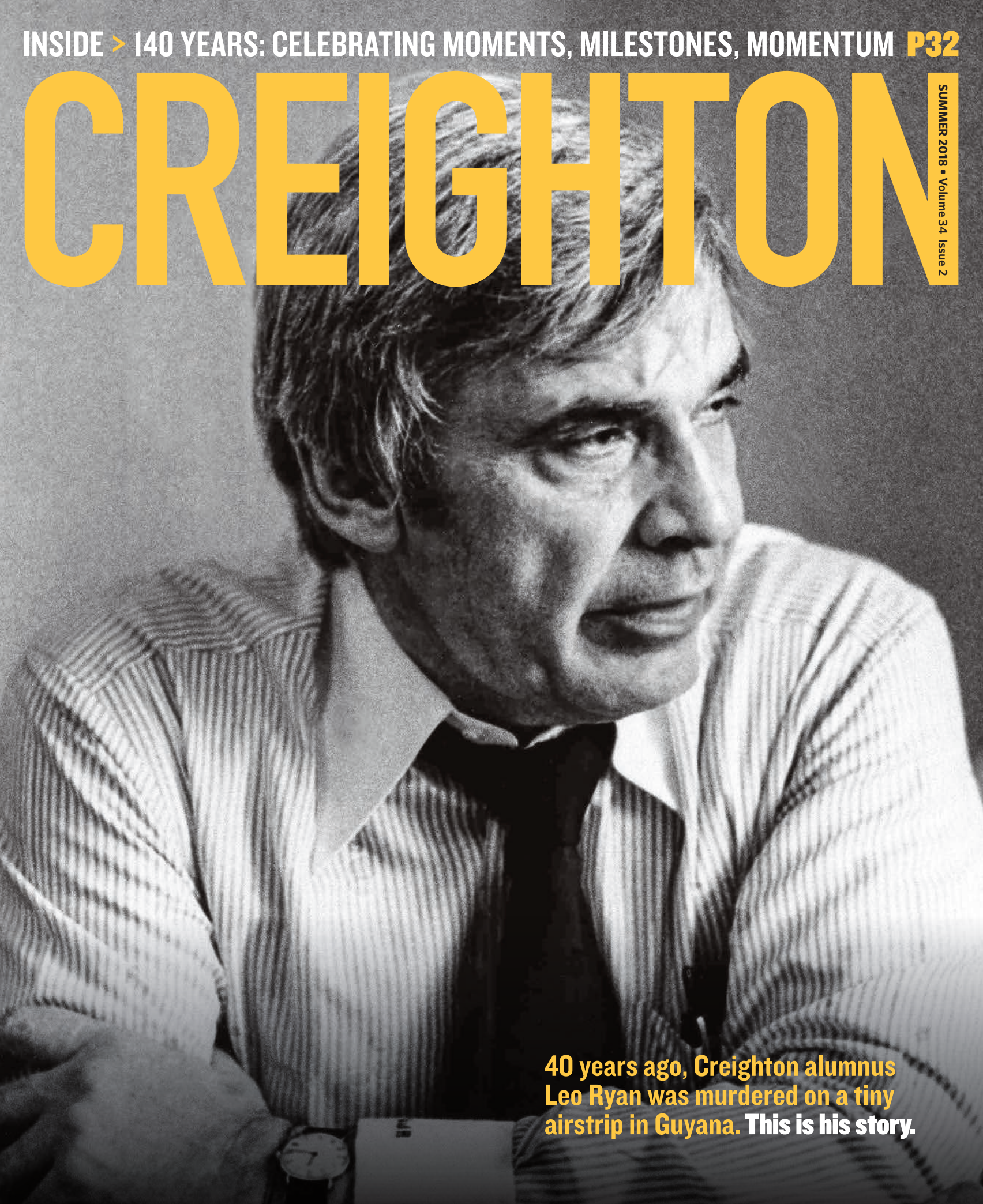


INSIDE > 140 YEARS: CELEBRATING MOMENTS, MILESTONES, MOMENTUM **P32**

CREIGHTON

SUMMER 2018 • Volume 34 Issue 2



40 years ago, Creighton alumnus
Leo Ryan was murdered on a tiny
airstrip in Guyana. **This is his story.**



DAVE WEAVER

Promise and Purpose

This month, we welcome returning students and the Class of 2022 to campus with an invigorated sense of promise and purpose. While final numbers may fluctuate, we anticipate a record freshman class — with as many as 1,130 to 1,135 students. That would surpass last year’s historic total of 1,119 students.

It’s deeply gratifying that our Jesuit, Catholic education; innovative, wide-ranging academic programs; outstanding faculty teaching, research, and scholarship; and significant, meaningful student opportunities inside and outside the classroom continue to be highly valued by today’s high school graduates.

Sept. 2 will mark the 140th anniversary of Creighton University’s opening. We are celebrating this milestone year with a variety of events, including a Creighton 140 Presidential Lecture Series that will include an evening with former Secretaries of State Dr. Madeleine Albright and Gen. Colin Powell on Oct. 30. Suzanne Malveaux, HON’12, an award-winning journalist with CNN, will serve as moderator. Learn more about the lecture series on Page 7.

This spring, a peer review committee from the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities recommended that Creighton University be reaffirmed as an “excellent example of a Jesuit, Catholic university that embraces its mission, builds upon clear mission strengths, and desires to live its mission ever more fully.” The committee’s report was forwarded to Jesuit Superior General the Very Rev. Arturo Sosa, SJ.

We open our new state-of-the-art dental building with excitement on the northeast edge of campus. The impressive brick-and-glass facility, offering the latest in dental technology, will allow us to increase our dental enrollment capacity from about 85 to 115 students, and add to the number of people we can treat — many of whom would otherwise not have care — from about 12,000 to 15,000 annually.

The building also will be home to our new Kingfisher Institute for Liberal Arts and Professions — a major initiative within our strategic plan to develop innovative, collaborative synergies between liberal arts and professional education. Overall, we continue to gain momentum in all strategic plan priorities. Significantly, we recently announced an alliance that makes Creighton and its partners one of the largest providers of graduate medical education in Arizona.

We were saddened to learn of the death of the Rev. Michael G. Morrison, SJ, Creighton’s 22nd and longest-serving president, in May at the age of 81. Fr. Morrison served as the University’s president for 19 years, from 1981 to 2000. A liturgy of gratitude for the life of Fr. Morrison will be held Sept. 15, with a special Mass at St. John’s Church in conjunction with Reunion Weekend.

I invite and encourage all alumni, families, and friends to return to campus for Reunion Weekend, Sept. 13-16, for a full schedule of events and activities. Reunion Weekend provides a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with classmates, professors, and even us Jesuits. I hope to see you there!

Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ
President

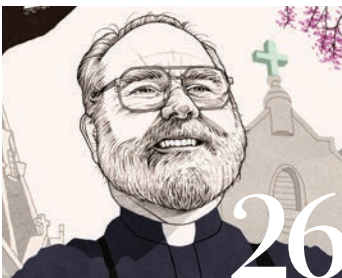


Follow me:

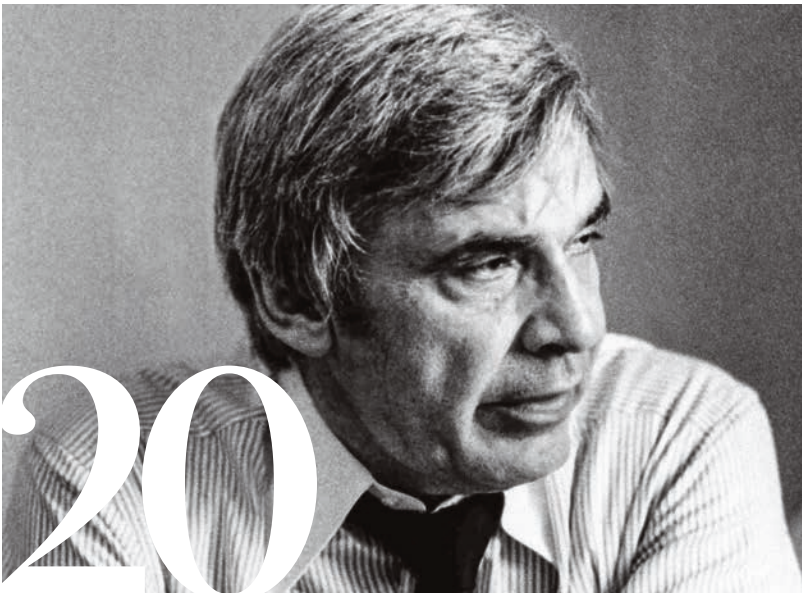
- @CreightonPres
- CreightonPresident

© Omaha community officials and Creighton University leadership celebrated and blessed the new pedestrian bridge spanning the North Freeway this spring. The bridge connects the west end of Creighton’s campus and The Atlas, a new residential retail development housed in the former Creighton University Medical Center. Construction on the 700-foot span, which rises 50 feet over the highway, began in December.

Contents



'FOREVER GRATEFUL'
A former student fondly recalls the life-changing kindness shown to her by the Rev. Michael Morrison, SJ, Creighton's 22nd president, who died this spring.



- 4 Creighton Connections**
- 10 By the Numbers**
- 13 Jesuit Gardens**
World-renowned photographer the Rev. Don Doll, SJ, reflects on the gift of 50 years of priesthood.

- 16 The Big Question**
Two accomplished leaders — one in sports and one in the military — share insights on building a culture of success.
- 18 Dialogue**
A Creighton group grows closer to the University's roots by following in the footsteps of St. Ignatius of Loyola.



INVESTING IN FAITH
Alumnus Joe Ricketts, BA'68, brings his vision for an Ignatian-based retreat experience to life at the 936-acre Cloisters on the Platte retreat center.



MOMENTS. MILESTONES. MOMENTUM.
As Creighton turns 140 years old this year, we take a look back at significant, and light-hearted, moments in time, as well as exciting developments on the horizon.



FEELING AT HOME
Struggling to get into medical school, a former emigrant finds success, fulfillment, deeper faith and a home at Creighton University.

on the cover
'HE WANTED TO GO THERE. HE WANTED TO SEE. HE WANTED TO HELP.'
Forty years ago, more than 900 members of a cult died in the mass murder-suicide known as the "Jonestown massacre." Creighton alumnus and congressman Leo Ryan was investigating when he was killed by Jonestown gunmen. This is his story.

- 42 Impact**
A student finds opportunities to be a trailblazer in business as a Suzanne and Walter Scott Fellows Scholarship recipient.
- 52 Creighton Conversations**
The first vice provost for institutional diversity and inclusion shines a light on seeking justice and equity at Creighton.

43 Alumni Notes

PUBLISHER
Creighton magazine is published in the spring, summer and fall by Creighton University, 2500 California Plaza, Omaha, NE 68178-0001.

PRESIDENT
Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ

CHIEF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING OFFICER
Jim Berscheidt

SR. DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS
Glenn Antonucci

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS
Rick Davis

ASSOC. DIRECTORS OF COMMUNICATIONS
Cindy Murphy McMahon
Sheila Swanson

WRITERS
Amanda Brandt
Adam Klinker
Emily Rust

ILLUSTRATION
Adam Cruft

CONTACT
Address all mail to University Communications and Marketing, Attn: Creighton Magazine, 780480 California Plaza, Omaha, NE 68178-0480. Postmaster: Send change of address to Creighton Magazine, P.O. Box 3266, Omaha, NE 68103-0078.

Send alumni news (births, weddings, promotions, etc.) to alumninews@creighton.edu.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA
Twitter — @Creighton
Facebook — Creighton University
Instagram — @Creighton1878

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

Copyright © 2018 by Creighton University

creighton.edu

Voices

Heard on Campus

"This is a breakthrough. A door is open and we have to go in. The thing is, though, not to go in expecting everything right away. Don't give up all the goodwill gained in opening this door just because there's one crisis."

MAORONG JIANG, PHD, political science professor and director of Creighton's Asian World Center, on a summit between North Korea and the United States. Jiang has studied and worked with North Korea for three decades.

"When people think of climate change, the image that often comes to mind is the polar bear. ... I would suggest a more adequate image is the migrant, more precisely, the millions of people who have already been displaced by the effects of climate change and the hundreds of millions who will be displaced in the coming decades and centuries."

RICHARD MILLER, PHD, theology professor, who participated in an international ecological symposium in Attica, Greece, in June.

"If there's one conclusion we can make in this study it's that at Creighton, the research undergraduates are doing satisfies the quality standards in the disciplines of physics and chemistry."

PATRICIA SOTO, PHD, associate professor of physics, on a study she conducted with colleagues at three other institutions on undergraduate research opportunities for physics and chemistry students.

"To be here and expanding these therapies for the people of Georgia, I'm glad that I'm getting that Creighton name a little further out there and doing some good in another corner of the world."

TRACI SWARTZ, OTD '07, on her work bringing occupational and physical therapy more to the fore in the country of Georgia, as part of a four-year, \$4.5-million grant from the United States Agency for International Development.

Let's Get Social

@hopemoreno_13: So thankful I transferred to **@Creighton** because I am literally having the best senior year EVER.

@PatrickLillis1: @creighton @CreightonBiz Thanking Creighton for being the most connected biz school in America ... creating a wonderful environment for young people learning. Keep creating those missionaries of capitalism the Jesuit way.

@hilary_moser: On this beautiful Thursday, I'm so blessed to have amazing professors (past and present) who truly care about my success and wellbeing. Thank you **@Creighton**.

@CarridRADams: I am blessed to say I just wrapped my 11th semester teaching **@Creighton** and it just keeps getting better! Looking forward to the fall!

Health Care, Science and Ethics

BY RICK DAVIS, BA'88

An internationally renowned lecturer, researcher and educator in bioethics and medical genomics – and one-time Bluejay – is the new John A. Creighton Professor



DAVE WEAVER

Before he was investigating a novel treatment for breast cancer, by combining Western medicine with ancient South Korean herbal remedies, or consulting the Vatican on complex issues related to bioethics, the Rev. Kevin FitzGerald, SJ, PhD, PhD, was pioneering in a different, less scientific field. He was the starting goalkeeper for the inaugural Creighton men's soccer team.

Fr. FitzGerald, renowned for his work in bioethics and medical genomics, joined Creighton on Aug. 1 as the new John A. Creighton University Professor – a distinguished endowed faculty chair previously held by the late Robert Heaney, BS'47, MD'51, a world-renowned researcher in the field of bone biology and vitamin D.

In 1979, after earning a bachelor's degree in biology from Cornell University and entering the Society of Jesus, Fr. FitzGerald came to Creighton for humanities studies as part of his Jesuit formation.

That same year, men's soccer became an officially sanctioned sport at the University.

Having played soccer in high school, the then 24-year-old Jesuit laced up his cleats, tried out and made the roster.

"It was a lot of fun," FitzGerald says of being part of that first team. He recorded six shutouts and had a 1.54 goals-against average as the Bluejays finished the season 12-5-1.

But a life of science and the Jesuits called.

He left after that year to pursue graduate studies in philosophy and human genetics at Saint Louis University.

He later earned two PhDs, in molecular biology and in bioethics, from Georgetown University, and joined the faculty there.

For 17 years, he served as the Dr. David P. Lauler Chair in Catholic Health Care Ethics at Georgetown and an associate professor in the Department of Oncology at the university's medical center.

He is excited to be back at Creighton as the John A. Creighton Professor and an associate professor in the School of Medicine, Department of Medical Education.

"I enjoyed my time here a great deal, and I've always been interested in Creighton," says Fr. FitzGerald, who served on the University's Board of Trustees from 1997 to 2005.

With expanding health care partnerships in Phoenix, Creighton is becoming the largest Catholic health professions educator in the country, and Fr. FitzGerald will serve as a vital resource to integrate ethics across this spectrum.

The second of seven children born to Joseph and Mary FitzGerald, Fr. FitzGerald says he's always been a "science geek." In junior high, he told his teachers he wanted to be a nuclear physicist. In high school, his interest turned to the exciting, new field of genetics.

"They were just starting to work on this idea of genetic engineering," Fr. FitzGerald says.

His freshman year at Cornell, in 1973, the first experiment on recombinant-DNA cloning was performed. The year after he graduated, in 1978, the first "test-tube baby" was born through in vitro fertilization.



NURSING IN PHOENIX

New Jersey, California, Oregon, Washington, Colorado, Arizona. Those are some of the states represented by the 21 members of the inaugural accelerated nursing class at Creighton's health sciences campus in Phoenix. The program began in January.



A TREE-MENDOUS HONOR

For the 10th straight year, Creighton has received recognition as a Tree Campus USA by the Arbor Day Foundation. The campus is home to more than 1,000 trees and 100 different species.

But Fr. FitzGerald's life would take a different turn. His senior year at Cornell, he became disillusioned after some graduate students were not credited on a research paper for their work.

"But back then, that was considered OK," Fr. FitzGerald says. "That really bothered me a great deal. It really threw me."

"Both of my parents went to Fordham University. We heard about Jesuits growing up all the time. One night, I realized, 'Wait a minute, Jesuits can do science. And I'll bet they don't do that.'"

His sister, a graduate of Marquette University, put him in touch with the Rev. John Naus, SJ, who was a philosophy professor at Marquette at that time.

"He suggested that I spend that first summer after college teaching at a program at Marquette High School," Fr. FitzGerald says. "I taught inner-city, eighth-grade students math and science."

"I lived at the Jesuit community at Marquette High. That sort of made everything concrete."

Fr. FitzGerald entered the Jesuits in 1977 at the novitiate in St. Paul, Minnesota. Classmates included former Creighton president the Rev. Timothy Lannon, SJ, BS'73, and the Rev. James Clifton, SJ, associate dean for mission in the School of Medicine. Fr. FitzGerald was ordained a priest in 1988.

He says he is often asked how he squares his roles as a priest and a scientist.

"There is only one reality," Fr. FitzGerald explains. "So why would I only use one particular perspective to investigate that reality, to understand that reality? Why not use as many as possible? The greater variety of perspectives you can use, the richer your understanding. To me, it's always been a natural way to look at it."

Fr. FitzGerald has traveled the world and been featured in the media, speaking on human genetic engineering, cloning, stem cell research, personalized [▶](#)

medicine and ethical issues in biomedical research and medical genomics. He shares his expertise on two Vatican councils — the Pontifical Academy for Life and the Pontifical Council for Culture.

One of Fr. FitzGerald's current research projects — being conducted in partnership with the South Korean government and Daegu Catholic University Medical Center — involves integrating Western medicine with traditional Korean medicine.

"We're looking at how to integrate cutting-edge treatments for breast cancer with some traditional Korean herbal medicines that could significantly improve our Western treatments," Fr. FitzGerald explains.

He and his colleagues have found in rat models that combining the breast-cancer drug tamoxifen with a

Korean herbal treatment known as JEKHT, made from the herbs of 12 different plants, seems to enhance the effectiveness of tamoxifen and reduce its side effects.

"It's very exciting," Fr. FitzGerald says. "It's an amazing project."

Rapid scientific advancements are unleashing not only exciting new opportunities, but complex questions, as we manipulate the human genome, about what it means to be human and what, ultimately, is best for society.

