



Annual Report

2020–2021



KINGFISHER INSTITUTE
for the Liberal Arts and Professions



Letter from the Director

I spend a lot of time watching and thinking about birds and not just because the Kingfisher Institute is named for one. At the beginning of the long pandemic winter, I set up my deck to attract birds so I could have living beings around me every day, no matter the news. A pair of downy woodpeckers visited often, along with nuthatches and chickadees and others. On the day after Christmas, in search of more birds and some open space, I drove south about an hour to a wildlife refuge in northwest Missouri. There, on a relatively mild winter day, I witnessed something amazing. I saw over 200 bald eagles. For four hours, there was never a moment that an eagle was not in view.

I share this story because I took a great lesson from it. With the help of our advisory council, the Kingfisher Institute has refined its mission statement to five words: "Transcendent perspectives for transcendent problems." These words represent a commitment to confront the biggest and most complex challenges of our time, even if they seem overwhelming or we are unsure where to begin.

As a child in the 1970s, I thought I might never see a bald eagle in the wild. In the mid-1960s there were only four hundred nesting pairs in the lower 48 states. And the trend was not positive. It seemed possible that this symbol of the nation might soon be extinct in most parts of the country. A remarkable conservation effort turned things around. Now, there are more than 71,000 nesting pairs, and the eagle is no longer endangered.

It took a bold, decisive and sophisticated plan to solve this problem, beginning with banning DDT use. But the effort also involved regulations and law enforcement, federal money and nonprofit fundraising, habitat protection, good science, and public will. Watching eagles by the dozen that afternoon offered a reminder that we can still do hard things if we really try.

Together with our partners in the Global Engagement Office (GEO), we have added a third major initiative to our ongoing work in antiracism and humane health. We will begin to build capacity for Creighton to engage more directly and effectively with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Jesuits have always urged us to engage the world as it is, and the SDGs provide a framework for addressing transcendent problems of poverty and inequality and for confronting the rapidly approaching planetary limits of existence.

We have convened our third annual seminar so that faculty and staff can learn more about sustainable development and consider ways that we might create truly collaborative and mutually beneficial projects with GEO's Common Home Project partners around the world. Economist Jeffrey Sachs argues, "Sustainable development has three major aspects: economic development, broad-based social inclusion, and environmental sustainability; all supported by good governance (*The Age of Sustainable Development* (2015): 45). Institutions of higher education have a significant role to play in this work, and Creighton has much to offer. Let the bald eagles (and the kingfisher, of course) be an inspiration.

TRACY NEAL LEAVELLE, PhD
Director, Kingfisher Institute



Our Vision and Mission



VISION

Humanities for the 21st Century:
Uniting Head, Heart and Hands



MISSION

Transcendent Perspectives
for Transcendent Problems



INITIATIVES

- Antiracism
- Humane health
- Sustainable development

Our Work



CURRICULUM INNOVATION



CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



TRANSDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH

Initiative Spotlight

HUMAN/E Health and Healthcare Symposium



On October 23 and 24, 2020, the Kingfisher Institute hosted a series of virtual talks, panels and workshops for students, faculty and practitioners on HUMAN/E Health and Healthcare. The symposium offered human-centered perspectives on understanding and caring for the whole person and whole communities in a complex world. The organizational team included faculty and staff from all of Creighton's schools and colleges as well as the Offices of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion and Mission and Ministry.

When planning began, we did not anticipate holding the event online, but it became an opportunity. Nearly 500 people attended the Friday keynote session, which included an address by Dr. Jonathan Metztl, PhD, and a panel of Creighton respondents. In addition, Humanities Nebraska and the National Endowment for the Humanities provided funding as part of the 2020 Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The external funding allowed for free registration. We provided continuing education credits for legal, medical, nursing and pharmacy practitioners for attending sessions, thanks to the Creighton University Office of Continuing Education.



Keynote speaker

JONATHAN METZTL, PhD

The Frederick B. Rentschler II Professor of Sociology and Medicine, Health and Society at Vanderbilt University, and the author of Dying of Whiteness: How the Politics of Racial Resentment Is Killing America's Heartland



