



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

Race in America

Fr. Hendrickson's First Year

Drug Shortages

Totally RaD

**Marriage, Family and the
Catholic Church**

Summer 2016



Architectural rendering looking north at the new complex, with Boys Town National Research Hospital (not part of the sale) silhouetted at left in the foreground and the pedestrian bridge at right. (Alley Poyner Macchietto Architecture)

A Prescription for the Future

A local developer has agreed to purchase the CHI Health Creighton University Medical Center property at 30th and California streets and plans to redevelop it into 650 to 700 apartments with retail space and an 850-foot long pedestrian bridge over the North Freeway to Creighton's main campus. The news was met with a healthy dose of excitement from Creighton and community leaders. Creighton President the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, S.J., called the announcement "a great day for Creighton and the surrounding community." **Read more here.**



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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.

Message from the President

More than 1,700 Creighton graduates received degrees during commencement ceremonies in May, and we wish them well as they pursue professional careers, volunteer opportunities, and post-graduate education.

This annual academic tradition is a good reminder to us all of the importance of remaining lifelong learners. Being engaged in learning is a journey that allows us to uncover more about ourselves, our relationship with others and with God, and our purpose in the world.

On a personal level, I have enjoyed a wonderful journey of my own in my first year as president of Creighton University. Like the academic journey of our students, this inaugural year has been informative, challenging, and uplifting — with more than a few late nights and plenty of memorable experiences.

I appreciate the warm welcome that I have received from the extended Creighton community. In my time with students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends of the University, I am convinced more than ever that Creighton University is a special place, and I am excited about what the future holds for us.

As a university, and through discussions within individual departments and units, we have undertaken an all-campus Area Examen, modeled after the Jesuit process for discernment, to consider institutional initiatives that will continue to propel us forward and enhance Creighton's mission.

One initiative, which I announced during my inauguration ceremony, that I believe holds particular promise for the University is our new Creighton Global Initiative, or CGI.

In April, I announced that more than 30 projects were chosen for an initial \$1.5 million in seed funding. These include immersion opportunities, research programs, lectures, and scholarships, just to name a few.

This global experience will build upon our current international outreach and education. I am excited for the opportunities it will offer our students to experience different customs and cultures and to gain new perspectives that will allow them to bring fresh ideas to critical issues both globally and in their own communities.

This spring, I also announced the formation of the President's Advisory Council on Sustainability and the Presidential Diversity Commission, to guide and inform our actions and planning in these priority areas. I am hopeful for the recommendations they will offer.

Finally, our Board of Trustees recently approved the appointments of several new lay and Jesuit members to the Board. We welcome the leadership, guidance, and enthusiasm these new members will bring to the Board and Creighton University.

Please enjoy this issue of *Creighton University Magazine*. I pray that you and your families have a wonderful summer.

Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, S.J.
 President



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SUMMER 2016

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

Race in America 16

One-half of the American population considers racism “a big problem” in our country, according to a Pew Research Center study, a finding consistent with other polls and recent events. Members of the Creighton community offer insight from an Ignatian perspective.

Looking Back: The First Year 22

The Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, S.J., Ph.D., shares his observations on a range of topics with the readers of *Creighton University Magazine*, as he looks back at his inaugural year as president.

Drug Shortages 28

More than 150 medications are currently in short supply — including cancer treatments, antibiotics, vaccines, anesthetics and more. Creighton professors explain this serious situation and offer some solutions.

Totally RaD 34

With a supercomputer and a lightboard to its credit, Creighton’s research and development laboratory, or RaD Lab, is engaging students and faculty from all corners of the campus, creating innovations that were once unthinkable.

Marriage, Family and the Catholic Church 40

Amoris Laetitia, Pope Francis’ Apostolic Exhortation on marriage and the family, changes the focus from law to virtue, according to theology professor Todd Salzman, Ph.D., and theology professor emeritus Michael Lawler, Ph.D. The papal document will guide the Catholic Church for many decades to come.

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On the Cover:

Jhoné White-Lucas, a May 2016 Creighton graduate, poses for the cover image.

Photo by Dave Weaver

Director of Communications | Rick Davis | richarddavis@creighton.edu

Editor | Sheila Swanson | sheilaswanson@creighton.edu

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2500 California Plaza, Omaha, NE 68178



Reaching for a Dream

By Emily Rust

Scholarships Allow Mother of Four to Pursue Nursing Education

When Valerie Bower gave birth to her second son, something was off.

“I had a really horrible delivery,” she said.

Her newborn son had underdeveloped lungs and spent a week in the neonatal intensive-care unit at CHI Health St. Elizabeth in Lincoln, Neb. Always by her side were caring nurses, people she would remember for years to come.

At the time, Bower was a customer service representative at a call center. Her only exposure

She'd often thought of Creighton when considering nursing school. But Omaha was far away, and as a mother of four, she needed to be close to her family. Worried about pursuing her nursing career, Bower soon found the answer she was looking for.

“When I found out that Creighton had a campus at Mary Lanning, I was over the moon. Creighton is THE nursing school; it's got a great reputation,” Bower said. “It was a very happy accident — further reinforcement that nursing is my calling.”

In the fall of 2014, Bower began the traditional four-year nursing program at Creighton University College of Nursing-Mary Lanning Campus. Since 1986, Creighton has operated a nursing program out of Mary Lanning Healthcare in Hastings.

Bower wouldn't be in nursing school if it hadn't been for the scholarships she received. With the Les and Phyllis Lawless Annual Scholarship, and the EducationQuest Foundation Annual Scholarship, she's able to focus on school. Before the scholarships, she discussed with her husband possibly picking up a part-time job, adding another challenge for the mother of four.

“I see that as pulling out the bottom piece of the Jenga game,” Bower said.

Now, her family has learned to adjust to mom's college schedule. Her boys, aged 11, 10, 8 and 3, are for the most part supportive — only annoyed when it affects their free time. But, they're kids, she says.

“When there are nights where I have to work on homework at the dining room table, they continue with life around me,” Bower said of her family.

As an active member of her church and a caring mother, Bower is grateful to have Creighton nearby.

“It's really nice to have the option to go to school here, get a degree, but stay at home,” Bower said.

After graduation, Bower hopes to start her nursing career at Mary Lanning. She's leaning toward working in either neonatal or OB-GYN.

“What excites me is caring for people when they're most vulnerable and being that nurse for them, the way they were for me and my kid,” Bower said.



Valerie Bower at home in Hastings, Neb., with her husband and four sons. Bower is a student in the traditional four-year nursing program at Creighton University College of Nursing-Mary Lanning Campus in Hastings.

to the health care industry was working with supplemental insurance. She had gone to college to study elementary education, but left to pursue a job, not knowing exactly what she wanted to do.

Still searching for her dream career, she often remembered her time at St. Elizabeth's and the nurses beside her, and finally, she realized her calling in life.

“The care that I got and that he got, that's what has inspired me to become a nurse,” Bower said.

But her goals would have to wait. Now, eight months pregnant with her fourth son, Bower and her growing family were moving out of her hometown of Lincoln to Hastings, Neb., where her husband had been called to serve as a pastor of the First Christian Church of Hastings.

Board of Trustees Appoints New Members

The Creighton University Board of Trustees recently approved the appointments of three Jesuit and seven lay members to the Board. Their terms will begin at the Board meeting in September.

“As alumni and friends of the University, the new appointees not only share a commitment to our Jesuit and Catholic mission, but they represent an impressive and impassioned range of professional and civic expertise and involvement in areas as diverse as philosophy, global engagement, communications, finance and leadership in the Society of Jesus,” said Creighton University President the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, S.J.

The new Jesuit trustees are:

Rev. Casey Beaumier, S.J., Ph.D., director of the Institute for Advanced Jesuit Studies at Boston College, who taught Church history and New Testament at Creighton from 2005 to 2006.

Rev. Joseph Daoust, S.J., superior of the Jesuit community on the Pine Ridge

Indian Reservation in South Dakota; former general counselor to the Jesuit superior general in Rome; and former president of the Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley (Calif.).

Rev. Gerald Thomas (Tom) Krettek, S.J., Ph.D., associate visiting professor, director of the Master of Arts in Philosophical Resources program and director of the Jesuit First Studies Program at Fordham University; former provincial superior for the Wisconsin Province of the Society of Jesus; and former philosophy faculty member at Creighton (1989-2000).

The new lay trustees are:

Thomas Barry, BSBA'88, senior vice president, controller and chief accounting officer for Sirius XM Holdings, Inc., in New York.

Jerry Crouse, vice chairman of Tenaska Energy, Inc., and CEO of Tenaska, Inc.,

one of the leading independent power producers in the U.S.

Chris Elias, BS'79, MD'83, HON'09, president of global development for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Nizar (Nick) Ghossaini, BS'75, MS'76, a senior operational partner for Triton, a private equity firm with offices in London, Frankfurt and Stockholm.

Susan Nemer Haddix, trustee for GFH and SAH Foundation Trust, and longtime volunteer and board member for nonprofit and educational institutions.

Jayme Martin, BSBA'92, vice president and general manager of global categories for Nike, Inc.

Gary Witt, consulting director and former president and managing shareholder of Lutz, an Omaha-based accounting, technology and talent service firm.

In addition, the Board has approved the appointment of **Eric Immel, S.J.**, to the new role of associate trustee. He is a Jesuit scholastic who will serve at Arrupe College of Loyola University Chicago this fall as assistant dean for student success.



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- Clinical Systems Administration

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- Focused on outcomes management and care coordination
- Online classes for flexibility and convenience

Creighton
UNIVERSITY
College of Nursing

2016

commencement highlights

1,700+
total graduates

4

Honorees

George F. Haddix, Ph.D., MA'66 • Alumni Achievement Citation
Alumnus and Trustee Emeritus • Creighton University

The Rev. James Martin, S.J. • Honorary Degree
Editor at Large, America Magazine

John Wareham, BSPha'64 • Honorary Degree
Alumnus and Retired President and CEO • Beckman Instruments

Kenneth Melilli • Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Award for Teaching Achievement
Professor of Law • Creighton University

45
states represented

2

Spirits of Creighton

Tara Dammer
School of Pharmacy and Health Professions and Heider College of Business

Brandon Warrington
College of Arts and Sciences



20
countries represented

Beyond Global Boundaries

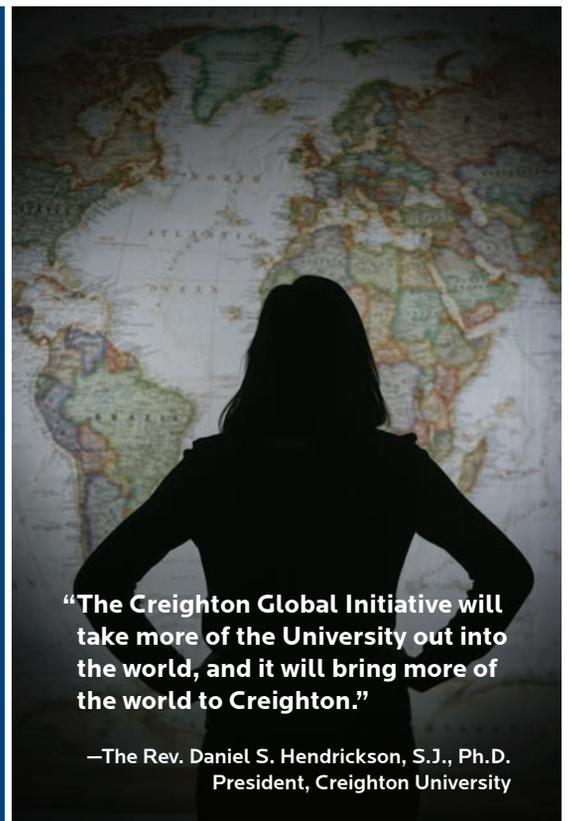
Research initiatives, student immersion experiences and scholarships are among the 30 proposals recently awarded nearly \$1.5 million in funding through the Creighton Global Initiative (CGI), a seed-funding program for faculty, staff and students designed to strengthen, enrich and embrace the University's global perspectives. Additional awards will be given next year from the donor-funded initiative.

To learn more about the 30 great ideas for global thinking, visit creighton.edu/geo

To support CGI, visit creighton.edu/cgi

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GLOBAL
INITIATIVE



"The Creighton Global Initiative will take more of the University out into the world, and it will bring more of the world to Creighton."

—The Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, S.J., Ph.D.
President, Creighton University

A Global Experience

By Rick Davis, BA'88

Studying Elephants: Unforgettable

Creighton University student **Tommy Hayek** was looking for a study abroad experience that would be unique, memorable and further the education he was receiving as an environmental science major.

“Tanzania fit that criteria,” said Hayek by phone, more than halfway through a semester abroad program in wildlife management studies this past spring through The School for Field Studies.

The School for Field Studies, according to its website, offers “transformative study abroad experiences through field-based learning and research” at locations in Australia, Cambodia, Costa Rica, Bhutan,

“When you enter the park, it’s very heavily forested,” Hayek said. “I saw some blue monkeys in the trees, so I was all excited. Then the car in front of us stops, and we hear these crashing sounds.

“This massive forest elephant comes out of the trees” right in front of the lead car. More elephants follow, including a young calf. “It was a huge shock. These massive animals are coming out of nowhere. It was

Disney movies, I grew up watching nature documentaries.”

And Creighton prepared him well for the experience, he said. Courses in zoology, biology and organismal and population ecology gave him the knowledge and confidence to apply for the program. He was one of 41 students, from universities across the United States, admitted.

While overseas, he also had an opportunity to correspond with Creighton University President the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, S.J. “Since he had been to Tanzania,” Hayek said, “it was really interesting to get his perspective on what I was doing and hear his stories from his time in Tanzania.”

The program ran from Feb. 1 to May 10, but Hayek stayed an extra week so he could climb Mount Kilimanjaro.

The whole experience, he said, has been



Photo courtesy of Tommy Hayek

Two younger elephants spar at the Manyara Ranch Conservancy in Tanzania.



Photo by Isaac Merson

Creighton student Tommy Hayek studied male elephants as part of a study abroad experience this spring.

Peru, Panama, Turks and Caicos Islands, and Tanzania. There is a focus on environmental stewardship and working with local partners to find sustainable solutions to complex environmental problems.

That fit with Hayek’s faith, and what he had experienced at Creighton.

“We are called to be stewards of the earth,” Hayek said, “and being here I feel I can put my faith into practice. I’m able to apply Jesuit principles to my work here.”

He also had an opportunity to study African elephants — up close. It was an eye-opening, adrenaline-rushing experience for the St. Louis native.

“The first experience I had with an elephant was at Lake Manyara,” a national park known for its diverse wildlife, Hayek said.

indescribable, an incredible introduction to life in Tanzania.”

Hayek’s research focused on studying the sociability and leadership of male elephants. He worked as part of a team under the direction of John Kioko Masila, Ph.D., a Kenya native and associate professor of wildlife ecology at The School for Field Studies, whose research focuses on elephant conservation.

“There is plenty of research on female elephants,” Hayek explains. “They’re one of the classic examples of matriarchal groups. But there hasn’t been much done on male elephants.”

Hayek had always dreamed of doing this type of work.

“While other kids grew up watching

somewhat surreal — filled with unforgettable experiences and images:

The great migration on the Serengeti, where thousands of wildebeests “stretched out to the horizon” ... a lion feasting on a zebra carcass ... a group of cheetahs walking along ... a leopard resting lazily in a tree. And rare black rhinos, a species that is critically endangered, off in the distance at the Ngorongoro Conservation Area — almost appearing as a mirage in the haze of the afternoon heat.

“They looked like these giant prehistoric animals that would never be able to survive on earth,” Hayek said. “But there they were. There are still these amazing creatures with which we share this planet.

“That was very, very cool.”

[Q&A] Avoiding Bloviations

Before addressing Creighton graduates, Fr. Martin corresponded with *Creighton University Magazine*

Nationally and internationally accomplished Jesuit priest, writer and commentator the **Rev. James Martin, S.J.**, was the featured speaker at Creighton University's afternoon commencement ceremony on May 14.

Creighton University Magazine caught up with Fr. Martin for an email interview prior to graduation. The bestselling author, also known for his guest appearances on Comedy Central's "The Colbert Report," shared his thoughts on a range of topics.



Photo by Chad Greene

The public was invited to St. John's Church to hear the Rev. James Martin, S.J., speak on the importance of joy in the lives of Christians on May 13, the night before commencement.

Q You've had an opportunity to speak at commencement exercises for several universities. What message do you hope to impart as students go forth into the world and begin the next chapters of their lives?

Fr. Martin: I hope to give them some practical advice, not just some abstract bloviations. Essentially, I'll aim for the kind of talk that I wish I heard when I graduated instead of, well, bloviations. Knowing that I'm speaking to Jesuit-educated students means that I'll be able to speak their language, as it were. It's such an honor to be invited to do this, especially at Creighton, which has such an important place in this country as a real center for Ignatian spirituality. (*Watch Fr. Martin's commencement address here.*)

Q You are popularly known as "Chaplain of the Colbert Nation" or "Colbert's Priest," given your appearances on comedian Stephen Colbert's talk show. You are also a humorist in your own right. Do you follow in the vein of great American humorist Mark Twain in believing, "Against the assault of laughter, nothing can stand?"

Fr. Martin: I would agree in part with Mark Twain. But just in part. I mean, people laughed at Adolf Hitler for a time, but that didn't seem to stop him very effectively. But against pomposity in general I think Mr. Twain was right.

More basically, humor is an essential element for a healthy spirituality. Catholics tend to downplay that. Just go into a Catholic church and count all the crucifixes and statues of sad-looking saints. Not that the suffering of Jesus wasn't important. Rather, the Passion narratives represent only part of his life — one week in fact. The majority of his ministry was one of joy. Healing the sick, raising the dead, preaching the Good News to the poor. These are all occasions of great joy.

Jesus himself said that people critiqued him for being a "glutton and a drunkard." That is, he was being critiqued for living it up. After all, his first miracle was to make more wine at a party. So we have to move away from this idea of Jesus, and the saints, and, by extension,

holy people, as dour and depressive. It's essential not only for a sense of humility (that is, laughing at yourself) but also to maintain a healthy perspective of who you are, and your place in the world. Basically, you're not God. That's important for everyone.

Q As a Catholic priest, how do you appeal to a wider non-Catholic, non-Christian audience, and how has your Jesuit calling instilled in you the desire to reach a more universal, diverse group of people?

Fr. Martin: I try to write for the person I was before entering the Jesuits — that is, not knowledgeable about the faith, about the Gospels, about Jesus or about anything religious. So that enables me, I think, to reach more people. I try to keep things basic at first and then trust that the reader will be able to follow me.

As for my Jesuit calling, well, our goal is to “help souls,” as St. Ignatius Loyola, our founder, often said. And that's everyone — not just Catholics!

Q You once consulted for a play that opened off-Broadway. How did that come about, what was that experience like and did you ever imagine your Jesuit vocation would lead you in that direction?

Fr. Martin: I was invited to work on a play on Judas with the playwright Stephen Adly Guirgis, who went on to win a Pulitzer Prize. The play, “The Last Days of Judas Iscariot,” [which debuted in 2005] was directed by [the late] Philip Seymour Hoffman, and starred Eric Bogosian and Sam Rockwell, among others. It was a delightful experience. I had zero experience with actors or the theater, and so it was a learning experience for me. And for them,



Creighton President the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, S.J., left, and the Rev. James Martin, S.J., at Creighton's commencement ceremony in May. Fr. Martin received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters and delivered the commencement address at the afternoon ceremony.

too. I knew something about the Gospels and they knew something (a lot) about acting, directing and so on.

Funny enough, one day I said to one of the actors, “So when are you starting your practices?” And he said, “Um, Father Jim, they're called rehearsals.”

And no, I never, ever, imagined when I entered the Jesuits that I would do anything like this. The God of Surprises, you know.

Q Entering the Jesuits after being educated at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Business and a career at General Electric, what lessons, if any, have you brought forward from your days in the corporate world? What things about our current corporate culture would you like to see open to change?

Fr. Martin: That's a great question. At General Electric, I learned a great deal about

how to work efficiently, and how to work hard. So I still make it a point to be at my desk at 9 a.m., and I always put in a full day's work, unless I'm traveling. I think every Jesuit should work just as hard as anyone in an office does. That's very important for me: I have a real horror of laziness. “S.J.” doesn't stand for “Soft Job.”

Also, funny enough, I learned at GE to, as we used to say, “Never let a piece of paper touch your desk more than once.” That is, when you get a task, or an email, or a phone call, take care of it. It's a rule that's helped me a lot.

As for our corporate culture: Business is obviously a key part of our society. And business is a real vocation for millions of people. But the corporate world needs to grasp more fully that the bottom line isn't the only measure of a corporation's success or its value. And a salary isn't the only measure of a person's success or value.

This isn't the time to go into a long discussion about economics or capitalism, but, as Pope Francis says in his encyclical *Laudato Si'*, there are more metrics for success: How well does the company contribute to the common good? How well does it pay its workers? How happy are its employees? And so on. I found in the business world a slavish devotion to the bottom line, which, needless to say, is quite limiting. Some of those questions (though I wouldn't have been able to frame them that way at the time) were what led me out of GE and into the Jesuits.

About Fr. Martin

The Rev. James Martin, S.J., a native of Plymouth Meeting, Pa., graduated from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Business in 1982 and worked in corporate finance at General Electric for six years before leaving to enter the Society of Jesus in 1988. He was ordained a priest in 1999.

Fr. Martin currently serves as editor at large of *America* magazine and is an award-winning author. His books include *Jesus: A Pilgrimage* (a *New York Times* bestseller), *The Jesuit Guide to (Almost) Everything*, *Between Heaven and Mirth* and his latest, *Seven Last Words: An Invitation to a Deeper Friendship with Jesus*.

He is a regular commentator in the national and international media, and his appearances have ranged from NPR's “Fresh Air” to Fox's “The O'Reilly Factor,” PBS' “NewsHour” and Comedy Central's “The Colbert Report.”

health briefs

Study to Examine Factors Leading to Lower Back Pain in Pregnant Women

Jennifer Bagwell, Ph.D., assistant professor of physical therapy, earned a new investigator grant from the American Physical Therapy Association Orthopaedic



Bagwell

Section to look at joint and muscle function in pregnant and postpartum women.

Bagwell will spend two years looking at the gait of 25 pregnant and postpartum women and the gait of 25 women who have never been pregnant. The goal is to look at the factors contributing to lower back and lower extremity pain during and after pregnancy, with the ultimate goal of finding techniques and interventions to lessen or eliminate the pain.

Bagwell said about half of pregnant women report lower back or lower extremity pain, a pain that often doesn't go away following delivery.

New College of Nursing Programs Announced

The College of Nursing recently announced a new RN-to-BSN program and a new Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner specialty track for students seeking a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree.

The RN-to-BSN program, which is entirely online, provides registered nurses with a pathway to the Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. The program aims to prepare nurses in the areas of outcomes management, care coordination and transition, cost-quality initiatives, and population health management. It also encourages registered nurses, who may already have been practicing for several years, to think about the leadership roles they could assume to best serve their populations. Work experience will be considered in determining the breadth and depth of required coursework toward the degree.

The Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner specialty track is designed to prepare nurse practitioners to meet the mental health needs of individuals, families and communities or groups, with a population focus on children, adolescents,

adults and older adults. Implementing faculty from both the College of Nursing and the School of Medicine, program content includes psychiatric-mental health models of care, therapeutic modalities, pharmacotherapeutics and neuroscience.

Breaking Bad News to Parents Focus of Medical Simulation

About 20 fourth-year School of Medicine pediatrics students took part in a simulation this spring on breaking bad news to the parents of children who have experienced severe trauma or a difficult diagnosis. While



Zach

simulated, the exercise was far from fake. The standardized patients — specially trained by simulation lab staff — provided visceral reactions to the worst news a parent can get.

Under the mentorship of **Terence Zach, BA'79, M.D.**, neonatologist and professor of pediatrics, medical students took part in the simulation to work on their technique.



Sharon Classen helps to stretch and exercise Mystique, while Kirk Peck, Ph.D., helps to hold the horse steady at Serenity Ridge Farm in Bennington, Neb.

