

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

CREIGHTON

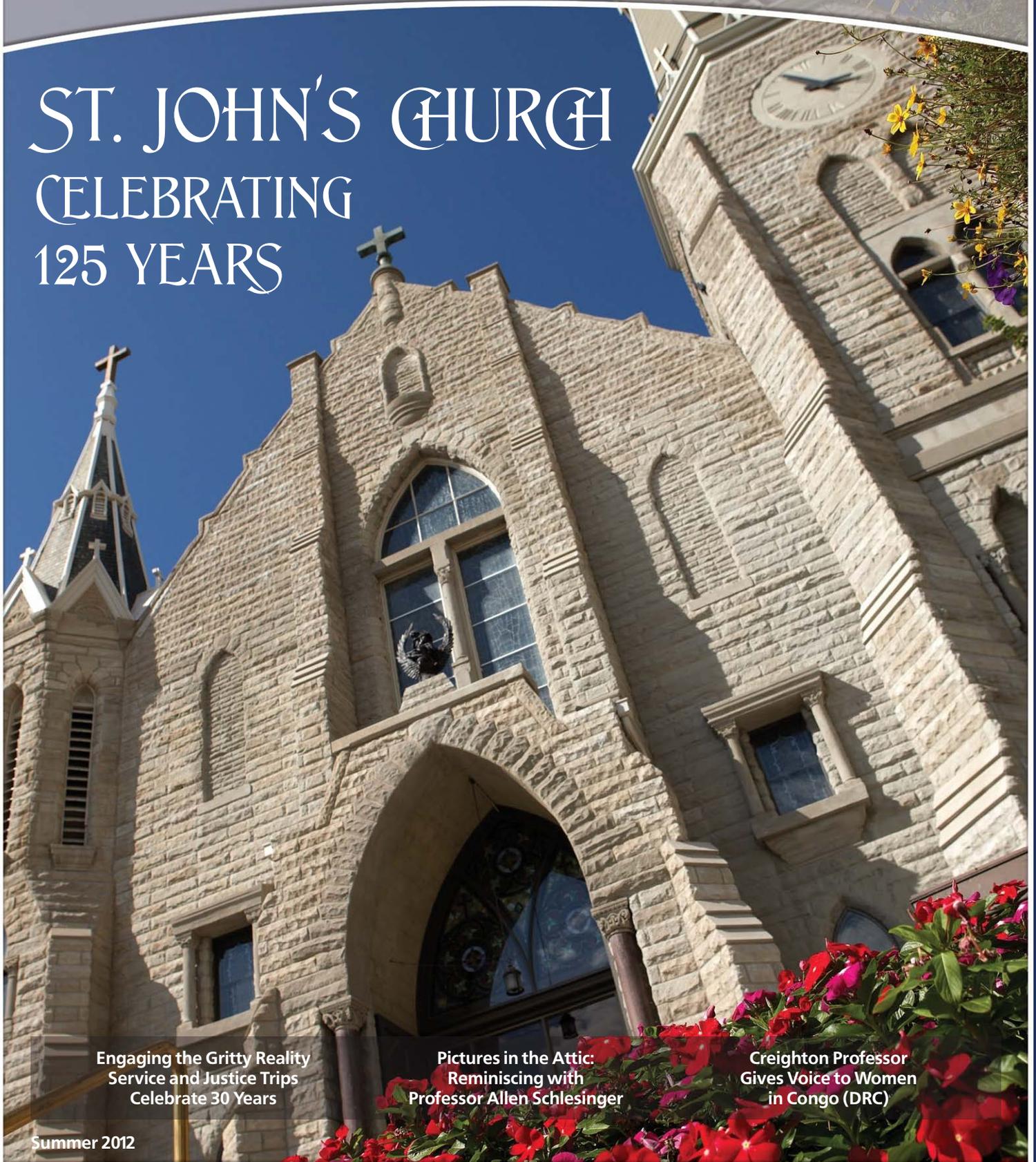
ST. JOHN'S CHURCH CELEBRATING 125 YEARS

Engaging the Gritty Reality
Service and Justice Trips
Celebrate 30 Years

Pictures in the Attic:
Reminiscing with
Professor Allen Schlesinger

Creighton Professor
Gives Voice to Women
in Congo (DRC)

Summer 2012



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SUMMER 2012

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



St. John's Church: Celebrating 125 Years 8

In June 1887, the laying of the cornerstone for St. John's Church was celebrated with much fanfare. Over the ensuing 125 years, St. John's has become the heart of Creighton's campus — both in its location and stature. Learn more about the history of this iconic Creighton structure.



Engaging the Gritty Reality 14

This spring, Creighton's service and justice trips (now held in the fall and spring) celebrated 30 years of outreach and reflection. Learn more about how these trips started and how they continue to transform students by allowing them to encounter — to borrow a phrase from a Jesuit leader — the "gritty realities" of life.

**Pictures in the Attic:
Reminiscing with Professor Allen Schlesinger 20**

Allen Schlesinger, Ph.D., professor *emeritus* of biology, reminisces on his nearly 50 years of teaching at Creighton, where life may have taken him had he not become a biologist and teacher, and the day a "streaker" interrupted one of his lectures.



**Creighton Professor Gives
Voice to Women in Congo (DRC)..... 26**

With a burning desire to help the women of her homeland, Creighton Professor Ngwarsungu Chiwengo is bringing a light of hope to this African nation — where mass rape has been epidemic — through her Congokazi: Congo Women Association. Read more about her story and how her organization is assisting Congolese women.



On the Cover:

Today, St. John's Church is recognized as an iconic campus structure and the spiritual hub of Creighton University. With its central location and its rich history as a welcoming place for prayer, worship, mourning and celebration, it is widely considered the heart of Creighton's campus.



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Message from the University President

A Memorable First Year

It's hard to believe it has been almost a year since I returned to my alma mater last August as president. I feel blessed to have been given this opportunity, and I am humbled by and grateful for the warm welcome that has been extended to me.

In my first year, I have come to know, once again, the outstanding commitment and dedication of our students, faculty, staff, Jesuits, alumni and friends to Creighton University. The Spirit of Creighton, which I mentioned in my inaugural address, is indeed alive and well.

Congratulations to our most recent graduates in May. We compliment you on your tremendous achievement, sacrifice and hard work, and we welcome you into an alumni community that spans the globe.

While Creighton University, like most institutions of higher education, faces its share of challenges, I believe that, like our graduates, we are well-positioned for the future.

In many ways, 2011-2012 was a banner year for Creighton University.

We welcomed a record number of students; launched new degree programs; were honored nationally for service to the community; received recognition for excellence from various national publications; and experienced tremendous success in athletics, with conference championships and NCAA tournament appearances in men's and women's basketball, baseball and men's soccer.

We also announced a historic partnership with Alegent Health — the largest not-for-profit, faith-based healthcare provider in Nebraska and southwest Iowa. Through this new affiliation, Alegent will acquire Creighton University Medical Center, and Alegent's healthcare network of 10 hospitals and more than 100 sites of service will become the primary teaching sites for our School of Medicine and health sciences schools. Creighton will retain control of the education component.

In my inaugural address last September, I addressed the changing face of healthcare in America and stressed that Creighton has provided excellent, compassionate and ethical medical education for more than a hundred years and will continue its legacy for at least a hundred more.

I believe that this partnership will help us meet that obligation.

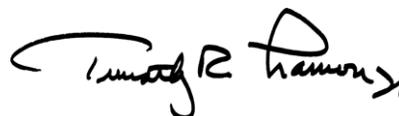
Since the public announcement of this agreement on April 24, work groups from Creighton and Alegent have been finalizing the transition to ensure the best possible environment for teaching, learning and patient care. I am thankful to all of those who have worked so hard to make this partnership a reality. We are bringing together two like-minded organizations that will provide our students, physicians and patients with

a much larger healthcare network for education and compassionate care.

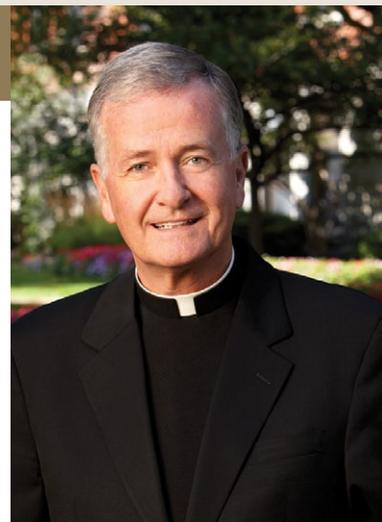
While I am proud of our accomplishments over the past academic year, I am reminded of what I told our graduates at commencement: "Many exciting opportunities are ahead." I believe this holds true for our University, as it does for our graduates. Some items of note:

- We busily continue with our strategic planning efforts — creating a roadmap for Creighton's future. Nine task forces are in the final stages of analyzing our strengths and opportunities, benchmarking programs related to their specific goals and refining recommended initiatives. The goal is to create a final strategic plan for review and budget modeling by next spring.
- Construction of the Rasmussen Fitness and Sports Center, just east of the Wayne and Eileen Ryan Athletic Center, is progressing ahead of schedule and should be completed by Nov. 1.
- Preliminary enrollment reports for this fall's entering class look good. We anticipate welcoming 1,000 new freshmen and transfer students when classes begin in August. In addition, the high school class ranking and ACT scores of this entering class place them among the top 7 percent of students in the nation. Impressive indeed!
- We have plans to change our academic organizational structure to a provost model. Having a single academic leader to build the vision and strategies for our colleges and schools makes this model ideal for Creighton and provides greater opportunities for multidisciplinary programs. A search committee has been formed, and we hope to welcome a new chief academic officer to the University by January 2013.

I hope you have a safe and enjoyable summer. Please enjoy this issue of the *Creighton University Magazine*, and may God bless you and your families.



Timothy R. Lannon, S.J.
President



UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE CREIGHTON

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Creighton University Magazine's Purpose

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

Creighton Celebrates Commencement

Creighton University honored nearly 1,500 graduates at commencement ceremonies on May 12. The University also recognized the following individuals for their contributions to journalism, medicine, industry, education and the community.

Honorary Degree

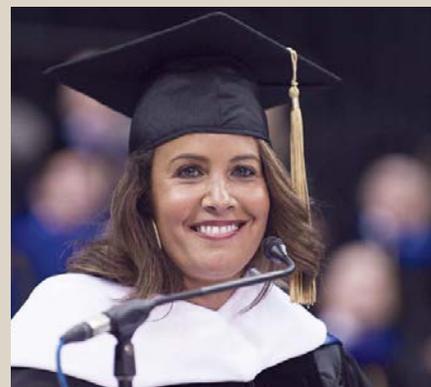
Suzanne Malveaux, CNN news anchor and former White House correspondent, received an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters. An accomplished broadcast journalist, Malveaux's reporting on government, politics and international events has significantly affected the field of journalism. She has brought far-reaching topics to the attention of the American public, and has interviewed officials at the highest levels of government, including former presidents George H.W. Bush, William J. Clinton and George W. Bush. Her coverage of presidential trips overseas has taken her to Europe, the Balkans, Southeast Asia, Africa, Australia, Latin America and the Middle East and, in the process, has placed Americans at the scene of world-changing events.

Alumni Achievement Citation

Creighton's Alumni Achievement Citation, the highest award given to a Creighton graduate, was presented to John Curtin, BS'75, MD'79. Curtin, a professor of obstetrics and gynecology, surgeon, writer and lecturer of international renown, has promoted high-quality, comprehensive clinical care in the field of gynecologic cancer and surgery. He is director of gynecologic oncology in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at New York University School of Medicine and served as the 43rd president of the Gynecologic Surgeon's Society, making him the first Creighton graduate to hold this prestigious position.



Fr. Lannon with John Curtin, BS'75, MD'79, who was presented with Creighton's highest alumni honor, the Alumni Achievement Citation.



Photos by Jim Fackler

CNN news anchor Suzanne Malveaux speaks at commencement. [Read the text of Malveaux's speech here.](#)

Presidential Medallions

Presidential Medallions were given to two Omaha-based organizations: Boys & Girls Clubs of the Midlands and Union Pacific.

Ivan Gilreath, CEO of Boys & Girls Clubs of the Midlands, received the Presidential Medallion in recognition of the club's 50th anniversary. Since 1962, through its eight neighborhood club locations, the Boys & Girls Clubs have helped youth ages six through 18, as they receive the direction and educational support that is vital to their success. Programs stress academic success, good character and citizenship, and healthy lifestyles.

John Koraleski, CEO of Union Pacific, received the Presidential Medallion in recognition of the company's 150th anniversary. Union Pacific has been a major employer that has contributed to the economic viability of the region and drawn recognition and leadership talent to the city, helping to put Omaha on the map. Union Pacific's leaders have provided Nebraskans with models of integrity, ethics and business acumen.

Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Award for Teaching Achievement

Ryan Anthony Spangler, Ph.D., assistant professor in modern languages, received the Creighton Students Union Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Award for Teaching Achievement.

Spangler's area of interest lies in 20th-century Spanish-American poetry. He teaches both introductory and upper-division courses. In his five years at Creighton, he has met the necessary requirements to get four Spanish courses approved to fulfill the certified writing core, and he has worked to restructure the requirements of the Spanish major and minor.

Graduates Honored With Spirit of Creighton Award

Edward Saito, PharmD'12, of Honolulu, and Melissa List, BSN'12, of Granville, Iowa, received the prestigious Spirit of Creighton Award at the University's commencement ceremonies on May 12.

The Spirit of Creighton Award honors graduates for their initiative, enterprise, academic achievement and outstanding character traits.

Saito said his first service-learning trip to the Dominican Republic, as part of the Institute for Latin American Concern (ILAC) at Creighton, was a "profound, life-changing experience." He participated in two service trips to the Dominican Republic, in 2008 and 2011. In addition to ILAC, Saito regularly volunteered during



Photo by Jim Fackler

Melissa List and Edward Saito received the 2012 Spirit of Creighton Award at May commencement.

his undergraduate and graduate school years. Inspired by a geriatric pharmacy course, Saito led an interdisciplinary team at an Omaha senior-living center in a program designed to prevent falls in elderly patients. That effort won a national award for community engagement from the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy. His personal

commitment to others and his motivational leadership as president of Creighton's Alpha Alpha chapter of the Rho Chi National Pharmacy Honor Society inspired others in the chapter to make meaningful contributions to the community.

List has been a tireless advocate for the poor and marginalized. List served as a leader with the Creighton Center for Service and Justice and many other volunteer efforts. She also taught religious education to children at St. John's parish on weekends. She was part of an interdisciplinary team of students and professionals that traveled to the Dominican Republic through ILAC to set up a medical clinic in a farming community. List is returning to the Dominican Republic this summer as a coordinator for that same program. She also served as a co-chair of an Adopt-A-Grandparent Program at Creighton and founded the annual Senior Citizen Prom.



Photo by Jim Fackler

Tragedy of S.S. *St. Louis* Remembered

As part of Holocaust Remembrance Day on April 19, Creighton University, in conjunction with Omaha's Jewish community, hosted a live docudrama titled "The Trial of Franklin D. Roosevelt," which examines the 1939 voyage of the S.S. *St. Louis*. The event was held in partnership with the Institute for Holocaust Education and The Durham Museum. The docudrama tells the story of the more than 900 Jewish men, women and children who, in 1939, traveled from Germany to Cuba aboard the *St. Louis* seeking asylum from Nazi persecution. The Jewish refugees were denied entrance to Cuba, and then the United States and Canada. The ship eventually returned to Europe, where the passengers gained refuge in France, Belgium and the Netherlands — but not safety from impending German invasions.

[Watch a short video of the event here.](#)



Photo by Jim Fackler

Rajmohan Gandhi accepts a Presidential Medallion from Creighton President Timothy R. Lannon, S.J.

Gandhi's Grandson Speaks at Creighton

Rajmohan Gandhi, the grandson of the late Mahatma Gandhi, whose nonviolent protest helped India gain its independence from British rule in 1947 and inspired civil rights movements worldwide, spoke at Creighton on April 23. His presidential lecture, sponsored by Creighton's Asian World Center, was titled "Larger than Politics, the World of Lincoln, King and Gandhi."

Creighton University President Timothy R. Lannon, S.J., presented Gandhi with a Presidential Medallion, and Omaha Mayor Jim Suttle presented him with a key to the city.

[Watch a short video of the event here.](#)

Woodard, Roskens Honored at Women's Athletics Fundraiser

Heidi Geier Woodard, BA'99, former Creighton award-winning softball player, active alumna and communicator, and Lisa Yanney Roskens, Omaha businesswoman, humanitarian, equestrian and sports enthusiast, were this year's recipients of Creighton's Leader for Life and Believe and Achieve awards, respectively.

The Creighton awards were presented at the Leaders for Life eighth annual fundraiser luncheon for women's athletics May 3 at the D.J. Sokol Arena inside the Wayne and Eileen Ryan Athletic Center. The Leader for Life award honors an individual whose actions have made a lasting impact on women's sports at the University; Believe and Achieve recognizes an outstanding individual who has enriched the community through emphasizing women's issues and female empowerment.

As a player in the 90s, Woodard remains Creighton's all-time stolen base leader, with

83 stolen bases. She twice earned Academic All-American honors, while leading Creighton to back-to-back Missouri Valley Conference regular-season titles. She ranks second in school history with 243 career hits, and her .358 career batting average ranks third among school leaders. She was the first to record two 70-hit seasons and is one of only five Bluejays with 200 career hits and 100 career runs.

