

# CREIGHTON

FALL 2020 • Volume 36 Issue 3

## Seeing 'the Vulgarities of Reality'

COVID-19 pandemic highlights importance of Creighton's health sciences ethics education







RAY WHITMORE

## Historic Times

**T**he first semester of the 2020-2021 academic year has drawn to a close, and forever will be etched in our consciousness for its unique nature due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As most of you know, we opened the campus in August and compressed the semester in order to conclude by Thanksgiving.

Our students, faculty, staff, and administrators worked together to create as safe an environment as we possibly could. Our COVID-19 Community Standards detailed guidelines regarding face coverings, social distancing, hand hygiene, and more, and we kept everyone informed on the latest developments regarding the University's response to the pandemic.

After producing two online editions of *Creighton* magazine, we are pleased to be able to print this slightly smaller edition. In it you will discover that your University accomplished our goal of Staying Creighton, in some cases *because* of the pandemic, and in others, *despite* the unprecedented situation.

The worldwide health crisis shined a spotlight on the differentiators that distinguish a Creighton education. For example, this issue's cover story, "Seeing 'the Vulgarity of Reality,'" explores how a Creighton health sciences education, with its critical ethical and humanities components, is needed now more than ever. Health care providers are having to wrestle with ethical dilemmas involving shortages of personal protective equipment, treatments, cultural disparities, and more. What was once a classroom hypothetical suddenly has become a stark reality, and we believe Creighton students are particularly suited to deal with those realities.

While many events and experiences that would normally take place had to be altered, a great deal was accomplished this semester. Creighton students, faculty, and researchers learned, explored, and excelled. I was glad that we were able to recognize Sade Kosoko-Lasaki, MD, MBA'05, associate vice provost for Health Sciences, with the Kingfisher Award during a virtual campus Town Hall. Dr. Kosoko-Lasaki, a professor at the School of Medicine, has led our minority health sciences outreach programs for 20 years. She and her colleagues work to improve health outcomes in minority communities and introduce thousands of young people to Creighton through educational pipelines that begin in elementary school.

And what could be more Creighton than 24th Street and Creighton Hall? The historic corridor and iconic building have both undergone exciting changes that you will enjoy reading about — and will enjoy even more in person the next time you visit campus.

As we move into the joyous Christmas season, my thoughts and prayers contain gratitude for each of you. I hope and pray that, though this year's holidays will look and feel different, you still will find God's blessings in quiet moments, fond memories, health, and expressions of kindness and love.

**Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD**  
*President*



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© The uplighting of Creighton Hall brings visibility to this historic building and serves as a beacon for alumni to find their way home.



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The COVID-19 pandemic brought into sharp focus the ethical questions health care providers face, and classroom exercises for health sciences students suddenly became all too real. Professors and students discuss moral decisions in real time that affect people now and will impact the future.



**HISTORIC BEAUTY**

An architectural masterpiece, St. John's Church is getting a fresh appearance as its hefty wooden doors are being painstakingly refinished to their original state.



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At the intersection of history and hope stands 24th Street, a major corridor through campus. A significant transformation project brings together the University, the city and North and South Omaha community members.

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A Creighton alumna, who is both a child and adult psychiatrist, brings her special skills to help today's college students deal with stress, anxiety and depression.



**JESUITS IN FORMATION ENRICH CAMPUS EXPERIENCE**

Two Jesuits in formation bring their unique perspectives to the campus and Creighton students.



**SCULPTURE CELEBRATES CREIGHTON'S GLOBAL REACH**

A new outdoor sculpture, "The Globe," illustrates the global reach of Jesuit education, thanks to a Creighton sculptor and University benefactors.

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**CREIGHTON MAGAZINE'S PURPOSE**  
 Creighton 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.

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# Fulfilling a Vision

Longtime faculty member, administrator  
 Sade Kosoko-Lasaki Receives Kingfisher Award



DAVE WEAVER

**S**ade Kosoko-Lasaki, MD, MBA'05, associate vice provost for Health Sciences, received the Kingfisher Award from Creighton's president during a virtual campus Town Hall in September. The award is given in partnership with the University's Kingfisher Institute for the Liberal Arts and Professions.

For 20 years, Kosoko-Lasaki, a professor at the School of Medicine and an ophthalmologist, has led minority outreach programs through the Health Sciences Multicultural and Community Affairs (HS-MACA) office. HS-MACA's mission is to improve health outcomes in minority communities while introducing thousands of young people to Creighton through educational pipelines that begin in elementary school.

"Dr. Kosoko-Lasaki's important work fulfills the vision of the Kingfisher Institute," said Creighton President the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD, "which calls for a transformative educational experience, grounded in the Jesuit tradition, that prepares members of the Creighton community to confront challenges that transcend disciplinary and professional boundaries."

Fr. Hendrickson said Kosoko-Lasaki "embodies Creighton's desire to serve underrepresented and disadvantaged students, an important expression of Creighton's humanitarian calling."

Under Kosoko-Lasaki's leadership, HS-MACA has built and supported student recruitment pipelines; organized and supported health-related activities

in the Omaha area; raised more than \$15.5 million in grants and awards, and more. Most recently, she received a \$250,000 grant to study health care disparities related to COVID-19 in Omaha.

"With humility, I accept this Kingfisher Award on behalf of the diverse students at Creighton, the hard-working staff of HS-MACA, and all our partners and collaborators in the community that we serve," Kosoko-Lasaki said in an acceptance speech during the virtual Town Hall.

"Together, we have achieved substantial strides and success on diversity and inclusion."

She added, "The work of diversity involves everyone. We must be bold and forthright, and embrace each other as brothers and sisters."

Kosoko-Lasaki's work is both local and global. She created "Preventing Glaucoma Blindness in Nebraska: A Creighton University Initiative," and has taken this screening program to underserved communities in Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas and Missouri and the U.S. Virgin Islands. She also leads HS-MACA's

“The work of diversity involves everyone. We must be bold and forthright, and embrace each other as brothers and sisters.”

annual trip to the Dominican Republic, where she and her team of medical professionals and students battle vitamin A deficiency, a leading cause of blindness in children and of glaucoma in adults.

Kosoko-Lasaki, a native of Nigeria, has served as a consultant to UNICEF, USAID and Helen Keller International.

In 2005, she added an MBA from Creighton to her academic credentials.

The Kingfisher Award includes a \$5,000 grant for research and scholarship, along with a Kingfisher statuette created by renowned wildlife sculptor Dan Ostermiller.

Creighton's Kingfisher Institute is founded on a bold vision for the future of higher education, and Jesuit and Catholic higher education in particular: a vision that liberal arts and professional education complement and reinforce one another. Through the formation of faculty and staff, the institute aims to influence all students in Creighton's nine schools and colleges.

## Tierney Named Chair of Department of Clinical Research

The School of Medicine has named Maureen Tierney, MD, chair of the Department of Clinical Research, assistant dean for clinical research and public health, and associate professor of medicine. In addition, Tierney will serve as medical director of clinical research at CHI Health.

"I am thrilled to become a part of the Creighton School of Medicine and CHI Health. I was introduced to Jesuit education at Fordham University in my hometown of New York City, and both my sons recently graduated from Creighton, so being able to contribute to the Jesuit mission of *magis* and serving others is so important to me," said Tierney.

Under Tierney's guidance, the Department of Clinical Research will facilitate the process of conducting clinical research from inception through completion, including concept review, trial feasibility and design, funding acquisition, statistical review and publication. The ultimate goal is scientific discovery to facilitate prevention, diagnosis and treatment of disease and to improve health care, including health care equity. Tierney will also lead an initiative to review clinical research



### WALL STREET JOURNAL RECOGNITION

Creighton was recognized in the *Wall Street Journal*/Times Higher Education 2021 U.S. College Ranking. The *Wall Street Journal* methodology explores four key performance areas: resources, engagement, outcomes and environment. Creighton ranks 129th out of 797 institutions.



### MAUREEN TIERNEY

Maureen Tierney, MD, will serve as chair of the Department of Clinical Research at Creighton and medical director of clinical research at CHI Health.

activities of School of Medicine faculty at Creighton's Phoenix campus and develop plans to support faculty in their research efforts.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of well performed, high quality clinical research. Doing high quality academic investigation is hard," Tierney said. "My goal is to help the School of Medicine and CHI Health's clinical research infrastructures merge to create an even more productive infrastructure that supports and enables clinical investigators to pursue academic research questions."

Her research interests include public health, medical ethics, antimicrobial resistance, and the epidemiology of COVID-19 and ways to reduce its transmission.

Prior to joining Creighton, Tierney held academic appointments at Harvard Medical School and Cornell University Medical College. She spent several years as a senior medical reviewer at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and later as the head of the Healthcare Associated Infectious and Antimicrobial Resistance Program at the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). She was recently named the inaugural awardee of the McKnight Prize for Healthcare Outbreak Heroes.

At Nebraska DHHS, she and her team created an antimicrobial resistance task force, developed a real-time state antibiogram and established a containment program for multidrug-resistant organisms (MDROs). From February through May 2020, she authored and hosted frequent public health and clinical COVID-19 update webinars for the Nebraska medical community.

She holds certification from the American Board of Internal Medicine with a subspecialty of infectious disease. She earned her Doctor of Medicine degree from Cornell University Medical College and a Master of Science in Health Service Administration, Kellogg Program for Research Training in Clinical Effectiveness from the Harvard School of Public Health.



## Dravid to Lead NIH Pain Research Project

A Creighton professor will lead a multi-university team of researchers charged with finding pain therapies that will reduce the need for highly addictive opioids.

Shashank Dravid, PhD, MBA'12, an associate professor of pharmacology and neuroscience at the School of Medicine, brings his expertise in both disciplines to the wide-ranging assault on opioids that is the focus of a five-year \$2.7 million grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

A project summary published by the NIH states that pain impacts more than 100 million Americans, costing several hundred billion dollars in health care costs and lost productivity.

"Persistent pain may produce long-term disability and lead to precipitation of depression, anxiety and cognitive impairment," the summary said. "Currently used medications for chronic pain are not always effective and have limitations in terms of tolerance and abuse liability. Thus, identifying novel therapeutic targets is essential to address this clinical burden."

Dravid said the well-publicized danger of opioid addiction is an important driver of the research. "We are working on finding treatments for chronic pain that will avoid the need for opioids," Dravid says.

"This is a very big grant, with several co-investigators from other universities. This is a new area for me, so I have collaborators who are pain experts. We all bring our own expertise."

Dravid and his collaborators will focus on pain-signaling mechanisms in the amygdala, which is an almond-shaped mass of gray matter found in both of the brain's cerebral hemispheres. The amygdala is believed to play an important role in responding to such emotions as fear, anger, anxiety, depression and pain sensation.



◀SHASHANK DRAVID  
Shashank Dravid, PhD, MBA'12, brings his expertise in pharmacology and neuroscience to the \$2.7 million National Institutes of Health grant.

Dravid said the groundwork for the study was laid by Pauravi Gandhi, PhD'20, a lab student of his who recently graduated from Creighton with a doctorate in pharmacology and neuroscience.

