be a leader in bone research and the study of osteoporosis, which affects millions of men and women and will continue to be a major health issue as our population ages.”

Recker said holding the O’Brien Chair is especially meaningful. “I have always had a great deal of affection and admiration for Dr. O’Brien,” Recker said. “He did great for Creighton. He was one of our best deans and vice presidents for health sciences.”

Dick O’Brien and Joan Gurney met while students at Creighton. Joan was in the nursing program at St. Joseph Hospital; Dick was a Creighton undergraduate preparing for medical school. Both were working at Our Lady of Victory, a psychiatric ward of the former Creighton-affiliated St. Joseph Hospital on 10th Street.

An uncooperative patient brought them together. “This young student nurse was being walked up and down the hall by a patient who had a tight grip on her elbow,” Dick recalled. “He just wasn’t going to let go,” Joan added. Dick interceded and helped lead the patient away. Two years later, they were married.

They feel blessed to have had Creighton as a central part of their lives, and they are excited to continue their commitment to the University’s future through the new endowed chair.

“We have spent more than half of our lives here, as students and as faculty members,” Dr. O’Brien said. “Obviously, that forges a pretty strong connection. We love the University, and we think it’s important to do whatever we can to help it flourish.”



Mark McCurdy, BSPha’88, pharmacist at Mark’s Pharmacy in Cambridge, Neb., shows a blood pressure machine to Terry and Connie Newton of Cambridge.

Study Examines Expanding Role of Pharmacists

By Eugene Curtin

A quiet but persistent revolution in the practice of pharmacy has found a soldier in the form of Kim Galt, PharmD, PhD, professor of pharmacy at Creighton University.

Galt is in the second year of a three-year study funded by the state of Nebraska aimed at expanding the scope of pharmacy across the state. Beginning with independent pharmacies largely located in rural areas, but now starting to expand to urban chains and grocery store pharmacies, Galt is encouraging pharmacists to integrate themselves more completely into the management of chronic health conditions.

It is part of an ongoing trend in health care as pharmacists emerge from behind the counter to help patients manage such chronic maladies as high blood pressure and diabetes, accompany physicians on their hospital rounds, and build circular communications between themselves, the patients and their physicians.

For most people, and certainly for individuals living in remote rural areas, the local pharmacist is the most accessible health care professional, Galt said, and that fact has inspired hope that they can be used to more effectively help Nebraskans monitor their health and wellness.

The early pace is being set by such

geographical outposts of the profession as Mark’s Pharmacy in Cambridge, Neb., a city of just over 1,000 people in south-central Nebraska on the Kansas border. Mark McCurdy, BSPha’88, the pharmacist and a Creighton graduate, has built his pharmacy into what Galt describes as a health center where residents are provided with far more than prescription refills.

“Pharmacists are getting engaged directly in health management all along the health spectrum and working more closely with patients who are acutely ill,” Galt said. “That fits well with an increasing awareness across a spectrum of ages of how expensive health care is and an emphasis on preventive approaches.”

Over a period of seven months, Mark’s Pharmacy established a free hypertension program that has enrolled 36 people committed to ongoing monitoring of their blood pressure and a review of the effectiveness of their medications, with the results forwarded to physicians.

The program has been so successful, Galt said, that the pharmacy is now planning to add diabetes care.

Pharmacies in the Nebraska cities of Sutton, Geneva, Beatrice and Wymore joined the program this year, and presentations on the program have been made to pharmacy chains in Omaha, Galt said.

The study is sponsored by Nebraska’s Department of Health and Human Services.



Photos by Dave Weaver

Creighton professor Brian Kokensparger, PhD, at Prospect Hill Cemetery in North Omaha. Kokensparger is working on a project to digitize the 13,000 burial permits and create a searchable database of those buried at the cemetery.

Here Lies History

By Emily Rust

What happens to a cemetery when it closes? Who takes care of the people interred there? Who keeps their history alive?

Prospect Hill Cemetery, at the corner of 33rd and Parker streets in North Omaha, is one of the city's oldest cemeteries. It stopped selling plots in 1952, limiting burials there to families who already had purchased plots.

For a while, it was a bit forgotten. With most markers dating back to the 19th century, living relatives were not always aware of family members interred there. Walk onto the cemetery grounds, and you will find names familiar to those who know Omaha's history or, at least, its roads — Andrew Hanscom (pioneer lawyer, politician, real estate broker), George Lake (one of the first justices of the Nebraska Supreme Court) and Andrew Poppleton (founder of the first law firm in the Nebraska Territory, second mayor of Omaha). All three are buried at Prospect Hill, and all three have Omaha streets named after them.

“It’s a forgotten historic park, but very important in the history of Omaha,” says Barb Naughtin, a member of the Prospect Hill Cemetery Board.

About 10 years ago, Brian Kokensparger, PhD, an assistant professor in the Department of Journalism, Media and Computing (JMC), came to Prospect Hill in search of a quiet place to write. When he returned home, he searched for cemetery markers online, but could not find many for Prospect Hill.

Upon further research, he learned that Prospect Hill board members had electronically scanned all 13,000 burial permits — backing up original paper files dating back to 1855 — but those files were stored on a computer hard drive, limiting accessibility.

He then had an idea. Why not digitize and display the 13,000 Prospect Hill burial permits and create a searchable database of those interred there?

He has recruited students and alumni to help with the project. They are currently reviewing the scanned burial permits, taking information written in pristine 19th century cursive and “translating” it onto a 21st century digital form. So far, more than 3,000 permits have been entered into the database.

“We’re trying to capture all that data,” Kokensparger says, making it “not just available for people doing genealogical research, but also for people who want to do historical research using the data that comes out of these burial permits.”

Vivian Amu, BA’02, has entered in more than 2,000 permits herself. She wanted to practice the database skills she had learned in Kokensparger’s computer science class. But she quickly discovered that the permits were more than just a collection of data points.

“I could almost envision people living,” says Amu. “I preserve their stories.”

In the data, Kokensparger and his team are discovering, or rediscovering, more about the history of Omaha.

At Prospect Hill lies Omaha’s famous, such as Byron Reed (1829-1891), pioneer, politician and founder of the first real estate company in the Nebraska Territory; its infamous, such as madam Anna Wilson (1835-1911), who was buried under six feet of granite so no one would attempt to move her body; and its tragic headliners of the day, such as four young boys killed in an explosion in 1884, who are memorialized by pillars of different

heights representing their ages.

More often, the stories behind the headstones are a bit more mundane, but nevertheless offer a fascinating glimpse of 19th-century life in Omaha.

“I think there’s plenty of opportunity for spiritual reflection on our own mortality, and on what life was like,” says Kokensparger.

The hardest part for him: permits of infant burials, which were all too common in the 1800s.

“I end up having a real feeling of sympathy for the people who are buried there, especially

children,” says Kokensparger.

From this data, historians and genealogists alike can draw inferences of a past culture and people; families can learn more about long-lost relatives; and the public can come to better know Omaha’s pioneers.

Once all the data is entered, Kokensparger envisions a digital guide to the cemetery, wherein visitors, standing in front of a headstone, could use their phones to pull up a burial permit, old newspaper articles and other information about the person buried there.

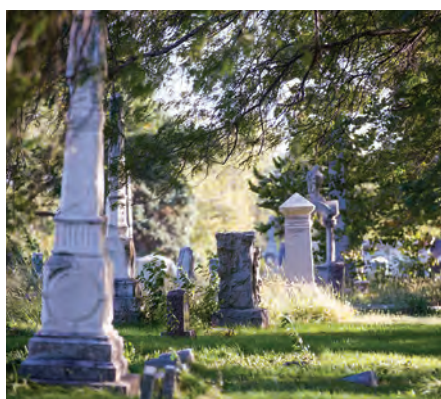


Photo top: Kokensparger and Vivian Amu, BA’02, look through historical cemetery records at Prospect Hill. Bottom left: Some of the unique headstones at Prospect Hill Cemetery. Bottom right: A folio box containing a handful of the 13,000 handwritten burial permits at Prospect Hill.

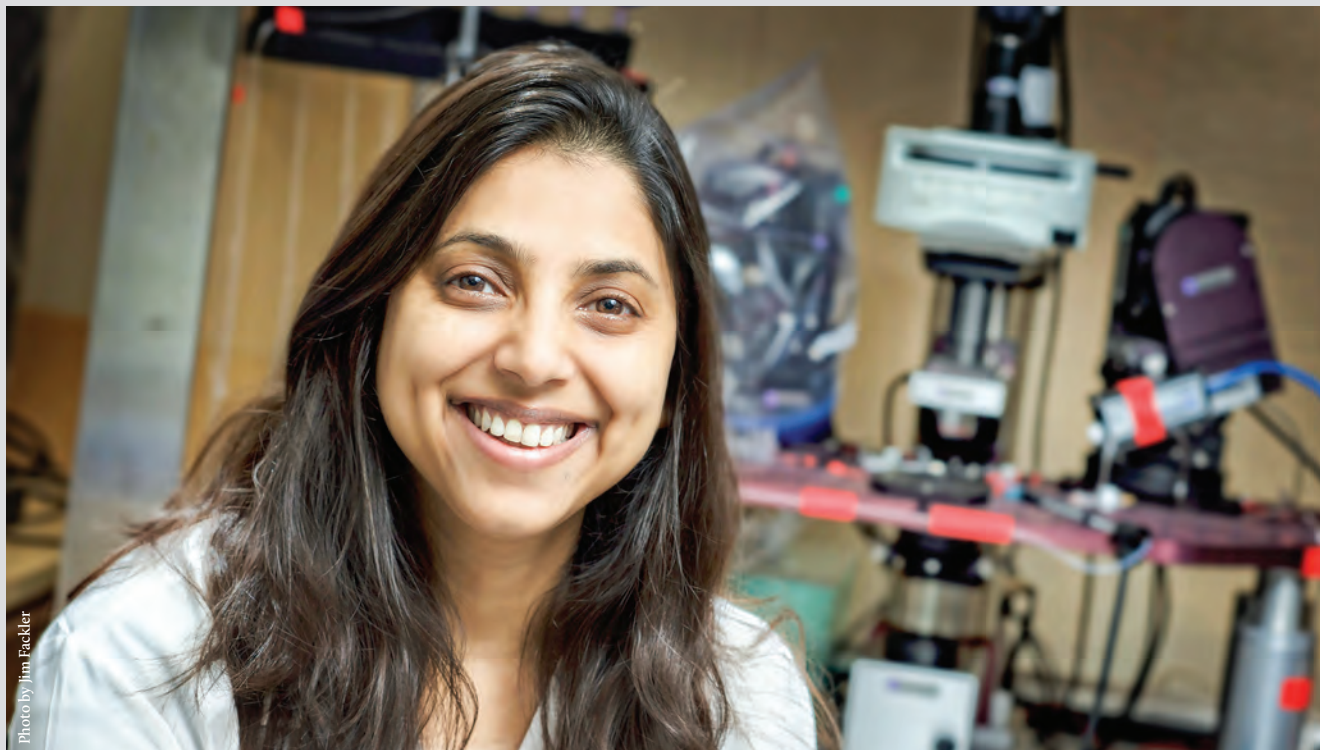


Photo by Jim Fackler

Roopali Yadav, PhD'12, in her lab at Creighton. Yadav is a post-doctoral fellow conducting research on sleep deprivation and its effects on the frequency of epileptic seizures.

A Supportive Family By Emily Rust

PhD graduate from India finds home at Creighton during difficult time

Roopali Yadav was studying to become a veterinarian in her home country of India when a roadway accident left her bedridden for six months.

Reflecting on her life and career path, she decided she would come to the United States and pursue a doctorate. Her father, an advocate for higher education, supported her decision.

“He was so proud of the fact that I was coming to the United States, I was coming to Creighton to do a PhD and something good in research,” says Yadav, who, as a veterinary resident, had been on track to open her own clinic.

“He was unconventional. He let me pursue my dreams and think for myself.”

Around that same time, Yadav’s father had become gravely ill. His sickness greatly effected Yadav, who reexamined her professional aspirations.

“The only thing you want when you have a sick family member is a cure,” Yadav says. “That’s something only research can give you.”

She was accepted to Creighton’s doctoral program in pharmacology, a subject she studied in veterinary school, with the aim of becoming a medical researcher so that she could help people like her dad. Her father died just months before she left.

After earning her PhD in pharmacology, Yadav worked in Florida for a while before returning to Creighton as a post-doctoral fellow.

But another scare almost sent her home. One morning in her apartment, she thought she heard something fall from the ceiling. When police arrived, she learned there had been a shooting in her building, and she had missed the bullet by only a foot.

She wanted to go home to India. But a fellow researcher at Creighton convinced her to stay, and offered her a place until Yadav found a new apartment.

“I probably would have gone back home if she had not been so supportive of me,” Yadav says.

Yadav is grateful for her Creighton education.

“Creighton gave me a beautiful experience, and I grew as a person,” Yadav says. “My thinking about a lot of things opened up. I met some of the best people in my life at Creighton.”

She tells the story of a Creighton employee who comforted her when, overwhelmed by an upcoming test and still grieving over the loss of her father, she began to cry.

“She wiped my tears,” Yadav says. “After that, we became family.”

She says her Creighton experience helped her get through a difficult time in her life.

“It was a very good environment,” Yadav says. “Even in my grieving, I could do well and people were supportive. It was my family.”

As a post-doctoral fellow studying epilepsy in Creighton’s pharmacology department, Yadav hopes to give back to society through her research — honoring a University and a father who supported her along the way.

Student Finds Adventure, Insights in Trip to India

Evan Corkrean was looking for adventure when he traveled to India for a month this summer. He found it.

The sophomore marketing and finance major from Des Moines, Iowa, spent half of May and June exploring India and learning more about himself and the world in the process.

“It was an exploration,” Corkrean says, back in Omaha and attending classes. “I wanted to get to know the world better, and I wanted to challenge myself a little bit. It was a very amazing experience.”

The trip to New Delhi alone took more than 24 hours, with a bus from Des Moines to Chicago, a flight to Toronto and finally the flight into New Delhi. He remembers arriving feeling “completely overwhelmed.” A Dutchman helped him find a cab, and they shared a ride to the hostel where Corkrean was staying.

The next morning and in the days to come, he explored with no particular itinerary — just opening himself up to meeting people and letting life unfold.

That first morning, he had breakfast with a German couple and later joined a group for dinner that included the son of an



A view of the Dhauladhar mountains from atop Triund Hill.



Evan Corkrean had an opportunity to ride a camel in the Thar Desert and sleep on the sand under a blanket of stars. “I’ve never really seen stars like that,” he says.

Indian military general, with bodyguards in tow.

“The people I met were the real highlight of the trip,” he says.

In the beautiful Himalayan city of Dharamsala, Corkrean says that he and five or six other tourists “staked out” the Dalai Lama’s home, hoping to catch a glimpse of the renowned spiritual leader. Corkrean didn’t see the Dalai Lama, but he did see a guy wearing a shirt with a Hy-Vee grocery store logo on it. He introduced himself.

“Turns out the guy was from Des Moines. He’s going to school at Drake University, and he worked at Hy-Vee,” Corkrean says. “We even had a mutual friend on Facebook.”

Corkrean joined his fellow Des Moines native and another tourist from Ontario on a hike to a local waterfall and then on to the popular Triund Hill — supposedly just another mile away. “Four hours later, we come across these three drunk shepherds,” Corkrean says. “There is no trail, but they tell us to follow the shining rocks.”

They continued on — dubiously following the shining rocks as instructed — and crested a ridge at about 10,000 feet. “They were dead on,” he says. “It just hits you; it was amazing.” In front of them was

a breathtaking view of the Dhauladhar mountains. (Apparently, the trio had taken a back route, missing the well-worn trail with vendors and food along the way. “Our way was a lot more adventurous,” he says with a laugh.)

Those awe-inspiring moments also were juxtaposed with experiences of helplessness and sadness, seeing areas of abject poverty, with children on the streets begging for money. “That will stay with me, too,” Corkrean says.

Back at Creighton, Corkrean had an opportunity to discuss his experience with another world traveler — Creighton President the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ. Fr. Hendrickson had learned of Corkrean’s trip after meeting his mom and great-aunt at a Creighton event in Des Moines over the summer.

Corkrean says the trip was a perfect complement to his Creighton education.

“It puts a face on what you are learning,” he says. “It helps you get outside your norm. You learn that people are people.

“I feel more connected to the world. I am more confident. I feel I can conquer a little bit more, take on more risks.”

Let the adventure continue.



From left, Maria Watson, BA'16; Ryan Lloyd, current Creighton journalism student; and Nico Sandi, BA'15, interview Sr. Alicia Guevara Perez, who is a migrant aid coordinator at the Kino Border Initiative's *comedor* (soup kitchen) in Nogales, Mexico.