Physical Therapy Effective for Four-Legged Athletes, Too

How do you get a 1,200-pound horse to tell you about the range of motion in his neck? Give him a carrot, of course.

Kirk Peck, Ph.D., associate professor and chair of the Department of Physical Therapy, along with fellow physical therapist Sharon Classen, saw several dozen hooved patients at The International Omaha horse jumping and dressage competition in May.

Classen and Peck, who make up Serenity Physical Therapy, based out of Classen's farm near Bennington, Neb., are spreading the word about the benefits of physical therapy for athletes — both the four-legged and two-legged varieties.

Peck, who already holds certification for practicing physical therapy on dogs, and is the state's leading advocate for animal physical therapists, is in the final stages of completing his equine certification.

When available, Peck will join Classen as she travels the horse show-jumping circuit, providing fresh insights on enhancing performance, helping horses and riders recover faster, preventing injuries and conducting groundbreaking research.

Creighton Remembers Former Board Member Mike Harper

Charles M. “Mike” Harper, HON’95, a former chairman and chief executive officer of ConAgra Foods, Inc., and RJR-Nabisco, and an emeritus member of Creighton’s Board of Trustees, died May 28 at the age of 88.



Harper

The philanthropic gifts and civic engagement of Harper and his late wife, Joan F. “Josie” Bruggema Harper, dramatically enriched Creighton, Omaha and the surrounding region.

“Mike Harper, his wife, Josie, and the entire Harper family have been generous supporters of Creighton University and our Jesuit, Catholic mission,” said Creighton University President the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, S.J. “The Harper Center, which bears the family name, is a showpiece and signature facility on our east campus and serves students in multiple capacities as home to our Heider College of Business, the Schlegel Center for Service and Justice and the John P. Fahey Career Center, among other uses.”

At the time of the dedication of the Harper Center, Mike Harper said the building stood as a tribute to Josie, a loving mother and ardent supporter of family, education and health care.

As ConAgra CEO, Mike Harper provided the initiative to revitalize downtown Omaha and partnered with government officials to enhance the business climate across Nebraska. Creighton conferred on him an honorary degree in 1995, to recognize his corporate and civic contributions.

“Mike was an astute and successful businessman who cared deeply about this community and Creighton University,” Fr. Hendrickson said. “His impact will be felt for generations to come.”

“As a neonatologist, by definition, I do this just about daily,” Zach said. “Some news is worse than other news — sometimes it’s just that the baby has to stay in the NICU for a few days, in other cases, the baby died — but on a fairly regular basis, this is something we do. We want students to be able to have the experience before it really happens. It’s the old saying: “Tell me, I forget; show me, I may remember; involve me and I understand.”

Students in the simulation learned to have a communications plan before breaking the news, learned how much words matter, how much body language matters, how even a brief mental rehearsal can help.

Typically, Zach said, not many medical schools offer a simulation like this one. But Creighton’s emphasis on treating the whole person, combined with educating the whole person, makes this one of the most poignant lessons many of the students will take away from their time in medical school.

Vitamin D Could Lower Cancer Risk, Researchers Find

A higher level of vitamin D could lead to a lower risk of cancer, a Creighton professor found in his latest study published online in the April 6 issue of PLOS ONE. Drawing on results from one of Creighton’s past studies, **Robert Heaney, BS’47, MD’51**, and researchers at the University of California, San Diego School of Medicine and GrassrootsHealth, looked at vitamin D levels in 2,304 women.

A global expert on vitamin D studies, Heaney looked at women who used a supplemental amount of vitamin D over a four-year period. He found that if a woman’s blood level for vitamin D is above 40 nanograms per milliliter, her risk for cancer is reduced.

In 2010, the Institute of Medicine recommended a vitamin D dosage of 600 international units per day. That’s not enough, says Heaney. But what is enough? For Heaney, he believes people should first discover how much vitamin D is in their blood levels, as the GrassrootsHealth participants discovered through a blood test.



Students Named Fulbright, Goldwater Scholars

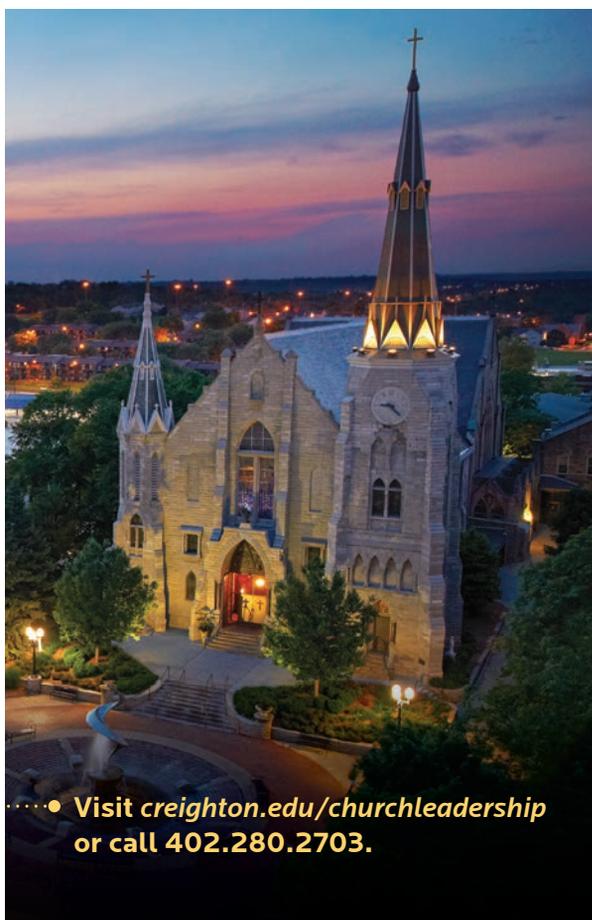
Three College of Arts and Sciences Honors Program students, Jordan Roth, Samantha Stoupa and Alex Tarter, earned scholarships from the Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Program. This brings Creighton’s Goldwater Scholars total to 19 in the last 12 years, making the University one of the nation’s premier producers of Goldwater Scholars. Additionally, Hannah Smith, BA’16, was the recipient of a Fulbright Teaching Award. She will spend 11 months teaching English and serving as an American cultural ambassador in Spain, beginning this fall. Pictured above, from left, are Hannah Smith, Jordan Roth, Samantha Stoupa and Alex Tarter.

Improv for Scientists

Hannah Mullally, BSEvs'16, left, and Brisha Howe, a computer science major, work on their improvisational skills. Creighton theater professor Amy Lane, Ph.D., BFA'90, has been hosting workshops to help student and faculty researchers and scientists at Creighton better communicate their work with the general public. [Read more here.](#)



Photo by Jim Fackler



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UNIVERSITY

One of Nature's 'Most Spectacular Events'

Will a severe March storm or cross-border politics threaten the migration of the monarch butterfly?

Spanning four generations and three nations, the annual migration of the monarch butterfly endures as one of nature's most captivating marvels.

"The monarch migration is an incredible phenomenon," said Ted Burk, Ph.D., professor of biology, who has devoted much of his professional life to the study of the monarchs who live and migrate up and down the central corridor of North America. "Whether you attribute this to a Godly creator or a long evolutionary process, or maybe both, it's one of the most spectacular events in nature."

But in the 41 years since the modern revelation of the monarch's winter roosting site on a wrinkle of mountainous forest in central Mexico, roughly the size of Creighton University's campus east of 24th Street, life has been unstable at best for the butterflies and the people who have carved out a niche ecotourism economy around the monarchs.

Now, with the effects of climate change being felt all along the monarchs' migration route and roosting zones, another threat rears up to challenge the butterflies. The people, the policymakers and the scientists who have a vested interest in the butterflies are pondering the next moves in light of two rough migrations in 2013-2014 and 2014-2015, when

the monarch populations were estimated at 33 million and 56 million, respectively, compared with the billion butterflies that wintered in the area in 1996-1997.

"You have three federal governmental entities involved in Mexico, the U.S. and Canada, all making policy decisions and when you have a trilateral situation like that, it's problematic," said Adam Sundberg, Ph.D., an assistant professor in the Department of History who spent time as a graduate student in the monarch roosting grounds in Mexico, examining the socioeconomic and historical impact of the migration and potential effects of climate change on it. "You have scientists trying to weigh the best options and find the best models for what the climate change impact will be. And you have the people who are concerned about what the economic impact will be. It's climatological, ecological, political and social."

The good news is there was a decent rebound in 2015-2016, up to about 150 million butterflies, but a severe winter storm in March had a dramatic impact on the population, killing about one-third of the roosting monarchs. Burk said the weather event is one scientists come to expect every decade or so and, since the last major storm was in the winter of 2000-2001, this one was well overdue.



While the toll taken on the monarchs was significant, the butterflies still departed their wintering grounds in February with greater numbers than in the past two years. The storm's weightier aftermath might be felt when the great-great-grandchildren of this year's winterers return to Mexico in the fall. The storm felled several hundred trees, a problem compounded by continued illegal logging in the forest. More frequent storms of this magnitude could spell disaster for the species.

Inasmuch as people are anxious about the plight of the monarch in its winter quarters in Mexico, people in Nebraska and more widely throughout the nation can also help forge solutions, Burk said. Monarchs are widespread throughout the U.S., though not all of them migrate to Mexico. West of the Rockies, the butterflies travel the West Coast and a species of monarchs in the southeast largely migrates along the Florida peninsula. Planting milkweed for caterpillars and other cultivars like tall thistle, goldenrod, ironweed, aster, zinnia and wild bergamot for mature monarchs helps provide the insects with a food source.

Bernthal Booth, Kean Honored at Women's Athletic Fundraiser



Kirsten Bernthal Booth and Melissa Kean, Ph.D., MA'93, were recognized at this year's Leaders for Life Luncheon, the annual fundraising event that celebrates Creighton's female student-athletes. Bernthal Booth, head coach of Creighton's volleyball team, received the Leader for Life Award. Kean, who is the centennial historian at Rice University, received the Believe and Achieve Award.

From left, Kirsten Bernthal Booth, Creighton President the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, S.J., and Melissa Kean, Ph.D., MA'93.

race



America

By Eugene Curtin

Editor's note: While the United States is home to people of various racial backgrounds, this article focuses on race relations between black Americans and the majority white culture.

The numbers are stark. They are challenging. And they are stubborn. Fifty years after President Lyndon Baines Johnson launched his Great Society program aimed at eliminating poverty and racial injustice in the United States, the numbers haunt his legacy.

- > The Current Population Survey of the U.S. Census Bureau shows that the median white household earns \$60,256 a year, almost \$25,000 more than the median black household, at \$35,398.
- > Seventy-three percent of white families own a home, with a median value of \$85,500. Those figures fall to 45 percent and \$50,000 for black families.
- > In the past 10 years, 34 percent of white Americans completed a four-year college degree, compared to 20 percent of black Americans.
- > The U.S. Department of Justice reports that almost 3 percent of black males were in prison at the end of 2014, compared to 0.5 percent of the much larger white male population. Black men had the highest imprisonment rate in every age group.

It's a bleak picture, and it hasn't gone unnoticed.

A Gallup poll published in August 2015 showed that Americans increasingly rate the state of race relations more negatively than in the past. White Americans in particular are pessimistic. In 2013, 72 percent of them said relations between blacks and whites were either very good or somewhat good, a number that tumbled to 47 percent in 2014. Black Americans, too, are more pessimistic, with their very good/somewhat good rating falling from 66 percent in 2013 to 51 percent in 2014.

A Pew Research Center study conducted in August 2015 found that 50 percent of Americans now consider racism a “big problem” in the United States, compared to just 26 percent who held that view when Barack Obama, the nation’s first black president, took office in January 2009.

The finding is consistent with explosions of racial anger that have fueled recent news events in the United States, eruptions that have spurred calls for social and racial justice.

As a Jesuit, Catholic university sitting adjacent to historically black North Omaha, Creighton has long maintained an active presence among racial minorities, recruiting students from racially diverse backgrounds and working with minority communities to provide health, legal and other services.

It comes as no surprise, then, that Creighton professors have pondered the problem.

Sade Kosoko-Lasaki, M.D., an internationally renowned researcher in minority health; Eileen Burke-Sullivan, STD, MChrSp’84, Creighton’s vice provost for University Mission and Ministry; and philosophy professor Kevin Graham, Ph.D., author of *Beyond Redistribution: White Supremacy and Racial Justice*, are

Creighton has long maintained an active presence among racial minorities, recruiting students from racially diverse backgrounds and working with minority communities to provide health, legal and other services.

convinced that words and good intentions cannot bridge a racial divide more than three centuries in the making. That historic task, they believe, can be accomplished only by the sometimes uncomfortable work of engagement.

For Kosoko-Lasaki, a Nigerian-American, and Burke-Sullivan, whose name could hardly be more Irish, those epiphanies came in church.

For her research into health disparities locally and the increased incidence of glaucoma-related blindness in African-Americans and Hispanics nationally, Kosoko-Lasaki, professor of surgery (ophthalmology) and associate vice provost of Health Sciences, was scheduling presentations at neighborhood churches. Eventually, a pastor suggested that if his congregants were good enough to be subjects of her research, perhaps they might also be worthy of her ongoing church attendance.

She saw the point, and though a resident of West Omaha, has



become something of a regular at that church.

Burke-Sullivan’s church story involves the challenge she faced as a profoundly Catholic white woman — indeed, a Doctor of Sacred Theology — in laying aside briefly the structured format of the Catholic Mass and accompanying two African-American friends to a more free-wheeling Congregationalist church.

“I have to say it was a very uncomfortable experience,” she said.

“This is not something I would set up for myself every week, although perhaps if I were courageous I would.”

The visit clarified the importance of placing oneself in another’s shoes in order to gain understanding of an alternative cultural experience.

Churches, Burke-Sullivan said, reflecting Martin Luther King’s observation that Sunday morning is the most segregated time in America, are opportunities for people of different races and traditions to step beyond their boundaries.

They are opportunities to hear one another, she said, opportunities that, taken more often, would build understanding and help the quest for greater social and racial justice.

“They are a good place for people to start engaging because you have a genuine experience of people trying to be there for each other,” she said. “That creates a safer place to extend yourself as you’ve never done before.”

“I’m not really an educated person in the modern world if I don’t understand the varieties of cultures that are around me and make up this wonderful world. If I’m locked into a singular culture as the only way to be, I’m not educated. Nor am I going to flourish.”

**Eileen Burke-Sullivan,
STD, MChrSp’84
Vice Provost for University
Mission and Ministry**

Jesuit Schools Stand Against, Discuss Racial Injustice

Kayman Nixon, president of the Creighton Students Union, joined the student government presidents of the 27 other Jesuit colleges and universities in the United States to “publicly stand in solidarity” against racial injustice within institutions of higher education.

Nixon was one of the signers of the statement, released in March, which called for “all institutions of higher education to stand together and take action in advocating for an end to racial inequality in its many manifestations.”

In addition, faculty from Jesuit colleges and universities will gather at Creighton University in February to discuss issues of race, ethnicity and diversity as part of the 2017 Heartland-Delta Conference, which has a theme of “difficult conversations.”



Photo by Mike Kleveter

If awkwardness imposes itself on attempts to understand a different worship tradition, then so does opportunity, said Burke-Sullivan, who holds the Barbara Reardon Heaney Chair in Pastoral Liturgical Theology at Creighton.

“You’re really talking about making an effort not only to listen — which is a big piece of work in itself — but to hear,” she said, “because you start to put yourself in another person’s shoes, and you start to experience their world.”

This emphasis on “hearing one another” as Burke-Sullivan puts it, lies at the heart of Graham’s insistence that “distributive justice” — the more equal distribution of wealth — is a necessary though insufficient guarantee of comprehensive social justice.

Even if society’s goods and services were more equally distributed, he suggests, true justice — true harmony, perhaps — would await resolution of the cultural assumptions that Americans of various races make about one another — what he calls the “controlling images” that make us wary of one another.



Photo by Jim Fackler

If hope exists, he said, then it exists in the willingness of Americans to bury “controlling images,” which he defines as “stereotypes with teeth.”

Jettisoning those stereotypes, married to a willingness to allow America’s historic racial injustices to inform but not control the future, would make it easier for Americans of all races to accept one another, which Graham sees as the key to achieving real racial justice.

“The hope, I think, from my own experience, comes from trying to engage individuals across boundaries of difference, one on one, trying to understand their stories,” he said. “In my experience, the most powerful hope about the possibility of working beyond differences lies in getting to know someone and their interests and their story, and their trying to get to know me and my interests and my story, and all of us trying to get past a lot of this cultural baggage.”

Blacks and whites alike, he said, would do well to acknowledge the impossibility of righting the wrongs of slavery, of changing the harsh fact that centuries of white rule imposed crippling disadvantages on black America and conferred often-unrecognized privileges on white America, and that past wrongs, while not being forgotten, should not be allowed to hamper progress.

“In my experience, the most powerful hope about the possibility of working beyond differences lies in getting to know someone and their interests and their story ... and all of us trying to get past a lot of this cultural baggage.”

Kevin Graham, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Philosophy

“We need to own up to the fact that we’re not going to overcome 450 years of bad history. It’s just not within our power to do,” said Graham, whose academic expertise includes the philosophy of race. “So you don’t try to do that. You try to focus on the one thing that’s right in front of you, that you can make better, in order to reduce the problems for members of nonwhite races and to overcome a little bit of white privilege.”

“You try to take baby steps, because those are the only steps you can take when you are learning to walk. You’ve got to learn that before you can learn to run.”

The road to social and racial justice — if such is defined as equitable access to society’s goods and services, equal participation in the electoral system and a harmonious appreciation of differing cultural experiences — has been long, and remains long.

Along the way, practical difficulties have been overcome and new ones have presented themselves. Among these, according to Raneta Lawson Mack, Creighton professor of law, has been something called the digital divide.

Mack’s concern about minority access to the information superhighway began early in the digital revolution, and her 2001 book, *The Digital Divide: Standing at the Intersection of Race and Technology*, was an early attempt to voice fears that the advent of the internet might accentuate the economic gulf between the white, majority culture and black America.



Raneta Lawson Mack, professor of law, has studied the effects of the digital divide and knowledge divide between the white, majority culture and black America.

Today, she said, those fears have eased. The gulf has been bridged, and access to the internet and all its offerings is near universal. But a new problem has arisen in the wake of that achievement, and she calls it the knowledge divide.

“The issue has now shifted to what people do once they have access,” she said. “To the extent there are any limitations now it’s based upon people not knowing what they can do with all of this information that’s available to them — those who have that kind of knowledge versus those who don’t.”

It is one thing to use the internet to acquire useful knowledge, or to research job opportunities, she said, but if it becomes just a

Issues of Race on College Campuses

While college campuses are not immune to challenges surrounding race, diversity and inclusion, they are also good environments for serious, open and respectful discussions about these issues.

In November, with racial tensions at the University of Missouri making national headlines, Creighton President the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, S.J., sent an email to campus and to alumni stating: “Creighton University stands firmly against racism, sexism and hatred in all its forms.” He stressed that the University “is a place for dialogue, understanding and acceptance.”

Roger Bergman, Ph.D., director of Creighton’s Justice and Peace Studies Program and a professor in the Department of Cultural and Social Studies, said in his 22 years of teaching social justice at Creighton that race, or more accurately, white privilege, has been “the most contentious issue” for his students.

“At least for some white students of relative affluence, mention of historical privilege makes them feel defensive, as if they stood accused of being personally racist,” Bergman said. “It’s good news that they find such a label offensive, but it’s bad news that they haven’t yet learned to see themselves as beneficiaries of centuries of white supremacy, of what has been called ‘affirmative action for whites.’

“Education for transformation of such attitudes is at least part of the solution. My students have always, after their first defensive reactions, come to see the larger picture, however difficult it may be to acknowledge it. The point is not to feel guilty. The point is to take responsibility.”

Creighton to Form New Presidential Diversity Commission

In May, Creighton University President the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, S.J., announced the formation of a new Presidential Diversity Commission, led by Associate Provost Tricia Brundo Sharrar, BA’93, JD’96. The group will include representation from faculty, staff and students.

“Among other objectives, it is my hope that the Diversity Commission will seek to increase awareness of diversity at Creighton, advise on recruitment and retention of a diverse faculty, staff and student body, and advocate issues of diversity for the entire campus community, including creating programming that addresses diversity issues,” Fr. Hendrickson wrote in a message to campus announcing the commission.



Photo by Jim Fackler

source of entertainment then a significant opportunity will be lost.

“You can put a computer or a cellphone in front of a minority child and say, ‘Here it is’ — give access — but if that child doesn’t have the same education and knowledge base that a nonminority child has, then the digital divide still exists,” she said.

Kosoko-Lasaki, who leads Creighton’s Health Sciences Multicultural and Community Affairs Office, is troubled by how “knowledge divide” affects the health and wellness of minority populations and places obstacles in the path of racial justice.

In 2014, Creighton was awarded a nearly \$1.5 million Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) grant to study new models in reducing health disparities in the African-American population in Douglas County. Kosoko-Lasaki, who serves as the grant’s principal investigator, said there is a lack of consciousness of how bad eating habits and a lack of exercise lead to higher rates of cancer, cardiovascular disease and diabetes. Socioeconomic and racial concerns exacerbate the problem.

“You can tell someone to exercise and to eat better food,” she said. “But what if they live in an unsafe neighborhood, or lack access to a gym or healthy foods or cannot afford them? And if that person happens to be a minority, is he or she willing to talk about these issues with a white physician?”

Kosoko-Lasaki notes that an insufficient supply of black health care professionals means that large numbers of African-Americans are treated by white health care workers. To address this issue, her office offers a variety of “pipeline” programs that introduce minority youth to careers in the health professions and assist minority college students and graduates in pursuing an education in the health sciences.

Her office also provides cultural awareness education for all health professions students, white and black, equipping

them to effectively care for diverse patient populations.

“There are white physicians who care so much about these disparities and want to contribute to their elimination,” she said. “If we give such individuals a chance, and equip them by teaching them the skills needed to build trusting relationships and relating to minorities, we can get a lot done and reduce the health disparities in our nation.”

If, as a black woman, Kosoko-Lasaki is eager to educate the majority culture about the sensitivities of black and other minority cultures, then Terri Sanders, also a black woman, is just as determined that minority youth understand that pleading universal mistreatment will get them nothing.

A 1978 Creighton journalism graduate, Sanders currently serves as site manager of the Fair Deal Village MarketPlace, an economic development project by the Omaha Economic Development Corporation. The key to minority advancement, she said, is what it has always been — a mix of assertiveness, determination and initiative.

“Don’t be passive about your education,” she said. “It’s about being an active participant, not standing apart. Nobody owes you anything. You have to drive your own bus. You have to knock on the door, and if the door is locked you need to go around and

The key to minority advancement is what it has always been — a mix of assertiveness, determination and initiative.

Terri Sanders, BA’78
Site Manager, Fair Deal
Village MarketPlace,
Omaha Economic
Development Corporation

find a window that's open and go through there.

"I think young people today don't do that enough."

Burke-Sullivan does not dispute Sanders' hard-nosed advice.

"I would say that any minority cultural message that states, 'Don't study, don't do well in school because then you're conforming to white, majority culture,' is harmful, because education is so important," she said.

But, then again, she said, white culture must understand the resentments and suspicions often voiced by black Americans, suspicions that they are unfairly targeted by law enforcement and subjected to unfavorable and unjustified judgments by society at large.

She calls these convictions "categories of experience," and she said they are vastly different for black and white America.

"Black Americans' perceptions of and interactions with the police, for example, are not the same as the experiences of most white people," she said.

These differing attitudes toward police are backed up in a review of annual surveys conducted by Gallup from 2011 to 2014. It found that 59 percent of white respondents had a great deal or quite a lot of confidence in the police, compared with 37 percent of blacks.

It may take time, Burke-Sullivan said, and a greater degree of self-awareness on the part of white America, but the concerns of America's minority cultures must be addressed. The health of all cultures, she said, depends on it.

"I'm not really an educated person in the modern world if I don't understand the varieties of cultures that are around me and make up this wonderful world," she said. "If I'm locked into a singular culture as the only way to be, I'm not educated. Nor am I going to flourish."

