Former U.S. Sen. and Nebraska Gov. Bob Kerrey, HON’93, stressed the importance of democracy during a 90-minute conversation as part of the Presidential Lecture Series. “It’s not easy to make it work, especially in such a large and diverse country,” Kerrey said. “But if we give up on democracy, it’s a far worse world than what we’ve got now.”

In September, we celebrated a ceremonial groundbreaking for the new Creighton University Health Sciences – Phoenix Campus. A wonderful complement to our outstanding health sciences programs in Omaha, this campus, scheduled to open in fall 2021, will eventually serve as an educational hub for nearly 900 Creighton health professions students in Phoenix. Nearly 200 students are currently engaged in our established nursing and medical programs in the city.

National data shows a critical shortage of health care professionals in the Southwest, and in Arizona and Phoenix, particularly.

It is our hope and belief that a new generation of Creighton health professionals — educated in both Omaha and Phoenix — will help address this increasing demand, and do so in Creighton’s Jesuit, Catholic tradition of excellence in academics, clinical care, and service.

I join with our Phoenix health care partners, community and government leaders, and organizations and individuals who offer their philanthropic support in expressing my excitement for this new campus and its possibilities.

Closer to home, I am also pleased that our enrollment numbers remain robust, in light of an increasingly competitive national enrollment environment. We welcomed the third-largest freshman class this fall, with 1,076 students, to record our second-largest total enrollment of 8,821. Of note, our new physician assistant program is well subscribed, with 24 students.

This fall, we also hosted our inaugural Mission Week on campus. The celebration — titled “Imagine Our Magis” — provided an ideal opportunity to reflect upon our Jesuit, Catholic mission, and how each of us can participate in it.

I was delighted to welcome the Rev. Greg Boyle, SJ, HON’09, founder of Homeboy Industries and author of “Tattoos on the Heart” and “Barking to the Choir,” to talk about his work with gang members in Los Angeles and the importance of standing with those on society’s margins.

His keynote address was one of several significant lectures on campus this fall.

Nobel Peace Prize recipient Nadia Murad spoke on the plight of Iraq’s Yazidi minority as the inaugural Creighton Global Scholars Lecture Series speaker. Pulitzer Prize-winning author David Blight, PhD, shared insights from his new biography on Frederick Douglass at an event co-sponsored by our Kingfisher Institute; and Bob Kerrey, HON’93, a former U.S. senator, Nebraska governor, and university president, engaged a range of topics as the featured guest in our Presidential Lecture Series.

On Sept. 28, I stood in solidarity with campus colleagues, local government officials, community leaders, and a crowd of several hundred outside the Douglas County Courthouse in downtown Omaha, as we remembered the 100th anniversary of a mob lynching of a black man, Will Brown, at the site. The ceremony served as a powerful reminder of the evils of racial violence and its reality in our world, and an inspiration for racial dialogue, justice, and equality.

In closing, I wish you and your families a blessed holiday season, a merry Christmas, and a happy new year! May peace, love, and joy resound in our homes, our nation, and our world.

Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD
President
Diversity, Voices, Inclusion and the Workforce

Businesses and organizations of all sizes are beginning to understand the great value that diversity and inclusion bring to the workplace, and Creighton experts are leading the conversation.

The 12 Anchors

A Creighton nursing graduate was one of the Navy nurse POWs captured in the Philippines during World War II. The women are the subject of a new book.

Creighton Connections

9 Jesuit Gardens

School of Dentistry associate professor emeritus James Howard DDS, is spreading the word about the difference a Jesuit education makes, even long after graduation.

In the Classroom

A chemistry professor is making his subject matter more accessible to students and alumni alike through a class on the chemistry of beer.

Impact

The Henryes Pediastone Bridge, connecting Creighton’s campus and the neighborhoods across the North Freeway, honors two brothers whose lives were shaped by the University.

Alumni Notes

56 Creighton Conversations

A Creighton department dedicated to promoting diversity, especially in the health sciences, has been nationally cited for inspiring young people to consider careers in STEM.

Creighton University

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Reducing Opioid Use

By Eugene Curtin

Creighton health care professionals are pioneering new hospital protocols that rely less on addictive opioid drugs.

When the National Institute on Drug Abuse reports that more than 130 Americans die every day from opioid overdose, and more than 1,000 are rushed to emergency rooms after opioid misuse, it’s easy to see the devastating impact these addictive painkillers can have.

For the anesthesiology group at CHI Health Creighton University Medical Center–Bergan Mercy, however, it’s a relatively old story about a war on addiction that its member physicians have waged for seven years.

“Around 2012 to 2013, our anesthesiology group decided to start changing how we take care of patients and how we manage their pain,” says Mark Reisbig, PhD’03, MD’08, associate professor in the School of Medicine’s Department of Anesthesiology.

“It used to be that we gave all these big-time opioid drugs that certainly took care of patient pain but also knocked them out and had a lot of side effects. We have now set up new protocols and are trying to move them out to other hospitals across the CHI system.”

The protocols de-emphasize common opioid painkillers such as morphine, fentanyl, hydromorphone and oxycodone and replace them with non-opioid pain relievers such as acetaminophen and ibuprofen administered consistently throughout the day.

Charles Youngblood, MD’02, MBA ‘15, chairman of the Department of Anesthesiology, says de-emphasizing opioids is part of a wider effort to reimagine pain management.

“We’re trying to treat acute pain better,” he says. “We’re doing better medicine, and using fewer opioids is a result of that. We’re addressing pain on multiple modalities versus just one, and so we’re using fewer and fewer opioids. If we can avoid them altogether, then all the better.”

Reisbig refers to this mix of prescription and nonprescription painkillers, together with significantly reduced use of opioids such as morphine, as a “multimodal” approach under which a patient’s pain is monitored before, during and after surgery. Morphine is used during surgery, which grants about 24 hours of pain relief, followed thereafter by the application every few hours of non-opioid painkillers such as acetaminophen and ibuprofen administered consistently throughout the day.

Charles Youngblood, MD’02, MB’08, chairman of the Department of Anesthesiology, says de-emphasizing opioids is part of a wider effort to reimagine pain management. “We’re trying to treat acute pain better,” he says. “We’re doing better medicine, and using fewer opioids is a result of that. We’re addressing pain on multiple modalities versus just one, and so we’re using fewer and fewer opioids. If we can avoid them altogether, then all the better.”

The result, Reisbig says, was an almost 50% reduction in the number of patients receiving opioids and the application of just 200 micrograms of morphine down the 30-40 or 50 milligrams applied during a typical hospital stay.

Nevertheless, Reisbig says, opioids remain available and will be used if necessary. “We’re giving what is indicated,” he says. “If people are experiencing a lot of pain, that’s what we’re going to use. But we’re not just giving it out.”

The gathering of data continues as the Creighton team continues to build the case that non-opioid pain management is effective. Data is the key to changing minds. Reisbig says, and the more non-opioid pain management is practiced, the more data there will be.

“It’s amazing to see these patients afterward,” he says. “They’re more alert, more awake. They don’t look like they’ve just had surgery where you had to wake them up. Now they’re sitting up, alert, eating. It’s exciting.”

Patients reduced their pain estimates to two and three, down from seven and eight, on a scale of 1 to 10. Morphine consumption fell from 30 morphine equivalents to just one, and antiemetics used to control nausea fell from 67% to zero.

“Patients had less nausea, the pain was a lot better and we weren’t giving them a whole lot of intravenous opioids,” Reisbig says.

Thus encouraged, the anesthesiologists some two years later brought on board Brian Loggie, MD, chief of surgical oncology at the Bergan Mercy campus.

Loggie, Reisbig says, performs major surgeries on patients with advanced and even terminal abdominal cancers.

“Obviously, these are big surgeries that involve very large incisions and the insertion of tubes for hot chemotherapy after the abdomen is closed up,” Reisbig says. “So, there’s a lot of post-surgery pain management.”

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Opioid Use

Reducing protocols that rely less on pioneer new hospital care professionals are Creighton health

BY EUGENE CURTIN

Creighton health care professionals are pioneering new hospital protocols that rely less on addictive opioid drugs.
Campus Welcomes Nobel Peace Prize Winner

Nadia Murad is not giving up. The 2018 Nobel Peace Prize recipient spoke at Creighton in September during a campus visit sponsored by Creighton’s Global Scholars Program.

It might seem sensible, she said, for the Yazidi people of northern Iraq to accept their fate as victims of the Islamic State and from there to Germany, where she now resides.

“The Yazidi people of northern Iraq, an ethno-religious minority that practices a religion distinct from both Islam and Christianity, have been scattered around their region and the world in light of ISIS persecution. Murad said, and she urged the nations of the world to help them reclaim their rural, farming homeland, our culture, our religion.”

But that, Murad said, would grant ISIS a victory.

“When ISIS came, they came to eradicate Yazidis from that region, they came to dehumanize us and to say that ‘you will not be able to exist here,’” she said.

“That’s why we are fighting, because we want to ensure that the ISIS goal does not get accomplished. We want to make sure that we are able to maintain our homeland, our culture, our religion.”

Creighton President the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD, in introducing Murad, told part of her story, a story that has captured the attention of world leaders, including Pope Francis. Her creation of Nadia’s Initiative, which advocates for victims of sexual violence and seeks to draw attention to the plight of the Yazidis, earned her the Nobel Prize.

“The August 15 of 2014, at the age of 19, Nadia was captured by ISIS troops during a raid on her village,” Fr. Hendrickson said.

“More than 600 Yazidi men were murdered, including six of Nadia’s brothers and stepbrothers. Some 500 women were captured and condemned to slavery and sexual abuse. Three months later, Nadia escaped and made her way to a refugee camp and from there to Germany, where she now resides.”

Creighton, Union Pacific Partner to Build Diverse Workforce

Creighton University and Union Pacific Railroad are teaming up to enhance diversity and build Omaha’s future workforce.

The Union Pacific Diversity Scholars Program at Creighton will create access to academic merit scholarships and professional development opportunities for minority students over a four-year period. Creighton and Union Pacific’s Community Ties Giving Program will each invest more than $1 million to fund the program.

“Creighton recruits diverse and high-performing students, and Union Pacific seeks the same in its workforce,” said Creighton President the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD. “Together, we will reach out to students from minority groups, welcome them to Creighton and Omaha, invest in their strengths, and provide them with the tools to succeed and lead.”

“At Union Pacific, we believe diverse perspectives drive stronger ideas generation and spark creativity that, ultimately, fosters innovative solutions in today’s rapidly changing world,” said Union Pacific Chairman, President and CEO Lance Fritz.

This scholarship program is a step toward strengthening our workforce and creating a diverse, equitable and inclusive community.”

To qualify for the Union Pacific Diversity Scholars Program, high school students must hold a 3.5 GPA or above in a college preparatory curriculum. Students must apply to Creighton’s College of Arts and Sciences or Heider College of Business by Jan. 30, 2020.

The first eight members of the program will arrive on campus for the 2020-2021 academic year. During their freshman year, students will be paired with Union Pacific mentors. As the scholars advance, they will engage in peer-to-peer mentoring and connect with community partners through networks. Junior and senior students will apply to Union Pacific’s internship program for a chance to explore career opportunities at the railroad. Union Pacific employs more than 250 Creighton graduates.

Throughout their academic careers, scholars will enrich their education through inclusive excellence and cultural competency themes in their coursework, led by Christopher Whitt, PhD. Creighton’s vice provost for Institutional Diversity and Inclusion.

“Creighton and Union Pacific have a shared vision for Omaha to be a more inclusive place,” Whitt said. “Our Jesuit, Catholic mission — paired with Union Pacific’s commitment to building a workforce that represents the communities it serves — offers a framework to help make this vision a reality.”

