

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

# Getting Energized

**New Energy Program Rolls Out**

Fall/Winter 2010

Money and the Bible  
Serving Catholic Schools  
Shkolnick: 50 Years at Creighton

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FALL/WINTER 2010

U n i v e r s i t y M a g a z i n e  
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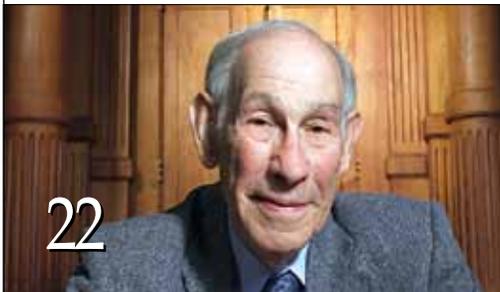
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# Message from the University President

## Welcoming Change

In many ways, the start of the fall semester is a time of new beginnings, with new students, new programs and a renewed sense of energy and purpose enlivening our campus.

This fall also marks a new beginning for me. As many of you know, I am stepping down from the presidency at the end of this academic year. It has been an honor and privilege to serve this great institution as president for the last 11 years. It truly has been a labor of love.

But we will save the good-byes for another time.

As we approach this Thanksgiving holiday, let us take this opportunity to catch our collective breath, to reflect on our many blessings and to thank all of those who make Creighton University such a special place.

First, I would like to welcome the Rev. Timothy Lannon, S.J., back to his *alma mater* as the recently named president-elect.

I would like to thank the Presidential Search Committee, led by William Fitzgerald, BSBA'59, chair of Creighton's Board of Directors, and Bruce Rohde, BSBA'71, JD'73, for their time and effort in the search. I could not be more pleased with their selection.

As I told those gathered at the public announcement, I had the wonderful opportunity to be introduced as president some 11 years ago by my friend and mentor, the Rev. Michael Morrison, S.J., and now to welcome a friend across some four decades in Fr. Lannon.

Our paths first crossed when I was a 25-year-old Jesuit scholastic teaching political science at Creighton and Tim was an 18-year-old freshman. He has deep Creighton roots.

His great love for Creighton and its vision and mission will serve him well as he leads this accomplished institution forward. I am confident that he will continue to push and stretch and grow Creighton in the years to come.

Over the past decade — thanks to the Creighton community (alumni, Board of Directors, students, faculty and staff) — we have been able to change the face of Creighton University to meet the challenges of the times. Our Catholic and Jesuit mission has never been more vital. And students are responding.

We are blessed to welcome the second-largest freshman class to campus this fall, boosting our total enrollment to its highest point ever. These freshman hail from 39 states; 21 percent are first-generation college students; 21 percent are Creighton legacies; and 26 percent are students of color.

As I shared with them at a welcome reception, these new students have the academic talent to leave a lasting footprint at Creighton University. But these are changing times, and the jobs they are preparing for may not be invented yet — which is why Creighton's liberal education is so vitally important.

Ours is an educational approach that stresses the knowledge of human cultures and sciences; critical thinking, problem solving and communications; and ethical reasoning, moral decision-making and civic engagement. This is the foundation for success in all fields —

and, more importantly, for living a fulfilled life, one in service to God and humanity.

As an institution, we are blessed with an excellent faculty and staff, dedicated to our students' success. Our efforts have not gone unnoticed.

For the eighth straight year, *U.S. News & World Report* has ranked

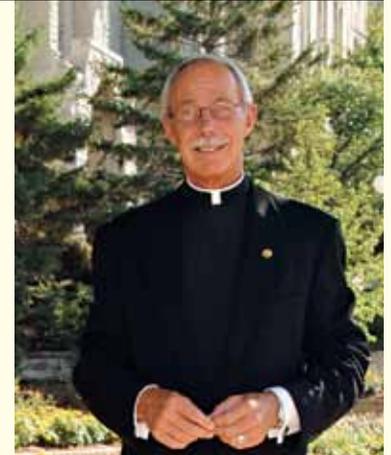
Creighton No. 1 in the Midwest in its annual "America's Best Colleges" guide. Creighton also was recognized by the magazine as a "best value" university for giving students the best return on their tuition investment. In addition, we received national accolades from *Washington Monthly* for our "contributions to the public good."

In these shifting economic times, we remain committed to providing an outstanding education to future generations of students. To that end, we continue to move forward with our Strategic Program Prioritization. This process involves reviewing some 820 programs on the academic and nonacademic sides — with the goal of focusing our efforts on those programs essential to our mission. I expect to see recommendations from the steering committee on this very important initiative by the middle of January.

While we are committed to seeking efficiencies, we are not standing still on the programmatic front. I am excited about new programs we are offering or will soon offer at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, including new online programs. Among these initiatives are new master's degree programs in oral biology and in Government Organization And Leadership (GOAL); an interdisciplinary Ed.D. Program in Leadership; and a new energy technology program.

I am pleased to note that Creighton University is now the largest producer of solar energy in the state of Nebraska — with campus solar panels helping power campus facilities and new wind turbines on the horizon.

Thank you for your continued support of Creighton University. With the next *Creighton University Magazine* scheduled to publish in 2011, we send warmest Thanksgiving greetings, Christmas blessings and best wishes for a happy new year! You and your family are in my prayers.



John P. Schlegel, S.J.  
President

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### **Creighton University Magazine's Purpose**

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

## Creighton Names New Vice Presidents

Creighton named two University vice presidents in September, with the promotion of John Wilhelm, BSBA'81, to vice president for administration and the selection of Jan Madsen to vice president for finance.

Wilhelm, who has been at Creighton since 2004, had served as associate vice president for administration for the University. In his new position, Wilhelm will provide leadership and oversight for facilities management, purchasing, public safety, mail and print operations, fleet and shuttle services, card services and the bookstore. He will work collaboratively with campus leadership to improve services while seeking efficiencies. Prior to Creighton, Wilhelm was senior vice president at Central States Indemnity, where he worked for 17 years.

Madsen comes to Creighton after 14 years at First Data Corp., where she served as chief financial officer for various entities within the corporation. Before that, she was employed by Arthur Andersen and served clients in the tax and business advisory practices. Madsen will provide leadership and oversight to help achieve the University's financial goals, including: financial planning and reporting, operating and capital budgeting, debt management and endowment, payroll, student accounts and accounting processes.



Wilhelm



Madsen

## Graduate School Hits Record, Opens New Fall Programs

Creighton's Graduate School reached an enrollment record of 950 students this fall. Of these students, nearly 30 percent are enrolled in online or hybrid (both campus and online) programs.

The school also opened two new master's programs this fall. These include an M.S. in Oral Biology and an M.S. in Government Organization And Leadership (GOAL).

Open to dental students, the M.S. in Oral Biology will offer two tracks — one in dental materials and a second in oral biology. Both tracks will equip students to analyze research and clinical literature and are designed for students seeking academic careers as clinician educators and academic dentists.

Open to current law students, the MS-GOAL features a semester-long externship in Washington, D.C., designed to give students experience in the critical functions of government lawyers. The program, geared toward the growing needs of government for highly qualified lawyers, will allow students to earn both the J.D. and the M.S. degrees in just three years.

The Graduate School will also launch an online interdisciplinary Ed.D. in Leadership

beginning this coming January 2011. The program will develop leaders in the fields of education, health care and business, who use their leadership skills to promote social justice, as well as societal and organizational change.

Graduates of the new doctoral program could expect to move into leadership positions in education, business or health care.

Also this fall, the M.S. in Information Technology Management: Health Information Management is now available online.

This master's degree program combines business, IT and health care knowledge to help leaders manage IT solutions. The program is designed for IT professionals who want to advance into the health care arena. It also targets those health care administrators, with some IT background, who want to advance in managing people, processes and systems.

In this interdisciplinary program, students learn to master IT in the health care setting; to become familiar with ethical and legal issues related to health care, including IT security and electronic medical record systems; and to advance in analytical, critical-thinking, professional and communications skills.

For more information on any of these new programs, contact the Graduate School at [gradsch@creighton.edu](mailto:gradsch@creighton.edu) or 402.280.2870.

## Homecoming for New Creighton President

When the Rev. Timothy Lannon, S.J., approached the podium at the Ryan Center's D.J. Sokol Arena, it was a homecoming for the former Creighton student.

"This day could not be more special for me," Fr. Lannon explained. "I cannot express adequately enough my joy and excitement at being named the 24th president at Creighton University."

Fr. Lannon graduated from Creighton in 1973 with a bachelor's degree in mathematics. He served as student government president and received the University's prestigious Spirit of Creighton Award at graduation — presented to students who embody Creighton's mission.

"At this great University, I received a wonderful, outstanding education; made lifelong friends; and developed my leadership skills," said Fr. Lannon, the first Creighton alumnus to be named president of the institution in its 132-year history. "Creighton University changed my life.

"And I look forward to partnering with all of you," he told those gathered at the Sept. 10 public announcement ceremony on Creighton's campus, "to continue to change the lives of our students whether in undergraduate, graduate or professional programs."

Fr. Lannon is currently the president of Saint Joseph's University in Philadelphia. He will assume the presidential post at Creighton on July 1, 2011, succeeding the Rev. John P. Schlegel, S.J., who earlier announced that he will step down as president this summer after 11 years on the job.

Fr. Lannon's first job after graduation was working at Creighton as an admissions counselor. The Mason City, Iowa, native entered the Society of Jesus in 1977 and was ordained a priest at St. John's Church on Creighton's campus in 1986. His father, James, played football at Creighton and graduated from the University with a medical degree in 1936. His mother, Eileen, graduated from the now-closed St. John High School, located across from St. John's Church, and his brother Jim received his MBA from Creighton in 1976.

Fr. Lannon recognized Fr. Schlegel for his "many landmark accomplishments" as president and thanked him for his service. Fr. Schlegel said it was an honor to be succeeded by Fr. Lannon, whom he described as "a friend across some four decades." Fr. Schlegel was

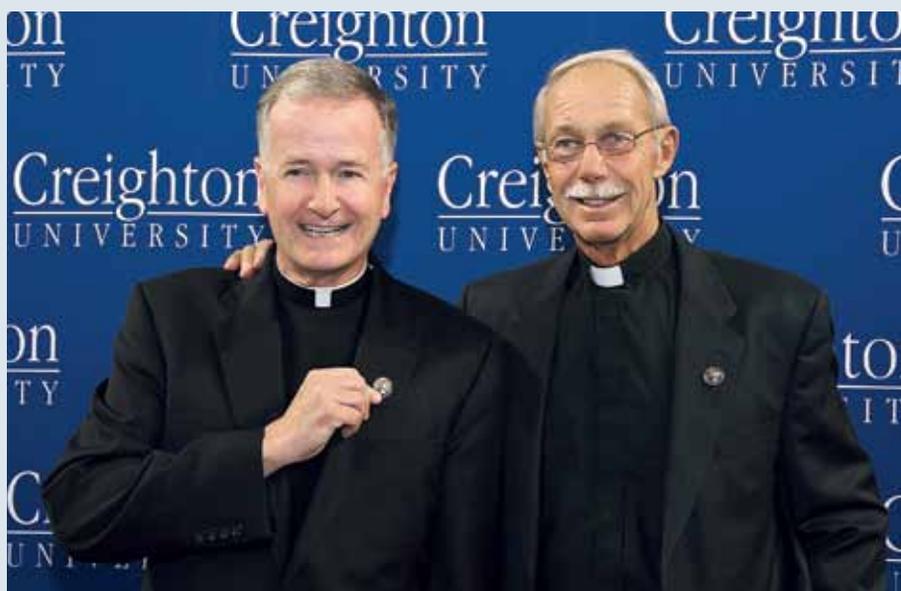


Photo by Jim Fackler

President-elect the Rev. Timothy Lannon, S.J., shows off his new Creighton pin at the Sept. 10 ceremony announcing his appointment, with the Rev. John Schlegel, S.J., at his side.

a Jesuit scholastic teaching political science at Creighton when Fr. Lannon was a freshman.

Creighton University's Board of Directors approved Fr. Lannon's appointment, upon recommendation from the Presidential Search Committee.

"The members of the Board of Directors are

**"This day could not be more special for me. I cannot express adequately enough my joy and excitement at being named the 24th president at Creighton University."**  
 – Rev. Timothy Lannon, S.J.

delighted that Fr. Lannon has accepted our invitation to bring his considerable talents home to his *alma mater*," said Creighton University Board of Directors Chair William Fitzgerald, BSBA'59. "We were looking for a leader with a passion for education, who also can advance the University within the framework of the current mission and values — and we found it in the person of Fr. Lannon."

Bruce Rohde, BSBA'71, JD'73, vice chair of the Creighton Board of Directors, called Fr. Lannon's appointment an "extraordinary moment in the life of this University."

He added: "We set a very high bar for what we wanted and expected in our new president, including academic excellence, executive leadership, fundraising experience and more.

Fr. Lannon is a perfect fit."

Fr. Lannon has served as president of Saint Joseph's University since 2003. Under his leadership, Saint Joseph's created a university-wide strategic plan, enhanced the campus infrastructure and footprint, doubled the university's endowment and launched the most successful fundraising campaign in its history. During his tenure, Saint Joseph's also added faculty chairs and student scholarships and expanded service-learning and online curriculum opportunities. Prior to joining Saint Joseph's, Fr. Lannon served as associate executive vice president and vice president for university advancement at Marquette University, where he was recognized for building strong relationships with alumni, parents, friends and donors.

Fr. Lannon served as president of Creighton Preparatory School in Omaha from 1988 to 1995. He has been inducted into Creighton Prep's Hall of Fame and received Creighton University's Alumni Merit Award in 1993. In addition to Creighton, he holds degrees from Weston Jesuit School of Theology (now Boston College School of Theology and Ministry) and Harvard University.

"Today, I simply ask for your prayers," Fr. Lannon concluded, "both for Creighton University and for me during this very important transition. And may God continue to bless our efforts and reward all of us involved in this life-changing ministry that is a Catholic and Jesuit education." He then paused briefly: "There is no place like home."

## Research Funding Climbs to \$46 Million

Research funding at Creighton University has jumped nearly 8 percent during the past fiscal year. Creighton's extramural research grant support grew to \$46 million in fiscal year 2009-10, which ended June 30, compared to \$42.9 million during the previous year.

Most of the increase was the result of stimulus funds received through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, said Robert Heaney, BS'47, MD'51, former Creighton director of research. He noted that grants from all federal government sources accounted for \$25.7 million of the 2009-10 awards.

"Creighton has long been recognized for the outstanding, values-based education it affords our students. Less well-recognized is the University's groundbreaking research in such areas as hereditary cancer, osteoporosis, vitamin D and high-energy physics," Heaney said. "This year's increase in funding, in what is acknowledged to be a fiscally tough climate, is clear evidence both of Creighton's research expertise and the University's commitment to knowledge generation in all the fields in which it teaches."

Creighton's health sciences schools — dentistry, medicine, nursing and pharmacy and health professions — received the most funding with \$35.8 million from all grant sources.

### In Print ...

Fall 2010 has brought a windfall of books by Creighton faculty, published within the last year. They range in subject from whimsical (*The Cailiffs of Bahgdad, Georgia*) to sobering (*No Place for Dying: Hospitals and the Ideology of Rescue*), and a host of scholarly subjects in between. Read more online at [www.creightonmagazine.org](http://www.creightonmagazine.org).

## Creighton Researcher to Seek Novel HIV Treatments

A human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) expert at Creighton University School of Medicine has been awarded a five-year, \$1.8 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to study and identify new targets for developing anti-viral drugs to fight HIV, which causes AIDS.

While HIV infection is incurable, treatment with a combination of anti-retroviral drugs can reduce virus replication to undetectable levels and forestall the disease's progression. However, in the last decade, there has been a stark increase in the prevalence of multi-drug resistant viruses, noted Michael Belshan, Ph.D., Creighton assistant professor of medical microbiology and principal investigator for the study.

"If we are to continue to repress HIV replication in infected individuals, we must develop new inhibitors that are effective against drug-resistant strains of the virus," he said. "Drugs that target novel areas of replication have the greatest probability to be effective."

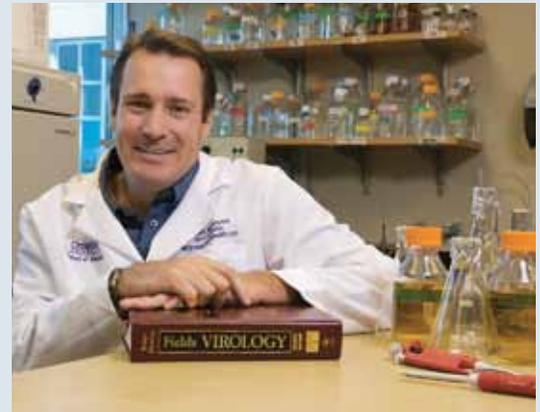


Photo by Jim Fackler

Michael Belshan, Ph.D., in his lab, received a \$1.8 million NIH grant.

## Creighton Research to Focus on Stroke Prevention

A Creighton University School of Medicine researcher has been awarded a \$1.63 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to continue his investigation of better therapeutic approaches to stroke prevention.

Stroke is the third-leading killer of all Americans and the leading cause of adult disability.