He said Gandhi ascertained the location and function of the relevant pain receptor in the amygdala.

Other Creighton laboratory personnel involved in the project include post-doctoral fellows Gajanan Shelkar and Dinesh Gawande and research associates Ratnamala Uppala, Jinxu Liu and Sukanya Gakare.

The overall project team includes researchers from Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in Lubbock, Texas, and Emory University in Atlanta.

## Creighton Researchers Probe Secrets of Skin Cancer

Some of skin cancer's most closely held secrets are currently being pried loose in a Creighton University laboratory.

During the past six years, Laura Hansen, PhD, and Sandor Lovas, PhD, have monitored two signaling proteins they believe might play a key role in the development of skin cancer.

The results of that research, which was funded by a grant from the state of Nebraska, were significant enough that the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has provided a five-year, \$1.7 million grant to keep the line of inquiry alive.

The proteins, named 14-3-3 Epsilon and CDC25A, regulate both the normal division of cells and the abnormal division of cells that is the essence of cancer. Hansen says their research found that interfering with the signals these proteins send to cancerous cells can cause the cells to die and cause tumors to grow more slowly or even shrink. Importantly, she says, normal skin cells survive these interventions, potentially allowing more precise targeting of cancerous cells.

"Once we identified the role of

this pathway, and how its signals and functions change as normal skin cells become cancerous, we got the idea that targeting, or trying to inhibit these proteins, might be a good way to prevent or treat skin cancer," she says. "Since normal skin cells survive the signaling interference, it's a potential therapy that could be specific to the cancer cells, and while that sort of specificity is highly desirable, it also has implications for other kinds of cancer."

Hansen says she and Lovas, both professors at the School of Medicine, submitted the grant application to the NIH in October 2019.

"The upcoming lab work we have to do is to understand how other proteins interact with the target proteins we have identified, how they talk to each other, and how they regulate the behavior of skin cancer cells," she says.

A key role will be played by Lovas, whose work developing effective peptide inhibitor proteins has been key to the success of the research.

He will seek to refine the peptides to be even more specific, thus enabling effective interventions at lower concentrations.

"Then we will take his inhibitors, along with some commercial inhibitors of related proteins that we are interested in, and see how effective we can get this therapy to be both in preventing malignant progression of premalignant lesions, and in treating those lesions as well," Hansen says.

## Stonecatchers Program Earns Ignatian Medal for Diversity, Social Justice

The Stonecatchers Diversity and Inclusion Training Program at Creighton received the Ignatian Medal for Outstanding Commitment to Diversity and Social Justice, presented by the Jesuit Association of Student Personnel Administrators (JASPA).

The award is given annually to a program or initiative "aimed at an individual or a group of persons who demonstrate a strong commitment to issues of diversity and social justice in Jesuit higher education."

"Being acknowledged by peers within the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities (AJCU) network is affirming that we as a Jesuit student affairs profession lift up diversity and inclusion work as sacred," says Michele Bogard, PhD, associate vice provost for student engagement. "Creating an inclusive and welcoming community is everyone's work, especially as members of the Creighton community, which calls us to respect and promote the dignity of all people. Stonecatchers helps empower people with skills to help do the work of creating inclusive communities."

The Stonecatchers program, an initiative of the Division of Student Life, trains students, faculty and staff on how to intervene appropriately in incidents of hate and bias. The training is based on the Jesuit ideal of "men and women for and with others." The name of the program comes from John 8:7: "He who is without sin shall cast the first stone."

Each Stonecatchers program session begins with a recap of current events, with the aim of providing context for the recommended intervention strategies. Strategies and skills are reviewed in detail, and participants discuss examples and work to apply the strategies to specific situations, often in recent, real-life, on-campus scenarios.

At the end of each session, participants receive small stones on which they write messages that convey their commitments to taking an active role in future incidents of bias and hate. The stone is meant to be a reminder of their commitment to standing up for the marginalized and also a conversation starter for anyone who sees it displayed.

The curriculum was developed and is presented by Bogard and Becky Nickerson, MS'09, director of the Creighton Intercultural Center. The pair have trained other departments and student organizations on campus, including resident advisors, fraternity and sorority life executives, new student orientation leaders and others. Based on the initiative's popularity, a second version, Stonecatchers 2.0, was developed as a more personal and reflective effort to examine the role individuals play in incidents of bias and hate.

"Stonecatchers was created as an institutional response to injustices and hateful acts in the world and to teach skills for each of us to actively live out our core values of honoring the inalienable worth of each individual and appreciation of ethnic and cultural diversity," Nickerson says. "These

©Greg Durham, director of Recreation and Wellness, writes a message on a stone while participating in the Stonecatchers Diversity and Inclusion Training Program.

aren't just words. We need to put them into action."

Donna Shahbazi, BS'20, Creighton Students Union president in 2019, participated in the Stonecatchers program for the first time as a member of the Freshman Leadership Program.

"My stone sat on my desk all four years of college and read 'Be the light.' The effectiveness of this program is unmatched in comparison to a great number of presentations I received as a student for four years," she wrote in a letter to the JASPA selection team. "In light of the recent news regarding the tragic death of George Floyd, I thought through possible reactions, and the Stonecatchers presentation came into that thought process — reminding me that I can take a stand against racial injustices by sharing Christ's love and light with others."





# How to Help Students Discover Their Path

## Ignatian Advising Program gives Creighton undergrads four years of mentorship

For freshmen, coming to college can be overwhelming. There are textbooks to buy, people to meet, often a residence hall room to decorate. And somewhere, among all of that, new students have to decide what classes to take.

Enter the academic advisor. But at Creighton, undergraduates in the College of Arts and Sciences are getting more than a few cursory meetings about scheduling. Funded by a gift from George Haddix, PhD, MA'66, and his wife, Susan, the Haddix Ignatian Advising Program provides students with four years of personalized guidance and support, helping them discern how they can use their gifts to grow in college and beyond.

"We're thinking about it as an integrated four-year program," says Dean Bridget Keegan, PhD. "As an advisor in Arts and Sciences, you're going to have a long-term relationship with students. You're going to accompany them through their different courses and help them approach their education holistically. This intentional, connected, four-year vision for academic advising helps us fulfill our mission in a unique way."

The goal of the program: incorporate the spirit of St. Ignatius' educational philosophy, which emphasizes critical self-reflection, into a student's advising experience. Working with faculty members who serve in an advising and mentoring role, students are encouraged to ask themselves certain questions and meet certain goals throughout each year of their undergraduate program.



Welcome to Creighton!







COVID-19 pandemic  
highlights importance  
of Creighton's health  
sciences ethics education

# SEEING 'the vulgarity of reality'

BY BLAKE URSCH

The questions emerged in hospitals — and then the press — with a sudden and tragic speed. ■ In a hospital overwhelmed with severe cases, who gets a ventilator? ■ As a physician, at what point should I prioritize my own health and safety and that of my loved ones? ■ What is society's duty to protect its most vulnerable populations? ■ What about its duty to protect me as someone providing care?



As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to ravage the United States, it has left the nation's health care providers to wrestle with a number of ethical problems. In the early weeks and months, shortages of ventilators and other important equipment meant physicians and hospital administrators were forced to make difficult decisions about which patients received lifesaving treatment.

Now, as development of a vaccine continues at a rapid pace, ethicists are contending with a whole new set of issues: Who gets access to the vaccine first? And once vaccines are widely available, should they be mandatory?

Creighton University has long challenged its health sciences students to ponder difficult ethical questions as part of its curriculum. The University's commitment to providing a well-rounded liberal arts education — and its Jesuit, Catholic mission — mean that students in all of its schools and colleges are taught that all human life is sacred and cannot be reduced to a checklist of symptoms or a balance sheet of numbers and statistics.

But for the University's health sciences students, many of whom are poised to enter a workforce forever changed by COVID-19, the pandemic has made ethical exercises that once seemed distant and hypothetical all too real.

"When I'm handing out a case study to students, there's something interesting and exciting and strangely comforting when it's just there on the page. But what happens when the world is falling apart right in front of your eyes?" says Mark Robinson, PhD, assistant professor in the Graduate School's Master of Science in Bioethics program. "Part of what we're dealing with is the vulgarity of reality. This is no longer a simulation. This is life."

In the School of Medicine, conversations about addressing the pandemic in the ethics curriculum began in March 2020, says the Rev. Kevin FitzGerald, SJ, PhD, PhD, chair of the newly formed Department of Medical Humanities and the John A. Creighton University Professor. The department spearheads Creighton's values-driven approach to medical education, bringing together faculty from outside the medical discipline to emphasize that true healing often transcends the physiological.

As part of this person-centered approach, students in their first two years of medical school participate in ethics and humanities curricula developed by Fr. FitzGerald and Nicole Piemonte, PhD, assistant dean for medical education and an assistant professor of medical humanities, based at the Creighton University Health Sciences — Phoenix Campus.

"I think COVID has helped us introduce the importance of the humanities in a way that students can conceptually understand, given the immediate relevance in front of them," says Piemonte. "Yes, our curriculum is trying to help them understand epidemiology and virology, but I think COVID-19 has really also brought to bear deep questions about inequity and inequality and suffering and death and dying and policy and political responses, and I think, in our curriculum at Creighton, it's our duty to address those questions."

The students engage in this ethical and humanities-focused coursework during their first two years of medical school, while they study the science of tissue and organ systems in the classroom.

"These ethics and humanities pieces are interspersed throughout those other blocks," Fr. FitzGerald says. "The idea being that, when you are studying this particular organ system, these types of diseases, that's what the ethics cases are referring to. So, the students aren't just learning ethical theories, they're learning how to do ethical decision-making in health care."

Last spring, as the full scale of the pandemic began to make itself apparent and courses across the University shifted to online learning, Fr. FitzGerald and Piemonte recognized the need to change the ethical scenarios they had planned to address for the rest of the semester. To do so, Fr. FitzGerald says, he didn't have to look any further than the day's headlines.

"One thing that was happening in the spring was the concern that emergency rooms and ICUs would be overwhelmed, and we'd run out of equipment such as ventilators," says Fr. FitzGerald, referencing the crisis in New York City, which, in the early months of the pandemic, overtaxed the city's health care infrastructure and resulted in thousands of deaths.

So, Fr. FitzGerald presented the students with a problem: Two patients arrive at the emergency room exhibiting severe symptoms of COVID-19. Both are in very similar circumstances — same age, same number of children, same number of comorbidities (other chronic diseases) — but one patient has a good insurance policy while the other does not. If there is only one ventilator to assign between the two, who gets it? The answer, often proposed, is the patient with the good insurance policy, who will more likely be able to pay for the treatment.

Then, Fr. FitzGerald complicates the situation: What if there are other COVID patients at the hospital currently on ventilators who have a far less likelihood of surviving than the two patients who just came in? Say one of them has been diagnosed with terminal cancer. Do you, as a physician, decide to remove that patient from



JARED SEGER

**“I think COVID has helped us introduce the importance of the humanities in a way that students can conceptually understand, given the immediate relevance in front of them.”**

**NICOLE PIEMONTE, PHD**  
*Assistant Dean for Medical Education  
Assistant Professor of Medical Humanities  
Creighton University Health Sciences –  
Phoenix Campus*

a ventilator and assign the device to the patient with the bad insurance policy?