The Union Pacific Diversity Scholars Program supports the high priority initiatives identified in a recently published report by Blueprint Nebraska, a group of business and civic leaders working to enhance economic advantages for all Nebraskans.

“At Union Pacific, we are focused on promoting diversity and inclusion in Nebraska, not only to attract and retain top talent, but because it’s the right thing to do,” Fritz said. “Working together, we can help make Nebraska the most welcoming state in the Midwest.”

Averett Helps Lead Archaeological Project in Cyprus

On the island of Cyprus, tucked away near the eastern edge of the Mediterranean Sea, a Creighton University educator is guiding new generations of archaeologists as they unearth ancient treasures.

Eren Averett, PhD, associate professor of archaeology in the Department of Fine and Performing Arts at Creighton, said he has been assistant director of the Athienou Archaeological Project (AAP), an archaeological field school that excavates in the Platea Maloupsa Valley in central Cyprus, with a recent focus on excavating an ancient religious sanctuary. At the school, Averett and his colleagues teach undergraduates the basics of archaeological survey and excavation, training them in the field as they uncover artifacts that illuminate the island’s long history.

“We work with undergraduate students rather than hired excavators, and it goes more slowly because our main mission is education rather than speed,” Averett says.

Run by director Michael Tsountaou, PhD, at Davidson College in North Carolina, AAP has been active on Cyprus since 1990. Averett joined the project in 1997 and has been assistant director since 2003.

Excavation takes place in a fertile agricultural plain in the center of the island. The project selected this site, Averett says, because it was far removed from the coastal urban centers where scholars had traditionally focused much of their attention.

The main focus of the excavation for the past 25 years has been a large religious sanctuary that was in use from about 800 B.C. to 400-500 A.D. The sanctuary, Averett says, was an open-air enclosure where, for centuries, worshipers performed animal sacrifices and other rituals and left offerings to various gods and goddesses.
accepts 10-18 undergraduate students each summer from colleges and universities nationwide. The students live in Cyprus for six weeks, gaining excavation and survey experience at the site, while also learning about the entire process of archaeology (from recording to processing to conservation at the lab). They also explore the history of Cyprus in lectures and weekly site tours all over the island.

Students study the basics, such as how to walk around the site without damaging ancient walls or artifacts, while also mastering modern techniques, such as digital imaging and other new technologies.

Though the project is open to students nationally, several of Averett’s students at Creighton have been accepted over the years.

“It was the coolest thing ever. It’s honestly exactly what you see in movies,” says Grace Bryant, a junior art history and cultural anthropology major who spent last summer in Cyprus participating in AAP’s field school. “There was so much going on all the time, and it was really cool to actually see how archaeologists do things.”

The success of Nelly Nigro’s life is best measured not in money nor influence but mileage.

Over her 92 years, the Omaha native traveled the world many times over, making it to all seven continents and scores of countries.

Nigro trekked across Soviet Russia; became a lifelong Bible scholar after a trip to the Holy Land; researched log houses in Finland; studied honey bees in Australia; and in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, hunted for dinosaur bones.

But in all her travels and all her experiences, this restless and fiercely independent woman never cut the threads that led her back to the place she called home—Omaha. And she never forgot about Creighton.

Before she died in the summer of 2017, Nigro, BSPha’45, bequeathed more than 10 million to the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions.

The gift establishes a research fund that helps patients get the most benefit from their medications. Research was always close to Nigro’s heart. She used the lessons learned in both his life and profession. He shared how to find God in everyone and a path for a life well-lived with fellow alumni of Wheeling University in West Virginia (a former Jesuit institution). He presented “Give and Take in Jesuit Education” during his 50-year class reunion this summer.

“W hen you look at Jesuit education, you learn to think critically,” says Howard, who served as associate dean for clinical services and director of clinics for more than a decade. “You’re continually immersed in the values that the Jesuits espouse in your education system.”

Values such as finding God in all people, something Howard teaches students in the dental school.

It can be frustrating, Howard says, when you don’t see eye-to-eye with someone with whom you interact. In that instance, “what you need to do is develop a time to ask God to give you the wisdom, the patience, the understanding the insight to know how to work with this person,” Howard says.

“When you get up in the morning, whoever your God is, whatever your personal introspection is, ask, ‘Help me today.’ Continually try to bring that up in your head and your heart. You’ll be able to work with people a lot more effectively.”

Howard stresses that as a dentist he uses this mindset to find the inherent dignity in every patient. To follow the words of St. Ignatius’ Prayer for Generosity, “Lord Jesus, teach me to be generous, teach me to serve as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost.”

“You’re continually immersed in the values that the Jesuits espouse in your education system.”

In a world in which many think it’s paramount to be “better than” others, Howard encourages his students to think about how, through service, they can benefit their community and their profession, as well as themselves.

It’s a philosophy that has served him well throughout his career, serving as a dentist in the Air Force and as a faculty member at Creighton. “As you grow older and you’re exposed to many different aspects of life, you realize how important the things that you learned really are,” Howard says.

And, he adds, the difference a Jesuit education can make —

**Finding God in All Things**

After the caps are tossed, the degree is framed and the end of a college career is upon you, where do you take your Jesuit education? What are its lasting effects?

James Howard, DDS, associate professor emeritus of general dentistry in the School of Dentistry, who now serves as a contributed services faculty member, graduated from a Jesuit university five decades ago, but still uses the lessons learned in both his life and profession. He shared how to find God in everyone and a path for a life well-lived with fellow alumni of Wheeling University in West Virginia (a former Jesuit institution). He presented “Give and Take in Jesuit Education” during his 50-year class reunion this summer.

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And, he adds, the difference a Jesuit education can make —
spent her final working years in hospita
tal pharmacy practice, researching the
impact of what she called, “social sup-
port interventions on patient health.”
The Nigro fund’s research will be fac-
ulty driven but will also offer many great
opportunities for students, said Michael S. Monaghan, PharmD, chair of the
Department of Pharmacy Practice.

“Nelly had a passion for research throughout her career,” said Joe Nigro, Nelly’s nephew and estate executor. “But the gift also speaks to her fondness of
educational opportunities she got at Creighton.

She never forgot the opportunities she
got at pharmacy school.”

Creighton’s pharmacy school has
changed a bit in the 74 years since Nigro
graduated. Today, the pharmacy school has
more than 1,000 students enrolled. In
1944 — Nigro’s second year in her three-
year accelerated program — the war had
changed a bit in the 74 years since Nigro
graduated at Creighton.

Nigro was one of just five students
(three of them women) to graduate from
the pharmacy school in 1945. Before
then, she earned the Creighton phar-
maceutical society’s award for being
the student with the highest scholastic
rating. She was the first woman to do so.

Nigro entered the profession at a
time when there were very few female
pharmacists. After graduation, she
worked at hospitals in Omaha and
Lincoln, then Cleveland and Long Beach
and, eventually, Los Angeles, where she
helped open the UCLA Medical Center in
1955. She remained with UCLA for the
better part of the next 40 years — though
she rarely stayed still.

She was the first woman to do so.

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O’Keefe Named First Kingfisher Honoree

In accepting Creighton’s inaugural Kingfisher Award at a campus town hall in September, theology professor and documentary filmmaker John O’Keefe, PhD, expressed his deep gratitude—not only for being selected for the award, but for having a job that’s been so interesting and fulfilling.

“Where else does (a theologian) learn about the beauty of chemistry from a chemist ... in the back of a microbus ... in the Dominican Republic ... while sipping rum ... purchased on the streets of Dajabon just hours before?” O’Keefe said.

The Kingfisher Award recognizes outstanding faculty and staff who have demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to the enduring values, principles and practices of the humanities. This presidential award is given in partnership with the University’s Kingfisher Institute for the Liberal Arts and Professions.

O’Keefe is a scholar of patristic theology whose commitment to environmental justice has inspired his research in the area of ecotheology.

He has expanded the impact of his research through the medium of documentary film, in partnership with colleagues and students across departments.

Brown Contributes to Award-Winning Book on Parenting From Afar

Jill Brown, a young woman from small-town Nebraska, sat beneath a tree in the dusty heat of Owamboland, Namibia, and watched her future take shape.

Six-year-old Timo had just reclaimed his spot on the mat where he and Jill, then a 23-year-old Peace Corps volunteer, were reading with two other children.

He had left to pay his respects to a man who had faced unimaginable trauma and one of three co-editors.

“Timo’s mother, she was told. Timo’s mother, she was told. Brown recounts her surprise in a new book to which she is a contributor and one of three co-editors.

“I had lived with this family for almost two years and had missed a bit.” Westphal said the Haddix STEM program was “eyes-opening.”

“It was such an amazing experience it made me want to come to Creighton,” she said.

Brown is set in

“child fostering” is a cultural norm, the book investigates the ways people across the globe maintain — and sometimes create — family ties in the face of lengthy separations.

Standing on the Margins

The Rev. Greg Boyle, SJ, HON’09, stood in front of a packed audience at St. John’s Church and told the story of a young man who had faced unimaginable abuse.

As a child, the young man had worn three T-shirts to school: three because two weren’t enough to sop up the blood from the wounds inflicted by his mother. Kids made fun of him, and even when...

Brown is a scholar of patristic theology whose commitment to environmental justice has inspired his research in the area of ecotheology. He has expanded the impact of his research through the medium of documentary film, in partnership with colleagues and students across departments.

in science, technology, engineering or math at Creighton.

Both Huerta and Westphal won honors for their completed projects at Omaha’s 2019 Metropolitan Science and Engineering Fair.

Huerta, a graduate of Omaha South High School, studied qubits—the quantum version of the classical computer “bit.” Westphal, a graduate of Omaha Central High School, focused her research on butterflies as important pollinators.

Westphal’s advisor was Theodore Burk, PhD, professor of animal behavior, entomology and behavioral ecology in the Department of Biology. Huerta was guided by Thomas Wring, PhD, assistant professor of physics in the Department of Physics.

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“It was such an amazing experience it made me want to come to Creighton,” she said.

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Six-year-old Timo had just reclaimed his spot on the mat where he and Jill, then a 23-year-old Peace Corps volunteer, were reading with two other children. He had left to pay his respects to a man who had faced unimaginable trauma — but she wasn’t enough to sop up the blood from the wounds inflicted by his mother. Kids made fun of him, and even when...
He was grown, the man felt ashamed of his scars. But years later, as he spoke in front of an audience of social workers at Fr. Boyle’s behoist, the man said he no longer felt ashamed. “I took my fingers over my scars. My wounds are my friends. How can I help the wounded if I don’t welcome my own wounds, we may well with them,” Fr. Boyle said. “For the willingness to see ourselves in kinship it is an integral mission work: “The measure of an audience of social workers at Fr. Boyle, founder and executive director of Los Angeles-based Homeboy Industries and author of Tattoos on the Heart and Barking to the Choir spoke Sept. 9 at St. John’s to kick off Creighton’s inaugural Mission Week.

Beginning this year, the University selects one week during the fall semester for the campus community to reflect on Creighton’s Ignatian heritage and spirituality. During this year’s Mission Week, Sept. 9-13, the University and Omaha community partners came together at several events to listen, learn, reflect and explore themes which emerge from Creighton’s Jesuit Catholic mission.

After opening remarks from Eileen Burke-Sullivan, STD, M.Div.,-94, vice provost for Mission and Ministry and Creighton President the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, Ph.D., Fr. Boyle spent on his experiences working with former gang members at his nonprofit, Homeboy Industries.

Founded by Fr. Boyle in East Los Angeles in the late 1980s, Homeboy Industries offers job training and other services to former gang members and people who have been incarcerated. The organization employs its clients in social enterprises — including a bakery, catering service and diner — that teach essential career development skills while also offering an alternative to gang life.