Specifically, Devendra Agrawal, Ph.D., associate dean for translational research in the School of Medicine and holder of the Peekie Nash Carpenter Endowed Chair in Medicine, will focus on plaque build-up in the neck or carotid artery, also known as carotid stenosis.

"The carotid artery is frequently the cause of strokes or transient ischemic attacks (TIAs or mini strokes). This is primarily due to the breaking off of atherosclerotic plaque that has built up in the artery," Agrawal said. "We need to understand why some patients are more likely than others, who have similar plaque build-up, to show active symptoms of stroke, partial or total inability to produce and understand speech and other motor defects."



Devendra Agrawal, Ph.D., was awarded a \$1.63 million NIH grant.

The goal of the five-year study is to determine the cellular and molecular mechanisms that cause instability and rupture of carotid plaques in patients with carotid stenosis. Among other things, Creighton researchers will take a close look at the role the neuropeptide NPY might play; NPY has also been implicated in obesity and blood pressure regulation.

"Once we have a better understanding of what causes atherosclerotic plaque to break off," Agrawal said, "we can begin to look for means to prevent the devastating neurological diseases associated with carotid stenosis."

## Creighton Highlighted in National Rankings

Creighton University was recently recognized in national rankings for its academic quality, value and contributions to the public good — including another rating by *U.S. News & World Report* as the No. 1 university in the Midwest region.

The *U.S. News* ranking marks the eighth consecutive year that the magazine has given Creighton top honors. It is also the 13th time in 14 years that Creighton has been honored with a No. 1 ranking in the magazine's annual "America's Best College" issue.

In addition, *U.S. News* recognized Creighton as the Midwest's No. 1 "best value" university, for giving students the best return on their tuition investment. That's backed up by the fact that 93 percent of Creighton graduates are employed or furthering their education within six months of graduation.

The *Princeton Review* also listed Creighton as one of the nation's top 373 colleges and universities in its 2011 annual college guide. The guide includes comments from students, one of which offers that Creighton "turns out a student as a complete package: academically, socially, culturally, faith-filled and service-oriented."

Creighton was also recognized for excellence outside the classroom. *Washington Monthly*, a nonprofit magazine of United States politics and government, ranked the University No. 2 nationally among master's universities for contribution to the public good.

The rankings are based on three broad criteria: The institution's success in fostering scientific and humanistic research, in encouraging students to serve their country, and in recruiting and graduating low-income and other students.

Creighton has performed well in all three areas. Extramural research funds were up in 2009-2010; students, faculty and staff annually contribute some 125,000 volunteer hours in the community; and more than 90 percent of students receive some type of financial aid.

"It's gratifying to be recognized by these national publications," said Creighton President the Rev. John P. Schlegel, S.J. "I think it accurately reflects and acknowledges our outstanding academic programs, our commitment to providing scholarship assistance to a talented and diverse student body, and our Jesuit, Catholic mission to be a force for good in the world."

## Enrollment Sets Record, Frosh Class Tops 1,000

Creighton welcomed a record number of students in August, as enrollment in undergraduate, graduate and professional schools reached 7,622, an all-time high in the University's 132-year history.

The student body includes more than 1,000 freshmen — the second consecutive year the University has surpassed that milestone. So, who are these new students? Here's a brief look at the freshman class:

- 27 percent ranked in the top 5 percent of their high school class
- 53 percent were members of their high school national honor society
- 23 percent scored in the top 4 percent on the ACT
- Their median high school GPA was 3.7
- 21 percent are first-generation college students
- 21 percent are Creighton legacies, with a parent or other relative graduating from Creighton
- 26 percent are students of color
- 37 percent come from more than 400 miles from campus
- The top five hometown states are Nebraska, Iowa, Hawaii, Colorado and Minnesota
- 60 percent have indicated an interest to pursue a professional program at Creighton
- 79 percent were involved in service or church organizations
- 76 percent played a varsity sport in high school
- 36 percent were involved in student government
- 52 percent participated in fine or performing arts in high school
- 13 percent won a leadership or service award

## Arbor Day Foundation Celebrates Second Year of Tree Campus USA

Creighton University students, faculty and staff planted 60 trees on Oct. 12 as part of the Arbor Day Foundation's Tree Campus USA program's tree-planting event.

Creighton is one of 74 colleges and universities across the country recognized by the Arbor Day Foundation for its sound campus forestry practice.

The program is in its second year and honors college campuses for promoting healthy urban forest management and engaging the campus community in environmental stewardship.



Creighton President the Rev. John P. Schlegel, S.J., plants a tree with Billy Bluejay.

Photo by Dave Weaver

# McDermott Expects Excellence

# Jays

Banners from previous NCAA men's basketball tournament appearances stretch across the walls in the Joseph J. Vinardi Center — a testament to past success and a challenge for future Bluejays.

Greg McDermott seems comfortable here, standing at midcourt in Creighton's practice gym. The "Old Gym." Where traditions live and champions are born.

It's early September. Students have just settled in for fall classes, including McDermott's son Doug, a freshman student-athlete who will be playing for his father.

McDermott, a father of three, is excited about the prospect. The time-consuming job of collegiate coach has never allowed him to coach his own children.

Perhaps now realizing he's in a practice gym — a place of blood, sweat and hard knocks — McDermott adds, "I expect I will enjoy it a little more than Doug."

McDermott, a self-described small-town guy from Cascade, Iowa (population 2,140), says he and his family have adjusted well to Omaha. And McDermott feels at home at Creighton.

"I had a good perception of Creighton from my coaching days at UNI (Northern Iowa)



McDermott, inside the Vinardi Center, says conference titles should always be a part of Creighton's goals.

and the fact that Creighton recruited my son Doug, but the reality has far exceeded my expectations," McDermott says. "Bricks and mortar are one thing, but the people here are what separate Creighton and make it a special place."

McDermott joins Creighton from Iowa State, where he was head coach for the last four years. Before that, he was coach at Northern Iowa for five seasons, leading the Panthers to three NCAA Tournament appearances.

The 6-foot-8 McDermott has an easy-going manner. (OK, the season hasn't started yet.)

But, make no mistake; his expectations are high.

"When you coach at Creighton, playing for conference titles and post-season appearances better be part of your goals every year," McDermott says. "We have five seniors who are hungry to get this program back into the post-season."

Although players had participated in individual workouts, at the time of this interview, the first practice was more than a month away.

Strategies and game plans aside, McDermott says he likes the intangibles of his new team.

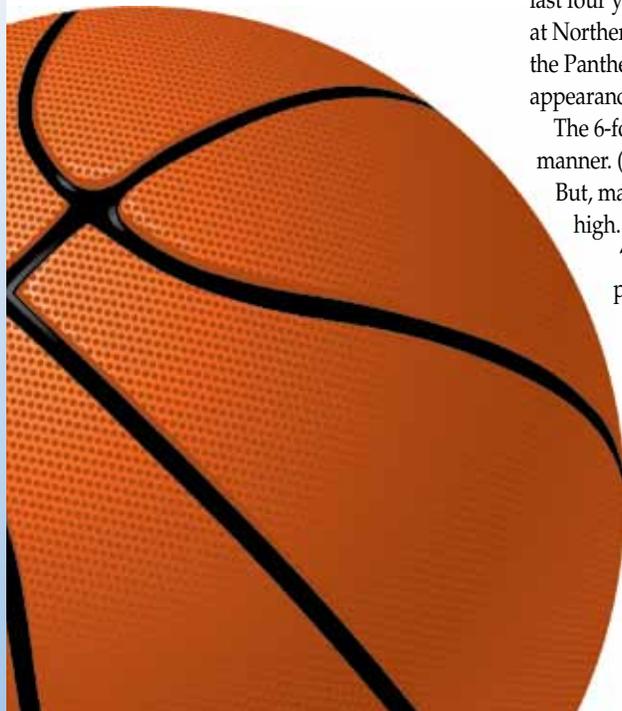
"Their work ethic has been outstanding, the team chemistry seems to be good and the upperclassman have really embraced the leadership role," explains McDermott, who was introduced as Creighton's 16th head men's basketball coach in April. He replaced Dana Altman, who coached at Creighton for 16 years before accepting the head coaching job at Oregon.

Upon his appointment, McDermott gathered his players together before they left for summer break and gave them this message: "I just asked that they trust us," McDermott recalls. "I told them, 'We will do everything we can to help you on and off the basketball court.' They are a really good group of young men. And they love Creighton."

McDermott adds that he will hold players "accountable to make decisions in the best interest of Creighton, both on and off the playing floor.

"I take the responsibility of upholding the Creighton tradition that coach Altman helped build very seriously."

The Old Gym seems to fit McDermott well.



# Soccer and Clark Go Together

Soccer is in Jamie Clark's blood. And now it runs Creighton blue.

The 33-year-old Clark was named Creighton's head men's soccer coach this summer, replacing Bob Warming, who accepted the head coaching job at Penn State after 14 seasons at Creighton.

Clark's father, Bobby Clark, was an accomplished goalkeeper in his native Scotland (where Jamie was born) and is now head coach at Notre Dame. The elder Clark is a six-time coach of the year, with stops at Dartmouth College and Stanford before arriving at Notre Dame. As a player, he was Scotland's backup goalkeeper at the 1978 FIFA World Cup.

Jamie was a two-time All-American playing for his father at Stanford, before playing professionally in the U.S. and Scotland.

Older brother Tommy was a regional All-American at Dartmouth and played professionally overseas, before becoming a pediatrician. He is also the founder and CEO of Grassroot Soccer, an AIDS awareness and education organization that reaches youth in Africa through soccer clinics.

Older sister Jennifer was an assistant women's soccer coach at Stanford for three years and is currently the soccer coach at Middlebury Union High School in Middlebury, Vt.

"Yes, I've grown up around soccer," Clark says. "Every dinnertime conversation eventually turned to some game."

Jamie Clark became the first first-team All-American in the history of Stanford soccer in 1998 and, that same year, led the Cardinal to its first NCAA College Cup, where the team finished as national runner-up.

He played professionally for two-and-a-half seasons with Major League Soccer's San Jose Earthquakes. A nagging groin injury ended his playing career.

But Clark was not through with soccer. He joined New Mexico as an assistant coach, and, in four years with the program, helped guide the Lobos to three NCAA tournaments, including the NCAA national championship match in 2005.

He then joined his father as an assistant coach at Notre Dame for two seasons, helping the Irish to two NCAA tournament quarterfinal appearances.

He got his first head coaching job with Harvard in 2008. He coached at Harvard for two seasons, leading the Crimson to two NCAA tournament appearances and compiling a 26-10-1 (.716) record. He was named the NSCAA Northeast Region Coach of the Year in 2009 after guiding Harvard to a national top-10 final ranking.

"I was very happy at Harvard," Clark says, "I didn't see myself moving."

He initially checked out the Creighton job to see what made the Bluejay program tick. How did Creighton become one of the elite programs in collegiate soccer?

"When I got here, I saw the outstanding facilities and you knew the University took the program seriously," Clark says. "Then I met the people here. The passion they had toward the program made me realize that this was the place for me."

But first there was the phone call to his father, whom Clark describes as a "great role model."

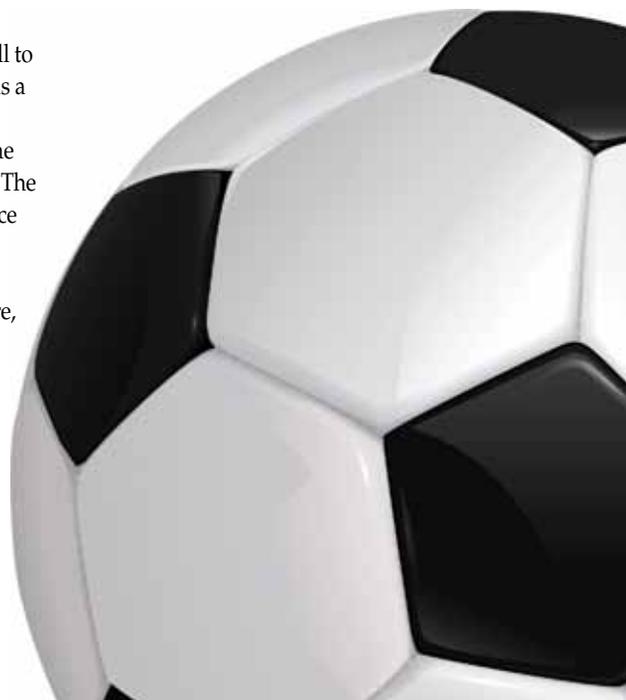
"He was a huge proponent of me coming to Creighton," Clark says. The two chat on the phone once or twice a week.

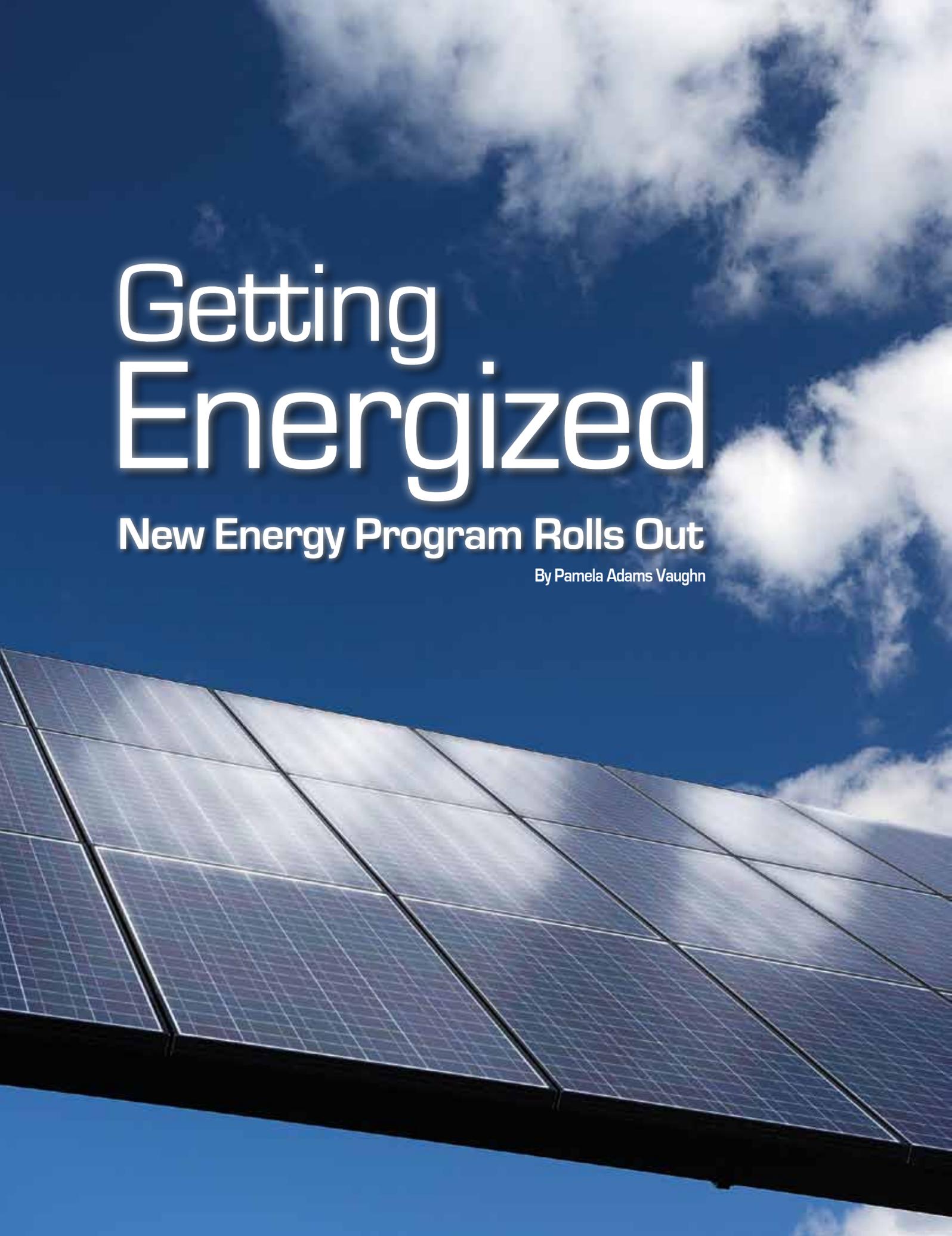
Clark says he was drawn by Creighton's supportive atmosphere, its commitment to excellence on and off the field, and a soccer-rich tradition established by former coach Warming.

"(Warming) built a great soccer empire here," Clark says. "I'm grateful to get to follow in his footsteps and build upon his foundation."



Clark talks with freshman forward Liam Kelly during an exhibition match.



A low-angle, upward-looking photograph of a large array of solar panels. The panels are dark blue or black with a grid pattern of thin white lines. They are arranged in rows and columns, receding into the distance. The background is a bright blue sky filled with scattered white clouds. The overall composition is clean and modern, emphasizing renewable energy.

# Getting Energized

**New Energy Program Rolls Out**

By Pamela Adams Vaughn

Grab one of Creighton's new Zipcars and wend your way around campus this fall. You're likely to see some definite signs of a greener Creighton poking through.

For one, if you're driving east on Cuming Street, just past the ROTC building, you'll come upon some huge, oblong panels rising up over University parking on your right.

But don't worry. Those often hard-to-come-by parking spaces are still there, neatly shaded by the giant panels.