"I've gotten pulled into global health, comprehensive and integrative medicine, all these ways in which these technologies are supposed to 'benefit' us somehow," Fr. FitzGerald says. "Well, let's make sure that happens.

"Everybody always says it's going to benefit us. My question always is, 'Who is the us?'"

© Bluejays basketball player Kaleb Joseph participates in drills with a child who attended Creighton's first Abilities Basketball Camp. Joseph's teammate, Jordan Scurry, is in the background.



DAVE WEAVER

'You Can See the Joy in Their Eyes'

"We're going to have a blast. Today is all about you," Steve Merfeld, assistant men's basketball coach, told a group of eager youngsters gathered in front of a basketball hoop inside the Championship Center on campus.

Summer sports camps are common, but this one was special.

At Creighton's first Abilities Basketball Camp, 34 children with special needs were paired with Creighton physical therapy students and participated in drills and games with members of the men's basketball team. The 2½-hour event was modeled after a similar program started by a professor at Butler University.

"We're here to help the children participate to their maximum abilities," said Lisa Black, DPT'06, associate professor and director of clinical education for Creighton's physical therapy department. "This is so much fun."

"Do you think you can score on me?" cajoled a smiling Mitch Ballock as one camper dribbled toward the hoop. After the youngster scored, Ballock, a sophomore guard from Eudora, Kansas, gave a fist pump and yelled, "Hey, nice shot!"

Creighton alumna Vicky Trost McHugh, DPT'98, recruited many of the participating families through her local pediatric physical therapy practice. Other families were recruited through the Creighton Pediatric Clinic and community physical therapists.

Fourth-year physical therapy student Tara Dorenkamp said she had no trouble getting students to help. "I sent out the email, and I got responses flooding my inbox," Dorenkamp said. "Lots of interest; everyone was so excited."

Dorenkamp added: "My passion is working with kids. I hope to be a pediatric physical therapist some day, so this event broadened my horizons and gave me more experience working with kids of various needs."

Butler officials had contacted Creighton about hosting such a camp. Merfeld described the event as a "win-win-win."

"Obviously, the kids are going to have a great time interacting. The doctoral students are getting an experience they might not have on an everyday basis. And then certainly, for our players, they have an opportunity to realize how blessed they are and to work with these kids, who are just so happy to be here," Merfeld said.

The student-athletes connected with the youngsters — whether it was encouraging a camper in a wheelchair to toss a basketball into a Powerade jug or lifting a child with Down syndrome to the rim so she could experience the thrill of a dunk.

Marcus Zegarowski, a freshman guard from Hamilton, Massachusetts, said the event was special for him — as a close family friend has Down syndrome, and his family has actively supported Special Olympics.

"It's awesome to play basketball with these kids, and share some good times with them," he said. "You can see the joy in their eyes."

Susan Spohm of Omaha watched as her 16-year-old daughter, Sarah, interacted with the players. Sarah was born with holoprosencephaly, a disorder in which the brain fails to divide properly into the right and left hemispheres.

"It's a wonderful feeling that you get, that people do care," Spohm said. "And she loves people. She's a people person."

Spohm sheepishly admitted her family has not followed Creighton basketball closely. But she added with a smile: "We will now."

'An Inspired Combination'

The Creighton men's basketball team will play in the newly named CHI Health Center Omaha arena beginning this fall. At a June press conference, it was announced that CHI Health — Creighton's primary clinical partner

Celebrating 140 Years of Creighton University

Creighton will host three esteemed speakers this fall as part of the 140 Presidential Lecture Series that kicked off with former U.S. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel in April.

Former Secretaries of State Dr. Madeleine Albright and Gen. Colin Powell will be on campus Oct. 30 to discuss national and global issues. Suzanne Malveaux, HON'12, an award-winning journalist with CNN, will serve as moderator.

Dr. Albright was named U.S. Ambassador to the UN in 1993 before becoming the first female Secretary of State in 1997. As Secretary of State, she reinforced America's alliances, advocated for democracy and human rights and promoted American trade and business, labor and environmental standards abroad.

Gen. Colin Powell served as National Security Advisor under President Ronald Reagan and chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for both President George H.W. Bush and President Bill Clinton before becoming Secretary of State under President George W. Bush. As Secretary of State, he led major efforts to address and solve regional and civil conflicts.

Dominican-American poet, novelist and essayist Julia Alvarez will speak at Creighton Sept. 13 in cooperation with Creighton's Institute for Latin American Concern. She is the author of *How the García Girls Lost Their Accents* and *In the Time of the Butterflies*.

Register beginning Aug. 22 and learn more at creighton.edu/140-lecture.



© From left, Dr. Madeleine Albright, Gen. Colin Powell and Julia Alvarez.





© Creighton President the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, was on hand to react to the announcement that Omaha's downtown arena and convention center will be known as CHI Health Center Omaha beginning this fall. The arena is home to the Creighton men's basketball team.

— had acquired the naming rights to the downtown arena and convention center.

"Our faith-based partnership with CHI Health has truly been an inspired combination, and the future of health care in this region absolutely is stronger because of our joint efforts," said Creighton President the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ.

"We view this as a long-term investment," said Cliff Robertson, MD, CHI Health chief executive officer. "There will be an entire generation of young people who will grow up associating CHI Health with community, entertainment and physical activity."

Haddix STEM Corridor Program Welcomes 13 Omaha High School Students

BY EMILY RUST

On the first day of the Haddix STEM Corridor Program, Omaha South High School junior Maria Hernandez watched as Julie Strauss-Soukup, PhD, BSChm'93, professor of biochemistry, drew a DNA helix. Hernandez's eyes lit up: Science has always been her favorite subject.

Hernandez is one of 13 Omaha high school students who spent eight weeks immersed in the fields of

science, technology and mathematics at Creighton, this summer, through the Haddix STEM Corridor Program.

"This initiative is important because it will nurture the individual interest of each student, expose them to current research practices in different disciplines and encourage them to pursue their STEM interests in college and beyond," says Kayode Oshin, PhD, assistant professor of chemistry and director of the program.

The program is made possible by the recent \$10 million gift from George Haddix, PhD, MA'66, and his wife, Susan, to the College of Arts and Sciences. Following an application process, selected juniors from Omaha North, Central and South high schools were invited to campus and paired with a Creighton faculty member in their field of interest. At the end of the program, the students submitted a final report on their research findings and gave a poster presentation.

"I'm really interested in biology, so I wanted to see if working with professors and doing research would be something I'd be interested in doing as a career," says Gabrielle Push, a junior from North.

Push worked with Carol Fassbinder-Orth, PhD, associate professor of biology, to research colony collapse disorder (CCD) to explain why honeybees are leaving their home hives and never returning. It's a perfect project for Push who, during the school year, studies with the

Zoo Academy, a partnership between Omaha Public Schools and Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium.

"Science and technology are moving everything forward," Push says. "Exploring what's unknown is so important. That's why STEM is important — to keep moving forward."

"I think it's important to study STEM because it allows us to know why things are the way they are," says Xzavier Herbert, a junior at Central. Herbert worked alongside Nathan Pennington, PhD, assistant professor of mathematics.

Herbert hopes the program will help him in his career aspirations of becoming a theoretical mathematician.

"I'm looking forward to learning more about what I'm going to be studying," Herbert says.

Hernandez spent the summer in Strauss-Soukup's lab looking at messenger RNA.

"I'm looking forward to the experience in a lab," says Hernandez, who has her sights set on becoming a biomedical engineer. "There's always something new you can learn."

Participating in the Haddix STEM Corridor Program is the first step on that path.

Fulbright Professors to Study in Japan, Uganda

Urban farming and Catholic leaders in Uganda will be the research focus for Fulbright awards received by Creighton professors Jay Carney, PhD, and Samantha Senda-Cook, PhD.

Senda-Cook, an associate professor in the Department of Communication Studies, will study food and community engagement at the Asia Rural Institute (ARI) in Japan in the spring and early summer of 2019.

She will spend several months alongside ARI participants from around the world, learning about the intersections of agriculture and advocacy and the central role of food in fueling both

WAIT...WHAT?

Creighton is among only 42 universities in the country recognized for undergraduate opportunities for research, according to *U.S. News & World Report*. Here's a snapshot of one student's research project.



TITLE OF RESEARCH

"Daggers to daisies: Understanding cultural contexts of power and gender within American society through the needle of a tattoo gun"

STUDENT RESEARCHER

Anna Schroer; senior, double-majoring in history and health administration and policy; Leawood, Kansas

FACULTY MENTOR

Heather Fryer, PhD, Fr. Henry W. Casper, SJ, Professor of History

WHAT IT MEANS A Dean's Summer Undergraduate Research Scholarship is allowing Schroer to explore the mid-20th century American cultural context of power and gender through the lens of tattooing. She is analyzing traditional American tattooing during World War II, which portrayed patriotism and military brotherhood, and explores how this phenomenon is seen as contributing to the generational divide between those with "honor" tattoos and those with "vanity" tattoos. She is studying the influence of the 1960s women's liberation movement, and how women changed the perception and artistry of tattooing, and, ultimately, the influence tattoos have in American gender expression.

individuals and the community. Her hope is to return to Omaha with strategies to enhance the role of urban farming and investigate the ways food brings people together.

Locally, Senda-Cook has worked with Big Muddy Urban Farm, an Omaha-based nonprofit aimed at expanding access to sustainable agriculture. She also has engaged the Refugee Empowerment Center, trying to understand how resettling families use community gardens to produce their own food and contribute to their communities.

For his Fulbright award, Carney, an associate professor of theology, will study seven Church leaders — including Benedicto Kiwanuka, Uganda's first prime minister — and explore how their lives and work have responded to the political realities in Uganda.

With the beginning of the academic year, Carney will spend most of his time in Kampala, Uganda's capital, conducting oral interviews and combing over local archives to create what will be one of the first monographs on postcolonial Catholic history in Uganda.

Combined with a year's sabbatical through Creighton's Haddix Faculty Incubator Awards, Carney will also teach at Uganda Martyrs University (UMU), a Catholic university with campuses in Nkozi and Kampala. He hopes the experience will help forge longer-term partnerships between UMU and Creighton.

Creighton Part of Arizona Alliance to Oversee Graduate Medical Education

An alliance between some of the most respected names in health care in Arizona will become one of the largest providers of graduate medical education in the state.

The Creighton University-Arizona Health Education Alliance will now oversee the Graduate Medical Education (GME) programs for two of the

Don't wait for tomorrow.

THE FUTURE OF HEALTH CARE IS ALREADY HERE. ARE YOU IN?

Choose from more than 40 graduate degrees and certificates.

gradschool.creighton.edu/healthcare

Creighton
UNIVERSITY
Graduate School



2018 COMMENCEMENT BY THE NUMBERS

1,800+
Graduates

two
Honorary Degrees



Mae C. Jemison, MD
Physician, scientist,
humanitarian and astronaut
Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters
Commencement speaker



Clarence L. Werner
Founder and executive chairman of
Werner Enterprises
Honorary Doctor of
Business Administration

one
Robert F. Kennedy Memorial
Award for Teaching
Achievement
Mark Reedy, PhD
College of Arts and Sciences

3 Spirit of
Creighton
Awards
Tyler Clement, BSBA'17, MBA'18
Heider College of Business
Samantha Kappenman, DDS'18
School of Dentistry
Samantha Stoupa, BSChm'18
College of Arts and Sciences

state's largest health care institutions — Maricopa Integrated Health System and Dignity Health St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center, as well as the program for District Medical Group.

Baseball on the Mind

BY BENJAMIN GLEISSER

While **Dan Abroms**, a mental skills coordinator in the Boston Red Sox organization, helps young sluggers, hurlers and infielders earn a spot on Boston's roster, he's also earning his EdD in Interdisciplinary Leadership through Creighton University's online study program.

Abroms plans to have his degree in 2020, just about the same time the minor leaguers he's working with begin breaking into the major leagues.

Even though he landed his dream job, the choice to continue his education was easy.

"I want to expand my knowledge base and grow as a professional," says

Abroms, who has a bachelor's degree in psychology from Hobart and William Smith Colleges and a master's degree in sports psychology from Ithaca College. "And I like that Creighton provides online learning because, with my job, I can't be physically in Omaha."

Abroms, one of four mental skills coaches with the Red Sox, frequently visits two of the franchise's A-level and the short-season A affiliate minor league teams, where he teaches players mental skills that include motivation, concentration and confidence. His charges are athletes drafted out of high school and college, as well as international players.

"Sometimes, they'll pull me aside after a game and just want to talk about what's on their minds," he says, adding that there is no longer a stigma among professional athletes about seeking his help. "Basically, I teach them to focus on the present moment, and not let internal and external noise get in the way. And when they start seeing improvements in their game, they become more open to the process."



DAN ABROMS
Dan Abroms, a student in Creighton's EdD in Interdisciplinary Leadership program, is a mental skills coach with the Boston Red Sox.



JOIN OUR NETWORK
OF THRIVING ALUMNI.

What will
your story be?

Creighton
UNIVERSITY

Heider
College of Business

Choose from more than 40
graduate degrees and certificates.

business.creighton.edu/graduate-programs

Before joining the Red Sox in January 2018, Abroms spent eight years teaching resilience and mental skills training to soldiers in the U.S. Army, assisting in their mission readiness.

"I jumped at the opportunity to help our servicemen and servicewomen," he says. "I have a great deal of gratitude toward our military. They risk their lives for our greater good, and I was grateful to teach them how to focus on the mental aspects of their missions."

'A Picture of Humanity'

Rendered an outcast in his native Nepal — unemployed and unemployable, homeless, alone — Ashok Shrestha is getting a new lease on life through a Creighton professor's portrait and crowd-funding efforts.

Art professor Rachel Mindrup first learned of Shrestha two years ago through a Facebook post that included his photo.

Wearing a beautifully patterned knit cap and a snug, green-and-gold checkered scarf, Shrestha's face was shrouded by a massive tumor, leaving only one eye visible over a distended nose and cheek.

The tumor was the effect of neurofibromatosis (NF), a genetic disease of the nervous system. Moved by Shrestha's story, Mindrup painted a portrait from the photo for her exhibition "Portrait of a Disorder: The Faces of Neurofibromatosis."

The painting was included in the exhibit's opening at Creighton in the fall of 2016, along with Shrestha's story. It immediately garnered attention. People coming to see the show asked how they might help.

An online donation page, replete with Shrestha's story and Mindrup's painting, was established and promoted on social media. It attracted donations worldwide, including a generous outpouring by the Creighton community.

Thanks to this support, Shrestha had surgery in March to remove 85 percent of the tumor. Plastic



surgeons reconstructed one of his ears and opened a second nostril. Funds are currently being raised for a second surgery at gofundme.com/ashok-shresthas-surgeries.

© Creighton art professor Rachel Mindrup painted the above portrait of Ashok Shrestha. The painting was part of her exhibition "Portrait of a Disorder: The Faces of Neurofibromatosis."

Global Scholars Program Takes Flight

Creighton's new Global Scholars Program officially set sail (figuratively speaking) in July.

Out of nearly 200 applicants, 23 incoming freshmen were chosen for the program. They will spend the fall semester at the University of Sydney,

Australia, returning to campus for the spring semester.

Among the inaugural cohort is Lauren Ramaekers of Omaha. One of nine siblings — and the third Ramaekers to attend Creighton, after her grandfather and father — she says she "just about cried when I heard I got selected."

"When I applied," she says, "I thought, 'Oh my goodness, it would change my life if I could do this.'"

The budding biology major aspires to be a pediatric nurse. Global Scholars felt like a fit because of her interest in travel and service, she says.

The program is flush with both — and then some. Designed to provide

a rich academic, social and service experience through which participants build networks with other students, faculty and alumni from around the world, Creighton Global Scholars will complete four study abroad trips, to four different countries, over the course of their undergraduate career.

Candidates completed both an application and an interview. The 23 students selected represent 12 states, from California to North Carolina and Wisconsin to Texas.

Ramaekers says she is more than ready for the adventure to begin. Although, admittedly, Sydney is a long way from home to spend your first semester of college.

What is she most excited about?

"Seeing how well I can stand on my own two feet," she says.

Boredom, Thrill-Seeking May Influence Drug Addictions

Creighton psychological science professor Dustin Stairs, PhD, and his team of undergraduate researchers are making inroads into the neuroscience of addiction and the power of social settings to help overcome a drug habit.

"Most people try drugs," said Stairs, who has researched and written extensively on the biological underpinnings of the abuse of such drugs as cocaine, methamphetamine and nicotine. "We've been looking at the question of what is it about those people that go on to addiction. Some of it's genetic, some of it's personality, some of it's social."

Stairs said research has shown the thrill-seeking or high sensation-seeking personality type — the skydivers, the bungee-jumpers — to be more susceptible to addiction and there does seem to be a biological correlative among such personalities.

Stairs has found that rats raised in enriched environments with plenty of novel objects — and in social situations with two or more other rats — were less



CREIGHTON

Creighton magazine asked eight graduates participating in the University's May commencement ceremonies for their advice to incoming freshmen. Here's what they had to say:

- 1 **"Get out of your comfort zone. Go on a Service & Justice Trip, or find a service opportunity in the community."**
Shannon Mulcahey, BSN'18
- 2 **"You never get your undergrad years again. Remember to have fun!"**
Shreya Patel, MD'18
- 3 **"Always have your door open (in the residence halls). It's a way to meet people and build community."**
Tanner Friedenbach, BSBA'18
- 4 **"Be comfortable with change. This is the time when we grow and find out who we are, and change is an experience on its own."**
Gabriel Jara-Mora, BA'18
- 5 **"Don't procrastinate. It can be very stressful!"**
Kashana Granville, MS'18
- 6 **"Use your resources. A lot of people want to help out. If you have a bad grade, go to tutoring or talk to your professor. They want to see you succeed."**
Sagar Poudel, BS'18
- 7 **"Balance work and play. Don't get burned out your freshman year, but start strong."**
Ben Williams, BS'18
- 8 **"Go to as many events as possible. You only have four years, and it's a great way to meet other people."**
Allison Dobberpuhl, BS'17
(December graduate)

likely to avail themselves of available drugs. But in isolation, an environment inducing high-sensation-seeking in a rat, the animals readily take more drugs and more quickly show addictive-like behaviors.

"Boredom and the need for disinhibition is one of the biggest feelings that make someone susceptible to addiction," he said. "We've seen the similar consistent effects in our rat models. Give them an alternative reinforcer when a drug is available, and they're less likely to self-administer the drug."

'Stop the Bleed' Focus of Creighton Trauma Symposium

When the first alert page sounded at Hartford (Connecticut) Hospital the morning of Dec. 14, 2012, nobody in the trauma ward thought much of it.

"They were putting us on standby, as there had been a school shooting in Sandy Hook," said Lenworth Jacobs, MD, director of the Trauma Institute at Hartford Hospital. "We didn't pay much attention initially. We thought it was just one shot into the roof. Very quickly, it became very clear that that was not the case."

Within minutes, Jacobs and the trauma staff learned the nightmarish truth. Twenty children and six staff members at Sandy Hook Elementary School lay dead or dying after a shooter rampaged through the building.