Since receiving a journalism degree from

Creighton in 1999, Woodard has been putting her communication skills to good use at Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Nebraska. She also has embraced opportunities in new media, blogging on *maternalmedia.com*, *momaha.com* and on Q98.5 FM — opportunities she leverages to raise funds for nonprofits.

Roskens is chairman and CEO of the Burlington Capital Group LLC, an international investment management firm. She developed and oversees the company's strategic plan and opens new venture capital opportunities in the United States and abroad.

She also has provided leadership to a number of organizations, many of them in traditionally male-dominated arenas. She serves as chairman of America First Tax Exempt Investors, on the board of Agribusiness Partners International, and as chairman of Cantera Partners LLC. Roskens also serves on the board of directors of Doane College, is a past-member of the Brownell Talbot Preparatory School board of trustees and the Stanford Law School board of visitors.

Roskens also founded "Take Flight Farms," a program that incorporates horses into therapeutic and learning programs. Through equine-assisted psychotherapy, the organization helps more than 200 clients a year, more than half of them children. A sports enthusiast, she is a member of the board of the Omaha Sports Commission and is president of the Omaha Equestrian Foundation. Roskens also is founder and chairman of The International, a world-class equestrian competition run by the Omaha Equestrian Foundation. She is also a runner, and has competed in multiple marathons and triathlons, including the Hawaii Ironman Triathlon Championship in 1996.



Photos by Ford Jacobsen

Photo, left: Heidi Geier Woodard, BA'99, with Creighton softball coach Brent Vigness, received Creighton's Leader for Life award. Photo, right: Connie Ryan, ARIS'75, HON'11, left, presented Omaha businesswoman Lisa Yanney Roskens with Creighton's first Believe and Achieve award at the women's athletics luncheon.



Despite a disappointing last-place conference finish during the regular season, the Bluejay baseball coaches and players never stopped believing in each other. Their resolve tested, the Bluejays bounced back in a big way — winning the Missouri Valley Conference Tournament in May and earning an automatic bid to the NCAA tournament. Fittingly, the Jays, who became the lowest seed (No. 8) to ever win the MVC tournament, had to rally from 4-0 and 5-1 deficits to win the championship game 8-6 over Southern Illinois. The win gave Creighton, which also claimed the title in 2011, its first back-to-back championships in program history.

Two Inducted into Athletic Hall of Fame

Two former outstanding Creighton student-athletes — softball player Jody Schwartz Longballa, BA'89, and soccer player Ross Paule, BUS'98 — were inducted into the Creighton University Athletic Hall of Fame on April 9.

Schwartz Longballa is the sixth softball representative to enter into the Hall of Fame, and first since Heidi Geier Woodard in 2006.

Playing under her maiden name Jody Schwartz, she was named a first-team All-American as a senior in 1988, when she hit .340 with 10 doubles, four home runs and 36 RBIs to go along with a .989 fielding percentage. That same year, she posted a 10-5 record as a pitcher, recording a 1.14 ERA and 12 complete games in 17 starts.

She twice led the team in home runs and slugging percentage, and led the team in total bases three times. She finished as Creighton's career leader in doubles (36), RBI (113) and walks (78) in a school-record 222 games played — all of which still rank in the Bluejay top-10.

Creighton went 151-71 in her four seasons, including a fifth-place finish in the 1986 Women's College World Series. The 1988 squad began a run of three straight

trips to the NCAA Regionals.

Noted as a leader on and off the field, she and her husband, Ken, live in Reno, Nev., where she has been active in sports instruction for more than 20 years.

Paule played only three years at Creighton (1994-96) before being drafted into Major



Athletic Hall of Fame inductees Ross Paule, BUS'98, and Jody Schwartz Longballa, BA'89, are pictured with Athletics Director Bruce Rasmussen.

League Soccer, but he made significant and lasting contributions to the sport.

He is the only soccer player in school history to have earned first-team all-Missouri Valley Conference (MVC) honors in his first three seasons and the only one to finish his career with MVC Freshman/Newcomer of the Year, MVC Player of the Year and MVC Tournament

MVP honors.

Paule was the MVC Player of the Year and a finalist for the Hermann Trophy and the Missouri Athletic Club Player of the Year award (before the two were combined) in 1996, the year he led Creighton to its fifth straight MVC regular-season title and its first College Cup.

Paule's name remains prominent in the Bluejay record book to this day; he ranks fifth in multi-goal games (6), ninth in goals scored (28) and 10th in points (77). In 2006, he was named to the MVC's All-Centennial Team.

Following his junior season, Paule was drafted 11th overall by the Colorado Rapids in the second round of the 1997 Major League Soccer (MLS) draft. He played for the Colorado Rapids, Columbus Crew and N.Y./N.J. Metrostars during a nine-year MLS career, in which he was twice named an MLS All-Star.

Paule currently serves as the national soccer executive director for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and operates soccer camps and player-development training in Lakeland, Tenn., with a focus on helping youth soccer players reach their fullest potential. Paule and his wife, Laurie, have three children, Jordan (12), Emma (9) and Rossi (7).

Finance Department Receives High Ranking

The latest *U.S. News & World Report* 2012 Department of Finance ranking lists the Creighton University College of Business finance program at 19, tied with the Fisher School of Business at The Ohio State University, Olin School of Business at Washington University in St. Louis, and the Yale School of Management.

Anthony Hendrickson, Ph.D., dean of the College of Business, said the ranking is recognition of the quality of the faculty in Creighton's business school.

The College of Business offers many undergraduate and graduate finance programs, including the Center For Insurance and Risk Management, which partnered with The American College and the CFP Board of Standards in 2011 to implement unique programs for Creighton's finance students. Through these new programs, students can

receive credit from The American College toward their CLU and ChFC designations, as well as earn a Certificate in Professional Financial Planning that allows them to sit for the CFP Exam. Creighton is one of only seven universities in the country to have a Financial Planning Association chapter on campus.

Creighton also offers the Master of Security Analysis and Portfolio Management Program, which is designed to prepare students for advanced security analysis and portfolio management. The program is guided by a Code of Ethical Practices and Professional Conduct and uses as its foundation the curriculum of the Chartered Financial Analyst program.

OT, PT Programs Ranked by U.S. News

Creighton's School of Pharmacy and Health Professions doctoral degree programs in occupational therapy (No. 15) and physical therapy (No. 16) fared well in the latest *U.S.*

News & World Report rankings, released in March. Dean J. Chris Bradberry, Pharm.D., said he was pleased to have the two programs recognized for "consistently producing good results," noting that both programs moved up several notches since the last rankings.

Bradberry said the School has long led the way in recognizing the importance of high professional standards for occupational and physical therapists, as well as pharmacists, to give Creighton graduates the expertise and credentials to become key players in the management of today's increasingly complex healthcare needs. In 1993, Creighton introduced the nation's first Doctor of Physical Therapy degree and, in 1999, the University started the nation's first entry-level Doctor of Occupational Therapy degree.

U.S. News also lists occupational therapy (No. 10) and physical therapy (No. 8) among the "Best Jobs of 2012." Among the factors considered were salary, current and future job prospects, and room for professional growth.



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

CELEBRATING 125 YEARS

By Eugene Curtin

This summer marks the 125th anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone for St. John's Church. The historic church has since served as a beautiful cornerstone to the campus — its soaring ceilings, radiant stained glass windows and Gothic arches providing a vigorous center for Catholic worship.

From Easter Sunday, when packed pews reflect Christianity's holiest day, to ordinary Sundays, when Creighton University students attend evening Mass, this remarkable example of English Gothic architecture has sustained faith through war, depression, birth and death.

Its stature today would thrill members of the founding generation, who built the original church as a college chapel. The construction of St. John's Church was a much-anticipated event in the region in the late 1880s. Almost 4,000 people journeyed from a 50-mile radius to attend the cornerstone-laying on June 26, 1887 — a celebration that included Nebraska's governor, Omaha's mayor, the bishop of

Omaha, four bands and more than 600 members of Catholic societies. It is hard to imagine, though, that they could have foreseen the height of beauty or the power of spirituality the church would attain at the hands of their descendants.

The current pastor of St. John's is Patrick Malone, S.J., a Minnesota native whose piety leads him instinctively to demur when he and his predecessors are credited for the important role played by St. John's in the wider Creighton community. He admits only to signing the checks.

"The spiritual point is that Christ is in charge, not me," he said. "But, yes, He doesn't sign the checks, although perhaps He should."

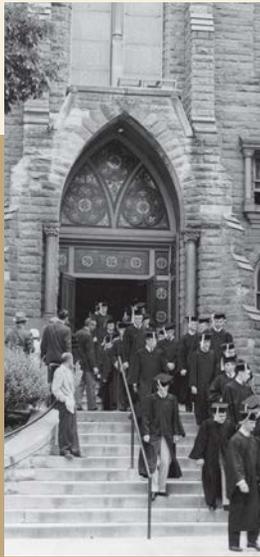


Photo Page 8: A “fish-eye” lens view of St. John’s Church following the renovations completed in 2007.

Top row, from left: Students celebrate the Eucharist at the annual Mass of the Holy Spirit in 2009; students exit St. John’s following the 1958 senior Mass.

Bottom row, from left: Creighton Jesuits enter a newly renovated St. John’s Church for the 2007 Mass of the Holy Spirit; the Creighton community gathers in prayer outside St. John’s Church following the 9/11 terrorist attacks; the church’s interior as it appeared in 1899.



One thing is certain: St. John’s is the center of Creighton’s spiritual life. Here, the lives of two members of the University’s founding family were commemorated in funeral Masses, a long line of University presidents has been inaugurated, and the Mass of the Holy Spirit kicks off every academic year.

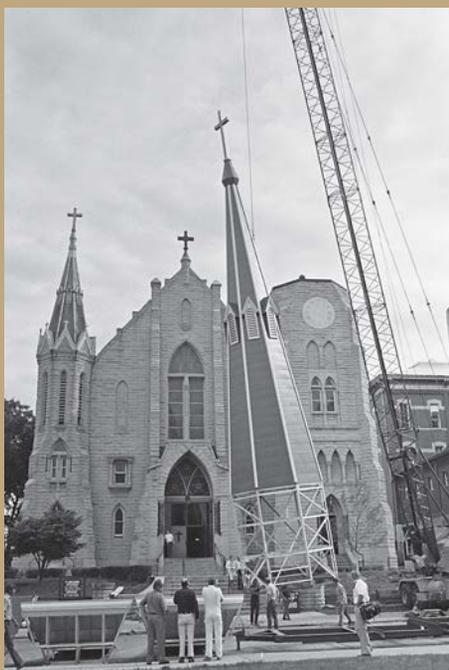
After the devastating terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, and the Dec. 5, 2007, murders at the Von Maur department store in Omaha, St. John’s served as a gathering point for prayer and mourning.

In a world of glass and steel architecture, it is the most striking structure on campus. St. John’s was formally dedicated on May 6, 1888 — 11 months after the cornerstone had been laid — in front of a festive and large gathering. Omaha Bishop James O’Connor, who had been instrumental in getting the Jesuits to operate the college at its opening some 10 years earlier, performed the dedication at the ceremony. As an interesting historical footnote, the bishop inadvertently dedicated the church in honor of St. John before the Latin Gate, whose feast day is May 6, rather than the intended St. John the Baptist — the patron saint of John Creighton, one of the University’s founding family members. The mistake did not affect the name of the church or its magnificence. St. John’s opened as the largest Catholic church in the city of Omaha. And its ambition matched its size.

With its construction, the campus now had a dedicated place of worship, beyond the multipurpose hall on the third floor of the old main building, which had doubled as a chapel on Sundays. But the dreams for St. John’s Church were even greater. From the beginning, Fr. Malone said, its founding members sought to reach beyond the Creighton campus. They aspired, in fact, to see St. John’s not just a college chapel but the center of a parish.

This was not a simple aspiration. St. John’s opened with no parish responsibilities — meaning the bishop’s prior approval was needed before events such as weddings, baptisms and funerals could be performed at the church. Irish-born Bishop Richard Scannell, who governed the church in Omaha from 1891 to 1916, believed that creating a new parish would hurt attendance at existing parishes. There had been some indication of this already, as people attending St. John’s were forgetting to support their designated parish churches. A compromise was reached, wherein the Jesuits agreed to transfer control of a local parish they oversaw to the Diocese of Omaha. The Vatican in Rome approved the arrangement, and, in 1897, Fr. Scannell announced that St. John’s was now officially a parish.

Fr. Malone said today’s parish encompasses much of the Creighton University area east of 30th Street and roughly from Cuming Street to Chicago Street.



Through the years ... (from top) St. John's Church in 1880, a student Mass in the 1940s, and the addition of the east steeple in 1977.

But its reach, as foreseen by Bishop Scannell, is much wider.

"We really don't have a neighborhood," Fr. Malone said. "People choose to come here. We have about 20 different ZIP codes represented every Sunday, some coming all the way from Lincoln (Neb.)."

"This is a choice they discern, something they want to do. They give up a lot to come here. The parking is not easy. It's wonderful that they make the effort to come, and, of course, we welcome them."

It is not hard to understand why. As welcoming and functional as ordinary parish churches may be, the grandeur of St. John's conveys the flavor of a cathedral, while its splendid iconography reflects the essence of an ancient tradition.

THE EARLY YEARS

It was not always so. There was a time when St. John's, its congregants buffeted by the economic depression of 1893, didn't get the attention it needed.

Designed in the English Gothic style by Omaha architect P.J. Creedon, it had cost around \$45,000 to build. The project was expected to cost \$50,000, but to save money, the church was built without the planned transept and apse, two traditional sections of a church that would come later. The sale of seven acres of land purchased some years earlier by Creighton's first president, Roman Shaffel, S.J., provided \$35,000 for the construction, and John Creighton donated the remaining \$10,000 on the day the cornerstone was laid. John McShane, president of the Union Stock Yards Company from 1884 to 1894 and a Creighton family relative, donated \$5,600 for the main marble altar, and several Creighton family members financed other amenities, such as an organ, side altars, stained glass windows and church furniture.

Even in the early years, the church began to be transformed, albeit methodically, as wooden steps gave way to stone, electric lights were installed, the interior was given religious art and a cross (most likely the one prominently displayed in the main altar) was gilded. After World War I ended in 1918, parishioners began formulating more robust changes to the church — resulting in a series of renovations between 1920 and 1923.

Wood was out, marble was in. Bronze and rolled gold added luster to an environment intended to glorify the presence of God and Christ. A pastor's residence was constructed; a parish hall was added; wood communion rails were replaced with marble; and bronze gates weighing 300 pounds each were erected. When the renovations and additions were completed, the capacity of St. John's had doubled from 500 worshippers to 1,000. The work cost an estimated \$150,000.

One of the great legends of St. John's Church, retold by Fr. Malone, is that parishioners donated gold jewelry, watches and medals so that they might be melted and used as gold plating for the tabernacle, the holy place where, since time immemorial, in the Hebraic and Christian traditions, the Divine presence resides. Among the donated jewelry, he said, is believed to have been a ring that had belonged to Mary Lucretia Creighton, whose bequest founded Creighton University.

While University records can neither confirm nor refute this particular account, the tabernacle — whether plated with long-ago gold or not — remains prominent in the old main altar, which, itself, is a focal point at the apse of the church (the semicircular area behind the current altar).

FAMILY CONNECTIONS

On Sept. 6, 1923, a familiar face returned home to join Omaha Bishop Jeremiah Harty in celebrating the renovations and additions to St. John's.

The Rev. Patrick McGovern, an Omaha orphan, who, in 1891, was one of five students awarded Creighton's first baccalaureate degrees — and later, in 1912, was consecrated Bishop of Cheyenne, Wyo., in a ceremony at St. John's — came home to give the prayer dedicating the renovated church to God and posterity.

Eight years prior to the renovations that culminated in 1923, in 1915, Frances McVey

married Joseph Mulligan before the old main altar, with its classic iconography and eye-catching spires.

It might not seem much to say that someone got married at St. John's, but Maureen McCann Waldron, BA'75, MA'98, associate director of Creighton's Collaborative Ministry Office, likes to tell the tale. For Frances McVey was the first of four women in what she calls the McVey-Mulligan-McCann-Waldron family to marry at the church.

It is among the longest generational streaks, though by no means the only one, at St. John's.

Frances died in 1976 in her 10th decade. By then she had seen her daughter, Rosemary, married in St. John's. And on July 12, 1975, she watched her granddaughter, Maureen, marry Jim Waldron inside the same sacred walls. Had she lived a while longer, Frances would have seen her great-granddaughter, Katy Waldron, do the same thing, at the same place, on July 15, 2011.

There can perhaps be little doubt where Katy's daughters will marry.

"It's a wonderful, sacred space for us," Maureen said of St. John's, a church that has seen not just four generational weddings but has also been the site of the funerals of her mother and father, and the baptism of her two children.

"It's been a wonderful tradition for us," she said. "It's a quiet, beautiful place. I love seeing students there in the middle of the day, taking a break from their lives."

The parishioners who performed the first great renovation and addition to St. John's during the 1920s could not have known, of course, that Maureen McCann would one day stand there to take her matrimonial vows, but they knew that such a thing was the point. That commitment to posterity transformed St. John's.

Mary Ann Greene Walsh believes the stained glass windows that line St. John's are the best in Omaha. She knows of what she speaks, having been baptized at the church in 1947, two years before her sister was baptized there and during the three years when the windows were being installed by the Schmitt Studio of Milwaukee.

There is much for her to admire. In the gleam of a setting sun, or in bright daylight, the windows speak mystically of the life course of Jesus of Nazareth, telling the stories of his life, of his position at the right hand of God, and, crucially, depicting the moment when Jesus gives to Peter the task of building his church, an act to which the Roman Catholic Church traces its origin and its mission.