This is one of Creighton's new solar arrays, a double row of massive plates stretching more than a city block — turning the sun's rays into clean, renewable power that may help wean Creighton off the city's grid.

Next, turn south on 24th Street and east again on Cass. Now look to your left, by the Lied Center for Performing Arts. You'll spot one giant, oblong eye atop a sturdy spike. It's Creighton's solar tracking array, following the sun's arc across the sky, just like a giant sunflower, and once more grabbing its rays for energy.

Soon, the tracker will be joined by a group of wind turbines, rising from the grass in the same lineup, looking like upended, 20-foot-tall push-mowers.

Now, grab the downtown entrance to the interstate and head west along Creighton's southern flank. Watch for the iconic roofline of the Kiewit Fitness Center on your right. Here, photovoltaic laminate arrays, totaling 143 individual panels (each approximately 23-square feet), also are turning solar energy into electricity.

Taken together the equipment is producing about 120 kilowatts of power on a typical sunny day.

How much is that? Well, enough to

power three large campus buildings — and make the University the state's largest solar power producer. If that energy were directed off-campus, these workhorses could power about 40 homes.

They're also saving Creighton about \$24,000 annually, according to Lennis Pederson, associate vice president for Administration and director of Facilities Management.

Pederson's crews spent most of the early summer assembling and placing the green equipment.

All told, these collectors and generators cover a range of commercially available products, which are being evaluated for climates like Nebraska's and will become central teaching tools.

In fact, Joe Zehnder, Ph.D., professor and chair of the Department of Atmospheric Sciences, and his students are already gaining from the new technology.

Almost as soon as the new equipment went up this spring, Zehnder and his students have been collecting the data pouring forth from them.

Each minute, Zehnder says, the equipment is measuring wind, temperature, air pressure and



Photos by Jim Fackler

An array of solar panels stands out among the cars parked at the University lot between Burt and Cuming streets on the north side of campus. Creighton is now the state's largest producer of solar power.

humidity, as well as recording the energy output from the sun. One feature the students have seen demonstrated is almost counter-intuitive, the Creighton professor points out: “The solar panels have a crossover point. That is, if they get too hot, their efficiency at gathering energy decreases.”

Atmospheric sciences students are observing firsthand how each of the green technologies fares in Nebraska’s, specifically Omaha’s, climate. And, although Zehnder believes it’s too soon to tell, his hunch is that solar power will beat out wind power in Creighton’s own slice of the state, in spite of Nebraska’s legendary winds.

“We’re on the eastern boundary of precipitation,” Zehnder says. “As you go west, the air gets drier and sunnier.” But right along the Missouri, Omaha still grabs more than its share of sun, he believes.

Why not wind? Consistency is key, according to the Creighton professor. You can’t beat either coast, day after day, for constantly blowing wind.

Students also are learning the solar-to-energy ratio, which will be helpful in short- to medium-range weather forecasting: How much energy will be needed? How many solar days will there be for power?

### Multifaceted Approach

As the largest solar array in Nebraska, Creighton’s program is, locally, a joint enterprise between the University and the Omaha Public Power District.

But the heaviest investor is the U.S. Department of Energy, with a \$1.2 million stimulus package grant going to Creighton for green technology — and an additional \$1.2 million grant funding something more: a new pair of energy technology programs.

Not nearly as visible as all that green equipment, the new Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees, nevertheless, are creating plenty of campus buzz.

Faculty and students are designing the programs’ curriculum, with a deadline for courses to be approved by the end of this year and set to open next fall 2011.

The idea is to put together programs



Anna Weber, a senior atmospheric science major from Collinsville, Okla., examines computer weather models and data from the solar panels with Joseph Zehnder, Ph.D., professor and chair of the Department of Atmospheric Sciences.

that will give Creighton students a background in engineering — but also grounding in the social sciences and environmental topics related to renewable energy.

In a unique approach, 12 faculty members from nine departments at Creighton came together for a week this past August, joining an equal number each of prospective students and industry representatives for just that purpose.

Creighton is really helping to create a whole new profession, organizers say — as well as the route students will take to become those new professionals.

Envisioned is an integrated, problem-focused approach to student learning.

The program will emphasize hands-on

experience of the new energy technology rather than traditional lecture. This focus will enable students to adapt to an ever-advancing technology.

Modeled on a similar teaching style at Olin College of Engineering in Needham, Mass., the new energy major will be a real first for Creighton. In fact, three Olin faculty members served as workshop coordinators for the summer planning event.

The new major will also see the development of four new energy-related teaching laboratories on campus, also funded by the DOE, where students will be researching and developing new technologies, and testing them, hands-on.

The laboratories would focus on the following areas: electrical testing

### Innovative Programming

The ability to collaborate; to formulate creative solutions; and to examine those solutions through the filter of our Jesuit, Catholic faith — that is the charge of innovative programming at Creighton. Creighton University welcomes philanthropic partners who will help us develop new and emerging disciplines that will meet the demands of an ever-changing world. With your help, we can expand the University’s research enterprise, attract and retain inspiring faculty-mentors, and provide financial assistance for talented, gifted men and women who will engage the world and work to change it responsibly and ethically. To learn how you can support the transformative power of a Creighton education, contact the Office of Development, 800.224.8794.



Michael Cherney, Ph.D., professor and interim director of the Energy Technology Program, is pictured above on top of the Criss Health Sciences Building, with a view to the north and the new solar array.

and measurement; design and rapid prototyping; computer simulations, and solid-state chemistry/material science.

## Shaping New Majors

Serving at the project's helm is Michael Cherney, Ph.D., professor of physics and interim director of the Energy Technology Program.

Usually Cherney is busy on other, more esoteric, endeavors. Relativistic heavy ion collisions, for example, that take him to places like the Brookhaven National Laboratory and the European Center for Particle Physics (CERN).

But he finds helping to shape the new energy technology majors at Creighton fulfilling, and one that he says is "built on the two Ignatian values of stewardship of the environment and service and justice."

The new majors are designed to create students who will be problem-solvers and lifelong learners who have the ability to work effectively in teams. Cherney believes "this is as important as developing strong math and science skills."

The new majors will be interdisciplinary, cutting across college and school lines within Creighton itself, Cherney adds.

The program will offer B.S. and B.A. degrees that will share a common set

of courses, but the two degree paths will serve different constituents — one for students with a primary interest in engineering and the other for those more interested in public policy. Cherney says that this arrangement affords a fair degree of flexibility, making it possible for students to double major in a wide variety of fields.

Cherney believes the overall aims that the new B.S. and B.A. majors seek to instill include:

- A strong background in the science and applied math skills related to solar (and eventually other sources of green) energy
- An emphasis on skills for lifelong (often independent) learning
- An emphasis on building collaborative skills
- An ability to implement the social science and ethical understanding relevant to a program like this that promotes cultural change
- Courses taught in a way that emphasizes traditional Jesuit education — identifying what one wants from an experience, tailoring the proposed experience to the individual(s) involved,

active involvement in the experience and reflection on the experience

- Graduates committed to social and global responsibility, including an awareness of Catholic social teaching
- A curriculum that rewards innovation
- Graduates as effective problem-solvers and communicators

## A Jesuit Twist

Cherney believes the new energy degree programs are rooted in the five characteristics of Jesuit higher education.

"We're taking the best innovative science, mathematics and engineering that the U.S. has to offer but shifting the motivation for study. We're going from a purely entrepreneurial direction to that of a Catholic/Jesuit faith perspective. It's the Catholic social teaching and its emphasis on human dignity.

"We're calling for a reverence for and an ongoing reflection on the human experience and the world in which we live.

"Our model is one of creative companionship as we address environmental stewardship from a multidisciplinary perspective. We are shifting the faculty member's primary role from lecturer to mentor. We are calling for a well-educated justice and solidarity through a focus on efforts that go beyond the classroom."

The programs are targeting an enrollment of up to 25 students for the first class next fall.

"We're teaching people to think broadly," Zehnder says, "and to bring together diverse pieces to solve problems.

"If we're not ready for alternative energy as a society, we'd better get with it.

"The sooner we can get away from burning things, the better — for us all."



# MONEY and the BIBLE

By Leonard Greenspoon, Ph.D.

Philip M. and Ethel Klutznick Chair in Jewish Civilization



Not long ago, a politically liberal blogger sought biblical support for the practice of wealth redistribution by providing an admittedly “far-from-exhaustive sampling of God’s word on spreading the wealth around.” This writer cited three passages, all from the Old Testament:

Exodus 23:10-11: “For six years you may sow your land and gather in its produce. But the seventh year you shall let the land lie untilled and unharvested, that the poor among you may eat of it and the beasts of the field may eat what the poor leave. So also shall you do in regard to your vineyard and your olive grove.” (Unless otherwise noted, all biblical quotations in this article are taken from the New American Bible.)

Deuteronomy 15:1-2: “At the end of every seven-year period you shall have a relaxation [or remission] of debts, which shall be observed as follows. Every creditor shall relax his claim on what he has loaned his neighbor; he must not press his neighbor, his kinsman, because a relaxation [or remission] in honor of the LORD has been proclaimed.”

Leviticus 19:9-10: “When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not be so thorough that you reap the field to its very edge, nor shall you glean the stray ears of grain. Likewise, you shall not pick your vineyard bare, nor gather up the grapes that have fallen. These things you shall leave for the poor and the alien. I, the LORD, am your God.”

Almost immediately, responses, often fiery, came from those on the political right. Not to be outdone, they also sought support for their view that “the Bible does not command government-imposed redistribution of wealth.” Here again three passages are referenced, from the same three books of the Bible that had previously been cited:

Exodus 23:3: “You shall not favor a poor man in his lawsuit.”

Leviticus 19:15: “You shall not act dishonestly in rendering judgment. Show neither partiality to the weak nor deference to the mighty, but judge your fellow men justly.”

Deuteronomy 1:17: “In rendering judgment, do not consider who a person is; give ear to the lowly and to the great alike.”

For attentive readers, many questions immediately come to mind: Have these passages been cited out of biblical context? Or, are they representative of biblical teaching? Do the writers of the Bible (here understood to include both the Old and the New Testaments) propose one, monolithic point of view or perspective on an issue? Or, do we need to take into account the circumstances in which the writers lived and the type of literature (law, narrative, prophecy, Wisdom, for example) they were composing?

For those who successfully negotiate these questions (and many others) — and this is no simple task! — one vitally important question remains: How do we apply the teachings of the Bible to our contemporary world, given the very different nature of the ancient societies in which they were first uttered?

### **Applying Biblical Concepts**

To arrive at answers to some of these questions, let us look at several provisions of the sabbatical year.

Although economic factors figure prominently in Exodus 23 and Deuteronomy 15, both mentioned above, other related passages stress ecological or environmental themes. One of these passages is Leviticus 25:4: “During the seventh year the land shall have a complete rest, a sabbath for the LORD, when you may neither sow your field nor prune your vineyard.”

But is it possible for humanity to sustain itself without any agricultural products for an entire year? The biblical text does not explicitly answer this question, but the Jewish tradition does provide an understanding: This practice refers only to Israel and only to land there owned by Jews. And it continues today, although many authorities believe that ownership of land might, temporarily, be transferred to non-Jews.

What about the biblical provision to cancel all debts in the seventh year? Wouldn't this make it nearly impossible for those in need to borrow funds near the end of each cycle, since creditors would find it difficult, if not impossible, to recoup their loans? Again, while the biblical text does not deal with such cases, the Jewish tradition steps in.

Hillel, a major Jewish leader of the late

first century BCE and early first century CE, is said to have provided a framework through which the biblical law could be followed within the increasingly sophisticated economic realities of his time (quite different from those of earlier, biblical days). In effect, private debts, which were the type envisioned by the book of Deuteronomy, were turned over to a public (Jewish) court. This action resulted in the remission or cancellation of the private debt for the borrower and guaranteed repayment without loss for the lender.

Some view such practices as legitimate modifications of biblical law on the basis of changing circumstances, while

## **How do we apply the teachings of the Bible to our contemporary world, given the very different nature of the ancient societies in which they were first uttered?**

others see them as clever or questionable constructions of loopholes. At the least, they exemplify efforts to apply the biblical concept of *Shemitah* (that is, release), based on considerations of differing contexts, circumstances and interpretations.

### **A Matter of Translation?**

Few readers today are able to read the Old Testament in the original Hebrew or the New Testament in koine Greek (which itself is often a reflection of words that Jesus originally spoke in Aramaic). Does it make a difference? Surely, it can. In a recent retelling of Jesus' words, he speaks as follows: “But beware, and remember what I tell you: there are some who will be cursed, who will never inherit the Kingdom of God. D'you want to know who they are? Here goes: Those who are rich will be cursed.”

Very powerful and straightforward —

but is this what Jesus actually said? This retelling seems to be based on the second half of chapter 6 in the Gospel of Luke. In a literal rendering of verse 20, Jesus says: “Blessed are you who are poor, for the kingdom of God is yours.” By contrast, in verse 24, Jesus declares: “But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.” Does this indeed mean that the rich “will never inherit the Kingdom of God”? Possibly, but perhaps not. In either case, I, for one, prefer the more literal translation of Luke that allows the reader, on her or his own, to reflect on the fullness of Jesus' teaching.

The more literal rendering might also encourage us to look elsewhere in the New Testament for Jesus' further instruction on this topic. Among the best known of such passages is Matthew 19:24: “Again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for one who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” Since we cannot imagine that a camel would ever be able “to pass through the eye of a needle,” we might draw the conclusion that in Luke Jesus did indeed mean that no rich person would ever enter or inherit the kingdom of God.

But, it is possible that our translation and understanding of Matthew 19:24 are faulty. The word rendered “camel” may be a mistranslation of a term for “cable or thick rope,” and the “eye of the needle” could perhaps be a reference to a narrow gate into Jerusalem through which a camel might be able to squeeze, though with great difficulty. Either of these two possibilities would highlight the very real difficulties that wealth imposed on those seeking to enter the kingdom of God, without, however, rendering such efforts impossible.

Clearly, these are not issues for the faint-hearted. And yet they are issues much on peoples' minds today.

### **A Concern for the Poor**

While it seems that the Bible has nary a good word to say about the rich (for vivid examples, see Jeremiah 5:27; Amos 4:1-3 and 6:4-6; Proverbs 28:11, 20; Ecclesiasticus 31:3; and 1 Timothy 6:9), biblical writers shine an even brighter light on the evils of the rich when they are compared with the poor:

Psalm 10:2, 9: “Arrogant scoundrels

pursue the poor; they trap them by their cunning schemes ... They lurk in ambush like lions in a thicket, hide there to trap the poor, snare them and close the net."

Proverbs 19:1 and again at 28:6: "Better is a poor man who walks in his integrity than he who is crooked in his ways and rich."

Proverbs 28:15: "Like a roaring lion or a ravenous bear is a wicked ruler over a poor people."

The contrast is starkly drawn in Nathan's parable in 2 Samuel 12, where a rich man, who had great numbers of flocks and herds, coerced a poor man, with only one small ewe lamb, to sacrifice this animal rather than draw upon his own vast possessions. Special poignancy attaches itself to this story because it is directed at King David, who comes to realize that it is he who is the rich man, and Uriah, the husband of Bathsheba, the poor man whose relatively modest family the monarch has ruined.

### More Flattering Portrayals of Wealth

Careful readers will have noticed that most of our examples thus far are drawn from biblical Wisdom literature, where proverbial statements predominate and pictures are drawn with a rather broad stroke. Are there not also more flattering portrayals of people of wealth and power in such literature? Indeed there are.

Consider Tobit 4:21, "You will be a rich man if you fear God, avoid all sin, and do what is right before the Lord your God," or Ecclesiasticus 31:8, "Happy the rich man found without fault, who turns not aside after gain!" (Others examples can be found in Psalm 41:2; Proverbs 14:31, 19:17 and 22:9; and Jeremiah 22:16.)

Moreover, there are specific individuals mentioned whose wealth is in no way an impediment to a positive evaluation of their lives. So, for example, the first patriarch, "Abram (Abraham) was very rich in livestock, silver, and gold" (Genesis 13:2); this description comes just before his generous offer to his nephew Lot to select whichever of Abram's lands he wished to inhabit along with his family.

Later, the heroine Judith narrated approvingly this earlier period in her people's history: "Their God bade them leave their abode and proceed to the



"The Judgment of Solomon" (ca. 1508) by Italian artist Giorgione. The Bible depicts Solomon as a wise king who fell from God's favor as he accumulated more riches.

land of Canaan. Here they settled, and grew very rich in gold, silver, and a great abundance of livestock" (Judith 5:9).

And it was a man of wealth who provided the crucified Jesus with a cave for burial: "When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea named Joseph, who was himself a disciple of Jesus" (Matthew 27:57).

Clearly then, wealth in and of itself need not be a cause (or the cause) of sinful actions; rather, it is what we as humans do with it, how we value it — as an end unto itself or as a means to more productive and compassionate ends or goals. Nor do the biblical writers view such circumstances as static.

### The Tale of King Solomon

Nowhere can this be viewed more poignantly than in the sad tale of King

Solomon. Having consolidated into his own hands the power that his father David had once wielded, Solomon was offered by God anything that he wanted. Solomon chose wisdom above all; indeed, the expression "the wisdom of Solomon" has become proverbial. With wisdom, came wealth.