Fr. Boyle told several stories — some tragic, some hilarious — about the people he’s encountered in his work. One anecdote involved a parolee named Glenn, working as a waitress in one of Homeboy Industries’ programs. The person, upon meeting actress Diane Keaton, told the actress she recognized her from their time together in L.A. But Fr. Boyle booked his presentation with a challenge for the University community: one that rang truly true during Mission Week: Stand with the people at the margins.

“Willing to think about the margins,” Fr. Boyle said. “That’s who we are at the margins. And then we look under our feet, and we notice (the margins) are getting erased. Because we chose to stand there.”

Recker Receives $1.5 Million NIH Grant to Study Osteoporosis in Diabetic Women

Longtime Creighton researcher Robert Recker, PhD, has received a $1.5 million grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to investigate the relationship between diabetes and osteoporosis.

Diabetics experience osteoporosis at higher rates than the general population. Osteoporosis results in a loss of bone density, which can eventually lead to fractures. Fr. Recker’s research focuses specifically on low-trauma fractures in diabetic women. The goal of the five-year study will involve either 40 diabetic women and 40 nondiabetic women.

Recker’s approach reflects an earlier study in which 60 people suffering from low-trauma fractures were found to have abnormalities in the mechanical quality of their bones. Recker compares the difference to iron and steel. “Iron, if you put enough load on it, breaks,” he says. “Steel, if you put the same load, will bend a little, but it doesn’t fail nearly as easily as iron.” Recker says this initial study will involve Caucasian women, who experience osteoporosis at much higher rates than other people.

“Other races — and men — will have different findings, which will confound the data,” he says. “If we conclude a study on white women, then we can do a study on nonwhite women. One step at a time. Diabetic women interested in participating should call 402.280.2630.

Scott Foundation Gift to Assist Future Heider Business Students

A $146,000 scholarship program aims to recruit more future business leaders to Omaha and Nebraska.

President the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, Ph.D., said the foundation’s latest investment in the University will establish one of the most competitive business education scholarships.

“Like Walter, I believe in this program and the Heider College of Business’ ability to deliver on our goals,” said Walter Scott Foundation Board of Trustees Chair Matt McNary, BBA ‘15. "I think they do a good job of this. I do not plan to leave. I love it here.”

CREIGHTON CONNECTIONS
FALL 2019
OT Alumna Helps Develop Hydrotherapy for Premies

Makenna Brown Tucker, BS'15, OTD'19, wanted to be a pediatric occupational therapist when she graduated, but never imagined working with the tiniest of patients.

When she began the research portion of her doctorate in occupational therapy at CHI Health Creighton University Medical Center–Bergan Mercy, she “fell in love” with premature infants and “how occupational therapy (OT) can impact their lives.”

She focused her research on hydrotherapy—performing therapy in warm water—with preemies and, at the request of Lisa Bader, BSOT’96, Bergan’s NICU occupational therapist, helped develop a program for the neonatal intensive care unit at the hospital. Bader had seen a presentation on neonatal hydrotherapy at a conference two years earlier and was keenly interested.

“She involved herself in every way she could,” Bader says. “I knew Makenna would be with us for 16 weeks, and I knew she could get the project done. She did a literature review, wrote the protocol, passed it through the doctors and nurse practitioners, and implemented it.”

Bader says her NICU has been having hydrotherapy treatment to two or three babies per week, sending them home sooner and stronger.

“I imagine working with the tiniest of therapists when she graduated, but never wanted to be a pediatric occupational therapist, and implemented it.”

“Lisa knew Makenna would be with us for 16 weeks, and I knew she could get the project done. She did a literature review, wrote the protocol, passed it through the doctors and nurse practitioners, and implemented it.”

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“Play Important for Children

Let children play. That was the message delivered by Peter Gray, PhD, a research professor of psychology at Boston College, at the inaugural Ware-Johnk Lecture this fall. The lecture series, established by a gift from former faculty member Mark Ware, PhD, and his wife, Connie Johnk, BSN, is intended to promote interest in psychological scholarship and how it relates to everyday life.

“We are in the midst of an experiment in which we are in some ways for the first time in human history raising children without real free play,” says Gray, author of Free to Learn: Why Unleashing the Instinct to Play Will Make Our Children Happier, More Self-Reliant, and Better Students in Life.

Time spent playing, he says, serves a critical role in enabling children to develop reasoning skills, learn the art of compromise and hone problem-solving skills that can include mathematical and spatial awareness.

Diabetes Care in Rural Communities

Creighton has been awarded two grants to improve medical outcomes for families of children diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes in rural areas of Nebraska and Iowa, where access to pediatric endocrinologists is challenging.

“There are significant differences in the health outcomes for those who are closer to areas where specialized care is available,” says Vanessa Jewell, PhD, assistant professor of occupational therapy in the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions, who is leading the project to identify treatment barriers in rural communities and develop solutions to overcome service gaps.

“Fitness Fingerprints” and Cancer Growth

Scientists have a better understanding of the bully-like behavior of cancer cells that allows them to aggressively grow, overtake neighboring cells and spread in humans. According to Creighton cancer researcher Laura Hansen, PhD, key findings of a study of the “fitness fingerprints” on the surface of cells that play a determining role in the expansion of cancer cells at the expense of their lean-fit neighbors. The findings show that a human protein (called Flower) plays a role in determining cell fitness, and the development and progression of cancer.

“These findings enhance our understanding of the factors that make some tumors more aggressive than others, and our understanding of the factors that allow tumors to metastasize to specific locations,” says Rajan Gogna, PhD, the lead investigator of the study and a former Creighton faculty member now with the Champalimaud Centre for the Unknown in Lisbon, Portugal.

Study Looks at Gum Disease

A new Creighton study aimed at reducing physician burnout is looking at whether increasing time spent with patients and cultivating deeper connections with them can boost the well-being of health care professionals.

The study is being led by Prasanna Tadd, MD, an assistant professor in the School of Medicine and Neurology with CHI Health, and includes a team of Creighton residents.

According to the National Academy of Medicine, more than half of U.S. physicians experience burnout, a syndrome characterized by a high degree of emotional exhaustion, depersonalization and a low sense of personal accomplishment at work.

A unique aspect of the Creighton study is its wide reach. In addition to residents and physicians, medical students, pharmacists, physical therapists, occupational therapists, dentists and nurses will participate in the study.

“Our hope is that with this study we will be able to show improvement in multiple areas of well-being and reduce the pressures physicians are facing,” Tadd says. “We are trying to change the culture of patient care locally, but it has the potential to make a big impact across multiple disciplines nationally.”
In the Classroom

Creighton’s Chemistry of Brewing course, first offered through the Honors Program in 2018, picks up again this spring. The class’ humble beginnings, says chemistry professor James Fletcher, PhD, first fermented in Creighton’s Chemistry Club.

“We started brewing beer for fun,” he says. “Then it evolved to the point where I felt there was enough material to teach a class on it. I had to teach myself quite a bit of homebrewing technique beforehand. I’m an organic chemist first and an amateur brewer second.”

Chemistry of Brewing isn’t just for science students. Fletcher designed the class to work for Honors Program science and nonscience majors alike.

“The class starts simple,” Fletcher says. “But by the end of the semester, all the students feel like expert brewers.

In class, students learn about the history of brewing and the scientific principles of the craft. But the brewing itself starts right away. They partner up to conduct experiments in extract brewing, using brewing kits to turn water, barley, hops and yeast into beer.

For the first few experiments, the class tinkers with a specific variable. In the water experiment, for instance, each pair of students uses the same recipe but varies the type of water — using tap water, distilled water or different kinds of filtered water. The type of water alters the properties of the beer, which the class then measures for color, flavor, alcohol content, etc.

The class then alters the experiment for the next few batches, varying the barley, hops or yeast, each amended ingredient making or breaking the brew, the scientific method as applied to an especially sudsy diversion.

“I’d never had a class like this before,” says chemistry major Colin Reedy, BS’19. “It was great because it was a new way of approaching concepts I was familiar with, but in a different, more practical way. Also, you know, I like beer.”

“Given the novelty of the syllabus, it’s surprising that none of the Chemistry of Brewing classes so far have reached capacity,” O’Hagan says. “As a chemistry major, that breaks my heart, but it’s true. But that shouldn’t scare people. The class is really accessible because Dr. Fletcher is such a good teacher.”

Fletcher has since taken his course on the road, giving Science of Beer presentations to Creighton alumni and friends at breweries in Omaha, Kansas City, Missouri, and, just this fall, Chicago. Each event has sold out.

Fletcher says, “I’m trying to do my small part to promote science for the general public, to show people how science works and how scientists think and how knowledge of science is important to being an informed citizen.”

And how science curriculum, if properly brewed, has a nice, crisp aftertaste.
A Wide View

This expansive view to the east from I-480 shows the symbiotic relationship between Creighton, on the left side of the photo, and the surrounding city. Creighton has long been a partner in Omaha’s growth and development, drawing students from other locales who stay after they graduate. The data shows 73% of Creighton students come from outside Nebraska and more than half of the students who find employment immediately after graduation stay in the Omaha area.
AT THE CONTROLS OF AN EXCAVATOR, Creighton University President the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD, smiled as he raised and lowered the machine’s front shovel, helping to usher in a new era of health care education and delivery in Phoenix. “Today marks a monumental development in Creighton’s storied history of health sciences education,” said Fr. Hendrickson at the Sept. 25 ceremonial groundbreaking for Creighton’s new Health Sciences – Phoenix Campus. He added that the $100 million, 180,000-square-foot campus — scheduled to open in fall 2021 at Park Central in midtown Phoenix — represents a “shared step forward” for Creighton and its Phoenix health care partners in addressing the critical need for more health service providers in Phoenix, Maricopa County and all of Arizona. “We are honored to be playing a major role in the dramatic transformation that is about to take place on Arizona’s health care landscape, and to be doing so on one of Phoenix’s most iconic properties,” Fr. Hendrickson said. The campus will eventually serve nearly 900 students, invigorating Arizona’s health infrastructure with physicians, nurses, pharmacists, physician assistants, physical therapists, occupational therapists and more — such educated in Creighton’s distinctive Jesuit, Catholic mission of service. Creighton’s infusion of health care professionals comes at a crucial time for Arizona, which faces a health care workforce shortage. “We know in order to meet our growing demands — and the demands are great — Arizona needs to grow our supply of health care professionals,” said Gov. Ducey. “And that’s exactly what this new campus will help us do.” “From medicine and occupational therapy to nursing and so much more, the next generation of health sciences professionals will be trained right here. And Arizona couldn’t be more excited for all that’s yet to come.” Mayor Gallego praised the project for bringing “values-driven education” to the city in needed health care professions. “We have a lot of opportunity and need for your graduates,” she said. “I am thrilled to be talking about values-driven education and building a healthier Phoenix.” Robert “Bo” Dunlay, MD’81, dean of the Creighton University School of Medicine, praised the collaborative nature of the project, including Creighton’s long-standing relationship with its health care partners in Phoenix. For more than a decade, Creighton has been sending medical students to Dignity Health St. Joseph’s Hospital and Medical Center for rotations, and, in 2009, Creighton teamed with St. Joseph’s to establish a School of Medicine in Phoenix. More recently, Creighton and St. Joseph’s partnered with District Medical Group and Valleywise Health (formerly MHHS) to form the Creighton University Arizona Health Education Alliance. A new Creighton health sciences campus begins to take form in Phoenix
CAMPUS.

“...we had a dream years ago to find a Catholic partner that could offer medical education training to students,” she said. “Today, we are realizing that dream for Dignity Health and St. Joseph’s Hospital. This creates a place where students can be educated, with a strong spiritual component.”