In 1947, when the infant Mary Ann Greene felt the



Photo by Jim Fackler

Maureen McCann Waldron, BA'75, MA'98, inside St. John's Church, holds a wedding picture of her parents, Cletus Joseph McCann, BSC'41, JD'48, and Rosemary Mulligan McCann, BSC'41. Her family has had four generations get married at St. John's.

trickle of water on her forehead, the windows were only partially installed. Like those works of art, she, too, was at the beginning of a road that would build a lasting connection with St. John's.

"It's a symbol for our family of our past and our roots, and of our children and our wings," she said. "It's a quiet place where we find our grounding, that gives us comfort and allows us to grow, and lets us provide that comfort to future generations."

And, like the McVey-Mulligan-McCann-Waldron family, those roots grow deeper with every passing generation.

Her father, William Riley Greene was baptized at St. John's in 1894, she following suit in 1947.

Her sons, Michael and Brendon, were baptized there in 1980 and 1984, and her daughter, Abigail, followed her brothers in 1986. Michael was married there in August 2007. It was supposed to be July, but the church was in the final stages of its latest renovation, and St. Cecilia's Cathedral, the seat of the Omaha archdiocese, was suggested as an alternative.

But he wouldn't do it.

"If I can't get married at St. John's, then I might as well get married at a railway station," she recalls him saying. "That's my church."

Walsh said that sense of connection to St. John's reflects an involvement she remembers being especially strong in the 1950s.

"It was a lively parish in the '50s," she recalled. "There was a very busy men's club, a full working kitchen and St. John's grade school, which closed in 1968 when they knocked the school and a lot of houses down to build the freeway."



THE CANDLELIGHT MASS: A ST. JOHN'S TRADITION

For nearly four decades, students have gathered on Sunday nights at St. John's Church — by the warm glow of candlelight — to pray, to support each other in their faith and to celebrate the Eucharist.

Richard Hauser, S.J., professor of theology and director of Creighton's graduate programs in Christian spirituality, started offering the 10 p.m. candlelight Mass in 1975. Today, 37 years later, he still presides at many of the Masses, which are planned by the students. "I like to turn them on to the Eucharist while they are here," Fr. Hauser says, "so they remain people who go to the Eucharist when they graduate."

[Watch a video on the candlelight Mass here.](#)

She remembers the St. John's of the 1950s as a mini-United Nations, where a rush of Czechoslovakian immigrants landed after the Soviet invasion of their country in 1956, where Chinese fleeing the Communist takeover of China in 1949 found a home, where Native Americans served by Jesuit missionaries found opportunities for education, and where African-Americans were welcomed.

"That's just the way it was at St. John's back then," she said.

And, she said, any account of St. John's should mention Eddie Butler, a brilliant organist of his day who was hugely popular with parishioners and frequently, if improbably, had the church "rocking."

NEW ARRIVALS

There are many families attending St. John's with deep parish roots. Others are newer arrivals.

One can be found working daily at the parish business office directly on the east side of the church.

Kathleen Denne said she was for many years indifferent to her Catholic upbringing and was not even confirmed in the faith until 2004, her parents believing she should make up her own mind about such things.

"I was the only kid in my class who stayed seated at confirmation," she said.

One day, working her way through parish records, she discovered that her grandmother, Emily Hood Runge, had been confirmed at St. John's in 1955, also later in life. Kathleen's children, Elizabeth and Jared, have now also been confirmed at St. John's, making three generations of parishioners where none was apparent just a few years ago.

CHANGES CONTINUE

The world does not stand still, and neither has St. John's.

Between 1962 and 1965, the Second Vatican Council in Rome modernized the church worldwide, most famously replacing the Latin Mass with the vernacular and reforming the Mass so

that the altar was brought forward into the congregation and the priest performed his rituals facing the congregation.

The Jesuits embraced these and other changes with speed and enthusiasm, Walsh recalled.

Others, as they say these days, not so much.

She remembered that some churches in Omaha performed Mass the old way as late as 1969 but that the Jesuits embraced the changes quickly.

St. John's, consequently, became a face of modern Catholicism in Omaha.

It was indeed a time of change for the by-now venerable church.

A movable altar appeared, and was used by students in 1967 who quickly grew accustomed to seeing the face of the priest during the course of the Mass. English replaced the Latin understood widely only by the clergy, and community singing replaced the traditional choir.

Renovation, by the 1970s a feature of life at St. John's for almost five decades, continued unabated.

The sanctuary was extended in 1968, and, in 1977, a steeple and clock hands were added to the right tower.

The 1980s, too, were a decade of renovation, with reconciliation rooms, or confessionals, being built near the front of the church. In 1981, St. John's was officially registered as a historic landmark.

And then a truly major renovation was completed in the summer of 2007.

This latest restoration got a major funding boost from donors and the Jesuits.

Then-Omaha Archbishop the Most Rev. Elden Francis Curtiss presided over a dedication on July 28, 2007, that consecrated the almost \$3 million in improvements.

It was an enormous renovation project, bringing new vigor to the church's interior and exterior. The sandstone that gives the church exterior an appearance of both antiquity and timelessness was thoroughly cleaned. Inside, during the

dedication ceremony, Archbishop Curtiss vigorously applied holy oil to the new altar while a packed house marveled at the tiled floors, the massive new crucifix that hung above the altar and a beautiful new baptismal font designed to accommodate full-immersion baptism of adults.

And, in a finishing tribute to the men who have long guided St. John's and Creighton itself, the Jesuit symbol was inlaid in the newly tiled floor.

Roc O'Connor, S.J., a 12-year Creighton veteran, chaired the fundraising drive along with Mary Lee Brock, clinical program chair at Creighton's Werner Institute for Negotiation and Dispute Resolution.

Fr. O'Connor said 2,000 deteriorating stones on the exterior of the church were replaced, paid for by the generous bequests of parishioners.

The exterior work was critical, he said, since rain was leaking in.

But, of course, as in all renovations, the truly memorable things happen on the inside.

Fr. O'Connor said the enormous crucifix above the altar, which features Mary and St. John the Evangelist at the foot of the cross, was made locally, with the exception of the three figures, including the crucified Jesus, which were carved in Italy.

"We needed something that would look right in a Gothic church," he said. "And I think it does. That cross and those statues look like they belong, like they've always been there."

So, in 2012, the church stands more beautiful and better cared for than ever before.

But need does not end, and will not, until wear and tear is abolished.

Showing off the interior of St. John's, Fr. Malone, who took up his pastoral duties at the church last July, knows where the imperfections hide. He points to water stains in quiet corners that prove nature gives no quarter to houses of God. Most of all, though, he mentions something entirely within the reach of man.

He wants to build an elevator on the west side of the church, so that individuals with physical disabilities and limitations may attend services without battling steps and stairs.

It clearly means a lot to him, and seems in accordance with the church's long and patient climb from college chapel with wooden steps to a marbled work of art.

If 125 years accomplished that, perhaps an elevator will not be long coming.

When it does, it will be another paragraph, or perhaps just a sentence, in the long history of this storied church where for 125 years the faithful have labored to maintain a testimony to the power of God among people.

Perhaps we need look no further than the words of former Jesuit Superior General Peter-Hans Kolvenbach, S.J., who, in 1999, gave this description of a Jesuit parish, and, therefore, of a Jesuit parish church:

"As one Jesuit has written: there (in the parish) the incorporation of the Body of Christ is realized; there the dramas of ordinary life are celebrated; marriage, death, resurrection; there the fights, the failures are ventilated; and there also we encounter reconciliation."



Photo by Don Doll, S.J.

Omaha Archbishop the Most Rev. Elden Francis Curtiss consecrates a new altar with chrism (holy oil) during a 2007 Mass celebrating the completion of \$3 million in improvements to St. John's Church.



For 71 years (1897-1968), St. John's parish included a grade school, pictured above in the early 1900s.

ST. JOHN'S GRADE SCHOOL

Catholic grade schools — being a first encounter with teachers, desks and teeming hallways — are among the more ineradicable memories for graduates of parochial schools.

For 71 years, from 1897 to 1968, those memories were forged at St. John's Grade School, the school sponsored by the Jesuit parish of St. John's and taught by the Sisters of Mercy.

The school was established in response to the creation of St. John's parish in 1897, which was itself established in response to the desire of area Catholics to attend Mass at St. John's Church, then, as now, the heart of the Creighton University campus.

St. John's was home to 78 students that first year of 1897. In 1900, increased enrollment forced construction of a new two-story brick building with four classrooms on California Street across from St. John's Church. In 1911, eight more classrooms were added, and by 1931, St. John's had 530 pupils, taught by 12 Sisters of Mercy. It had become the largest parochial school in Omaha.

And so it remained until 1968 when the school closed. Its death knell had sounded three years earlier, when plans were announced to build the I-480 interstate highway through and around the area in which the school sat.

The school building sat on land now occupied by Creighton's Kiewit Fitness Center.

Engaging the Gritty Reality

Service and Justice Trips Celebrate

30 Years of Outreach and Reflection

By Anthony Flott

Each spring — and again come fall —

Creighton students set out to change the world. By the hundreds they leave each semester break, attending student-led service and justice trips to destinations near and far. They feed the hungry. They clothe the naked. They shelter the homeless. But the biggest changes, many students often discover, occur in their own lives.

Matt DeBoer, BA'08, was a freshman business major ready to transfer from Creighton when he attended his first service trip. He returned with a new passion — “service to others” — subsequently lived through mission work in Ethiopia and then in post-Katrina New Orleans, where he's now a teacher. Maggie Bowie Swanger, BSBA'03, attended four service trips. Today, she helps build homes with Iowa's Siouxland Habitat for Humanity. Jason Beste, BS'03, MD'08, as an undergrad, served on the Navajo Reservation in Chinle, Ariz. Now he spends the majority of each year as a physician in a Malawi health clinic.

On service trips, says Ken Reed-Bouley, director of the Creighton Center for Service and Justice (CCSJ), students encounter “gritty realities” — borrowing a phrase from former Jesuit Superior General Peter-Hans Kolvenbach, S.J., who, in an October 2000 address, encouraged students at Jesuit colleges and universities to let the “gritty reality” of the world into their lives so that “they can learn to feel it, think about it critically, respond to its suffering and engage it constructively.”

And then, something wonderful often happens.

“Students have their hearts broken open,” says Reed-Bouley, who directed the trips for nine years, “and that leads to the possibility of transformation that we would really hope for coming from a Jesuit university.”

“It's very different learning about injustice by talking about it or reading about it in a book versus meeting a person and having a relationship with someone who suffers injustice and experiences injustice. The students can then take that back to the classroom to help transform themselves ... and society, we hope.”

It's what Jesuits and service trip participants like to call “ruined for life.” And it's been going on for 30 years.



Top, Maggie Bowie Swanger, BSBA'03, (white sweater at far right) is a former Spring Break Service Trip participant who welcomes current program participants to Iowa's Siouxland Habitat for Humanity. Middle, Matt DeBoer, BA'08, pictured during a Spring Break Service Trip in 2006, is now a teacher in New Orleans. Bottom, former Spring Break Service Trip participant Jason Beste, BS'03, MD'08, now serves as a physician at an African health clinic.

Simple Start

More Creighton students than ever are participating in and leading CCSJ service and justice trips. The program has more than doubled in the last five years. This academic year, a record 365 students volunteered at 35 sites in Omaha and 17 states nationwide, to serve and learn about poverty, immigration, homelessness and other social justice issues.

Since a handful of Creighton students attended the first service trip to eastern Kentucky in March 1983, thousands have followed suit — more than 2,600 in the last 10 years alone. The program is so successful that it's now a recruiting tool for prospective students. And if imitation is the greatest form of flattery ...

"When other universities talk to me about having service trips, I recommend they look at the Creighton model," says Sister Theresa Sullivan, whose Daughters of Charity communities in the Midwest (which includes such cities as Detroit, Chicago, St. Louis, Evansville, Ind., and Indianapolis) have hosted Creighton students on trips for nearly a decade. "It works."

It began simply. Then-Creighton student Ellen Townley, BSN '83, previously had joined other students and a Servite

Sister from her alma mater, Marian High School in Omaha, to teach Bible school in Appalachia. There were no grandiose objectives.

"To be perfectly honest," Townley says, "while I have always felt a strong sense of service and giving back, my main motivation at that time was to have an adventure."

The poverty and isolation of the Appalachians, though, showed her how desperately help was needed. She returned the following summer through a student service program run by the University of Dayton. The next year, friends from Creighton joined her.

"Then," Townley says, "it kind of snowballed."

She received Student Board of Governors funds to create a grant called GIVE — Grants Involving Volunteer Employment. That provided transportation money and stipends for students who wanted to volunteer. In 1983, Townley and six other students spent their spring break in Appalachia volunteering with the Christian Appalachian Project — Creighton's first official service trip.

"We had so much fun and learned so

much it just kept going after that," says Townley, who in 1983 received the Spirit of Creighton Award — the University's highest student honor. The award is bestowed annually at commencement upon graduating seniors (typically one male and one female student) who embody Creighton's Catholic, Jesuit mission of academic excellence and service to others.

Today, Creighton graduate Kelly Orbik, BA'06, MS'08, directs the service trip program. A former service trip participant and also a Spirit of Creighton Award winner, she says the program is "markedly different" from what it was at the start. There's much more preparation and formation prior to the trips. And fall trips have been offered since 2001. The 2011 fall program was the first to attract more students than the ensuing spring.

The biggest difference is the addition of "pillars": service, community, simplicity, reflection, justice, solidarity and sustainability. The first four were part of the original trips, in some form. Justice was added in 1999 and the final two were instituted in 2007. Students and hosts mention them frequently.

"Each of these pillars still plays a huge role in my life," DeBoer says.

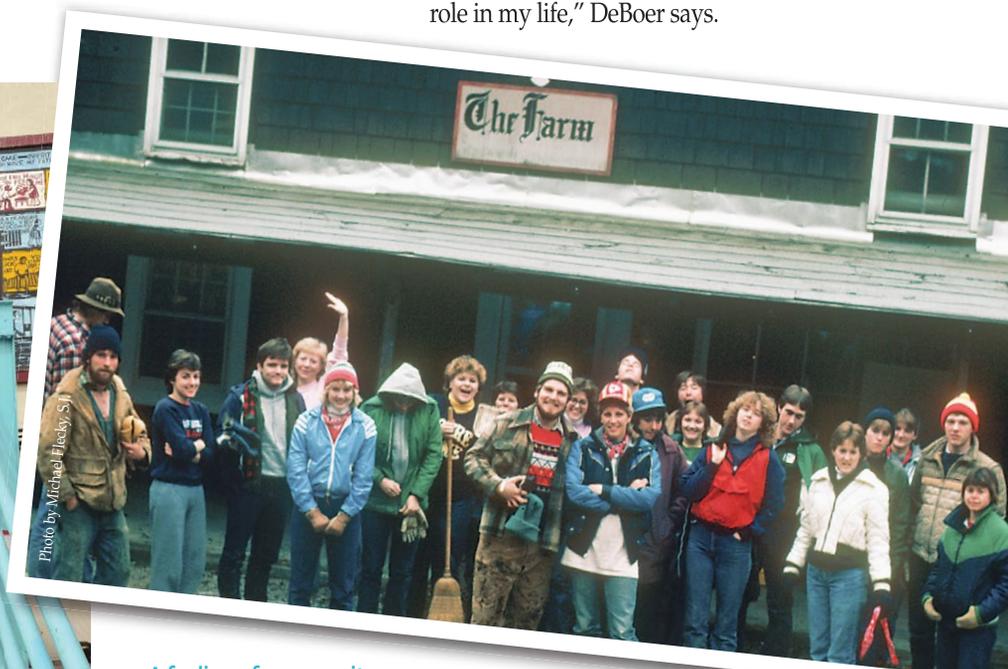


Photo by: kylezimmermanphotography.com

A feeling of community ...

Above, service trip participants in 1984 at The Farm, operated by the Glenmary Home Missioners, in northeast Kentucky. Left, 2012 participants at a homeless shelter in Albuquerque. (From left, front, Chris Culhane, a May graduate from Shawano, Wis.; Amber Schaffer, a junior from Manhattan, Kan.; Sarah Jerome, a freshman from Urbandale, Iowa; and back, Bill Kusek, a May graduate from Albion, Neb.; Gaby Guillen, a junior from San Jose, Costa Rica; and Stephanie Haas, a May graduate from Davenport, Iowa.)

Program Pillars

SERVICE

Service is foremost on trips, of course, and that which is provided is wide-ranging but always meeting critical needs. It's been that way from the start when Townley and others in Appalachia tutored kids, repaired homes, visited the elderly and chopped firewood.

Today, students serve similarly. Freshman Anne Ferguson made her first service trip this spring to work alongside the Daughters of Charity Providence House in Detroit. She bagged meals at a pantry, served in a soup kitchen, and drove around Detroit picking up homeless children to take them to a youth shelter.

Stephanie Haas, who graduated in May, has made five service trips and was one of 11 seniors who helped orchestrate the program this past academic year. She's helped children with severe behavioral and learning problems at an elementary school in Denver, worked at a St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store in East St. Louis, and visited with residents at St. Martin's Hospitality Center, a day shelter in Albuquerque, N.M.

Alumni remember similar experiences. Beste visited sick patients in their *hogans* (traditional Navajo homes) on a reservation in Arizona. DeBoer helped with home deconstruction and reconstruction in New Orleans.

It's work that taxes all capacities. "Many of the students will be sore from the manual labor," says Swanger, who oversees Creighton students building and rehabbing homes with Siouxland Habitat for Humanity.