Plenary speaker

UCHÉ BLACKSTOCK, MD

Founder and CEO of Advancing Health Equity



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE
HUMANITIES



HUMANITIES NEBRASKA



Nearly

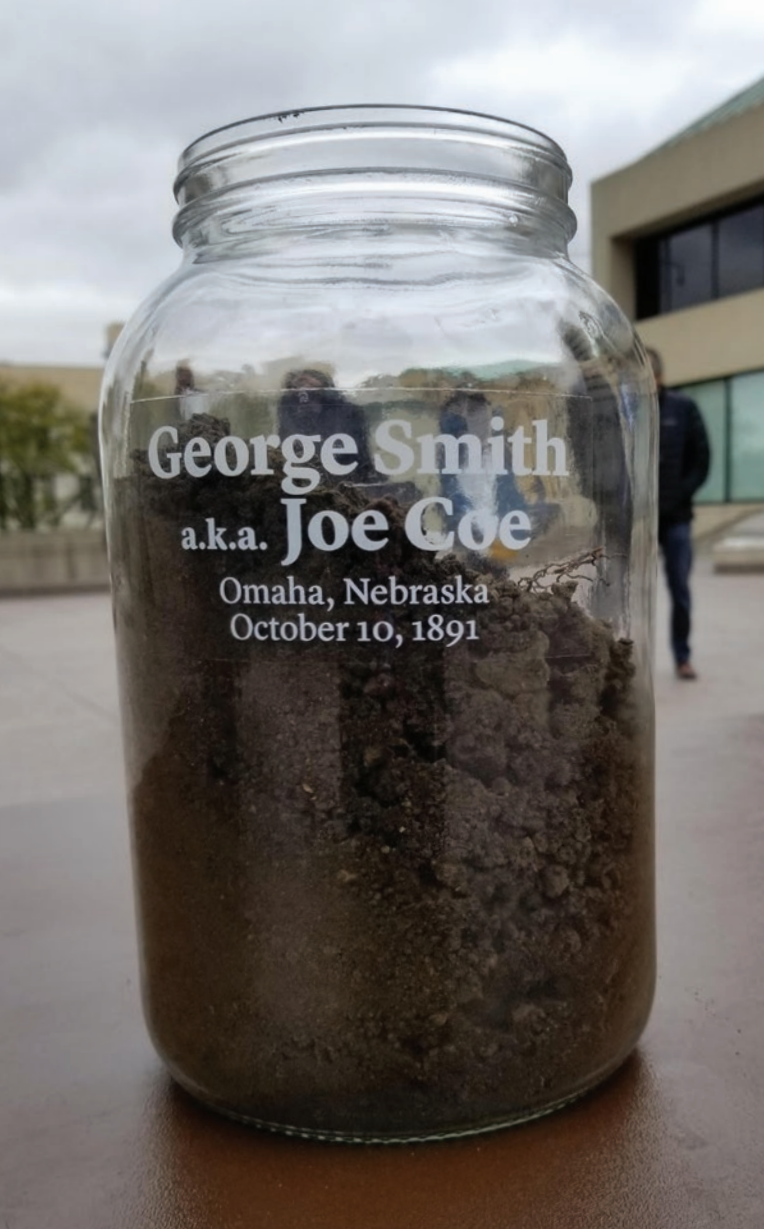
500 people attended

THE HUMAN/E HEALTH AND HEALTHCARE
SYMPOSIUM KEYNOTE SESSION



Community

Guided by the Jesuit charism of being women and men for and with others, the Kingfisher Institute remains committed to collaborative, sustained community engagement. The challenges that we address from the intersection of the humanities and the professions are global and local, requiring efforts both within our campus and with our neighbors.



OMAHA COMMUNITY COUNCIL FOR RACIAL JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION (OCCRJR)

The Kingfisher Institute continued as a proud member of OCCRJR, a network of local organizations and leaders who came together to help raise awareness of the legacy of racial violence in Omaha and to seek racial reconciliation.

COMMUNITY REMEMBRANCE PROJECT

The Equal Justice Initiative's (EJI) Community Remembrance Project supports communities taking ownership of local incidents of racial violence. The OCCRJR is the coalition dedicated to doing so in Omaha. In October 2020, with EJI, OCCRJR hosted a soil collection ceremony to memorialize George Smith, who was lynched in Omaha in 1891. In June 2021, OCCRJR hosted the long-awaited unveiling of a historical marker at Douglas County Courthouse in remembrance of Will Brown, who was dragged from the courthouse and lynched in 1919.

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

The Kingfisher Institute organized seven online community meetings over the past year for discussion of racial justice in a local context. When we transitioned to virtual meetings, nearly 200 people registered for the first discussion on Zoom. Discussions tackled topics such as racism as a public health crisis, racism and sports, and the role of race in the 2020 elections.

NATIONAL DAY OF RACIAL HEALING

The January 2021 virtual OCCRJR meeting observed the National Day of Racial Healing. After a panel presentation on how racism showed up for panelists over the past year, facilitators from OCCRJR and Creighton University led small group dialogues. OCCRJR and Creighton co-hosted an observance of the National Day of Racial Healing in 2020 for the first time and hope to continue it as a new tradition that's a regular part of MLK Week activities.