Kote Chundu, president and CEO of District Medical Group; Michael White, BS’96, MD’20, MBA’19, Valleywise executive vice president and chief medical officer; and Steve Purves, president and CEO of Valleywise Health, also expressed their excitement with the partnership and the upcoming campus.

“Our innovative Creighton Alliance will ensure that this health sciences campus and medical school provides exceptional student clinical training experiences, which are second to none,” Purves said.

Creighton alums Sharon Harper, HS’69, who has played a pivotal role as chief executive officer of locally based Plaza Companies, which is working with another developer to redevelop Park Central, described the health sciences campus as “transformational.”

In addition to addressing a demand for health care profession- als, Creighton’s expansion is projected to create more than 250 jobs; $124.5 million in personal income; $10 million in tax revenue and more than $100 million in total economic output.

Randy Richardson, MD, dean of the Creighton University School of Medicine – Phoenix, said the new campus is the “culmination of so many people’s efforts, from the program directors, clerkship directors, clinical professors, faculty and, of course, students. I can’t overempha- size the students.”

One of those students, Jachlyn Lundberg, a fourth-year Creighton medical student completing her education in Phoenix, spoke at the ceremony.

“I chose Creighton University because I wanted a medical educa- tion that extended well beyond the medicine — to the whole person,” Lundberg said. “And I have not been disappointed. To me, a Creighton physician cares for all aspects of patients’ lives, with excellence, and most importantly, humility.

“We, as students, receive that same type of personal care. The support and mentorship we receive from our professors is unparalleled to other programs.”

She cited a clerkship director, a mentor, who encouraged her and gave her “permission to be great.” She said when she was struggling to decide on a medical specialty, he told her that even if she’s reaching for a star, if you reach a little higher, you might discover a whole solar system.

“Today, I would like to pay that message forward,” Lundberg said. “Creighton’s growing presence in Phoenix is good. Let’s give our- selves permission to be great. Let’s get the first step in reaching for the stars, and maybe we will find an entire galaxy.”

A $5 MILLION GIFT from local philanthropist Don and Doris Norton to Dignity Health St. Joseph’s Hospital and Medical Center, and Creighton University follows a long-standing family tradition of supporting health care and health sciences education benefiting the Phoenix community. Norton’s gift designates $3 million to support construction of the new Creighton University Health Sciences – Phoenix Campus, and allocates $2 million in a scholarship endowment for students entering the nursing field.

“I’m delighted to support this expanding partnership between St. Joseph’s and Creighton University,” Norton said. “We’ve always believed St. Joseph’s is the leading hospital in the Valley. Knowing that Creighton mirrors the same commitment to educating outstanding health care professionals makes this the perfect union. We’ve always felt blessed to be able to support St. Joseph’s and the education of those advancing in the health care profession, and I hope others will join us in this effort.”

“This very generous gift will support deserving students who have a passion and desire for nursing, and allow them to fully pursue those dreams and earn a degree from Creighton University,” said Catherine Todero, PhD, BSN’72, vice provost and dean of the Creighton University College of Nursing. “However, the ultimate beneficiaries are the patients and communities served by our graduates, many of whom will stay in Phoenix and the Southwest.”

Don and his wife, Doris, who died in 2016, generously funded campus renovations to support the initial partnership between St. Joseph’s and Creighton’s School of Medicine, and they established the Doris Norton Scholars Program to endow scholarships for Creighton medical students. In 2014, a $19 million gift by the Nortons established the John and Doris Norton Cardiothoracic and Transplantation Institute at St. Joseph’s.

The most recent gift adds to the previously announced $35 million investment from the Phoenix-based Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust, which is dedicated to construction of the building in midtown Phoenix that will bear its name.

Gift Illustrates Norton Family’s Commitment to Health Education, Care in Phoenix

A Timeline of Care in Omaha, Phoenix

WHILE CREIGHTON IS GROWING ITS HEALTH SCIENCES presence in Phoenix, the home campus programs are as strong as ever. The Omaha campus offers dentistry, emergency medical services, nursing, medicine, occupational therapy, physical therapy, pharmacy and physician assistant programs. Competition is fierce for Creighton health programs, with applications for exceeding available spots in most cases. For example, the School of Medicine had 6,376 applicants for 167 openings this academic year. And students come from all over — students in the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions this year came from 46 states and 44 countries. Creighton is predicted to become the largest Catholic health professions educator in the country by 2025.

Clinical opportunities are abundant: CHI Health, Creighton’s primary clinical partner in Nebraska and western Iowa — and now in Arizona with partners in the Creighton-Dignity Health Education Alliance. Below are key dates in Creighton’s health professions history.

MILESTONES
1912 Tracing its roots to St. Joseph’s Mercy Hospital, which opened in 1870, Creighton Memorial St. Joseph Hospital opens in Omaha, built by John Creighton in memory of his late wife, Sarah Emily. Creighton launched medical education the same year, with the hospital the site for clinical training.
1915 School of Dentistry and School of Pharmacy is established. The pharmacy school would later become the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions and add programs in occupational therapy, physical therapy and emergency medical services.
1919 John A. Creighton Medical College becomes the Creighton College of Medicine.
1958 Students are accepted into the new four-year baccalaureate nursing program.
1975 Accelerated nursing program launches, one of the first in the nation.
1977 St. Joseph Hospital (which later becomes Creighton University Medical Center and then CHI Health Creighton University Medical Center) opens at 601 N. 30th St., the largest private construction project in Nebraska.
1984 St. Joseph Hospital is purchased by American Medical International (AMI).
1985 AMI merges with another hospital operator to form Tenet Healthcare. At the same time, Creighton purchases 26% of the hospital and becomes part owner.
2000 Creighton and Dignity Health St. Joseph’s Hospital and Medical Center agree to medical students spending one-month rotations in Phoenix.
2012 Campus in Phoenix at St. Joseph’s opens, offering two full years of clinical medical training.
2012 Alegent Health acquires Creighton University Medical Center, renaming its Omaha-area health system Alegent Health. Alegent Health merges with CHI Health, eventually renamed CHI Health (2014). The new system becomes Creighton’s primary clinical teaching partner in Omaha.
2017 CHI Health and Creighton open a novel new academic health center with two campuses — CHI Health Creighton University Medical Center–University Campus for ambulatory services and CHI Health Creighton University Medical Center–Bergen Mercy for inpatient services.
2017 Creighton University Arizona Health Education Alliance is formed.
2018 College of Nursing admits students to new accelerated nursing program in Phoenix.
2019 Physician assistant program is established in Omaha, and construction begins on the new campus in Phoenix.
as University archivist, David Crawford is responsible for cataloging, preserving and adding to Creighton’s rich and varied historical collection. But, every once in a while, he also plays the roles of sleuth, discoverer and even finder of lost loves.

The latter came a couple of years ago as Creighton University Medical Center was preparing to close. Crawford, the University’s archivist for 12 years, was tasked with going through the hospital in search of any items of historical significance he might add to the permanent collections of the University Archives.

In the hospital’s mechanical room, Crawford discovered a painting of one of the most influential figures in the University’s history — Sarah Emily Creighton, a member of the University’s founding family and wife of early Omaha business leader and philanthropist John Creighton.

“It was sitting on a metal shelf and there was kind of a box with a cover over it protecting the top of it, then stuff piled on that,” Crawford recalls. “It had been damaged and it had some holes poked through the back.”

How it came to such a sorry state isn’t clear. “It was on the wall over there at some point and got taken down, and by that point, nobody knew,” Crawford says. “I’m wondering how many people, if they saw it, knew who she was.”

Crawford had the painting restored, with generous support from an alumni couple, Katie Wadas-Thalken, BA’04, EdD’18, and Mark Thalken, BA’12. Now it hangs in the Rare Books Room next to a similar painting of her husband that had been in storage — a lost love reunited.

“From the size and from the frames, I think they were done together,” Crawford says. Most likely by the same artist.

John and Sarah now keep watch at one end of the Rare Books Room, not far from paintings of fellow University founders Edward and Mary Lucretia Creighton. Not so obvious are other historical treasures in the room — and elsewhere on campus.

The pieces speak through the ages of transformational times both epic and obscure. Some of the items are head-shakingly old. Like cuneiform tablets in Creighton’s Klutznick Law Library that are from the Third Dynasty of Ur during the Neo-Sumerian Empire. They’re essentially purchase receipts.

“If we’re at Year 0, they’re already 2,000 years old at that point,” says Troy Johnson, interim director of the law library and an 18-year Creighton veteran. “It’s just crazy to have a document that traveled around the world for 4,000 years and now is sitting here.”

The collections grow with gifts from alumni and others. Yearbooks are most commonly offered. More recently, photos arrived of the liberation of Manila during World War II, a gift from alumnus Kenneth Conry, MD’59, from his father’s personal collection.

Other pieces come by chance finds. A silver serving set used by the Creightons was found in a staff member’s closet, wrapped in paper towels and plastic shopping bags. Also found were photos of Bob Gibson, ARTS’57, visiting campus after his 1967 World Series triumph with the St. Louis Cardinals.

Crawford has more than 1,500 volumes in the Rare Books Room and the Archives collection. On one table is a book from the Rev. Greg Carlson’s massive collection of fables; on another, also from Fr. Carlson’s collection, a hand-carved Russian toy depicting the tale of the fox and the crow; and near that, a marble piece from the Creighton Observatory, which once linked the observatory via telegraph to other observatories nationwide, including the U.S. Naval Observatory.

These pieces matter.

“I think that it’s important for us to be able to look back and see our heritage, but also see how we got to the point where we are,” Crawford says. “And sometimes, that can provide us some good insights about how we should move forward. Sometimes, it’s a good reminder so that we don’t stray away from our values.”

Following is a look at some of the oldest, most unusual or least known items to be discovered on Creighton’s campus.

Treasure Tales

SARAH EMILY CREIGHTON

Found in the mechanical room at the former Creighton University Medical Center, the portrait of Sarah Emily Creighton was restored and now hangs in the Rare Books Room in the Reinert-Alumni Memorial Library.

SWITCHBOARD

This marble switchboard from the Creighton Observatory was used to transmit and receive telegraph messages for synchronizing the observatory’s clocks with clocks elsewhere.
Imagine a time when everything one needed to know about the law could fit into a single four-volume set. That was the Blackstone Commentaries, several sets of which are in the law library. Troy Johnson calls them the most important pieces in his care. “That was what you would read to get up to speed if you were going to be a lawyer,” Johnson says. Daniel Boorstin, the late American historian and librarian of Congress, in his book The Mysterious Science of the Law, writes, “No other book except the Bible played a greater role in the history of American institutions.”

The Blackstone Commentaries at Creighton include several printed in England, and an American edition that predates the Revolutionary War. The latter was sold to subscribers, listed inside the book. “It’s like a ‘who’s who’ of all the major people in the American colonies at the time,” Johnson says. “You had to be someone to subscribe to Blackstone, not just some Joe Blow. The first name is John Adams, barrister of law, Boston. Half the signers of the declaration are in the subscribers’ list.”

It’s not clear how the American set came to Creighton. Johnson suspects the English Blackstones came when a Creighton librarian traveled to England in the early 1900s to buy books at estate sales. The library has about 600 pre-1900 British books among the 1,500 volumes in its rare books room. “A lot of the big estates in England were breaking up because of the (failing) economic model of those big houses,” Johnson says. “These big houses had libraries in them. Americans came over to buy them up; they needed the cash.”

Construction of the Transcontinental Railroad was such a monumental task for the time that you had to see it to believe it. Fortunately, visitors to Creighton can do just that, thanks to a book of photos taken by Andrew Russell that documents the ribbon of steel built through what then was seen as wilderness. Few such books remain— they were given as gifts to congressional representatives and others of influence. Edward Creighton later received a copy because of his role building the transcontinental line alongside the railroad. When Edward died, it went to his brother, John, who gave it to the University, “just an amazing piece,” David Crawford says. “This is one of the earliest photo albums of the American West.”