Backpack Journalism Documentary Premieres

A town named Nogales can be found on both sides of the U.S. and Mexican borders. Separated by a 20-foot wall, the two cities share similar cultural aspects, but the journey from Nogales, Mexico, to Nogales, Ariz., can be fatal for migrants who attempt to cross.

Yet, with the promise of reuniting with family and opportunity on the other side, migrants cross from Mexico each day. Though they may be deported, places like the Kino Border Initiative (KBI) are there to provide humanitarian assistance and advocate for the rights of the migrants.

"You're going to do whatever it takes, even if it means losing your life, to be reunited with your family," said KBI volunteer Daniela Vargas.

This summer, Creighton University students documented daily life on the U.S.-Mexico border, the people who live there, the migrants passing through and the work of KBI volunteers. Through the Backpack Journalism program, 12 students interviewed migrants, activists and volunteers, creating the mini-documentary, *El Deportado*, which premiered at Creighton in October.

Backpack Journalism is a collaborative, immersive, five-week program, during which students produce a mini-documentary telling a story of marginalized people. Since 2010, Backpack Journalism has produced five documentaries. Each documentary focuses on incorporating elements of theology within greater societal issues, highlighting the Catholic Church's mission to help those who live at the margins of society.

Backpack Journalism received funding as part of the Creighton Global Initiative (CGI) — an effort by Creighton President the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, to enrich and embrace the University's global focus. More than 30 campus proposals were awarded nearly \$1.5 million in CGI funding in April.

Survey Finds Creighton Living its Mission

A commitment to serving others — especially the poor and marginalized — is ingrained in the mission and student experience at Creighton University, a 2015 survey by Creighton and Gallup confirmed.

It's also evidenced in the personal stories shared by current students.

Margaret "MJ" Jow, a senior from Fort Worth, Texas, for instance, says the University's popular fall and spring break Service and Justice Trips, through the Schlegel Center for Service and Justice, "set Creighton apart from any other school in the nation."

"I have friends at different schools all across the country and when I told them what I did, they said, 'I wish I could do something like that,'" says Jow, who this fall traveled to Montgomery, Ala., on a trip designed to immerse students in the struggle for civil rights in America.

Jow says an invitation and call to serve the less fortunate — to get to know their stories and act for social justice — is steeped in the fabric and tradition of Creighton University.

"That's a feeling you get at Creighton from the moment you step on campus," she says. "And we think of it as a privilege to serve. We are so blessed to be able to do this and reflect on our faith."

That feeling appears to be shared by many of her fellow students.

The Creighton-Gallup survey found that nine out of 10 Creighton undergraduate, graduate and professional students feel it is "their responsibility to use what they learn at Creighton to help others who are less fortunate."

Other findings from the survey — a follow up to a comprehensive 2014 study of Creighton alumni — were equally striking and favorable in regard to the lasting effects of a Creighton education.

The 2015 Creighton-Gallup study included responses from 659 undergraduate alumni, with degrees attained between 2011 and 2015, and 630 graduate and professional alumni, with degrees attained between 2006 and 2015. It also included a student survey that included questions on Jesuit values, such as service to others.

Both the 2014 and 2015 surveys found that Creighton alumni were twice as likely to be thriving in five key elements of well-being — physical, financial, community, social and purpose — as compared to graduates nationally.

Creighton alumni also report positive relationships with their professors. In fact, twice as many Creighton graduates "strongly agree" that their professors cared about them as individuals as compared to Ivy League alumni.

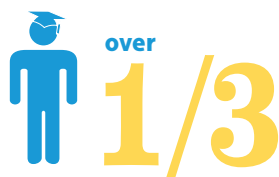
Additional Creighton-Gallup surveys are ongoing.

The Creighton-Gallup survey found that nine out of 10 Creighton undergraduate, graduate and professional students feel it is "their responsibility to use what they learn at Creighton to help others who are less fortunate."

Our undergraduate alumni:



are **engaged at work** compared to only 38% nationally



had a **good job waiting for them when they graduated** compared to 24% nationally



strongly agree their professors care about them as a person compared to 37% nationally

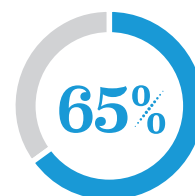
Our graduate and professional alumni:



had a **job waiting for them** when they graduated



are **thriving in five key elements** of well-being as compared to alumni of other institutions



are **thriving in purpose** well-being compared to 50% nationally

About 8 out of 10 Creighton students strongly agree/agree:

That the Jesuit, Catholic faith tradition and practices of Creighton are central to its mission and purpose



Mission Centered

That Creighton professors encourage students to reflect on how content can be applied in the real world



Real-World Applications

That at Creighton students are encouraged to dialogue with and listen to each other



Encouraged to Dialogue

The Backup Plan By Ann Freestone, BA'89

Alumnus leading the charge to address declining numbers of EMS volunteers in rural areas

It doesn't always happen that a backup plan becomes a full-fledged career.

That's exactly what happened to **Eric Ernest, BSEMS'06, MD'10**, the only fellowship-trained, board-certified emergency medical services (EMS) physician in Nebraska.

He's also the assistant medical director for Creighton EMS Education and assistant professor at the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC). Adding to his credentials, he recently became the Nebraska State EMS medical director.

degree in EMS in 2006, prior to his medical degree.

Ernest remembers the first patient he encountered when he shadowed at the Omaha Fire Department.

"It was a heart attack call and the patient was very, very sick. It grabbed me and led from there," he says.

Because of his training as a paramedic, Ernest had a strong interest in emergency medicine, so he did an emergency medicine residency at UNMC and followed it up with a fellowship in EMS at Regions Hospital in St. Paul, Minn. He then landed a faculty position at UNMC.



In one of his many roles, Eric Ernest, BSEMS'06, MD'10, serves as the medical director for the Elmwood Fire Department in Elmwood, Neb.

In 2002, Ernest entered Creighton as a pre-med student from Denver.

"I started undergrad at Creighton with the intention of being a biology major," says Ernest.

His advisor asked a tough question — "What are you going to do if this doesn't work out?" — and he didn't know the answer. That's when he looked into a backup plan, the emergency medicine services program, and earned a bachelor's

In addition to his other roles, Ernest serves as the medical director for the Bellevue Fire Department, Sarpy County Dispatch, Cass County Emergency Management Agency, Weeping Water Fire Department, Elmwood Fire Department, Nehawka Fire Department and Greenwood Fire Department. He is also the assistant medical director for the Omaha Fire Department.

Since January 2016, Ernest has also served as the Nebraska State EMS medical director,

where he is leading collaborative efforts to deal with declining EMS coverage in rural areas.

Ernest says rural communities rely heavily on a volunteer-staffed EMS system because it saves those communities and the state of Nebraska millions of dollars per year.

There are many reasons for the decline in volunteers: the aging population; people moving to urban areas and/or living in rural areas but commuting to urban areas; and increased training requirements.

"The requirements have increased with the advancement of medicine and technology and what we are able to do in the field before the patient gets to the hospital," he says. "The training has increased and rightfully so."

"Several different agencies and groups are trying to combat the problem," says Ernest. "There's no easy solution to it."

Struggling communities are looking for new and innovative models to consider. For example, Cass County, Neb., staffs a full-time paramedic and emergency medical technician (EMT) who use a pick-up truck to provide what Ernest calls "safety-net care" until the ambulance with the volunteers can get to the patient. The pick-up truck has all the same equipment and medications as an ambulance. This hybrid model includes paid staff and volunteers to address the declining volunteer base.

Other communities are reaching out to high school students who could take an EMS class at age 19.

"A long-term project is looking at how we can keep patients out of the hospital," says Ernest.

He said he's working on getting a model of care through the Nebraska legislature that would allow paramedics to act as "community paramedics," similar to visiting nurses, who could conduct health checks and act as a liaison between patients and their doctors or hospitals.

"We are also looking at alternative dispatch models that can be used to triage the call at the dispatch center and send more select resources to a call, especially for lower acuity calls," he says.

'Creighton Always Supported Me'

Nursing is not an easy profession, according to **Barbara Braden, PhD, SJN'66, BSN'73**, but it is one of the most fulfilling.

"You are present with patients in some of their happiest moments and some of their saddest or most challenging moments," she says. "I always felt like nursing was a vocation that offered me the privilege of being with patients in those times."

Because of the professional demands placed upon nurses, Braden believes nursing education is at its best when coupled with a strong background in biological sciences and liberal arts.

"The kind of nursing education that Creighton provides produces strong nurses who understand what is going on with a patient physiologically, cognitively and emotionally," she says. "They have the background to understand the health care system — the ethical issues involved in health care — and place it in a social and

historical context. This sort of education nurtures them personally and professionally."

Braden graduated from Creighton with her BSN in 1973 and then returned in 1975 to teach in the College of Nursing.

She retired from Creighton in 2011, after 37 years as a faculty member and administrator.



Braden

She was at the forefront of her profession in 1983 as the inventor of the Braden Scale, a method for identifying patients at risk for pressure ulcers, or bedsores. The Braden Scale is used in hospitals, nursing homes, home care and hospice care worldwide; is available in more than 20 languages; and is published in nursing textbooks in many languages as well. Her research and innovation have brought her global recognition and honors.

Braden was a trailblazer in many respects: She was named dean of the Graduate School (1995-2006) and the College of Professional Studies (formerly University College) (2002-2011), becoming the first woman to be

named dean of a school other than nursing at Creighton. She also was named interim academic vice president in 2002, and, as such, was the first woman to hold such a high position at Creighton.

Braden believes so strongly in the power of a Creighton education that she is an avid supporter of scholarship aid. "I want to make sure that students who don't have the means on their own can still go to Creighton," she says.

She established the Lois Turner and Odessie Taylor Endowed Scholarship in honor of two African-American women who were pioneers in the field of nursing, with a preference for the scholarship to support minority nursing students.

And, most recently, she structured her estate plans to make provision for giving to the Turner Taylor Scholarship as well as to the Dr. Sheila Donahue Ciciulla Scholarship, which honors former Creighton nursing educator the late Dean Ciciulla.

"Giving from your estate is an opportunity to give a larger gift," she explains. "My life was at Creighton and I always felt supported there. By providing for student scholarships in my estate planning, I am able to leave a memorial that benefits students."

Heritage Society: A Gift of Faith and Foresight

Creighton University would not exist today but for the far-reaching vision, faith, planning and generosity of the founding Creighton family. Ever since Mary Lucretia Creighton fulfilled her husband Edward's dream through her will, charitable bequests and other planned gifts continue to advance the University to preeminence.

Share in the vision of our founders by becoming a member of the Creighton University Heritage Society. By joining the Heritage Society, you make a commitment to future generations of students.

With many options available, you can meet your personal and philanthropic goals while leaving your legacy for Creighton's future.

• Please contact the Office of Gift and Estate Planning to learn more about the Heritage Society.

402.280.1143 | 800.334.8794

giftplanning.creighton.edu

giftplanning@creighton.edu





Photos by Jim Berscheidt

Providing Care in the DR

Creighton medical, nursing, dental, pharmacy and undergraduate students spent four weeks in the Dominican Republic this summer bringing care to the poor, sick and suffering through Creighton's Institute for Latin American Concern (ILAC). Joined by practicing health professionals, the students worked in small clinics in the mornings and then spent the afternoons meeting with families in the rural *campos* or giving "charlas" (educational talks) on preventive health care. The ILAC Summer Program will celebrate its 40th anniversary in 2017.



Top: John Kersenbrock, a fourth-year dental student, and Jacqueline Spence, a senior nursing student, provide dental care at the Ceiba de Villa dental clinic in the Dominican Republic.

Above: The Ceiba de Villa dental clinic, located in a rural *campo*, is actually a Catholic church. The church allowed ILAC to use the partially constructed building as a dental clinic this summer.



Left: Arts and Sciences seniors Anissa Zimmerman, left, and Lauren Richards talk to local Dominicans about preventive health care measures at the Carrizal clinic.



Middle, left: Arts and Sciences junior Swathi Somisetty updates a sheet taped to the wall showing patient visits at the Ceiba de Villa clinic.



Middle, right: Nursing senior Kirsten VanHare intakes a patient at the Ceiba de Villa clinic.



Above: Kelsey Kaku, left, a fourth-year pharmacy student, works with Creighton alumna Aleah Rodriguez, PharmD'15, in the pharmacy area at the Ceiba de Villa clinic.



Right: Second-year medical student Greg Wittenburg examines a patient at the Ceiba de Villa clinic. Wittenburg served as student coordinator for the Ceiba de Villa clinic.

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a stethoscope. The chest piece of the stethoscope is in the foreground, and the text is printed on its white surface. The background is a blurred white, likely a lab coat.

A New Era in Health Care

By Cindy Murphy
McMahon, BA'74

Anna Worley, BS'10, MD'14, knew she wanted to be a physician from an early age.

“I always knew I wanted to lead a life of service to others,” says the two-time Creighton graduate. “In my mind, when I think of being a physician, the image of Christ washing the feet of his disciples always comes to mind. To me, medicine, in its purest form, is about humility and service to those in need.”

Now, her goal is in sight, as the 29-year-old nears the end of her professional training as a third-year Creighton family medicine resident. Medical school and residency have only furthered her resolve and deepened her commitment, but the nitty-gritty reality of health care delivery is the realm she lives in now. At the clinic where she primarily practices, she treats refugees from other countries, some of whom have faced unspeakable hardship.

“I was initially intimidated as to how I would relate and connect with patients whose life experiences so vastly differed from my own,” she says.

“But the amazing thing is that I have realized the things that make us different are so minor compared to the things that make us the same.”

One particular Nepali refugee woman is forever imprinted in her mind.

“I can remember being on labor and delivery, gowned and gloved, working with my patient who was soon to

deliver. As I sat at the foot of her bed, seven months pregnant myself, I can distinctly recall this incredible feeling of connectedness, my own baby boy kicking as I guided her perfect baby boy into the world.”

During the time Worley first left her rural Nebraska home in 2006 as a pre-med student majoring in biology, earned two degrees, married and became a mother, the U.S. health care environment has been undergoing unprecedented changes. As her career progresses, it will look vastly different from when she first envisioned donning a white coat and stethoscope.

For starters, care is expected to focus more on health than sickness. People will be more likely to have conversations with physicians and nurses about how to stay well than to have office visits for illness.

“Interprofessional” teams of nurses, pharmacists, physicians, social workers, therapists and other providers will collaborate on care, sparing patients multiple appointments with various

caregivers and improving communication while driving down cost.

Hospitals will be fewer and smaller, and used less often.

This health care world, which is right around the corner, represents a transformation to expand access, better control costs and improve the quality of care. And it is the world for which Creighton health professions students and residents are being prepared.

This is not the first time Creighton has been at the front lines of change in health care.

The year was 1977. Creighton University was embarking upon an exciting new chapter in health sciences education with the opening of St. Joseph Hospital on the western edge of campus. Medical, nursing and other health sciences students and residents would be exposed to the latest developments, such as a short-stay surgery center, Nebraska's first LifeFlight helicopter service and a pod-concept that placed all patient rooms within 20 feet of a nursing station.

Now, nearly four decades later, as Creighton prepares to move from its primary teaching hospital on North 30th Street in 2017, the University is trailblazing once again.

Through a wide range of offerings in the health sciences — medicine, nursing, dentistry, pharmacy, occupational and physical therapy and emergency



“

Cura personalis (care for the whole person), a phrase alumni know so well, is at the heart of our training, and with that perspective, we cannot go wrong — no matter how medicine changes.

Anna Worley, BS'10, MD'14
Creighton Medical Resident

medical services — Creighton students are studying, researching and practicing clinical care, collaboratively and interprofessionally.

“Creighton is pioneering the future of health care in the United States,” says the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, Creighton’s president. “Even the architecture of our evolving classrooms, laboratories and clinics brings these powerful professions into collaborative exchange.”

The University and its primary clinical partner, CHI Health, are poised to implement new approaches — indeed a new paradigm — in an academic health system that educates health care professionals who are ready to meet the evolving needs and challenges of the health care landscape.

Next year, CHI Health and Creighton University will open the doors to a new academic health center with two campuses. Closest to Creighton, at 24th and Cuming streets, will be the University Campus of CHI Health

Creighton University Medical Center, an outpatient community health and diagnostic center with the area’s only freestanding emergency department. A few miles away, in south-central Omaha, will be the Bergan Mercy Campus, including a multistory clinic, Level 1 trauma center, inpatient facility, offices, classrooms and more.

“We are creating something that will evolve beyond what we can imagine today,” says Robert “Bo” Dunlay, MD’81, dean of Creighton’s 124-year-old School of Medicine. “We are now poised to carry our mission into the future much more effectively than we would have been able to before our partnership with CHI Health.”