Initiative Spotlight

Impact: Evictions

Pierce Greenberg, PhD, assistant professor of sociology in the Department of Cultural and Social Studies at Creighton University, made a difference with his Kingfisher Research and Scholarship Seminar project. Greenberg, who runs the innovative Social Science Data Lab, partnered with Gary Fischer, BA'75, JD'79, of Family Housing Advisory Services Inc. to study eviction patterns in Omaha. A dazzling GIS-driven “story map” at arcg.is/1jOWDL was one outcome of the work, which was widely cited and shared. The online report included extensive data to visualize evictions and careful analysis of the data, along with clear policy recommendations.

The study found links between racial segregation and eviction in housing patterns. The *Omaha World-Herald* ran a story on the report's findings in July 2020, as eviction concerns intensified around the COVID-19 pandemic. That August, Greenberg presented the findings in a virtual community meeting, hosted by the OCCRJR. The report was also sent to all OCCRJR mailing list members. Most notably, the report played a role in the passage of a bill in the Nebraska Legislature. State Sen. John Cavanaugh prioritized LB320 after reading Greenberg's report. The bill, which was adopted with broad bipartisan support, provides additional protections for tenants.

Thanks in part to momentum and seed funding from the fellowship, Greenberg received another internal award, The President's Distinguished Curriculum Innovation and Pedagogical Research Grant (\$10,000) and then a \$2,150 quick response research grant from the Natural Hazards Center at the University of Colorado-Boulder. Additional external funding from a regional research center to extend the project is pending.





Curriculum

Faculty experience, enthusiasm and innovation make a Creighton education life-changing. We provide resources for faculty members to engage students with today's most complex issues, while teaching valuable skills that impart the value of a liberal arts education at Creighton. Through our efforts to invigorate the curriculum, we have infused our themes into the undergraduate core curriculum, launched innovative ways of teaching the humanities to medical students, and made an interprofessional approach to the humanities available to even more Creighton students studying for the health professions.



THEMING THE MAGIS CORE CURRICULUM FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

Magis Core Curriculum Development grants of \$500 each were offered to faculty who revised all or part of a Magis Core Curriculum course to address one of the Kingfisher Institute themes from 2019 to the present, which include "Race in America" and "Narratives of Health and Illness."

- Jay Carney, PhD, Department of Theology, for new "Ultimate Questions" course (to be offered starting fall 2021)
- Jeffrey Maciejewski, PhD, Department of Computer Science, Design and Journalism, for JRM 438 Information Ethics
- Guy McHendry, PhD, and Erika Dakin Kirby, PhD, Department of Communication Studies, for "Teaching Antiracism" BlueLine Resources
 - McHendry and Dakin Kirby opted to create a resource collection available to all instructors. The site had 1,317 views in its first year! You can find it at bit.ly/teaching-antiracism.



INAUGURAL HEALTH HUMANITIES INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION (IPE) FELLOWS

Finding scalable ways to extend the humanities to all health professions students is a priority for the Institute. We partnered with the Center for Interprofessional Practice, Education and Research (CIPER), which has successfully functioned as a hub and catalyst for rigorous activities that engage health professions students. CIPER ensures that all health professions students complete three interprofessional activities as part of their Creighton education.

These conversations led to the establishment of a “Health Humanities” designation for applicable IPE activities. The Kingfisher Institute offered grants to faculty who developed or revised an activity that incorporated the competencies associated with IPE along with elements of the humanistic tradition such as reflection, critical thinking, communication and history.

Health Humanities IPE Book Club Discussion

Margo Minnich, DNP, RN, College of Nursing

- Minnich held virtual small group discussions on books in the health humanities: O.W. Brawley, *How We Do Harm: A Doctor Breaks Ranks about Being Sick in America*; A. Fadiman, *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down: A Hmong Child, Her American Doctors, and the Collision of Two Cultures*; and S. Fink, *Five Days at Memorial: Life and Death in a Storm-Ravaged Hospital*
- Minnich quickly pivoted to offer the book club discussion online in summer 2020 when many other IPE activities were canceled due to the pandemic
- Minnich presented about the experience to the Association of Community Health Nursing Educators (ACHNE) 2021 Institute (“Humanities in Health Policy and Advocacy”)
- The activity is available again for summer 2021

“I will be able to use the perspective and empathy I have gained from this activity to better interact with my patients and provide a safe and inclusive environment for all.”