"It's frustrating, because any time you think you've found the closest thing to the right answer, Fr. FitzGerald gives you a dozen more arguments or perspectives to consider, and then you're right back where you started," says Michaela Hoffmann, a second-year student in Creighton's physician assistant program who took Fr. FitzGerald's ethics training last spring.

In her coursework, Hoffmann and her classmates were tasked with developing a hospital policy for how to assign a limited number of ventilators at a hospital overwhelmed with COVID patients. In the end, Hoffmann says, "I was so hesitant to value any one life more than another," that she opted to let the math decide. Her proposed solution involved using a risk-assessment tool to determine which patients had the greatest likelihood of surviving their acute COVID-19 illness and prioritizing those patients as recipients of ventilators.

The point of these exercises, Fr. FitzGerald says, is that there is no right answer. As an institution, all Creighton can do is train its students to think critically about what the best answer is, factoring in the Jesuit values they've been taught as part of their medical education.

"The shorthand for this is *cura personalis* and 'finding God in all things.' The idea that in Jesuit spirituality





DAVE WEAVER

“The shorthand for this is *cura personalis* and ‘finding God in all things.’ The idea that in Jesuit spirituality and the Jesuit intellectual tradition, you are trying to comprehend this human being in front of you as the gift from God that this person is, in the midst of that person’s socioeconomic background and family history.”

KEVIN FITZGERALD, SJ, PHD, PHD  
Chair, Department of Medical Humanities

and the Jesuit intellectual tradition, you are trying to comprehend this human being in front of you as the gift from God that this person is, in the midst of that person’s socioeconomic background and family history,” says Fr. FitzGerald.

“This person is before you now in a health care setting, and something is wrong that you have to help them address in whatever way is going to best allow them to continue to be the gift that they are. This person is not a broken heart. This person is not a bad set of lungs. This is a human being.”

As the scale of the pandemic reached global proportions last spring, Creighton’s Master of Science in Bioethics faculty were hard at work developing a new course — MHE 610 Introduction to Bioethics — that would not only provide a foundational knowledge to students seeking the degree, but would also be an elective for other graduate students interested in the field.

“One of the things we struggled with at the time was, we knew how big this was going to be, but we couldn’t know what direction it was going to go,” says Helen Chapple, PhD, BSN’08, MSN’12, professor in the Graduate School’s bioethics program. The following months, of course, would give them more perspective.

The course — due to be offered in fall 2021 — now heavily addresses the ethical issues posed by COVID-19, Chapple says.

“COVID comes in sort of everywhere,” she says. “It’s the intersectionality of those problems — the weaknesses in the health care system and the terrible fragmentation that (this virus) has revealed.

“It’s not new,” she says. “It’s just newly visible to the world. The problems that are showing up are very old.”

The pandemic, Chapple says, has exposed racial and socioeconomic disparities that have long festered in the U.S. health care system. In Douglas County (where Creighton’s campus is located), the vast majority of people who tested positive for COVID-19 in the early months of the pandemic were nonwhite.

In addition, the Douglas County Board of Health recently adopted a resolution declaring racism a public health crisis. In the resolution, the health department cited data showing that the average life expectancy in predominately Black North Omaha is 10 years below that of mostly white West Omaha.

The amount of interest in the field, Chapple says, has exploded since the scale of the pandemic became apparent. It only grew in the wake of the widespread social unrest in the U.S. following the killing of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police, which renewed conversations about structural racism embedded in national institutions, public and private.

“The explosion of interest in some of these issues has also been overwhelming,” Chapple says. “The data that has been coming our way, the articles that have been popping up on every front regarding this have been difficult to keep up with.”

These types of health disparities are addressed throughout Creighton’s bioethics program, led by program director Sarah Lux, PhD. The degree program seeks to provide students with the education needed to address moral and ethical challenges — such as end-of-life care, pain and suffering, research ethics and health disparities — in all health care areas, Lux says.

“Bioethics in the United States began as a kind of offshoot of philosophy and religion, and its roots are still there,” Chapple says. “It started out as a kind of quandary ethics — ‘What do we do about this particular patient when there’s more than one right answer?’ It’s a sort of decision-making tool, in which you look at moral authorities and draw on them in terms of deciding which things are right.”

In the new material addressing the pandemic, faculty plan to emphasize that in-depth guidelines to mitigate the impact of widespread disease have been developed by several health organizations — including the World Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Robinson, assistant professor in the program, says the U.S., under previous presidential administrations, has had bioethicists on hand to consult in the event of a pandemic.

The current situation in the U.S., Robinson says, starkly illustrates the importance of preliminary planning — having written procedures in place in the event of an emergency — as well as critical thinking around issues such as health disparities and access to health care.

“This is a moment in history in which many moral decisions are being made that will have enormous effects on a lot of people for a long time,” Robinson says. “It’s also a unique moment in which engaging in conversations with other experts — national leaders, policy experts — about developing an algorithm to help physicians make decisions about allocating resources is an enormous task.”



“This is a moment in history in which many moral decisions are being made that will have enormous effects on a lot of people for a long time.”

MARK ROBINSON, PHD  
Assistant Professor  
Master of Science in Bioethics Program

What data should such an algorithm consider? How should it be applied — by the physicians treating the patients, or by a board of objective observers tasked with making the final call?

These are questions the bioethics faculty aren’t trying to solve for their students, but are rather encouraging them to consider throughout their degree program. Each situation, each hospital, each locality, will have different criteria to consider, and ethicists evaluating them will have to draw their own unique conclusions based on the best available data.

“In that sense, our curriculum really does work, really does matter. But what we do outside the classroom matters more — our engagement with the community, with other departments, other initiatives,” Robinson says. “I can’t imagine teaching this course at any other time in my life, at any other place in the world. It’s just the perfect course for the situation that we’re in right now.”



# Street of Dreams

BY EUGENE CURTIN

*At the intersection of history and hope stands 24th Street – and a major renovation project bringing together Creighton, the city of Omaha and two well-established communities*



RAY WHITMORE

Creighton University’s transformation of 24th Street from Cass Street north to Cuming Street is its latest contribution to one of Omaha’s most historic and iconic thoroughfares.

For generations of immigrants, since the founding of the city of Omaha in 1854 and its formal incorporation in 1857, 24th Street was the place where Poles, Czechs, Italians, Germans and Jews found refuge from European serfdom, and where today Latino and other immigrants, and their descendants, have added to vibrant expressions of community, hope, and racial and cultural pride.

But 24th Street is a tale of two worlds — divided, as divisions so often are, into north and south. The world of the rising European rustic became known as South 24th Street, in contrast to North 24th Street, which was older, inhabited by the pioneers and aristocrats of Omaha’s burgeoning civitas but which gradually, through redlining, race-restrictive covenants and white flight, became home to a majority of the city’s African American population.

The dividing line of these north-south worlds is Cuming Street, named for Thomas Cuming, the second governor of Nebraska Territory. Some argue that Burt Street, one block south of Cuming Street and named for the first governor of Nebraska Territory, is the

proper demarcation line. Whether Cuming or Burt, two things are clear: The naming of the streets in honor of Nebraska’s first governors demonstrates clearly where Omaha finds its roots, and Creighton University bridges these two portrayals or faces of 24th Street.

The memoirs of the Rev. William Rigge, SJ, who arrived at Creighton in 1878 as one of five original Jesuit faculty members, record the birth of Creighton’s relationship with 24th Street. It was, by his account, a muddy affair, memorably preserved in a contemporary quatrain by poet John G. Saxe:

*“Hast’s ever been to Omaha  
Where rolls the dark Missouri down,  
Where six strong horses scarce can pull  
An empty wagon through the town?”*

California Street, which today follows roughly the campus mall, was not paved until 1888, and 24th Street not until 1911, almost a year after Creighton’s still-standing concrete retaining wall was completed. By then, Fr. Rigge recorded, 24th Street was steaming toward its destiny:

“Twenty-fourth Street is fulfilling the expectation that it will become an intensely busy thoroughfare,” he wrote. “It is probably the longest and straightest street in the city, and the proposal to widen it to 100 feet has been mooted for years.”



DAVE WEAVER

© Photo far left: An aerial view of construction on 24th Street in late August. Photo left: The transformational redesign of the 24th Street corridor includes Haddix Circle, a four-exit roundabout, named in honor of Creighton alumnus and trustee emeritus George Haddix, PhD, MA’66, and his wife, Susan, a Creighton trustee.



© Creighton University  
President the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD, left, Omaha Mayor Jean Stothert, middle, and LaVonya Watson Goodwin, BA'96, president of the North Omaha Business Improvement District, cut the ribbon to the newly redesigned 24th Street that runs through Creighton's campus.



OMAHA WORLD-HERALD/LILY SMITH

When Mary Lucretia Creighton stipulated in her will that a college be established in memory of her husband, Edward, a prominent Omaha businessman, and when she bequeathed the \$100,000 that in 1878 made the dream a reality, she could not have known that her spousal memorial at 24th and California streets would one day become a magnificent university of national standing, nor that it would eventually sit at the very cusp of Omaha's Black community.

But history does what it does, and Creighton's proximity to predominantly Black North Omaha has been the story, writ small, of America's slow, painful and ongoing progress toward racial equality.

Creighton, like other American institutions, walked a path of learning during the 20th century, emerging from a world where racial prejudice went largely unchallenged to today, when the University maintains outreach programs to the Black community and other communities of color.

The Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD, president of Creighton, noted the kinship between the University and 24th Street on Sept. 24 during ceremonies marking the redesign of the thoroughfare as it passes through the campus.

"The friendships and partnerships we have developed over the years with North Omaha and South Omaha leaders and citizens have enlivened our campus and our students," he said. "We look forward to enhancing those relationships and collaborations even more, as we work together to ensure that the Omaha area is a welcoming and nurturing community for all."

The hope that Creighton's revitalization of its stretch of 24th Street might boost historic North Omaha was palpable at the dedication ceremony.

LaVonya Watson Goodwin, BA'96, president of the North 24th Street Business Improvement District (BID) and a 1996 graduate of Creighton,

said North Omaha had been gifted a "new streetscape and gateway."

"Today, students, pedestrians, cyclists, drivers and transit users are all safer and have a more pleasant view as they enter North 24th Street, thanks to the vision and implementation of this new streetscape and gateway," she said.

"This grand new entrance serves as a reminder that all are welcome on North 24th Street, at Creighton, past Cuming to Lake Street, and beyond. It is symbolic of beauty and revitalization, and represents an impetus of the work that must continue to ensure that all of the sidewalks are walkable and the streets are safe to navigate throughout the North 24th Street corridor."

The presence at the dedication ceremony of Jean Stothert, the 57th mayor of Omaha, provided a tangible tie to the past, a circumstance Stothert noted.