To understand the significance of the University’s partnership and plans with CHI Health, the largest health system in the region, it is helpful to understand the steps that led to the affiliation and briefly explore the

roots of the two Catholic organizations.

In 2012, Creighton strengthened its affiliation with regional Catholic health system Alegent Health, which had long been one of the University’s partners in providing clinical sites for Creighton health professions students. The affiliation agreement, which resulted in a combined organization named Alegent Creighton Health, included the transfer of School of Medicine physician faculty employment from the University to Alegent’s physician group.

Almost simultaneously, Alegent Creighton Health joined with what was then CHI Nebraska to form what is now known as CHI Health. Creighton was relieved of all financial exposure for clinical activities and gained vastly increased opportunities for student and resident training at the health system’s 15 hospitals, two behavioral health centers and 140 clinics in Nebraska and southwest Iowa.

“The boards of both organizations saw



Former Creighton internal medicine resident Colin Brown, MD, interacts with a “patient” in a simulated learning exercise while fellow residents, from left, Melanie Miller, MS’09, MD’14; Gene Pershwitz, MD; and Akua Fordjour, MD, observe.

that to realize their full potential, it was better to come together,” Dunlay says.

CHI Health is itself a regional unit of Catholic Health Initiatives, or CHI, the nation’s third-largest nonprofit health system, operating 103 hospitals in 18 states. CHI was created in 1996 through the joining together of four Catholic health systems that sought to preserve and extend Catholic health care in the United States. Today, the system includes hospitals and other facilities originally sponsored by at least 17 Catholic religious communities, as well as a number of facilities that were not religiously affiliated. The vision of the founding congregations emphasized the continuation of Jesus’ healing mission, with a special concern for those most in need and an expectation that the new system would transform health care to create healthier communities.

In October of this year, the national CHI organization signed a nonbinding letter of intent with San Francisco-based Dignity Health to “explore aligning their organizations.” Dignity Health operates 39 hospitals in 22 states, including St. Joseph’s Hospital and Medical Center in Phoenix, which already has an academic affiliation with Creighton. Plans were recently announced to expand that partnership through a newly created and tentatively named Creighton University Arizona Health Education Alliance. (See sidebar on Page 28.)

“During a time of great disruption in health care such as our country is experiencing now, there are a few very large, very well-endowed universities that can afford to own their own health care systems, but we are not one of those,” Dunlay says. “So we need to partner with an institution that shares our values and creates a natural venue for health care education. We can’t afford the risk of owning our own health care system — it’s just not wise.”

Dunlay added, “Through this affiliation, our world is expanding. We have seen an increase in the number of places where our students can receive education as well as a greater variety in the type of faculty who are interacting with our students.”

“For us, it really is coming home to our

Center Earns Significant Grant

According to the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI), health systems should have a “triple aim” — better care for individuals, better health for populations and lower per capita costs.

This is the goal of Creighton University and CHI Health, and to that end, the College of Nursing and Creighton’s Center for Interprofessional Practice, Education and Research (CIPER) have earned a \$50,000 grant from the nation’s premier organization promoting interprofessional and community-based health initiatives.

The project, funded by the National Center for Interprofessional Practice and Education, supports developing a clinical and educational model of a nurse practitioner-led interprofessional team at the new CHI Health University Campus, which will open in mid-2017. To further enhance the project, both Creighton and CHI Health provided matching funds — \$25,000 each — bringing the total devoted to the project to \$100,000.

“At the end of the day, this is all about improving patient care, saving money and addressing quality of life,” says Joy Doll, OTD’03, executive director of CIPER.

“We can teach interprofessional education in the classroom, but we need a practice to reinforce it to students. University Campus will be our living, learning lab for interprofessional collaborative practice (IPCP).”

There are pockets of IPCP taking place now with Creighton students and faculty in medicine, nursing, pharmacy and occupational and physical therapy. “But this facility will fully embrace it and make it come alive. We hope to truly innovate care and connect resources,” Doll says.

An advisory council of national leaders in interprofessional practice and education selected the grant recipients and additional funding came from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the John A. Hartford Foundation, the Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation and the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation.

heritage by joining together with CHI Health,” says the Rev. James Clifton, SJ, associate dean for mission, who serves as secretary of the board of directors of CHI Health. CHI Health’s Catholic roots include major facilities founded by the Sisters of Mercy and the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration.

“From the founding of the School of Medicine, it was John Creighton’s wish that the Mercy and Franciscan charisms, which shaped the original Creighton Memorial St. Joseph Hospital, would intermingle with Creighton’s Jesuit heritage to produce a special kind of health care professional,” Fr. Clifton says. “The Sisters of Mercy and the Franciscan Sisters were two of the four founding congregations of CHI, and those charisms are vibrant within our local partner, CHI Health.”

There’s total agreement from Cliff Robertson, MD, CEO of Omaha-based CHI Health, as to the like-minded

missions of the two organizations in the new academic health system.

“As a Catholic organization, our mission is incredibly well-aligned with Creighton’s,” Robertson says. “Our real purpose is to serve those who are in need and particularly those who are in the most need.”

Robertson says that as a member of the national CHI organization, CHI Health is committed to delivering excellent care, regardless of whether a patient has “great insurance” and is able to pay for care.

“That’s a unique and distinctive position in our faith-based mission that ties back to our founders and aligns perfectly with Creighton’s mission to serve those in need.”

CHI Health provided about \$140 million in charity care in 2015, the most recent figure available. “In addition to its outright charity care, CHI Health assists those who are working — but who cannot afford surgery or a

Cutting-edge Education and Care at University Campus

The 80,000-square-foot outpatient facility, the University Campus of CHI Health Creighton University Medical Center, will provide primary, specialty and 24-hour emergency care, as well as pharmacy, rehabilitation and diagnostic imaging. The facility, which is being constructed with special emphasis on contracts with small businesses, offers vital services to the community, especially residents of North Omaha.

Primary care

- » Family medicine
- » Internal medicine
- » Pediatrics
- » Interprofessional teams to manage all aspects of care including:
 - Physician visits
 - Pharmacy
 - PT/OT
 - Behavioral health



Specialty care

- » Cardiology
- » Dermatology
- » Endocrinology
- » General surgery
- » Nephrology
- » Neurology
- » OB/GYN
- » Rheumatology
- » Urology



Emergency care

- » Board-certified emergency physicians
- » All levels of emergency care



Education

- » Creighton Family Medicine Residency Program
- » OB/GYN Residency Clinic
- » Interprofessional teams of Creighton programs in:
 - Medicine
 - Nursing



Cliff Robertson, MD, CEO of Omaha-based CHI Health, left, and the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, Creighton president, tour the construction site of the University Campus of CHI Health Creighton University Medical Center at 24th and Cuming streets.

hospital stay — through a very robust financial assistance program,” Fr. Clifton says. “We know we can’t do everything on our own, so we partner with other agencies to try to help in every way we can.

“And, going forward, the University Campus will be the largest and most comprehensive CHI Health clinic in the metro area and the only clinic in the region with 24-hour emergency services. We chose to include a full ER in this facility in order to maintain very high-level service to the neighborhood that has trusted us to care for them for many, many years. This is a significant commitment to care for the underserved.”

Have there been bumps in the road in the integration of the two organizations? Sure.

Some of the major issues have been related to the structure of the faculty practice plan, ways to integrate the academic mission into CHI Health

and the transition to the two-campus academic health center.

“When you merge two organizations as we are doing, everything doesn’t mesh perfectly right away,” Dean Dunlay says. “Both organizations have to be willing to compromise on some things in order to create a culture that enables us to fulfill our mission more effectively for the greater good of those we serve.”

Organizational cultures also come into play as more than 500 medical students, residents and fellows and more than 1,000 nursing, OT, PT, pharmacy and EMS students will be trained annually within CHI Health facilities.

“CHI Health is one of the top performers in the CHI national system, in regard to quality, patient safety and finances. We’re integrating a renowned academic institution into a highly performing community tertiary health system,” Robertson says. “We will be successful when we can say we’ve been able to take the best of the academic and the best of the community and put those

together into a new model.”

“With different cultures, priorities are sometimes different,” Fr. Clifton says. “So, now our shared priority is the best possible care for the patient and the best possible learning opportunity for students. It’s a big challenge for both organizations and calls both of us to new ways of doing things.”

Integration issues are far outweighed by the enthusiasm leaders from both organizations share about the possibilities the partnership offers.

Fr. Clifton says he views the present moment on a 10-year time frame. “We’re just starting our fifth year and already we’re about to move into a robust and unique academic health center setting with two campuses. We have the opportunity to pilot, for the national CHI system, a new approach to ambulatory, or outpatient, care that’s much more interprofessionally based, assisted by research, aimed at creating the best outcomes for patients. We have the opportunity to bring the advantages of academic medicine to the wider system, while creating incredible opportunity for our learners.”

In referring to the new outpatient University Campus, Dunlay says the facility will be “a laboratory where interprofessional groups work together to discover the ideal makeup of health care providers, patients and community involvement to prevent disease. It’s a different goal, a different paradigm than we’ve had in the past.”

In the interprofessional model, a nurse care coordinator, physician, pharmacist, social worker and appropriate therapists and specialists all meet with a patient, sometimes at the same time, and then together decide what the patient needs to achieve optimum health and remain healthy.

This is a big change in academic health sciences education, as are the plans for the Bergan Mercy Campus.

“Our inpatient education needs to be focused on high-intensity experiences that are of relatively short duration for patients, since an ever-increasing amount of health care will be moving to outpatient clinics,” Dunlay says. “Our goal is to have campuses that are technologically advanced and

innovative, and programs that are cutting edge in quality and cost-control.”

Michael White, BS’96, MD’01, chief academic officer, is tasked with making sure there are opportunities for all of Creighton’s health sciences students, residents and fellows at the CHI Health facilities. Creighton health sciences schools include the School of Dentistry, School of Medicine, College of Nursing and the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions.

“We need to have access to carry out our mission to educate health care professionals from all of our schools and colleges, as well as to have opportunities to offer patients participation in clinical research,” he says.

White, who also is a practicing interventional cardiologist, says he is especially excited about the cutting-edge opportunities the University Campus offers learners.

“The unique piece to this is that we can develop a relationship between an emergency department and a team-based clinic so that we can get our patients into the right care environment as they come into the facility. If it’s a true emergency, we can help them, but if their problem can be better handled in another way, we have the providers to help them, right there, right then.”

The care provided at the two campuses “is not going to be practiced the traditional way health care has been practiced at CUMC or other CHI Health facilities,” White says. “We are going to



“

We are creating something that will evolve beyond what we can imagine today. We are now poised to carry our mission into the future much more effectively than we would have been able to before our partnership with CHI Health.

Robert “Bo” Dunlay, MD’81
Dean, School of Medicine



An architectural rendering of the University Campus of CHI Health Creighton University Medical Center at 24th and Cuming streets. Construction will be complete in 2017.

Multiple Affiliations Enhance Health Education

Creighton health sciences schools have dozens of formal and informal affiliations with clinical education partners locally and regionally, in addition to the primary partnership with CHI Health. Among those are the VA Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System and Children’s Hospital and Medical Center in Omaha; Mary Lanning Healthcare in Hastings, Neb.; and Dignity Health St. Joseph’s Hospital and Medical Center in Phoenix.

Two of those partnerships recently made announcements that could provide even more educational opportunities for Creighton health sciences students.

With Arizona facing a significant shortage of physicians, Creighton, Dignity Health St. Joseph’s Hospital and Medical Center, Maricopa Integrated Health System (MIHS) and District Medical Group, Inc., have entered into an agreement aimed at increasing the number of health professionals in Arizona.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed in late October has established this partnership in order to improve and expand current health education programs in Arizona. It also aims to develop new academic and clinical education programs in medicine, nursing, pharmacy and allied health through a collaborative organization tentatively called the Creighton University Arizona Health Education Alliance.

Formal agreements are pending, but plans call for certain medical residency and fellowship programs to begin operating under the guidance of Creighton’s School of Medicine on July 1, 2017, following approval from the national accrediting organization. Currently, St. Joseph’s and MIHS have more than 400 residents who would eventually be part of the new program. In addition, Creighton and the alliance partners would begin an accelerated nursing program by January of 2018, pending state approval.

For more than a decade, Creighton has been an academic mainstay in Phoenix, sending medical students to St. Joseph’s for rotations. That relationship grew in 2009 when a Creighton campus was established



A Creighton campus was established in 2009 at Dignity Health St. Joseph’s Hospital and Medical Center in Phoenix (pictured above).

in Phoenix for third- and fourth-year medical students.

A second announcement concerns two of Creighton’s health care education partners, CHI and Dignity Health, who have signed a nonbinding letter of intent to explore aligning the organizations and expand their shared mission of service to more communities.

The boards and sponsors of the two health systems are evaluating this potential alignment in order to strengthen their leadership role in transforming health care through increased access and enhanced clinical excellence.

“I am very pleased with how the alignment could benefit current and future students by enhancing clinical opportunities for those enrolled in our health sciences programs,” says Creighton’s president, the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ. “The joining of the two organizations should also result in improved economies of scale and create a stronger, unified health care system.

“In addition, further expanding our presence in the west and southwest U.S. would provide additional outreach for our educational mission and increased recognition of Creighton’s national reputation in a rapidly growing region. The enhanced visibility could lead to an expansion of Creighton programs and aid in the recruitment of students.”

come together in a new care model that we create together.”

All of the CHI Health hospitals and clinics will ultimately benefit from the learning opportunities that take place at the two academic health campuses. “The energy and the enquiry that are generated and piloted at the two campuses will spread throughout the system,” White says.

Centers of excellence as well as clinical research also will be enhanced through the partnership. A research institute, jointly owned by Creighton and CHI Health, is planned that will support both organizations’ research efforts.

“We are serious about preparing for a new future based more around care that is delivered outside of the hospital,” CHI Health’s Robertson notes. “Will we still need hospitals? Will we still need ICUs? Yes, but hopefully a lot less than today

because we will be better and better at caring for people in other venues.”

Robertson says the academic elements Creighton brings to the partnership are key. “The academic aspect is incredibly important because we do need to prepare our next-generation clinicians for the world they’re going to be in, not for the world that I trained in 25 years ago.”

Dean Dunlay acknowledges that the closing of the former Creighton hospital next year will be difficult, producing a sense of loss for many who trained there or were cared for there, but he says the academic health system partnership has an exciting and brilliant future.

“We don’t think of ourselves the way a secular medical school would,” he says. “We admit students to our school who are called to the vocation of medicine, and our goal is to prepare them for a lifetime of spiritual, emotional and professional growth. We have the opportunity to form health care providers who will spend

their lives practicing and reflecting what they learn here in support of our Jesuit, Catholic mission. And this partnership greatly enhances our ability to do that.”

When family medicine resident Worley reflects on her professional journey so far, she notes that change has been ever-present.

“Medicine is changing rapidly. Even in the seven years since I entered the field, I have seen huge changes. Change is scary, but it’s also exciting as it brings opportunity to fix things that are broken so that we can become even better health care providers.

“I’m grateful to have done my training at Creighton because I believe it has made me a better person as well as a physician,” Worley says. “*Cura personalis* (care for the whole person), a phrase alumni know so well, is at the heart of our training, and with that perspective, we cannot go wrong — no matter how medicine changes.”