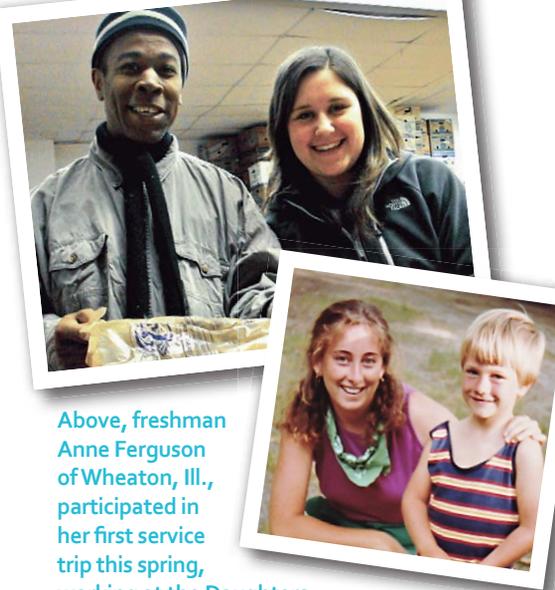
COMMUNITY

Swanger, another Spirit of Creighton Award winner, has seen the pillar of community best exemplified on two trips — one her junior year and another she hosted last fall. In both cases, a school van broke, leaving students in unfamiliar surroundings.

Both groups, she says, had to stick together as a community. "Whether it meant someone shuttling the group in one car to and from the site or waiting outside on a cool evening for the tow truck to arrive, it brought the group closer. It taught the students to rely on each other and take things one step at a time when things are not going as planned."

Trips foster community not just among students, but also with those they serve.

"Very deep and meaningful relationships," says May graduate and former Core Team member Claire Bowens, who went on three trips, leading two of them. "I am always pleasantly surprised by the strength of the friendships and lasting bonds that form in such a short amount of time."



Above, freshman Anne Ferguson of Wheaton, Ill., participated in her first service trip this spring, working at the Daughters of Charity Providence House in Detroit. Right, Ellen Townley, BSN'83, in 1983, the year she organized the first Creighton spring break service trip.

SIMPLICITY

"It is sobering to realize just how much I have — possessions, opportunities, an education — in contrast to the populations that I encounter on service trips," Bowens says. "Especially on my first service trips, it was startling to come to terms with the reality that most people in the world do not live like I do."

Service trips, Bowens says, "remind me that I am amongst a very elite and privileged group in the world."

With that in mind, students on service trips keep the electronics (cell phones, laptop computers, etc.) at home. That reinforces equality among people and helps students be fully present with those they serve and serve with.

DeBoer calls it the most challenging of the pillars.

"Now that people use their phones for nearly all facets of life, I think this is the biggest hurdle to leadership," DeBoer says. "Challenging people, holding them accountable, yet encouraging them in a positive way."

REFLECTION

Reflection may not have been a formal part of the first service trips, but Townley recalls just that taking place in Appalachia.

"We studied and discussed the history, the environment and the social structure of the area," she says. "Especially how the Big Coal industry had impacted the region. We had a lot of late-night discussions."



Photo courtesy of the Tribune-Star / Joseph C. Garza

Above, Creighton freshman Dylan Goto of Honolulu, left, learns about sustainable living and earth-friendly choices from Candace Minster at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods in Terre Haute, Ind., during a 2012 trip. Right, students gather in prayer during a 2012 trip to Milwaukee.



Sophomore Olivia Marks, who went to Milwaukee last fall and to Okolona, Miss., this spring, said reflection “caused me to ask a lot of difficult questions that I can’t find the answers to.”

Shelly Roder, BA’98, of the St. Francis Capuchin Center in Milwaukee — one of the host sites — spends one to two evenings with students during reflections. “I’m continually struck by just how well Creighton does this reflection piece of the service trips,” says Roder, who has helped host six trips. “The students really embrace the idea that we have to reflect and process the service experience if we want it to have meaning, if we want it to affect who we are.”

Reflections don’t end when the trips are over, either. The CCSJ website offers reflections via newsletters, photos, blogs and videos. Participants also share experiences with Creighton faculty and staff during “Soup and Stories” sessions after the trips.

JUSTICE

Witness to injustice often can underscore the pillar of justice. Bowens, as a junior, watched a deportation hearing in an El Paso, Texas, immigration court. One defendant had lived and worked in

the United States for more than half his life and his children were U.S.-born. But, he was undocumented. Bowens watched as the judge told him he was being deported to Mexico.

“The man broke down and wept,” Bowens recalls. “‘Mexico?!’ he cried. ‘I don’t know anyone in Mexico anymore! This is my home.’”

“That moment was pivotal in helping me realize the dire need for comprehensive immigration reform in this country and my own need to learn more about the issue.” She’s now discerning a career in immigration law and plans to volunteer with the Border Servant Corps in El Paso with a firm that represents low-income immigrants.

Beste looks even at his own role perpetuating injustice.

“The biggest and most influential difficulty that I faced was the questions that arose about injustices and structural violence that created poverty and how my life is intertwined with these structural sins,” Beste says.

SOLIDARITY, SUSTAINABILITY

The two most recently added pillars also have had their impact.

“We focus a lot on solidarity, which



Photo by kglezimmermanphotography.com

Stephanie Haas speaks with a guest at St. Martin’s Hospitality Center in Albuquerque. Haas was a co-coordinator for the 2012 trip.

requires you to see the world from someone else’s perspective,” says Haas, who, upon graduating this May with a degree in exercise science, joined the Jesuit Volunteer Corps Northwest in Portland, Ore., as an assistant director of an elementary after-school program and at a day summer camp. “While it is possible to not be in complete solidarity with the poor and marginalized, attempting to put yourself in their shoes is rewarding in itself.”

Sustainability often comes into play via travel. In 2012, 46 students used only public transportation for their trips — 30

Service and Justice Trips: 10 Years at a Glance (Spring 2002 to Spring 2012)

2,622

participants (including 628 serving as trip coordinators)

89

unique community host site partners in 24 states

366,333

miles traveled (including 12,251 miles on public transportation with 4.23 metric tons of carbon saved since 2009)

229

percentage of participation growth

20

Send-off services to mission students

12

Spirit of Creighton Award winners who participated or coordinated

1,320

hours per year for Core Team seniors to plan, implement and evaluate trips

19,665

hours of student-led Ignatian reflection (done nightly on trips)

400

jars of peanut butter consumed

11

hours of pre- and post-trip formation per student

810

CCSJ Facebook followers

250

CCSJ Twitter followers



Photo by Dave Weaver

Above, students light candles, with the names of the host sites, at a 2012 send-off service held at St. John's Church. Right, Ivan Elias, BS'86, MD'90, helps repair a roof during a 1984 trip to Kentucky.



Photo by Michael Plesky, SJ

May graduate Claire Bowens of Chicago went on three service trips, leading two — including this fall 2012 trip to El Paso, Texas, during which students talked with a youngster along the U.S.-Mexican border. Students pictured are, from left, front, Marianne Black, Mary McGroarty and Sam Eiffert, and back, Andrew Smith, Jacob Huju, Audrey Bradshaw, Bowers, Carissa Smith, Brittany Zastrow and Nick Stukel.



Photo by group member Nicole Savary

took the Megabus to Chicago. In Omaha, the iconic service trip vans shuttle students to and fro. Once at the sites, students often use public transportation or walk and make other eco-friendly choices.

Uniquely Creighton

While other universities also offer students service trips, few have students running the show.

That makes it uniquely Creighton. "I'm not aware of any program that is exactly like ours," says Orbik, whose office colleague in CCSJ, Patrick O'Malley, BFA'11, is a former trip leader (and another Spirit of Creighton winner).

A leadership team that included 11 seniors and 80 student coordinators who completed one year of training ran the 2011-2012 trips. The Core Team and members of their supporting committees are responsible for all aspects of service trips, including arrangements with host sites, transportation logistics and fundraising for expenses.

"I think the student leadership shows to the rest of campus that our generation cares about things other than the latest Facebook status or tweet," Ferguson says.

Sister Sullivan says she was apprehensive, at first, when discovering that no adults would be on the trip. That

changed when she saw leaders in action.

"The student leaders handle the group better than some adult leaders I have seen," Sister Sullivan says. "I have been awed by their leadership."

Roder has recruited several of the graduated co-leaders (as well as participants) to work for the St. Francis Capuchin Center in Milwaukee.

The nonhierarchical, peer-to-peer approach is what seems to attract.

"I believe we get higher participation numbers than other schools who have programs that are not student-run," Haas says. "There is more opportunity for leadership roles for students who are passionate about service. Students are able to take more initiative, it's not as challenging to find people to ask questions, and students are able to work on networking. These opportunities give students at Creighton more drive to participate in service and volunteering."

DeBoer says that during his time at Creighton more students applied to be leaders than there were spots available, which is still the case today.

"It truly is a special thing — and now that I have met people from many other Jesuit colleges and universities — that is unique to Creighton," he said. "The leadership that is needed is bottom-up leadership, and this is provided much

more authentically from peers than from elders or authority figures, in my experience."

Ruined for Life

Coordinator or not, participants often return to Creighton changed.

"I realized that the experiences I had would never leave me," Beste says.

He was, he says, "ruined."

That, explains Orbik, is the idea "that students can never think in the same way when they've come back."

Yes, students might learn real-life skills. Swanger says participants leave "knowing how to swing a hammer, hang drywall or paint a room" after building homes with Siouland.

But changes go much deeper. They are life-altering.

Beste and DeBoer now live lives of service. The former, a physician, tends to the sick in Malawi. DeBoer is a religion and social studies teacher and enrichment coordinator at Good Shepherd Nativity Mission School in New Orleans. He also volunteers regularly with the Catholic Worker Community, cooking, serving meals and just hanging out "with people I used to think didn't matter."

"I have good friends who are homeless, sick and even some in prison," DeBoer says. "Ten years ago, I never would have



Photo by Ernie Mastroianni



Left, Shelly Roder, BA'98, center, guides students in reflection and discussion at the St. Francis Capuchin Center in Milwaukee this spring. Creighton students with her are Jack Dingbaum of Morris, Ill., and Kelli Ann Ifuku of Honolulu.

Above, a group of service trip participants prepares to head out to Elkton, Ky., in the mid-1980s.

envisioned myself being who I am today."

The trend of change can be seen in today's students.

Ferguson, a freshman, is a journalism and theology major who now dreams of traveling the world and writing about experiences with social justice issues. She led the Freshman Leadership Program's annual semester service project and volunteers at several community sites. Marks, a sophomore, will volunteer this summer at a center for kids with behavioral issues. Haas has tutored adult refugees in English and GED classes.

Prior to graduating in May, Laura Green, who served on this spring's leadership team, had been completing her social work practicum of 400 hours at the Nebraska AIDS Project, working with adults who are chronically homeless and HIV-positive. Following graduation, she headed to Israel to volunteer with the Save a Child's Heart program. In August, she'll

begin a year of service with the L'Arche community in Tacoma, Wash., living with adults who have mental disabilities.

Bowens and a group of friends recently began helping a few times each week at nearby Holy Family Church's lunch program.

"I know that service will always be an important priority in my life," Bowens says. "I hope that the work that I do in my future career will not only serve others but will somehow promote justice within society."

Some of the changes even have been matrimonial — more than a few Creighton students attended service trips with students who would become their future spouse.

The program's growth is "pretty amazing, really," says its founder, Townley. She, too, has been "ruined." Since graduating, she's worked with migrant workers in North Carolina and

Salvadorans in Washington, D.C., fought from home for human rights in Burma and Guatemala, and sought healthcare for immigrants in the United States.

"I've tried to keep up some aspect of volunteer work in charity, volunteerism or social justice," says Townley, who currently lives in Maryland and has worked as a nurse practitioner in maternal/child HIV/AIDS since 1991. "I do find that there are always ways to give back."

At Creighton, students have been discovering just that for 30 years now.

"I always have felt that people want to be of service," Townley says. "It's a matter of giving them opportunities to do so."

Creighton fine arts professor Michael Flecky, S.J., who accompanied students on the second spring break trip in 1984 to northern Kentucky, came across an old personal journal entry recently that, for him, captured the spirit of the trips. It read simply: "Some things we do because we believe them; other things we believe because we do them."

"As I reread the words and related them to other rich experiences I have had with students at Creighton," Fr. Flecky says today, "they seem to describe the belief and commitment that I would hope is one of the best and most lasting characteristics of Jesuit education."

Share Your Memories on Facebook



Do you have photos of past trips? Alumni who participated in the trips as students are encouraged to share their memories and photos, and reminisce with other former participants, on CCSJ's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/groups/CCSJalumni.



Photo by Jim Fackler

Pictures in the Attic

By Benjamin Gleisser

Thinking back on his almost 50 years of teaching at Creighton, and the tens of thousands of students who attended his lectures and went on to careers in science or the health professions, Allen Schlesinger, Ph.D., professor *emeritus* of biology, reflects for a moment on what his life might have been like had he chosen a road less traveled.

"I would've liked to have been a writer," says Schlesinger, 88, relaxing in the Omaha home he shares with Julie, his wife of 65 years. "I love seeking answers, then clarifying and explaining things, and I like telling of my life experiences to illustrate the core issues.

"I tried fictionalizing pieces of my life," he adds with a chuckle, "but it felt awkward, like I was wearing the wrong clothing. Those who knew me best urged me to be a writer, but others put images in my head of being poor and living in a garage. Remember, I grew up during the Great Depression!"

Though he did not achieve the notoriety of Willa Cather, Schlesinger did hit his goal, penning the biology textbook *Explaining Life*, and contributing personal essays and articles to *Creighton Magazine* and other local publications. After a decade spent as a consultant to the Omaha Public Power District's Ft. Calhoun nuclear power plant, first in the preparation of, and then implementing, the generating plant's Environmental Impact Statement, Schlesinger also co-authored the book *The Middle Missouri River: A Collection of Papers on the Biology with Special Reference to Power Station Effects*.

Schlesinger's favorite writer, Nebraska anthropologist, philosopher and poet Loren Eiseley, said that the brain of a writer is like an attic in which pictures from the past are stored and brought forth in order to form a pattern. That statement certainly describes how Schlesinger used his life experiences to become the type of teacher who influenced students with his warmth, humor and philosophical insights.

"I loved listening to him talk," remembers former student Steve Kern, BS'90, MD'94, chief of surgery at Maple Grove Hospital in Minnesota. "He dealt with science as philosophy, and introduced me to a new way to think about the world. I just love the man."

The Developing Photographer

A high school biology teacher who made learning come alive sparked Schlesinger's interest in pursuing an undergraduate degree in biology at the University of Wisconsin. But he left school in 1942, during his first year, to enlist in the Navy.

While attending a Navy training program at Northwestern University, an acquaintance asked him for help. The fellow couldn't go on a blind date that had been set up for him, and could Schlesinger take his place? He passed Schlesinger two tickets for the Northwestern vs. Notre Dame football game, and the date's name was Julie Manning, whose home was Minneapolis, and who was a theater major at Northwestern. The couple became engaged during World War II.

Following training in San Diego, as a Navy photographer, Schlesinger was assigned to photograph surgeries at the U.S. Naval Hospital in Oakland, Calif.

"I worked with Billy Burke, a very imposing 6-foot-3 American Indian, who'd been a stunt man in Hollywood westerns," he says. "He was always shot off horses. He was pretty badly injured during one stunt where he was supposed to jump through an upper-story window and land on a horse, but everything went horribly wrong. When he got out of the hospital, he became a cinematographer and went into business

Schlesinger's favorite writer, Nebraska anthropologist, philosopher and poet Loren Eiseley, said that the brain of a writer is like an attic in which pictures from the past are stored and brought forth in order to form a pattern.

shooting movies in surgery. When I met him, he was Lieutenant Commander Burke."

Schlesinger was soon photographing surgeries on his own. When asked to describe the work, he paused a moment.

"It was hard, documenting the effects of war on human beings," he says. "I have all these images still in my head and can't get them out. I don't dwell on them, but I saw parts of World War II that were usually hidden away."

Yet one incident had a positive influence on the rest of his life. "A Marine with a shrapnel fragment in the wall of his heart was brought in for removal of the shrapnel, but first, the surgeons wanted to fully familiarize themselves with the motion of the fragment as the heart beat. They feared there would be no second chance if their first attempt caused the fragment to penetrate the heart wall. They wanted to study a motion picture of the fragment's movement.