One graduate passed on to Creighton a keepsake that had been in his family for years—a receipt signed by a gentleman who would become the 16th president of the United States, Abraham Lincoln. The receipt is for a paycheck Lincoln, just an attorney at the time, was asked to retrieve for an Illinois judge. The judge’s descendants kept it until the 1980s, when it made its way to Creighton.
UR CUNEIFORM TABLETS
The oldest piece tablet, a receipt for barley, dates to 2,350 B.C. A scholar in Germany heard of them and made translations for Creighton, which made them available online.

IT’S SURREAL
In Creighton’s Health Sciences Library are three pieces by Salvador Dali. One is a silver sculpture depicting Christ on the cross, the other two are lithographs, one of the Last Supper, the other of Abraham Lincoln.

MAP QUEST
What did the world look like 250-plus years ago? Take a gander at the world atlas Creighton has. Documentation authenticates it was created for a friend of George Washington. And it was done well. It’s amazing, Troy Johnson says, “to actually see these world maps made in 1780 at a time when you know they didn’t have satellites and didn’t have that top-down view. But the details of the United States are largely there, and quite a few of the rivers are already accurately on them.”

TOKYO TRIALS
Among the more recent donations from a graduate are papers related to the International Military Tribunal for the Far East of 1947-1948. They were owned by alumnus Thomas Ronald Delaney, JD’30, an attorney and part of the Tojo prosecution team.

THE LAW … 500+ YEARS AGO
The Blackstones aren’t the oldest books of law in Creighton’s law library. That honor goes to the 1529 edition of Justinian’s Institutes. Although unique from the civil law systems of other European countries, England’s common law system has a Roman influence. Roman law was taught and studied in the 12th century by English lawmakers of the day. Justinian’s Institutes, written in the year 533 A.D. during the reign of Emperor Flavius Justinian, is a text that would have been part of that study.
Austin Nider, OTD’19, remembers the aha! moment. It happened on his student rotation at the University Campus family practice clinic, when a woman came in with hand pain.

The physician ordered an X-ray, which showed a tendon fracture, something an earlier trip to the emergency room had missed. During her X-ray, the patient said her injury was the result of domestic violence. The clinic called in the behavioral health team to meet with her about her options. The patient then needed a recovery timeline. Physical and occupational therapists were on hand to help.

“In the span of about 30 minutes and one patient visit, we had three or four different disciplines in the room taking care of this person,” says Nider, who is now an inpatient occupational therapist at CHI Health Creighton University Medical Center-Bergan Mercy. “We asked our colleagues for help, and there they were.”

Nider says he saw such teamwork play out on a daily basis at Creighton. But that moment was the first time he really understood the power of collaborative care — the health care model used at CHI Health Creighton University Medical Center–University Campus.

Also called interprofessional collaborative practice, it operates on a few core principles: Health care is a team effort; and clinicians working together (closely, honestly, efficiently) leads to better patient care — lowering costs, improving outcomes, saving lives. The underlying idea is this: No More Silos. Not in the clinic and not in the classroom.

Collaborative care brings together the whole team of health care professionals, drawing on all disciplines to treat the patient from every angle. It represents, its advocates say, the future of clinical care.
We’re lucky to have a University and clinic partners who support this work and vision. It takes faith and courage to do something this different.

AMY MCGAHA, MD

The origins of collaborative care at creighton

Crestview College of Nursing and CIPER were awarded a $50,000 grant for a collaborative career project from the National Center for Interprofessional Practice and Education, in collaboration with Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the John A. Hartford Foundation, the Joseph and Mary H. Foundation and the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation. Crestview and CHI Health each contributed $25,000 for the project.

The results were striking. More than 16% fewer emergency room visits; nearly 18% fewer hospitalizations; a near-50% reduction in patient charges; and more than $4 million in annual savings at the clinic.

The study used a three-tiered plan to build the model: staff and clinician training, patient care preparation and care conference planning (i.e., different disciplines meeting to talk about patients). Staff also trained in conflict resolution.

Research on the efficacy of collaborative care dates back decades. More than 80 trials have shown collaborative care to be more effective than ordinary care, according to the University of Washington’s IDiCt Center. Many of the studies centered on mental health. One paper found that patients with depression who received collaborative care were much less likely to have a cardiovascular event. In 2016, the American Psychiatric Association and the Academy of Psychosomatic Medicine released a report calling for the advancement of the collaborative care model.

There are more stories to come, Guck says. He and his partners will soon publish the findings of four years and multiple cohorts worth of data. They hope to show that the first study’s results can be replicated and sustained.

The result, Guck says, is address the triple aim associated with U.S. health care reform, as outlined by the Institute for Healthcare Improvement: 1) Improve the patient experience; 2) Improve the health of populations; and 3) Reduce the per capita cost of health care.

To better achieve those aims at the University of Nebraska Medical Clinic, Guck says, staff regularly review every patient’s chart — a few minutes. “We are all learners. We are all assume positive intent.”

The way it is used to be, a patient might see a physician here and a physical therapist there. They might talk about something, but they don’t know each other, let alone the specifics of their shared patient’s care.

Collaborative care requires that way of doing things because it’s no longer feasible.

“As a country, we’re spending more money for poorer patient outcomes,” Guck says. “Something’s got to give here.”

Health care costs continue to grow, with insurance fees rising at a faster rate than wages or inflation. Life expectancy meanwhile, has declined in the U.S. for the past three years in a row, a trend not seen since the influenza pandemic of 1918.

To face these crises, Guck says, health care must shift its pay system to a value-based model, in which providers are reimbursed not for individual visits or services but a patient’s overall health outcomes. The model incentivizes providers. The health of the patient, the more a provider earns.

There are examples of this already underway. North Carolina is moving away from the fee-for-service model to a system in which providers are paid based on outcomes — managing a heart patient’s cholesterol, for instance, or a diabetes patient’s blood sugar. The effort is supported by the state’s Department of Health and Human Services, which oversees payments for Medicaid and Blue Cross Blue Shield, which together account for about two-thirds of the state’s insured population, reports The New York Times.

Health insurers such as UnitedHealth Group, Cigna and Aetna, meanwhile, are shifting more than half of their reimbursement to value-based models.

Advocates say the move to outcomes-based pay will in turn save patient money and make them healthier: something that aligns ideally with the whole-person-focused practice of collaborative care.

The idea for savings is simple — collaboration. Collaborative care offers a one-stop shop for all of your health care needs. The goal is for patients to be treated as individuals, not as patients with competing goals for a patient. Figuring out how to reconcile those goals and work through those disagreements, Todero says, that’s what a collaborative care education is all about — learning how to talk to each other productively.

In this age of efficiency, optimized modes of work and communication of course are sought after by every part of the economy. But at a clinic, the stakes are higher. When health care professionals are not effectively communicating, the patient suffers.

“For the quality of care increases the quality of life,” says School of Medicine Dean Robert “Bo” Dunlay, MD. “We learn this over the course of our training. It’s not just something taught here or there. It’s part of who they become.”

Aroguz tells for Meredith Chaput, DPT’18. She worked a rotation at the University Campus clinic as the collaborative care model was being implemented. Now she’s doing a physical ther- apy athletics residency at Vanderbilt University. Fittingly enough, she uses a sports metaphor to describe collaborative care: the model is she says, a group of solo athletes learning how to be team players.

“Traditional medicine can get stuck in a hierarchy,” she says. “But in collaborative care, everyone’s on a more equal footing.”

That requires humility and selflessness, she says. And that starts in the classroom.

One example of collaborative care in the classroom is Creighton’s head and neck clinic for dental and medical students taught by ear, nose and throat/head and neck cancer surgeon Thomas Dobelman, MD, the clinic focuses on identifying cancers.

“I tell dentists that they’re on the front lines of discovering head and neck cancers,” Dobelman says. “In the clinic, I show the stu- dents that by adding 15 seconds to their exams (and knowing all the causes of head and neck cancer), they can save lives.”

He tells the students not only to look for cavities and crinkled teeth but also check for thyroid masses, melanomas and throat cancer (the fastest-rising cancer in the U.S.). If a dentist, or any health care professional, is too focused on their own specialty they might just miss something vital.

“Sometimes it’s as simple as noticing some- thing and calling someone,” Dobelman says. “I’ve got this patient. I want to know what you think. … This might seem obvious, but these barri- ers are just now breaking down. He says, it’s not how he was trained. It’s not how most cli- nicians were trained. Everyone’s catching up. If that is catching up faster than most.

It makes sense that the University is taking the lead in this health care model, Dobelman says. Collaborative care speaks to one of Creighton’s core values.

“The University prides itself on treating the whole person, which is seeing that it often takes a team of people to treat a whole person. We have to do this together.”

O n the surface, collaborative care isn’t always as dramatic a shift as some patients might expect. “We’re not doing anything new here,” says McGaha. “Am I going into this clinic where 20 people are waiting to take care of me?” she asks. Meghan Walker Pettitoff, PhD, BSN’01, an associate professor in the College of Nursing who co-wrote and helped secure funding for the study. “No. The difference is taking place behind the scenes, where the team is working together and looking at your health goals from every angle.

And there’s something going on behind the scenes at a collaborative care clinic, a happy side effect, if you will: Clinicians are feeling bet- ter too.

Out of 151 CHI Health clinics, the University Campus Clinic’s staff used to rank in the bottom third for employee engagement and job satisfac- tion. Since collaborative care was adopted, the clinic ranks as one of the happiest to work at. Boosted morale means higher retention rates; fewer absences; stronger teamwork, better care for all.

All the pieces, working together.
The famous author of *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*, Stephen Covey, said, “Strength lies in differences, not in similarities.” The educator and businessman wrote his wildly popular book 30 years ago. Today, companies are using strategies and starting to understand the value of this idea in the workplace by focusing on diversity — and inclusion — to bring forward the cross-pollination of ideas, richness to teams and more.

Creighton’s Heider College of Business and Graduate School and the Greater Omaha Chamber developed a four-part lecture series for young professionals to explore emerging topics in the fields of diversity, inclusion and equity in the workplace. Two professors were featured speakers: Regina Taylor, PhD, assistant professor of management, who specializes in factors that support or inhibit ethical behavior from leaders and employees, and Sarah Walker, PhD, associate professor of management, who specializes in diversity, recruitment, selection, training, testing and measurement. Creighton’s vice provost for Institutional Diversity and Inclusion, Christopher Whitt, PhD, also spoke as part of the series.

The lecture series is an important part of Creighton’s ongoing efforts to encourage diversity and inclusion, which included collaborating with the chamber, the Urban League of Nebraska, Assistology and the Latino Center of the Midlands this fall on the inaugural Conference on Opportunity, Diversity and Equity.

Taylor likes an analogy to explain diversity and inclusion. “Diversity is about being invited to the party and then inclusion is about being invited to dance,” she says. “In the work environment, once you get hired, are you accepted as a member of that organization and fully integrated into the operation? You’re not just a number fitting where needed. Are you fully integrated into the operations and allowed to be your professional self?”

Walker adds that diversity is about differences — each person’s status — and today goes beyond race to include gender, sexual orientation, pregnancy, age, disability and even hairstyles and weight in certain states. Walker provides an example: “I’m a woman and a person of color. Am I allowed to be my full authentic self as a woman of color?”

Companies are now taking a closer look at inclusion. “You can have diversity, but if you don’t have inclusion, people will not dance and stay. There is a bigger focus on inclusion than just diversity,” Walker says. She explains that companies need to engage leadership in efforts to create an inclusive organization and retain top talent with structural and social support efforts such as creating affinity groups to increase engagement.

The same holds true for nonprofit organizations and institutions of higher education, such as Creighton, says Whitt.