And flourishing, after all, is what the quest for social and racial justice is all about. It is the flourishing of Americans of all races that concerns advocates such as Graham, who said the road forward must be signposted with dialogue and an understanding that true justice entails far more than a more equitable



Photo by Dave Weaver

Sade Kosoko-Lasaki, M.D., an internationally renowned researcher in minority health, leads Creighton's Health Sciences Multicultural and Community Affairs Office. She is the recipient of a \$1.5 million grant to study new models in reducing health disparities in the African-American population in Douglas County (Neb.).

distribution of wealth.

"There's lots of room for dialogue about what would count as moving forward and also the means by which we move forward," he said. "But what I want us to understand is that there's more to moving forward than just redistributing income and wealth. If we limit the discussion on moving forward to that, we are missing a bigger picture."

It's a bigger picture that Burke-Sullivan believes we will miss at our peril.

"We are at a time in our culture where we can make a choice. Are we satisfied with where we are at, in terms of race relations?" she said, "Or are we going to make a serious effort to try and discover what it is about other people's lives that is real and that I can contribute to?"

› A Look Back

Creighton University Jesuit the Rev. John Markoe, S.J., dedicated his life to fighting racial injustice and, up until his death in 1967, advised friends, colleagues and students to "never give an inch" in the struggle against racism. He helped galvanize the De Porres Club of Omaha, which, four years before the Montgomery, Ala., bus boycott, launched a similar campaign against the Omaha and Council Bluffs Street Railway Company. The late Bob Reilly profiled the life of Fr. Markoe in the Winter 1995-1996 issue of *Window* magazine. **Read the article here.**



› Race and Traffic Stops

Dawn Irlbeck, Ph.D., a professor in Creighton's Department of Cultural and Social Studies, has studied the issue of racial and ethnic profiling by law enforcement as it relates to traffic stops. The state of Nebraska, in accordance with a 2001 law, keeps detailed records of traffic stops and the races of those stopped. Irlbeck has examined that data. **Read about her findings here.**



Irlbeck



Looking Back

Fr. Hendrickson snaps a “selfie” during move-in last August.

Photo by Dave Weaver

The First Year

The Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, S.J., Ph.D., took office as president one year ago. The year included high points, such as the formation of the new Creighton Global Initiative, as well as lows, such as the tragic deaths of three students and a former student in a car accident, and the passing of Creighton's 23rd president, the Rev. John P. Schlegel, S.J.

Before coming to Creighton in 2015, Fr. Hendrickson had been affiliated with the University formerly as a student, faculty member, and trustee. He holds undergraduate and advanced degrees from Marquette University, Fordham University, the Jesuit School of Theology at Santa Clara University, and Columbia University.

He has placed a special focus on global experiences in his life, having lived in or traveled to some 35 countries. Prior to Creighton, he held a variety of teaching and administrative posts, including most recently at Marquette University.

Fr. Hendrickson recently shared his thoughts about the past year and a wide range of topics with *Creighton University Magazine*.

GOALS FOR THE FIRST YEAR

One of my primary goals was to be accessible, visible, and approachable. I want to be a president who is well rooted in the work and the activities in the daily life of our University. I have enjoyed visiting various offices and departments to connect with faculty and staff, and conversing with students anywhere on campus.

I also see my role as speaking to Creighton's vision, and to the values, ideals, and objectives of Jesuit higher learning. It is so necessary to continually animate important parts of our mission and identity, such as expressions of faith, actions of service, and dimensions of justice, but to also be mindful of what and how we study. Core curricular disciplines are fundament of Catholic and Jesuit higher education, and the humanities in particular cultivate ethical regard, critical thinking, cultural appreciation, empathy, eloquence, and so on. The humanities also trigger existential questions in the lives of students, asking the kinds of questions that demand self-awareness and an awareness of others. Creighton students in any of our nine schools and colleges cannot *not* ask questions about the meaning of life.

CREIGHTON STUDENTS

Interacting with Creighton students is the best part of being president. I always enjoy seeing familiar faces and meeting new ones on campus — out on the mall, and at Starbucks, for instance, but also at lectures, service sites, and sporting events. I have hosted numerous lunches with students this year, and I hope to do so more routinely as I continue settling into my presidency. For those of us in higher education, students are why we're here. They are the focus of all we do. It is a great joy watching the work of formation evolving in their lives, and more so prompting it with questions and encouragements.

The students are notably generous and respectful, and they tend to speak about two things that they like about the University. The first is a sense of our community — it takes little effort to be known and connected here at Creighton. On this campus it is easy to make friends and find mentors, and to get involved in extracurricular programs. The other is the quality of the faculty. Our professors are friendly, available, and approachable, and also challenging, and they invite the students into their worlds of enquiry. The passion of the faculty in their areas of expertise is contagious.

THE BIGGEST ISSUES FACING HIGHER EDUCATION

The need for resources, particularly for scholarships and research, is prescient. As tuition costs continue to rise, finding funding to support our academic mission is essential and urgent. We need to be continually looking for ways to help students come to Creighton — students who can and should be here, but simply can't afford to be. Resources that support the research passions of our faculty not only sharpen expertise, but translate into the teaching and mentoring of students.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

A major highlight of the year has been the process of working with the Creighton Global Initiative. For one, Dr. René Padilla (executive director of Creighton's Global Engagement Office) could not have been a better organizer of a tremendous University-wide initiative. The faculty, staff, and students who served on the CGI committee were diligent, collaborative, and thoughtful, and I could not be more pleased with the awarding of \$1.5 million for 30 initial projects. The CGI impels creativity and innovation as it animates and enriches our global focus.

Another highlight has been two discussion groups I participated in, one with faculty and another with students. My faculty book club

met three times to discuss good literature and to relate it to our work on campus. We read *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates; *Excellent Sheep: The Miseducation of the American Elite and the Way to a Meaningful Life* by William Deresiewicz; and *Our Kids: The American Dream in Crisis* by Robert D. Putnam. Each of the books was informative about current issues, but also instructive and encouraging about the work we do in Jesuit higher learning.

The student group, which met with me for dinner a few times, was less focused on literature, but we did read essays by Ralph Waldo Emerson, including "Circles" and "Self-Reliance." As I have enjoyed lunches with different groups of

students throughout the year, this book club afforded me the opportunity to meet more routinely with the same group — hearing about the progression of the year, reviewing struggles, celebrating successes, and such. I like sharing a poem at the end of the dinner conversation, and discussing its meaning. Their interpretations reflect so much about their lives.

At our last dinner meeting of the semester, at their own initiative, each of the students wrote a poem of their own, and they took turns sharing them with the group. Some of the poems were evaluative about the year, and others parodied what they're studying or how they're living as college students. It was a good mix of solemn and silly.

IMPORTANCE OF GLOBAL EXPERIENCES

Why a global focus? The right kind of experience can be so transformative for any of us. It can be instructive about language, history, art, geography, and culture. Going global teaches us a lot about where we come from, too. And I believe that global experiences — particularly those focused on service, immersion, and relationships, more often than not inspire local engagement when returning home. When we leave the United States, especially if we go to places with fewer material resources and less wealth — the gritty realities that (former Jesuit Superior General) Peter-Hans Kolvenbach speaks of — we have a better sense of our priorities. We often rearrange them, and name new ones.

From a faraway place, we can gain a perspective of the kinds of things our own culture and society value, some of which aren't all that good. Monetary wealth, possessions, professional success, time, and relationships can be put in context, or reframed, by interacting with people who live more simply. The goal of going global isn't to leave home, but to better understand where and how we live our lives, and how we are part of a worldwide community.

And as members of a global community, we need to be conversant about global issues, and Creighton can and should be ever current. In so many ways, we are, and Creighton's presence on the global stage is already impressive. But I am inviting us to take another step, and to be particularly intentional about global perspective.

At Creighton, we can do so in academic disciplines and areas of expertise, and more so, with so many schools and colleges and programs on campus, we can enjoy interdisciplinary exchange. The intersections of business, law, the health sciences, and the arts and sciences are a point of pride at a comprehensive university like ours, and they can let us be more informed more quickly.

PAST EXPERIENCES WITH CREIGHTON

Being a student, faculty member, and trustee certainly allowed for meaningful intersections with the University community at different parts of my life, and each taught me something special about Creighton. I well remember artful teaching and genuine mentoring during my time as a student in the Jesuit Humanities Program, and that was only the length of a single academic year. Teaching philosophy here for three years let me engage students on some of life's best questions, and after more than 15 years, I remain in touch with many of them. Too, being a member of the faculty let me work collaboratively with a number of faculty and staff who are still here on campus, and I have enjoyed renewing those relationships. As a trustee, I gained a sense of governance of the University, and it also allowed me to get to know a group of people who are very generous with their time and talent on behalf of Creighton.

THE YEAR'S TRAGEDIES

We have had sad moments this academic year, and more than our fair share. On that Sunday night in October, at a late evening service for the four women who were killed in the car crash (three students and one former student), students, staff, and faculty filled the church. I remember them carrying chairs and setting up, ushering people to seats, caring for each other. In fact, I was initially surprised at the outpouring of support, but then very quickly remembered that the Creighton community mobilizes swiftly. I was here during 9/11, and in the face of such tragedy, Creighton came together. With our young women this year, we were very Creighton. Late on a Sunday evening, the young women's professors were sitting there in the church, as were their friends, classmates, and others who didn't really know them but just wanted to be there.

We said goodbye to a lot of friends this year, and it was important to me to just keep showing up and stepping into the pain. I'm not always concerned with trying to say the right thing in difficult moments, but just having something to say and being supportive is important.



1. Greeting a student after his presidential inauguration Mass; 2. Posing with Billy Bluejay during Welcome Week; 3. Gathering with faculty, staff, and students outside St. John's Church in prayer and silent reflection for racial justice; 4. Celebrating Homecoming with students; 5. Praying with the Creighton community following the deaths of four young women (three students and one former student) in a car crash; 6. Accepting the presidential medallion from former presidents the Rev. Timothy R. Lannon, S.J., and the Rev. John P. Schlegel, S.J., during his inauguration ceremony.



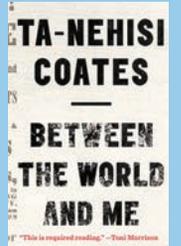
1. Visiting with alumni at Homecoming;
 2. Concelebrating at his inaugural Mass with the Very Rev. Thomas Lawler, S.J., (middle) provincial of the Wisconsin Province of the Society of Jesus, and his twin brother, the Rev. D. Scott Hendrickson, S.J. (right); 3. Greeting students as they cross the stage at May commencement;
 4. Reading Christmas stories at Creighton's James R. Russell Child Development Center; 5. Enjoying coffee with students at Starbucks on campus.



President's Roundtable

In fall 2016, Fr. Hendrickson is launching a President's Roundtable consisting of eight sophomore students and a student assistant.

Fr. Hendrickson has planned a monthly dinner group that will discuss recent literature (such as *Between the World and Me*), engage local fine and performing arts, and do service work, among other options. The program is being piloted as a potential Presidential Scholars program for new students.



FAITH AND A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

From Heider Hall where I live in student housing, I have seen a lot of sunrises this year. I tend to wake early, and if I am too quick to email and other tasks, the sunrise slows me down. And, for a year that has been so full and engaging, the Jesuit Examen has been important. It lets me ask where and how God is present in my life, and it reminds me to recognize God's presence in the lives of others.

At a place like Creighton, where we have so many people engaged with faith and service, it really is quite easy to find the work of God in the world around us. I like adapting the Gerard Manley Hopkins' poem we used for the inaugural theme, "As Kingfishers Catch Fire, Dragonflies Draw Flame," substituting the word Creighton: "... for Christ plays in ten thousand places, lovely in limbs and lovely in eyes not his, through the features of *Creighton* faces."

BEST PREPARATION

I have wisdom figures in my life — former professors and Jesuits and just good friends who are always honest, insightful, and inspiring in their own ways.

Numerous years on different boards of trustees have been instructive about issues of governance and decisions related to the mission and identity of Jesuit institutions.

Three intensive years at Marquette University, which were a combination of administrative work and teaching, were helpful in two ways: being in the orbit of senior leadership and the decisions being made on a daily basis was great exposure; and working with students and teaching rooted me in the educational mission of the institution. I also co-directed an impressive service-oriented scholarship program, which allowed me to work with some of the brightest students on campus, as well as let me help them integrate their studies and service work.

ROLE OF POETRY IN HIS LIFE

I can't really remember how or where I first stumbled into poetry, but I vigorously embraced it when working on my first graduate degree in philosophy. I quite like philosophy, but the intensity of it, and its headiness, propelled me in a counter direction. It was refreshing, and grounding, to read words of a very different nature. E.E. Cummings was a favorite in those years, such as, "i am a little church(no great cathedral)." Another is "i thank You God for most this amazing." In fact, I recently shared this one with a junior student who was reflecting with me about his year.

Hopkins has always enticed me. Rainer Maria Rilke is a favorite, and during my first trip to India back in 1998, to Calcutta, I fell in love with Rabindranath Tagore's "Gitanjali." I just recommended Tagore to a group of Creighton faculty and students who were preparing for a trip to Calcutta.

ON RECHARGING HIS BATTERIES

Riding my bike is a great way to clear my head. I have a couple of colleagues I ride with routinely. Also, it has been great being joined by people on campus. Students will stop me on the mall or contact me in the office to schedule rides. And it has been pretty easy, actually, to just send out a message and get people on campus together for a ride.

THE TOUGHEST PART OF THE JOB

The toughest part is not much different from one of the best parts. I have enjoyed meeting so many different people, and getting connected with the work and the experience of Creighton University; at the same time, the real challenge is maintaining the schedule necessary to be able to make and maintain those connections. A job like this will always require good time management and a sense of balance, having enough desk time, and keeping up with regular meetings and those that pop up, and getting out of the office and around campus. It's important to me to find time to pray and exercise and reflect enough in my life — that's what helps keep me thoughtful and focused.

THE SPECIAL ROLE OF JESUIT EDUCATION

Jesuit education reminds us that higher learning is not just about what we do, and the careers we can enjoy, but it is also about the kinds of people we are and who we can become. Careers and professions are important, and at Creighton we create pathways of professional accomplishment and success. But we also ask our students how they feel, what they believe, and who they care about. We ask them what's important in life, and we talk about suffering, joy, and beauty. Other places train professionals, say, a businesswoman, a teacher, or a dentist. But with substance and soul, we form *Creighton* businesswomen, *Creighton* teachers, and *Creighton* dentists.

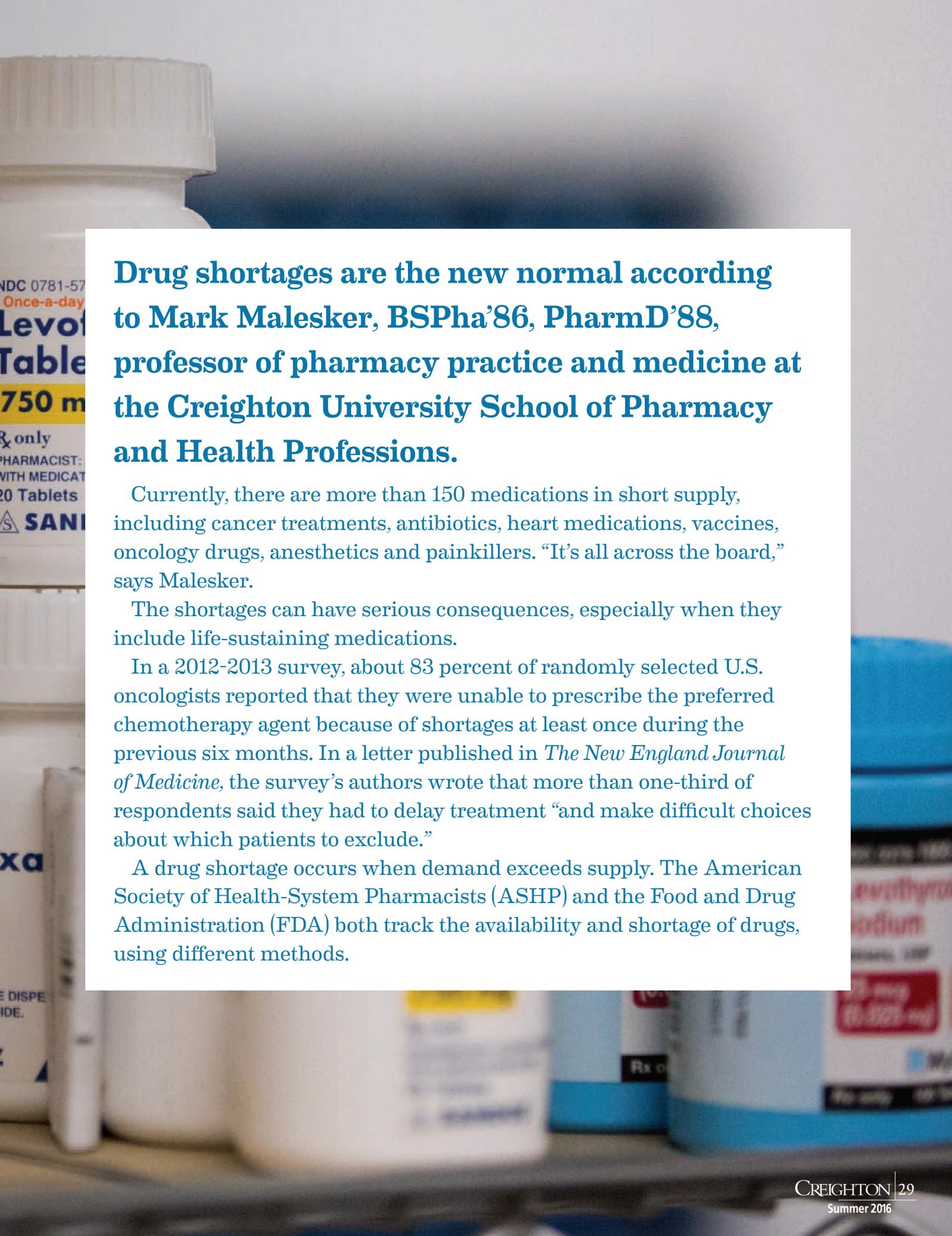
CREIGHTON'S FUTURE

To use simple analogies, I feel the University is like a racehorse, ready to break out in a new sprint, or we're like an engine that's revved up, ready to be released. The talent and expertise of our faculty, the dedication of our staff, the potential of our students, our focus on mission — we're poised. My sense is that we're ready to hit new strides as we continue to showcase Creighton as a university that is both prestigious and extraordinary; as a place that is Catholic and Jesuit, and comprehensive of nine colleges and schools, we are distinctive of other options in higher learning as we form women and men who are attentive, circumspect, collaborative, leading, professionally equipped, and globally engaged.

DRUG shortages

By Ann Freestone, BA'89

**Lack of certain
medications raises issues
related to care, access**



Drug shortages are the new normal according to Mark Malesker, BSPha'86, PharmD'88, professor of pharmacy practice and medicine at the Creighton University School of Pharmacy and Health Professions.

Currently, there are more than 150 medications in short supply, including cancer treatments, antibiotics, heart medications, vaccines, oncology drugs, anesthetics and painkillers. “It’s all across the board,” says Malesker.

The shortages can have serious consequences, especially when they include life-sustaining medications.

In a 2012-2013 survey, about 83 percent of randomly selected U.S. oncologists reported that they were unable to prescribe the preferred chemotherapy agent because of shortages at least once during the previous six months. In a letter published in *The New England Journal of Medicine*, the survey’s authors wrote that more than one-third of respondents said they had to delay treatment “and make difficult choices about which patients to exclude.”

A drug shortage occurs when demand exceeds supply. The American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) both track the availability and shortage of drugs, using different methods.

According to Malesker, the shortages have been traced since the early 2000s.

“It’s better now. The FDA has recognized shortages affect quality of care and has tried to take action,” says Malesker. “The number is not as bad as 10 years ago, which was well over 200 [medications in short supply], but there still are shortages that affect how care is provided on a daily basis. The bottom line is it’s still a problem.” In fact, shortages affect 1 percent of prescriptions, according to Malesker.

As a practicing pharmacist, Malesker has witnessed firsthand how medication shortages in the hospital setting have impacted patient care. He has had to help decide on alternative patient therapies when standard therapies are in a shortage or when the manufacturer has discontinued certain products.



“The root cause lies in the hands of manufacturers. Manufacturers should be investing in upgrading their processes, equipment and facilities to avoid or prevent future shutdowns, but there’s no legal incentive to do so. To break that chain we need legislation that requires best practices to prevent future shutdowns.”

Katharine Van Tassel

*Professor of Law and
Director of Health Law Programs*

“Patients have been frustrated when a medication ordered for them is not able to be delivered, especially patients waiting to receive chemotherapy treatments,” says Malesker.

Why the Shortages?

Katharine Van Tassel, professor of law and director of Health Law Programs at Creighton, is a nationally recognized scholar in health care law, including food and drug law. Although the reasons for the shortages are many, Van Tassel says quality problems at the manufacturers reign as the major one.

“According to statistics maintained by the FDA, the majority [66 percent] of the problem is caused by quality issues in manufacturing,” says Van Tassel. “The FDA will shut down a drug manufacturing plant that is potentially producing unsafe drugs. The FDA can’t allow manufacturers to put a product on the market that will cause people to get sick.” She says the issues range from aging facilities and equipment to even fungus and bacteria in drugs.

Beyond manufacturing problems, other common issues that can lead to shortages include increased demand, unavailable raw materials, natural disasters and consolidation of companies, which results in fewer companies making the same drug.

“We see a lot of consolidation of drug companies,” says Drew Roberts, Pharm.D., assistant professor of pharmacy sciences, “and that, in turn, can result in fewer companies making a generic drug after they merge company portfolios. The fewer companies that make a drug, the more difficult it is to respond to a shortage of that drug.”

Peter Silberstein, M.D., chief of hematology and oncology at Creighton and chief of oncology at the Veterans Hospital, has experienced shortages on intravenous generic drugs for chemotherapy.

“I think that the major reason for the shortage of drugs is due to the economic incentives of drug manufacturers. There is very little profit margin on generic drugs, so that there are only a few manufacturers making these drugs and these manufacturers have stopped producing these if their expenses rise or profits fall,” he says. “There are very few manufacturers producing inexpensive, commonly used, generic intravenous chemotherapy, which is used in both children and adults.” He points out that there is less of a shortage in Europe, where the payment is larger for intravenous generic drugs.

Looking at the Options

When there is a shortage, clinicians and pharmacists look for alternatives.

“Most of the alternative treatments would be recognized treatments that shouldn’t impact the patient in a negative way,” says Malesker.

There can, however, be downsides. According to Philip Gregory, Pharm.D., an associate professor of pharmacy practice, “Clinics and hospitals have a core set of drugs they use. Then they have a change because a drug is on shortage, and the substitute may not be familiar to everyone, which can lead to the incorrect dose, administration, etc.”



Mark Malesker, BSPha'86, PharmD'88, professor of pharmacy practice and medicine, has witnessed firsthand how medical shortages in the hospital setting have impacted patient care.

Gregory is also the director of the Center for Drug Information and Evidence-Based Practice in the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions. Dedicated to serving health professionals, the center provides evidence-based, timely and unbiased information and consultations in an effort to improve patient care.

Calls come into the center from across the country from pharmacists wanting to know how to deal with a shortage. From an anecdotal perspective, he says, calls have increased. The center also provides a training environment to prepare Creighton students and post-graduate residents and fellows to meet the challenges of their future careers.

Gregory says another issue is patients may not always be getting the most effective drug with an alternative treatment. Consider one example. A 2012 article in *The New England Journal of Medicine* ("The Impact of Drug Shortages on Children with Cancer") explained that children with Hodgkin's lymphoma using a substitute drug had higher relapse rates.

According to Silberstein, "When there is a shortage of a chemotherapy drug, then a workaround solution (often sub-optimal) is done for that drug for a specific type of cancer." He says the workarounds can include the following: determine who needs it the most, change the dose, use a more expensive drug, choose a different regimen or buy from other suppliers and pay more (often on the "gray market," that middle ground

between products sold legally and illegal products sold on the black market). He points out the two-year cancer-free survival for pediatric patients with Hodgkin's disease fell from 88 percent to 75 percent when treated with a substitute drug.