Jacobs shared this story June 15, as the keynote speaker at Creighton's Trauma Symposium.

In the aftermath of Sandy Hook, Jacobs and several other physicians and first responders met with President Barack Obama and eventually developed the Stop the Bleed campaign — a national effort that aims to arm everyday citizens with the skills and equipment needed to save lives at large-scale events at which bleeding is a very preventable cause of death.

JESUIT GARDENS

'A Gift'

The Rev. Don Doll, SJ, never really thought he'd be a priest.

"I wasn't one of those kids who, every day from the age of 7, had the dream of being a priest," says Fr. Doll, the Charles and Mary Heider Endowed Jesuit Faculty Chair and internationally renowned photographer, who celebrated the 50th anniversary of his ordination in June. "I wanted to be a Jesuit, but the priesthood was so distant, some 15 years in the future."

Fr. Doll, who has spent 49 of those 50 years at Creighton and on assignments for such publications as *National Geographic* and the *A Day in the Life* book series, recalls as a whirlwind the period of discernment in which he came to the Society of Jesus and began his priestly formation.

Approaching his graduation from Marquette University High School in Milwaukee, Fr. Doll was set to go to the University of Notre Dame and study chemical engineering and join Notre Dame's Air Force ROTC program in hopes of also becoming a pilot, when he was invited to a send-off for a friend preparing to join the Jesuits.

"On the drive home, I got to thinking about it and that night, I couldn't sleep," Fr. Doll

says. "The next morning, I went down to Fr. Fahey and told him what I was thinking. He said, 'Sounds like you're ready,' and two weeks later, I'm in the novitiate. Dad was able to get the deposit back from Notre Dame."

Fr. Doll's early years in Jesuit formation were punctuated by trips to the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota, where he learned he had a gift for teaching and walking alongside the Native Americans living there. He also picked up a camera for the first time.

"I took a walk on the prairie one evening

and asked myself, 'What am I going to do as a Jesuit?'" he says. "And a voice came to me and said, 'Stay with the photography. Stay with the teaching. And if it takes 10 years, it takes 10 years.' That's a voice I've listened to a lot in my life and the voice we pray about in discernment, asking ourselves, 'Is this really the Holy Spirit nudging me to do these things?' And it usually is."

Fr. Doll stuck with the photography and has stuck with teaching, having some of his most celebrated moments in the classroom and behind the lens with the Native Americans at Rosebud. His career has taken him around the world, where he has photographed and been alongside refugees and marginalized people in Asia, Africa, Australia and beyond.

"It's a gift," Fr. Doll says of his priesthood. "It continues to amaze me just what a blessing I've been given. As a photographer, being a priest has afforded me an opportunity to pray with and for the people I'm taking photographs of, to be able to glimpse the love, compassion and appreciation that God has seen in them. To be a Jesuit and a priest has been a global entry card to the world and to the lives of the people we serve." — BY ADAM KLINKER

© The Rev. Don Doll, SJ, traveled to the Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya in July to photograph graduates of the Jesuit Worldwide Learning program.



Creighton Welcomes New Board Members, Honors Trustees Emeriti

During its spring meeting, the Creighton University Board of Trustees elected six new Board members and recognized three trustees emeriti.

The new trustees are:

- > **Sharon Harper, BA'69**, president, CEO and chairman of The Plaza Companies in Phoenix.
- > **Wende Kotouc**, executive co-chair of American National Bank in Omaha.
- > **Darrell Lee, MD'81**, president of Hawaii Gastroenterology Specialists and co-founder and board member of Pacific Endoscopy Center.
- > **Janis Orlowski, MD**, chief health care officer at the Association of American Medical Colleges in Washington, D.C.
- > **Robert Reed Jr.**, president and CEO of Physicians Mutual Insurance Company in Omaha.
- > **Ann Schumacher**, president and CEO of CHI Health Immanuel in Omaha.

Creighton's trustees emeriti, departing members who are recognized for their outstanding contributions to the Board, are:

- > **Mary E. Walton Conti, BS'66, MD'70**, a radiation oncologist and entrepreneur from St. Louis, served on the Board since 1998.
- > **Ronald Gartlan, BSBA'69**, president and CEO of Godfather's Pizza in Omaha, served on the Board since 1995.
- > **John (Jack) Koraleski**, retired executive chairman of the board of directors for Union Pacific Corporation in Omaha, served on the Board since 2014.
- > **Deborah Macdonald, BA'72, JD'80**, retired president of Kinder Morgan Natural Gas Pipeline Group, served on the Board since 2007.

Inside the New School of Dentistry Building

Active-learning Classroom to Greet – and Engage – Students Starting this Fall

Imagine an academic learning environment in which small pods of students are plugged in — technologically tethered, if you will — to their instructor, to their tablemates and to other classmates spread across a large, thoroughly wired, state-of-the-art space. And connected even beyond, across cyberspace, to classmates sitting many miles away.

Imagine an intricately designed environment outfitted with large video screens, table-mounted monitors, smart cameras and ambient microphones — and equipped with the requisite networking and accompanying software — to project the face and voice of the professor delivering instruction, or a student presenting or posing a question.

Imagine a classroom in which content can be pushed digitally to students via their laptops or tablets, in a nanosecond. Where facial recognition and tracking technology built into classroom cameras allows instructors wide freedom of movement, while staying in full view on students' screens.

It all evokes a sense of futurism. Science fiction, even.

But it's a future that very nearly has arrived at Creighton — with the September grand opening of the new School of Dentistry building and, concurrently, the christening of what has been dubbed the "active-learning classroom," one of the cutting-edge marvels that will greet dentistry students this fall.

This two-story, technologically loaded learning space in the facility now undergoing its final preparations on the south side of Omaha's Cuming Street, on the northern edge of Creighton's campus, is undoubtedly a lecture hall for the 21st century.

The active-learning classroom "blends architecture, technology and pedagogy," says Matthew LeFeber of the Sextant Group, the lead technology consultant on the project and a specialist in higher education technology design.

The aim? To transform the traditional lecture environment to an interactive — and extraordinarily engaging — learning space that stimulates collaboration, LeFeber explains.



RDG PLANNING AND DESIGN

Brian Halsey of RDG Planning & Design's Omaha office serves as the lead architect for the new school, overseeing all architectural, engineering and audio/visual aspects of the facility.

Halsey characterizes the active-learning classroom, simply, as a way of teaching and learning more effectively.

"It's an entirely new way of communicating with students," Halsey says, "rather than sitting in a lecture hall, listening and taking notes."

Instructors — once they get accustomed to the gadgetry — "tend to really like it," he says.

Creighton's Laura Barritt, PhD, says the design of the room will help facilitate small-group discussions and collaboration among students. Barritt teaches a histology course, and she is hoping the active-learning space will enable her to make the laboratory portion of the course digital and use virtual microscopy, rather than light microscopes and glass slides.

And how are students expected to like the new classroom?

"You don't have the option not to be involved in a class in this space," LeFeber says. "We're taking what feels natural to them — a connection to their mobile devices — and making that a part of the classroom experience. By doing that, you're really ensuring students stay engaged."

The classroom is designed to accommodate up to 120 students onsite. And the technology can widen that number considerably, providing the ability to seamlessly connect distance-learners, essentially anywhere in the world, to the active-learning experience.

Halsey says the new classroom also expands Creighton's tele-dental capabilities, enabling easy, consultative reach to dentists practicing, for example, in rural Nebraska.

Similarly, the virtual reach of the classroom gives students the option to dial in remotely to class "and still have an engaging experience," LeFeber says.

The new dental school building, made possible through the support of alumni, community foundations

**ONLINE
SNEAK-PEEK VIDEO**
Get an inside look
at the new School of
Dentistry building
with Dean Mark Latta,
DMD, at [creighton.edu/
creightonmagazine](http://creighton.edu/creightonmagazine)

and other benefactors, includes one active-learning classroom to start. Two additional classrooms will be equipped with the framework to convert to the technology as needed.

"This is going to help bring Creighton University dental education to a very highly competitive, national level," Halsey says. "We're really just giving the building and structure a way to catch up to the high level of innovative instruction already happening at the school, and it will help with recruiting both faculty and students."

"The active-learning classroom is a key part of what represents the leading edge of dental instruction in our new facility," says School of Dentistry Dean Mark Latta, DMD. "It's the direction teaching is going, and it helps ensure Creighton is keeping up with — or staying ahead of — our peer institutions, ensuring our students are best prepared for the future." — **BY GLENN ANTONUCCI**

How do you build a culture of success?

BY CINDY MURPHY McMAHON, BA'74

Everybody wants to be successful, right? Many in the Creighton community, in addition to being successful themselves, are in the business of fostering success in others. *Creighton* magazine interviewed two standouts in their respective fields to learn their motivations and insights.

Kirsten Bernthal Booth, head volleyball coach, finished her 15th season 317-160, and led Creighton to its fourth straight BIG EAST regular-season and tournament titles, as well as a seventh appearance in the NCAA Tournament, making her one of only four head coaches in Bluejay history to lead seven NCAA Tournament teams. In 2016, she was VolleyballMag.com National Coach of the Year, BIG EAST Coach of the Year and AVCA East Region Coach of the Year. For the third time in four years, her recruiting class has been named one of the nation's top 25 classes by *PrepVolleyball.com*.

Gen. Anthony Zinni, MS'15, retired U.S. Marine Corps general, served all over the world and has received a vast array of military and civilian awards, including the Purple Heart. Since retiring from active duty, he has participated in presidential and State Department diplomatic missions. He is a published author and holds three master's degrees, including an MS in Negotiation and Conflict Resolution from Creighton, and is pursuing his doctorate in interdisciplinary leadership, also at Creighton.

Booth and Zinni obviously have led quite different types of teams. But in putting together winning units, they have similar approaches in the qualities they look for.

"They have to be gifted athletes to be on our radar," says Booth. "However, if we know a player has a bad attitude or low character, that is a deal breaker, regardless of talent.

"We talk about playing for others and selflessness during the recruiting process, so



they know if they don't think they'll like that environment, this isn't the place for them."

Congruently, Zinni says he looks for five primary qualities in his recruits: integrity, honesty, competency, moral values and commitment. He adds that it's important to remember, "Everybody you are privileged to lead is a story. Take the time and interest to learn that story."



Are there qualities people can develop in themselves to be more successful?

"You have to work hard even when you don't want to," Booth says. "We are fortunate to have a culture on the volleyball team where this is the expectation, but we know we can never take good culture for granted and must work daily to cultivate it."

At a basic level, success is simply being a good person, Booth believes. "I know it sounds trite, but live by the golden rule, treating others as you would like to be treated — and that means people below, equal and above you in the pecking order. That can take you a long way."

Zinni says people can work to develop their self-confidence, sense of curiosity, self-awareness, humility and ability to communicate. And he highly prizes the continual act of learning. "When you stop learning, or have no interest anymore in learning, you start intellectually dying. The brain, similar to a muscle, needs to be continually worked out and developed."

Is it always obvious when one has reached success? Zinni says merely achieving the mission is not enough. "It should be accomplished in a moral and just manner, that brings a sense of pride and accomplishment to your team, and contributes to the greater good."

"We don't talk much about winning — we talk about the process," Booth says. "What steps do we need to take to be our best? If we take the right steps to be great, good things likely will happen. And if they don't, we can at least look back with pride on the journey we took."

And what about failure? "Failure teaches us what does not work," Zinni believes, but, he added, "More is to be learned from observing success and understanding why it succeeded."

"Failure is part of everything we do in life," says Booth. "Those who understand this and use it as a driver to be better are the ones to get ahead."

In the Footsteps of St. Ignatius

BY JOHN DARWIN, BA'13

Tucked away next to a busy side street in Rome is an unassuming building, *Chiesa del Gesù*, which, aside from the Jesuit IHS symbol above the door, shows few outward signs of the important history contained within its walls.

Although ground wasn't broken on the Church of the Gesù, the mother church of the Jesuits, until 1568, that didn't stop St. Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Jesuits, from setting up shop at a site next door. Ignatius had dreams of a mother church for his new order, but the Jesuits wouldn't have the money to start the project until more than a decade after he died.

Connected to the Gesù, accessible by a separate door and a maze of plain white hallways, are a handful of modern offices and, importantly, several rooms where Ignatius spent the last decade or so of his life. It was there, in the rooms of St. Ignatius, that I and 29 others spent our first afternoon in Rome, having already visited a number of other important sites in Spain on our pilgrimage, a trip following the footsteps of Ignatius and the early Jesuits.

The most important of the rooms of St. Ignatius is striking in its simplicity. The not quite perfectly rectangular room has a simple brick floor and is encased by off-white walls. Large wooden beams support the ceiling, and the room is sparsely decorated with a painted crucifix, a tapestry and a couple of paintings of Ignatius at various key moments of his life.

Although this wasn't the last day of our pilgrimage—that would come with Mass in St. Peter's and a meeting with the Very Rev. Arturo Sosa, SJ, superior general of the Society of Jesus, a few days later—there was a certain poignancy to our visit to the rooms of Ignatius.

Here, more than 450 years after Ignatius died, we were celebrating Mass in the very room where Ignatius prayed, managed his growing order in its early days, penned some 7,000 letters to people around the world, and ultimately died.

Lining the walls around our celebrant, Creighton President the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, were members of Creighton's Board of Trustees, a handful of Creighton leadership, including Provost Tom Murray, PhD, and other friends of the University, many of whom have advised Creighton's Board or served as members in the past. What everyone in this room had in common is that they had chosen to be there—to offer up their own time and resources in the interest of learning and growing closer to Creighton's Catholic and Jesuit roots.

Our group didn't go everywhere Ignatius went throughout his life. He had, for example, studied in Paris at the Sorbonne, and made pilgrimage to the Holy Land, both of which we had to cut out of our itinerary due to time constraints. Still, we saw many key sites.

On Monday, three days before visiting the room where he died, we visited the manor at the Loyola Shrine, where Ignatius was born and grew up, before seeing a nearby chapel where he prayed regularly, and a hospital where he ministered to the sick. Throughout our journey, we also visited sites such as the Benedictine Abbey of Montserrat, home of the Black Madonna before which Ignatius laid down his sword; the cave at Manresa, where he wrote the *Spiritual Exercises*; and Our Lady of Pilar, a stop on Ignatius' own pilgrimage.

There were several differences between our pilgrimage and Ignatius', of course. Where we had the luxury of transcontinental flights and a bus to shuttle us from site to site, Ignatius had walked the world from one chapter of his life to the next. Without the benefit of flight or car travel or even a symmetrical gait—one of Ignatius' legs was shorter than the other after he was badly injured as a soldier before his conversion—Ignatius had, remarkably, covered thousands of miles over the course of his life in search of his place in the world.

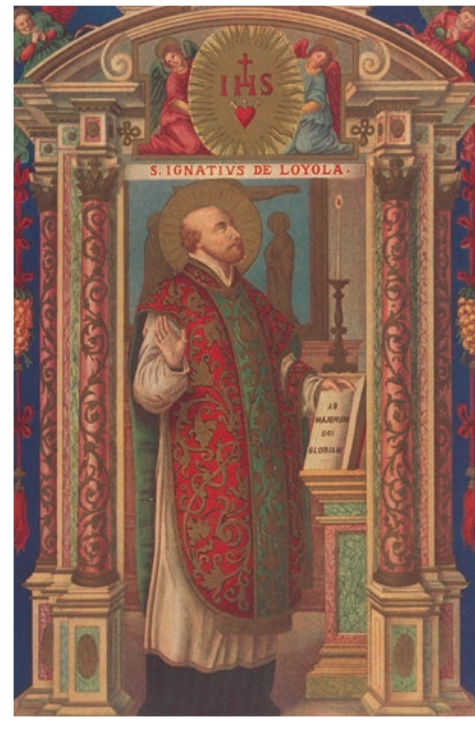
Where Ignatius' spiritual pilgrimage had taken years, ours took just a week. He spent 11 months in the cave at Manresa writing the *Spiritual Exercises*—we spent just an hour celebrating Mass there. Ignatius walked hundreds of miles in simple leather shoes with little protection from the elements, while we covered only a few miles a day, all with the comfort and convenience of modern footwear. And yet, despite all these differences, there's no doubt that all of Creighton's travelers gained over the trip a similar sort of spiritual renewal and grace.

At our final Mass at a chapel in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican, Fr. Hendrickson in his homily called travelers to reflect and share a single word that summarized our trip through key sites from Ignatius' life. Insightful, spiritual, impactful: Whatever the word shared, it was clear that all of us were leaving the trip with a renewed perspective on life, and especially with a renewed perspective on how best to serve Creighton and live out the mission of Ignatius and the Jesuits.

In his autobiography, St. Ignatius refers to himself as "The Pilgrim." On display at the rooms of St. Ignatius are several of The Pilgrim's possessions, including an original copy of the *Spiritual Exercises*, several of his tunics and, pictured here, a pair of simple leather shoes he wore throughout his travels.



This summer, a group of 33 Creighton trustees, trustees emeriti, senior leaders and friends of the University flew to Europe on a pilgrimage following in the footsteps of St. Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Jesuits. Spanning from his birthplace in Loyola to the rooms where he led his new order and ultimately died, the pilgrimage provided a spiritual and reflective journey through which the travelers became intimately familiar with Creighton's Jesuit roots.



BILBAO

① While Ignatius likely never visited Bilbao, this industrial city—home of a Guggenheim museum—provided a convenient starting point for the pilgrimage. It's home to **Deusto Univeristy**, a Spanish Jesuit University similar in size to Creighton, and the Casco Viejo, where the Very Rev. Pedro Arrupe, SJ, 28th superior general of the Society of Jesus, was born.



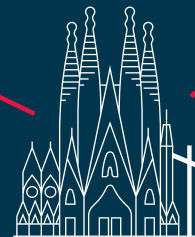
LOYOLA

② St. Ignatius' journey began in Loyola—as did the journey of Creighton's pilgrims. Born *Íñigo López de Loyola* in 1491, it was here in Loyola that Ignatius was born, baptized, grew up and eventually converted after being wounded in battle. Here, pilgrims visited the **Castle at the Loyola Shrine**, where Ignatius was born and raised.



MONTSERRAT

③ Here, just outside Barcelona, travelers saw **Our Lady of Montserrat**—also known as the Black Madonna—in front of which Ignatius laid down his sword and vowed to live as a humble pilgrim. Travelers also visited nearby Manresa, home to the Cave of St. Ignatius, where the saint spent 11 months writing the *Spiritual Exercises*.