HEALTH HUMANITIES PASSPORT ACTIVITY STUDENT



126 students participated

IN IPE ACTIVITIES SPONSORED BY THE KINGFISHER INSTITUTE

in the summer and fall of 2020



93% OF PARTICIPANTS

agreed or strongly agreed that

the IPE Passport Activity was a valuable experience

Dialogues for Innovative Action & Neighborhood Everywhere (DIANE)

Candace D. Bloomquist, PhD, and LaShaune P. Johnson, PhD, Graduate School, Interdisciplinary Studies Department, Kathy Gonzalez, PhD, independent negotiation and conflict resolution consultant, Janus Consulting

- Facilitators hosted virtual discussions between community members and students. Health care students and community members engaged in facilitated dialogue and observation on Zoom for several 90-minute periods over six weeks, followed by a debrief with the entire group. Topics discussed included racism, structural violence and cultural humility. Facilitators will also offer this activity again in fall 2021.

LGBTQ Health Care Seminar

Marion Russell, OTD, School of Pharmacy and Health Professions, Occupational Therapy Department, with Ryan Nelson and Pooja Varman, School of Medicine students

- Facilitators hosted Zoom panel discussion with health care practitioners and patients on issues of care for LGBTQ community, followed by small group breakout discussions
- Facilitators presented outcomes from the activity at the Global Health Conference Midwest 2021





Initiative Spotlight

Sustainable Development

The Kingfisher Institute announced a new initiative in Sustainable Development this spring. This initiative is our third, along with Antiracism and Humane Health. In “As Kingfishers Catch Fire,” Gerard Manley Hopkins, SJ, writes, “the just man justifies.” We view these three initiatives together as linked opportunities to enact justice in the ways that Hopkins suggests.

We are especially excited that this new work will be done in close partnership with the Global Engagement Office. Our early efforts are focused on educating our campus about the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Currently, we are running a staff and faculty seminar on the goals as a way of encouraging people to develop projects with Creighton’s global partners. For more information about the goals, visit sdgs.un.org/goals.

Campus Engagement



“My belief in treating people with compassion has been reinforced. I will keep in mind the power of personal interest and kindness in interactions with students and colleagues.”

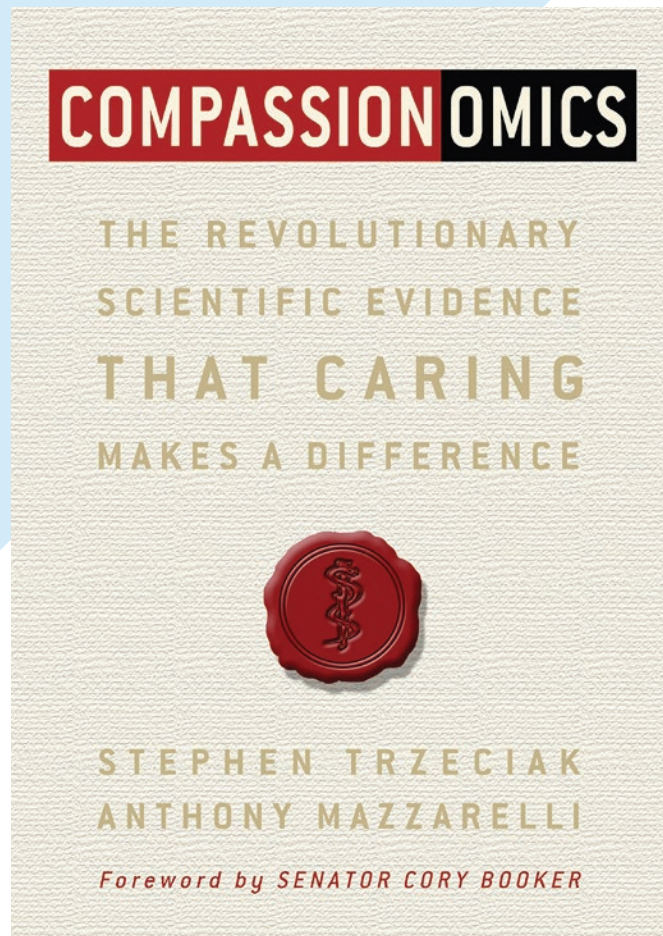
COMPASSIONOMICS READING GROUP PARTICIPANT

FACULTY/STAFF READING GROUPS

- ***Dying of Whiteness: How the Politics of Racial Resentment Is Killing America's Heartland* by Jonathan Metz**
Facilitated by Cristina Pop, PhD, Department of Cultural and Social Studies
- ***Compassionomics: The Revolutionary Scientific Evidence that Caring Makes a Difference* by Stephen Trzeciak and Anthony Mazzairelli**
Facilitated by Matthew Reznicek, PhD, Department of English, and Lance Frazier, PhD, Department of Marketing and Management
- ***March: Book One* by John Lewis, Andrew Aydin and Nate Powell**, in conjunction with documentary viewing: *John Lewis: Good Trouble*