Alternative treatments may also have side effects that the preferred drug did not. Charles Youngblood, M.D., interim chair of anesthesiology at Creighton University School of Medicine and associate professor, saw this firsthand while working at another institution. When there was a shortage of propofol, a drug that is used for sedation, the alternative drug had side effects.

"This sounds horrible, but those people felt like they were burning right before going to sleep," he says. "Sometimes you have no other choice."

"What's happening is people are looking for an alternative," says Gregory. "If there aren't alternatives, then the provider says, 'Who needs the drug the most?' and has to make tough decisions."

Tough Decisions

Amy Haddad, Ph.D., director of the Center for Health Policy and Ethics and the Dr. C.C. and Mabel L. Criss Endowed Chair in Health Sciences, is the president of the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities. She has written several books,

including ones focusing on pharmacy ethics and another on health professional and patient interaction.

“When there’s not enough of any good, whether it’s health-related, food or other basic element to fulfill a human need, you have to turn to the principles of justice to fairly allocate what goods you have. Running out of a drug that would be considered a drug of first choice is hard but the decision is less difficult if there are equally efficacious alternatives. If you run out of life-sustaining drugs and there aren’t comparable alternatives, that makes the decision harder,” says Haddad. “There doesn’t seem to be a standard process even in large academic medical centers.” Despite the prevalence of scarcities, 69.6 percent of U.S. oncologists responding to a 2012-2013 survey reported that their cancer centers or practices lacked formal guidance for making decisions regarding allocation of drugs.

Haddad points to the organ transplantation system, which uses select principles of justice such as prognosis and need, as a good example of a system to fairly allocate scarce, life-saving resources, i.e., vital organs. “With drugs, the process is not clear,” says Haddad. “We’re making decisions to allocate scarce resources that aren’t based on any standard ethical method of allocation nor is it transparent to patients.”

When rationing must occur, she says there should be guidelines containing criteria on what makes patients better



Tami Kelley, left, pharmacy system buyer coordinator at the CHI Health Creighton University Medical Center Inpatient Pharmacy, and Malesker review the current day’s back orders/shortages of drugs. Hospitals across the country face back orders and shortages on a regular basis and have to plan accordingly based on current drug availability.

candidates to receive treatment, such as potential years of life that might be possible using a certain drug, among other considerations.

Youngblood points to rationing succinylcholine, a drug that temporarily paralyzes the patient. “The biggest priority is to use it in trauma situations only,” says Youngblood. “We ration it and use it only if we absolutely have to.”

Sharing Information with Patients

So should the patient know that the treatment is an alternative one?

“Clinicians have to be transparent with patients. Patients have to be told and be involved in the decision,” says Haddad. “I can understand why clinicians don’t want to reveal this to patients, because the subtext seems to be saying, ‘This is normally what we’d do, the drug we would normally use in your case, but we can’t.’ But the patient needs to be engaged in the reality. We need to have health professionals share the fact that there is a drug shortage and spell out options to patients in light of the situation.”

According to Gregory, “In an ideal world, they should know, but I can’t say they always do. Cancer patients are at the greatest risk because it’s life and death. If the drug goes on shortage, they have to change course. It’s unfathomable that would happen without a detailed discussion between the provider and patient.”

Being forthcoming with patients doesn’t always happen. A study published in the journal *Anesthesia and Analgesia* found that most patients wanted to know about drug shortages that might affect their care during elective surgery, but most didn’t.

there are currently more than

150 medications in short supply, including



- > cancer treatments
- > antibiotics
- > heart medications
- > vaccines
- > oncology drugs
- > anesthetics
- > painkillers

Advocating for Themselves

Patients can advocate for themselves by having the information on drug shortages at their fingertips. The ASHP website lists drugs that are not available, and the FDA has an app that prescribers and patients can use to receive notifications on drug shortages, says Malesker.

Patients also need to have a close relationship with their pharmacist and prescriber.

“In the event the medication is on the shortage list, the pharmacist could work with the prescriber to find an alternative. It’s important in today’s world — especially for outpatients — to have a relationship with a single pharmacy,” says Malesker. “If something like that would occur, the pharmacist could communicate with the prescriber to find an alternative product. They know you, you know them, so they will work with you to make things work.”

No Silver Bullet

The federal government is tasked with leading the development of policies and regulations to help prevent shortages, says pharmacy professor Roberts. The President’s Executive Order 13588 in 2011 put drug companies on notice that they need to provide advance notice when they know a potential shortage is looming or possible.

“The FDA has opened up lines of communication between the drug industry and federal government to prevent drug shortages, to make sure they have advanced notice of potential shortages that allows the FDA to strategize so it doesn’t affect the public,” says Roberts. Since the president’s executive order, there has been a six-fold increase in notifications to the FDA.

“For generic products, it’s easier to address the shortage if we have enough of a heads-up to inform other manufacturers of that drug that we need them to pick up the slack,” says Roberts.

But with a brand-name drug that is only being manufactured by one company, the FDA doesn’t have this option so quality and safety issues can have major effects on patients needing a brand-name medication. “If the shortage occurred with a brand-name medication, then it would be difficult to address the shortage, especially when alternative treatment options are limited,” he says.

“From a macro perspective, it falls on the FDA and pharmaceutical industry working together to solve this problem,” says Roberts. “At a micro level, we have to train our doctors and pharmacists how to effectively strategize treatment of patients affected by drug shortages.”

Van Tassel offers another solution. Since quality at the manufacturing level is the main problem causing drug shortages, Van Tassel says there needs to be legal incentives for manufacturers to improve.

“The root cause lies in the hands of manufacturers,” she says. “Manufacturers should be investing in upgrading their processes, equipment and facilities to avoid or prevent future shutdowns, but there’s no legal incentive to do so. To break that chain we need legislation that requires best practices to prevent future shutdowns.”

To get manufacturers to use best practices, Van Tassel

recommends people get involved in legislative solutions. “Advocate for change by writing to your legislators in your state,” she says.

Van Tassel says the FDA can incentivize manufacturers to use best practices and is considering quality awards, which is more of a carrot versus a stick approach. “It would be like the Good Housekeeping award,” says Van Tassel.

According to Gregory, “Few people have a handle on a solution to the problem. It’s a multifactorial problem that will not be solved soon.”

In fact, he says, the problem will only be compounded and points to cancer drugs as being especially complex, which often means more problems in manufacturing leading to the drugs getting on back order.

“As drug complexity grows, the problem will continue for quite some time.”



“Clinicians have to be transparent with patients. Patients have to be told and be involved in the decision. We need to have health professionals share the fact that there is a drug shortage and spell out options to patients in light of the situation.”

Amy Haddad, Ph.D.

*Director of the Center for Health Policy and Ethics
Dr. C.C. and Mabel L. Criss Endowed Chair
in Health Sciences*

TOTALLY

By Adam Klinker

Rad

Laboratory tackles technology needs of Creighton faculty and students, while giving students cutting-edge experience



Photos by Dave Weaver

“It all started with an idea,”

Ryan Cameron says as he sits at a table in his office under the Reinert-Alumni Memorial Library. In one corner of the room is what appears to be a computer motherboard full of esoteric lights, switches and tubes of coolant like a space-age Rube Goldberg machine. Much of the rest of the space is occupied by scratch paper and pads with figures and schematics sketched out.

In the fall of 2014, an email popped up in Cameron’s spam folder, of all places, with the subject line “Build your own supercomputer out of Raspberry Pi boards.” Raspberry Pi boards, for the unschooled, resemble something approaching a computer’s motherboard, but roughly the size of a playing card.

A nominally skilled computer scientist can plug in a keyboard and a monitor and have an operating system running on a gigabyte processor in a matter of minutes. The email featured an article highlighting an engineering student at Boise State University who managed to string a couple of Raspberry Pi boards together and create exactly what he needed.

“He was having trouble getting access to a supercomputer for a research project,” Cameron says of the student. Cameron is executive director of Creighton’s Division of Information Technology (DoIT).

“We, too, have lots of research supercomputing taking place at Creighton, but it’s not centralized. So I looked at this thing, this Raspberry Pi card supercomputer, and said, ‘Goodness, I wonder if we could make one?’ No experience, just an idea, could we do this? So we decided to try.”

A dedicated band of DoIT professionals and Creighton student interns worked nights and weekends using instructions the Boise State student had shared online, and by the spring of 2015 and for less than \$1,000, had built a working supercomputer.

Moreover, they had also, without knowing it right away, founded something altogether new at Creighton: the first vestiges of what is now known as the RaD Lab.

“We built a supercomputer,” Cameron says,

some hint of incredulity still present in his voice, even now, *fait accompli*. “Things really took off from there.”

Took off so much, in fact, that the RaD Lab recently expanded to a state-of-the-art makerspace in the library — 1,200 square feet on two levels, replete with two 84-inch touchscreen monitors, custom-made computers, and green-screen and audio-visual capabilities. The new space integrates, among other things, graphic design, sound design, media production, research computing and rapid prototyping, including 3-D printing and microelectronics.

“We want to be able to solve the problems and face the challenges that our students and faculty bring to us,” Cameron says. “This new space gives us that opportunity. We’ve had such strong commitment from visionary leaders in the Creighton community in pulling this together, and we look forward to the next generation of the RaD Lab.”

Let There Be Lightboard

Not long after the team completed its supercomputer, a pair of Creighton biology professors, Alistair Cullum, Ph.D., and Mark Reedy, Ph.D., became curious about integrating more technology into their online classes. They took their questions to an informal meeting regularly hosted by DoIT, where they witnessed a demonstration of a device just taking flight at



Creighton’s RaD Lab is the brainchild of Ryan Cameron, executive director of the Division of Information Technology.



RaD Lab

LOCATION:

Reinert-Alumni
Memorial Library

SQUARE FEET:
1,200

LEVELS:
2

FEATURES:

- > 84-inch touchscreen monitors
- > custom-made computers
- > green screen
- > audio-visual

SPACE

INTEGRATES:

- > graphic design
- > sound design
- > media production
- > research computing
- > rapid prototyping (3-D printing and microelectronics)

Duke University: a lightboard.

Lightboards, like whiteboards and blackboards before them, allow teachers to write on a surface for students to see. But where the other surfaces are bound to the traditional classroom, the lightboard is a communication device that uses a transparent glass surface with fluorescent markers that appear like bright, instantly lit, neon lights. Watching the demonstration, Cullum and Reedy became convinced the lightboard was something that could greatly enhance the experience for online students and provide added course content for traditional students looking to recapture elements of various lectures and activities.

The biologists approached Cameron, and asked him if his team could replicate what Duke had done. Six months later, Creighton had a lightboard.

“It was the dawn of something new, a breath of fresh air,” Cullum says. “To walk into a meeting like that and walk out with someone saying, ‘Sure, we can do that,’ and then, a few months later, it’s done; it really was a wonderful thing. To that point, I don’t think the RaD Lab existed, properly, but the lightboard helped provide us with the realization that there is a group here at Creighton dedicating themselves to these kinds of technological advances and we can go to them with our ideas.”

The lightboard also went through several iterations in Cullum’s and Reedy’s specifications, too, and the RaD Lab’s ability to adapt on the fly became more and more apparent with each change.

“There’s complete appreciation for new ideas,” Reedy says. “Halfway through the build, we’d throw a new idea out there and they were receptive and would go back a few steps and redo it, bringing out something entirely new and even better than we envisioned. It was a partnership. That, in the end, is what’s going to make it work. These things are being developed together and developed in tandem with the end-users.”

The lightboard moment set off more lightbulbs. Tim Brooks, vice president for Information Technology, saw the potential to integrate innovations from the RaD Lab into other areas across the University. Brooks formalized the RaD Lab as a full-time dedicated team, creating an innovation engine, where ideas have a pathway to become strategic priorities.

It was the kind of thing Cameron had heard about at the nation’s biggest tech schools — Stanford, MIT, Cal Tech. Faculty, staff and students studying computer science and coding at the highest levels were collaborating to anticipate instructional needs for faculty and provide students with the capabilities to come up with the next big thing.

The RaD Lab, short for research and development laboratory, started taking shape around the notion that Creighton students and faculty needed those same things — access to supercomputing and innovations in instruction. And DoIT was uniquely suited to provide for those needs, not least of all because it has an agile, motivated workforce: the students themselves.

“We had proven that we had all the smarts, all the capability to do the same things,” Cameron says. “We built a supercomputer, we started showcasing it at events all around campus, and it started this discussion about innovation and how we can do it and do it better.”

At first blush, Cameron thought the RaD Lab could comfortably engage a half-dozen student interns coming from all walks of academe — biology, mathematics, psychology, history, business, music — who could work on maybe two or three projects a semester.

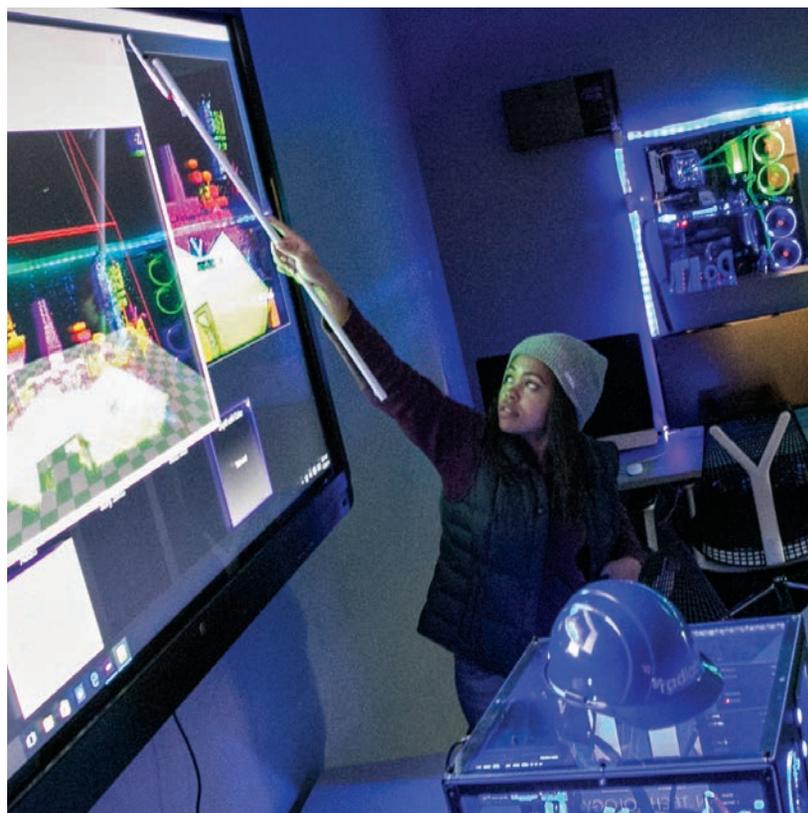
“We don’t require anybody to have an extensive computer science or coding background,” he says. “It’s just desire, somebody who just wants to try something, to learn something new. That’s an ideal intern to us.”

In a very short span of time — perhaps on word circulating there was a group of people at Creighton who had built a supercomputer and a lightboard and had designs on being the problem-solving wing of the University’s technological division — the new laboratory had a dedicated following. Today, the RaD Lab counts more than 30 interns from Creighton, and other universities and local high schools, working on upwards of two to three dozen projects at any one time.

“There were these whispers about this place called the RaD Lab,” recalls Brisha Howe, a computer science major from Sacramento, Calif., who started interning at the lab in the fall of 2015. “I was just switching over my major from biology to computer science and I was looking for a job on campus. They were working on a project involving bioinformatics and genetics, so I kind of just slipped right into it.”

Howe’s familiarity with the scientific work, combined with her growing coding aptitude made her an integral part of the lab. More students from other academic disciplines also have made their way to the RaD Lab, seeking to improve their own computer literacy, to foster more ideas into tangible projects or just to help.

Already, the RaD Lab has provided platforms to study rare books as 3-D images for the English Department, provided business classes with a new way to think about apps and run the gamut of data extraction and storage in several of the hard sciences at Creighton. There’s nothing the RaD



Lab can’t envision doing, Howe says, and there’s plenty the lab is imparting to those seeking to be a part of it.

“We’re rapidly approaching a time when there won’t be a single place on earth, or any pursuit, where a computer scientist is not needed,” she says. “You’re going to be learning what you’re studying, of course, but you’re going to also be learning computer science. Having that kind of technological literacy is just a given now. For the students in the RaD Lab, we get to be right out in front of that learning.”

A Heartbeat from the C.A.V.E.

With a supercomputer and a lightboard to its credit, with biology and microbiology projects in the offing, it was only a matter of time before word started spreading about the nascent power of this thing called the RaD Lab. At about the same time the lab was beginning to come into sharper relief, the School of Medicine was also thinking of ways to put technology to good use in its educational model.

Michael White, BS’96, MD’01, associate professor of medicine in the Department of Cardiology, wanted to put students in front of new visualizations of anatomical structures. And while nothing can replace the human connection found in a medical school anatomy lab, the RaD Lab

Brisha Howe, a computer science major from Sacramento, Calif., has been an intern in the lab since 2015. Above, Howe works to calibrate a software development kit. She is part of a team developing a program that links software commands with human gestures and movement.



▲

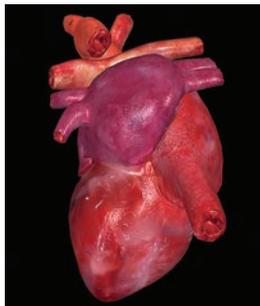
The Creighton Advanced Visualization Environment (C.A.V.E.) features a 35-by-8-foot wall, pictured above, where larger than life images can be projected. Michael White, BS'96, MD'01, associate professor of medicine, has used the space to show a digitized model of the human heart, which can be manipulated on a 3-D axis, showing function from all angles, and can be programmed to show irregularities and murmurs.

provided something very close.

One of the RaD Lab's earlier innovations was the Creighton Advanced Visualization Environment, or C.A.V.E. Built with substantial gifts and a grant from Procter & Gamble, the C.A.V.E. comprises a room in the Reinert-Alumni Memorial Library featuring a curved 35-by-8-foot wall onto which can be projected life-sized or bigger-than-life images, videos, maps or interactive displays, including a virtual tour of the Vatican.

Another of those displays is a digitized model of the human heart made on a gaming platform called Unity. The heart can be manipulated on a 3-D axis, showing function from all angles, and can be programmed to show irregularities and murmurs. It was a pilot project between the School of Medicine and the RaD Lab, White says, and it has opened a wider gate for future collaboration.

"We're seeing more medical students who come to us as Millennial learners," White says. "They access information in different ways and are more adept with other styles. We in medical education have been a little slower to adapt to that style, but it's a skill set that students use now and which is



integral for physicians and other professionals to have."

White says while nothing can ever replace the human-to-human contact of medical education, acclimating students to the functioning of the body via technology that very nearly replicates what's seen in human anatomy will prove beneficial.

"You can't learn medicine without that interaction at the human level, of course," White says. "But if we have ways for students to get familiar with these concepts, it's a good way to leverage knowledge students will need in patient interactions. For us, it's been very inspiring to witness what's happening in the C.A.V.E."

RaD Lab Exists to Find a Way

Creighton's RaD Lab has been able to take on a heavy load of faculty and program requests for technological innovation and to boost the University's digital strategy, while serving as an educational tool for students majoring in computer science, and those from many walks of the academy who just want to have a better grasp of coding and computing.

To that end, Cynthia Corritore, Ph.D., a professor of business intelligence and analytics, has been one of the RaD Lab's most frequent collaborators. Corritore's classes are shot through with technological advances, and the professor herself speaks not so much in business terms as



in computer science ones, often pointing out how the line is steadily blurring between one pursuit and the other.

She teaches an entire course on application development. The crowning moment is a contest in which teams of students compete to build the best app and put it to use in a business context. This year, the winners of the competition built an app allowing people to input the contents of their wardrobe. The app then helps them select what to wear based on the weather and the day's activities. Cameron is now working with the student team on commercializing the app.

Corritore is further testing the RaD Lab's range by wondering how virtual reality might be implemented in her classrooms. Corritore says after five years teaching the app development course, she sees the future in a course on developing virtual reality environments, and the RaD Lab has helped her find the scripting language necessary to create the course. From there, she says, she calls upon the lab for other projects related to education and technology.

Corritore and other professors are finding ways for the RaD Lab to help them judge one of the more subjective grades in a college classroom: class participation. The lab is also helping build a system to look for key words and topics in online discussions, interpreting what students are saying and providing output for professors to analyze

and see who is chiming in and who is taking the conversation to a higher level.

With all the potential, Corritore hopes the RaD Lab can sustain its innovative edge, while also catering to the day-to-day work of maintaining servers and databases.

"They're my favorite thing at Creighton right now," she says, adding that these are "great experiences" for students. "I hope we can encourage more of them to be a part of it.

"It's changing everything. It's not just that everyone needs to know how to code, we need to be turning out the experts in that field, and the place where they develop that expertise is in places like the RaD Lab."

Cameron says the support the lab has received across the board from Creighton faculty and administrators, along with the steady stream of dedicated interns, has ensured the RaD Lab continues to not only invent solutions for real issues, but to innovate its way into continued existence.

"We love it when someone comes to us and says, 'I don't think this can be done, but can you try?'" Cameron says. "The best ideas don't come from the RaD Lab staff, the best ideas are the ones that walk in the door. We're constantly being challenged, and it's amazing to see how our students, faculty and staff have risen up to tackle those challenges together."

Canon Partnership

Canon is partnering with Creighton's RaD Lab. "The Canon and Creighton partnership symbolizes our shared passion for integrating technology innovation into the student experience," said Valerie Belli, vice president of the Enterprise Managed Services Division at Canon. Added Tim Brooks, Creighton's vice president for Information Technology: "Industry partnerships are essential to a sustainable innovation engine. These partnerships allow us to integrate emerging technologies and in-demand digital competencies into the lab experience and academic programs."

Marriage, Family & the Catholic Church

Reflections on Pope Francis' Amoris Laetitia

By Michael G. Lawler, Ph.D., and
Todd A. Salzman, Ph.D.



Pope Francis has provided plenty of evidence of being a loving, merciful and pastoral leader. Consequently, our expectation for the Apostolic Exhortation that is the final document on the two synods on marriage and the family in 2014 and 2015 was that the document would not change Catholic Church doctrine but would offer both pastoral guidelines for living a Christian married life and principles to deal with exceptional marital situations that are labeled “irregular.”



Photo by Sipa via AP Images

largely law-oriented, legalistic, act-focused, static and deductive.

It began with absolute laws — for example, no use of artificial contraception within a marital relationship — and applied the law in a “one-size-fits-all” approach to all Catholics, everywhere, without regard for historical, cultural, contextual, relational or developmental considerations.

The method in *Amoris Laetitia* is very different; it is virtue-oriented, relational focused, dynamic, developmental and inductive. A virtue-focused method focuses on the character of the person rather than his or her acts; on being, rather than doing. Acts are important, since they reflect virtuous character and shape that character. The focus in *Amoris Laetitia* is not on rules and acts but on ways of being in the world, where the person is invited to strive to live out a life like Christ in the service of God, spouse, family, neighbor and society, realizing that God’s mercy is infinite when we fall short of this invitation.

A chapter titled “Love in Marriage” is a beautiful reflection on St. Paul’s poetic passage on the nature of true love (1 Corinthians 13:4-7) and the virtues associated with it. Love is patient, directed toward service, generous, forgiving; love is not jealous, boastful or rude. It is noteworthy that the virtue of chastity, which is central to the historical approach to Catholic moral theology on sexuality and marriage and was often deductively applied as a legalistic virtue to ensure adherence to the Church’s absolute proscriptive laws on human sexuality, is mentioned only once in the entire document. “Chastity proves invaluable for the genuine growth of love between persons.”

Second, *Amoris Laetitia* presents marital life as “a dynamic path to personal development and fulfillment.” Each married couple is distinct and at unique stages in their relational, emotional and spiritual capacities, and pastoral discernment must take dynamism and particularity into consideration.