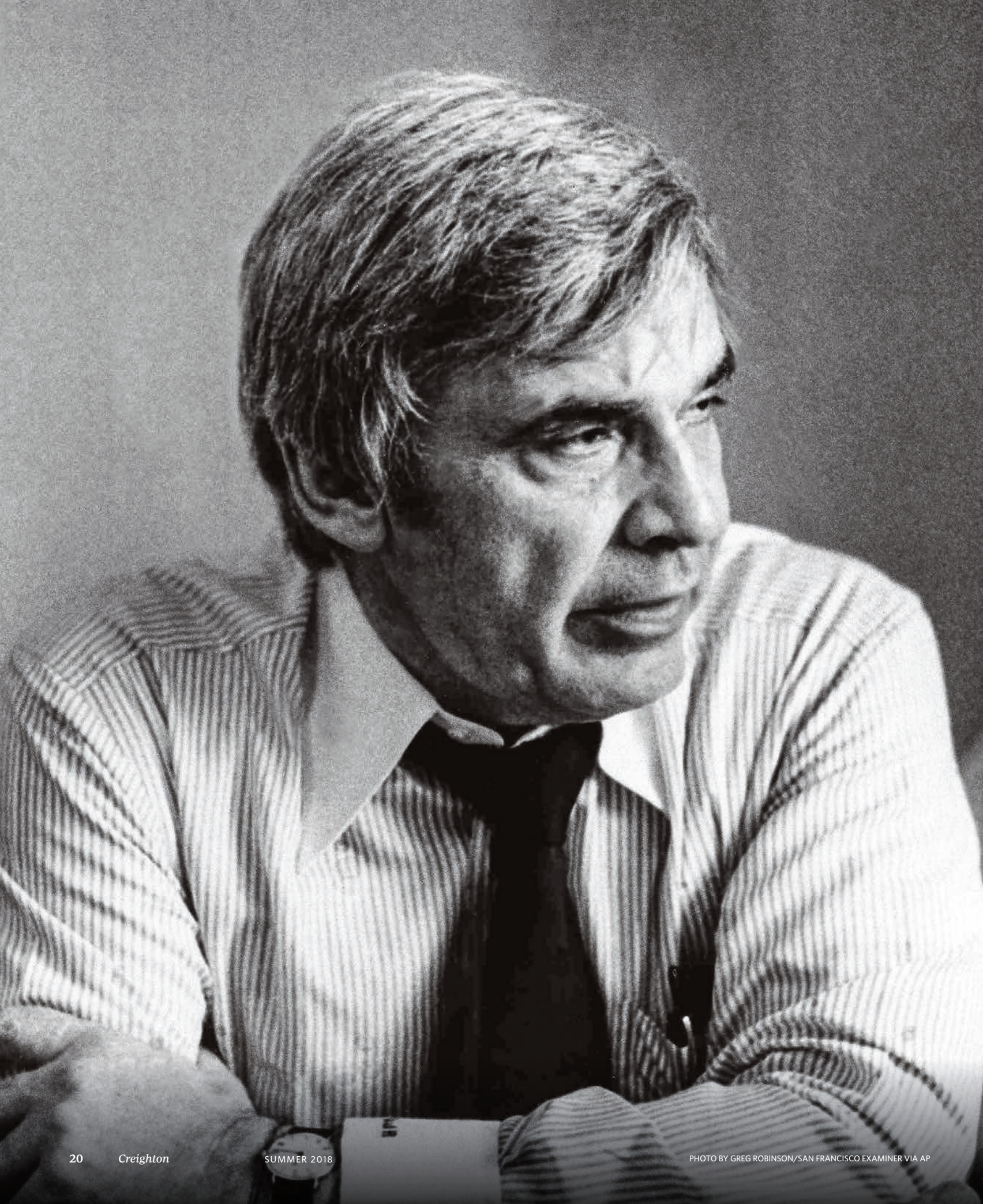
BARCELONA

④ In Barcelona, pilgrims visited the stunning **Sagrada Família**. Although construction on the church began well after Ignatius' death, he visited Barcelona several times and was known to attend Mass at Santa Maria del Mar, sometimes begging on its steps and at other locations around the city.



ROME

⑤ The final stop in our travelers' journey, as well as in the life of St. Ignatius, was Rome. Here, travelers visited sites like **St. Paul Outside the Walls**, where St. Ignatius took his vows after the Jesuit order was approved; the Church of St. Ignatius; and the rooms of St. Ignatius, where Ignatius lived and eventually died.



'HE WANTED TO GO THERE.

Forty years ago this November, more than 900 members of a cult led by American Jim Jones died in a mass murder-suicide of historic proportions at a South American jungle compound. It became known as the "Jonestown massacre."

HE WANTED TO SEE.

Creighton alumnus and congressman Leo Ryan had been investigating the group, when he was fatally shot by Jonestown gunmen – precipitating Jones' orders for his followers to drink poison-laced punch.

HE WANTED TO HELP.'

This is Ryan's story.

BY Adam Klinker

© This photo of U.S. Rep. Leo Ryan, D-Calif., was taken in November 1978 in Georgetown, Guyana, by *San Francisco Examiner* photographer Greg Robinson before they flew to Jonestown, Guyana, on an investigative mission. Both were gunned down and killed at Port Kaituma, Guyana.

By the fall of 1978, a steady stream of constituents and neighbors were coming through the doors and jamming up the phone lines of the offices of California congressman Leo Ryan.

Something was not right around the Bay Area district Ryan represented. It started with the Peoples Temple, a utopian, putatively religious movement and its charismatic leader, Jim Jones, and it was spreading to the jungles of the South American nation of Guyana, where Jones had been, for several years, compelling followers of his movement to establish a socialist paradise far from the prying eyes of his adherents' suspicious families and the U.S. government.

Ryan listened intently, compassionately, to stories from concerned loved ones who told tales of sons and daughters, husbands and wives, fathers and mothers, spirited away in the middle of the night. Some had not been heard from in years.

Hearing the stories, Ryan convened meetings with his fellow congressmen and the media. He organized a fact-finding trip to Jonestown, the community taking shape in Guyana around Jones' vision for a remote, agrarian paradise — a place Jones called “a model of socialism.”

But now, in November 1978, some of the original organizers of the trip were backing out. For despite much of his anti-American rhetoric and the cultish overtones of his movement, Jones was nevertheless an identifiable figure in local, state, even national political circles. He'd had meetings with Vice President Walter Mondale and first lady Rosalyn Carter. He'd welcomed California Gov. Jerry Brown to dinner. He organized enough members of the Peoples Temple to help get George Moscone elected mayor of San Francisco.

While Ryan remained insistent on making the trip, many pointed to the fact that members of the Peoples Temple had left for Jonestown of their own volition. Others said Jones was a misunderstood pioneer in civil rights. He had

cultivated a reputation as a forward-thinking proponent of social justice. But the reputation didn't matter to Ryan. He was going to go to Guyana to see for himself.

With two degrees from Creighton University and a career in public service that ran from dusty schoolrooms in rural Nebraska to the ravaged streets of Watts in Los Angeles to the ice floes off the Canadian coast, Ryan was a person of conviction and action.

When Ryan was killed by members of the Peoples Temple cult, just outside Jonestown on Nov. 18, 1978, he was, in the estimation of those who knew him, doing what he did best: discerning truth, promoting justice, helping people. He was, in effect, living out the Creighton credo to the last full measure of devotion.

Leo Joseph Ryan Jr. was born in Lincoln, Nebraska, in 1925, the son of Leo Joseph Ryan Sr. and Autumn Mead Ryan. Both of his parents were newspaper reporters, and his father had also served as an aide to

Omaha World-Herald founder Gilbert Hitchcock during a portion of Hitchcock's two terms as a Nebraska U.S. senator. The elder Ryan also taught Latin and Greek at Creighton after service in France during World War I.

During the Great Depression, the family moved frequently throughout the Midwest and Eastern Seaboard, as his parents worked for papers and government agencies in Chicago, New York and Washington. When Ryan was 11, his father died in Boston and his mother packed him off to a series of boarding schools while she served with the New Deal's emergent Social Security Administration and traveled abroad.

“His childhood was rough,” says Erin Ryan, the youngest of Leo Ryan's five children. “We never really had a chance to have those conversations, but I think his childhood was what made him so determined in his later life. I think it helped form him first as a great educator and later as a legislator.”

In 1943, Ryan graduated from Campion Jesuit High School in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, and

“I think he was always proud of his Nebraska roots, and he talked about his Creighton education as being foundational in his life.”

PATRICIA RYAN

enrolled in the U.S. Navy's V-12 officers' training program. He was assigned to submarine duty and spent the final days of World War II patrolling the Pacific. Honorably discharged in 1946, Ryan returned to Nebraska and, with the help of the G.I. Bill, enrolled at Creighton University, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1949 and a master's degree two years later, both in education. During his time at Creighton, Ryan taught and coached at Waterloo High School just west of Omaha.

After earning his graduate degree, the 26-year-old Ryan took a position as superintendent of schools in the southeastern Nebraska community of Davenport, but he found the post confining and, in 1953, he packed up his family and headed west to the Bay Area, where he got a job teaching English and civics at Capuchino High School in San Bruno, California.

“I think he was always proud of his Nebraska roots, and he talked about his Creighton education as being foundational in his life,” says Patricia Ryan, the last of Ryan's children born in Nebraska, who now lives in California. “But it also led him to wanting to see that his children had a diversity of experiences and had the benefits of seeing a world beyond Nebraska, and that's what led him out here and, ultimately, into politics, especially politics as he practiced them.”

In California, Ryan quickly earned notice as a committed and compassionate educator, dedicated to his students and to seeing justice in the community. Within his first two years in the Bay Area, he was elected president of a local Democrat club and earned an appointment to the South San Francisco Recreation Commission.

His interest in politics was burgeoning, but he was first and foremost an educator and, in his daughters' estimation, a Renaissance man.

“He loved music, drama, literature, art, government, politics, history,” Patricia Ryan says. “He read incessantly. Some friends and I took a vacation to Gettysburg once and I remember he just couldn't wait to get us out there and set the scene. He narrated the whole battle for us. That was Dad.”

“He was a doer,” Erin Ryan says. “He had a gripe once with something the parks department was doing and, the next thing we know, he's on the parks commission. He identified things he could do, places he could help. And then he went out and did.”

From his parks commission appointment in 1955, Ryan springboarded into a city council seat a year later. He then ran for a seat in the California State Assembly in 1958, but in the heavily Republican stronghold that was the Bay Area of the 1950s, he was narrowly defeated.

In 1960, the nation elected a young, well-spoken, Irish-American, Catholic Navy veteran to the presidency, and Leo Ryan had a new political role model and a vision for where he'd like to take his own career in public service.

“Dad's idol was John F. Kennedy,” Erin says. “He saw himself in JFK. He saw a different road forward in politics. That charisma that Kennedy exuded, Dad had that.”

In January of 1961, Ryan accompanied the Capuchino High School marching band to Washington, D.C., where it played in Kennedy's inauguration parade. When he returned to South San Francisco, he assumed the mayoralty, which was rotated among the city council, and in 1962, he decided he'd take another

run at the State Assembly. It was a landslide. Ryan became the first Democrat to win a state election in San Mateo County in more than a generation.

“That really kicked it off,” Erin says. “He was a classic example of a person who always looked out for the underserved. His signature line was being a voice for the voiceless, and that's what he committed himself to do.”

From the outset, Ryan demonstrated he was a politician who could and would think for himself. He was an early advocate for education reform and school vouchers, sometimes to the aggravation of his fellow Democrats. He played the part of skeptic in most floor debates and remained wary of certain state agencies and offices.

“He was always very dubious about what he was told,” says U.S. Rep. Jackie Speier, who worked for Ryan's Assembly re-election campaign in 1966, and now holds her own seat in Congress, representing a portion of Ryan's old district.

“He had a healthy distrust for the bureaucracy. But that's because he was a learned man. He was a teacher and he was always in that mode. He had to see for himself before he could decide on it, before he could tell his constituents what was happening.”

Speier, who would become Ryan's legislative aide when he was elected to Congress and would accompany him on the trip to Jonestown, where she herself was wounded, says Ryan would often point to his Creighton education as a motivator for his legislative style.

“He was very proud of being a Creighton alum,” she says. “It was a place that encouraged investigation, that encouraged investigation on behalf of helping people and making the world a better place.”

In the summer of 1965, Los Angeles was convulsed by riots stemming from racial tension between police and African-American residents of the Watts neighborhood. For a week, Watts burned and more than 30 people were killed. In the aftermath, Ryan spent two weeks as a substitute teacher in a high school in the neighborhood, investigating the conditions leading up to the riot.

The decision earned Ryan admiration in some circles, scorn in others. At least one challenger in Ryan's 1966 re-election campaign said Ryan's effort was a publicity stunt. Ryan was unfazed by praise or criticism.

© While serving on the South San Francisco City Council in the mid-1950s, Leo Ryan, left, met his idol, Sen. John F. Kennedy, right, who would become Ryan's political role model.



PHOTO COURTESY OF RYAN FAMILY

© Leo Ryan is shown behind bars in a Folsom State Prison cell in February 1970, where he spent a week living as an inmate to learn needs for reform.

“He wanted your side of the story,” Erin says. “It was unusual, even in that day, to have a representative who was willing to take all sides of an argument into consideration and to actively seek people who disagreed with him, but that was what he took to be part of the job.”

When Ryan became chair of an Assembly committee aimed at prison reform, things got even more unusual.

Patricia and Erin Ryan recall their mother waking them and their three siblings early one morning in 1970, putting them in nice clothes and setting out in the family car for Folsom State Prison. Their father had been away for a couple of days but, as a state legislator, the family had grown used to his long absences. Now, he was spending seven days in the prison to research conditions for inmates. Just as in his teaching in Watts, Ryan had decided to see conditions firsthand and had asked to be arrested, charged and sentenced to Folsom, where he received the standard-issue haircut, was strip-searched and had his mugshot taken.

“Like Jonestown, it was another situation where people tried to dissuade him and told him that he was absolutely not going to do it,” Erin says. “But they weren’t going to dissuade him from going to prison any more than they could stop him from going to Jonestown.

“I was in sixth grade and I had to go visit my dad in prison. The interesting thing about it, though, was that Dad developed really close relationships with the men he met there.”

When Ryan left the prison after a seven-day stay, inmates on death row gave him a gift: a chessboard made of cigarette papers and toothpaste. The board had been a cherished item among the inmates, who played the game by shouting out their moves between cells. Ryan was quoted in news reports likening the prison system to a zoo, saying: “Most people don’t realize that when a man goes behind those granite walls, he’s still a human being.”

“It was his way of showing us what public service sometimes looks like,” Patricia says, “that you go to such lengths to get the real, unvarnished story. Right after he came out, he was so emotionally affected by the experience, he didn’t talk for several days. It was traumatic



for him and it had a profound impact on his life from that point on.”

Ryan was elected to Congress in 1972 and took to Washington the same inquisitive spirit he’d honed in Sacramento. From the beginning, Ryan proved a formidable presence in the House. In his first term, he stood toe to toe with the CIA while insisting on Congressional oversight on the agency’s operations. He also went to Newfoundland on a fact-finding mission about the seal hunt and became an early legislative proponent of environmentalism and an embryonic organization called Greenpeace.

“He was only in Congress six years,” Speier says. “Look what he did in those six years. What might he have done with more time? Can you even imagine? We live in a better world because of things Leo Ryan did. I wonder what more there could have been.”

Shortly before speaking to *Creighton* magazine for this story, Erin Ryan received two briefcases from the FBI that had been in storage since her father was killed in Guyana.

One of the briefcases contained pieces of correspondence between her father and one of Jim Jones’ attorneys, Mark Lane. In Lane’s

letter, Erin says, the lawyer recites a litany on the supposed persecution of Jones by the American government and advises Ryan against making the trip to Guyana.

“Dad’s response was exactly what you’d expect,” Erin says. “Everyone else who had signed up to go on this trip begged off. But Dad was coming. He told Mark Lane, ‘I just want to talk. I want to hear your side of the story.’ But in the paranoid, drugged-out world of Jim Jones’ mind, this was a threat. If Jim Jones had known what my father was about, had seen how he’d gone on similar missions, I think it might’ve been different.”

The night before he left for Jonestown, as the lone elected official who would go and meet with Jones and the members of the Peoples Temple, Ryan had dinner with Erin, who was living in Washington and attending Georgetown University.

“He was tired and he was recovering from a cold,” Erin remembers. “It was just after the election in 1978 and he always had a cold after every election. I didn’t really know anything much about why he was going or how dangerous it was. I was just happy to have my dad over for dinner. It’s something that didn’t happen a lot. He was a busy man; he was larger than

life. That was hard on our family and I always sensed that he felt that pain of being pulled in two directions.”

With Speier, a few members of the media and some concerned relatives of Jonestown residents, Ryan left Washington the morning of Nov. 14, 1978. The Ryan delegation was initially denied access to Jonestown but, three days later, Jones was informed that the congressman was coming to the settlement, one way or another.

On Nov. 17, Ryan flew in to a small airstrip hacked out of the jungle and made his way to the community, which had become home to about 1,000 people.

Things initially seemed to go well. At the same time, several people passed notes to the Ryan delegation, saying they wished to leave Jonestown, and the congressman promised he’d see anyone wanting to return home could go.

Ryan and Speier, with two other members of the delegation, stayed the night in Jonestown. Early the next morning, on Nov. 18, after helping load those Peoples Temple members wanting to leave onto a truck, Ryan said he’d likely deliver a mostly positive report on Jonestown.

The congressman was one of the last to leave Jonestown, staying behind to talk with anyone who wanted to make a statement or who needed his help. By the late afternoon, however, the situation, along with Jones’ stability, had deteriorated. Convinced Ryan, who was now leaving for the airstrip, was at the vanguard of a government conspiracy to violently shut down his jungle experiment, Jones ordered a group of cult members to kill the congressman and all those attempting to leave.

© The airplane that carried California congressman Leo Ryan sits on a runway on Nov. 18, 1978, in Port Kaituma, Guyana, after Ryan was shot and killed by members of Jim Jones’ Peoples Temple cult.

Ryan was shot and killed at the airstrip with four others in the delegation. Speier was shot five times and, with other wounded, waited nearly a full day for help.

Hearing this news, Jones commanded his followers to drink poison. As 909 people followed those orders, it became the single largest loss of civilian American life until the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

“It was fundamental to his job,” says Speier. “He was dedicated to taking care of his constituents and he was not at all reluctant to put himself on the line for that. He wanted to go there. He wanted to see. He wanted to help.”

In 1983, Ryan was posthumously awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in a bill signed by President Ronald Reagan. In 2017, he was honored, along with former U.S. Rep. Gabby Giffords of Arizona, survivor of a 2011 assassination attempt, with the naming of the Gabrielle Giffords-Leo J. Ryan Democratic Cloakroom at the House of Representatives.

Both Erin and Patricia Ryan have become leaders in policymaking and the public interest in their own right, spurred on by the memory of their father. Erin, who earned a law degree, works as a consultant for the California State Senate’s insurance committee. Patricia has spent 30 years in behavioral and mental health advocacy, including 12 years as executive director of the County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California. She also served as volunteer president of the board of the Cult Awareness Network.

“Forty years later, it’s still difficult for us, but I can say that I’m proud he was my dad,” Erin says. “I’m proud he did what he did and that he is being remembered as someone who led a life dedicated to the public good.”

“He was a social justice warrior,” Patricia says. “And I’ve always believed his Creighton, Jesuit education gave him the foundation for all of his work in public life.”

“It was fundamental to his job. He was dedicated to taking care of his constituents and he was not at all reluctant to put himself on the line for that.”