"Twenty-fourth Street connects the very diverse, significant and historic neighborhoods of North and South Omaha," she said. "In Omaha's early years, 24th Street was busy and prosperous, rich in cultural traditions and heritage. Today, 24th Street links that rich ethnic past to the current needs of our community.

"There are exciting times ahead here on North 24th Street, and I look forward to

our continued work together."

Whatever shape that work takes in the future, it will be a continuation of the partnership between Creighton and the city.

As related in Fr. Rigge's memoirs, Creighton made its stretch of the street possible by ceding to the city 30 feet of land from its eastern boundary, which constituted more than half the width of the newly paved street.

Horses helped push and pull the plows that graded the street, proving more efficient for the job than a steam tractor. The work required Creighton to build the retaining wall that still lines the campus portion of 24th Street, and the lawn where the observatory still stands had to be lowered 10 feet.

In the century following those pioneering days, North 24th Street became first a vibrant commercial district, then the scene of a bustling African American culture, eventually reduced by lack of opportunity, race riots and some commercial abandonment, to the current vision for improvements and development being led by the North 24th Street BID.

"Gateways represent the beginning of a thing — how one starts," Goodwin said.

"I welcome this new beginning for Creighton, for passersby, and for the North 24th Street community as we begin a new era for the North 24th Street corridor."

## A New Front Door to Creighton University

Everything looks familiar if you are traveling along 24th Street north of Dodge. There's the Joslyn Art Museum, in all its Art Deco wonder; the magnificent Omaha Central High School sitting majestically where it has sat for more than 100 years; the various apartment buildings all reassuringly in place; and traffic flying swiftly across elevated I-480.

But that's about it for normal.

North of Chicago Street a new 24th Street cuts through the Creighton campus. A joint, \$6.8 million project between the University and the city of Omaha is transforming a nondescript stretch of 24th Street into an elegant boulevard, complete with a stylish roundabout at Cass Street, a median teeming with flowers and plants, bicycle lanes, bus stops and numerous monument signs declaring the presence of Creighton University.

Traffic calming has been achieved by reducing the lanes from four to two — one in either direction, but not at the sacrifice of the iconic walk signal voice that will continue to declare at Deglman Square (no longer Deglman Circle) that the "Walk signal to cross 24th Street is now on."

The roundabout at Cass Street, deemed "the new front door of the University" by Creighton President the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD, has been named Haddix Circle in recognition of longstanding and ongoing contributions to Creighton by trustee emeritus George Haddix, PhD, MA'66, and his wife, Susan, a Creighton trustee. On it will rest

one of the monument signs announcing the University.

"By changing the high-traffic corridor from four lanes to two, adding bike lanes, and enhancing it with greenspace, the beautiful roundabout at Cass Street, and so much more, we now have a safer, much more attractive hub to our campus, a true gateway to historic North Omaha, and, indeed, a bridge between Omaha's south and north neighborhoods," he said.

Although the stretch of 24th Street from Cass to Cuming streets is now open to traffic, the beautification work isn't complete and won't be until next spring.

Derek Scott, assistant vice president for Facilities Management, says construction began this past spring, following a long period of preparation and design.

"This project has been a desire of the University for years," he says.

Scott says seven monument signs will be erected. Four will be considered secondary signs and will sit at Chicago Street, one on each side of the California Street Mall, and one at the Vinardi Center (Old Gym) at Burt Street. Three larger, lighted monument signs are also to be installed. Two will sit on the corners of the intersection of 24th and Cuming streets and the other in the Haddix Circle roundabout at Cass Street.

Some plantings will have to wait until the spring, Scott says, since the chosen plants are currently out of season. Some detail work on the monument signs also will wait until spring.

© George Haddix, PhD, MA'66, left, and his wife, Susan (file photo)



OMAHA WORLD-HERALD



# Historic Beauty

BY BLAKE URSCH

## Creighton restores entrance of St. John's

**FOR A BRIEF MOMENT THIS FALL**, anyone walking through Creighton University's Skinner Mall caught a rare sight: The heavy wooden doors of St. John's Church suspended in air.

In September, construction crews used a crane to remove the doors from the entrance of the historic church as part of a restoration project. The doors, estimated to weigh between 600 and 700 pounds apiece, will be stripped of paint and refinished, restoring them to their original appearance.

The project came about at the suggestion of Creighton President the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD. While meeting with Derek Scott, assistant vice president in Creighton's Department of Facilities Management, Fr. Hendrickson suggested restoring the doors to their original state. Scott began stripping away the layer of paint on the door and knew right away that it was the direction to go.

"This is a wonderful opportunity to renew and restore the historic beauty of these doors," Fr. Hendrickson says. "St. John's Church sits at the heart of our campus, in so many ways. It is a warm and welcoming place, a place of spiritual renewal and inner reflection. It is appropriate that these doors be revived for their past splendor to welcome future generations."

The removal, performed by Omaha's Prairie Construction, went smoothly, says Brian Besack, senior project manager at Creighton. Gerst Painting, based in Elkhorn, Nebraska, is handling the stripping and refinishing.

"I've been on campus for 28 years and nothing's been done to them other than a fresh coat of paint. They've been painted for at least 30 years," Besack says.

As the church is a historic building, Creighton obtained approval from History Nebraska, the state historical society, for the restoration.

St. John's was dedicated on May 6, 1888, less than a year after the cornerstone was laid. The

Jesuit community had intended the church to be dedicated to St. John the Baptist, the patron of John A. Creighton. However, Bishop James O'Connor, having not been informed of this, instead dedicated the church to St. John the Evangelist.

The church, built in the English Gothic style, remained unfinished for decades, due to lack of funds at the time of construction. In 1922, a building committee was formed and began finishing the church as originally planned.

In September 1923, the church's completed addition was dedicated. Improvements, additions and changes continued to be made for the next several decades: The stained-glass windows were added between 1946 and 1949, and the right tower steeple was installed in 1976. Significant renovations were completed in 2007, which included changes to the altar configuration and installation of the crucifix that now hangs from the ceiling near the altar.

The front entrance, Besack says, was due for some attention. The heavy wooden doors had sustained their share of damage over the years, with areas of splitting and missing pieces of wood revealing their age.

The restoration work involves stripping the doors entirely down to bare wood and refinishing them, restoring them to their original color. The south doors of the two bell towers will receive the same restoration treatment.

"We knew we needed to do something to freshen up the look of the south entrance of the church, and that kind of evolved into this opportunity once painters exposed a bit of the original finish," Besack says. "We don't want them to look brand new; we want them to show some age and character and preserve what that original look was."



DAVE WEAVER





The University's oldest building got a much-awaited facelift this summer

**LIGHT**

# Shining a on Creighton Hall



**M**embers of two of Creighton's most prominent alumni families, the Heider and Keough families, provided lead investments for significant exterior renovations of Creighton Hall, the first extensive updates in nine decades.

Gifts from the Charles and Mary Heider Family Foundation and from Kathy Keough Soto, BSN'75, and Gilbert Soto, BA'72, daughter and son-in-law of the late Donald and Marilyn Keough, funded illumination, or "uplighting," for the University's most iconic building as well as the configuration of a new plaza on a signature campus walkway.

"The Heider and Keough families continue to enhance the lives of countless Creighton students through the Creighton Hall project," Creighton President the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD, said. "Longtime home to our Jesuit community, the hall is a symbol of our Catholic foundation established by our original founders, the Creighton family.

"Creighton Hall can now be seen from Interstate 480, bringing visibility to our historic building," Fr. Hendrickson said.

"The lighting of Creighton Hall is a symbolic spotlight on our Jesuit mission, a reminder to our students of our history and traditions, and a beacon for our alumni to find their way home."

The illumination project showcases Creighton Hall and its 190-foot seamless façade of Bedford stone, featuring Creighton, Catholic and Nebraska emblems. Ninety-three energy-efficient LED lights, controlled by an automated system, provide illumination based on the time of day, enhancing the building's beauty and improving safety around the landmark structure.

"This is a project that I know my father and Don (Keough) would be very proud of," said Scott Heider of Omaha, a member of the University Board of Trustees and leader of his family's charitable foundation. "They both graduated from Creighton in 1949 and went on to great accomplishments. All through their

© Right, Charles, BSC'49, HON'10, and Mary, HON'10, Heider, and far right, Donald, BS'49, HON'82, and Marilyn Keough.



lives, they never failed to remember their Jesuit educations received at Creighton University. They led their lives by example, and the new plaza and uplighting will be a great reminder to us all."

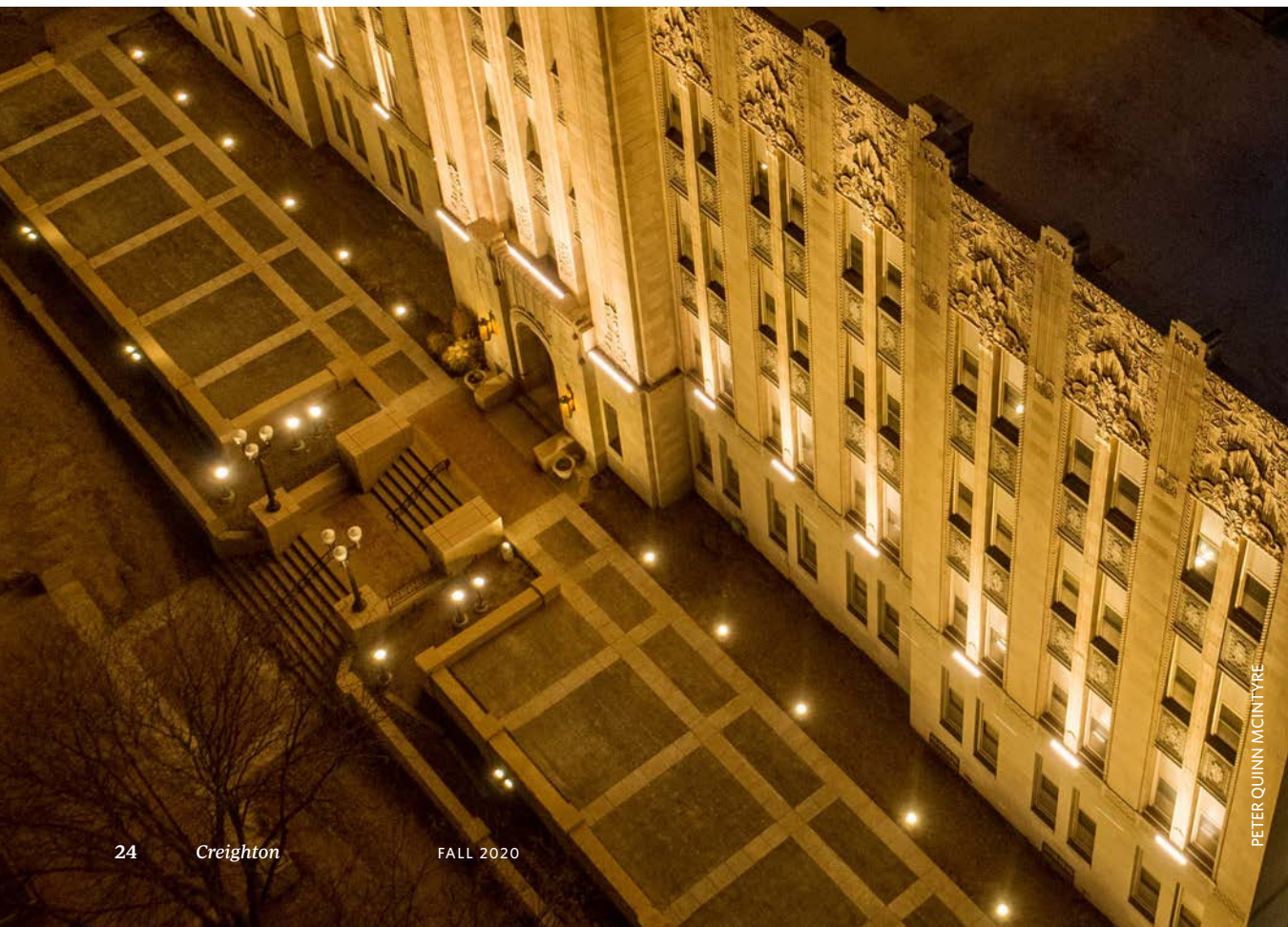
The Marilyn and Donald, BS'49, HON'82, Keough Plaza extends a pathway connecting Creighton's main thoroughfare — 24th Street — with St. John's Church. As an active pedestrian corridor, Keough Plaza better accommodates people with disabilities and offers a signature greenspace for students, faculty, alumni and visitors to participate in open-air learning and socializing, in close proximity to Creighton Hall.