“Diversity is about being invited to the party and then inclusion is about being invited to dance.”

REGINA TAYLOR, PHD
“Some people think you got the job or the promotion because of diversity to check off a box. If you care about talent and you develop your talent, some will be diverse.”

**SARAH WALKER, PhD**

### FALL 2019

Creating a psychologically safe environment

**CHALLENGES**

1. **Leaders Admit It’s Challenging** to foster a dialogue on diversity. **SARAH WALKER, PhD**

2. **Delivering through Diversity** found that companies with the most ethnically diverse executive teams are 33% more likely to outperform their peers on profitability. In addition, companies in the top quartile for gender diversity on their executive teams were 25% more likely to experience above-average profitability than companies in the bottom quartile.

Business sense

Organizations that act with respect, value each employee’s story and have leaders that understand the difference between simply being diverse and being inclusive will create workplaces where employees thrive and, ultimately, those organizations as well.

### THE BUSINESS CASE FOR DIVERSITY

**Delivering through Diversity** is compiling McKinsey & Company’s January 2018 report “Delivering through Diversity” found that companies with the most ethnically diverse executive teams are 33% more likely to outperform their peers on profitability. In addition, companies in the top quartile for gender diversity on their executive teams were 25% more likely to experience above-average profitability than companies in the bottom quartile.

Walker agrees diversity and inclusion are good for the bottom line. She adds diverse teams perform better and come up with more solutions because they bring different ideas and perspectives with them to discussions.

### DEBATING DIVERSITY

Audiences see this vision in shows such as the animated film Coco, which has an all-Latino cast, to Marvel Studios’ Black Panther to The Good Doctor which shows people with autism can do great things.

Hiring practices at Disney in human resources. Taylor knows firsthand that the company culture supports the idea that each employee has her or his own story — and that makes for a better work environment as well as products and customer experiences. “They were good at making sure you felt welcome to dance by fully integrating new employees on the way.”

Diversity starts with a talent pipeline. If you want a diverse organization, you have to be able to attract people. You do the work on the front end,” Walker says. She says companies need to broaden their sourcing and recruitment efforts by, for instance, making sure that the technology used during the application process is mobile compatible. To attract a diverse population, the company has to send the message that technology used during the application process is mobile compatible. To attract a diverse population, the company has to send the message that the company makes employees feel welcome. The surgeon is the boy’s mother.

**CREATING A SAFE ENVIRONMENT TO FOSTER INCLUSION**

Companies like Disney create work environments where employees feel they can thrive. Taylor specializes in how leaders create a psychologically safe environment where employees can ask questions, make and admit mistakes and appear imperfect. Taylor points to Harvard professor Amy Edmondson’s research published in 2003 that analyzed 16 operating teams learning to use a new technology for cardiac surgery and focused on how comfortable team members were with speaking up. “She found that teams that reported the most errors had better rates of successful outcomes than those teams who reported the least. They were having conversations and felt safe to say, ‘Is this right? Should we be doing something else?’ Whom should we do? This was better for the patient in the long run.”

Creating a psychologically safe environment applies to all types of organizations. “Take this to a marketing meeting where outcomes are not life and death, but it’s still important for the organization,” Taylor says. “Do those professionals feel safe to say, ‘This number doesn’t look right?’ To build this environment, Walker says, leaders must focus on trust, justice, engagement and motivation.

Taylor adds that a lot of systems and processes aren’t fair so companies need to have the right systems and processes so the cream rises. According to Taylor, research shows the following components create a fair organization and if applied to promotions looks like this: Employees get to provide input into the process and can put in an appeal through an in-place mechanism. Processes must be consistent, neutral, unbiased, based on accurate information and consider the needs of all groups.

After these components are in place, organizations should make sure that they incorporate and adhere to fair and just ways of interacting with and communicating with employees about promotions — and anything else real,” Taylor says. “Specifically, organizations should ask themselves if they are treating their employees with respect and refrain from using improper remarks.”

"It’s important to create a pipeline of talent overall and that you pick the best candidate for the job. If you promote people on merit and if the best-qualified candidate happens to be diverse, make that person a manager,” Walker says. “Some people think you get the job or the promotion because of diversity to check off a box. If you care about talent and you develop your talent, some will be diverse.”

That pipeline expanded locally. Whitt says, with the recent establishment of the UP Diversity Scholars Program at Creighton, which will provide academic merit scholarships and professional development opportunities for minority students. (Read more on Page 6.)

"We are producing students who will pop-
On Jan. 2, 1942, Helen Gorzelanski, SJN’32, was taken prisoner of war by the Empire of Japan. Helen, then 34, had been a U.S. Navy Nurse stationed at the Cavite Naval Base outside Manila in the Philippines. When the Japanese military conquered Manila, they found 12 Navy women nursing wounded sailors in a makeshift hospital.

The nurses had hoped their captors would follow the Geneva Conventions and repatriate the medical corps. But the corpsmen, surgeons and dentists were sent to a prison camp for military men. The women were sent to a civilian concentration camp set up at the University of Santo Tomas in Manila.

When Helen and the other nurses arrived at Santo Tomas, they saw a campus that no longer resembled a college. Empty classrooms were crammed with inmate beds and armed guards stalked the perimeter.

Santo Tomas was a world away from Creighton University and Helen’s former life in Nebraska. Helen was born in 1908 in Nebraska to Polish immigrants. She was the third of four daughters and the first of the siblings to be born in the U.S. She attended the Creighton University-affiliated nursing program at St. Joseph’s Hospital, living in the student nurse residence on 10th Street.

At Santo Tomas, Helen found herself in a prison camp with more than 3,100 civilian men, women and children. Along with the other Navy nurses, she reported daily to the infirmary to provide comfort and care to other inmates.

Early in their captivity, inmates presented with ailments due to malnutrition and stress. The Japanese military provided only two meager meals and expected their captives to make purchases at the camp’s “canteen.” Only the most fortunate were able to supplement their diets. The rest lived on rice and a scant supply of vegetables. At the infirmary, the nurses explained to inmates why their gums were bleeding or their hair was thinning.

The Navy nurses tried to remain hopeful for their anxious patients. But as 1942 progressed, the U.S. military lost the Battle of Bataan and then Corregidor. Army nurses transferred into the prison and whispered updates to their Navy counterparts — the U.S. had been defeated and help wasn’t on the way.

Comfort from communication also wasn’t coming anytime soon. Helen’s family didn’t hear from her until 1943. In August of that year, her family received a photograph of Helen and the other nurses at Santo Tomas. They had been captured in a group photo with other nurses from the Philippines. Helen is holding a flower by the side of the photo, a symbol of hope and resilience.

Helen’s family was relieved to see her alive, but they were heartbroken by the conditions she was enduring. They wrote to her frequently, sending care packages and letters of support. Helen replied, expressing her hope and determination to survive and return home.

In the spring of 1945, the Philippines were liberated by U.S. forces. Helen and the other nurses were finally freed and returned to the United States. They were celebrated as heroes for their courage and dedication during their captivity.

Helen Gorzelanski passed away in 1969, but her legacy lives on. She is remembered as a symbol of resilience and compassion during a time of great suffering. Her story serves as a reminder of the strength of the human spirit and the importance of nurses in times of crisis.
learn of her captivity until that summer. The Navy sent telegrams in which they "exceedingly" regretted to inform the nurses’ families that their daughters were missing in action. Later, a representative from the War Department confirmed the women were in a civilian prison camp.

In the camp, Helen’s life fell into a routine of tolerating daily hardships. Each morning, the camp commanders used the overhead speaker to play music and wake the camp. She waited in a lengthy line to use the toilet — there were only about 30 commodes to service 3,100 inmates. She then collected her meager rations from the kitchen and reported to duty in the infirmary.

In May 1943, the commander came onto the overhead speaker with an important announcement. He spoke in English and repeated his message twice. The Japanese military was building a countryside camp at a former agriculture college near Los Baños. The commander sought 800 able-bodied men to transfer to the camp to build the housing and sanitation systems.

Few inmates wanted to transfer. Life in Santo Tomas was diseased, cramped and frequently violent. But it was predictable. Interest further diminished after inmates learned the new camp lacked running water, electricity and an ample supply of fresh water.

A civilian physician was willing to go. He approached Navy Chief Nurse Laura Cobb and asked if the Navy nurses would be willing to transfer. The Army’s chief nurse had already turned down his request. If the Navy nurses did not transfer, there would be no other medical care providers in the new camp. Cobb gathered the 12 Navy women. She knew it was a great risk, but she felt they were needed. She asked the nurses if they were willing to transfer. Each woman agreed, including Helen.

On the morning of their departure, Helen and the Navy nurses waited in front of the building as flatbed trucks sputtered to a stop. Other inmates came to wish them well and thank them for their tireless care. As the women climbed into the truck, they heard the familiar music of the U.S. Navy’s march song, Anchors Aweigh. The nurses traded for insulin and vitamins in exchange for answering his many questions. But as the war progressed, supplies and food dwindled as punishment for the Allied Forces’ advancement in the war. By early 1945, the inmates received just 500 calories a day from the camp kitchen. Gardening or foraging for vegetables was forbidden. Inmates were starving, and all the nurses weighed less than 100 pounds. Yet, they continued to work 12-hour shifts at the infirmary.

Helen was on duty in January 1945 when she heard a rifle blast. She had been hovering over patient charts when she saw the camp’s surgeon race through the lobby and burst through the front door. An inmate had been shot near the perimeter of the camp. The injured man had snuck out of the camp while the garrison was busy with their morning calisthenics. He returned with a bag of fruit and his fresh chicken.

A guard in the watchtower took quick aim and fired. Helen and the nurses watched helplessly from a distance as the man writhed in pain. The surgeon begged the commander to bring the man to the infirmary for treatment. The commander ordered the inmate’s execution instead. Within minutes, Helen helped the doctor prepare for the autopsy. The report was later used to convict the commander of war crimes.

In the following weeks, more inmates died from malnutrition, disease and violence. The nurses sensed the commander wanted more prisoners dead. They were incubating plans to petrify inmates by rumors of a massacre. On Feb. 22, 1945, inmates watched with terror as guards placed machine guns around the perimeter of the camp and turned the barrels inward.

The next morning, the guards locked up their rifles in a storage shed and began their calisthenic routine. American and Filipino liberators, fortunately, got there first.

Helen was able to write to her mother in Omaha, but she was still on duty. After a week, her chief nurse insisted the Navy women be allowed to recuperate. By mid-March 1945, Helen was back in Omaha with her family. But she did not remain in Nebraska long. Similar to the other Navy nurse POWs, she was no longer conditioned for the cold weather. She married and moved to California, near Napa.

Helen died in 1972, killed by a drunken driver. Her legacy continues as one of the “12 anchors,” the Navy nurse POWs who stopped hopeless inmates from drifting.

At Santo Tomas, Helen found herself in a prison camp with more than 3,100 civilian men, women and children. Along with the other Navy nurses, she reported daily to the infirmary to provide comfort and care to other inmates.

About the author: Emilie Lucchesi is a journalist and author in Chicago. She has written for “This is Really War: The Incredible True Story of a Navy Nurse POW in the Occupied Philippines.”

POW, Discover Magazine.

and author in Chicago. She has written for “This is Really War: The Incredible True Story of a Navy Nurse POW in the Occupied Philippines.”
The airspace over Omaha’s North Freeway has been on C.E. “Carr” Heaney Jr.’s mind for almost half a century.

In the mid ’70s, there was interest in building a bridge over the freeway to close the gap between Creighton’s campus and what was then St. Joseph’s Hospital (later Creighton University Medical Center and now the Allen apartments complex).