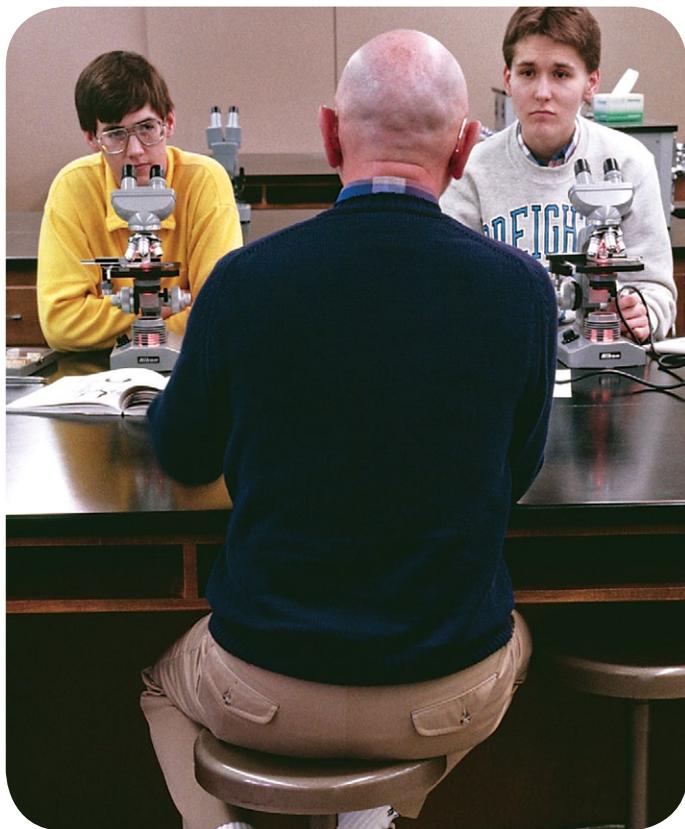
"The surgeons could see the shrapnel on X-rays and on a fluoroscope, but fluoroscopic images in 1943 weren't bright enough to register adequately on motion picture film. I had an idea — put a sequence of still X-ray shots together, like an animated cartoon movie, so the doctors could study the pattern of the shrapnel's movement as the heart beat. It worked. The surgeons opened his chest and plucked out the shrapnel 'as it went by.' It was a riveting moment.

"In my later research in embryology, I relied heavily on images under the microscope, and used time-lapse photography to track the movements of cells guided by molecular recognition. One of development's greatest challenges is moving the millions of cells into their proper positions."



Photo by Don Doll, S.J. (1984)

Becoming a Teacher



After his discharge from the Navy, Allen enrolled at the University of Minnesota, where he would earn a B.A., M.S. and Ph.D., and he and Julie were married. The officiating priest at the ceremony was William Kelley, S.J., who was earning his doctorate in university administration at Minnesota. He was also the assistant pastor at the Church of the Visitation, Julie's parish.

"Our pastor was out of town at the time of our wedding, so Fr. Kelley officiated at his first marriage — ours," Schlesinger remembers. "He was also at St. John's on Creighton's campus to celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary Mass."

After graduating with his Ph.D. from Minnesota, Kelley was assigned to Creighton University as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. When a faculty member who taught developmental biology suffered a stroke, Kelley recruited Schlesinger in 1952 to teach at Creighton.

Kelley and Schlesinger had many spirited and spiritual discussions. The priest was especially intrigued with Schlesinger's choice of graduate work: embryonic development — the process of transforming a single living cell into an incredibly complex, independent and unique new creature.

"Fr. Kelley was disappointed by the fact that I knew absolutely nothing about philosophy, and he gave me the book *Being*, by Henri J. Renard, S.J.," Schlesinger says. "Without a teacher's guidance, the book was a very complex commentary on St. Thomas Aquinas.

"I went back to Fr. Kelley and said, 'I don't have a problem with the concept of existence or being.' He asked, 'Then what do you have a problem with?' 'Becoming,' I replied, 'Becoming.' This was my attraction to embryology — how do eggs 'become' our 10 little fingers and 10 little toes? How do we become completed human beings?"

The book ignited Schlesinger's lifelong interest in the philosophy of science, and he and Kelley were to have many friendly debates on science and ethics.

A few years after starting at Creighton, Schlesinger recalls, "I was offered a research job at Minnesota. I visited Fr. Carl Reinert, S.J., Creighton's president. I recall sitting in his tiny office and asking him what I might hope to see Creighton become if I cast my lot with the University. He spun a tale that was amazingly prescient."

Schlesinger dreamed of students being taught and doing



Photos by Don Doll, S.J. (1984)

Whether in the lab or in front of a lecture hall, Schlesinger was as recognizable on campus from behind as he was from the front. Both of the above pictures were taken in 1984.

research in biology in well-equipped labs. What he found were instructional labs scattered within a number of buildings along California Street. As to biological investigation, “research space was truly nonexistent,” he later wrote in a 2005 memoir “Creighton Tapestry — A Scientist at a Jesuit University.” “My first lab was in a storage area that I shared with the student-help secretary to the department ... It was as if the science environment I had come to know at Minnesota had been completely turned on its head.”

Schlesinger applied for and won two research grants. Those National Science Foundation and National Institutes of Health projects began a decades-long crusade to change the way biology was taught — and where it was taught — at Creighton.

Teaching Tomorrow’s Scientists

“Fr. Reinert got tired of seeing me come into his office complaining about the science facilities,” Schlesinger says with a laugh. “So one day, he said, ‘Go to Washington and find ways to build buildings.’ He made me a part of his fundraising team by sending me to Washington along with Fr. Kelley and Richard Egan, MD’40, dean of the medical school.”

Their hard work led to the creation of the \$3.4 million Rigge Science Building, which opened for students in 1968. The structure was named for William F. Rigge, S.J., an early Creighton Jesuit and scientific luminary.

At first, Schlesinger thought the building should be named Galileo Hall.

“I wanted to name it after a problematic scientist,” he explains. “During the 1950s and 1960s, my students raised questions about the Catholic Church’s attitudes toward science. I figured one way to bring these occasionally conflicting sides together was to bring forth Galileo, who was linked to Catholicism and science, and show him as a member of both communities.”

In the 1970s, the building found another type of notoriety, when a streaker ran across the stage at Schlesinger’s 8 a.m. biology lecture in Rigge Science 120 (the main lecture hall).

“Teaching forced me to become aware of my listener. I often wondered: What are my students thinking? How am I affecting them? I’ve been very lucky at Creighton — some of my students were so bright, I couldn’t understand why they’d want to listen to me. Students are the lifeblood of an institution. What keeps a university thriving is its students. They’re the most valuable asset a university has and the most valued product a university produces.”
— Allen Schlesinger, Ph.D.



Photo by Don Doll, S.J.

Family Matters

Schlesinger celebrated his 88th birthday in February with his wife, Julie, (front) and daughters, from left, Mary Margaret Conway, Sue Ann Schlesinger, Lucy Jean Schlesinger and Amy Jo Kampfe.

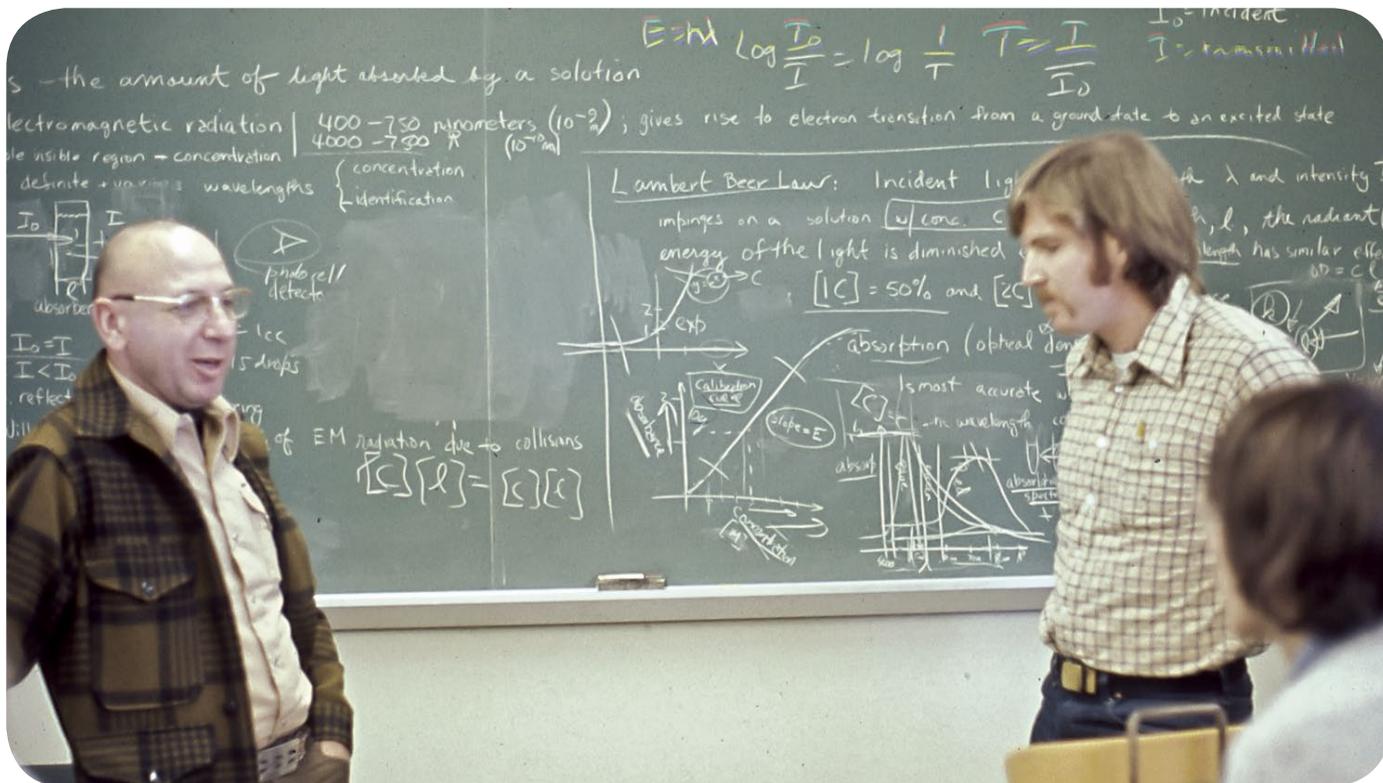
Allen’s connection to Creighton extends beyond his teaching. His wife, Julie, earned a bachelor’s degree from Creighton in 1969. And all four of their children attended Creighton, with three of them earning degrees from the University. (None of the four, Allen points out, took any classes from their father.)

Mary Schlesinger Conway, ARTS’71, the oldest of Julie and Allen’s four daughters, attended Creighton for three years before earning her bachelor’s degree in art history from the University of Colorado, Denver. She married Mike Conway, BA’67, and they have two grown daughters, Julie Conway and Kate Conway Nixon. Kate and her husband, Tom, have two daughters, Emma and Annie. Altogether, Allen and Julie have two great-grandchildren and seven grandchildren.

Sue Ann Schlesinger, BSBA’72, is a graduate of Creighton’s College of Business. After a 27-year career in corporate computing in Omaha, she now is self-employed in property management and development in Omaha.

Lucy Schlesinger, BS’74, received her bachelor’s degree in education from Creighton and teaches in the Millard School District in suburban Omaha. Lucy has two sons, James and Mike, and a daughter, Ann.

Amy Schlesinger Kampfe, BS’78, earned her bachelor’s degree in education at Creighton and taught locally in the Millard and the Westside school districts. She currently is a substitute teacher in the Westside district. Amy is married to John Kampfe, a 1978 graduate of Creighton’s College of Business. Amy and John have two sons, Chris and Clark.



"The man had hidden behind a floor-to-ceiling curtain at stage left," he says. "I was about two minutes into the lecture when I heard a girl scream and turned my head. He was naked except for a short blue cape that hung around his shoulders and a black 'Lone Ranger' mask. As he ran behind me across the stage toward the right-hand stage exit, he threw handfuls of chocolate coins wrapped in gold foil to the class.

"Meanwhile, at the rear wall of the lecture hall, a group of his clothed associates unrolled a butcher-paper sign and loudly slapped it on the wall. It read, 'You have been struck by the Streaker.' The man, by that time, was gone. The class was stunned. I said, 'Those of you who have developed the habit of wandering into class five or 10 minutes late recall that I have warned that missing the first few minutes of class puts you at the disadvantage of missing the critical part of the lecture.' I then continued the lecture where I'd left off.

"When I returned to my office, Alice Hanlon, secretary to the dean of Arts and Sciences, telephoned to say, 'Allen, there's a rumor spreading like wildfire across campus that you ran, naked, across the lecture hall stage.' I told her that someone had run naked across the stage, but it wasn't I. In later years, as I visited alumni gatherings across the nation, several men claimed to be the streaker."

Schlesinger pauses a moment, then adds with a chuckle, "There were other memorable activities that students pulled off in that class, but I will restrain myself."

When asked what makes him such a beloved teacher,

Schlesinger pauses a moment to collect his thoughts and, perhaps, to put his attic of memories in order.

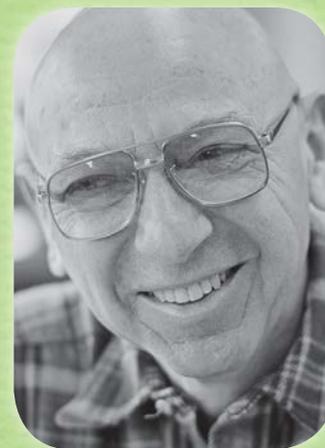
"I thank God a great deal for what has been an incredible life," he says first. "I don't believe my life was accidental things that fell into place.

"Teaching forced me to become aware of my listener. I often wondered: What are my students thinking? How am I affecting them? I've been very lucky at Creighton — some of my students were so bright, I couldn't understand why they'd want to listen to me. Students are the lifeblood of an institution. What keeps a university thriving is its students. They're the most valuable asset a university has and the most valued product a university produces."

Schlesinger can count among his former students (and, later, close friends) the founding executive director of the Boys Town National Research Hospital (the late Patrick Brookhouser, BS'62, M.D.), the first physician to perform a successful heart transplant in Nebraska (Randy Ferlic, BS'58, MD'61) and one of the early directors of the Creighton University Cardiac Center (Michael Sketch, BS'59, MD'63). And the list goes on.

Richard Andrews, BS'58, MS'60, Ph.D., professor *emeritus* of physiology and former dean of the Graduate School, was a student of Schlesinger's who later chose to teach at Creighton. "I turned down places like Sloan-Kettering to work with Al, and I've never regretted it," he says. "As a teacher, he was absolutely sparkling. He asked thoughtful questions, and knew how to get in touch with kids."

Schlesinger Says ...



Who is your favorite scientist?

Actually, I have three who have influenced me not only as a writer but, more importantly, as a lecturer. For my selection and organization of material, sequence of presentation and manner of communicating, I am deeply indebted to François Jacob (*The Logic of Life*), Sir Peter Medawar (*The Art of the Soluble*) and Lewis Thomas (*The Lives of a Cell: Notes of a Biology Watcher*).

What Makes a Good Doctor?

"With very few exceptions, my healthcare professionals from internists to surgeons, have been former students," Schlesinger says, "and I chose them based on a few behaviors they exhibited during laboratory classes." So, what makes a good doctor, Dr. Schlesinger? Someone who has these qualities, was his answer:

1. **Comprehension:** The potential ability to know the difference between being a skilled practitioner of medicine, and a skilled and scholarly practitioner of medicine. Sometimes, skill alone is sufficient; sometimes not.
2. **Judgment:** Being able to make a wise decision after examining all the possibilities. Nothing assists wisdom as much as experience.
3. **Management:** Knowing what to do and in what sequence to do things.
4. **Maturity:** "I accept idiosyncrasies, but I do expect an appropriate bedside manner," Schlesinger says.

What was your favorite car?

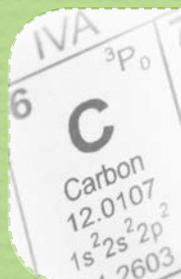
My ragtop 1965 Jeep. Lord, that car nearly killed me. I like going to places that are visually exciting in the mountain states, and that Jeep took me there. It got me in and out of trouble better than its driver, who was never as gutsy as that Jeep.

What was the best excuse a student gave you for not doing homework?

(Laughs) "I was bored out of my skull, Doc."

What is your favorite element on the periodic table?

Carbon. It's the skeletal component of all complex molecules.



What Makes a Good Teacher?

When asked what makes a good teacher, Schlesinger cited several of his former instructors who were major influences in his life as a teacher and a scientist:

Paul Brandwein, "my high school biology teacher, was the first teacher to create enthusiasm in me for science," he says. "He had a conversational style, and made biology more than a bunch of names."

H. Burr Steinbach, Ph.D., professor of zoology at Minnesota, "had the strongest influence upon me as a teacher. He believed student comprehension is paramount, and the teacher's real challenge is to steadily provide more rigorous levels of understanding, demonstrating how valid relationships are built between seemingly disparate pieces of information so as to attain conceptual maturity."

Paul Boyer, Ph.D., professor of biochemistry at Minnesota, who, in addition to being Schlesinger's teacher in several protein and enzyme courses, "... was on my doctoral thesis committee and his two hours of questioning was the single most brain-twisting experience of my life. He encouraged my potential as a researcher." (Boyer shared the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1997 with Sir John Walker for their work on the formation of ATP, adenosine triphosphate.)

Fred Smith, Ph.D., professor of biochemistry at Minnesota, "taught me how to behave as a 'bench chemist.' My inclination was to go at the concept, and Fred demanded that I first produce data derived from impeccable laboratory procedure."

Creighton Professor Gives Voice to Women in Congo (DRC)

By Rick Davis, BA'88



Last summer, the Congokazi: Congo Women Association — founded by Creighton professor Ngwarsungu Chiwengo, Ph.D., and other Congolese women — held a convention in the violence-plagued region of South-Kivu in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

At the convention, a Congolese high school girl stood in front of the assembly ready to speak. But, before telling her story, she voiced a surprise request.

“Please allow me to first dance and sing,” implored the young woman.

Maybe the request and the joy it reflected weren’t so unusual, however. For this truly was a special occasion.

Thanks to a scholarship from Chiwengo’s Congokazi: Congo Women Association, the young woman was able to complete her sixth and final year of high school uninterrupted for the first time.

“This was the first year she had not been kicked out of school because her family couldn’t pay,” Chiwengo says. “It really made me feel good.”

Chiwengo, professor of English and director of the Black Studies Program at Creighton, is on a mission to bring hope to young Congolese women through education.