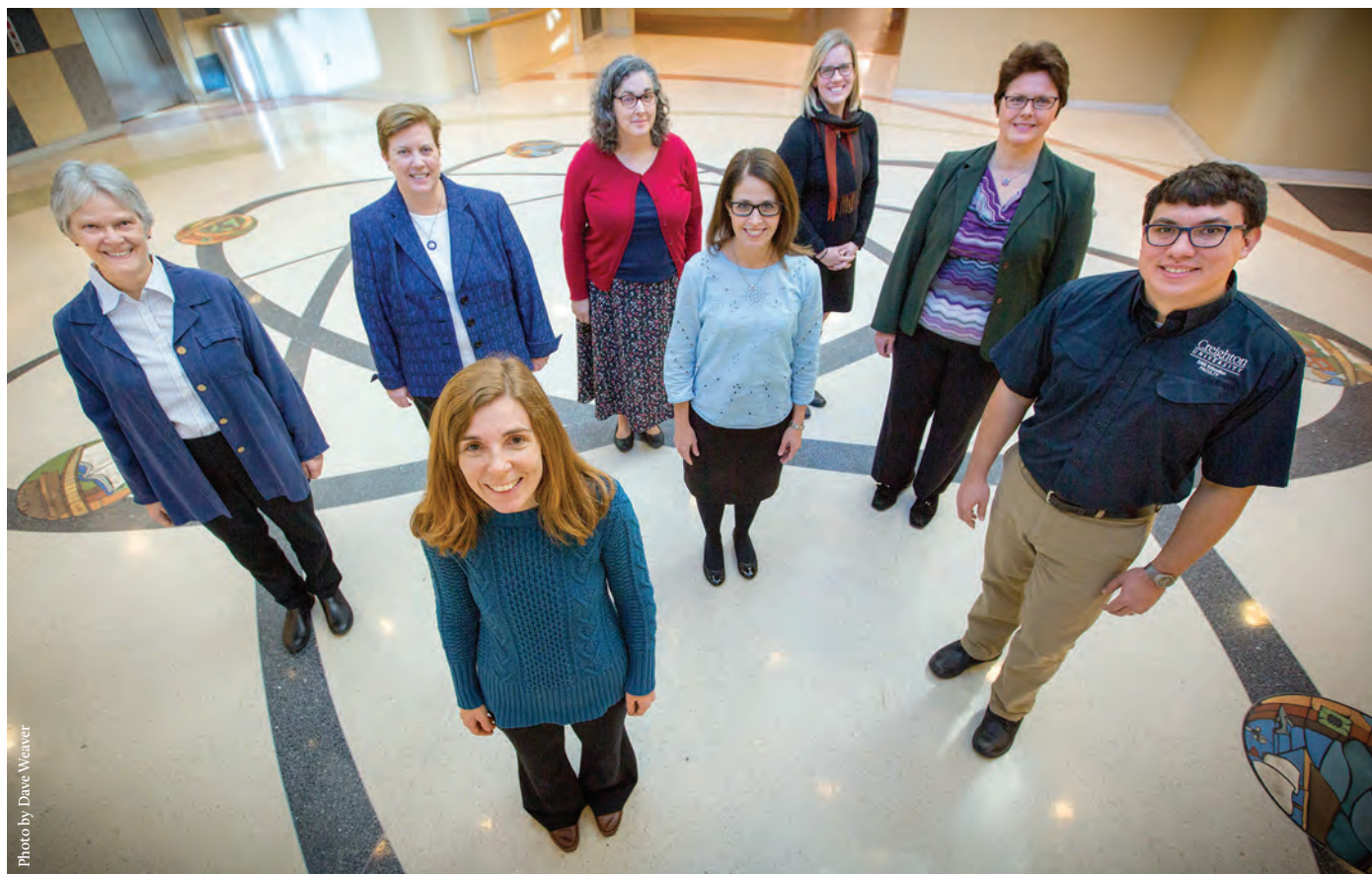


Photo by Dave Weaver

The Center for Interprofessional Practice, Education and Research (CIPER) is a hub for interprofessional education and collaborative practice. Joy Doll, OTD’03, executive director of CIPER, is surrounded by CIPER champions, including, from left, Gail Jensen, PhD, professor of physical therapy; Ann Ryan Haddad, PharmD, professor of pharmacy practice; Anna Maio, BS’79, MD’83, associate professor of general internal medicine; Katie Packard, PharmD’01, MS’01, associate professor of pharmacy; Meghan Potthoff, PhD, BSN’01, assistant professor of nursing; Kimberly McFarland, BA’83, DDS’87, chair of Community and Preventive Dentistry; and William Leggio, BSEMS’09, MS’10, EdD’13, paramedic program coordinator.



Restarting Hope

LIGHTING THE WAY HOME

By Adam Klinker

Nonprofit organizations making a difference around the world are recognized as Creighton University hosts the 2016 Opus Prize

It's called the Nobel Prize for faith-based nonprofits. But really, there's no comparison for what the Opus Prize recognizes in the organizations that have earned it since 1994. The Opus Prize Foundation, based out of suburban Minneapolis, looks not at all at individual accomplishment or brilliance, but instead at the collective and collaborative efforts of nonprofit organizations dedicated solely to the betterment of the most marginalized, the most vulnerable, the most downtrodden in society.

Creighton University served as host for the 2016 Opus Prize, which included a thorough selection process that had 14 nominees culled to three finalists for a \$1 million prize and prizes of \$100,000 for each of the runners-up.

The theme for this year's prize was "Restoring Hope, Lighting the Way Home," a common thread connecting the work of the three finalists — Cana Communities, Jesuit Worldwide Learning and Sari Bari. All three were recognized at a public award ceremony on Nov. 17 at the Holland Performing Arts Center in Omaha.



Photo by Don Doll, SJ

Sarah Lance, left, co-founder of Sari Bari, was the recipient of the \$1 million Opus Prize. She is pictured with Sera Han, a social worker at Sari Bari in Kolkata, India. Han says of Lance, “She’s bold and pushes forward and pushes other people forward, but also at the heart of it, is such deep love and compassion.”

At the conclusion of the ceremony, Creighton President the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, announced the 2016 Opus Prize recipient, followed by a robust standing ovation: Sarah Lance and Sari Bari, a social business in Kolkata, India, that helps women escape the city’s notorious sex trade.

“This is such a beautiful honor for the community of Sari Bari and for the women of Sari Bari, who are the heroes of their own story, who are my heroes,” Lance said in accepting the award, her voice cracking with emotion. “I am so thankful to have been able to journey with the women of Sari Bari, to be a witness to their transformation, for them to be a witness to my transformation, on the road to freedom.”

“Of myriad social service agencies and charities around the globe, these organizations were chosen because they have developed creative, faith-filled solutions to some of the world’s most pressing problems,” said Fr. Hendrickson. “As the host institution, we at Creighton University have been witness to their life-changing work.”

On the following pages, *Creighton University Magazine* shares the inspiring stories of all three finalists.

About the Selection Process

As host of the prize ceremony, Creighton was responsible for sending delegations out to observe the operations of the three finalist organizations, an experience involving two students or recent alumni and a faculty member dispatched to each site. The delegations were selected through a nomination process and a series of interviews conducted by Opus Prize Foundation members and Creighton faculty, staff and administration.

Taking notes, asking questions and doing the probative work, the Creighton delegations performed their due diligence in a manner befitting Jesuit education. They saw the hungry fed, the homeless sheltered. The abused and marginalized were given comfort and dignity. The lost found ways home. The Creighton groups’ discernment was deep and their hearts pulsed ardently to see social justice being done.

'I was Shaking My Fist at God'

Encounter with scared, vulnerable teenager in Kolkata's red-light district inspires the formation of Sari Bari

In 2003, after living and working for the better part of three years among the destitute and dying in Kolkata, India, Sarah Lance thought she was beyond tears.

"I'd started in India doing the work that Mother Teresa had implored the world to do for the sick and the dying," said Lance, who was first commissioned by Word Made Flesh, a faith-based organization focused on urban redevelopment in 12 countries on five continents. "Bathing people, feeding them. That can be difficult work to do, especially for an introvert like I was. But I didn't realize then that there might be an even harder job."

Once, when Lance's friend and fellow missionary Josh went to get his hair cut, the young woman assisting him asked if he was interested in any "additional services" following his turn in the barber's chair. The woman pointed to her daughter and said this was why she asked him and why she was engaged in the work she suggested. Josh came back to share the story with Lance and her community. That began a commitment to becoming a presence in the red-light areas and to girls and women facing the barber's plight.

Sarah and Josh, along with others in their community, began spending more time in the districts, talking and bringing cups of tea to the women trapped in the sex trade. They listened to their stories, wondering how to help. For two years, Lance

worked at just being present and listening to the girls in the area.

Lance returned to the U.S., but was back in India in 2004 when she met a girl, Pinki, who recounted a harrowing tale.

"I had just encountered a girl, 16 years old, just started in the trade, maybe 10 days in," Lance remembered. "Her mother was dead, she had two younger brothers to support. I'll never forget how she looked: sad, scared, vulnerable. And here I was, returning home to the U.S. I had to walk away from her that day, and I did so pretty frustrated. It was a moment when I was shaking my fist at God and saying that there had to be options for these women outside of this."

In that moment, Sari Bari, a social business Lance co-founded with Kristin Keen, and aimed at rescuing women from the sex trade, was born. After more than a decade in business, Sari Bari has employed more than 100 women, providing them with wages, health benefits, child care and, most of all, hope for the future.

A delegation from Creighton University visited the business — located right in the middle of two of Kolkata's red-light districts — this spring and came away overwhelmed by what they saw.

"The atmosphere within Sari Bari is uplifting, peaceful," said Anne Ozar, PhD, a Creighton philosophy professor. "It's a wonderful place to be. With everything going on outside those doors, it's a night-and-day, despair-and-hope situation that was truly beautiful to witness."

By the autumn of 2005 and with the memory of her

At right: A photo of Sarah Lance with a Sari Bari employee atop fabric that is being transformed through the ancient art form called *kantha*.

Opposite: Laxmi checks the work and stitching on a finished piece, the final step in the process before sending the work out or to inventory.



Photo by Don Doll, SJ





Each day at Sari Bari begins with songs and words of encouragement. The place comes to life when the women start their tasks, sitting on the floor or behind sewing machines. The day fills up with conversation and visits from their children.

“One of the most beautiful moments is when they are interested in seeing other women find freedom. When they begin to care again.”

*Sarah Lance
Sari Bari*

conversation with Pinki still fresh, Lance was back in Kolkata as a field director for Word Made Flesh. While returning with a resolve to help the women enslaved in the sex trade, she said she didn't have a material plan.

Keen, Sari Bari's co-founder, suggested an idea: What if they took old saris, the traditional wrap in which Indian women clothe themselves from shoulder to ankle, and repurposed them? Turned them into blankets, purses and other items? They could teach the women in the brothels and on the streets saleable skills in design and sewing, and provide a sustainable income that could keep them off the streets.

Lance, an artist with a background in textiles, saw more than promise — if they could find some support.

“We tried to find an NGO to back the business, but nobody really believed in it,” Lance said.

But Lance and her friend pushed through and in February 2006, Sari Bari opened its first shop, turning old saris into purses, blankets and bags, restoring old lives into bright, new ones.

The business exists side by side with the brothels, a respite to those women who, when they're ready to break free, can find relief.

“The motivation for Sari Bari was walking away from that girl that day,” Lance said. “I felt I needed to be available for those women, so they could have a chance. So many didn't have a chance. But with Sari Bari coming along, these women are now finding the opportunity to become who God created them to be, not only economically, but they are now empowered through spiritual connection and restoration.”

India Experience Enchanting, Inspiring By the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ

As a graduate student of Jesuit higher learning, I first visited India nearly 20 years ago. I stayed in the Muslim quarter of the city, where I was haunted by the early morning *adhan* — the call-to-prayer — and was at once hustled off to Morning Prayer with Mother Teresa’s sisters a few blocks away.

The daily routine for my four weeks was simple — psalms with the sisters at the Mother House, followed by Mass, followed by fellowship with volunteers from around the world. We enjoyed bread and hot tea, and then dispersed to the local hospices, care centers, and orphanages of the Missionaries of Charity.

St. Teresa of Kolkata’s global workforce began in a dilapidated dormitory for Hindu devotees of the adjacent Kali Temple. Named Nirmal Hriday, literally, “pure heart,” it was always her favorite place, and this is where I spent each of my days. We bathed patrons, laundered linens and bedclothes, and served lunch. Early in the afternoon, the sisters sent us away, to let serenity and slowness reclaim the home of the dying.

India gripped me. The emotional connection to Kolkata was swift, and the impact of Pure Heart long. Too, British Raj architecture, the colors and sounds of temples and mosques, sharp flavors and pungent smells, and an uncanny friendliness in a city storied by desperation and destitution, enchanted me. I stayed engaged, and it led me to the writings of Rabindranath Tagore. Kolkata is more essentially a place of the arts and inquiry, and Bengali poets, philosophers, playwrights, and pundits have cultivated over the centuries a city notable for intellectual and artistic expression. Tagore personifies an elegant cultural reality.

I was honored to be able to visit Sari Bari recently. I also retraced routes I used two decades ago, and with the Sisters of Charity, I was grateful to concelebrate the morning Mass. But I sought out Tagore this time, visiting the 18th century family mansion as well as a countryside school he founded on distant family land — north about three hours by train. There, Tagore established an ashram and a corresponding pedagogy that reveled in rural ideals, the natural environment, and the organic instincts and interests of young students. He also fashioned a philosophy imbued with a spiritual humanism and cosmopolitan ideals. The ashram, Shantiniketan — the “abode of peace” — is now a university, and I strolled its gravel pathways.

Tagore’s greatest legacy is his *Gitanjali*, his love poems to God. They remain for me a source of inspiration, and



During his site visit to Sari Bari this past August, Fr. Hendrickson rides the train from Kolkata to Bolpur to visit the university founded by Rabindranath Tagore. An image of Tagore, who won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1913, appears in the background.

they remind me that how we live and learn at a place like Creighton — that is, the transformative effect of Jesuit higher education — is likewise poetic.

When the heart is hard and parched up, come upon me with a shower of mercy.

When grace is lost from life, come with a burst of song.

When tumultuous work raises its din on all sides shutting me out from beyond, come to me, my lord of silence, with thy peace and rest.

When my beggarly heart sits crouched, shut up in a corner, break open the door, my king, and come with the ceremony of a king.

When desire blinds the mind with delusion and dust, O thou holy one, thou wakeful, come with thy light and thy thunder.

'Recognizing Humanity' in Those They Serve

Cana Communities Inc. brings hope to the chronically homeless, the drug-addicted and the mentally ill in Sydney, Australia

W racked as he was with social anxiety and the stigma of homelessness, the man had not spoken in several months, perhaps even a year or more.

Coaxing him out of his shell proved difficult for even the most compassionate advocates and skilled clinicians, even at Cana Communities Inc., a nonprofit organization invested in helping the most marginalized and operating a number of facilities in Sydney, Australia.

No, the man's relief and his reintroduction came not in the city and not among people, but on a farm Cana operates about 50 miles west of Sydney, where retired racehorses — themselves trying to cope with a new life — are delivered for rehabilitation and where people, as part of Cana's Life Transformation Program, begin their own steady walk to a fresh chapter.

"It was just one of a whole host of things we saw that showed how Cana is able — and will go to any lengths — to connect human beings with other human beings and reflect every individual's dignity," said Adrienne Pyle, a senior medical anthropology and Spanish major who served as one of Creighton University's student delegates on the due diligence trips for the Opus Prize. "We witnessed Christ personified in the utmost."

For more than 40 years, Cana Communities has been

ministering to "the least of these" — the chronically homeless, the drug-addicted, the mentally ill, the hopeless cases. They've done so through a growing system of emergency shelters, halfway houses, treatment options, prison visits and Cana Farm, providing 45,000 meals and nearly 14,000 beds.

But, as the Creighton delegation to Sydney discovered, Cana delivers much more than just a place to sleep or a hot meal to eat.

"A lot of the people served by Cana are really down the social scale as far as their mental and physical health, many with an addiction to drugs," said Ravi Nath, PhD, a professor of information systems and technology selected to take part as a faculty representative on the due diligence trip to observe Cana's operation. "What left the greatest impression on me was how the volunteers and the staff at Cana accept everyone as they are. That's the biggest thing. And it's hard for most people, when they see someone chronically homeless or relapsing into addiction. They say, 'Why can't you just do things like the rest of us?' But I was so moved by the sheer commitment. The willingness to work slowly and not to judge people with our own lens, but to put oneself in their shoes."

Sr. Anne Jordan, PBVM, the recently retired CEO of Cana Communities, recounted for the Creighton delegation the organization's humble origins 40 years ago in the streets of

At right: For so many individuals lacking their own family, they find it in Cana Communities. At a local church, volunteers and the people they serve share a meal, a prayer of grace and a birthday celebration.

Opposite: A professional photographer made a series of portraits of homeless men that Cana Communities serves during a picnic Cana hosted in a Sydney park.



Photo by Don Doll, SJ





Photo by Don Doll, SJ

“The person with the least options is the one who demands our special care. When we can share our lives in some way, then our hearts expand.”

*Sr. Anne Jordan, PBVM
Cana Communities*



Photo by Don Doll, SJ



Photo by Don Boll, SJ

Opposite page, top: Darryl, manager of the carpentry shop, didn't speak for a year after arriving at Cana Farm. Recovering from years of drug abuse, he found solace and solidarity by rehabilitating an abused, retired racehorse. Below, Sr. Anne and Darryl chat in the carpentry shop. Darryl is among the many marginalized individuals who find acceptance and hope through the love and support of Sr. Anne and the Cana Communities.

Above: Josh receives a hug from Julie Sneddon, the new director of Cana Communities, after sharing his story of years of drug abuse.

central Sydney when a Dominican monk, the Rev. Mark Brereton, began opening a house for simple meals to share with homeless people.

Jordan felt her own call to the mission upon meeting Brereton in 1985, and shortly thereafter began serving meals and helping the homeless out of a small apartment. In 2000, along with the Rev. Brian Stoney, SJ, Jordan founded Cana Communities with a preamble to the organization's constitution reading: "Central to the life of the community are those who are most in need and who — through being rejected, powerless or violent — have the least options. These people are our primary focus."