Heaney, B.S. ’50, J.D. ’57, was the attorney who obtained the air rights for the prospective bridge, negotiating a 49-year lease with the federal government. Rent was more than reasonable: $1 a year.

“We signed and sent them a check for $49,” Heaney says now. For nearly 50 years, the air was theirs.

But the project faltered. The bridge went nowhere.

Then, more than 30 years later, Heaney and Sue Morris, president of the Omaha Creighton Foundation and friends, made a significant gift to the University in the process.

“This building a bridge over the freeway to close the gap between Creighton’s campus and what was then St. Joseph’s Hospital (later Creighton University Medical Center and now the Allen apartments complex) is an honor that would have meant a lot to my father. Their dedication would be a wonderful way to honor that affection and the many ways they connected the University to the city,” Heaney Jr. says.

Carr’s brother, Bob, was a beloved figure on campus. He joined the Creighton faculty in 1957 and chaired the Department of Medicine through the ’60s. Later serving as Creighton’s first vice president for health sciences and the inaugural holder of the John A. Creighton University Professorship from 1984 to 2014, Heaney worked at Creighton for nearly 60 years, leaving a body of work in osteoporosis and vitamin D research that brought international recognition to the University.

Getting a bridge in their name, Carr says, is an honor that would have meant a lot to his brother.

“My father would be very pleased,” said Bob’s daughter Muirne Heaney, J.D. ’83. “What’s true of my uncle is true of my father. Their dedication to service for Creighton and this community has been profound.”

Now, a monument to that dedication stretches on, 50 feet above the freeway, a bridge that spans a lifetime.

I’m probably the only person still alive who is aware of that fact.”

All of this is to say that the Heaney Pedestrian Bridge, completed in 2018, is a wholly appropriate name for the 560-foot-long bridge spanning the freeway.

This fall, Creighton dedicated the bridge in honor of Carr and his late brother, Robert D. “Bob” Heaney, B.S. ’57, M.D. ’57. Heritage Services’ board of directors, along with the Sunderland Foundation and friends, made a significant gift to ensure the Heaney name remains forever connected to Creighton.

Each Heaney brother lived his life in service for others, transforming their city and University in the process.

Carr’s legal career spans more than six decades. He wrote the articles of incorporation for Heritage Services and defined legal parameters for the development of projects that changed the face of the city—which includes the Durham and Joslyn art museums, the Omaha Symphony Orchestra, Holland Performing Arts Center, TD Ameritrade Park and many more.

“Carr has been with us for all of it,” Morris says. “He has such an affection for Creighton. As did his brother. We thought the bridge dedication would be a wonderful way to honor that affection and the many ways they connected the University to the city.”

61 Donald F. Kish, BA, Katy, Texas, recently celebrated his 25th anniversary as a dean. He continues to serve as a dean at his home parish of Epiphany of the Lord Catholic Community in Katy.

68 Daniel D. Houlihan, BA, Six Mile, South Carolina, recently returned from a six-month vacation to Italy with his wife and their Labrador Retriever, Jack Daniels, and published a book about their adventures. The book, titled Jack Daniels: Great Italian Adventure, is available on Amazon, and details the wild ride of traveling with a pet in Italy.

The book portrays the beauty and wonder of smaller Italian hilltop towns, recommends food and wine and tourist activities, describes the maddening task of dealing with the Italian bureaucracy, and shares the triumph of filling in missing ancestry holes with the help of a kindhearted Italian. Houlihan is a retired Army officer, a former CIO and earlier information technology company leader, a kindhearted Italian. Houlihan is a retired Army officer, a former CIO and earlier information technology company leader, and shares the triumph of filling in missing ancestry holes with the help of a kindhearted Italian.

73 John B. Atkins, JD, Omaha, was a co-recipient of the Nebraska State Bar Association’s 2019 George H. Turner Award. The award is presented to a member of the bar association who has demonstrated unusual efforts in furthering the public understanding of the legal system, the administration of justice and confidence of the legal profession. Atkins is vice president and senior trust officer at Union Bank & Trust Company in Omaha. David G. Sabott, DDS, Erie, Colorado, was installed as the 2019-2020 secretary/treasurer of the American Board of Orthodontics in May 2019. Sabott practices orthodontics in Boulder, Colorado, and is a past president of the Rocky Mountain Society of Orthodontists. The Angie Strawbridge Center, TD Ameritrade Park and many more.

68 Daniel E. Monnat, JD, Wichita, Kansas, of Monnat & Spurrier, Chartered, is again listed in the Best Lawyers in America 2020 Edition list in four practice areas: criminal defense-general practice; criminal defense-white collar; bet-the-company litigation; and appellate practice. Monnat also was named to the Who’s Who Legal Business Crime Defense 2018 list and earlier this year was named as a leading attorney on the Who’s Who Legal Insurance Investigations list. Jean D’Cree, BSN, Omaha, an associate professor of nursing at Midland University in Fremont, Nebraska, received the Helping Hands Award in May 2019 for her work as the faculty advisor for the Student Nursing Association at Midland.

Send Us Your News

Send us your news! Touched around the world? Received that awesome promotion? Eared a prestigious honor? Tell us why you’re so fabulous by emailing us at alumni@creighton.edu.
ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

All-time greats
Doug McDermott, BSBA’14, left, and Anthony Tolliver, BSBA’07, were inducted into the Creighton University Athletics Hall of Fame on Aug. 24. McDermott starred at Creighton from 2010-2014, and was the 2014 National Player of the Year. Tolliver played from 2003-2007, and guided the Bluejays to two NCAA Tournament and two NIT appearances.

On the Spot with Hamilton

JAMIE BELL, JD’16, thought she would give law school a shot.
“My dad was an attorney, and when I finished (undergrad), I thought, ‘I’m going to go to law school when this theater thing stops working out,’” she says.

That “theater thing” was her life’s work. As a child growing up in Iowa, she danced and sang. As an undergraduate at Millikin University in Decatur, Illinois, she studied technical theater. After graduation, she worked on productions all over the country, including Chicago and Las Vegas.

But after interning at a law firm, she realized that she missed the friendships and unique atmosphere of the theater community.

“Real theater is shyly social community. The relationships you make in theater are quicker to form and more personal than maybe in a law firm,” Bell says. “I made the decision that I was going to go back to doing theater; and that’s been a good choice for me. It’s worked out well. I’ve never regretted it.”

For Bell, running the spotlight is its own kind of art form. Operating a light herself, she also directs two local stagehands running their own lights during each performance. On any show, the job requires strength of leadership and a focus.

But that’s especially true for Hamilton.
“It requires the ability to feel music and how to give direction in a clear and concise way quickly and efficiently,” she says. “Especially on Hamilton, I have to be in the game all the time. The show is very specific. It’s very quick. Things get thrown at you on this show, and I just have to be in the game.”

The musical, written by composer Lin-Manuel Miranda, follows the life of U.S. Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton during and after the American Revolution. The show has become a critical and popular smash hit, earning the 2016 Pulitzer Prize for Drama and 2016 Tony Award for Best Musical.

Overall, Bell says she’s glad her career has taken her back to the theater—“the magic of the stage, she says, is unique and timeless. There’s just something about being in a theater watching a show with a group of people. It’s just an experience you can’t have in any other way or any other sort of event,” she says. “There’s just nothing quite the same as sitting in a theater and experiencing a deeply moving moment, or funny moment, or an amazing well-crafted song or well-danced number, with an audience.”

— BY BLAKE URSCH
Artist Austin Blazes created an illustration on steel as a visual representation of the steel inferno and its impact on the people and places affected by the 1869 rail disaster.

### ALUMNI PROFILE

**Creighton University Alumni Profile**

**Creighton**

**FALL 2019**

**Dundee, Scotland**

**Creighton**

**Creighton University Alumni Profile**

**Creighton**

**Dundee, Scotland**

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3. **Receive Income for Life through a Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA)**

To learn more about meeting your personal and charitable goals, start a charitable giving conversation, contact us at giftplanning@creighton.edu, or 402.280.1143.

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**HAILEY AUSTIN, BA’16**, a 24-year-old PhD student at the University of Dundee in Scotland, linked her name in international comic book history as the first American to write in the inked her name in international comic book history. Austin graduated with a bachelor’s degree in 2016, double-majoring in English and Spanish with a minor in history. Her PhD research in comics attracted media attention last year after she discovered rare comics dating back to the 1800s in the University of Dundee’s archives.

**Steel Inferno**

United Kingdom’s legendary Commando story of one mother fighting to save a Nazi spy sabotaging an ammunition train that crashed in June 2019. Ferraro is a pastoral associate in the Archdiocese of Denver by ordination a permanent deacon at Regina Jesu High School in Aurora.

**T. McGovern, BSBA,** St. James, Minnesota, is serving as a litigation attorney.

**Joanna M. Gonzales, BA,** Brookeville, Maryland, was promoted to the rank of lieutenant commander in September 2019. Gonzalez is stationed in Ruman. South Korea, working as the Navy’s force judge advocate for Rear Admiral Michael Donnelly’s staff.

**Dr. Joshua T. Steere, BS,** Newtown, Pennsylvania, joined Bucy County Orthopedic Specialists in Doylestown, Pennsylvania, in September 2019. Steere is an orthopedic surgeon who performs joint replacements and treatments.

**Kyan K. Brettschneider, JD, Kansas City, Missouri,** joined Cordell & Cordell in the Independence, Missouri, office as a litigation attorney.

**Ryan D. Dawson, BS, St. James, Minnesota,** is principal at Northside Elementary School in St. James, Kansas.

**Montag, MA, Omaha,** in September 2019. Montag, MA, Omaha, a daughter, Lucy Clare, March 20, 2019.

**Dr. Jason Turak, BA, and Brigid Walsh Turak, BA, Denver, Nebraska,** a daughter, Lucy Clare, March 20, 2019.

**Jacob M. Steinkopf, JD, and Molly Witchen Steinkopf, JD, Omaha,** a son, Sawyer Wolfgang, Aug. 28, 2018.

**Nicholas L. Milowik, PharmD, and Emily Milowik, Omaha,** a daughter, Elie Rose, Feb. 25, 2019.

**Michael L. vanHoven, JD,** Saint Louis, Missouri, in employment litigation-defense.

**Eaton is an attorney at Husch Blackwell in Omaha.**

**WEDDINGS**

**Nancy J. Kelsey, BA, and Edward Carroll, June 8, 2019,** living in Kansas City, Missouri.

**Michaela L. Tremont, DPT, BS, and Nicholas Gobe, March 30, 2019,** living in St. Louis.

**Amanda S. Bremet, BA, and Matthew C. Hooce, BA, Sept. 21, 2019,** living in Omaha.
OT Graduate Finds Voice in Broadcasting

The story of how an occupational therapist wound up interviewing Zendaya on Radio Disney is a long one, he admits. But for PETER FERRERI, OTD’06, BSHS’07, the experience has been a lesson in growing and adapting. “The most important term I’ve learned in life is something called ‘transferable skills,’” says Ferreri, a Chicago-based tech development specialist and broadcaster who chose to pursue a career in radio and TV after earning his Doctor of Occupational Therapy degree from Creighton.

“What I learned from Creighton, what I learned from OT school is that everything in life is a network, and networking gets you from one place to the next,” he says.

During his OT clinical rotations, Ferreri worked with patients with traumatic brain injuries and stroke survivors, many of whom needed to reclaim basic skills. It was intense, he says, being with people in some of their most difficult moments.

So for his last rotation, he proposed to his professors something a little different: He would go to the happiest place on Earth.

Disney World.

That summer, Ferreri interned in the Guest Services department, specifically focusing on the park’s offerings for guests with disabilities. To pay the bills, he worked part-time as a greeter at Epcot.

There, he noticed many of the tables weren’t compatible for children in wheelchairs and pointed this out to park management. Impressed, he says, the park promised him a job when he graduated. But when the time finally came, park officials regretfully informed him they weren’t hiring.