Her association provided scholarships to 32 young women last year (thanks to the support of the Omaha community and friends of Congokazi), so that they could finish their senior years in high school.

“If just one woman gets her high school diploma or goes to college, you’ve already given something back,” Chiwengo says. “And, often, if they get their education, they will help educate another — maybe a younger sister or another family member.”

And that’s a cycle Chiwengo wants to encourage in a country that’s seen a cycle of violence, especially against women.

A recent study found that 48 women are raped in the DRC every hour. The study, by researchers at the International Food Policy Research Institute at Stony Brook University in New York and the World Bank, found that more than 400,000 women — about 12 percent of the country’s female population — were raped in a 12-month period in 2006 and 2007.

Through Congokazi, Chiwengo hopes to give voice to women of the Congo — to allow their stories to be told and, ultimately, to write a new narrative for a country that, to her, is as much home as the United States.

Chiwengo believes the international community has largely ignored the atrocities perpetrated against women in the Congo.

In her 2008 article “When Wounds and Corpses Fail to Speak: Narratives of Violence and Rape in Congo,” Chiwengo writes of the “silence and inaction of the international community” in the face of the “horrific violence the Congolese have endured since 1994, the year of the Rwandan genocide.” She continues: “The international community’s disinterest in Africa is echoed in human rights reports, documentaries, television coverage and films ...”

But she is not without hope.

“We can make the Congo the great nation it is meant to be by realizing that we have reached the pit and that it is now time to climb out of the abyss,” she wrote in a 2009 editorial on the anniversary of the DRC’s independence from Belgium

in 1960. "Through love of the nation, love of liberty, equity, equality and our fellow citizens, we can make the Congo the heartbeat of Africa."

Her Story

Chiwengo was born in the colonial city of Likasi in southern Congo. Her father, Boniface, a young Methodist minister, moved his family to the United States in 1959, so that he could study on scholarship at Taylor University in Upland, Ind. The family later moved to Nashville, Tenn., where he studied at Scarritt College for Christian Works, a now-closed institution affiliated with the United Methodist Church that trained missionaries and teachers. It was the height of the Civil Rights movement in the United States.

Boniface was often asked to speak at local churches. During a visit to one Nashville church in 1963, Boniface was greeted warmly and invited to give the benediction, which he did in Swahili. It wasn't until years later that his daughter would learn the full story.

Apparently, she says, the local pastor received a call from an angry woman after the service, asking that she be removed from the church rolls. Her anger was directed at the fact that the pastor had the "audacity to invite a black man to the pulpit." The pastor rebuked the woman. Chiwengo learned of the incident years later when the pastor's son, who also became a minister, wrote about it on his blog.

In 1964, the Chiwengo family returned to the DRC, where Ngwarsungu would eventually attend college. Her father hoped that his daughter would become a doctor. In fact, he thought she was pursuing that path when she began her studies at the National University of Zaire in Lubumbashi.

"He got confused when he asked what I was learning, and I told him, 'The history of the English language,'" Chiwengo says, laughing. "He figured I was in medical school."

After graduating, Chiwengo returned to the U.S., thanks to a Fulbright scholarship, to earn her master's degree in American literature and Ph.D. in English literature at the State University of New York at Albany and Buffalo, respectively. She then taught for two years (1984-86)

at the State University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa.

In 1987, she returned to the Congo to teach at the University of Lubumbashi for nine years as an assistant and associate professor and chaired the English department.

In the early 1990s, the authoritarian government of president Mobutu, who had seized power in 1965 and had renamed the country Zaire, was experiencing major political upheaval. Chiwengo became involved in Congolese politics and served as federal and vice president of the Democratic Christian Social Party during this turbulent period, known as the Congolese "transition" to multiparty democracy.

Soon, she felt like she had to make a decision: become more deeply involved in politics or pursue the life of an educator. It



Chiwengo, left, at the Congokazi convention in the DRC last summer.

"We, Congolese women, have yet to tell our story ..."

was a difficult decision.

But Chiwengo felt God pulling her toward education.

With that call on her heart, she returned to the United States in 1993 to teach at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., for four years. She came to Creighton in 1997. Her father was a strong advocate of Catholic education, and she, herself, had attended Catholic schools.

Giving Back

While Chiwengo has enjoyed her time teaching at Creighton, she has never forgotten her community back in the Congo.

"I had to go back and volunteer," Chiwengo says. So, in 2000, Chiwengo returned to teach summer classes at the University of Lubumbashi.

But still, she felt like she could — and should — do more.

She knew of the suffering of women in the Congo. The horrific accounts of rape

and violence against women by the militia groups, she writes, were "intentional acts" designed to "set Congolese society adrift."

In 2007, the United Nations declared that rape in the Congo is "the worst in the world" due to the "uncommonly brutal nature of the crimes."

Yet, she writes, these acts were not being "considered genocidal" — "even though they are perpetuated with the intent to kill and destroy a society." Chiwengo says she felt a sense of hopelessness. "I had to take a stand," she says.

That "stand" took the form of a 2009 march on Washington, D.C., titled Women against Rape and Violence in Congo, and the formation of Congokazi. "We, Congolese women, after sitting silently mourning our dead and weeping about the violence and trauma inflicted on our sisters, mothers, daughters, grandmothers,

sons and fathers, have decided that enough is enough!" Chiwengo wrote in a letter promoting the march.

"Since 1997, more than 5.4 million Congolese have died and more Congolese women have been raped than in Rwanda or Kosovo. Yet, no decisive international action has been taken.

"We, Congolese women, have yet to tell our story, dreams and aspirations for a peaceful Congo."

As a professor of literature, Chiwengo knows the power of sharing stories. Her hope is that by giving Congolese women the platform to express their sorrows and their hopes — along with the education necessary to better themselves, their families, their communities and their country — they will become more liberated. And maybe someday, more will be filled with the spirit to dance and sing with joy.

Alum Items

64 Robert M. Biondi, MD, Skillman, N.J., received the 2012 Outstanding Volunteer Clinical Faculty Award in recognition of service to the allergy/immunology training program at Yale University. The award was presented during the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology's annual meeting in March in Orlando, Fla.

65 Dr. James W. Newcomb, BA'63, MA, Memphis, Tenn., retired as professor *emeritus* from the University of Memphis English department in May 2011.

72 Hon. Robert W. Pratt, JD, Des Moines, Iowa, was a featured speaker at the American Bar Association Law Student Division's 8th Circuit Spring Meeting in February at Drake University Law School in Des Moines. Pratt presented on "Practicing Law in the 8th Circuit." **William J. Sneckenberg, JD,** Chicago, founding partner of Sneckenberg Thompson & Brody, was mentioned in the March/April 2012 issue of *The Nebraska Lawyer* for activating his license to practice law in Nebraska and for his status as a trial and appellate specialist with a diverse civil litigation practice. Sneckenberg also received the 2012 Illinois Super Lawyers Honors in general litigation by *Super Lawyers* magazine.

74 Charles L. Smith, JD, Council Bluffs, Iowa, received the 2012 Heritage Award for Business for his contributions to the community.

77 Donald W. Kleine, JD, Omaha, was a featured speaker at the Nebraska Family Forum's Truancy

Q&A. Kleine is currently the Douglas County Attorney.

78 † John P. Pogge, JD, Greenwood Village, Colo., has been appointed to the Metropolitan State College of Denver board of trustees by Gov. John Hickenlooper.

80 * Gayla Lee Thal, JD, Omaha, was named senior vice president-law and general counsel of Union Pacific by the board of directors. **Todd M. Zelnick, JD,** Arlington, Va., was featured as the April 2012 Alumnus of the Month on Hofstra University's Alumni Relations website. Zelnick is currently an auditor with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in Washington, D.C.

81 Diane K. Duren, BSBA, Omaha, has been appointed to the Girl Scouts Spirit of Nebraska 2012-2013 board of directors.

83 A. Art Kaslow, BA'78, DDS, Solvang, Calif., was featured in a front-page story of the March 9, 2012, *Santa Barbara News-Press* for his return home after serving five months as the dental commander with the 94th Combat Support Medical Hospital in Afghanistan. **Carol J. Ryan, JD,** Chicago, co-authored the article "Should I Call You DAD? And Other Perils of Working for Your Family Business," published in the February 2012 issue of the *Family Business Advisor* newsletter.

84 Dr. Kathleen O'Neill Zajic, BSN, McClelland, Iowa, was promoted to associate professor of nursing and director of ASN/BSN programs and received a doctorate in education at the College of St. Mary in May 2011.

Edward and Mary Lucretia Creighton Society

The Edward and Mary Lucretia Creighton Society is Creighton University's premier donor recognition club. Donors at the Creighton Society level sustain the University through their unrestricted annual gifts. These generous contributions to the University are crucial to ensuring that Creighton is a leader in providing the highest quality Catholic, Jesuit education to our students. Alumni donors recognized at the Creighton Society level are identified as follows:

- ☀ - Magis Circle (\$25,000 and higher)
- † - Ignatian Circle (\$10,000 to \$24,999)
- ☪ - Jesuit Circle (\$5,000 to \$9,999)
- ❖ - Founders' Circle (\$2,500 to \$4,999)
- * - Sustaining Circle (\$1,000 to \$2,499)

85 Dr. John "Jack" Healy, BA, San Antonio, has been named dean of the College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences at the University of Incarnate Word in San Antonio.

86 Steven D. Graham, JD, Belleville, Ill., has been named director of legal affairs of the Missouri Association of REALTORS® in Columbia, Mo.

87 Hon. Douglas F. Johnson, JD, Omaha, co-authored the article "Helping Babies from the Bench in Nebraska: A State Cross-System Approach," published in the March 2012 issue of the *CASA for Children* newsletter. **Dr. Rick L. Wilson, MCSM,** Stillwater, Okla., received the 2011 Computer Educator of the Year award presented during the October 2011 International Association for Computer Information Systems annual meeting in Mobile, Ala.

90 Charles J. Holden, MA, Solomons, Md., wrote the book *The New Southern University: Academic Freedom and Liberalism at UNC*, published by the University Press of Kentucky in December 2011.

93 Laura Chesney-Gadd, BS, Hopkins, Minn., was sworn into the office of national vice president of the United States Junior Chamber at its annual Leadership Academy in January 2012.

94 Sharon Walsh Carleton, BA, Omaha, has been named president and chief executive officer for Ervin & Smith Advertising and Public Relations in Omaha.

96 Dr. Christina J. Lunceford, BA, Portage, Ohio, was named in the 2012 class of Emerging Scholars. The award was presented during the American College Personnel Association's annual meeting in Louisville, Ky., in March 2012.

97 Brian R. Leahy, JD, Sacramento, Calif., has been appointed director of the California Department of Pesticide Regulation by Gov. Edmund G. Brown Jr. **David**

E. Sampson, BA'94, JD, Cologne, Germany, was named manager of compliance for Ford Motor Company of Europe.

99 Mandy Hobson Kamykowski, BS, St. Louis, became a new member of the Claims and Litigation Management Alliance, a national organization committed to advancing the higher standards in claims and litigation management. **Kristin Anderson Ostrom, JD,** Fremont, Neb., has joined the American Civil Liberties Union-Nebraska as a community organizer. Ostrom will work with communities in north and south Omaha and Fremont on a variety of civil liberty issues.

00 Jennifer Glaser-Koehler, BA, Minneapolis, received a master of fine arts degree in the Designer as Entrepreneur program from the School of Visual Arts in New York in May 2011.

03 Erin E. Elliott, DDS, Rathdrum, Idaho, became a partner of the Post Falls Family Dental Center in Post Falls, Idaho.

05 Michael T. Brewer, JD, Omaha, has joined the law firm of Lewis, Pfanstiel & Williams, P.C., L.L.O., as a senior associate attorney. **Ryan J. Browne, BA,** Madison, Wis., wrote the book *Outside Come In*, a collection of poetry published by Bright Hill Press in April 2012.

06 Michael E. Brzica, BSBA'03, JD, Washington, D.C., has joined Dunkin' Brands, Inc., parent company of Dunkin' Donuts and Baskin Robbins Ice Cream in its government affairs office.

07 Emilie Williams Kaplan, JD, Chicago, was selected as an Illinois "Rising Star" in general litigation area by *Super Lawyers* magazine. **Diane Dougherty Mora, MA,** Mission, Kan., was selected to join the Teach for America teaching corps focusing on students in special education. **Katrina Gretter Smeltzer, BA'04, JD,** Rochester, Minn., has joined Kauffman Law Firm as an associate.



SAVE THE DATE

26th Annual Bluejay Jamboree

D. J. Sokol Arena inside the Wayne & Eileen Ryan Athletic Center

E-Auction Dates: Sept. 27 - Oct. 21

NOVEMBER 3 - 2012

Alumna Gives Voice to Bangkok's Refugees

By Jim Haug, BA'90

A photography exhibit in Bangkok, Thailand, illustrated the daily struggle of the city's refugees: the loneliness of riding a bus without ever making eye contact with another passenger, the tedium of filling out forms for donations of food, and the desolation of a tenement project on the river.

See *What I See: Photos By and About Urban Refugees* also evoked the endurance of the human spirit, such as the joy of a mother bathing her baby in a plastic tub; the audaciousness of lifting up a banner for religious liberty; and the hopefulness of praying to Ganesh, revered in Hinduism as the remover of all obstacles.

Molly Mullen, a 2010 Creighton journalism graduate and an assistant communications officer for the Jesuit Refugee Service Asia Pacific working in Bangkok, organized the exhibit that gave voice to refugees representing countries as diverse as Iran, the Congo, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and China.

One refugee photographer told Mullen, "I have never been to a photo exhibit much less had my work displayed at one."

Another told the former *Creightonian* editor that he was happy to let people "know what it is really like" to be a refugee.

While the majority of refugees and asylum-seekers in Thailand are living in border camps, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees estimates that another 2,000 are living in urban areas — the focus of Mullen's photography exhibit. These urban refugees represent a growing percentage of the world's refugee population. "It's easy for these urban refugees to get tourist visas on arrival," Mullen explained. "Most are on a 30-day or 60-day visa and are unaware at that point that it can take years to get refugee status and resettled. So after their visas expire, they live here illegally, according to the Thai government, and are at risk of arrest and arbitrary detention. It's a pretty bad situation."

Because of language barriers, Mullen thought of the photo exhibit as a way to let refugees speak for themselves. "Besides, we wanted something more powerful than words," Mullen said. Mullen trained the refugees in basic photography with 12 cameras donated by Creighton.

Don Doll, S.J., a professor of photojournalism and holder of the Heider Endowed Jesuit Faculty Chair at Creighton, said Mullen, 24, knows how to get a job done. "She's a terrific journalist," he said. "She writes well and has a great touch as a designer." Mullen redesigned *Diakonia*, the quarterly publication of JRS Asia Pacific and currently serves as the magazine's designer.

Mullen said she never planned on working overseas, and admits she misses her native Omaha. As a student at Omaha Central High School, Mullen worked at the Creighton

as one of the first interns for Jesuit Refugee Service.

Mullen said she couldn't refuse a request from a Jesuit; she also wanted to escape Alaska before the onset of winter. Soon, she found herself in Bangkok.

Life abroad is not easy, but she has made friends with an Iranian refugee her age. They share a taste in music and outlook. "She is so like me. She likes Jimi Hendrix and the Doors and is very anti-authority," Mullen said.

Mullen has learned from her friend's example.



Photo by Sandra Garcia

Molly Mullen, BA'10, welcomes people to the exhibit in Bangkok, Thailand, that she organized, which featured photos taken by urban refugees. "After I spoke, two refugee photographers got up and told their stories," Mullen said. "It was a very moving moment for all of us there."

switchboard after classes — the same job her grandmother held in the 1940s. Her mother, Barb Harris, is a professor of social work at Creighton. Her father, John Patrick Mullen, earned both his bachelor's and law degrees from Creighton in 1966 and 1969, respectively. He retired this year as a district court judge after 36 years on the bench.

Mullen had hoped to land a job as a newspaper reporter following graduation in May 2010, but found opportunities to be scarce. So that summer, she volunteered to work on an organic farm in Alaska — where she learned how to use a chainsaw.

One night after work, as she headed for a soak in the hot tub, Mullen got a call from Doll — a small miracle considering the limited cell-phone service there. He wanted to know if she would like to be a "guinea pig,"

"Because she had to flee Iran for political reasons, she can never call her parents again," Mullen said. "She can't tell them about cutting her hair or how she's learned English or send them photos of us going to the islands together. So, as much as I think of myself as on my own now, she is truly on her own."

Mullen said one "startling experience" is how much the poverty abroad reminds her of conditions back in the United States, especially on the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota where she has volunteered.

"No one (in Thailand) would guess that there are children being raised in a trailer or living on the streets in the U.S.," Mullen said. "I want to go back and find a way to make a living asking the question, 'Why?'"

The Smile-Makers

By Sarah Smith, BA'97

If there is one thing that sticks out for Dr. Mimi Wong, BS'89, Monnie Markel Biety, BA'81, and Chris Biety, BS'77, DDS'81, about their medical missions to the Philippines, it's the joy they see from each of the families they help.

The three Creighton graduates joined with other Denver-based medical and business professionals to found Mending Faces (mendingfaces.org) — a nonprofit organization started in 2010 that provides reparative cleft lip and palate surgeries to impoverished children on the island of Panay in central Philippines. Wong, a Denver anesthesiologist, is the organization's vice chair. The Bietys, who are married, are board members — Chris overseeing dentistry and Monnie heading fundraising.