So long as Solomon used his wisdom in dispensing the power and wealth that came with his office, he was deserving of praise, such as that offered by the Queen of Sheba: "'The report I heard in my country about your deeds and your wisdom is true,' she told the king. 'Though I did not believe the report until I came and saw with my own eyes, I have discovered that they were not telling me the half. Your wisdom and prosperity surpass the report I heard'" (1 Kings 10:6-7). Notice what comes first in her

elaboration of Solomon's traits: wisdom.

Alas, Solomon's priorities changed as he continued to accumulate riches, which are described in great detail in 1 Kings — reflecting, I suspect, the even greater detail, and delight, the king took with each new treasure he accumulated. The king's unfortunate change can be detected in this succinct judgment: "Thus King Solomon surpassed in riches and wisdom all the kings of the earth" (1 Kings 10:23). The attentive reader of the Bible is not surprised to learn that shortly thereafter Solomon's fall ensued — from power and from divine favor.

## Biblical Law and Responsibilities

Let us return to biblical law, specifically as it relates to the responsibilities that those in power have toward their neighbors and others who are in need. Consider these excerpts from the book of Deuteronomy: "Open your hand to your poor and needy kinsman in your country" ... "You shall not defraud a poor and needy hired servant" ... "You shall pay him each day's wages before sundown on the day itself, since he is poor and looks forward to them."

As is stated, implicitly or explicitly, mistreatment of the poor is against God's will. We then might speak of such actions as sinful, although in ancient Israel — where there were no demarcations between "sacred" and "secular" — it would have been equally appropriate to speak of them as illegal.

But we live in different times, with different presuppositions and expectations. Or do we? Like many probing queries, this one does not admit of an easy "yes" or "no" answer. The system of government and of society envisioned in the Bible, in this case the Old Testament, does differ considerably from ours — and I do not think that it is productive to seek from the Bible answers to specific questions about taxation, regulation or legislation. Too often, this leads to a circumstance that we might call "Scripture vs. Scripture," wherein one set of biblical citations is set against another. This is incendiary, but hardly enlightening.

On the other hand, the nature of our responsibilities to each other — one

human to another (to say nothing about responsibilities to other species or the environment in general) has not changed. What was a fair business practice in antiquity (for example, "Do not act dishonestly in using measures of length or weight or capacity. You shall have a true scale and true weights, an honest ephah and an honest hin" [Leviticus 19:35-36]) is fair and equitable today.

Rather than bring the Bible (inappropriately, in my view) into debates over derivatives and hedge funds, we need to remember and to implement the basic principles laid out in the Bible, in both the Old Testament and the New Testament. At the same time, biblical teachings may well guide us in practical matters as we seek to be responsibly charitable in the difficult economic times in which we live.

## The Practice of Tithing

Let us take, as an example, the practice of tithing. The biblical commandment on this is most succinctly expressed in Deuteronomy 14:22: "Each year you shall tithe all the produce that grows in the field you have sown." The literal rendering of this verse in the New Jewish Version clarifies exactly what is expected: "You shall set aside every year a tenth part of all of the yield of your sowing that is brought from the field." The biblical writers do not specify why "a tenth part" is expected. Perhaps, this is related to the action of Abram in Genesis 14, at which time the patriarch gave 10 percent to King Melchizedek of Salem.

In any case, it was understood that the tithe extended beyond crops to livestock, wine, and whatever else individuals or families profited from in a given year. Surely, it would not be surprising to find this principle applied today to all income.

In biblical times, tithes, whether in the form of produce, etc., or converted into some type of money, were the Lord's, presumably administered by priests. Some of the funds were needed to provide support for the Levites and others who served in the worship of the Lord. And it is safe to speculate that a portion of the tithes were set aside for those in need.

Does this mean that Jews and Christians today should feel obligated to

give precisely 10 percent of their income to a religious institution? I don't think so — and for two reasons. First, the percent we donate is not necessarily as important as the way in which we give. Maimonides, a medieval Jewish thinker, went so far as to state that "it is better not give to alms at all than to give in an insulting manner." Although this may be taking things too far, it certainly detracts from the overall value of charity when it is offered in a condescending manner, such that it causes embarrassment to those involved.

At the same time, it is possible to be overly generous, such that a person ends up giving away so much that he or she falls into need. There is a Jewish teaching that individuals should not give away more than 20 percent of their wealth, to avoid finding themselves in need. But this teaching, like so many others, can be disregarded when circumstances are exceedingly difficult.

Moreover, the biblical text does not necessarily limit our tithing, or more generally our charitable giving, to "the Lord." Today, we have many organizations that provide assistance — some of them associated with religions, others not. This was not envisioned by the biblical writers, but is surely another of the many examples where we must take care to apply a biblical principle to a world that is markedly changed from antiquity.



Yes, wealth has its dangers, and its responsibilities. Being part of a community means being proactively involved in caring for the needs of all its members. And no one, neither the rich nor the poor — as well as the many who are in between — can honestly and honorably avoid doing everything possible to bring about the well being of other humans. From the biblical perspective, this is as it should be, for the marks of status and success that we strive after are not meaningful in the eyes of God, for it is "The LORD [who] makes poor and makes rich, he humbles, he also exalts" (1 Samuel 2:7).

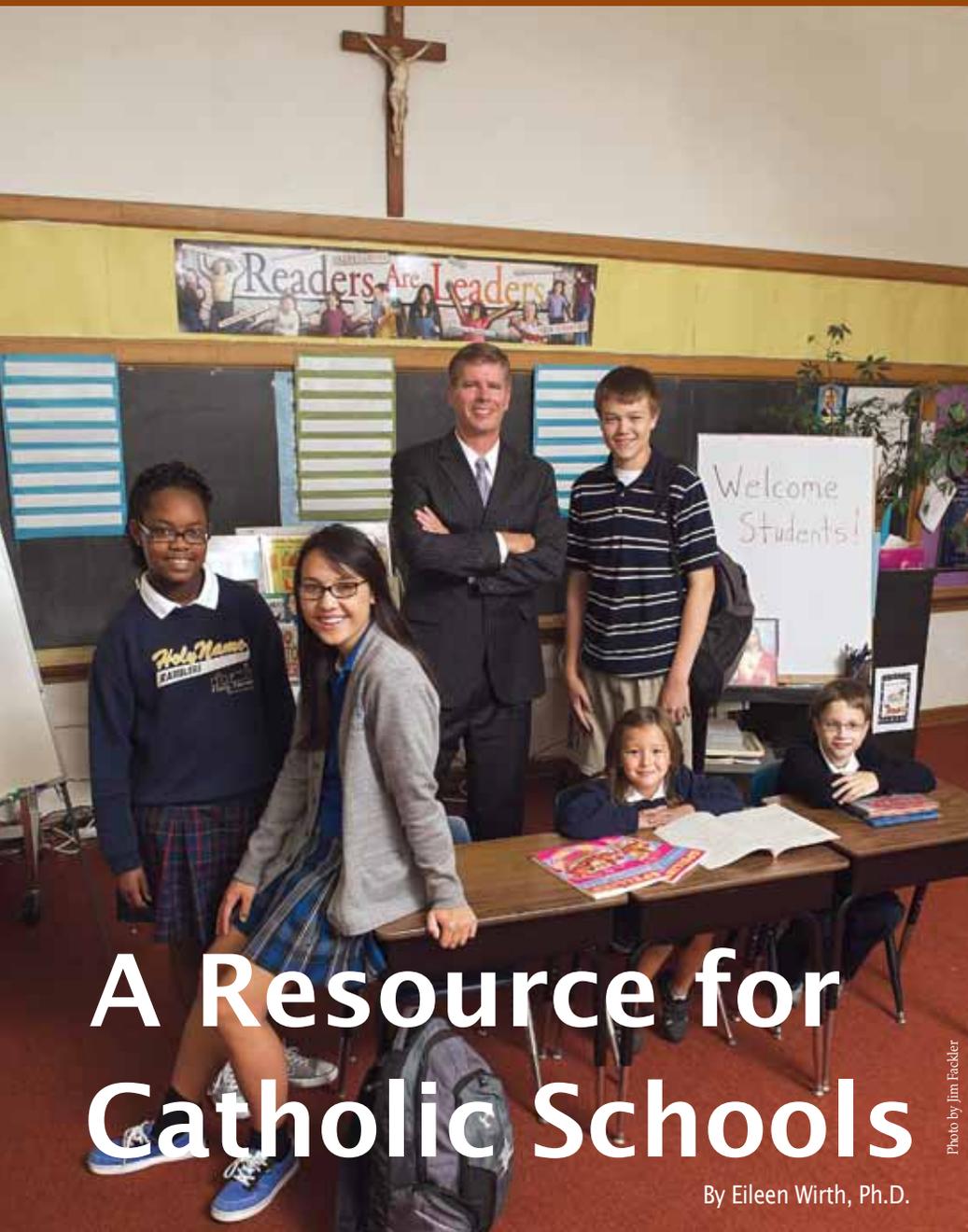


Photo by Jim Fackler

# A Resource for Catholic Schools

By Eileen Wirth, Ph.D.

Creighton University hopes to expand its longstanding partnership with Catholic elementary and secondary schools to preserve them for generations to come by creating a new center for such work.

And the biggest beneficiary of such a center would be Creighton's largest educational partner, the Archdiocese of Omaha, which runs Nebraska's fourth-largest school district, said Timothy Cook, Ph.D., associate professor of education, who spearheads Creighton's work with Catholic schools.

Generations of the teachers who staff Catholic schools have graduated from Creighton. Old-timers recall the nuns in habits who spent summers on campus completing their degrees. But in the last 10 years, Creighton's efforts for Catholic schools have gone far beyond providing traditional teacher education.

Initiatives include:

- The Magis Catholic Teacher Corps, a program that places volunteer teachers in under-resourced Catholic schools. Magis teachers combine teaching with living in community and working on their Creighton master's degree in education.
- Half-priced tuition for teachers in Catholic schools taking graduate courses.
- The Catholic School Leadership (CSL) certificate program for principals of Catholic schools nationally.
- A BA/MA religion education certificate program that students can complete in five years.

Cook said he is proud of the success of all these programs. This year, there are Magis teachers in all five Nebraska and South Dakota dioceses and two Native American reservations, and a majority of program participants have continued teaching in Catholic schools after earning their degrees. New sites this fall include the Lourdes Central schools in Nebraska City.

The Catholic School Leadership certificate program, created in collaboration with the Omaha Archdiocese, has won a top award from the National Catholic Educational Association. In this 12-credit online graduate program, students master the attributes and capabilities required to

Photo above left: Timothy Cook, Ph.D., associate professor of education at Creighton University, with Omaha Catholic school students at Holy Name Elementary School. From left are: Mariah Houston, a seventh-grader at Holy Name; Maria Corpuz, a sophomore at Marian High School; Cook; Richard Davis, a junior at Creighton Prep High School; (seated) Kamryn Pflug-Lor, a first-grader at Holy Name; and Nicholas Hilton, a fifth-grader at Holy Name.

effectively lead contemporary Catholic schools. This year, participants come from 10 states.

The tuition discounts have allowed many teachers in Catholic schools to earn master's degrees that they could never otherwise afford on their lower salaries, said Patrick Slattery, president and principal of Omaha's Skutt Catholic High School.

Students who obtain religious education certification have an advantage in getting jobs, said the Rev. Richard Hauser, S.J., theology professor and director of Creighton's graduate program in Christian spirituality. A number of high school principals have told Creighton that this program is fulfilling an important need. Nebraska is the only state that offers certification to religion teachers.

However, these efforts would have even more impact if they were consolidated in the proposed Center for Catholic School Initiatives (CCSI), an impact that could especially help Catholic schools that are struggling to survive in a difficult economy, Cook said. The center would not only better focus Creighton's efforts on behalf of Catholic schools, but it would serve as a clearinghouse for valuable research that the schools cannot afford to do themselves. The center could also match schools with a wide variety of Creighton experts and volunteers.

"CCSI will provide 'one-stop shopping,' where Creighton initiatives for Catholic schools are concerned," he said. "It will focus on teacher and leader preparation, professional development, consulting services and outreach and research."

Cook said Creighton and other top Catholic universities believe that their support is required to save the nation's K-12 Catholic school system. A study by the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities' (AJCU) Council on Education notes that in the last eight years, 1,267 Catholic schools have closed nationwide, a 15.5 percent decrease, while the number of students declined by 382,125, a 14.4 percent decline.

"We are in danger of losing our Catholic schools," the report says. "The



Kock, principal at Holy Name Catholic Elementary School in Omaha, sees Creighton as a valuable resource.

## Holy Name Grade School — Creighton West

Omaha's Holy Name Catholic Elementary School Principal Sofia Kock said she has begun calling her 140-student inner-city school "Creighton University West" because of the multitude of ways that it partners with the University. Kock listed the following examples of how Creighton aids Holy Name.

- Holy Name has participated in the Magis program since its beginning, and Kock is on the Magis board. A Magis volunteer teaches 6-8th grade science.
- Dental students teach lessons about oral health.
- Health science students have helped run both health fairs and an early childhood education fair.
- Nursing students do free health screenings, including body mass index screenings that are important in combating obesity.
- Education professors bring first-year students to observe Holy Name to show them what teaching in an inner-city Catholic school is like.
- Pharmacy students offer lessons in healthy lifestyles during after-school programs.
- Holy Name has hosted student teachers and teacher assistants, who give veteran teachers both "an extra pair of hands and a chance to pass on what they have learned."

Kock said that she sees opportunities for future partnerships in research and work with business, marketing and public relations faculty members.

Last spring, Holy Name announced that it might have to close because of financial problems, but the school is making a strong comeback, Kock said.

"We will survive," she said. The community support that emerged when the school announced its financial crisis was "unbelievable," not only from Holy Name alumni but "we heard from people we had never heard from before." About half of Holy Name's students are nonwhite and non-Catholic, two-thirds are low income and more than 40 percent are from single-parent families.

tradition, the legacy, the gift of Catholic elementary and secondary education is disappearing ... With the recent financial crisis, surely more Catholic schools will close or lose their Catholic identity to public charter schools. It seems a dismal picture." The AJCU statement notes that Catholic schools are especially effective in serving the nation's most at-risk children in inner-cities, making preserving such schools a justice issue.

The Most Rev. Timothy Dolan, archbishop of New York, wrote in a recent issue of *America*, the national Catholic weekly, about the value of Catholic education, stating that research over the past five decades "has answered with a unanimous voice that without a doubt Catholic schools are an unquestioned success in every way: spiritually, academically and communally." He adds, "These Catholic graduates have been, are and will be our leaders in church and society."

So how can the tide of Catholic school closings be turned around?

To start, Cook said that Catholic colleges and universities believe they can fill part of the vacuum created by the decline of the religious orders that used to staff Catholic schools. Specifically, he believes that establishing a center for Catholic schools, modeled on those at Notre Dame and Boston College, would aid financially hard-pressed schools in tapping Creighton's expertise in areas such as marketing and finance, as well as curriculum and program development.

Slattery, the Skutt High principal, said he is excited about the prospect of a Creighton center serving Catholic schools. "Creighton University is well-established and respected throughout the Midwest," he said. "There are so many opportunities at Creighton that would benefit all the Catholic schools, especially the small schools. The proposed center is a wonderful idea."

Slattery noted that 70 percent of his teachers have master's degrees, mostly from Creighton, that they earned with the help of the tuition-assistance

program. In return, Omaha Catholic high schools offer some tuition reduction to children of Creighton employees.

The Omaha Archdiocesan Catholic Schools Office, which has a staff of only five people to supervise its 22-county school system, believes the center could assist it with research of all types, said Msgr. James Gilg, superintendent of schools. College professors could advise schools on what research says about

## Support Will Help Advance Catholic K-12 Education

The proposed Center for Catholic School Initiatives at Creighton University will bring together Creighton's vast resources on behalf of Catholic elementary and secondary schools in the United States. Many experts believe that declining numbers of Catholic schools and Catholic school students pose a serious problem for our society. Creighton's Center for Catholic School Initiatives will work to turn around this potential crisis through a variety of efforts, many of which are already extremely successful.

Your support can help make the Center for Catholic School Initiatives at Creighton a reality. One of Creighton's newest initiatives on behalf of Catholic school education is the Presidential Scholarship, which will be awarded to doctoral candidates committed to Catholic educational leadership. To discover how you can help support the Center for Catholic School Initiatives or the Presidential Scholarship, contact the Office of Development at 800.334.8794.

best practices in education, for example. Catholic schools lack the support of the large central administrative offices of public schools.

Slattery said elementary and secondary schools also need demographic and marketing research to help them address concerns such as the fact that only 43 percent of Omaha Catholic elementary school graduates move on to Catholic high schools and that many students move to public schools after fifth grade.

"We need to research different models for our school system," he said. Research might help educators decide whether to create Catholic middle schools. Currently, Omaha Catholic elementary schools use a K-8 model.

Cook said that "consulting would involve Creighton experts in law, nursing, business and other fields. CCSI will coordinate volunteer outreach to Catholic schools." The CCSI proposal also calls for the establishment of an endowed research chair "specializing in systems solutions." Creighton's partnerships with various Catholic schools such as Omaha's Holy Name Grade School and St. Augustine's School on the Winnebago Reservation demonstrate the value of such consulting, Cook said.