CONGRESSWOMAN JACKIE SPEIER





‘Forever Grateful’

BY AMANDA BRANDT, BA'14

Former students fondly remember Creighton's longest-serving president

Barbara Vitzthum Melbourne, BA'85, sat on the steps outside the then-named Administration Building, crying. In her hand was a letter, outlining a difficult financial reality. Despite working two jobs and having her parents chip in as much as they were able, she saw no way she could continue to afford tuition.

At that moment, the Rev. Michael Morrison, SJ, the 22nd president of Creighton University, walked outside for a smoke break and approached the downhearted student.

“This doesn't look good,” Melbourne remembers Fr. Morrison telling her.

He sat down next to the sophomore and recognized her as a student Phonathon worker. Fr. Morrison asked her what was wrong, and what she was studying. Melbourne shared her struggles with paying tuition, and told him she was studying philosophy with the ultimate goal of becoming a lawyer.

“Why don't you come back in an hour?” Fr. Morrison told her, as he prepared to head back inside. “I'm probably going to want another smoke. I'll meet you right here.”

Wondering what else the president could possibly have to say to her, Melbourne found her way back to the steps an hour later.

Fr. Morrison soon joined her, holding a different letter. “I found this scholarship on my desk and it's for pre-law students,” he told her. “I think the Ahmanson family would be really, really happy to know you want to stay here.”

He went on to tell Melbourne that she was part of the Creighton family, and always would be.

Melbourne, stunned at her sudden reversal of fortune, said “Fr. Mike” went on to explain how the scholarship was funded by the Ahmanson family and their foundation. He also explained why her role as a Phonathon fundraiser for Creighton mattered to the University and its students, and how this endowed scholarship

would be helping her and others for generations to come.

“It all kind of clicked together after Fr. Morrison explained it to me,” Melbourne says today, more than 30 years later.

Stories of Fr. Morrison's kindness, particularly toward students, were shared widely on social media following the news of his death on May 24 at the age of 81.

Fr. Morrison was Creighton's longest-serving president, holding the position for 19 years, from 1981 to 2000. At the time of his retirement in 2000, it is estimated he had signed nearly 45 percent of all diplomas issued by Creighton.

A native of Green Bay, Wisconsin, Fr. Morrison was a member of the Society of Jesus for 62 years, and a priest for nearly 50 years. After receiving a PhD in history, Fr. Morrison taught at Marquette University in Milwaukee before coming to Creighton in 1977, where he taught history and served as academic vice president.

As president, Fr. Morrison was known for sitting outside St. John's Church and chatting with students as they passed by along the campus mall. He would listen, give advice, offer encouragement and simply be present, meeting students where they were.

Under his direction, Creighton added 10 new buildings to campus, including the VJ. and Angela Skutt Student Center, the Beirne Research Tower and the Lied Education Center for the Arts; established the nation's first doctoral program in physical therapy and clinical doctoral program in occupational therapy; and grew the endowment from less than \$16 million to more than \$210 million.

While Fr. Morrison received numerous awards and accolades, most important to him was the success of each student. Charmaine Sassano Ogren, BSRT'84, remembers Fr. Morrison visiting her high school in Wheat Ridge, Colorado, while she was a student there, and telling her, “If the only thing you learn in

four years at Creighton is to think for yourself, then we have done our job.”

“He's the reason I chose Creighton,” says Ogren, who today works as a paralegal in Golden, Colorado.

Melbourne calls her encounter with Fr. Morrison on the steps of the administration building “truly life-changing.”

Thanks to his kindness, she was able to stay at Creighton, and graduated with a philosophy degree. After attending law school, she worked in Creighton's Development Office, and traveled with Fr. Morrison to alumni events around the country. Today, Melbourne is the vice chancellor of institutional advancement at Palmer College of Chiropractic in Davenport, Iowa.

Melbourne and her parents, Ed, BS'58, and Patricia (Peterson) Vitzthum — grateful for their own college experiences and the scholarship assistance Melbourne received — created a planned gift that will ultimately endow a scholarship fund in her parents' memory and allow others to experience a Creighton education.

“I think back to (Fr. Mike),” Melbourne says. “He really inspired me to keep doing this. I remain forever grateful for his kindness, caring and wisdom.”

In reflecting on his role as president, Fr. Morrison once wrote: “How do I measure success? It can be done in terms of money raised, buildings built, budgets balanced, but they are superficial indicators. The real indicators are what happens to students — the education they receive, the experiences they have. ... Each individual student whose life has been influenced by Jesuit education is a success, for the student and for us.”

Memorial Mass: A special liturgy of gratitude for the life of Fr. Morrison will be celebrated during Reunion Weekend, with a 5 p.m. Mass at St. John's Church on Sept. 15.

MEMORIAL GIFTS For more information on making a gift in memory of Fr. Morrison, please visit creighton.edu/Morrison.

ILLUSTRATION BY ADAM CRUFT

Investing in faith

BY ANTHONY FLOTT

Marty Eichinger’s hands are a gift from God. For decades, the celebrated Portland, Oregon, sculptor has taken lifeless lumps of clay and shaped them into exquisite works of art, giving form to “the eternal human pursuit of meaning, happiness and growth.”

But at the same time, Eichinger’s faith life had morphed into something without form. Something nebulous.

Faith, “didn’t seem to fit into my contemporary worldview,” said the artist, who abandoned his Lutheran heritage at 16 years old. “The Church was causing more problems than I felt it was solving in our culture. I never let go of God or a moral structure inspired by the Bible; I just didn’t see a way to embrace religion that didn’t exclude too many other souls.”

But then Joe Ricketts stepped into his life. With an invitation.

Ricketts had commissioned Eichinger to sculpt two Stations of the Cross for his Cloisters on the Platte retreat center. The artist threw himself into a deeper understanding of how retreatants would experience the Stations. He read the Bible. He studied the history of Jesus’ time. He explored relevant artwork.

But ... “I still didn’t get the retreat.”

So he went on one himself — and something new in his life began to take shape.

“I expected insight, but what I actually received moved me and I found a new relationship with God,” Eichinger wrote in a thank-you letter to Ricketts. “I decided to take Communion for the first time in 50 years. It saved me.”

GOD GLORIFIED

It’s not the first thank-you letter Ricketts has received from a retreatant — and it most certainly will not be the last. The magnificent Cloisters on the Platte opened in July, offering St. Ignatius of Loyola’s *Spiritual Exercises* for up to 80 retreatants on 47 retreat weekends each year.

It’s a deeply personal project that has the self-made billionaire helping others invest in their relationship with God to amass spiritual riches.

The 1968 Creighton graduate (BA, economics) and co-founder of TD Ameritrade constructed the multi-million dollar secluded retreat center amid 936 acres of rolling hills hugging the Platte River between Omaha and Lincoln. Construction lasted three years and Ricketts footed the entire bill (the cost has not been disclosed). He only asks retreatants for a goodwill donation.

Cloisters on the Platte becomes the 28th Jesuit retreat center in the United States, but the first built since the 1940s. It features guest lodges with private bedrooms and bathrooms

for each retreatant, a retreat center building, courtyard and chapel. Guests park in an underground garage, then take a shuttle to the main campus. Different architects designed each of the lodges and the retreat house. The chapel was designed by Leo A Daly — the 100-year-old, internationally recognized Omaha firm that was founded by 1911 Creighton graduate Leo A. Daly Sr. The firm also designed St. Margaret Mary Church, which Ricketts attends when in Omaha (he lives in Jackson Hole, Wyoming).

The grounds — some of which once was home to a ski resort — will offer retreatants

plenty of time for contemplative strolls with two lakes, trails and a Stations of the Cross walk that spans roughly 2,500 feet (the length Jesus is said to have walked in Jerusalem). The 14-station masterpiece features 60 7-foot-tall figures designed by sculptors from across the country and a 140-foot pedestrian bridge through the trees.

“It’s been a huge job,” says Ricketts, pointing out that it involved 45 subcontractors. The son of a carpenter, Ricketts received weekly construction updates from project manager Kurt Halvorson, including video taken by drones.

Ricketts used two principles to guide the project. First was to create a quiet environment “really needed for contemplation and meditation.” Second, he “wanted these facilities to last for hundreds of years” and with a timeless design.

“I think we have achieved both,” Ricketts says. “The degree of satisfaction I have and the joy I have in seeing it really come to fruition from the dream I had 20 years ago is really quite exciting and satisfying to me.”

Those who have seen Cloisters on the Platte gush with praise.

“The first impression when you get on the grounds is that God is being glorified,” says

Deacon Tim McNeill, Omaha Archdiocese chancellor. “There is painstaking care to wrap all the grounds in beauty, and that makes your heart and mind ascend to God.”

The Rev. Andy Alexander, SJ, director of Creighton’s Collaborative Ministry Office, cited the project’s first-rate quality, right down to the hand-carved art on the chapel’s kneelers.

“This will certainly be one of the nicest retreat centers I’m aware of,” Fr. Alexander says.

He also calls the Stations of the Cross “a powerful blessing for the people of this area” and praises Ricketts’ long-term vision.

“I heard him talking to a group of people about the trees that they were planting. He said, just as an offhand comment, ‘It’s going to be really beautiful in about 200 years.’”

PASSION PROJECT

What’s driving Ricketts — according to *Forbes*, the 388th richest person in the United States last year with a fortune worth an estimated \$2 billion — to spend millions of dollars just to get people to attend a retreat?

A lifelong Catholic, Ricketts maintained his faith while building Ameritrade, but says he

might not be Catholic today if not for his wife of 55 years, Marlene, and for Creighton.

Of the former, he says, “it’s a little easier to be Catholic when you have somebody helping you as you’re going through those growing-up changes.”

As for Creighton, he says the University helped him “get down to the very bare essentials of what really encompassed the Catholic religion. I had several Jesuits who took a personal interest in me and gave me the time to talk about these issues and really organized my thought process relative to what my religion was, which made me appreciate my Catholicism all the more. Had that not happened, I probably would have dropped the subject and gradually wandered away from religion, probably altogether. Maybe I’d just go to Mass on Easter and Christmas.”

Retreats, he says, have been essential to avoiding any drift away from his faith. He cites two retreat experiences — one good, one bad — with helping him see their value.

The first, while he was in high school in Nebraska City, didn’t go so well. “It was terrible,” he says. “I told myself I’ll never go again. The priest was overbearing and dictatorial and demanding. Things as a young man I revolted against. I said to myself, ‘A retreat is not something good.’”



© A view of the Cloisters on the Platte from above shows the chapel on the left and the retreat center on the right. A Statue of the Risen Christ, sculpted by Lynn Kircher of Jaroso, Colorado, is located in the chapel courtyard.



An Eye for Detail

Sculptors and artists from across the country designed and produced statues and other artistic pieces displayed throughout the Cloisters on the Platte property. Pictured above, a Verdin Bell craftsman cleans excess casting materials from the chapel bell. Pictured at right is station No. 2 of the Stations of the Cross, “Jesus Takes Up His Cross,” sculpted by the George Lundeen Studio in Loveland, Colorado. **Littleton Alston**, associate professor of sculpture at Creighton, created a 10-foot statue of St. Ignatius of Loyola, located just inside the entrance of the Cloisters, welcoming visitors and reminding them that they will be embarking on an Ignatian retreat.



That changed in 1987 when, at the urging of Creighton’s the Rev. Don Doll, SJ, he attended a retreat at Demontreville in Lake Elmo, Minnesota.

“I went with a great deal of apprehension,” he says. “I found out it was just what I needed.”

He has attended at least 14 retreats at Demontreville since — and has been thinking of how to get others to do the same. Fr. Alexander, who has known Ricketts for more than 20 years, recalls giving a retreat for Ricketts and his Ameritrade leadership team long ago at Creighton’s retreat house in Griswold, Iowa.

Ricketts is so passionate about Cloisters on the Platte that he made personal pitches about it before and after Masses at parishes throughout Omaha and to groups like the Serra Club and That Man Is You. That helped get a core of retreatants who began making Ignatian retreats at the St. Benedict Center in Schuyler, Nebraska, and at Creighton’s center in Griswold.

Ricketts also provides voice-overs for Cloisters on the Platte videos and, most recently, can be heard on radio commercials hawking Cloisters on the Platte Bread (the first of 10 to 15 Cloisters-branded products whose sales will support the Cloisters on the Platte Foundation).

“Ignatius, from the very beginning, gave the *Spiritual Exercises* to people whom he expected to share them with other people, whom he expected to have their lives transformed and for them to make a difference in the world,” Fr. Alexander says. “This retreat house is an example of somebody who was touched by the *Spiritual Exercises* and decided to make a difference. And it’s going to be a difference that will carry on for generations.

“In many ways, it continues the mission of Creighton University in a way that Ignatius would have loved. Not that we Jesuits did it, but that it was one of our alums who did it to share the experience of what this Ignatian mission was about.”

CREIGHTON IMPACT

Creighton, though, was not without influence on the project. The Rev. Jim Clifton, SJ, a Creighton Jesuit and a close friend of Ricketts, was among those who early on encouraged Ricketts to build Cloisters. And Ricketts says Fr. Alexander was the project’s go-to source “whenever I have a question with regard to some spiritual aspect and how to handle that.”

Fr. Alexander, who is on the project’s board of directors, also was joined by fellow Creighton



Jesuits the Revs. Tom Shanahan, SJ, and Richard Hauser, SJ, (who died in April 2018) for a video the Cloisters created about St. Ignatius and his *Spiritual Exercises*.

Other Creighton priests will be among those who direct the 47 retreat weekends each year. “We have had a wonderful response from Jesuit retreat directors that are in North America,” Ricketts says. “That was a big point of anxiety when we first started. We didn’t know how successful we may or may not be. We’ve been very successful.” In addition, retired and semi-retired diocesan priests will help with Masses, hear confessions and provide individual spiritual direction.

The need to have extra priests on hand testifies to the popularity of retreats. Ricketts anticipates a full house every retreat weekend and says Cloisters soon will have a waiting list. “There’s a great degree of interest in this type of spiritual exercises in the marketplace,” he says.

Fr. Alexander agrees. When trying to schedule an eight-day retreat for himself this summer, he found most places already were booked. He also points to the success of Creighton’s Online Ministries website and its daily reflections. Last year, he says, it had 70 million hits from 200 countries. “That tells me people are hungry and that they appreciate this spirituality, which is particularly helpful because Ignatius was about helping people find intimacy with God in their everyday life. He called it ‘becoming contemplatives in action,’ and I think that kind of spirituality is really appropriate for our very, very busy lives today.”

FORMING LIVES

Asked what gift by someone in the Omaha Archdiocese compares to Ricketts’ Cloisters on the Platte, McNeil says, “Nothing.”

“Because all this is rooted and grounded in prayer,” McNeil says. “Those people who go

and have a conversion experience and have this life-changing encounter with Jesus, they’re going to go back to their neighborhood or workplace, to their parishes and they’re going to share that experience. And the experience is going to be rooted in their persons. They’re going to go back and share about the person they just met who changed their life, and that’s evangelization.

“Wait until we see what happens in 200 years.”

But change already is evident. Just ask retreatants who have written their thanks to Ricketts — like artist Eichinger.

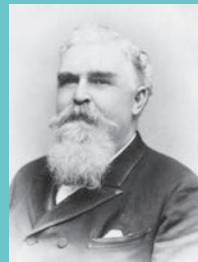
“I originally considered this exercise to be research in order to understand what a serious retreatant would feel when they walked through the Stations,” Eichinger says. “I did not expect to have a personal enlightenment into my understanding of God and my place in creation.”



moments milestones momentum

BY Cindy Murphy McMahon, BA'74

Over its 140 years, countless innovations and successes have been achieved by Creighton's students, faculty and alumni. On these pages we pay tribute to historical milestones, moments in time and little-known facts that have brought Creighton University to where it is today. And, as we celebrate the past that propels us into the future, we set our sights on Creighton 150.



Clockwise from top left: Edward, John, Mary Lucretia and Sarah Emily Creighton.

A BRIEF HISTORY

Edward and Mary Lucretia Creighton, along with Edward's brother John, settled in Omaha in the mid-1850s. John married Mary Lucretia's sister Sarah Emily Wareham in 1868 and the four are considered the founders of Creighton University. Edward's work with the transcontinental telegraph and freighting, ranching, railroading and banking became a major force in the city's economic development. The two brothers were widely known for their business enterprises, and the two couples were also widely regarded for their philanthropy.

Edward died in 1874 and his widow included \$100,000 in her will to establish Creighton College in memory of her husband. Mary Lucretia died in 1876 and her executors, who included her brother-in-law John, purchased 6.2 acres of land at the northwest corner of what is currently 24th and California streets. They began to build a school and transferred the land, building and additional securities to Bishop James O'Connor of Omaha. The bishop then asked the Jesuits to operate the school, which opened on Sept. 2, 1878.

Spelling it Out

The University opened on Sept. 2, 1878, with five Jesuits, two laypeople, one college and a student body numbering 120. Today, the University has nine colleges and schools and educates more than 8,600 students. More than 70,000 alumni are currently living, working and serving across the world. At right: This well-manicured shrubbery welcomed students, faculty and visitors to campus in 1889.



THE SCHOOL THAT I LOVE BEST

"The School that I Love Best" was penned in 1920 by student Stephen Spitznagle, BA'24, who later became editor of the *Creightonian*.

Photo of the main campus building, now Creighton Hall, 1910

*Oh, good old hills of Omaha,
On thy high summits rise
The proudest dwelling of the West
To meet the stranger's eyes.
But of all the hills of Omaha,
One's higher than the rest,
And on its grass-grown summit is
The school that I love best.*

*O Creighton! Dear old Creighton!
It fills us with delight,
To know that you'll be watching
Through each long day and night.*

*She views the close Missouri's shore
And guards the city's marts,
Where soon her youthful sons will go
To play their various parts.
And as with loving tenderness
She gazes from her height,
The work of each is watched with care,
Through each long day and night.*





DAVE WEAVER

Spiritual Cornerstone

On June 26, 1887, the cornerstone was laid for St. John's Church, and 4,000 spectators gathered. The bishop mistakenly dedicated the church to the wrong St. John — St. John-Before-the-Latin-Gate instead of St. John the Baptist, the patron saint of John Creighton. It wasn't until 1977 that St. John's, the spiritual center of Creighton University, got its steeple.

SURPRISE PARTY

Did you know a presidential candidate launched her national campaign at Creighton? On May 17, 1940, comedian Gracie Allen, accompanied by her equally famous husband, George Burns, announced her run for the U.S. presidency before thousands of cheering Creighton fans. During an earlier speech at the Washington Press Club, she had said she would accept her party's nomination — she was representing the Surprise Party — at a convention in Omaha May 15-18, following a whistle-stop train tour that began in Hollywood. At Creighton, she told the crowd that she would nominate no vice president, since she would tolerate no vice in her administration, and she urged all Americans to be proud of the national debt because it was the biggest in the world. President Franklin Roosevelt was safely re-elected.