And through a dense but agile network of volunteers, Cana has spent its last 16 years with Jordan at the helm reaching more people in need and helping them start new lives.

"It has the function of a family," said Kim Sorensen, a senior in the College of Arts and Sciences from West Des Moines, Iowa, who rounded out the Creighton delegation. "The operating belief of the staff and the volunteers is that they'll be present and alongside the people they are serving and go with them through difficult times. Most of the people who come to Cana don't have families. Cana Communities stays by them — multiple court proceedings, relapses, it was really incredible to see the volunteers recognizing the humanity in the people they were serving."

The volunteer corps itself is a study in contrast as most come from means and are even among Sydney's more affluent circles. Cana Communities abides by a policy that it won't take simple monetary contributions — the organization once turned down \$25,000 from a local company when the company declined to see Cana at work.

"They want your time, your energy, your ability to see what is at work," Nath said. "And it happens that many of the volunteers have gotten involved because their children, mostly high school students from a local Jesuit school, have taken an interest."

As the Creighton delegation learned, another operating principle of Cana Communities is the wider notion that the entire Sydney community is enhanced as more people, given dignity, care and love, are able to enter it.

"I saw a consistent, incredible effort by Cana to make their corner of the world a better place," Pyle said. "It put me in a mind to wonder aloud, with a lot of the volunteers, 'What am I doing to make the world a better place?' It's a spirit that moved everyone, I think."

Building a 'Global Community of Learners'

From refugee camps to war-ravaged areas, Jesuit Worldwide Learning brings access to a college education to people living on the margins of society

The Dzaleka refugee camp in Malawi is huge, sprawling even, like a suburb of tin roofs and sunbaked dirt streets.

But the place, a melting pot of African refugees, also fairly bustles with activity — not unlike a small city where the population can climb upward of 15,000 and the average stay can approach two decades. There are little shops, literal cottage industries, soccer games, schools, even, and thanks to Opus Prize nominee Jesuit Worldwide Learning (JWL), opportunities for higher education.

And like any small city in the world — but perhaps most crucially in a place where people feel suspended in time and place — Dzaleka has some of the little trappings that make a place of transition a little more like home.

One of these is an arts and culture festival organized annually by a man named Trésor Nzengu, an alumnus of JWL's program at Dzaleka, a Renaissance man who dabbles in music, art and poetry, and attempts to fuse them all into a celebration that can, for at least a few days, alleviate the stresses of life in a refugee camp.

"It was amazing to hear his story and to see what he does to help show people what education means and what beauty it can bring to the world," said Selina Marshall, BSBA'16, who recognized the lessons from her own Jesuit education at Creighton in stories like Nzengu's. "The average age in that camp is 18. What Trésor told us was: 'You can't just put your life on hold. This is my community now. What can I do to lead, teach, grow?'"

And so, as an extension of Nzengu's JWL experience, the refugee from the Democratic Republic of the Congo has created what is believed to be Malawi's largest arts and culture festival. And it takes place in a refugee camp.

Ministering to those on the margins takes on many different forms, most focused on the acquisition of basic human needs like food, clothing, shelter and access to clean water.



Before becoming a refugee camp, Dzaleka served as a political prison under a former Malawi dictatorship.

If there's effort left over, it's frequently expended on getting at the roots of certain entrenched issues, such as war or poverty, often with the result that early gains are later overshadowed by short memories of, or indifference to, the plights of other people.

In 2010, several American Jesuit universities began wondering aloud what could be wrought if people on the margins were provided, as part of their essentials, access to college education — and thereby learn the tools by which the disenfranchised might be able to address the origins of injustice

Slam poet and musician Trésor Nzengu, photo right, fled persecution in his homeland of the Democratic Republic of the Congo for asylum in Malawi, joining thousands of other refugees in the Dzaleka camp. He battled depression, emerging as a graduate of the Jesuit Worldwide Learning program with a renewed passion for poetry. Now, as a popular performer and activist in Malawi, Nzengu is changing perceptions of refugees through his art.



Photo by Giulio DiFraccolo, Jesuit Refugee Service

“If somebody here graduates and goes somewhere having responsibility, with a bit of different thinking, it can affect the lives of thousands of people.”

*The Rev. Peter Balleis, SJ
Jesuit Worldwide Learning*



The Rev. Peter Balleis, SJ, stands before a tree in Malawi's Dzaleka refugee camp. When Dzaleka was a high-security political prison, Fr. Balleis and his Jesuit Refugee Service team threw books over the fence to refugees desperate to read and learn.

in their homelands. Jesuit Commons reached out to the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) as an additional partner.

“It’s all true that you need to get people food, shelter, even a job,” said the Rev. Peter Balleis, SJ, who served as international director of JRS from 2007 to 2015 and who has now taken the lead in expanding JWJL, the nonprofit providing college access to more than 140,000 people around the world. “But if you don’t train people to form a different society, if you don’t challenge them to look for other answers, down the road, you repeat the cycles of war, instability, poverty.”

The program results in college-level courses and a diploma for those who undertake it. More than that, it also means the creation of a new intellectual class — what Fr. Balleis calls “a global community of learners” — prepared to help their communities, be that in a camp or back in their native lands.



Remi, a former Jesuit Worldwide Learning student, teaches his students Python, a programming language, using only pencil and paper and one computer.

At Dzaleka, where JWL was first piloted in 2010, Creighton University alumni and faculty observed the program in action this spring as part of the due diligence for Opus Prize finalists. On the camp's outskirts, among the buildings housing the United Nations World Food Program and NGOs providing for needs, there are the JWL classrooms.

"The diploma itself is important," Marshall said. "But teaching people to think in a different way is what matters. Basically, they were getting a degree in the liberal arts and sciences like what we have at Creighton. These are the tools they can get. Even if we're learning math, computer science, agriculture — it's all in the interest of helping people help their communities."

Fr. Balleis likes to begin any discussion of JWL with a map outlining the world's hot spots for poverty and educational insufficiency.

"These are the areas where the wars are, where the ideologues are," he said. "We will not fight them with weapons. We will fight them with new ideas, new ways of thinking, with education. This is where teaching the humanities takes on the most importance, because while job training is important, teaching the humanities is teaching how to think. This is foundational."

JWL doesn't ignore the importance of professional or technical skills, however. Among other courses, a computer coding school is part of the curriculum for younger students, a challenge given the dearth of technology to be found in many areas on the margins.

"We saw 10 kids in a tiny shack and they're just writing out binary code by hand, on paper," said Steve Hogan, BA'08, JD'16, MS'16, another Creighton graduate who toured the JWL operations in Malawi. "There are a lot of places in Africa where you can get training for low- or no-skill work. But you have to get past that if you're going to change a country. You need people who think in an intelligent and discerning manner and who are willing to put their learning into practice and not just hand everything over to a dictator."

Partnered with Jesuit universities for content and issuing three-year liberal arts diplomas accredited through Regis University, JWL is on the lookout for expansion opportunities as Fr. Balleis travels the world looking for more partners to provide help with curriculum and delivery.

"The only way we continue to drive this forward is with great teachers," he said. "We've built a global academic structure to make education work for people on the margins. We want it to be truly global."

an amazin

An online student at Creighton who grew up in Chicago's housing projects has earned a prestigious fellowship to help at-risk youth affected by violence

Standing in a grassy field on Chicago's South Side, Lachell Wardell lets the memories rush back.

"Wow!" she exclaims, looking around at the now-vacant lot that was once part of the city's most dangerous housing projects. And then, in a whisper, tears welling in her eyes, "Wow."

She takes a moment to soak it all in. "It's surreal," Wardell says. "This is where my family lived. I haven't been here since I made it out."

"This is the place where everybody was so fearful," she continues. "This is where it all started. Wow, this is really incredible."

Incredible could also describe Wardell's journey.

g journey

By Rick Davis, BA'88



Photo by Dave Weaver

At right, graffiti covers a sign welcoming visitors to one of the 28 Robert Taylor Homes towers on Chicago's South Side in this 1987 photo.

Below, public housing high-rises, each 16 stories, stretch for two miles toward the Chicago skyline in this 1996 photo. Once one of the most violent and poorest communities in America, the buildings have since been razed.



AP Photo/Beth A. Keiser, File



AP Photo/Beth A. Keiser, File

Now a pharmacist, with a doctorate degree, Wardell is a student in Creighton's online Master of Public Health program. She recently received a prestigious, three-year fellowship through the Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars program.

Her aim is to help children growing up in poverty, specifically in Ferguson, Mo., who, like herself, are often traumatized by violence. Her proposal calls for direct early intervention, referrals and follow-up. She hopes to serve as a mentor, and encourage others to do the same.

She also wants to share her story — to let those children know that there is hope, that God loves them and, like her, they can succeed.

"It's so important for me to stand in the gap for these children," Wardell says.

Her story is both tragic and inspiring.

She was the third of seven children born to Eleanor Miles. Miles' family had come to Chicago from Arkansas. They were living in the Robert Taylor Homes, the largest public housing project in the United States — with 28 densely packed high-rise apartment buildings, each 16 stories, stretching for two miles alongside the Dan Ryan Expressway. Eleanor was 19 and the mother of twin boys when Lachell was born in 1972.

Lachell's father, Willie Steward, had come to Chicago from Mississippi. Lachell says that at 12 years old, her father had been arrested and thrown in jail in Mississippi, advocating for the right for black Americans to vote. "They were going to kill him," Wardell says.

She says Fannie Lou Hamer, the famed civil rights activist, helped bail her father out of jail. Her grandmother put him in the back of a car after his release, and they whisked off to Chicago. They, too, took up residence at the Robert Taylor Homes.

Completed in 1962, the Robert Taylor Homes, located five miles south of downtown Chicago, was part of a massive federal urban renewal effort to eliminate slum neighborhoods. It became one of the most violent and poorest communities in the United States.

At one time, 95 percent of Robert Taylor’s adult residents were unemployed; the high school dropout rate of its residents was double the national average; and residents were twice as likely to be the victims of serious crimes as other Chicagoans. A serious lack of general maintenance and repair, along with overcrowding, exacerbated the problem. It wasn’t unusual to find 15 people — multiple generations of a family — living in one six-room apartment. At its height, an estimated 27,000 people were crammed into 4,415 apartments designed to house 11,000 residents. The projects have been called “vertical ghettos” and “vertical prisons” — where residents, primarily poor African-Americans, often felt isolated and hopeless.

Both of Wardell’s parents had dropped out of high school; her mother had attended nearby Crispus Attucks Community Academy. Wardell lived with her mother and siblings at Robert Taylor until about the age of 3 or 4, when her mother moved the family to an apartment in a “nicer area” on Chicago’s west side. Even though the living conditions improved, the pains of poverty were still a constant. “I remember standing out in the cold at 5 years old without a coat. It was so cold,” Wardell says. “I also remember there were a lot of times I would open the refrigerator and it would be empty.”

By the time Wardell was 8 years old, her mother had moved the family to the Ida B. Wells housing project, named after the

After her mother’s death, Wardell was placed in foster care. “It was a horrific system,” Wardell says. “Horrific.” She was placed with a family in Chicago Heights. It was a nice neighborhood. For the first time in her life, she had a mother and father at home. She saw people go to work. She had three meals a day. There were no gunshots. “It exposed me to a different life,” she says.

But there was also a dark underside. She says her foster mother was “harsh” to her children, which at the time included 11 biological children and three foster children. At 14, Wardell decided she had had enough. “She had beaten me pretty bad,” she says. “I couldn’t take any more.” She took a cab to her grandmother’s house back in the projects. But to her surprise, her grandmother refused to take her in.

With nowhere else to go, Wardell, at age 14, was out on the streets of Chicago — homeless. She slept on the elevated trains, in abandoned buildings and at various people’s houses. During the day, she roamed the streets. A good student, she stopped going to school.

By the time she was 16, she was living with a guy, a drug user, in a cold basement in a rough neighborhood. But she always knew she wanted something more for herself. At a local technical school, she took a practice test for a General Equivalency Degree (GED). She says she earned a perfect score, but she didn’t have

Through all the trials and tribulations, Lachell Wardell says she feels blessed and credits God for pulling her through. She now wants to give back.

pioneering African-American journalist, located a few blocks from the Robert Taylor Homes. It was here that Wardell, at age 10, would experience a traumatic, life-altering tragedy.

She was visiting her paternal grandmother at the Robert Taylor Homes. While she was away, an argument broke out between Eleanor Miles and her husband, who was not Wardell’s father. When Wardell returned home, she saw a horrific scene.

“When I came home, that’s when I saw blood on the walls and blood everywhere,” she remembers. Her mother had been badly beaten by her husband. “He busted her mouth; blood was on the walls. There was a mop bucket full of blood; she had tried to clean up her own blood. She’s all bruised up.

“She was supposed to have been separated from him, but she let him back. And I was so angry with her. ‘Why did you let him back again?’ She apologized and told me she loved me.” Wardell, still upset, pushed her mother away, and told her she hated her.

The next day at school, Wardell was summoned to the principal’s office. She was to go to her aunt’s house; her mother was in the hospital. “I never saw her again,” Wardell says, repeating more quietly, “I never saw her again.” Wardell’s mother died that day of hemorrhaging to her brain.

the \$20 or \$25 to take the actual test. She considered joining the military, but then she learned she was pregnant. On a cold December night, she felt pain. She walked down to the corner pay phone, alone, to call the ambulance. “I didn’t know I was in labor,” she says. She arrived at the hospital just in time, minutes later welcoming her first child, a daughter.

Wardell was overjoyed — she had always wanted a family — but she also describes it as the most difficult point of her life. She didn’t want to give up her baby. But, at 17, living on the edge herself, could she care for the infant? Should she leave her baby at the hospital? It was anguishing. She called family and friends. Eventually, an aunt agreed to help care for the child. Wardell, relieved, began taking temporary jobs. The boyfriend, the baby’s father, disappeared; she says he would eventually die of AIDS. In 1991, at the age of 19, Wardell got married and had two more children, a boy and another girl.

“At some point during that marriage, I thought, ‘I’m not going to be on public aid all of my life,’” Wardell says. “That was always something that was in the back of my mind. It was going to stop with me.”

She enrolled in Kennedy-King College, a local two-year



“These are the trains I used to sleep on, right there,” Wardell says, standing on the corner of Lake Street and Keeler Avenue, with the elevated tracks just over her shoulder. At 14, Wardell lived on the streets of Chicago, homeless, often sleeping on the trains.

community college, earned her GED and then continued on to earn her associate’s degree, earning a 3.96 grade-point average.

“As I was getting my associate’s degree, I said, ‘I’m going to be a pharmacist,’” Wardell says. “And they said, ‘You can’t be a pharmacist.’ If you tell me I can’t do something, I’m going to do it.”

So, in 2000, Wardell enrolled in the pharmacy program at the University of Illinois-Chicago. Her studies were made more difficult in the fact that she had now separated from her husband, who she says was abusive. The single mother of three (ages 11, 9 and 7 at the time) was determined, though. One day, she walked into the offices of then-Illinois senator Barack Obama, and asked the future president about scholarship opportunities. She earned a scholarship, worked hard and earned her PharmD degree in 2005.

She worked as a pharmacist at national chain stores in Chicago, before landing a position as a contract pharmacist at Fort Leonard Wood, the U.S. Army base in Missouri. She called

it the “best job in her entire career,” working with soldiers, including those returning from various deployments around the world. She was meeting with colonels and other military leaders. “They were asking me to update and write policy,” she says, “and I realized I needed more credentials.” She searched online and found Creighton’s online master’s degree program in public health. It was just what she was looking for.

“Public health is very much in line for me because I know what these communities are going through,” Wardell says, during a recent visit to her old Chicago neighborhood. “I understand what it’s like to be homeless. This is the train I used to sleep on. I know what that’s like.”

Wardell says she was scared, at first, that she wouldn’t be able to compete and succeed at Creighton. “But it has been an awesome experience,” she says. Wardell says she has found tremendous support at Creighton, even as an online student, including from former interim director of the program,



Photo by Dave Weaver



Bill Raynovich, EdD, who still teaches part time as a retired adjunct associate professor. Wardell says supportive teachers, such as Raynovich, have served as important mentors throughout her life.

Wardell is excited about the future, especially her work as a Robert Wood Johnson fellow. She recently moved back home to Chicago, but she is collaborating with a former colleague at Fort Leonard Wood, Capt. Tonita Smith, and a church in Missouri to help carry out the project. Believers Temple Word Fellowship, a nondenominational church in St. Louis, is recruiting at-risk youth through its Young People Leadership Academy. Key components of the program will include access to mental health care and social services; college readiness and life-skills programs; and mentorships. “But the most important part of this program will be the spiritual component,” Wardell says, “because these children, they have no hope. We need to provide them with hope.”