While Catholic schools benefit from Creighton's programs, so does the University. Fr. Hauser noted that preparing young people to teach in Catholic schools is central to Creighton's Jesuit "mission of *magis* (doing more for God), *cura personalis* (care of the individual person), justice and service."

Slattery said that in creating a Creighton Center for Catholic School Initiatives, Catholic education would be the winner. "The need is here in the (Omaha) archdiocesan schools and Creighton has the resources. We need something to bring them together."

*About the author: Wirth is chair of the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication at Creighton.*

## Leading St. Augustine's School

Before Principal Don Blackbird enrolled in Creighton University's Catholic School Leadership (CSL) certificate program, the faculty of St. Augustine's School on the Winnebago Reservation in northeast Nebraska held an annual one-day retreat that had limited impact on their work. Now this has changed.

In addition to that annual retreat, faculty meetings include faith-sharing and prayer, Blackbird said. Staff members are far more concerned about their own spirituality and that of the school. St. Augustine also has enhanced its overall relationship with Creighton, a significant benefit to the school.

For example, Lynn Olson, Ph.D., assistant professor of education and director of elementary education programs at Creighton, has been helping St. Augustine's strengthen its reading program by holding in-service workshops for teachers and by recruiting other teachers to review the assessments of the reading program, he said.

Photo by Don Doll, S.J.



Blackbird, shown working with students at St. Augustine's School in Winnebago, Neb., where he is principal, completed Creighton's Catholic School Leadership certificate program.

Blackbird said he began taking CSL classes online, sparing him the 90-minute drive to Omaha, but he also has taken courses in person. He finds the courses practical and applicable to solving his daily administrative problems.

"In the school law course, Pat Durow made sure we learned what we needed to be effective in our positions," Blackbird said. Durow, Ph.D., an assistant professor

of education at Creighton, was a teacher and administrator in Catholic and public schools for 33 years. "His real-life experiences were helpful. Our instructors are almost like mentors. They are real people who have done this job."

Blackbird also said that the CSL program has helped him realize that being a principal of a Catholic school is a "service and a vocation, not just a job."

## Catholic School Leadership Program

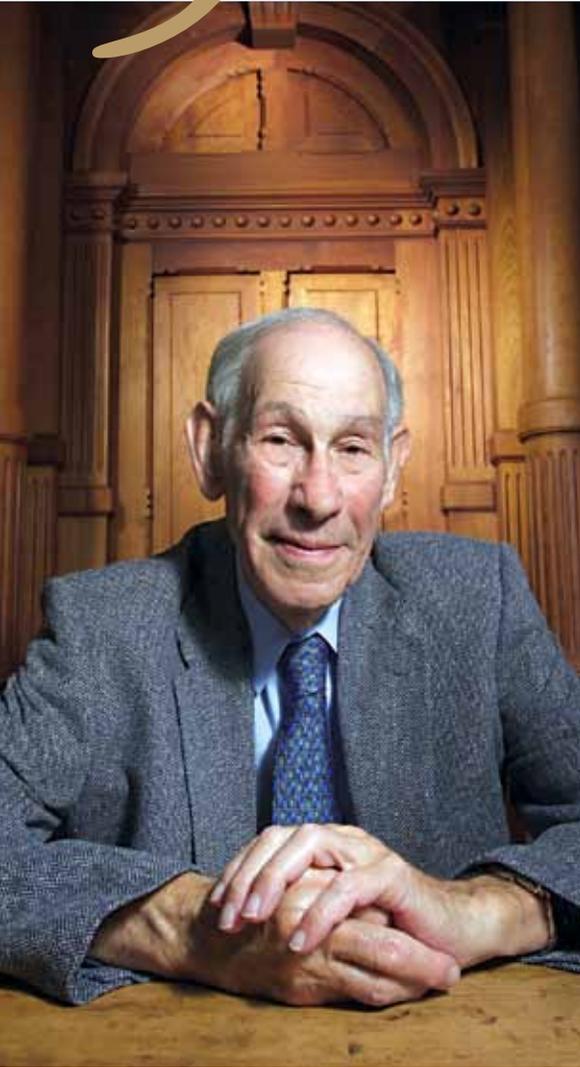
Creighton's acclaimed online Catholic School Leadership (CSL) certificate program is raising the University's profile nationally, with 10 states represented in this year's class of 15 CSL participants, said Timothy Cook, Ph.D., associate professor of education and a former Catholic school principal. Students take courses in subjects such as the Foundations of Catholic Education, Leadership in Catholic Schools and Strategic Planning that help them understand the distinctive character of Catholic schools.

Participants sing the program's praises. Here are a few testimonials:

- "The Creighton Catholic School Leadership certificate program is outstanding. The opportunity to work with educational professionals from a prestigious Jesuit university in an online environment is exceptional. I especially appreciate sharing experiences with other administrators and teachers, as well as completing projects that have practical application. I am able to transfer course learning and products directly to my school setting." — Andrew Maloney, principal, St. Joseph Jr. High, Manchester, N.H.
- "Participating in the Creighton University leadership certificate program for Catholic educators has provided me with a strong and more confident understanding of our Catholic faith and how it impacts my professional life. Also, online classes make it easier for me to continue being a mom, wife, administrator and student. The professors are very professional. They have a passion for teaching about the Catholic faith and Catholic schools." — Katherine Griffen, elementary principal, Archbishop Bergan Catholic School, Fremont, Neb.
- "My undergraduate and graduate programs were designed for public school educators, so I felt unprepared when I became a Catholic school principal. This program has been the single best thing I have done to understand my role as a Catholic school administrator. My staff and I have a renewed sense of mission as Catholic school educators and this positive change has been noticed by the community." — Timothy Dickel, principal, Mater Dei High School, Evansville, Ind.

# Celebrating 50 YEARS IN THE LAW SCHOOL

By Eugene Curtin



Dean Emeritus Rod Shkolnick in Creighton's School of Law, where he has spent the last 50 years as an administrator and professor.

Photo by Jim Fackler

He's a Jewish boy from Iowa who became dean of a Catholic law school, who is legendary for being "a very smart clown" in the oh-so-serious world of the law, and who labored as dean of Creighton University's law school to integrate a flood of female students into an institution that barely had female restrooms.

In 1961, he was a young man with a wife and two children, looking for a job. In 2011, he marks the 50th anniversary of having secured that job, along the way rising to the top of Creighton's law faculty where he earned a reputation for maintaining peace and harmony among healthy egos through the use of humor and a reflexive respect for differing opinions.

Rod Shkolnick was born in 1931, the son of Jake and Jeanette Shkolnick of Davenport, Iowa. His father worked in the family heating and plumbing business.

But law attracted the younger Shkolnick, and between 1949 and 1955 he made his way through the University of Iowa law school. Those were fortunate years to be in college since war was raging in Korea. Shkolnick received the traditional deferments but believed he owed the country something. So in 1955 he signed up for infantry duty with the U.S. Army. As things turned out, he tested well on the Army's intelligence scale and was sent instead to New York to serve two years with counterintelligence, a disappointingly unromantic assignment that Shkolnick said involved a great deal of paper pushing but precious little spooking.

He applied for a teaching position at

Creighton in 1961 after practicing law in Ottumwa, Iowa, for two years and serving two years as a researcher on the faculty of the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

And he got the job, a simple fact that Shkolnick has never forgotten.

"I have a great sense of loyalty," he said. "I'll never forget that the Jesuits gave me a job, and for a Jewish boy from Iowa, that's not bad."

Marianne Culhane, current dean of Creighton's law school, said Shkolnick, who "flunked retirement," exemplifies the ideal of a student-centered professor.

"He wasn't trying to make a name for himself so he could move on to Harvard or somewhere," she said. "He wanted to be here for the students, and that is what this school emphasizes — the importance of being there for students, even after class."

She remembers her own arrival on Creighton's faculty in 1977 and the relief she felt after meeting Shkolnick and finding him to be welcoming and supportive.

"We taught in many of the same fields and he was just a wonderful mentor and very encouraging — which I really needed since this was my first teaching job," Culhane said.

The mentoring role has defined Shkolnick, Culhane said, and generations of students have felt the magic. She recalls the occasion when grateful students collected enough money to send Shkolnick and his wife, Lois, on a roundtrip excursion to the Rose Bowl to root for the Iowa Hawkeyes.

"He is very, very beloved," she said.

Told of this widespread affection, Shkolnick smiles wryly.

"Living long will do that," he said. "People tend to think well of you if you stick around long enough."

Shkolnick's specialty has been contracts, an area of law that promises few Perry Mason moments but which has always fascinated Shkolnick, a fascination he has shared with generations of first-year law students.

Indeed, recalls Mike Fenner, Shkolnick's love of this topic was defined one day when he blurted out: "I can't believe they pay me to do this."

Fenner, who teaches constitutional law, is a Creighton law school veteran himself, having joined the faculty in 1972.

Looking back over the decades, he notes that the current law school (Ahmanson Law Center) was built under the deanship of Steve Frankino. But a building needs a pulse, and Fenner said Shkolnick provided that.

“Rod Shkolnick is responsible for its heart and soul,” he said.

“By example, through his influence on faculty hiring, particularly in the early years, and by applying a little pressure here and there, Rod made this an unusual law school where the members of the faculty get along with each other, respect each other and care about others as human beings.”

Shkolnick served as dean from 1977-1988 before returning to the classroom. Those years were marked by the usual administrative advancements — professors hired, courses designed or redesigned.

But a unique challenge was the arrival of women in large numbers, a time quite different from today when about a third of law students are women.

Shkolnick remembers those years with characteristic good humor.

“We had already seen some undergraduate women here,” he said. “But it was still fairly unusual at that time to have women in the law school.”

Women found a supportive dean in Shkolnick. He appointed two as assistant deans — Barbara Gaskins, JD’76, and Catherine Boe.

He told his female assistant deans what he would have told a male dean:

“I told them I needed someone to help me stay out of trouble,” he said.

And both fulfilled the role admirably, he said — the one was quite direct when he was about to do something inadvisable, the other more subtle.

“But they each told me what they thought,” he said. “And that is so important. You’ve got to be able to recognize that people are smarter and wiser than you and use what they bring to you.”

Gaskins, who served as Shkolnick’s assistant dean for almost all his term, said young women were “oddities” in the legal world when she became Shkolnick’s student in 1973.

Gaskins recalls there were about 22 women in her graduating class, about 10

percent of the class total. The class ahead of her, she remembers, had only half as many, and the class ahead of that had just two women.

“He was the best mentor any man or woman could have had,” she said. “He was amusing, unassuming and very encouraging.”

Shkolnick, she said, also served as a bridge to the legal world.

“He encouraged me to get involved with the bar and with the school, pushed me to be more outgoing so that I could meet people, and he encouraged them to accept me, too,” she said.

“He was the best mentor  
any man or woman could  
have had. He was amusing,  
unassuming and very  
encouraging.”

— *Barbara Gaskins, JD’76, former  
assistant dean of the law school*

Michaela White, BA’76, JD’79, who, like Shkolnick, teaches contract law at Creighton today, was just another freshman law student back in 1976 in Shkolnick’s Section B Contracts class.

White describes her experience in Shkolnick’s class as an “epiphany” in which she saw a standard of teaching worth emulating.

“I want to be like Rod when I grow up!” she remembers thinking. “He has been my mentor and advisor ever since. Obviously, Rod casts a very long shadow.

“I owe Rod so much for the help he has given me over the years.”

In addition to welcoming women to the world of law, Shkolnick said he wanted his deanship to be characterized by an atmosphere of collegiality.

“I learned a lot about deaning from Steve Frankino,” he said. “His great talent was getting what the school needed from the central administration. My goal was to create an atmosphere of friendship and cooperation, and I think I did that.”

Creighton’s job offer back in 1961 forced Shkolnick to make a difficult decision, one that could not have been easy for a young man with a young family, but one he nevertheless resolved without undue difficulty.

He was a partner in the Omaha law firm of McGrath North. In 1961, McGrath North was just two years old although it was already acquiring the reputation that would make it today one of the largest firms in Nebraska.

“I made more working part time at the law firm than I did working full time at Creighton,” Shkolnick said. “But I had a passion to teach, and so I came to Creighton.”

Shkolnick was accompanied through the decades by his wife, Lois, who died in 2004 at the age of 72.

To her, he said, he owes the most.

As a young woman, Lois was admitted to medical school. But she gave it up to support Shkolnick along his career path and to ensure that their children received a sound upbringing.

“She was asked once if she ever regretted giving up medical school,” recalled Shkolnick, who is still humbled and moved by her response. “She said she might have, had she not been married to me.”

*About the author: Curtin is a freelance writer in Omaha.*

## HONORING SHKOLNICK

Alumni and friends wishing to recognize Shkolnick on his 50 years of service to Creighton and its law students may want to consider a gift to the Rodney and Lois Shkolnick Endowed Scholarship, which the couple established in 1985. Gifts can be sent to the Office of Development, Creighton University, 2500 California Plaza, Omaha, NE, 68178, or make a gift online at [creighton.edu/development/makegiftonline](http://creighton.edu/development/makegiftonline).

In addition, Shkolnick was honored at the law school’s annual alumni dinner on Oct. 1. The celebration included a special tribute video, which can be found at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=70bzbP00STE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=70bzbP00STE).

## Scholarships for Billy Bluejay

Who is Billy Bluejay, really?

Well, it kind of depends on the day.

Last spring and again this fall, five Creighton students signed on as Billy, donning his iconic suit of blue feathers and flying back and forth in a flurry of activity.

Though some are more able to give of their time than others, these students have in common a lot of school spirit, readiness to volunteer for Creighton — and plenty of mascot moxie.

Still, two of the Billy Bluejays who have worked the hardest have stood out — and they now have scholarships to show for both their enthusiasm and keeping up their grades.

They are Katie Reichert, Omaha, class of 2011, Arts and Sciences, and David Roustio, St. Louis, class of 2012, College of Business.

And they have retired Lt. Col. Michael Murphy, BA'84, to thank.

The story has its beginnings with Murphy's grandfather Joe Murphy, BSC'31, who in 1941 decided that Creighton's mascot needed a pick-me-up.

Prior to Murphy's tenure — he became Creighton's PR department head as well as a journalism professor — the Creighton Bluejay looked, well, just like a blue jay, as if he



Photo by Jim Fackler

Scholarship recipient Katie Reichert with Billy Bluejay.

belonged in a Roger Tory Peterson bird guide.

But Joe thought the bird should look a little more like a mascot, and commissioned an artist to come up with something like the feisty, feathered Billy we know today.

In fact, Mike's dad, retired Col. John Murphy, BS'58, remembers Joe saying he "wanted the artist to make Billy look as if he had just eaten something sour."

And now, nearly 70 years later, Mike Murphy's gift to Creighton's "mascot" students is made both in his grandfather's and grandmother's names, in a spirit of warm generosity.

The Joseph P. and M. Kathryn Murphy

Endowed Scholarship Fund will grant \$1,000 gifts annually to deserving student mascots. The scholarships are renewable, based on the student's academic record and availability of funds. Other donors are welcome, said Director of Philanthropy Chris Bauer.

In addition to school spirit and academic achievement, the undergraduate scholarship fund also rewards high moral character and financial need.

What motivated grandson Mike to make this special gift?

"I had the fortune of knowing my grandparents while growing up and got to spend considerable time with them while I was attending Creighton. They were wonderful people, and I wanted to keep their memories alive by recognizing their contributions to the University."



The iconic, feisty Billy Bluejay, created under the direction of Joe Murphy, BSC'31.

## Couple's Generosity Helps Fund Center's New Services

Ray Kiefer, III, BA'80, MD'84, never forgot his freshman advisor at Creighton.

In fact, Kiefer so valued this early mentor that he and his wife, Jacquie Olerich Kiefer, BSN'80, would create and endow the annual lecture series in his name.

Thus began the Michael G. Lawler Lecture Series in 1999, first as an independent lecture series and now in the Creighton Center for Catholic Thought.

Kiefer's mentor is dean *emeritus* of the Graduate School at Creighton and professor *emeritus* of Catholic theology.

"Creighton provided Jacquie and me with a number of great learning opportunities," Kiefer said. "Mike became a dear friend. We established this lecture in honor of his efforts and to support the Jesuit tradition at Creighton from

which we both gained such lifelong benefit."

Under its auspices, the lecture series has brought thoughtful and interesting speakers to campus in the ensuing 11 years. They've shared their expertise on a variety of subjects, from "Catholic Ethics in a Virtual Society" to "Marriage, Tradition and Change."

This year, another gift from the Kiefers enables the Creighton Center for Catholic Thought to expand its services and offerings.

According to John O'Keefe, Ph.D., professor of theology and A.F. Jacobson Chair in Communications, and founding director of the Center for Catholic Thought, the Kiefers' gift will help to make possible several exciting new initiatives as well as to support ongoing programs through the center.

Not only will the Kiefers' generosity enable the Center for Catholic Thought to support and enhance the Catholic Comments podcast, carried weekly on the center's website, [cct.creighton.edu](http://cct.creighton.edu), it will also enable the center to add a distinguished church leader lecture series,

as well as department-specific lectures.

The latter series, O'Keefe points out, will feature leaders in Catholic thought across the country and beyond the discipline of theology.

A series of mini-courses focusing on Catholic intellectual tradition are also in the offing, thanks in large part to the Kiefers. These courses are set to begin next spring at Creighton and will eventually be publically available through "iTunesU" and on the center's website.