Kathy Keough Soto said her parents would be pleased their names are associated with Creighton Hall and the Keough Plaza. "Daddy was always very proud of his Creighton degree. I'm extremely proud of my nursing degree from Creighton," she said. "We are strong, strong believers in Catholic education, and I'm pleased and grateful to Momma and Daddy that they gave us the wherewithal to do this."

Built in 1877, Creighton Hall is the oldest building on the campus. It was the academic home of the first students at what was then known as Creighton College. At Sarah Emily Creighton's request, a new south wing opened in 1889, increasing space for the growing Jesuit community living there. New southwest and north wings opened in 1902, followed by the 1911 completion of a project extending 24th Street and a retaining wall, still maintained today.

For years, it served as the Administration Building and as home to the College of Arts and Sciences. California Street, running in front of the building, was closed to traffic in 1978 and Deglman Circle (recently renamed Deglman Square) was constructed. The Heider family provided funding for new Creighton Hall building doors in 2007.

© The new entrance on the south side of Creighton Hall includes the Keough Family Plaza.



PETER QUINN MCINTYRE

Both Charles Heider, BSC'49, HON'10, and Don Keough, BS'49, HON'82, after graduating from Creighton, later became confidants to Omaha's most famous resident, chairman and CEO of Berkshire Hathaway Warren Buffett.

Scott Heider spearheaded the vision for the "second completion" of Creighton Hall. Scott's parents are Creighton's largest benefactors, and the University renamed its business school Heider College of Business in 2013 to honor the Heiders' investments.

Charles Heider earned a Bachelor of Science in Commerce degree and went on to an accomplished financial career. He received the Creighton Alumni Achievement Citation in 2003, and the Wisconsin Province of the Society of Jesus bestowed on Mary and Charles the first Ignatian Leadership Award from the

Jesuit Council of Omaha. In 2010, the Heiders received Creighton honorary doctorates of humane letters. Heider served on Creighton's Board of Trustees for 17 years, holding emeritus status from 1997 until his death in 2015 at 89.

Kathy Keough Soto serves on her parents' charitable foundation board and as an ex officio member of the College of Nursing Alumni Advisory Board. She and her husband live near Austin, Texas.

Her father earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the College of Arts and Sciences and was president, chief operating officer and director of the Coca-Cola Company from 1981 to 1993, later returning to Coca-Cola's board. In 1982, Keough accepted an honorary degree from the School of Law; he died at 88, also in 2015.

**"The Heider and Keough families continue to enhance the lives of countless Creighton students through the Creighton Hall project."**

THE REV. DANIEL S. HENDRICKSON, SJ, PHD



## Creighton Hires First Full-Time Psychiatrist

BY Blake Ursch

# It doesn't need to be said that there's no shortage of stressors weighing on the minds of today's college students.

An unprecedented global pandemic. A looming climate crisis. Social upheaval. A polarized and volatile political environment.

In this world, under these circumstances, mental health professionals such as Supriya Bhatia, MD, BA'01, are all the more critical.

This year, Bhatia joins Creighton University as its first full-time campus psychiatrist. In this role, she will meet with students who seek counseling and mental health care through Student Counseling Services.

"When I heard about the position, I felt like I would be able to offer a unique perspective, being both an adult psychiatrist and a child psychiatrist," Bhatia says. "College students in particular are in a place in which they look like adults, but, inside, parts of them are still children. They're still learning who they are and what they want out of life."

The demand for mental health services on college campuses has spiked in recent years. The number of college students utilizing their schools' mental health offerings grew an average of 30% between 2009 and 2015, while enrollment grew less than 6%, according to Penn State University's Center for Collegiate Mental Health.

In addition, between 2007 and 2017, the suicide rate among young Americans aged 10 to 24, known as Generation Z, increased 56%, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"Nationally, the demand for mental health care for college students continues to grow at a rate that is difficult to keep up with through traditional models. Even before we were focused on all of our current challenges — the pandemic, racial injustices and various other global stressors — anxiety and depression have had a significant impact on today's college student," says Jennifer Peter, PsyD, senior director of Creighton's Student Counseling Services. "Here at Creighton, we have seen a growth in the need for psychiatric and counseling care over the last several years."

Student Counseling Services is open for students to receive individual and group counseling. The service aims to address student concerns, such as self-esteem, relationships, stress and anxiety, loneliness and depression, and provide students with tools for self-care. Previous campus psychiatrists worked on a part-time basis only.

As a board-certified psychiatrist, Bhatia will work with some of these students, helping them manage medications through collaboration with the Student Health Education and Compliance Office and the CHI Health Student Care Clinic.

The job, as she describes it, found her.

Bhatia's Creighton roots run deep. She is the daughter of two Creighton faculty members: Shashi Bhatia, MBBS, and Subhash Bhatia, MBBS, both professors in the School of Medicine. In 2001, Supriya Bhatia finished her undergraduate studies at Creighton, having majored in psychology and Spanish.

She attended medical school at the University of Nebraska Medical Center and later completed a psychiatry residency at the University of California, Davis near Sacramento. She eventually returned to Omaha and has spent the last four years working in child and adolescent psychiatry at Boys Town.

"In medicine, what I had always enjoyed was making connections with people and then developing a long-term relationship with them," Bhatia says. "No two people have the same story when it comes to depression, anxiety or the challenges they've experienced. Nobody has the same life. That's what really attracted me to psychiatry."

Leaving the families and children she's come to know through her work at Boys Town is difficult, she says. But, "on the other hand, I felt like the transition to Creighton is going to be a good fit for me, because I'll be able to work with people in a different phase of their lives, working on figuring out how to thrive in the current world."

Young adults, Bhatia says, are in a difficult position when it comes to mental health care. Too old for child psychiatrists, but not yet adults, many college-aged students often get lost in the shuffle, relying on primary care doctors for mental health services, or simply not

receiving care because they don't know where to go, she says.

Especially given the challenging economic, environmental and social circumstances, Bhatia says she sees many young people experiencing anxiety, depression and, particularly due to the COVID-19 pandemic, social isolation.

"A lot of times, the circumstances are triggering something that's already there. Some insecurity or sadness," Bhatia says. "Because they're already feeling lonely or more disconnected socially, they're feeling more anxious, because of the lack of control they have around them."

Which makes thorough and consistent care all the more important, Peter says.

"We are thrilled that Dr. Bhatia has joined our team," she says. "She has a strong tradition in Creighton herself and understands firsthand the stress and challenges our students face. Dr. Bhatia understands Creighton's mission and values and what it's like to be part of our community. Having her with us full time will allow our team to continue to work collaboratively to make sure we are caring for our students optimally."

"I'm just really excited to re-engage with the Creighton community," Bhatia says. "It's great to have the opportunity to help these students thrive. I'm really looking forward to it."







# Sculpture Celebrates Creighton's Global Reach

BY JAYNE VONNAHME SCHRAM, BA'87, MA'09  
PHOTOS BY DAVE WEAVER



Creighton officials dedicated a new outdoor sculpture, “The Globe,” on Oct. 7 at a private unveiling.

The Heider Family Foundation commissioned the piece by Creighton University professor and nationally and internationally acclaimed sculptor Littleton Alston, MFA.

The 12-foot diameter stainless steel globe weighs 4,600 pounds and contains an intense molten blue light. Located at the high-traffic southeast entrance of the Harper Center on the Venteicher Mall, the sculpture will greet prospective students and families entering the center’s new Admissions Suite, as well as current Heider College of Business students and faculty.

The piece honors the late Charles Heider, BSC’49, HON’10, and his wife, Mary, HON’10, major University supporters and namesakes of the Heider College of Business, for their commitment to advancing Jesuit education in the Omaha community while also recognizing the global reach of the Jesuits.

“My father — my whole family — have been supportive of the Jesuits and everything they stand for, including education, for a long time. Creighton University is a true community asset, and importantly, it plays an increasingly larger role nationally all the time. My family remains committed to Creighton and all the University represents to Omaha and the state of Nebraska,” said Scott Heider, the couple’s son and a Creighton University Trustee. “Littleton Alston deeply understands the Jesuits and

“‘The Globe’ has a blue inner light, Creighton blue. It’s a beautiful understanding of the world, almost in a classical manner.”

LITTLETON ALSTON, MFA



**Photo top:** Littleton Alston, MFA, working on “The Globe” sculpture in his studio.

**Photo bottom left:** The sculpture is prepped for its journey from Alston’s studio a few blocks to the Harper Center.

**Photo bottom right:** Alston stands before his creation on Oct. 7.



their mission. He is a man of incredible passion, and his sculptures are alive. I’ve been in awe of Littleton, his work and his creative genius, since we first met nearly a decade ago.”

“The Globe” joins Alston’s “The Flame” sculpture — also commissioned by the Heider family — at the Harper Center’s main entrance, which is inscribed with a quote attributed to St. Ignatius of Loyola, the 16th century founder of the Society of Jesus, “Go set the world on fire.”

“The Globe” and “The Flame” flank the Heider College of Business, representing the University to students and everyone on campus as well as providing Omaha a community asset, Heider said. An Alston “St. Ignatius” sculpture stands outside the Reinert-Alumni Memorial Library.

Creighton President the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD, said Alston’s sculptures not only beautify campus, they also provide a “fantastic” teaching tool for students.