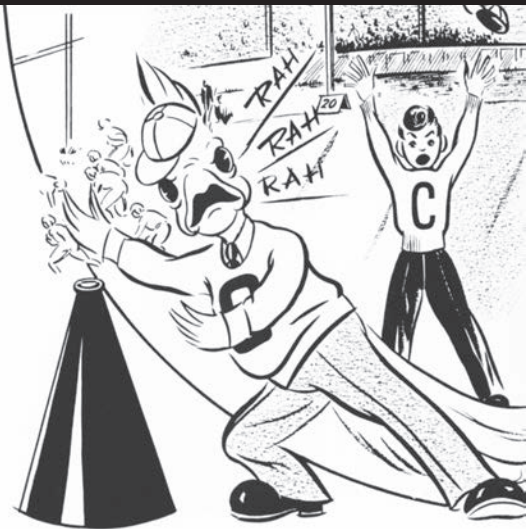
CBS PHOTO ARCHIVE

THE BLUEJAYS, AND BILLY, OVER TIME

At the start, Creighton teams had no official name. They were the "White and Blue" or, because of Creighton's location atop a bluff, the "Hilltoppers." In late 1923, at the request of the University's Athletics Board and Alumni Association, the *Omaha Bee* newspaper held a naming contest and, after reviewing 200 entries, the Athletics Board picked "Bluejays" because the bird matched the school colors.

Joe Murphy, BSC'31, a Creighton journalism professor and head of public relations, in 1941 decided the mascot looked too much like a blue jay in a bird guide. He wanted something feistier and commissioned an artist. Murphy's son, retired Col. John Murphy, BS'58, later recalled his father saying he "wanted Billy to look as if he had just eaten something sour."

Murphy's design remained largely intact for 72 years with only minor revisions. In 2013, with the move to the BIG EAST Conference, a new athletics brand and modernized Billy was unveiled.



17,000

DRAWING A CROWD

The first official men's basketball game, a 30-17 win over Peru State in 1917, was played in front of 200 fans in the newly constructed University Gym (now the Vinardi Center). Today, the men's team averages 17,000 fans per home game at the CenturyLink Center Omaha (soon to be CHI Health Center Omaha) — the fifth highest attendance in the country.



86

TITLES AND MORE

Creighton's eight women's and six men's teams have won 58 regular-season conference titles and 51 league tournament titles, and competed in 86 NCAA tournaments. Creighton student-athletes also have excelled in the classroom. Since the NCAA began the Academic Progress Report in 2004, each of Creighton's teams has been honored at least once.



FOOTBALL REAL AND IMAGINED

Once upon a time, there was a Creighton football team, and that team played its last game Nov. 21, 1942, a 33-19 loss to Tulsa University. The season ended before a final game could be played, due to World War II, and Creighton never again picked up the pigskin.

However, that was not the end of Creighton football, as a mythical team in the 1980s gained national attention. The charade began in 1983 when journalism student and *Creightonian* writer Bob McDonald, BA'84, decided to entertain the campus with the exploits of the imaginary team, which always won and went on to a national title. The campus newspaper series caught the attention of local and national media outlets, culminating in a visit by CBS News in 1983 to film a game hastily pulled together by McDonald. Creighton President the Rev. Michael G. Morrison, SJ, who was also the coach, ran for a touchdown and McDonald said later, "Of course no one was going to tackle Fr. Morrison."

Creighton vs. West Virginia, 1938



First Dormies

Creighton students got their first opportunity to live on campus in 1906 when St. John's Hall was built at 25th and California streets. It consisted of 66 single rooms and five double rooms. Today, Creighton has nine residence halls, including Davis Square and Opus Hall, which feature apartment-style living for upper-class students.

Agnew Hall, 1958





NAME THAT COLLEGE

In 2013, the Heider College of Business became the first named school at the University — recognizing the ethical business leadership of the Heider family and the generosity of Charles “Charlie” Heider, BSC’49, HON’10, and his wife, Mary, HON’10.



EDUCATION IN THE FIRST DEGREE

The School of Pharmacy and Health Professions likes to be first. It offered the nation’s first entry-level clinical doctorates in physical therapy (1992) and occupational therapy (1999); the first online-based Doctor of Pharmacy degree (2001); and the first online-based Doctor of Occupational Therapy program (2008).

A UNIVERSITY “FOUNDRESS”

In 1961, a transformational memorial gift from Mable L. Criss, honoring her late husband, Dr. C.C. Criss, MD’12, took health sciences education and research programs at Creighton to a national level. To honor the contribution, the Jesuits named Criss a “foundress” of the University.

MASTERING SPIRITUALITY

In 1975, Creighton offered its first courses in the Master of Arts in Christian Spirituality program, which is the longest continual such program open to laity and clergy at a Catholic university in the U.S.



Sandbags to the Rescue

When the Missouri River flooded its banks in 1952, Creighton students rushed to the rescue. Even though they were on Easter break, when the superintendent of buildings and grounds issued a radio appeal, hundreds of students joined the sandbag brigades.

AT THE FOREFRONT

Creighton Jesuit the Rev. John Markoe, SJ, 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, Alabama, bus boycott, launched a similar campaign against the Omaha and Council Bluffs Street Railway Company.



EXPERTS ON CUBA

The School of Law secured a grant in 2005 from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to study the resolution of property claims of Cubans whose assets were nationalized after the 1959 revolution. Creighton law professors and political science professors teamed up, and their resulting 280-page book in 2007 was well-received, including at conferences and in testimony before Congress; their work was consulted again in 2014 when the U.S. and Cuba took steps to normalize relations.



The Momentum Continues

The Creighton story is rife with innovators, pioneers, great thinkers — those who dared to make a difference in this world. As we look to the next decade and the University’s 150th anniversary, that creative, can-do spirit prevails. Momentum, optimism and an abiding commitment to excellence — rooted in our Jesuit, Catholic mission — light our path. The future is now — moments and milestones are in the making.

EVOLVING HEALTH CARE EDUCATION

Creighton is at the forefront of interprofessional, collaborative health care and is expanding its impact on health through its academic medical centers and clinical partnerships. In 2018, the College of Nursing joined the School of Medicine in providing education and care at Creighton’s Phoenix campus.

A CAMPUS FOR THE FUTURE

The new School of Dentistry building is the latest of many campus improvements and innovations that have seen the University expand significantly. Creighton also is committed to caring for the environment and strengthening and developing partnerships with our North and South Omaha neighbors.

GOING GLOBAL

The Global Engagement Office is the hub of global education and service programs, with partnerships and programs throughout the world. The first Creighton students traveled to the Dominican Republic in 1972. Today, promising new efforts include the Creighton Global Initiative and Global Scholars Program.

DIVERSITY GOALS

Creighton’s Jesuit mission is lived out in offices, classrooms, clinics, chapels, residence halls and more. Most recently, Creighton furthered that mission by hiring its first vice provost for Institutional Diversity and Inclusion, Christopher Whitt, PhD. (Read more about him on Page 52.)

REIMAGINING THE LIBERAL ARTS

Creighton was founded on the bedrock of the liberal arts. The Kingfisher Institute for Liberal Arts and Professions will be a place of synergy for faculty and researchers, with a goal of discovering ways in which liberal arts and professional education can mutually reinforce and strengthen each other.



Struggling to get into medical school, this former emigrant finds success – and a deeper faith – at Creighton University.

BY Rick Davis, BA'88

Feeling at Home

Maryam Gbadamosi-Akindele, MD'12, has found a home in Omaha – and a special place in her heart for Creighton University.

The 33-year-old assistant professor in the School of Medicine and medical staff member at the VA Medical Center in Omaha has traveled a winding road, marked by perseverance, determination and a deepening faith.

In the early 1990s, at about the age of 8, Gbadamosi-Akindele emigrated with her family from Nigeria. They eventually settled in New Jersey. Her dad became a successful internal medicine physician, and her mom was a nurse.

Gbadamosi-Akindele was almost expected to follow in her parents' footsteps. Her parents told Maryam and her sister, Rakiat, that they were to pursue "high-achieving careers, such as law, engineering or medicine."

"I was going to be the doctor," Maryam says.

She attended the University of Maryland, earning a bachelor's degree in biology in 2006. Her sights were firmly set on medical school, but her grades and score on the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) did not measure up.

She was crushed.

Gbadamosi-Akindele began looking for post-baccalaureate programs online that could help her prepare for another attempt at the admissions process, and stumbled across Creighton's program.

"I had never heard of Omaha, Nebraska," she says with a laugh, but Creighton's intensive program appealed to her.

At the time, students who maintained a certain grade-point average and scored above a certain mark on the MCAT automatically were accepted into Creighton's medical school. "I said, 'Sign me up!'" Gbadamosi-Akindele recalls.

She was accepted to the program, and came to Omaha in 2007.

"It was amazing," she says now. "This is where the life change began."

TURNING TO FAITH

AT CREIGHTON, GBADAMOSI-AKINDELE found a community that would not only help strengthen her pre-med skills and training, but would support her as she began a deeper faith journey.

"The program really challenged me, and I felt like this was my last chance," Gbadamosi-Akindele says. "When you're faced with a challenge or adversity, often people turn to their faith."

That's what Gbadamosi-Akindele did. Her family was Muslim, but she had never deeply explored her faith. She visited an Islamic prayer room in Kiewit Hall – and began praying.

"As I was reflecting – on this Jesuit, Catholic campus – my faith as a Muslim was getting stronger, because it was a sensitive period in my life where I needed faith, or divine intervention," Gbadamosi-Akindele says.

She attended a nondenominational retreat through Creighton, and learned more about the University's Jesuit traditions and values.

"It was perfect timing because it was merging with my development – developing a closer relationship with my Creator," Gbadamosi-Akindele says. "My favorite Jesuit motto is 'women and men for and with others.' I'm learning that this is what God wants us to do – to serve others."

Gbadamosi-Akindele successfully completed the post-baccalaureate program, and was accepted into the Creighton School of Medicine in 2008. She got married her first year in medical school, and she and her husband, Monsour, welcomed their first child, Rahmah (which means "mercy" in Arabic), her second year of medical school – two months before a major exam.

"I prayed, 'God, don't let me fail this exam,'" she says. She passed that test, and others, on her way to earning a medical degree in 2012.

A PROFOUND MOMENT

WHEN IT CAME TIME TO CHOOSING a residency, Gbadamosi-Akindele felt comfortable staying in Omaha. "I felt at home here," she says. She entered the internal medicine residency at Creighton, and during her third year was named chief resident.

"It was really one of the most profound moments in my career," Gbadamosi-Akindele says. "I really took on that leadership role personally. It was like, 'Lift off!' It gave me a sense of purpose; I found my voice."

"Before, I was like, 'I'm going to be a doctor.' Now I was like, 'I'm really enjoying being a doctor. I'm loving this.'"

She completed her residency in 2015, and at the final banquet was named Chief Resident of the Year. She remembers taking her then 4-year-old daughter by the hand to go up with her to receive the award.

"This is as much hers as it is mine," Gbadamosi-Akindele says with a laugh. "On occasion, she would come to the hospital with me and sit at the nursing station as I was

conducting patient rounds with my attending physicians."

Gbadamosi-Akindele's one-year tenure as chief resident piqued her interest in the academic side of medicine and teaching. So when a job opened up at the VA Medical Center that included a Creighton teaching assignment, she jumped at it.

"I had this passion for teaching," she says. "Plus I felt comfortable here. People knew me here."

In short, it had become home.

BEING A ROLE MODEL

REFLECTING ON HER JOURNEY, Gbadamosi-Akindele takes a deep breath and smiles: "Here I am, a post-baccalaureate medical student who is now a Creighton University School of Medicine assistant professor."

Now the mother of three (she had twins, a boy and a girl, on Aug. 11, 2016), Gbadamosi-Akindele is sharing the lessons she's learned with others. To her medical residents and students, she poses a simple – but profound – question: Why are you here?

"If you don't know why you're here, you're lost," Gbadamosi-Akindele says. "My 'why' is because I am a woman for and with others, and I am providing a service to my students and my patients. Those are the people I serve. And all for what? For the greater good and for the glory of my Creator."

"As long as I'm serving others for the greater good, that's what drives me. And I think I learned that here at Creighton. That is a core Jesuit value."

She also believes it's important to be a role model for the wider community – particularly as a black, Muslim, immigrant woman. Gbadamosi-Akindele recalls a general health talk she gave to a group of refugees in Lincoln, Nebraska, as a medical student.

"It was a sense of fulfillment to give back, to serve," she says. "To them, I represented something, 'I'm an immigrant; this could be my daughter.' I represented the American dream."

"That was such an important event for me. The success is not just for me now. It represents what could come after."

It's a lesson she looks to share with her young children. Her message:

"Find a career that's fulfilling. Make sure it's meaningful to you. Make sure you are passionate about it. And be good at it; try to be the best at it. To me, that will launch you into success."



REFLECTIONS

Pushing the Limits

Jen Edney, BA'05, is one of the most renowned water adventure photographers in the business. Her work has appeared in *National Geographic* magazine, which recently named her as one of “Nine Female Photographers Who Push The Limits.” She was one of 10 onboard reporters for the 2017-2018 Volvo Ocean Race. Edney, center, made this photo on the first leg of the trip from Alicante, Spain, to Lisbon, Portugal, last fall. The race ended in June in The Hague, Netherlands. For more information about the Volvo Ocean Race and its route around the world, visit volvooceanrace.com.



KATHERINE MARIE PHOTOGRAPHY

IMPACT

‘I’m Excited to be a Trailblazer’

One year down at Creighton and sophomore **ALEX TAYLOR** has already made a splash in the Heider College of Business. The finance and accounting major is a business research fellow, a select group within the college that focuses on the improvement of self and society.

“For me, it was a really great steppingstone to where I wanted to go in the future,” Taylor says, “with the relationships that I get to build and the great opportunities as well.”

Originally, Taylor thought she would be an engineer, having always loved science and math. But after talking to local business

leaders in her hometown of Colorado Springs, Colorado, she knew business was her best choice.

“My far-reaching goal is to run a company someday,” Taylor says, with the intention of becoming “a thoughtful, responsible and ethical leader in my community.”

It was that intention that garnered her the Suzanne and Walter Scott Fellows Scholarship, given to students who look to improve and lead their communities.

“For me, knowing that I received that scholarship, I have the responsibility to use it to the best of my ability,” Taylor says.

Taylor looks at innovative leaders in society today as inspiration to make that difference.

“I want to do something that’s very innovative and creative. And to focus on exploration,

challenge and problem-solving as a community,” Taylor says.

She’s getting started by interning at the United Bank of Switzerland’s Colorado Springs office in its wealth management department this summer.

Outside the classroom, Taylor is a member of the club soccer team, Alpha Kappa Psi, a professional business fraternity, and Alpha Phi sorority. She is also minoring in Spanish, “a good break for me from business.”

“I’m just excited to be a trailblazer for females in the business world,” Taylor says. “Science and technology is definitely a business area that’s going to keep growing. I find it fascinating, the creativity, innovation and problem-solving that science and technology brings out in people.” — **BY EMILY RUST**

ALUMNI NOTES

Send Us Your News

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

54 Dr. Robert L. Augustine, BSChm, Livingston, New Jersey, professor emeritus of chemistry and executive director of the Center for Applied Catalysis at Seton Hall University in South Orange, New Jersey, recently had a new award named after him by the Organic Reactions Catalysis Society. The Robert Augustine Early Achievement Award will be given every two years to a scientist or engineer under 40 years old who has made significant contributions to the use of catalysis in organic reactions and demonstrates great leadership potential in the field. As executive director of the Center for Applied Catalysis, Augustine supervises collaborative research with industry on issues involving the use of catalysts in the synthesis of pharmaceuticals, fine chemicals and biomass derivatives. In the 20 years since the center was founded, it has partnered with nearly 40 national and international companies and has surpassed \$7 million in contracts.

55 Dr. Donald P. Kohns, BS, East Grand Forks, Minnesota, earned the Professor Emeritus Award from the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks for his service as the president of the North Dakota Small Business Administration SCORE (Senior Corps of Retired Executives) and ACE (Active Corps of Executives)

Organization, which serves small business entrepreneurs, and his development of an undergraduate and graduate marketing education program.

60 Sr. Grace Swift, BS’56, MA, Maple Mount, Kentucky, is celebrating her 70th year of religious life. Sr. Swift was an elementary and high school teacher in Kansas and Oklahoma from 1949 to 1965. She served as a history professor at Loyola University in New Orleans from 1966 to 1998. She was elected to the Ursuline Council (1998-2002), and now cares for grapevines and blackberries at the Motherhouse in Maple Mount.

61 Donald L. Cleveland, BA, Boynton Beach, Florida, is leading an effort in Florida to ban assault rifles. Cleveland is chairman of the Stop The Killing Committee, a group of concerned Florida citizens who have made the choice to speak up about gun control-related issues faced in the U.S. almost daily. The committee is petitioning the state of Florida to amend the state constitution and ban ownership of military-style weapons by private individuals.

62 John G. Manesis, MD, Fargo, North Dakota, has published the book *With Steadied Hands*, a collection of his medical poems, and is available on Amazon.

69 Bonnie M.J. Schriener, BA, Denver, was the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award presented by the Catholic Lawyers Guild of Colorado for outstanding lifetime contribution to religion, profession and country. After graduating from Creighton, Schriener earned her law degree in 1973. She continues to practice law and is involved with canine search and rescue and social justice issues.

71 John J. Kirby, DDS, Hillsborough, California, was part of the seventh annual medical mission to the Philippines in February 2018. The mission was organized by Mending Faces, a nonprofit organization founded to repair cleft lips and palates in the developing world.

73 Rev. William J. Fitzgerald, MA, Scottsdale, Arizona, received the Pope Francis Award from the Kino Border Initiative (KBI). The award recognized his longtime support of KBI and as a member of the St. Vincent de Paul Voice of the Poor Committee, and coincided with his 60th anniversary of ordination. KBI is a binational organization that works in the area of migration and is located in Nogales, Arizona, and Nogalas, Sonora, Mexico.

74 Dr. C. Curtis Barr, BSPha, Fort Calhoun, Nebraska, received the Distinguished Alumni Service

Citation from the Creighton University School of Pharmacy and Health Professions for making a lasting contribution to his profession, his community and his alma mater. Barr has served at Creighton as associate professor of pharmacy practice, assistant dean for alumni relations and associate chaplain.

76 Daniel E. Monnat, JD, Wichita, Kansas, of Monnat & Spurrier, Chartered, was ranked by Chambers USA as one of Kansas’ top litigators in white-collar crime and government investigations. **Dr. Robert P. Ritter, ARTS**, Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, received the Outstanding Dental Service Award from the Marquette University School of Dentistry in April 2018. He shared the award with his brothers and fellow Marquette dental alumni Dr. Charles Ritter and Dr. Thomas Ritter.