While the Robert Taylor Homes and other Chicago high-rise housing projects have all been razed, the struggles of poor inner-city youths are still a painful, everyday reality.

The late Pierre deVise, a noted Roosevelt University professor who studied Chicago’s changing neighborhoods and railed against the projects, estimated in a 1987 documentary on the Robert Taylor Homes that fewer than 4 percent of the projects’ residents would ever make it out and break the cycle of poverty in their lives.

Wardell has done that. Through all the trials and tribulations, she says she feels blessed and credits God for pulling her through. She now wants to give back.

“That’s maybe why the Lord has me now in this direction, to help children who have been exposed to violence,” Wardell says. “Now, I’m full-speed ahead. This is my passion. I’m driven by this.

“With God, I am going to change the world.”

Mars Mission

By Tim Kaldahl

Creighton alumnus works for human exploration and settlement of the red planet

Michael Stoltz, BA'88, has had a career in fundraising, media and public relations, nonprofit management and government affairs that has taken him around the world. His focus now is even broader. He serves as the Mars Society's vice president for development. The 18-year-old organization focuses on educating the public about the benefits of exploring Earth's neighbor and landing people there.

"Probably around the age of 13 or so, Carl Sagan's *Cosmos* came out, so I watched every episode of that," Stoltz says. "That stoked the fire in terms of my interest in space, astronomy and the future of humanity."

While he was going to high school in Dubuque, Iowa, Stoltz says his plan was to attend Cornell University and follow

in Sagan's footsteps. He saw a future for himself sitting on a hillside in Hawaii looking through a telescope at the heavens. He then adds with a chuckle, "I hit one major stumbling block, which was advanced math. It didn't click with me."

At Creighton, Stoltz shifted gears and found himself fascinated by world affairs, the Middle East and the news of the day.



Photo by Liz Hansen

He met his future wife, Ravit, an Israeli, as an undergraduate while studying at Tel Aviv University during his junior year and later converted to Judaism. His bachelor's degree in history led to graduate work at New York University, where he received a Master of Arts in Middle East studies. With his interests and education, and a tip from a friend, Stoltz applied for and got a job as deputy press consul for the Consulate General of Israel in New York City in 1990.

During his time at the consulate, Stoltz interacted with a number of senior Israeli leaders, including Yitzhak Rabin, Shimon Peres, Ariel Sharon and Benjamin Netanyahu, helping arrange media connections during their visits to Manhattan. After working there for nearly four years, Stoltz and his wife decided to move to Israel in 1993. Soon after, he found himself working in Jerusalem, in the thick of Israeli politics and government issues, first as a parliamentary aide for Netanyahu and then as deputy director of communications in the Office of the Prime Minister from 1993 through 1999.

"When I got up in the morning, that's what I thought about. When I went to bed at night, that's what I was thinking about," Stoltz says. "To me, it was very important work."



College students participate in a Mars rover competition in Utah, hosted by the Mars Society.

Astronomy and space, however, always remained an interest. The Mars Society, founded by internationally respected aerospace engineer Robert Zubrin, was an organization Stoltz joined while living abroad. Today, the nonprofit is the world's largest and most influential space advocacy group dedicated to the human exploration and settlement of Mars, with approximately 10,000 members around the globe.

After his time in government ended, Stoltz moved over to the nonprofit education field and worked as the director of external affairs for Ariel University in Israel. In 2007, he and his family (he and Ravit have three sons) relocated to the United States. His connection with the Mars Society grew. He volunteered to help with communications, and eventually became the organization's director of media and public relations in 2010 in a volunteer capacity. It's a hat he still wears (in addition to fundraising), and today he works with reporters and producers from around the world. The society's big message is that mankind is ready to explore Mars.

"If we put our minds to it, and our money to it, we could be there within a decade," Stoltz says. He adds that nothing from a technological standpoint is preventing a manned Mars mission from happening. The society stands on its own, but it maintains positive connections with NASA, the European Space Agency, a variety of U.S. and international research institutions and many pro-space advocacy groups.

"Whoever is interested in getting to Mars, we try to reach out to them and develop a relationship with them," he says. Zubrin is friends with another notable name in current space exploration — Elon Musk, the founder of SpaceX, a company that is developing space launch vehicles and recently announced plans for human colonization of the red planet.

Stoltz says the United States could work on its own to reach Mars, but adds that an international effort would help smooth out budgetary issues and help maintain a longer-term exploration goal. The world's space-faring nations and entities include Russia, Europe, China, India and Japan.

"It would be a lot simpler, a lot more cost effective if we were able to do it with other countries," he says.



The Mars Society is conducting long-term Mars surface simulations at two research stations: one in the Canadian arctic and the other in Utah. Above, crew members return to the Mars analog station in Utah.

So how would reaching Mars actually work? Zubrin's "Mars Direct" plan outline is a major element of the Mars Society's website (marsociety.org). The multiyear effort involves sending rovers, nuclear power reactors and living and work quarters out to Mars in a sequence. The Martian atmosphere would help generate rocket fuel and oxygen, and water would be extracted from Martian soil.

"There aren't that many places in the solar system that we could call home in the future," Stoltz says. Getting humanity to a point where it is "multi planetary" could also decrease pressure here on Earth, he says.

In addition to the society's work advocating for exploration, it also conducts long-term Mars surface simulations at two research stations (one in the Canadian arctic; the other desert-focused in Utah) that help scientists think through the challenges of being on another world. Researchers live in close quarters for weeks at a time at the locations.

Recently, the society started its longest simulation — Mars 160. A veteran crew is now spending 80 days in simulation

in Utah completely isolated. The group will then do similar work at the Canadian station next June for another 80 days.

A Japanese television network and a couple of prominent U.S. news outlets have been interested in the project. The Smithsonian Channel is talking with the society about a documentary, as well. "It keeps us busy," Stoltz says. The society also sponsors notable planetary rover design competitions for college students from around the world. The organization is also launching a U.S. high school student version of the rover competition this year to help promote interest in STEM disciplines.

While Mars has had unmanned rovers land on its surface, the amount of exploration and learning that can be done by human explorers will make a tremendous difference, he says. NASA's *Opportunity* rover has been operating there since 2004. *Opportunity's* twin, *Spirit*, stopped working in 2010.

"I've heard NASA officials say many times that the amount of ground covered by *Opportunity* ... an astronaut could do that same work within a matter of a week," Stoltz says.

AlumniNotes

61 Jean Luckett Harkin, BA, Portland, Ore., has published a book of short stories, *Night in Alcatraz: And Other Uncanny Tales*.

69 J. Thomas Aziere, JD, Green Bay, Wis., was inducted into the Green Bay Officials Association (GBOA) Hall of Fame in recognition of his 42 years of officiating high school football and his involvement in the community. Aziere joined the GBOA in 1972 and retired from officiating in 2014.

71 Thomas L. Aller, BA, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, was re-elected to a three-year term on the board of directors of Delta Dental Iowa Insurance Company and re-elected chairman of the board. Aller joined the board in 2007 and has served as chairman since 2011. Delta is the largest dental insurance company in Iowa.

76 Daniel E. Monnat, JD, Wichita, Kan., of Monnat & Spurrier, Chartered, has been named by Chambers USA 2016 as one of Kansas' top litigators in white-collar

crime and government investigations. In addition, the *International Who's Who Legal: Business Crime Defense 2016* has named Monnat as one of the world's leading practitioners in the sectors of business crime defense and investigations.

Dr. Elizabeth Arquin Walker, BSN, Larchmont, N.Y., was named the recipient of the American Diabetes Association's 2016 Richard R. Rubin Award. The award recognizes a behavioral researcher who has made outstanding, innovative contributions to the study and understanding of the behavioral aspects of diabetes in diverse populations. Walker is professor of medicine and professor of epidemiology and population health at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx, N.Y. She is internationally recognized as an advocate for translating behavioral interventions and communication technologies into real-world clinical care and community settings, especially for underserved urban populations and developing countries, including Uganda and the Dominican Republic.

77 Mary Kay Green, BA'65, JD, Lee's Summit, Mo., has written a screenplay, *Law Mothers*, about her years in law school (1974-1977), a time when women had to fight to enter the legal profession.

80 Kimberly A. Yelkin, JD, Austin, Texas, an attorney and partner at Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP, has been recognized by Chambers USA 2016 in the area of insurance regulation. Yelkin also was selected for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America 2017* edition in insurance law.

81 Elizabeth Stockley Mueller, DDS, Mason, Ohio, received the Ohio Dental Association Marvin Fisk Humanitarian Award in September. Mueller is a pediatric dentist and owns two private dental offices in Cincinnati. Her offices are involved in improving access to care locally and abroad. For 10 years, Mueller has volunteered with Shoulder to Shoulder, a nonprofit organization to improve health care in Honduras. Mueller's office also works with many local organizations to provide care to people in need.

82 G. Mark Rice, JD, West Des Moines, Iowa, was recognized by Chambers and Partners

in its 2016 attorney rankings in the area of corporate/mergers and acquisitions, banking and finance - Iowa.

83 Stephen A. Donato, JD, Fayetteville, N.Y., has been recognized in the 2016 *Upstate New York Super Lawyers* list in the field of bankruptcy: business. Donato is an attorney in the Syracuse, N.Y., office of Bond, Schoeneck & King. He is co-chair of the firm's business restructuring, creditors' rights and bankruptcy practice.

85 Joan L. Anderson, MD, Bellevue, Wash., published her first novel, *Pursuit*.

87 Betsy L. McCoy, BA'84, JD, Coral Gables, Fla., was honored by *Corporate Counsel Magazine* and *American Legal Media* for her role in one of the four Best Legal Departments in America, 2014. McCoy is general counsel and vice president of the Related Group, Miami. She also is one of 51 women named nationally as a 2016 Woman of Influence by *Real Estate Forum Magazine*, the premier real estate business magazine.

89 Steven M. Kupka, JD, Washington, D.C., is managing partner of Husch Blackwell



GET BLUE with the Creighton Alumni Association

All alumni, fans, parents and friends are invited to the 2017 men's basketball pregame events in an area near you! Cash bars will be available.

January 7
Creighton vs. Providence
Providence, R.I.

January 25
Creighton vs. Georgetown
Washington, D.C.

February 4
Creighton vs. Xavier
Annual GET BLUE Creighton Alumni Pregame Event,
Hilton Omaha Hotel
Omaha, Neb.

February 11
Creighton vs. DePaul
Rosemont, Ill.

March 4
Creighton vs. Marquette
Milwaukee, Wis.

March 8-11
Creighton Men's
BIG EAST Tournament
New York, N.Y.

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A Life of Bread and Marshmallows

By Therese Vaughn

“Give us this day our daily bread,” the Lord’s Prayer asks simply. As Holy Eucharist, as staff of life, as game-day meatball hoagie sandwiches, bread brings people together.

Louis Rotella III, BSBA’96, JD’00, understands the sacred substance and ordinary business of bread. An executive at Rotella’s Italian Bakery Inc., in Omaha, proud father of three and champion for children with disabilities, Rotella’s life profile is that of the family craftsman in the tradition of St. Joseph.

The Creighton graduate comes from five generations of master bakers. Back in 19th century Calabria, Italy, Rotella’s great-grandparents furnished villagers with hearty handcrafted loaves fresh from wood-fired ovens. Today, the family bakery provides 400 different varieties of bread to restaurants, stores and businesses across the nation.

Yet, while bread is called “the staff of life,” it is also said that, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.” (Matthew 4:4)

God’s word became real the moment Rotella and his wife, Jill, saw the face of their firstborn child. Louis IV — “a name fit for a king,” as his dad says — was born with Down syndrome in 2000. It took little time for Rotella to learn that raising a child with special needs can bring more tenderness, wonder and joy than struggle.

To share this precious discovery with the world, Rotella wrote a children’s book about his “wise and funny sage (and son).” Published in 2010, *The Little King and His Marshmallow Kingdom* tells the delightful illustrated story of King Louis the IV, who reigns over a whimsical land where marshmallows are the daily bread, “normal” is overrated and everybody has different yet wondrous gifts to contribute.

Honoring difference in a society that values uniformity isn’t the easy thing, but far worth it, according to Rotella. Like many people with special needs,

Louis IV’s worldview isn’t as clogged by the filters accumulated through language and cognitive patterning. His “beginner’s mind” opens to life more in the moment, which is the only place where life’s magic and mystery are possible.

For a culture afflicted by the pressures to compete and conform, “this book is my way of sending an alternative message, one that encourages children to be themselves with confidence, eccentricities and all,” Rotella said.

Earning gold in the Mom’s Choice Awards and Moonbeam Children’s Book Awards,

better: Richer, more interesting. Often, they’d be hilarious,” he wrote.

Laughter in the Rotella household is just as much a mainstay as bread on the table. For example, when Louis IV first heard the congregation sing “Hallelujah” at Mass, he was convinced they were singing, “Hah-Ley-Louis.”

Besides being the star of his dad’s book, Louis IV is also a 2016 ambassador for the Global Down Syndrome Foundation (GDSF). He and his family helped to kick off the 2016 Be Beautiful Be Yourself Fashion Show,



Louis Rotella IV, left, and his father, Louis Rotella III, BSBA’96, JD’00, who wrote a children’s book about his son titled *The Little King and His Marshmallow Kingdom*, at the Rotella’s test kitchen in Omaha.

the book continues to draw exuberant praise from parents, educators, special needs organizations and kids worldwide.

At the end of *Little King*, Rotella presents a moving glimpse into his own personal journey. Like most fathers expecting his first son, he had dreamed of an all-star athlete on the field, but years later watching his son play soccer, running in the slowest possible motion on purpose, beaming happily in the sunshine, he imagines what advice he would offer to his younger self at the moment he first realized that his firstborn would have Down syndrome.

“I’d have told him that no, [his dreams] wouldn’t be exactly what he envisioned. But, in ways he couldn’t understand yet, they’d be

held Nov. 12 in Denver, one of the largest and most successful fundraisers for the chromosomal condition, which affects one in every 800 babies annually.

From a century-old family bread business to a spontaneous marshmallow kingdom, Rotella’s story celebrates the sacredness possible in the everyday hours of life. This is what is meant by the Jesuit spirit of *ad majorem Dei gloriam*, or living for the greater glory of God.

Like the yeast that gives rise to bread, Rotella’s experience at Creighton quickened his values of faith and fortitude. “Not only did I receive a fantastic education, but I was prepared to find God in every circumstance and in all of creation,” he said.

Photo by Dave Weaver

Using Improv to Improve Health Care By Benjamin Gleisser

A funny thing happened to **Debra Gerardi, BS'84, BSN'87, JD'92**, on her way to a career in helping health care organizations find ways to improve patient care.

In 1994, she was working as a nursing director at the UCLA Medical Center when she reconnected with her love of comedy.

"The office manager kept trying to get me to try out for plays and commercials," Gerardi says. "She saw an ad in the paper for improv classes at the Upfront Comedy Theater and when we went to check it out, they invited us to see a free show.

I was amazed as I watched the Second City actors onstage — I couldn't believe they didn't have a script. And what they were doing looked like so much fun! So

I started studying there, and began performing on weekends as part of a troupe. My teachers were Jeff Michalski and Jane Morris, who started the Etc. Theater at Second City in Chicago, and we had guest directors, including Ryan Stiles (*Whose Line Is It Anyway?*)."

Though she loves performing, she didn't quit her day job. Today, Gerardi — nurse, attorney, documentary filmmaker and comedian — is president and chief creative officer of Emerging Healthcare Communities (EHCCO). The Half Moon Bay, Calif., company provides coaching and conflict services for health care businesses.

Humor comes in handy when dealing with serious issues such as burnout among overworked staff, leaders who struggle with competing demands, and poor communication within a department, Gerardi says.

"I've developed exercises based on hundreds of improv exercises that are designed to help teams work well together," she says. "Basically, the exercises help people to be in the present, to listen openly and to respond to what's happening, rather than react to what they're imagining is happening."

A graduate and now leadership team member of the Hudson Institute of Coaching, Gerardi founded EHCCO in 2009, and her client list includes Massachusetts General Hospital, UCLA and Stanford Medical Center.

At EHCCO, she gave herself the title "chief creative officer" because "the essence of what I do is creative. It's about creating what's possible in a given situation. I go into organizations where people feel stuck, or have experienced chronic conflicts for 20 to 30 years, and help them by generating a creative space."

Basically, when parties in a health care organization have a dispute that can't easily be settled, or when morale

in a department is sinking and there's no bottom in sight, management will call Gerardi for help. The object of her work is to convene conversations among staff members that help everyone to develop shared agreements and be better communicators.