“Our students live and learn among Littleton’s outstanding on-campus installations. In addition, they have a rare opportunity, with a world-renowned artist on campus, to engage directly with him to understand his processes and vision,” Fr. Hendrickson said.

Alston, whose works grace public and private collections throughout the country, is the first African American artist commissioned to create a sculpture for the National Statuary Hall at the U.S. Capitol. In 2020, the U.S. Congress recognized Alston for his lifetime contributions as an artist and professor.

He created “The Globe” as a complement to “The Flame.”

“‘The Globe’ has a blue inner light, Creighton blue,” Alston said. “It’s a beautiful understanding of the world, almost in a classical manner. We used to think about God and the universe and the world. I think now we’re able to understand God in the world in a real way. I think that’s very, very helpful. And that’s part of the Jesuit tradition — the education of the spirit.”

The new sculpture is inscribed with a quote from Jesuit priest Gerard Manley Hopkins’ poem “God’s Grandeur.” Fr. Hendrickson had chosen another Hopkins poem, “As Kingfishers Catch Fire,” as his inaugural theme while launching the Creighton Global Initiative in 2015. Fr. Hendrickson bolstered the University’s commitment to global learning by directing

philanthropic support to resources offering opportunities for faculty, staff and students to embrace global perspectives.

For 50 years, Creighton students have engaged globally through signature programs, such as the Institute for Latin American Concern in the Dominican Republic.

“The Creighton Global Initiative celebrated our presence on the global stage, particularly with our half-century history in the Caribbean,” Fr. Hendrickson said. “But it also let us take new and bigger international steps, allowing us to expand our research, interests and engagements further abroad and right here on our campus, bringing global issues into greater focus.”

The Creighton Global Initiative intensified the University’s relationships with refugees locally and globally, as well as discussions around and work in sustainability. The initiative created Creighton’s Global Scholars program and Common Home Project.

“Just as I envisioned, our Global Scholars program forms experienced global citizens proficient in complex cultures with ethical perspectives on dealing with an increasingly complex world,” Fr. Hendrickson said. “The scholars graduate Creighton as well-rounded, Jesuit-educated, global citizens ready to make their marks on the world.”

Global engagement opportunities are available at each of Creighton’s nine schools and colleges. Each year, for example, Heider College of Business students travel with faculty to various cities, both domestic and abroad, to experience business firsthand and meet alumni who work in the global marketplace.


The Common Home Project establishes key institutional partners in each continent for inclusive dialogue about shaping the future of our shared planet — while supporting scholarship addressing urgent environmental, social and humanitarian challenges.

“What emerges from our careful formation is a concern for bringing about a more just world and the importance of caring for God’s creation,” Fr. Hendrickson said.

Eight years after dedicating “The Flame,” Heider said he was delighted to work with Alston again on “The Globe.”

“My family wants to honor Jesuits — past, present and future,” Heider said. “This is a symbol of the Jesuits’ global reach.”





# Jesuits in Formation Enrich Campus Experience

BY EUGENE CURTIN

Dzao Vu and Jeff Sullivan, BA'03, both well advanced on the path to become Jesuit, Catholic priests, are spending part of their formation process at Creighton University.

Vu, a native of Vietnam who immigrated to the United States at a young age with his parents, will be here until May with a view to beginning his theology studies in the fall of 2021. The study of theology is one of the final steps before ordination.

Sullivan, a native of Indiana, is in the fourth year of his theology studies and was recently ordained a transitional deacon, the final step before ordination to the full priesthood, which he expects to occur next summer. Sullivan has been at Creighton for two years and says no end to his time at the University has been set.



DAVE WEAVER

## PHARMACIST FEELS CALL TO DEEPER VOCATION

**DZAO VU, BORN AND RAISED** in impoverished, post-war Vietnam, sees things you don't.

He sees his paternal grandmother gathering clandestinely in unapproved religious gatherings where she and other members of the Legion of Mary evangelize the Catholic faith. He sees them gathering publicly in Saigon at Sunday Mass, dressed in white and sitting together — a coded testimony to their allegiance to a global Catholic evangelical movement of some 10 million people that in 2021 will mark its 100th anniversary.

He hears things you don't. He hears his grandmother and her co-religionists discussing the spiritual and physical needs of the people they secretly teach, and he hears the stories they tell of the thousands of martyrs — native Vietnamese, and French missionaries — killed between 1745 and 1862, from whose ranks emerged 117 saints canonized by St. John Paul II in 1988, an event the government of Vietnam would not permit its citizens to attend.

These stories, Vu says, impressed upon him the vigor of the Catholic faith during the first 17 years of his life spent growing up in revolutionary Vietnam. Under the watchful eye of a communist government that monitored closely all expressions of religious faith, there matured within him convictions that eventually led him to the Society of Jesus, a path that currently, and for a little while longer, sees him serving as an instructor at the Creighton School of Pharmacy and Health Professions. There he serves as chaplain to first-year physical therapy students and leads them in their studies of anatomy.

Dzao Vu, SJ, PharmD, now in the regency period of his Jesuit formation, lives with the Jesuit community at Creighton Hall. Ahead lie studies in theology, ordination to the transitional diaconate and then, in approximately three years, ordination to the priesthood.

Much has happened along the way, including an experience Vu says he values greatly — his missioning after first vows to Loyola University Chicago where he studied public health, a credential that permits him to co-teach third-year

pharmacy students at Creighton in a required public health course.

It's a world away from what he knew.

In a country where a combination of Catholic and South Vietnamese identity was enough to bar entry to a university, it would have been easier to go along to get along. But, Vu said, he found he could not forget those grandmotherly testimonies, deny his faith, or embrace communist culture.

"I would sit and listen to these heroic women telling these stories about how people practiced their faith until they were killed," he says. "That is how the seeds of Catholic faith blossomed in Vietnam. Hearing about our ancestors, I just didn't want to give up. If the government oppressed me, then I would stand up, I would not surrender my Catholic faith."

Vu, now 44, came to the United States in 1992 with his mother, his carpenter father who spent eight years in a Vietnamese "re-education" camp, and one other sibling. Two older siblings would join them later, courtesy of a family reunification program sponsored by the late U.S. Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz. A third

© Dzao Vu, SJ, PharmD, in the Cheryl and Robert Greenwood, BSPH'77 Family Pharmacy Skills Lab at Creighton. Fr. Vu is an instructor in the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions and serves as chaplain to first-year physical therapy students.



sibling remains in Vietnam, where she is married.

His father's prison camp years were another formative influence, Vu says.

"During those years my mother single-handedly raised five children," he says. "She had to support my father, too. At first, we didn't know if he would ever be released, so we visited him and stayed in touch."

When the Vu family arrived in Houston in 1992 as beneficiaries of an agreement between Vietnam and the U.S. that permitted Vietnamese emigration, they immediately joined one of 10 Vietnamese parishes. The search for employment soon led the family to Omaha where Vu's parents, now 80 and 83, still reside.

The road from that day to Vu's commitment to the Jesuit path in 2014 has been winding.

He attended Omaha Central High School, where he often gazed over Creighton's campus, never dreaming his future lie there. He earned his pharmacy doctorate at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. Then, a memorable conversation with Creighton Jesuit the Rev. Larry Gillick, SJ, assisted by friendships with Vietnamese Jesuit scholastics, followed by work as a pharmacist in Las Vegas, led him to a decision that the priestly life really was his calling.

"I had established a career as a pharmacist, but I thought to myself, 'Well, what is the purpose of my life?' I felt a call to a deeper vocation. I decided to maximize my gifts by becoming a Jesuit — to educate, to serve and to help the less fortunate."

## A CALLING REALIZED

**JEFF SULLIVAN SAYS HIS FRIENDS** always figured he'd be a Jesuit.

Sullivan himself wasn't so sure. It was not, after all, until six years after he graduated from Creighton in 2003 with a BA in English that he formally joined the Society of Jesus. But those intervening six years confirmed that life as a Jesuit beckoned.

From 2003 to 2004, he worked with Legal Action of Wisconsin as a Jesuit volunteer, and then until 2006 as staff. From 2006 to 2008, he worked with the Working Boys Center, now known as the Center for Working Families, a Jesuit mission in Quito, Ecuador, and then from 2008 to 2009 at the Red Cloud Indian School, a Jesuit institution on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota.

That's a lot of Jesuit for someone who wasn't actually a Jesuit.

© Jeff Sullivan, SJ, BA'03, inside St. John's Church where he was recently ordained a transitional deacon, the last step before being ordained a priest next summer.



"Even though I eventually joined, and really always knew it was where I should be, I was still a little resistant," he says. "I wanted all the joy of being a Jesuit but without the responsibilities."

Sullivan speaks those words with an easy laugh, as he does often, and about much. A native of Indianapolis and the son of practicing Catholics who he says sacrificed much to ensure that he and his brother received a Catholic education, Sullivan says two profound experiences persuaded him to make, and keep, the Jesuit commitment.

The first consisted of completing the famous *Spiritual Exercises*, which are descended from the practices of Society of Jesus founder

St. Ignatius of Loyola and are designed to deepen a prayerful relationship with God.

"That was a really profound prayer experience of being loved unconditionally," he says. "I think we tell ourselves that we are unconditionally loved, but it's one thing to know it in our head but it's another to feel it in the heart. I don't think I had really felt it before in that way."

Then, after joining the Jesuits in 2009, Sullivan took the first step on the long road to ordination when he was handed \$30, a one-way bus ticket to Mexico and told to trust God. Many of his Jesuit brothers who faced the same trial found themselves living in homeless shelters and walking a path of poverty in homage to

"It's not just an exciting journey, which is how people like to think of a pilgrimage, it is a test of your ability to love and accept love unconditionally."

JEFF SULLIVAN, SJ, BA'03

the founders of the Society of Jesus, who lived almost 500 years ago.

But Sullivan's fate was happier, uncomfortably so.

"When I got to Mexico, I was pretty quickly escorted to a Jesuit service project near the Guatemalan border working with people who were immigrating through Mexico from Guatemala to the United States," he recalls.

"It was pretty easy because I spoke Spanish, and I was white, so they kind of knew that I was a seminarian. I stayed with this family and was treated really well. They gave me six meals a day, and I remember feeling that this wasn't right, that I should be competing with Ignatius, that I should be with the poor, that I should be suffering."

His fear that he was "doing the pilgrimage wrong" was allayed after a conversation with his novice master who told him he was being asked to receive gratefully the gift of love.

"That was really powerful," Sullivan says. "It's not just an exciting journey, which is how people like to think of a pilgrimage, it is a test of your ability to love and accept love unconditionally."

"Those are the two experiences that gave me the freedom to say yes to the Jesuits — the understanding that saying yes had nothing to do with what I'm going to do in the world, but everything to do with how I can be present in what God is already doing."

Sullivan, recently ordained a transitional deacon, the last step before being ordained a priest next summer, brings a light touch to his ministry. The days of the priest-as-authority-figure are fading, he says, and being replaced by priests who lead the way to God by demonstrating authenticity in an inauthentic world.

It's a philosophy he brings to his current role as pastoral coordinator for Creighton's Campus Ministry program.