HEALTH HUMANITIES FACULTY LYCEUM

- Networking and professional development for Arts and Sciences and health sciences faculty
- Met virtually in fall 2020, highlighting lessons learned after year one of the medical humanities curriculum
- Met virtually in spring 2021 on “Translational Humanities: How the Health Humanities Can Help Higher Education Respond to Crises,” with Kirsten Ostherr, PhD, of Rice University, and representatives from the Douglas County Health Department
 - Funding provided by Humanities Nebraska and the National Endowment for the Humanities as part of the 2020 Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act
 - Spring 2021 included humanities faculty from Arizona State University preparing to teach medical students at the Creighton Phoenix health sciences campus
 - 20–30 attendees at each meeting



OTHER CO-SPONSORED OR SUPPORTED EVENTS

- “Responses to COVID-19 on the African Continent,” with the African Studies Program
- Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Week with Martin Luther King Jr. Committee: Panel Discussion on “Letter from a Birmingham Jail” and National Day of Racial Healing
- “Antiracism in our Ignatian Context” – spring faculty development series, with the Teaching and Learning Center, Institutional Diversity and Inclusion, Mission and Ministry, Creighton Intercultural Center, and the Schlegel Center for Service and Justice
- Co-sponsored Creighton participation in Omaha Juneteenth Freedom Festival (June 2021)



40 faculty and staff members participated

IN THE SPRING READING GROUPS

Initiative Spotlight

Undergraduate Health Humanities

HEALTH HUMANITIES UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION WORKING GROUP

Just as essential as partnerships across campus and our local communities are our relationships with peer programs and professional organizations. One way in which we have expanded these relationships is the Health Humanities in Undergraduate Education (HHUE) working group. With partners from the Modern Language Association and D'Youville College (Buffalo), we convened a group of about 25 representatives from a wide variety of institutions across the U.S. The goal of the group is to document, share and develop best practices in health humanities curricula at the undergraduate level.

The group met virtually for the first time in November 2020. A second virtual gathering took place last February. A subcommittee of the working group is currently writing a survey for program directors to inform next steps in the promotion and expansion of undergraduate health humanities. The survey project will be completed with the Health Humanities Consortium.

HUMANITIES AND HEALTH JUSTICE PATHWAYS PROJECT

The opening of the new Creighton University Health Sciences Campus – Phoenix will soon make Creighton the largest Catholic educator of health care professionals in the country. The Kingfisher Institute is committed to serving the Phoenix campus and community. Program development there offers opportunities for new connections and partnerships.

We have already been working closely with faculty and administrators at Arizona State University on a number of projects. In May, the Kingfisher Institute submitted a joint grant application with ASU to the National Endowment for the Humanities. We have applied for around \$150,000 to create the “Humanities and Health Justice Pathways Project.” This project will create undergraduate humanities-based pathways into the health professions for underrepresented students in both Omaha and Phoenix.

In the first phase, we plan to build a summer bridge program that will introduce students to humanistic approaches to health, illness and justice in the health care system. The centerpiece of the program will be a “Clinical Humanities Internship” in year two that will link a significant clinical experience with humanistic study and structured and critical reflection. A team of faculty and staff at Creighton and ASU completed the application, and we will find out if we were successful in December.



Transdisciplinary Research and Scholarship



Creighton University has a size and scope that makes it an ideal institution for research across and between the disciplines. The Kingfisher Institute celebrates interdisciplinary research while encouraging even deeper connections, resulting in new knowledge and new integrative frameworks.

Transdisciplinary research is “not only the *integration* of discipline-specific approaches, but also the extension of these approaches to generate *fundamentally new* conceptual frameworks, hypotheses, theories, models, and methodological applications that *transcend their disciplinary origins*, with the aim of accelerating innovation and advances in scientific [human] knowledge.”

HALL ET AL., 2012, p. 416; *emphases added*).

KINGFISHER RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP SEMINAR

The Kingfisher Seminar is the Institute’s major effort to enable transdisciplinary research at the University. After introducing the seminar in 2019, a second cohort was selected in 2020 and met throughout the 2020–2021 academic year to learn about and workshop one another’s projects. Though most of them represent different fields, the projects were united under the theme of “The Politics of Health and Healthcare.” Fellows persisted and adapted throughout the year, continuing to meet virtually.

The inaugural cohort of fellows presented their work virtually in September 2020 on “Race, Violence, and Reconciliation in America.” Fellows have committed to disseminating their work in the form of scholarly presentations or articles, and several have already begun to do so.