Gerardi says her work is important, because "conflicts among colleagues are dangerous. They can lead to medical errors that can affect patient safety, and when that issue arises, it can then create an environment of shame and fear."

In addition, her interest in filmmaking led her to produce an educational documentary featuring a health-law partnership among Georgia State University's College of Law, Atlanta Legal Aid Society and Children's Healthcare of Atlanta.

Gerardi spoke and demonstrated her skills at a special workshop in September in celebration of the 10th anniversary of Creighton's Werner Institute, ranked among the top 15 best dispute resolution programs in the country by *U.S. News & World Report*.

The Werner Institute — which operates within the Creighton University School of Law — counts 443 master's degree and certificate graduates, and offers a variety of dual-degree programs, including with Creighton's MS and doctorate in nursing.

"It was wonderful to be back around the campus, and see the growth and excitement of faculty, staff and students that Werner has trained," Gerardi says, reflecting on her visit. "It was very heartwarming. And I'm excited about the new joint-degree

program between the Werner Institute and the College of Nursing. It will be a big step to train nurses and nurse leaders in the kind of conflict resolution skills they'll need to manage any situation they'll be facing."

Gerardi named her comedic mentors: Steve Martin, Gene Wilder, Robin Williams and Carol Burnett. "They're able to engage you at a personal, deeper emotional level," she says.

At Creighton, she gives credit to longtime nursing professors Beth Furlong, PhD, JD'00, and Linda Lazure, PhD. Furlong helped develop and was the first director of Creighton's accelerated nursing program. Lazure was the first associate dean for the College of Nursing's Office of Student Affairs. Both recently retired.

"They expanded my thinking of what nurses could do," she says. "What they taught about the policy-making process has become part of my focus when it comes to working with educators and community health leaders."



Debra Gerardi, BS'84, BSN'87, JD'92, has developed programs based on hundreds of improv exercises that are designed to help teams work well together.

LLP's Washington, D.C., office. Husch Blackwell, a corporate law firm, has more than 700 attorneys and 19 offices throughout the U.S. and the United Kingdom. Kupka is focused on an international practice and has clients in England, Panama, Turkey, Puerto Rico, Denmark, United Arab Emirates and Russia. **Linda Behrens Stones, BSN**, Crete, Neb., was awarded the Nebraska Nurses Association (NNA) Distinguished Service Award in September. Stones was recognized for her work to revitalize the NNA-PAC, as well as serving as chair of the Legislative, Advocacy and Representation Committee. Stones is a patient care services director at Bryan Medical Center in Lincoln, Neb. She has operational responsibility for rehabilitation services and athletic training.

90 Rev. James A. Corson, MBA, Omaha, has been appointed senior pastor of Rockbrook United Methodist Church in Omaha. He also has been elected chair of the Mission Board at Living Hope United Methodist Church in Omaha.

91 Valerie Smith Carstens, BA, Plano, Texas, joined GES,

a leading global provider for live events, as vice president of branding and corporate communications.

Michael D. Nelson, JD, Omaha, has been appointed as a United States Magistrate Judge for the District of Nebraska. He will take the Magistrate Judge bench on July 1, 2017, following the retirement of the **Hon. F.A. Gossett III, JD'72**. **David F. Krugler, BA**, Plymouth, Mich., published his fourth novel, *The Dead Don't Bleed*. **Gregory J. Lynch, BSBA**, Oregon, Wis., was selected for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America* 2017. Lynch is an attorney at Michael Best & Friedrich LLP in Madison, Wis.

92 Evangelos A. Argyrakis, BA'89, JD, Omaha, has retired from the practice of law after 25 years practicing in the area of immigration law. Argyrakis has represented clients from more than 65 countries and has handled all types of immigration matters. **Jennifer Knippel Fangman, BSN**, Round Rock, Texas, earned a Master of Arts in theology from St. Mary's University in San Antonio in May 2016. **Sara A. Juster, JD**, Fairfax, Va., joined Privia Health, LLC, in Arlington, Va., as associate general counsel. **Susan M. Maryott, BA**, Chicago, is

the coordinating producer of remote events for the Big Ten Network in Chicago.

95 Jeannie M. DeVeny, JD, Overland Park, Kan., is a shareholder at the Kansas City, Mo., office of Littler, the world's largest labor and employment law practice. The office received a top ranking in Chambers USA 2016. Chambers also cited DeVeny as a noted practitioner.

96 Shad E. Sumrow, JD, Dallas, was selected for inclusion in *Texas Super Lawyers* 2016 in the area of banking. Sumrow also was recognized in *The Best Lawyers in America* 2017 in the area of banking and finance law. Sumrow is an attorney at Thompson & Knight LLP in Dallas.

99 Dr. James A. Mello, MBA, Steubenville, Ohio, executive director for institutional effectiveness at Franciscan University of Steubenville, and his son, James (a student-athlete at Franciscan University), co-presented at the Inaugural Global Congress on Sports and Christianity held at York St. John University, United Kingdom, in August. Their presentation shared how the vision and mission

of Franciscan University are expressed and experienced through intercollegiate athletics. The Global Congress included 182 delegates from 24 nations. **Kathleen Drake Chavanu, PharmD**, Glenview, Ill., is the senior director, medical communications, with Takeda Pharmaceuticals USA, Inc.

02 Jeremy J. Majeski, BS, Barcelona, Spain, is the elementary school principal at the American School of Barcelona.

03 Eilyn R. Mulcahy, PhD, Manhattan, Kan., has been named director of the Master of Public Health program at Kansas State University in Manhattan. Mulcahy was previously professor and chair of biotechnology at Johnson County Community College in Overland Park, Kan. **Dr. Mark Willcox, BSChM**, Anchorage, Alaska, joined the Alaska Heart & Vascular Institute in Anchorage. Willcox is an electrophysiology specialist.

04 Michael P. Hodes, BA, Atlanta, has joined the law firm Boyd Collar Nolen & Tuggle as of counsel to the firm. Hodes is a family law attorney.

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07 Shawn M. Staples, JD, Chicago, was appointed principal at Much Shelist in Chicago. Staples is a member of the law firm's litigation and dispute resolution practice group, focusing his practice on complex litigation.

09 Sara R. Beste, MD, Shrewsbury, Mass., has been named the recipient of the Moira Erin O'Donnell Emerging Leaders for Justice Award, created by the Ignatian Solidarity Network in partnership with the family of Moira Erin O'Donnell. The O'Donnell Award recognizes young adults who received their undergraduate degree from a U.S. Jesuit university and demonstrated significant social justice leadership in their communities. Beste received her undergraduate degree from Boston College. While in medical school at Creighton, Beste volunteered at the Magis Clinic,

Creighton's free clinic for homeless individuals, and traveled to the Dominican Republic with ILAC, establishing a temporary clinic in a mountain village. **Luke T. Mohrhauser, JD,** Ankeny, Iowa, has been named a member of McKee, Voorhees & Sease, PLC, in Des Moines, Iowa. Mohrhauser is a patent attorney.

12 Anne James Obradovich, BS, Omaha, earned her MBA from Creighton University in August.

13 Ryan D. Holmgren, BA, Blaine, Minn., joined the Steier Group in Omaha as a campaign manager.

14 Allegra L. Jacoby, JD, Grand Prairie, Texas, is a contracts negotiator for Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control. **Steven G. Rupert, JD,** Wichita, Kan., was one of only two criminal defense lawyers from the state of Kansas to be selected

to attend the National Criminal Defense College last summer in Macon, Ga.

15 Derek True, JD, Omaha, is an associate attorney at Croker, Huck, Casher, Dewitt, Anderson and Gonderinger, LLC, in Omaha. True practices in the areas of business and commercial law, litigation, real estate and landlord and tenant law.

Weddings

99 Amy A. Schroer, BS, and Chad Sample, July 18, 2015, living in Gretna, Neb.

05 Meghan E. Cook, BA, and Marcin Zuraw, June 27, 2015, living in Dallas.

06 Elizabeth L. Hopkins and Alexander G. Gac, BSBA, June 4, 2016, living in Omaha.

2016 Alumni Merit Award Recipients

Creighton University congratulates these outstanding graduates who were recognized with Alumni Merit Awards during Homecoming. Read more about the recipients at alumni.creighton.edu/ama.



College of Arts and Sciences
Stephen Luby, MD, BA'81



Heider College of Business
Karen Soulliere Van Dyke, BSBA'88



College of Nursing
Ella (Ellie) Stradinger Brooks, PhD, BSN'81



College of Professional Studies
Anthony DeCanti, AS'07, BSCS'10



Graduate School
Susan Russell Toohey, EdD'13



School of Dentistry
Raymund Tanaka, BS'79, DDS'83, and Cynthia Leong, DDS'85



School of Law
Maj. Gen. Cassie Strom, JD'82



School of Medicine
Oliver Harper, MD'70



School of Pharmacy and Health Professions
Brittany Stryker, BSHS'06, OTD'06

The Educator

By Eugene Curtin

Former award-winning principal creates tool for schools to hire best teachers

More than 500 school districts across the nation are doing a better job of matching teachers with schools because of a teacher-assessment model created, built and eventually sold by Creighton alumnus **Donald Fraynd, PhD, BA'94, MA'97**.

Fraynd is a co-founder of TeacherMatch, a psychometric teacher-assessment program — which he developed after working as a teacher and administrator in Omaha and Chicago schools.

Before launching TeacherMatch, the former Chicago high school principal had developed a school improvement model that was embraced by the Chicago Public Schools and then adopted by the U.S. Department of Education as a required component of its School Improvement Grant Program.

Fraynd graduated with a bachelor's degree in biology from Creighton in 1994 and a Master of Arts degree in Christian spirituality in 1997, creating the Awakenings campus retreat along the way. His doctorate in educational leadership and policy analysis was awarded by the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2004.

While all of this boded well for a successful career in education, it could hardly have predicted the profound impact Fraynd would soon have on one of the nation's most imposing school districts, an impact that would lead directly to the founding of TeacherMatch.

In 2008, after serving five years as a high school principal in the Chicago Public Schools (CPS), Fraynd was asked by CPS Superintendent Arne Duncan to create an Office of School Improvement designed to turn around the district's toughest schools.

The invitation followed Fraynd's achievement as principal, where his school was rated one of the top 100 in the nation by *U.S. News & World Report* and captured the first U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon Schools Award ever granted to a CPS high school.

Fraynd says the plight of children in failing inner-city schools is rarely fully understood.

"What people often don't understand is that kids in these schools are suffering from a tremendous amount of trauma," he explains. "They live in extremely violent neighborhoods, always with the fear of getting hurt on the way home.

"A lot of relatives and people they know get shot in the neighborhood, nights and weekends, so if you don't bring structure to the school to help address that trauma, then you're never going to change the culture. So we did a lot around anger control, cognitive behavior trauma counseling and restorative justice to teach them how to deal with conflict.

"Once they feel loved and cared for, and safe, then they can start paying attention in class."



School improvement efforts by two-time Creighton graduate Donald Fraynd, PhD, BA'94, MA'97, were adopted by Chicago Public Schools and the U.S. Department of Education, and led to the founding of TeacherMatch, a program used in more than 500 school districts.

Evening classes were held for high school students who had to work during the day to support their children or siblings; distance classes were made available; community leaders were brought in to offer encouragement; and seminars were held to impress upon parents the importance of making sure their children attend school.

The results were impressive enough that when Duncan became President Barack Obama's secretary of education in 2009, he incorporated the program into national standards that must be met by school districts seeking federal aid.

Fraynd left CPS in 2012 and with some colleagues formed TeacherMatch.

They were all convinced, Fraynd says, based on their collective experience, that teacher quality was the single greatest predictor of student success. They were also convinced that schools often hired teachers arbitrarily. TeacherMatch provided an objective assessment system through which schools could focus their hiring on the top five or 10 candidates for a position.

It performed so well that, earlier this year, the TeacherMatch program was acquired by PeopleAdmin. What PeopleAdmin bought was a system that had been adopted by more than 500 school districts, ranging from the Miami-Dade County Public Schools with 330,000 students to a one-school district in rural Minnesota.

Journalism Grad at Home in Big Apple By Emily Rust

In Manhattan's fast-paced magazine industry, it can be tough to stand out. But one Creighton graduate is making her mark in journalism as an assistant editor at *Inc. Magazine*.

At first glance, the participating magazines in the American Society of Magazine Editors' summer internship program didn't thrill **Anna Hensel, BA'15**. Fashion and beauty magazines dominated the list — topics she did not want to cover. Further down the list, was *Inc. Magazine*, which boasted that it was one of the first magazines to put Steve Jobs on its cover. Hensel was hooked.

In the summer between her junior and senior years at Creighton, the Minnesota native packed her bags for New York City to intern at *Inc.*, a business magazine known for its annual rankings of fast-growing private companies in the U.S. And just days after graduation in 2015, she headed out again for New York for a full-time job at *Inc.*

As an assistant editor, Hensel manages columnists who write on design and technology, and she continues to write as well. Her articles vary, from career advice to profiles on company CEOs to lighter items, such as "Who Said It: Kanye West or Steve Jobs?" While *Inc.* might have made its name with traditional business news, it's also in tune with today's pop culture.

"We look at the news and think, what's the business angle from that story?" Hensel said.

A journalism graduate with a minor in German, Hensel has learned to adapt her writing to different topics. She's written about how often crimes involving college athletes are prosecuted for an article that appeared online in ESPN and internet development in Omaha for *Silicon Prairie News*.

"In journalism, you're expected to become an expert quickly," Hensel said. "I definitely feel like I've been able to learn everything I needed to just by asking the right questions."

At Creighton, Hensel was involved as the opinion editor of the *Creightonian*, the philanthropy chair of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority and the vice president of the Peace and Justice Cooperative.

In the spring of her sophomore year, she studied abroad in Copenhagen with the Danish Institute for Study Abroad. Her curriculum was hands-on. One week, she and her classmates went to Northern Ireland to study the conflict between Protestants and Catholics. She even wrote an article about the Danish culture from an outsider's perspective for a Red Cross-sponsored newspaper for Copenhagen's refugee population.

Although the New York media world is much larger than Omaha, Hensel reminds herself not to get intimidated, because "I remember that Creighton prepared me well."



Anna Hensel, BA'15, credits Creighton for preparing her well for her job as an assistant editor at *Inc. Magazine*.

07 Pamela T. Ziegler, BA, and Nicholas J. Langel, BSBA, Sept. 17, 2016, living in Omaha.

09 Dr. Laura N. Schmadeke and John T. Gordon, BSBA, March 5, 2016, living in Omaha. Kathleen A. Lawler, BFA, and Jon C. Husted, BA'07, June 20, 2015, living in Omaha.

12 Amanda E. Gruber, BA'03, JD, and Björn Rietschel, July 13, 2013, living in Omaha.

13 Annelise N. Ewing, BA, and Grant T. Goodman, BA, June 4, 2016, living in Harrisonburg, Va. Anne Langhorst, DPT, BSBS, and Alexander Kelly, Aug. 17, 2016, living in Colorado Springs, Colo. Teresa E. Dorsey, BS, and Alejandro M. Lopez, BSBA, July 16, 2016, living in Denver. Elizabeth C. Scheer, BA, and Clyde A. Redger, BSPHy'12, Aug. 12, 2016, living in Oklahoma City.

14 Sarah J. Forristal, BS, and Michael J. Greteman, BSBA, MS'15, Sept. 24, 2016, living in Omaha.

15 Mary H. Petersen, BSBA, and Nicholas Bongers, BS'14, June 18, 2016, living in Overland Park, Kan. Natalie M. Sindelar, JD, and Darren J. Hein, PharmD'12, BSBS'12, July 9, 2016, living in Bennington, Neb.

Births

95 Dr. Cezar B. Tolentino Jr. and Dr. Grace Judalena Tolentino, BS, Chicago, a daughter, Elizabeth "Elise" Grace, Sept. 23, 2016.

99 Michael I. Brandon, BS, and Lisa Brandon, Bellevue, Neb., a son, Rylen Joseph, Jan. 31, 2016. Chad Sample and Amy Schroer Sample, BS, Gretna, Neb., a daughter, Anna Claire, June 3, 2016.

02 Dr. James B. Alford, BA, and Claudia Potts Alford, BA'04, Kansas City, Mo., a son, Charles Alexander, May 24, 2016. Stephen P. McAvoy, BS'98, MD, and Heather Sorensen McAvoy, BA'01, New Berlin, Wis., a daughter, Tessa Grace, Aug. 28, 2016. Eric N. Mooss, BS, and Rebecca Wells Mooss, BSW, Lincoln, Neb., adopted a son, Jonathan Liang, from China on Feb. 15, 2016. Jason D. Wheeler, BS, and Sarah Hirsch Wheeler, DDS'09, San Antonio, a son, David James, March 18, 2016.