A simple internet search turns up a series of short pieces by Sullivan published at *The Jesuit Post*. They deal with real-life issues and are peppered with popular culture references.

"I think people from the baby boomer generation down are resistant to the idea of authenticity," he says. "People are drawn to authenticity. Reality TV, for example, is not real at all. I think people are hungering for an authenticity the world is not providing, and that consumerism does not provide. Young people more than anybody hunger for that."



# Pursue Excellence



“At Creighton, there’s a high level of thoughtfulness to be the best at what you’re doing and pursue excellence. My first experience pursuing my master’s at Creighton was so powerful that I ultimately decided to stay for my doctorate. I understood the people. I felt connected to the University.”

— Charles Thomas Jr., MS’09, EdD’14

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# ALUMNI NOTES

## Send Us Your News

Penned your long-awaited novel? Traveled around the world? Received that awesome promotion? Earned a prestigious honor? If so, we want to hear about it. Share your memories and milestones by emailing us at [alumninews@creighton.edu](mailto:alumninews@creighton.edu).

**62 John G. Manesis, MD**, Fargo, North Dakota, has a new book available at Amazon books, *Tails & Tales*, a collection of his cat poems.

**68 Patrick J. Ryan, MD**, Camarillo, California, and his wife, Nora, were recipients of the Msgr. Anthony Brouwers Award at the Annual Heart for the World Gala in Los Angeles on March 7, 2020. The award, presented by the Mission Doctors Association, recognized their faith and service to their community and world.

**73 David G. Sabott, DDS**, Erie, Colorado, was installed as president-elect of the American Board of Orthodontics (ABO) on May 1, 2020. He will become ABO president in the 2021-2022 year. Sabott maintains a private practice in Brighton, Colorado.

**76 Daniel E. Monnat, JD**, Wichita, Kansas, of Monnat & Spurrier, Chartered, was named to the *Best Lawyers in America 2021* list in four practice areas: criminal defense-general practice; criminal defense-white collar; bet-the-company litigation; and appellate practice. Monnat has been honored by the publication for 33 consecutive years. Monnat

also was named to the *Who’s Who Legal* as one of the world’s leading practitioners in the Investigations sector.

**77 John P. Heithoff, JD**, Council Bluffs, Iowa, recently published the children’s book, *Heather Boots*.

**82 Molly Byron Hill, BA**, Minnetonka, Minnesota, is the founding editor of an online literary journal for students (ages 13-22) called *Blue Marble Review*. The journal has been publishing online for five years and its first print anthology was printed this fall from Wise Ink Press. The current project is a COVID Stories section where students were invited to submit short essays about their experience coping with the current virus crisis. You can read more about the project and the essays at [bluemarblereview.com/covid-stories](http://bluemarblereview.com/covid-stories). **Darrell D. Klein, JD**, Lincoln, Nebraska, retired in May 2020 as deputy director of public health for the state of Nebraska after 31 years of service. Klein’s primary responsibility as deputy director was regulation of Nebraska’s health care facilities, health care professions and environmental health professions. He also assisted with

responsibility for community and rural health planning, health promotion, lifespan health services, public health preparedness and emergency response, epidemiology and informatics, and vital records.

**83 James D. Dati, JD**, Naples, Florida, was selected for inclusion in *Best Lawyers in America 2021* in real estate law. Dati is an attorney in the Naples office of Bond, Schoeneck & King. **Stephen A. Donato, JD**, Fayetteville, New York, was recognized as a super lawyer in the *2020 Upstate New York Super Lawyer* in the bankruptcy-business practice area. In addition, he was selected for inclusion in *Best Lawyers in America 2021* in the field of bankruptcy and creditor debtor rights/insolvency and reorganization law and litigation-bankruptcy. Donato is an attorney in the Syracuse, New York, office of Bond, Schoeneck & King.

**86 Elizabeth S. Frenzel, MMin**, Omaha, recently retired after 14 years working in the development office of the VNA of Northwest Indiana.

**87 Catherine Moore Hanaway, BA**, St. Louis, was elected to serve as the next chair of

Husch Blackwell in St. Louis. Formerly U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Missouri and speaker of Missouri’s House of Representatives, Hanaway joined Husch Blackwell in 2013 and played a key role in forming — and then leading — the firm’s Government Solutions group. She will be the firm’s first female chair beginning in April 2021.

**88 Robert P. Mancuso Jr., MBA**, Omaha, was inducted into the Nebraska Baseball Hall of Fame. Mancuso played at Iowa State from 1980-1983. He was named Academic All-Big Eight, All District and All American. He played professionally in Italy and also semi-professional baseball. He is chairman of the Greater Omaha Sports Committee. **The Hon. Mary “Peg” Zerse Stevens, JD**, Elkhorn, Nebraska, was appointed as separate juvenile court judge of Douglas County by Nebraska Gov. Pete Ricketts. Prior to her appointment, Stevens was a partner at Carlson & Burnett LLP since 2008. She previously served as a deputy county attorney in Sarpy County (Nebraska) and a special prosecutor in Douglas County (Nebraska).



**91 The Hon. Susan Larson Christensen, JD, Harlan,** Iowa, was named chief justice of the Iowa Supreme Court by her fellow justices. Christensen was appointed to the Iowa Supreme Court in 2018. Prior to her appointment to the Iowa Supreme Court, she was a district judge of the Iowa Fourth Judicial District from 2015 to 2018, and was an associate judge of the same district from 2007 to 2015.

**92 Susan M. Maryott, BA,** Chicago, was honored as one of the Cynopsis Top Women in Media in the "Directors Who Do it All" category. Maryott is the coordinating producer-live events for the Big Ten Network.

**93 The Hon. Frankie B. Jones, BA'90, JD,** Goodyear, Arizona, was appointed a municipal court judge at the

Phoenix (Arizona) Municipal Court. Prior to her appointment, Jones was deputy legal defender in the Office of the Legal Defender Maricopa County. From 1998-2019 she was a deputy county attorney at the Maricopa County Attorney's Office, where she was assigned to various bureaus. For 12 years she was the bureau chief of the Probation Violation Bureau and later Justice Court West Bureau. **The Hon. Julie Dreckman Schumacher, JD,** Schleswig, Iowa, was appointed as a judge of the Iowa Court of Appeals by Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds. Prior to her appointment, Schumacher served as district court judge in judicial election district 3B. She previously served as a district associate judge, an assistant county attorney for Crawford County (Iowa) and an assistant city attorney for Denison, Iowa. She also engaged in private

practice in Denison for nearly 20 years.

**00 The Hon. Bryan C. Meisner, JD,** Fremont, Nebraska, was appointed district judge of northeast Nebraska's 6th Judicial District by Nebraska Gov. Pete Ricketts. Prior to his appointment, Meisner served as a public defender for Butler and Colfax counties in Nebraska. From 2002 to 2018, he was an associate attorney with the Register Law Office in Fremont. **Chad P. Richter, JD,** Valley, Nebraska, was recently featured in the *Chambers USA 2020 Guide*, a publication ranking the leading lawyers and law firms across the U.S. Richter is office managing principal of the Omaha office of Jackson Lewis P.C. and is a member of the firm's board of directors. His practice focuses on preventive counseling and training

for employers, traditional labor law and workplace litigation.

**02 Nathan D. Rempe, MS,** Lincoln, Nebraska, was recently promoted to president and chief operating officer of Omaha Steaks. Rempe had served the company as vice president and chief information officer for four years prior to his promotion.

**03 The Hon. Robert L. Rice, JD,** Maryville, Missouri, was appointed as associate circuit judge for the Fourth Judicial Circuit by Missouri Gov. Mike Parson. Rice served as the Nodaway County prosecuting attorney since 2011.

**05 Beaux D. Cole, PharmD,** Jacksonville, Illinois, was sworn in as president of the Illinois Pharmacists Association (IPhA) in the fall of 2019. Cole also recently sold his pharmacies and began working as a clinical pharmacist in an ambulatory clinic in internal medicine for Southern Illinois University School of Medicine. Among his clinic duties are being a preceptor for student pharmacists, diabetes medication management, naloxone training and education, and assisting low income patients with access to their medications. In late September 2020, he made the transition from president of IPhA to the chairman of the board.

**06 John R. Steigauf, BSBA,** Waukegan, Illinois, formerly an associate trial lawyer at Gibson Lewis, was named partner at the new law firm Gibson Steigauf in Waukegan. The firm continues to practice exclusively on behalf of plaintiffs in personal injury, medical negligence, product liability and workers' compensation.

**07 The Hon. Matthew T. Klahn, JD,** Sterling, Illinois, was appointed associate circuit judge in the Illinois Fifteenth Judicial Circuit. Klahn primarily serves in Lee County, Illinois. Prior to his appointment, Klahn was the Lee County state's attorney. **The Hon. Roger Sailer, JD'07,** Schleswig, Iowa, was appointed district court judge of Northwest Iowa's 3B Judicial District by Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds. Prior to his appointment, Sailer had been the Crawford County (Iowa) attorney

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since 2013 and was the Crawford County assistant attorney from 2008 to 2013. He also was an associate with Mundt, Franck & Schumacher Law Firm in Denison, Iowa, from 2007 to 2013.

**Ashlee Minton Vieregger, BSBA,** West Des Moines, Iowa, was named to the *Des Moines Business Record's* 21st annual "Forty Under 40" list of honorees in February 2020. Vieregger is vice president, managing wealth advisor at Bankers Trust in Des Moines. **Dr. Matthew D. Willis, BS,** Papillion, Nebraska, was named the Nebraska Optometric Association's Young Optometrist of the Year during the association's virtual annual convention in October 2020. Willis currently serves as vice president of the association and has served on its board of directors since 2016. He is a graduate of the association's leadership institute, serves on the association's education and legislative committees, and helps coordinate optometrists'

involvement in advocacy and political affairs. He practices at Midwest Eye Care in Omaha.

**08 Allison M. Hardy, BA'04, JD,** Omaha, joined MGP Ingredients, Inc., as the new assistant general counsel. She assists in the direction of MGP's legal affairs, including providing counsel on the business and legal ramifications of strategic initiatives and negotiating contracts. **Megan Schumacher Mulherin, BSN,** New Braunfels, Texas, earned a Master of Science in Nursing in December 2018 at the University of South Carolina. She currently is a nurse practitioner at Austin Heart in San Marcos, Texas.

**09 Rachel Mans McKenny, BA,** Boone, Iowa, will publish her first novel, *The Butterfly Effect*, in December 2020. For more information about the book, visit [rachelmansmckenny.com](http://rachelmansmckenny.com).

**12 Nicole Bohe Howard, MS'11, JD,** Omaha, entered the real

estate business in November 2019 as an agent with Nebraska Realty in Omaha.

**14 Murphy E. Morrison, BSBA,** Chicago, recently published her crime-fiction novel, *Ashes Ashes*.

**17 Jayson M. Boyers, EDD,** Wayne, Pennsylvania, is the president of Rosemont College, a private Catholic liberal arts college in Rosemont, Pennsylvania. **Quinn R. Eaton, JD,** Omaha, was recognized as a Rising Star in Employment Litigation-Defense in the *2020 Great Plains Super Lawyers* list. Eaton is an attorney at Husch Blackwell in Omaha.