After a brief stint as a wellness counselor, Ferreri mulled his options. He considered pediatrics; he considered working in hospitals; he considered coaching and umpiring.

Then he remembered something from years before: During his summer at Disney, he won a staff talent competition after performing a number from Phantom of the Opera, and another staff member encouraged him to pursue a career in entertainment.

Told my dad, ‘This is going to sound crazy, but I think I might go back to school and take some classes in broadcast journalism. Scratch the itch,’” Ferreri says. “I told my dad, ‘This is going to sound crazy, but I think I might go back to school and take some classes in broadcast journalism. Scratch the itch,’” Ferreri says.

He started taking classes at the Illinois Center for Broadcasting (now the Illinois Media School) near Chicago. He scored an internship at NBC Chicago and later worked overnight at a radio station in Montana.

And eventually, he landed a job as an on-air host at the company he’d initially set out to work for: Radio Disney.

In his spare time, he taught classes at the Illinois Institute of Technology and the BIG EAST Conference. Now as a new father, he’s decided to scale back his broadcast work to part time.

Looking back, he’s happy with the shift his career took. “He’s had the opportunity to interview big names — country star Jason Aldean; actresses Zendaya and Bella Thorne; pro wrestling hall-of-famer Mark Henry; ‘The Million Dollar Man’ Ted DiBiase and Diamond Dallas Page; and singers Ben Folds and Anshati. In doing so, he found he was repurposing skills he learned during his occupational therapy studies at Creighton. “In OT, you have to sit and talk to patients and tell them, ‘Your child, we’re here to help them.’ That’s real-world stuff. You’re learning right there how to communicate during the best and worst of times.” Ferreri says. “You’re learning to be fearless when it comes to your life situations.” — BY BLAKE URSCH
As a Creighton undergrad, Dan McGuire, MD’82, stands out; 62-year-old orthopedic MD’82, moved to St. Louis, and later Des Moines surgeon returns to Creighton.

“Never received a degree,” he said. “I did three years at Creighton before I got into medical school. I was just a few hours short of that. — By Micah Mertes

BY MICAH MERTES

Getting a Creighton education again after a near-40-year hiatus just don’t make up a stands out; 62-year-old orthopedic MD’82, moved to St. Louis, and later Des Moines surgeon returns to Creighton.

“Never received a degree,” he said. “I did three years at Creighton before I got into medical school. I was just a few hours short of that. — By Micah Mertes

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Des Moines surgeon returns to Creighton to earn his undergraduate degree

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As a Creighton undergrad, Dan McGuire, MD’82, stands out; 62-year-old orthopedic MD’82, moved to St. Louis, and later Des Moines, Iowa, works in northwest Iowa and is pursuing a degree online in Healthy Lifestyle Management through the College of Professional Studies.

“When he walks the stage at commencement next spring, he’ll finally have something he’s sought for more than four decades — an undergraduate degree from Creighton.

“I never received a degree,” he said. “I did three years at Creighton before I got into medical school. I was just a few hours short of that. —By Micah Mertes

Dan McGuire, and his wife, Andrea “Andy” Holden McGuire, BS’78, MD’82, moved to St. Louis, and later Des Moines. Of their seven children, three are Creighton grads. (McGuire estimates that about 25 members of his extended family have graduated from Creighton since 1960.)

The McGuire-Holden Family Scholarship Fund also bears the family names. Established in honor of their respective parents, the fund assists students in the College of Arts and Sciences, with a preference given to rural Iowa natives pursuing a career in medicine.

“Every year we get letters from some of the scholarship recipients, and many of them have really cool stories,” McGuire said. “It’s a wonderful feeling to know that you’re helping someone.”

They’ve also given to the Magis Clinic, the School of Medicine and the Athletics Department.

“Creighton has done great things for our family. Now we want to help make sure it continues to do great things for others. It’s just a wonderful place.”

Getting a Creighton education again after all these years is, he said, a daily reminder of that. — By Micah Mertes

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Viscous J. Kirkey, JD, Norfork, Nebraska, March 3, 2017.


Dale J. Peterson, ARTS, Omaha, Aug. 12, 2019.


The Lactation Pharmacist

Creighton graduate turns personal search into a quest to help breastfeeding mothers

LESLIE SOUTHWARD, PHARM’14, had questions. Months after giving birth to her daughter, Carmen, in 2016, Southward developed shingles on her rib cage. The painful rash is an ordeal for anyone, but as a new mother, Southward was especially concerned.

“I was freaking out because I had no idea if I could breastfeed. I had no idea if the medication I was taking was safe,” she says. “Here I am, a pharmacist, and I can’t even tell if my medication is safe and whether it will affect my milk supply.”

So she went looking for answers. And then some.

Today, the Omaha-based Southward has become a resource for breastfeeding mothers around the world as The Lactation Pharmacist. On her website (thelactationpharmacist.com), the Creighton graduate and certified lactation consultant reviews various medications for their effects on lactation and offers virtual consultations to women with questions.

“There’s been a high demand for it all,” says Southward, who works full-time as a pharmacist at CVH. “I get questions from everywhere. From just regular lactating individuals to doctors to dentists. They all say there’s a need for this. They’re thankful there’s someone out there trying to put out the right information.”

Southward was initially drawn to pharmacy as a way to help others. She chose Creighton, she says, because several family members attended and spoke highly of the University’s student-centered approach to education.

Though her experience in the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions equipped her well for a career in pharmacy, she says, her formal training touched only briefly on how certain medications can affect lactation. Determined to learn all she could, Southward began speaking to experts and seeking out the latest research. She launched her website in January 2019 after realizing that many mothers — and many health professionals themselves — had the same questions she had.

“It’s an area that’s particularly of interest these days, as breastfeeding undergoes a revival following a marked decline in the practice after World War II,” Southward says. As mothers struggle with the usual day-to-day challenges of lactation, they’re looking for a calm, knowledgeable voice to guide them through, she says.

Southward has since become a lactation counselor, working toward becoming a full-fledged consultant, through the International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners. She fields questions from women dealing with a range of medical issues. all wondering how various treatments will affect their ability to feed their babies.

One common question she’s received is whether over-the-counter allergy medicine will affect a woman’s ability to produce milk. The answer: It won’t.

Southward is hoping to broaden the reach of The Lactation Pharmacist through online courses for both lactating mothers and medical professionals. Eventually, she hopes to become a national expert in lactation and make life a bit easier for future moms.

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“An ideal world, when I retire, I would love to be a national expert in lactation and make life a bit easier for future moms.

I would love for people to know exactly where to go to get information regarding lactation and medication,” she says. — By Blake Ursch
Ophthalmologist Finds Vision for Leadership: ‘Love is the Key’

DONNY SUH, MD, MBA’19, made a promise to his mother. When he was a boy growing up in South Korea, Suh’s mother suffered from an eye condition that the family couldn’t afford to treat. Suh told her that one day he would become a doctor and help heal other patients with similar conditions.

Following what Suh considers to be several “miracles” and meeting “angels” he fulfilled his promise. Today, Suh is a pediatric ophthalmologist and adult strabismologist at Omaha’s Children’s Hospital & Medical Center and professor at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. “I’ve been practicing medicine for 20 years, and I’ve truly enjoyed taking care of patients and teaching medical students and residents, but as I was moving up in the ranks, I realized I needed to sharpen my leadership skills,” says Suh, who is currently serving as interim surgeon-in-chief at Children’s. “I needed to learn how to interact with patients, other colleagues and leadership in the hospital, and I also needed to understand finance and how to resolve conflict.”

The Executive Healthcare MBA program is designed for doctors like Suh, who are looking to expand their organizational leadership skills and advanced business concepts. The program has a robust and credible curriculum, designed around two of the most well-respected professional associations in the healthcare industry: the American College of Healthcare Executives and the American Association for Physician Leadership. Suh, who also teaches as a clinical associate professor in Creighton’s School of Medicine, says he chose Creighton because he admires the culture of the University and the work ethic of its students.

During the program, Suh and his classmates heard from professors, as well as speakers from across the country, who presented on what it means to be a “servant leader” and how to embrace their own vulnerabilities, strengths and weaknesses to effectively manage a team. The students and the professors worked together throughout the program to encourage growth in each other.

“They focused on their core values of heart, mind and soul,” Suh says. “They wanted to make sure that I learned to be a good person and that I could truly turn around and help other people. They wanted to make sure I could reach a person’s soul and mind, and provide hope. That was something very unique and for which I have tremendous respect.”

Suh says the skills he cultivated in the MBA program have influenced his day-to-day work. He’s learned he doesn’t have to be perfect to be an effective leader. He’s learned how to recognize his own weaknesses and blind spots and surround himself with people who complement them. The experience, he says, has helped him become a better communicator and a better doctor.

“There is a big difference between listening and hearing. Now I feel I truly listen to my patients and, because I know myself better, I can help people better,” he says. “The one key ingredient that all leaders should have is to truly love the people you are working with. Without love, you don’t have a chance. That’s what I learned. Love is the key ingredient.” — BY BLAKE URSCH

Visit business.creighton.edu/healthcaremba for more information about the Executive Healthcare MBA program in the Heider College of Business.
Inspiring STEM Initiatives Earn Creighton Diversity Award

Creighton’s Department of Health Sciences-Multicultural and Community Affairs (HS-MACA), which will celebrate its 20th anniversary in 2020, was named an inspiring program in STEM by INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine, the largest and oldest diversity and inclusion publication in higher education.

The award honors colleges and universities that encourage and assist students from underrepresented groups to enter the fields of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). Creighton, along with 49 other recipients, was featured in the September 2019 issue of the magazine.

HS-MACA is led by Sade Kosoko-Lasaki, MD, associate vice provost of health sciences and professor of surgery (ophthalmology). Creighton magazine asked her to explain the mission of her department and to explain the significance of the award from INSIGHT Into Diversity.

What is HS-MACA?
The Department of Health Sciences-Multicultural and Community Affairs was created in 2000 to advance and promote diversity in the health sciences schools and in the University. The department has developed many relationships with the community, which have yielded a growing and positive relationship with North and South Omaha, and we have been rewarded with significant grant money to perform preventive work related to improving health outcomes among minority populations.

How did this award come to be conferred?
We had an opportunity to apply, which required us to meet stringent criteria regarding inclusiveness. We had to demonstrate that the University maintains a lot of STEM programs — science, technology, engineering and math — to promote diversity in the field. The literature is very clear that, nationally, the United States does not have a lot of underrepresented minorities in the STEM field. Creighton University is now one of the very few institutions recognized as having a STEM program that actively attracts minorities.

What is the significance of the award?
This is a very significant award. Creighton University has prided itself as being consistently recognized in national publications, such as U.S. News & World Report and more recently the Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education. Creighton has now clearly demonstrated that not only is it good in academics, but it is also good at attracting minorities into the STEM field. This award sends a message to underrepresented populations across the nation that Creighton University, which draws 80% of its students from outside Nebraska, welcomes minorities. The magazine states it clearly: “This award is presented to institutions whose programs inspire a new generation of young people to consider STEM careers as well as support working professionals in the field.” Further, the award recognizes “colleges, universities and organizations that are doing their part to improve access to STEM fields for students from underrepresented groups.”

What does the award mean for Creighton graduates?
It means they will be noticed when employers search through numerous applicants for jobs. When someone says, “I’m from Creighton, and I’ve gone through some of the STEM programs at Creighton,” the employer will recognize the name, will know the caliber of our programs, and will give the Creighton applicant a second look. Corporations and employers looking to diversify their workforces — and they all are these days — are in close contact with INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine, so if they ask the magazine for recommendations, Creighton is now in the mix.
Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year
from Creighton University