A visiting scholars program and a blog on Catholic intellectual tradition are other ideas the center is considering for the future.

"We are grateful for our alumni and friends who have generously supported our Jesuit, Catholic mission," said Creighton President the Rev. John P. Schlegel, S.J. "Families like the Kiefers and Don, BS'49, HON'82, and Mickie Keough, among others, are truly extraordinary in their willingness to help the University continue its faith-based mission and to have our Catholic identity front and center in all that we do."

## Creighton's New Era a Springboard to the Future

Through the generosity of our alumni and friends, Creighton University has accomplished what our president, the Rev. John P. Schlegel, S.J., has termed the



Simic

University's "second founding."

The extraordinary success of the *WILLING TO LEAD* campaign, which concluded at the end of fiscal year 2010 having raised \$470 million in gifts and pledges on a \$350 million goal, is

unprecedented in the University's history.

Your support for Creighton's vision to be among the top Jesuit, Catholic universities in the United States has infused the University's

academic mission with funding for hundreds of student scholarships, faculty and program support, and strategic campus expansion.

On behalf of today's and tomorrow's students, the University is most grateful for the commitment of our philanthropic partners, who now number more than 63,000. The fact that more than 30,000 of you are new donors is extremely gratifying.

Creighton's leadership knew from the outset that the campaign would not be a concluding event but a beginning, and the University has indeed embarked upon a new era of philanthropy through the springboard of the *WILLING TO LEAD* campaign.

Going forward, fueled by this momentum, Creighton will continue to secure philanthropic assistance for critical needs such as scholarships, faculty development and existing capital projects such as the Rasmussen Center, which will be dedicated to meeting students' well-being through fitness and recreation.

One of the University's top priorities is for annual, sustaining gifts that provide the

current-use dollars so necessary for student financial aid and operating support. The University is firmly committed to continuing to admit students based upon performance, dedication and promise, and current economic conditions have made this funding essential if Creighton is to fulfill its commitment to access and affordability.

Robust philanthropy also will allow the University to attract and retain the faculty-mentors whose expertise, experience and values align with and advance Creighton's Jesuit, Catholic beliefs and culture.

Thank you for your generosity — both now and in the future. The values imparted to students by a Creighton education are needed more than ever, and Creighton is relying on the philanthropic support of its alumni and friends to meet the immediate and critical opportunities that lie ahead.

Laura C. Simic

Senior Associate Vice President of Development and Campaign Director

## Alumna Wants to Help Students Achieve Their Dreams

The University could not have asked for a better testimonial to tout Creighton to prospective students.

Karen Morauski, JD'86, said her years at Creighton made a strong impression on her because she experienced "a personal touch, like you receive in your own hometown or your own neighborhood."

Furthermore, the School of Law graduate and corporate attorney said she could tangibly feel the values that made Creighton different from other universities.

"The faculty, staff and administrators I interacted with gave me a sense of being treated and known as a person, not a number," Morauski said.

"My Creighton law degree obviously helped me in my profession, but more than that, it helped develop values that shaped how I view my job as an attorney, values that I don't think I would have received at other institutions."

For all these reasons and more, Morauski knew she wanted to give back to Creighton and help other students. She said she



Morauski, JD'86, has included Creighton in her estate plan.

financed her education through grants, loans and scholarships. "When I completed my education, I wanted to return the favor to help others. Education is an important value to me, instilled by my dad when I was very young."

So, in addition to making annual gifts to Creighton over the years, she created an estate plan early in her career and included a planned gift for scholarships.

Recently, she re-evaluated her estate plan and increased the amount she is planning to leave for scholarships and Creighton. This time, however, it was not a quick decision.

"It took me about six months to come to the decision. I thought a great deal about it," she

said. "It was a matter of proportion. I knew I wanted to leave more, but I had to determine the right proportion." Once she had finalized her plans, she said she felt great peace.

Her bequest to Creighton will fund a perpetual endowment for law student scholarships. Morauski said she is pleased that she will be able to help future law students obtain the opportunities she received from her Creighton education and improve their lives.

"This country was built on the American dream of hard work and help from others. I am living proof of that, with the financial assistance I received for my education. I want to help other students achieve their dreams."

There are many ways to express your gratitude to Creighton, create your legacy and impact tomorrow's students through a planned gift today. To explore the possibilities, contact the Office of Estate and Trust Services at 800.334.8794, [giftplanning@creighton.edu](mailto:giftplanning@creighton.edu) or visit <http://giftplanning.creighton.edu>. You will be offered confidential, personalized assistance and receive answers to your questions.

Steve Scholer, JD'79

Senior Philanthropic Adviser  
Office of Estate and Trust Services



# Casting a Wide Net

By Anthony Flott

The McGlynn sisters, from left, Maura, Mary Claire, Margaret, Madelyn and Kathleen, created a nonprofit organization to distribute nets in rural Uganda to prevent the spread of malaria. Maura, Margaret, BS'10, and Kathleen are students at Creighton. The sisters display the beaded jewelry sold to raise funds for the nets.

Every night, at dinner tables in houses across America, families solve the problems of the world. At the McGlynn home in Belleville, Ill., it really happens.

Michael, Claire and their five daughters live their faith — volunteering at a home for abused children, tutoring at schools, assisting refugees in the United States or helping others overseas.

It was only natural, then, that when Ugandan priest the Rev. Michael Mujule dined with the McGlynns one night several years ago, the family would come to his assistance, too. Malaria ravages the western Uganda district of Kibaale from where he hails, Fr. Mujule related. Nationally, it kills 350 children every day — and more than 100,000 Ugandans annually. Twice as many people are infected with malaria than have tuberculosis, AIDS, measles or leprosy — combined. It's worse in Uganda than anywhere else in the world and is that country's leading cause of poverty.

Most tragic, perhaps: Malaria is largely preventable. In areas where insecticide-treated nets are heavily used, malaria transmission is cut by 90 percent.

The McGlynns gave Fr. Mujule \$120 and asked him to buy nets for his immediate family.

But that was just the start. Within a year the McGlynn daughters — Maura, 24; Margaret, 22; Kathleen, 20; Mary Claire, 16; and Madelyn, 15 — created a nonprofit organization to distribute nets in rural Uganda, NETwork Against Malaria.

“Our family and many of the people we knew had the ability to do something about this,” says Maura, a third-year doctorate student in Creighton’s occupational therapy program and one of three McGlynn’s attending Creighton. Margaret, who graduated with a bachelor’s degree in biology this past May, is a first-year medical student. Kathleen is a junior majoring in international relations.

The sisters created a YouTube video explaining malaria’s devastating toll in Uganda. They sought donations from family and friends. They created a website, *networkagainstmalaria.org*. So far, they’ve distributed 4,500 nets. Since up to five children might sleep under one net, that could be thousands of lives saved.

“Extremely rewarding,” says Margaret.

NETwork Against Malaria raises funds via donations, some grants and the sale of beaded jewelry. U.S. volunteers make the jewelry using paper beads handcrafted by impoverished Uganda women. NETwork also partners with schools, churches and various organizations to sell jewelry or conduct projects such as all-school penny wars.

Funds purchase nets manufactured in Kampala, Uganda’s capital, for about \$8 each. Fr. Mujule’s Catholic connections distribute nets into the villages.

“I know the people; I know the villages,” Fr. Mujule says.

“Those people have never seen a mosquito net.”

Some sell the nets to buy food or clothing. Others might use them for fishing, as a tablecloth or curtain.

And yet, says Maura, “In the long run, it is more valuable to your family to hold on to the net.”

Education, then, comes with every net. Recipients only receive them if they accompany their children to school. They’re told to hang them over sleeping areas, a shield against the parasite-infected mosquitoes that most often bite between midnight and 4 a.m. Community members make sure nets are being used properly.

There are other malaria-fighting nonprofits at work. “The effort we have is on a much smaller scale than what the U.N. is doing or the World Health Organization,” says Fr. Mujule. “But our efforts go deep in the village.”

Maura says NETwork differs in two respects. One, it empowers Ugandans to help each other; two, “Our whole effort stems from our faith and the realization that our faith must be lived out.”

That started at home.

“Our family emphasizes that God gives each person gifts which are each person’s ability to act God’s mission in the world,” Maura says. “Living God’s mission doesn’t mean just touching the lives of those around you, but reaching out to everyone you possibly can.”

Adds Margaret: “Mom always said we should focus out, not in.”

But the Creighton family also was key. The University, says Maura, helped the McGlynn’s “reach a purpose-driven life” by deepening their faith, contemplation and prayer.

Creighton students, faculty and staff also have been quick to lend a hand.

“Volunteers make up the backbone of our organization,” Kathleen says, “and Creighton’s student volunteers are indispensable. They come up with educational and fundraising ideas, work special events, give presentations, and get other students and faculty members involved. That’s what our organization is all about: education and raising money for malaria prevention and relief. Our organization would not be successful without all the help we’ve received.”

Malaria is largely preventable. In areas where insecticide-treated nets are heavily used, malaria transmission is cut by 90 percent.



That includes Taylor Keen, a Creighton business instructor, who helped create a business plan for the organization.

“One net can save one to five lives, and those are children’s lives. I thought that was very, very compelling,” Keen says. “Having a network on the other side was key. Without that, it would just be another do-good type of nonprofit that may or may not be successful.”

Keen has pushed the founders, each of whom works on the project several hours each day, to think beyond the now. “Making that institution sustainable beyond the founders is the biggest challenge,” Keen says.

NETwork sent some 1,000 nets this summer and another 1,000 in the fall. The McGlynn’s goal is to provide nets throughout the Hoima Diocese and to establish additional partnerships. Eventually, if a vaccine for malaria is developed — which Maura says could happen within three years — NETwork might deliver vaccine instead of nets.

After that? It’s hard to imagine NETwork without the McGlynn’s. Harder, still, to imagine the McGlynn’s not solving the problems of the world.

“I hope to serve in a clinic or start one in Uganda,” says Margaret, who began medical school this fall. “In Kibaale, there is one doctor for every 42,000 people. The town we live in in southern Illinois, Belleville, has just under 42,000 people. I can’t imagine if there was only one doctor in our town.”

# Alum Items

**62 John G. Manesis, MD,** Fargo, N.D., wrote the book, *Consider, If You Will: Poems by John Manesis*, a re-examined collection of nursery rhymes, children's poems and classic myths, casting them in different lights and alternate points of view, published by CreateSpace in May 2010.

**69 Heather M. Harden, BA,** Bloomington, Minn., was honored by the *Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal* as an "Industry Leader" at the Women in Business Awards Luncheon in May 2010. This award honors professional women who are recognized as accomplished leaders in their respective industries.

**75 Rev. Dennis P. McNeilly, S.J., BA,** Omaha, associate professor of psychiatry at the

University of Nebraska Medical Center, received the UNMC Outstanding Teaching Award.

**76 Dan E. Monnat, JD,** Wichita, Kan., has been named one of Kansas' most notable litigation lawyers by Chambers USA 2010.

**78 Mary Rueve Murcott, BA,** Dallas, has been named chief executive officer and president of NOVO 1 in Fort Worth, Texas.

**79 Paul J. Lochray, BA '73, MA '75, JD,** Highlands Ranch, Colo., published his fourth book, *Nature Boy: Reflections on a Life*, an autobiographical account of how his Catholic faith and belief in getting an education allowed him to overcome many hardships in his life.

**81 James B. Brosnihan, BS '76, DDS,** Omaha, was featured in the June edition of *Dentistry Today*. The editorial explored the historical and divisive nature of U.S. occlusal and temporomandibular philosophies. **Kenneth G. Stenstrup, BA,** St. Paul, Minn., wrote *Titus: Honoring the Gospel of God*, published by Liturgical Press in February 2010, part of a series called *Paul's Social Network: Brothers and Sisters in Faith*.

**82 Keith E. Sharkin, JD,** Summit, N.J., has joined Dickstein Shapiro, LLP, in New York as part of the firm's expansion of its intellectual property practice. **Steven D. Wingert, BA,** Racine, Wis., has been named region 3 director of the Association of Legal Administrators' board of directors. Wingert is currently the executive director at the law firm of Marshall Gerstein & Borun LLP in Chicago. He is also a Certified Legal Manager/(CLM)SM.

**85 Pamela Tracey, JD,** Beverly, Mass., has been named vice president, general counsel and corporate secretary of OSRAM SYLVANIA in Danvers, Mass.

**86 Dr. Letha J. Jepson, MCSM,** North Bend, Wash., has received a doctor of philosophy degree in leadership and change from Antioch University in Yellow Springs, Ohio.

**87 Lance D. Sharp, BA '84, JD,** Austin, Texas, was elected secretary of the Austin Bar Association board of directors.

**88 Dr. Roxanne Gonzales Walker, MS,** Rye, N.H., has been promoted to dean of distance learning at Park University in Parkville, Mo.

**89 Aidan M. McCormack, BA,** Port Washington, N.Y., has joined DLA Piper in New York as a partner with the firm's Litigation Practice Group.

**91 Jennifer Oakes Boyden, BA,** Walla Walla, Wash., wrote *The Mouths of Grazing Things*. This poetry book, published by the University of Wisconsin Press in April 2010, was the winner of the 2010 Brittingham Prize in Poetry. **Nancy Dolan Ingham, BSN,** Oakdale, Minn., has received the 2010 Nursing Excellence Award in Practice and Service at United Hospital in St. Paul, Minn. **Russell "Rusty" T. Komori, BA,** Honolulu, boys' tennis coach at Punahou School, led the team to its 20th straight state title, breaking the national high school tennis record. **Peter J. Mougey, BSBA,** Pensacola, Fla., has been elected president of the national securities bar with the Public Investors Arbitration Bar Association.

**92 Andrew M. Emerson, Esq., JD,** Bethesda, Md., has been promoted to an administrative law judge for the Social Security Administration. **Hon. Michael T. Seiler, JD,** The Woodlands, Texas, was appointed by Gov. Rick Perry as 435th District Court judge in Montgomery County.

**93 Laura Wood Peterson, BSBA '91, JD,** Lincoln, Neb., has been named president of the Public Risk Management Association (PRIMA).

**94 Michael S. Freimuth, DDS,** Lakewood, Colo., has been named Diplomate on the American Board of Oral Implantology/Implant Dentistry.

**97 Dr. Rebecca A. Hoss, BA,** Omaha, has received the 2010 Inspiring Excellence faculty award at College of Saint Mary. Hoss is currently the division chair of Arts and Sciences.

**00 Shaun M. Falvey, BA,** St. Louis, has joined the law firm of Brown & Crouppen as an attorney.

**01 Chadron S. Araki, DDS,** Ewa Beach, Hawaii, has become the owner of Benson H. Araki, DDS, Inc., now known as "The Smiling Place," in April 2010. **Anna E. Biava, BA,** Gallup, N.M., has begun a line of raw, organic whole-food supplements called Raw Source Organics.

**02 Jeana Seitzinger Goosmann, JD,** Dakota Dunes, S.D., has been awarded the 2010 Arabella Mansfield Award by the Iowa Organization of Women Attorneys recognizing her work in promoting the

status of women in the legal profession.

**04 Anthony V. Hall, JD,** St. Louis, has been named director of youth services in behavioral health services at SSM DePaul Health Center. **Dr. Abhishek "Abhi" D. Reddy, BA,** New York, received a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine from Michigan State University in May 2010.

**07 Lt. Jeremy Patelzick, DDS,** Ventura, Calif., served a six-month tour in Kuwait in 2009 and is currently serving an eight-month tour in Afghanistan.

**08 Colleen L. Byers, BA '05, MBA, JD,** Winston-Salem, N.C., has been elected president of the Forsyth Humane Society. Byers is currently an attorney at the law firm of Bell, Davis & Pitt, P.A. **Matthew D. Deboer, BA,** Elgin, Ill., and **Jeffrey P. Peak, BA,** Canyon Country, Calif., competed in the 2nd Annual IronMan 70.3 as part of Team Enduring Hope supporting Contemplatives in Action, a nonprofit urban ministry and retreat experience. **Kirsten A. Nyhus, JD,** Fargo, N.D., has joined Sanford Health as an attorney.

**09 James G. Pfeifer, BA,** Charleston, S.C., has joined the department of psychiatry at the Medical University of South Carolina as a research analyst.

## Marriages

**91 Valerie L. Wehr, BA,** and Michael Rooks, Feb. 20, 2010, living in Kailua, Hawaii.

**98 Nicki Steinhauser and Curtis L. Neesen, BS,** April 17, 2010, living in Omaha.

**00 Kristin M. Eickhorst, BSEvs '98, MS,** and **Gregory P. Armendariz, BS '98, MCS,** April 10, 2010, living in Papillion, Neb.

**04 Melissa M. Hillebrand, BA,** and **Timothy R. Schulte, BA '05,** April 17, 2010, living in Chicago. **Leah E. Joseph, BA '98, JD,** and **Gregory G. Ervanian, JD '90,** April 16, 2010, living in Des Moines, Iowa.

**05 Jessica Payne and William J. Nienaber, BS '01, MD,** May 15, 2010, living in Grover, Mo. **Elizabeth R. Snow, BA,** and **Ryan T. Trenkle, BA '04,** Jan. 2, 2010, living in Denver.