**19 Jamie M. Janovec, BSN,** Omaha, volunteered with Team Rubicon Disaster Response in September 2020 in Lake Charles, Louisiana, to help with hurricane relief. She served as the safety officer/nurse for her home base and worked on placing tarp on damaged roofs.

**20 Joseph F. Willms, JD,** Omaha, joined the law firm of Woods Aitken in Omaha as an associate attorney. He provides counseling and representation to public and private employers on a wide range of labor and employment law matters.

## WEDDINGS

**86 Elizabeth S. Frenzel, MMIn,** and Dr. Jack D. Angus, June 27, 2020, living in Omaha.

**05 Jessica L. Moore, BSN,** and Ross Silverberg, March 7, 2020, living in San Diego.

**08 Megan K. Schumacher, BSN,** and Dr. Patrick Mulherin, April 27, 2019, living in New Braunfels, Texas.

**14 Ajla Aljic, MS, JD,** and Matt Laigo, Aug. 1, 2020, living in Seattle.

**15 Alexis M. Tafoya, BA,** and Thayron Jensen, May 14, 2019, living in Las Vegas.



## BIRTHS

**01** Joseph R. Bezousek, BSBA, and Rebecca Stiverson Bezousek, BSN, Omaha, a daughter, Katherine Juliet Kailani, Nov. 1, 2019.

**07** Nicholas J. Langel, BSBA, and Pamela Ziegler Langel, BA, Omaha, a daughter, Olivia Ziegler, Feb. 28, 2020.

**08** Dr. Patrick Mulherin and Megan Schumacher Mulherin, BSN, New Braunfels, Texas, a son, Emmett Michael, Feb. 4, 2020.

**11** Riley T. Becker, BSBA, and Megan Kuntuzos Becker, BSBA'13, Minneapolis, a daughter, Charlotte Darlene, June 14, 2020.

**12** Edward M. Saito, PharmD, and Dr. Karen Heisler, Sherwood, Oregon, a daughter, Adelaide Rose Yachiyo, July 26, 2020.

**15** Alecander D. Johnson, OTD, and Katelyn Johnson, Lincoln, Nebraska, a daughter, Charlotte Louise, March 16, 2020. Thayron Jensen and Alexis Tafoya Jensen, BA, Las Vegas, a son, Asher Graham, Feb. 10, 2020.

**17** Drew Thompson and Katie Huyck Thompson, PharmD, Omaha, a son, Hayden Paul, April 26, 2020.

## DEATHS

**38** Paul F. Westfall, BS'36, MS, Kansas City, Missouri, Aug. 27, 2020.

**45** Mary Medelman Zimmerman, SJN, Santa Rosa, California, Aug. 7, 2020.

**47** John E. Cleary, JD, Omaha, April 1, 2020.

**48** Dr. Ernest H. Price, BS, Portland, Oregon, Aug. 20, 2020.

**49** William T. Dresler, BS, Morgantown, West Virginia, June 14, 2020.

**50** Fred E. Kouri, BS, Des Moines, Iowa, Aug. 12, 2020.

**51** James V. Haney Sr., ARTS, Detroit Lakes, Minnesota, July 24, 2020. Mary Kavanagh Peltzer, BS, Goddard, Kansas,

Aug. 27, 2020. Richard F. Stageman, BS'49, JD, Norwalk, Iowa, Aug. 21, 2020.

**52** Russell H. Ferris, BS, Richmond, Indiana, Aug. 4, 2020.

**53** Alicia Dooley O'Neill, SCN, Omaha, Aug. 19, 2020.

**54** Michael O. Barmettler, BS, Omaha, Oct. 6, 2020. Robert J. Buchman, MD, Lincoln, Nebraska, Aug. 4, 2020. John F. "Jack" Gibbs Jr., BS, Omaha, Aug. 8, 2020. Donald F. O'Leary, BUSADM, Omaha, Sept. 29, 2020.

**55** Dr. Patricia L. Demuth, BSN, St. Louis, July 14, 2020. John F. "Jack" Lubeley, BUSADM, Lakeville, Minnesota, July 28, 2020.

**56** Marion A. Szalewski, BUSADM, Omaha, Sept. 10, 2020.

**57** James E. Chamberlain, BS, Omaha, Sept. 27, 2020. Edward F. Forbes, MD, Bloomington, Minnesota, Aug. 31, 2020. Robert "Bob" Gibson, ARTS, Bellevue, Nebraska, Oct. 2, 2020. Sr. Isabel Lehmenkuler, BS'53, MSEdu, Louisville, Kentucky, May 24, 2020. Samuel G. Novak, DDS, Broomfield, Colorado, Oct. 9, 2020. Jacqueline Burton Rallis, SJN, Council Bluffs, Iowa, Aug. 4, 2020. Jean Kenny Targy, ARTS, Bellevue, Nebraska, Aug. 25, 2020. Donald E. Weber, BS, Omaha, Sept. 8, 2020.

**58** Daniel J. Crowe, BS, Indianapolis, Sept. 27, 2020. Ronald A. Kohles, ARTS, Omaha, Aug. 3, 2020. George G. Mary, DDS, Fairfield, California, Aug. 4, 2020. John H. O'Gara, BSBA, Plano, Texas, July 24, 2020.

**59** Wayne D. Fickes, BSPha, North Platte, Nebraska, Aug. 4, 2020. Sr. Bernadine Nash, OSU, MA, Louisville, Kentucky, June 3, 2020. James A. Taphorn, BSBA, Omaha, Aug. 18, 2020. Richard J. Udouj, BSBA, Fort Smith, Arizona, Oct. 4, 2020.

**60** Anthony J. Cherek, ARTS, Gretna, Nebraska, Sept. 1, 2020. John F. "Fred" Green, BS'56, MD, Bettendorf, Iowa, July 30, 2020. Sr. M. Annunciata Muth, OSU, MA, Masonic Home, Kentucky, Feb. 9, 2020.

**61** John E. Chapuran, BA'59, JD, St. Paul, Minnesota, May 2, 2020. Francis E. Kruml, BSBA, Lincoln, Nebraska, Aug. 28, 2020. Sr. Lorraine Maginot, MA, Louisville, Kentucky, May 24, 2020.

**62** David A. Brosnihan, ARTS, Worcester, Massachusetts, Aug. 16, 2020. Robert A. Doyle, BSPha, Council Bluffs, Iowa, Sept. 14, 2020. William L. Monahan, BS'59, JD, Omaha, Sept. 19, 2020.

**63** Dr. Robert L. Broghammer, ARTS, Clear Lake, Iowa, Sept. 10, 2020. Jack J. Lieb, BA, Cordova, South Carolina, Sept. 20, 2020.

**65** Jerome J. Adamek, BA, Forsyth, Montana, Aug. 31, 2020. Stephen E. Reznak, MD, Wynnewood, Pennsylvania, Sept. 3, 2020.

**66** Eugene C. Latta, BSPha, Granbury, Texas, Sept. 3, 2020.

**67** Don R. Cherek, BSPha, Bainbridge, Washington, April 5, 2020. Joseph L. Troska, MD, Ada, Oklahoma, April 4, 2020.

**68** Harold J. Slaight, MBA, Omaha, Sept. 9, 2020.

**69** Gary L. Anderson Sr., BA, Omaha, Sept. 28, 2020. Kevin E. Conboy, MD, Greenwich, Connecticut, Aug. 5, 2020. Mark D. Topf, MSEdu, Dubuque, Iowa, Sept. 4, 2020.

**71** Bernadette Lankas Egr, BSN, David City, Nebraska, Sept. 6, 2020. Patrick W. Kronmiller, MD, Springville, Utah, Aug. 16, 2020. William D. McCarthy, BSBA, Denver, July 17, 2020. Catherine Bausch Westphalen, BSRT, Bellingham, Washington, August 2020.

**72** Michael D. Hendrickson, DDS, Mesa, Arizona, July 27, 2020.

**73** Douglas S. Lash, JD, Omaha, Oct. 7, 2020. Charles J. Prorok, BA, Rockford, Illinois, Sept. 2, 2020.

**75** Dennis L. Green, BSSOC'71, BSPha, Brighton, Iowa, Oct. 8, 2020. Ann Sanduski Micek, BA, Omaha, Aug. 22, 2020. Donald H. Molstad, JD, Sioux City, Iowa, April 20, 2020.

**76** Kevin T. Freeman, ARTS, Albany, New York, April 15, 2020.

**78** Bruce E. Haynes, MD, San Diego, Sept. 5, 2020.

**79** Michael D. Kozlik, BSBA'75, JD, Omaha, Oct. 6, 2020. Rev. John O. McCaslin, MS, Omaha, Sept. 26, 2020. Robert A. Schindler, DDS, Bismarck, North Dakota, Oct. 1, 2020.

**80** Michael P. Carpenter, BSBA, Evanston, Illinois, Sept. 4, 2020.

**81** Stephen G. Brown, BSPha, Georgetown, Texas, March 29, 2020. Rev. Roger T. "Terrance" Cyr, MChrSp, Bogota, New Jersey, Sept. 26, 2020.

**83** Ernest E. Hooper, BSPha, Davenport, Iowa, Aug. 11, 2020. Dennis M. Scheffler, BSW, Council Bluffs, Iowa, Aug. 17, 2020.

**84** Sheree Ott, MLN, Trumbull, Nebraska, July 30, 2020.

**85** Cindy Thompson English, BSBA, Alpharetta, Georgia, Sept. 1, 2020.

**88** Sr. Frances M. Voigt, SMP, MMin, Valley City, North Dakota, Aug. 23, 2020.

**89** Betty J. Vaught, MA'71, MS, Albuquerque, New Mexico, Aug. 4, 2020.

**93** Khanh V. Le, MD, Las Vegas, May 2020. Rosemary Larson Sledge, BA'68, BSN, La Vista, Nebraska, Aug. 15, 2020.

**95** Richard J. Pulsipher, DDS, Herriman, Utah, Aug. 4, 2020.

**97** Rev. Paul M. Rooney, MA, Elkhorn, Nebraska, Aug. 24, 2020.

**98** Jeffrey R. Adams, JD, Prescott, Arizona, July 25, 2020.

**01** Shonda Byrd Bates, BS, Omaha, June 1, 2020.

**13** Daniel A. Allman, BS, Jacksonville Beach, Florida, Sept. 7, 2020.

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*Reunion*  
WEEKEND



**Mark your calendars to celebrate a milestone!**

Reunion Weekend 2021 will be a time to come together virtually, have fun and reconnect with Creighton. We're preparing a festive weekend full of entertainment for you and your classmates. Save the date, and stay tuned for more details.

creighton**alumni**

[creighton.edu/reunionweekend](https://creighton.edu/reunionweekend)

*Reunion Weekend 2021 is being planned with your health and safety in mind. We will keep you updated on any changes.*