The implications for ethical method are profound. It requires what St. Pope John Paul II referred to as “the law of gradualness,” whereby, the document states, the human person “knows, loves

and accomplishes the moral good by different stages of growth.”

It also requires an inductive approach, beginning with the particularities of a situation to discern the values at stake and the best path for realizing those values in light of that particularity. Such particularity emphasizes a moral method that exercises prudential discernment in evaluating ethical issues, especially “irregular” relational situations, and finding a response that respects that particularity while striving to live more fully in the light of the Gospel.

Since there are an “immense variety of concrete situations,” pastoral discernment requires looking at particular cases to discern the virtues and values at stake and to determine which teachings of the Church are applicable in light of those virtues and values.

Third, importantly and not to be missed in the media frenzy over irregular situations, traditional Catholic teachings on marriage and family life are reaffirmed and much enhanced by the virtue approach taken by Francis. Marriage is between one man and one woman, the marriage that is sacramental and consummated is indissoluble, and “there are absolutely no grounds for considering homosexual unions [same-sex marriage] to be in any way similar or remotely analogous to God’s plan for marriage and family.”

There is, however, a major change in approach to marriage. Since the Council of Trent in the 16th century, the foundation of Catholic marriage has been canon law, which is to be obeyed by all married Catholic couples. That approach, Pope Francis argues, has laid upon “two limited persons [a] tremendous burden.” He changes the foundational approach from law to virtue and teaches that marriage is a lifelong challenge, “which advances gradually with the progressive integration of the gifts of God.” Among those gifts are the virtues of love, generosity, commitment, fidelity, patience, tenderness and Jesus’ “own gentleness in speaking to one another.”

Rather than reiterating old rules or offering a new set of rules for lasting marriages, Francis seeks to highlight the kind of people married Christians are called to be so that they may do

This is, in fact, the kind of document that Francis has offered in *Amoris Laetitia*. It is a document that will guide the Catholic approach to both marriage and its failures, and the method and teaching of moral theology, for many decades to come.

A Profound Shift in Emphasis

We begin with what we take to be some highlights of the document. First and most basically, *Amoris Laetitia* represents a profound shift in emphasis for Catholic moral theology in its approach to doing marital and sexual ethics. Historically, the method has been

what is necessary for their marriages to be successful and lasting. The Church should be grateful for this transposition from law to virtue in this time of crisis for marriages when many are asking how marriages and families can be saved.

Fourth, though same-sex marriage is not to be regarded as similar or even analogous to Christian marriage, the document states that gays, lesbians

are already comfortable with it — it will gradually become as accepted as Communion in certain circumstances for the divorced and remarried without annulment. Insomuch as gays and lesbians demonstrate that their marriages are as humanly and Christianly fulfilling as the marriages of heterosexuals, that acceptance takes greater root. Francis' bringing to the fore again the

cannot “provide a new set of rules, canonical in nature and applicable to all cases.” The solution to “irregular situations,” he writes, is a path of careful discernment accompanied by a priest and a final judgment of personal conscience that commands us to do this or not to do that. The Church is called, Francis teaches, “to form consciences, not to replace them.”

Sixth, the bringing to the moral forefront again of the ancient Catholic teaching on the authority and inviolability of personal conscience (see *Dignitatis humanae*, 2) is, in our opinion, one of the most important teachings of *Amoris Laetitia*. The Second Vatican Council taught that “in the depth of his conscience, man detects a law which he does not impose upon himself ... To obey it is the very dignity of man; according to it, he will be judged” (*Gaudium et spes*, 16; see also *Dignitatis humanae*, 2).

Francis judges, correctly we agree, that “individual conscience needs to be better incorporated into the Church’s praxis in certain situations which do not objectively embody our understanding of marriage.” He quotes Thomas Aquinas frequently throughout the document and especially his teaching that the more we descend into the details of irregular situations, the more general principles will be found to fail. As the popular saying goes, the devil is always in the details, and only an informed conscience can make a moral judgment about the details of any situation.

Divorce and Holy Communion: A New Perspective

First, when introducing the document, Christoph Cardinal Schönborn, a major voice at the two synods in 2014 and 2015, insisted and we agree that, though there is no doctrinal change in *Amoris Laetitia*, there is an “organic development of doctrine.” That development is specifically in regard to the admission to Holy Communion of those who are civilly divorced and remarried without annulment.

In his Apostolic Exhortation *Familiaris Consortio* (1981), his response to the 1980 Synod on the Family, St. Pope John Paul II decreed that Catholics who



Theology professors Michael Lawler, Ph.D., left, and Todd Salzman, Ph.D., outside St. John's Church on campus, say that Pope Francis' *Amoris Laetitia* signals the start of a more open, understanding and merciful Church.

and transgender people “ought to be respected in [their] dignity and treated with consideration, while every sign of unjust discrimination is to be carefully avoided.”

Running throughout the document is a refrain that God welcomes all into the Church that is a communion of life, love and mercy. Many who support same-sex marriage as a way for gays and lesbians to live in dignity, and who believe that to deny them the right to marry is unjust discrimination, will no doubt be disappointed by this judgment. We say to them that there is still hope in *Amoris Laetitia* for the fulfillment of their vision.

That hope lies, we believe, in the theme of gradualness that runs through the document. As more and more Catholics become comfortable with same-sex marriage — and world statistics show that a near-majority of Catholics

Catholic doctrine on the authority and inviolability of personal conscience, applies to any decision of Catholic gays and lesbians to marry as much as it applies to any other moral decision.

Fifth, one of the most hotly debated issues at the synods was that of the admission to Communion of the divorced and remarried without annulment. Following his recommended trajectory of love and mercy, Francis decrees that “the logic of pastoral mercy” and “the logic of integration is the key to their pastoral care, a care which would allow them not only to realize that they belong to the Church as the Body of Christ, but also to know that they can have a joyful and fruitful experience in it.” They are not excommunicated and are not to be treated as such.

Their situations can be vastly different and his document, the Pope confesses,

were divorced and remarried without annulment, and who were in an objective but perhaps not subjective situation of sin, could be admitted to these sacraments only on the rigid and tortured condition that they “take on themselves the duty to live in complete continence, that is, by abstinence from the acts proper to married couples.”

A striking and profound development in Pope Francis’ *Amoris Laetitia* is the inclusion of the “internal forum” for the couple, in dialogue with a priest, to “undertake a responsible and pastoral discernment” of their irregular situation which could result in a unique application of the rule depending on their particular circumstances. The internal forum could be used to allow divorced and civilly remarried couples to participate more fully in the community. In terms of canon law, fuller participation in the community includes Communion if a couple is not in the state of grave sin.

Francis’ footnote 351, strangely not placed in the text itself, offers the possibility that couples could be admitted to the sacraments in certain circumstances. In keeping with his general theme of mercy and charity, he points out that the Eucharist “is not a prize for the perfect but a powerful medicine and nourishment for the weak.” He stops short of a blanket permission for the admission to Communion of the divorced and remarried without annulment, but it is clear that he leaves admission open in discerned cases. He does not automatically open the door to change, but he certainly lets us know where the key to the door is, under the mat of the internal forum, guided pastoral discernment and the decision of an informed conscience.

Second, though there is no doctrinal change involved, the transposition of the doctrine on marriage from a foundation on law to a foundation on virtue is a major theoretical change. Law is to be obeyed, and it is therefore commonly accompanied in magisterial teaching by the phrase *debitum obsequium* meaning “due respect” (see, for instance, *Code of Canon Law*, can. 218, 752, 753). The phrase appears nowhere in *Amoris Laetitia*, not even where we would expect to find it.

Law, to repeat, demands obedience to the law; virtue demands commitment to the challenge of conscientiously and actively living a life like Christ. That active living is a serious challenge for damaged human beings and, perhaps, that is why Francis makes such an effort to present Christian marriage so positively as a response to the Gospel and judges that “today, more important than the pastoral care of failures is the pastoral effort to strengthen marriages and thus to prevent their breakdown.”

Third, we cannot claim that the focus placed on conscience, it occurs 20 times in the document, is a new perspective, for it is an ancient Catholic doctrine. The reality is, however, that it is a doctrine that has been notable more by its absence than by its presence in modern teachings

In Amoris Laetitia, Pope Francis has presented himself as a wise, loving and merciful pastor; he has elevated and sustained the Catholic teaching on marriage; and he has marked out a traditional and careful path of discernment for the solution of irregular situations.

of the Magisterium on moral issues in general and on the issue of marriage in particular.

Speaking of the encouragement of married couples to procreate, Pope Francis declares that “decisions involving responsible parenthood presuppose the formation of conscience, which is ‘the most secret core and sanctuary of a person. There each one is alone with God, whose voice echoes in the depths of the heart’ (*Gaudium et spes*, 16).”

The only clear condemnation of birth

control is a condemnation of a State’s forced intervention, as a violation of the dignity of conscience, “in favour of contraception, sterilization and even abortion.”

“The more the couple tries to listen in conscience to God and His commandments (Romans 2:15), and is accompanied spiritually, the more their decision will be free of subjective caprice and accommodation to prevailing social mores.” That approach is continued, as we have seen, in the section dealing with the admission to Communion of the divorced and remarried without annulment.

Elevating Catholic Teaching on Marriage

We celebrate the fact that in this Apostolic Exhortation, Pope Francis has offered us an irenic response to the often-violent and divisive debates of the two synods. He has presented himself as a wise, loving and merciful pastor; he has elevated and sustained the Catholic teaching on marriage; and he has marked out a traditional and careful path of discernment for the solution of irregular situations.

Not everyone will be happy with the document, but we rejoice with *Amoris Laetitia* for a document that will place the Catholic approach to marriage once again in the forefront of any discussion about marriage. We believe it signals the start of a more open, understanding and merciful Church, and we hope that, just as it forges an organic development of a pastoral approach to moral issues, it will go further in the long term to forge also a development of Catholic moral theological doctrine related to debated moral sexual issues in general and marital moral sexual issues in particular.

About the Authors

Michael Lawler, Ph.D., is the Amelia and Emil Graff Professor Emeritus of Catholic Theology at Creighton University. **Todd Salzman, Ph.D.**, is the Amelia and Emil Graff Professor of Catholic Theology at Creighton University. Their recent co-authored publications include: *Catholic Theological Ethics: Ancient Questions, Contemporary Responses* (2016); *The Church in the Modern World: Gaudium et spes Then and Now* (co-author Eileen Burke-Sullivan, STD) (2014); “Catholic Theological Method for the 21st Century,” *Theological Studies* (2013); and *Sexual Ethics: A Theological Introduction* (2012).

Giving it His Best Shot

By Nichole Jelinek, MA'16

Former Bluejay basketball standout making a difference in his community

For Josh Dotzler, this was his shot. Coming to play basketball at Creighton University and getting his education was, he thought, the beginning of a new chapter in his life — an opportunity to leave behind the oft-troubled streets of his North Omaha neighborhood and start anew.



Photos by Dave Weaver

Dotzler is at peace with his decision to stay in Omaha and serve the community in which he grew up.

But, he says, God had other plans for him. Plans that called him back to the neighborhood — to live, to serve and to mentor others.

Dotzler, BA'09, his wife, Jen, and their three children are at home in North Omaha, where he is the executive pastor for Bridge Church and CEO of Abide, an inner-city nonprofit founded by his parents, Ron and Twany Dotzler.

Josh was 2 years old in 1989 when his family sold their suburban Omaha home and took up what they thought was “temporary” residence in a former Immanuel Hospital boiler facility in North Omaha while Ron, a chemical engineer, and Twany looked into missionary work overseas.

Josh says his parents found themselves living in a world of violence and brokenness like they had never before known. They also found their calling.

“Many people have questioned and wondered why my parents would move our family to an area like North Omaha and work with a forgotten community,” says Dotzler. “The simple explanation is they have lived out what they’ve communicated: The most dangerous place to live is outside the center of God’s will.”

Josh says their house — a fixer-upper in dire need of repairs — remained untouched by frequent drive-by shootings. But he was shaken — and forever changed — when he learned of the murders of two young neighbor girls.

The murders weighed heavily on Josh, and, over the years, he became more determined to find a way out.

The murders had an opposite effect on his father, Ron, who became more committed to saving children and to being a part of the solution.

As the Dotzlers worked to fix up their own home, they also brought their neighbors together to beautify the community. Slowly but surely, what once had been identified by police as the worst neighborhood in Omaha was transformed into one of community and of opportunities. Abide has been



Josh Dotzler, BA'09, spends time on the basketball court with youth from Bridge Church in North Omaha, where he serves as executive pastor. He is also CEO of Abide, an inner-city nonprofit founded by his parents. Dotzler's son Joseph, 4, is pictured in front with the Creighton sweatshirt.

recognized by both Omaha Mayor Jean Stothert and Nebraska Gov. Pete Ricketts.

Josh's experiences and fears had him wanting to leave North Omaha, but that changed in 2007, when the murder of a neighborhood friend — another life cut short by violence — steeled his resolve to be a voice for change.

"I started asking myself about how I could be part of the solution," says Dotzler. "At the end of the day, we all have decisions to make. The forces and fears that were causing me to want to leave were not founded on the right truths. God gave me a change of heart and led me to the community."

In 2007, Abide began partnering with police to identify and target "sore spots" in the community. In 2009, a strategic plan was set in place to move forward with every effort to transform each of North Omaha's 700 neighborhoods. Neighbors rallied together to restore the dilapidated

houses and to beautify common spaces.

Through its focus on community building, family and student support programs, housing and partnerships, Abide has adopted 106 neighborhoods and established 22 "Lighthouses" — abandoned homes that are fixed up as family dwellings. Dotzler says that when neighbors rally together and learn one another's stories, they find that nearly all want the same positive opportunities for their families.

Abide's Better Together Basketball program (established in 2011) provides a positive outlet for more than 100 inner-city youth, from pre-kindergarten to eighth grade. Abide also provides academic mentoring and other programs. In all, more than 7,000 volunteers and a diverse staff of more than 30 individuals make up the Abide team.

Other volunteers and supporters provide financial support by purchasing, rehabbing, and donating homes and

adopting neighborhoods. Abide works in three community centers and hosts numerous events annually. From 2010 to 2014, the number of people participating in Abide-sponsored events grew from fewer than 3,000 to more than 13,000. An annual block party is one example of an event that brings the community together to engage and interact.

Abide is in the process of developing another five-year strategic plan that includes a larger facility, a headquarters and room for more program opportunities. Dotzler says that his Jesuit education taught him the importance of community, and being a part of Abide allows him to serve alongside others as agents of change in North Omaha.

"Abide has changed who I am," says Dotzler. "What I have seen and experienced has impacted who I am today. All of my experiences, good and bad, have created a sense of humility and a desire to give back."

AlumniNotes

63 Thomas F. Dowd, BSBA'61, JD, Omaha, was the recipient of the 2016 Irish American Omaha Douglas County Public Service Award. Dowd, a retired member of the law firm Dowd Howard & Corrigan, was recognized for his representation of the rights of laboring men and women and nearly 40 years of service on the Metropolitan Utilities District board of directors.

66 William A.K. Kuamoo, BA, Kailua-Kona, Hawaii, and Scottsdale, Ariz., published his fifth family-history-genealogy titled *The 'King of Maui, Hawai'i': Banker of the Chinese Revolution of 1911*. The book is about his paternal great-grandfather, Sun Ahmi, one of the richest men in the territory of Hawaii in the 1890s-1900s, who was the older brother of Sun Yat-sen, M.D. Yat-sen, known as "China's George Washington," played an instrumental role in overthrowing the Qing Dynasty — the last dynasty in China after 2,000 years of imperial reign — in October 1911. Kuamoo's five literary family history works were gifted to the University of Hawaii at Manoa Hamilton Library Hawaiian Collection in Honolulu. **Dr. John H. Neu, BA/CLS'60, JD,** Manhattan Beach, Calif., retired from the Department of Political Science at Whittier College in Whittier, Calif., in December 2015, after 45 years of teaching. **John P. Reilly, MD,** Grand Island, Neb., was the recipient of the CHI Health St. Francis Physician Lifetime Achievement Award. Throughout his 45-year career in obstetrics and gynecology, Reilly helped to build and support women's services at St. Francis, mentored medical students and welcomed more than 13,000 new babies into the world.

71 John J. Kirby, DDS, Hillsborough, Calif., has again participated in the annual Mending Faces Medical Mission to Kalibo, Philippines, with fellow Creighton graduates **Christopher**

M. Biety, BS'77, DDS'81, and **Dr. Michelle M. "Mimi" Wong, BS'89,** and Creighton undergraduate student Kara Arnold. Mending Faces is a nonprofit organization providing pro bono cleft lip/cleft palate surgeries to impoverished children burdened by this problem. **Mark F. Murray, MD,** Sacramento, Calif., president of Mark Murray & Associates, LLC, served on the Institute of Medicine, a division of the National Academy of Sciences, as part of a subgroup on Optimizing Scheduling in Health Care, which recently released "Transforming Health Care Scheduling and Access: Getting to Now." This paper was commissioned in response to the recent access issues uncovered in the Veterans Health Administration's health care system. He also co-authored "Improving Access to Care at Autism Treatment Centers: A System Analysis Approach," which appeared in the February 2016 issue of the journal *Pediatrics*.

72 Richard L. Gibney, MD, Waco, Texas, was the recipient of the 2016 Medal of Excellence Award presented by the American Association of Kidney Patients, the nation's leading patient education and advocacy group. The award recognizes visionaries whose insight and perseverance have led to dramatic advances that improve patient care. Gibney is a nephrologist with Central Texas Nephrology Associates in Waco.

79 Dr. Sarah E. Witte, BA, La Grande, Ore., has been named provost at Eastern Oregon University in La Grande. She is the first woman to serve as provost at the university.

80 Edward M. Wagner, JD, Champaign, Ill., has retired after 36 years of practice with Heyl, Royster, Voelker & Allen. Wagner was managing partner of the Urbana, Ill., office and was recognized as a *Leading Lawyer* and *Super Lawyer* in the defense of medical malpractice cases in Illinois.

81 Christopher M. Biety, BS'77, DDS, Golden, Colo., has again

participated in the annual Mending Faces Medical Mission to Kalibo, Philippines, with fellow Creighton graduates **John J. Kirby, DDS'71,** and **Dr. Michelle M. "Mimi" Wong, BS'89,** and Creighton undergraduate student Kara Arnold. Mending Faces is a nonprofit organization providing pro bono cleft lip/cleft palate surgeries to impoverished children burdened by this problem. **Timothy S. Bottaro, BA,** Sioux City, Iowa, was named to the Iowa *Super Lawyers* for 2016 and is the president-elect of the Iowa Association for Justice (Trial Lawyers) and will assume the presidency in November 2016. Bottaro also served on the Iowa Supreme Court Task Force to Revise the Rules of Civil Procedure to make them more streamlined and to create an Expedited Civil Actions (ECA) process for cases of smaller value. He has presented to more than 2,000 Iowa attorneys and their staff on the new rules and in other states as the ECA has become a national model. **Hon. Paul G. Crawford, BA,** Marshalltown, Iowa, was appointed district associate judge in Iowa's Second Judicial District in January 2016. He had been assistant Marshall County attorney in Iowa for 28 years. **Dr. Laure Marshall Marino, BSN,** Charleston, W.Va., received her Doctor of Nursing Practice with a concentration in executive leadership from George Washington University in May 2016. Marino is the director of outpatient primary care services for Highland Behavioral Health Systems in Charleston. She was one of 10 nurses nationally to receive the prestigious Culture of Health Breakthrough Nurse Leader Award in 2015 presented by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and AARP.

82 Dr. Rebecca Feight Morris, BS'78, MBA, Hartford, Conn., assistant professor of economics and management at Westfield State University in Westfield, Mass., has been appointed editor-in-chief of *The CASE Journal (TCJ)*. **Lt. Col. Paul E. Schleier, BA'77, DDS,** Suffolk, Va., retired in January 2016 from the United States Air Force Dental Corps after 28 years of military service and has joined the private dental practice of Gayle Terwilliger, DDS, in Smithfield, Va. In addition, Schleier has been accepted by the University of Virginia's Darden Graduate School of Business in Charlottesville, Va., into their executive MBA program to start in August 2016.

86 Julia A. Foote, ARTS, Grand Island, Neb., wrote A

Hundred Year Adventure: The Life and Times of Eugene C. Foote, M.D. The book is about her great-grandfather who was a doctor in Hastings, Neb., and a 1905 graduate of the Creighton School of Medicine.

89 Todd M. Starr, JD, Pagosa Springs, Colo., recently resigned his appointment as Archuleta County attorney to join the national law firm of Rose Walker. Starr is the resident Colorado partner and the firm is now doing business in Colorado under the name Rose Walker Starr. **Dr. Michelle M. "Mimi" Wong, BS,** Denver, has again participated in the annual Mending Faces Medical Mission to Kalibo, Philippines, with fellow Creighton graduates **John J. Kirby, DDS'71,** and **Christopher M. Biety, BS'77, DDS'81,** and Creighton undergraduate student Kara Arnold. Mending Faces is a nonprofit organization providing pro bono cleft lip/cleft palate surgeries to impoverished children burdened by this problem.

92 Frank W. Ierulli, JD, Peoria, Ill., an attorney at the Peoria office of Howard & Howard, PLLC, has been appointed to serve as a member of the Standing Committee on Judicial Advisory Polls within the Illinois State Bar Association for the 2016-2017 term.

93 Rachel L. Foley, BSRT'86, JD, Independence, Mo., of Foley Law, P.C., will be a guest speaker at the 24th Annual Convention for the National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys.

94 Shurie R. Graeve, JD, Blair, Neb., has opened Graeve Law & Mediation, LLC, in Omaha. The firm provides comprehensive legal services to individuals and businesses, with an emphasis in criminal defense, civil litigation and mediation.

96 Shad E. Sumrow, JD, Dallas, was included in the *Chambers USA* 2016 legal directory by Chambers & Partners in the field of banking and finance. Sumrow is an attorney at Thompson & Knight LLP in Dallas.

99 Carmen Kwong Gaston, JD, Portland, Ore., was appointed Archdiocesan director of development and stewardship for the Archdiocese of Portland in April 2015. Gaston, who served as chief development and strategy officer for Catholic Charities, works closely with Archbishop Alexander Sample to direct major gifts and planned giving



Do you have alumni news to share?

Have a new job? Recently married? Earned a promotion? Had a new baby? Received special recognition? If so, we want to know about it!

Please send to alumninews@creighton.edu.

Physical Therapy Graduate Runs, Wins Ultra-marathons By Therese Vaughn

Her friends call her “Pixie Ninja” and her coach says she “floats” when she runs. At about 95 pounds, **Kaci Lickteig, DPT’11**, may very well have winged lungs and fairy-dust-powered feet. Recently featured in the *New York Times* as one of the nation’s top ultra-marathoners, Lickteig runs races of 50 and 100 miles.

Last June, the Creighton graduate and Omaha physical therapist placed second among female competitors in the Western States 100-Mile Endurance Run, the oldest and most prestigious trail competition in the world. Legendary for her end-of-race kick, Lickteig outpaced all competitors in the field during the run’s second half.

Lickteig grew up in the small town of Dannebrog, Neb., and completed her Doctor of Physical Therapy degree before settling in Omaha to work as a physical therapist at an area hospital. She only began running as a junior in high school after her mother, Lori Leonard, quit smoking and began jogging on a treadmill at the local gym. “It killed me to run five minutes,” Lickteig told the blog for the Greater Omaha Area Trail Runners (G.O.A.T.z), an Omaha group she belongs to.

However, with a mom like Rosie the Riveter — Leonard worked as a welder for 25 years — Lickteig’s determination came naturally. Her best friend urged her to sign up for cross-country, and while she frequently lagged behind her teammates and walked up hills, she never gave up.

A few years ago, Lickteig became interested in even lengthier long-distance running. She joined her G.O.A.T.z friends to run her first 50k — the Silver Rush race, in the historic mining town of Leadville, Colo. “I’d only run a five-mile trail run before that,” she said, astonishing herself and the entire ultra-marathon community by winning the race.