2020–2021 RESEARCH FELLOWS

- Sue Crawford, PhD, professor of political science: “Paid Sick Leave, Politics and Pandemic Spread”
- Cindy Hadenfelt, EdD, MSN, RN, associate professor of nursing, and Martha Todd, PhD, APRN-NP, associate professor of nursing: “Medical Respite Care for the Homeless in Omaha”
- Andrew Hogan, PhD, associate professor of history and medical humanities: “Disability Dialogues: Advocacy, Science and Prestige in Postwar Clinical Professions”
- Kevin Estep, PhD, assistant professor of health administration and policy: “Politicization of Childhood Vaccination Policies, 1995–2020”
- LaShaune Johnson, PhD, associate professor in the Master of Public Health program: “A Litany from the Shore of (Temporary) Survivors: A Poetic Autoethnography during Black Cancer during the Coronavirus”
- Brooke Kowalke, PhD, assistant professor of English: *Grace Notes: Lessons on Personhood, Parenthood, and Love*
- Patrick Marta, BS’19, Danielle Raikar, Ellen Townley, BS’18 (medical students); Theresa Townley, MD, MPH, associate professor of internal medicine and pediatrics: “Air Pollution and COVID-19 Co-morbidity”
- Molly McCarthy, PhD, MPH, assistant professor, and Miranda Little, OTD, OTR/L, assistant professor in occupational therapy: “Building Support for Young Mothers of Infants in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit: A Social-Ecological Approach”
- Kathleen M. Sheehan, PhD, assistant professor of economics: “State Regulation and Rural Community Health Access”
- Ogechukwu (Oge) Williams, assistant professor of history: “Childbirth, Pluralism, and Professionalization in Nigeria’s Faith-Based *Aladura* Birthing Homes”
- Anissa Zimmerman and Lorenzo Rivera (medical students); Alexander Roedlach, SVD, PhD, associate professor of medical anthropology, medical humanities and psychiatry: “Community Partnerships: collaborative approach to health promotion and immersive student learning”

2020–2021 fellows will present their work at a symposium in fall 2021.

Initiative Spotlight

Kingfisher Award

University President the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD, inaugurated the annual Kingfisher Award in partnership with the Kingfisher Institute in 2019. The award recognizes Creighton faculty and staff who demonstrate an extraordinary commitment to the values, principles and practices of the humanities.

Congratulations to 2020 recipient Sade Kosoko-Lasaki, MD, MSPH, MBA, associate vice provost for health sciences. For 20 years, Kosoko-Lasaki, has led minority outreach programs through the Health Sciences Multicultural and Community Affairs (HS-MACA) office, improving health outcomes in marginalized communities while introducing thousands of young people to Creighton and the health professions.



MEDICAL EDUCATION RESEARCH PROJECT

Tracy Leavelle, PhD, and Charise Alexander Adams, MA, are part of an interdisciplinary team conducting research to gauge the impact of the School of Medicine's ethics and humanities curriculum on empathy, professional identity and intellectual humility. The team conducted more than 25 student interviews and is now drafting a journal article, while preparing to interview faculty and applying for additional funding to continue the work longitudinally.

- Project received \$11,350 Haddix Grant (intramural funding)
- Primary investigators: Cassie Eno, PhD, and Nicole Piemonte, PhD, Creighton University School of Medicine Medical Education Department
- Other team members: Lee Budesheim, PhD, Creighton University College of Arts and Sciences; Mary Sinclair, MSc, and James Smith, MD, Creighton University School of Medicine Medical Education Department; Barret Michalec, PhD, and Kaitlyn Felix, Arizona State University; and Jess Hack, Creighton alumna



Initiative Spotlight

Impact: Remembering Lynching in Omaha

From the start, the Institute's community and antiracism efforts have been grounded in our role with the Omaha Community Council for Racial Justice and Reconciliation (OCCRJR). The group formed in 2018 as individuals began to anticipate the 100th anniversary of the day when Will Brown was lynched in downtown Omaha, mere blocks from Creighton University.

Much excellent work has taken place since, but the most anticipated event to date was the ceremony to unveil a historical marker at the Douglas County Courthouse in remembrance of Brown. The event on June 18, 2021, served as an unofficial start to the observance of Juneteenth (June 19) that weekend, the first time that Juneteenth would be recognized as a national holiday. The ceremony centered community and youth voices. Elliot Spillers of the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI), who coordinated production of the marker, was on hand to recognize student essay winners and add powerful remarks to remind the audience that Will Brown's murder was not an isolated incident.

Now the imposing marker stands firmly in the courthouse lawn, facing the walkway to the courthouse stairs. The text on the marker acknowledges the particulars of Will Brown in the context of the nationwide scourge of racial terror lynching during that era. A history and a truth suppressed for so long now occupies a permanent place not only in collective memory but in the built environment.