**10 Josie A. Grzebielski, MS,** and **Brent L. Catlett, BS '98, MS '02,** May 1, 2010, living in Omaha.

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# Alumna Battles Global Poverty and Disease

By Sarah Smith, BA'07

Don't expect Sheila Nix, BSBA'83, to sit on the sidelines when it comes to fighting extreme global poverty and preventable disease.

She takes an active role addressing these issues as the U.S. executive director of ONE, a global and non-partisan grassroots campaign and advocacy organization committed to fighting poverty and preventable disease, particularly in Africa. Headquartered in Washington, D.C., Nix is responsible for ONE's advocacy, communications and campaign efforts in the U.S.

Much of her work centers on improving global health and agricultural projects, in addition to engaging congressional members in ONE's mission, and working with other humanitarian groups. She also travels to sub-Saharan Africa to help carry out those projects, and has been to Ghana, Sierra Leone and Ethiopia.

Nix, who began working for ONE in June 2009 after working in politics and law, said ONE is focused on improving long-term sustainability for people in Africa instead of just providing disaster relief, which is what many people are accustomed to hearing when it comes to giving aid to Africa. For instance, ONE's agricultural projects teach people how to farm so they can be self-sufficient, especially women and girls, since 70 percent of farmers in sub-Saharan Africa are female. ONE also addresses global health by focusing on issues like water and sanitation, maternal and child health, and preventing and treating AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

Nix said that traveling to Africa and seeing the positive effects of ONE is encouraging because it shows that with the proper investments, things can improve for countries there, which shatters the negative image some people have of the continent.

"It's not this hopeless place," she said.

Nix was able to see exactly that during a trip in January when she and eight other women, including Cindy McCain, wife of U.S. Sen. John McCain, and actress Connie Britton from the television series *Friday Night Lights*, traveled to Ghana and Sierra Leone to raise awareness about improving health,

education and economic opportunity for women and girls. The purpose of the trip was to empower African women and girls to make a difference in their communities.

She said being able to travel and gain a new perspective on global issues is one of the most enjoyable aspects of her job.

"It's really interesting to spend time in another part of the world and see a different culture and experience what their lives are like," Nix said.

One inspiring moment she remembers happened during a visit to an all-girls

about going to school," she said. "Yet here's this young woman who was so passionate about her education."

Nix also said she enjoys her work because ONE employees and members are passionate about achieving ONE's mission, and that the sense of community she feels at ONE is like the sense of community she felt as a Creighton student. She also gets to work with Bono, ONE co-founder and lead singer of the band U2.

"He really understands complicated issues and can communicate with anyone," she



Nix visits Tekura Home Furnishings in Accra, Ghana. The company produces wood products like masks, tables and bowls and, with the help of USAID's West African Trade Hub, sells its items to U.S. stores such as Target and Pier One. Tekura employs from 30 to 100 people from the local area.

school in Ghana when a young woman explained how she worked to pay for her education. She initially worked and attended school, but couldn't afford the school fees, so she dropped out and worked to save money. At 25, she saved enough to pay for what would be the first year of high school in the U.S., about \$200. During one school day, the principal told her someone offered to pay for the rest of her schooling. The student said that was the most joyous day of her life. Nix said she was so moved at how grateful that student felt to have the opportunity to earn her education and how dedicated she was.

"When you're younger, kids complain

said. "I was so amazed at his down-to-earth personality and his knowledge."

Nix hopes to get more U.S. citizens involved in ONE, and increase the membership from 2 million to 4 million. Membership is free and you can join by visiting [www.one.org](http://www.one.org).

"We want your voice, not your money," she said. "If you don't have much time, there's something you can do. If you have more time, there are things you can do."

Nix hopes people recognize the impact each person can have when united for a cause.

"Collectively, anyone can make a difference."

# Alumni Honors

## School of Medicine Alumni Merit Award

John W. Barnes, MD'55, received the 2010 Alumni Merit Award from Creighton University School of Medicine on Friday, Sept. 10.

Barnes spent two years in the U.S. Navy and briefly practiced family medicine in Woodbine, Iowa, before moving to Missouri Valley. Barnes, who retired to Omaha, practiced medicine for 47 years in Missouri Valley, serving as president of the medical staff at Alegent Health Community Memorial Hospital for 20 of those years. Over the course of his career, he often served as a preceptor, providing invaluable clinical training to University of Iowa medical students. Barnes currently works with Medical Enterprises as a certified occupational health physician.



Barnes

Barnes has also been a dedicated supporter of and advocate for Creighton University. He served on the School of Medicine's Alumni Advisory Board, 1979-85, and was chair of the University's Parents Council, 1994-95. Seven of his nine children attended Creighton; three grandchildren are fourth-generation Creighton students or alumni. He is active in Creighton Jaybackers.

## School of Pharmacy and Health Professions Alumni Merit Award

Sr. Margaret Wright, BSPha'62, of Arlington Heights, Ill., received the 2010 Alumni Merit Award from the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions on Oct. 8.



Sr. Wright

Sr. Wright, a member of the Religious Sisters of Mercy, earned a master's degree from the University of Colorado School of Pharmacy and a doctor of philosophy degree from the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Pharmacy. Throughout her career, Sr. Wright has been recognized as a leader in her profession. She served as director of pharmacy services for Mercy Hospital and Medical Center in Chicago for 24 years and currently is a pharmacy consultant for Zane Gideon and Associates Inc. of Ohio and the Illinois Department of Public Aid.

Sr. Wright has been active in local, state and national professional associations, holding appointed and elected offices. She served as chair of the Illinois State Board of Pharmacy for 13 years. Public policy in community health care has been a focus of her research.

## Births

**89** Kevin McNamara and **Andrea Roehner McNamara, BA**, Dublin, Ohio, a daughter, Colleen Coyle, April 22, 2010.

**92** **John A. Rabeni, BA**, and **Dr. Melanie Lang Rabeni, BSMth'93**, Windham, N.H., a son, Dominic, March 2, 2010. **John P. Reidy, BA**, and Susan Reidy, Decatur, Ill., a daughter, Annalise Margaret, Feb. 15, 2010.

**93** **Dr. Robert L. Broghammer, BSPha'92, MBA**, and Tracey Broghammer, Cedar Falls, Iowa, a son, Caden Robert, March 29, 2010.

**97** **Michael J. Fleming, BA**, and Monica Fleming, Leawood, Kan., a daughter, Josephine Lynn "Josie," Oct. 2, 2009. **Brian F. Kelly, BSEvs**, and **Jennifer Norman Kelly, BA**, Anchorage, Alaska, a daughter, Meghan Grace, March 2010.

**98** **Kelly D. Kadlec, BA'94, MD**, and **Valerie Semrad Kadlec, PharmD**, Omaha, a son, Evan Dean, Sept. 2, 2009. **Ryan Schmitz, BSOT**, and **Julie Otto Schmitz, BS'94, MA'07**, Elkhorn, Neb., a daughter, Claire Marie, April 9, 2010.

**99** Gabe Romero and **Anne Bishop Romero, BA**, Elkhorn, Neb., a daughter, Briley Arabella, June 15, 2010. Jesse Walden and **Kristen Kolesar Walden, BSChm**, Wheat Ridge, Colo., a daughter, Zoie Elizabeth, Oct. 29, 2009.

**00** **Thomas W. Cohee, BS'96, MD**, and **Michelle Steffensmeier Cohee, BSBA'96**, West Point, Neb., a son, Nicholas James, and a daughter, Emma Sue, Nov. 30, 2009.

**01** **Patrick Pucelik, BSN'98, MS**, and Lori Pucelik, Whiting, Iowa, a son, Lucas James, Dec. 24, 2009.

**02** **Brent L. Catlett, BS'98, MS**, and **Josie A. Catlett, MS'10**, Omaha, a daughter, Kennedy Lu, June 30, 2010. Daniel Raboin and **Kelli Wempe Raboin, BSN**, Wheaton, Md., a son, Jeffrey Thomas, and a daughter, Natalie Mae, March 8, 2009.

**03** Tinh Tran and **Darlene Pham Tran, BSOT'00, OTD**, Oceanside, Calif., a daughter, Maiya Quyen, April 5, 2010. Adam Van Alphen and **Erin Egan Van Alphen, BSMth**, Castle Rock, Colo., a son, Henry Edward, April 30, 2010.

**04** **Michael J. Mulford, BSBA**, and **Kristina Kuhl Mulford, BSBA'02**, San Marcos, Calif., a son, Oliver Michael, Oct. 22, 2009.

**07** **Chad A. Braun, BSMth'02, DDS**, and **Meghan Ord Braun, BS'02**, Littleton, Colo., a son, Oscar Robert, April 6, 2010.

## Deaths

**29** **Sylvia Pakes Haun, SJN**, La Grande, Ore., March 26, 2010.

**40** **Rose Birkel Housh, SJN**, Omaha, June 21, 2010.

**41** **Edna Buchholz Bangert, BAJrn**, Falls City, Neb., June 19, 2010. **Robert C. Crowl, PHB**, Council Bluffs, Iowa, July 16, 2010. **John D. "Jack" Diesing Sr., PHB'40, JD**, Omaha, March 31, 2010.

**42** **Henry L. Cuniberti, MD**, San Francisco, June 21, 2010. **Patrick J. Morrow III, JD**, Omaha, June 13, 2010. **William J. Raynor, ARTS**, Omaha, July 24, 2010. **Elinor Marsh Ross, BSM'41, MD**, Kerrville, Texas, June 14, 2010.

**43** **Margaret Slattery Alsup, SJN**, Scottsdale, Ariz., May 6,

2010. **Paul E. James, DDS**, Phoenix, May 21, 2010. **Joseph R. Paschang, ARTS**, Omaha, July 18, 2010.

**44** **Burton L. Bennett, ARTS**, Sun City West, Ariz., May 26, 2010.

**45** **Robert J. Foley, ARTS**, Tyndall, S.D., July 28, 2010. **Kathleen Shanahan Turgeon, MD**, Corona Del Mar, Calif., July 30, 2010.

**46** **Frank W. Lorenz, ARTS**, Omaha, July 14, 2010.

**47** **Evelyn C. Humlicek, SJN'45, BSN**, Omaha, July 26, 2010. **Wilma Woita "Wink" Garvey, SCN**, Oklahoma City, June 11, 2010. **Roman C. Roh, PHB'39, DDS**, Creighton, Neb., May 29, 2010.

**48** **Ralph H. Bradley, BS**, Omaha, June 28, 2010. **Kathleen O'Neil McGill, SJN**, Forest Grove, Ore., June 1, 2010. **Thomas Selzle, JD**, Omaha, June 27, 2010.

**49** **Sam J. Casaccio, BSC**, Omaha, July 20, 2010. **Sr. Germaine Drapal, N.D., BA**, Omaha, June 19, 2010. **Harry E. Naylon, BUSADM**, Omaha, Aug. 1, 2010. **George F. Reinhart, BSC**, Puyallup, Wash., May 9, 2010. **Richard A. Teson**,

**BSC**, Kansas City, Mo., April 19, 2010.

**50 John H. Baxter Jr., ARTS**, Omaha, April 9, 2010. **John F. Boler, BA**, Pine City, N.Y., Sept. 4, 2009. **Richard O. "Dick" Brennan, BSC**, Papillion, Neb., May 17, 2010. **Elizabeth "Betty" Huffman Bruckner, SCN**, Riverside, Calif., May 9, 2010. **Msgr. Robert J. Gass, ARTS**, Omaha, June 11, 2010. **Patricia "Mickey" McDonnell Scheidegger, SCN**, Haverhill, Mass., May 24, 2010. **Col. Rynold B. Svoboda, ARTS**, Arvada, Colo., Oct. 2, 2008.

**51 Donald L. Cox, MD**, Corona, Calif., March 14, 2010. **Joseph R. Britton, DDS**, Omaha, May 29, 2010. **Thomas M. Burns, BSC**, Helena, Mont., June 20, 2010. **Thomas N. Moore, JD**, Omaha, May 17, 2010. **Anne Walsh Svoboda, ARTS**, Ogallala, Neb., July 31, 2010. **Sr. M. Adolorata Watson, O.S.M., MA**, Omaha, June 4, 2010.

**52 Elbert E. "Hap" Gass, JD**, Eagle, Idaho, June 27, 2010. **Charles F. Bower, DDS**, Lincoln, Neb., April 25, 2010. **Philip O. Stewart, JD**, Winchester, Va., May 28, 2010.

**53 Hubbard F. Fellows, BS'49, MD**, Phoenix, April 25, 2010. **Francis W. "Frank" Frost, BS**, Lincoln, Neb., March 2, 2010.

**54 Reno Newberg, BSC**, Crawfordsville, Ind., June 20, 2010. **Gerald "Jerry" Redler, BS**, Scottsbluff, Neb., May 13, 2010.

**55 Mary Walsh Brandt, SJN**, Omaha, Nov. 22, 2006.

**56 Angelo P. Calfo, BS**, Thousand Oaks, Calif., June

8, 2010. **Irene Berning Christensen, BSC**, Hendersonville, N.C., April 29, 2010. **Mary Hosford Gurnett, SCN**, Omaha, July 11, 2010. **William A. "Bill" Halpenny, BSC**, Omaha, Aug. 5, 2010. **Nancy Hazuka, BS**, Denver, June 9, 2010.

**57 Robert Carmignani, DDS**, Albuquerque, N.M., July 1, 2010.

**58 Mary Ann Janda Kleffner, BSMT**, San Antonio, June 7, 2010. **John J. Whitaker, BS'54, MD**, Austin, Texas, July 22, 2010.

**59 John J. Condon, BSPH'55, DDS**, Spokane, Wash., April 25, 2010. **Louis E. Narke, ARTS**, Omaha, May 24, 2010. **Melvin R. Thomason, BSPH**, Royersford, Pa., June 2, 2010.

**60 Anthony L. "Tony" Cennamo, ARTS**, Malden, Mass., June 8, 2010. **John F. Heffron, MD'52, MSM**, Omaha, July 5, 2010. **Kenneth C. Stergion, DDS**, Rocklin, Calif., Aug. 1, 2010.

**61 Charles J. "Chuck" Broghammer, BA**, Omaha, April 20, 2010. **Robert E. Davis, BA**, Leavenworth, Kan., Aug. 4, 2010. **Thomas G. Slattery, BS'57, DDS**, Fair Oaks, Calif., Oct. 27, 2009.

**63 Sr. M. Victoria Gereau, P.B.V.M., MA**, Mount Loretto, Iowa, April 27, 2010. **Virginia Boos Meyer, BA**, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, June 8, 2010.

**65 William S. Choate Sr., BSBA**, Sioux Falls, S.D., Feb. 9, 2010. **Alexander S.K. Miles, MD**, Pahala, Hawaii, Feb. 4, 2010.

**66 Helen Spellman Dunklin, SCN'47, BSN**, Omaha, Aug. 15, 2010.

**67 Rev. Francis A. Messing, MSGUID**, Mobile, Ala., July 24, 2010. **Dr. Steven N. Parks, ARTS**, Fresno, Calif., Aug. 21, 2010.

**68 Dr. John Crawford, BS**, Bend, Ore., July 11, 2010. **Patricia A. Duffy, BA**, Cary, N.C., June 4, 2010.

**69 Sr. Mary M. Betzen, A.S.C., MA**, Wichita, Kan., April 22, 2010. **Samuel W. Cooper, JD**, Omaha, July 27, 2010.

**70 Charles L. Winbinger, BA'66, MSGUID**, Omaha, Aug. 21, 2010.

**71 John J. "Jack" McGrath, JD**, Omaha, June 10, 2010. **Victorina Salvador, BA'69, MA**, Omaha, Aug. 4, 2010. **Fred R. Smelser, MSGUID**, Omaha, May 20, 2010. **Sr. Christine M. Stahl, MA**, Delhi Township, Ohio, May 29, 2010.

**75 Eileen A. O'Neil, BA'71, JD**, Brewster, Mass., May 24, 2010. **Judith Young, BA**, Ormond Beach, Fla., May 17, 2010.

**78 Benjamin A. Myers, BA'77, MSGUID**, Phoenix, June 12, 2010.

**79 Mary Kay Getzfrid, BSN**, Omaha, Aug. 19, 2010. **James J. Targy Jr., BSBA**, Omaha, July 10, 2010.

**80 Kathleen Sorick, ARTS**, Kansas City, Mo., July 25, 2010.

**81 Kay Jonaitis Griffth, MS**, Columbus, Neb., July 1, 2010.

**Gary L. Thomas, BSBA**, Council Bluffs, Iowa, June 13, 2010.

**83 Phyllis I. Riddle, MS**, Omaha, May 2, 2010. **Sr. Mary James York, O.S.F., SJN'49, MMIN**, Omaha, Aug. 17, 2010.

**84 Deanna Fey Meier, MBA**, Omaha, Aug. 7, 2010.

**85 Casey J. Flannigan, BSRTH**, Independence, Mo., June 15, 2010.

**86 Dr. Matthew J. Severin Jr., BS'55, MS'60, JD**, Omaha, Aug. 13, 2010.

**89 Capt. Gordon L. Grening, MS**, Columbia, S.C., June 7, 2010. **Daryl J. Kaan, BS'83, MD**, Rock Springs, Wyo., May 8, 2010.