During the organization's two, week-long medical missions in 2011 and 2012, volunteer health professionals completed 139 surgeries — dramatically improving the lives of their young patients at no cost to their families. Eighty-one surgeries were performed during the most recent mission in February to San Jose, Antique, Philippines. These volunteers not only donate their time and expertise, but also cover their own travel expenses.

Surgeries to repair these facial deformities can range from the routine to the complex, although normally there is no need for surgical follow-up. While individuals with cleft lips and palates living in developing countries can find themselves ostracized because of how they look and speak, many can't afford the surgeries provided by the Mending Faces team. Needless to say, parents and families are overjoyed with the results.

Wong and the Bietys — who worked together for years on previous medical missions — have different roles during the trips. Wong serves as an anesthesiologist; Chris Biety, an orthodontist, is primarily involved in performing dental work; and Monnie Biety does outreach work, which includes managing patient files, assisting volunteers and patients, taking before-and-after patient photos and writing a blog.

Patients, who find out about Mending Faces through radio advertisements, are prepped at a local hospital before the volunteers arrive. Medical mission workers arrive on a Saturday and screen patients on Sunday. The surgeries are performed Monday through Friday. Wong says the schedule is rigorous and volunteers often work 12-hour days. Typically, there are four or five patients in each operating room.

But all three say the hard work is more than worthwhile, and it's especially touching to witness parents' reactions when they see their children after surgery.

"That's the emotional part, when you hand

children they operate on are not as healthy as those in developed countries. Some are malnourished and physically smaller, which can pose possible health risks.

Even so, Chris says the children have responded well to the surgeries and there have been no complications so far.

Monnie adds that one of the most rewarding parts of these missions is observing the graciousness of the people they serve.

"They are just the most endearing people, so happy and smiling," she says. "They make you feel so wanted. They want you to come back, and they want you to be



A grateful father holds one of his twin sons 24 hours after the child had undergone cleft lip surgery. Three Creighton graduates established a nonprofit organization to provide reparative cleft lip and palate surgeries to children from impoverished families in the Philippines.

the child back to the parents, and they start crying," Chris says. "You stop and get a lump in your throat, but you have to keep moving."

The families of the children they operate on also understand the importance of this surgery. They are often poor and can't afford to surgically correct these deformities. Many travel from hours away and wait for hours to ensure their children have the procedure. Some even sleep in the hospital yard while they wait.

Wong says the missions run smoothly because the volunteers have extensive experience. They bring their own medical supplies to keep the surgeries as similar as possible to how they are performed in the U.S. But it's not without challenges. Many of the

part of their community."

Wong even remembers when a family brought a live chicken to one of the surgeons as a thank-you gift.

Chris says volunteering also helps him keep things in perspective.

"It's a constant reminder of how much we have and how we still complain, and how little others have and how little they complain," he says. "All the stuff I worry about is really miniscule."

The next mission is planned for February 2013. Wong says she's excited to go back.

"You can see all the emotion in the parents' eyes," she says. "They're just elated and that says it all."

Endowed Scholarship Donors, Recipients Meet

Donors to endowed scholarships at Creighton and students who benefit from them met over lunch on April 18 in the Harper Center. More than 200 attended Creighton's first Endowed Scholarship Luncheon.

Third-year medical student and emcee Geoff Hays told those gathered that with scholarship assistance, he can pursue his dream of emergency medicine.

"I chose medicine because I feel that if you're going to do something for a lifetime, it had better be something truly amazing and there is nothing more amazing than the things that go on inside a hospital. Life starts and stops there."

Many students were able to personally thank benefactors who attended the luncheon. Hays thanked Elizabeth Carlin Schultz and the Shirley and Eileen Schultz Endowed Scholarship, and Anne Dyer McGuire and the Creighton Family Medical Scholarship.

"The education at Creighton isn't just



Photo by Jim Fackler

Freshman Michael Grzelak, who received the Robert E. Johnson and Lisa Rater Johnson Endowed Scholarship, meets with the couple who established the scholarship, Lisa, BSBA'88, and Rob, BSBA'87, Johnson, during a special luncheon on campus.

about what you learn in the classroom. It's about the people that you associate with and all the benefits that you get from being around such great people. We wanted to make that opportunity available to students who otherwise wouldn't be able to attend Creighton," explained Rob Johnson, BSBA'87. He and wife Lisa, BSBA'88, established the Robert E. Johnson and Lisa Rater Johnson Endowed Scholarship.

"The students are really grateful and to know that that little piece of money we gave

helped those students be able to go here, is really gratifying," Lisa said. At the luncheon, she and Rob met scholarship recipient Michael Grzelak, a freshman Arts and Sciences student from Green Bay, Wis.

"I encourage you to keep Creighton University high on your list of philanthropic priorities," said Grant Gibbs, a transfer student and member of the men's basketball team. Gibbs received the Dr. Lee C. Bevilacqua Memorial Endowed Scholarship, named for longtime volunteer team physician, the late Lee Bevilacqua, BS'56, MD'61. Gibbs was able to thank one of many donors to the scholarship — former Omaha Mayor Michael Fahey, BA'73, HON'09.

"I never met Dr. Bevilacqua, but his loyalty to Creighton Athletics is legendary," said Gibbs. "I am sure he would be honored to know that through this scholarship, he is still with the team today — still supporting us."

Creighton President Timothy R. Lannon, S.J., said that more than 1,000 Creighton students received endowed scholarship support over the past academic year, totaling nearly \$8.2 million.

Marriages

00 Jennifer E. Glaser, BA, and Kristopher Koehler, July 2, 2011, living in Minneapolis.

01 Allison J. Ryan, BSBA, and Michael R. Belluomini, BA'03, Nov. 7, 2011, living in Omaha. **Barbara S. Smith, BS,** and Paul W. Hart, July 29, 2011, living in Carson, Iowa.

03 Elizabeth M. Lighthipe, BA, and James M. Pakiz, BSEvs'99, JD'02, Jan. 14, 2012, living in Omaha.

05 Alison A. Dempsey, JD, and Ryan Basye, Aug. 19, 2011, living in Omaha.

09 Kimberly A. Simmen, BS'05, DDS, and Tyler E. Hiipakka, BA'05, JD'08, Sept. 10, 2011, living in Anchorage, Alaska.

Births

97 Maj. Eric Strong and Jennifer Sellers Strong, BSBA'94, JD, Fort Myer, Va., a daughter, Victoria Jo, June 3, 2011.

99 Joseph O'Sullivan and Megan Stapleton O'Sullivan, BS, Downers Grove, Ill., a son, Owen Daniel,

Oct. 11, 2011. David Boster and **Janet Walker Boster, BSBA,** Elkhorn, Neb., a daughter, Brinley Deanna, March 7, 2012.

00 Dr. Greg G. Grimaldi, BS, and Dr. Tara Minard Grimaldi, BS, Olathe, Kan., a son, Charles Alvin, March 9, 2012. Michael Creager and **Jennifer Roberts Creager, BA'97, JD,** Commerce City, Colo., a son, John Roberts, Nov. 16, 2011. **Michael J. Adam, PharmD,** and **Melissa Kleinjan Adam, PharmD,** Omaha, a daughter, McKenna Grace, Jan. 30, 2012.

02 Matthew S. Steele and Anne Hughes Steele, BSBA, Glenwood, Iowa, a son, Ryan Joseph, June 15, 2011. J. Bradley Slagle and **Julie Freeh Slagle, BA,** Aurora, Colo., a son, Colton Bothe, Dec. 3, 2011. **John S. Michela, JD,** and **Alicia Bothmer Michela, BS'01,** Reno, Nev., a son, Noah John, March 18, 2012. Peter H. Lannigan and **Amy Milan Lannigan, MD,** Louisville, Colo., twin sons, Eben and Matthias, Feb. 7, 2012.

03 Dr. J. Mose Roberts Jr., BS'01, MS, and **Leslie Awe Roberts, BS,** Brookfield, Ill., twin sons, Grayson and John, Sept. 9, 2011. **David W. Headlee, BSBA,** and Krista Headlee, Waukee, Iowa, a daughter, Katherine Dean, Sept. 5, 2011.

04 Nicholas Seeba and Jennifer Milbrath Seeba, PharmD, Winston-Salem, N.C., a son, Finn Josef, Feb. 17, 2012.

05 Mohit Patalia, BS'01, DDS, and Sneha Patalia, Darien, Ill., a son, Dilan, Feb. 8, 2012.

07 Samuel A. Dubrow, MD, and **Kathleen Manion Dubrow, BS'03, MD,** Port Jefferson Station, N.Y., a son, Jason David, June 9, 2010, and a daughter, Leah Margaret, Jan. 17, 2012.

Deaths

37 Katherine Farrell Shevlin, PHB, Aurora, Ill., Feb. 25, 2012.

41 Norma Miller Millar, BA, San Antonio, Jan. 5, 2012. **Irma Smith Van Riesen, MD,** San Francisco, Feb. 1, 2012.

42 Clarence J. Gerner, DDS, Omaha, Feb. 20, 2012. **Rosemary O. O'Neil, BSC,** Papillion, Neb., Feb. 29, 2012.

43 John J. Wells Sr., BSM'42, MD, San Diego, Feb. 22, 2012.

44 John P. Lobaugh, DDS, Baraboo, Wis., Feb. 10, 2012.

* **Maurice F. Peril, BSM'43, MD,**

Kansas City, Mo., Jan. 6, 2012.

45 Joseph A. Archibald, ARTS, Omaha, March 26, 2012. **Patricia Kelley Norquist, DDS,** Renton, Wash., Feb. 29, 2012. **Norman K. Pullman, MD,** Andover, Kan., Feb. 15, 2012.

46 Mary Brady Hauser, SCN, Omaha, Dec. 28, 2011. **Laren W. Teutsch, DDS,** Omaha, Feb. 20, 2012. **John J. Waters, BusAd,** Atlantic, Iowa, Feb. 7, 2012.

47 Beulah Baum Cortese, SJN, Omaha, Feb. 18, 2012. **Joan Naviaux Hoemann, BS,** Denison, Iowa, March 8, 2012. **Patricia Cunningham O'Meara, SJN,** Des Moines, Iowa, Jan. 20, 2012. **Raymond R. Zukaitis, MD,** Omaha, April 1, 2012.

48 Adrian J. Floersch, MD, Owatonna, Minn., Jan. 18, 2012. **Janice McDermet Maly, SJN,** Albion, Neb., Jan. 25, 2012.

49 Melvin J. Knust, ARTS, Dallas, March 27, 2012. **Alfred F. Savage, BS,** Burlington, Mass., Feb. 21, 2012. **Gerald F. Sheehy, BSC,** Springfield, Ill., March 25, 2012.

50 Richard E. Bradley, ARTS, Lincoln, Neb., March 11, 2012. **Pauline Clendening, MD,** Overland Park, Kan., Feb. 7, 2012.

Bridging the Years

Long-lasting Friendship in the Cards for These Alumnae

By Pamela Adams Vaughn

Take a few decks of cards, toss in about eight freshman women, put them together in a late '60s residence hall room (Deglman) at Creighton, and what do you have?

If you're lucky, you've got a non-stop bridge game that's been going on now for more than 40 years. Well, almost non-stop — with a few breaks, but not many, for weddings, children, careers and such.

Just how did all this begin?

OK. It's 1968, and most of the bridge bunch

outside the Democratic National Convention.

In spite of all this, these alumnae say their lives were pretty simple, even close to idyllic.

There was the occasional — and peaceful — protest against the Vietnam War, and the lottery system (draft) could and did touch friends and family. But, until that happened, or did not, worries could shrink proportionately.

And, face it, members say: In spite of "the times," times were still simpler.

With "almost no TV" readily at hand, a clock radio for pop music and getting up for classes, and a handful of clothes, the group believes they more than managed.

Beer was 25 cents to 50 cents a glass, and for about a buck, you could eat at Lums, Kings or the Bleu Ox.

For a seasonal expense — sledding, for

When they talked to mom and dad, what were the parents' chief worries? "If we were being good and if we were going to Mass," most recalled.

And being "bad" could be very challenging, as strict rules were in place.

They ranged from absolutely no slacks until after 4 p.m. to no holding hands with a boyfriend.

Curfews were 10 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and midnight on Friday and Saturday.

But back to bridge.

Because it was possible to converse and play a "simple" level of bridge simultaneously, group members say they've enjoyed holding forth on a variety of topics over the years.

In college, conversations ranged from the academic — the Western Civilization class taught by Allan Schleich, Ph.D., (who chaired the history department from 1963 to 1981) was deemed the hardest — to the purely social, with most tilted to the latter, of course.

Over the years, the conversation has traced the trajectory of lives being lived, starting with marriage, then babies.

Childrearing followed, then kids in school. Returning to the work force, or balancing work and personal lives came next.

Divorces, losing a parent or losing a spouse, and the arrival of grandchildren have rounded out the discussions.

The original cast of players includes three still playing today, McCoy, Patti Einhaus Kankousky, BS'71, and Janet Krampff Place, BA'71, JD'74. Also in on those original dorm games were Jane Harrigan Bresnahan, Margie Misany Skuja, Molly McCarthy, Pat Moss Major and JoAnn Curran Furay. All graduated from Creighton in 1971.

Today, the group is going strong. Describing herself as "the newcomer ... with only a 26-year history," Mary Beth Foley Bestenlehner, BA'95 (completing what she started in 1967), has been playing with the group since moving back to Omaha in 1986.

"Going to Creighton is special in keeping friendships," said Bestenlehner, who currently serves as assistant dean in Creighton's University College. Many stayed in Omaha over the years, and most still keep in touch whether or not they reside in the city.

Others include Jane Green Alseth, JD'72; Ann Malone Berger, BSN'71; Jean Mertz Bradley, BA'71; Elizabeth "Anne" Nixa Coffey, BSN'71, and Jane Connor Hagebush, BSBA'71.



Photo by Jim Fackler

From left, bridge club members Jean Mertz Bradley, BA'71; Ann Malone Berger, BSN'71; Jane Connor Hagebush, BSBA'71; Mary Beth Foley Bestenlehner, BA'95; Patti Einhaus Kankousky, BS'71; Anne Nixa Coffey, BSN'71; and Pat McCoy, BA'71, meet for a friendly game and good conversation.

is halfway through their freshman year at Creighton.

And, although these students describe themselves back then as "pretty worry-free," the world did seem to be falling apart around them.

The spring semester of their freshman year alone, 1968, opened with the devastating Tet Offensive against American troops in Vietnam, and the announcement that then President Lyndon B. Johnson would not run again. In April, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated; the same fate struck down Robert F. Kennedy in June. (A few remember RFK coming to Creighton in May.) In August, the Soviet Union invaded Czechoslovakia, and that same month the Chicago police and student protesters went to battle on the streets

example? A tray from food service worked just fine, many recall. And, since most of the bridge bunch worked for food service at \$1.25 per hour, anyway, trays were easy to come by.

Interestingly, of the original bridge group, "almost everyone was from Iowa," recalls Patricia McCoy, BA'71.

That meant, among other things, that homesickness was pretty easily (and cheaply) remedied: A flight on Ozark Airlines could take you from Omaha to Fort Dodge for about \$6.

What's more, it cost 10 cents to place a call home on the one pay phone per floor in the dorm. If you spoke quickly, you could just about get the words out for the operator to ask your parents if they would accept the charges for your collect call.

What parent could refuse?



Photo by Jim Fackler

The SOHA fashion show had plenty of Creighton flair. Seated in front are Josh Dotzler, BA'09, whose family's charity benefitted from the event, and Theresa Farrage, BA'06, who coordinated the show. Behind them, from left, are others who assisted with the production: Christin Goetz Merwald, BA'06; Meg Wanek Svehla, BA'06; Natalie Navis, BA'06; student Anna Gleichman; Joey Bowers, BS'11; and students Amanda Bittar and Shane Beasley.

Fashion for a Cause

Former Hoop Stars Join in Omaha Event

Several Creighton-related philanthropic forces came together in Omaha recently for a charity fashion show called SOHA (Style Omaha, Help All). One thing was certainly evident: All involved share in the Creighton tradition of "men and women for and with others."

The group not only engaged the fashion world, but also set out to support a local charity that has been instrumental in reshaping Omaha's urban community.

The evening benefitted Omaha's Abide Network, which is a nonprofit started by the family of former basketball player and alumnus Josh Dotzler, BA'09. Abide Network's mission is to involve caring people in the lives of children, youth and families in under-resourced areas.

The first annual SOHA, held March 31 at Omaha's House of Loom, was a collaboration of both current and former Creighton students, including alumnus and basketball star Kyle Korver, BA'03, of the Chicago Bulls. Korver's clothing line, Seer Outfitters, visually captured the evening's goal with its first cause T-shirt outside of the Kyle Korver Foundation (KKF), titled "Better Together." Korver founded Seer Outfitters

with the profits going to underprivileged children and those in need. Brother and former Bluejay Kaleb Kover, BSBA'11, was on-hand to help with the Omaha event.

Alumna Theresa Farrage, BA'06, came up with the idea for the charity fashion show, which attracted a standing-room-only crowd and highlighted 13 Omaha fashion boutiques, along with Seer Outfitters. "Last October, I felt a calling to start something that would inspire positive growth and change within the Omaha community and beyond," Farrage says. "I knew that I wanted to create an event around my two passions ... fashion and philanthropy." Farrage called upon two other Creighton alumnae, Natalie Navis, BA'06, and Christin Goetz Merwald, BA'06, who shared her vision. Navis served as the event's lead stylist.

Farrage says the group raised more than \$2,500 through donations. Seer Outfitters sold more than 70 shirts at the fashion show and raised more than \$1,400 for the Abide Network.