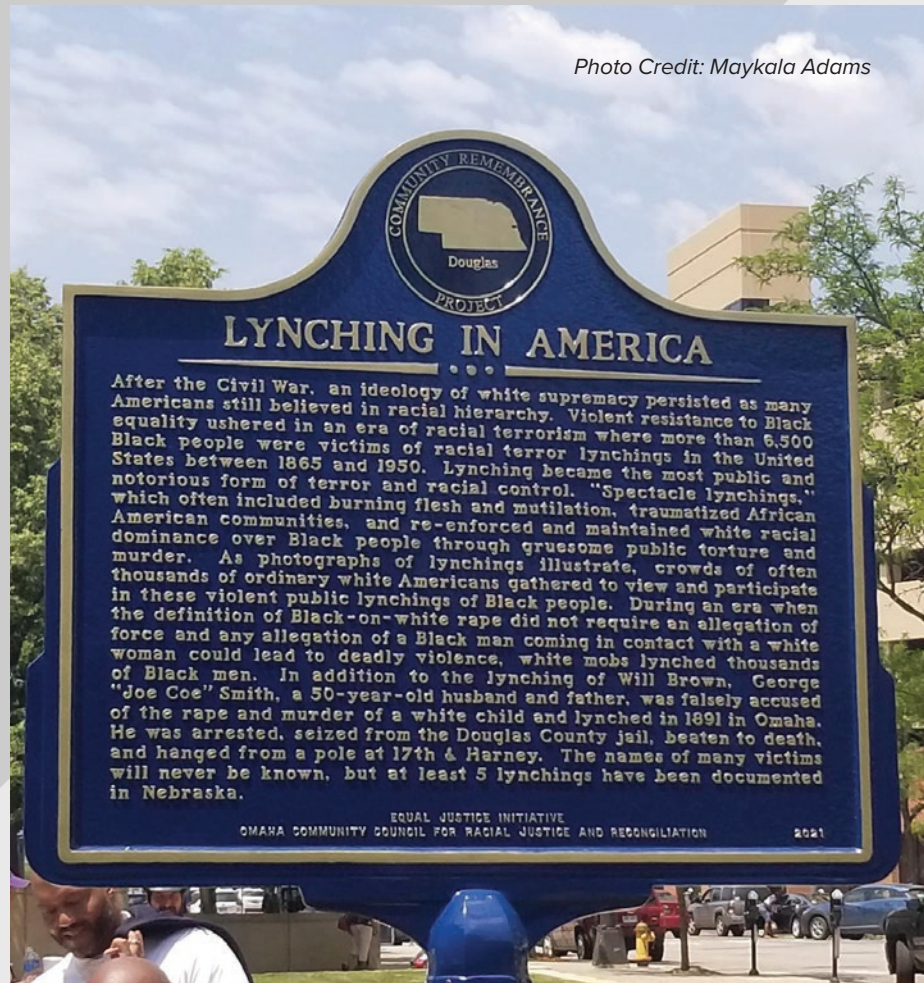


Photo Credit: Maykala Adams



The Institute is but a small part of these efforts. They were never ours to lead. As we look to the future, we are honored and humbled to continue the work with our Creighton colleagues as well as the OCCRJR.

Creighton University also co-sponsored the Juneteenth activities of the Omaha Freedom Festival at the Malcolm X Memorial Foundation. The Institute contributed to the university's sponsorship and helped staff a booth at the lively outdoor event. As an extension of the ceremony the previous day, EJI representative Elliot Spillers spoke about the organization's local and national efforts and a student essay finalist read her work.



Advisory Council

Lizzy Curran, MS

Global Programs Coordinator, Global Engagement Office (GEO)

Richard L. Deming, MD'80

Physician, Medical Director, Mercy Cancer Center (Des Moines, Iowa)

Kelly Dineen, RN, JD, PhD

Associate Professor, Director of Health Law, School of Law

Joy Doll, OT, OTD

Vice President, Community and Academic Programs, CyncHealth

Rev. Kevin FitzGerald, SJ, PhD, PhD

John A. Creighton Chair; Chair, Medical Humanities Department, School of Medicine

Janique Hayes, MPA

Coordinator, Mission and Ministry and Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

LaShaune Johnson, PhD

Associate Professor, Graduate School (MPH program); Assistant Director, Creighton University at Highlander

Taylor Keen, MPA, MBA

Instructor, Heider College of Business

Sol Kim, BA'20

Jesuit Volunteer Corps; former Kingfisher Institute Intern

Kim McFarland, DDS, MHSA

Chair, Community and Preventive Dentistry, School of Dentistry

Rachel Mindrup, MFA

Resident Assistant Professor, Fine and Performing Arts

Margo Minnich, DNP

Assistant Professor, College of Nursing

Patrick Murray, PhD

Professor of Philosophy, John C. Kenefick Faculty Chair in the Humanities

Hannah Olsen

College of Arts and Sciences, Class of 2022

Katie Packard, PharmD, MS, BCPS, AACC, FNAP

Professor of Pharmacy Practice; Co-Director, Interprofessional Education Passport Program, Center for Interprofessional Practice, Education and Research