**91 Tanya Koch Ferguson, BSBA**, Pomona, N.Y., June 24, 2010.

**92 Thomas F. Livingston, BA**, Omaha, May 1, 2010.

**93 Craig H. Borlin, JD**, Omaha, April 18, 2010. **Eric P. Jacobson, BSATS**, Plymouth, Minn., July 15, 2010.

**94 Thomas G. "Tom" Egelston, MCSM**, Beaver Lake, Neb., June 23, 2010.

**96 Paul S. Shurnas, MD**, Columbia, Mo., July 3, 2010.

**97 Lt. Col. Martin G. Steere, JD**, Omaha, March 27, 2010.

**04 Elizabeth L. Bennett-Jarvis, JD**, Highlands Ranch, Colo., June 8, 2010. **Ralph S. Brisson, MA**, Pinconning, Mich., June 24, 2010.

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# Campus Mourns Loss of Beloved Faculty

## *Fishkin, Welch combined for nearly 80 years of service to Creighton*

Two beloved, longtime Creighton faculty members passed away before the start of the new academic year. Arthur Fishkin, Ph.D., professor *emeritus* of biomedical sciences, who had retired in 2007 after 40 years at Creighton, was 90 years old when he died on his birthday, May 27. History professor Ashton Welch, Ph.D., died on Aug. 14, at the age of 68. Both men epitomized Creighton's faculty-mentors with their student-centered approach to teaching.

### Professor Fishkin

Arthur Fishkin touched the lives and influenced the careers of two generations of Creighton-trained physicians, dentists, nurses and other health sciences professionals.

Fishkin taught molecular and cell biology in the School of Medicine and biochemistry to dental, medical, nursing, pharmacy and health professions students, as well as graduate and undergraduate health sciences students. Over his lifetime, he taught thousands of Creighton students.

"Students visited our home all the time," said his son Charles, of New York. "They were very much a part of our life. Students loved him, as did younger faculty members, whom he mentored."

Charles Fishkin said his father was very empathetic, a good listener



Creighton President the Rev. John P. Schlegel, S.J., presents Fishkin with a plaque, honoring his promotion to professor *emeritus*, during the 2008 President's Convocation ceremony.

and had a particular interest in mentoring students from minority backgrounds. "He had a natural talent for inspiring students' confidence in themselves."

Fishkin and his wife of 53 years, Jane Paul Fishkin, who has worked at Creighton herself for 32 years and is an acquisitions/cataloging coordinator in Creighton's Health Sciences Library, were often invited to students' weddings.

"We probably have attended 50-plus student weddings in this area, and have traveled to California, Minnesota, Florida, Illinois and Texas for student weddings. My husband was best man at the wedding of Scott Aarons, MD'77, in Texas, and walked pharmacy graduate LuVal Byrd Jones, PharmD'00, down the aisle in Chicago," Jane Fishkin said.

One wedding they attended in Florida involved two generations of medical students Fishkin had taught: the bride, Constance Faro, MS'97,

MD'02, and the father of the bride, Richard Faro, MD'72.

"We answered our phone 24 hours a day," his widow said. "Having four children ourselves who traveled away for college, we were sensitive to student personal problems. Once, a former medical student who was traveling through the area rang our doorbell late at night to show us he had a new suit. We had always teased him that he needed to dress better."

Professor Fishkin had an incredible memory for detail, often remembering aspects of former students' lives and careers.

One alumnus, George Bosl, MD'73, chair of the Department of Medicine and holder of the Patrick M. Byrne Chair of Clinical Oncology at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York, said Fishkin set an example of high achievement and stimulated students to learn.

"I was quite surprised when Dr. Fishkin came up to me during one of my visits, I believe in 2006," Bosl said. "He was a relatively new professor when I got to Creighton in 1969, and I was hardly that memorable.

"But he remembered me, which I found hard to believe given the many hundreds of students he taught and who passed through the halls of the medical school over the 40 years of his academic life at Creighton. He even remembered that I played basketball as my main outlet for stress."

Henry Lynch, M.D., director of Creighton's Hereditary Cancer Center and holder of the Charles F. and Mary C. Heider Endowed Chair in Cancer Research in the School of Medicine, considered Fishkin a close friend whom he "truly revered."

"Arthur was constantly concerned about the health and future success of our medical students and, for that matter, all of his acquaintances," Lynch said. "He was constantly discussing how he could help and advise them."

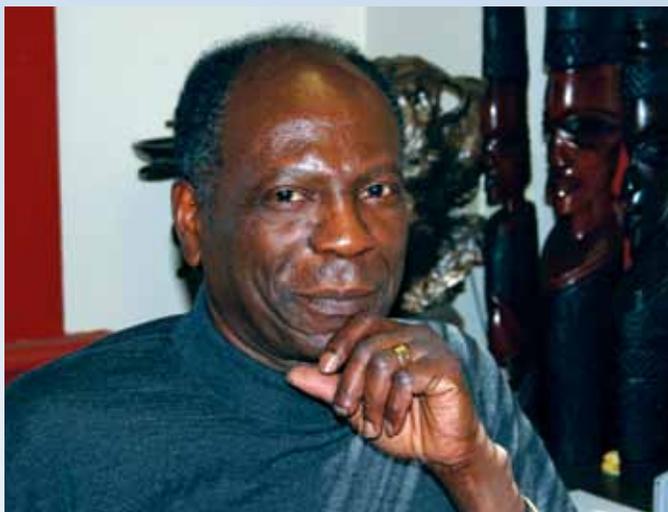
Besides teaching, Fishkin served in various administrative positions over the years. His research explored the biochemistry of connective tissue, metabolism hormones and nutrition, and his work was published in prestigious scientific journals. He received research grants from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and NASA.

In addition to Jane, Fishkin is survived by son Paul, BA'80, MD'84, and his wife, LaDona Fishkin; Charles and his wife, Suzanne Tinley, BA'80; son James; son Joel, BA'85, and his wife, Luella Bangura, BA'84, MD'91; and five grandchildren.

### Professor Welch

Ashton Welch's unexpected death during sleep caught friends, colleagues and students off guard.

Creighton President the Rev. John P. Schlegel, S.J., who gave the homily at Welch's memorial service at St. John's Church on the Creighton campus, told those gathered, "The life of a valued, just, courageous person and an extremely integral part of our community has been cut



Welch, professor of history, in his Creighton office. Said one alumna, "Ashton spent his life quietly serving students."

short. We did not expect it. For some of us, it took our breath away."

Fr. Schlegel said he had known Welch since 1976. "For me, Ashton was a great friend, a trusted colleague, an inspiring mentor and model for what it is to be a compassionate, professional scholar, teacher and advocate.

"Ashton is surely a person who lived a life that witnessed the Gospel. He lived the Sermon on the Mount in spirit, word and deed," Fr. Schlegel said. "He cared deeply for the least of his brothers and sisters, and lived his faith easily and without fanfare. No one who knew him could doubt his priorities and his commitment."

Professor Welch began his teaching career in the Department of History in 1971. In 1975, he became the director of the Black Studies Program and chaired the department from 1985 to 1993. Welch's teaching and research concentrated on questions of ethnicity and his scholarly passion garnered many awards and publications, including recognition by the National Association for Ethnic Studies for his contributions to the discipline of ethnic studies and his final publication, "Killing Brown Slowly: The Judicial Undermining of *Brown v. Board of Education*."

He received the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Student Award for excellence in teaching in 1992, the Distinguished Faculty Award in 1996, and the College of Arts and Sciences Dean's Award for excellence in teaching in 1999.

"Ashton spent his life quietly serving students. His patience, optimism and generosity of spirit helped guide so many — including myself — through Creighton and into productive lives," said Melissa Kean, MA'93, Creighton National Alumni Board president and a historian at Rice University.

Professor *emerita* of political science Bette Evans, Ph.D., a close friend of Welch's, said countless colleagues and students will remember him as their mentor.

"Ashton was, in the words of a very old-fashioned compliment, a gentleman and a scholar," Evans said. "He was devoted to learning for the sheer pleasure of knowledge. He understood scholarship as a collaborative enterprise, in which his colleagues and students were his collaborators."

Evans said Welch was a gentleman not only for his courtly manners, but because he was the epitome of a "gentle" man.

"He seemed always at harmony with himself and with the world — even with those things he most wanted to change. In fact, that is one of his most remarkable qualities, for Ashton was a passionate foe of injustice of every kind, but the recognition of injustice never gave him a hard edge or cynical spirit."

Evans characterized Welch as "unfailingly kind" to everyone.

"No one was beneath his notice or his concern. I realize now that about three-fourths of our conversations centered on his worrying about the personal or academic problems of some student — all of whom he knew by name, knew where they were from, and often their girlfriends or parents or aspirations, or other details of their lives."

The chair of the history department, Betsy Eliot-Meisel, Ph.D., said Welch was the "heart and soul" of the department. "He so embodied *cura personalis* (the Jesuit ideal of development of the whole person), that the phrase is simply too small to describe the largesse of his heart."

Welch is survived by his wife of more than 30 years, Helen Wanken. Memorials can be sent to: Creighton University, c/o Department of History, 2500 California Plaza, Omaha, NE 68178.

## Remembering Fr. Mahowald: Associate Pastor at St. John's

One of Creighton University's Jesuits, the Rev. Paul Mahowald, S.J., died on July 16. He was 75. Fr. Mahowald had served as an associate pastor at St. John's Church, celebrating the sacraments of reconciliation and baptism, and working especially with RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) candidates.

Previously, Fr. Mahowald had served as treasurer and director of the business office of *America* magazine in New York for 12 years and treasurer of Creighton Prep High School in Omaha for nine years. He then served three parishes in Iowa before coming to Creighton in 2005.

Despite health problems, Fr. Mahowald was active in Christian Life Communities (CLC), in addition to his parish work. He was



Fr. Mahowald

known for his organizational abilities, but, as fellow CLC member Jerry Britt said of him, "Fr. Paul was so organized, yet not rigid in matters of faith, allowing people the latitude to find God in their own individual ways."

The Rev. Jack Zuercher, S.J., who is retired from the Collaborative Ministry Office, said, "Fr. Paul had many outstanding qualities that were admired by his Jesuit brothers. He was greatly devoted to pastoral responsibilities, and even in his last weeks of illness tried as much as possible to meet people for baptisms, spiritual direction, celebration of Mass, CLC meetings and more.

"At the very end of his life he stated, 'I am ready for the journey.' I believe he truly was."

Memorials may be sent to St. John's Church or Christian Life Communities, in care of Fr. Zuercher.

# Share My News



[alumninews@creighton.edu](mailto:alumninews@creighton.edu)

Tell us what's new in your life. Have you started a new job? Recently married? Earned a promotion? Had a bouncing new baby? Received special recognition? If so, we want to know about it! No amount of news is too small.

E-mail your news to [alumninews@creighton.edu](mailto:alumninews@creighton.edu) to share it in an upcoming issue of *Creighton University Magazine*.

(You may also request that we not publish your news and use it for internal University purposes only.)

Alumni items should include your full name, city and state of residence, and your news.

For marriages, please include the full name of the bride and groom, date of wedding and current city/state of residence.

For births, please include the full name of the parents, city/state of residence, and the name, sex, and date of birth of the baby or babies.

# destination creighton

## reunion weekend 2010 highlights

More than 1,000 alumni gathered for reunions this fall. Watch for more information on the 2011 reunion dates coming soon.



At Undergraduate/Graduate Reunion Weekend, front row: Therese Mullin Montesi, BA'85; Chris Glenn, BSBA'86; and Sharon Buckley Mattern, BS'85; and back row: Mary Lathers Cowan, BA'85; Kim Swanson Coxe, BSN'85; Ann Bisanz Fairbairn, BSN'85; Billy Bluejay; Diane Cain Holubeck, BSBA'85; Donna Czyzs McConnell, BSMTH'85; and Amy Curran Paul, BA'85, MD'95.

[www.alumni.creighton.edu](http://www.alumni.creighton.edu)

**Need to restart your career? Looking to move ahead?  
Considering a new direction?**

**Creighton alumni are invited to join the Creighton Career Center and Alumni Relations for a special presentation:  
"Secrets of a Successful Job Search"**



**Jan. 13, 2011**

**5:30-6 p.m. • Light Meal and Refreshments**

**6-7 p.m. • Presentation**

**Mike and Josie Harper Center**

This event also will be streamed live online for those unable to attend in person.

For more information or to RSVP, contact the Creighton Career Center at 402.280.2722, [careercenter@creighton.edu](mailto:careercenter@creighton.edu) or visit [www.creighton.edu/careercenter/alumni](http://www.creighton.edu/careercenter/alumni).

# Reflections on the BP Oil Spill

By John Schalles, Ph.D.

Professor of Biology and Director of the Environmental Science Program

Can one ever make sense of events with many layers of detail; in this case, an event unfolding without a script, and thus without a predictable ending?

As a scientist, I search for connections, for threads which, when woven together, help complete stories — stories with explanatory power. This is a story rich in details, ironies, and, hopefully, lessons to be learned. The conclusion to this story will not be known for decades. (By then, perhaps, humans will have mastered relatively “clean,” new energy technologies.)

The Deepwater Horizon semi-submersible drilling rig operated for BP by Transocean Services was a technological marvel. Completed in Korea in 2001 at a cost of \$350 million, the ship was designed to drill in waters almost two miles deep, creating wells more than five miles below the seabed.

On the morning of April 20, 2010, several BP officials came to the Deepwater Horizon Macondo well site, located about 48 miles offshore, to celebrate the Transocean crew’s seven-year record of safe operation without a serious worker injury. Within 12 hours, 11 of those crewmembers would be dead.

It now appears the rig’s engineering and construction were sound and that human error and poor judgment played dominant roles in the ensuing events, culminating in the horrible explosion and fire on the platform shortly before 10 p.m. on April 20.

For three months, the public received live video feeds of a torrent of oil spewing from the damaged Macondo wellhead and countless images of surface oil slicks, oiled wildlife, and oil reaching marshes and beaches. The roughly 200 million gallons of crude oil discharged would fill a cube 300 feet — or the length of one football field per side.

Large amounts of dispersants, known to be toxic to sea life, were applied to greatly reduce oil at the surface, and thus oil reaching our coastlines. The tradeoff was extensive damage, with long-term consequences, for the balance of the water column and benthic (bottom) ecosystems.

Disputing official government estimates, colleagues of mine at the University of Georgia recently released a study concluding that 70 to 79 percent of the oil that leaked is still present in the waters and on the seafloor of the Gulf.

The serious science needed to evaluate the fate and effects of the released oil and gas, as well as the dispersants, is only beginning. Undoubtedly, more surprises lie ahead. After all, the disaster occurred in one of the most

biologically productive and diverse marine areas of the world.

Why are oil companies, including BP, drilling so far from land and in such deep waters in the Gulf of Mexico and elsewhere? The short answer: The deep sediment deposits out past the edge of our continental shelf contain some of the richest remaining hydrocarbon reserves (petroleum and methane gas) on our planet.

Vast sums of money can be had for companies bold enough, well capitalized, and with technology at their disposal to go after this buried treasure. BP stood to reap tremendous profits from its Macondo well — and, in the first quarter of 2010, posted about \$6 billion in net profits. But, as I write this, BP reports that the company has already spent about \$11 billion on this disaster. Ben Franklin’s wisdom about “an ounce of prevention” is once again confirmed.

For many, this environmental disaster is deeply disturbing, but it has not had a large impact on our personal consumption habits. Between April and June of this year, in fact, U.S. consumption of crude oil rose 2.1 percent, according to U.S. Energy Information Administration statistics. (Indeed, the flood of oil that escaped from the well only represents about 6.15 hours of current U.S. crude oil consumption.)

As a society, our huge appetite for resources clearly has consequences. If our species is to survive the fouling of our planetary nest, we have a relatively short time to act. How we proceed transcends scientific

knowledge and technological prowess. The directions for finding our way home, to a healthy planet and enough space for coexistence, must come from other traditions of inquiry — especially theology, philosophy, history and the social sciences — that are well-valued on the Creighton campus.

Heaven help us.

*About the author: Schalles led a group of students to Florida’s Gulf Coast this summer for a coastal ecology class. The data they collected will help chronicle the effects of the oil spill on the coastal ecosystem. A video featuring their efforts can be found on YouTube at [www.youtube.com/creighton1878](http://www.youtube.com/creighton1878). Schalles is also the lead scientist for geospatial analysis with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Environmental Cooperative Science Center, and has active research at seven National Estuarine Research Reserves, including three on the Gulf Coast (see [www.ecsc.famu.edu](http://www.ecsc.famu.edu)).*



Schalles on Florida’s coastal waters, where he led a Creighton ecology class this summer.

Photo by J. Brian King

# A Time to Remember

The Catholic Church has a long tradition of remembering those who have died — that they may be received into heaven and enjoy the eternal love and mercy of God.

The Catholic Church annually celebrates the Feast of All Souls Day on Nov. 2 as such a day of remembrance. Often this extends throughout November, and many churches around the world offer a Book of the Names of the Dead, as a continuing reminder of these prayers.

Creighton University's Online Ministries Office provides a web-based Book of the Names of the Dead, joining individuals from around the world in prayer for those who have gone before.

To inscribe a name in this online book, e-mail [cmo@creighton.edu](mailto:cmo@creighton.edu). Or visit the website and join the Creighton and global communities in prayer at [onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/names](http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/names).