Further fashion ... Active Faith, a Christian clothing line started by Anthony Tolliver, BSBA'07, is also in the business of helping others. The Minnesota Timberwolves forward has joined former NBA D-Leaguer Lanny Smith in the venture, which will donate a portion of its proceeds to charities.

Wilbert E. Coon, BS, Leawood, Kan., Feb. 27, 2012. **Clarence M. Houlihan, BS**, Omaha, March 18, 2012. **Darrell E. Johnson, BSC**, Onawa, Iowa, March 27, 2012. **Dr. Carolyn McCue McElhinney, DENT**, Boise, Idaho, Feb. 9, 2012. **Joseph S. Sanduski, JD**, Omaha, March 29, 2012. **Edward L. Schinzel, ARTS**, Sidney, Neb., Jan. 7, 2012. **George M. Wilson Jr., BS**, Coeur D'Alene, Idaho, March 21, 2012.

52 Donald H. Bendorf, MD, Omaha, April 2, 2012. **Mary Brunner Holden, BS**, Jefferson, Iowa, Jan. 9, 2012. **Sally Lewis Kiemy, BS**, Indianapolis, Feb. 11, 2012. **John W. "Jack" Marcil, ARTS**, Omaha, April 13, 2012.

53 Anna Dwerlkotte Thiessen, SJN, Beloit, Kan., Jan. 17, 2012.

54 Albert M. Dolan, MD, Waterloo, Iowa, March 17, 2012. **William F. Pagett, BusAd**, Elkhorn, Neb., Dec. 31, 2011.

55 John W. "Jack" Barnes, MD, Omaha, April 7, 2012.

♦ **Raymond F. Horn Jr., BS**, Anacortes, Wash., Dec. 10, 2011. **Shirley Morehead Miller, SCN**, Bellevue, Neb., Dec. 29, 2011. **John K. Reynolds, BSC**, Glendive, Mont., Jan. 21, 2012. **Miles A. Vana Jr., BSPha**, Lamar, Colo., Jan. 4, 2012.

56 Mary Torticill Hosford, SCN, Milwaukee, Feb. 23, 2012. **Edwin C. Haggerty Jr., DDS**, Colorado Springs, Colo., March 29, 2012. **Helen Hanzel, SJN**, Dallas, Ore., Dec. 26, 2011. **Robert D. Rento, MD**, Little Falls, N.J., Feb. 24, 2012. **Hon. Thomas M. Shanahan, ARTS**, Omaha, Dec. 27, 2011.

57 Jean Kontor Cooney, SJN56, BSN, Bridgeport, Conn., Jan. 22, 2012. **Richard J. Ronk, BS**, Fairfax County, Va., Dec. 18, 2011. **Kenneth F. Rupp, MD**, Ravenna, Ohio, Dec. 21, 2011. **Charles R. Schranck Sr., MD**, St. Louis, Feb. 22, 2012. **Karen Kirkwood Vampola, ARTS**, Fallbrook, Calif., Jan. 19, 2012.

58 Stanley Gross, BSChM56, MS, Omaha, Jan. 16, 2012.

59 Richard L. McVaney, BS, Omaha, March 9, 2012. **Richard L. Spence, BA**, Lincoln, Neb., Feb. 18, 2012.

60 Dr. Daniel B. Felker, BA, Oro Valley, Ariz., Dec. 4, 2011.

62 Walter P. Byers, BA, Winslow, Ark., Feb. 6, 2012.

63 Dale L. Braddock, BSBA, Omaha, Jan. 1, 2012. **Richard M. Brunner, BS**, Jefferson, Iowa, Feb. 18, 2012. **Robert C. Stemper, ARTS**, Saxeville, Wis., Feb. 10, 2012.

Ryan Establishes Nursing Scholarship in Memory of Aunt

"She had a caring and generous personality and truly wanted to help people recover from injury or illness," said Connie Ryan, ARTS'75, HON'11, of Omaha, of her late aunt, Florence Krebs Samson, SJN'38, who died in January in Texas. Ryan, a member of the Creighton Board of Trustees, established The Florence Krebs Samson Memorial Endowed Scholarship.

"My aunt enjoyed a remarkable life," Ryan said. "She grew up on a ranch near Humphrey, Neb. After graduation from nursing school, she went to work for the U.S. Public Health Service in New York City and later, in San Francisco. In 1942, she met a young merchant mariner and later Coast Guard officer — Frank Samson — from Blue Point, Long Island, N.Y. They married and over the next 56 years, lived in Norfolk, Va., Cincinnati, St. Louis, New Orleans, Houston and Rockport, Texas."

Over the years, Florence Samson worked as a registered nurse, was an avid

gardener, an accomplished pianist and a dedicated bridge player, as well as a devoted mother of four. Her volunteer work included organizing meals and activities for senior

The Florence Krebs Samson Memorial Endowed Scholarship will support future Creighton nurses, as they respond to the changing needs of public health.

citizens, teaching defensive driving classes, working at a local resale shop, and serving as an election judge in Aransas County in Texas.

"I admired my aunt for her independence and strong character. I loved her eclectic interests in life. She was the oldest child in her family, as I am, and we often talked about some of the unique challenges of being the oldest. She was an amazing person," Ryan said.

The Florence Krebs Samson Memorial Endowed Scholarship will support future Creighton nurses, as they respond to the changing needs of public health. Qualified students in their first year of nursing school will be able to apply for the annual awards.

"We have one additional requirement," said Ryan. "The recipient must have a caring and generous personality and truly want to help people recover from injury or illness. My aunt epitomized the true meaning of nursing and it is my hope that students who receive this assistance in her name will do their best to continue that tradition."



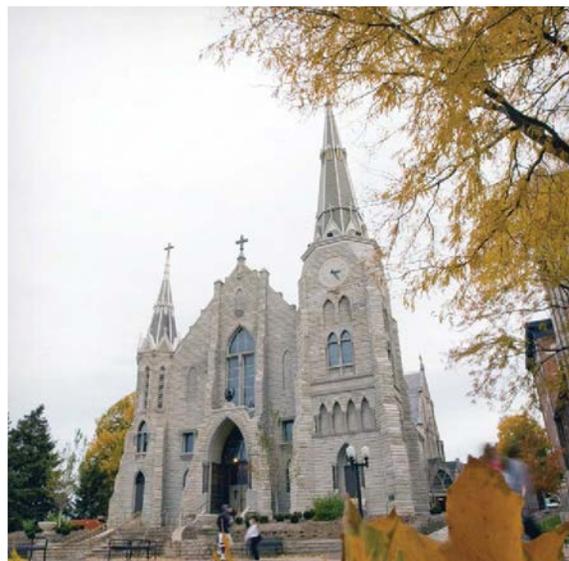
Alumnus Tries to Solve Riddle of the Sphinx

Before this bejeweled object came into Glenn R. (Randy) Jensen's life, it had been lost for nearly 200 years. Did this good-luck talisman actually belong to the Emperor Napoleon? (A Creighton professor of mathematics thinks the odds are good.) And, how did this famous bit of history find its way to Jensen, a 1977 Creighton alumnus living in Omaha? [Learn more about the "Riddle of the Sphinx" in this online exclusive story.](#)

- 65** John J. "Jack" Parks, BA, Pensacola, Fla., Feb. 4, 2012. **Richard A. "Dick" Steinhausen Jr., BA,** Columbus, Ga., Feb. 26, 2012.
- 66** Gary P. Barth, BA, Lincoln, Neb., Jan. 19, 2012. **Lorraine Hills Crowell, BSBA,** Apopka, Fla., Feb. 21, 2012. **Dr. Donald D. Douglas, BS,** Lewisburg, Pa., Jan. 18, 2012. **George F. Werner, BA '61, MD,** Albuquerque, N.M., May 12, 2011.
- 67** Theodore E. Domanski, BSBA, Arlington, Texas, Feb. 9, 2012. **Gregory S. Patchett, DDS,** Merida, Mexico, Jan. 10, 2012. **Anthony S. Troia, BA,** Omaha, Feb. 14, 2012.
- 68** Kathryn Mesteky Plourde, BSC'54, JD, Omaha, Jan. 5, 2012.
- 69** Paul J. Safraneck, BSBA, Omaha, Dec. 30, 2011. **Jeffrey D. Toberer, BA '66, JD,** Omaha, March 5, 2012.
- 71** George D. Anderson, JD, Port Ludlow, Wash., Jan. 19, 2012.
- 72** Steven J. Franco, BA '67, DDS, Omaha, Feb. 28, 2012.
- 74** James B. Cavanagh, BSBA '70, JD, Omaha, March 12, 2012.
- 75** Larry D. Brown, MA, Cedar Park, Texas, Jan. 5, 2012. **Richard J. Bujarski, BSBA '72, JD,** Omaha, March 6, 2012.
- 77** Stephen J. Beauchamp, ARTS, Omaha, Feb. 4, 2012. **Paul C. Jessen, JD,** Omaha, Feb. 14, 2012. **Barbara J. McCarthy, BSN,** Omaha, Feb. 17, 2012.
- 78** Michael B. "Mike" Foley, ARTS, Lincoln, Neb., Dec. 29, 2011. **Robin Perkins Kammandel, BSN,** Omaha, Jan. 16, 2012.
- 82** Melvin J. "Mel" Merwald, MMIN, Omaha, March 26, 2012.
- 83** David D. "Bush" Bushnell, MS, Austin, Texas, Jan. 27, 2012.
- 91** Richard J. Madden, BA, Omaha, April 2012.
- 95** Thomas R. Murphy, JD, Osceola, Iowa, Feb. 27, 2012.
- 96** John M. Querry, BA, Omaha, March 4, 2012.
- 98** Jennifer Ackerman Reeves, JD, Omaha, Jan. 3, 2012.

ALUMNI WEEKEND

ALL alumni and friends are invited back to campus for this fall tradition. Make plans to come back to the hill to enjoy the campus and reconnect with friends during one fun-filled weekend. In addition to Alumni Weekend, the 10, 20, 25, 30, 40 and 50-year reunion classes will have the opportunity to celebrate their reunion anniversaries.



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Check out the Alumni Weekend website for the most up-to-date information!



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Before this bejeweled object came into Glenn R. (Randy) Jensen's life, it had been lost for nearly 200 years. Did this good-luck talisman actually belong to the Emperor Napoleon?

Alumnus Tries to Solve Riddle of the Sphinx

By Pamela Adams Vaughn

Before this bejeweled object came into Glenn R. (Randy) Jensen's life, it had been lost for nearly 200 years. In case this sounds like Jensen, BA'77, has stepped into a sequel of *The Lord of the Rings*, you may not be far from wrong.

For who could imagine a more dramatic "lord," his horse rearing famously as he himself brandished a sword, than the Emperor Napoleon? He probably carried into battle what now belongs to Jensen, and somehow lost this good-luck talisman in the Dutch soil, around the early 1800s.

So how did such a famous bit of history find its way to our Creighton alumnus, especially one whose Omaha business deals in classic golf, not Empire-era art?

For Jensen, serendipity played its part in his acquisition of this Napoleonic jeweled sphinx.

Jensen, an eight-time National Hickory Golf Champion who certainly knows a mashie from a niblick, was intrigued by the possibility of trading golf clubs for an unknown jeweled object that was listed on eBay by the man who had inherited the object from his father.

The late father, a Dutch gardener, had pocketed the object as a teenager while digging a trench in 1950s Holland. Later, coming to the U.S. to open a landscaping business, the gardener probably tossed the talisman into a drawer and promptly forgot about it.

Jensen and the son settled on a deal, the talisman came to Jensen, and the rest is history ... and a treasure hunt for authentication, the Creighton alumnus says.

It's a hunt that features a storied romance, secret codes, Masonic rituals, Rosicrucian symbols, the grandeur of a bygone age, a world conqueror who rivaled the Greeks' Alexander, and even tarot-card symbolism which got its start in ancient Egypt. Certainly not your typical find on eBay.

The most noticeable feature of the talisman is the crystal sphinx that sits atop a silver, bejeweled base, eyes gazing in the distance, a face resembling Napoleon's storied Empress Josephine, with a soft, Mona Lisa smile. (In fact, Jensen tells us, the conqueror loved the Mona Lisa so much that he "borrowed" it from what would become the Louvre, hanging it in his bedroom where it remained for several years.)

Below the crystal sphinx, 114 precious jewels — sapphires, rubies, emeralds and pearls — are arranged in code on the talisman.

It is here that Jensen has really delved, finding both Napoleon's and Josephine's initials coded into the design.

Jensen also points to the use of three shingles, four sapphires and six trailing sapphires as tarot coding for "Empress," "Emperor" and "Lovers."

The secret to understanding the talisman, Jensen believes, is its four patterns of rubies. "This pattern of 21 rubies with a blank that has never held a jewel correlates perfectly to the tarot code," Jensen explains. Tarot cards, which can trace their lineage to the ancient mystery schools of Egypt in 1500 B.C.,

number 21, with each card numbered and themed, and an additional card left blank.

Dating from his campaign to conquer Egypt, Napoleon had fallen for the symbolism of the ancients, strewing his empire with not only tarot symbols, but also those of Freemasonry and the Rosicrucians — or Order of the Red Cross/Knights Templar, known especially for their fighting for Christendom in the Crusades.

The talisman has another secret Jensen has unlocked: It served as a kind of birthday card, from Napoleon to himself, Jensen explains.

At 33 years old, Napoleon had conquered most of Europe and had been voted a Life Consulship of France. This auspicious date — Aug. 15, 1802, his 33rd birthday — is coded into the talisman, as well.

(And, yes, it's true that, two years later, rather than submitting to Pope Pius VII, Napoleon did crown himself emperor, turning then to finish the business and crowning Josephine his empress.)

Jensen says this "Napoleonic treasure hunt" has afforded him a special view not only of history but also of the person of Napoleon: a gifted organizer, incredibly charismatic, and eternally fascinating.

A figure who has been both deified and demonized, Napoleon could be both compassionate and ruthless, Jensen says. Surprisingly, Jensen has found that all of Napoleon's wars were fought in self-defense, in defense of France and the empire.

In the end, Jensen turns to the man himself for comment. Born out of the French Revolution, Napoleon's grasp for power always seemed tempered by his belief in the sovereignty of the people.

"Nothing should be made into a general rule unless it conforms to the public interest; whatever serves mere private interest should be permitted only by an exceptional decision of the public authority ...

"Public opinion is an invisible power, mysterious and irresistible. Nothing is more mobile, nothing vaguer, nothing stronger. Now matter how capricious, it nonetheless is truthful, reasonable, and just, far more often than one would think.

"We have been guided at all times by this great truth: that the sovereignty resides in the French people in the sense that everything, everything without exception, must be done for its best interests, for its well-being, and for its glory ... "

Authenticating the Talisman: Check this Coin-Flip

Who better to authenticate Jensen's Napoleonic talisman than a Creighton University professor of mathematics, Shih-Chuan Cheng, Ph.D.?

It's all about probability, Jensen says, and the odds that the talisman is an authentic piece, having belonged to Napoleon, are staggeringly good.

Jensen related the odds to a coin flip.

An American nickel in a coin flip has one chance in 6,000 tosses (according to the Smithsonian/NASA Astrophysics Data System) of landing on its edge.

And you are more than 7 million times more likely to flip a coin and have it land on its edge than you are of having coincidence account for the Napoleonic coding of Jensen's jeweled sphinx.

That's the conclusion of Cheng.

"To get a sense of how remote these odds are," Jensen says, "let's use the coin-flip analogy again. Say you have 25 nickels in your pocket, but only one with a 2002 date on it.

"First, you must randomly select a nickel from your pocket without looking at the dates. You must select the 2002 nickel to continue.

"Then you would need to flip this 2002-dated nickel onto a hard surface and have the coin land on its edge.

"The edge would have to measure to within one degree of perfectly north and south, or else you don't continue.

"The head must be facing east — not west, or you don't continue. Furthermore, the head must be oriented to within one degree of perfectly vertical as well.

"The odds of all this happening are about the same as the odds of having coincidence account for the coding of this jeweled sphinx.

"And, of course, you get just one chance at pulling all this off: the correct nickel selected from your pocket, flipped so it lands on its edge with the edge running perfectly north-south, and the head perfectly vertical and facing east."

Still, Jensen says he'd like to further authenticate the jeweled sphinx.

"I would like to find an art history or history major who would like to do a doctoral thesis on this piece. The thrust of this archival research in France would be to uncover the written documentation relating to the talisman."



Meet the Jesuits

Charles Kestermeier, S.J.

Charles Kestermeier, S.J., who has taught at Creighton since 1995, most recently in the English department, will celebrate 50 years as a Jesuit this August. And he can't imagine a more satisfying vocation.

Well ... there were those early grade school years when he dreamed of driving a train or a truck, and his fifth-grade year when the Franciscan nuns teaching at his school had him entertaining the idea of becoming a Franciscan priest.

"Then it struck me one day," Fr. Kestermeier recalls, with his noted dry wit, "there didn't seem to actually be any Franciscans. I was in love with the sandals, the beard, the habit, but I never saw anybody like that."

He counseled with his parish priest, who encouraged him to attend Jesuit-run Marquette High School in Milwaukee. Two weeks into his high school career, after interacting with the Jesuit scholastics, he knew he wanted to be a Jesuit. "They were just having the time of their lives, and I said, 'That's it. This is what I want.'"

Kestermeier entered the Society of Jesus on Aug. 14, 1962, after graduating from Marquette High. At Creighton, in addition to teaching, he serves as chaplain for Deglman Hall, the Creighton Students Union and ROTC.