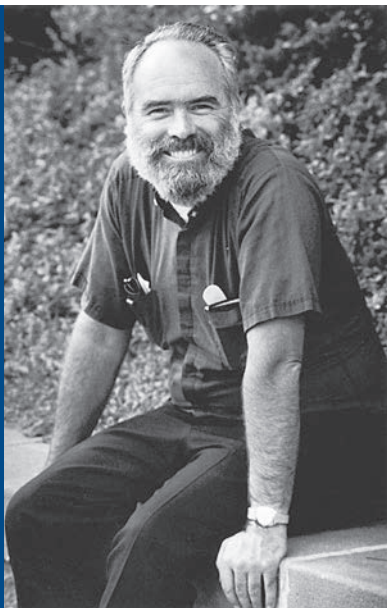
77 David L. Helling, BA, Lenexa, Kansas, *Kansas City Star* editorial writer, earned a national editorial leadership award for his work involving Kansas City’s handling of a contract for a new airport terminal. The American Society of News Editors will present the 2018 Burl Osborne Award for Editorial Leadership to Helling in September.

78 Stephen W. Kay, JD, North Platte, Nebraska, was

Memorial Mass

A special liturgy of gratitude for the life of the Rev. Michael G. Morrison, SJ, will be celebrated during Reunion Weekend

Saturday, Sept. 15
5 p.m.
St. John's Church



elected as a member of the board of directors of the Nebraska State Bar Foundation.

80 David B. Fischer, JD, Alvo, Nebraska, sold Frontier Harley-Davidson in Lincoln, Nebraska, in March 2018 and retired as president and general counsel. Fischer established Frontier Harley-Davidson in 1987 and was the recipient of 13 Bar and Shield Awards given by Harley-Davidson Motor Company for superior performance during his 31 years of ownership and operation.

81 Monica "Monnie" Markel Biety, BA, Golden, Colorado, was part of the seventh annual medical mission to the Philippines in February 2018. The mission was organized by Mending Faces, a nonprofit organization founded to repair cleft lips and palates in the developing world. Biety was part of the group that founded Mending Faces. **Gerard T. Ortner Jr., DDS**, Rancho Murieta, California, participated with the Agape International Missions, an organization aimed at reducing the rampant sex trafficking in Cambodia. Ortner provided pro bono oral surgery to more than 100 patients from March 12-15, 2018.

85 Mary Ellen McLean, DDS, Onsted, Michigan, recently retired as clinical associate professor emerita of dentistry

after 21 years of teaching at the University of Michigan School of Dentistry.

86 Michael W. Meister, BA'83, JD, Scottsbluff, Nebraska, is the managing attorney of the Scottsbluff Legal Aid of Nebraska office.

87 Brian T. Grogan, BS, St. Paul, Minnesota, was elected to a three-year term as a member of the board of directors of the law firm Moss & Barnett, A Professional Association, in Minneapolis. Grogan serves as the firm's president, chairs the firm's communications and technology practice areas, and is a member of the firm's regulated industries, business law, and mergers, acquisitions and corporate finance teams.

89 Katherine I. Funk, BSBA, Bethesda, Maryland, was part of the seventh annual medical mission to the Philippines in February 2018. The mission was organized by Mending Faces, a nonprofit organization founded to repair cleft lips and palates in the developing world. **Rosemary Villanueva-Delaney, BA**, San Antonio, is a district English as a Second Language (ESL) implementation specialist at the San Antonio Independent School District and is working at various secondary schools. **Dr. Michelle M. "Mimi" Wong, BS**, Englewood, Colorado, was part

ALUMNI PROFILE

A Promise Fulfilled

In 2001, **DEANTHONY BOWDEN, BS'18**, sat with his mother in the office of then-head men's basketball coach Dana Altman as his mother made a promise.

"She told Dana, 'My son will graduate from Creighton,'" Bowden says.

Seventeen years later, Bowden has fulfilled his mother's wish, graduating from Creighton's College of Professional Studies in May.

Bowden was transferring from Jacksonville College, a junior college in Texas, when he and his mother met with Altman. During his two seasons at Creighton (2001-2002, 2002-2003), Bowden played alongside current NBA star Kyle Korver, BA'03, went to the NCAA Tournament twice, was named to the Missouri Valley Conference All-Defensive Team his senior year, and played against a Northern Iowa team that was coached by current Creighton coach Greg McDermott.

© DeAnthony Bowden with his nephew James and mother, Linda, after a Creighton game. Linda was the reason Bowden wanted to finish his degree.



© Left: Bowden meets with men's basketball coach Greg McDermott during commencement weekend in May when he received his degree. Right: Bowden played for two seasons at Creighton, from 2001-2003.

"I usually had my best games against Northern Iowa, against McDermott," Bowden says. "He was going to do whatever he had to do to take Kyle (Korver) out of the game. By taking Kyle out of the game, it freed up some of the other players."

His first season at Creighton, the Bluejays advanced to the NCAA Tournament as a No. 12 seed and would face No. 5 seed Florida in the first round of the Midwest Regional in Chicago.

A native of Hammond, Indiana, it felt like a home game to Bowden. Before the game started, Bowden and his teammates visited the statue of Michael Jordan outside the United Center for a bit of inspiration.

Creighton rallied with a 10-2 run in the final two minutes to tie the game at the end of regulation. The game was tied again after the first overtime. A large Illinois crowd, coming to see the Illini in the next game, had joined Creighton fans in cheering for the underdog Bluejays. Then, with less than a second left in the second overtime, Bowden's teammate, Terrell Taylor, knocked down a three-pointer for a dramatic Creighton win.

"Everyone in the arena was rooting for us," Bowden says. "The place was so loud." It would be one of the last games Bowden's mother attended before she died of cancer in 2006.

With his NCAA eligibility up, Bowden went into the 2003 NBA draft. He went through

several training camps and played in the NBA summer league for five years. His basketball career then took him overseas — to east Asia and Canada — and to minor league teams in the U.S. After 14 years of professional basketball, Bowden was hired by a team in Canada as its assistant general manager. But he realized he wanted something more.

"I wanted to challenge myself and give back to the community," Bowden says. "Put myself in a situation where I could benefit the younger kids."

He decided to return to Oklahoma, where he had played professionally, to be a basketball coach and athletic director at Lawton Christian School.

"The good thing about coaching on a high school level is you're a mentor and kids look up to you," Bowden says. "It's easier for kids to listen to me because of the success I had."

While he was overseas playing professionally, Bowden received a call from teammate Larry House, BS'11, a fellow junior college transfer. House had returned to finish his degree.

"He said, 'You need to finish. You need to get this degree.'" Bowden told House that he didn't have the time then to dedicate to school. "He said, 'When you find time, I really want you to go get (your degree).' I said, 'You know what, I'm going to do that.'"

So, once he retired from professional



basketball, Bowden made a call to Creighton's College of Professional Studies and enrolled online.

Bowden already owned businesses and had a career as a high school basketball coach, so he didn't necessarily need his degree, but, he says, "I had to go back and get it for myself." He also wanted to be a role model for the young athletes he was now coaching.

"It made them respect me more knowing that I stand by the motto that if you start something, you must finish," Bowden says.

In May, he walked across the stage at the CenturyLink Center Omaha and received his Bachelor of Science degree, majoring in business management and entrepreneurship with a minor in marketing. His family cheered him on in the audience.

He and his family toured the Championship Center and met up with coach McDermott and Patty Galas, longtime administrative assistant for the men's basketball program.

In Galas' hands was the 2002-2003 men's basketball media directory. She handed it to DeAnthony Jr., Bowden's 10-year-old son, who loved seeing his father on the cover.

"I'm glad to be an alumnus," Bowden says. "Who wouldn't want to be a Bluejay?"

— **BY EMILY RUST**

Character First

Former Bluejay tennis standout and 2014 Creighton Athletics Hall of Fame inductee **RUSTY KOMORI, BA'91**, coached the boys varsity tennis teams at Punahou School in Honolulu to an unprecedented 22 consecutive Hawaii state championships.



But it's what he's accomplished since retiring from coaching in 2015 that Komori thinks will be his legacy.

"That was just a springboard for everything I'm doing right now," Komori says of his streak of titles, part of a national-record 25 straight state championships won by the Punahou boys tennis team at the time of his retirement.

Komori turned his coaching philosophy and attitudes about success into a recently released book, *Beyond the Lines*. Writing the book was more than a two-year process for Komori, who still holds the top spot on Creighton's career singles wins list, with 81.

The book came from Komori's desire to help a wider audience achieve their goals.

Komori was named head coach at Punahou in 1994, at the age of 24. Before leading his first practice, he came up with a general framework to structure his coaching style. The philosophy of "the Four Ps," as he calls it — people, purpose, process and performance — has stuck with him through the years, both on and off the court.

"My first priority was to develop champion athletes of character first, and great tennis players second," says Komori, who earned multiple coach of the year honors, including several at the national level. "I feel like success and winning are dependent on the values, principles and discipline of the leader, and those qualities he or she instills in the team."

In the years since first formulating his coaching philosophy, Komori has found it to be applicable to individuals in any number of roles — from parents to teachers to CEOs.

"Everyone's been involved on a team at some point in time, whether it's sports, debate club, business," Komori says.

In addition to the book, Komori has developed a television show, also titled *Beyond The Lines*, for *ThinkTechHawaii.com*. He also works as a guest speaker and leadership consultant, in addition to continuing to teach tennis lessons. It's a life that Komori says makes him excited to greet each day.

"Every day I wake up and think, 'What am I going to do to today to help people, to inspire and motivate them to reach their maximum potential?'" — **BY AMANDA BRANDT, BA'14**

© Rusty Komori, BA'91, right, with longtime tennis student Ashley Ishimura, a senior in the Heider College of Business from Mililani, Hawaii. Ishimura is a member of the Creighton women's tennis team and played No. 1 singles and No. 1 doubles in 2017-2018.

of the seventh annual medical mission to the Philippines in February 2018. The mission was organized by Mending Faces, a nonprofit organization founded to repair cleft lips and palates in the developing world. Wong is part of the group that founded Mending Faces.

95 Dr. Julie L. Brush, BS, Hilo, Hawaii, has accepted the position of medical director at Hawaii Naturopathic Retreat and Aloha Wellness Center in Hilo.

Dr. Brenda Nieslanik Kelly, BSChm, North Mankato, Minnesota, was named provost and dean of the college at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minnesota. Kelly will serve as the chief academic officer for the institution. **Reginald T. Morris, BA'87, MS**, Kansas City, Missouri, is the head boys basketball coach at Grandview High School in Grandview, Missouri. Morris led his team to the 2018 Class 4, Missouri Boys High School Championship. He received the following awards this year: 2018 *USA Today's* Missouri High School Basketball Coach of the Year; 2018 Outstanding Coach of the Year — Kansas City Metro Area Referees and Officials; 2018 Kansas City Metro Coach of the Year/2018 Lombardi Coach of the Year; 2018 Missouri Boys District 12 Coach of the Year; and 2018 Kansas City Suburban Conference Blue Coach of the Year. Morris was the Creighton men's basketball team captain in 1985-1986 under coach Tony Barone.

96 Dr. Kevin T. Edward, BSPha, Gilbert, Arizona, graduated from the University of Colorado in May 2018 with a Doctor of Pharmacy. He also received a Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine in 2014 from Southwest College of Naturopathic Medicine and Health Sciences. **Richard J. Hilger, BS'92, MD**, St. Paul, Minnesota, received the Society of Hospital Medicine's (SHM) national Award for Clinical Excellence for Physicians in April 2018. This honor was awarded out of 16,000 SHM members and more than 60,000 practicing hospitalists nationwide. Hilger has been a hospitalist with HealthPartners Regions Hospital in St. Paul for 16 years.

00 Amy Rezac Schnacker, BSOT, Amherst, Nebraska, was accepted into and completed the TBRI (Trust-Based Relational Intervention) Practitioner Program in March 2018. TBRI is an attachment-based, trauma-informed intervention that is designed to meet the complex needs of vulnerable children who have experienced abuse, neglect and/or trauma.

01 Brian C. Bowman, JD, Omaha, was promoted to the rank of colonel and assigned to the position of state staff judge advocate in the Iowa Air National Guard and assigned to Joint Force Headquarters, Iowa National Guard, in Johnston, Iowa.

03 Dr. Ryan A. Altman, BSChm, Lawrence, Kansas, associate professor of medicinal chemistry in the School of Pharmacy at the University of Kansas in Lawrence, was the recipient of the 2018 Rho Chi Society Excellence in Teaching Award.

05 Gabriel E. Lapito, MBA, BSBA, Billings, Montana, was named to the *Forbes'* Best-in-State Wealth Advisors list for 2018.

07 Andrew C. Clark, BSBA, Wichita, Kansas, recently purchased the Llywelyn's Pub franchise of Kansas City, which includes two stores: one in Overland Park, Kansas, and one in Lee's Summit, Missouri. **Joshuah C. Marshall, BA**, Washington, D.C.,

recently joined the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, a Washington think tank, as a senior policy analyst and expert on state fiscal policy. He will lead a nationwide initiative on racial equity and fiscal policy.

13 Nick J. Montague, JD, Omaha, has joined the Goosman Law Firm in Omaha.

14 Marshall K. Schroeder, BA, Denver, is a doctoral student in clinical psychology at the University of Denver. In August 2017, Schroeder was conferred as an American Psychological Association-Minority Fellowship Program (APA-MFP) fellow. The APA-MFP awards minority students for their work in the field of clinical psychology for their commitment to social justice by serving indigent/disadvantaged communities. Since attending the University of Denver, Schroeder has worked with the LGBT community, Native Hawaiians, Native Americans and other communities of low socioeconomic status. Schroeder also received the Second Annual Joseph Hovat Award presented by the APA-MFP. The award acknowledges students for their current work with minority populations. Schroeder was selected as a recipient of the award for his work with his Native Hawaiian population as well as continuing work with the Northern Arapaho tribe of Wyoming.

16 Dr. J. Michael Schneider, MS, Encinitas, California, retired from his neurosurgery practice after nearly 30 years and began full-time practice as a consultant at Provider Resolutions in Encinitas. Schneider earned his medical degree and residency in Southern California, and his master's degree in conflict engagement and dispute resolution from Creighton.

17 Courtney M. Batterson, BSEvS, Milpitas, California, was promoted from her temporary contract work at NASA's Ames Research Center in San Jose, California, to a full-time assistant research scientist.

WEDDINGS

05 Jennifer R. Wooderson, BS, and Brian Truta, Nov. 11, 2017, living in Overland Park, Kansas.

08 Stephanie T. Righeimer, BA, and John C. Krumsee, BSBA, May 26, 2018, living in Chicago.

12 Dr. Karen Heisler and Edward M. Saito, PharmD, April 21, 2018, living in Hillsboro, Oregon.

14 Allegra L. Jacoby, JD, and Adam Koffler, Feb. 23, 2018, living in Winter Garden, Florida.

15 Michelle S. Pequet, BSN'07, MD, and Michael R. Stetz, BSChm'07, MD'11, June 20, 2015, living in New Berlin, Wisconsin.

Leadership springs from within.

DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES?

Choose from more than 40 graduate degrees and certificates.

gradschool.creighton.edu/leadership

Creighton
UNIVERSITY
Graduate School

BIRTHS

- 98** Jeffrey Baker and **Rebecca Stepanek Baker, BS**, Des Moines, Iowa, a son, Benjamin Andrew, Jan. 27, 2018.
- 04** Paul W. Wallace and **Emily Smith Wallace, PharmD**, Tacoma, Washington, a daughter, Lilia Carys, Feb. 20, 2018.
- 05** John F. Glynn II and **Shelley Owens Glynn, BSN**, Phoenix, a son, Conor Patrick, March 26, 2018. Marcin Zuraw and **Meghan Cook Zuraw, BA**, Dallas, a daughter, Kamila Marion, Feb. 11, 2018.
- 06** Brian L. Tieg and **Markeita Simon Tieg, DPT**, Lake Crystal, Minnesota, a daughter, Ryleigh Ann, March 30, 2018.

- 09** Chase Johnson and **Jamie H. Johnson, PharmD**, York, Nebraska, a son, Reed James, Feb. 13, 2018. Aaron Schwieterman and **Danielle Ternes Schwieterman, DDS**, Bozeman, Montana, a daughter, Aubrey Claire, Jan. 21, 2018.

- 11** Paul J. Bures, **BSBA'05, MBA**, and **Kristy M. Bures, BSBA'06**, La Vista, Nebraska, twins, Cecilia Marie and Serena Grace, May 14, 2018.

DEATHS

- 43** Clayton Byam, **BA**, Omaha, March 1, 2018.
- 44** Bernice Decker Geis, **SCN**, Dallas, Feb. 21, 2018.

- 45** Deloris Sullivan Drahota, **SJN**, Omaha, March 10, 2018. **Marianne Tourek Koller, ARTS**, Rochester, New York, April 26, 2018.

- 46** Marjorie Maly Lubeley, **BA**, McLean, Virginia, May 19, 2018.

- 47** William G. Baldwin, **MD**, Wenatchee, Washington, Feb. 15, 2018. **Lois Roth Kemmy, ARTS**, Boerne, Texas, Feb. 7, 2018. **Daniel S. Roccaforte, MD**, Omaha, May 15, 2018.

- 48** Robert W. Hoellwarth, **MD**, Vallejo, California, April 5, 2018. **Rose Morton Redmond, BA**, Denver, Feb. 2, 2018. **Norma Pettinger Teeters, SJN**, Owatonna, Minnesota, Feb. 24, 2018.

- 49** Donald G. Galles, **BS**, Casper, Wyoming, Feb. 7, 2018. **Julia M. Maly, BS**, Omaha, June 7, 2018. **Dr. Elias A. "Al" Nachman, BS**, Springfield, Missouri, Feb. 16, 2018. **Robert D. Roby, BS**, Burlingame, California, May 13, 2018.

- 50** John A. "Jack" Dickinson, **BS**, Omaha, April 28, 2018. **Francis J. Greise Sr., ARTS**, Omaha, Feb. 9, 2018. **Robert C. Greteman, BS**, Carroll, Iowa, March 12, 2018. **Jean Carmichael Kisicki, SJN**, Omaha, Feb. 20, 2018. **John R. Neary, BS**, Omaha, May 14, 2018.

- 51** Sr. M. Margareta Bertrand, **SSND, MSEdu**, Mankato, Minnesota, Jan. 29, 2018. **Dr. Robert W. Belknap, BS'49, MS**, Omaha, March 6, 2018. **John J. Bishop Jr.,**

- MS, MD**, Davenport, Iowa, May 13, 2018. **John P. Donahue Sr., BS**, Omaha, March 16, 2018. **L. Wallace Hopkins, BS'48, JD**, Omaha, May 16, 2018. **Robert J. Kelly, ARTS**, Salem, Oregon, June 3, 2018. **Richard L. Owens, MD**, Lee's Summit, Missouri, Feb. 5, 2018.

- 52** Rita M. Brady, **ARTS**, Omaha, May 20, 2018. **Daniel E. McCarthy, ARTS**, Omaha, May 8, 2018.

- 53** Donald S. Cairncross, **BSPha**, Omaha, Feb. 17, 2018. **Joseph R. Gasnick, BS**, Omaha, Feb. 18, 2018. **Donald E. Green, MD**, Las Vegas, Feb. 7, 2018. **Robert W. Wallace, MD**, Phoenix, March 9, 2018.