05 Silvestre Miranda Carreto and Abbi Jones Miranda Carreto, BA, Omaha, a daughter, Kathleen, March 24, 2016.



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07 Vincent M. Boulay, BSBA, BA'06, Omaha, a son, Domenic Eccker, Aug. 4, 2016. **Dr. Matthew L. Willis, BS**, and Rosemary Willis, Papillion, Neb., a son, Peter Matthew, Sept. 22, 2016. Brian M. Zimmer and **Angela Boyer Zimmer, BA'04, JD**, Lincoln, Neb., a daughter, Ashley Marie, Aug. 28, 2016.

08 Joel Russell and Erin Swanson Russell, BA'02, MA, Omaha, a daughter, Sloan Frances, May 23, 2016.

09 Luke T. Mohrhauser, JD, and Megan Mohrhauser, Ankeny, Iowa, a daughter, Elliott Jinks, Sept. 8, 2016.

11 Benjamin C. Knowles, BSBA'08, JD, and Katherine Jansen Knowles, BA'08, Omaha, a son, Harris Benjamin, May 17, 2016. **Alex F. Zimmerman, BSBA**, and **Elizabeth Schroer Zimmerman, BSW**, Omaha, a daughter, Grace Alma, June 14, 2016.

12 Björn Rietschel and Amanda Gruber Rietschel, BA'03, JD, Omaha, a daughter, Sophia Elizabeth, May 12, 2016.

Deaths

41 Elouise Wilson Forbes, NURS, Phoenix, May 29, 2016. **Corliss W. Mallett, BA**, Spring, Texas, May 31, 2016. **Louis H. Norris, BSC**, Des Moines, Iowa, July 16, 2016. **Ruth Binder Quinn, SJN**, Spearfish, S.D., May 12, 2016. **Eileen Batenhorst Schmitz, SJN**, Spokane, Wash., June 2, 2016.

44 Leota Fridrich Cahall, SJN, Satellite Beach, Fla., May 24, 2014. **Richard J. Fangman, BSM'43, MD**, Omaha, Sept. 25, 2016. **Harold J. Kestel, BSD'43, DDS**, Storm Lake, Iowa, July 17, 2016.

45 MaryJane Julius Tellier, SJN, Pensacola, Fla., Aug. 25, 2016.

46 Mary Oertel Frede, SJN, Charlottesville, Va., Sept. 8, 2016. **Dr. Rene E. Gunzelman, BSM**, Amarillo, Texas, Sept. 1, 2016.

48 Ralph D. Beasom, MD, Los Angeles, April 2016. **James R. English, BSC**, Denver, June 26, 2016. **Sr. M. Carlene Yonker, OSF, BSPha**, Colorado Springs, Colo., June 20, 2016.

49 James E. Burbach, BSC, Denver, May 12, 2014.

Francis X. Parle, BS, Lacey, Wash., June 7, 2015. **LeRoy V. Sedlacek, ARTS**, Safety Harbor, Fla., April 22, 2016. **Eleanor Shea Walsh, BS**, Lincoln, Neb., July 2, 2016.

50 Shirley Gibb Asmussen, BSPha, Omaha, June 27, 2016. **John H. Grosjean, MD**, Lakewood, Colo., July 25, 2016. **Patricia F. McGovern, BS**, Omaha, Aug. 13, 2016. **Rev. Edward I. Quinn, BS**, Samabula, Fiji, July 12, 2016. **J. Paul Thomassen, MD**, Yuba City, Calif., July 22, 2016.

51 Donald T. Cannon, BS, Mayville, N.D., June 3, 2016. **James J. Corboy, BSC**, Dallas, Aug. 30, 2016. **Benjamin J. Cunningham Jr., JD**, Grand Island, Neb., June 12, 2016. **Robert P. Heaney, BS'47, MD**, Omaha, Aug. 6, 2016. **Michael J. Hogan, ARTS**, Omaha, Aug. 7, 2016. **Robert D. Marcotte Sr., JD**, Elkhorn, Neb., Aug. 23, 2016. **Joan Tousignant Weetman, BSN**, Murrieta, Calif., June 17, 2016.

52 Martin A. Caliendo, BSPha, Omaha, April 28, 2016. **Steve Hoody, MD**, Omaha, Sept. 24, 2016. **Sr. Patricia Lowman, OSU, BS'50, MA**, Louisville, Ky., May 3, 2016.

53 Mary Holbrook Dethlefs, BS, Omaha, July 10, 2016.

John F. Fennell, BSC'50, JD, Atherton, Calif., February 2016. **Margaret Feehan McMahon, SCN'51, BSN**, Omaha, Aug. 19, 2016. **Robert A. Mitchell, MS'52, MD**, San Francisco, May 20, 2016. **John R. Whaley, BSC**, Overland Park, Kan., Sept. 8, 2016.

54 Thomas J. Kuelbs, DDS, San Diego, May 28, 2016. **Robert E. Schell, DDS**, Minneapolis, Nov. 1, 2015. **Ted J. Stessman, BSC**, Omaha, May 17, 2016.

55 Dolores Lubeley Downing, BS, Omaha, July 2, 2016. **John F. Fitzgibbons, BS'50, MS'51, MD**, Panora, Iowa, July 16, 2016. **Mary "Anna" Kenny Halbach, SCN**, Arvada, Colo., June 3, 2016. **Marlyn Seeman Hunke, BUSADM**, Ankeny, Iowa, May 26, 2016. **Robert G. Townley, MD**, Omaha, Sept. 8, 2016.

56 Carlos Torres Aguiar, MD, San Juan, Puerto Rico, Feb. 11, 2016. **Donald E. Gunderson, BS'51, MS'55, MD**, Cincinnati, Sept. 10, 2016. **William E. Jeffers Jr., BSBA**, Englewood, Colo., April 1, 2016. **Joseph M. McQuillan, BSBA**, Irving, Texas, July 13, 2016. **Maurice F. Quinlan, BS'52, MD**, Omaha, May 27, 2016.



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Alumni and friends, **share your pictures showing your Creighton Bluejay pride** at locales near and far through the social media campaign **#bluejayworld**. Tag your Twitter or Instagram photos with #bluejayworld, and visit bluejayworld.hscampaigns.com.



1. Homecoming Weekend Block Party – from left, Michael Koch; Jillian Koch McGriff, DPT'06 (holding daughter Nadya); Oliver McGriff; Lynden McGriff, PharmD'07 (holding daughter Ruby); and Carole Koch; **2. Homecoming Young Alumni Pub Crawl** – from left, Kathryn Onorato, MS'15, Joey Kimes and Katie Breedlove; **3. Denver Alumni BBQ and New Student Send-off** – Lauren Sepulveda, BA'10; Maria Devlin, BS'11, OTD'11; and Kayla Brimeyer, BS'12; **4. Homecoming Weekend Block Party** – back from left, Amy Feltner, Larry Feltner and Marty Feltner, PharmD'99, and front, Lauren Feltner.



#bluejayworld

Alumna Energized by SunShot Experience

By Kristine Rohwer

The future looks bright for recent graduate **Erin Cheese, BS'15**, as she pursues her passion in the solar and renewable energy field.

A double major in energy science and applied physical analysis, Cheese is currently in her second year as a junior fellow with the U.S. Department of Energy's SunShot Initiative, which seeks to make solar energy cost-competitive with other forms of electricity by 2020.

The junior fellows program is open to bachelor's degree graduates who have held a degree for less than five years at the time of their application. This highly competitive program only accepts four to five applicants per year.

Cheese is working with scientists and engineers to improve the durability, reliability and efficiency of solar panels. She is also looking at ways to reduce non-hardware costs associated with solar energy technologies — such as labor and financing — to accelerate the adoption of these technologies nationwide.

"This fellowship has been a life-changing experience," says Cheese, who works in Washington, D.C. "I work with a great team on challenging projects about a topic I'm passionate about.

"SunShot has given me so many



Erin Cheese, BS'15, is working with scientists and engineers to improve the durability, reliability and efficiency of solar panels. She is pictured above by the solar array on Creighton's campus.

opportunities to constantly learn about new topics and explore potential career paths. I'm very grateful that Creighton's Energy Technology program provided me with the tools to be successful in this fellowship."

Cheese credits Andrew Baruth, PhD, assistant professor of physics and her faculty mentor, along with Creighton's John P. Fahey Career Center, for preparing her for, and assisting with, the application process.

Baruth says he was confident that once Cheese earned an interview that she would be accepted. He particularly remembers a conversation with her afterward, in which

she told him that her hands-on research in his material science lab helped set her apart. A point to which the Creighton professor beams.

"It was easily one of the proudest moments of my career," he says.

In June, Cheese gave a presentation to more than 40 experts from higher education, industry and government at a conference in Portland, Ore. And in November 2015, the White House hosted an event in which Cheese and other members of SunShot brought in speakers to discuss the major challenges involving the deployment of solar technologies in communities nationally.

57 William J. Carroll, BSPha, Nebraska City, Neb., Aug. 8, 2016. **Donald E. Thorin, ARTS**, Tucson, Ariz., Feb. 9, 2016.

58 Paul D. Brick, BSBA, Fredericksburg, Va., Sept. 16, 2016. **Edward R. Coe, BSPha**, Heber Springs, Ark., May 16, 2016. **Ronald J. Downey, MS**, Auburn, Calif., July 20, 2016. **Sam A. Milone, BS'52, MS**, Omaha, May 18, 2016.

59 Donald R. Gard, ARTS, Glendale, Ariz., May 17, 2016. **Norman V. Wirth, MD**, Las Vegas, May 27, 2016.

60 Andrew J. Weis, MD, San Diego, June 3, 2016.

61 Jean O'Malley Bailey, BUSADM, Urbandale, Iowa,

May 26, 2016. **Sr. Mary L. Bauman, CPPS, BS**, St. Louis, May 14, 2016. **Jeanne Card Burnes, SCN'55, BSN**, Omaha, June 28, 2016. **Daryl R. Stephenson, BS'56, MD**, Yankton, S.D., June 16, 2016.

62 Nicholas J. Santoro, BS, Kansas City, Mo., June 13, 2016.

63 Rev. Thomas E. Bannantine, SJ, MA, Wauwatosa, Wis., Aug. 8, 2016.

64 F. Donald Kapps, BS'60, MD, North Oaks, Minn., July 6, 2016. **Roy A. McLaughlin, MD**, Caldwell, Idaho, Aug. 31, 2016. **Anthony J. Rejent, MD**, St. Louis, Aug. 5, 2016. **William M. Wanamaker, MD**, Neenah, Wis., May 31, 2016.

65 Jerome P. Hahn, BA, Des Moines, Iowa, Aug. 19, 2016. **William F. Koeppen III, BA**, Chesapeake, Va., Nov. 29, 2015. **James J. Regan, MD**, Omaha, June 27, 2016.

66 Sr. Julie A. Coyne, OSF, BSPha, Sioux City, Iowa, Aug. 24, 2016. **Thomas E. Desmond Jr., MD**, Edison, N.J., June 3, 2016.

67 Patrick F. Dowd, BA, Boelus, Neb., April 26, 2016. **James L. Fishback, MBA**, Omaha, Aug. 13, 2016. **Rev. James W. Kiernan, MSEdu**, West Des Moines, Iowa, May 15, 2016. **Joe Oppold, MSGuid**, Waterloo, Iowa, July 1, 2016.

68 John J. Connor, JD, Lenexa, Kan., April 30, 2016.

Susan Borner Sanger, BSN, Sisters, Ore., Aug. 2, 2016.

69 George J. Grobins, DDS, University Place, Wash., Dec. 10, 2015.

70 Thomas J. Hall, MA, Omaha, May 7, 2016.

71 Patrick L. Brennan, BA, Falls City, Neb., June 28, 2016. **Mary Kaye Loomer Eggers, BA**, Fort Myers, Fla., June 14, 2016. **James F. Powers, BA**, Clinton, Iowa, July 23, 2016.

73 Marion Kristine "Kris" Burns, BA, Blair, Neb., Sept. 7, 2016. **Georgia M. Hagen, BA'71, MSEdu**, St. Paul, Minn., April 26, 2016. **Elaine Chandler Tidwell, SJN**, Omaha, Aug. 27, 2016.

Health, Wealth and Salvation: Inaugural Interdisciplinary Graduate Conference on Well-being | March 30–April 1, 2017

How do health, wealth and the pursuit of salvation influence well-being? In this first interdisciplinary conference at Creighton University, participating students, faculty, professionals and alumni will explore “well-being” through perspectives in the humanities, the sciences, business and law.

- Connect with faculty and your peers
- Discover the work of graduate students, faculty and alumni
- Present your own research

The conference features a luncheon on food justice, networking opportunities and a graduate fair. Participants are also invited to St. Albert’s Day, the University’s research day, on March 30.

• Submit proposals, learn more
and register at gradschool.creighton.edu



74 Carol Tacke Hicks, BS, Utica, S.D., May 1, 2016.

75 Anthony P. Dalton, BS’71, MD, Cookeville, Tenn., May 14, 2016. **Gary L. Johnson, BSPha**, Des Moines, Iowa, Sept. 17, 2016. **Gary V. Puro, MD**, Truth or Consequences, N.M., May 28, 2016.

76 James N. Lemon, DDS, Roosevelt, Utah, Feb. 22, 2016.

77 Daniel J. Harmon, MD, Waco, Texas, May 31, 2016. **Joseph A. Miloni, BUSADM**, Omaha, Aug. 18, 2016. **Joseph C. Schiro, MD**, Sarasota, Fla., Aug. 6, 2015.

78 Evelyn Evans Boiser, BSN, Moloaa, Hawaii, Aug. 18, 2015. **John R. Sodoro, BSBA’75, JD**, Omaha, Aug. 28, 2016.

79 David A. Breuss, BUSADM, Des Moines, Iowa, June

8, 2016. **Lori Sullivan Cable, BSN**, Omaha, July 25, 2016.

80 Frederick G. Heimrod, BUSADM, Arlington, Neb., July 31, 2016.

81 Sr. Margaret M. Held, SSSF, BSN, Durant, Miss., Aug. 25, 2016. **Rev. Timothy J. Lange, MMin**, Yankton, S.D., Jan. 7, 2016.

82 Michael J. Athey, BA, Peoria, Ill., June 25, 2016. **Sr. Regina Erbacher, SCL, MChrSp**, Leavenworth, Kan., Sept. 4, 2016.

84 Stephen E. Budd, BS’80, MD, Omaha, Aug. 15, 2016.

86 Jeffrey J. Kaftan, BSBA, Green Bay, Wis., Aug. 13, 2016. **Mary Tracy Stannard, BA**, Valley, Neb., Sept. 30, 2016.

87 Nagae “Cheemay” Ohsawa, BSMth’85, MS, Austin, Texas, Aug. 15, 2016. **Mary Quinn Weber, BFA’84, JD**, Omaha, Aug. 10, 2016.

89 Catherine Shugrue Schaffner, JD, Prescott Valley, Ariz., Aug. 8, 2016.

91 John M. Zill, BSBA, Omaha, May 28, 2016.

92 Mary Martin Balken, MS, Omaha, May 15, 2016. **Lawrence P. “Pat” Langdon, BA**, Omaha, June 22, 2016. **Sr. Madeline Studer, SSND, MA**, Mankato, Minn., Aug. 25, 2013.

94 John C. “Jack” Caranci, MBA, Council Bluffs, Iowa, May 16, 2016.

95 Charles M. “Mike” Harper, HON, Omaha, May 28, 2016.

96 Camilo B. Alba, BSBA’78, MCSM’94, MBA, Bellevue, Neb., Oct. 25, 2015. **Tammy Eckhardt Hynes, BSN**, Kearney, Neb., May 4, 2016. **Mary Weidner McGowan, MS**, Las Vegas, May 18, 2016.

00 Julie C. Vander Mark, BS, Candia, N.H., Sept. 30, 2016.

03 Jerome E. Bownes, BSMth, Omaha, Aug. 7, 2016.

05 Christopher G. Kelley, DDS, Omaha, Sept. 2, 2016.

13 Seth C. Rich, BA, Washington, D.C., July 10, 2016.

In Remembrance

We remember Creighton University faculty and Jesuits who have recently died. *

> **Geoffrey C. Anderson, PhD**
Adjunct assistant professor of psychiatry and assistant director of training for the combined Creighton-UNMC Psychiatry Residency Program; March 11, 2016

> **Rev. Robert H. Fitzgerald, SJ**
Former chaplain, Creighton University Medical Center; March 17, 2016

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



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Bust Honors Fr. Schlegel

Former Creighton President the Rev. John P. Schlegel, SJ, who died in November 2015, is memorialized with a bust displayed outside of the Schlegel Center for Service and Justice. Sculptor Littleton Alston, far left, is pictured with members of the Schlegel family.