An ultra-marathon refers to any footrace longer than the traditional marathon of 26.2 miles. These grueling trail courses challenge the high-endurance athlete with treacherous ground, bad weather, elevation changes and the near-cosmic mileage from the shot of the starter’s pistol to the finish line. For the ultra-marathoner, it’s not about running 50 or 100 miles at one time, it’s about embodying each moment of time along the way — even if many of those moments bring friction blisters and stress fractures.

her running group G.O.A.T.z or with her running partner Miguel Ordorica. She also runs with her mom, who has two 50-milers under her own belt.

Demonstrating the same long-distance dedication to patient care, Lickteig works full-time as a physical therapist in a local hospital’s post-operation unit. She helps patients recovering from surgery get back on their feet and on the road to health, mobility and function.



Photo by Gary Wang

Kaci Lickteig competes in the 2015 Western States 100-mile Endurance Run. Lickteig finished second among female competitors and 24th overall out of 254 competitors.

Lickteig went on to win her first 100-mile race — the Black Hills 100 in Sturgis, S.D. Flanked by ponderosa pine and the Centennial Trail, the Olympic Marathon Trial qualifier made astonishing time. In 19 hours and 12 seconds, she broke the women’s course record not by seven minutes, but by seven hours.

Although its folklore casts running as a solitary endeavor, Lickteig seldom runs alone. She trains with two of her three dogs,

This winter, Lickteig suffered from a bout of anemia and a subsequent injury. Unable to run, she herself went to a physical therapist who helped her recover. Within five weeks, the ultra-marathoner placed second at the 2016 Lake Sonoma 50 Mile race.

In a recent *irunfar.com* interview, Lickteig said: My grandma always tells me, “You’re just driven. You’re going to do whatever until you finish.”

Seeking Equality

By Eugene Curtin

Women who are victims of domestic violence have a friend in **Kathryn Greene Jacob, BSW'00**. And so does Creighton University.

For almost a year, Jacob has been the president and CEO of SafeHaven of Tarrant County, Texas, which, with a population of 1.8 million, ranks as the third largest county in the state. Jacob's SafeHaven is the largest provider of women's shelters in Tarrant County, providing 164 beds at two emergency shelters — one in Fort Worth, and the other in Arlington.

It is a level of responsibility that has been steadily making its way toward the 37-year-old Jacob, a 2000 Creighton social work graduate who went on to earn a master's degree in social work from Fordham University in New York. Named one of the top 2011 "40 under 40" honorees in Dallas, her career since graduating from Creighton has taken her to New York, New Jersey and to a Peace Corps project in Turkmenistan, a central Asian nation bordering Iran and Afghanistan.

She is a mother of two boys, with a third child on the way.

Through it all, Jacob said, she has remembered Creighton.

"I just love Creighton," she said. "In fact, it's on the list of names for our next baby."

As a native of Chicago, there was nothing foreseeable about Jacob landing at Creighton University. The father of a high school friend suggested she research Creighton as a source of the nursing degree she originally sought. Jacob remembers her response:

"I don't know what you're talking about," I said. "I'm not going to Omaha, Nebraska. None of my friends are going there."



Creighton alumna found love and support at home and at Creighton. She looks to share that with women who have been abused.

But then she and her mother — "on a whim," she said — visited the campus in January of 1996, during a snowstorm, and a new Creighton student was born. The campus, she said, felt just right, and St. John's Church sealed the deal.

"I wanted to go to a school where there was a church like that just steps from my dorm room. I definitely felt the call," she said.

It's a call that has led her to help battered and abused women wherever she finds them.

Having been raised as an only child in a stable marriage where equality reigned between the spouses, the fact that other relationships were a source of abuse touched her conscience.

"I don't have the answer, but I know how to prevent it. My husband and I model a relationship of equality to our boys, a relationship full of respect and honesty. Because of that, they are learning that women and men are equal."

programs, as well as the Archbishop's Annual Appeal. She is active in the community, serving as vice-chair of the board at Volunteers of America Oregon and as a community board member at the Medical Society of Metropolitan Portland. She also was an adjunct professor at the University of Portland Pamplin School of Business. Gaston was honored in 2009 as one of Portland's "40 Under 40" by

the *Portland Business Journal* for career accomplishments and community service contributions. **Nora Spencer-Loveall, BA**, Atlanta, is a senior press officer in the Center for Disease Control's National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD and TB Prevention.

00 Dr. John R. Funchion, BA, Coral Gables, Fla., received tenure and promotion to

associate professor of English and American studies at the University of Miami in Coral Gables. His book *Novel Nostalgias: The Aesthetics of Antagonism in Nineteenth-Century U.S. Literature* also recently appeared in print.

01 Janee' Nesler Butterfield, BSBA, Herndon, Va., recently published her first book, *Caught In Cryptic*. **Eric B. Oxley, BSBA**, Omaha,

has been named by M&A Advisor as a 2016 "Emerging Leader," which recognizes his significant level of success before the age of 40 as a legal advisor in the mergers and acquisitions industry in the U.S. Oxley is a shareholder at Koley Jessen, PC, LLO, in Omaha.

02 Jean R. Ortiz, BA, Arvada, Colo., was promoted to editorial director for the Office of Marketing and Communications at Regis University in Denver.

05 Meghan Cook Zuraw, BA, Dallas, has been named a Texas Rising Star attorney by *Super Lawyers* for the fourth consecutive year, and has joined the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children to lead the Dallas office.

07 Ashanti Weaver Coleman, BSBA, Fort Worth, Texas, received a Master of Science in Management from Bellevue University in January 2015. She opened Nebraska Furniture Mart in The Colony, Texas, in May 2015, and currently is the marketing projects coordinator for the store. **Brian M. Norton, BA**, Omaha, has joined the Steier Group in Omaha and will serve as the marketing coordinator.

08 Keshia M. Bradford, BS, Council Bluffs, Iowa, director of outreach and enrollment and strategic initiatives for the Health Center Association of Nebraska, received George Washington University's Geiger Gibson Emerging Leader Award. The Geiger Gibson Program in Community Health Policy at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., honors leaders who have undertaken or guided a specific task that has helped their health center or Primary Care Association further the mission of providing high-quality, culturally competent health services to underserved populations. Bradford's work in outreach and enrollment was recognized along with her work with Families USA. **Dr. Adam M. Ernest, BS**, Rainbow City, Ala., is an associate veterinarian at Central Valley Animal Hospital in Rainbow City. Ernest works with three other veterinarians, providing medical and surgical care for small animals.

10 Eric V. Ernest, BSEMS'06, MD, Omaha, has been named the medical director of the state of Nebraska. He also serves as medical director for the Bellevue Fire Department, the Cass County Emergency Management Agency, the Elmwood Volunteer Fire Department, the Weeping Water Fire

Department, the Nehawka Rural Fire Department and Greenwood Fire and Rescue. Additionally, he is assistant medical director of the Omaha Fire Department and Creighton University EMS Education.

11 Rev. Canon Julia McCray-Goldsmith, MA, Emeryville, Calif., was installed as the Canon for Discipleship in the Episcopal Diocese of California in January 2016.

13 Hannah Connealy Raudsepp, BS, Boston, started Honest Beef Company — a platform that allows people to crowdsource a cow, one at a time, allowing them to know what ranch, rancher and animal their beef comes from.

14 Jamie A. Steemken, BA, Ocala, Fla., is a wealth management assistant at Parady Financial in The Villages, Fla.

Weddings

02 Kimberly J. Reichert, DPT, and Kris Saunders, Sept. 19, 2015, living in Sacramento, Calif.

05 Meghan E. Cook, BA, and Martin Zuraw, June 27, 2015, living in Dallas.

07 Ashanti R. Weaver, BSBA, and Larry Coleman, Feb. 21, 2015, living in Fort Worth, Texas.

11 Alice B. Bartek, JD, and Armando J. Santiago, Jan. 23, 2016, living in Alexandria, Va.

12 Anne E. James, BS, and Benjamin Obradovich, April 30, 2016, living in Omaha.

16 Elizabeth C. Webb, PharmD, and Steven M. Wilwerding, BSBA'00, MS'03, MBA'03, April 23, 2016, living in Omaha.

Births

92 Jon A. Orr, BSBA, and Erin M. Orr, Naperville, Ill., a son, Christopher James, Feb. 24, 2016.

96 Thomas Workman and Nancy Scharrer Workman, BSN, Denver, a daughter, Theresa Elizabeth, Feb. 10, 2016.

98 Jeffrey B. Baker and Rebecca Stepanek Baker, BS, Des Moines, Iowa, a son, Charles Darrin, Jan. 13, 2016.

99 Nora Spencer-Loveall, BA, and Lisa Loveall, Atlanta, twin sons, Archer and Fox, Jan. 9, 2016.

02 Philip M. Higa and Lynnette Pascua Higa, BS'00, BSN, Mililani, Hawaii, twins, a son, Cole Joseph, Nov. 9, 2015, and a daughter, Avery Rio, Nov. 10, 2015. James Cochran and **Jean R. Ortiz, BA**, Arvada, Colo., a son, James Bennett, Feb. 2, 2016. J. Bradley Slagle and **Julie Freeh Slagle, BA**, Centennial, Colo., a daughter, Henrietta Ellen, Oct. 13, 2015.

04 Paul W. Wallace and Emily Smith Wallace, PharmD, Tacoma, Wash., a son, Grady Patrick, June 30, 2015.

05 James Butler and Elizabeth McCarty Butler, BA, Omaha, a son, Westley, Feb. 2, 2015.

06 M. Beau Hamilton, DDS, and **Alison Hund Hamilton, BA'02**, Southlake, Texas, a daughter, Elise Charlotte, March 2, 2016. Dr. Eric Myers and **Katherine Ecker Myers, BA'03, JD**, Albuquerque, N.M., a son, Conrad Arthur, Dec. 1, 2015.

07 Larry Coleman and Ashanti Weaver Coleman, BSBA, Fort Worth, Texas, a daughter, Eliana Morgan Grace, Dec. 27, 2015. **Jonathan J. Twidwell, BSBA'04, JD**, and **Jaci Schulte Twidwell, BS**, Lenexa, Kan., twin sons, Everett John and Patrick Joseph, Nov. 18, 2015. **Dr. Tedd J. (TJ) Welniak, BS**, and **Teryn B. Sedillo, DDS'14**, New York, a son, Ivan James, Sept. 19, 2015.

10 Steven T. Henneberry, BA, and **Kelly Tangen Henneberry, BSBA**, Minneapolis, a son, Thomas Christopher, Aug. 22, 2015. **Nathan T. Wurtz, BA**, and **Catherine Howe Wurtz, BSBA'07, MBA'11**, St. Louis, a daughter, Viviane Elizabeth, Feb. 25, 2016.

11 Liam A. Dawson, BS, and **Allison Oelke Dawson, BS**, Minneapolis, a son, Quinn Allen, March 14, 2016.

Deaths

36 Mathilda Brudney Kramer, SJN, Omaha, Feb. 13, 2016.

40 Dorothy Dietz, BSC, Omaha, March 20, 2016.

41 Mary Ann O'Neill McGuire, SJN, Omaha, March 27, 2016. **Ralph A. Nice, BS**, Salem, Ore., Feb. 10, 2016.

43 Robert D. Neikes, MD, Astoria, Ore., Feb. 28, 2016.

44 Lambert W. Holland, BSM'43, MD, Chamberlain, S.D., April 11, 2016.

New National Alumni Board Members Announced



Bevier-Yurkovich



Lowe



Zoellner

The National Alumni Board (NAB) recently welcomed three new members. They will represent alumni for the next three years. The NAB meets twice a year at Creighton to discuss various University issues, alumni concerns and alumni program plans. New members are:

Danielle Bevier-Yurkovich, D.C., BA'05 — Bevier-Yurkovich is a chiropractor in Newport Beach, Calif. She owns LIV Integrative Health, an integrated holistic health service center that practices both western and eastern medicine.

Hon. Darryl Lowe, JD'84 — Lowe is currently serving as a Douglas County Court Judge in the Fourth Judicial District of the state of Nebraska. He cofounded the Midwest Trailblazer Youth Organization, which serves adolescents throughout Omaha.

Michael Zoellner, BSBA'78, JD'81 — Zoellner is the founding partner and CEO of RedPeak Properties, a Colorado company focused on developing and acquiring multifamily use properties that require repositioning, adding value and holding for the long term.

45 Anthony R. Pantano, BSM'44, MD, Omaha, March 26, 2016.

47 Irene Langpaul Schafer, SJN, Columbia, Mo., Feb. 26, 2016.

48 Shirley Ourada Calta, SJN, Glenwood, Iowa, March 14, 2016. **Estella Kaup Sambasile, SCN**, Omaha, Oct. 12, 2015.

49 Victor J. "Vic" Lechtenberg, BSC, Omaha, Feb. 26, 2016. **Eugene W. Peter, BSC**, Omaha, Feb. 22, 2016.

50 William E. Bogatz, ARTS, Omaha, Feb. 9, 2016. **Sr. Anna Maria Coverdell, BS**, Omaha, March 28, 2016. **Louis J. Halamek, ARTS**, Omaha, Dec. 2, 2015. **Madeleine Duffy McGillan, SCN**, Winston Salem, N.C., April 19, 2016. **Joseph L. McGovern, BA**, Edgewood, Ky., March 12, 2016. **Joseph D. "Don" Meier, BSC**, Omaha, Dec. 11, 2015.

John R. "Bob" O'Connor, ARTS, Omaha, March 28, 2016. **Mary Helen Vernon VaVerka, BS**, Jacksonville, Fla., March 11, 2016. **Doris Rice Vernam, BS**, Orland Park, Ill., April 4, 2016.

51 Mildred Fitzgerald Pinkelman, SJN'47, BSN, Lakewood, Colo., Feb. 25, 2016. **Rosalie Byrne Shaeffer, SJN**, Indianapolis, Jan. 23, 2016. **Leonard L. "Les" Schneiderman, BSC**, Omaha, April 10, 2016.

53 John F. Condon, MD, Granville, Ohio, Jan. 27, 2016. **William C. Peltzer, BS'51, DDS**, Wichita, Kan., March 21, 2016. **Adam E. Zoucha, MD**, Omaha, Jan. 21, 2016.

54 John W. Hovorka, ARTS, Oklahoma City, July 15, 2015.

55 Alice M. Condon, BSN, Kearney, Neb., Jan. 26, 2016.

56 Rosa Lee Raymond Byrnes, SJN'53, BSN, Harlan, Iowa, March 12, 2016.

#bluejayworld

Show Your Bluejay Pride

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Alumni and friends, **share your pictures showing your Creighton Bluejay pride** at locales near and far through the social media campaign **#BluejayWorld**. Tag your Twitter or Instagram photos with #BluejayWorld, and visit bluejayworld.hscampaigns.com.



1. Twin Cities Presidential Reception – from left, Molly Meyer, BA'15; Ashley Bullock, BSBA'15; Emi Wehrmann, BSBA'15; and Ethan Lampman, BSBA'15; **2. School of Pharmacy and Health Professions Get Blue Baseball Pregame Event in Omaha** – Colby Holyoak, PharmD'14, with his wife, Bree, and children Alyssa and Carter; **3. U.S. Air Force Annual Survey of the Law Conference in Chicago** – from left, Maj. William Acosta-Trejo, JD'04; Maj. Deborah Klein, JD'04; and Maj. Jim Reed, JD'04; **4. School of Medicine Omaha Mass and Brunch** – from left, Susan Cody Recker (in red), BSMT'61; Robert Recker, MD'63; Jim McGill, MD'64; and Ann McDermott McGill, BA'65.

Robert W. Dunlay, MS'55, MD, Iowa Falls, Iowa, April 16, 2016. **James L. Flood, BS'52, MD**, Omaha, Feb. 10, 2016. **Charlotte Muldoon Hakel, SJN**, Omaha, April 9, 2016.

57 Dr. Donald G. LeFave, BS'55, MA, Yuba City, Calif., Jan. 22, 2016. **David F. McCann, BS'51, JD**, Council Bluffs, Iowa, Feb. 29, 2016. **Raymond J. O'Dea, MA**, Brownsburg, Ind., Dec. 10, 2014.

58 Francis X. McCabe, BA'54, MD, Omaha, Jan. 31, 2016.

59 Wayne W. Daley, BS, Clearwater, Minn., Feb. 12, 2016. **Bradford W. Gauss, DDS**, Garden City, Idaho, April 1, 2016. **Nicholas T. Lentz Jr., BSPha**, Rock Island, Ill., March 7, 2016. **Gordon C. Vidmar, DDS**, Kingsport, Tenn., April 18, 2016. **Rev. Anthony P. Wilwerding, BACLS**, Omaha, Jan. 25, 2016.

60 Dr. Henry M. Kawanaga, BS, Lincolnwood, Ill., Nov. 15, 2015. **Lt. Col. Marlene Dostal Marshall, SJN**, Clarksburg, Calif., March 31, 2016. **Frederick W. Schwertley, MD**, Saratoga, Calif., March 6, 2016.

61 James H. Armstrong, DDS, Payson, Utah, April 14, 2016. **William J. Brennan Jr., BS'58, JD**,

Omaha, Feb. 11, 2016. **Benjamin F. Ewing Jr., BS'57, DDS**, Hot Springs, Ark., Jan. 28, 2016. **Lucille M. Fee, BA**, Omaha, March 19, 2016. **J. Scott Ludden, ARTS**, Santa Fe, Tenn., March 16, 2016.

62 Arleen Peterson Chatman, BS, Los Angeles, March 23, 2016. **John F. Debs, DDS**, San Clemente, Calif., Feb. 11, 2016. **Robert J. Schenk, DDS**, Colorado Springs, Colo., March 31, 2016.

63 Thomas C. Walding, MSEdu, Norfolk, Neb., April 4, 2016.

64 Hon. Michael McGill, JD, Omaha, April 20, 2016. **Mary Garrigan Woolwine, BA**, Bolingbrook, Ill., April 17, 2016.

65 William J. Robson, BS'58, MD, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Feb. 8, 2016.

66 Michael A. Breiner, MD, Bradshaw, Neb., Feb. 9, 2016. **David E. Mercer, DDS**, Granite Bay, Calif., Feb. 4, 2016. **Helen C. Muskin, MA**, Omaha, Jan. 19, 2016.

67 Joseph V. "Jody" Toohill Jr., JD, Farmington, Ill., Feb. 29, 2016. **Brian E. Wahle, DDS**, Napa, Calif., Jan. 3, 2016.

69 Robert C. Krause, BA'66, MBA, Paullina, Iowa, March 21, 2016. **Fred A. Richeda, DDS**, Salt Lake City, Feb. 15, 2016.

70 F. Patrick Matthews III, JD, Wind Point, Wis., Feb. 21, 2016.

71 Charles A. "Sonny" Rucker, MSGuid, Omaha, March 19, 2016.

72 Catherine "Kiki" Alioto Warren, BA, Brookfield, Wis., March 24, 2016.

73 Anthony V. Amoroso Jr., MD, Lake Mary, Fla., March 6, 2016. **Aurietha "Mary" Fulghem Hoelsing, BS**, Omaha, March 3, 2016.

74 Richard A. Cloutier, MA, Nashua, N.H., March 24, 2016. **Mary Hayes Spencer, BSPha**, Denver, Dec. 11, 2015.

76 Betty J. Nelum, MSGuid, Woodbridge, Va., June 30, 2014. **Michael T. Sheedy, BA**, Grafton, Wis., March 27, 2016. **Sr. Barbara Tylkowski, OSF, MSScEd**, Colorado Springs, Colo., Feb. 19, 2016.

79 Joseph E. Halbur, BSBA'77, JD, Carroll, Iowa, March 26, 2016.

81 Martin G. Cahill, BA'77, JD, Omaha, Jan. 28, 2016.

82 Sr. Anne Baxter, O.P., MChrSp, Beulah, Colo., Feb. 6, 2016.

83 Kathleen M. Dungan, BS, Nashville, Tenn., Feb. 20, 2016. **Patricia Petrey Flocken, JD**, Omaha, March 10, 2016.

84 Patrick J. Steiner, BFA, Rancho Santa Fe, Calif., Feb. 19, 2016.

88 Brian K. Dolphin, MBA, Omaha, Jan. 23, 2016. **Eric G. Vogel, DDS**, Provo, Utah, Nov. 15, 2015.

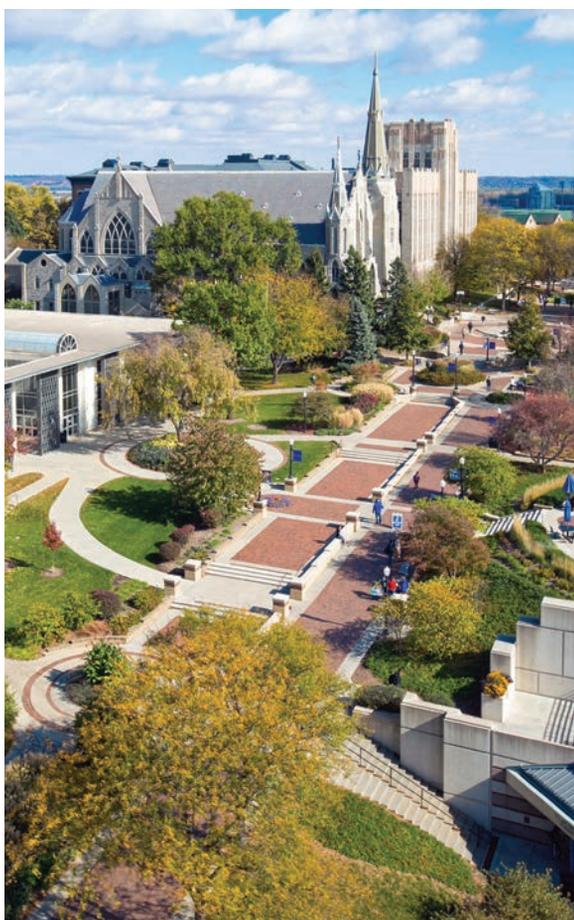
90 Diane L. O'Malley, BA, Chicago, Jan. 19, 2016.

91 Dr. Rodolfo "Rudy" Basurto, BA, El Paso, Texas, March 20, 2016.

95 Jeffrey R. Logan, JD, Ottumwa, Iowa, March 1, 2016.

97 Wilma J. Pierson, MA, Fargo, N.D., April 14, 2016.

04 Merrill F. "Mick" Messbarger, JD, Omaha, Jan. 23, 2016.



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Creighton
UNIVERSITY
School of Law

'It's About Others'

Alumnus Gives Back to School that Helped Form Him

James Bongers, DDS'80, takes to heart the idea that "to whom much has been given, much is expected." After graduating from the School of Dentistry, he established his practice in Junction City, Kan., and has a track record of giving back.

"I set out my shingle to see if I could do it, and it has worked out great," he said of his 35 years in dentistry. "The professors gave me the ability to be a dentist to patients without having to refer out. I was trained to do all of it. Creighton dental was very unique."

So unique that Bongers has made a seven-figure cash commitment to the School of Dentistry Capital Initiative. He has also remembered the Creighton School of Dentistry in his estate. "I believe in giving back and making it better for the students," explained Bongers, "so hopefully they can go out and help people. That would be the goal."

His capital and estate gifts are in addition to a sizable gift he added to scholarships his parents had set up for the Creighton business and dental schools through their estate. Creighton is a family tradition with his parents, Leo Bongers, BSD'46, DDS'48, and Margaret Stanosheck Bongers, BSC'43, and three

of his siblings (Teresa Bongers Beaufait, BSBA'78; Barry Bongers, DDS'69; Dennis Bongers, BSBA'69) having graduated from Creighton.

Creighton helped shape Bongers into the person he is today. The combination of the guidance his parents gave him, as well as his undergraduate experience, and living the Jesuit mission while in dental school formed his outlook on life, which is, "It's not about me; it's about other people."

Two Creighton programs in particular gave him the opportunity to give back to others while in dental school, yet in giving back he said he received so much more. Bongers

"I believe in giving back and making it better for the students, so hopefully they can go out and help people."

James Bongers, DDS'80

participated in the Institute for Latin American Concern (ILAC) in the Dominican Republic.