- 54** Toru Endo, **DDS**, Honolulu, Jan. 12, 2018. **Flavio F. Panigazzi, BSPha**, Napa, California, Jan. 12, 2018. **Patrick J. Walsh, BS**, Odenton, Maryland, March 13, 2018.

- 55** Elmer J. Duethman, **DDS**, Coal Valley, Illinois, April 17, 2018. **Willis C. Gray, DDS**, Bellevue, Nebraska, Feb. 9, 2018. **Peggy McCarthy Haun, SJN**, Portland, Oregon, March 16, 2018. **Douglas E. Miller Sr., BSPha**, Bellevue, Nebraska, March 10, 2018. **Joseph M. Rooney, BS'51, MD**, Olathe, Kansas, Feb. 28, 2018.

- 56** Dr. Richard P. Clemens, **ARTS**, Omaha, April 15, 2018. **Keith C. Thomas, DDS**, Gilbert, Arizona, May 13, 2018.

- 57** Lewis C. Duncan, **MD**, Oak Hills, California, May 3, 2017. **Marilyn Rynes Giannattasio, SCN**, Milwaukee, April 22, 2018. **Robert L. Kane, BSBA**, Orange, California, May 18, 2018. **Charles W. Sanders, BS**, Troutville, Virginia, Nov. 22, 2016.

- 58** Phyllis Clare Hayes, **ARTS**, Wheatland, Wyoming, Feb. 3, 2018. **Bernice J. Laska, BS**, Columbus, Nebraska, March 22, 2018. **Donnal E. Leahy, MSEdu**, Omaha, Feb. 23, 2018. **Richard P. McCullough, MD**, Bellevue, Washington, May 4, 2018. **Hon. Robert C. Vondrasek, JD**, Omaha, Feb. 22, 2018.

- 59** Dorothy Lawler Barton, **ARTS**, Boise, Idaho, April 14, 2018.

- 60** R. Lee Meuret, **BSBA**, Colorado Springs, Colorado,



ALUMNI PROFILE

‘Beautiful Plans’

Recent graduate is named Nebraska Mother of the Year

NEENA NIZAR, EdD'18, recently was named the 2018 Nebraska Mother of the Year by the Nebraska Mothers Association, a chapter of American Mothers, Inc. Nizar, 38, received her Doctor of Education degree in interdisciplinary leadership in May.

In 2017, she founded the Jansen's Foundation, which is dedicated to raising awareness and funding for Jansen's metaphyseal chondrodysplasia, a rare skeletal disease that afflicts her and her two sons. Nizar also was named the rare disease ambassador for Nebraska and was involved in the nationwide observance of Rare Disease Day in February by the National Organization for Rare Diseases.

"I grew up at a time when there was little awareness of disability and no accommodations. After every surgery, my father carried me up two flights of stairs to get to class," Nizar said on her Facebook page after graduation. "I share this for anyone who doubts. For anyone who feels it can't be done, that the obstacles are too big, and that somehow it won't work. Know that the Lord is even bigger and he has beautiful plans for you."

The Mother of the Year Award, established nationally in 1935, "was made to provide an inspiration to the nation who would represent a mother's unconditional love, inner strength and courage," according to the organization's website. As the Nebraska recipient, Nizar attended the American Mothers National Convention in Washington, D.C., in the spring. During the ceremony, the Jansen's Foundation was awarded a \$1,000 grant, and Nizar said she found the entire experience inspiring.

— BY CINDY MURPHY MCMAHON, BA'74

© Neena Nizar, EdD'18, is surrounded by her proud family upon her graduation in May with a doctorate in leadership education: her husband, Adam Timm, and her two sons, Jahan, 7, left, and Arshaan, 9.

BLUE JAYS *fly together*

Thanks to your support, an ordinary day became extraordinary.

67 Programs supported	\$731,147 Total raised	\$30 Median gift	2,345 People received a pair of Creighton Socks
---------------------------------	----------------------------------	----------------------------	---

2,747 Total Donors
1,418 alumni | 448 current students | 254 current faculty/staff

Stay tuned for information about Giving Day 2019 at creighton.edu/givingday

Helping Amputees in Haiti

Seeing a critical need for prosthetics in Hispaniola in the aftermath of the 2010 Haiti earthquake, **JOHN TESSIER, MD’80**, an orthopedic surgeon from St. Louis, worked to develop a state-of-the-art prosthetics lab with the Institute for Latin American Concern (ILAC) in the Dominican Republic.



At an orphanage, on the border of Haiti and the Dominican Republic, that became a makeshift operating room, members of the Creighton community got involved to help the earthquake victims. “It became clear to me at that point that there was a major need on the island for prosthetics services,” Tessier says. In May, the ILAC Prosthetics Lab received a Raskob Foundation for Catholic Activities Grant, allowing the team to continue working with those in need. More than 180 prosthetics and braces are fitted each year for people with cerebral palsy, fractures, stroke victims and amputees. “There’s a lot of poverty, a lot of indigents,” Tessier says of the island. “If you’re a ‘have not’ in Haiti or the DR, it’s a terrible place to be an amputee.” — **BY EMILY RUST**

© Ranvier Villegas, a prosthetist at ILAC in the Dominican Republic, evaluates a patient’s gait using the parallel bars.



May 17, 2018. **Fred J. “Fritz” Stillger, BSChm**, Sapello, New Mexico, March 18, 2018.

61 **Dennis J. Bray, BS**, Des Moines, Iowa, May 2, 2018. **Patricia Tobin Kern, BUSADM**, Omaha, June 1, 2018.

62 **John R. Webb, DDS**, Denver, May 3, 2018.

63 **James E. McElenney, MS’61, DDS**, Sun Lakes, Arizona, May 26, 2018. **J. Robert Saffell, BA’60, JD**, Versailles, Kentucky, Feb. 13, 2018. **Gerald T. Schneider, BS**, Omaha, May 14, 2018.

64 **Dr. J. Clay Smith Jr., BA**, Washington, D.C., Feb. 15, 2018.

65 **Dr. Nancy L. Fogarty, BS’53, MA**, Omaha, May 22, 2018. **Ludwig E. Lippert Jr., MA**, Alexandria, Virginia, April 11, 2018. **John D. O’Brien, BA’63, JD**, Las Vegas, March 30, 2018.

66 **B. Finnbarr Brady, BA**, San Francisco, May 22, 2018. **Mark E. DeSantis, MS**, Moscow, Idaho, Sept. 12, 2017. **Jean Adams Leiboff, BA**, Bellevue, Nebraska, April 26, 2018. **Patrick H. McDonnell, JD**, Omaha, June 3, 2018.

67 **Dr. W. Craig Daniel, BS**, Lake Mary, Florida, June 6, 2018. **Mary Doll Imm, BA**, Overland Park, Kansas, Feb. 26, 2018. **Vicki Dramshek Wewers, BSN**, Edmond, Oklahoma, June 2018.

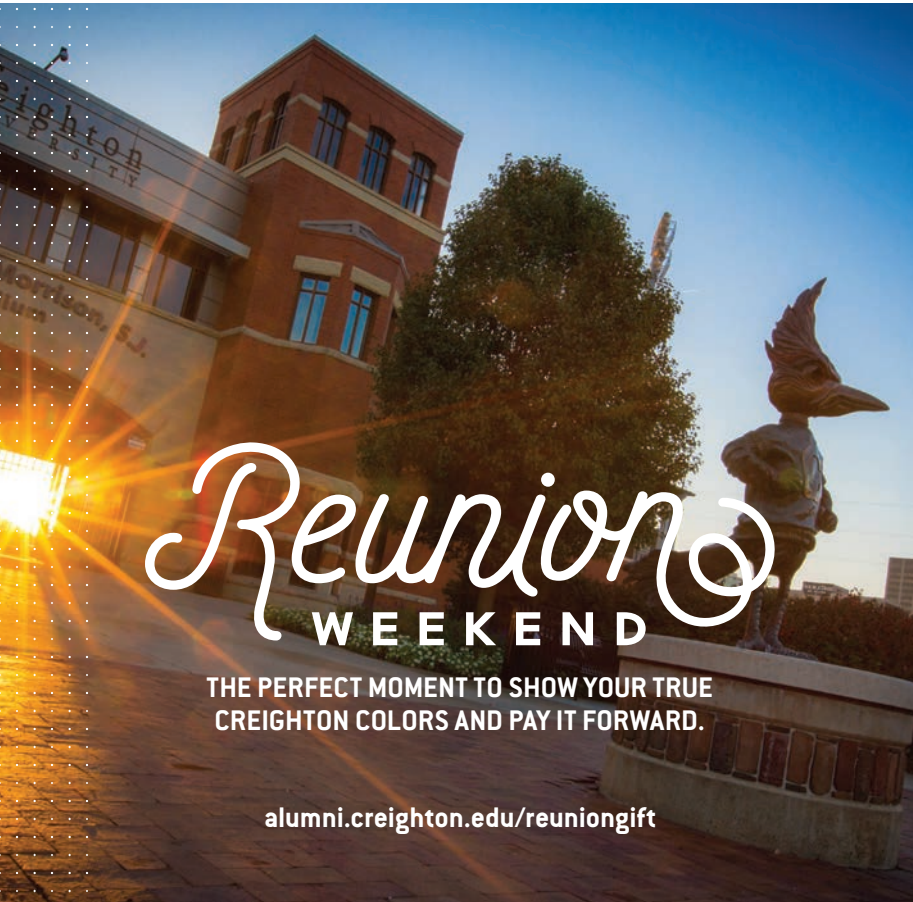
68 **James R. Moergeli Jr., DDS**, Gig Harbor, Washington, Feb. 12, 2018. **James A. Patterson, BS**, Clarksville, Tennessee, May 2, 2018. **Ronald J. Walters, BSPha**, Storm Lake, Iowa, Dec. 14, 2017.

70 **Thomas E. “Gene” Lydon, BSPha’65, MS**, Sioux City, Iowa, Oct. 22, 2017.

71 **Daniel D. Humenick, BA**, Omaha, April 4, 2018.

72 **Betty J. Cohen, MSGuid**, Colorado Springs, Colorado, April 26, 2018. **Alan J. Desmarteau, BSPha**, Arvada, Colorado, April 24, 2018. **Rev. Melvin L. Rempe, MSGuid**, Jacksonville, Florida, March 27, 2018. **Michael J. Sharkey, BSBA**, Columbus, Ohio, May 14, 2017.

73 **James L. Baudler, BSBA**, Omaha, April 22, 2018. **Stephen J. Dahir, BSBA**, Omaha, April 12, 2018.



TRUE COLORS NEVER FADE.

No matter when you attended Creighton, some things hold true: the friends we made, the moments we cherish, and the ways we learned to go forth and set the world on fire. As we come back to campus for Reunion Weekend September 13–16, we’re reminded of those things that unite us.

Honor your time at Creighton with a reunion gift that helps support student scholarships, faculty development initiatives, and the programs happening in all nine schools and colleges.



74 **Thomas F. Green, BSPha’64, MD**, Independence, Missouri, April 21, 2018.

76 **David R. Gerraughty, BA**, Narragansett, Rhode Island, April 23, 2018. **Daniel S. Rowen, BA**, Omaha, May 12, 2018.

77 **Salvatore A. Ciciulla, BSPha’54, MS**, Omaha, May 17, 2018. **Lawrence J. McDermott, MBA**, Omaha, Feb. 9, 2018. **James D. Valentine Jr., DDS**, Spokane, Washington, March 22, 2018. **William E. Waltner, MD**, Ellensburg, Washington, Feb. 8, 2018.

78 **Lawrence E. Hart Jr., ARTS**, Atchison, Kansas, Feb. 18, 2018.

79 **Ronald K. Rapp, BSBA**, Tampa, Florida, Jan. 17, 2018.

80 **James M. Haney, JD**, Omaha, April 10, 2018. **M. David Steier, BSBA’76, JD**, Omaha, May 28, 2018. **Sr. N. Jean Valdes, SAC, MChrSp**, Laurel, Maryland, April 27, 2018.

81 **Michael J. Fitzgerald, BA**, Milwaukee, March 6, 2018.

85 **John M. Kerwin, BA’51, JD**, Omaha, June 1, 2018. **Joseph J. Straub III, JD**, Algona, Iowa, Dec. 30, 2017.

87 **Most Rev. Anthony M. Milone, HON**, Great Falls, Montana, May 17, 2018.

88 **Mercedes Luque-Rosales, JD**, Chicago, April 15, 2018. **William J. Sweeney, MD**, Crownsville, Maryland, May 18, 2018.

89 **Sean E. Farley, JD**, Bakersfield, California, April 17, 2018.

90 **Kevin M. Peck, DDS**, Scottsdale, Arizona, April 6, 2017.

91 **Jason M. Judge, BSBA**, Omaha, March 31, 2018. **Bonnie L. Korkow, MS**, Pierre, South Dakota, April 8, 2018.

92 **David L. Poutre, MS**, Bellevue, Nebraska, May 26, 2018.

94 **Sr. Eva Ernandis, OP, MA**, Malverne, New York, Jan. 6, 2018. **Traci Strachota Williamson**,

BA, Bellevue, Nebraska, March 2018.

95 **Joelane E. Lindberg, MCSM**, Sturgis, South Dakota, April 17, 2018.

97 **Jennie M. Dugan-Hinrichs, JD**, Omaha, April 25, 2018.

99 **Mark G. McGuire, BA’94, MS**, Omaha, Feb. 20, 2018.

03 **Sr. Camilla Verret, MA**, Jefferson City, Missouri, May 29, 2018.

04 **Rev. Michael G. Morrison, SJ, HON**, Milwaukee, May 24, 2018. **Hunter B. Sadle, JD**, Fletcher, North Carolina, May 13, 2018.

06 **Sonja J. Brooks, BA**, Denver, May 19, 2018. **David R. Polus, BSBA**, Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan, Nov. 3, 2016.

07 **Quillie H. “Bud” Polk, MA**, Omaha, April 30, 2018.

10 **Nicole M. O’Tool, PharmD**, Des Moines, Iowa, May 17, 2018.

16 **Rexford R. Rodenborn, PharmD**, Omaha, June 6, 2018.

IN REMEMBRANCE

We remember Creighton University faculty and Jesuits who have recently passed. *

James “Vic” Lupo, PhD, associate professor of psychology, College of Arts and Sciences; March 27, 2018

Marjorie “Marge” Hartnett, EdD, former assistant professor of education, College of Arts and Sciences; June 2, 2018

** Faculty and Jesuits who are Creighton alumni are listed in the Alumni Deaths section of the magazine.*



DAVE WEAVER

‘We Need to Make This a Better World for All of Us’

It’s kind of ironic that Christopher Whitt, PhD, Creighton’s first vice provost for Institutional Diversity and Inclusion, works at a Jesuit university. Growing up in Baltimore, he attended Mount St. Joseph High School, which is affiliated with the Xaverian Brothers. When it came to athletics, the nearby Jesuit school was their biggest rival.

His first experience with Jesuit education was at Marquette University in Milwaukee, where he completed a one-year diversity dissertation fellowship. “I really saw that you have a lot of potential at a centrally located Jesuit institution in an urban area,” Whitt says.

After earning a bachelor’s degree from Salisbury University in Maryland, Whitt received his master’s and doctoral degrees in political science from the University of Maryland, College Park. “From a young age, I was interested in politics. I was looking for a way to become educated and skilled in seeking justice, seeking avenues of equity for people,” Whitt says.

Eleven years ago, he joined the faculty at Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois. In his first year as a professor, he co-founded an Africana studies program, which looked at the entire Africa diaspora rather than being limited to a particular place. He also extended his influence into the larger Quad Cities community, with his podcast “Margins: Conversations with Change Agents.” Hosted on the local NPR station, “Margins” brought community and national leaders together to discuss issues. Whitt is in talks with Omaha NPR station KIOS to develop a similar podcast.

Whitt joined Creighton in February and now lives in Omaha with his wife, Quiana, a teacher at Omaha North High School, and their 1-year-old son, Christopher Jr. *Creighton* magazine caught up with Whitt this summer.

What do we mean by diversity and inclusion?
I like to look at it through the lens of justice and solidarity. When we talk about diversity, we’re not simply talking about the idea that if we walk

on campus, there are a few people from a few different backgrounds. And, well, they’re here, so they’re included. No, it’s so much deeper than that. We need to make this a better world for all of us. We need to do it together and really respect the fact that not everybody has the same experience in the world.

What are some of your initiatives?
My first few months here have been a listening tour ... to get perspectives on what people feel is working when it comes to diversity and inclusion, what is missing and where there needs to be change. I’ve found a lot of amazing work being done at Creighton University. But we need to organize it to bring people in line with a unified vision.

What’s the current state of diversity and inclusion at Creighton?
I think there’s a lot of good will, a lot of good intention. A lot of people are willing to collaborate. And that’s the only way we are going to continue to make progress. Diversity and inclusion is a collaborative effort. I look at myself as more of a coordinator, a coach, where I’m setting a standard and direction. I’ve had a very warm welcome and that really encourages me that we’ll be successful in taking the good things we have going now and strengthening them.

What have you learned over the years working in this area?
I think decades ago, people were more satisfied with simply having the numbers, even if people felt like they were visitors. I’ve heard it so many times from students of underrepresented groups. They get to graduation and say, “I made it. I’m getting out. I’m moving on.” That’s not how people should feel. We want people to feel like this has been an amazing experience, and ask, “How can I continue to be connected in some shape or form?”

How can alumni help?
Alumni can help by inquiring about and being supportive of diversity and inclusion. They can help connect people from underrepresented groups with Creighton — in terms of both our student body and our workforce. We need to look to eliminate barriers. We will be stronger by opening doors.



TED^xCreightonU
x = independently organized TED event

Creighton University’s inaugural **TEDxCreightonU** featured personal stories and professional expertise under the event’s theme of “Lead.”

➤ **Watch videos of the talks at:**
TEDxCreightonU.com

TEDxCreightonU 2018 faculty, student and alumni presenters:



Mounika Addula
Unified in Diversity, We Lead



Amy Badura-Brack, PhD
Focusing Attention



Brian Boerner
Tackling Unease With Hard Questions



Todd Darnold, PhD
The Minimalist Manager Mindset



Joy Doll, OTD, OTR/L
Cultivating Collaboration in Health Care: The Journey of an Accidental Expert?



Josh Dotzler
From Charity to Change



Heather Fryer, PhD
Our Guides to the Future Are Off the Beaten Past



Leah Georges, PhD, MLS
Navigating the Multigenerational Workplace: Shoulder Pads Not Required



Dawaune Hayes
Make NOISE Now



Samuel Lado
Make an Influence With What You Have



Victoria Sardella
The 3-Point Punch



Grace Tierney
Lead, Love, Nachos



Duncan Werling
Facing Reality



Cory Wilson
The Best of Us Will Rebel

Theatre for Social Justice
Engaging in Sacred Gossip
Amy Lane, Ben Adams and Oliver Alonzo



September 13–16, 2018

Classes of 1968, 1978, 1988, 1993, 1998 and 2008

May 30–June 2, 2019

Classes of 1969, 1979, 1989, 1994, 1999 and 2009

creighton**alumni**