Nicole Piemonte, PhD

Assistant Professor, Assistant Dean, Student Affairs; Peekie Nash Carpenter Endowed Chair in Medicine, School of Medicine (Phoenix)

Victoria Roche, PhD

Professor, Senior Associate Dean, School of Pharmacy and Health Professions

Audel Salazar, BA'16, MA'17

Alumnus, Instructional Designer, Teaching and Learning Center

Julie Soukup, PhD

Professor of Chemistry, Associate Vice Provost for Research and Scholarship

Palma Strand, JD

Professor of Law (Negotiation and Conflict Resolution Program)

Pooja Varman, MA

School of Medicine, Class of 2022

Sarah Walker, PhD

Professor of Management, Interim Vice President for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion



Many thanks to our advisory council members for their counsel and commitment. Special thanks and best wishes to Adam Swisher and Cailyn Olson on graduating in spring 2021, and welcome to our newest members: Sarah Walker, PhD, Katie Packard, PharmD, MS, BCPS, AACC, and Lizzy Curran, MS!

Unfortunately, we said goodbye to inaugural member Dan Semrad, BSBA'71, MA'09, MS'18, HON'19, who passed away in April 2021. We are profoundly grateful for Dan's many contributions to the institute and to the liberal arts at Creighton University.



Looking Ahead

COLSON WHITEHEAD

Colson Whitehead, a two-time Pulitzer Prize winner for fiction and *The New York Times*-bestselling author, was scheduled to visit Creighton University for “An Evening with Colson Whitehead” in March 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, his visit is now scheduled for March 1, 2022.

A strong, collaborative effort, the event is being made possible through partnership with the History Department, Division of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, Office of Alumni Relations, A.F. Jacobson Chair in Communications, John C. Kenefick Faculty Chair in the Humanities, and the National Park Service Underground Railroad Network to Freedom program.

His appearance will be one event in a year of conversations and activities related to race and systemic racism (a collaboration with the Division of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, the Creighton Intercultural Center and the President’s Office)

PRESIDENTIAL LECTURE SERIES

The Kingfisher Institute is proud to assist the Office of the President in coordinating an exciting lecture series for the 2021–2022 academic year. Speakers will include: Damon Tweedy, MD, author of *Black Man in a White Coat*, Edwidge Danticat, acclaimed Haitian-American author of 15 books, and Isabel Wilkerson, author of *Caste* and *The Warmth of Other Suns*.

Reading groups and other activities to enrich the series for students, faculty, staff and community will be provided in partnership with the Division of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, the Creighton Intercultural Center and other units.

LYCEUM

The faculty lyceum on health humanities will convene again in fall and spring through continued collaboration with the School of Medicine in Omaha and Phoenix, the College of Arts and Sciences, and our partners at Arizona State University.

Institute Staff



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PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES OF KFI STAFF

- Tracy Leavelle participated as an advocate in the LeadDIVERSITY Class of 2021 through Inclusive Communities Omaha
- Charise Alexander Adams served on the Nebraska delegation for National Humanities Advocacy Day and met virtually with state lawmakers to advocate for federal funding for programs in the humanities
- Tracy Leavelle presented on “Humanities and Health Intersections in Undergraduate Education” with Erica Hua Fletcher (UCLA), Lakshmi Krishnan (Georgetown) and Gina Camodeca (D’Youville College) at the National Humanities Conference (November 2020)
- Tracy Leavelle was invited to serve on a panel at the National Humanities Alliance Annual Meeting on “Promoting the Value of Humanities Education and Social and Racial Justice Through Place-Based Learning” (March 2021)
- Tracy Leavelle was invited to serve on a panel hosted by Arizona State University Institute for Humanities Research: “Arizona Health Cultures Post-COVID: A conversation on the humanities, the arts and health” (April 2021)
- Tracy Leavelle and Charise Alexander Adams gave a flash presentation on “Responses to Rupture” at the Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes (CHCI) Annual Meeting (May 2021)
- Tracy Leavelle was invited to present on establishing a new humanities center at the National Humanities Alliance (NHA)/CHCI meeting for center and institute directors (June 2021)
- Tracy Leavelle and Charise Alexander Adams presented on “Hopkins and our Environments” at the 2021 Gerard Manley Hopkins Conference (June 2021)

We also stayed involved in campus life by participating in committees, working groups and task forces, including:

- The President’s University Inclusive Excellence Council
- The Creighton University Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation Summer Institute Team
- The Antiracism Faculty Development Working Group

Creighton
UNIVERSITY