Bongers also participated in Creighton's after-hours, student-run volunteer clinic at the School of Dentistry, assisting patients primarily from the Indian-Chicano Health Center (now called OneWorld Community Health Center) unable to afford traditional care.

"I thank God and I thank the dental school for what it did for me," Bongers said. "I became the dentist I wanted to be."

Heritage Society: A Gift of Faith and Foresight

Creighton University would not exist today but for the far-reaching vision, faith, planning and generosity of the founding Creighton family. Ever since Mary Lucretia Creighton fulfilled her husband Edward's dream through her will, charitable bequests and other planned gifts continue to advance the University to preeminence.

Share in the vision of our founders by becoming a member of the Creighton University Heritage Society. By joining the Heritage Society, you make a commitment to future generations of students.

With many options available, you can meet your personal and philanthropic goals while leaving your legacy for Creighton's future.

● **Please contact the Office of Gift and Estate Planning to learn more about the Heritage Society.**

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Alumnus Lived Modestly

Love of Catholic Education Leads to \$1.87 Million Estate Gift

John Daly, PhB'38, JD'40, was devoted to Catholic education, to daily Mass and to the welfare of everyone around him.

The Omaha native died on June 9, 2014, at the age of 98, but his legacy will live on through the John F. and Anne Hanighen Daly Scholarships benefiting School of Law and College of Arts and Sciences students. The \$1.87 million gift was established through Daly's estate plan at the request of his closest living relative, his cousin Joe Daly, BA'67, JD'70. Another \$500,000 in unrestricted funds was received from John Daly's estate.

Bridget Keegan, Ph.D., dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, says the college is grateful for Daly's generosity.

"Support for student scholarships is one of our top priorities," says Keegan. "Mr. Daly's bequest will ensure that we can continue to provide access to a high-quality Jesuit, Catholic liberal arts education for more students, regardless of their background, and will help make it possible for students to major in what they are passionate about and pursue meaningful careers."

The Rev. George Sullivan, S.J., JD'81, a former president of Daly's high school alma mater, Creighton Prep, calls John a gracious and extraordinary friend who lived a frugal life and saved his resources to help young people.

"He and his wonderful wife, Anne, were not blessed with children and this was their way of extending their love into the next generations through faith-centered education," says Fr. Sullivan.

Daly was born on Jan. 9, 1916, and attended grade school at Holy Cross Catholic School before graduating from Creighton High School (Creighton Prep) in 1933. He then earned Bachelor of

Philosophy and Juris Doctor degrees from Creighton University.

Joe Daly says that John valued his Catholic education and was partial to Jesuit education. One of John's most prized possessions was a group photo of his 1933 high school graduation class.

"He wrote the names of every one of his classmates, in order, on the back of that photo," says Joe. "It is still in pristine condition."

After graduating from Creighton University, John served in the Army Air Corps in World War II and then returned



John Daly, PhB'38, JD'40

to Omaha to work for the law firm Spielhagen & Spielhagen.

John worked at the firm for a few years before joining his father and uncles at the Yellow Cab Company in Omaha. John's father, J.A. (Jack) Daly, had started as a bookkeeper at Yellow Cab and worked his way up to president. John joined the company as vice president, became president after his father retired and continued in that role until the company was sold and he retired. Joe also worked at the cab company, beginning part-time at the age of 14 until graduating from Creighton University.

John and Anne Hanighen wed in

1955 and were happily married for 48 years until her death in 2003. John's commitment to his faith endured and, even into his 90s, he remained determined to attend Mass daily. Both Fr. Sullivan and Joe recall his resolve, particularly after a Christmas Eve snowstorm.

"Archbishop George Lucas had told everyone to stay in their homes on Christmas day and to watch Christmas Mass on television," says Fr. Sullivan. "Christmas morning, John called his cousin Joe and he said to him, 'Joseph, I got to Mass this morning. I followed the snowplows to Boys Town.'"

In 2008, at the age of 92 and after his driver's license was not approved for

John Daly's gift will live on through the John F. and Anne Hanighen Daly Scholarships benefiting School of Law and College of Arts and Sciences students.

renewal, John decided it was time to sell his home and move to assisted living. He moved to New Cassel Retirement Center in Omaha, where he continued to attend daily Mass and live frugally.

In addition to Creighton, the totality of John's generosity benefited many other causes and institutions, including Creighton Prep, Duchesne Academy of the Sacred Heart, Marian High School, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) and the Omaha Archdiocesan Educational Foundation (OAEF).

"Mr. Daly truly was the personification of the millionaire next door," says Steve Scholer, JD'79, senior philanthropic advisor at Creighton. "He lived a very modest life but was an ardent stock investor and subscribed wholeheartedly to reinvesting his dividends."

"Everyone enjoyed and respected his grace, gentlemanly manner, and his example of faith, reverence and prayer," says Fr. Sullivan. "John was a model for all, and it was a tremendous privilege to know him."

Final Words

By Robert P. Heaney, BS'47, MD'51

Editor's note: Robert Heaney, BS'47, MD'51, is a distinguished professor of medicine, a world-renowned researcher in the field of bone biology and vitamin D, and the first holder of the John A. Creighton University Professorship.

In May 2015, I was diagnosed with an incurable, malignant brain tumor and given an estimated six to 18 months to live. My reaction was understandably mixed — kaleidoscopic, really.

There was no denying the bad news; I was confident the diagnosis was correct. No, my first reaction was a mixture of relief and gratitude. Gratitude — elation, actually — because I had been given the rare opportunity to wrap things up. I had a chance to say goodbye to friends and family, particularly my spouse and children. I could tell them how much I loved them; what wonderful people I thought they were; and how blessed I was to have had the privilege of being their husband and father — and to ask their forgiveness for my many spousal and parenting errors. I had even been given a chance to sneak in one more blog post (see blogs.creighton.edu/heaney).

I couldn't help but think of how very few people had the chance I'd been given. I thought of the old prayer, "From a sudden and unprovided death, Oh Lord, preserve me." I had been so preserved before the prayer could be even raised. Think of the many victims of gun violence and drunken drivers, and the thousands of refugees and military personnel whose lives are snuffed out in an instant.

I thought also, with very mixed feelings, about the way medicine approaches the problem of incurable cancer — the commercialization of the cancer "industry" (medicine, really), with the incredibly high cost of drugs and procedures. These are often desperation measures — treatments that too often do little or no good, except prolong the dying process, but to which many nevertheless feel obliged to submit. Should I follow suit? Was now the time for me to make my stand? I couldn't be sure. Well, the cost of those treatments is often partially covered by insurance, so why not use them? One reason to hesitate, it seemed to me, was that the insurance pool was limited in size. The resources I use cannot be used by someone else. Is my need greater than theirs? If I forgo treatment, would others get more or better? I could not easily handle that

calculation because I don't begin to have enough information. Probably no one does. But surely, as a society, we ought to be able to make provisions for this dilemma.

More daunting, at least for us in the U.S., what about the uninsured, the poor and the marginalized? Do they get the same access to our "miracle" drugs? How will the astronomical, hyper-inflated cost of their drugs be covered? How many will be refused treatment altogether for lack of insurance? How many will be bankrupted and evicted from their homes? I couldn't help but recall Pope Francis' statement in his encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, that every purchase had a moral dimension. Surely purchased illness care — mine, in this case — was no exception.

So, confusion, yes, about technical, worldly things beyond my control — but mostly gratitude — gratitude, of course, first, to God, the source of everything that was mine, including the very life that was soon to be changing. But then, having mused on that thought, I quickly realized that that was not quite right either.

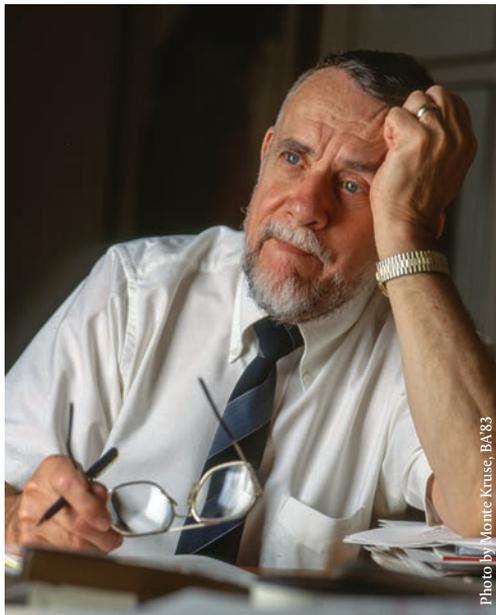
I knew that in not too many weeks or months, a priest would stand over my casket as the pall was spread over it and would say "At his baptism, Robert died with Christ and rose with him to new life." At my baptism 88 years ago, the Spirit of Jesus had vivified me and I was called to be Christ for my world. It was at baptism that I had truly died, as St. Paul tells us (Romans 6). I wondered, how well had I lived my new baptismal life these last 88 years? How was I to live it now, in the next few weeks?

Something I hadn't anticipated, though clearly should have, was a decrease in self-determination. Through most of my life, in matters large and small, I had been in the driver's seat — when to go shopping, what bank to use, whether to volunteer as a lector at Mass, what tie to wear and countless similar decisions. I drove myself to my appointments or work, when I wanted to go. Now I was dependent upon the kindness of others for my transport.

How much of my identity was embedded

in that autonomy? I remembered, of course, Jesus' words to Peter at the end of John's Gospel, "When you are older ... another will carry you off against your will." (John 21: 18) I wasn't facing what Peter faced; nevertheless, the decrease in autonomy was of the same sort. Rather than losing control, what was happening was handing it off, and doing so — I hoped — with grace and dignity.

I loved proclaiming Romans 6 at the Easter Vigil and was told I did it well. What did I love about doing so? Paul's message? The glorious proclamation that "Jesus, once raised from the dead, dies now no more!?" Or the sound of my voice saying those words? It was God speaking, not I. The message belonged to the assembly, not to me. It was time for me to slip into the background, handing off to others.



Robert Heaney, BS'47, MD'51



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SOUTHERN OCEAN

A Road Once Traveled

Former Bluejay baseball player **Bob Kennedy, BS'91**, (far right) and his sons and nephew imitate the scene captured in the Road to Omaha statue outside TD Ameritrade Park Omaha, home of the College World Series. Kennedy and his brother, Eric, BA'92, were members of the 1991 Creighton baseball team, which finished 51-22 and reached the College World Series. The team was inducted into Creighton University's Athletic Hall of Fame in April. It marked the first time a team has been selected to the Hall.

Pictured from left are Bob's son Evan, a current Creighton business student; his son Cam (being held up); Eric Kennedy's son Cal; and Bob Kennedy, who is currently the head baseball coach and a counselor at Smoky Hill High School in Aurora, Colo.





Photos by Jim Fackler

Hannah Mullally, BSEvs'16, left, and Brisha Howe, a computer science major, work on their improvisational skills.

Improv for Scientists

By Nichole Jelinek, MA'16

Theater professor hosts workshops for student and faculty researchers, scientists at Creighton

The idea of reading “Particles, Fields, Gravitation and Cosmology,” published in *Reviews of Modern Physics*, wouldn’t appeal to most of the general public. However, many do find astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson’s explanations of the cosmic perspective interesting and engaging. That’s because Tyson uses humor, curiosity and relatability to connect his audiences with science.

Mackenzie Taylor, Ph.D., an assistant professor of biology and the Clare Boothe Luce Chair for Women in Science at Creighton, says that communicating science is fundamental. As a researcher, Taylor is fascinated by her own work and believes it is her responsibility to communicate that experience to others.

“Scientists must make their research relevant and understandable to the public,” says Taylor. “Scientists are obligated to ‘meet’ our audiences. But we’re not all communicators like Neil deGrasse Tyson, Bill Nye or Carl Sagan.”

That’s why Taylor was eager to join a

handful of other faculty and students in Improvisation for Scientists, a workshop by Amy Lane, Ph.D., BFA'90, assistant professor of theater at Creighton.

Improvisation for Scientists is a nationwide program developed in association with the Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science at Stony Brook University. The workshops are not meant to turn researchers and scientists into actors, but to help them learn techniques and tools for communicating their work to the general public.

Gail Jensen, Ph.D., dean of the Graduate School, had seen a presentation on the

workshops at a national conference in 2014 and was amazed at the before-and-after results.

“The differences were striking,” says Jensen, “both in terms of the students’ comfort level with their own communication skills, as well as in their ability to describe their work in a way that the listener could understand and engage with.”

Jensen then approached Lane and alumnus and local actor Bill Grennan, BFA’08, about bringing the workshops to Creighton.

Lane and Grennan attended the workshop at Stony Brook with about 65 other participants from across the United States and as far away as Canada, Finland and Australia. Universities represented included Yale, Princeton, University of Wisconsin and Stanford.

The Creighton representatives were two of only a small handful of theater professionals; most of the attendees were research scientists or medical professionals.

Grennan says that it was interesting to be a part of an experience where individuals from seemingly diverse disciplines worked together.

“Professionals from various fields of science and medicine were genuinely interested in our opinions as artists,” he says, “and they valued what our talents could contribute to their areas of expertise.”

Both Lane and Grennan thought the program was innovative and saw potential for it at Creighton.

Since then, Lane has led a series of workshops and discussions across campus. The most recent workshop, held this past March, was in collaboration with the Clare Boothe Luce Program for Women in Science. Taylor, the Creighton biology professor, says she was surprised by how much more comfortable she became in discussing her research with a general audience.

“This isn’t about helping scientists speak with other scientists, neither is it about making them better actors, but it’s about helping current and future scientists connect with a public audience,” Lane says.

The workshop’s core activities borrow techniques from the late Viola Spolin, a theater academic considered a pioneer in the area of improvisational theater.

“Her work has been around for decades,” Lane says. “Improvisation for Scientists

puts a new spin on these theater techniques to help focus on developing better communication tools for those working and studying in the sciences.”

“It actively focuses on creating empathy and sensitivity with an audience. We teach spontaneity, connection with and awareness of the audience, physical freedom, verbal conciseness, active listening, speaking at different levels of complexity, and using storytelling techniques effectively.”

Humans are hardwired to connect to stories, she says, and the most powerful tool available to the storyteller is the power to evoke emotion.

In one exercise, participants are asked to tell about the moment they “fell in love”

researchers and scientists to be able to convey the information in a way that the audience can understand, and in a way that gets them interested in it.”

May graduate Hannah Mullally, a biology major headed to graduate school at the University of Tennessee, says her biggest takeaway from the workshop was learning that speaking well is really about storytelling.

“It makes whatever you are talking about come alive to your audience,” she says. “It also makes you much more invested in what you are talking about, which in turn makes you feel more confident about what you are saying. I think it will help me connect with my audience while presenting research.”



Creighton theater professor Amy Lane, Ph.D., BFA’90, center, working with Mullally and Howe during a workshop. Lane has been hosting workshops to help student and faculty researchers and scientists at Creighton better communicate their work with the general public.

with science. Lane recalls one student who shared a descriptive and dramatic story, a turning point in his life when he dedicated himself to saving people through medicine.

“I don’t remember the exact date of this workshop, or how many total students participated that day, or certain other facts about the many workshops I’ve done since then,” Lane says. “But I will remember his story and its emotional impact forever.”

Scientists and researchers tend to avoid involving emotion in their work, she says, but it is important for conveying passion and building connections with an audience. Jensen says making these connections is important for researchers.

“They may find themselves needing to make a pitch to a funding agency, politician or news agency about the importance of their work,” Jensen says. “It is critical for

Meaningful, understandable discussions about science and discovery are also important to society. Lane uses the term “accessible science.”

“It means that science should be an integral part of a national public dialogue,” she explains. “The important research and discoveries that happen daily in academic departments and laboratories around the world should not be shrouded in mystery, but shared openly with an engaged public.”

Lane looks forward to continuing and expanding the workshops at Creighton.

“I love any way that we can combine arts and sciences,” says Lane. “It has been a wonderful journey of partnership for me, blending the equally creative fields of arts and sciences. We always find in workshops how many similarities there truly are, and we’re always discovering more.”

A Prescription for the Future

CHI Health Creighton University Medical Center property pending sale, to be redeveloped as residential and retail space

The CHI Health Creighton University Medical Center property is pending sale to Omaha-based NuStyle Development Corp., which plans to redevelop the existing building, adding residential apartment housing and retail space for the 30th Street corridor of Midtown.

“NuStyle’s successful housing projects in downtown Omaha have revitalized many buildings that might have otherwise remained empty or been replaced, and we are pleased that NuStyle’s redevelopment plans for the medical center property will create new residential spaces and retail opportunities for Creighton, Gifford Park, North Omaha, and Midtown community members,” said Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, S.J., president of Creighton University.

“This is a great day for Creighton and the surrounding community, especially with the wonderful connection to nearby neighborhoods that will be created with the planned construction of a pedestrian bridge.”

The sale occurs in advance of Creighton University’s academic medical center

relocation to CHI Health Creighton University Medical Center-Bergan Mercy and the completion of the University Campus of CHI Health Creighton University Medical Center, an almost 83,000-square foot facility at 24th and Cuming streets that is scheduled to open in early 2017. The hospital will continue to operate and the redevelopment will not occur until all patient services have transitioned in June of 2017.

The planned redevelopment of the hospital building includes residential and retail development including 700 living units, rooftop swimming pool, a pond with a walking trail and an 850-foot long pedestrian bridge over the North Freeway to Creighton’s campus.

“The impact for Creighton University will be great, as it will be for the surrounding area,” said Todd Heistand, president of NuStyle, a company with a reputation for refurbishing and repurposing buildings around the region. “We’re bringing together neighbors, creating housing, connecting Creighton to Midtown and maintaining the existing connections Creighton has to downtown and North Omaha. It’s going to have a great feel to it. People will want to live here.”

The concept of a pedestrian bridge connecting the main Creighton campus

with the health sciences campus west of the freeway was imagined as early as 1972, when the medical center’s current building was being designed.

As for the pond feature, the city of Omaha and the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District will aid in its completion. The pond is intended to be a storm water retention area helping to manage water capacity flows through downtown to the river.

Initial estimates are that the first phase of the redevelopment would occur following the medical center’s relocation and could be completed and ready for residents by August 2018. The sale with Creighton is expected to close later this summer.

While several parking lot parcels west of 30th Street will be included in the sale to NuStyle Development, Omaha Public Schools (OPS) has extended a letter of intent to enter into an agreement with Creighton University for the purchase of property located at 32nd and Burt streets for a new elementary school in the Gifford Park neighborhood. Creighton has accepted the letter of intent. Once negotiated, the agreement will be subject to approval by the OPS Board of Education.

Finally, Creighton will continue to own and maintain the Cardiac Center, Boyne Building, and Bio-Information Center near 30th and Burt streets. These buildings support several of the University’s health sciences programs and the School of Dentistry’s patient clinic.



Architectural rendering looking north at the new complex, with Boys Town National Research Hospital (not part of the sale) silhouetted at left in the foreground and the pedestrian bridge at right. (Alley Poyner Macchietto Architecture)

Race and Traffic Stops

When the Nebraska Legislature in 2001 prohibited law enforcement agencies from stopping motorists solely on the basis of race, leaders of the Nebraska State Patrol were left scratching their heads. They were convinced their troopers did no such thing.

The new law reflected a growing national concern that Americans from minority racial groups experienced more intense scrutiny than white Americans. The State Patrol, like other Nebraska law enforcement agencies, kept no statistics identifying the race of people stopped, or of how often people of various races or ethnicities were subjected to vehicle searches.

LB 593 changed all that, and required the State Patrol as well as police departments and sheriff's offices to keep detailed records of stops and the race of those stopped.

After a year, enough data had accumulated that Dawn Irlbeck, Ph.D., a professor in Creighton's Department of Cultural and Social Studies, was asked to analyze what was going on.

Her report, published in 2005 as "Patterns of Interactions During Traffic Stops: A Study of Possible Racial/Ethnic Profiling" painted a hopeful picture that pointed law enforcement professionals in a useful direction.

Her first conclusion, after studying data concerning thousands of traffic stops — including video footage — found that minority motorists were not being stopped at a rate inconsistent with their numbers in the general population. This finding matched the State Patrol's own findings.

The more difficult question concerned another of the State Patrol's findings. Why were minority motorists, after being stopped, being subjected to searches at a far greater rate than their presence in the general population? Irlbeck's study confirmed that finding, too.

The reason, she concluded, was that an unconscious bias, shared by law enforcement officers of all racial and ethnic backgrounds, led to more intensive post-stop questioning of minority motorists. The longer a motorist was questioned, she found, the more likely he or she was to be subjected to a search.

Application of statistical methodology and equations eliminated the presence of direct racial bias. "The bias was indirect," she said, which can be harder to address.

"It's so interesting, and consistent with what we know about shootings and what looks like racial profiling," she said.

"Minority officers shoot minority people at the same



Dawn Irlbeck, Ph.D., a professor in Creighton's Department of Cultural and Social Studies, has studied the issue of racial and ethnic profiling by law enforcement as it relates to traffic stops.

rate that white cops do. They stop and search them at the same rate. It's not so much conscious racial bias, it's more a stereotype that we may not even be conscious of."

She cites a story told by Henry Louis Gates, an African-American professor at Harvard University who won national attention in 2009 after being arrested while trying to enter his home.

Gates once told a story about hearing footsteps behind him while walking alone at night, she said. Growing anxious about what he feared might be a pursuer, Gates related his relief upon discovering the man was white. It was a confession that illustrates the ubiquitous of racial assumptions, Irlbeck said.

"Even though we try to do everything we can to be race appreciative, not necessarily color blind, but to treat everybody equitably and fairly, to see people as individuals and not as members of a group, still we draw conclusions based on stereotypes," she said. "Gates did the exact same thing because we're raised with those stereotypes since we're babies, and it's just so deeply ingrained."



“It Has Been the Few Who Have Acted, Who Have Saved Us from Unspeakable Scandal”

By Bob Reilly

On the 3rd of April, 1965, two years before his death, Fr. John P. Markoe, S.J., sat impassively as the honoree at a testimonial dinner.

The Brandeis Student Center was packed with friends and admirers, including members of the De Porres Club for which Markoe served as moderator. John Howard Griffin, author of the blockbuster *Black Like Me*, was guest speaker, and among those on hand to salute the Jesuit activist were Roy Wilkins, executive secretary of the NAACP; Whitney Young, executive director of the National Urban League; and Frank Morrison, governor of Nebraska. Archbishop Gerald T. Bergan apologized publicly for not being more openly supportive of Markoe.

“He was right,” acknowledged Bergan, “and your Archbishop was wrong.”

Griffin declared that Fr. Markoe and his Jesuit brother, William, were “in the cauldron when most of us were in diapers,” alluding to the long careers both men had spent in combatting prejudice.

For more than two hours, Griffin held

that audience with stories of his experiences while disguised as a black man. He mentioned incidents so painful, he couldn’t describe them in his book — including his being denied access to a Catholic church one Sunday, the same church to which he had been welcomed a year earlier as a prominent white journalist. He detailed the racist attitudes inherent in our society. We were mesmerized. I remember wanting to reach for a glass of water during that long speech, delivered quietly, flatly, without histrionics. My hand wouldn’t move.

Turning toward Markoe, Griffin said: “It has been the few — and I say that word sadly — it has been the few who have acted, who have been what we all profess to be, who have salvaged us from unspeakable scandal — if indeed we have been salvaged from unspeakable scandal.”

Griffin was on target. In that post World War II era, there were few saints and many sinners. Most of us didn’t do enough. We took comfort in our own beliefs and conduct, tallied the names of black friends. But the truth is that we

didn’t protest loudly enough or often enough against discrimination — in our neighborhoods, our business community, our churches.

Today we may be losing sight of those times. This generation may not appreciate what it was like to be black then, not only in the distant and disparaged South, but in Omaha. Jews insist they must explain the Holocaust again and again, because the knowledge of what happened in those years is slipping away. They are right. We need to see ourselves as part of a history which is both proud and ugly. So we’re bound to recall Omaha and Creighton as they were 50 years ago.

During the Second World War, some 2 1/2 million African-Americans served in the Armed Forces, the vast majority of them in non-combat roles — transportation, quartermaster corps, as Navy stewards. Conventional wisdom questioned their reactions under fire. Only the Tuskegee Airmen managed to leap this barrier, chalking up a remarkable record of enemy planes destroyed. For the remaining military, rear echelon duty



The fighting Markoes: Fr. William Markoe, S.J. (left), and Fr. John Markoe, S.J. (right), flank writer John Howard Griffin.

was the norm. Despite the non-discrimination clause in the Draft Act of 1940 and the Fair Employment Practice Act of 1941, blacks in the military found segregation everywhere - training camps, troop trains, and even USOs.

I recall no black members of our Creighton R.O.T.C. unit, and, when we finally got to Fort Benning, to Officer Candidate School, our company was composed of three platoons, two white and one black, each in a separate barracks. There was little fraternization. When graduation day arrived, perhaps 85 percent of the white candidates received their lieutenant's bars, while less than 3 percent of the black aspirants were commissioned. Again, conventional military wisdom averred that white troops wouldn't serve under black officers and that black troops preferred to be led by white officers. Color lines in the armed forces weren't erased until President Harry Truman took action in 1948. Even then, change came slowly.

It wasn't much different in civilian life.

Spurred by the promise of higher wages and the presumed decline in discrimination, black families had moved north by the thousands in the second decade of this century. Omaha's black population doubled in those years. By 1950, there were more than 16 thousand black citizens of Omaha - all confined to the Near North Side, except for a small

section of South Omaha. Unemployment was high in this small community, per capita income half that of whites, the chances for advancement slim, and illness and death far higher than that in other areas of the city. Eighty-seven percent of African-Americans employed held unskilled or ser-

vice jobs - on the railroad; in the packing houses; in hotels, restaurants and clubs; as maids or janitors. Only 13 percent had clerical, professional or semi-professional jobs. They lived in an area where half the homes failed to meet minimum housing code standards.

In his master's thesis, Creighton graduate Dr. Jeffrey H. Smith, MA'67, wrote:

"The post-war housing boom almost completely ignored Omaha's non-white

population. During the ten year period from 1947 to 1957, twenty-three major housing sub-divisions of one hundred homes or more were developed, none of them open to non-whites...between 1952 and 1957, there were 13,293 new homes built; only 32, or .002 percent, were available to Negro buyers."

Personal humiliations were even more traumatic.

Tessie Edwards, one of the city's most respected educators, recalls being consigned to a balcony at the Brandeis Theater and remembers seeing her father directed to the back door of a restaurant in order to purchase a meal. In high school, she was barred from student organizations, occupied a study hall for black students only, and ate meals alone in protest of the segregated lunchroom. While this was a public high school, the Catholic high schools were hardly better. Only one, Notre Dame Academy, openly welcomed black students.

"I used to walk up 24th Street," she says, "swinging my book bag, and I'd pass by Creighton, and I wondered if they would let me in. I saw no black faces there, although I believe there were a couple of black students in the School of Pharmacy."

In all of the nation's Jesuit colleges and universities, there were less than 500 black students.

But Miss Edwards, as thousands of Creighton Prep students addressed her during her teaching years on the 72nd Street campus, did enter Creighton and graduated with a major in history in 1949. She appreciated the education she received, and made some lifelong friends, but the experience wasn't without problems.

"One Jesuit suggested to me that I not attend his class one day because they would be discussing race relations," she said, "and he thought it might be embarrassing for me."

She ran into Fr. Markoe on her way to the library and told him of the incident. Furious, Markoe dashed off to confront and berate his colleague.

By that time, things were starting to change.

It would be wrong to leave the impression that there were no people in



Markoe, here in uniform, was a 1914 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.



Omaha opposing bigotry and discrimination. Among diocesan priests there were the McCaslin brothers and Fr. Jim Stewart and a few others who took the heat. Some ministers, teachers and businessmen bucked the trend. And Creighton had its highly visible dissenters.

Fr. Austin Miller, S.J., preached social justice, ran a labor school, and insisted

On his deathbed, Fr. Markoe advised his friend, Fr. Renard, never to give “an inch” in the struggle against racism

on equality for all workers. Fr. John J. Killoren, S.J., served a primarily black congregation for 22 years at St. Benedict’s. Other Jesuits and laity on the faculty lived out their convictions in a variety of ways. But the activist approach was not applauded by everyone on the Hilltop. Debates on the morality of racism were common. In theory, everyone agreed to the dignity and equality of all people. But must a business owner integrate if this meant losing clientele? Was he responsible for the prejudice of others?

Fr. John Markoe, S.J., had no doubts on this issue.

“Racism is a God Damned thing,” he would insist. “And that’s two words — God Damned.”

He instructed his adherents never to give an inch and, on his deathbed, he imparted the same advice to his friend, Fr. Henri Renard, S.J. Never give an inch.

Fr. Markoe is a book in himself, and Dr. Jeffrey Smith has written that volume, *From Corps to CORE*. It reads like fiction.

A West Point alumnus and classmate of Eisenhower and Dewey Spatz, Markoe won honorable mention as an All-American end, and stood ramrod straight his entire life. Graduating 87th in a class of 107, Markoe found himself

assigned to a black regiment charged with patrolling the Mexican border. A heavy drinker, the young lieutenant specialized in breaking up barrooms and made the mistake of trying to force a senior officer to drink with him. He was dismissed from the Army and returned to Minnesota to work as a lumberjack. He also joined the state’s National Guard unit and, when Pancho Villa became a threat, he was summoned back to the border. Here he served with distinction and was promoted to captain. His nickname remained “Cap” for the rest of his life, but the promotion did nothing to temper his drinking sprees. He continued to make life miserable for bar owners and ended up one day in an adobe jail. A strong man, he broke through the wall and wandered out into the desert. A Mexican spotted him, lifted him onto his burro, and returned him to his outfit. During that ride, so the legend goes, Markoe swore off liquor for life. Whatever the truth of this conversion, he did turn his life around and joined the Jesuits in 1917. Along with his brother William, also a Jesuit, he signed an unusual pledge to “give and dedicate our whole lives and all our energies” to “the Negroes in the United States.” He wound up, eventually, at St. Louis University, where he and others set about trying to integrate the student body. That earned him exile to Omaha — and Creighton. The year was 1946. Within a year, he had his perfect tool for carrying out his life’s mission — the newly-formed De Porres Club.

If one name deserves to be mentioned above the rest among that cadre of courageous students, that name is Denny Holland, BS’49. He approached Markoe about doing something to redress the injustices witnessed daily in the city. Markoe encouraged the organization that became the De Porres Club in 1947. Its stated purpose was “to educate people to think along lines of charity and justice as

regards inter-racial matters.” Their patron, Blessed Martin de Porres, a Peruvian of mixed ancestry, was canonized 15 years later.

“We met every Monday night from 7 to 10,” says Holland. “First, at Creighton, until we became too controversial and were asked to move.”

Members headquartered at several North Omaha locations, including the back room of *The Omaha Star*, where owner Mildred Brown made them welcome. Brown, characterized by elegant hats and sometimes inflated circulation figures, was a woman of conviction. She had to walk a narrow line, wooing white advertisers while informing black readers. And she paid the price in lost revenues and broken windows.

Denny Holland, too, faced some handicaps.

“Often the mail to the De Porres Club would come in re-sealed,” he says. “And our phone was tapped, I think. You’d hear a few clicks every time I picked it up. If I was out late in the Near North Side, I might be followed by a couple of detectives — but I think they were just

trying to be sure I made it home safely.”

Holland lived near the De Porres Center, or camped out behind *The Omaha Star*, or stayed with the family of Dr. Ed Corbett, a Creighton English professor. Corbett, also a club member, along with colleague Chet Anderson, recalls the inspiration of Fr. Markoe.

“His utter conviction that fighting for civil rights was what we should all be doing kept us going,” remarks Corbett, now retired from teaching at Ohio State University. “He was appalled that anyone — including his fellow faculty members — didn’t agree. He made a believer out



Markoe is shown in this picture as a lieutenant in the U.S. Cavalry.



In this historic photograph, the 1913 Army varsity football team (whose members would go on to greatness in World War II) poses for a picture. Fr. Markoe is sixth from the left. At the position 10th from the left stands the man who would become President of the United States after his distinguished military career: Dwight D. Eisenhower. Omar Bradley, who

of my wife, too. I can still see her marching in one of those picket lines, our baby in her arms."

The confrontations didn't come right away.

"I thought we might be just a prayer group," recalls Holland. "We met, discussed articles on racial justice, had speakers. One night Fr. Markoe suggested we adjourn and go en masse, black and white members, to a local restaurant that refused to serve blacks. I was nervous about it, but I went."

That was the beginning of years of persistent action. The De Porres Club pioneered techniques that later became famous in the South. A dozen years before a quartet of students refused to move from a Woolworth's lunch counter in Greensboro, N.C., resulting in the coining of the term, "sit-in," Holland and others were employing the same strategy in Omaha. Four years before the Montgomery, Ala., bus boycott, the Club launched a similar campaign against the Omaha and Council Bluffs Street Railway Company.

Reading the minutes of the organization, it's amazing what they accomplished and even more amazing what they attempted. They followed up on complaints about unjust treatment, initiated contacts with businesses that wouldn't hire minorities, distributed literature, gave talks, wrote letters to the media, marched in protest, confronted authorities. When attempts were made to integrate the closed ranks of taxicab drivers, they rode cabs all day, persuad-

ing the cabbies. They called to task schools that staged minstrel shows in blackface. When member Bertha Calloway, now director of the Great Plains Black Museum, was denied

The De Porres Club pioneered techniques of fighting segregation that became famous in the South a decade later

admission to a skating rink, they came down hard on the owners. Segregated swimming pools were targeted, and bars in the Creighton area that wouldn't cut the hair of black students. When a black couple moved into a hostile white neighborhood, De Porres members stood watch in front of the home. They staged plays and promoted lectures with themes of racial justice.

As a regular practice, a mixed group from the Club selected restaurants to visit to test their policies on serving minorities. Most major eating establishments opposed seating blacks. "It's bad for business to serve colored people," argued many owners. Members wrote to these offenders, reminding them of local statutes against discriminating, called on them in person, and sometimes began legal proceedings.

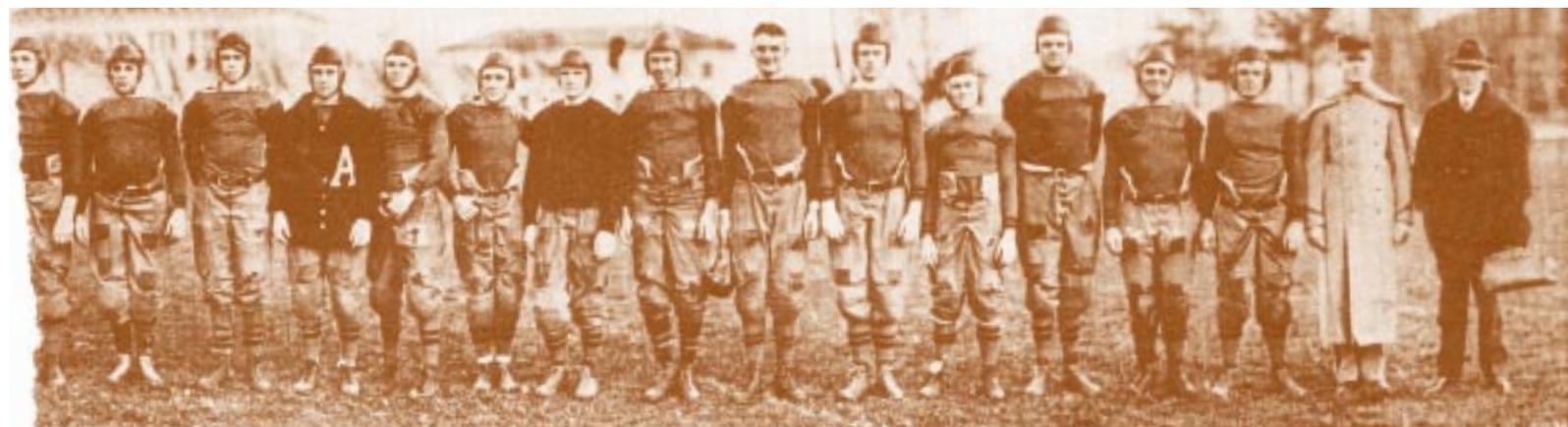
Hotels were similarly investigated.

"This was a real problem," says Tessie Edwards. "One reason black people tried to get a large house is because, when relatives or friends came to visit, you had to have room for them. They weren't welcome in our hotels. And then there was always the problem of where you could eat."

Even touring road companies experienced discrimination. Black members of the cast of *Kiss Me, Kate* were refused service. Typically, higher prices were quoted to black people to discourage patronage. De Porres exposed this tactic. A black Club member would phone a certain hotel and be told there was only one room left, at \$18, a high price at the time. Shortly thereafter a white member would call and be offered a \$5 room. This two-person attack might also be made in person. Eventually, hotels and restaurants were informed by their parent associations that they must abide by the law. De Porres and their allies, organizations like the Urban League, scored another victory.

The Club took on companies, large and small, that practiced unfair hiring policies.

When the Coca Cola plant adjacent to the Near North Side, refused to hire black drivers, claiming it was "not good business to employ Negroes in positions where they could come in frequent contact with the public," Creighton students and other Club members visited and revisited management, wrote myriad letters, encouraged ministers in the area to



would become another of WWII's top generals, stands 14th from right. Other well-known classmates (not on the Army team) were Generals Van Fleet, Stratemeyer, and McNarney. The West Point class was known at the "Class the stars fell on," for the number of four- and five-star generals it produced. They saw action in two world wars.

preach against this restrictive policy, contacted Coca Cola customers, and finally picketed the firm. Although the soft drink bottlers stated their business was not affected, they admitted they couldn't afford the negative public relations, so they capitulated and accepted black applicants.

Reed's Ice Cream Company, also headquartered on 30th Street, had a similar record of discriminatory hiring practices. It took a year of picketing, sermons from area pulpits, distribution of leaflets and other techniques to reverse the situation. Help came from other organizations and from many sections of Omaha. Black customers ceased their visits to Reed's stores. Ice cream sales plummeted, and the company scrapped its policy.

A tougher assignment was the Street Railway System.

Says Tessie Edwards, "I heard people say that, if you allowed blacks to drive buses, any woman riding alone would be in danger of rape."

This was an era, remember, when white passengers rarely rode north of Cuming Street.

The campaign took years. De Porres staged rallies; posted cards to citizens throughout Omaha,

asking them not to ride the bus; and asked people who did ride to pay their 18 cents fare in pennies as a form of protest. They picketed and they picketed. Mildred Brown appeared before the mayor and council, arguing:

"If our boys can drive jeeps, tanks and jet planes in Korea, in the fight to save democracy, make democracy work at home. Make it work in Omaha. I say to you, your honor, the mayor, if the tram company will not hire Negroes as drivers, we prevail on you to remove the franchise of the bus company."

Pressured on all sides and threatened with the loss of their franchise, the Street Railway System surrendered and agreed to add black drivers.

Club members also visited school principals and pastors. It hurts to admit, as Denny Holland claims, that much of the criticism against the Club came from Catholics. "Sunday," said one observer, "was the most segregated day of the week." Some pastors ordered De Porres members out of their rectories and told them they would decide who is a member of the parish and who isn't. One black Catholic was told in the confessional not to come back. Other pastors protested that these minori-

Fr. Markoe in his traditional priest's robes.



ties already had a church to attend, St. Benedict's, at 25th and Grant streets.

Started in 1919 at the request of a small group of black Catholics, St. Benedict's began as a mission church administered by Jesuits. Fr. John Killoren, S.J., became pastor in 1948 and remained there until 1970.



John Killoren, S.J.

Dr. Jack Angus, recently retired from Creighton's department of sociology and currently writing a book on St. Benedict's, says that many veteran parishioners think

of Fr. Killoren's tenure as the high point in the church's history. Still, there were some who decried the notion of a church for black Catholics and leveled the charge of paternalism. They saw St. Benedict's as an excuse by some parishes to refuse membership to blacks living within their boundaries.

"But Fr. Killoren clearly had a vision of his own," says Angus. "He worked quietly but effectively. He may not have been a revolutionary, but neither was he an evolutionary. He didn't accept the system and worked to reform it."

Less charismatic than Markoe, Killoren focused on developing young leadership, providing recreational opportunities, instituting a job placement center, integrating more African-American aspects into the liturgy.

Joyce Goodwin was a member of the



Fr. Markoe (in straw hat) leads a march in Omaha late in his life in the 1960s.

St. Benedict's Youth Club.

"For the black community of the time," she says, "this was the focal point of our social lives. It was a strong motivating force in our lives, with lasting effects. Most definitely."

Mrs. Goodwin, while looking back on those years with affection for the fun they had and the leadership they learned, also reflects soberly on the negatives.

"I think of the many great minds spent litigating about civil rights," she states, "when they might have been pursuing careers in science or the arts. But at least we had some support in developing our self esteem. Youth today doesn't value life as much as we did."

Fr. Killoren, who ministered to the Arapaho and Shoshoni in Wyoming after his St. Benedict's pastorate, also worries about the direction young people are taking today.

"There doesn't seem to be the same family structure and support we experienced," he says.

Now chaplain to a senior citizen facility in St. Louis, and author of a recent book of Jesuit missionary Fr. Peter De Smet, Killoren realizes his approach was different from that of Fr. Markoe. He admits that his Jesuit counterpart played a major role in opening doors and breaking down barriers.

"But you must be able to stay inside once the doors are opened," he says. "We can't count on good will alone."

Through Fr. Killoren's efforts, stu-

dents from St. Benedict's were able to attend other Catholic high schools, and he had the ear of the Archbishop on other parochial matters. He built a sports complex at the parish and legislated for more lighting here and in other parks.

"We worked across religious lines," he adds. "A great number of our kids were not Catholic. But their parents were good. They never complained about any undue influence exerted by us."

Once when Fr. Robert Hupp, then in charge of CYO teams, encouraged Killoren to field a basketball team, the St. Benedict's pastor explained that a majority of his players were not baptized Catholic.

"Jack," said Fr. Hupp, in accepting the team, "haven't you ever heard of Baptism of Desire?"

In 1953, Fr. Killoren managed to get parish boundaries set, taking St. Benedict's out of the mission church category and adding white members of the congregation...many of them Creighton students living in public housing.

Claiming that you must combine realism with idealism, Killoren was never insensitive to the pain suffered by his constituents.

"We can never appreciate how much hatred and suffering was packed into what we now refer to as the 'N' word," he says with sadness.

Today, by any standard of measurement, the young people who came out of Fr. Jack's multi-faceted program are the leaders in black society, here

and elsewhere.

While Fr. Killoren was working his low profile magic, Fr. Markoe was making his presence felt in board rooms and council chambers. There is no doubt that he drove the De Porres Club members to achievements they never would have essayed. He reminded listeners that there was only one race, the human race. He encouraged, cajoled and shamed members into action. In his talks at meetings, he mixed philosophy and religion with tactics. He seemed to be everywhere, berating public officials and embracing young black children, carrying placards and ministering to the poor.

For members of the Club, it wasn't all picketing and protesting. They staged events to raise funds, had their own dances and picnics. They painted houses for indigent families and stuffed acres of envelopes. They worried about funding, with their treasury balance normally below \$100, and they pressed others into the struggle.

There was progress, but the larger issues seem to diminish by millimeters. The Club minutes reveal how frustrating this mission must have been, with phone calls and letters unanswered, and misdirection common. Management blamed the unions for hiring deficiencies, educators faulted the qualifications of black candidates, and service industries transferred guilt to their intolerant customers. Still, the Club persisted, even as its active years were numbered.

Other vignettes surface from that era.

Frs. Reinert, Miller and I sponsored Dr. Claude Organ, chairman of Creighton's surgery department, for membership in a prestigious Catholic society, one that goes nameless only because it is unfair to single out one culprit among the many offenders. Organ was rejected, and we three sponsors resigned in protest. The final irony came when the white janitor who cleaned Dr. Organ's office commiserated with the nationally-prominent physician. "I voted for you," he apologized.

Fr. Miller arrived one morning at Union Station after an all-night train ride. He was tired and just wanted to get to Creighton and his bed. A cab driver who had bypassed a waiting black fami-



ly, one ahead of Miller, opened the door of his cab. Miller considered for a moment his own exhausted state and reflected that his actions weren't going to solve the racial problems of the United States. Then he stopped and reconsidered, realizing this largely invisible decision was important. He reminded the driver of the law on discriminating in fares and insisted he take the others first.

Once, on the occasion of my black secretary's birthday, several of us went to lunch at the Omaha Athletic Club. I was naive, not crusading. Except for our group, there were no black diners. The waiters, all African-Americans, served us in what seemed like five minutes. How humiliating this must have been for them.

When Tessie Edwards, her sister and her mother, moved to a white neighborhood, petitions were circulated to keep them out. But Rabbi Sidney Brooks and Susie Buffett, wife of the famed investor, kept vigil with the Edwards, night after night. Fr. Reinert also lent his support.

These were small blips on a dark screen, while the De Porres Club patiently soldiered on. Now they addressed the public school situation.

There were no black teachers in Omaha's public high schools and the three dozen black teachers at lower

*It's a different world now,
but far from perfect.
"I still get some strange
looks at the Handshake
of Peace," says
Tessie Edwards.*

levels were confined to five elementary schools on the Near North Side. Many of them served an apprenticeship in clerical or janitorial posts before being allowed to teach. Club members trying to change this racist policy met with evasive answers or closed doors. Even picketing Joslyn Castle proved futile. Not until a change in administration

did reform occur.

By this time the De Porres Club was in decline. Members left town or joined the service and the ranks were thinned. When Fr. Markoe died, it took the heart out of the movement.

Denny Holland was still in the trenches, although he had agonized about his family's move from Omaha's ghetto. Fr. Markoe had assured him, "Wherever you go, Denny, that neighborhood will be integrated." With Tessie Edwards, who had also moved "where the neighbors were very nice," Holland currently works on a committee funding scholarships for black students to attend Catholic high schools. Bert Calloway struggles to keep open the doors of the Great Plains Black Museum, seeking to preserve a heritage largely hidden. Fr. Jack Killoren generates the same enthusiasm now for his new apostolate among the elderly.

It's a different world now, but far from a perfect world.

"I still get some strange looks at the Handshake of Peace," comments Tessie Edwards.

Discrimination in housing and unemployment is more subtle, but just as destructive. The gains we've made as a society have not been allocated evenly. It took the violence of the mid '60s to shake us into some sense of responsibility. And, despite all the obvious improvement, few of us have learned how to associate with people of another race on a comfortable, casual basis.

Years ago, Irv Poindexter, a black member of the De Porres Club, said to me, "Bob, how come every time I talk to a white man, we have to discuss sports or civil rights? I watch television, read books, see movies. I have problems raising a family. Some mornings my car won't start. Why can't we talk about these things?"

He's right. We should be able to do this. And we must thank God for people like Irv and Denny and Tessie and others who instruct us. We owe them a great deal.

Not long before he died, Fr. John Markoe asked me to come to his room in the Jesuit cloister. I was surprised at the spartan character of his quarters. There

was no bed, just a rocking chair in which he slept. His only furniture consisted of that rocker, a desk nearly devoid of papers, a desk chair and a few cardboard cartons stuffed with books and folders.

"When I go," he explained, "it won't take 10 minutes to clear up my effects."

He said he wanted to give me some-



Fr. Markoe, late in life.

thing of his in return for the things I had done for him. I couldn't think of anything I had ever done for this man. All I ever felt was guilt for not doing more. He insisted that I choose one of his possessions. So I opted for a copy of that great black and white photo John Howard Griffin took of him, a portrait that captures all of the compassion, all of the fire, all of the no-surrender determination. He gave it to me.

Then he said something I have puzzled over since.

"You know, Bob," he predicted, "the black man in America will save the white man's soul."

Did he mean we would learn from the sufferings of our less privileged citizens and move away from our own focus on materialism? Did he refer to the tenacity of black Catholics who persevered in their faith when they had every reason not to do so?

Or did he mean that we would one day realize what we have done as a people, as a nation, to men and women of a different color? And in that realization, we shall redeem ourselves?

I hope he meant that. **W**